

# Draft MD RFB Management Strategy

Anne Hairston-Strang

Justin Hynicka

Feb. 4, 2015



# Conserve First- MD Programs

## REGULATORY MINIMUMS

- Forest Conservation Act
  - 50 ft is priority
  - not Allegany or Garrett
- Critical Area
  - CA is 1000 ft from tidal waters
  - 100 ft buffer min. within CA
  - Some buffer exempt areas
- MDA Nutrient Management Setbacks (allows alt. BMPs)
  - 35 ft if fertilizer broadcast
  - 10 ft if directed spray or injected, hay, or pasture (livestock excluded)
  - Perennial and intermittent streams
- Local government regs
  - Can exceed state minimums

## EASEMENT OPTIONS

- CREP permanent easements
  - Met State match requirements
  - Have pursued grant funding
  - Not consistently available and POS funding cuts proposed
- Rural Legacy
  - If part of a larger easement
  - POS funding cuts proposed
- Forest Legacy
  - If part of a larger easement
- Tax relief programs- term only
  - FCMA- 15 years
  - Woodland Assistance- 3 years
  - 5-acre minimum

# Rural Restoration- MD Programs

- Targeting for landscape function
- Ag Cost-Share- FSA, NRCS, MDA
  - CREP has greatest benefits
  - Could use EQIP, WIP, CRP
  - Partners- USFWS, CBF, NRCS, FSA, SCD, MDA, Extension
- State Lands- Highway, DNR, other
- Maintenance
  - No EQIP for CREP maintenance
  - Small CREP maintenance fee
  - Aid from USFWS/CBF program, Special Rivers grant (EPA), and USFS one-time grant
- Monitoring
  - Routine follow-up after planting
  - Annual growth/condition at 10 PWP long-term sites
  - Periodic monitoring- up to 24 other sites (funding dependent)
- Targeting with TNC and Appalachian Lab- Potomac Watershed (NFWF grant)
- CREP Advisory Committee and NRCS TAC- Forestry Subcommittee
  - may need venue for details of coordination
- Forest Brigade, Natural Filters, 5-103
  - Replanting (TMDL goals)
- Contractors bid to provide service, USFWS requires landowner right-of-entry agreement that can limit participation
  - Need wider geographic area funded
- Variety of approaches/partners to monitoring survival- could benefit from clarification
  - Carroll Co. Forestry Bd. intern
- Have provided buffer monitoring data to some university projects
- Need to do periodic sampling and analysis for 10-15 year report (2014 proposal not funded)

# Suburban/Urban Restoration- MD Programs

- Backyard Buffers- Buffer in a Bag (seedling distribution to riparian landowners)
- Woods in Your Backyard (forest management, invasives, planting)
  - Neighborhood Green in Frederick County
- Trees for Sacred Places- planting with faith-based organizations
- Chesapeake Bay Trust Fund
  - Governor's Stream Restoration Challenge Grants
  - Other grant cycles
- Chesapeake Bay Trust- Green Streets, Green Jobs, Green Towns and other grants
- BYB partnering with variety of volunteers (Forestry Boards, Senior Center, AA Watershed Stewards)
- Woods/Backyard-Extension, Forestry for the Bay, Frederick County-
- Sacred Places- Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake- not necessarily buffers
- CBTF- local government proposals
- CBT

# Gaps needing Actions

## WHAT

- More forest buffer easement and conservation options
- Targeted rural restoration
- Non-ag restoration options for suburban and urban landscapes
- More coordination for overall buffer goals, maintenance, verification
- Update Long-term Monitoring
- Quantify forest buffer status

## HOW

- Partnerships w/POS, NGOs, Healthy Watersheds grants
- Continue landscape analysis and MS-4 coordination
- Expand Backyard Buffer and Lawn to Woodland approaches, TA, and funding
- Revive Stream ReLeaf Coordinating Committee
- Develop funding source or proposal
- Complete RFB analysis with 2011 data, plan for 2015 data