

Update on RFB Initiative

- Lots of history here
 - Move to ag sector
- Task Force process
 - Focus
 - Gaps
- Timeline
- CBP-EPA-WIP Role
- What's expected...

Management Strategy Outline:

1. Executive Summary
2. Outcomes and Baselines
3. Groups/agencies participating
4. Influential factors
5. Current efforts and gaps
6. Management Approach
7. Monitoring Progress
8. Assessing Progress
9. Adaptively Manage
10. Biennial Workplan

Outcomes and Baselines

Riparian Forest Buffer Outcome--

“Continually increase the capacity of forest buffers to provide water quality and habitat benefits throughout the watershed. Restore 900 miles per year of riparian forest buffer and conserve existing buffers until at least 70 percent of riparian areas throughout the watershed are forested.”

Outcomes and Baselines

- Federal Commitment from *The Strategy for Protecting and Restoring the Chesapeake Bay Watershed*
- 900 miles/year (since 2007)
- Tools in development (tracking)
- Federal agencies committed to:
 - Accelerate application of CREP
 - Restore forest buffers in priority watersheds
 - Explore funding incentives for installation of targeted riparian forest buffers
 - Enhance technical capacity for riparian forest restoration

Outcomes and Baselines

Watershed Implementation Plans

	Total Acres 2012-2025	Acres/year	Miles/year (100' width)
Delaware	4790	370	31
Maryland	1190	90	8
New York	6180	475	40
Pennsylvania	89630	6895	575
Virginia	80820	6215	518
West Virginia	3250	250	21

Participating groups/agencies

Federal: FSA, NRCS, USFS, USFWS, DOD, EPA, NPS,
USACE

Delaware: DE FS, DNREC

Maryland: MDA, DNR,

New York: DEC,

Pennsylvania: DEP, DCNR,

Virginia: DOF,

West Virginia: DOF,

Local Gov't: Anne Arundel, Cumberland, Arlington,
Prince Georges,

Non-Governmental: ACB, CBF, TU, Cacapon, Casey Trees,
Parks and People,

OTHERS?

Generic Current Efforts

- Riparian Forest Buffer Initiative
 - Farm Bill programs
 - Outreach
 - FSA additional \$5M
- State programs
 - Growing Greener
 -
- NGO efforts- habitat-related
- Programs for suburbia
 - Backyard Buffers

OTHERS?

Key Gaps

1. Lack of clear guidance at federal and state level that the RFB practice is a priority
 - Federal agencies do not honor state Watershed Implementation Plan priority practices
 - States don't see themselves in federal programs
2. Federal program payments/incentives are not up-to-date
3. Lack of leveraging of RFB practice investments with other federal, state, and private conservation programs
4. Perception that RFBs are difficult/problematic
 - Survival (extend establishment period)
 - Maintenance
5. Need more training, outreach, communication, information
6. Technical assistance and outreach-- need staffing and improved approach
7. Expiring acres coming out of CREP buffer contracts (not re-enrolling)
8. Targeting tools not often used

Guidance (Getting to Workplan):

- review current actions
- focus on what state/NGOs can do
- be as specific as possible: where-when-who
- what are priority actions

TABLE 2. **Example**

Current Efforts	Gaps	Actions	2-Year Action?	Who?
Financial Asst				
	Not widespread leveraging of RFB investments with other programs			