**FRS Section 1 Fish & Wildlife Habitat Actions** (p.11 of Strategy)

From the actions listed below, select the ones that you think hold greatest opportunity in your state/region in the next 1-3 years. If you have an idea for an action that is not listed, please feel free to insert it at the bottom under “additional actions”. For each of your selected actions, copy/paste and answer the following questions:

***a) What network of existing or new partners could be engaged in your state/region to move this action forward?***

***b) List specific ideas for how to move this action forward in your state and how your organization could contribute.***

1. Collaborate with USDA, forestry and wildlife agencies, and nongovernmental partners to **restore 900 miles of riparian forest buffer each year**; sustain and leverage funding available through CREP and other programs.
2. ***What network of existing or new partners could be engaged in your state/region to move this action forward?***
* ***Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries is not listed as a participant, they have a good network of partners, they have been involved in stream restoration projects throughout the Shenandoah Valley and northern Peidmont of Virginia for years. They also are quite familiar with stream conditions across the region.***
* ***Of Course, NRCS, FSA and the SWCD’s continue to be valuable partners in this restoration effort.***
1. ***List specific ideas for how to move this action forward in your state and how your organization could contribute.***
* ***The Landowner Incentive Program (LIP) is a cost share program coming from DGIF and NFWS funding. Stream restoration projects done under this program always has a habitat aspect for fisheries, but it also includes revegetation using seedlings or live stakes to create stable banks and woody habitat corridors. The action would be to utilize the work done with LIP funds and other stream restoration efforts to advance and record additional forest buffers in Virginia.***
1. **Focus forest restoration efforts in priority areas to meet brook trout restoration goals**; transfer successful models, such as Trout Unlimited’s Potomac initiative, to other priority areas.
2. Continue to **develop State and local green infrastructure (forest hub-corridor) plans** to help target forest conservation and restoration (for example, in Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and New York).

***What network of existing or new partners could be engaged in your state/region to move this action forward?***

***List specific ideas for how to move this action forward in your state and how your organization could contribute.***

* Currently working with the Green Infrastructure Center at UVa on several stream restoration projects in urban settings as well as several projects and potential projects to develop criteria for local governments to utilize to identify and target priority areas within their localities for restoration efforts.
1. Work with the Chesapeake Bay Habitat Goal Implementation Team, State fish and wildlife agencies, natural heritage inventories, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), and other nongovernmental organizations to further **identify restoration priority areas and actions for key forest-dependent species**.
2. **Promote forest restoration as a central BMP to meet Total Maximum Daily Load**/Watershed Implementation Plan targets ***and*** simultaneously achieve habitat goals.
3. **Pursue innovative funding incentives and outreach strategies** to reach landowners in targeted areas through grant programs, such as NFWF, and ecosystem market approaches.
4. ***What network of existing or new partners could be engaged in your state/region to move this action forward?***
* ***We consider this to be important in Virginia and have identified the Green Infrastructure Center at UVa as a significant partner as well as the School of Environmental Science and Forestry at Virginia Tech.***

***b) List specific ideas for how to move this action forward in your state and how your organization could contribute.***

* Currently have funded a project on Agroforestry with VT and am working on attaining Grant funding for an innovative project to develop strategies for localities to utilize to identify the costs associated with Storm water mitigation versus investment in trees and forests to mitigate the effects of stromwater in the Chesapeake basin.
1. Conduct **Designing Sustainable Landscapes pilot project in the Nanticoke and Pocomoke watersheds** with a focus on forest-dependent species and habitat classes (U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service/North Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative).

**Additional Fish & Wildlife Habitat Actions:**

**FRS Section 2 Mine Lands** (p.16 of Strategy)

From the actions listed below, select the ones that you think hold greatest opportunity in your state/region in the next 1-3 years. If you have an idea for an action that is not listed, please feel free to insert it at the bottom under “additional actions”. For each of your selected actions, copy/paste and answer the following questions:

***a) What network of existing or new partners could be engaged in your state/region to move this action forward?***

***b) List specific ideas for how to move this action forward in your state and how your organization could contribute.***

1. Work with agency and nongovernmental partners to **identify priority areas and sites for targeted mine land reforestation**; incorporate habitat priorities for key bird species, brook trout, and other species of concern.
2. ***a) What network of existing or new partners could be engaged in your state/region to move this action forward?***
* ***We currently work with VT and DMME in various education and mined land reclamation projects dealing with abandoned Strip Mine sites in SW Virginia. This is not in the Bay Watershed however and the various sand and gravel mines located in Virginia are already required by law to have restoration plans in place before permitting.***
1. ***b) List specific ideas for how to move this action forward in your state and how your organization could contribute.***
2. Convene a **regional workshop for watershed groups and agency partners** to promote forest restoration on mine lands in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.
3. Host local workshops in targeted areas to **engage landowners and community partners** in mine land reforestation opportunities.
4. Pursue the formation of OSMRE-VISTA **Appalachian Coal Country Teams**, or other community-based mine land reforestation initiatives, in the Bay watershed.
5. **Work with Bay State mining agencies and abandoned mine lands programs** to promote reforestation on reclaimed sites as much as possible.
6. Support the Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative’s outreach and **collaboration efforts with active mining operations** to encourage forestry reclamation in the Bay watershed.

**Additional Mine Lands Actions:**

**FRS Section 3 Agroforestry Actions** (p.21 of Strategy)

From the actions listed below, select the ones that you think hold greatest opportunity in your state/region in the next 1-3 years. If you have an idea for an action that is not listed, please feel free to insert it at the bottom under “additional actions”. For each of your selected actions, copy/paste and answer the following questions:

***a) What network of existing or new partners could be engaged in your state/region to move this action forward?***

***b) List specific ideas for how to move this action forward in your state and how your organization could contribute.***

1. Work with NRCS State Technical Committees in Bay States to **promote agroforestry practices through Farm Bill programs**.
2. ***What network of existing or new partners could be engaged in your state/region to move this action forward?***
* ***Currently have a project beginning with Virginia Tech (John Munsell) to identify and target areas within the Bay Watershed and conduct landowners surveys for interest in Agroforestry as a first step in generating interest in Agroforestry as a practical program for Virginia communities.***
1. ***List specific ideas for how to move this action forward in your state and how your organization could contribute.***
* ***This is a two year project that will help to establish a series of core producers to use as demonstration projects across the watershed. These are the first steps being taken in Virginia to create and promote an Agroforestry program within the state.***
1. Agroforestry is a relatively new concept. **Train-the-trainer workshops** that target resource professionals in the watershed are a first step toward reaching watershed landowners. Subsequent workshops can introduce agroforestry practices to landowners.
* This will be part of the Virginia Tech Project
1. Establish **agroforestry demonstration areas** by finding early adopters with working farms and forests so that others can see the conservation and economic benefits of agroforestry practices. Pursue **USDA Conservation Innovation Grants** and other funding sources to establish these sites.
* This will be part of the VT project.
1. Work with the NRCS Ecological Sciences staffs in the Bay States to **get the five main agroforestry practices included in the Field Office Technical Guide and Farm Bill programs.**
2. Explore a **Bay Branding campaign** for agroforestry products similar to Edible Chesapeake but focused specifically on foods and products developed from businesses committed to sustaining working forests within the Bay area.
* This might be a possibility once the Agroforestry program becomes well-established in Virginia. The Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services has an established program known as “Virginia Grown” that has various componenets, such as vegetables, fish, forest products, etc. A program for Agroforestry products could be easily established within the guidelines of this program once a viable Agroforestry program becomes established within the State.
1. Design and implement **agroforestry research projects** to ensure stakeholders have access to cutting-edge and regionally relevant science.
* VT already has an Agroforestry Research facility established on a farm in Western Virginia. There are also possibilities for research in the Agroforestry arena on the campus of Virginia State university in Petersburg, VA.
1. Expand application of agroforestry practices and innovations to **small-scale landscapes, including urban settings**.
* Hopefully will be an outcome of the VT Agroforestry Project.

**Additional Agroforestry Actions:**

**FRS Section 4 Urban & Community Forestry Actions** (p.26 of Strategy)

From the actions listed below, select the ones that you think hold greatest opportunity in your state/region in the next 1-3 years. If you have an idea for an action that is not listed, please feel free to insert it at the bottom under “additional actions”. For each of your selected actions, copy/paste and answer the following questions:

***a) What network of existing or new partners could be engaged in your state/region to move this action forward?***

***b) List specific ideas for how to move this action forward in your state and how your organization could contribute.***

1. Continue to support communities in using urban tree canopy assessments and i-Tree tools.

***a) What network of existing or new partners could be engaged in your state/region to move this action forward?***

* ***TREES Virginia – Virginia’s Urban Forest Council***
1. ***b) List specific ideas for how to move this action forward in your state and how your organization could contribute.***
* Already doing as funding allows, need more funding to allow for the Urban tree canopy assessments to get done so that the localities can set a goal for attainment purposes.
1. Provide **training and technical assistance** to help communities move from assessments to action with supportive **local policies and programs to both preserve and expand tree canopy.**
* **UCF Program is already doing this as funding is available and communities express an interest.**
1. Develop **educational and marketing campaigns**, targeted to distinct audiences, to engage people in planting and caring for trees.
2. **Focus Urban and Community Forestry program funding** and partnership efforts to support work toward meeting local tree canopy goals.
* Already doing it as funding is available
1. **Promote and track tree planting as a cost-effective, core strategy** for meeting local Total Maximum Daily Load targets, MS4 stormwater requirements, and air quality goals.
* Need to establish a criteria for capturing this information and reporting it to the bay model effectively. We do not have this in Virginia. Perhaps TREES Virginia could be the group to coordinate this effort here, funding would be necessary to achieve this.
1. Transfer successful **turf-to-trees program** models and lessons learned to more localities that have high turf grass cover.
2. **Work with nontraditional partners**, such as civic organizations, business and industry, and local planning agencies, **to increase tree cover on public and private lands.**
3. Develop and expand **tree planting initiatives on Federal lands**.

**Additional Urban & Community Forestry Actions:**

**FRS Section 5 Contaminated Lands Actions** (p.31 of Strategy)

From the actions listed below, select the ones that you think hold greatest opportunity in your state/region in the next 1-3 years. If you have an idea for an action that is not listed, please feel free to insert it at the bottom under “additional actions”. For each of your selected actions, copy/paste and answer the following questions:

***a) What network of existing or new partners could be engaged in your state/region to move this action forward?***

***b) List specific ideas for how to move this action forward in your state and how your organization could contribute.***

1. **Identify and fund research needs**. Identify key knowledge gaps and research needs. Target available funds for applied research in partnership with industry.
2. **Develop and deliver technical guidance** on how to effectively utilize trees and shrubs when remediating and restoring sites.
3. Utilize an **information and technology transfer** vehicle, such as EPA’s **Contaminated Site Clean-up Information**, to make technical guidance readily available. Write factsheets for targeted audiences and deliver Web-based training as well as other effective outreach activities.
4. **Facilitate cooperation and coordination among partnerships**. Establish agreements between agencies to facilitate reforestation efforts on contaminated lands through cooperative research efforts, technical data exchange, and locating/identifying appropriate plant material for contaminated sites.
5. **Review State and Federal regulations and guidance documents** to identify impediments to reforestation and recommend revisions. **Identify cross-program incentives** that facilitate reforestation (for example, stormwater controls, tax incentives, smart growth strategies, easements, and site-level planning incentives, among others).
6. **Identify priority areas and sites**. Use geospatial tools to identify and target sites for investment based on potential “keystone” locations or connectivity. Establish partnerships and/or working relationships with professional, nonprofit, and watershed organizations to help with advocacy and educational outreach.

**Additional Contaminated Lands Actions:**

**OTHER THOUGHTS??**

Do you have any other ideas/recommendations for how we can make progress with the Forest Restoration Strategy in the next 1-3 years?

Do you have any further thoughts on what role you/your organization could play in engaging a broader network of partners in the implementing the Forest Restoration Strategy?

**THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR TIME AND INPUT!!!**