2016-2017 Biennial Workplan for the Riparian Forest Buffer Outcome Management Strategy

Riparian Forest Buffer Outcome: Continually increase the capacity for 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 the riparian area in the watershed is forested.

Long term Target: 70% of riparian areas in the Chesapeake have forest buffers

Note: State-level summaries are attached. Where "State Leads" are the participating entity, not all states will show equal effort in each action.

2 year Target: 1800 miles

Key Action** *Description of work/project. Define each major action step on its own row. Identify specific program that*	**Performance Target(s)** *Identify incremental steps to achieve Key Action.*	**Participating Entity** *Identify responsible partner for each step.*	**Location**	**Timeline** *Identify completion date (month & year) for*	**Factors Influencing and/or Gap** *Identify related factor or gap in Management Strategy*
Management Approach 1: RFB Leadership					
Meet with RFB leadership within each state to develop a coordinated, riparian forest buffer (RFB) strategy to boost enrollment	a) State Lead for RFB activities is appointed and helps coordinate work at all levels--from state leadership to field	State Leads	Baywide	Jul-16	
	b) Host a watershedwide 2-day RFB Summit	USFS, FSA, ACB	Baywide	Mar-16	
	c) Pursue opportunities for state leadership to express need/RFB is a priority practice	State Leads	Baywide	Dec-17	Leadership and continued commitment from natural resource agencies
	d) Establish a RFB Leadership Team in PA	DCNR and DEP	Pennsylvania	Feb-16	
	e) Host a statewide RFB summit	PA DCNR, MD CREP Committee	Pennsylvania	Dec-16	Coordination with other training and among cooperating agencies
States augment CREP program for RFB using additional funding from FSA	Increase acres enrolled in Chesapeake Bay CREPS, CP22 (RFB)	FSA, State Leads	NY, WV, DE, VA	Dec-17	Funding (~1 million/state) will mostly go out as incentives for participating in CREP (would like to add MD with revised plan)

Work to access additional financial assistance to augment programs for RFB	a) Increase acres enrolled in Chesapeake Bay CREPS, CP22 (RFB). Continue to assess available financial assistance as needed to encourage landowner interest in CREP and implementing conservation practice	FSA	Baywide	Dec-17	Consistency in funding is critical to progress
	b) Make non-federal match available as new opportunities present for federal funding	State	State-specific	Dec-17	
Coordinate and support State Leads and other partners in achieving RFB goals	Work with each state to help accomplish actions in 2-year workplan	USFS, FWG	Baywide	Dec-17	
Pilot Projects to Inform Leadership	a) Coordinate with Sustainable Ag community	MD DNR Forest Service	Maryland	Jul-16	Would be augmented by compeitive grant for buffer monitoring and outreach if received
	b) Develop a flexible buffer program with innovative tools and programs to fill niches not met by traditional buffer programs	Upper Susquehanna Coalition, NFWF	Upper Susquehanna	Jul-16	
Work on Policies to Advance RFB programs	Work with partners to identify legislative, budgetary and policy needs to advance RFB and other goals.	Chesapeake Bay Commission	Baywide	Dec-17	
	Pursue action within our member state General Assemblies and the United States Congress.				
Management Approach 2: RFB Enhancements					
Look broadly to plan for new	a) Coordinate with allied ag practices in NY especially streambank fencing, streambank stabilization and/or transitional woodland practice using AgNPS	NY NRCS and FSA, USC	New York	Jan-17	
	b) Seek more opportunities to engage landowners about opportunities for RFB	State Leads, TU	Baywide	Dec-17	Need to expand efforts with effective partners and add new partners

buffers and align related projects/funding	c) Incorporate RFBs into planning efforts, e.g., the State Planning Board, county comprehensive plans, and local zoning ordinances	State Leads	Pennsylvania	Dec-17	
	d) Work with other programs and agencies that do preservation, restoration, etc. to improve overlap with RFB	State Leads, TU	Baywide	Dec-17	
For the scale of buffer work needed, make leveraging the power of other funding and programs a priority	Explore using Ag Land Preservation funds to drive new RFB	State Leads/FWG	TBD	Dec-17	
	Leverage other USDA programs to complement CREP	State Leads	TBD		
Accelerate RFB implementation through NFWF's 2015 Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) project award, *"Comprehensive Watershed-Scale Restoration in Dairy and Livestock Landscapes of the Chesapeake Bay".*	a) Utilize NFWF grant funding and technical and financial assistance to increase RFB and leverage existing cost-share funding	Stroud Water Research Center, Trout Unlimited, Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, Bradford County (PA) Conservation District	Baywide	Dec-17	estimate cost based on percentage of RCPP awards that may go to RFB
	b) Support local USDA NRCS and FSA staff, SWCDs, and NGOs in collaborating and prioritizing RCPP funding to enhance RFB CREP implementation at the local level				
Support states in prioritizing funding for RFB and explore new funding options	Work with states to align available funding with priority practices like RFB	EPA, FWG	Baywide	Dec-17	
	Explore converting RFBs to nutrient banks to provide additional incentive to maintain, conserve RFB				

Apply the Healthy Streams Farm Stewardship Program	a) Identify projects in conjunction with SWCD and ag consultants b) Conduct farmer and conservation professional workshops on the Program c) Help landowner with agreements and assist them with plantings	Alliance for the Bay	Maryland	Dec-17	
Pilot voluntarily purchase of nutrient credits by businesses to pay for the installation of forest buffers	a) Work with partners to identify businesses interested in this investment	PENNvest	Pennsylvania	Dec-17	
	b) Make purchases on behalf of businesses and establish RFB				
Pursue a state/privately-funded RFB program	a) Test methods for flexibility in buffer administration and management	PA DCNR, DEP	Pennsylvania	Dec-17	cost of actual program will be several million/year
	b) Introduce needed policy changes to implement the program	PA DCNR, DEP	Pennsylvania		
	c) Pilot sites showcasing different approaches including maintenance needs	PA DCNR, DEP	TBD		
	d) Look for funding and funding partners	PA DCNR, DEP	TBD		
Consider climate change in future actions for RFB	a) Review and refine climate resiliency decision making matrix and implementation process for the RFB outcome	Climate Resiliency Workgroup, Forestry Workgroup	TBD	Dec-17	
	b) Develop climate change strategies for RFB.	FWG	TBD		
Management Approach 3: RFB Technical Assistance					
Increase staffing levels to provide	Hire 8 additional field personnel through grant from FSA	FSA, FS, ACB, State forestry in MD, PA, VA, WV	MD, PA, WV, VA	Dec-17	Multi-year effort will be needed

more technical assistance	Increase technical capacity to increase RFB establishment and enrollment	TU, NRCS	Cacapon and South Branch of the Potomac	Dec-17	
Improve tracking and spending of TA funding provided by FSA	a) FSA provides TA funding for CRP/CREP to USFS and NRCS	State Leads	Baywide	Dec-17	Funding includes TA on all CRP/CREP not just RFB
	b) Track and suggest improvements in spending as needed				
Increase effectiveness of landowner education on RFB establishment and maintenance	a) Identify successful programs and begin expanding them in your state	State Leads	Baywide	Jun-16	
	b) Reach out to local groups with interest in RFB such as SWCDs, NGOs, Land Trusts,	State Leads	Baywide	Apr-16	Consistent coordination and communication
	c) Support PACD outreach efforts in creating a clearinghouse of informational materials	DCNR, DEP, PACD	Pennsylvania	Dec-17	
	d) Enhance collaboration among organizations to better understand farmers' needs	State Leads	Pennsylvania	Dec-17	
	e) Technical Service Providers receive training on RFB outreach through grant from FSA	USFS, ACB	Baywide	Dec-16	
	f) NRCS employees receive >3 trainings per year	NRCS	Baywide	Dec-17	
	g) Determine how best to engage SWCDs	USFS, ACB	Baywide	Dec-17	
Expand partnerships to address technical assistance needs	Identify potential new partners and establish working agreements	State Leads, TU	Baywide	Jan-16	
Technical Assistance provided by NYS DEC Forester	Provide forestry support on EQIP and CREP projects	NYS DEC, USFS	Tioga and Broome Counties	Dec-17	Joint Chief's funding through 2017
Management Approach 4: RFB Outreach and Increasing New Enrollment					

Address programmatic design/delivery that are barriers to new enrollment	Work with decision-makers to secure state cost-share funding to process CRP/CREP new contracts	DNREC, DE FSA/NRCS	Delaware	Jan-16	The Delaware CREP Program has a programmatic freeze until funding shortfalls are addressed. Shortfalls are approximately: $500,000 for 2015, $500,000 for
Execute Outreach Strategy for 2016	Improve outreach of RFB: webinar education series, information packets, posters, displays, forum, support for re-enrollment	USFS, FSA, ACB	Baywide	Dec-16	funded
Improve outreach and education to landowners on RFB	a) Technical Service Providers receive training on RFB outreach through grant from FSA	USFS, ACB	Baywide	Dec-16	Also see line 49
	b) NRCS employees receive >3 trainings per year	NRCS	Baywide	Dec-17	
	c) Determine how best to engage SWCD	USFS, ACB	Baywide	Dec-17	
Seek liaisons (leaders, early adopters) within farming communities	a) Reach out to dairy, horse, and poultry farmers, and others	Dept of Ag	Baywide	Dec-16	
	b) Reach out to plain sect community	PA CREP partners	Priority watershed	Dec-16	
Evaluate current MPL soil rental rates and determine if updates are necessary	Work with FSA to make adjustments in CREP agreements, as needed	State Leads	As needed	Dec-17	May be constrained by FSA policies and authorization
Share local case studies of successful buffers-- how to integrate with better overall environmental health (e.g., LandCare model)	Reports on case studies and how LandCare model could be used	State Leads	MD	Dec-17	
Management Approach 5: Improve Establishment/Maintenance/Verification					
	a) Utilize GIS, CAST, and other tools	State Leads		Dec-17	Partial support USFS

Improve tracking and reporting of RFB implementation	b) Analyze efficiencies and quantify benefits of RFB	FSA, USFS, ARS, PennState	Baywide	Dec-17	Additional position needed (PA)
	c) Track progress through reports and maps	DEP, DCNR		Dec-16	
Survey recent NFWF grantees to determine extent of RFB vs. grassed buffer implementation	Develop, implement, and analyze survey of NFWF grantees to determine likelihood of RFBs going in on grants that don't specify type of riparian buffer being used	NFWF, USFS	Baywide	Dec-16	
Strengthen inter-organizational operations, including reporting, cross-training, and Verification for RFB BMP	a) States work internally with partners	State Leads	Baywide	Dec-17	Coordinate with Leadership Mgmt
	b) Enable verification to be completed by multiple entities, independent of landowner/installer	EPA, DEP, DCNR, Partners	Baywide	Dec-17	
	c) Work with other Workgroups and Goal Teams to integrate RFB into planning	FWG/USFS	Baywide	Dec-17	
	d) Work with Ag Workgroup on improving Verification procedures for RFB	FWG/USFS	Baywide	Dec-16	
Evaluate State RFB BMP Verification Protocol	Work with states to examine how RFB verification is working	USFS	Baywide	Dec-17	
Examine effectiveness of annual maintenance payments and evaluate if current rate is appropriate	Annual maintenance payments increase (e.g., from $5/acre to $10/acre) where feasible	State Leads, ACB, USFS	Baywide	Dec-16	
Evaluate current establishment period effectiveness and recommend potential changes	Expand the RFB establishment period from 2 years to 3-4 years (already happened in PA)	State Leads	Baywide	Dec-17	Coordinate with other State Amendment requests to FSA

Work with FSA to make cost share available for weed suppression during RFB establishment	Determine level of invasive plant control cost-share that is part of extended establishment	State, FSA	Baywide	Dec-16	
Put maintenance tips in conservation plans, contracts, and landowner info	a) Produce information on common maintenance needs/issues for website/handbook	USFS, ACB	Baywide	Jan-17	Part of FSA Outreach grant
	b) Distribute handbook to contract holders through SWCD and field offices	USFS, ACB		Jan-17	Part of FSA Outreach grant
Evaluation of Buffer Effectiveness/Tree Planting Success	Complete evaluation of tree planting mortality/success for three years after initial planting and secure additional planting stock to correct planting failures	State Leads	Baywide	Dec-17	Aided by FSA and USFS support
	Look at sites with legacy sediment issues				
Management Approach 6: Improve Re-enrollment					
Consider fate of non re-enrolling RFB acres	Develop model to determine situational likelihood that landowners not re-enrolling will maintain their RFB	FSA, FWG	TBD	Dec-16	
Provide targeted outreach to CREP participants in the last 1-2 years of contract	a) Send postcards to expiring contract holders and follow-up with phone calls	FS, State FSA, ACB	Baywide	Dec-17	Early notice 2-3 years prior is recommended to allow weed control/replanting if needed
	b) Provide maintainance crews to assist landowners with successful RFB	USFWS, CBF	Maryland	Dec-17	
	c) Encourage TSPs re-enrolling RFBs to include upgrades, such as increased acres and/or alternative water, stream crossings, fencing	State Leads	Baywide	Dec-17	Aided by USFS/FSA support through CRP

Contact landholders with expiring contracts	Provide contact information for expriring contract holders to State Leads	FSA	Baywide	Dec-17	
	Send landowner RFB outreach and promotional material, follow with phone call	State Leads	Baywide	Dec-17	Coordinate with Leadership and Outreach Management Approaches
Management Approach 7: Improve Targeting of RFB					
Develop nutrient incentive payment practice	Pilot program to target long-term nutrient reduction/ecological services for RFB & wetlands	MDA, NFWF	Maryland	Dec-17	NFWF funded
Utilize CREP targeting tools	Make maps of high-priority areas for reforestation	State Leads	As needed	Dec-17	Aided by USFS/FSA support through CRP
Incorporate other WQ, brook trout and demographic targeting tools for RFB	a) Utilize tools to identify and implement RFB restoration opportunities considering climate change	VA, TNC	Baywide	Dec-17	
	b) Analyze for effectiveness			Dec-17	
Use high-resolution land cover data to map RFB and train partners on how to use the new data for prioritizing their work	a) Pilot method in James to target areas for new RFB	James River Assoc, NFWF, Chesapeake Conservancy, SWCDs	James River watershed	Sep-16	
	b) Work with the SWCDs, JRA and others to independently incorporate the new high-resolution data into their planning and ranking frameworks			Dec-17	
Management Approach 8: Ramp-up conservation of RFB					
Explore RFB preservation policies to analyze their effectiveness/need for enforcement	Identify local RFB preservation policies and conduct analysis	FWG,LUWG	TBD	Dec-17	

Increase participation with the Agriculture Conservation Partnership Program (ACEP)	Determine opportunities for CREP participants to transition enrollments to NRCS ACEP easement programs	NRCS	Baywide	Dec-17	
Explore a buffer easement program	Incorporate RFBs into a broader forest conservation easement program, if created	DCNR, DEP, FBC, Ag, DCED	Pennsylvania	Dec-17	
Integrate RFB in local green space planning and protection	Work to incorporate RFBs into other planning efforts, such as the State Planning Board, county comprehensive plans, and local zoning ordinances	DCNR	Pennsylvania	Dec-17	
Improve easement language for RFB	Suggest acceptable language standards for RFB easements	FWG	Baywide	Dec-16	
Management Approach 9: Focus on non-ag RFB					
Look for funding opportunities for local tree planting and conservation efforts, including RFB in developed areas	Assess and summarize local, state, federal and private funding opportunities	FWG	Baywide	Dec-17	
	Continue to work with volunteers to replant streamsides.	NY Trees for Tribs	NY	Dec-17	
Broaden awareness with non-ag owners about tree planting/RFB/reduced mowing	a) Work with federal land managers to promote RFB	USFS	Baywide	Dec-17	
	b) Target locations through GIS analysis	PA DCNR, MD DNR, VDOF	Golf courses, schools, public lands etc	Dec-16	Aided by USFS/FSA support through CRP
Work with local groups to expand tree planting programs	Successful programs such as Turf to Trees, Backyard Buffers, NY's Trees for Tribs, and CLIPS (Baltimore Co)--meet with LGAC, local leadership group, and others to determine how best to do this	FWG	Baywide	Dec-17	Need consistent funding source-- see also TC Strategy

Work to better integrate urban tree canopy and RFB with TMDL/WIP implementation and MS4 programs	Meet to assess options, needs, of MS4 Permit holders and other stakeholders	FWG	Baywide	Dec-17	See also TC Strategy
	Develop examples of buffers & SWM	CWP	As appropriate	Dec-16	See also TC Strategy
Increase CBIG funding for RFB establishment on urban lands	Assign 1-2 additional no-ag buffer projects to CREP foresters	WVDOF	Priority watershe	Dec-17	

*****Note:*** *As a member of the Chesapeake Executive Council and a signatory to the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement, the Chesapeake Bay Commission (CBC) functions as the legislative arm of the Chesapeake Bay Program working within Maryland, Pennsylvania and Virginia and at the*

Acronym Guide

AACC – Anne Arundel Community College
ACFHP - Atlantic Coast Fish Habitat Partnership
ACJV – Atlantic Coast Joint Venture
AgNPS – AGricultural Non-Point Source Pollution Model
Appalachian LCC - Appalachian Landscape Conservation Cooperative
ASTSWMO – Association of State and Territorial Solid Waste Management Officials
BayFAST/CAST/MAST/VAST – Federal Assessment Scenario Tool/Chesapeake AST/Maryland AST/Virginia AST
BDJV – Black Duck Joint Venture
BKT – Brook trout
BMP – Best Management Practice
CAC – CBP Citizens' Advisory Committee
CAFO – Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation
CB – Chesapeake Bay
CBC – Chesapeake Bay Commission
CBF – Chesapeake Bay Foundation
CBIBS – Chesapeake Bay Interpretive Buoy System
CBIG – Chesapeake Bay Implementation Grants
CBP – Chesapeake Bay Program

CBPO – Chesapeake Bay Program Office
CBRAP – Chesapeake Bay Regulatory and Accountability Program grants
CBSAC – Chesapeake Bay Stock Assessment Committee
CBSSC – Chesapeake Bay Sentinel Site Cooperative
CBT – Chesapeake Bay Trust
CCWC – Choose Clean Water Coalition
CEAP – Conservation Effects Assessment Project
Chessie BIBI – Chesapeake Bay Basin-wide Index of Biotic Integrity
CNMP – Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan
CNU – Christopher Newport University
CRC – Chesapeake Research Consortium
CREP – Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program
CSN – Chesapeake Stormwater Network
CWA – Clean Water Act
DAT – CBP Diversity Action Team
DC – District of Columbia
DCNR – Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
DE – Delaware
DEP – Department of Environment
DE DNREC – Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control
DNR –Department of Natural Resources
DoD – Department of Defense
DOEE – Dist. Of Columbia Department of Energy and Environment
DOF – Department of Forestry
DOT – Department of Transportation
DST – Decision support tool
DU – Ducks Unlimited
EC – Chesapeake Executive Council
EJ SCREEN – Environmental Justice Screening and Mapping Tool
EO Strategy – Executive Order 13508 Strategy for Protecting and Restoring the Chesapeake Bay Watershed
EJ – Environmental Justice
EL – Environmental Learning
ELCSS – Environmental Literacy Challenge for Systemic Sustainability
ERP – Elizabeth River Partnership

EPA – Environmental Protection Agency
Ex Comm - Executive Committee of the Sustainable Fisheries GIT
FERC – Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
FOD – Chesapeake Bay Program Federal Office Directors
FTE – full time employee
FWG – Forest Work Group
FWS – Fish and Wildlife Service
GIS – Geographic Information System
GIT – CBP Goal Implementation Teams
GMU – George Mason University
GSA – General Services Administration
HBCUs – historically black colleges and universities
HSCD – EPA Hazardous Site Cleanup Division
HWGIT – Healthy Watershed Work Group
ICPRB – Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin
IPC – Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake
LCC – Landscape Conservation Cooperatives
LGAC – CBP Local Government Advisory Committee
LL – Local Leadership
LU – Land Use
LUWG – Land Use Work Group
MATOS - Mid-Atlantic Telemetry Observing System
MB – CBP's Management Board
MD - Maryland
MDE – Maryland Department of Environment
MDSG – Maryland Sea Grant
MOU – Memorandum of Understanding
MSP – Math Science Partnership
MS4 – Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System
MWCOG – Metropolitan Washington Council on Governments
MWEEs – Meaningful Watershed Educational Experiences
MWS – Master Watershed Stewards
NAAQS – National Ambient Air Quality Standards
NALCC - North Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative

NATA – National Air Toxics Assessment
NCBO – NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office
NGO – Non-government organization
NEIEN – National Environmental Information Exchange Network
NERR – Chesapeake Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve
NFWF – National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
NOAA – National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NP – National Parks
NPDES – National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NRCS – Natural Resources Conservation Service
NPS – National Park Service
NYS DEC – New York State Department of Environmental Control
ODU – Old Dominion University
ORES – Oyster Reef Ecosystem Services
ORP – Oyster Recovery Partnership
OSSE – Office of the State Superintendent of Education
PA – Pennsylvania
PA DEP – Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
PCB – polychlorinated biphenyl
PMP -- Pollution Minimization Plan
PRFC – Potomac River Fisheries Commission
PSC – CBP's Principles' Staff Committee
QA – quality assurance
RFB – Riparian Forest Buffer
RMNs - Regional Monitoring Networks
SAV – Submerged Aquatic Vegetation
SERC - Smithsonian Environmental Research Center
SHWG – Stream Health Work Group
SRBC -- Susquehanna River Basin Commission
STAC – CBP Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee
STAR – CBP Scientific and Technical Assessment Research team
TCW – Toxics Contaminants Workgroup
TEA - Tidewater Ecosystem Assessment Division of MD DNR
TMDL – Total Maximum Daily Load

TNC – The Nature Conservancy
TSCA – Toxic Substance Control Act
UMBC – University of Maryland Baltimore County
UMCES – University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science
UMCES-CBL – University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science-Chesapeake Biological Lab
UMD – University of Maryland
USACE – U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
USDA – U.S. Department of Agriculture
USFWS – U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
USFS – U.S. Forest Service
USGS – U.S. Geological Survey
UVA – University of Virginia
VA – Virginia
VCU – Virginia Commonwealth University
VA CZM – Virginia Coastal Zone Management
VBOE – Virginia Board of Education
VDGIF – Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries
VIMS – Virginia Institute of Marine Science
Virginia DEQ – Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
VMRC – Virginia Marine Resources Commission
WG – work group
WIP – Watershed Implementation Plan
WQN - Water Quality Network