**Chesapeake Forest Restoration Strategy (FRS) - Work Plan Discussion**

Now that the Chesapeake Forest Restoration Strategy has been officially launched, these are the overarching next steps we will be working on in the next year in collaboration with the Forestry Workgroup and other partners:

1) Develop web content and communication strategy for getting the Strategy out to target groups and engaging their participation

2) Identify opportunities to implement Strategy actions through ongoing CB watershed forestry grants and other possible funding sources (FY2013 grants and beyond)

* NGO partner programs- Potomac Watershed Partnership, Forestry for the Bay, Bay Bank/Land Server, Growing Native
* Chesapeake NFWF grants
* CB state forestry grants and FS competitive grants (CARP)
* What others??

3) Reconvene Strategy teams to identify next steps in the specialty areas (fish and wildlife habitat, mine lands, agroforestry, urban/community, and contaminated lands); refine/broaden team membership as appropriate

The focus of the 4/3 Forestry Workgroup call will be hearing everyone’s perspectives regarding how to move forward on priority Forest Restoration Strategy Actions in each state.

**\*\* RESPONSE REQUESTED FROM EACH FWG MEMBER BY NOON TUESDAY 4/2:**

Each FWG member is asked to think about, discuss with partners, and complete a written response to the actions/questions on the following pages (email to Julie [jmawhorter@fs.fed.us](mailto:jmawhorter@fs.fed.us) ) On the 4/3 call, we’ll do a round-robin so that each person can present their thoughts and we’ll share your written responses on screen.

For additional context regarding the FRS Actions below, you can review the full Strategy document at:

<http://executiveorder.chesapeakebay.net/post/New-Forest-Restoration-Strategy-for-the-Chesapeake-Watershed.aspx>

**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. **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.
3. 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).
4. 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**.
5. **Promote forest restoration as a central BMP to meet Total Maximum Daily Load**/Watershed Implementation Plan targets ***and*** simultaneously achieve habitat goals.
6. **Pursue innovative funding incentives and outreach strategies** to reach landowners in targeted areas through grant programs, such as NFWF, and ecosystem market approaches.
7. 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. 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. 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.
3. 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.
4. 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.**
5. 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.
6. Design and implement **agroforestry research projects** to ensure stakeholders have access to cutting-edge and regionally relevant science.
7. Expand application of agroforestry practices and innovations to **small-scale landscapes, including urban settings**.

**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.
2. 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.**
3. Develop **educational and marketing campaigns**, targeted to distinct audiences, to engage people in planting and caring for trees.
4. **Focus Urban and Community Forestry program funding** and partnership efforts to support work toward meeting local tree canopy goals.
5. **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.
6. Transfer successful **turf-to-trees program** models and lessons learned to more localities that have high turf grass cover.
7. **Work with nontraditional partners**, such as civic organizations, business and industry, and local planning agencies, **to increase tree cover on public and private lands.**
8. 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!!!**