**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.

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

***I believe the service foresters within the Bureau of Forestry, PA NRCS, The Nature Conservancy and individuals from the habitat section within the Pennsylvania Game Commission would be good partners to assist in moving this action forward.***

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

***A potential start to moving this effort forward might be to create a subcommittee with the network of existing or new partners in order to start collaborating on best approaches at moving forward and potential grant opportunities.***

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.

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

***Some partners that may be pertinent to this effort might include, the Bureau of Forestry, DCNR Bureau of Recreation and Conservation grants program, the Department of Environmental Protection, the PA Fish and Boat Commission, Trout Unlimited, and the USGS Fish and Wildlife Cooperative Unit based in State College.***

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

***A possible first step would be to have each partner determine priority areas for brook trout restoration and see how many areas there potentially are in the state. Then see how many are on state and private lands. The partners may even be able to start prioritizing areas or determining which projects are most feasible.***

***The Bureau of Forestry has a Brook Trout plan and have been working with the forest districts and the Fish and Boat commission to try and locate high priority areas for restoration.***

1. 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).
2. 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**.
3. ***What network of existing or new partners could be engaged in your state/region to move this action forward?***

***There are already many good partners listed here, but a few others might include the Bureau of Forestry, the PA Game Commission, PA Fish and Boat Commission, The Nature Conservancy and perhaps PA DEP since they know many areas that are in desperate need of restoration.***

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

***A potential idea for moving this action forward might be to review the PA Wildlife Action Plan to determine priority forest-dependent species. Then work with the PGC , BOF, and FBC to determine potential locations for those species in PA.***

1. **Promote forest restoration as a central BMP to meet Total Maximum Daily Load**/Watershed Implementation Plan targets ***and*** simultaneously achieve habitat goals.
2. **Pursue innovative funding incentives and outreach strategies** to reach landowners in targeted areas through grant programs, such as NFWF, and ecosystem market approaches.
3. 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?*** In order for this strategy to move forward, the mine operators and landowners within the watershed would need to be educated on the use of the forest reclamation approach. Existing partners to aid in this effort would be the Pennsylvania Anthracite Council, the Eastern Pennsylvania Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation, Pennsylvania Mining Professionals, county conservation districts and established watershed groups.

***b) List specific ideas for how to move this action forward in your state and how your organization could contribute.*** The Bureau of Mining Programs can assist in outreach, provide training and information on the forest reclamation approach, and assist in coordination with resources such as Green Forest Works.

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. An expansion of protected bat habitat has been fed into the PNDI system by USFWS designating thousands of additional acres as Indiana Bat habitat requiring protection and if mining occurs replacement land paid for or reforestation of reclaimed mine lands using old growth forest tree species that are used by bats. The Pennsylvania Game Commission also is working with active mine operators to limit impact on State listed species by using avoidance and conservation techniques.
2. Convene a **regional workshop for watershed groups and agency partners** to promote forest restoration on mine lands in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. West Branch of the Susquehanna River Coalition holds annual meetings in Williamsport, PA to deal with AMD treatment that impacts the Susquehanna River. http://www.wbsrc.org
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.

The Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative (ARRI) is a coalition of groups, including citizens, the coal industry, and government dedicated to restoring forests on coal mined lands in the Eastern United States. ARRI is a cooperative effort among the states of Kentucky, Maryland, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia; the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement. This coalition can be utilized to promote the reforestation on reclaimed sites within the Bay States.

1. Support the Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative’s outreach and **collaboration efforts with active mining operations** to encourage forestry reclamation in the Bay watershed.

Existing partners to aid in this effort would be the Pennsylvania Anthracite Council, and the Pennsylvania Mining Professionals.

**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**.

***What network of existing or new partners could be engaged in your state/region to move this action forward?******USFS,SARE, ARS, DCNR, BOF, Dickinson College, Cornell University, Penn State University, Pennsylvania Association for Sustainable Agriculture, farmers and landowners***

***List specific ideas for how to move this action forward in your state and how your organization could contribute. Training, outreach, demonstration sites, technical assistance***

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.

 ***What network of existing or new partners could be engaged in your state/region to***

 ***move this action forward? USFS,SARE, ARS, DCNR, BOF, Dickinson College, Cornell University, Penn State University, Pennsylvania Association for Sustainable Agriculture, farmers and landowners***

***List specific ideas for how to move this action forward in your state and how your organization could contribute. Outreach and education on many levels and through a number of different outlets are generating an interest in agroforestry practices and requests for technical assistance from consultants and agencies that fuels a demand for training among resource professionals. We are collaborating with a number of agencies, academic institutions, and NGOs to provide this training.***

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.

***What network of existing or new partners could be engaged in your state/region to move this action forward? USFS,SARE, ARS, DCNR, BOF, Dickinson College Farm , Cornell University, Penn State University, Pennsylvania Association for Sustainable Agriculture, farmers and landowners. Seek additional funding needed to assist in completion and expansion of current projects at Dickinson Farm and Wyebrook Farm. Seek other opportunities.***

***List specific ideas for how to move this action forward in your state and how your organization could contribute. DCNR is working with Penn State to secure funding for upland buffers (windbreaks) to prevent nutrient s from livestock barns from reaching neighboring waterbodies.***

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.**

 ***Already completed in PA.***

1. 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.  ***“Woodnet” is a program developed by the WAC in New York but expanding into PA as a promotion of local working forests through a “Community Supported Forests” guide for the South Mountain region of Central PA. Funding was provided through DCNR Conservation Landscape Initiative Funding. There is a similar effort in the Delaware Highlands of PA, “Shop Local, Save Land,” and there is some interest in promoting the program statewide.***
2. Design and implement **agroforestry research projects** to ensure stakeholders have access to cutting-edge and regionally relevant science. ***See above***
3. Expand application of agroforestry practices and innovations to **small-scale landscapes, including urban settings**. ***Developing*** ***demonstration*** ***projects on highly visible public facilities.*** ***NRCS’ People’s Garden Program is one example of this concept. Promoting agroforestry, edible landscaping and permaculture practices through outreach, landscape architects, to schools and communities .***

**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:**