

Outcome: Riparian Forest Buffer**Goal:****Outcome:** Enroll 5,571 acres of forested riparian buffer on private lands and 1,449 acres of RFBs on public lands by 2025**Long term Target:** 5,571 acres private lands & 1,449 acres of public by 2025**2 year Target:** 4,234 by 2016**Management Approach 1: RFB Leadership**

Key Action** <i>Description of work/project. Define each major action step on its own row. Identify specific program that will be used to achieve action.</i>	Performance Target(s) <i>Identify incremental steps to achieve Key Action.</i>	Participating Entity <i>Identify responsible partner for each step.</i>	Geographic Location	Timeline <i>Identify completion date (month & year) for each step)</i>	Factors Influencing and/or Gap <i>Identify related factor or gap in Management Strategy</i>
1. Develop a coordinated, riparian forest buffer (RFB) strategy to boost forest buffer enrollment	seek guidance/policy to address barriers to program enrollment	DNREC, NRCS, FSA, DDA	Statewide	Jan. 2016	Staff resources, funding
	send leadership message that RFB are a strong interagency priority			Jan. 2016	
	develop and seek funding for a coordinated, multi partner RFB outreach strategy			Apr. 2016	
	provide outreach events that showcase Governor			Jan. 2016	

Management Approach 2:RFB Enhancements

Key Action** <i>Description of work/project. Define each major action step on its own row. Identify specific program that will be used to achieve action.</i>	Performance Target(s) <i>Identify incremental steps to achieve Key Action.</i>	Participating Entity <i>Identify responsible partner for each step.</i>	Geographic Location	Timeline <i>Identify completion date (month & year) for each step)</i>	Factors Influencing and/or Gap <i>Identify related factor or gap in Management Strategy</i>
1. Encourage RFBs adjacent to organized tax ditches	change policy and/or guidance to support the establishment adjacent to tax ditches	DNREC, Conservation Districts, tax ditch organizations	Statewide	Jan. 2016	Staff resources
2. Landowner/Tax ditch manager outreach	identify potential partners	DNREC, Conservation Districts, tax ditch organizations	Statewide	Jan. 2016	Staff resources
	develop strategy that provides guidance and encouragement for RFB projects adjacent to tax ditches			Jan. 2016	
	expand maintenance policy to include RFBs as a potential maintenance strategy			Mar. 2016	

	strengthen CREP outreach on projects adjacent to tax ditches			Apr. 2016	
3. Recognize partnership potential with NGOs	reach out to The Nature Conservancy and Delaware Wildlands	DNREC	Statewide	Jan. 2016	Staff resources
Management Approach 3: RFB Technical Assistance					
Key Action** <i>Description of work/project. Define each major action step on its own row. Identify specific program that will be used to achieve action.</i>	Performance Target(s) <i>Identify incremental steps to achieve Key Action.</i>	Participating Entity <i>Identify responsible partner for each step.</i>	Geographic Location	Timeline <i>Identify completion date (month & year) for each step)</i>	Factors Influencing and/or Gap <i>Identify related factor or gap in Management Strategy</i>
1. Assess process to determine efficiency opportunities	define process	DNREC, FSA, NRCS	Statewide	Oct. 2015	Staff resources, funding
2. Expand partnership with US Fish and Wildlife Service	determine practices and services offered by the Partners for Wildlife Program	DNREC, FSA, NRCS, US F&W	Statewide	Oct. 2015	
Management Approach 4: RFB Outreach and Increasing New Enrollment					
Key Action** <i>Description of work/project. Define each major action step on its own row. Identify specific program that will be used to achieve action.</i>	Performance Target(s) <i>Identify incremental steps to achieve Key Action.</i>	Participating Entity <i>Identify responsible partner for each step.</i>	Geographic Location	Timeline <i>Identify completion date (month & year) for each step)</i>	Factors Influencing and/or Gap <i>Identify related factor or gap in Management Strategy</i>
1. Secure funding to process CRP/CREP contracts that wish to enroll	outreach to potential participants contracts	DNREC, FSA, NRCS	Statewide	Oct. 2015	The Delaware CREP Program is ins a programmatic freeze until funding shortfalls are addressed. Shortfalls are Approximately: \$500,000 for 2015, \$500,000 for 2016, and \$300,000 for 2017
	develop State budget request	DNREC	Statewide	Oct. 2015	
	develop out reach strategy to NGOs	DNREC, FSA, NRCS	Statewide	Nov. 2016	
Management Approach 5: Improve Establishment/Maintenance/Verification					
Key Action** <i>Description of work/project. Define each major action step on its own row. Identify specific program that will be used to achieve action.</i>	Performance Target(s) <i>Identify incremental steps to achieve Key Action.</i>	Participating Entity <i>Identify responsible partner for each step.</i>	Geographic Location	Timeline <i>Identify completion date (month & year) for each step)</i>	Factors Influencing and/or Gap <i>Identify related factor or gap in Management Strategy</i>
1. Provide additional incentive for enrollment of new RFB practices	secure finances to provide up to \$200/acre/year bonus payment for new RFB enrollment	DNREC, FSA, NRCS	Statewide	Jan. 2016	CREP program will be in a programmatic freeze until funding is secured to provide re-enrollment of CREP contracts. Approximate funding shortfall: \$500,000 for 2015, \$500,000 for 2016, and \$300,000 for 2017
2. Provide additional incentive for re-enrollment in RFB practices	secure finances to provide up to \$100/acre/year bonus payment for new	DNREC, FSA, NRCS	Statewide	Jan. 2016	

	RFB enrollment			
3. Expand CREP to provided additional incentive for annual maintenance payments	secure finances to double the current contract maintenance allowance	DNREC, FSA, NRCS	Statewide	Apr. 2016
4. Increase MPL soil rental rates	determine if MPL soil rental rates are sufficient for enrolling RFBs	FSA	Statewide	Apr. 2016

Management Approach 6: Improve Re-enrollment

Key Action** <i>Description of work/project. Define each major action step on its own row. Identify specific program that will be used to achieve action.</i>	Performance Target(s) <i>Identify incremental steps to achieve Key Action.</i>	Participating Entity <i>Identify responsible partner for each step.</i>	Geographic Location	Timeline <i>Identify completion date (month & year) for each step)</i>	Factors Influencing and/or Gap <i>Identify related factor or gap in Management Strategy</i>
1. Over the next 3 years, encourage CRP/CREP participants with approx. 3,700 acres to re-enroll	outreach to participants with expiring contracts and explain programmatic options	DNREC, FSA, NRCS	Statewide	Oct. 2015	Re-enrollment of CREP contracts cannot occur until shortfalls are fulfilled. Approximate funding shortfall: \$500,000 for 2015, \$500,000 for 2016, and \$300,000 for 2017
2. Promote/prioritize RFB re-enrollment in CREP	outreach to participants with expiring contracts	DNREC, FSA, NRCS	Statewide	Oct. 2015	
3. Protect RFBs under ACEP easements	outreach to participants with expiring contracts	NRCS, FSA	Statewide	Oct. 2015	
4. Ensure periodic site visits during active CREP contract period	adjust compliance inspection rates to accommodate Key Action	DNREC, NRCS, FSA	Statewide	Nov. 2016	

Management Approach 7: Improve Targeting of RFB

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1. Maintain current levels of RFB credit within the CB watershed	assure Delaware is receiving full credit of practices located within the CB watershed	DNREC, FSA, NRCS	Chesapeake Bay Watershed	Current through 2025	CREP program will be in a programmatic freeze until funding is secured to provide re-enrollment of CREP contracts. Approximate funding shortfall: \$500,000 for 2015, \$500,000 for 2016, and \$300,000 for 2017
2. Increase participation of RFB projects within the CB watershed	expand participation within the CB watershed	DNREC, FSA, NRCS	Chesapeake Bay Watershed	Current through 2025	

3. Increase participation in RFB projects on public lands within the CB watershed	expand participation on public lands within the CB watershed	DNREC, FSA, NRCS, DDA	Chesapeake Bay Watershed	Current through 2025	
4. Increase MPL soil rental rates	determine if MPL soil rental rates are sufficient for enrolling RFBs	FSA	Chesapeake Bay Watershed	Apr. 2016	

Management Approach 8: Ramp-up conservation of RFB easement programs

Key Action** <i>Description of work/project. Define each major action step on its own row. Identify specific program that will be used to achieve action.</i>	Performance Target(s) <i>Identify incremental steps to achieve Key Action.</i>	Participating Entity <i>Identify responsible partner for each step.</i>	Geographic Location	Timeline <i>Identify completion date (month & year) for each step)</i>	Factors Influencing and/or Gap <i>Identify related factor or gap in Management Strategy</i>
1. Increase participation with the Agriculture Conservation Partnership Program (ACEP)	determine opportunities for CREP participants to transition enrollments to NRCS ACEP easement programs	NRCS, FSA	Statewide	Oct-15	staff resources

Management Approach 9: Focus on non-ag RFB

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NA					