



Chesapeake Bay Program



POTOMAC AMERICAN HERITAGE RIVER WATERSHED AGREEMENT



Whereas, in 1997 the President of the United States of America, directed his Cabinet to design an initiative to support communities in their efforts to restore and protect America's rivers, and in 1998 designated the Potomac, and thirteen other rivers, as American Heritage Rivers in order to receive focused Federal support and serve as models of the most innovative, economically successful and ecologically sustainable approaches to river restoration and protection for communities across the United States.

Whereas, the Chesapeake Executive Council created a Federal Agencies Committee in 1984 to forward Federal policies and initiatives in the Chesapeake Bay Program to restore and protect lands, waters and living resources in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

Whereas, as described in the November 5, 1998, Federal Agencies Chesapeake Ecosystem Unified Plan signed by 22 agencies and departments the Federal agency partners of the Chesapeake Bay Program agreed to participate fully in the American Heritage Rivers program for the Potomac and the Upper Susquehanna Rivers by identifying relevant Federal landholdings, establishing partnership agreements with community-based efforts in the Heritage Rivers watersheds, and supporting directed application of technical and funding resources to aid revitalization efforts in these priority watersheds.

Whereas, the goals of the Friends of the Potomac, the lead organization to implement the American Heritage River designation on the Potomac, and the Potomac American Heritage River application directly support the Chesapeake Bay Program's commitments on nutrient reduction; public access; habitat restoration; restoration and protection of wetlands and riparian forests; land, growth and stewardship activities; and local government and community participation to help achieve our restoration and protection goals.

Now, therefore, we the undersigned representatives of the Federal Agencies Committee of the Chesapeake Bay Program and the Friends of the Potomac establish the following partnership agreement for community-based efforts within the Potomac American Heritage River Initiative. Specifically, we agree to:

1. Support projects contained within the Potomac American Heritage River annual project report through active participation in said programs and projects of the Friends of the Potomac and their recognized member organizations.
2. Each of the member agencies of the Federal Agencies Committee will participate in the Potomac American Heritage River Federal Agency Team by assigning a representative to attend meetings, actively support the goals of the initiative, assist and be available to the River Navigator and the Friends of the Potomac for advice, general problem solving, assistance, and reporting on progress.
3. The Federal agencies will provide by October 31, 1999, an inventory of existing Federal agency programs and assistance services that have the potential to support projects and activities identified in the Potomac AHR project report, and support directed application of technical and/or financial assistance to aid the AHR initiative. The Friends agree to assist Federal agencies in the delivery of service and programs to local governments and community leaders per Executive Order 13061.
4. Make available existing geographic information for the Potomac River watershed on living resources, public lands, public access sites, forest cover and land use.

Date: August 25, 1999

FOR THE FEDERAL AGENCIES COMMITTEE
OF THE CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM




William Macuszeski, Chair

FOR THE FRIENDS OF THE POTOMAC




Kevin J. Miller, Chairman of the Board