

Wetlands Workgroup BMP Verification Protocols

Presented to BMP Verification Review
Panel

Dec. 6, 2012

Wetland Workgroup Member Agencies

- MDE
- DU
- USFWS
- DOD
- USDA
- DEP
- USACE
- USEPA
- TNC
- DEP
- SERC
- NAHB

Wetlands

- Serve as a buffer between land and water, providing nutrient and sediment retention
- Provide erosion control and shore stabilization
- Critical for survival of countless wildlife
- Vital to health of the Bay's commercial fishing industry
- Provide opportunities for recreation such as fishing, crabbing, hunting, bird watching, and photography

Wetland Outcomes

- Restore 30,000 acres and enhance 150,000 acres of tidal and non-tidal wetlands in Bay watershed by 2025
- Protect additional 225,000 acres of wetlands
- Wetland restoration/creation result in *acreage* gain
- Wetland enhancement results in *functional* gain
- Recommended Wetland BMP Verification Protocols apply to existing wetland restoration/creation BMP; wetland enhancement is not currently credited in the model

Wetlands in Phase II WIPs

(in acres)	Agriculture		Urban	
	2011 Progress	2025 Goals	2011 Progress	2025 Goals
NY	6,363	13,792	0	9,209
PA	4,709	54,135	76,244	145,722
MD	8,614	12,747	54,415	67,721
VA	411	19,215	158,293	177,773
WV	203	406	10,039	0
DE	588	5,725	5,750	5,776
DC	NA	NA	99	99
Totals:	20,888	106,020	304,840	406,300

Guiding Principles

- Verify physical extent and efficiency of wetlands as well as their sustainability for the life of the practice
- Operate within existing verification/inspection programs and practices
- Consider practicality of verification process while maintaining rigor and integrity
- Visit sites post-construction to ensure project was completed as designed
- Manage invasive species to maintain desired plant species composition and abundance

Sample Wetland Monitoring Elements

- Landowner information, change in ownership?
- Terms and conditions of easement being met?
- Observed unauthorized uses?
- Compatible use authorizations?
- Boundaries and access?
- Management objectives?
- Proper maintenance?
- Threatened/endangered or invasive species present?
- Hydrology and vegetation acceptable?
- Cultural resources and water rights?

Process and Next Steps

- Protocols being developed under guidance of CBP's BMP Verification Principles
- Current wetland protocol draft reflects comments from NRCS, USFWS, Ducks Unlimited, USEPA, NY State DEC
- Working draft is still under review and pending full consensus by wetlands workgroup and Habitat GIT
- **Next steps**
 - Current draft was sent out to Wetlands Workgroup for comment due by mid-December

