Phase 6 Land Cover & Land Use Webinar

Who: Peter Claggett, Research Geographer, U.S. Geological Survey
Cassandra Pallai, Geospatial Project Manager, Chesapeake Conservancy

What: Presentation and Discussion on the Production and Review of Local Land Cover and Use Data

When: 10am – 12pm, January 29th

Where: Online: https://epawebconferencing.acms.com/luwg/
Call in #: 866-299-3188
Code: 2675715

<u>Purpose</u>

The Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) partnership wants to ensure that new land use and land cover data being developed to inform Chesapeake Bay restoration activities, including the Phase 6 suite of modeling tools, are as accurate and useful as possible. For this purpose, the CBP's Land Use Data Team is seeking outside review of this new land use and land cover data. This review process is open to all interested parties, but it is especially intended for local governments to participate in it.

During its first hour, the webinar will cover the purpose, content, and benefits of the new data for informing local, state, and regional decisions. Two websites have been built to facilitate the dissemination and review of the data. The webinar will explain how to use these websites and address the schedule and expectations for the review process. The second hour will be reserved for online discussion and questions.

<u>Background</u>

An accurate characterization of the land surface of the Chesapeake Bay watershed is needed to inform local restoration and conservation efforts and to accurately estimate the amount of nutrients and sediments transported from the land to the Bay. The CBP partnership and the Virginia Legislature have funded the development of new 1-meter resolution land cover data (e.g., impervious, herbaceous, tree canopy) derived from aerial imagery and available LiDAR elevation data for all 206 cities/counties intersecting the 64,000 square mile watershed. In addition, over the past three years, the partnership has collected land use (e.g., residential, commercial, agriculture), parcel and other data from local jurisdictions to improve our characterization of the landscape. To accurately represent sources of nutrients and sediments to local streams and the Bay, the high-resolution land cover and local land use data are combined and aggregated into a series of 10m-resolution hybrid land cover/use datasets. All of the data will be finalized and freely available for use in informing decisions by October 1, 2016.