Restoration in the 21st century: How High-Resolution Data Is Changing the Game Chesapeake Bay Commission meeting - January 8th 2021

Carly Dean, Program Manager Chesapeake Conservancy

Allyson Gibson, Coordinator Lancaster Clean Water Partners

Jake Reilly, Program Director, Chesapeake Bay National Fish & Wildlife Foundation



<u>Topics</u>

- Overview: new technology tools to coordinate and strategically target restoration activities.
- How are the partners in our watershed using these new tools?
- What are the advantages of this approach?
- How can state and federal programs support and adapt?

Deploying new technology tools to coordinate and strategically target restoration activities

- cooperative agreement with EPA to provide geospatial support to the Chesapeake Bay Program partnership
- High-resolution land cover, hydrography data, BMP opportunity mapping

Chesapeake

Comparison of 1-m and 30-m land cover datasets in Lancaster County, PA



Deploying new technology tools to coordinate and strategically target restoration activities

cooperative agreement with EPA to provide geospatial support to the Chesapeake Bay Program partnership

Elevation

High-resolution land • cover, hydrography data, BMP opportunity mapping



<u>Deploying new technology tools to</u> <u>coordinate and strategically target</u> <u>restoration activities</u>



1. Gaps in forest buffer coverage are open doorways for pollution-laden runoff to enter directly into streams. Deploying new technology tools to coordinate and strategically target restoration activities



2. New high resolution datasets created by Chesapeake Conservancy characterize land cover and waterways. Deploying new technology tools to coordinate and strategically target restoration activities



3. Mapping data identifies gaps in forest buffer coverage. <u>Deploying new technology tools to</u> <u>coordinate and strategically target</u> <u>restoration activities</u>



4. Concentrated flow path mapping identifies the upslope area contributing runoff through a buffer gap and directly into streams. How are the partners in our watershed using these new tools?

Rapid Stream De-Listing: Central Pennsylvania Precision Conservation Partnership

Aughwick Creek, Huntingdon County, PA Total area in catchment: ~2,000 acres (about 3 square miles) Total length of ag impairment: 5.08 miles Total # of parcels: 65 Total buffer gaps: 20.8 acres

> Total drainage area of AIT: 440 acres 4 farms drain 80% AIT in catchment

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Innovative Nutrient and Sediment Reduction Grant (fall 2020): 8 streams prioritized for de-listing across 4 central PA counties



How are the partners in our watershed using these new tools?

Rapid Stream De-Listing:



Catchment	Name:	Aughwick	Creek
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Commitment to Outreach: Huntingdon County Conservation District, Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

Parcel summary: 4 parcels contribute 80% AIT.

Implementation Partners (TA)	Outreach contact	LO name		Previously completed restoration project	NFWF Shovel- ready projects	Likely amenable to Restoration	Outreach priority	AIT acres filtered	
WPC	WPC	C	F	٤		Pending GG grant for forest buffer, streambank fencing, livestock crossings, barnyard			94.31
	HCCD	RA	v	&			Forest buffer, streambank fencing	х	85.44
	HCCD	RA	v	&			Forest buffer, streambank fencing	х	74.38
	TBD	P	Z	I				х	98.91
							AIT on 4 rapid delisting parcels		353.04
							Total catchment AIT		439.99

Key:
Completed restoration projects
NFWF shovel-ready projects
Landowner likely amenable to restoration
Highest impact landowners for outreach

How are the partners in our watershed using these new tools?

Rapid Stream De-Listing: Lancaster <u>Clean Water Partners</u>

The Lancaster Clean Water Partners used the tool to identify priority catchments for implementation work.

Outreach is in anticipation of federal grant dollars, CAP implementation, and watershed-scale coordination.

- Lancaster County Boundary
- IBI Scores- SRBC
- Freestone
- Limestone
- Multihabitat
- Water Quality Data- SRBC

- Water Quality Data-Lancaster County Volunteer
- WQ CSDatum
- SRBC 2019 Chiques Sampling Points
 Tier 1 Catchments
 Tier 2 Catchments
- Additional Catchments Under Consideration



What are the advantages of this approach?



How can state and federal programs support and adapt?

Bay-wide funding for data development Sustained funding for local implementation Make funding programs more appealing to farmers More support for coordination Prioritize maintenance

Be a vocal supporter

Based on the landscape you know, does this approach make sense? Opportunities to support local strategies? How best to support local constituents.

Jake Reilly Director, Chesapeake Bay Programs National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Office: (202) 595-2610 – Cell: (301) 908-7997 – Email: jake.reilly@nfwf.org

www.nfwf.org/programs/chesapeake-baystewardship-fund Carly Dean Program Manager Chesapeake Conservancy 716 Giddings Ave. Ste. 42 Annapolis, MD 21401 cell: 443.907 email: cdean@chesapeakeconservancy.org Allyson Ladley Gibson Coordinator Lancaster Clean Water Partners www.lancastercleanwaterpartners.com 717-368-4831 agibson@LancasterCleanWaterPartners.com

www.lancastercleanwaterpartners.com

www.chesapeakeconservancy.org/precison conservationinpa