

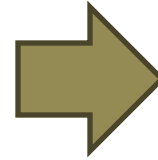
Developing a Watershed-Scale Regional Conservation Partnership Program for the Chesapeake Bay

Chesapeake Bay Commission
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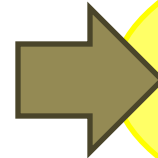
Layering Programs at Multiple Scales

National Competition



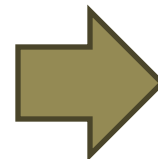
National-scale projects with relevance to Chesapeake Bay conservation needs (e.g. 4Rs, soil health, manure management)

Critical Conservation Area



Watershed-scale program designed to address watershed-scale challenges in Chesapeake Bay restoration

State-level Competitive Program



State-level programs to drive state agricultural conservation priorities



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NFWF Grantee Needs Assessment

- Maximizing water quality benefits of conservation investments through targeting
- Accelerating improvements in administrative efficiency and flexibility of private lands conservation programs
- Improving existing conservation investments while also engaging new and underserved producers in conservation
- Promoting greater synergies across Federal, state, and private agricultural conservation programs
- Supporting achievement of milestones two-year milestones and WIP implementation
- Monitoring and verifying the presence, condition, and performance of agriculture conservation practices

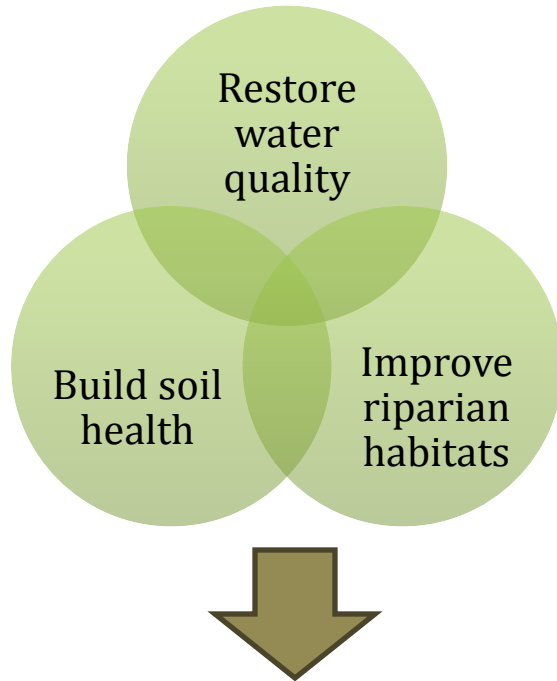
“Comprehensive conservation planning that incorporates targeting is essential for effectiveness and efficiency. Prioritizing one or more conservation goals, identifying acres with the highest potential for conservation gains per conservation dollar investment, and identifying the appropriate suites of treatments for each acre significantly improves the effectiveness of conservation practice implementation and increases the value of the conservation dollar. Suites of practices that comprehensively address all three components of the Avoid, Control, Trap strategy are required to adequately address soil erosion, nutrient losses in runoff, and nitrogen losses through leaching.”

- NRCS 2013



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Potential Targeting Opportunities



Opportunities for leveraging working lands, easement, and stewardship programs at the farm and landscape-scale for comprehensive conservation approaches

Water quality restoration –More focused attention is needed in the most degraded agricultural and forested watersheds to deliver measurable water quality improvements and preclude the need for additional regulation of production agriculture in the region from the Federal, state, or local level.

Build soil health –Leveraging NRCS soil health efforts in a Chesapeake RCPP will provide new opportunities and new messages for communicating conservation benefits to producers.

Improve riparian habitats –Restoring streams and wetlands systems, including associated riparian complexes, will reinforce efforts to reduce surface and subsurface losses with the restoration of natural filters that help to trap nutrients and sediment



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Critical Program Design Considerations

- Leveraging of “significant” additional cash resources to expand funding impact
- Support increasingly effective approaches for the delivery of constrained technical assistance funding
- Creatively address administrative challenges to increased participation and enrollment in Farm Bill programs
- Align with ongoing efforts to better track and verify the presence/condition of agricultural conservation practices
- Complement prospective national and state-level RCPP projects in the watershed

