



# **WETLAND AND RIPARIAN STEWARDSHIP IN PENNSYLVANIA**

*A Guide to Voluntary Options for  
Landowners, Local Governments  
and Organizations*

# **Wetland and Riparian Stewardship in Pennsylvania**

## ***A Guide to Voluntary Options for Landowners, Local Governments and Organizations***

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June 1997

For information on availability of additional copies, please contact the Bureau of Watershed Conservation, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, at PO Box 8555, Harrisburg, PA 17110, (717)787-5259, or the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay at (717)236-8825.



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## Introduction

*In Dauphin County, a farmer installs a wetland to remove nitrates from shallow groundwater after years of applying too much fertilizer and manure to his adjacent farm fields.*

*In Union County, a comprehensive greenway plan will create and connect vegetated corridors along the major tributaries to the West Branch of the Susquehanna River. Landowners will donate easements and/or development rights on future buffer areas, and plans are underway to devise a tax schedule for landowners who donate land to be put into a greenway.*

*In Lancaster County, East Donegal Township received \$25,000 from the state to purchase 35 acres of forestland along the Susquehanna River. Working with neighboring Marietta Borough, which also received \$25,000, the land is being preserved as a natural area with a walking trail.*

These stories illustrate the growing appreciation and interest in the conservation of wetlands and

streamside, or *riparian*, buffers. In many cases, the biology of a wetland or stream buffer aids in stopping pollution at virtually the water's edge. In other cases, these natural ecosystems offer simple recreational opportunities.

Whatever the intended goal, the landowners and local governments mentioned above knew how to obtain the technical and financial assistance necessary to create or preserve these natural treasures. This guide is intended to help you find similar avenues of assistance.

Since the majority of Pennsylvania's riparian lands and wetlands are privately owned, the role of the private landowner and citizen organizations in the conservation and restoration of these resources is significant. A number of voluntary conservation and management options are available through federal and state agencies, county conservation districts, and private organizations. The programs and contacts listed in this guide are designed to provide the reader with the essential tools for effective land stewardship.

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### What are Wetlands?

Wetlands include marshes, swamps and bogs as well as some shallow water portions of rivers, lakes and ponds. They are lands that are permanently or regularly flooded or remain saturated for extended periods of time during the growing season.

Wetlands are defined by the predominance of plants adapted for life in wet soils (hydrophytes) and the presence of periodically saturated or flooded soils (hydric soils).

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### What are Riparian Buffers?

A riparian buffer is a streamside area of trees or other vegetation which can intercept surface runoff, subsurface flow and deeper groundwater flows for the purpose of removing or buffering the effects of nutrients, pesticides or other chemicals from upland use, which could otherwise enter bodies of water.

Buffers may also serve other purposes, such as shading streams, providing food (leaf litter) for stream insects, and stabilizing banks.



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# Why Conserve Wetlands and Riparian Areas?

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## 1. ***They Provide Multiple Environmental Benefits***

Decades of deforestation, intense farming, mining, and questionable development patterns have added fertilizers, nutrients, sediment and toxic compounds to the witch's brew of stormwater runoff in both rural and urban settings. Both wetlands and riparian buffers purify runoff by trapping sediment, fertilizers, bacterial and viral pathogens, chemicals, and heavy metals before they reach the nearest waterway.

The latest science indicates that wooded riparian buffers are particularly effective at taking up nitrogen for leaf, limb and root development, as well as removing nitrogen through the forest floor where bacteria convert water soluble nitrate into a harmless nitrogen gas. Trees and shrub roots also hold streambanks in place, preventing erosion.

Wetlands have an equally voracious appetite for nitrogen, and they are proving to be valuable low-tech alternatives to treating acid mine drainage from abandoned mines. Their ability to consume nutrients and break down organic matter has also earned wetlands a place in the treatment of waste water, even to the point of providing tertiary treatment -- the highest level of human waste water treatment.

Both riparian buffers and wetlands slow and store flood waters, gradually releasing it as the water table lowers. Their role as natural flood control devices is critical for the state of Pennsylvania, the most flood-prone state in the nation. By slowing down storm waters, buffer zones and wetlands also help recharge underlying groundwater.

## 2. ***They Provide Critical Wildlife Habitat***

Nearly 70 percent of Pennsylvania's threatened or endangered species of wildlife use wetland habitat at some point in their lives, and all game species use wetlands. Many species of waterfowl, aquatic animals and mammals depend on riparian corridors for food, cover and nesting places. Fallen tree leaves break down into small organic particles that are the

major food source for many invertebrates, which in turn are food for forage fish, and so on down the aquatic food chain.

## 3. ***They Provide Recreation***

Wetlands and riparian areas provide valuable recreational opportunities for boating, fishing, hiking, camping, hunting, nature observation, photography, art and writing.

## 4. ***Their Existence is Threatened***

Pennsylvania is graced by over 53,000 miles of streams and rivers, more stream miles than any other state excluding Alaska. Development and agriculture in particular have degraded natural forest canopies that once covered and protected thousands of stream miles. Most of the lost acreage of wooded buffers has occurred where their protection against pollution and floodwater is most needed -- in the rapidly developing sections of southeastern and southcentral Pennsylvania.

In 1780, Pennsylvania had over 1,000,000 acres of wetlands. Today, less than 404,000 wetland acres remain, covering less than 2 percent of the state's total land area. Most remaining wetlands are in the glaciated northeastern and northwestern corners of the state.

## 5. ***They Save Money and Make Money***

Like any worthwhile, long term investment, riparian buffers and wetlands reap high returns. They save taxpayers money by reducing downstream property damage caused by floods; they are cost-effective alternatives in some cases to expensive steel technologies in waste water treatment. They make money by attracting people and discretionary spending to recreational hot spots, whether it's hiking along a riparian greenway or scouting for waterfowl in a wetland. They add to property values by keeping nearby waterways clean and adding a touch of nature to a developing world.

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## Compliance Requirements

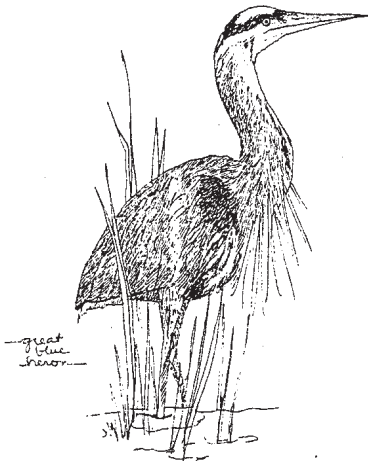
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Federal, state and local laws should be observed when undertaking conservation or restoration projects in wetlands and areas bordering a body of water. A few of the most significant of these laws are summarized below. Always consult with the county conservation district, Department of Environmental Protection, and other state agencies, such as the Pennsylvania Game Commission, to ensure that correct practices are used, rules and regulations are followed, and necessary permits are obtained.

### ***Federal Protection***

(a) Section 404 of the Clean Water Act prohibits unauthorized placement of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States, including most wetlands. The program is administered by the US Army Corps of Engineers with EPA oversight.

(b) The federal Farm Bill includes a "swampbuster" provision, which prohibits farmers who receive USDA benefits from draining, dredging, filling, leveling or otherwise manipulating a wetland after November 1990. Wetland categories under swampbuster include natural wetlands, abandoned wetlands, converted wetlands, farmed wetlands and prior converted land. The 1996 farm bill gave farmers more flexibility in complying with wetland conservation requirements, such as providing more options for mitigation.



### ***Pennsylvania Programs***

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has jurisdiction for the protection of wetlands and stream encroachments under Chapter 105 of the Dam Safety and Encroachments Act of 1978. The program requires DEP to issue permits for activities and structures in watercourses, floodways, and bodies of water including wetlands. Common regulated activities include filling of wetlands; construction of bridges, dams, docks, roads, and levees; dredging bodies of water; and alteration of streambanks.

Many of the Commonwealth's 66 county conservation districts also provide information on the program at the local level, register general permits, and perform on-site investigations to attempt to gain voluntary compliance.

The Corps of Engineers has issued a state programmatic general permit (SPGP) recognizing Pennsylvania's permitting process for many types of activities in wetlands. Under the Pennsylvania SPGP, the Department of Environmental Protection may issue many permits that are considered to be sufficient to satisfy the requirements of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act without further action by the Corps.

### ***Municipal Protection***

Under the Pennsylvania Municipal Planning Code (MPC), land can be zoned and designated for appropriate uses. Zoning establishes legally tenable land use options. Section 603 of the MPC authorizes local governments to regulate, permit, prohibit, restrict and determine uses of land, including wetlands and riparian zones.

The "Environmental Rights Amendment" of the Pennsylvania Constitution (Act 1, Section 27) has been interpreted by the courts as a responsibility equally shared by the Department of Environmental Protection and municipalities. Pennsylvania's municipalities have the responsibility to apply Section 27 in planning and regulation of land use.

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## Choosing the Right Conservation and Restoration Strategies

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The right combination of actions is critical to the success of any conservation or restoration program. Lifestyles, financial needs, conservation goals and types of wetlands or riparian areas vary for different landowners. Before beginning a conservation or restoration program, landowners should examine their own situations, identify the factors influencing their decisions, and analyze areas of concern.

### ***Defining goals, objectives, problems and opportunities***

A number of background factors central to the decision making process can help landowners define their goals and objectives, survey their property, and assess problems and possibilities. Factors to be considered include:

#### **□ Establish the overall objectives and needs of the landowner:**

- ▲What is the need for cash from the property's wetlands or riparian areas?
- ▲What is the owner's ability to carry costs of owning and managing wetland or riparian properties?
- ▲What are the owner's estate planning interests?
- ▲What are the owner's interests in living on the property?
- ▲What are the owner's conservation interests?
- ▲What are the owner's interests in recreational pursuits or wildlife enhancements?
- ▲Are there any special needs to be considered?

#### **□ Evaluate the general area:**

- ▲What are the land ownership patterns and interests of neighboring landowners?
- ▲What are the land use trends and associated agents of change, such as accessibility and sewage treatment facilities?
- ▲What are the current zoning and land use controls?
- ▲What are the real estate market conditions?

- ▲What are the characteristics of the area's natural landscapes and watershed and their suitability for conservation and development?

#### **□ Evaluate the specific property:**

- ▲Does the property have wetlands? If so, what type of wetlands (forested, marshes, bogs)?
- ▲What is the condition of the property's streambanks?
- ▲What are the characteristics of the existing vegetation, soil, and wildlife habitats for the property's wetlands or riparian zone?
- ▲Can the property be developed without damaging the wetlands? If the property contains wetlands sensitive to human intrusion and alteration, voluntary options allowing development, farming, or forestry of the area may threaten these areas. On the other hand, some well-planned development and recreational use may be compatible with the conservation wetlands.

#### **□ Assess problems and opportunities:**

- ▲*Physical considerations:* What is the suitability of the property for different uses, its current condition, and its proximity to highways and public facilities and services? Is the riparian area close to existing riparian conservation efforts, such as a greenway plan?
- ▲*Legal limitations:* Are there limitations placed upon the property or its wetlands or riparian zone by existing federal or state regulations, deed restrictions, and/or municipal zoning?
- ▲*Market considerations:* What is the property's potential use based upon local real estate trends and the property's physical characteristics?
- ▲*Financial considerations:* What are the current and future likely costs and income related to maintaining the wetlands or riparian buffer?

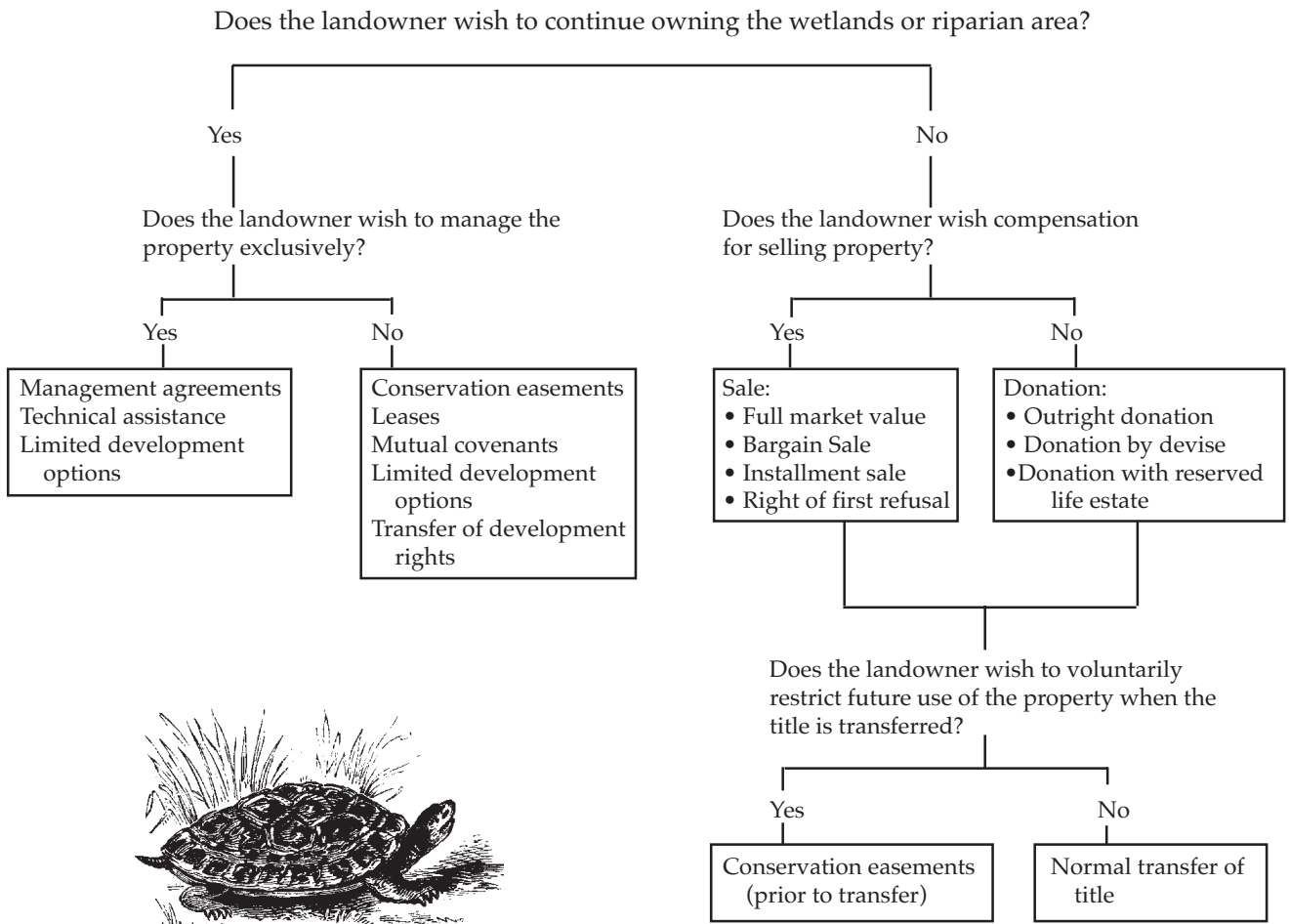
## The Decision Tree: Choosing the Best Options

Once landowners evaluate their property and decide they want to do something with their land, the next step is to decide whether they want to retain exclusive ownership and management of the wetland or riparian zone.

There are many management and ownership options available to landowners regarding the future stewardship of riparian zones and wetlands. In some cases, landowners may work one-on-one with a particular agency or organization to meet their

objectives; in other situations, landowners may choose to work with a local organization or governmental agency in a cooperative effort to manage a property's wetlands or streamside areas.

The following decision tree is a handy tool for getting started in evaluating landowners' options. A more detailed chart explaining the advantages and disadvantages of these options can be found in Appendix 2.





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## **Financial and Technical Assistance**

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### **ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM (EQIP)**

Farm Service Agency,  
U.S. Department of Agriculture

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**Purpose of Program:**

This new program combines the functions of the former Agricultural Conservation Program and Water Quality Incentives Program and is directed toward the solution of critical soil, water, and related natural resource problems.

**Eligible Applicants:**

Agricultural landowners or tenants whose land poses a serious problem to soil, water or related resources. Conservation priority areas will be established by each state to help meet specific water quality objectives.

**Funding Structure:**

Establishes 5 to 10 year contracts to provide technical assistance and pays up to 75 percent of the costs of conservation practices. Limits total cost-share and incentive payments to any person to \$10,000 annually and to \$50,000 for the life of the contract.

**Agency Contact:**

Contact your county Farm Service Agency office or Farm Service Agency, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Suite 320, One Credit Union Place, Harrisburg, PA, 17110 Contact: Rex Wright at (717) 782-4547.

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### **CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP)**

Farm Service Agency,  
U.S. Department of Agriculture

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**Purpose of Program:**

The CRP protects highly erodible and environmentally sensitive lands with grass, trees, and other long-term cover.

**Eligible Applicants:**

Land must have been planted to an agricultural commodity in two of the five past years and must meet one of six criteria, including classification as highly erodible or land that will be devoted to filter strips, riparian buffers or similar practices.

**Eligible Projects:**

The CRP is a voluntary program that offers annual rental payments to farm owners or operators for placing highly erodible cropland, cropped wetland, and marginal riparian pasture land into a reserve through a 10-15 year contract. In return for annual payments, the participant agrees to implement a conservation plan approved by the local conservation district. CRP also offers cost-share assistance to establish approved cover on eligible cropland and incentive payments for certain activities, such as the restoration of wetlands (Wetland Habitat Incentives Program)

**Funding Structure:**

CRP rental rates are calculated in advance of enrollment. Cost-share assistance is also available in establishing approved conservation practices, not to exceed 50 percent. The program encourages restoration of wetlands by offering an incentive equal to 25 percent of the costs incurred. Individual awards range from \$50 to \$50,000, avg. \$5324.

**Special Conditions and Other Information:**

Applicants must have owned the land for at least one year prior to the close of the annual sign-up period, unless the land was acquired by will or succession or if the Natural Resources Conservation Service determines the ownership was not acquired for the purpose of placing the land in the Conservation Reserve Program.

**Agency Contact:**

Contact your county Farm Service Agency, county conservation district, or Farm Service Agency, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Suite 320, One Credit Union Place, Harrisburg, PA 17110. Contact: Rex Wright at (717) 782-4547.

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## **CONSERVATION BUFFER INITIATIVE**

Natural Resources Conservation Service,  
U.S. Department of Agriculture

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### **Purpose of Program:**

To encourage all landowners to find out more about buffer strip establishment and the incentives available through the 1996 Farm Bill.

### **Eligible Projects:**

Grassed waterways, filter strips, contoured buffer strips, riparian buffers, streambank protection areas or similar practices.

### **Funding Structure:**

The initiative's immediate focus is on a new, ongoing enrollment in the Conservation Reserve Program, which provides incentive payments for people who choose to grow filter strips, riparian buffers, etc. on land that is environmentally sensitive. Competitive bids are not required as with the periodic CRP signup. Incentives are also available for buffer strip establishment through the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP), the Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP), and the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP).

### **Agency Contact:**

Contact your Natural Resources Conservation Service field office or NRCS, Suite 340, One Credit Union Place, Harrisburg, PA 17110

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## **WETLANDS RESERVE PROGRAM (WRP)**

Farm Service Agency,  
U.S. Department of Agriculture

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### **Eligible Projects:**

Eligible landowners may offer farmed wetlands, prior converted wetlands, wetlands formed under natural conditions, riparian areas, along with eligible buffer areas to be placed under a permanent or long-term easement.

### **Eligible Applicants:**

An individual landowner, partnership, association, corporation, estate, trust, other business or other legal entities, and whenever applicable, a state, a political subdivision of a state, or any agency thereof owning private croplands.

### **Funding Structure:**

Direct payments for specified use. Provides landowners with 75 percent to 100 percent cost-sharing for permanent easements, 50 percent to 75 percent for

30-year easements, and 50 percent to 75 percent for restoration cost-share agreements. Cost-sharing will help pay for restoration when approved practices are completed.

### **Special Conditions and Other Information:**

Offer will not be accepted in excess of the value of agricultural land adjusted for soil productivity.

### **Agency Contact:**

Farm Service Agency, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Suite 320, One Credit Union Place, Harrisburg, PA 17110. Contact: Rex Wright at (717) 782-4547.

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## **RURAL ABANDONED MINE PROGRAM**

Natural Resources Conservation Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture

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### **Eligible Projects:**

Conservation practices determined to be needed for the reclamation, conservation, and development of rural abandoned coal mine land or lands and waters affected by coal mining activities, such as development of soil, water, woodland, wildlife, and recreation resources. The transformation of specified areas into trails, waterways and open space could be funded.

### **Eligible Applicants:**

Individuals, groups, or units of government who own or control the surface or water rights of abandoned coal land or lands, and water affected by coal mining practices.

### **Funding Structure:**

Cost-share rates ranges from 25 to 100 percent.

### **Special Conditions and Other Information:**

Applicants must develop, with the assistance of NRCS, a reclamation plan as a basis for program assistance.

### **Agency Contact:**

Contact your county conservation district, local NRCS office, or Natural Resource Conservation Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Suite 340, One Credit Union Place, Harrisburg, PA 17110.



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## **SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION**

Natural Resources Conservation Service,  
U.S. Department of Agriculture

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### **Eligible Projects:**

Technical assistance to the general public in planning and applying soil and water conservation practices and treatment and furnishing technical soil and water conservation resource information to state and local governments.

### **Eligible Applicants:**

General public, state governments and local governments. Individuals and groups usually become cooperators with local conservation districts, whose assistance is needed for applying for these programs.

### **Funding Structure:**

Not applicable (the program provides merely advisory services and counseling).

### **Agency Contact:**

Contact your county conservation district, local NRCS office, or Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Suite 340, One Credit Union Place, Harrisburg, PA 17110.

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## **FORESTRY INCENTIVE PROGRAM (FIP)**

Natural Resources Conservation Service,  
U.S. Department of Agriculture

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### **Purpose of Program:**

To increase timber production by sharing the costs of tree planting, timber stand improvement, and other related practices on nonindustrialized private forest lands.

### **Eligible Applicants:**

A landowner must own no more than 1,000 acres of eligible forest land and be a private forest landowner. Any individual, group, association, or corporation whose stocks are not publicly traded may be eligible provided they are not primarily engaged in the business of manufacturing forest products or provid-

ing utility services of any type; have land that is suitable for forestation if presently not in trees for reforestation or for improved forest management; have land that is capable of producing marketable timber crops and meets minimum productivity standards established for FIP. At least 10 acres of eligible forest land is required for FIP.

### **Funding Structure:**

The federal share of these costs ranges up to 65 percent, depending on the cost share rate set by the Farm Service Committee in each state and county.

### **Agency Contact:**

Contact your local Farm Service Agency office and apply for the program. They will then have the state forestry agency examine your property and certify needs for the practice desired.

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## **STEWARDSHIP INCENTIVE PROGRAM (SIP)**

Farm Service Agency,  
U.S. Department of Agriculture

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### **Purpose of Program:**

The Stewardship Incentive Program complements the practices recommended in Forest Stewardship Plans.

### **Eligible Projects (related to riparian and wetland protection and improvement):**

Planting riparian forest buffers, stabilizing streambanks, restoring original hydrology, stream fencing, establishing permanent vegetative cover.

### **Eligible Applicants:**

Private individual, group or association; private corporation not involved in manufacturing forest products; must own between 5 and 1,000 acres of forestland in Pennsylvania.

### **Funding Structure:**

Cost-share may not exceed 75 percent of actual cost to establish practice. Participating landowners may receive reimbursement up to \$10,000 annually. Practices must be maintained for a minimum of 10 years.

### **Agency Contact:**

Administered nationally by USDA Forest Service; administered cooperatively in Pennsylvania through the Farm Service Agency of USDA and the Bureau of Forestry, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. Contact your local Bureau of Forestry service forester or your local Farm Service Agency office for assistance.

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## **URBAN AND COMMUNITY FORESTRY PROGRAM**

Pennsylvania Urban and Community Forestry Council, and Forest Service, USDA

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### **Purpose of Program:**

To provide technical and financial assistance to communities, volunteers and professionals on establishing and managing the urban forest. The program is a cooperative effort between the USDA Forest Service, Pennsylvania Urban and Community Forestry Council, Penn State Cooperative Extension Service, and Bureau of Forestry-Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

### **Eligible Projects:**

Projects to intensify the management of nonindustrial private forests.

### **Eligible Applicants:**

Owner of nonindustrial private forests.

### **Funding Structure:**

Information, education, technical assistance and financial incentives. Guidance is given on applying for grants under companion stewardship programs.

### **Special Conditions and Other Information:**

The companion Forest Stewardship Program was established to develop a written Landowner Forest Stewardship Plan that provides and documents resource management direction and practices, while the Stewardship Incentive Program provides subsequent tools and incentives to implement practices recommended in this plan.

### **Agency Contact:**

Norman Lacasse, Urban Forestry and Utilization, Bureau of Forestry, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, PO Box 8552, Harrisburg, PA 17105; (717) 787-5359.

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## **USDA FOREST SERVICE CHALLENGE COST-SHARE PROGRAM**

Forest Service,  
U.S. Department of Agriculture

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### **Eligible Projects:**

Partnership projects which benefit the public through national forest programs, such as recreation, fisheries, wildlife, conservation education, and minerals.

### **Eligible Applicants:**

Any public or private agency, organization, institu-

tion, or individual may initiate a proposal.

### **Funding Structure:**

Challenge cost-share agreements are drawn up within each forest district as appropriate on a non-competitive basis. Up to 50% match, with volunteer labor and in-kind services considered eligible for the match. Limited funds are available; however, all proposals are considered for effective public-private partnerships.

### **Agency Contact:**

For general information in recreation, contact: David Harmer, USDA Forest Service—Recreation, P.O. Box 96090, Washington, D.C. 20013-6090. Phone: 202-205-1035.

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## **NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CHALLENGE COST-SHARE PROGRAM**

National Park Service,  
U.S. Department of the Interior

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### **Eligible Projects:**

Projects may include historic and archeological site restoration; resource management, resource inventory and monitoring; scientific research; trail maintenance; interpretive videos for environmental or heritage education programs; interpretive exhibit enhancement; summer youth employment for recreation activities; Congressional or Secretarial designated resource-specific projects which are outside park boundaries and for which the Service has a cooperative and oversight role; federal assistance projects for the benefit of resources in which the Park Service has made, or is making, a major investment of technical assistance; national scenic trails; national historic trails; state-managed wild and scenic rivers; projects in support of the national natural landmarks and national historic landmarks programs; and program-specific projects not tied to a particular site or resource.

### **Eligible Applicants:**

Partners may include any non federal government



**FEDERAL  
PROGRAMS**

entity, private individual or organization, business, or philanthropic or charitable group. The value of the partner's contribution may be derived from labor, materials, equipment, cash or other items of value to the project.

**Funding Structure:**

Matching program, with National Park Service providing up to 50%, for projects benefiting national park units or other programs administered by the National Park Service. Once awarded, a written cooperative agreement is required.

**Special Conditions and Other Information:**

50% match from others must be non-federal source of funds. Donations must be managed in accordance with the requirements of Office of Management and Budget Circular A-110.

**Agency Contact:**

Mr. Richard Cripe, National Park Service Challenge Cost-Share Program, National Park Service 800, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, D.C. 20013-7127. Phone: 202-501-0226.

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**PARTNERS FOR WILDLIFE**

Fish & Wildlife Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

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**Purpose of Program:**

This program restores fish and wildlife habitat through partnerships between the US Fish and Wildlife Service, Ducks Unlimited, Pennsylvania Game Commission, Natural Resources Conservation Service, county Conservation Districts, private landowners, and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, among others. Reestablishment of wetlands, riparian areas and native grasslands is the main focus.

**Eligible Projects:**

Wetland restoration, nest structures or islands, food and shelter for wildlife, soil and water quality improvement, grazing plans to benefit

livestock and wildlife, pesticide use reduction, native plant restoration and water level management.

**Eligible Applicants:**

Private landowners such as farmers, ranchers, or city dwellers, private organizations, local agencies, government agencies, corporations, educational institutions or anyone interested in improving and protecting wildlife habitat on private lands.

**Funding Structure:**

Technical assistance is offered. Projects meeting certain criteria may be eligible for a cost-share or total coverage by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Actual restoration cost is approximately \$1000 per acre of restored wetland.

**Agency Contact:**

Dave Putnam, Partners for Wildlife Coordinator, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 315 South Allen Street, Suite 322, State College, PA 16801; telephone (814) 234-4090.

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**NATIONAL COASTAL WETLANDS  
CONSERVATION GRANTS**

Fish and Wildlife Service,  
U.S. Department of the Interior.

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**Eligible Projects:**

Funds are used for acquisition of interests in coastal lands or waters and for restoration, enhancement or management of coastal wetlands ecosystems on a competitive basis with all coastal states.

**Eligible Applicants:**

Available to all states bordering on the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, the Gulf of Mexico and the Great Lakes.

**Funding Structure:**

Project grants (average \$150,000) may be made available for grants to coastal states for the conservation of wetlands. The federal share of project costs is not to exceed 50 percent; however, the federal share may be increased to 75 percent if a coastal state has established a trust fund for the purpose of acquiring coastal wetlands, other natural areas or open space.

**Agency Contact:**

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240,  
Contact: Bob Pacific 703-358-1845.

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## FEDERAL TAX INCENTIVE (Through the Farmer's Tax Guide)

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### Eligible Projects:

Forestation or reforestation of land.

### Eligible Applicants:

Farmers who have spent up to \$10,000 in expenses to forest or reforest property that is held for growing trees for sale or use in commercial production of timber products.

### Funding Structure:

The 10% reforestation credit applies to up to \$10,000 of expenses incurred each year to forest or reforest property held for growing trees for sale or use in the commercial production of timber products. These expenses must qualify for amortization. Investment credit can be taken for reforestation expenses whether the landowner chooses to amortize them or add them to the basis of the property.

### Agency Contact:

Internal Revenue Service, Government Printing Office, Superintendent of Documents 202-512-1800 or your local IRS office is listed in the blue pages of your phone directory. When requesting information ask for: Publication 225, Farmer's Tax Guide.

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## DEBT REDUCTION ASSISTANCE

Rural Development Farm Service Agency,  
USDA

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### Purpose of Program:

The Farm Service Agency provides debt reduction assistance on agricultural operating loans in exchange for conservation easements. Conservation contracts are placed on easement acreage, which could be wetlands, woodlands, or other areas with conservation purposes. Local committees determine the value of debt forgiveness.

### Agency Contact:

Local Farm Service Agency Offices.

FEDERAL  
PROGRAMS



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## Financial and Technical Assistance

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### ADOPT A STREAM PROGRAM

Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission

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**Purpose of Program:**

Provides the opportunity for assistance, support, and guidance to those organizations or individuals willing to enhance and restore particular waterways that will benefit from such projects. The goal is to improve, restore, and protect riparian and aquatic fisheries habitats through a cooperative effort with other agencies, organized groups and individuals.

**Eligible Projects:**

Fish habitat improvements such as enhancement of existing habitats through minor physical alterations; fish habitat restoration such as rebuilding of habitats destroyed by natural or manmade causes; and stream corridor management including enhancement, restoration, and protection of stream corridors through the establishment of protected streamside buffers by various control and stabilization methods.

**Eligible Applicants:**

Any organization or private individual may be approved as a cooperator for a particular stretch of stream or body for a minimum of five years. Waters must be open to public fishing, biologically suitable, and in need of aquatic or riparian improvements or restoration.

**Funding Structure:**

Much of the program is funded as technical guidance with up to \$500 per year on a matching basis for certain materials for the projects.

**Special Conditions and Other Information:**

Waters on public lands are eligible providing written permission and an approval is obtained by the cooperator from the controlling agency. Waters on private lands are also eligible, but written assurance that the water will remain open to public fishing for a minimum of ten years is required on Form PFBC-60 by all landowners involved. This agreement must be obtained by the cooperator before any improvement begins. The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission may contribute planning assistance, supervision and

tools, materials, permits and certificates to each sponsor. A matching provision in the form of labor, materials, and equipment is needed to receive material funding to complete the project. Maintenance and repair of all fish habitat improvement work is required for a period of ten years after completion.

**Agency Contact:**

David Houser, Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, Bureau of Property and Facilities Management, 450 Robinson Lane, Bellefonte, PA 16823-9616. Phone: 814-359-5185.

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### COOPERATIVE FORESTRY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Bureau of Forestry, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

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**Purpose of Program:**

Encourage landowners to enhance the productive capacity of existing forests and reforest abandoned farm land. Several specific programs are included in the overall cooperative forestry effort. Each program has its own details.

**Eligible Applicants:**

Forest land owners with land that is forested or suitable for growing trees.

**Funding Structure:**

Each county Farm Service Agency office establishes a cost share rate for services rendered under this program. This is a technical assistance program.

**Agency Contact:**

PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bureau of Forestry, Division of Forest Advisory Services, P.O. Box 8552, Harrisburg, PA 17105-8552. Phone: (717) 787-2106.

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## FOREST STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and Cooperating Agencies

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### **Purpose of Program:**

Provides information, education, and technical assistance to encourage, assist and recognize private forest landowners who keep their lands and natural resources productive and healthy.

### **Eligible Applicants:**

Non-industrial, private forest landowners, or municipal authority-owned land. Landowners must own at least five acres of forest land to qualify for use of program services. Participants must agree to work with a professional resource manager to develop a written forest stewardship plan.

### **Funding Structure:**

The program will cover up to 75 percent of the costs of developing the plan and implementing approved forest stewardship practices. Cost-share assistance is available for the development of a forest management plan. Cost-share assistance for implementing practices is available through a companion program, the Stewardship Incentive Program (see SIP).

### **Special Conditions and Other Information:**

Work must be completed within the time frame established by the service forester, usually 6 to 18 months and be maintained for 10 years.

### **Agency Contact:**

Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bureau of Forestry, Division of Forest Advisory Services, Ellen Roane, Program Coordinator, P.O. Box 8552, Harrisburg, PA 17105-8552. Phone: 717-787-2105.




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## STATEWIDE NONPOINT SOURCE POLLUTION PROGRAM

Federal Clean Water Act- Section 319 Nonpoint Source Implementation Grants

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### **Purpose of Program:**

To provide grants for local nonpoint source pollution projects.

### **Eligible Projects:**

Watershed assessments, watershed projects and projects of statewide importance are the three project categories eligible for funding. The following nonpoint source categories can be addressed: agriculture, silviculture, construction, urban runoff, resource extraction (abandoned mines, oil, and gas wells), on-lot septic systems, and hydrologic/habitat modification (stream bank modifications).

Projects must be implementation-oriented, demonstrate new techniques, and document "measurable" environmental results. Comprehensive watershed projects are encouraged.

### **Eligible Applicants:**

No limitations; local, state, and federal agencies; private non-profit organizations; watershed associations; colleges and universities; private companies are all encouraged to submit project proposals.

### **Funding Structure:**

Annual grant cycle with two-year implementation period for grant projects. Approximately \$2 million to \$3 million per grant.

A minimum of 25 percent of construction costs of practices implemented on private lands must come from non-federal sources. The State must match the grant by 40 percent. Watersheds in the state are nonpoint source priority-ranked with emphasis placed on Comprehensive Watershed Projects in high priority areas.

### **Agency Contact:**

Chief, Nonpoint Source Management Section, Bureau of Watershed Conservation, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, 10th Floor, RCSOB, P.O. Box 8555, Harrisburg, PA 17105-8555. Phone: 717-772-5629.



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## PENNSYLVANIA CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM

Department of Environmental Protection and Cooperating Agencies

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### **Purpose of Program:**

To reduce pollution reaching the Chesapeake Bay from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

### **Eligible Project:**

Provides assistance to help private citizens decrease nutrient and toxic runoff from agriculture and urban sources. The Pennsylvania Chesapeake Bay Program is split into four focus areas: (1) *education* to improve public awareness of Pennsylvania's impact on the Chesapeake Bay through a variety of grassroots educational effort; examples include brochures, television spots, and specialized workshops; (2) *planning* to ensure the wise use of technical and financial resources by conducting water quality assessments; monitoring rivers, streams and farm fields, and computer modeling of best management practices (BMPs) to target nutrient pollution problems in Pennsylvania's portion of the Chesapeake watershed; (3) *technical assistance*, hands-on support, and guidance are offered by nutrient management specialists and technicians in the implementation of best management practices to decrease nutrient runoff and conserve soil and water; and (4) *financial assistance* to assist in the design and implementation of nutrient control and soil conservation BMP's.

### **Eligible Applicants:**

Agricultural landowners, government agencies, conservation districts, cooperating organizations.

### **Funding Structure:**

Financial Assistance up to \$30,000 available per agricultural landowner to assist in the design and implementation of nutrient control and soil conservation best management practices.

### **Special Conditions and Other Information:**

To receive financial assistance, you must become a cooperator with a participating conservation district

and consent to the development of a nutrient management program.

### **Agency Contact:**

County conservation district or Russ Wagner, Bureau of Water Quality Protection, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, 11th Floor, RCSOB, P.O. Box 8465, Harrisburg, PA 17105-8465. Phone: (717)787- 2666.

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## PENNSYLVANIA STREAM BANK FENCING PROGRAM

Department of Environmental Protection

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### **Purpose of Program:**

To accelerate Pennsylvania's efforts to improve water quality by reducing soil erosion and nutrient deposition caused by livestock.

### **Eligible Applicants:**

Only those landowners with existing livestock operations along streams in the Susquehanna or Potomac River Basins of Pennsylvania.

### **Funding Structure:**

All costs associated with installation of the fence and crossing ramp are paid by DEP. This includes all fencing materials, including treated posts, wire, solar energizer, lightning protectors, and warning signs, and stone material for agricultural ramps or agricultural crossings.

### **Special Conditions and Other Information:**

The landowner agrees to sign a consent form for right of entry allowing DEP to erect a fence and any necessary crossing or ramp on the landowner's property; performs all required notifications and obtains all necessary permits and approvals to install the agricultural crossings and ramps; designates location of any known underground utilities and indicates boundary of property line where proposed facilities would be close to adjoining property; as required, clears vegetation from proposed fence line installation site; provides at least an average 12 foot stream corridor width as measured from top of stream bank to parallel fence line; after installation, removes any vegetation and other debris which could ground the electric fence; maintains the fence for ten years and the crossing or ramps in accordance with GP-6 provisions; allows periodic inspection of project area by authorized representatives of DEP and its agents; if landowner fails to maintain facili

ties according to program guidelines, agrees to refund to DEP all or equitable part of the costs of installing the fence and any crossings or ramps.

**Agency Contact:**

Landowners wishing to indicate their interest in the DEP Stream Bank Fencing Program should contact their county conservation district or phone the Harrisburg central office of DEP-Bureau of Water Quality Protection at (717)787-2666.

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## WETLAND RESTORATION / CREATION SITE REGISTRY

Department of Environmental Protection

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**Purpose of Program:**

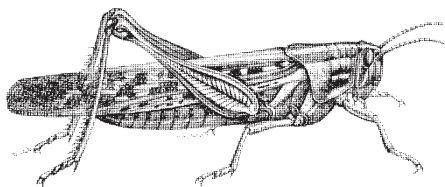
The purpose of this registry is to link property owners who desire to have wetlands created or restored on their property with individuals who are required to replace wetlands as a result of permitting actions authorized by the Department of Environmental Protection. Property owners must be aware that created wetlands will become regulated and permits may be required for certain activities in these areas, such as earth-moving. The only purpose of this registry is to register potential sites for wetland replacement. There is no guarantee that sites once registered will be used for wetland replacement.

**Special Conditions:**

Registration does not obligate or mandate the property owner to create wetlands. The project is of no cost to the property owner, and the property remains private property.

**Agency Contact:**

For more information on this new program contact: Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Water Quality Protection, Waterways, Wetlands and Erosion Control, P.O. Box 8554, Harrisburg, PA 17105-8554.




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## PASTURE STREAM BANK FENCING PROGRAM

Pennsylvania Game Commission

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**Purpose of Program:**

To establish wildlife habitat along stream corridors which is accessible to the public for hunting. Improvements in herd health, water quality, and wildlife habitat conditions are all benefits of the program.

**Eligible Projects:**

Installation of high quality electric fencing and planting of trees and shrubs that are suitable for streambank stabilization and wildlife food and cover.

**Eligible Applicants:**

Landowners who own livestock and are enrolled in the Pennsylvania Game Commission's Public Access Program, which opens private land to public hunting and trapping.

**Funding Structure:**

Ranges anywhere from a few donated shrubs from local organizations to an all expense paid stream bank fencing project, depending on what a particular farm situation dictates.

**Special Conditions and Other Information:**

Participating landowners must agree to maintain the fencing in place for a ten-year period to allow the vegetation a chance to establish. Special trees and shrubs will be added to stabilize stream banks and provide nests and seeds for birds. Generally, the fence must be placed a minimum of 10 feet from the streambank.

**Agency Contact:**

Dennis Neideigh, Pennsylvania Game Commission, Bureau of Land Management, 2001 Elmerton Avenue, Harrisburg, PA 17110-9797. Phone: 717-787-6400.

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**CLEAN AND GREEN TAX INCENTIVES**  
(THE PENNSYLVANIA FARMLAND AND  
FOREST LAND ASSESSMENT ACT)

Department of Agriculture

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**Purpose of Program:**

The County Board of Assessment can grant a preferential assessment for ten or more contiguous acres of land devoted to agricultural, forest reserve, or open space purposes. Land is assessed at the use value rather than the prevailing market value. This program can also apply to land in the riparian zone, although there is no requirement for forests to be in the riparian zone.

**Agency Contact:**

Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, 2301 N. Cameron Street, Harrisburg, PA 17110; (717)783-3167.

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**KEYSTONE FUND**

Department of Conservation and  
Natural Resources

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**Purpose of Program:**

To provide financial assistance to municipalities and organizations for the planning, acquisition, development and/or rehabilitation of public park, recreation and conservation areas and facilities, rails-to-trails projects, and rivers conservation projects.

**Eligible Projects:**

- 1) *Community Grant Program* - Provides grants to municipalities not to exceed 50 percent of eligible costs for recreational projects, including grants to explore linear corridors of open space along streams, shorelines, wetlands, ridge tops, etc. Small communities require no match.
- 2) *Rails-to-Trails Grant Program* - Provides grants to municipalities and organizations not to exceed 50 percent of eligible costs for rail-trail feasibility studies, master plans, and special purpose studies.

3) *Rivers Conservation Grant Program* - Provides grants to municipalities and organizations not to exceed 50 percent of eligible costs to develop river conservation plans and to implement specific projects for a river that is on the Pennsylvania Rivers Conservation Registry.

4) *Land Trusts Program* - Provides grants to pre-qualified non-profit land trusts and conservancies not to exceed 50 percent of eligible costs for the acquisition and planning of open space and critical habitat areas.

**Agency Contact:**

Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bureau of Recreation and Conservation, PO Box 8475, Harrisburg, PA 17105-8475.

*Community grants contact:* Bureau of Recreation and Conservation Field Offices;

*Rails-to-Trails contact:* Wilmer Henninger (717)772-3704;

*Rivers Conservation grants contact:* Bureau of Recreation and Conservation Field Offices or Marian Hrubovcak (717)787-2316.

*Land Trust grants contact:* Fred Owen (717)783-2663.

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**PENNSYLVANIA RECREATIONAL  
TRAILS PROGRAM**

Department of Conservation and Natural  
Resources

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**Purpose of Program:**

To provide grants for trail and trail-related projects.

**Eligible Projects:**

Redesign or relocation of trails to minimize impact to the natural environment; urban trail linkages, maintenance of existing trails, development of trail-side or trail-head facilities, acquisition of easements for trails, and others.

**Eligible Applicants:**

Private individuals and organizations and local, state and federal agencies.

**Funding Structure:**

Minimum \$2,500 grant to maximum \$20,000 grant. 50 percent matching ratio. Funds are provided through the federal Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) and the Symms' National Recreational Trails Act and are administered in Pennsylvania by the PA Department of Conservation

and Natural Resources.

**Agency Contact:**

Pennsylvania Recreational Trails Program, PO Box 8475, Harrisburg, PA 17105-8475; Vanyla Tierney (717)783-2654.



STATE  
PROGRAMS

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**CONSERVATION DISTRICT PROGRAMS**

County Conservation Districts (all counties excluding Philadelphia County)

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**Purpose of Conservation Districts:**

Created under the Conservation District Law, county conservation districts are subdivisions of local government that provide the link between citizens and the multitude of local, state and federal natural resource management programs. A board of volunteer directors serves as the local voice in natural resource management, and a staff of professionals in each county provides information, technical assistance and educational programs.

**Types of Assistance:**

Environmental education; technical assistance to county residents related to Chapter 105 regulations (streams, lakes and wetlands), Chapter 102 regulations (erosion and sedimentation), nutrient management on farms, mine land reclamation, and stormwater management; coordination and facilitation of watershed management; farmland preservation; and other land use issues of importance to a county.

Most conservation districts hold annual tree seedling sales for the purpose of providing low-cost bare-root seedlings to the public for conservation purposes.

**Agency Contact:**

County conservation district office locations can be found in your phone book - check government listings.

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**PENNSYLVANIA COASTAL ZONE  
MANAGEMENT PROGRAM**

Department of Environmental Protection

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**Purpose of Program:**

To protect and enhance Pennsylvania's coastal zones: the Lake Erie coastline and the shorelines of its many tributaries and the Delaware Estuary which includes

part of Bucks, Philadelphia and Delaware counties.

**Eligible Projects:**

Education, forest buffer projects in the coastal zone, stormwater management, and other projects that meet the goals of PA's Coastal Zone Management Plan.

**Eligible Applicants:**

Local governments and organizations.

**Funding structure:**

Maximum of \$30,000 per project.

**Agency Contact:**

Jim Tabor, Bureau of Watershed Conservation, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, PO Box 8555, Harrisburg, PA 17105-8555; (717)772-5626.

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**PENNSYLVANIA LANDOWNER  
RECLAMATION PROGRAM**

Department of Environmental Protection and  
County Conservation Districts

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**Purpose of Program:**

To assist property owners reclaim abandoned mine lands where bonds have been forfeited.

**Eligible Projects:**

Constructed wetlands and tree plantings can be integrated into an approved conservation plan.

**Eligible Applicants:**

An abandoned site must have forfeited bonds collected by the Department of Environmental Protection. Landowners assume reclamation responsibility.

**Funding Structure:**

Forfeited bonds collected by the Department are made available to repair landscapes damaged by coal mining. Some sites do not carry sufficient bonds to make landowner reclamation attractive.

**Agency Contact:**

County Conservation District.

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## Financial and Technical Assistance

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### MARSH PROGRAM

Ducks Unlimited

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**Purpose of Program:**

The Matching Aid to Restore States Habitat (MARSH) Program funds projects significantly benefitting waterfowl.

**Eligible Applicants:**

Public agencies and private conservation groups. Private landowners can benefit from the funding provided through MARSH if waterfowl and habitat restoration projects on their property are part of an approved group project.

**Eligible Projects:**

Priority is given to projects that lead to the protection and/or restoration of North American Waterfowl Management Plan sites, benefitting non-game, threatened or endangered species, unique habitats or ecosystems, and/or high public visibility or interpretive values.

**Funding Structure:**

Maximum cost-share assistance is 50 percent. Projects with cost-share assistance up to \$25,000 are given final approval by the regional MARSH coordinator; projects exceeding this threshold are submitted to National Headquarters for review.

**Agency Contact:**

MARSH Program Coordinator, 1155 Connecticut Avenue, NW, #800, Washington, D.C. 20036.

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### STREAM DOCTOR PROJECT

Save our Streams

The Izaak Walton League of America

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**Purpose of Program:**

To provide volunteers, government employees, businesses and others a chance to learn about environmentally sound approaches to stream habitat restoration techniques using bioengineering. Bioengi-

neering combines the use of vegetation and natural structures to stabilize eroding streambanks and to protect habitat.

The Stream Doctor Program offers periodic workshops, educational videotapes, and other educational materials.

**Organization Contact:**

The Izaak Walton League, SOS Stream Doctor Project, 707 Conservation Lane, Gaithersburg, MD 20878-2983. Stream Doctor hotline at (800) BUG-IWLA.

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### NATURAL AREAS REGISTRIES

The Nature Conservancy

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**Purpose of Program:**

To honor private landowners of outstanding natural areas. The registry is a voluntary, non-binding and non-regulatory program. Enlisted property owners commit to preserve and protect the area to the best of their ability, notifying the The Nature Conservancy of any threats to the area or of any intent to sell or transfer ownership of the property. The Conservancy will visit the registered area annually to assess changing conditions and identify new threats.

**Eligible Projects:**

Property must contain one or more of these natural values: habitat for plants or animals with declining populations, plant communities characteristic of the native vegetation, and/or outstanding natural features such as virgin forests or bogs.

**Organization Contact:**

The Nature Conservancy,  
2 Wisconsin Ave., Chevy  
Chase, MD 20815.



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## WETLANDS CONSERVATION PROJECTS

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

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### Eligible Projects:

Funded wetland conservation projects usually cover three program types: 1) acquisition of wetland resources, both in-fee title and conservation easements; 2) wetland restoration and enhancement projects, particularly those on private lands, and 3) applied research on wetland management techniques, restoration or enhancement projects.

Eligible Applicants:

No restrictions.

Funding Structure:

No maximum limit set; 50 percent match required.

Organization Contact:

Holly Quirk, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, 1120 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Suite 900, Washington, D.C. 20036; (202)857-0166.

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## GRASSROOTS CONSERVATION PROJECTS

Fish America Foundation and Wildlife Forever

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### Purpose of Project:

To provide grants to grassroots civic and conservation organizations to fund aquatic resource projects.

### Eligible Projects:

Habitat restoration, fish population improvement, and educational projects with a hands-on fishery improvement component. FishAmerica funds action-oriented projects conducted by volunteers.

Eligible Applicants:

Non-profit organizations, agencies, and institutions in the United States and Canada.

### Funding Structure:

\$10,000 maximum grant. \$200,000 invested in 1997.

### Organization Contact:

Tom Marshall, Fish America (703)548-6338

Doug Grann, Wildlife Forever (612)936-0605



NONPROFITS  
AND  
LAND TRUSTS

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## LAND TRUSTS

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Land trusts are private, nonprofit corporations that use a variety of mechanisms to protect land and land resources. Usually the most common type of land targeted for protection includes wildlife habitat or natural areas, open spaces, recreational land, especially trail and river corridors, and farmland. Land trusts protect the land through direct acquisition. The lands are bought with money obtained from individual donation, fund raising and memberships. Trusts also protect land through conservation easements, whereby the landowner gives up development rights in perpetuity, retains ownership and becomes eligible for some tax benefits.

### Contacts:

-The *Pennsylvania Land Trust Association* is an alliance of approximately 50 Pennsylvania land trusts. The Association is a private organization that serves as a clearinghouse for information and a unified voice for the state's land trust. It provides some technical assistance to landowners and matches them with local land trusts.  
3701 Orchid Place, Emmaus, PA 18049  
(610)965-4397

### National land trust organizations:

-*Trust for Public Lands*, 666 Pennsylvania Ave., S.E., #401, Washington, D.C. 20003; (202)544-4723  
-*Land Trust Alliance*, Suite 501 1319 F. St., NW, Washington, D.C. 20004-1106; (202)638-4725  
-*American Farmland Trust*, 1920 N Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20036; (202)659-5170  
- *North American Land Trust*, PO Box 134, Chadds Ford, PA, 19317; (610)388-3670

**LOCAL LAND TRUSTS  
IN PENNSYLVANIA**

**ALLEGHENY LAND TRUST**

445 Fort Pitt Blvd., Pittsburgh, PA 15219  
Attn: Andy Loza, Executive Director  
Phone: (412) 350-4666  
Service Area: southwestern Pennsylvania

**ALLEGHENY VALLEY LAND TRUST**

PO Box 777, 222 Market Street, Kittanning, PA  
16201-0777  
Attn: Robert Kneppshiled, Executive Director Phone:  
(412) 543-4478.  
Service Area: Armstrong/Clarion counties

**BACK MOUNTAIN REGIONAL LAND TRUST**

PO Box B, Shavertown, PA 18798  
Attn: Linda Thomas, Administrator  
Phone: (717)675-2274  
Service Area: Wilkes-Barre area

**BERKS COUNTY CONSERVANCY**

960 Old Mill Road, Wyomissing, PA 19610, Attn:  
Phoebe Hopkins, Executive Director. Phone: (610)  
372-4992.  
Service Area: Berks County

**BRANDYWINE CONSERVANCY**

PO Box 141, Chadds Ford, PA 19317,  
Attn: David Shields, Associate Director or  
H. William Seifers, Director, Env. Mgt. Ctr.  
Phone: (610) 388-2700  
Service Area: Brandywine valley

**BUCK HILL FALLS CONSERVATION  
FOUNDATION**

PO Box 350, Buck Hill Falls, PA 18323  
Attn: John Dugan, Jr., President. Phone:  
Phone: (717) 595-2505.  
Service Area: Buck Hill Falls, Barrett Township,  
Monroe County

**BUSHKILL STREAM CONSERVANCY**

PO Box 637, Easton, PA 18044  
Attn: John Bennett, Jr., President  
Phone: (610)253-4211  
Service Area: Bushkill Stream watershed

**CENTRAL BUCKS LAND  
PRESERVATION TRUST**

3830 Ellen Place, Doylestown, PA 18901  
Attn: Lori Rosolowsky, Coordinator  
Phone: (215)348-7637  
Service Area: Bucks County

**CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA CONSERVANCY**

PO Box 587, Harrisburg, PA 17101  
Attn: Carol Witzeman, Chair  
Phone: (717) 233- 0221  
Service Area: Central Pennsylvania

**CENTRE COUNTY FARMLAND TRUST**

328 S. Atherton St., State College, PA 16801  
Attn: E. Lynn Miller, President  
Phone: (814)237-0400  
Service Area: Centre County

**CLEARWATER CONSERVANCY**

PO Box 163, State College, PA 16804  
Attn: Kristen Saacke Blunk  
Phone: (814) 237-0400  
Service Area: Centre County

**CONEMAUGH VALLEY CONSERVANCY**

PO Box 907, Johnstown, PA 15907  
Attn: Harold Jenkins, Facilitator  
Phone: (814)536-6615  
Service Area: Conemaugh Valley

**CONSERVANCY OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY**

PO Box 314, Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462  
Attn: Mary Lou McFarland, President  
Phone: (215) 283-0383.  
Service Area: Montgomery County

**COUNTRYSIDE CONSERVANCY**

PO Box 301, Waverly, PA 18471-0301  
Attn: Rosamond Peck, President  
Phone: (717)586-3524  
Service Area: northeastern Pennsylvania

**DARBY CREEK VALLEY ASSOCIATION**

PO Box 258, Lansdowne, PA 19050  
 Attn: Clyde M. Hunt, President  
 Phone: (610) 975-4131.  
 Service Area: Darby Creek watershed

**DELAWARE HIGHLANDS CONSERVANCY**

HC 1, Box 1926, Milanville, PA 18443-9743  
 Attn: Barbara Yeaman, President  
 Phone: (717)729-7053  
 Service Area: Upper Delaware River

**EDWARD L. ROSE CONSERVANCY**

PO Box 81, Brackney, PA 18812  
 Attn: Heidy Randall, President  
 Phone: (717)663-2923  
 Service Area: Susquehanna County

**DELAWARE NATURE SOCIETY**

PO Box 700, Hockessin, DE 19707  
 Attn: Lorraine Fleming, Manager  
 Phone: (302) 239-2334  
 Service Area of Delaware and parts of New Jersey, Maryland and Pennsylvania.

**EARL TOWNSHIP FARMLAND PRESERVATION TRUST**

PO Box 191, New Holland, PA 17557  
 Attn: Frank Ludwig, President  
 Phone: (717)354-9312  
 Service Area: Earl Township, Lancaster County

**EAST MARLBOROUGH LAND TRUST**

712 Haleane Drive, Kennett Square, PA 19348 Attn: Robert Sievers  
 Phone: (215) 257-6566  
 Service Area: East Marlborough, Chester County ???

**FARM AND NATURAL LANDS TRUST OF YORK**

208 East Market Street, York, PA 17403  
 Attn: Lorraine Hovis, Executive Director  
 Phone: (717) 843-4411  
 Service Area: York County and secondarily northern Maryland and Adams County, Pennsylvania.

**FOX CHAPEL LAND CONSERVATION TRUST**

116 Hickory Hill Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15238 Attn: Jarvis Cecil, President  
 Phone: (412) 963-7088  
 Service Area: northern Allegheny County

**FRENCH AND PICKERING CREEKS CONSERVATION TRUST**

3340 Coventryville Road, PA 19465  
 Attn: Eleanor Morris, President  
 Phone: (215) 469-0150  
 Service Area: French and Pickering creeks in northern Chester County

**FRIENDS OF RIVERFRONT**

1501 Reedsdale Street #4, Pittsburgh, PA 15233 Attn: John Stephen, Executive Director  
 Phone: (412) 231-0754.  
 Service Area: rivers and riverfronts of Allegheny County

**GREEN VALLEY ASSOCIATION**

PO Box 113, Birchrunville, PA 19421  
 Attn: Kathy Sloan, President  
 Phone: (610)827-7212  
 Service Area: Chester County's five Schuylkill River tributary watersheds

**HERITAGE CONSERVANCY**

85 Old Dublin Place, Doylestown, PA 18901 Attn: Linda Mead, Director, Land Planning  
 Phone: (215)345-7020  
 Service Area: Delaware River corridor from Delaware Water Gap to Philadelphia.

**HOLLOW OAK LAND TRUST**

PO Box 741, Moon Township, PA 15108-0741 Attn: Janet Thorne, Assist. to the Board  
 Phone: (412)264-5354  
 Service Area: Western Allegheny County





**KENNET TOWNSHIP LAND TRUST**

c/o Kennett Twp. Municipal Offices  
Kennet Square, PA 19348  
Attn: Dana Sargent, Treasurer  
Service Area: Kennet Township, Chester County

**LACKAWANNA VALLEY CONSERVANCY**

PO Box 368, Scranton, PA 18501  
Attn: Bernard McGurl, Secretary  
Phone: (717)347-6311  
Service Area: Lackawanna River Valley

**LANCASTER COUNTY CONSERVANCY**

128 E. Merion St., Lancaster, PA 17608-0716  
Attn: John Symonds, Executive Director  
Phone: (717) 392- 7891.  
Service Area: Lancaster County

**LANCASTER FARMLAND TRUST**

128 East Marion Street, PO Box 1562, Lancaster, PA 17608  
Attn: Alan Musselman, Executive Director Phone: (717) 293-0707.  
Service Area: Lancaster County

**LAND TRUST OF ADAMS COUNTY**

1008 Hilltown Road, Biglerville, PA 17317  
Attn: Gary Sterner, VP Board of Directors  
Phone: (717)334-2067  
Service Area: Adams County

**LOWER MERION PRESERVATION TRUST**

9 S. Bryn Mawr Avenue, Bryn Mawr, PA 19010  
Attn: Michael Weilbacher, Executive Director Phone: (610) 520-9895  
Service Area: Lower Merion and Montgomery Townships, Montgomery County

**LOYALHANNA WATERSHED ASSOCIATION**

PO Box 561, Ligonier, PA 15658  
Attn: Lysie Sherwin, Executive Director  
Phone: (412) 238-7560  
Service Area: Loyalhanna Creek Watershed, Westmoreland County

**MANADA CONSERVANCY**

1430 Sand Beach Road, Hummelstown, PA 17036  
Attn: John Connor  
Phone: (717)592-6812  
Service Area: Manada Creek watershed, Dauphin County

**MERRILL W. LINN LAND AND WATERWAYS**

PO Box 501, Lewisburg, PA 17837  
Attn: Geoff Goodenow, President  
Phone: (717) 524-8666  
Service Area: Union County

**MIDDLETOWN TOWNSHIP LAND CONSERVANCY**

338 Mt. Alverno Road, Media, PA 19063  
Attn: Frederick LeStourgeon, President  
Phone: (610) 565-2065  
Service Area: Middletown Township, Delaware County

**MILLPORT CONSERVANCY**

29 Warwick Road, Lititz, PA 17543  
Attn: Robert Wohlsen, Sr., President  
Phone: (717)626-0414  
Service Area: Lancaster County

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY LANDS TRUST**

PO Box 300, Lederach, PA 19450  
Attn: Dulcie Flaharty, Executive Director  
Phone: (215)513-0100  
Service Area: Montgomery County

**MOUNT NITTANY CONSERVANCY**

PO Box 296, State College, PA 16804  
Attn: William Jaffe, President.  
Service Area of Operation: Nittany Mountain area, Centre County

**NATURAL LANDS TRUST**

1031 Palmers Mill Road, Media, PA 19063  
 Attn: D. Andrew Pitz, Director, Planning  
 Phone: (610) 353-5587  
 Service Area: Pennsylvania

**NORTH FORK CONSERVANCY**

Waterplant Road, Brookville, PA 15825  
 Attn: Wayne Kocher, President  
 Phone: (814) 842-5260  
 Service Area: Jefferson County

**NORTHCENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA  
 CONSERVANCY**

320 E. Third Street, Second Floor, Williamsport, PA  
 1770  
 Attn: Jamie Daniels, Executive Director  
 Phone: (717)323-6222  
 Service Area: northcentral Pennsylvania

**NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA  
 CONSERVANCY**

1151 Oak Street, Pittston, PA 18640  
 Attn: Howard Grossman, President  
 Phone: (717)655-5581  
 Service Area: northeastern Pennsylvania

**NORTHERN ALLEGHENY CONSERVANCY**

PO Box 661, Warren, PA 16365  
 Attn: Sharon Meyers, President  
 Phone: (717)723-6061  
 Service Area: Warren County

**OPEN LAND CONSERVANCY OF  
 CHESTER COUNTY**

PO Box 1031, Paoli, PA 19301  
 Attn: Marian Toland, President  
 Phone: (215)647-5380  
 Service Area of Operation: eastern Chester County

**PENNSBURY LAND TRUST**

702 Baltimore Pike, Chadds Ford, PA 19317  
 Attn: Alma Forsyth, President  
 Phone: (610)388-7323  
 Service Area:

**PENNYPACK ECOLOGICAL  
 RESTORATION TRUST**

2955 Edge Hill Road, Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006  
 Attn: David Robertson, Executive Director Phone:  
 (215) 657-0830.  
 Service Area of Operation: southeast Pennsylvania,  
 Philadelphia suburbs

**PINE CREEK LAND CONSERVATION TRUST**

PO Box 259, Ingomar, PA 15127  
 Attn: John Davis, Secretary  
 Phone: (412)367-1292  
 Service Area: Pine Creek watershed area, Allegheny  
 County

**POCONO HERITAGE LAND TRUST**

PO Box 292, Bartonsville, PA 18321  
 Attn: Robert Baxter, Board Member  
 Phone: (717) 629-3060  
 Service Area: Monroe County

**SCHUYLKILL RIVER GREENWAY  
 ASSOCIATION**

960 Old Mill Road, Wyomissing, PA 19610 Attn:  
 Victor Yarnell  
 Phone: (215) 372-3916  
 Service Area: Schuylkill River

**SCOTT CONSERVANCY**

1386 Blue Jay Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15243  
 Attn: Tom Cummins  
 Phone: (412) 276-0433  
 Service Area: Pittsburgh

**SENECA HIGHLANDS CONSERVANCY**

800 Minard Run Road, Bradford, PA 16701 Attn:  
 John Young, President  
 Service Area: northern Pennsylvania, western  
 New York

**SOMERSET COUNTY CONSERVANCY**

165 East Union Street, Somerset, PA 15501  
Attn: Brad Zearfoss, President  
Phone: (814)443-1431  
Service Area: Somerset County

**SOUTHERN ALLEGHENIES CONSERVANCY**

Fairlawn Court, Suite 4, 702 West Pitt Street, Bedford,  
PA 15522  
Attn: Stan Caldwell, Executive Director  
Phone: (814) 623-7900  
Service Area: Bedford County

**SPRINGTOWN LAKE/CRUM CREEK  
CONSERVANCY**

3714 Gradyville Rd, Newtown Square, PA 19073  
Attn: Jack Eliason, Treasurer  
Phone: (610)356-4107  
Service Area: See name.

**THE NATURE CONSERVANCY (PA)**

Lee Park Suite 470, Conshohocken, PA 19428  
Attn: Susan Cary Nicholas  
Phone: (717)643-7922  
Service Area: Pennsylvania/ national

**TINICUM CONSERVANCY**

15 Tankhannen Rd., Ottsville, PA 18942  
Attn: Neal Kyde Phone: (215) 766-7443.  
Service Area: Tinicum Township, Bucks County

**WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA CONSERVANCY**

209 Fourth Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15222  
Attn: Thomas Schmidt, Vice President  
Phone: (412) 288-2766.  
Service Area: Pennsylvania west of the Susquehanna  
River.

**WESTMORELAND CONSERVANCY**

3603 North Hills Road, Murrys ville, PA 15668  
Attn: James Dunbar, Board Member  
Phone: (412)327-3237  
Service Area: Westmoreland County

**WHITE CLAY CREEK CONSERVANCY**

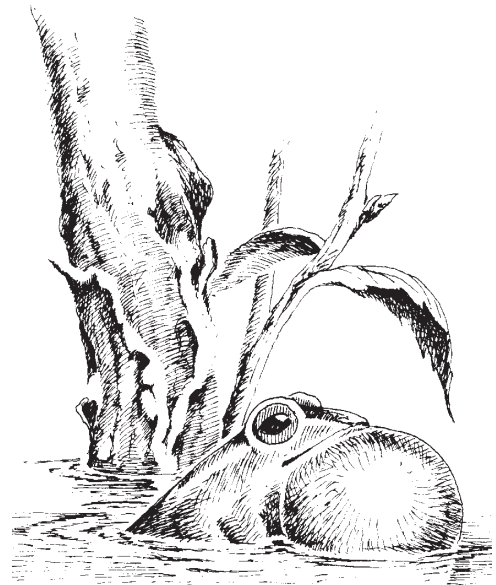
760 Chambers Rock Road, Landenberg, PA 19350  
Attn: John Murray, President  
Phone: (610) 255-4314.  
Service Area: southern Chester County, Pennsylvania  
and northern New Castle County, Delaware

**WILDLANDS CONSERVANCY**

3701 Orchid Place, Emmaus, PA 18049  
Attn: Thomas Kerr, Executive Director  
Phone: (610) 965- 7223  
research.  
Service Area: eastern Pennsylvania

**WISSAHICKON VALLEY  
WATERSHED ASSOCIATION**

12 Morris Road, Ambler, PA 19002  
Attn: David Froelich, Executive Director  
Phone: (215) 646- 8866  
Service Area: Philadelphia and Montgomery coun-  
ties



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# Financial Assistance

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PRIVATE  
INDUSTRIAL  
PROGRAMS

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## COST-SHARING PROGRAMS FOR SPRING SEEDLINGS

Glatfelter Pulp Wood Company and  
Westvaco

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### **Purpose of Program:**

The Glatfelter Pulp Wood Company and Westvaco participate in cost sharing programs with the Bureau of Forestry, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, to promote reforestation.

*Glatfelter Pulp Wood Company Program*

### **Eligible applicants:**

Sixteen counties in southern and central Pennsylvania are eligible in 1997.

### **Funding Structure:**

For designated tree species, Glatfelter will pay \$40 per thousand. Maximum cost share is toward 5000 seedlings. Seedling orders will be accepted on a first come basis by the Bureau of Forestry until the total dollar limit has been reached.

*Westvaco Program*

### **Eligible Applicants:**

Ten counties in southern and southwestern Pennsylvania are eligible in 1997. You must be a member of the American Tree Farm System or a member of Westvaco's Cooperative Forest Management Program. Schools, 4-H, FFA and other youth groups can apply for tree planting project assistance.

### **Funding Structure:**

For designated tree species, Westvaco will pay \$50 per thousand, one-half of the delivery charges and the Pennsylvania state sales tax on these amounts. For schools, 4-H, Vo-Ag, and FFA, Westvaco will pay the total cost of 10,000 or less "regular" evergreen seedlings (including delivery charges and sales tax) for tree planting projects. If "improved" evergreen stock is desired, Westvaco will pay \$100 per thousand plus delivery charges and state sales tax. If you wish to plant more than 5,000 seedlings, contact the District Forester, who will clear the order with Westvaco.

### **Agency Contact:**

Bureau of Forestry, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, PO Box 8552, Harrisburg, PA 17105-8552.

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## OPERATION GREEN STRIPE

Monsanto Company and Future Farmers  
of America

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### **Purpose of Program:**

To involve FFA students in qualifying chapters in enrolling farmers in a program to plant vegetative buffers along streams.

### **Eligible Projects:**

Farmers who enroll in Operation Green Stripe will agree to establish a streamside buffer stripe and maintain it as such for at least three years. The green stripe must be at least 16 1/2 feet wide and must be planted on soil formerly used for crops. The length of the green stripe must have a stream border of at least 150 yards.

### **Eligible Applicants:**

Farmers where the local FFA chapter is participating in this program.

### **Funding Structure:**

Monsanto Company contributes \$100 for each farmer a FFA Chapter recruits, up to five farmers. The money is dedicated for chapter activities. Pennsylvania Power and Light Company now matches Monsanto's contribution of \$100 per stripe. Other sponsors include Ducks Unlimited, Pheasants Forever, and Quail Forever. Cooperating ag retailers agree to donate at least one acre of free grass seed for each farmer enrolled.

### **Contact:**

Angela Rushing, Operation Green Stripe, 2660 Egret Lane, Tallahassee, FL 32312; (904)385-3447.

## Appendix 1: Success Stories

Randy Irwin had a small corner of his farm that proved to be a trouble spot. It became more and more difficult to plant and harvest crops in the soggy soil that was once kept dry by an old drainage ditch. Surrounding this small parcel of land were highly erodible hillsides that only added to the soggy conditions with every rainstorm.

When Irwin heard about the Fish and Wildlife Service's Partners for Wildlife Program, which restores wetlands on farmland at little to no cost to the landowner, he knew it was what his farm needed. He now enjoys a 1 1/2 acre wetland that attracts ducks, geese, and shorebirds instead of getting his tractor stuck in an old soggy spot. Irwin's farm is one of 250 projects completed under Partners for Wildlife since 1989, restoring nearly 2,500 acres of wetlands, 2,500 acres of native grasslands, and 25 miles of streambank. Currently, over 400 people are awaiting projects on their property.

The Pike Run Watershed Project is a voluntary habitat restoration undertaking being conducted on private lands. The overall goal of this project is to significantly reduce agricultural nonpoint source pollution within the Pike Run watershed in Washington County by restoring wetlands and protecting riparian resources. It is a cooperative effort with the Fish and Wildlife Service, Pennsylvania Game Commission, California University of Pennsylvania and Pheasants Forever.

The reduction of nonpoint source pollution is being conducted through proven restoration techniques for stream bank fencing, wetland hydrology restoration and riparian plantings. The project demonstrates the willingness of landowners to cooperate with agencies and conservation groups in restoration efforts.

Achievements thus far include: 48,500 feet of stream bank fencing on nine separate properties; 22 stone ramps for cattle crossings; 8 watering structures; 40 restored wetland acres; 1050 acres of native warm season grass plantings for ground cover habitat on 53 sites; and 8,500 trees and shrubs planted in riparian and wetland areas.

The results have been positive for the watershed. Both numbers and diversity of wildlife species have increased, as well as visible improvements in water clarity and in-stream aquatic habitat.

The Donegal Creek is located in the northwest corner of Lancaster County. Its 17.2 square miles of watershed includes some of the county's most productive and intensively used farmland. Unfortunately, the Donegal Creek has been severely degraded by that same agricultural land use.

But help arrived in March of 1996. The Lancaster County Conservation District and the Donegal Fish and Conservation Association partnered together with the intent of restoring 6.67 miles of the Donegal corridor. The partnership has made steady progress and believes the Donegal has a bright future. Other organizations, such as Trout Unlimited, Federation of Fly Fishers, and Pennsylvania Trout have also joined the restoration effort.

Denying free cattle access to the stream is priority number one. To date, the partnership has installed stream side fencing in 10 different pastures. One pasture remains to be fenced and three pastures have been fenced by the landowners themselves. A total of 17 stone ford cattle crossings and 7 stone watering facilities have been installed. A great variety of fish enhancement structures, such as deflectors, mud sills, boulder placement and half-log houses, have been installed. Trees and shrubs have also been planted within the fenced corridors; a long term goal is to re-establish a forest buffer within all fenced corridors. All improvements have been paid for 100 percent by the partnership. There is no cost to the landowners and the partnership maintains everything (fences, tree protectors, weed mowing, etc.). A grant from EPA's Section 319 program and numerous private grants have covered all expenses thus far. Contact: Lancaster County Conservation District (717) 299-5361.

# Appendix 2: General Landowner Options

Table 1.—If the landowner wishes to retain ownership and guide future use of the property.

Options	Description	Advantages	Disadvantages
Conservation Easements	A perpetual legal agreement between a private property owner and a qualified conservation organization to voluntarily place restrictions on the type and amount of development that may take place on a piece of property and to protect significant natural features, including wildlife or wildlife habitat.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If perpetual, easements provide Federal income, estate, and gift tax benefits;</li> <li>• allows the property owner to retain ownership of the wetland while potentially receiving income, estate, and property tax reductions;</li> <li>• easement restrictions are flexible within certain guidelines and can be adapted to fit the needs of the landowner; and</li> <li>• easements may provide permanent protection for the wetland.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Usually involves giving up some rights relating to the use of property;</li> <li>• easements may or may not be perpetual; and</li> <li>• the landowner is responsible for maintenance and other costs of the land.</li> </ul>
Leases	Agreements for the rental of land by a landowner to a conservation organization or agency for a specified period of time.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The landowner receives payment on a monthly basis for the leased property;</li> <li>• leases provide an alternative if landowners do not wish to transfer their land to a conservation agency or organization but want to see it used or protected by such a group for a period of years;</li> <li>• certain restrictions can be incorporated into the lease to guide the activities of the conservation agency on the land, including provisions to terminate the lease if the conservation agency does not use the property as directed; and</li> <li>• the impact of the lease on the value of the land may be taken into account when estate taxes are calculated.</li> </ul>	Unless restrictions are made by the landowner, leases generally allow unrestricted and exclusive control of the land by the agency leasing the property.
Management Agreements	An agreement between the landowner and a conservation agency whereby either the landowner or conservation agency agrees to manage his/her property in a certain manner consistent with the goals of the conservation agency and the landowner.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Direct payments and other types of cost-share assistance may be available to the landowner;</li> <li>• management of a property involves creating a landowner management plan based on one's needs;</li> <li>• the organization that helps develop the plan often provides management assistance and monitors compliance; and</li> <li>• ordinarily it is easier to terminate than a lease and does not involve exclusive possession of property.</li> </ul>	Management agreements are not permanent.

<b>Options</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Advantages</b>	<b>Disadvantages</b>
Mutual Covenants	Mutual covenants involve agreements between nearby or adjacent landowners to control the future use of their land through restrictions agreed upon by all participating landowners.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mutual covenants are permanent and can be enforced by any of the landowners or future landowners of the involved properties;</li> <li>• there is significant incentive to comply with the restrictions knowing the landowner's neighbors are aware of what can and cannot be done on their property; and</li> <li>• mutual covenants can reduce property taxes.</li> </ul>	The loss in market value from mutual covenants cannot be claimed as a charitable deduction on income tax returns.
Restoration	Involves the active rehabilitation of a degraded wetland to recover its natural attributes, functions, and values.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Technical and financial assistance is available for restoration projects; and</li> <li>• landowner can realize economic gains from the recreational and commodity benefits of (restored) wetlands.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can be expensive; and</li> <li>• restoration success varies with the extent of hydrologic damage.</li> </ul>
Limited Development Strategies	Involves the sensitive development of the least environmentally significant portions of the property in order to finance conservation of the remaining property and meet landowner economic needs and goals.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited development strategies may allow enough funds to be raised to protect the remaining significant environmental areas, especially where land values are high;</li> <li>• a combination of limited development strategies combined with conservation techniques may achieve the landowner's financial needs; and</li> <li>• tax advantages may be realized from recording an easement over the undeveloped part of the land.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limiting development of the land entails foregoing some of its potential profitability; and</li> <li>• it may be difficult to determine which areas of the property are the least environmentally active.</li> </ul>
Transferable Development Rights (TDRs)	A method of relocating potential development from an area where the local government wishes to limit development to an area where it is willing to see increased development; local government enacts TDR structure through local zoning or other land use ordinance or regulation; the landowner is allowed to sell development "credits" to a purchaser in an area where the local government is prepared to allow development at increased densities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The transfer protects wetlands and other ecologically significant features of the land without curtailing development in the area;</li> <li>• TDRs allow land to remain in the private sector while avoiding undesirable development;</li> <li>• TDRs do not require the expenditure of public funds for acquisition, but have same effect; and</li> <li>• TDRs may result in a reduced property tax assessment of the "donor" land after transfer of the development credit.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use is limited to States and counties with enabling legislation;</li> <li>• complicated standards for the allocation, purchase, and sale of development rights must be established to provide a legally defensible system;</li> <li>• planning and administrative costs are high; and</li> <li>• it is difficult to accurately apportion development credits among landowners.</li> </ul>

Table 2.—If the landowner wishes to transfer the title with compensation

Option	Description	Advantages	Disadvantages
Sale options	<p>There are four sales options that can be applied to wetlands:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Sale at fair market value—the landowner receives full market value for the land.</li> <li>2. Bargain sale—the landowner agrees to sell the land to a conservation organization at a price below full market value; the difference between the full market price and the selling price becomes a donation.</li> <li>3. Installment sale—outright sale of a piece of property by a landowner where all or part of the consideration is deferred and paid in successive years.</li> <li>4. Right of first refusal—binds a landowner to giving a conservation agency the option to match the purchase offer and acquire the land if the owner is approached by another buyer.</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sale at full market value allows the landowner to receive full value for land;</li> <li>• bargain sale may make the landowner eligible for a charitable tax deduction and reduces the capital gains tax;</li> <li>• installment sale defers actual payment of tax on the capital gain until the purchase money with which to pay the tax is actually in hand; and</li> <li>• right to first refusal gives a conservation organization extra time to acquire the funds necessary for purchasing the land.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Most conservation groups have a very limited budget and cannot afford the full market value for wetlands;</li> <li>• if the land value has appreciated since it was bought, the landowner will be liable for income tax on the capital gain; and</li> <li>• government agencies may have the funds but they apply selective criteria to their purchases.</li> </ul>



Table 3.—If the landowner wishes to transfer the title without compensation

Option	Description	Advantages	Disadvantages
<p>Donation of land</p>	<p>There are three types of land donations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Outright donation—Grants full title and ownership to the conservation organization, community, or government agency receiving the donated property.</li> <li>2. Donation by deathtime transfer—Donation of land through a will.</li> <li>3. Donation with reserved life estate—Donation of land with retention of rights by the landowner to use all or part of the donated land during his/her lifetime and the lifetimes of designated family members.</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Donation is an excellent way to provide total protection for wetlands and ensure the wetlands will be maintained and enhanced;</li> <li>• landowners can receive income tax deductions and possibly estate, gift, and property tax breaks;</li> <li>• grants communities and conservation organizations vital wetland areas they might not have been able to purchase;</li> <li>• outright donation is simple, eliminates most negotiations, and can be conducted quickly;</li> <li>• donation by deathtime transfer allows the landowner to retain full use and control over his or her land while alive and to ensure the land's protection after the owner is deceased;</li> <li>• donation by deathtime transfer reduces estate taxes and may benefit heirs with reduced inheritance taxes;</li> <li>• donation with reserved life estate allows the landowner to continue to live on and use the property during their lifetime while also securing the land's future protection; and</li> <li>• donation with reserved life estate allows designation for family members or other persons only, without any reservations by the landowner.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The landowner loses potential income from the sale of the land;</li> <li>• maintenance and other associated costs taken on by the organization or agency receiving the property may be more costly than easements to the agency or group;</li> <li>• there is no income tax deduction for a donation by deathtime transfer;</li> <li>• the landowner is responsible for property taxes for as long as he or she remains in possession of the land;</li> <li>• tax relief from a donation with reserved life estate generally applies to personal residence or farm—wetlands may not necessarily qualify; and</li> <li>• there may not be a guarantee of perpetual preservation unless legally enforceable controls are imposed in the grant.</li> </ul>

If the landowner wishes to guide future use of the property through transfer of the property, he/she should consider donating a conservation easement for the property to another organization before transferring the property in fee through a normal transfer (i.e., sale or donation).

If the landowner does not wish to restrict future use of the property, he/she can transfer the property through a normal transfer.

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## **Appendix 3: Selected References**

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### **REFERENCE CENTERS**

#### **CENTER FOR WATERSHED PROTECTION**

8737 Colesville Road, Suite 300

Silver Spring, MD 20910

Phone: (301) 589-1890

Fax: (301)589-8745

-- Publishes the journal *Watershed Protection Techniques* that contains summaries on the latest research and experience with urban best management practices, stream restoration, environmental planning, wetland/restoration, and watershed research.  
-- Publications List available by calling number listed above.

#### **STROUD WATER RESEARCH CENTER**

Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia

RD 1, Box 512

Avondale, PA 19311

Phone: (215) 268-2153

-- The Center is dedicated to the study of stream and river ecosystems. Areas of research emphasis include: interactions of streams with their watersheds, natural history of stream organisms, nutrient cycling and energy flow, environmental chemistry, influence of wetlands on streams, and responses of streams to environmental impacts. Through workshops and public lectures, the Center shares new information about aquatic resources and global environmental issues.

#### **CHESAPEAKE REGIONAL INFORMATION SERVICE (CRIS)**

Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay

1-800- 662-CRIS

-- Provides resource information on a variety of topics, including wetlands and riparian buffer stewardship.

### **REFERENCE PUBLICATIONS**

#### **A STREAMBANK STABILIZATION AND MANAGEMENT GUIDE FOR PENNSYLVANIA LANDOWNERS**

1986; 79 pp; Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, PO Box 8475, Harrisburg, PA 17105-8475

-- Explains stream behavior and provides a summary of the advantages, disadvantages, and applicability of various streambank restoration techniques.  
Phone: (717) 787-7672

#### **CHESAPEAKE BAY RIPARIAN HANDBOOK: A GUIDE FOR ESTABLISHING AND MAINTAINING RIPARIAN FOREST BUFFERS**

1997; USDA Forest Service, Northeastern Area - State and Private Forestry

-- Provides professional land managers and planners with the latest information on the functions, design, establishment and maintenance of riparian forest buffers.  
Phone: 1-800-YOUR-BAY or the USDA Forest Service at (304)285-1592.

#### **ESTABLISHING VEGETATIVE BUFFER STRIPS ALONG STREAMS TO IMPROVE WATER QUALITY**

1996; 56 pp. Penn State University, Publications Distribution Center, 112 Agricultural Administration Building, University Park, PA 16802

-- Assists owners of riparian zones with the development of vegetative buffer strips and serves as a guide for technical staff working with landowners.  
Phone: (814)865-6713

## ***Reference Publications Continued***

### **WHITE PAPER: RIPARIAN FOREST BUFFERS**

16 pp; Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, Forest Service, and Agricultural Research Service  
-- Describes the current state of scientific knowledge regarding the functions of riparian forest buffers in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.  
Phone: 1-800-662-CRIS or 1-800-YOUR-BAY

### **CORRIDOR MANAGEMENT FOR PASTURELAND STREAMS**

1994; 12 pp.; PA Fish and Boat Commission, PO Box 67000, Harrisburg, PA 17106-7000  
-- Focuses on the relationship between pasturelands and stream quality and the means to keep both as healthy as possible.

### **WATERSHED OWNER'S STREAMWALK GUIDE**

Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission Nonpoint Source Program Team  
-- Helps those interested in water quality learn more about their local streams and how human use of the water and surrounding land affects quality; an interesting accompaniment for hands-on watershed tours.  
Phone: (512) 239-0028; single copies are free.

### **LANDOWNER'S GUIDE TO MANAGING STREAMS IN THE EASTERN UNITED STATES**

1985; 32 pp.; Virginia Cooperative Extension Service, Publication 420-141; Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, Virginia 24061  
-- Explains stream improvement methods, in-stream habitat characteristics, stream killers, and a stream watcher's guide.

### **PROTECTING WETLANDS: TOOLS FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN THE CHESAPEAKE BAY REGION**

1997; 110 pp.  
-- Assists local government officials, landowners, community activists, and others with identifying and using wetland protection tools. Tools are described, reference materials are identified and case study examples are provided.  
Contact Amy Zimmerling, CBPO/EPA, 410 Severn Ave., Suite 109, Annapolis, MD 21403.

### **STREAMSIDE FORESTS: THE VITAL, BENEFICIAL RESOURCE**

1988; 16 pp; US Fish and Wildlife Service and University of Maryland Cooperative Extension Service  
-- Provides an overview of the many benefits provided by streamside forests, historic loss of the resource, and what can be done to restore it.  
Phone: (410)573-4500

### **RIPARIAN FOREST BUFFERS Function and Design for Protection and Enhancement of Water Resources**

1991; 20 pp; David Welsch, USDA Forest Service  
-- Provides a comprehensive description of the functions of riparian forest buffers and guidelines for their establishment.  
Phone: (202)512-1800; \$2.00; stock number 001-001-00657-2.

### **MID-ATLANTIC WETLANDS: A DISAPPEARING TREASURE**

1987; 28 pp; US Fish and Wildlife Service and EPA  
-- Provides an overview of wetland types and values, current status and recent trends in wetlands in the Mid-Atlantic states, and options for wetland conservation.  
EPA Region III, Office of Public Affairs, 841 Chestnut Building, Philadelphia, PA 19107.

RESPONSE SHEET

***In order to track the utility of this guide, agency personnel using this guide are requested to submit copies of this response sheet.***

Name of Agency Representative: \_\_\_\_\_

Agency Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Agency Address / Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Landowner contacted: \_\_\_\_\_

Location of landowner: \_\_\_\_\_

Date contact made: \_\_\_\_\_

Briefly describe how this guide was used and actions taken by the landowner as a result of your contact and assistance:

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*Photocopy this form before use.*

***Please tear off form and return to the Bureau of Watershed Conservation, PO Box 8555, Harrisburg, PA 17105-8555.***

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***In order to track the utility of this guide, agency personnel using this guide are requested to submit copies of this response sheet.***

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Briefly describe how this guide was used and actions taken by the landowner as a result of your contact and assistance:

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*Photocopy this form before use.*

***Please tear off form and return to the Bureau of Watershed Conservation, PO Box 8555, Harrisburg, PA 17105-8555.***

ALLIANCE FOR THE CHESAPEAKE BAY  
225 Pine Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17101

