

Riparian Forest Buffer Panel (Bay Area Incentive Programs)

Program	Buffer Incentive Program	Virginia Agricultural BMP Cost-Share Program	Virginia Agricultural BMP Cost-Share Program
Practice	N/A	Woodland Buffer Filter Area	Loafing Lot Management System
Type	Incentive, State (MD) technical and financial assistance.	Incentive, State (VA) technical and financial assistance	Incentive, State (VA) technical and financial assistance.
Purpose	One-time payments of \$300 per acre for planting and maintenance of minimum 50-foot forested buffers along streams/shorelines.	One-time payments of \$100 per acre to establish minimum 50-foot forested buffers along streams. Permitted only on crop and pasture land that has recently been in production.	Cost-share for rotational grazing system. Requires a minimum 25-foot fenced buffer around streams.
RFB Emphasis	Yes	Yes	No
Prot. Level	10 year practice lifespan	10 year practice lifespan	10 year practice lifespan
Admin. Agency	MD DNR-Forest Service	VA Department of Conservation and Recreation through the soil and water conservation districts.	VA Department of Conservation and Recreation through the soil and water conservation districts.
Participation	Voluntary, 30 sites/yr, averaging 175 acres.	Voluntary, 3/yr for 15 acres	Voluntary, 10/yr @ 75% c/s up to \$7,500 per applicant.
Enforcement	Adequate	Adequate	Adequate
Barriers	Burdensome paperwork; payment insufficient for commercial farm owner/operators.	Lack of information and education to improve public awareness. Perceived risk of practice loss due to flood risk.	Expensive to install. With the cap, the cost-share is often not even 50% of the total actual cost.
\$ Level/Source	MD DNR-Forest Service @ 111,000/yr	VA Department of Conservation and Recreation via Federal Funds through a CBI Grant, average \$1.1 million/yr	VA Department of Conservation and Recreation via Federal Funds through a CBI Grant, average \$1.1 million/yr
Benefits	Creation and maintenance of RFBs for 10 years. Reduction of NPS pollution.	Creation of riparian forest buffers. Reduction of NPS pollution. Payment can be Apiggybacked@ onto other cost-share practices.	Stream bank stabilization from livestock. Improved heard health. Creation of riparian forest buffers. Reduction of NPS pollution.

Riparian Forest Buffer Panel (Bay Area Incentive Programs)

Program	Streambank Fencing Program	Agricultural Conservation Program	Agricultural Conservation Program
Practice	N/A	Permanent Vegetative Cover (SL1)	Stream Protection (WP2)
Type	Incentive, State (PA) technical and financial assistance.	Incentive, Federal (MD, VA, PA) technical and financial assistance.	Incentive, Federal (MD, VA, PA) technical and financial assistance.
Purpose	Fencing with minimum 12-foot buffer free to rural landowners by PA Game Commission in exchange for allowing public hunting. Department of Environmental Resources implementing parallel program that omits hunting requirement.	Cost-share for establishing trees, grasses, shrubs in eroding areas, including riparian zone.	Cost-share for establishing permanent vegetative cover, which can include trees, along the banks of streams, as well as related items such as remote watering systems, stream crossings for livestock, and stream fencing.
RFB Emphasis	No	No	No
Prot. Level	10 year practice lifespan, PA Game Commission Maintains	10 year practice lifespan.	10 year practice lifespan.
Admin. Agency	Department of Environmental Protection - Game Commission through the local soil and water conservation districts.	Consolidated Farm Services Agency	Consolidated Farm Services Agency
Participation	Voluntary (highly supported)	Voluntary, MD 35 farms for 613 acres. PA 265 farms for 3,165 acres	Voluntary, MD 8 farms for 191 acres/yr PA 30 farms for 360 acres/yr VA 4 farms for 81.2 acres/yr
Enforcement	Adequate	Adequate	Adequate
Barriers	Perception of giving up use of fenced land for 10 years. Insufficient funds, a limiting factor for participation.	Insufficient funds. Burdensome paperwork	Insufficient funds. Burdensome paperwork.
\$ Level/Source	Department of Environmental Protection - Game Commission through an CBI Grant.	Consolidated Farm Services Agency, funds vary from year to year.	Consolidated Farm Services Agency, funds vary from year to year.

Benefits	Stream bank stabilization from livestock. Reduced NPS pollution.	Reduce nonpoint source pollution.	Reduce nonpoint source pollution. Establish and protect riparian forest buffers.
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Riparian Forest Buffer Panel (Bay Area Incentive Programs)

Program	Agricultural Conservation Program	Conservation Reserve Program	Wetlands Reserve Program
Practice	Riparian Forest Buffer Establishment (WP7)	N/A	N/A
Type	Incentive, Federal (CFSA) technical and financial assistance.	Incentive, Federal (CFSA) technical and financial assistance.	Incentive, Federal (CFSA) technical and financial assistance.
Purpose	Provides a number of cost-share practices designed to solve soil, water, and related environmental problems in agricultural areas, including small woodlands. Most notably: Minimum 95-foot forested Riparian Buffer Strips.	Takes highly erodible land out of production for at least ten years. Cost-share for tree establishment, other vegetative cover. Annual rental payments on land taken out of production.	Allows farmers to sell permanent or 30 year easements to U.S.D.A. Cost-share to restore altered wetlands to natural condition. Eligible land includes prior converted cropland, farmed wetlands, riparian areas along streams or water courses that link protected wetlands
RFB Emphasis	Yes	No	No
Prot. Level	10 year practice lifespan.	10 year practice lifespan.	Indefinite
Admin. Agency	Consolidated Farm Services Agency	Consolidated Farm Services Agency	Natural Resources Conservation Service
Participation	Voluntary	Voluntary	Voluntary
Enforcement	Adequate	Adequate	Adequate
Barriers	Buffer requirements perceived as too wide. Insufficient funding. Burdensome paperwork.	Insufficient funding. Burdensome paperwork.	Long term nature of agreement Insufficient funds, not available in all states Burdensome paperwork
\$ Level/ Source	Consolidated Farm Services Agency, funds vary from year to year.	Consolidated Farm Services Agency, funds vary from year to year.	Natural Resources Conservation Service, varies year to year

Benefits	Reduce nonpoint source pollution. Establish and protect riparian forest buffers.	Reduced NPS pollution. Riparian forest buffers may be established if HEL was recently cropped.	Protects wetlands and riparian forests
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Riparian Forest Buffer Panel (Bay Area Incentive Programs)

Program	Woodland Incentive Program	Virginia Agricultural BMP Cost-Share Program	Forest Stewardship Program
Practice	N/A	Woodland Erosion Stabilization	N/A
Type	Incentive, State (MD) technical and financial assistance	Incentive, State (VA) technical and financial assistance	Incentive, Federal (USFS) technical assistance
Purpose	Cost-share provided to non-industrial private woodland owners for tree planting, including riparian forest buffer establishment.	Cost-share to establish permanent vegetation on eroding areas. on forest harvesting sites.	Provides technical assistance to private landowners for implementing conservation practices while meeting harvesting needs. Forest Stewardship Plans required for participation in other federal cost-share programs for forestry.
RFB Emphasis	No	No	No
Prot. Level	15 year practice lifespan	5 year practice lifespan	N/A
Admin. Agency	MD DNR-Forest Service	Department of Conservation & Recreation, through the local soil and water conservation districts	US Forest Service through State forestry agencies
Participation	Voluntary (Tree planting not distinguished from buffer planting)	Voluntary, 20-30/yr for 65-80 acres.	Voluntary, MD 570 yr for 40,000 acres
Enforcement	Adequate	Adequate	Adequate
Barriers	Cost-share payment 15% less than other available programs.	Some sites no longer eligible because they are now captured by the ABad Actor@ Law. Public Awareness	Availability of service personnel or others qualified to provide technical advise.
\$ Level/ Source	MD DNR-Forest Service @ \$60,000/yr General Funds	VA Department of Conservation and Recreation via Federal Funds through a CBI Grant, average \$1.1 million/yr.	USFS through state forestry agencies, MD \$136,000/yr.

Benefits	Establishment and maintenance of riparian forest buffers	Reduce nonpoint source pollution Improved wildlife habitat.	Sustainable multiple use management. BMPs used during forest harvesting. Establishment and maintenance of riparian forest buffers recommended.
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Riparian Forest Buffer Panel (Bay Area Incentive Programs)

Program	Forestry Incentive Program	Stewardship Incentive Program	Special Rivers Project
Type	Incentive, Federal (CFSA) technical and financial assistance	Incentive, Federal (USFS/CFSA) technical and financial assistance	Incentive, Federal (EPA, Bay Program) technical assistance
Purpose	Cost-share for tree planting, including in forested wetlands and riparian areas on private, non-industrial forest land.	Cost-sharing for tree planting, stream fencing, riparian and wetland improvement, tree shelters, and fisheries habitat improvement on non-industrial private forest land.	Fosters forest stewardship and best management practices in both rural and urban watersheds to improve water quality. Limited to the Susquehanna, Monocacy, and Anacostia river basins.
RFB Emphasis	No	Yes, for SIP 6	No
Prot. Level	10 year practice lifespan	10 year practice lifespan	N/A
Admin. Agency	Consolidated Farm Services Agency and the State Forestry Agencies.	US Forest Service and the Consolidated Farm Services Agency through the State forestry agencies.	Environmental Protection Agency through the Maryland Department of the Environment and the DNR-Forest Service.
Participation	Voluntary, MD 60/yr for 2,300 acres	Voluntary SIP 6: MD 3.5 applications for 25 acres/yr VA 4.0 applications for 20 acres/yr PA 3.0 applications for 16.6 acres/yr	Voluntary
Enforcement	Adequate	Adequate	N/A

Barriers	<p>Insufficient funding.</p> <p>Lack of stable fund source.</p> <p>10 acre minimum requirement</p>	<p>Insufficient funding.</p> <p>Lack of stable fund source.</p> <p>Burdensome paperwork</p>	<p>Insufficient funding via a CBI Grant</p> <p>Limited personnel due to high turnover.</p>
\$ Level/ Source	<p>Consolidated Farm Services Agency, MD FY94 \$126,000</p> <p>FY95 \$ 63,000.</p>	SIP 6 MD average \$6,000/yr	Environmental Protection Agency through the Maryland Department of the Environment and the DNR-Forest Service @ \$190,000/yr
Benefits	<p>Establishment and maintenance of riparian forest buffers.</p> <p>Vigorous growth promoting increased nutrient uptake and an increase of buffer effectiveness.</p>	<p>Riparian forest buffer and wetland establishment.</p> <p>Reduce nonpoint source pollution.</p> <p>Protect and maintain stream integrity and bank stability.</p>	<p>Sustainable multiple use management.</p> <p>BMPs used during forest harvesting.</p> <p>Riparian forest buffer and wetland establishment.</p> <p>Reduce nonpoint source pollution.</p> <p>Protect and maintain stream integrity and bank stability.</p>

Riparian Forest Buffer Panel (Bay Area Incentive Programs)

Program	Tree-Mendous Maryland	Forest Conservation and Management Program	Reforestation/Timber Stand Improvement Tax Deduction (TAXMOD) Program
Type	Incentive, State (MD)	Incentive, State (MD)	Incentive, State (MD)
Purpose	Local businesses, regional corporations, citizen groups, and local governments conduct community plantings on public land. Also trains people to lead tree-planting efforts in their communities.	Special tax assessments on forest land, if the landowner agrees to adhere to a forest stewardship plan.	Allows landowners of small forestry operations to deduct double the costs associated with reforestation activities, including those in the riparian zone.
RFB Emphasis	No	No	No
Prot. Level	N/A	15 year agreement	15 year maintenance requirement

Admin. Agency	DNR-Forest Service	DNR-Forest Service and Department of Assessment and Taxation	DNR-Forest Service and Office of Treasurer
Participation	Voluntary, 42,000 volunteers/yr, plant 800,000 trees/yr on 1,200 acres.	Voluntary, 60/yr for 1,500 acres	Voluntary
Enforcement	N/A	Adequate	Adequate
Barriers	Securing protection and maintenance for long-term (vandalism) Insufficient resources (e.g. funding and personnel)	Fees and penalties. Short-term ownership trend. Burdensome paperwork.	Lack of public awareness. Burdensome paperwork.
\$ Level/ Source	DNR-Forest Service @ \$150,000/ yr Special Funds	Program funded by participants.	N/A
Benefits	Increases fores land base in urban areas. Prevents and reduces NPS pollution. Decreases Impervious surface area. Educates people to the value of trees and forests and their relationship to water quality.	Protects forest land base. Reduced carrying costs for participants. Sustainable multiple use management. BMPs used during forest harvesting. Establishment and maintenance of riparian forest buffers recommended.	More tree planting and riparian forest buffer establishment. Reduced carrying costs.

Riparian Forest Buffer Panel (Bay Area Incentive Programs)

Program	Agricultural Use Assessment	Use-Value Taxation	Farmland and Forest Land Assessment Act ("Clean and Green Act")
Type	Incentive, State (MD)	Incentive, State (VA)	Incentive, State (PA)

Purpose	Preferential assessment on value of land used for agriculture. Woodlots can also receive an agricultural assessment. No specific requirements for riparian areas.	Counties provide preferential assessments on use value of agricultural and forest land. No specific requirements for riparian areas.	County can grant a preferential assessment for ten or more contiguous acres of land devoted to agricultural, forest reserve, or open space purposes. Can apply to land in the riparian zone, although no specific requirements in riparian areas.
RFB Emphasis	No	No	No
Prot. Level	3 years with compliance checks and verification	Duration of participation	10 year agreement
Admin. Agency	Department of Assessment and Taxation	Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services through the local tax assessors.	Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture through local jurisdictions.
Participation	Voluntary	Voluntary	Voluntary
Enforcement	Adequate	Local Departments of Taxation	Adequate
Barriers	Lack of public awareness. Little or no demand in rural areas where agricultural use assessment is common.	No clearly defined conservation requirements. Local jurisdictions experience loss of tax base. Not available in all counties (65 of 95)	Perception of loss of property rights Penalties for non-compliance
\$ Level/ Source	N/A	N/A	N/A
Benefits	Protects forest land base. Reduced carrying costs for participants. Sustainable multiple use management. BMPs used during forest harvesting. Establishment and maintenance of riparian forest buffers recommended.	Reduced carrying costs. Encourages preservation of open space.	Conservation of Open Space Protects forest and agriculture land base. Reduces carrying costs.

Program	Public Law 96-451
Type	Incentive, Federal (IRS)
Purpose	Federal tax incentives to reduce reforestation costs. Can include reforestation efforts in riparian areas.
RFB Emphasis	No
Prot. Level	N/A
Admin. Agency	Internal Revenue Service
Participation	Voluntary
Enforcement	Adequate
Barriers	Lack of public awareness. Burdensome paperwork.
\$ Level/ Source	N/A
Benefits	More tree planting and riparian forest buffer establishment. Reduced carrying costs.