

Chesapeake Bay Small Watershed Grants

Helping Local Partners Restore the Chesapeake

The Challenge

The Chesapeake Executive Council recognized that retaining and expanding watershed forests is critical to our success in restoring the Chesapeake Bay. Key partners in this work are local governments and organizations throughout this 64,000 square mile watershed. The Northeastern Area (NA) and other partners in the Chesapeake Bay Program have joined with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) to provide Small Watershed Grants to get technical and financial assistance to our local partners.

The Solution

The purpose of the Chesapeake Bay Small Watershed Grants program is to support protection and restoration actions that directly contribute to restoring healthy waters, habitat and living resources of the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem, while building citizen-based stewardship. This is also a vehicle for integrating multiple sources of federal funds. It is designed to encourage the development and sharing of innovative ideas for restoration and conservation among the organizations and local governments. The following awards were given in 2007:

Recipients Grants	Match	FS Funding
Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay	17,000	50,000
Baltimore County	63,200	50,000
Future of Life, Inc.	27,096	30,000
Franklin County CD	54,000	14,000
ClearWater Cons. of PA	282,500	80,000
American Rivers	44,000	10,000
Pinchot Institute for Conservation	15,000	27,700
County of Albemarle, VA	222,400	15,000
Potomac Conservancy	315,300	40,000
Trout Unlimited	293,000	40,000
Total	1,333,496	356,700



Forest management via horse-logging appeals to certain forest landowners; one of the findings of a project funded through the Chesapeake Bay Small Watershed Grants.

Resulting Benefits

Every dollar of Forest Service funding was matched with more than \$3 in partner contributions. Since 2001, approximately \$14 million worth of projects have been awarded to our local partners with approximately \$2.4 million in Forest Service investment. NA works with a team of state forestry partners, and other federal agencies to select the best projects.

An evaluation of the Chesapeake Small Watershed Grants program was conducted in 2006. The purpose was to improve the long-term environmental effectiveness of the dollars invested in this program. The evaluation spurred a restructuring of the Grants program last year. To learn more about how this program has evolved, visit the NFWF Web site (www.nfwf.org).

Sharing Success

Because of the success of the Chesapeake Bay Small Watershed Grants program, NA and NFWF have teamed up in the Upper Mississippi to award watershed forestry grants.



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