
APPENDIX I. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Public Meeting Comments

Expand potential partner listings for management recommendations.

As mentioned in the plan, the potential partners and funding sources are suggestions and should not be limited to those provided.

Categories were developed in order to reduce the space required to identify an exhausted list of every potential group in the region and to allow for new groups that may be developed. Individual groups, such as Ridge and Valley Streamkeepers, Woodland Owners of Southern Alleghenies, Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, and The Nature Conservancy have been categorized as conservation organizations. Other categorizations include private sources (local business or grassroots funding), community groups (scouts, Kiwanis, etc.), and sportsmen's groups.

Be careful about the term Smart Growth, or define term clearly.

There is a section in the Land Resources chapter that talks about smart growth principles, to which the plan is referring when the term Smart Growth is utilized. Smart Growth is also defined in the glossary.

Dirt and gravel roads should be increased to a high priority.

The original prioritizations have been reviewed and the recommendations have been increased.

Add definition of industrial agriculture.

A definition of industrial agriculture is located in the Land Resources chapter. It has also been added to the glossary.

Define PA CleanWays.

PA CleanWays is discussed in the Land Resources chapter.

Discuss differences between Maryland and Pennsylvania conservation districts

This has been added as a section of Appendix L.

Encourage farmland/forestland tax-matching programs to provide incentives to keep land in agriculture/forest and not convert it to residential.

This is similar to the Clean and Green program in Pennsylvania; however, the area is not enrolled in the program because of a required property reassessment. A recommendation has been added.

Compare forestry and agriculture protection programs in Pennsylvania and Maryland.

Descriptions of the programs for each state are identified in the Land Resources chapter; however, a section in Appendix L has been added that directly compares the two states.

Goal 3-8 method number six makes reference to Clearville, but it is not in the watershed.

The recommendation reads, "Establish sewage systems in populated areas like the village of Clearville." Although Clearville is not located in the watershed it is just used as a reference of a populated area in the region.

Local government is identified as a funding source for many of the recommendations in the project area characteristics section. Local governments are strapped for money; other sources need to be identified.

It is the job of the local government to fulfill many of these recommendations, so therefore it should not be an added expense. In other locations, additional funding sources are included or have been added.

How are potential funding sources obtained?

It depends on the funding source. Most agencies and foundations provide funding through competitive grant programs that typically require an application through an open grant period. Some provide funding year-round. Private sources could include local business donations or grassroots community fundraising.

Trash Free Potomac.

The Trash Free Potomac is an initiative of the Alice Ferguson Foundation to eliminate trash along the Potomac River by 2013. It is a comprehensive regional strategy that involves collaboration between all watershed jurisdictions, education campaigns, enforcement and legislation, new technologies, best management practices, and economic impacts. A recommendation has been added to encourage conservation groups and watershed residents to participate in cleaning up Sideling Hill Creek, Fifteenmile Creek, and Town Creek watersheds.

In response to a hog operation being established just outside the watershed in Monroe Township, citizens should monitor the level of water in their wells to track groundwater levels.

A management recommendation has been added to encourage residents to monitor groundwater levels.

Rare, threatened, and endangered species are a resource for tourism and advantages of having them as opposed to individuals removing them for fear of government control.

Many citizens within the watershed feel that the identification of rare, threatened, or endangered species within the area limits their property rights and future economic opportunities. Local residents need to be educated that the rare, threatened, and endangered species are a resource for tourism and that there are advantages to having them. A recommendation has been added to increase educational outreach about the benefits of rare, threatened, or endangered species.

Wildlife management plans for individual landowners.

Local residents in Pennsylvania can contact the Pennsylvania Game Commission biologist to develop a wildlife management plan for their property. A recommendation will be added to encourage residents to develop wildlife management plans for their property.

Potomac Conservancy – Growing Native

A volunteer effort by the Potomac Conservancy collects seeds from native hardwood species. The seeds are then donated to state nurseries that grow the seeds. Each spring, volunteers plant saplings that have grown from previous years' collections along streambanks in their communities. A recommendation has been added to encourage watershed residents to participate in the seed collection and tree plantings.

Provide economic incentives (include recreational opportunities, such as hunting, fishing, golfing, etc.) and economic values. Make table so information is easily obtained.

This could be an additional study to be conducted. A recommendation has been added to conduct an economic impact study of recreational activities within the watershed. General information about the value of recreation will be included in the appendix. However, this data will not be specific to the project area.

People making decisions have no link to the land.

County or municipal officials who make decision about land-use regulations and zoning are elected representatives. Local citizens vote for who they want to represent them and make these important decisions for the area. In order to change, local citizens need to elect individuals who have a link to the land or who will properly represent people who have a link to the land.

Do we know “cottage industries?” Educate residents about these businesses and provide a directory/listing. Establish a cooperation or network of industries that can share the word. Farm Market/Crafter’s market.

A recommendation in the plan encourages the support of local businesses. Additional recommendations have been added to educate residents about these local businesses and to develop a directory or listing that can be distributed to local business and residents. Another recommendation has been added encouraging local business owners to establish a cooperation or network of industries to spread the word about each other’s businesses within the watershed.

Petition for Fifteenmile Creek for EV status.

A recommendation has been added encouraging interested organizations and individuals to work together in determining if a petition to change Fifteenmile Creek to EV status is feasible.

Written Comments Received

Francis Zumbun Green Ridge State Forest

Page	Comments	Actions Taken
ES-6	Fifteenmile Creek flows “under” bridge “built in 1930s by WPA.”	Corrected
1-1	Length of stream miles needed for Sideling Hill Creek (?) and Fifteenmile Creek (19.2 miles).	Added
1-8	“Piclic Run” spelled incorrectly in first paragraph. Add “Pine Lick” as a Fifteenmile Creek tributary.	Corrected and added
2-1	Mention “Vernal Ponds” as a unique feature.	Added
3-20	Water gauges are also located on Terrapin Run and Deep Run with the Fifteenmile Creek watershed.	Added
4-12	Green Ridge State Forest is now 46,000 acres.	Corrected
4-33	Add sentence: <i>Maryland is losing an average of 8,600 acres a year of agricultural fields, wildlife habitat to development - equivalent to losing green open space the size of Green Ridge State Forest every seven years.</i>	Added

Three Sisters Watershed Conservation Plan

5-4	Add sentences: <i>Scenic Route 40 in Allegany County from Belle Grove to Fifteenmile Creek has been recently designated a “last chance scenic place” due to on-going development pressures. “This seven-mile segment of Scenic Route 40 and its surrounding viewshed in eastern Allegany County make up one of the most visually enjoyable and well preserved portions of the Maryland Historic National Road Scenic Byway.”</i>	Added
5-4	Bold the words “ Chesapeake and Ohio Canal ” like the “National Road” bold designation.	Corrected
5-5	Important People: Add Charles Carroll of Carrollton – signer of the Declaration of Independence – Owned most of Green Ridge Forest in early 1800s, his primary business interests being iron ore and timber.	Added
5-5	Historical Structures: The Carroll Chimney off of Carroll Road at Green Ridge State Forest was built in 1836 and served as steam-powered sawmill.	Added
5-10	Add: In 2005, the Green Ridge State Forest Hiking Trail was designated a National Recreation Trail. Two of the three national trails are within the Three Sisters watershed, the also include the C&O Canal National Historical Park. Both trails are part of the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail system. In 2006, the Green Ridge State Forest Hiking Trail and the Mid State Trail became part of the Great Eastern Trail, a network of trails that connect and extend from Florida to the Great Lakes.	Added
5-11	Trails: Add to the C&O Canal Towpath the Paw Paw Tunnel, completed in 1850. The brick-lined tunnel, over 3,118 feet in length, was promoted as one of the “wonders of the world” in 1850.	Added, but in a different location
5-12	Green Ridge ORV Trail is the most heavily used ORV/ATV trail on state public lands in Maryland. In 2005, over 2,000 of the 4,000 ATV permits purchased in Maryland were issued at Green Ridge State Forest headquarters.	Added
6-13	Scenic Vistas: These vistas should be called “endangered viewscapes” where the scenery may be degraded if development and growth is not controlled or managed.	Revised, to include information explaining that scenic vistas are in danger and could become degraded if development is not managed properly.
6-14	For the plan to be successful is to develop a 100-year vision of what the Three Sisters Watershed will look like as the plan guides development and economic growth.	Added
7-17	Biological Resources: State forest managers should offer field tours to elected officials to emphasize values of natural resources within the watershed. Natural resource managers should also be actively involved in county land planning meetings, county commissioner meetings, and most importantly, involved in the development of county comprehensive plans.	Added

8-5	Add reference: Maryland Department of Natural Resources (1993): Green Ridge State Forest: Ten Year Resource Management Plan. Vols. 1& 2.	Added
8-6	Add reference: Mash, J. <i>The Land of the Living</i> (Commercial Press, Cumberland, MD) 1996.	Added
8-10	Add Reference: Scenic Maryland Inc.: <i>Maryland's 2006 Last Chance Scenic Places</i> (PO Box 39095, Baltimore, MD 21212).	Added
	Add to Appendices: Develop a table for economic values and contributions for natural resources and nature tourism (i.e., hiking, camping, mountain biking, heritage tourism...)	Developing a table specific for the economic values and contributions for the watershed is so encompassing that it could be its own entire study. A recommendation has been added to conduct an economic impact study of recreational activities for the Three Sisters region.

Ron Stanley for Ridge and Valley Streamkeepers

The Ridge and Valley Streamkeepers Board of Directors has reviewed the draft Three Sisters Watershed Conservation Plan and would like to commend Western Pennsylvania Conservancy for an excellent job of preparing a comprehensive document to guide the future of conservation in this watershed.

Our only comment as an organization is to request that Ridge and Valley Streamkeepers be specifically named as potential partner for several of the action items in the plan. In particular, we would like to be added as potential partners to:

- Goal 2-5, methods 3 & 4 related to illegal dump cleanups,
- 3-2, method 2 on education about non-point and point source pollution,
- 3-3, method 4 on acceptable pH of streams,
- 3-5, method 3 on encouraging riparian buffers,
- 3-6, methods 2 thru 6 on volunteers, training and assessments,
- 4-1, method 3 on biological diversity and habitat,
- 4-4, methods 2 & 4 on encouraging riparian buffers, and
- 5-1, method 4 on increasing watershed awareness.

The Board considers these items, as well as those for which RVS is already mentioned, to be important to our mission.

Thank you for your efforts on behalf of this watershed.

Ridge and Valley Streamkeepers have been added to the listed recommendations. They also would qualify under the general category of a conservation organization for any remaining recommendations.