

APPENDIX D



AGREEMENT OF FEDERAL AGENCIES ON ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT IN THE CHESAPEAKE BAY



July 14, 1994

WHEREAS, the National Performance Review under the direction of the Vice President has called upon Federal agencies to develop cross-agency ecosystem planning and management; and

WHEREAS, the restoration of the Chesapeake Bay is a readily accessible example of ecosystem management carried out by a partnership of State and Federal agencies engaged in the integrated management of the waters, the air, the living resources, and human dimensions of the landscapes of the Bay Region, all with the common goal of restoring the Chesapeake watershed to a healthy ecosystem; and

WHEREAS, this partnership is embodied in the 1987 *Chesapeake Bay Agreement*, signed by the States of Maryland, Pennsylvania and Virginia, the District of Columbia, the Chesapeake Bay Commission, and the Federal Government, which reaffirms the commitments of all parties "to restore and protect the ecological integrity, productivity and beneficial uses of the Chesapeake Bay system;" and

WHEREAS, the thirteen Federal agencies which have signed formal agreements to be part of the Chesapeake Bay Program manage public lands, support state implementation through cooperative programs, and bring a broad range of expertise in land, water, air, and living resource management to the restoration effort, and believe the Bay partnership can provide even greater opportunities to achieve ecosystem-based planning and management; and

WHEREAS, the Chesapeake Bay Program is a national leader in the use of sound science to set clear goals and to measure progress in such areas as reductions in nutrient and

toxic loadings to the Bay and its tributaries, the recovery of underwater grasses, and the removal of blockages to migratory fish; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Agencies Committee of the Chesapeake Bay Program has supported these efforts through, among other actions, the establishment of Work Groups on Nutrient Reduction and Habitat Restoration, which have initiated a program of nutrient and habitat assessments of major Federal facilities in the Bay watershed; and

WHEREAS, the President, in a Memorandum of April 26, 1994, for the Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies, has directed agencies to adopt environmentally and economically beneficial practices on Federal landscaped grounds, which practices are in many cases similar to those already being proposed in the facility assessments being undertaken by the Chesapeake Bay Federal Agencies Committee; and

WHEREAS, toxic emissions and releases from private industry to the Chesapeake Bay have been reduced by over 50% in five years, and the President, in Executive Order #12856 has recently called for a similar 50% reduction in toxic releases from Federal facilities by 1999, along with progress reporting to begin July 1, 1995; and

WHEREAS, the President with the support of Congress, has established the Corporation for National and Community Service under the National and Community Service Trust Act, under which the National Civilian Community Corps has established its first Operations and Training Center at Aberdeen Proving Ground, on the Chesapeake.

Now, therefore, we, the undersigned representatives of the participating Federal agencies, commit ourselves to managing the Chesapeake Bay watershed as a cohesive ecosystem, and recommit to working together and with the states and other parties to achieve the goals of the *Chesapeake Bay Agreement*. Specifically, we agree to:

- partnership ♦ work to bring all our programs into the partnership for Chesapeake Bay ecosystem management, and to urge other Federal agencies to become participants with us, where appropriate;
- research ♦ coordinate our research agendas in consultation with the Bay Program's Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee, to address priority management needs for restoration of the Chesapeake Bay; initially including the role of atmospheric deposition in nutrient and toxic pollution of the Bay and the impact on the natural system (NOAA lead);
- data coordination ♦ establish a Work Group under the Federal Agencies Committee to assess and evaluate existing ecological resource inventories used by Federal agencies, and to make recommendations to improve coordination,

compatibility, standardization, GIS-based data layers and interagency transfer of information by December 31, 1995 (EPA lead);

- Anacostia River* ◆ provide full support to the Anacostia River Demonstration Project as an opportunity to apply ecosystem management concepts in an urban environment, through a coordinated biennial Federal workplan beginning in FY 1995, in concert with the Anacostia Watershed Restoration Committee (Corps of Engineers lead);
- habitat restoration* ◆ support full implementation of the Bay Program's Habitat Restoration Strategy and related plans by:
- (1) including innovative use of public and private funding sources, restoration of habitat at Federal facilities, and development annually of a list of priority projects for habitat restoration on Federal lands in the watershed (FWS lead);
 - (2) fully implementing all habitat restoration authorities to improve the condition of aquatic, riparian and upland fish and wildlife habitat and assuring beneficial use of clean dredged material to support fish, migratory waterfowl, and other wildlife habitat in the Bay (Corps of Engineers lead);
 - (3) supporting development in the Bay watershed of a policy favoring the creation of forested buffers along streams, in order to help achieve both nutrient reduction and habitat restoration goals of the Chesapeake Bay Program (USFS lead); and
 - (4) providing technical assistance in fish passage design, providing stock for restoring newly opened spawning habitat, and determining needs for restoring upstream spawning habitat (NOAA lead);
- nutrient reduction* ◆ commit to do our share to meet the goal to reduce by 40% the loadings of nutrients to the Bay by 2000 through:
- (1) supporting the goals and action items of the tributary strategies as they are affected by Federal lands and programs;
 - (2) developing by December 31, 1995, a Special Tributary Strategy for Federal lands in the District of Columbia, where the Federal Government is a major landholder (EPA lead);
 - (3) delivery of Federal assistance by integrated resources planning on a watershed basis to deal with nonpoint sources of pollution, consistent with the 1993 Agreement between the USDA and the Bay Program (SCS lead);
 - (4) completing upgrades of wastewater treatment facilities to remove nutrients at Federal facilities, with priority on facilities in excess of 0.5m gallons per day being upgraded by January 31, 2000, to levels consistent with the applicable tributary strategy (DOD lead);
 - (5) completing demonstration site assessments for nutrient management using interagency teams on at least one Federal facility in each of the four jurisdictions (DC, MD, PA, VA) by December 31, 1994 (EPA lead); and
 - (6) development of an assessment protocol based upon these demonstration projects for use in completing at least five additional assessments annually at Federal facilities in the Basin until September 30, 2000 (EPA lead);
- toxic reductions* ◆ aid in the reduction of toxic loadings to the Chesapeake and its tributaries by:
- (1) significantly increasing the adoption of Integrated Pest Management in the watershed consistent with the Administration's commitment to having Integrated Pest Management implemented on 75% of the country's agricultural lands by the year 2000 (USDA lead);
 - (2) using the existing "BayScapes" and other successful programs to expedite compliance with the President's directive on environmentally and economically beneficial landscaping practices on Federal facilities in the Bay watershed (FWS lead); and
 - (3) highlighting releases of the Bay's priority *Toxics of Concern* from Federal facilities in reports under Executive Order #12856 (EPA lead);
- federal facilities* ◆ assure that the ecological value of any Federal facilities proposed for closure within the Chesapeake Bay watershed is addressed in the decision-making process for future land uses (DOD lead);
- national service* ◆ provide mutual benefits to the Bay and to national service through environmental improvement training and project proposals and other opportunities to work with the 250 Corps members and 45 staff being located in Aberdeen as part of the National Civilian Community Corps, as well as with other initiatives of the Corporation for National and Community Service (NCCC lead).

Finally, we agree to report biennially on progress in the implementation of this agreement, beginning April 1, 1995 (EPA lead).

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