

# NRCS Key Water Related Issues

## Sustainable Water Resources Roundtable

June 17, 2009

*Jan Surface*  
*National Watershed Planner*

# Chesapeake Bay Watershed Initiative

- complements State and Federal conservation efforts that improve water quality and quantity, and restore, enhance, and preserve soil, air, and related resources.
- CBWI helps producers enhance land and water resources by:
  - controlling erosion and reducing sediment and nutrient levels in ground and surface water
  - planning, designing, implementing, and evaluating habitat conservation, restoration, and enhancement measures where there is significant ecological value for either retaining the land in its current use or restoring the land to its natural condition

## Great Lakes Restoration Initiative

- Total proposed 2010 funding \$475M
- NRCS may receive up to \$33M for
  - Nonpoint Source Pollution
    - Conservation Practice Installation
    - Farm and Ranch Land Protection Easements
    - EWP Floodplain Easements
  - Habitat and Wildlife Restoration
  - Terrestrial Invasive Species Control

# Conservation Effects Assessment Project

- multi-agency effort to quantify the environmental benefits of conservation practices used by private landowners participating in selected USDA conservation programs
- The project consists of three components:
  - National Assessment
  - Watershed Assessment Studies
  - Bibliographies and Literature Reviews

# Agricultural Water Enhancement Program

- voluntary conservation initiative that provides FA and TA to agricultural producers to implement agricultural water enhancement activities on agricultural land for the purposes of conserving surface and ground water and improving water quality
- AWEPP operates through contracts with producers to plan and implement conservation practices in project areas established through partnership agreements

## Rapid Watershed Assessments

- provide initial estimates of where conservation investments would best address the concerns of landowners, conservation districts, and other community organizations and stakeholders
- help land-owners and local leaders set priorities and determine the best actions to achieve their goals

# SWRR NRCS Point of Contact

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