REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

2026 Forest Buffer Maintenance Training Program (Snyder and Union Counties)

BMP# 118; Maintenance Project #29

Chesapeake Conservancy is a non-profit organization that works with conservation partners and landowners to implement Best Management Practices on agricultural land.

Chesapeake Conservancy is soliciting proposals for the following services:

- 1. Hire 4 technicians to conduct buffer maintenance work and be field trained on proper herbicide application techniques in order to receive Pennsylvania Pesticide Applicator Certification
- 2. Provide training to the technicians
- 3. Hire a third party to field train technicians
- 4. Coordinate, assess, complete and document maintenance of 39.3 acres of established forest riparian buffer. Maintenance will be completed on 15 properties across Snyder and Union Counties, Pennsylvania.

RFP OVERVIEW AND PROJECT DESCRIPTION

RFP Release Date: October 21, 2025

RFP Issuing Office: Chesapeake Conservancy

Email: paprograms@chesapeakeconservancy.org

Phone: 570-372-4065

The issuing office is the sole point of contact for this proposal.

Local Partner Liaison: Snyder County: Connor Steffen, Snyder County Conservation District

Union County: Savannah Rhoads, Union County Conservation District

RFP Due Date: All proposals must be submitted by:

December 5, 2025 at 4:00PM EDT

Proposals will not be accepted after this date and time.

RFP Submission: All proposals must be submitted electronically to the following email address*:

Email: paprograms@chesapeakeconservancy.org

Include "2026 Buffer Training RFP Response" in the subject line.

*If bidder is unable to submit proposal via email, please contact Chesapeake Conservancy

to arrange another method to submit proposal.

RFP Results: RFP results and notification of award will be distributed no later than:

December 15, 2025

Questions: All questions regarding this RFP should be submitted to:

paprograms@chesapeakeconservancy.org

Include "2026 Buffer Training RFP Question" in the subject line

Frank Rohrer, 570-372-4065

Project Description:

Many acres of riparian forest buffer have been planted with trees and shrubs in recent years in Pennsylvania. The goal of these buffers is to develop into a mature forest to improve water quality, reduce runoff and increase wildlife habitat. These plantings require annual maintenance activities to ensure successful establishment and long-term water quality benefits. The maintenance is often more than the landowners can realistically undertake and so it is important to utilize the services of professional contractors.

There are currently a small number of contractors who are qualified to perform this work. The purpose of this RFP is to hire a contractor to expand the riparian buffer workforce by hiring and training four technicians to perform buffer maintenance. Upon being trained and receiving their Pennsylvania Pesticide Applicator Certification, the technicians will conduct buffer maintenance on the specific sites identified in this RFP. It is hoped that the technicians will ultimately enter the workforce and expand the available pool of qualified maintenance contractors.

39.3 acres of riparian forest buffer on 15 properties in Snyder and Union Counties require buffer maintenance and assessment. These buffers have had varying degrees of maintenance performed over the last few years from none to frequent. Since the level of maintenance that has been conducted on these sites in the past varies, Chesapeake Conservancy wants to emphasize that the degree of services needed for each buffer may vary from site to site.

Refer to the Site Information Tables found on pages 7 and 13 for site specific information such as address, acres and the services needed for each project.

The contract for this RFP will include, but is not limited to, the materials, labor and equipment to complete the activities listed in the "Project Description" and "Maps and Information" sections of this RFP.

- 1. Hire 4 technicians to receive Pennsylvania Pesticide Applicator Certifications, be field trained on proper pesticide application and maintenance techniques and conduct buffer maintenance work
 - a. The technicians shall be hired by the Contractor in January February 2026. From time of hire through April 30, 2026, the technicians shall study for the Pennsylvania Pesticide Applicator Certification exams and receive training from the Contractor on other buffer related maintenance topics. This training is in preparation to take the Pennsylvania Pesticide Applicator Certification Core and Category 10 exams as well as to prepare the technicians for the actual maintenance work to be completed during late spring/summer (May July) 2026. Technicians MUST pass the Pennsylvania Pesticide Applicator Certification Core and Category 10 exams during this initial phase of training in order to be hired for the actual maintenance work to be performed May July.
 - b. All technicians who pass their Pennsylvania Pesticide Applicator Certification Core and Category 10 exams no later than April 30, 2026 shall be eligible to be hired by the Contractor for the late spring/summer (May July) maintenance services listed below in #4. If less than four technicians are hired by the Contractor for the May July maintenance services, Chesapeake Conservancy reserves the right to amend the contract, adjust deliverables and services and reduce the monetary amount in the contract.
 - c. Any person who applies pesticide must be covered by pesticide applicator specific liability insurance. See "Insurance Requirements" section on pages 26 and 27 for all insurance requirements.

2. Provide training to the technicians

- a. Required trainings may include but are not limited to:
 - Pennsylvania Pesticide Applicator Certification
 - OSHA Requirements and Certification
 - Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection Physical Habitat Evaluation
 - Penn State University Extension Spotted Lanternfly Quarantine Requirements
 - Mapping, GIS and GPS applications such as Google Earth, KMZ files, GPS tracks, etc.
 - Plant identification
 - On site maintenance trainings
 - Maintenance/Assessment Report Training--<u>Technicians shall be required to attend a training on how to complete the Maintenance/Assessment Report (Attachment A).</u>
 This training will be provided by Chesapeake Conservancy.
 - Farm Biosecurity Training--This training will be provided by Chesapeake Conservancy.
 - One additional training/professional certification specific to riparian forest buffers. Examples include:
 - o Riparian Rangers Training
 - Weed Warriors Training
 - Urban Forestry Training
 - o Chesapeake Bay Landscape Professionals Riparian Buffer Training
- b. Trainings will continue as needed throughout the entire employment period.
- c. The cost for study materials and time for student/technician studying for the Pesticide Applicator Certification exams, other exam costs, registration fees and travel to trainings can be included in the proposal.

3. Hire a third party to provide field training to technicians

- a. Field training will include proper pesticide preparation and application techniques and other aspects of buffer maintenance including shelter maintenance, assessments, survival counts, species identification and other relevant topics.
- b. The third party shall be available and on the sites with the technicians most of the entire month of June 2026 in order to successfully train and oversee the technicians. The third party shall be available onsite in July 2026 as needed to ensure technicians are successfully completing the work.
- c. The third party and technicians shall work closely with the local partner liaison. Prior to performing work on each site, the third party and technicians shall meet with the liaison to discuss project specifics and review all work to be completed. The local liaison will introduce the third party and technicians to the landowner and provide additional site information such as parking location, buffer boundary, access point to the buffer and any other relevant information that may be beneficial to all parties.
- d. The third party shall be required to attend the technician training on how to complete the Maintenance/Assessment Report (Attachment A). This will ensure consistency when completing the form. This training will be provided by Chesapeake Conservancy.

- 4. Coordinate, assess, complete and document maintenance (using Attachment A Maintenance/Assessment Report) of 39.3 acres of established forest riparian buffer.
 - Maintenance will be completed by the technicians and will occur on 15 properties across Snyder and Union Counties, Pennsylvania. The cost for travel to the sites may be included in the proposal.

Maintenance tasks will include but are not limited to the following:

- Assess each buffer for tree mortality, presence of invasives, harmful insects and plant disease, etc. (using Attachment A – Maintenance/Assessment Report provided by Chesapeake Conservancy)
 - a. Contractor will be responsible for completing and submitting the Maintenance/Assessment Report (Attachment A) for each property.
 - b. Only *one* Maintenance/Assessment Report per site is required, however multiple Spray Reports will be needed if contractor applies herbicide on multiple days.
 - c. The information the contractor fills out on the Maintenance/Assessment and Spray Report will be used by the Conservancy to determine the current condition of the buffer and what, if any, future maintenance needs are required for each property. Additional services that the contractor may identify could include: additional invasive control, future spot spraying around trees, manual maintenance and replanting.
- 2. Apply herbicide to control invasive and noxious weeds (woody and non-woody).
 - a. Controlling invasive and noxious weeds is an important part of buffer maintenance. Each of these sites has varying amounts of invasives present. It is at the contractor's discretion when visiting the property to determine how many hours of invasive control they want to commit to each property. Beyond this, the Maintenance/Assessment and Spray Report will be where the contractor recommends additional services needed for successful buffer establishment and function. Only *one* Maintenance/Assessment Report per site is required, however multiple Spray Reports will be needed if contractor applies herbicide on multiple days.
 - b. The most common invasives expected to be found at each site are listed in the Site Information Tables. There will likely be other invasive plant species present on the sites that are in addition to those listed. In cases where there is reed canary grass present on the site, contractors should limit its treatment to only the area around the existing trees (maximum of 6' x 6' square spots). If, after treating all other invasives, there are hours remaining to do work, the contractor can treat additional reed canary grass.
 - c. Contractor shall complete and submit a Spray Report (Attachment B) or equivalent to Chesapeake Conservancy for each herbicide application. A separate report shall be submitted for each property.
- 3. Apply appropriate herbicide in minimum 4ft x 4ft square spots around live trees/shrubs
 - a. The purpose of the herbicide application is to enhance tree growth and survivorship by eliminating competing vegetation around the tree thus ensuring plants mature to provide

water quality benefits. Contractors should be prepared to spray around both sheltered and unsheltered plants of varying ages. In conjunction with input from the liaison, contractors will use their best judgement to determine which trees to spray around if the buffer has large, well-established trees present. Only trees that may benefit from suppressed ground vegetation should be treated.

- b. The estimated number of live trees/shrubs that need to be sprayed around is listed in the Site Information Tables. The numbers in the tables are estimates only as some of these trees may not require an application (trees are well-established). These numbers are provided to give contractors an idea of the relative amount of spot spraying to be done at each site.
- c. Contractor should apply post-emergent/non-selective herbicide and may also apply preemergent herbicide if determined to be needed.
- d. Contractor shall complete and submit a Spray Report (Attachment B) or equivalent to Chesapeake Conservancy for each herbicide application. A separate report shall be submitted for each property.

4. Perform tree/shrub shelter maintenance.

- a. Regular shelter maintenance is vital to the growth and survivorship of the trees and shrubs. The sites in this RFP will require varying degrees of maintenance. The Site Information Tables list whether or not shelter maintenance may be needed on each site. However, the type of maintenance as well as the type and number of shelters to maintain varies widely from site to site.
- b. The types and sizes of shelters and stakes vary from project to project. Contractors should be prepared to maintain a variety of shelters including but not limited to solid, mesh, fenced cribs, welded wire, etc.
- c. For the purposes of this RFP, shelter maintenance shall include the following:
 - Straighten leaning shelters and stakes by re-setting them upright and installing new UV
 resistant zip ties or other acceptable fasteners. This should only be done if it will be
 effective without installing a new stake or shelter.
 - 1. Installation of new stakes and shelters of any kind is <u>NOT</u> a part of this RFP and <u>WILL NOT</u> be paid for by Chesapeake Conservancy.
 - ii. Remove and dispose of off-site (disposal per landowner preference) existing tree/shrub shelters and stakes within the entire buffer that are <u>no longer functioning as intended</u>. In conjunction with input from the liaison, contractor shall use their best judgement to determine which shelters and stakes to remove at each site. In general, if the shelter is no longer functioning as it should be (the shelter or stake is harming the tree, is leaning severely with a broken stake, etc.) it should be removed and disposed of. Factors that should be considered when removing shelters and stakes are:
 - What is the overall condition of the shelter?
 - Is the shelter damaging the tree?
 - Is the shelter leaning severely?

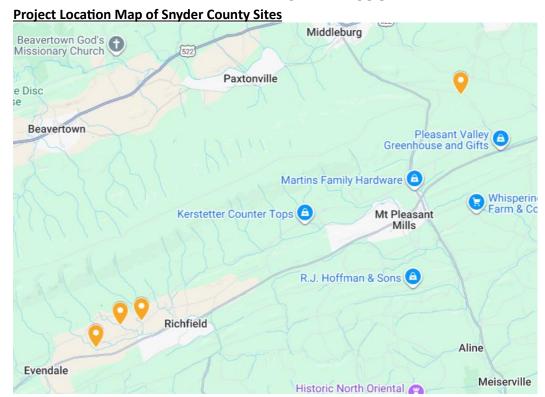
- Has the tree "outgrown" the shelter (trunk is tight against the shelter)?
- Is the stake rotten or missing?
- 1. In some cases, landowners may want to keep the shelters and stakes for re-use later. Contractor shall verify with each landowner if they want to keep the shelters/stakes or if contractor should dispose of them off site.
- iii. Remove/clean out competing vegetation that is growing *inside* the shelter. The intent is to remove tall vegetation that is growing inside the shelter which is often invasives. Low growing vegetation such as short grass or other low growing herbaceous vegetation does not need to be removed.
 - In general, the competing vegetation should be removed if it is as tall or nearly as
 tall as the tree, growing close to or out of the top of the shelter or if there are
 invasives inside the shelter. This often involves loosening the shelter to carefully
 lift it up, removing the vegetation and reseating the shelter back into the ground.
- iv. Remove and dispose of (off-site) bird nets that are no longer needed or are no longer functioning (rotten, torn, etc.).
 - 1. Bird nets should be removed if the tree is growing through it or if it is anticipated that the tree will reach the bird net within the next 6 months (if tree is 12-18" from top of shelter depending on species).
 - 2. If the bird net is in good condition and the tree will not grow into it within the next six months, the bird net should be re-secured to the top of the shelter if it is not on properly.

Chesapeake Conservancy will coordinate securing landowner permission to access each property.

Contractor shall, to the greatest extent possible, avoid damage to the existing native vegetation (including native herbaceous vegetation) during all phases of this project except where necessary to perform the services in the RFP.

Contractor shall ensure that all necessary permits are obtained prior to implementation and ensure that the project complies with all local, state and federal laws and regulations. Contractor shall follow all pesticide product labels, laws and regulations.

MAPS AND INFORMATION SNYDER COUNTY



Site Information Table for Snyder County Sites

		Site Information		Services For 2026 Buffer Maintenance RFP (only the services marked "Yes" are to be completed via this RFP)				
Site#	Landowner Name	Address	Acres	Buffer Assessment (Attachment A)	Only the services marked "Yo Invasive Control (herbicide) (Note: reed canary grass is present on nearly every site and is not listed below.	Spot Spraying Around Trees*	Shelter Maintenance	
1	Coy Weller	1520 Summit Road, Middleburg, PA 17842	1	Yes	Yes (stiltgrass, multiflora rose, honeysuckle and nightshade are most common)	Yes (*150 trees required spraying in 2025; *201 live trees were counted in 2025)	Yes	
2	Gerald High	150 Planing Mill Road, Richfield, PA 17086	0.7	Yes	Yes (multiflora rose and honeysuckle are most common)	Yes (*75 trees required spraying in 2025; *104 live trees were counted in 2025)	Yes	
3	Daniel "Wayne" Charlton	39 Cherry Hill Road, Richfield, PA 17086	1.3	Yes	Yes (thistle is most common)	Yes (*110 trees required spraying in 2025; *110 live trees were counted in 2025)	Yes	
4	Mark Charlton	105 Leitzel Lane, Richfield, PA 17086	3	Yes	Yes (No species info available)	Yes (*80 trees and 100 livestakes were planted in 2025; no recent data available)	Yes	

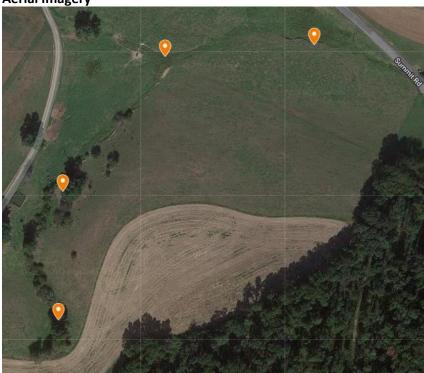
Total Acres = 6.0

^{*}The actual number of trees to spray may differ from the number provided in this table. The numbers provided are estimates only and are not guaranteed.

Aerial Imagery and Plan Maps (if available) for Snyder County Sites

Aerial imagery of the buffer for each site is provided below. Copies of the plan maps are also included if they were available.

<u>Site 1 – Coy Weller</u> <u>1520 Summit Road, Middleburg, PA 17842</u>



Plan Map



<u>Site 2 – Gerald High</u> 150 Planing Mill Road, Richfield, PA 17806







<u>Site 3 – Daniel "Wayne" Charlton</u> 39 Cherry Hill Road, Richfield, PA 17086



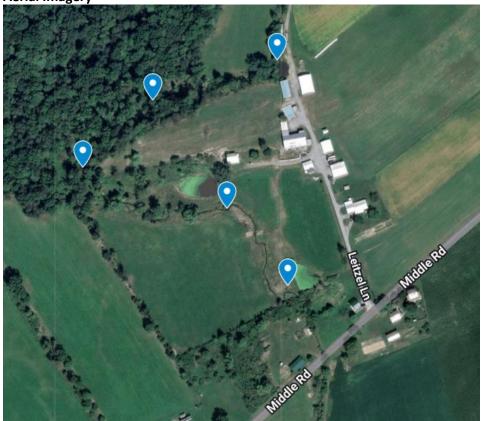




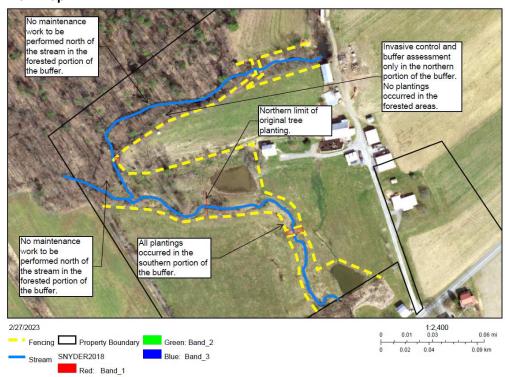


Site 4 – Mark Charlton 68 Leitzel Lane, Richfield, PA 17086



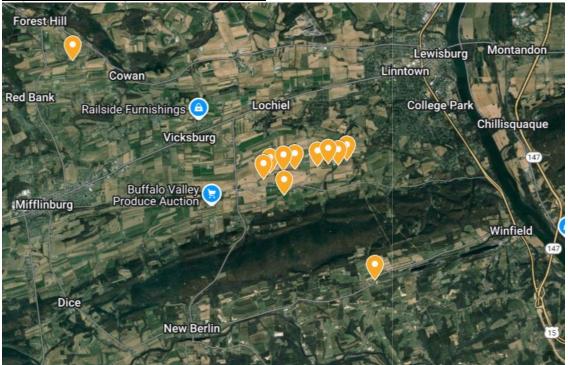


Plan Map



MAPS AND INFORMATION UNION COUNTY

Project Location Map of Union County Sites



Site Information Table for Union County Sites

		Site Information	•	Services For 2026 Buffer Maintenance RFP					
		SIG INIOIMATION		(only the services marked "Yes" are to be completed via this RFP) Invasive Control					
Site #	Landowner Name	Address	Acres	Buffer Assessment (Attachment A)	(herbicide) (Note: reed canary grass is present on nearly every site and is not listed below.	Spot Spraying Around Trees*	Shelter Maintenance		
1	Abram Zimmerman	600 Conley Road Mifflinburg, PA 17844	4.0	Yes	Yes (multiflora rose, honeysuckle, teasel and thistle are most common)	Yes ("70 trees required spraying in 2025; "268 live trees were counted in 2025)	Yes		
2	Ronald Moser	4908 Furnace Road Lewisburg, PA 17837	4.4	Yes	Yes (honeysuckle, multiflora rose, thistle and stiltgrass are most common)	Yes (*350 trees are expected to require spraying in 2026; *422 live trees were counted in 2025)	Yes		
3	John Ivan Martin	3281 Pheasant Ridge Road Lewisburg, PA 17837	1.5	Yes	Yes (multiflora rose, thistle, wild parsnip and honeysuckle are most common)	Yes (*125 trees required spraying in 2025; *164 live trees were counted in 2025)	Yes		
4	Steven Martin	4542 Furnace Road Lewisburg, PA 17837	2.1	Yes	Yes (multiflora rose, wild parsnip and honeysuckle are most common)	Yes ("225 trees required spraying in 2025; "398 live trees were counted in 2025)	Yes		
5	Steve Brown and Clair Brown	2585 Pheasant Ridge Road Lewisburg, PA 17837	11.0 (3.0 acres of pollinator meadow lightly planted with trees and 8.0 acres of normal tree planting density forested buffer)	Yes	Yes (mile a minute, multiflora rose, poison hemplock, wild parsnip, thistle and honeysuckle are most common)	Yes (*970 trees are expected to require spraying in 2026)	Yes		
6	Griffith Trust (Mary Beth Griffith)	599 Hubler Lane Lewisburg, PA 17837	1.6	Yes	Yes (VINES, multiflora rose, mile a minute, poison hemlock, honeysuckle, wild parsnip and thistle are most common)	Yes (*200 trees required spraying in 2025; *256 live trees were counted in 2025)	Yes		
7	Carl Brown	1858 Old Schoolhouse Road Lewisburg, PA 17837	1.5	Yes	Yes (wild parsnip, thistle, burdock, multiflora rose, poison hemlock, stiltgrass and honeysuckle are most common)	Yes (*115 live trees were counted in 2025)	Yes		
8	Josh Satteson	1785 Old Schoolhouse Road Lewisburg, PA 17837	3.0	Yes	Yes (VINES, poison hemlock, bittersweet, honeysuckle, multiflora rose, honeysuckle, thistle and burdock are most common)	Yes ("270 live trees were counted in 2024)	Yes		
9	Norman Martin	4537 Furnace Road Lewisburg, PA 17837	0.9	Yes	Yes (poison hemlock, mile a minute, multiflora rose, autumn olive and honeysuckle are most common)	Yes (*50 trees required spraying in 2025; *177 live trees were counted in 2025)	No		
10	Rodney Walter	443 Dekalb Lane, Lewisburg, PA 17837	2.5	Yes	Yes (No species info available)	Yes ("330 trees were planted in 2020; no recent data available)	No		
11	Ken Ulrich	3498 State Route 304, Winfield, PA 17889	0.8	Yes	Yes (No species info available)	Yes (*115 trees were planted in 2024; no recent data available)	No		

Total Acres = 33.3 *The actual number of trees to spray may differ from the number provided in this table. The numbers provided are estimates only and are not guaranteed.

Aerial Imagery and Plan Maps (if available) for Union County Sites

Aerial imagery of the buffer for each site is provided below. Copies of the plan maps are also included if they were available.

<u>Site 1 – Abram Zimmerman</u> <u>600 Conley Road Mifflinburg, PA 17844</u>

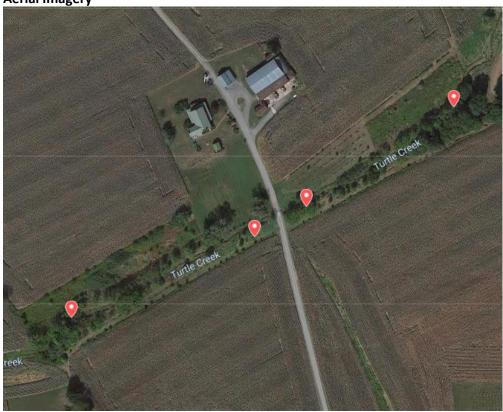
Aerial Imagery



Plan Map



<u>Site 2 – Ronald Moser</u> 4908 Furnace Road, Lewisburg, PA 17837







<u>Site 3 – John Ivan Martin</u> <u>3281 Pheasant Ridge Road, Lewisburg, PA 17837</u>



Plan Map



Site 4 – Steven Martin 4542 Furnace Road, Lewisburg, PA 17837

Aerial Imagery



Plan Map



<u>Site 5 – Steve Brown and Clair Brown</u> 2585 Pheasant Ridge Road, Lewisburg, PA 17837

Aerial Imagery



Plan Map



<u>Site 6 – Griffith Trust (Mary Beth Griffith)</u> 599 Hubler Lane, Lewisburg, PA 17837







Site 7 – Carl Brown 1858 Old Schoolhouse Road, Lewisburg, PA 17837



Plan Map



<u>Site 8 – Josh Satteson</u> 1785 Old Schoolhouse Road, Lewisburg, PA 17837



Plan Map



Site 9 – Norman Martin 4537 Furnace Road, Lewisburg, PA 17837

Aerial Imagery



Plan Map



Site 10 – Rodney Walter 443 Dekalb Lane, Lewisburg, PA 17837



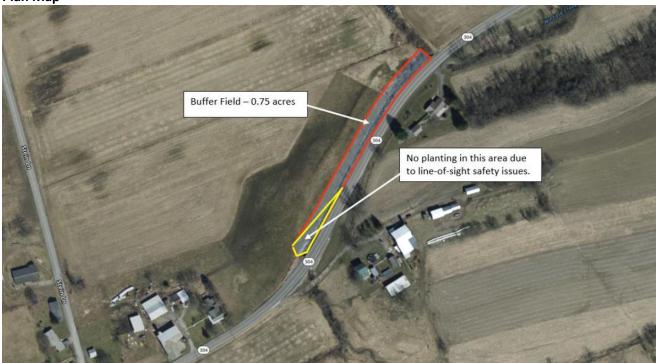




<u>Site 11 – Ken Ulrich</u> 3498 State Route 304, Winfield, PA 17889



Plan Map



RFP TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Selected contractors will be working with Chesapeake Conservancy, Snyder County Conservation District and Union County Conservation District on the implementation of this project.

TIMELINE AND SCHEDULE:

Contractors shall include with their response the date they can begin services and their estimated completion date. All services (including submittal of all forms) must be completed no later than July 31, 2025.

If the contracted services are not completed within the designated time period (as specified in the resulting contract from this RFP), the contract can be extended if agreed to in writing by Chesapeake Conservancy and the contractor.

COMMUNICATION:

Contractor shall coordinate with county liaisons. Prior to performing services on each site, contractor shall meet with the liaison (and landowners if landowners desire) to discuss project specifics and review all work to be completed.

PAYMENT INFORMATION:

Contractor shall invoice the Conservancy for services rendered during the preceding month. Invoices will be paid after all required documentation has been received and approved AND the Conservancy receives reimbursement from its funding source. We anticipate the time from invoice submission to payment to be 60 calendar days. This may be longer if our payment from our funder is delayed. Required documents may include an Application for Payment form, enhanced minimum wage documentation, maintenance assessments and spray reports.

GRANTS:

The terms and conditions of the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (BRC-RFB-28.6-81), National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Innovative Nutrient and Sediment Reduction (0602.24.082478), USDA Forest Service Inflation Reduction Act Urban and Community Forestry Program Grant Agreement (24-DG-11094200-242) and Hamer Foundation grant(s) apply to the contracts that result from this RFP. Copies of the grant(s) are available upon request.

WORKER PROTECTION INVESTMENT AND CERTIFICATION FORM:

Commonwealth grants require contractors to sign the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Worker Protection Investment and Certification Form acknowledging compliance with Executive Order 2021-06, Worker Protection and Investment (October 21, 2021). Contractors shall complete the Worker Protection Investment and Certification Form and submit it with their RFP response.

LOBBYING CERTIFICATION FORM:

As required by National Fish and Wildlife Foundation grants, the successful bidder will be required to sign a Lobbying Certification Form acknowledging compliance with 43 CFR §18 New Restrictions on Lobbying. This form will be signed at the time of contract execution.

ENHANCED MINIMUM WAGE PROVISIONS:

Enhanced minimum wage provisions apply to contractors and subcontractors for <u>all labor</u> to complete any services and tasks described in the Project Description and Maps and Information sections of this RFP. Enhanced minimum wage applies when a contractor's employee(s) spends at least twenty percent of their time performing *labor* on the project in a given work week.

- Contractors shall follow and ensure that all subcontractors follow the required enhanced minimum wage
 provisions outlined below per Pennsylvania's Department of General Services* for all labor.
- Effective July 1, 2025, the enhanced minimum wage rate is \$17.31 per hour (55.Pa.B.2421)

- An annual cost of living adjustment is applied to the minimum wage rate each July. All services completed after July 1st must be paid at the new rate.
- Contractor and all subcontractors will be required to send timesheets/payroll documentation to Chesapeake Conservancy.

*PA Department of General Services Enhanced Minimum Wage Provisions

- a. **Enhanced Minimum Wage.** Contractor/Lessor agrees to pay no less than \$17.31 per hour to its employees for all hours worked directly performing the services called for in this Contract/Lease, and for an employee's hours performing ancillary services necessary for the performance of the contracted services or lease when such employee spends at least twenty percent (20%) of their time performing ancillary services in a given work week.
- b. **Adjustment**. Beginning July 1, 2023, and annually thereafter, the minimum wage shall be increased by an annual cost-of-living adjustment using the percentage change in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, and Maryland. The applicable adjusted amount shall be published in the Pennsylvania Bulletin by March 1 of each year to be effective the following July 1.
- c. Exceptions. These Enhanced Minimum Wage Provisions shall not apply to employees:
 - Exempt from the minimum wage under the Minimum Wage Act of 1968;
 - 2. Covered by a collective bargaining agreement;
 - 3. Required to be paid a higher wage under another state or federal law governing the services, including the Prevailing Wage Act and Davis-Bacon Act; or
 - 4. Required to be paid a higher wage under any state or local policy or ordinance.
- d. **Notice**. Contractor/Lessor shall post these Enhanced Minimum Wage Provisions for the entire period of the contract conspicuously in easily-accessible and well-lighted places customarily frequented by employees at or near where the contracted services are performed.
- e. **Records.** Contractor/Lessor must maintain and, upon request and within the time periods requested by the Commonwealth, furnish all employment and wage records necessary to document compliance with these Enhanced Minimum Wage Provisions.
- f. **Sanctions**. Failure to comply with these Enhanced Minimum Wage Provisions may result in the imposition of sanctions, which may include, but shall not be limited to, termination of the contract or lease, nonpayment, debarment or referral to the Office of General Counsel for appropriate civil or criminal referral.
- g. **Subcontractors**. Contractor/Lessor shall include the provisions of these Enhanced Minimum Wage Provisions in every subcontract so that these provisions will be binding upon each subcontractor.

INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS:

Bidders shall include a copy of their current Certificate of Insurance (COI) that reflects their existing levels of liability insurance coverage. Prior to executing a contract with the Conservancy, the successful bidder and all subcontractors must obtain the following minimum levels of liability insurance, <u>at their own expense</u>. Contractors who do not carry commercial liability insurance for religious reasons and/or are self-insured should provide applicable documentation with their bid response.

Limit Required
\$1,000,000
\$1,000,000
\$2,000,000

Workers Compensation and Employer's Liability* -

E.L. Each Accident:	\$1,000,000
E.L. Disease - Each Employee:	\$1,000,000
E.L. Disease - Policy Limit:	\$1,000,000
Pesticide Liability** –	

Pesticide Liability

Each Occurrence: \$1,000,000

- Workers Compensation and Employer's Liability can be waived for sole proprietors.
- Pesticide Liability can be a standalone policy or an endorsement to the Contractors general liability policy. The Certificate of Insurance must clearly indicate that Pesticide Applications are included in the coverage.

Contractors and subcontractors will be required to include a waiver of subrogation in favor of Chesapeake Conservancy on all liability policies.

"Chesapeake Conservancy" and "National Fish and Wildlife Foundation" must be named as additional insured on all contractor's and subcontractor's policies except workers compensation.

Contractors shall include the cost to obtain additional insurance coverage that is above what they currently carry when calculating their price on the Contractor Response Form.

Immediately following the RFP award notification, the successful bidder shall work with their insurance agent to obtain the insurance requirements noted above. The awarded Contractor and all subcontractors shall provide Chesapeake Conservancy with a current COI certified by a licensed insurance broker within 14 days of award notification. The approved COIs need to be provided to Chesapeake Conservancy prior to signing a contract.

Note: Bidders do not need to change their current liability insurance or add additional insured and waiver of subrogation to their policies when responding to the RFP. Only the successful bidder will be required to meet the insurance requirements noted above after the bid is awarded. The Certificate Holder should be as follows: Chesapeake Conservancy, 1212 West Street, Annapolis, MD 21401.

BIOSECURITY:

The successful bidder is encouraged to follow basic farm biosecurity practices.

SAFETY PERFORMANCE:

Bidders shall provide safety performance information including OSHA records and EMR on their company and any subcontractors.

OSHA Records:

- OSHA reportable incidents for the past three (3) years. If there were no OSHA reportable incidents, indicate "none". See https://www.osha.gov/recordkeeping/ for additional information.
- TRIR (Total Recordable Incident Rate) which is the number of incidents x 200,000 / total number of employee hours worked in a year.
- DART (Days Away, Restricted or Transferred Rate). See https://data.bls.gov/iirc/ to determine the value.

Contractors whose business is not required to keep OSHA records because they have 10 employees or less should check the applicable box on the Contractor Response Form.

Experience Modifier Rate (EMR):

EMR provided by the insurance company.

PENNSYLVANIA COMMERCIAL/PUBLIC PESTICIDE CERTIFICATION:

Any person, contractor or subcontractor applying pesticide must have a current Pennsylvania Pesticide Applicator Certification and must be certified in the appropriate categories for this project or must be under the direct supervision of a certified Pennsylvania Pesticide Applicator as required by law. It is the contractor's responsibility to ensure proper certifications and that they are following the laws and regulations pertaining to pesticide application. Contractor must maintain the license for the term of the contract.

DOMESTIC PREFERENCE FOR PROCUREMENT:

In accordance with 2 C.F.R. 200.322, the successful bidder shall to the greatest extent practicable, purchase, acquire, or use goods, products or materials produced in the United States (including but not limited to iron, aluminum, steel, cement, and other manufactured products).

For purposes of this RFP, the following definitions apply:

- i. Produced in the United States means, for iron and steel products, that all manufacturing processes, from the initial melting stage through the application of coatings, occurred in the United States; and
- ii. Manufactured products means items and construction materials composed in whole or in part of non-ferrous metals such as aluminum; plastics and polymer based products such as polyvinyl chloride pipe; aggregates such as concrete; glass, including optical fiber; and lumber.

DEBARMENT AND TAX LIABILITY:

Contractors will be required to certify that they and any subcontractors are not listed on the Debarment and Suspension List maintained by the Pennsylvania Department of General Services (https://www.dgs.internet.state.pa.us/debarmentsearch/debarment/index) and the General Services Administration's List of Parties Excluded from Federal Procurement or Nonprocurement Programs (www.SAM.gov) in accordance with Executive Orders 12549 and 12689, "Debarment and Suspension" and have no outstanding tax liabilities. Contractors will also be required to certify that they and any subcontractors are not in default of a loan or funding agreement administered by any Commonwealth agency.

SMALL BUSINESS AND SMALL DIVERSE BUSINESS:

Chesapeake Conservancy encourages the use of small and small diverse businesses when soliciting Requests for Proposals. Contractors are encouraged to register with the federal government at www.sam.gov and with the Pennsylvania Department of General Services at www.dgs.pa.gov (search Small Diverse Business Verification). Please note Pennsylvania Department of General Service registration is only valid for three years. Contractors are encouraged to verify that their registration is current.

Contractors and any subcontractors who register on Sam.gov and with the PA Dept of General Services and who qualify as a small and/or small diverse business should check the applicable boxes on the Contractor Response Form. Points will be awarded as per the scoring sheet in Attachment C – RFP Scoring Sheet to contractors whose registration is confirmed by Chesapeake Conservancy.

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY:

Chesapeake Conservancy is an equal opportunity employer. The successful bidder shall comply with all federal, state, and local equal employment opportunity requirements. Additional information can be found at https://www.ecfr.gov and searching 41 CFR 60-1.4(b).

SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS AND SELECTION CRITERIA

SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS:

Proposals are requested for the items described in the Project Description and Maps and Information sections of this RFP in accordance with the Terms and Conditions included in this RFP. Any estimated quantities included in this RFP are for information only. Bidders are responsible for determining the quantities needed to complete the project based on the provided design and bid documents.

At a minimum each response must include:

- Contractor Response Form
 - Price including cost to hire, train and certify technicians, cost to hire a third-party trainer, cost to complete all maintenance tasks and travel/mobilization cost
 - Three references
 - List of subcontractors used, if applicable
 - Proposed start date
 - Proposed completion date
 - Description of familiarity with project sites, landowners and liaisons
 - Safety Performance
 - o Debarment and tax liability certification
 - o Enhanced minimum wage certification
 - Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Worker Protection Investment and Certification Form (signed)
 - Insurance Requirements
 - Copy of current Certificate of Insurance
 - Agreement to obtain or documentation of self insurance
 - Signed by authorized representative

All proposals must be submitted <u>electronically</u> to Chesapeake Conservancy by the RFP due date specified on Page 1 of the RFP.

It is the responsibility of each contractor to ensure that the proposal is received prior to the due date and time for submission of proposals. No proposal shall be considered if it was sent or received after this date and time.

CONTRACTOR SELECTION CRITERIA:

Proposals will be evaluated based on the criteria listed in Attachment C – RFP Scoring Sheet.

Proposals must be firm. The proposal may be rejected if the items offered by the contractor are not in conformance with the specifications as determined by the Issuing Office.

Proposals will be awarded to the most qualified economic bidder, as determined by Chesapeake Conservancy. Chesapeake Conservancy reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and/or cancel the RFP for any reason and to waive any technical defects, if it determines that it is in the best interest of the landowner, partner or Chesapeake Conservancy.

Chesapeake Conservancy reserves the right to check with other conservation partners and landowners for feedback on working relationship and quality of work of bidders.

CONTRACTOR RESPONSE FORM

Page 1 of 3

Contractor Name	:		
Project Name:	2026 Forest Buffer Maintenance Training Pr	ogram	
1. Total price to s **Required*:	supply materials, labor and equipment for perf	orming the work as described in the	Project Description -
Co	mponent		Subtotal
	nicians including Binings, Exam Costs and Ons		\$
Hire a Thir Techniciar	d Party to Train s		\$
Buffer Ma (includes all including ma	maintenance tasks listed in Project Description		\$
•	bilization to ALL s and Trainings		\$
		Maximum Cost/Grand Total	\$
2. The following <i>Required</i> :	three references are provided with telephone	numbers of projects completed of s	imilar scope and size
Name:		Telephone:	
Name:		Telephone:	
Name:		Telephone:	
3. I/We plan to u	se the following subcontractors in order to per	form parts of this project (include T	ax ID):
Name:		EIN:	
Name:		EIN:	
4. Proposed start	date of services - Required :		
5. Proposed com	pletion date of services - <i>Required</i> :		

CONTRACTOR RESPONSE FORM

Page 2 of 3

6.	Familiarity with project sites, landowners and liaisons (describe any knowledge/past experience working on the sites specified in the RFP; describe any past experience/relationships working with the liaisons specified in the RFP) - Required:
7.	Small Business or Small Diverse Business (See Terms and Conditions for details) - Check if Applicable
	I have registered with Sam.gov and my business (or any subcontractors listed above) qualifies as a ☐ Small Business and/or ☐ Small Diverse Business
	I have registered with the PA Dept of General Services and my business (or any subcontractors listed above) has been certified as a \square Small Business and/or \square Small Diverse Business.
8.	Safety performance (See Terms and Conditions for details) - <i>Required</i> :
	OSHA Records I/We certify that my business does not need to keep OSHA records because we have 10 employees or less.
	OSHA reportable incidents for the past three years (attach documentation if applicable)
	TRIR (Total Recordable Incident Rate) (show calculation, if none, write 0)
	DART (Days Away, Restricted or Transferred Rate) (attach documentation/screen printout, if applicable)
	Experience Modifier Rate
	EMR (attach documentation from insurance company, write N/A if not applicable)
9.	Debarment and tax liability status (See Terms and Conditions for details) - <i>Required</i> :
	☐ I/We certify that my business, and any subcontractors, are not debarred by the State of Pennsylvania or the federa government.
	☐ I/We certify that my business, and any subcontractors, have no tax liabilities and are not in default of a loan or funding agreement administered by the State of Pennsylvania.
10.	Enhanced Minimum Wage Rate Provisions (See Terms and Conditions for details) - <i>Required</i> :
	\square I/We agree to comply with the enhanced minimum wage rate provisions.
11.	Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Worker Protection Investment and Certification Form (See Terms and Conditions for details) - <i>Required</i> :
	☐ I have included with my response the completed Worker Protection Investment and Certification Form

CONTRACTOR RESPONSE FORM

Page 3 of 3

Certificate of Insurance (See Terms	s and Conditions for details) - Requ	uired:						
		ct, I agree to obtain the levels of insurance notification and prior to signing a contract						
\square I do not carry commercial liability insurance due to religious reasons and/or I am self-insured. I hav supporting documentation with my response.								
		proposal is based on my knowledge of the plans and sion. If awarded the RFP, I agree to sign a contract w						
Company Name:	Company 1	ax ID (EIN):						
Company Address:								
Representative's Name:	Tel	ephone:						
Email Address:								
Signature:	Title:	Date:						



WORKER PROTECTION AND INVESTMENT CERTIFICATION FORM

- A. Pursuant to Executive Order 2021-06, *Worker Protection and Investment* (October 21, 2021), the Commonwealth is responsible for ensuring that every worker in Pennsylvania has a safe and healthy work environment and the protections afforded them through labor laws. To that end, contractors and grantees of the Commonwealth must certify that they are in compliance with Pennsylvania's Unemployment Compensation Law, Workers' Compensation Law, and all applicable Pennsylvania state labor and workforce safety laws including, but not limited to:
 - 1. Construction Workplace Misclassification Act
 - 2. Employment of Minors Child Labor Act
 - 3. Minimum Wage Act
 - 4. Prevailing Wage Act
 - 5. Equal Pay Law
 - 6. Employer to Pay Employment Medical Examination Fee Act
 - 7. Seasonal Farm Labor Act
 - 8. Wage Payment and Collection Law
 - 9. Industrial Homework Law
 - 10. Construction Industry Employee Verification Act
 - 11. Act 102: Prohibition on Excessive Overtime in Healthcare
 - 12. Apprenticeship and Training Act
 - 13. Inspection of Employment Records Law
- B. Pennsylvania law establishes penalties for providing false certifications, including contract termination; and three-year ineligibility to bid on contracts under 62 Pa. C.S. § 531 (Debarment or suspension).

CERTIFICATION

I, the official named below, certify I am duly authorized to execute this certification on behalf of the contractor/grantee identified below, and certify that the contractor/grantee identified below is compliant with applicable Pennsylvania state labor and workplace safety laws, including, but not limited to, those listed in Paragraph A, above. I understand that I must report any change in the contractor/grantee's compliance status to the Purchasing Agency immediately. I further confirm and understand that this Certification is subject to the provisions and penalties of 18 Pa. C.S. § 4904 (Unsworn falsification to authorities).

p-	
Signature	Date
Name (Printed)	
Title C.C. (C.) O.C. (1 (D.) (1)	
Title of Certifying Official (Printed)	
	-
Contractor/Grantee Name (Printed)	

BOP-2201 Published: 02/07/2022B

ATTACHMENTS:

The following Attachments are included for reference as part of this RFP:

Attachment A – Maintenance/Assessment Report

Attachment B – Spray Report

Attachment C – RFP Scoring Sheet

Attachment A - Maintenance/Assessment Report

Basic Project Information

(If you make multiple visits to the site, please submit only one form that includes information from all visits)

Project Name (include BMP # from contract):		
Landowner Name and Site Address:		
Date(s) of Work/Assessment:		
Contractor/Inspector Names:		
Total Buffer Acres:		
	Tree/Shrub Count*	
	d shrubs that are "well established" (not spot sprayed around):_ ed around; include natural regeneration if present)	
		+
	d shrubs that were spot sprayed around:	
_t ιουπι an crees/sπrubs <u>tnat γου spray aroung;</u>	include natural regeneration if present and sprayed around)	=
C. Enter total number of live trees an	d shrubs (A + B):	

*Notes on tree/shrub count and what to spray around. These are generalizations (not hard and fast rules—use your best judgement!).

- For a tree, anything approx. 8' or taller likely will not need to be sprayed around unless there are invasives around it or signs of rodent damage. If the tree has a minimum diameter of 3" at chest height it likely will not need to be sprayed around.
- Shrubs are more difficult to define what needs sprayed. For shrubs, anything approx. 6' or taller likely will not need to be sprayed around. If the shrub is clumping and spreading and looks healthy there is less need for spraying even if it's less than 6' tall.
- If the tree or shrub is bigger than the minimum size listed above or is borderline, consider the following:
 - Healthy tree/shrub with lots of lush leaves and branches = lower need to spray
 - Competing vegetation within 6 feet of tree/shrub is low (1 foot or less) = lower need to spray
 - No signs of rodent damage = lower need to spray
 - Tree looks weak or has disease = higher need to spray
 - Competing vegetation within 6 feet of tree/shrub is tall (taller than 1 foot) = higher need to spray
 - Signs of rodent damage = higher need to spray
- Trees and shrubs that don't meet the size criteria are likely going to need to be sprayed around regardless of the other factors.
- If in doubt spray!

Noxious/Invasive Plant Species

Check all boxes that apply. Also specify the percent coverage.

<u>Species</u>		Density*		% Coverage**
	Light	Moderate	Heavy	
Autumn Olive				
Buckthorn				
Burdock				
Callery Pear				
Crown Vetch				
Curly Dock				
Giant Hogweed				
☐ Japanese Barberry				
☐ Japanese Knotweed				
☐ Japanese Stiltgrass				
☐ Mile-a-Minute				
Mugwort				
☐ Multi-flora Rose				
Oriental Bittersweet				
Poison Hemlock				
☐ Privet				
Purple Loosestrife				
Reed canary grass				
Shrub Honeysuckle				
Spotted Knapweed				
Tree of Heaven				
Thistle				
Teasel				
☐ Wild Parsnip				
☐ White Mulberry				
Wineberry				
Other:	🗆			
Other:	🗆			
Other:	🗆			

- Light = This species is spotty, here and there. The plants of this species are generally small but there can be a few bigger isolated plants. Some plants of this species may not be easily seen. You can easily walk through them without having to go around them. Native species are often mixed with this species.
- Moderate = This species is easily noticeable. You can generally walk through this species with some effort or may need to go around some of the bigger patches. This species is often but not always the predominate vegetation where it grows. Native species might be mixed with this species to a lower degree.
- Heavy = This species covers large swaths of ground. The plants of this species are generally large but can also be smaller but
 close together. You may not be able to walk through the majority of this species. This species is the predominant vegetation
 where it grows and is often a monoculture. Native species are very rarely mixed with this species.

^{*}Guidance on determining density: This is the density of the individual species within the area that it is growing.

^{*}Guidance on determining % coverage: This is the percent that the individual species takes up on the ground of the <u>entire buffer</u>.. Example: If you estimate that autumn olive lives on 10% of the site, put a 10 in the space provided.

Deer Browse

Check one of the boxes. Provide a description of the extent of damage.

	,		nsity*	••	
	Light	Moderate	Heavy	None	
Deer Browse: Description:	Ш				
couple of inches. Deer tear • Light = 1 - 10% of • Moderate = 11 -	stems, rodents m trees/shrubs show 40% of trees/shru	ake a clean cut.		nds of the branches. Deer typically eat just the	outer i
		Livesto	ck Issues		
ck the box if there are sign page done to the buffer and		thin the buffer a	rea and pro	vide a description of the signs and the ex	tent of
Description:					
		Overall Buff	er Condit	ion	
ck one of the hoves Pate (on a scale from 1			ete failure, 5-fully functional).	
ck one of the boxes. Nate t					
rall buffer condition*:	1	2	3	4 5	
				he buffer taking into consideration all of the fa	
The buffer may not fit exac				s per acre, size of trees and presence of invasiv	e plant
•	·	•	•	gement. nt (for forested buffers) or very low numbers. () _ 25 +
per acre. Invasive		moderate to heavy	-	most all shelters are damaged and non-function	
	elters are damage			re. Invasives plants are likely moderate to hea vse may be moderate to heavy. Extensive mair	-
 3 = Buffer is parti Invasive plants m 	ally functioning. T ay be light, mode		esent, most sl	mbers. 50 – 100 trees per acre. Trees are of van nelters are functioning. Deer browse may be lig	
 4 = Buffer is function getting large. Invalid 	tioning well overa asive plants are m	ll. Trees are preser ostly light with a s	nt in good nun	nbers. 100 – 150 trees per acre. Many trees are of moderate possible. Some maintenance may	
• 5 = Buffer is fully existent. Most tre	ees are large and b	are present in he	way to becor	150+ trees per acre. Invasive plants are light on ning a mature forest. No maintenance needed	
		Photo	graphs		
ck the box when complete		<u> </u>	D. APIIO		
_		all conditions of			

Maintenance Requirements

Check all boxes that apply. Check at least one box in each row. If you make multiple visits to the site, please submit only one form that includes information from all visits. See below for definitions.*

	N/A	Good Condition/No Maintenance Required	Maintenance Performed This Visit	Approx. Treated Acres	Future Maintenance Is Needed	Approx. How Much (# of hours)
Shelter Maintenance Activities						
Secure shelters and stakes (Flush or 1" below ground)						
Replace tubes and stakes			N/A			
Secure/remove bird netting						
Remove anything inside shelter that isn't the planted material						
Remove shelters						
Manual Maintenance Activities						
Mowing/weed whacking			N/A			
Brush Hog/forest mulching			N/A			
Pesticide/Herbicide Maintenance Activities						
Apply deer repellent						
Spot spray around live planted trees**						
Invasive control/herbicide**						

- **N/A** Does not apply to the site
- Good Condition/No Maintenance Required Applies to the site but no maintenance is needed at this time.
- Maintenance Completed This Visit Maintenance for this task was performed during today's site visit Specify approx. number of acres treated.
- Future Maintenance Is Needed Maintenance for this task is needed in the future (within the next 12 months after you have completed all maintenance on the project for the year) Specify approx. how many person-hours are needed.

^{*}Definitions of categories

^{**}Contractor must complete and submit Spray Report when applying herbicide.

Replanting

Check the appropriate box and if needed, provide a description of the replanting needs. Recommended acres for replanting:___ Recommended number of trees for replanting: Description: Pollinator Meadow/Grass Buffer (if applicable) Check the box if the buffer includes a pollinator/wildflower planting or grass only buffer and provide a description of the condition and any maintenance needs. Description: **Other Notes (if needed)**

Attachment B - Spray Report*

Applicator Name:				BU Number:			
Applicator License N							
Applicator Company	Name:						
Applicator Company							
Application Date and Time:							
Site Address, Landon Name & Contact Nu							
Site Location							
Chemical	Manufactu	rer EPA R	eg. #	Mix Rate	Amount Solution Applied		
	1	1			1		
Equ	Equipment Method Species Treated			Treated			
Temperature / C	Wind	Wind Speed		Wind Direction			
Signature of Applica	tor:			Date:	i		
Notes:							

^{*}Attach map and show portion of buffer treated

Attachment C – RFP Scoring Sheet

BMP#: 188 Maintenance Project#: 29 2026 Forest Buffer Maintenance Training Program Snyder and Union Counties

•	Bidder Name		
Evaluation Criteria / Points	%	Score (1-10)	Result
Adherence to RFP Instructions 1 (some documents filled out completely) - 10 (all documents filled out completely)	5		0
Bid Price 1 (highest price) - 10 (lowest price)	25		0
Safety Record 1 (did not provide record) - 10 (no reportables/good record)	5		0
Confidence in Quality of Work (Conservancy may also check with other partners for feedback) 1 (no references provided and unknown) - 10 (references provided and has done great work)	30		0
Familiarity with Sites, Landowners and Liaisons 1 (no famililiarity) - 10 (extensive familiarity with all three)	10		0
Small, Small Diverse Business 1 (no information provided) - 10 (federal and state small and small diverse business)	5		0
Timeline/Construction Schedule Adherence 1 (no dates or schedule provided) - 10 (all services will be completed within preferred timeframe)	20		0
Total All Evaluation Points	100	0	0