2013 NY Rising Community Reconstruction Program Regional Resiliency Summit

A Regional Approach

Wendy Walsh
Tioga County SWCD, District Manager
USC Watershed Coordinator & Board Member
Upper Susquehanna Coalition

Established in 1992

19 Soil and Water Conservation Districts

16 counties in NY

3 in PA

Partnerships with NRCS, DEC, Universities, Municipalities

7,500 square miles

Headwaters of the Chesapeake Bay

USC implements nonpoint source projects to address watershed issues
Upper Susquehanna Coalition Watershed Approach

• Utilize Multiple Barrier Approach for planning and implementation of restoration projects on a watershed basis.

• Address the issue at the source, across the landscape, within the stream corridor as well as programmatically.
Upper Susquehanna Coalition
Focus Areas

USC Approach to Focus Areas

- Wetland Team
- Stream Team
- Ag Team
- Concept of teams is to build capacity within USC and our partners to address nonpoint source issues within our identified focus areas
Upper Susquehanna Coalition (USC)

Wetland Team
- Goal: Establish, Restore, Enhance and Conserve Wetlands
- Make up of Wetland Team
  - Wetland Team Leader
  - Wetland Coordinator
  - Wetland Biologist and Specialist
  - Field Team
- Approach: Build, Design, Restore and Fund
Why Wetlands?

- Capture runoff to desynchronize flood peaks - resulting in less flooding
- Decrease stream flows to reduce energy of flowing water - less erosion
- Remove sediment and impurities from surface water - improving water quality
- Provide wildlife habitat – add diversity and more recreational opportunities
By building a low berm (at left of the wetland) a nice pool was formed that adds flood capacity, wildlife values, water quality improvements and visual aesthetics.
Wetlands perched higher in the watershed are “out of the way” and provide exceptional value for capturing rainfall before it enters streams.
USC
Wetland Restoration

- 2013 Funding Sources
  - NYS CFA Grant
    - Construct 120 acres of wetland
  - NRCS Wetland Reserve Program (WRP)
  - Wetland Mitigation

Kudcey WRP Site During Construction
Wetland Restoration in the NY Susquehanna River Basin

Project Locations Map
Stream Team

- Goal: have a consistent, quality controlled process that builds USC and partners capacity to address stream issues.
- Make up of Stream Team
  - Stream Team Leader
  - Design Staff led by Bradford County CD
- Approach: Background Reports, Watershed Analysis (Including Triage Reports), Design Reports, Implementation and Training
USC
Stream Corridor Rehabilitation

• 2013 Funding Sources:
  • NYS CFA Grant
    • Remove 48,000 feet of streamside berms to reconnect streams to their floodplains
  • Otsego County ESD Flood Mitigation Grant
    • 10 streambank stabilization Projects
  • NFWF Emergency Stream Intervention Grant
    • $150,000 to train and complete demonstration sites
GIGP #505: Tioga County Soil and Water Conservation District Wetland Construction and Floodplain Enhancement

Location of Berms removed, as of 30 August 2013

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| Totals                |        |            | 13,158            | 276,327           |
USC
Stream Corridor Rehabilitation

• Removed 1,023 loads of material from 10 berm sites

10 cubic yard dump truck
USC
Stream Corridor Rehabilitation

Catatonk Creek Berm Removal site
Before, during and after construction
Tioga County
USC Stream Corridor Rehabilitation

Backus Berm Removal Site
Delaware County
USC
Stream Corridor Rehabilitation

Johnson Berm Removal Site
Broome County
USC Stream Corridor Rehabilitation

Page Brook Berm Removal Site
Broome/Chenango County
USC
Stream Corridor Rehabilitation

Otsego County Streambank Stabilization Funding thru Empire State Development
USC
Stream Corridor Rehabilitation

Otsego County Streambank Stabilization
Funding thru Empire State Development
USC
Stream Corridor Rehabilitation

Otsego County Streambank Stabilization
Funding thru Empire State Development

Before

After
• **NFWF Emergency Stream Intervention Program (ESI)**

  • Includes training for municipal officials and highway superintendents
    - 2 hour presentation describing stream mechanics
    - 13 trainings held to date throughout Upper Susquehanna River Basin

  • Trainings for highway superintendents, operators and contractors includes demonstration site
    - 3 day trainings held in Cortland, Tioga and Chemung Counties
    - Anticipate completing 3-4 additional 3-day trainings with demonstration sites next year
• Moving forward: continue to look for additional funding sources to support focus areas
  – Awarded 2013 NFWF Chesapeake Bay Innovative Nutrient and Sediment Reduction Grant
    • Natural Infrastructure Stream Corridor Rehabilitation NY
      – Ag and Stream Implementation planned (buffers and stream corridor rehabilitation)
  – Applying for NYSDEC Water Quality Improvement Project (WQIP) grant program
    • Continue berm removal and wetland creation within the Upper Susquehanna River Watershed
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