GIT Funding Project Ideas – Habitat GIT

Project 1

1. **Project Title:** Stream Health – White Paper re: non-Sediment and Nutrient Stressors
2. **Project Purpose/Goal(s):**
    a. Improve understanding and recognition of stressors that may impact the recovery of stream health
    b. Identify and recommend how design interventions and watershed actions can address stressors
3. **Related Workplan Action Item(s):**
    a. 4.2 – Provide recommendations for water quality impairments associated with a TMDL that will achieve co-benefits as a result of addressing other stressors through restoration practice implementation
4. **Potential Collaborators:** Water Quality GIT, Toxic Contaminants Workgroup

Project 2

1. **Project Title:** Fish Passage – Guidance on Preferred Aquatic Organism Passage Criteria
2. **Project Purpose/Goal(s):**
    a. To continue work outlined in the fish passage strategy and work plan (specifically management approach 3.1: implement high priority fish passage projects), state guidance on proper design and implementation for aquatic organism passage at road crossings is needed. Many guidance documents exist on aquatic passage, the intent of this exercise would be to compile and review existing guidance and regulations and create a guidance document specific to the state of Maryland and its regulatory climate and produce an inter-agency guidance document. This document will not produce regulations but instead make recommendations on preferred aquatic organism passage criteria. The guidance will also assist other states in the Chesapeake watershed who choose to adopt or adapt the guidance.
3. **Related Workplan Action Item(s):**
    a. 3.1 – Continue using the Chesapeake Bay Fish Passage Tool to implement high priority dam removal and fish passage projects. Complete Tool updates to include culvert assessment information
4. **Potential Collaborators:** N/A

Project 3

1. **Project Title:** SAV – Restoration Protocol Development for Local Jurisdictions and NGOs
2. **Project Purpose/Goal(s):**
    a. To accelerate SAV recovery in the Chesapeake Bay, it'll be necessary to supplement natural recovery facilitated by improvements in water quality with direct restoration efforts in which seeds or adult plants are planted in areas where water quality is sufficient for growth and expansion but where a seed bank or persistent population is not present due to long-term absence of SAV. Restoration activities are intended to improve both acreage and diversity. Specific SAV planting protocols will be developed for each salinity regime (and therefore for the appropriate SAV species for those

regimes) and will include methods for both seed collection and dispersal and adult plantings. Equally important to actual SAV restoration is the educational and outreach opportunities inherent to the planting events, so educational and outreach materials will be developed as part of the protocol. Project costs would include both salary and funding for printed materials. Extra materials would be printed so that the SAV Workgroup could then offer the SAV planting protocols to additional partners in subsequent years.

3. **Related Workplan Action Item(s):**
    a. 3.2 – Facilitate collaboration between partner agencies and organizations that are working on SAV restoration in the Bay. Create small scale SAV restoration protocol and fact sheets that local organizations can use to promote local restoration efforts.
4. **Potential Collaborators:** Water Quality GIT, Stewardship GIT, Citizen Stewardship Team

Project 4

1. **Project Title:** Black Duck/Cross-GIT – Choptank Integrated Service Delivery
2. **Project Purpose/Goal(s):**
    a. A pilot project designed to complement the current "Envision the Choptank" project
    b. Identified as a critical need, the goal is to develop a sustainable, coordinated system to provide multi-disciplinary cross-training and communication networks across the Technical Service Provider (TSP) community in the Choptank watershed
    c. This project will also serve the broader eastern shore region and is intended to be a repeatable model in other discrete TSP community areas
    d. Will focus on delivery of riparian buffer, stream protection, wetland and living shoreline services to private landowners; will encompass broader whole farm and forest planning
    e. This project will leverage the products of prior GIT funded projects such as 1) Wetland Landowner Outreach Tool, 2) Quantification of Green Infrastructure Hazard Mitigation Related to Inland and Coastal Flooding, 3) others as applicable
3. **Related Workplan Action Item(s):**
    a. 2.1 – Support partner efforts to improve water level management on managed wetlands, restore SAV or converted wetlands, manage open, restore and manage riparian buffers, etc.
    b. 4.1 – Keep local officials engaged in and aware of black duck habitat protection efforts and ways to incorporate protection efforts into local decision making
4. **Potential Collaborators:** Wetland Workgroup, Water Quality GIT, Forestry Workgroup, Fisheries GIT

Project 5

1. **Project Title:** Climate Resiliency/Cross-GIT – Targeted Local Outreach for Green Infrastructure in Vulnerable Areas
2. **Project Purpose/Goal(s):**
    a. Match local decision-maker needs with easy-to-apply information on climate readiness in vulnerable areas and equip them with green solutions tailored to their area.
    b. To direct in-house completion and inventory of current climate, resilience, local vulnerability tools

    c. Will include survey of local needs for such materials
    d. Appropriate packaging and delivery of materials targeted to address community vulnerabilities
    e. Possibly focusing on smaller geographic area (Delmarva) and habitats supporting the listed black rail, and at-risk salt marsh sparrow and frosted elfin
    f. This project will leverage the products of prior GIT funded projects including the Climate Resiliency Workgroup's Climate Smart Framework tool
3. **Related Workplan Action Item(s):**
    a. 3.1 – Promote the availability and accessibility of climate and other related science data and information
    b. 3.2 – Targeted engagement with business leaders, state, municipalities, and local managers to enable incorporation of climate information/impacts into their decision-making
4. **Potential Collaborators:** Habitat GIT, Local Government Advisory Committee, Healthy Watersheds GIT, Diversity Workgroup, Stewardship GIT, Public Access Workgroup