



Potomac Agenda: 2011

In this year's *State of the Nation's River* report, we grade the river at D, with notable disturbing trends of loss of forest cover and increases in paved surfaces as well as the growth of industrial agriculture in the Shenandoah and headwaters area.

Below we highlight specific policy solutions and decision-makers who should answer our call for action. Potomac Conservancy believes that the key to successful restoration of our lands and waters is accountability, implementation and enforcement.

Federal agencies must provide the leadership to combat polluted runoff

- The Bay region needs a strong federal presence. **EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson** must uphold President Obama's Executive Order and maintain the commitment to restore the Bay and its tributaries.
- EPA's **Chesapeake Bay Program's Jeff Corbin** must hold state and localities accountable for producing Watershed implementation Plans that have measurable pollution reduction goals that are enforceable and have clear implementation timelines tied to milestones.
- We call on EPA to work with state agencies, particularly **Maryland Dept. of the Environment** and **Virginia's Dept. of Conservation and Recreation** to move forward with assigning MS4 permits (aka, permits that will regulate stormwater pollution in urban areas) and structuring a strong enforcement and accountability protocol.

States and counties must meet local water and land use challenges

- **Localities** must establish dedicated revenue streams to pay for infrastructure improvements that limit polluted runoff.
- We reiterate last year's call to **the Supervisors of Loudoun County, Virginia**, to strengthen its streamside buffer rules to prevent the clearcutting that took place last summer when Trump National Golf Course removed more than 450 trees, leaving a barren stretch of more than 1.5 miles on the main stem of the Potomac.
- **Counties and municipalities** must change local codes and ordinances to remove barriers to using low impact development techniques to capture rainwater where it falls.
- We call on **Virginia Governor McDonnell** to honor his promise to preserve 400,000 acres of open space before his term ends in January 2014.
- States must improve the inspection and compliance programs for CAFOs (concentrated, or confined, animal feeding operations). The states should hold regulated facilities accountable to the conditions of their Clean Water permits.
- We urge the **federal and state governments** to continue to provide financial incentives for conservation programs and to fund fully the cost-share programs designed to help farmers put in best management practices.