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U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Determination for Issuing a Single Source Financial Assistance Award

Instructions: In accordance with Service policy 516 FW 6, *Issuing Discretionary Grant and Cooperative Agreement Awards without Competition*, complete this form to document the justification for issuing a single source grant or cooperative agreement award. This form must be signed by both a program representative and the employee with signature authority for the award to be issued (see 516 FW 3, *Signature Authority for Grant and Cooperative Agreement Awards*). The completed and signed form must be maintained in the official award file.

Recipient Name: Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, LLC
Project Title: Healthy Streams, Farm Stewardship Program
Program Contact: Jenny McGarvey, Chesapeake Forests Program Manager

Select all criteria that apply (from 505 DM 2):

☐	(1) Unsolicited Proposal: The proposed award is the result of an unsolicited application that represents a unique or innovative idea, method, or approach that is not the subject of a current or planned award, but is found to be advantageous to program objectives.
☐	(2) Continuation: The activity to be funded is necessary for the satisfactory completion of, or is a continuation of, an activity we are funding and holding a competition would have a significant adverse effect on continuing or completing the activity.
☐	(3) Legislative Intent: The language in the applicable authorizing legislation or legislative history clearly indicates the intent of Congress to restrict the award to a particular recipient or purpose.
☒	(4) Unique Qualifications: The applicant is uniquely qualified to perform the activity based on a variety of demonstrable factors such as location; property ownership; voluntary support capacity; cost-sharing ability, if applicable; technical expertise; or other such unique qualifications.
☐	(5) Emergencies: Because of a compelling and unusual urgency, or substantial danger to health or safety, there is not enough time to follow adequate competitive procedures.

Explain below why competition for this award is not practical. As applicable, summarize the program legislative history, unique capabilities of the proposed recipient, and any cost-sharing contribution offered by the proposed recipient. Be brief and specific:

Funds will be used by the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, LLC (and partners) to complete a pilot project working with state and non-governmental partners to implement an incentive program to encourage establishment of riparian buffers along the South River, Middle River, and Christians Creek in Augusta County, Virginia. The project will be modeled after prior successful programs in Maryland, West Virginia, and Virginia. The project in Virginia was completed on the Middle River in 2016. The Alliance partnered with Headwaters Soil and Water Control District, Friends of the Middle River, Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Virginia Department of Forestry, US Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and Whitescarver Natural Resources Management to help a producer in Middlebrook, VA to install two miles of stream fencing, three stream crossings, and approximately eight acres of riparian forest buffer. Previously this area was pasture with cattle having direct access to the Middle River. The producer wanted to use 2" caliper trees within a segment of the buffer to establish shade immediately. Unfortunately, because trees of this size do not follow NRCS standard, no cost share was available to reimburse his costs. Without larger caliper trees, the producer was unwilling to go through with the state buffer program. The producer utilized the conservation vouchers he received through the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, LLC to pay for one hundred 2" caliper trees. This relatively small incentive sold riparian forest buffers to producer, and also made him a new champion for stream exclusion fencing and forest buffers. This example illustrates the potential success of the proposed project and the strong existing network of partners in the region.

Alliance for Chesapeake Bay is uniquely qualified to complete this work based on their past experiences with similar programs, their experience with the needs of producers in this region, and their strong relationships with partnering organizations. This pilot project will open the door for more opportunity to complete this work. The goal of the project will to restore approximately 50 acres of forest riparian buffer and reduce pollutants to streams and engage with farmers and landowners through financial incentives and technical assistance. This project is in alignment with the Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration goals as well as the Secretary of the Interior's priorities.

I have determined that this project meets the requirements for a single source award and recommend that it be awarded to the recipient named above.

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Program Representative Sign and Date

Anne Condon

Printed Name of Program Representative

I, as the Service employee with signature authority for this award under 516 FW 3, have reviewed this program recommendation and find that it meets the requirements for a single source award.

Authorized Signator Sign and Date

Printed Name of Signator