

Presenter	Chris Dodson Principal-Environmental Services Timmons Group
Type	Poster or oral presentation
Category	Benefits of Stream Restoration
Title	<i>Mr. Developer Meet Mr. Farmer: The Stream Restoration Cycle</i>
Abstract	<p>During Governor Kaine's address to the Commonwealth of Virginia in January 2009, he discussed the need to change agricultural practices and restore riparian stream buffers in order to improve the health of the Chesapeake Bay. I believe that we are all in agreement that farming, cattle production and other agricultural practices immediately adjacent to, or in our headwater streams, is a leading non-point source of pollution to our rivers and estuaries throughout the Mid-Atlantic and beyond. All aforementioned being true, most landowners are not inclined and/or able to change their practices for perceived or actual financial reasons; financial incentives are needed. Enter stream mitigation banking.</p> <p>On the other end of the spectrum, public and private development communities are paying more for land and development costs continue to rise. Consequently, developers and their engineers are pushing their limits on maximizing their developable land area resulting in impacted streams through fill, piping, and stormwater management activities. These developers are required under the 2008 National Mitigation Rule to provide compensatory in-kind mitigation for these impacts, preferably through an approved stream mitigation bank. Mr. Developer please meet Mr. Farmer turned mitigation banker.</p> <p>I am not suggesting that this is the preferred way for development to occur, nor that replacing an impacted water resource from one area with a restored resource in another is an even swap, but a system has evolved that requires both parties. The developer will through his own cognizance, or agency direction, avoid and minimize impact to these resources to the maximum extent practicable. The farmer will change his land use practices by removing cattle from streams, restoring buffers, reduce nutrient loadings and look at his property from a watershed perspective when provided the prospect of selling stream credits for a profit. Hopefully we end up ahead of where we started. The cycle continues.</p>