

<b>Figure 37: Summary of Learning (Research) Strategic Actions</b>		
<b>Strategy</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Priority</b>
<b>1. To obtain better understand forest protection needs, confirm or revise baseline estimates for forest maturity and composition with more accurate information.</b>	<b>DNREC/NH</b>	<b>High</b>
<i>Action Steps:</i>		
Complete DDA digitizing of information from forest management plans.	DDAF	2005
Complete digitizing of information from forest habitat and species surveys.	DNREC/NH	2005
Compile forest management plan and survey information once complete, identify gaps, and determine and pursue the most feasible available means for filling gaps (at a minimum).	DNREC/NH, Land-owners	
<b>2. Continue to improve information on flora and fauna for the Corridor.</b>	<b>DNREC/NH</b>	<b>High</b>
<i>Action Steps:</i>		
Collect additional information to continue improving scientific knowledge of the insects, plants, amphibians, songbirds, etc. in the Corridor.	DNREC/NH, MDDNR, Community	
Compile and use new information/findings to update Corridor plan accordingly. (Including results of amphibian/frog counts under Communication/Education Strategy #6.)	DNREC/NH	ongoing
<b>3. Improve our information and understanding of coastal plain pond key attributes and how best to protect and manage them.</b>	<b>DNREC/NH</b>	<b>High</b>
<i>Action Steps:</i>		
Secure EPA funding and complete research on coastal plain pond hydrology and flora/fauna.	DNREC/NH	2005
Evaluate/assess results of data collected for a small sampling of ponds in the Corridor (including pH) by USGS and UD.	USGS	
		2005-6
Based on results of previous two actions, determine need for additional research on hydroperiod and water pH and whether or not to revise measures for coastal plain ponds.	DNREC/NH	
Develop and disseminate a set of best management practices for pond habitat based on results of 5. below and ongoing restoration.	DNREC/NH, Landowners	
Continue to improve baseline for coastal plain ponds in Maryland.	MD DNR, CRA	
Develop a coastal plain pond research and demonstration site in the Corridor to experiment with different management and restoration practices and their effect on habitat.	DNREC/NH	
<b>4. Improve our knowledge of the aquatic life and flow characteristics and requirements in the Cypress Branch and Blackbird Creek.</b>	<b>DNREC/NH, MDDNR, Community</b>	<b>High</b>
<i>Action Steps:</i>		
Complete Watershed Restoration Action Strategy (WRAS) study of the Maryland portion of Cypress Branch and share information with Delaware (DNREC)	MDDNR, CRA	
Include Corridor representation on Upper Chester Tributary Action Team in Delaware.	DNREC	
Collect compile existing data on Blackbird Creek (including DNRECCP, DNREC/NH, and USGS information) and identify additional needs, capacity/funding and opportunities/alternatives for additional stream surveying/study.	DNREC/NH	2005
Coordinate stream study/survey with the establishment of a Blackbird Creek Tributary Action Team.	DNREC, Community	
Encourage the creation of local stream watch programs by holding a stream watch training in the Corridor (See Communication/Education strategy #6).	DNS, DNERR, Community	
<b>5. Use bird radar study results to determine importance of Corridor for bird stop over.</b>	<b>DNREC/NH, NJAS</b>	<b>Medium</b>
<i>Action Steps:</i>		
Complete study.	DNREC/NH, NJAS	
Assess any implication for Corridor protection (addition of new measures?)	TNC	
<b>6. Refine/update the baseline for characteristic vegetation (including presence/absence of Phragmites) for tidal marsh</b>	<b>DNRECCP</b>	<b>Medium</b>
<i>Action Steps:</i>		
Collect and compile phragmites data/mapping for the Corridor and establish marsh restoration objectives based on results.	DNRECCP	2005
Explore opportunities for renegotiation of the PSE&G permit to include definition of the extent of phragmites invasion in the area.	DNRECFW	
<b>7. To learn more about what motivates landowners to conserve, conduct a landowner survey to determine Corridor lar</b>	<b>TNC</b>	<b>Medium</b>
<i>Action Steps:</i>		
Develop proposal to secure funding/services to design/complete survey; use UD wetland study as a model/resource for measurement.	TNC, landowners	
Use survey results to guide design of incentives/options program for the Corridor.	TNC, Land-owners	
DNREC/NH: DNREC Natural Heritage Program	TNC: The Nature Conservancy	
DDAF: Delaware Dept. of Agriculture, Forest Service	DNRECCP: DNREC Coastal Programs	
USGS: US Geological Survey	DNRECFW: DNREC Division of Fish & Wildlife	
MD DNR: Maryland Department of Natural Resources	DNS: Delaware Nature Society	
CRA: Chester River Association		