

5th Annual Delaware River Watershed Forum

Skytop Lodge • Pocono Mountains

Tuesday, October 17th

9:00 AM **Registration & Breakfast**

10:00 AM **Welcome Remarks & Keynote Address**

11:00 AM **Breakout Session One: Watershed-wide Planning with the Delaware River Basin Restoration Program**

The Delaware River Basin Restoration Program, established by Congress in 2016, provides a coordinated strategy to identify, prioritize, and implement restoration projects for the entire Delaware River Watershed. While the program still needs federal funding, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has already brought together partners in the region to develop a shared set of priorities for conservation and restoration actions. This set of breakout sessions will focus on the Program and Cross Program Areas laid out in the framework developed by USFWS. Participants will have an opportunity to hear about the planning efforts underway, as well as contribute their expertise to the partnership to ensure program priorities are strategic, cost-effective, and community-driven.

Session 1: Fish and Wildlife Habitat Restoration and Conservation Activities

Session 2: Improve and Maintain Water Quality

Session 3: Water Resource Management for Flood Mitigation and Conservation

Session 4: Public Access and Recreation

Session 5: Cross Program Areas—Outreach, Strategic Planning, Monitoring, Technical Assistance, and Regional Significance

12:30 PM **Lunch & Poster Session**

1:45 PM **Field Trips**

Explore the Heritage of Pocono Fly Fishing

Guided Walk at Skytop Lodge

Painting for Conservation

Birding Hike at Mt. Wismer Preserve

Source to Tap Tour at Brodhead Creek Regional Authority

6:00 PM **Reception**

Wednesday, October 18th

7:30 AM **Registration & Breakfast**

8:00 AM **Breakfast Roundtable Discussions**

Hot Topics in the Watershed

9:30 AM **Keynote Address**

*Agenda subject to change

Wednesday, October 18th (Continued)

10:15 AM

Breakout Session Two: Putting Plans into Action with the Delaware River Basin Restoration Program

The Delaware River Basin Restoration Program aims to enhance restoration and conservation work throughout the watershed by providing strategic priorities and a new funding mechanism to support on-the-ground projects. This complementary and nonregulatory program has the potential to bolster the substantial work already taking place in the watershed to combat critical issues like habitat degradation, invasive species, and climate change. This set of breakout sessions will focus on each of the Strategic Program and Cross Program Areas through the perspective of case studies. Participants will hear about current projects in the watershed that illustrate the power of collaboration to achieve conservation results and brainstorm opportunities for strategic partnership and opportunities for leveraging existing work. The goal of all of these sessions is to walk away with concrete ideas for how to put the Delaware River Basin Restoration Program into action to benefit the entire watershed.

Session 1: Fish and Wildlife Habitat Restoration and Conservation Activities

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12:00 PM

Lunch & Poster Session

1:15 PM

Breakout Session Three: Policy in the Basin

Session 1: Clean Water Act: Rule & Funding —This session will include presentations on the current state of affairs regarding the Clean Water Rule and Clean Water Act funding as well as a discussion on what steps the larger community can take to promote and advocate for the protection of our water resources.

Session 2: Hot Topics for State Policy —This session will include a panel discussion regarding the presenters' work on water-related environmental conservation policy at the state level

Session 3: The Next Farm Bill —This session will explore what conservation activities are taking place and what programs are being underutilized in the Delaware River Basin, as well as what to expect in the next Farm Bill being negotiated in Washington, DC

Session 4: Water Infrastructure —This session will explore opportunities from a national to a municipal level to transform our water infrastructure.

Session 5: Communicating the Value of Environmental Protection to Decision Makers —This session will explore how to effectively communicate the value of investing in environmental protection to decision makers at the local, state, and national levels.

2:45 PM

Workshops

Advocating as a 501c3

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Organizational Capacity Building

EPA Water Resources Registry

Teaching Your Watershed

4:00 PM

Conference Concludes

*Agenda subject to change

