



Chesapeake Forest Restoration Strategy Update

February Forestry Workgroup Meeting

Original strategy

- Completed in 2012
- Included five focus areas: Wildlife Habitat, Mine Lands, Agroforestry, Urban and Community, and Contaminated Lands
- >60 people involved
- Signed by USFS chief and all Chesapeake state foresters

CHESAPEAKE FOREST RESTORATION STRATEGY



December 2012
United States Department of Agriculture
Forest Service
Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry
Newtown Square, PA
www.na.fs.fed.us



Updating the Forest Restoration Strategy

Updates

- Data and figures
- New forest restoration case studies
- Financial and technical assistance information
- Tools and science for prioritizing restoration projects
- Priority actions

Changes

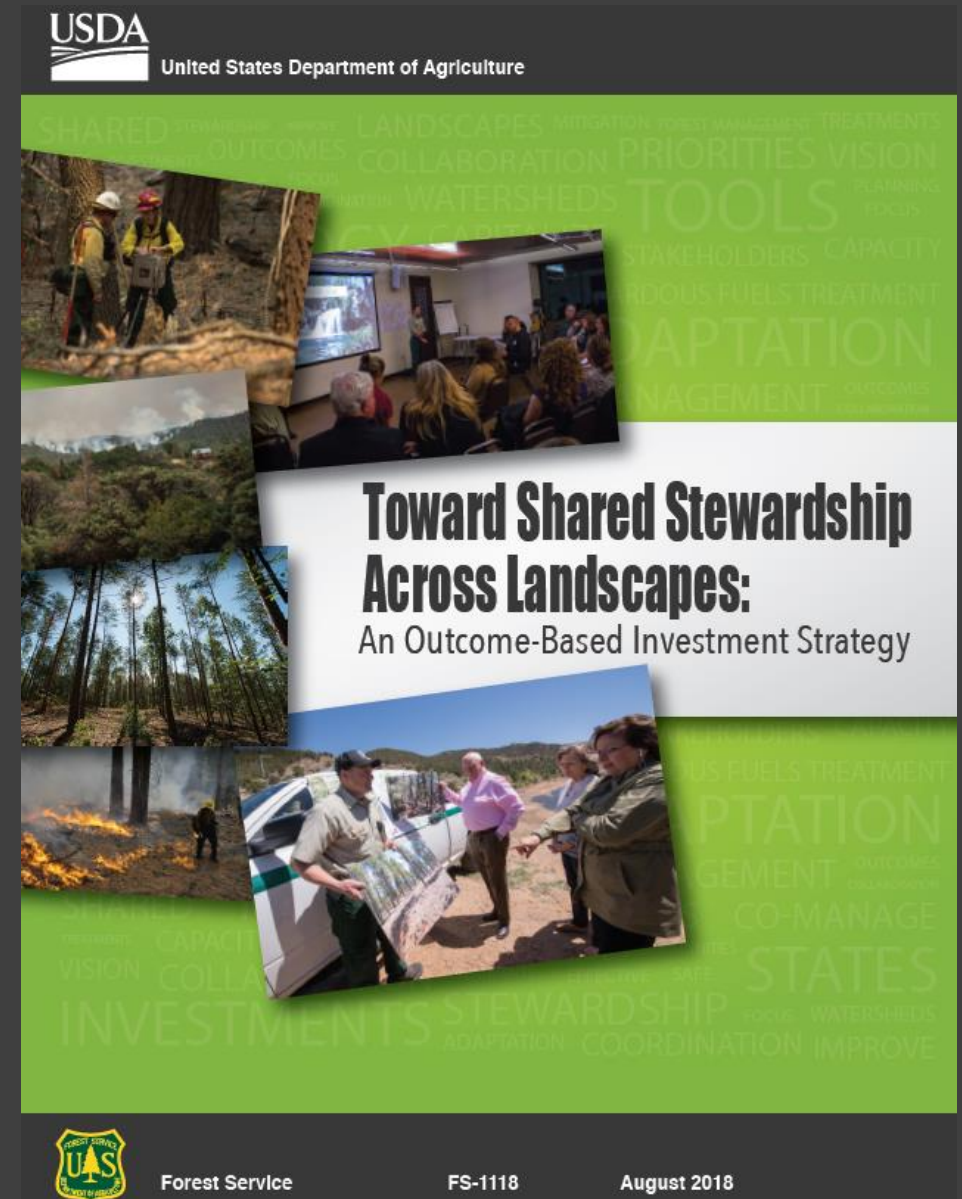
- Reframing to reflect 2014 CB agreement and USFS priorities (Shared Stewardship)
- Reorganizing and adding new sections
 - Restoration in natural landscapes
 - Forest restoration and climate change

Process

- USFS is taking the lead on writing
- Advisory team is providing guidance and material to include

Shared stewardship

- Setting mutual goals with state and tribal partners and other stakeholders,
- Convening to reach shared decisions,
- Working across boundaries, and
- Seeking outcomes that improve forests, grasslands and watersheds at scale.



Progress update



Preliminary drafts of all sections completed



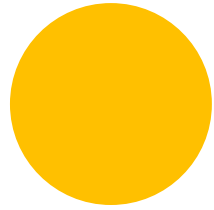
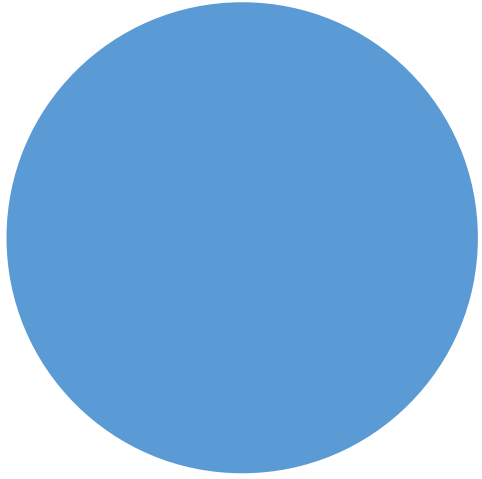
Brainstormed and compiled list of key strategic actions for each section



Aim to have a complete draft ready for review by the end of the month



Shared Stewardship agreement to be signed late spring/ early summer



Draft strategic actions

Overarching actions

- Expand the restoration workforce and supply chain to support high-quality and sustainable restoration projects.
 - Increase funding for forest restoration job training programs, including programs that target youth and groups with barriers to employment.
 - Increase availability of trainings and cross-trainings to improve our ability to scale-up forest restoration activities.
- Seek private capital investments to accelerate forest restoration economies.
 - Leverage federal funding to attract investments in forest restoration activities through public-private partnerships or other financing models.
 - Develop transparent methods to quantify natural capital and explicitly communicate the return on investment from forest restoration to attract private investment.
 - Engage local officials in the development of ecosystem services markets.
 - Develop pilot studies that aggregate restoration projects on smaller-plots of private forestland to a scale that is attractive to private investors.

Overarching actions (continued)

- Train and educate leaders at all levels so they can better support forest restoration through funding and policies.
 - Engage county officials through planning efforts, such as comprehensive plans and county-level WIPs.
 - Keep forest restoration messages in front of these leaders at forums where they're already gathering.
- Expand outreach and education on forest restoration.
 - Organize exchanges to listen as well as educate, remembering that communication is a two-way street
 - Expand communications partners and identify core messages that will resonate with different stakeholder groups.
 - Seek opportunities to facilitate peer-to-peer communication working with “keystone landowners” who are likely to influence their friends and neighbors.

Actions for restoring natural landscapes

- Increase access to financial and technical assistance for forest management planning and practices.
 - Aggregate stewardship areas for management using existing landscape or neighborhood networks.
 - Leverage other environmental stewardship efforts; such as land conservation, invasive species outreach, source water protection and environmental planning; to advance forest management activities.
 - Work with NRCS to develop a Regional Conservation Partnership Program to fund forest management practices included in forest plans.
 - Build larger network of technical service providers through cross-trainings with other landowner assistance organizations (i.e. groups working with conservation easements, agriculture, etc.).
- Assess the utility of developing forest certification programs with lower barriers to entry for small landowners.

Actions for restoring natural landscapes (2)

- Develop markets and support local economies for diverse woody species.
 - Pilot doing wood yards in a few regions in the Bay to explore opportunities for aggregating and marketing timber from smaller forest owners.
 - Demonstrate wood availability, including lower-value timber, using FIA data to local economic development groups that can help support the development of local wood economies.
 - Identify non-timber forest products that would be viable to produce and sell in the region.
 - Assess the utility of developing forest certification programs with lower barriers to entry for small landowners.
- Ensure protected lands receive management.
 - Work with land trusts and other conservation easement programs to ensure that management is written into the terms of the easement.
 - Provide education to conservation easement holders (local, state and regional) on the importance of using management to maintain and improve forest health.

Actions for restoring agricultural landscapes

- Rapidly increase the scale of riparian forest buffers implementation to meet 2025 targets.
 - Work with CBP leadership to develop, fund and implement a new Bay-wide program for riparian forest buffers to complement CREP.
 - Develop programs that provide buffer maintenance for landowners.
 - Support "buffer bonus" programs whereby landowners that install riparian forest buffers can earn vouchers that can be used to implement other on-farm water quality improvement practices.
 - Develop strategies to encourage private capital investments into riparian forest buffers and other agroforestry practices.
- Improve technical assistance to farmers.
 - Engage foresters with alley cropping and silvopasture tree management.
 - Work with agricultural technical service providers for forestry cross-training.
 - Build a workforce for buffer maintenance by providing training opportunities through schools, prisons, and programs like Ameri-corps.

Actions for restoring agricultural landscapes (2)

- Improve access to markets for agroforestry products.
 - Develop marketing strategies for agroforestry products through farmers markets, Grow Local, and Farm/Forest to Table networks.
 - Increase funding to support development of cooperatives for aggregation and processing of agroforestry products.
 - Identify and prioritize agroforestry products which are easily grown and for which there is a scalable market.
- Support the implementation of agroforestry practices that are profitable for farmers.
 - Move beyond CREP definition of forest buffers to focus on multiple use buffers that balance profitability with water quality improvements.
 - Layer multiple agroforestry practices to provide multiple income streams to offset costs.
 - Provide flexibility in tree selection to avoid shading out productive lands.
 - Generate examples of business operations plans from existing profitable operations.
 - Promote using or selling biochar from agriculture and woodlots.

Actions for restoring agricultural landscapes (3)

- Cultivate and strengthen agroforestry partnerships.
 - Increase visibility of buffers and agroforestry across jurisdictions among agricultural landowners and the general public through demonstration projects.
 - Highlight habitat benefits from agroforestry, for example by starting a Save the Hedgerows campaign.

Actions for addressing climate change

- Target forest restoration and management activities to maximize potential climate adaptation benefits in both the short- and the long-term.
 - Promote riparian forest buffers as a key climate adaptation strategy.
 - Evaluate where forest corridors will be most important for species migration based on projected changes in forest habitat.
 - Work closely with APHIS and other invasive species organizations to regularly evaluate and address emerging invasive species threats.
 - Work with nurseries to stock disease-resistant species that are projected to do well under future climate scenarios.
- Target restoration to groups vulnerable to climate impacts.
 - Address urban heat island by strategically placing shade trees to maximize cooling benefits.

Actions for addressing climate change (2)

- Provide technical assistance on planning climate-resilient forest restoration projects.
 - Develop tools to communicate with landowners regarding the best forest restoration practices they can implement for climate change adaptation.
 - Support the implementation of local codes and ordinances that will support climate resilient forests.
- Improve communication among partners regarding forest climate adaptation strategies.
- Address barriers for using forest restoration to mitigate and adapt to climate change.
 - Increase available funding for climate change mitigation and adaptation using forest restoration.
 - Work with FEMA to identify and minimize unnecessary barriers to planting trees in hazard mitigation areas

Questions or comments?

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