



Report from the Riparian Forest Buffer Action Team

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Through the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement, the Chesapeake Bay Partners have committed to...



Vital Habitats Goal

Riparian Forest Buffer Outcome: *Restore 900 miles per year of riparian forest buffer and conserve existing buffers until at least 70 percent of riparian areas throughout the watershed are forested.*

The Value of Riparian Forest Buffers



Nutrient Uptake
and retention—
40-60% N reduction

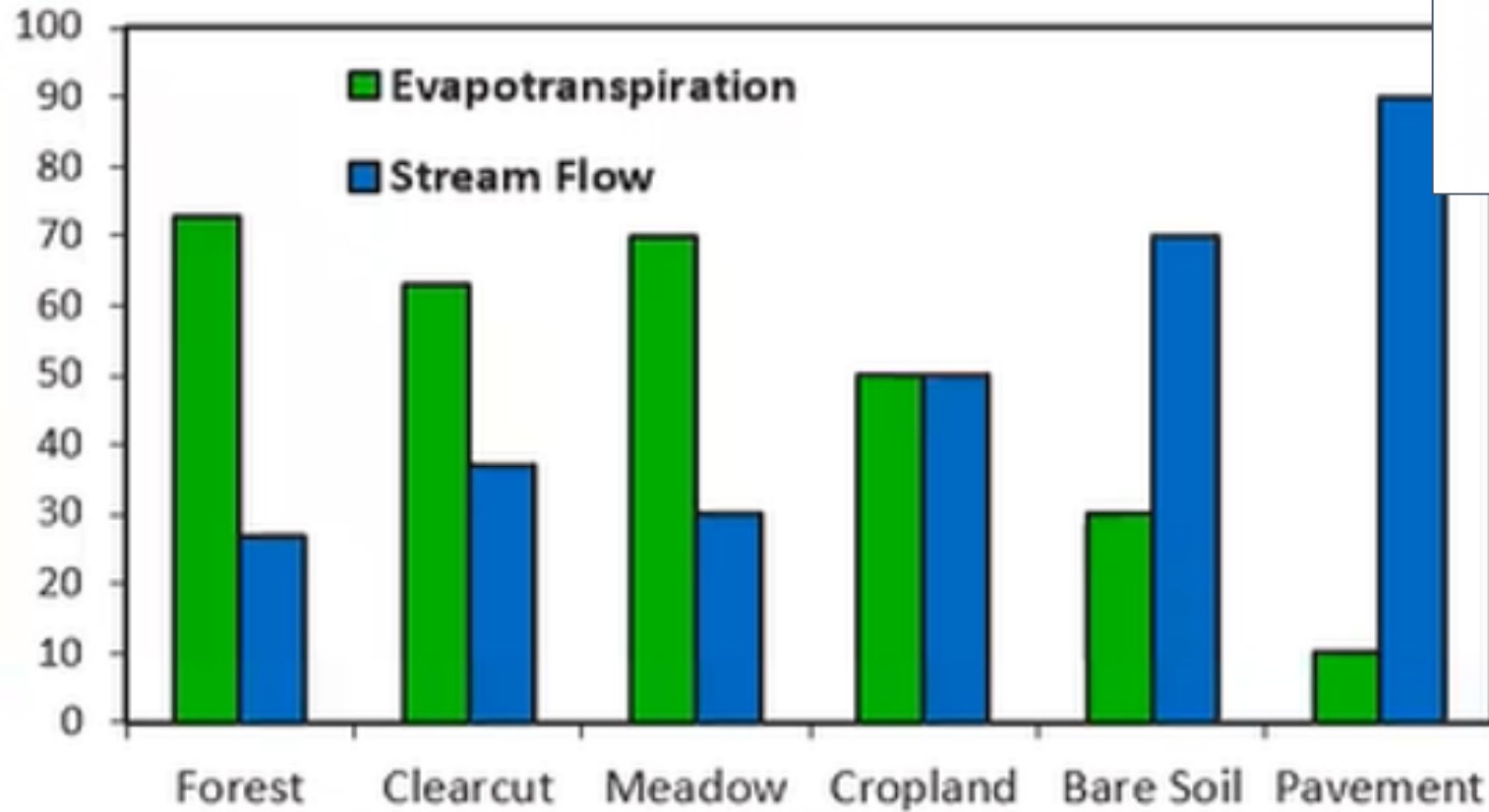
Canopy and Shade—
6-15° C cooler

Leaves and wood— food
for macroinvertebrates

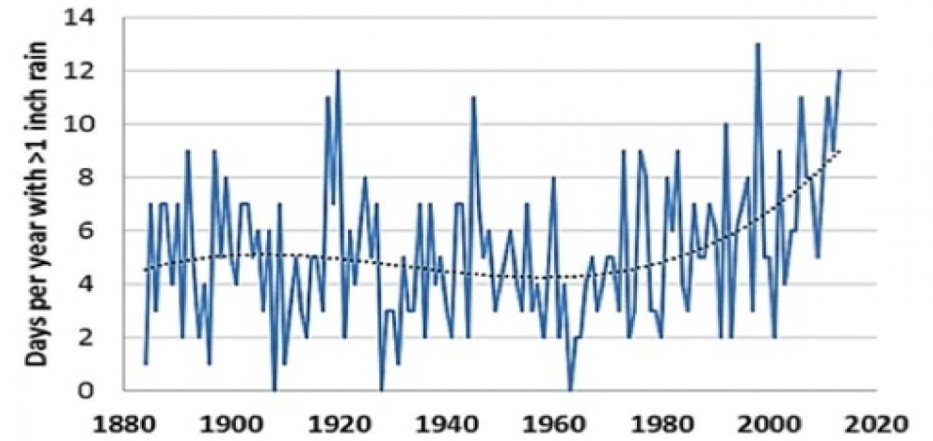
Filtering Runoff—
sediment reduction- 90%;
increase infiltration-- 10-40%

Fish and Wildlife Habitat—
aquatic and terrestrial

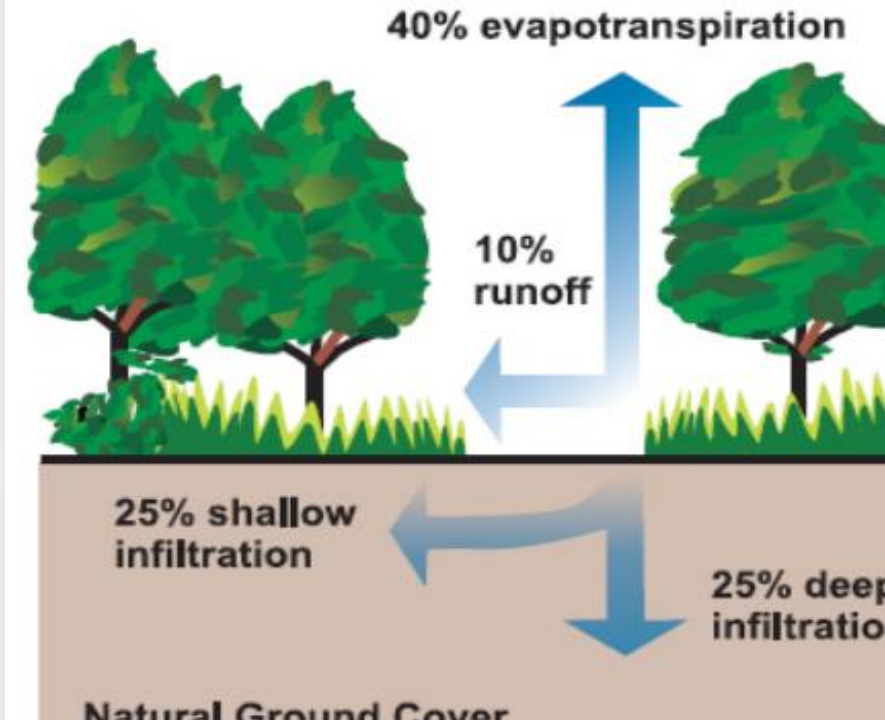
Forest Hydrology Important



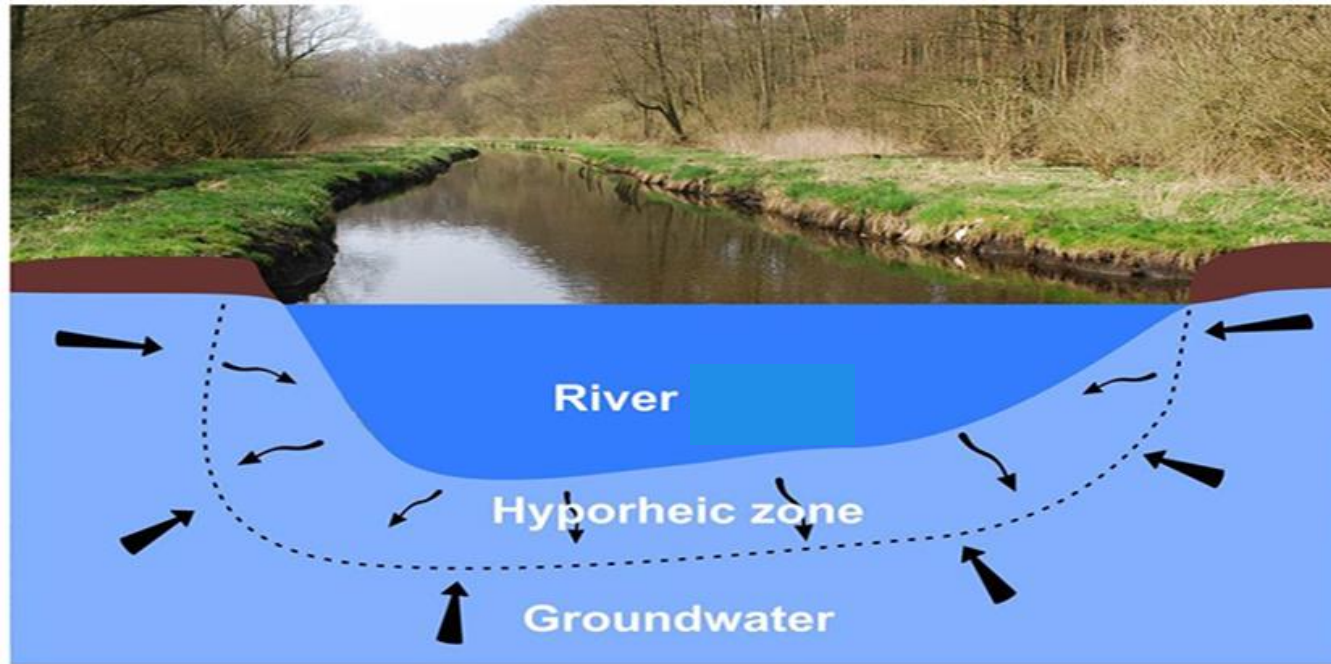
Increasing Precipitation



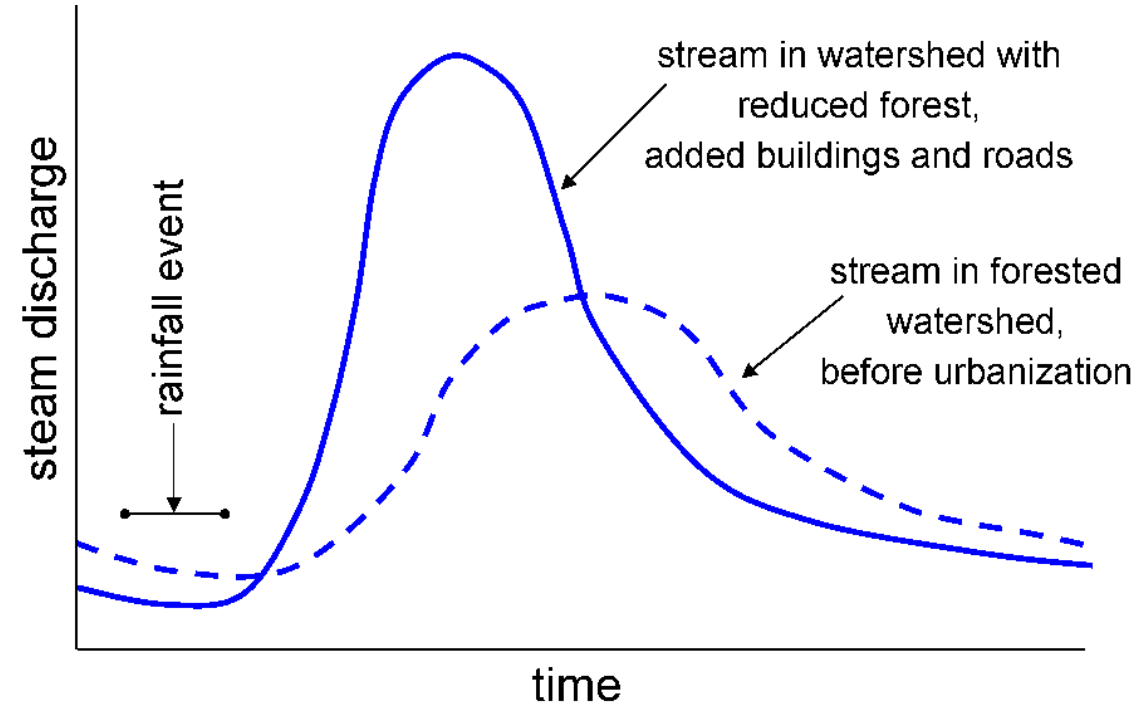
Number of days per year with greater than 1" of precipitation (BTV station)



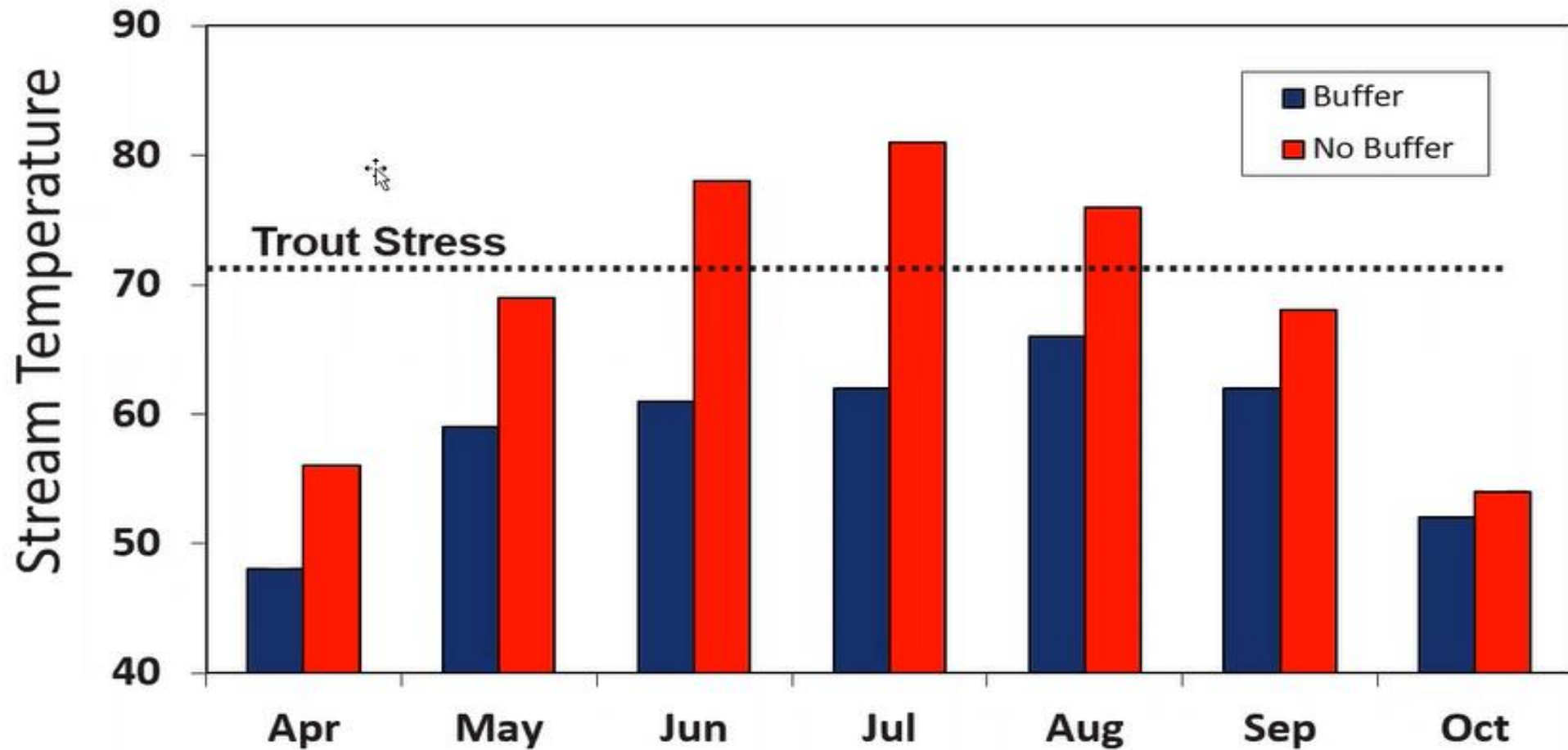
Active Riparian (hyporheic) Zone



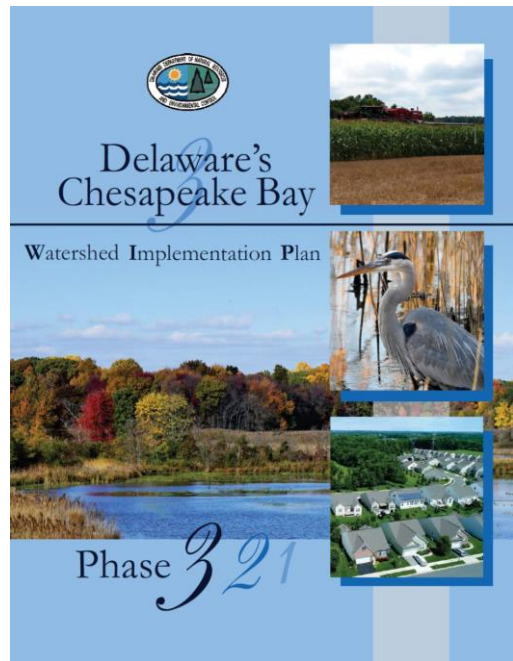
Hydrograph of stream showing reduced flooding in forested watersheds



Forest Buffers and Stream Temperature



WATERSHED IMPLEMENTATION PLANS ON RIPARIAN FOREST BUFFERS



Maryland's Phase III Watershed Implementation Plan to Restore Chesapeake Bay by 2025

Final Document | August 23, 2019



Center Photo: Blackwater Wildlife Refuge in late autumn (2017), courtesy of Matthew Rowe



West Virginia's Phase 3 Watershed Implementation Plan for the Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load

2019

WV Final Phase 3 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Implementation Plan 8/23/2019 1 of 84

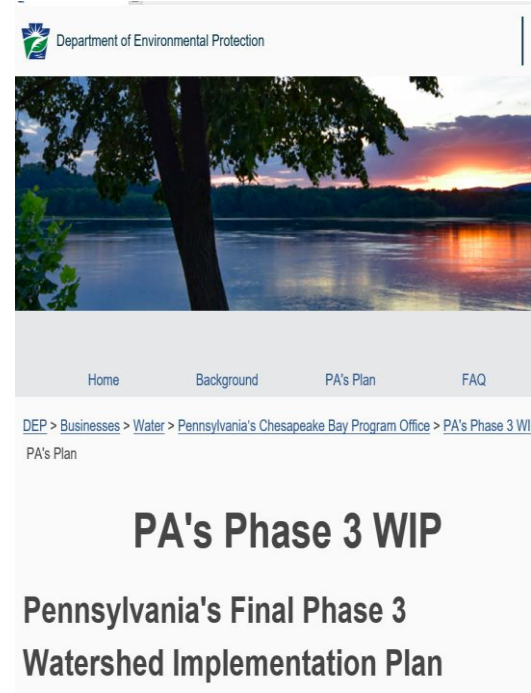
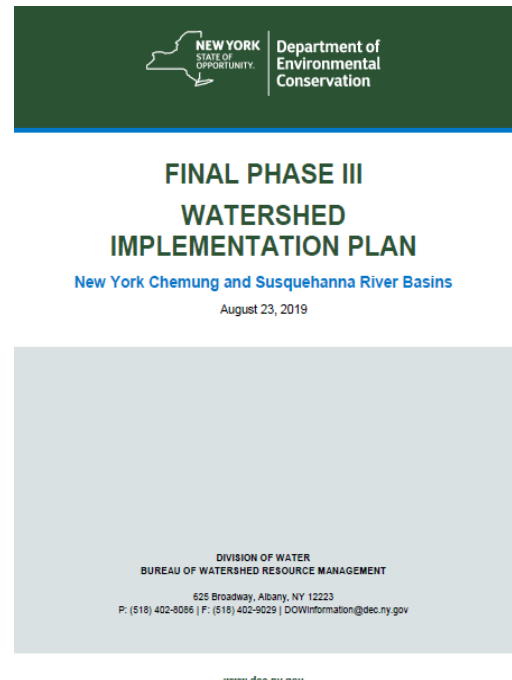
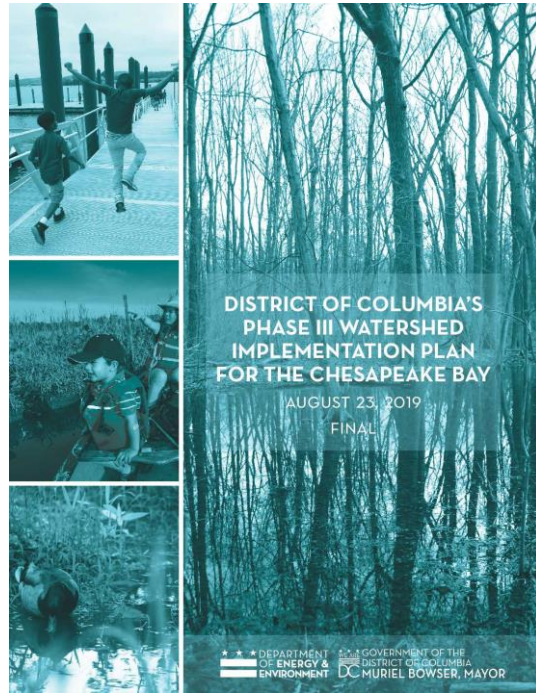
Commonwealth of Virginia Chesapeake Bay TMDL Phase III Watershed Implementation Plan



August 23, 2019

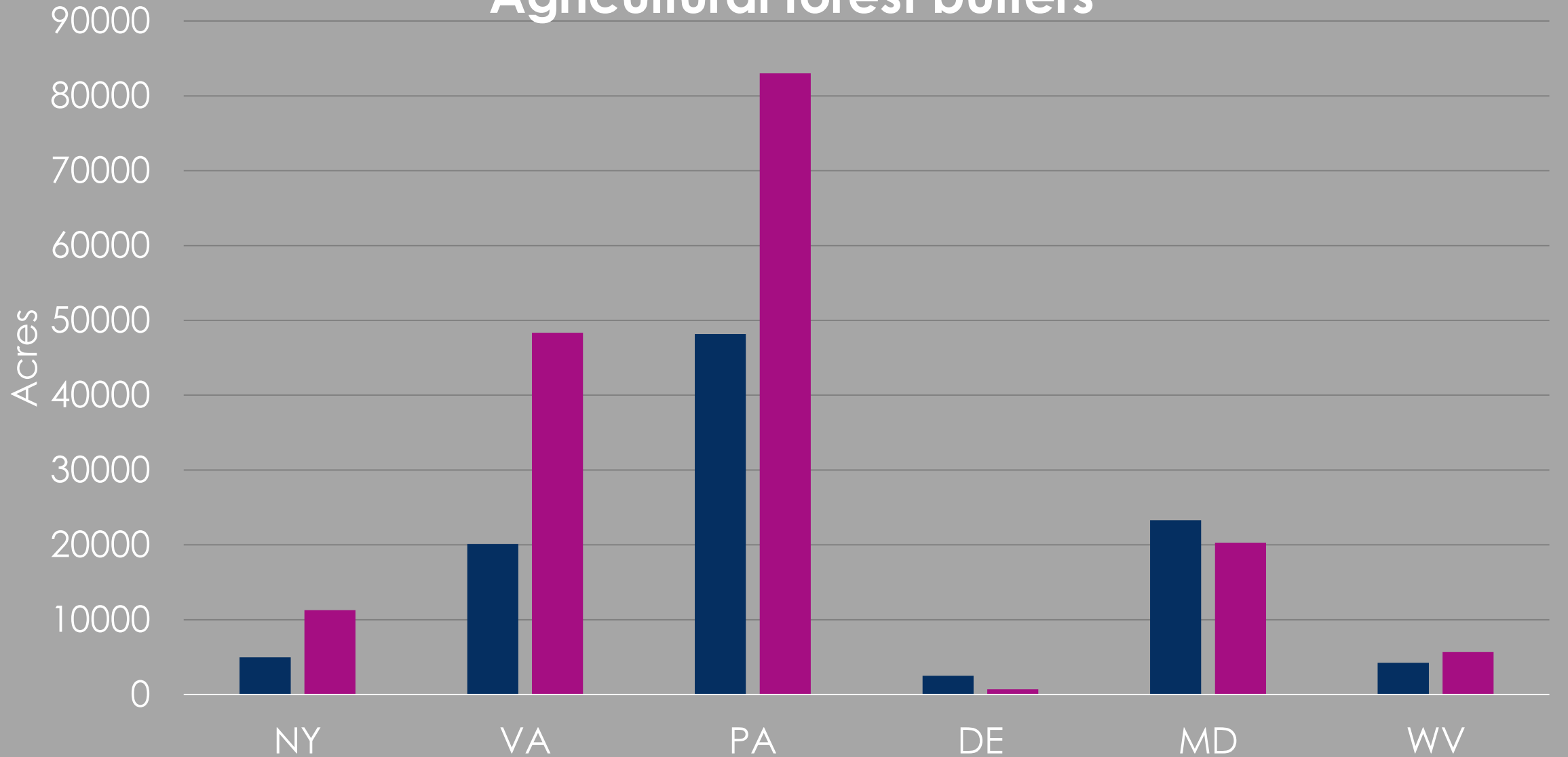
Ralph Northam, Governor
Commonwealth of Virginia

Matthew Strickler,
Secretary of Natural Resource

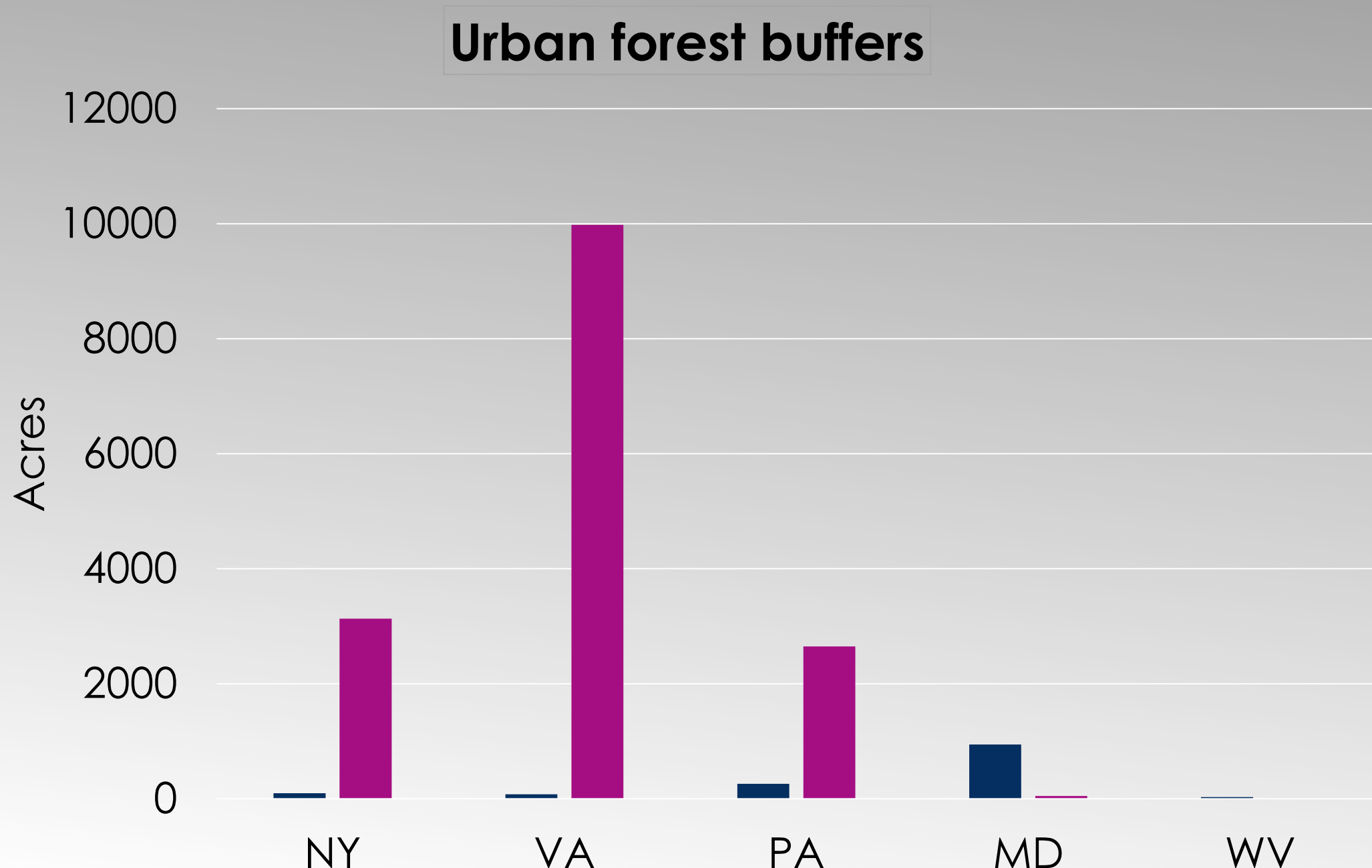


2017 Progress (blue) and 2025 WIP Targets (purple)

Agricultural forest buffers



2017 Progress (blue) and 2025 WIP Targets (purple)



Where We Are: Programmatic short history

- 2014 Leadership Summit, RFB Initiative and Task Force reports, RFB Leads, now Action Team
- A promising new Farm Bill for RFB and CREP (3rd parties, up to 100% maintenance cost)
- FSA and USFS supported 11 additional TA resources for 3 years



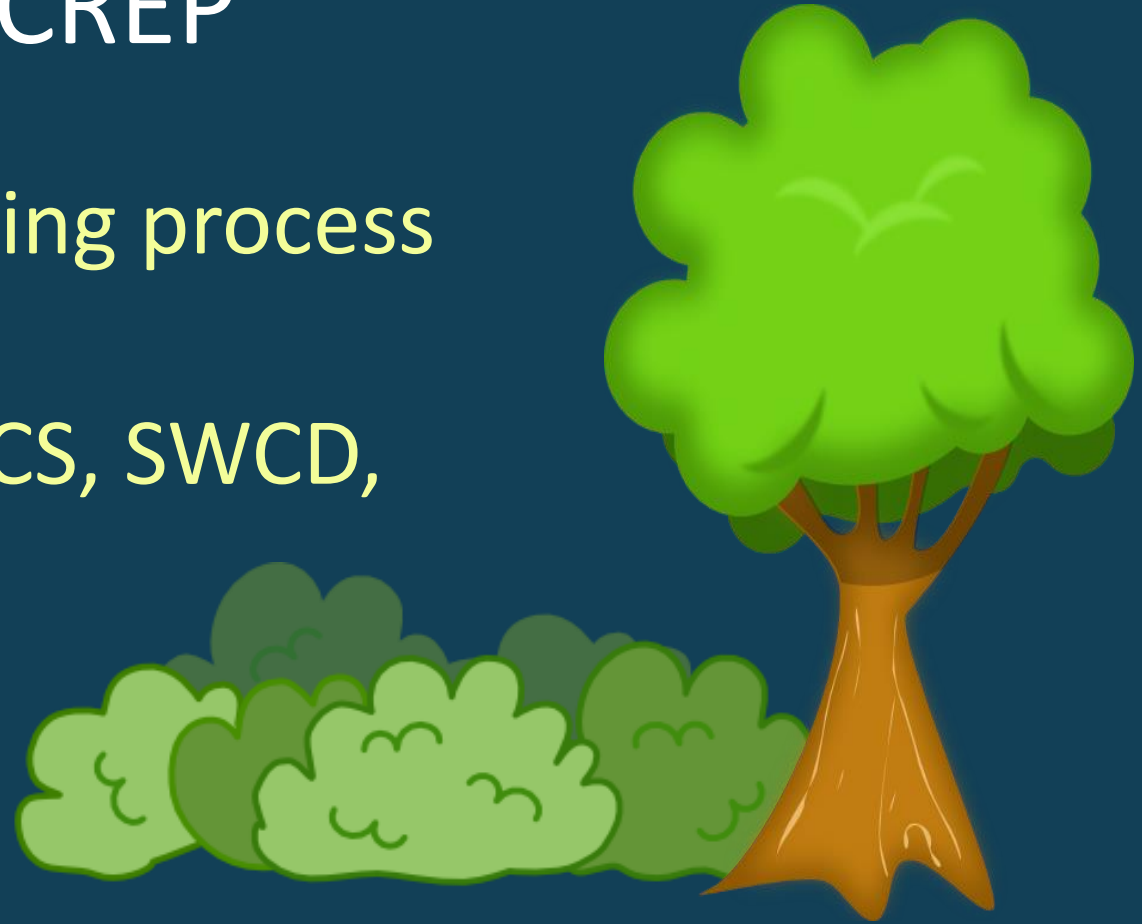
Operational Challenges

- 1) Difficult to establish
- 2) Unclear and competing priorities
- 3) Taking land out of production
- 4) Existing programs are tedious/confusing
- 5) Taking money from the government
- 6) Need to scale-up (existing programs and beyond)



Operational Challenges for CREP

- 1) Inconsistent, sometimes confusing process
- 2) Maintenance
- 3) Technical Service Providers (NRCS, SWCD, State, NGOs, etc), have heavy workloads, inefficiencies, and may not promote RFBs.



Opportunities and Ideas for PSC Action

- **Decisions** (e.g., prioritize buffers, innovate, allocate funding and resources)
- **Communications** (e.g., attend planting events, speaking engagements)
- **Shared commitment** (e.g., outward support, acknowledging benefits and challenges)



Opportunities and Ideas for PSC Action

- Status Quo-- where we have been the past 4 years (reliance on CREP, volunteer programs, ad hoc grants)
- We have new ideas, and new innovations that work
- Individual jurisdictions could continue to experiment with innovation and make it work locally BUT
- We need to **scale up** to the watershed level to be most effective
- The concept of on-demand, flexible program funding is a big step forward that's received a lot of support from jurisdictions...



Opportunities and Ideas for PSC Action

--What can be done regionally

Is it time for a Chesapeake Bay Riparian Forest Buffer Program?

- a. Simple, cost-share, flexible funding approach
- b. Efficient, on-demand-delivery of TA services and funding to municipalities and landowners
- c. Account for maintenance
- d. Include other incentives to help close the deal