



Chesapeake Bay Program
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CAST Phase 7 Load Sources: What's Different from Phase 6

Water Quality GIT

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Purpose of this Brief



- Not a full walkthrough of CAST Phase 7 load sources
- Focus only on **what changed since Phase 6**
- Goal: highlight implications for planning and reporting

Agriculture

- **Two new land uses:**
 - *Hay High* → reported by states; acres subtracted from Other Hay
 - *Pasture High* → reported by states; acres subtracted from general Pasture
 - Agreed upon by [AMT \(Feb 2025\)](#), with application rates set; loading rate ratios are still under discussion
- **Feeding Space accounting:**
 - Not mapped directly – acres assigned based on *animals per Ag Census*
 - Acres allocated to feed space (permitted + non-permitted)
 - Acres subtracted from *impervious non-roads* to represent feed space

Developed

- **New land uses:**

- *Solar Infrastructure* and *Solar Pervious* (previously unmapped) ([approved by USWG, Dec 2024](#))
- *Compacted Pervious* (was Mixed Open in Phase 6) ([approved by HWGIT/FWG/LUWG, Dec 2024](#))
- Primarily use mapped data; split across CSS, MS4, and non-regulated areas using state-provided layers

- **Construction acres:**

- Not a new land use, but **mapping and reporting approach refined** ([approved by WTWG, Aug 2025](#))
- Land Data Team now integrates state-reported acres
- Rule:
 - If *reported acres > mapped*, extra acres removed proportionally from Developed
 - If *reported acres < mapped*, surplus acres revert to Compacted Pervious

Natural

- **Harvested Forest mapping added**
 - Phase 6 default: *1.6% of all forest* assumed harvested
 - Phase 7 default: *1.1% of “harvestable forest”* (patches > 10 acres)
Important: These defaults only apply **if acres are not reported by states**
- **Rule for reported acres:**
 - If *reported > mapped* → extra acres removed from Forest
 - If *reported < mapped* → use minimum default acres from Land Data Team
- Approved by FWG, Sept 2024



Thank you!

Any questions?

You can contact me at

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