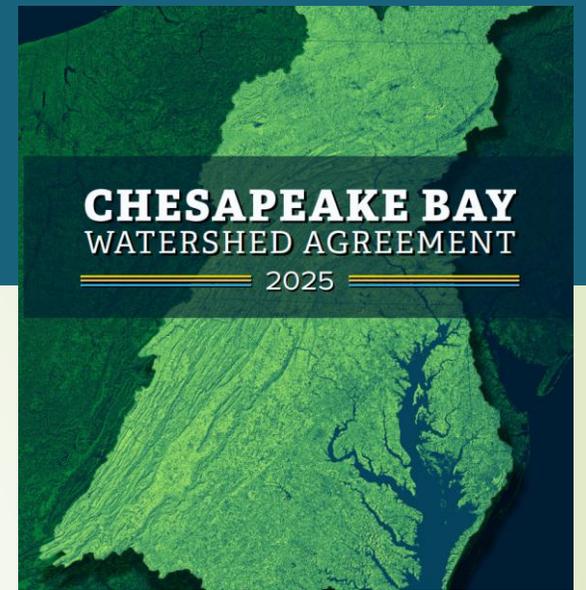


Healthy Forests and Trees: Forest Conservation Target

New Healthy Forests and Trees Outcome



Conserve, manage and restore forests and tree cover to maximize benefits for water quality, habitat and people throughout the watershed, with a particular focus on riparian areas and communities.

TARGETS

Tree Canopy: Conserve tree canopy within communities by reducing the rate of loss of existing canopy and planting and maintaining 45,000 acres of community trees by 2040 to achieve a net gain in canopy over the long term.

Forest Buffers: Conserve riparian forest by reducing the rate of loss of existing buffers and planting and maintaining 7,500 acres of forest buffers annually to achieve no less than 71.5% riparian forest cover by 2040 and 75% riparian forest cover over the long term.

Forest Conservation: Achieve a net gain in forests over the long-term by reducing the rate of forest conversion to other land uses by 33%, permanently protecting a total of 9 million acres of forested land, and planting, maintaining and managing 202,000 acres of new forests by 2040.

Conserving Chesapeake forests will require a holistic approach

- Strategic land protection – acquisitions and easements
- Land use decision support – empowering local decision-makers to conserve trees and forests
- Active forest management, stewardship and restoration to support functional and resilient forest ecosystems



Insights from Mentimeter



Additional perspectives from the “Healthy Forests” workshop

- ▶ There are a lot of forest health stressors!
 - ▶ “Forests are most resilient to the stressors we can’t control when we are managing the things we can control”- Matt Hurd
- ▶ Need for more consistent, positive messaging
 - ▶ A positive proactive vision that connects forest markets with healthy forests and strong rural economies with clean water
 - ▶ Healthy forests = resilient forests
- ▶ Expand our network
 - ▶ Cultivate partnerships with industry and the silvicultural community
- ▶ Support cultivating new regional forest markets
 - ▶ Opps for new low-value markets (i.e. biochar, biomass)
 - ▶ Need to build capacity for doing forestry
- ▶ Research needed to better quantify water quality implications of forest degradation to support improvements in mapping and modeling
- ▶ And much more!!



Next steps for forest conservation target

- ▶ Synthesizing and discussing insights from the STAC workshop (more detailed report out at an upcoming meeting!)
- ▶ Revisiting existing strategies related to forest conservation (i.e. Working Lands Conservation Strategy)
- ▶ Start exploring data we could use to track progress (both existing CBPO datasets and external datasets)
 - ▶ CBP protected lands data – overlay with forests
 - ▶ USFS forest stewardship program overview
- ▶ What else is needed to lay the groundwork?



Developing the new Management Strategy

- ▶ Management Strategy template expected no later than June
- ▶ Work with new GIT leadership to ensure alignment across workgroups and support identifying goal-level priorities
- ▶ Anticipate needing a “deeper dive” meeting to support developing the full strategy summer or early fall
- ▶ Preferences on how to approach that meeting?
 - ▶ Target-specific meetings or full workgroup meetings where we tackle the targets one by one?
 - ▶ In person (with hybrid option) vs virtual?