



Continually increase the capacity of forest buffers to provide water quality and habitat benefits throughout the watershed. Restore 900 miles per year of riparian forest buffer and conserve buffers until at least 70 percent of riparian areas throughout the watershed are forested.

Why is this outcome important?

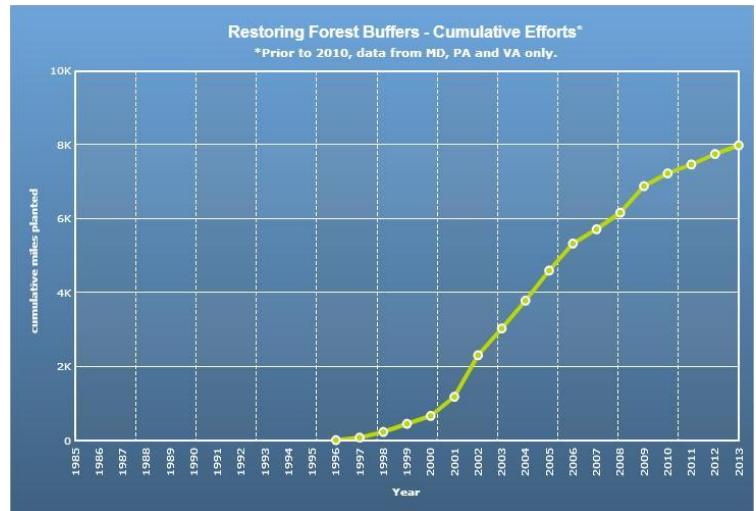
Forest buffers, or the trees, shrubs and other plants that grow next to rivers and streams, are critical to the health of the Chesapeake Bay. Forest buffers prevent pollution from entering waterways, stabilize stream banks, provide food and habitat to wildlife and keep streams cool during hot weather.

Current Conditions:

Between July 2012 and June 2013, 284 miles of forest buffers were planted along the Bay’ watershed’s rivers and streams. A total of 7,994 miles have been planted watershed-wide since 1996.

How was the outcome derived? Who came up with it?

In the 2007 [Forest Conservation Directive](#), the watershed jurisdictions agreed to restore 900 miles of forest buffers per year watershed-wide. Seventy percent forest coverage is the low threshold for a healthy Bay watershed.



See how forest buffers are doing at chesapeakebay.net

What was the basis or baseline?

The 900 mile per year goal is a reach goal that the Chesapeake Bay Program decided was both possible and necessary to restore water quality. The Bay Program’s [Forestry Workgroup](#) has closely tracked this goal for 17 years.

For More:

- http://www.chesapeakebay.net/issues/issue/forest_buffers
- http://www.chesapeakebay.net/indicators/indicator/planting_forest_buffers
- http://www.chesapeakebay.net/content/publications/cbp_13019.pdf