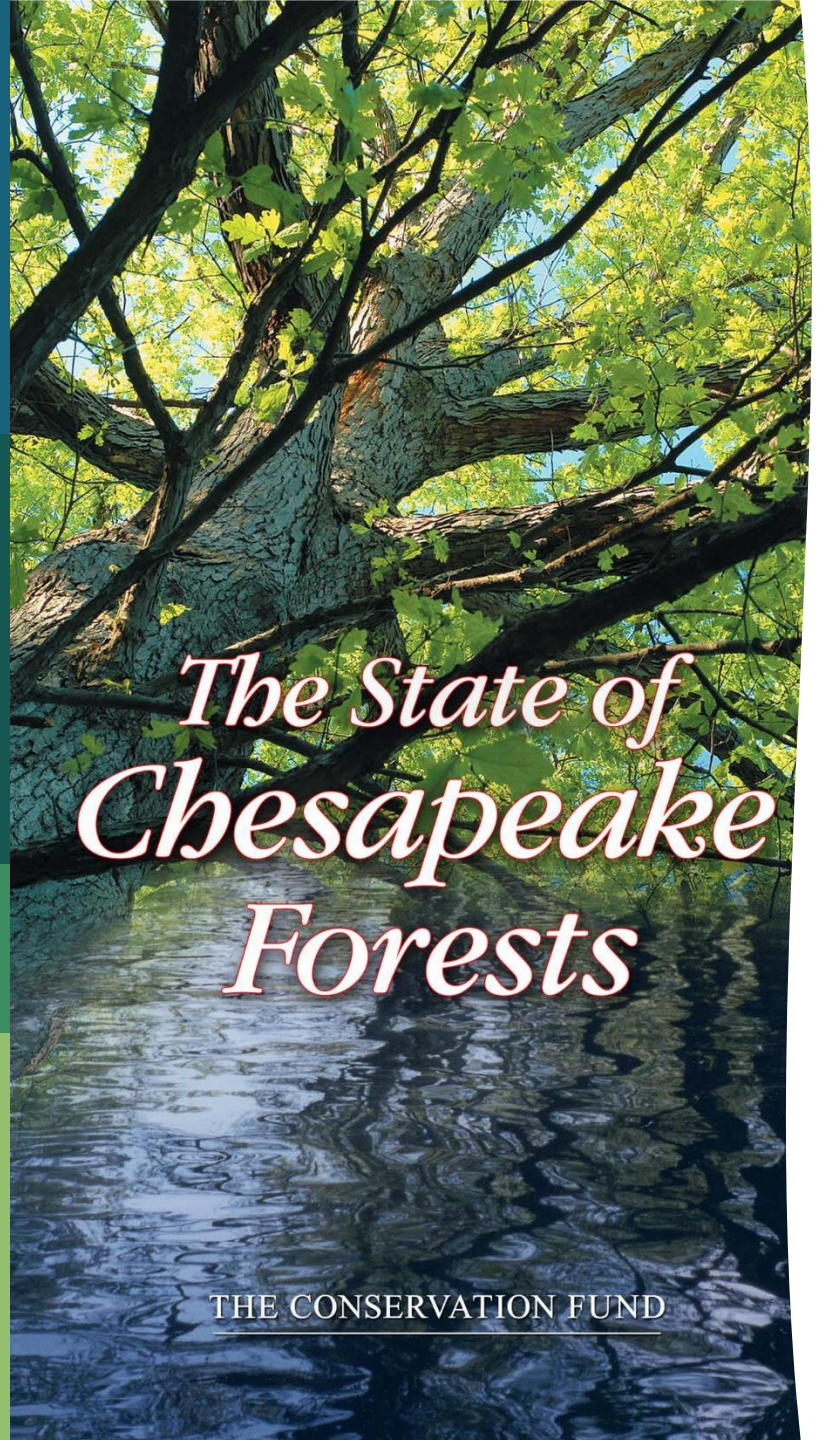
State of Chesapeake Forests 2.0

Katie Brownson, USFS



State of the Chesapeake Forests

- History
- Importance of forests for habitat, watershed function, economy
- Current and expected future conditions
- Strategies for protection, restoration and stewardship

SOTF 2.0 Goals

- Characterize current state of the forests based on high-res data
- Characterize forest/tree cover change since 2013
- Evaluate implications for water quality and other ecosystem services
- Identify potential management and policy implications

Phase 1: State of Chesapeake Forests 2.0 Storymap

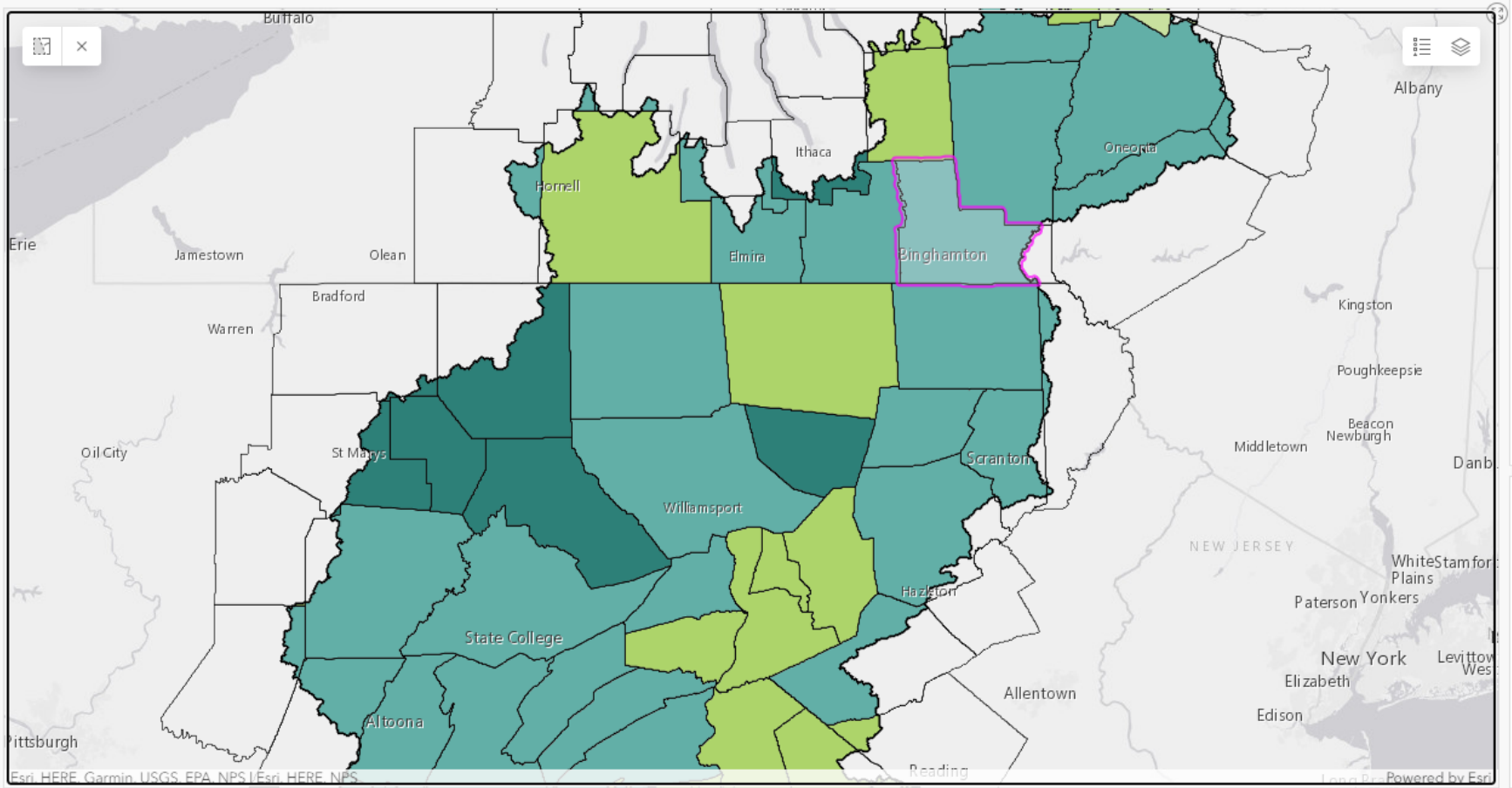
State of Chesapeake Forests 2.0

Forest and tree distribution | Tree cover (2017/18) | Forested extent (2017/18) | Tree cover change | Forested extent change | Next Steps

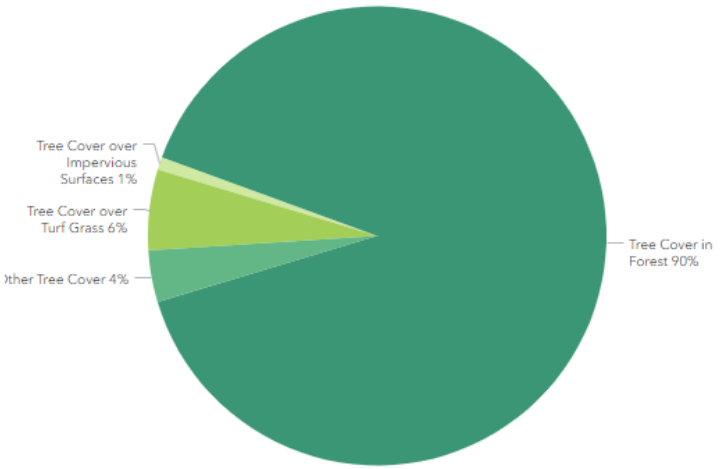
Broome County, NY

Percent Tree Cover: 62.8%

Within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed

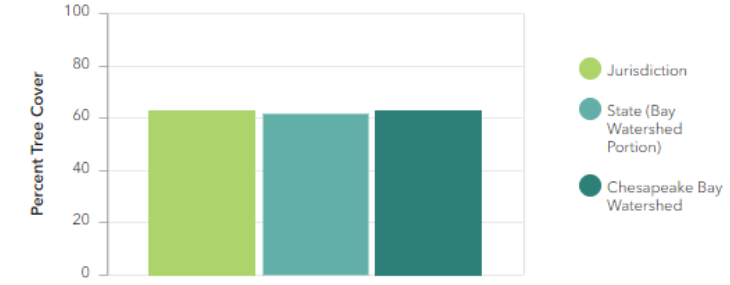


Distribution of Tree Cover Classes



Tree Cover in Forest: Patches of tree cover 1 acre or greater, with a minimum patch width of 72M
Other Tree Cover: smaller patches of tree cover that are assumed to have an unmanaged understory

How Does Your Jurisdiction Compare?



Interactive StoryMap highlights the state of forests across the Chesapeake Bay watershed

Chesapeake Bay Program builds upon the 2006 report

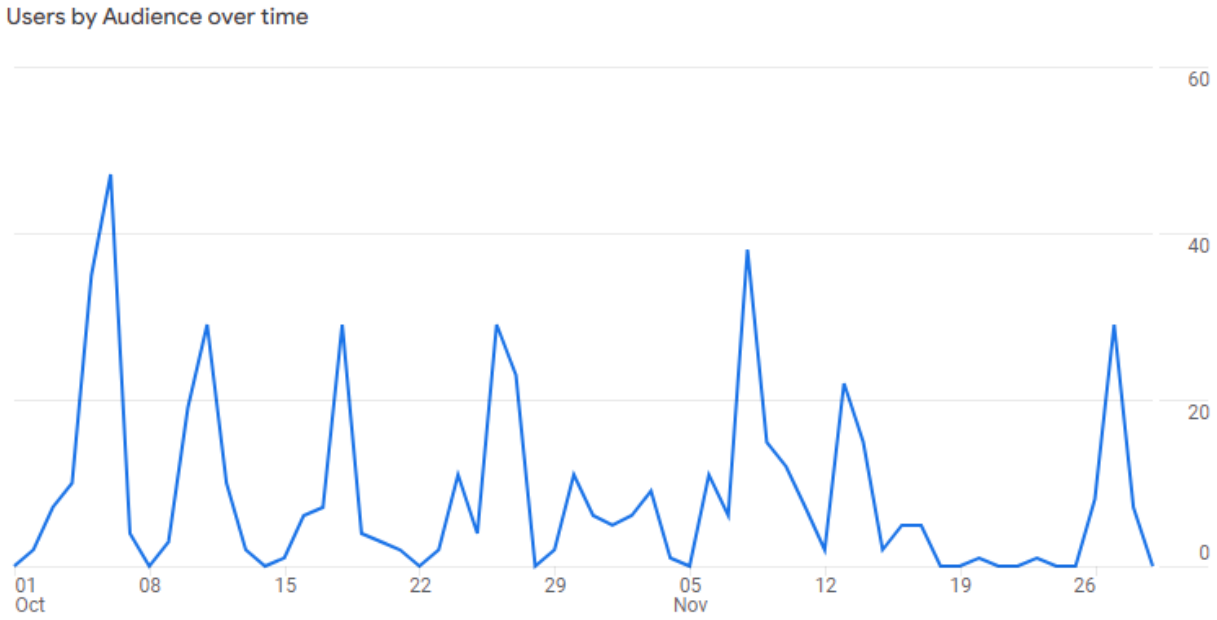
BY SOPHIE WATERMAN | OCTOBER 25, 2023

Related Stories

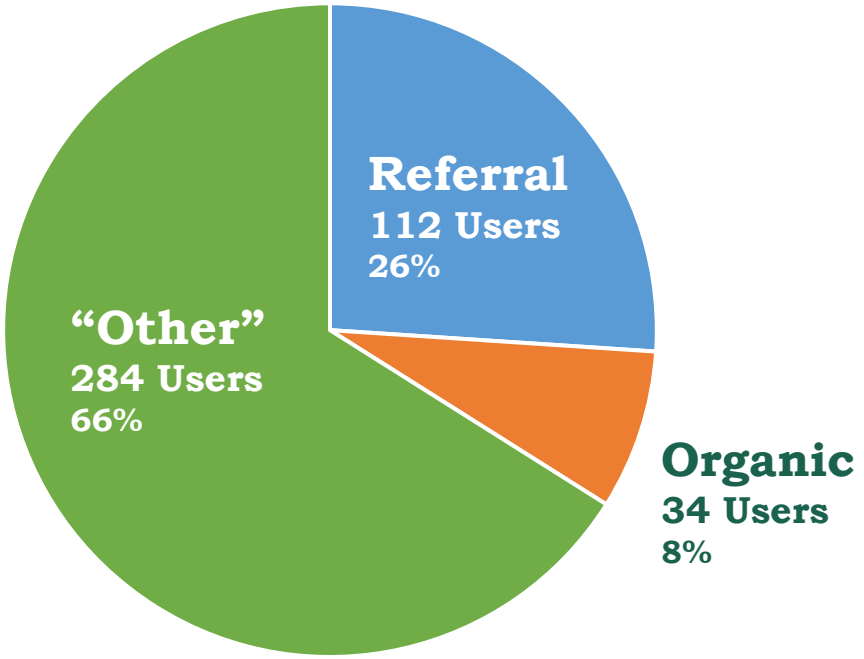
Are we trading trees for concrete?

SOCF 2.0 Usage Analytics

- 430 total unique users over two months (Oct 1st – Nov 29th).
- Users spent an average of 3m 42s engaging with the Storymap.
- 16% of users engaged with the mapping application.

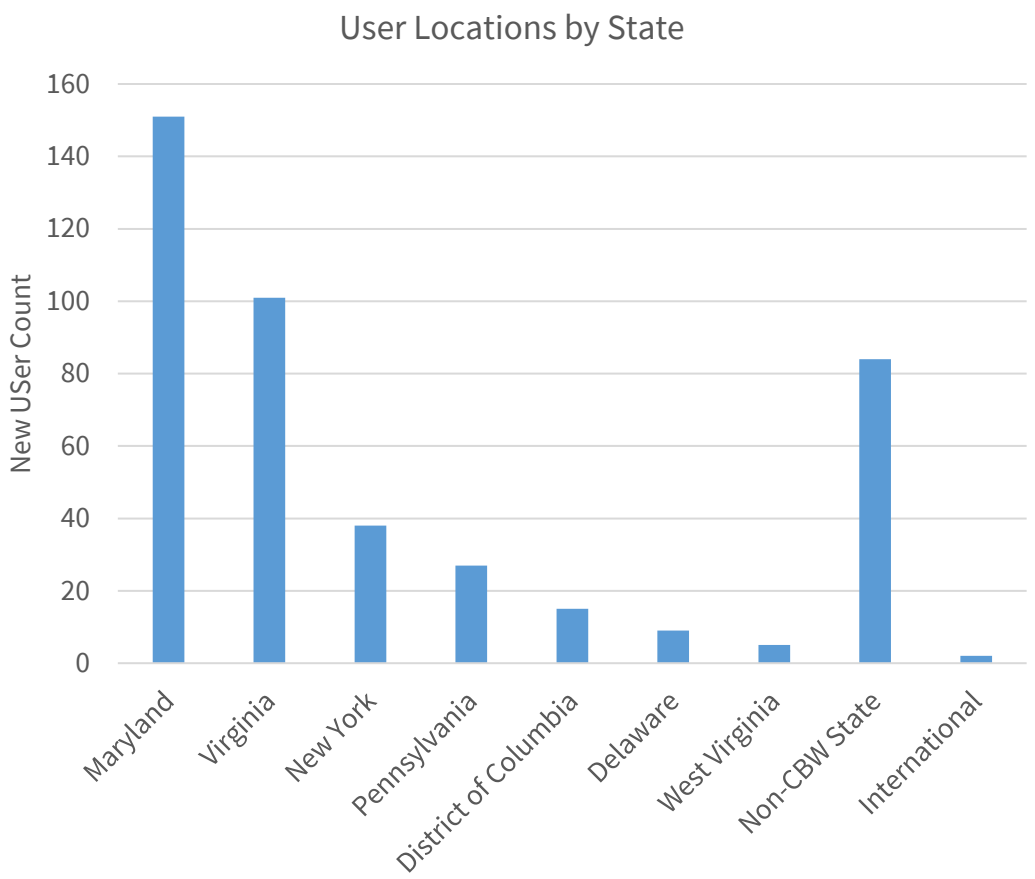


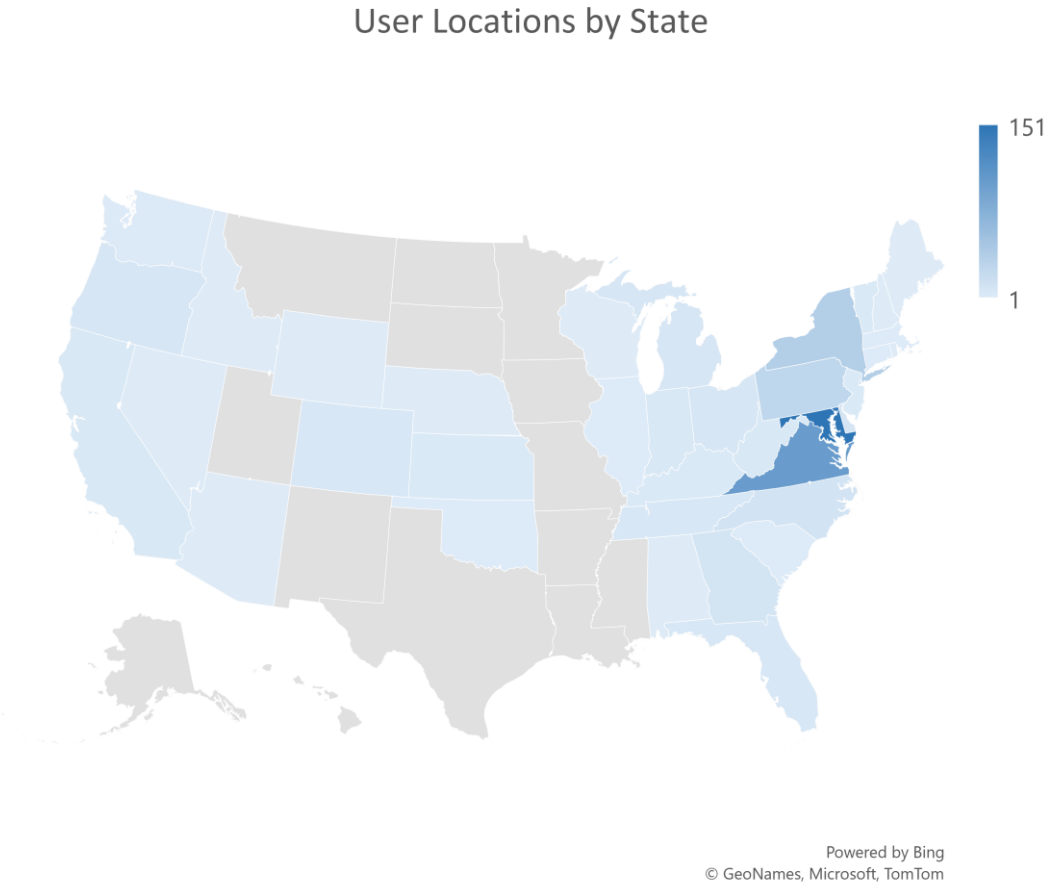
How New Users Find The Storymap



- Referral: Users who click on a link on a website
- Organic: Users who click on a link through a search engine
- Other: Users who arrive to the website by typing in the URL, clicking a bookmark, **click a link on Outlook** or a messaging software.

User Demographics





Users from 36 states (and 2 other countries)!

Other feedback on Phase 1?

Planning for Phase 2

- Riparian forest cover and change analyses
- Distribution of forest/tree cover change. Potential overlays:
  - Equity
  - Protected lands
  - Forest health layers?
  - Others?
- Use CAST to evaluate water quality implications of forest/tree loss to development
- Additional case studies

Chesapeake Conservancy support

- Plantable space analysis
- Fragmentation analysis
- Proof of concept for a seral stage analysis

Process for Phase 2

- Work directly with the Chesapeake Conservancy and the USGS CBPO GIS team
- Bring in subject matter experts to consult on specific analyses
- Use FWG meeting times to get periodic input
- Continue to engage advisory team for input on text, draft map products
  - Let me know if you'd like to join the advisory team!

Beyond Phase 2

- Updating maps/data with 2021/2022 data
- Integrate hyper-res hydrography data into riparian forest analysis
- Complete seral stage analysis
- Other analyses to consider:
  - Overlays with climate layers
  - Parcelization
  - Tree cover change on ag lands
  - Others?
- Explore additional formats for communicating information from the Storymap (PDFs, printed products, etc.)

Questions or suggestions?

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