

In 2007, the Chesapeake Bay Program Executive Council signed the Forest Conservation Directive in which the six states agreed to protect a total of 695,000 acres of high-value forest for water quality. When this goal was adopted as part of the 2010 Executive Order Strategy and the 2014 New Bay Agreement, the endpoint was extended to 2025 to coincide with the 2 million acre land conservation goal. Getting good annual data on forest conservation has been challenging, but recently, Bay Program analysts calculated protected forest data by state for 2011-2013. In this two year period, over 478,000 acres of total forest were protected. High-value forest were 19% of the total forest protected. The draft Land Conservation Management Strategy has an action to update the map identifying high-value forest land. This action will be important to provide the best information including consistency and accuracy in tracking among the states. An updated high-value forest map will also be able to incorporate newer technology and lessons-learned from seven years of targeting forest land conservation.

Acres of Protected Forest in Chesapeake Bay 2011-2013			
	High Value Forest	Total Forest	2007 Goal for High-Value Forest
Delaware	591	2,891	15,000
Maryland	54,033	109,537	250,000
New York	2,957	12,687	15,000
Pennsylvania	17,081	24,683	100,000
Virginia	18,249	321,033	315,000
West Virginia	737	7,488	*
CBW Total	93,648	478,319	695,000

*WV did not set an acreage goal