

Forestry Workgroup – Draft Workplan for 2014

1. New Bay Agreement – Develop Management Strategies for Forestry goals:

- Riparian Forest Buffers – as a follow up to the recently released Forest Buffer Status Paper, a Task Force will be convened to develop new strategies to meet buffer goals and a Forest Buffer Leadership Summit will be held (state/USDA/key partners)
- Urban Tree Canopy – work with states/partners on strategies to achieve and track the new acreage goal for expanded urban tree canopy (2400 acres by 2025)
- Forest Conservation – build on recent work Working Lands Conservation Strategy to identify specific actions to achieve and track forest conservation goal (695,000 acres by 2025)

2. BMP Verification Guidance

- Comments from Verification Panel have been addressed and need approval from FWG (due early February 2014)
- Guidance will then be delivered to States so they can write Protocols for Verification

3. Midpoint Assessment - BMP Expert Panels & New Land Uses Mapped and Loadings Ascribed

- Loads for new land uses (riparian/floodplain forest and UTC)- (contract?)
 - o Coordinate with USGS/Land Use Workgroup
- Urban Tree Canopy and Riparian Buffers Expert Panel Reports
- New Expert Panel on Forest Harvesting– FWG is in-house Expert Panel?
- Review definition of the Forest Conservation BMP (associated with Maryland's Forest Conservation Act) to see if it needs to be changed and/or expanded

4. Chesapeake Forest Restoration Strategy

- FS will be working on web content/resources to support the Strategy and will seek input from the FWG and Strategy team members
- Continue periodic calls with Strategy teams to work on action items identified in 2013 (agroforestry, mine lands, brownfields, urban/community, habitat)

5. Chesapeake Working Lands Conservation Strategy

- Draft Strategy is posted for public comment through Feb. 14 (send comments to jmawhorter@fs.fed.us)
- Final Strategy will be released in the spring; ongoing collaboration on working lands conservation will be coordinated through the Working Lands workgroup of the Chesapeake Large Landscape Conservation Partnership that is led by the National Park Service and the CBPO Land Conservation workgroup (contact: Sally Claggett)

6. Land Image Analyst (LIA) – A new open-source software tool designed to facilitate land use classification using high resolution imagery (e.g., NAIP), in 2014, **will be refined based on pilot test feedback, and webinar trainings will be offered to make the tool accessible to local governments, watershed groups, and other users.**

7. Growing Native discussion, NFWF update, other program actions

Proposed Meeting Topics:

Jan 8– Conf call: Verification

Feb 5– Conf call: Discuss/approve Riparian Buffer Expert Panel doc

Mar 5– In-person: Forest harvest BMP discussion and field trip

Apr 2– Conf call: Growing Native discussion and..

May 7– In-person: discuss/approve UTC Expert Panel, UTC Management Strategy

June 4–

August 6

Sept 3- In person

Oct 1- Forest conservation tracking

Nov 5-

Dec 3-