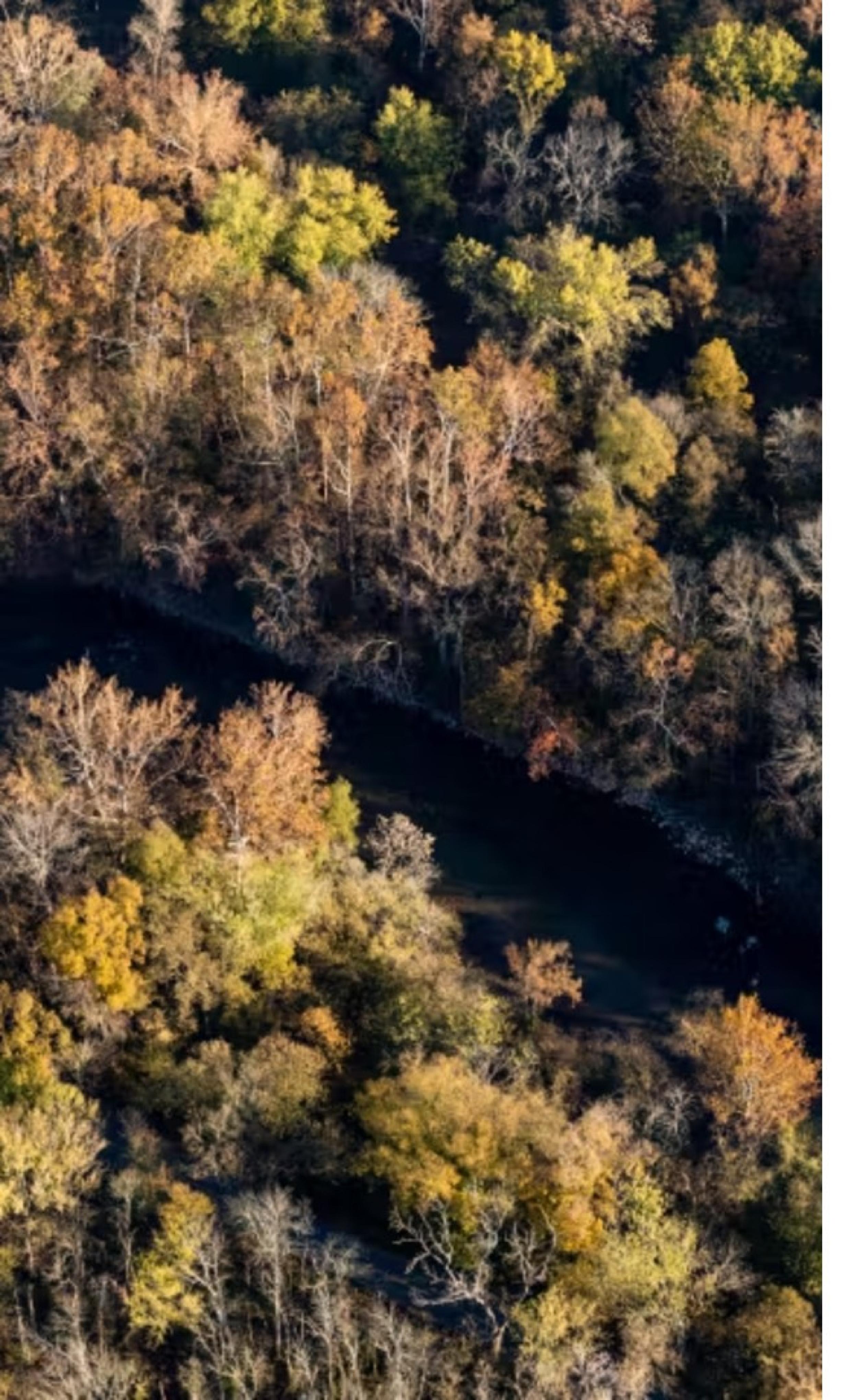


Forestry Workgroup - "Big Questions" Outcome Assessment Feedback

January 8th, 2025 - FWG Meeting

Review of Current Outcomes

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Tree Canopy

Continually increase urban tree canopy capacity to provide air quality, water quality and habitat benefits throughout the watershed. Expand urban tree canopy by 2,400 acres by 2025.

Climate Change mitigation and adaptation

Potentially able to sustain forestry related staff in the watersges

shedding more light on the issue of canopy loss

Temperature control and urban air quality improvement.

The link of this outcome to so many of the other outcomes

Understanding the trend data and being able to use it to help advocate for increased state support.

Climate resilience and equity

Sustainable forest, ag and other types of land systems that should have trees on them

Tree canopies provide not only shade, but also active cooling for communities improving heath outcomes

educating through equity

Water quality

Water quality, urban health/wellness, wildlife habitat

Air Quality

Accountability and promoting holistic approaches

Learning from other states and sharing successes and failures and coordinating efforts.

Are able to reach our WIP goals, having this as a CB goal dovetails nicely

Trees can also help reduce air pollution, and they act as carbon sinks.

Extremely important. Trees, canopy, forest ecosystems will be increasingly important for addressing climate change - cooling, Stormwater, and biodiversity.

Another way of asking this question is- are state and federal partners gaining from this work by its existence inside the Bay Program, as opposed to the work continuing outside the Bay Program?

Erosion and resiliency for storms, especially in shoreline communities

Gives all people access to trees regardless of land ownership Tree Canopy for public health and climate and stormwater solutions

Regional coordination, wide scale approach.

Places on emphasis on communities that are disproportionally impacted by climate change due to heat islands and stormwater

Huge difference in Canopy change when looking at infill development in dense uran areas versus raw land development.

Trees help manage runoff from flooding and extreme precipitation.

Mitigation of urban heat island, equity

We're better able to work in urban aread with DEIJ communities to address canopy.

Carbon sequestration

Even aesthetics, for emotional and mental health

They are important parts of our local ecosystems, providing habitat and food including us.

Having TC as an extension of the FWG goals adds more options to storm water BMPs that get credit for localities. TC is a natural forestry BMP.

Forests are the gold standard for water quality and add a myriad of essential benefits to everyone in the watershed.
Without living resource outcomes, we would be losing the forest for the trees!

Social benefits

Improved coordination between federal, state and private sectors in this work (and our own organization) Regional coordination; diverse sources of funding & incentives; hive mind wisdom based on diverse experiences.

Huge value as this has been an outcome for quite some time and has a lot of infrastructure behind it that hits on so many other co-benefits.

Plethora of ecosystem services beyond water quality

Core need for stream protection for water quality and habitat functions

Sedimentation prevention, thermal refuge

Temperature moderation for fisheries and other aquatic species is one of the currently relevant benefit

Trees & canopy have the greatest value-added, secondary benefits, of any BMP.

I'm not super confident about the acreage outcome. I would prefer canopy % cover.

Trees, particularly in urban and riparian zones have numerous beneficial effects that contribute meaningfully to the health of the Chesapeake Bay and its inhabitants.

Urban tree tree canopy plantings: - Deliver water quality benefits in the most polluted areas - Provide cobenefits to the most people including climate resilience against heat & flooding

Reduced pollutants in SW runoff, increase infiltration, improve human health and biodiversity, decrease heat island affect, increase climate resiliency, purifies air

also increases property values
Increases
funding/implementation,
energy goes to addressing
barriers, draws
attention/motivation, DEIJ
focus and data driven
approaches to placement

Improve mental health and Update provide opportunities for social connection Informing ourselves (incl. Update Update update from our existing partner work) as to 'why' we have a net loss, to overcome those reasons

Update

Update

Update. Also include permanent protection from development metrics so we can ensure that the progress we make is lasting.

Update

Update. Focus on tree canopy to benefit at-risk communities, especially youth and elderly (e.g., schools and hospitals).

Update and add relevant aspects of the multiple benefits of RFBs thermal regulation, carbon storage and air quality.

Since the 2025 goal was really projected as predictable for 2036 should we continue with this but look more carefully at stability and losses.

Update



Update

Update with more expectations related to thermal/climate related goals, and include conservation consider sustainability with all of these options.

Include "urban forest planting" more explicitly somehow? Outcome very focused on specific UTC BMP. UFP BMP should "count", too.

Update, revise, improve to become more wholistic and achievable

Update: - add - resilience against heat and flooding to list of benefits - add - in the most vulnerable locations or locations with the greatest need

Could the Tree Canopy outcome be improved? If so, how?

Connect to heat island effects

Yes, by adding a logic model

Recognizing the long term committment that trees are, and more conservation/protections for trees/canopy

I like the idea of specific, numeric value goals with actionable steps to achieve those goals

Holistic care and protection of public trees

Integrate this outcome and break down silos between this outcome and others across the bay program. For example, the protected lands outcome has an outcome for permanently protecting 695,000 acres.

Setting a more attainable goal.

Maybe distinguish between increases in public vs. private lands. Feels disheartening when budgets are at an all time high that we are losing so much.

Connecting to corporate partners

Could the Tree Canopy outcome be improved? If so, how?

outreach to planners and decision-makers to better offset forest removal due to development, etc.

increase focus on heat and its connection to people and health link to workforce for tree planting, maintenance, and utilization/waste reduction

Make outcome more about community and not just urban

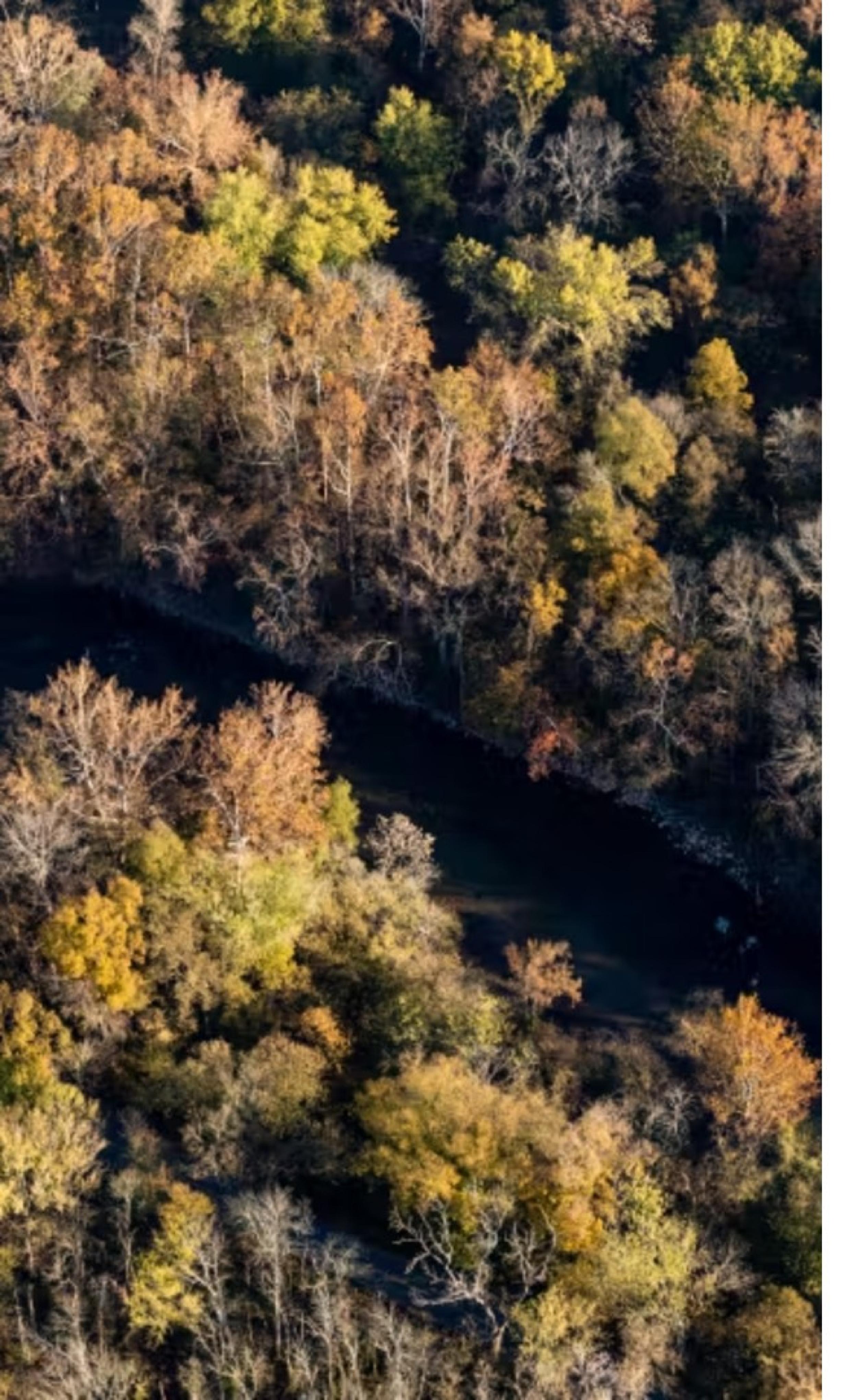
Let's have outcomes to permanently protect forests, wetlands, and buffers from development / land use change like in the protected land goals so we can protect the progress gained.

Possible new ideas/metrics: 1)
Biotic Pump role of largescale
forests 2) Regional cooling
effect of forest ecosystems 3)
Support food forests as a way
to engage people 4) Support
Miyawaki Forests, too

Changing our goal from a static 900miles to a more wholistic implementation and conservation goal while maintaining specificity and measurability

A more meaningful outcome would be: - for all jurisdictions subject to MS4 permits establish a tree canopy goal and submit progress against goals to the CBP - >2400 ac of 2014 goal (?)





Forest Buffers

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 existing buffers until at least 70 percent of riparian areas throughout the watershed are forested.

This has been an outcome for so long so it has robust infrastructure and knowledge behind it.

Forest buffers are the gold standard for water quality

The goal hits on so many other co-benefits.

flood management

It puts emphasis and attention on this critical BMP, which can lead to funding.

Robust healthy forest buffers are important to offsetting upstream development and hydrologic changes.

Forest buffers align with state priorities for climate and flood resiliency

Forest buffers are a core need for stream protection, both habitat and water quality (near-stream and managing impacts from uplands)

Forested streams and rivers can create the wildlife corridors that are the life blood of the watershed's natural infrastructure.

Helps to address many other outcomes.

Forest buffers increase instream pollutant processing, beyond just their own nutrient reductions.

increased aquatic species habitat

Same as/see 'canopy' answers (biologically speaking), just different audience/location.

Important to see regional goals, coordinate, and track, monitor, and report

Being able to reference this as an outcome in applications for grants or in the creation of new programs at the state level provides leverage. Forest buffers will be increasingly important for managing with rising temperatures in streams.

Planting mileage/acre goals/outcomes/outputs associated with the 70% makes it more tangible when asking for funds or creating new programs to help reach the outcome.

funding and attention to a BMP that has the biggest most visible co-benefits of so many ecosystem services for this watershed.

Conservation of a critial tree canopy.

Forest buffers provide multiple benefits to water quality, wildlife habitat, recreation, stormwater and flooding abatement. They are an economical way to achieve water quality goals as well.

Forest buffers are one of, if not the most, cost effective practice to improve the health of the Chesapeake bay, its tributaries, and the entire watershed.

Forest buffers are among the most effective methods of reducing nonpoint source pollution

Update

Update

Same as canopy, just for different area.

Update

Increased public education re importance of buffers for flood resilience, cooling, recovery.

Keep the same

Update. crosswalk this with other outcomes to break down silos (e.g. protected lands) I also like Anne's idea to have a forest buffer outcome more explicitly stated.

Update:With development pressure and other changes, this goal should really take potential loss into account. That would make our time to meet the 70% more realistic, regardless of how long it takes.

Better incentives for landowners to participate/maintain longterm.

Less laws, more incentives to do the beneficial practices

Change the outcome, remove 900 mi/year.

Update

Go beyond state programs and do outreach with the regulated communities with potential incentives. State funding can't do it all.

update. - Include permanent protected acreage of buffers as a goal/outcome. - Break down silos between this and other goals. - Don't be afraid of big, bold, and ambitious goals!

Update.

Update, keep 70%, and adjust miles/year goal if that part is staying in the outcome (and could it just be acres maybe?). Add conservation to this outcome.

Update

update. include permanent protection/ conservation as discussed. Update

Update: - 70% threshold should be 70% of the plantable area (e.g., not tidal wetlands) - Consider including managment of invasives

High resolution hydrography will increase the area subject to the 70% goal - what to do? Ideally would prioritize areas most in need of restoration. Ideally would address invasive species

Update

Revise buffer outcome to include more emphasis on research, design, funding, piloting multifunctional buffers that emphasize landowner income opportunities- to align with our agroforestry goals-

Could the Forest Buffers outcome be improved? If so, how?

Maybe still start w the 'ideal # of trees', and then tailor it to 'what's realistic' (to make it SMART-er), and particularly focus on the EJ aspect of the opportunities we need to focus anyway.

More funding to support planting and education efforts.

Improve outreach on RFB to speak beyond the water quality benefit to promote secondary benefits, e.g., reduced drinking water treatment costs, improved recreational opportunities.

Yes. Add Conservation to outcome. Revisit inclusion of miles/acres and timeframe (per year outcomes? consider longer timeframe?).

explore possible private funding sources?

More incentives for citizens to participate and maintain long-term rather than more legislation with low levels of ability to enforce.

Use acres instead of miles to match annual reporting requirements

More incentives for developers to maintain as much canopy as possible instead of clear cutting and planting smaller trees after the fact Conserve what we have

Could the Forest Buffers outcome be improved? If so, how?

Connect to workforce development, along with cobenefits.

Push for more protection in perpetuity with willing landowners. I don't understand how you can "count" buffers towards the goal that may only be around for a decade.

More comprehensive and holistic outcome

improved access to affordable maintenance programs/contractors.

Increased protections/incentives to retain existing forested buffers on private and public lands.

Ensuring newly established buffers are successful through follow-up maintenance

I liked Anne's idea of the explicit percentage metric update.
Consider having metrics on (voluntary) permanent protected buffer acreage with emphasis on funding and maintenance.

Measure in acres. The mileage numbers are wildly inaccurate.

Consideration of New Outcomes

Are there other forestry outcomes we should consider to advance our efforts and goals of the Watershed Agreement?

See prior mention of: 1) Biotic Pump role 2) regional cooling that forests.provide by shifting heat away from planet's surface 3) food forests 4)

Miyawaki forests

More conservation. Identify exsisting high value RFB and urban forests for permanent protection.

Intentional outreach to planners and decision-makers to develop incentives or requirements on the regulated community

Developing/maintaining technical capacity so as to cultivate abd sustain a culture that reviles around forest restoration

Conserve and restore high priority ecosystems where forests dominate. Maybe also mention forested wetlands.

Conserving existing forestlands to reduce forestland loss, and additional incentives to retain mature forested buffers.

permanent conservation / protection-- tie in with goals in the Protected lands outcome.

A larger focus on conservation.
One area I'd like to see
improvement is preserving
mature trees in developed
areas instead of clear cutting
everything and replanting with
younger trees



Thank you!

If you have any other thoughts, questions, or concerns that come to mind after the meeting, please contact the Forestry Workgroup Coordinator, Katie (katherine.brownson@usda.gov) and the Forestry Workgroup Staffer, Marilyn (myang@chesapeakebay.net)