# Supporting the Chesapeake Bay Goals

Anne Hairston-Strang Forest Hydrologist, MD DNR Forest Service







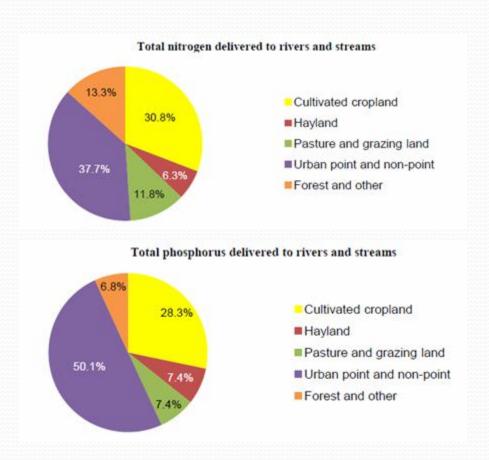
#### Bay Goals and Forestry Programs

- Forest Goals
  - Forest Buffers
  - Urban Tree Canopy
  - Forest Conservation
- Draft Bay goals
  - Vital Habitats
  - Healthy Watersheds
  - Land Conservation
  - Water Quality

- Forest Stewardship for private lands
- Urban Forestry
- Fire
- Watershed Forestry
- State Forest Management
- Other DNR programs

### Forests set the backstop for the TMDL

- Forest Conservation
  - Keeping the low forest loading is easier than restoring
- Forest Management
  - Modeled forest loading assumes a healthy, regenerating forest



#### Maryland Phase II WIP

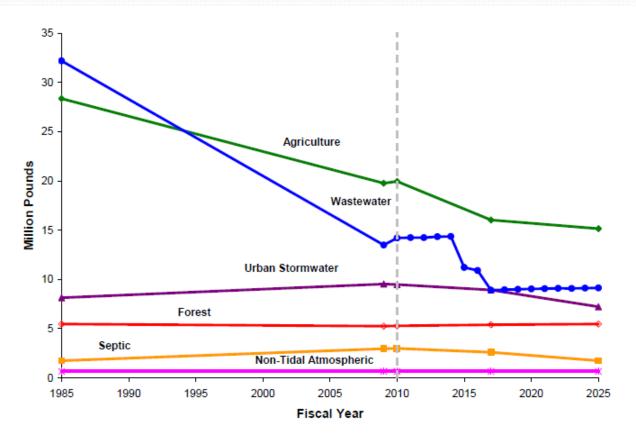


Figure 2: Past Trend in Nitrogen Compared to Future Final Target Strategy Trend

#### Forest Buffers and Tree Planting

- Private Lands
  - CREP
    - FSA, NRCS, SCD
  - Special Rivers Project
    - EPA CBIG funding
    - Incl. tree planting trials
  - Backyard Buffers
    - USFS and EPA funds
  - Other grants/partners
    - USFS, NFWF, UMD Agroecology, counties
    - Planting, Monitoring, Tracking, Targeting
    - Growing Native



- Nursery
  - seedlings
- Public Lands- State funding
  - Forest Brigade
  - Natural Filters
  - Governor's Stream Restoration Challenge
- Chesapeake Bay Trust Fund

Photo: Don Outen

#### **Forest Conservation**

- Permanent Conservation
  - Program Open Space- land transfer tax
    - Fee simple or easement, often added to DNR lands
  - Rural Legacy (subset of POS)
    - Usually easement
  - MD Ag. Land Preservation Foundation
    - Easements- farm and woodland, productive soils
  - Forest Legacy
    - Usually easement, national competition
  - MD Environmental Trust
    - Donated easements
- Forest Conservation
  - Forest Stewardship Plans
  - Forest Conservation Management Agreements-15 yr
  - Woodland Assessment Program- 3 yr



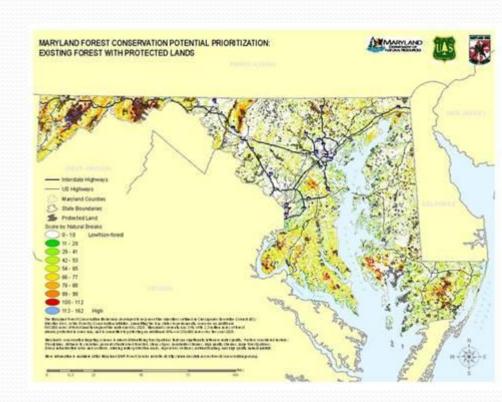
#### **Urban Forestry**

- Forest Conservation Act
  - Outside Critical Area
- Roadside Tree Law
- MD Tree Expert Law
- Reforestation Law
- PLANT and TreeCity USA
- Lawn to Woodland with Natl. Arbor Day Foundation

- Limits forest clearing, requires mitigation
- Limits utility trimming
- Licenses tree care
- Requires highway planting
- Encourages trees in communities
- Pays for tree planting in selected pilot counties

#### Focusing Forests in the Potomac

- Hemlock Restoration Trials
  - Tablets 2+ yrs protection
- Forest Conservation and Planning
  - Frederick Co. Green Infrastructure Plan
- Buffers
  - Incl. Backyard Buffers
- Invasive plant control
  - Fact sheets



#### Trees for the Chesapeake TMDL

- Buffers and tree planting, including urban trees
- Backyard Buffers
  - All BYB 2013- 1000+ people, 24K seedlings, ~10 miles
- Buffer Monitoring
  - Valuable long-term monitoring, interest from Baltimore Ecosystem Study
- Dirt/Gravel Road Training/Rainmaker Assessment
  - Address ford at DeLauteur Rd., Frederick Watershed
- Native seed collection, continued hemlock restoration trials



#### Harvesting BMP Assessment

- Statewide Assessment with DE
- Try to dovetail with Southern Group of State Foresters framework
- Work in 2014 and 2015
- Contracting assessment
- State staff provide QA/QC
- Used in Bay tracking for BMP implementation rate, and for Sustainable Forest Certification

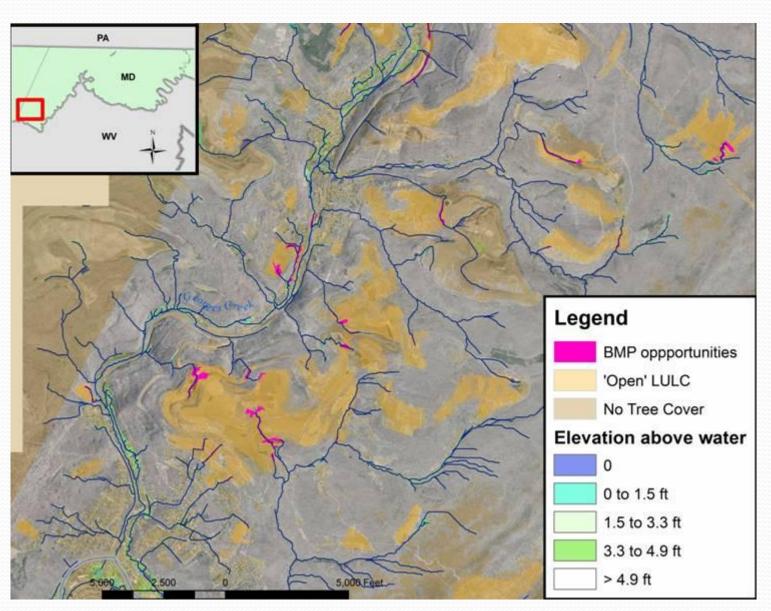




### Targeting Effective Forest BMPS in Potomac

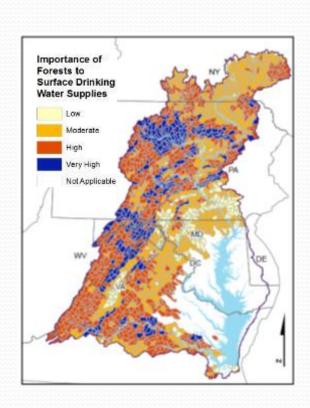
- Partnership with The Nature Conservancy and UMCES Appalachian Lab
- High Resolution Targeting- Lidar, stream mapping, and Brook trout analysis
- Work with Counties to help implement TMDL
- Implementation \$- buffers, tree planting, floodplain planting
- Monitoring to check modeled streams and priority areas

### Identification of Potential BMP Sites



## Proposed: Sustainable Water and Wood

- Competitive grant submitted
  - Funding not known
- Forest and landscape management for protecting drink water supply watersheds
- Plans for Reservoir Forests
  - Cumberland, Hagerstown, others
  - Working in MD and PA
- Watershed-based Landscape-scale plans
  - Working with adjacent state lands
- Sustainable Forest Certification pathways



### Appalachian Forest Renewal Initiative

- Forest Stewardship Plans on Wildlife Management Areas
- Early Successional Habitat Plan (golden-winged and cerulean warbler, others)
- Mineland planting of trees and shrubs
- Invasive Species Control

