

# Healthy Forests and Trees Management Strategy: Challenges and Management Approaches

July 2026 Forestry Workgroup

# Goals of Management Strategies

**Management strategies outline the means for accomplishing each Outcome and its Targets over a six-year time period**

The Management Strategies will describe:

- How partners will address changing environmental conditions
- How signatories, other state and federal agencies, local governments, Indigenous representatives, nonprofit and private partners are engaged
- Where actions, tools, financial support and technical assistance are needed to empower local governments and others
- What steps are necessary to facilitate greater participation in achieving the outcome

# Goals of Workplans

- Workplans describe the major activities that will be collaboratively undertaken by Chesapeake Bay Program partners to make progress towards Outcome or Target attainment over a three-year period
- Activities tier to management approaches in the Strategy
- Activities will include actions, available & needed resources, and performance targets & deliverables

# Management Strategy Situation analysis: Challenges

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- Identify challenges that will impact progress towards attaining the outcome and its targets
  - Consider scientific, environmental, fiscal or policy-related developments that may influence work over the next 6 years
  - Specify which challenges are within the ability of CBP to influence
  - Denote challenges associate with changing environmental conditions with an asterisk
  - Challenges identified by the goal team as a priority will be bolded

# Backyard Birds example: Challenges

Challenges	Within CBP sphere of influence	Outside of CBP sphere of influence
<b>CBP capacity to sustain long-term monitoring</b>	X	
Cost, supply chain, & availability of materials (native seeds, window decals, native saplings)		X
Household income/ability to pay for bird-friendly projects		X
<b>Property owner willingness to adopt practices</b>	X	
<b>Workforce knowledge and capacity for conservation</b> – window retrofits and native landscaping for wildlife	X	
Homeowner attitudes toward native landscaping	X	

# Management Approaches

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- Identify Management Approaches that will provide strategies and actions for CBP partners to help address one or more challenge impacting the outcome and its targets
  - Approaches should be specific enough to guide partnership efforts over the next 6 years and determine if work has progressed at an appropriate pace
  - Consider where partners are currently engaged, where financial and technical assistance is needed to empower local governments, and how to facilitate greater participation

# Backyard Birds example: Management Approaches

## Management Approach 1.4.2: Decrease window collisions as a source of bird mortality

Bird collisions with building windows result in an estimated 1 billion bird deaths each year. Policy alignment, technical assistance to local governments, and capacity building efforts to expand workforce knowledge, skills and abilities can help communities and homeowners install or retrofit bird-safe window treatments that reduce bird mortality.

## Management Approach 1.4.3: Engage citizen scientists in monitoring backyard bird populations and communicate results to participants and stakeholders

Citizen science can expand the availability of data on backyard birds to build capacity for long-term monitoring efforts. Engaging residents as co-researchers can also build skills that translate into sustained public support and volunteer capacity for bird conservation. This Approach trains volunteers across the watershed to run standardized yard counts, feeder surveys, and window-collision logs using simple protocols and mobile tools, supported by microgrants and partnerships with schools, libraries, and community groups. Biologists will share results of citizen scientist monitoring and Indicator trends with citizen scientists and interested stakeholders through annual Backyard Birds reports, press releases, webinars and social media campaigns.

# Challenges (*DRAFT for consideration*)

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1. Inconsistent funding for programs
  2. Availability of effective and flexible programs watershed-wide for planting and maintenance
  3. Workforce capacity for technical assistance, implementation and maintenance
  4. Fragmentation and conversion of forest and tree canopy to other land uses
  5. Increasing forest health pressures (invasive species, pests, disease, deer overabundance)
  6. Increasing vulnerability to changing environmental conditions\*
  7. Availability of diverse nursery stock\*
  8. Policy coordination across jurisdictional boundaries
  9. Local government agency engagement
  10. Landowner engagement barriers
  11. Inadequate or inconsistent forest management
  12. Insufficient markets for low-value wood products



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What additional high-level challenges should we consider?

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Which of these  
challenges should be the  
highest priority for CBP to  
address?



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# Management approaches (*DRAFT for consideration*)

- Increase technical assistance, workforce capacity and landscape-level networks
- Support partners in strengthening forest and tree canopy policies/ordinances to promote conservation
- Identify and address drivers of forest and canopy loss
- Increase cross-jurisdictional coordination across federal, state and local leaders to ensure there are effective programs available in all jurisdictions
- Improve existing implementation programs or develop new programs to ensure adequate maintenance
- Develop and implement a forest conservation messaging and engagement strategy that incorporates forest management
- Expand and diversify forest product markets to support active management

What additional  
Management Approaches  
should we consider?



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Which of these Management approaches should be highest priority to implement?

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# Next steps

- Following today's meeting: Prepare a full draft of the Management Strategy for workgroup review and input
  - Target completion date: 7/22
- Workgroup review period: 7/23-8/12
  - Is three weeks enough time?
  - Would an open "office hours" meeting be helpful to ask questions/address comments during this window?
  - Reminder: August 5<sup>th</sup> meeting FWG meeting is cancelled
- Revisions: 8/13-8/25
  - Send revised version 8/26 (one week in advance of September meeting)
- Sept 2<sup>nd</sup> FWG meeting: Discuss any remaining issues before finalizing draft for goal team