



Forest Conservation
Target:
Baseline data for
forest loss and
planting



Forest Conservation: Achieve a net gain in forests over the long-term by reducing the rate of forest conversion to other land uses by 33%, permanently protecting a total of 9 million acres of forested land, and planting, maintaining and managing 202,000 acres of new forests by 2040.

Two components:

- Forest loss to development
 - Use land use data to evaluate forest loss (focusing on forested classes, not developed tree canopy classes)
 - Focus on loss to developed classes that reflect a more permanent loss
 - Forest planting and maintenance
 - Track “forest planting” BMPs reported by the states every year (Agricultural tree planting, Riparian forest buffers, Urban forest planting)
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Forest planting and maintenance

- **Target: “planting, maintaining and managing 202,000 acres of new forest by 2040”**
- Cumulative planting target to align with community tree canopy targets

Questions:

- These numbers don't include abandoned mine reclamation- is this something we should consider adding using other data sources?
 - Only VA, PA and MD have reported abandoned mine reclamation
 - Total of 14,636 cumulative acres watershed-wide
 - 12,824 of those acres were reported in a single progress year in VA (likely catching up on historical reporting, making it difficult to establish a baseline)
- Can/should we integrate management data with the planting/maintenance data?

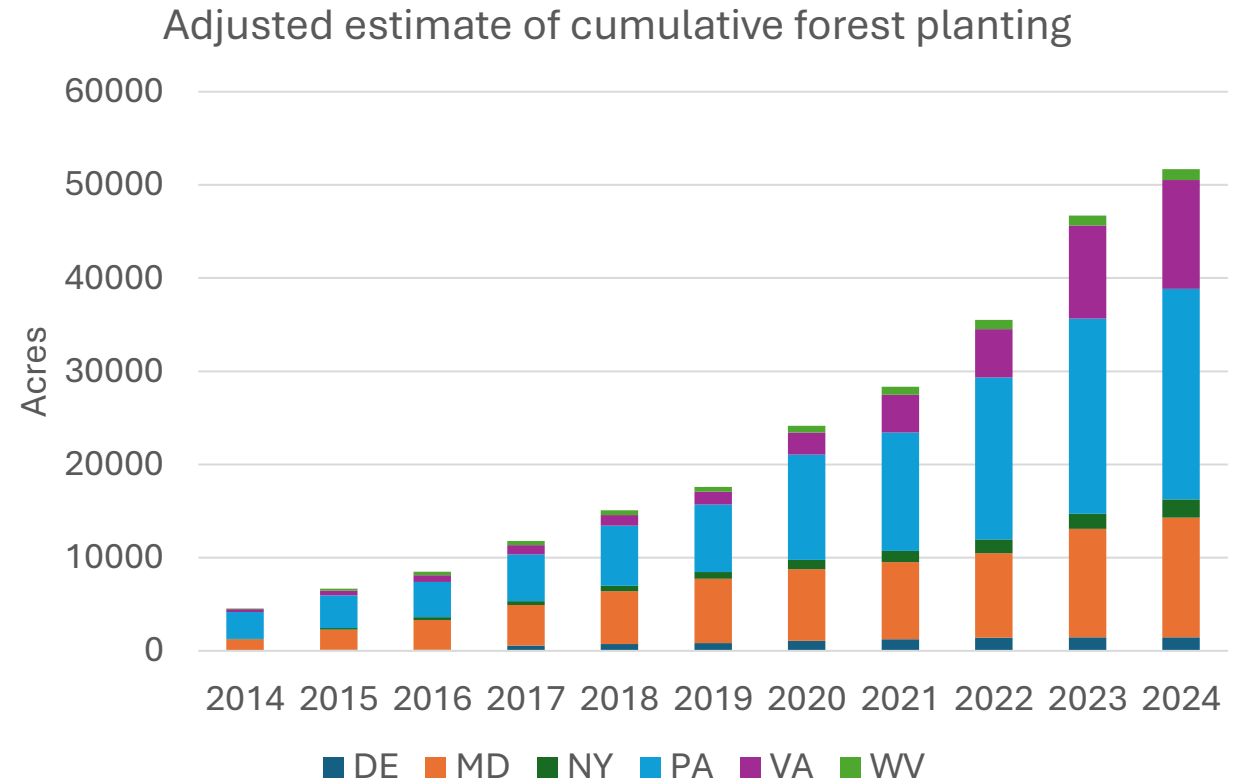
Forest planting 2014-2024**

**Note 2022 data relies on estimates for agricultural tree planting based on average annual planting rates from other years

Cumulative total as of 2024: 51,684 acres

Additional acres needed by 2040: 150,400 acres

2014 will be the baseline



Net forest loss to development

	2013/14- 2021/22	2013/14- 2017/18	2017/18- 2021/22
DC	(692)	(53)	(32)
DE	(84)	(476)	(188)
MD	(19,741)	(13,603)	(6,105)
NY	(7,379)	(765)	(6,658)
PA	(28,842)	(13,008)	(16,026)
VA	(48,813)	(24,330)	(21,896)
WV	(3,662)	(1,707)	(1,985)
Total CBW	(109,214)	(53,942)	(52,889)
Average Annual Loss	14,020	12,781	14,437

Note these numbers do not include the loss of early successional lands to development (so these are conservative estimates)

- Average annual rate of loss increased between two change periods by 13%
- T1-T3 rate of loss was used to establish the target – this should likely be our baseline
- Are we comfortable focusing on losses to development?



Discussion