



Chesapeake Bay Program
Science. Restoration. Partnership.

Forestry Workgroup Meeting
August 6th, 2025 | 9:00 am - 11:00 am

[Meeting Materials](#)

[Microsoft Teams Link](#)

Meeting ID: 255 093 083 035 | **Passcode:** YyYGBc

Call: +1 469-208-1525 | **Phone conference ID:** 316 873 141#

This meeting will be recorded for internal use to ensure the meeting note accuracy.

9:00 (5 min)	<p>Welcome and Introductions – <i>Anne Hairston Strang (MD FS, FWG Co-Chair)</i></p> <p>For roll call purposes, please enter your name & affiliation in the chat box. Call-in participants are requested to identify themselves verbally.</p>
9:05 (10 min)	<p>Announcements – <i>Katie Brownson (USFS, FWG Coordinator)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on Tree Canopy Fact Sheets and Storymap • The public comment period for the draft revised Watershed Agreement will close on September 1st! Everyone is welcome to submit comments via email to comments@chesapeakebay.net. For more details please visit the page here. • Meeting changes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ September FWG meeting changed to September 10th ○ October FWG meeting changed to October 8th • Upcoming Protected Lands Workgroup meeting on September 2nd (2-3pm) during which we'll discuss the protected lands target for forests • USDA opens public comment period on department reorganization plan • Staffer update, Marilyn Yang
9:15 (20 min)	<p>Agroforestry Expert Panel Evaluation Group (EPEG) Recommendation Approval – <i>Katie Brownson (USFS, FWG Coordinator)</i></p> <p>Katie will provide a brief overview of the recommendations from the Agroforestry EPEG to credit Silvopasture and Alley Cropping practices for their water quality benefits in Phase 7 of the watershed model. The workgroup will then be asked to approve the EPEG's recommendations.</p>
9:35 (10 min)	<p>Request to Reclassify Barren Land Uses as Construction – <i>Peter Claggett (USGS)</i></p> <p>Peter will present a proposal to reclassify barren land uses as construction. To map construction lands, prior to development, all mapped barren lands that later became developed would be classed as construction. This includes harvested forest barren and natural succession barren lands, even in rural areas. This process would override timber harvest mapping decisions made previously by the FWG but would likely have minimal impact on the extent of the "harvested forest" class in CAST. Overview of the proposed Phase 7 approach for construction land use.</p>

9:45 (15 min)	Round Robin/State Updates Please come ready to share 2-3 high priority items/updates from your state or organization! <i>To help us stay on schedule, each state will be allotted 2 minutes to present.</i>
10:00 (40 min)	Developing Recommendations for the Forest Conservation Target – Katie Brownson (USFS, FWG Coordinator) and Marilyn Yang (CRC, FWG Staffer) Marilyn will review a summary of the state's forest conservation efforts previously presented to the FWG and then Katie will lead a discussion on establishing the new forest conservation numeric target underneath the proposed Healthy Forests and Trees outcome. <i>Please note:</i> During the next Protected Lands Workgroup meeting on September 2nd , we will discuss the protected lands target for forests and FWG members are encouraged to attend and participate.
10:40 (15 min)	Discussing the Public Feedback Period & Next Steps – Katie Brownson (USFS, FWG Coordinator) The public comment period for the draft revised Watershed Agreement opened on July 1st and will close on September 1st. Katie will invite the FWG to provide any thoughts or feedback on the draft revised Watershed Agreement and gauge from the group whether there is interest in submitting a comment letter from the FWG during the public comment.
11:00	Adjourn