



 USGS



Chesapeake Bay Program
A Watershed Partnership

Land Use Workgroup Call

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Chesapeake Bay Future Scenarios

Historic Trends:

Continuation of historic development patterns and constraints as existed over the 2000's. Includes the best available regional and local data representing current conditions.

Current Zoning:

Same as Historic Trends with the addition of local zoning, increased infill rates (MD counties), and expanded sewer service areas (Jefferson and Berkeley Counties, WV) to reflect current constraints on new development and reported rates of growth on septic. The Chesapeake Bay Program Partners adopted this scenario as the representing the most probable conditions in 2025 and therefore serves as a baseline for evaluating the effects of land use planning and land conservation BMPs.

Alternative Future Thematic Scenarios

Forest Conservation (with or without zoning):

Organizations and governments proactively pursuing a variety of actions to conserve forests and wetlands which provide the greatest benefits to wildlife, human safety, and water quality. Example priority areas include riparian zones, shorelines, large contiguous forest tracts, and other high-priority forest conservation areas.

Growth Management (with or without zoning):

Organizations and governments proactively pursuing a variety of actions to encourage growth in areas with supporting infrastructure. Example priority areas include undeveloped or under-developed areas with adequate existing roads, wastewater, and water supply infrastructure.

Agriculture and Soil Conservation (with or without zoning):

Organizations and governments proactively pursuing a variety of actions to conserve farmland and productive soils. Example priority areas include agricultural districts, prime farmland, farmland of state importance, floodplains, and other high-priority farmland conservation areas.

Chesapeake Bay Watershed Scenario Elements

- Conserve riparian zones (default width = 30m)
 - Conserve wetlands (NWI, State Designated Wetlands, and Potential Conservable Wetlands (PA only))
 - Conserve all lands subject to inundation due to sea level rise (default = 1m rise by the year 2100)
 - Conserve all lands surrounding National Wildlife Refuges (default = 1 mile buffer)
 - Conserve all large forest tracts (default ≥ 250 acres)
 - Conserve Bay shorelines (default = 305m buffer (~1000-ft) of the tidal Bay and Atlantic shorelines)
 - Conserve all high-value forest and forested wetlands identified by the Chesapeake Conservation Partnership
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- Increase proportion of growth occurring as infill/redevelopment (default = 10% per decade)
 - Increase urban densities (default = 10% per decade)
 - Increase proportion of urban vs rural growth (default = 10% per decade)
 - Expand sewer service areas (default = ~1 mile))
 - Avoid growth on all soils unsuitable for septic systems (based on depth to bedrock, drainage class, saturated hydraulic conductivity, and flood frequency)
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- Conserve all farmland within designated Agricultural Districts
 - Conserve all lands within the floodplain (default = 100-year recurrence interval)
 - Conserve all lands with flooded soils (default = frequently flooded)
 - Conserve all prime farmlands and farmland of state importance
 - Conserve potential restorable wetlands (applies only to PA farmland)
 - Conserve all high-value farmland identified by the Chesapeake Conservation Partnership

State Land Use Data Files

CBLCM_dLU_VA.csv

VA	Impervious	Pervious	Natural	Agriculture	MixedOpen
HT	43,689	103,830	(82,072)	(55,409)	(10,071)
FCHT	42,042	110,809	(59,141)	(79,510)	(14,242)
GMHT	35,342	86,035	(63,464)	(49,776)	(8,185)
ACHT	39,441	82,891	(99,217)	(19,701)	(3,453)
CZ	33,777	85,527	(67,874)	(44,233)	(7,225)
FCCZ	30,929	87,533	(46,694)	(62,419)	(9,383)
GMCZ	25,966	69,559	(50,325)	(39,300)	(5,930)
ACCZ	29,458	66,231	(78,670)	(14,684)	(2,372)
2013	779,674	1,438,950	11,137,797	2,706,502	357,581

- Data represent full-county coverage for all 197 counties in Phase 6 Domain.
- 2013 land use acres represent base conditions. All scenario land use acres represent forecasted change from base conditions.
- AgOpenSpace represents wild hay that has been steadily increasing over the past several decades in many counties.

CAST_dLU_VA.csv

VA	Impervious	Pervious	Natural	Agriculture	MixedOpen	AgOpenSpace	Septic
Historic Trends (HT)	45,609	96,829	(81,914)	(69,909)	(11,016)	20,402	268,222
Forest Conservation (FCHT)	43,956	103,040	(59,027)	(91,614)	(16,071)	19,717	268,613
Growth Management (GMHT)	38,362	78,804	(63,359)	(65,251)	(9,131)	20,576	212,539
Agricultural Conservation (ACHT)	42,217	76,497	(98,976)	(38,046)	(3,314)	21,623	267,934
Current Zoning (CZ)	36,826	78,148	(67,738)	(60,334)	(7,677)	20,776	262,362
Forest Conservation with Zoning (FCCZ)	34,182	79,261	(46,588)	(76,760)	(10,369)	20,275	260,922
Growth Management with Zoning (GMCZ)	30,003	61,884	(50,224)	(56,254)	(6,348)	20,941	210,431
Agricultural Conservation with Zoning (ACCZ)	33,321	59,282	(78,464)	(33,799)	(2,098)	21,759	258,124
2013 Conditions	761,434	1,364,781	11,085,359	2,787,699	348,449	72,739	483,839
1985 Conditions	445,500	820,475	11,429,037	3,227,419	460,338	37,693	286,338

Relative Nutrient Export Rates



* Includes impervious surfaces (roads, rooftops, parking lots), pervious surfaces (turf grass), and land under construction.

“No Action”, Edge-of-Stream Total Nitrogen Loads

VA	Impervious	Pervious	Natural	Agriculture	MixedOpen	AgOpenSpace	Other*	Septic	Total
Historic Trends (HT)	542,574	642,695	(294,369)	(1,447,346)	(17,067)	61,854	212,717	1,928,438	1,629,496
Forest Conservation (FCHT)	525,334	714,283	(267,178)	(1,741,121)	(25,101)	59,960	186,859	1,929,351	1,382,387
Growth Management (GMHT)	456,318	478,648	(272,301)	(1,387,381)	(14,217)	62,347	123,149	1,438,188	884,751
Agricultural Conservation (ACHT)	503,838	451,111	(315,561)	(1,087,153)	(4,879)	65,361	229,340	1,927,941	1,769,998
Current Zoning (CZ)	453,135	495,415	(280,652)	(1,335,149)	(12,330)	62,786	180,846	1,861,677	1,425,728
Forest Conservation with Zoning (FCCZ)	423,919	519,346	(255,084)	(1,550,299)	(16,809)	61,332	156,209	1,847,618	1,186,232
Growth Management with Zoning (GMCZ)	370,186	344,481	(259,393)	(1,291,113)	(10,240)	63,278	101,213	1,406,636	725,048
Agricultural Conservation with Zoning (ACCZ)	412,571	314,794	(294,677)	(1,025,641)	(3,393)	65,711	187,521	1,824,891	1,481,777
2013 Conditions	9,729,372	10,928,411	17,338,041	48,270,721	597,473	224,119	12,992,115	4,227,761	104,308,013
1985 Conditions	5,798,097	6,720,366	17,556,888	53,034,846	776,883	117,367	12,430,209	2,807,645	99,242,301
Max Diference	172,388	399,489	(60,477)	(715,480)	(21,708)	5,751	128,127	522,715	1,044,950

Phase 6 Scenario Runs

- No Action
- 2017 Progress
- Phase II WIPs
- Phase III WIPs (TBD)
- E3 (Everything by Everyone, Everywhere)

Phase 6 Scenario Runs

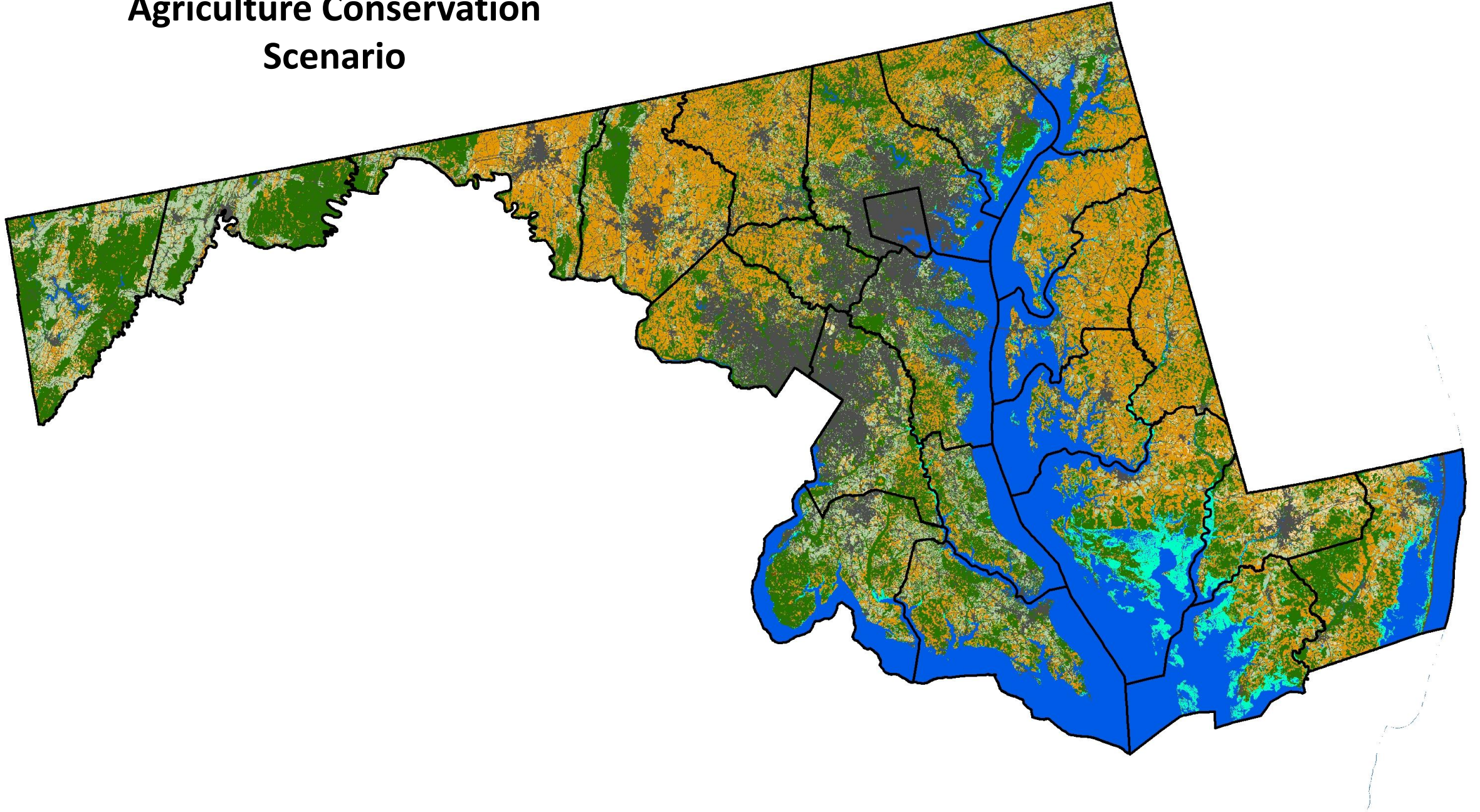
- Edge-of-Stream
- Edge-of-Tide

Pollutant Type

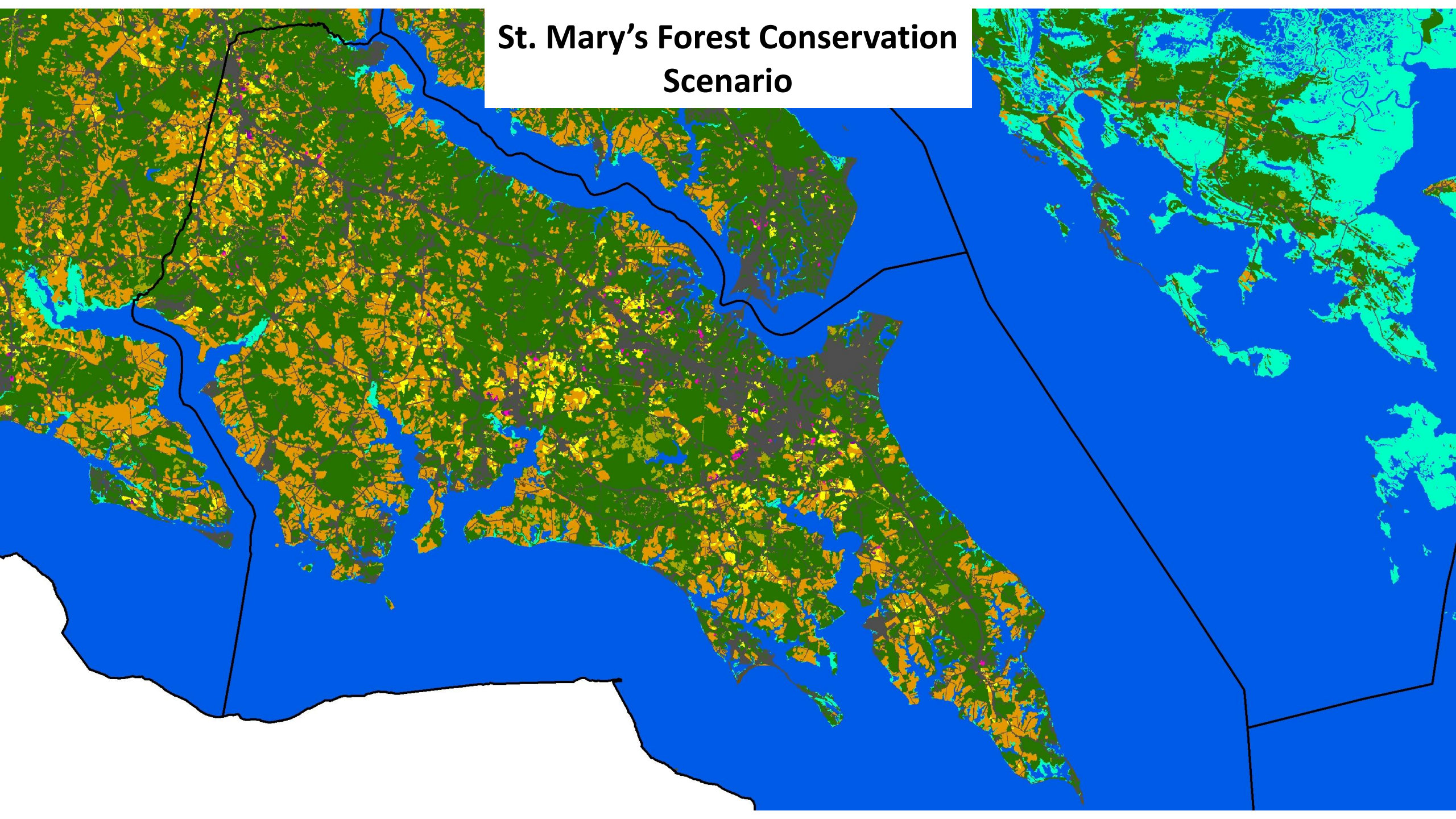
- Nitrogen
- Phosphorous
- Sediment

*Other: shoreline erosion, stream bank and bed erosion

Agriculture Conservation Scenario



St. Mary's Forest Conservation Scenario

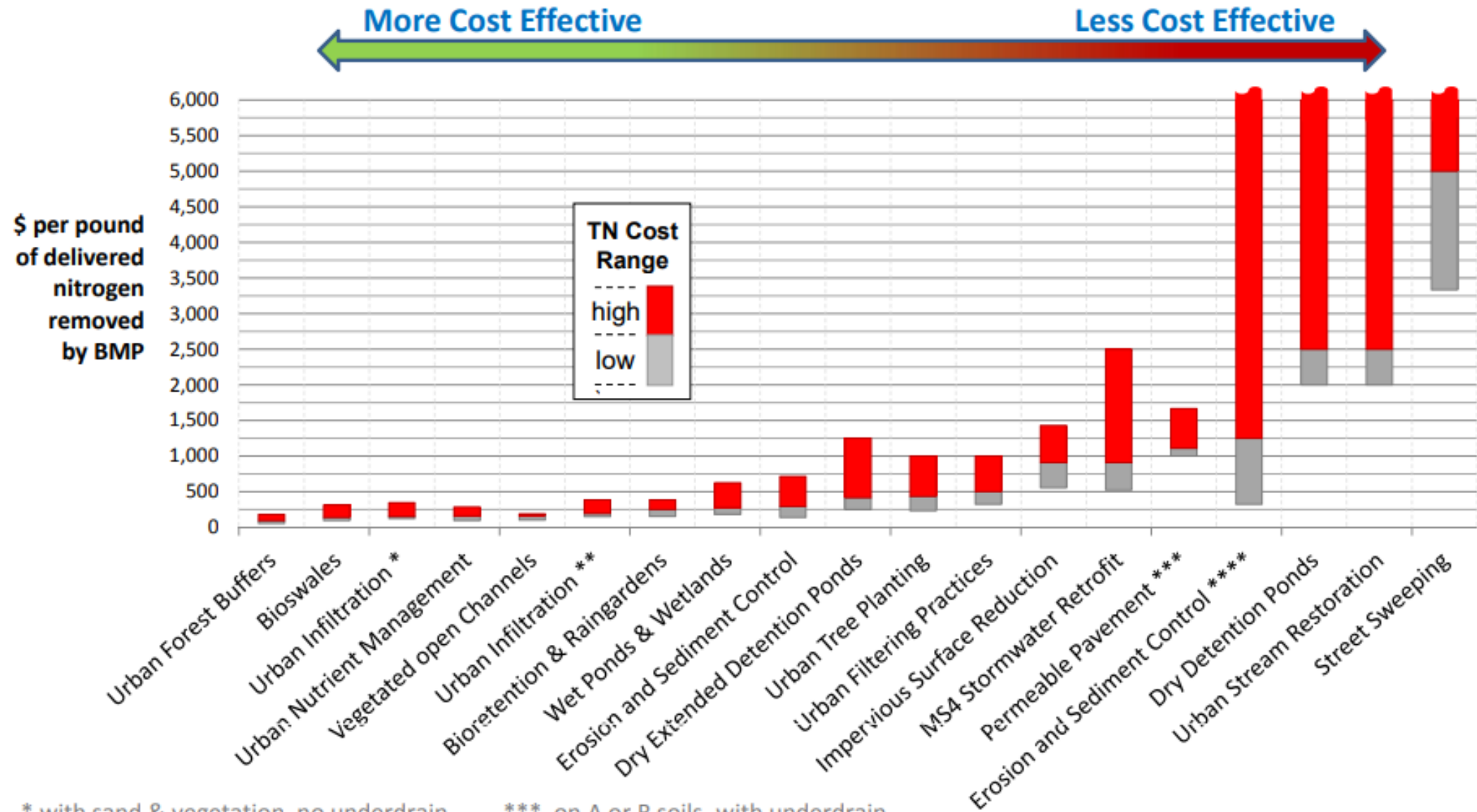


Potential Pollution Reductions Due to Conservation

St. Mary's County, Maryland

	Impervious	Pervious	Natural	Agriculture	Mixed Open	
FC vs HT	(185)	333	1,152	(1,107)	(193)	
Total Nitrogen (lbs/acre/yr)	9.8	5.9	1.8	26.0	3.5	
Difference in loads (lbs/yr)	(1,817)	1,966	2,074	(28,773)	(677)	(27,227)

	Impervious	Pervious	Natural	Agriculture	Mixed Open	
FC vs CZ	(89)	221	512	(548)	(96)	
Total Nitrogen (lbs/acre/yr)	9.8	5.9	1.8	26.0	3.5	
Difference in loads (lbs/yr)	(871)	1,304	922	(14,244)	(338)	(13,227)



* with sand & vegetation, no underdrain
 ** with sand & vegetation, no underdrain

*** on A or B soils, with underdrain
 **** on extractive land use

State-Specific Scenarios

Pennsylvania- Final (using “Current Zoning” scenario as baseline):

- Conserve riparian zones (default width = 30m)
- Conserve wetlands (NWI, State Designated Wetlands, and Potential Conservable Wetlands (PA only))
- Increase proportion of growth occurring as infill/redevelopment (default = 10% per decade)
- Increase urban densities (default = 10% per decade)
- Increase proportion of urban vs rural growth (default = 10% per decade)
- Expand sewer service areas (default = 1 mile buffer)
- Avoid growth on soils unsuitable for septic systems
- Stochastically simulate rate of forest conservation by County based on participation in state programs and land trust activities.
- Stochastically simulate rate of farmland conservation by County on participation in state programs and land trust activities.

State-Specific Scenarios

Delaware- Draft (using “Current Zoning” scenario as baseline):

- Conserve riparian zones (default width = 30m, **exclude tax ditches and irrigated farmland** (need tax ditch dataset, irrigated farmland data will be sought from USGS))
- Conserve wetlands (need **Delaware dataset on state-mapped wetlands-** including whale wallows)
- Conserve all lands subject to inundation due to sea level rise (default = 1m rise by the year 2100)
- Conserve all lands surrounding National Wildlife Refuges (default = 1/2 mile buffer)
- Conserve all large forest tracts in Legacy areas (need **parcel data with tax exemptions**. Lori will confirm average size of conserved parcels, 20 acres?)
- Conserve all high-value forest and forested wetlands identified by the Chesapeake Conservation Partnership
- Increase proportion of growth occurring as infill/redevelopment (default = 10% per decade)
- Increase urban densities (default = 10% per decade)
- Increase proportion of urban vs rural growth (default = 10% per decade)
- Expand sewer service areas **10% (by area or in proportion to locally forecasted growth and using probability as weighted cost surface)**
- Conserve all farmland within designated Agricultural Districts
- Conserve all lands within the floodplain (default = 100-year recurrence interval)
- Conserve all lands with flooded soils (default = frequently flooded)
- Conserve all prime farmlands and farmland of state importance
- **Conserve all irrigated farmlands (data from USGS)**
- Conserve all high-value farmland identified by the Chesapeake Conservation Partnership

State-Specific Scenarios

District of Columbia-Final (using “Current Zoning” scenario as baseline):

- Restrict new development to areas where local forecasts indicate stormwater management regulations will be triggered by future development and/or redevelopment activities.

Maryland (using “Current Zoning” scenario as baseline):

- Under development

Virginia (using “Current Zoning” scenario as baseline):

- Under development

West Virginia (using “Current Zoning” scenario as baseline):


- Under development

New York (using “Current Zoning” scenario as baseline):

- **No feedback received.**

Next Steps to Credit Conservation and Planning BMPs

- Complete State-specific Scenarios
- Simulate expected rates of forest and farmland conservation by county in PA and MD
- Translate conservation priority maps into future conservation probability maps
- Update the 1m-resolution land use/cover data using 2017 and 2018 imagery.
- Obtain annual rates of conservation, average sizes of conserved parcels, and contextual rules by County from state agencies and land trust community.

A close-up photograph of a giant panda sitting on a grassy area. The panda is looking directly at the camera with a calm expression. Its black and white fur is clearly visible. In the background, another panda is partially visible, and there are green plants and a wooden structure. The text "Thank you, Lindsey. We will miss you!" is overlaid on the bottom right of the image.

**Thank you, Lindsey.
We will miss you!**