

Strategic Conservation: are numeric targets necessary?

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Revised Protected Lands Outcome

Overall target: By 2040, permanently protect an additional 1.5M-2.0M acres of lands throughout the watershed.

Sub-targets (overlapping):

- Forests, forested wetlands, and forested riparian areas
- Lands adjacent to tidal wetlands
- Lands in watersheds supporting good stream health
- Tribal homelands
- Agricultural lands
- Urban and community greenspace (with public access)

Revised Protected Lands Outcome

Do we need/want numeric acreage targets?

Pros:

- Greater accountability towards strategic conservation
- Could provide rationale for increased investment in particular target areas

Cons:

- Lack of data to justify most numeric targets
- Values and benefits not proportional to acreages (e.g., small urban parks)

Ways to establish numeric targets (hypothetical examples)

Option 1: Relative to past levels of effort or investment.

Double the previous decade's percentage of total conserved lands within watersheds supporting good stream health.

Option 2. Relative to the extent of the resource or opportunity.

Increase the population within a 10-minute walk to urban and community greenspace by 10%.

Option 3. Absolute count.

Protect 70% of natural lands in 10 unprotected watersheds supporting good stream health.

Some Alternatives to Numeric Sub-targets

1. *By 2040, permanently protect an additional 1.5M-2.0M acres of lands emphasizing the conservation of forests, wetlands, farmland, tribal lands, community greenspace, and watersheds supporting healthy streams.*
2. *By 2040, permanently protect an additional 1.5M-2.0M acres of lands, 70% of which should be forests or forested wetlands. Protection efforts should also focus on the conservation of farmland, tribal lands, urban and community greenspace, lands adjacent to tidal wetlands, and natural lands within watersheds supporting healthy streams.*
3. *By 2040, permanently protect an additional 1.5M-2.0M acres of lands, 70% of which should be forests or forested wetlands. By 2027, explore the development of numeric protection targets for tidal wetland buffers, farmland, tribal lands, community greenspace, and watersheds supporting healthy streams.*

2027 CBP Land Conservation Portfolio

(% of 1.5M or 2.0M acres)

72% forests or forested wetlands

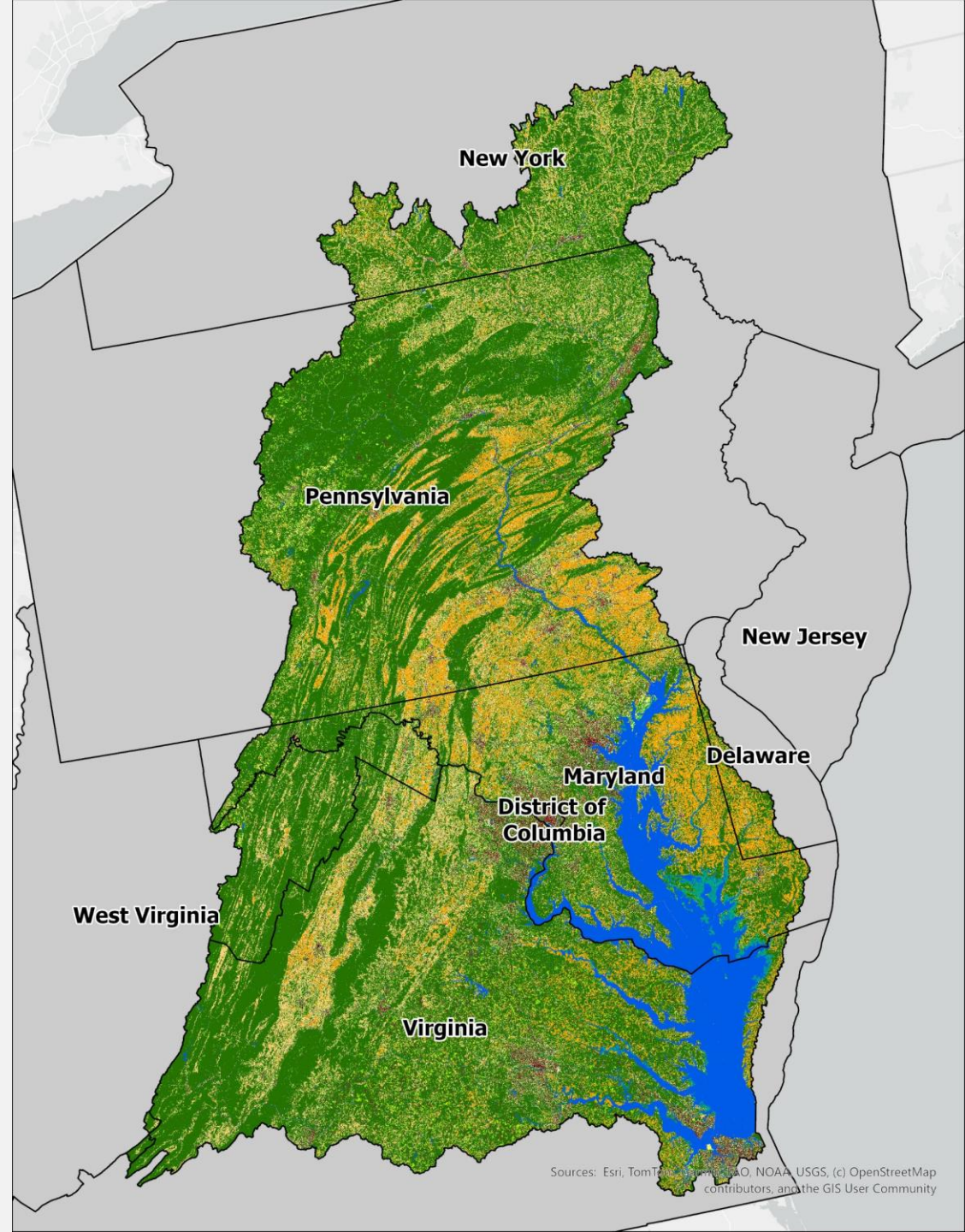
20% farmland

10% urban and community greenspace

40% watersheds supporting good stream health

5% lands adjacent to tidal wetlands

5% tribal homelands



2027 CBP Land Conservation Portfolio

(Hypothetical Strategic Evaluation)

- ✓ 72% forests or forested wetlands
- ✓ 20% farmland
- ↑ 10% urban and community greenspace
- ↑ 40% watersheds supporting good stream health
- ↑ 5% lands adjacent to tidal wetlands
- ✓ 5% tribal homelands

