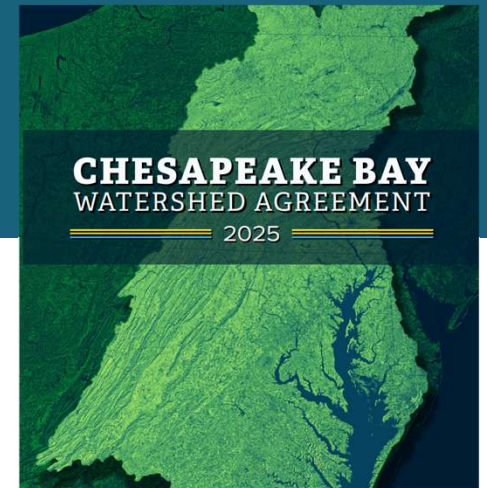


Healthy Forests and Trees Draft Management Strategy

Healthy Landscapes Goal Team
September 2026

New Healthy Forests and Trees Outcome



Conserve, manage and restore forests and tree cover to maximize benefits for water quality, habitat and people throughout the watershed, with a particular focus on riparian areas and communities.

TARGETS

Tree Canopy: Conserve tree canopy within communities by reducing the rate of loss of existing canopy and planting and maintaining 45,000 acres of community trees by 2040 to achieve a net gain in canopy over the long term.

Forest Buffers: Conserve riparian forest by reducing the rate of loss of existing buffers and planting and maintaining 7,500 acres of forest buffers annually to achieve no less than 71.5% riparian forest cover by 2040 and 75% riparian forest cover over the long term.

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.

Review and Approvals

- Discussed draft challenges and management approaches at July FWG and HLGT meeting
- Workgroup/Goal Team review period: 7/24-8/14
 - Optional office hours held 7/29
- Revised version distributed 8/26
- Reviewed updates at Sept 2nd FWG meeting and requested consent following the meeting via email
- No objections were received so the draft Strategy was approved to proceed to the goal team on 9/11

Revisions reflected in current draft

Challenges

- Added a new challenge:
 - **Crediting and incentives:** Chesapeake Bay Program water quality crediting framework and state MS4 programs do not consistently incentivize forest and forest buffer conservation, reforestation and long-term management and stewardship

Management Approaches

- Added text to make stronger connections between each Management Approach and the targets
- Clarified connections between Management Approaches and a focus on working with people and communities

Management approaches

1. Increase workforce capacity and tree supply to accelerate implementation
2. Bolster funding, programs and partnerships
3. Leverage networks to enhance coordination and restoration impact
4. Address drivers of forest and canopy loss
5. Expand outreach and engagement with local governments around forests and tree canopy
6. Ensure adequate maintenance and management

Signatory Programs and Authorities

- Collected signatory programs and authorities for each target from signatory FWG members (~4 pages of signatory programs)
 - WV did not provide programs or authorities
- Signatory programs and authorities collected by CBPO have not been added

Input from SET

- Make more explicit connections with other Bay Program groups where there are opportunities for collaboration (Workforce, SET, Local Government Leadership, etc.)
- SET can help amplify the impact of resources we develop through a technical service provider network they are developing
- Clarify distinction between management approach focused on bolstering funding, programs and partnerships with the approach about leveraging networks
- Think about how we measure impact of outreach and engagement efforts

Is it acceptable to make minor modifications to reflect input from SET?

Planning the workplan

Flagging input from the WG, GT and other groups that can help inform the workplan

Waiting for input from the PSC and the public before initiating focused work on the workplan

Likely convening an in-person meeting/retreat in February for focused workplan work

Any additional questions
or comments?

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