

Forestry Outcome Justification

Vital Habitats Goal: Restore, enhance, and protect a network of land and water habitats to support priority species and to afford other public benefits, including water quality, recreational uses and scenic value across the watershed.

Forestry Outcome: 1) Restore 900 miles per year of riparian forest buffer and conserve buffers until at least 70% of riparian areas are forested, and 2) Expand tree canopy in 120 communities by 2025.

Riparian forest buffers

Current Condition: Miles of riparian forest buffer restored in 2012 = 284. Miles restored in 10 year period (from 2001-2010) = 6,526.

Supporting Details

1. Why is this outcome important? Riparian forest buffers are one of the practices most relied upon in Phase II WIPs.
2. Generally, how was the outcome derived? In the 2007 Forest Conservation Directive, the states agreed to do, cumulatively, 900 miles/year. The scientific literature points to 70% forest cover as a goal for healthy watersheds.
3. Which partners (state, federal agencies, goal teams, and committees) were involved in creating this outcome? All. EC signed the 2007 Directive.
4. Which partners (state, federal agencies, other GITs) need to be involved to achieve the outcome? All states and feds. Goal Teams 2 and 3 are primary.
5. What are major factors influencing ability to achieve outcome? New Farm Bill, price of commodity crops, technical assistance availability,
6. What is the basis for the target? The 900 miles is a reach goal that the Partnership decided was both possible and necessary for water quality.
7. What management strategies will ensure the outcome is met? Difficult to convince some landowners, especially now that farming pays, but it would be good to have a concerted emphasis on this practice as a priority for environmental incentive programs.
8. What data will be used to measure progress? USDA databases

Expand Tree Canopy in 120 communities by 2025

Current Condition: Number of communities with goals set (2004-2013) = 45.
Number of communities with canopy assessments complete = 78.

Supporting Details

1. Why is this outcome important?

Increasing the tree cover in communities is one of the most sustainable and cost-effective practices to improve both society and the environment. These benefits include, but are not limited to enhancing:

- **Public health** -- By lowering city temperatures and removing pollutants from the air, trees can reduce the risk to residents of developing a number of health problems including heart and lung disease and asthma. Based on studies of the costs of pollution to society such as health care, the existing tree cover saves Washington DC nearly \$51 million annually. ⁱ
- **Air Quality** - Trees save Baltimore City over \$2 million/year by mitigating ozone, particulate matter and other pollutants (this figure does not include the many public health benefits).
- **Water Quality**— Trees can protect drinking water, reduce nutrients and sediments, reduce stormwater, and reduce flooding.
- **Energy Savings**—Trees that shade buildings can save 30% air conditioning costs.
- **Community Reinvestment**— Studies show that urban trees increase property values, encourage more shopping, and contribute to overall satisfaction within a neighborhood. Green job corps and Green Streets (see Introduction) provide jobs while planting and maintaining trees.

2. Generally, how was the outcome derived? In the 2007 Forest Conservation Directive, the states agreed to have 120 communities increase their tree canopy by 2020 (end date was changed to 2025 for new agreement).

3. Which partners (state, federal agencies, goal teams, and committees) were involved in creating this outcome? All. EC signed the 2007 Directive.

4. Which partners (state, federal agencies, other GITs) need to be involved to achieve the outcome? All states and fed facilities. Goal Teams 2 and 3 are primary.

5. What are major factors influencing ability to achieve outcome? Education. For every dollar spent on urban trees, the investment is returned 3 fold. There is still reluctance on the part of some communities to invest in tree canopy.

6. What is the basis for the target? The states agreed that 120 communities was feasible. Previous goal of 5/state set in 2003, was surpassed ahead of schedule.

7. What management strategies will ensure the outcome is met? Continue supporting urban and community forestry programs.

8. What data will be used to measure progress? The Forestry Work Group will continue to collect data on urban tree canopy progress. Bay Program reporting through NEIEN is another way to measure progress.
