Forestry WG Update on Practice Life and Credit Duration

VERIFICATION AD HOC TEAM

MARCH 12, 2021

SALLY CLAGGETT

Next 3 slides ---Verifying Tree Planting with Land Cover Data

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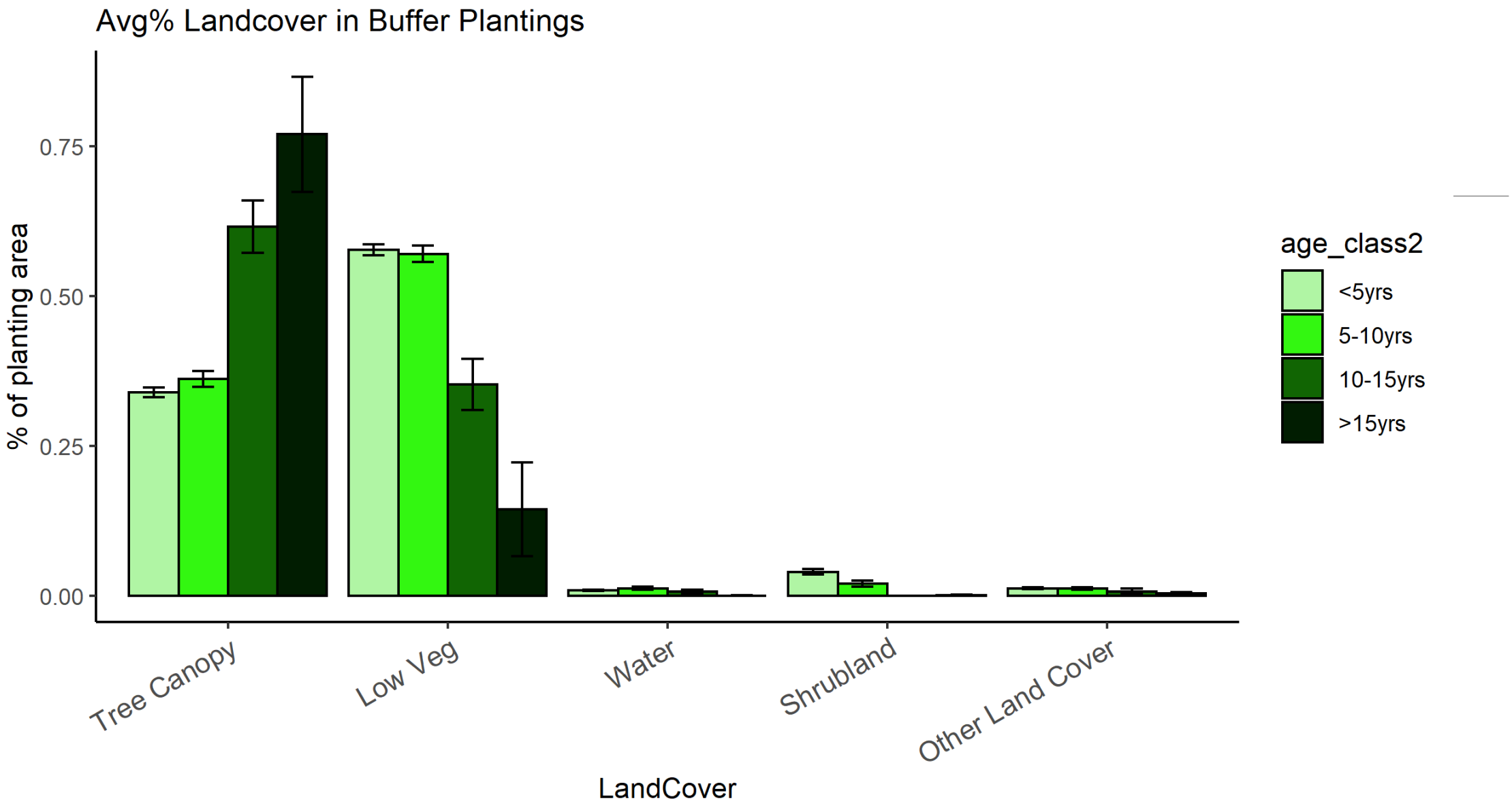
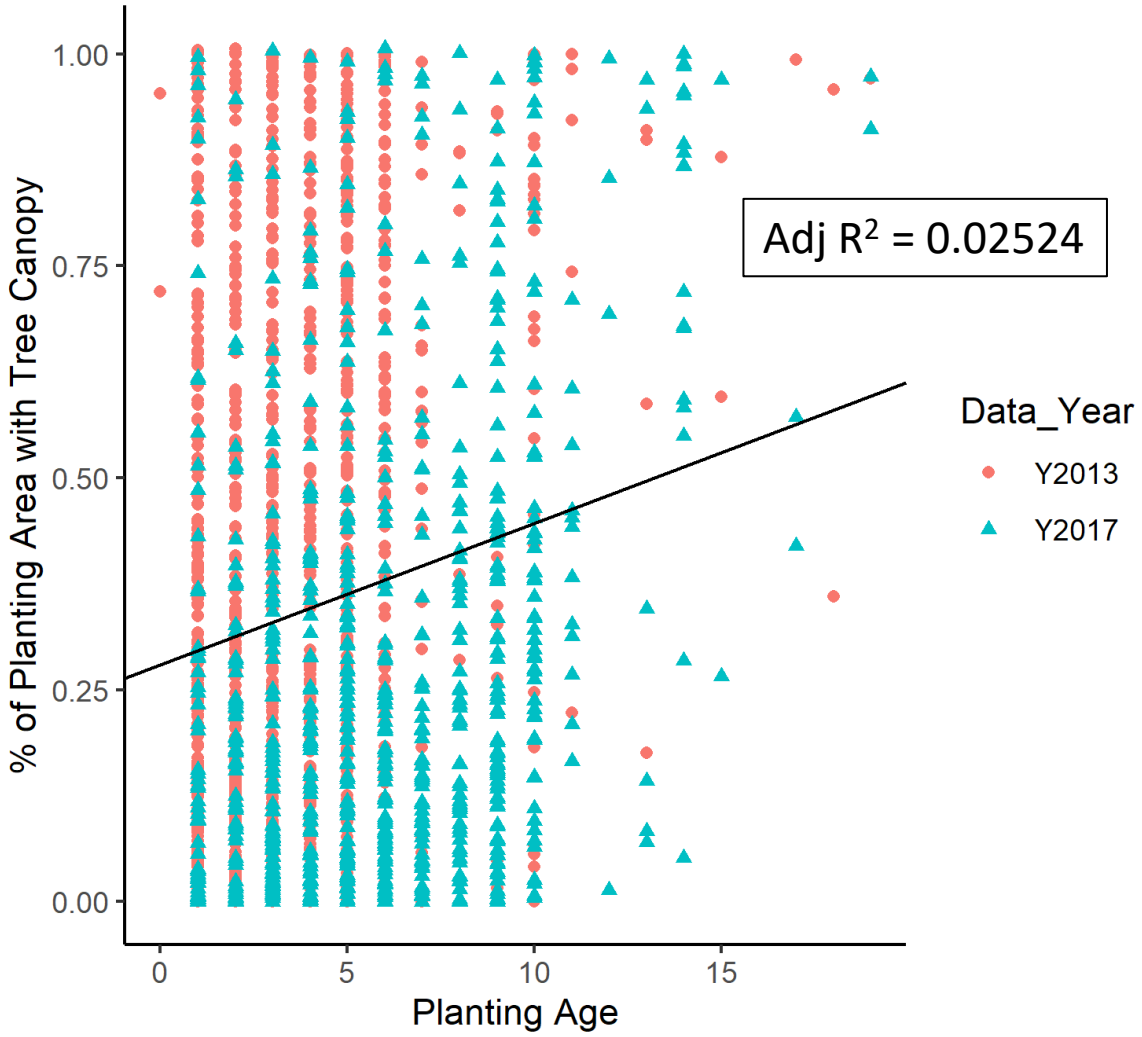
MARYLAND DNR FOREST SERVICE

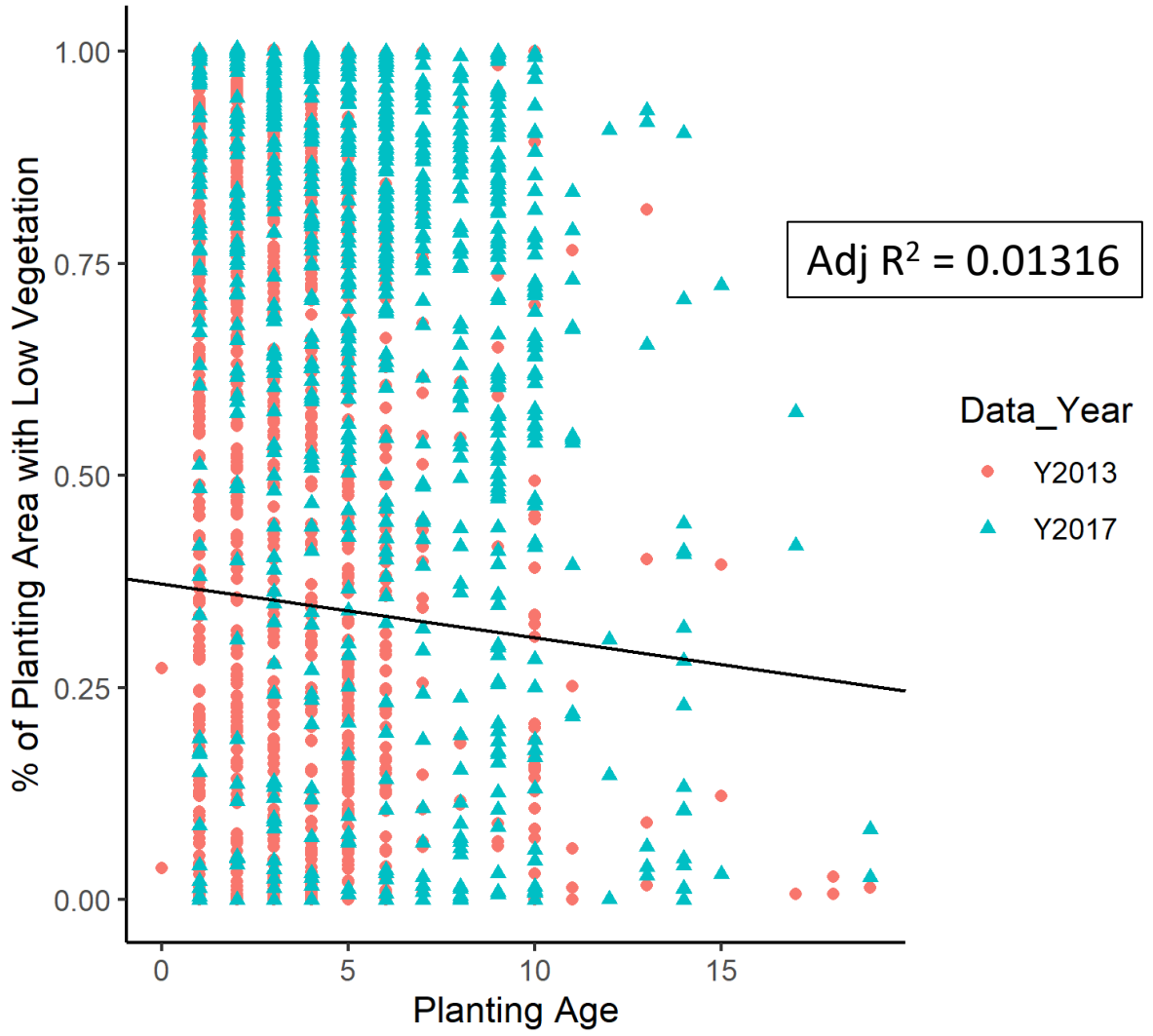
CHESAPEAKE WATERSHED FORESTER

TC in 2013 = 6%
Age 10

TC in 2017 = 98%
Age 14


Avg% Landcover in Buffer Plantings
% of planting area
0.75
0.50
0.25
0.00
Tree Canopy
Low Veg
Water
Shrubland
Other Land Cover
LandCover
age_class2
<5yrs
5-10yrs
10-15yrs
>15yrs


% of Planting Area with Tree Canopy
1.00
0.75
0.50
0.25
0.00
0
5
10
15
Planting Age
Adj R² = 0.02524
Data_Year
Y2013
Y2017


% of Planting Area with Low Vegetation
1.00
0.75
0.50
0.25
0.00
0
5
10
15
Planting Age
Adj R² = 0.01316
Data_Year
Y2013
Y2017

Forestry BMPs (Pink= forest plantings Blue-=tree plantings)	**Practice Life Span**		**Credit Duration**		**Back Out**[1]
	Current	Proposed	Current	Proposed	Proposed
Ag Forest Buffer (w/o fencing- crop)	40 years[1]	80 years	10 years[2]	15 years	15 years
Ag Forest Buffer (w/ fencing- pasture)	30 years[2]	80 years	10 years[2]	15 years	15 years
Urban Forest Buffer	40 years[2]	40 years	10 years[2]	15 years	*(15 years)*
(Urban) Forest Planting	28 years[2]	40 years	15 years	15 years[1]	15 years
Ag Tree Planting	40 years[2]	*(80 years)*	15 years	No change	15 years
Narrow forest buffers (w/o fencing)	40 years[2]	40 years	15 years	No change	15 years
Narrow forest buffers (w/ fencing)	25 years[2]	40 years	15 years	No change	15 years
Urban tree planting	40 years[2]	40 years	10 years	No change	10 years

Rationale for Practice Life

1. Forests are regenerative
2. 80 Years is conservative
3. Fence for buffer only needed until trees are ~15 yo
4. More trees planted (“forest”); more likely they will sustain indefinitely
5. Urban situation is more dynamic, more stressful (lower practice life)

Rationale for Credit Duration for Buffers

1. Based on the 15-year CREP contract
2. tied directly to the NRCS conservation practice standard for Riparian Forest Buffer (391) which has a 15 year lifespan in the national handbook of conservation practices.
3. With the few Riparian Forest Buffers that are contracted under EQIP the contract length is usually much shorter, but the practice lifespan for the 391 riparian forest buffer installed through EQIP would remain 15 years
4. the landowner is responsible for maintenance to ensure the practice meets standards and specs for the 15 years after installed.
5. In MD, PA, and VA the majority of USDA contracted buffers are 15 years (in PA, an estimated 95% are, in VA, about 70%)
6. Newer forest buffer programs often have maintenance as an integral part and the work is done by professionals (not landowners) and landowner agrees to keep the buffer for at least 25 years (but likely much longer per surveys).

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