

The Chesapeake Bay Watershed Forestry Program

USDA Forest Service
Northeastern Area
State and Private Forestry



Providing Forestry Leadership for Watershed Stewardship

Description:

The Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) is a watershed partnership led by the Governors of Maryland, Pennsylvania, and Virginia; the mayor of the District of Columbia; the Chesapeake Bay Commission; and the EPA Administrator, who represents all federal agencies. The goal is to improve water quality, restore habitats, and improve land stewardship in the 41 million acre watershed.

The U.S Forest Service, Northeastern Area (NA) State and Private Forestry has provided forestry leadership in the Chesapeake Bay Program since 1992 and coordinates Forestry Workgroup activities. Forest Service Cooperative Forestry programs provide financial and technical support for planning, assessment, coordination, education, and capacity building as well as on-the-ground projects. Partnerships with state forestry agencies, non-profits, and other agencies and organizations leverage federal funds, greatly increasing citizen capacity to take action to protect and enhance forests and clean water.



Key Issues:

- Forests are part of the solution to reducing non-point pollution in agricultural and urban settings.
- In this region of 16 million residents, nearly 100 forested acres are developed every day, degrading the Bay and threatening the viability of regional natural resource-based economies.
- Riparian forests, those next to water, are critical to water quality, aquatic health, and habitat diversity, needing widespread protection and restoration.
- With 90 percent of the land privately owned, strong partnerships and collaboration are essential to demonstrating how forest protection, restoration, and stewardship contribute to restoring Chesapeake Bay.

Chesapeake Watershed Forestry priorities:

1. Sustaining and expanding partnerships.
2. Providing forestry information and outreach.
3. Promoting a sustainable forest land base
4. Protecting and restoring riparian forests.
5. Advancing urban watershed health through forestry.

Accomplishments in FY 2006:

- Completed *The State of Chesapeake Forests* Report, the first comprehensive analysis of the values of and threats to sustainability of Chesapeake Bay watershed forests.
- Completed an innovative Watershed Forestry Manual, providing local organizations with tools they can use to protect urban watershed health. More than 6,000 copies were downloaded for use in all 50 states and 13 countries and 1,000 printed copies were directly distributed.
- Restored riparian forests along 731 miles of streams and shoreline, bringing the total number of restored miles to 5,337 since 1996 (53 percent of the Bay Program's 2010 goal). Trained more than 200 field staff from state, local, and non-profit partners on riparian buffer restoration techniques.
- Facilitated the development of a Forest Conservation Directive, adopted by the Chesapeake Executive Council, which will set forest protection and expansion goals as well as develop a framework for attaining those goals.

- Completed guidelines and training for communities to help them assess and set goals for community-based urban tree canopies; 8 cities committed to developing quantitative goals.
- Collected more than 20,000 pounds of native tree seeds for state nurseries under the *Growing Native* project, saving more than \$30,000 in seed collection costs. 10,000 volunteers participated in the annual collection and tree planting.
- Established a partnership with Maryland and the Chesapeake Bay Trust to provide \$300,000 in private funds annually for tree planting under a new *Chesapeake Community Greening Initiative*.
- Worked with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to award 15 forest conservation grants totaling \$368,000 to non-profit partners. Grants leveraged \$2.5 million in contributions.

Chesapeake Bay Watershed Forestry Budget				
<i>(\$ Thousands)</i>				
	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007
Watershed Forestry Program *	988	1,100	936	950
Potomac Watershed Partnership	823	200 ¹	200 ¹	200 ¹
Total	1,811	1,355	1,136	1,150

* Approximately 80% of the budget is granted to state, local, and non-profit partners.

¹ Potomac Watershed Partnership funding comes through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. The Chesapeake Watershed Forestry Program also supports PWP.

Future Direction:

- 1) Sustain and expand partnerships
 - Implement *Growing Native* watershed-wide.
 - Actively support the Potomac Watershed Partnership in protection of over 1,000 acres of forest land from development and engage thousands of volunteers in restoring and planting trees.
- 2) Provide forestry information and outreach:
 - Develop a marketing campaign to communicate the value of forests to watershed residents.
 - Complete training and educational materials for urban tree canopy enhancement, watershed planning for natural resources (NEMO), and improving planting success in riparian buffers.
 - Engage more than 300 middle school students in the Shenandoah and Monocacy watersheds in restoring watersheds through the Plant-a-Seed Program.
- 3) Promote a sustainable forest land base
 - Provide leadership, guidance, and state/federal coordination to produce watershed-wide forest conservation goals and framework in 9/07 in response to Executive Council Directive 06-01.
 - Launch *Forestry for the Bay*, an online Forest Stewardship Program for small woodlot owners.
 - Design and prototype the “Bay Bank” - a watershed forestry ecosystem marketplace.
- 4) Protect and restore riparian forests
 - Restore 1,000 miles of riparian forest buffers to reduce excess nitrogen in Chesapeake Bay watersheds by more than 250,000 lbs.
 - Host a workshop on monitoring regional riparian forest conservation using GIS and other technology.
- 5) Advance urban watershed health through forestry
 - Provide funding/technical support to 8 communities for setting urban tree canopy goals.
 - Evaluate state stormwater regulations and compile guidance on how to measure urban forest benefits to water and air quality and integrate into local storm water permitting.

Kathryn Maloney, NA Director
 11 Campus Blvd., Suite 200
 Newtown Square, PA 19073
 610-557-4103 (4177-FAX)
 kmaloney@fs.fed.us

Robin Morgan, Assistant Director
 11 Campus Blvd., Suite 200
 Newtown Square, PA 19073
 (610) 557-4118 (4136-FAX)
 rmorgan@fs.fed.us

Sally Claggett, Chesapeake Bay Coordinator
 410 Severn Avenue, Suite 109
 Annapolis, MD 21403
 (410) 267-5706 (5777-FAX)
 sclaggett@fs.fed.us

