



## Forestry Workgroup Meeting

September 2, 2021

9:00am-11:00am

Meeting Materials: [Link](#)

### Attendees

Jackie Pickford, CRC  
Sally Claggett, USFS  
Rebecca Hanmer, Chair  
Terry Lasher, VDOF  
Kalaia Tripeaux, PA  
Peter Claggett, USGS  
Lydia Brinkley, Upper  
Susquehanna Coalition  
Gloria Van Duyne, NY

Eric Greenfield, USFS/UCF  
Rosie Santerre, WV DOF  
Matt Keefer, PA  
Craig Highfield, ACB  
Paul Emmart, MDE  
Jim Woodworth, DOEE  
Sarah McDonald, USGS  
Julie Mawhorter, USFS  
Katie Brownson, USFS

Matt Poirot, VA DOF  
Teddy Stark, DCNR  
Jake Leizear, Chesapeake  
Conservancy  
Judy Okay  
Frank Rodgers, WV  
Taryn Davidson, DE

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### Summary of September Action Items

1. A Timber Harvest discussion subgroup will meet 1-3 times in the Sept-Oct timeframe. The purpose of the group will be to go over how acres of Timber Harvest and their BMPs are treated by CBP and to outline key messaging for CBP with regard to timber harvesting with supporting evidence. These discussions will give way to the Baywide Task Force described below. Please indicate your interest in participating in these discussions by contacting Sally ([sally.claggett@usda.gov](mailto:sally.claggett@usda.gov)). A Doodle poll will be sent out next week.
2. Baywide Forest and Land Use Task Force. This group will start meeting in October and will consist of members of the FWG and GIS/LUWG specialists. The task force will build upon the discussions of the Timber Harvest focused discussions. The primary objective of this group will be to guide the production of a *Baywide Forest Status and Trends* report using the new land use change data. If you would like to nominate yourself or someone else in your organization to be on this Task Force, please send that nomination to Sally by Sept 16.
3. Sally will produce a draft Land Use change workplan for the October 6 FWG meeting.

### Welcome and Introductions

*Rebecca Hanmer, Chair*

- WQGIT Meeting Update: Forestry BMP credit duration extension was approved. Read more [here](#).

### Overview of V.1 LC/LU Datasets

*Peter Claggett, USGS, & Sarah McDonald, USGS.*

Peter Claggett reviewed the Version 1 land cover and land use data sets. Sarah McDonald presented how they are tracking forest regrowth using LCMAP (land cover monitoring assessment and projection data).

- **Sally Claggett:** Can you help expand upon the limitation to landsat imagery (low res, 30 meter data)? Would you say that the Landsat imagery may tend to overestimate tree canopy and maybe that explains why we're detecting it at a sooner rate?
  - **Sarah McDonald:** For LCMAP in particular, for each 30 meter pixel, at least 50% of the pixel would have to be covered by tree canopy for them to consider it as such.
  - **Peter Claggett:** There is a possibility that it is biased towards early detection of regrowth.
- **Matt Keefer:** What triggers the initial classification of changing from forest to non-forest?
  - **Sarah McDonald:** The initial annual LC data is that tree canopy would have to be over 50% of each pixel for it to be considered forest. If it falls beneath that then it changes to whatever the majority land cover is in the rest of the pixel.
  - **Peter Claggett:** They use an annual average spectral pattern and look across multiple spectra in order to find a break in the pattern, which is then flagged.

Julie Mawhorter mentioned that this data will be used in the future to develop a Bay-wide report with status and trends with forest and tree canopy to help interpret patterns related to development, harvesting, and management; and facilitated a discussion on how we can begin using these tools for preliminary analyses for our Bay-wide Tree Canopy/Forest Status and Change report.

- **Terry Lasher:** Maybe we can track and confirm what we're seeing from the data with our harvesting inspection forms. We'd be able to confirm what that data is telling us.
  - **Matt Poirot:** We track our harvest data pretty closely and we're developing a system to follow up on some of the artificially regenerated and other harvested sites.
- **Julie Mawhorter:** We plan to follow up one-on-one with each state if there's someone from your GIS staff who has the right skill/orientation to work with us on this.
- **Rebecca Hanmer:** In one way we're approaching this from the GIS place that's very technical and complex, but we also want to approach this from a communication standpoint. We need to think about what questions will be commonly asked and how to address them.
  - **Peter Claggett (in chat):** What about just broadening the scope of the Timber Harvest Task Force that was charged in August?
  - **Matt Keefer (in chat):** another thought, and I think Sally was going in this direction, the interaction between low res and high res data and how and when we use them with both modeling, tracking, and communication.
  - **Peter Claggett:** From a USGS perspective, we plan on blending the two, and using the temporal depth of the LCMAP to determine how the landscape changed over time to be what the high res data shows us today. I encourage folks to think about the stories you want to tell about the data.
  - **Rebecca Hanmer:** The issue has been raised about whether these groups should be combined. I'd like to recommend not combining the two. I think the communication issues go beyond the data and how it's used in the model. Communications might have to be addressed state by state. Do you think it would be helpful to have a communications group that works across the watershed or state by state?
  - **Julie Mawhorter:** Maybe we start bay-wide so we can all be on the same page, and if we need to break out into smaller, state specific groups we can do so.

**County Tree Canopy Status & Change Fact Sheets, Jake Leizear, Chesapeake Conservancy.**

The Forestry WG was asked to provide input on the draft template for County Tree Canopy Status and Change fact sheets.

- **Julie Mawhorter:** The plan is to have a link in this document that takes them to a technical guide with more detailed data and statistics, as well as general guidance as to how folks can further use these data. We just want to keep this fact sheet as simple as possible.
- **Sally Claggett:** Are we only talking about developed lands and not the change of forest to tree canopy (developed)?
  - **Julie Mawhorter:** The losses from forest to development are captured here but forests to tree canopy are not captured since they are both considered tree canopy in this fact sheet. Maybe we can change the title to “How is tree canopy changing on developed and developing lands”.
- **Rebecca Hanmer:** On the first page, forest is defined as tree canopy. I find that confusing because our other communications talk about tree canopy in an urban and development setting.
  - **Julie Mawhorter:** In the model Chesapeake world we talk about it that way, but for everyone else, tree canopy is tree canopy. We want a bottom line percentage. Maybe there’s something we can clarify there. We’re using it now as an umbrella term.
  - **Judy Okay:** Perhaps we can change “tree canopy” to “tree cover” to be more inclusive.
- **Teddy Stark:** Matt suggests that the tree block at the bottom of the first page be moved to the top because that’s what people like municipal officials want to know - what is the dollar value of our tree canopy and local forest. Make that info front and center.
  - **Julie Mawhorter:** We might also change the first block and make it our storyline of the statistics and the big takeaways.
  - **Jake Leizar:** We are still playing around with the layout.
- **Judy Okay (in chat):** Is this for general public or professional local government planners? If you want “simpler” the vocabulary used should be clarified for the general public. This is great and valuable information for all, it would be good to have it very clear in the explanation of causality.
  - **Julie Mawhorter:** I think we want it to be used by decision makers and advocates, people who are already interested and care about these issues. I’m not sure we want to focus our audience as the general public.
  - **Jim Woodworth (in chat):** I think the audience should include local elected leaders and heads of agencies (high level executive branch).
- **Rebecca Hanmer:** What is your timeline?
  - **Julie Mawhorter:** We want these published as quickly as possible after the final data is in, so early 2022 would be ideal. This means the template and data both need to be finalized before then. We’re seeking feedback mainly on the basic graphic elements and the statistics we’re trying to convey.
  - **Rebecca Hanmer:** How will this fit with the communications group?
  - **Julie Mawhorter:** Comm group will be focused on the bigger bay wide report, this is just a very specific piece of that on a shorter timeline. The group can definitely weigh in on this though.
- **Frank Rodgers:** Will state leads be able to review this before they’re sent to the counties?
  - **Julie Mawhorter:** Yes, we can do that.

- **Judy Okay (in chat):** In the lead in “construction” is listed as the human activities...this will not sit well if you want to get the development community to read further. There are other human impacts that could be listed.

### **GIT Funding Updates, Sally Claggett, USFS**

Sally gave an update on the Sep 1st GIT Funding meeting across all Bay Program Goal Teams and held a discussion on the Tree Canopy Funding and Policy Roundtable Process. The FWG will continue to be updated moving forward.

- **Judy Okay:** Can LGAC get involved in this?
  - **Sally Claggett:** Yes, other groups also expressed interest such as the budget financing committee.
- **Frank Rodgers (in chat):** Equity and inclusion in funding will require finding a path around requiring non-federal match equally between jurisdictions.
- **Sally Claggett:** How much do you think the TC proposal will cost as we start the process of filling out Table 1?
  - **Julie Mawhorter:** It depends, but I think it would be on the high end. If we want to focus only on the facilitation process it could be a lower budget.

### **Round Robin**

**Julie Mawhorter:** If you didn't receive our latest Chesapeake Tree Canopy Newsletter on 8/31, please sign up here: <https://chesapeaketrees.net/newsletter-signup/>

**NY:** We have a new CRP manager in FSA. Still having trouble getting any new CRP on the ground. Hired two new folks. We have an outreach series called Watershed Wednesdays, which are 30 min run-throughs of our programs. Working on two proposals, one for the Landscape Scale Restoration Grant and the other is an INSR for NFWF.

**PA:** TreeVitalize program manager, Jason, left. That position is open (<https://waterlandlife.org/about-us/careers/job-openings/#treesup>)

**MD:** We're doing tree stewards training for 3 different counties (training volunteers to do urban tree plantings), gearing up for fall planting season, sponsoring a forum/series of webinars mid-Oct to early Nov and will send out info in the future.

**DC:** Nonprofit partners fall planting, urban forestry guidance council meeting in two weeks, we're also working towards RFPs and RFAs for new green infrastructure maintenance efforts.

**VA:** Submitted sentinel landscapes proposal, last week we conducted watershed program manager interviews for our new watershed program. Completed our two-year milestones report for year 22/23. Currently working with UVA institute for engagement and negotiation around tree canopy retention and conservation and related legislation. Hiring part time position for riparian forest buffer specialist. Signed a memorandum of agreement for a state lands watershed implementation program.

**WV:** Rosey Santerre's first week as new WV representative for the FWG. Ordered 600 trees for fall planting, back working in some of the schools.

DE: Working on advanced tree stewards training seminar for existing stewards and also a four-part series for new tree stewards. Trying to schedule Fall plantings.

Sally Claggett: Landscape Scale Restoration Proposals for the forest service are due this month. Healthy Watershed GIT has a proposal to redo priority habitats mapping in the bay watershed as a GIS exercise and I proposed that she include priority forests as part of that, so TBD on that effort.

## **Adjourned**

### **Meeting Chat**

From Peter Claggett to Everyone: 09:08 AM

must step out for 1min because my dog is in yelping

I'm back.

From sally claggett, usfs to Everyone: 09:16 AM

top

From Lydia Brinkley, Upper Susquehanna coalition to Everyone: 09:16 AM

Top!

From Matt Keefer to Everyone: 09:42 AM

another thought, and i think Sally was going in this direction, the interaction between low res and high res data and how and when we use them with both modeling, tracking, and communication

From Peter Claggett to Everyone: 09:43 AM

What about just broadening the scope of the Timber Harvest Task Force that was charged in August?

From Me to Everyone: 10:03 AM

Link to fact sheet on calendar page:

[https://www.chesapeakebay.net/channel\\_files/42225/tree\\_canopy\\_fact\\_sheet\\_draft\\_09012021.pdf](https://www.chesapeakebay.net/channel_files/42225/tree_canopy_fact_sheet_draft_09012021.pdf)

From Teddi Stark (DCNR) to Everyone: 10:16 AM

Sent a message to Matt to see if I could get his question since he's not connected. I'll ask it if he sends it, and report back to him.

From Eric Greenfield (USFS UCF) to Everyone: 10:17 AM

This looks like a great draft to start!

From Judy Okay to Everyone: 10:17 AM

Is this for general public or professional local government planners? If you want "simpler" the vocabulary used should be clarified for general public. This is great and valuable information for all it would be good to have it very clear in the explanation of causality.

From Peter Claggett to Everyone: 10:18 AM

Now I'm confused. You may consider separating gains and losses in forest vs gains/losses in Trees over Turf and Trees over Impervious.

Re-label as:

"How is tree canopy changing associated with development"

From Judy Okay to Everyone: 10:18 AM

Perhaps we should start clarification with "Tree Canopy" defined can it be tree cover?

From Jim Woodworth - DOEE to Everyone: 10:24 AM

I think the audience should include local elected leaders and heads of agencies (high level executive branch).

From Peter Claggett to Everyone: 10:24 AM

I've got to step out. Great discussion.

From Katie Brownson (she/her) to Everyone: 10:28 AM

I have to drop as well- looking forward to jumping back into the fold in a few weeks!

From Judy Okay to Everyone: 10:28 AM

In the lead in "construction" is listed as the human activities....this will not set well if you want to get the development community to read further...there are other human impacts that could be listed.

From Jake Leizear (he/him) to Everyone: 10:29 AM

Thank you, great point!

From Julie Mawhorter (she/her), US Forest Service to Everyone: 10:32 AM

If you didn't just receive our latest Chesapeake Tree Canopy Newsletter on 8/31, please sign up here <https://chesapeaketrees.net/newsletter-signup/>

From Frank Rodgers, Cacapon Inst, WV to Everyone: 10:40 AM

Equity and inclusion in funding will require finding a path around requiring non-federal match equally between jurisdictions.

From Teddi Stark (DCNR) to Everyone: 10:45 AM

<https://waterlandlife.org/about-us/careers/job-openings/#treesup>

From Frank Rodgers, Cacapon Inst, WV to Everyone: 10:50 AM

Age before beauty? How is Virginia "north" of West Virginia?

From sally claggett, usfs to Everyone: 10:52 AM

Hooray for Rosey!

From Jim Woodworth - DOEE to Everyone: 10:54 AM

good luck with the private property plantings Frank!

From Frank Rodgers, Cacapon Inst, WV to Everyone: 10:58 AM

Thanks Jim. Since last fall, two-thirds of our trees have gone to 50:50 cost-share participants.