



MEDIA ADVISORY

USDA Forest Service, Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry
180 Canfield St, Morgantown WV 26505



Phone: 304-285-1503; Fax: 304-285-1505; Web Site: <http://www.na.fs.fed.us/>

Date:	December 13, 2012	Release No. MFO-01-13
Contact:	Sally Claggett phone (410) 2675706 E-mail: sclaggett@fs.fed.us	
	Devin Wanner phone (304) 285-1596 E-mail: dwanner@fs.fed.us	

Chesapeake Bay forest restoration strategy signing ceremony held

ANNAPOLIS, MD—State Foresters from Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia joined EPA Chesapeake Bay Program Director Nick DiPasquale and U.S. Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell in Washington, DC, on December 5 to sign the Chesapeake Bay Forest Restoration Strategy. Over 30 Federal, State, and nongovernmental organizations contributed to the Strategy.

In remarks during the ceremony, Tidwell noted, “The significance of this Strategy is the recognition that more forests means cleaner water for the Chesapeake Bay. Further, in this watershed, enhancing urban forests is of particular importance.” The Strategy has been endorsed by all seven State Foresters in the Chesapeake Bay region.

The Strategy provides a roadmap to guide and expand forestry partnership efforts throughout the Chesapeake Bay watershed. The Strategy builds on earlier commitments to restore riparian forest buffers at a rate of 900 miles per year and support community tree canopy expansion goals. The Strategy outlines approaches to targeting forest restoration in areas of greatest opportunity by focusing on wildlife and fisheries habitat, mine lands, agroforestry, urban and community forestry, and contaminated lands.

The complete Chesapeake Bay Forest Restoration Strategy can be found online at <http://executiveorder.chesapeakebay.net/post/New-Forest-Restoration-Strategy-for-the-Chesapeake-Watershed.aspx>.

In May 2009, President Obama issued Executive Order 13508 that ushered in a new era of Federal leadership, action, and accountability in protecting and restoring the Chesapeake Bay watershed. In the resulting Executive Order implementation strategy, the Forest Service committed to lead a partner-driven effort to create a Chesapeake Forest Restoration Strategy as a key supporting action.

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The Chesapeake Bay is the largest estuary in North America. Its watershed encompasses 44 million acres and portions of 6 States as well as Washington, DC. The U.S. Forest Service's Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry has been a partner in the Chesapeake Bay Program since 1990 and has worked closely with State forestry agencies and a broad array of partners on goals to conserve and restore forest cover in the watershed.

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