

Conserving 30% of the Chesapeake Bay watershed by 2030: A Regional Conservation Perspective

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Photo Credit: NASA Goddard Space Center.

Chesapeake Bay fast facts:

- 64,000 square mile watershed
- Nearly 200 miles from north to south
- Widest point is 30 miles wide.
- Population throughout the watershed is 18 million; projected to be 20 million by 2030
- Diverse landscape, significant history, culture, and heritage around the Bay region
- **Current protected level: 22%**



Nicholas A. Tonelli



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Photo Credit: Will Parson, Chesapeake Bay Program

Origins of Conservation efforts in the Chesapeake Bay watershed



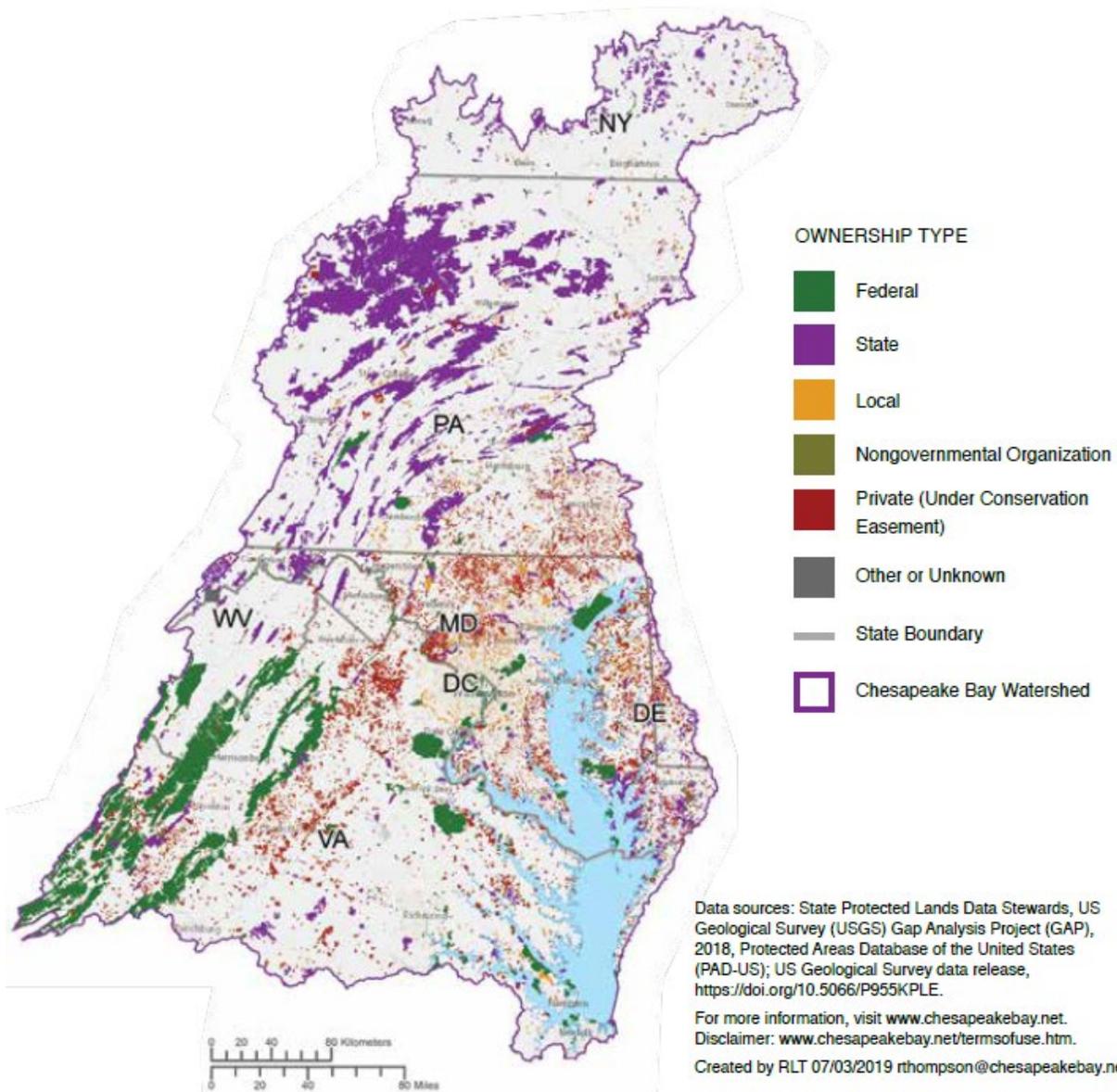
1858: Mount Vernon Ladies' Association acquires and protects home of U.S. President George Washington and his wife Martha Washington.

Photo left: Mount Vernon, VA and Potomac River

1966: Commonwealth of Virginia creates the Virginia Outdoors Foundation. To date, VOF has helped protect more than 860,000 acres

1969, 1977: Maryland creates Program Open Space and the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation, respectively. To date, these programs have helped protect more than 780,000 acres

PROTECTED LANDS IN THE CHESAPEAKE BAY WATERSHED 2018



Protected Land Ownership (2018)

- State: 4,065,638
- Federal: 2,309,248
- Private: 2,105,727
- Local Government: 415,605
- Nongovernmental Organization: 133,826
- Other: 128,412

FY19 Conservation Funding, Maryland	Overall fund	Amount of \$ for land protection
Rural Legacy	\$25,017,000	\$25,017,000
Program Open Space Stateside	\$48,532,000	\$48,532,000
Program Open Space Local	\$53,287,000	\$22,500,000
Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation (MALPF)	\$48,900,000	\$48,900,000
Total	\$175,736,000	\$144,949,000

FY19 Conservation Funding, Pennsylvania	Overall fund	Amount of \$ for land protection
Park and Forest Facility Rehabilitation	\$24,803,000	\$ -
Grants for Land Trusts	\$8,268,000	\$7,854,600
Oil and Gas Lease Fund (DCNR allocation)	\$69,774,000	\$ -
Environmental Stewardship Fund (DCNR allocation)	\$15,227,000	\$ -
Farmland Preservation	\$38,000,000	\$38,000,000
Total	\$156,072,000	\$45,854,600

FY17 Conservation Funding, Virginia	Overall fund	Amount of \$ for land protection
Land Preservation Tax Credit	\$75,000,000	\$75,000,000
Virginia Outdoors Foundation Operations	\$3,284,226	\$3,255,240
Virginia Outdoors Foundation Preservation Trust Fund	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000
Land Conservation Foundation	\$6,000,000	\$6,000,000
Battlefield Preservation Fund	\$792,000	\$792,000
Farmland Preservation Fund	\$500,000	\$500,000
Total	\$87,576,226	\$87,547,240

Photo Credit: Will Parson, Chesapeake Bay Program

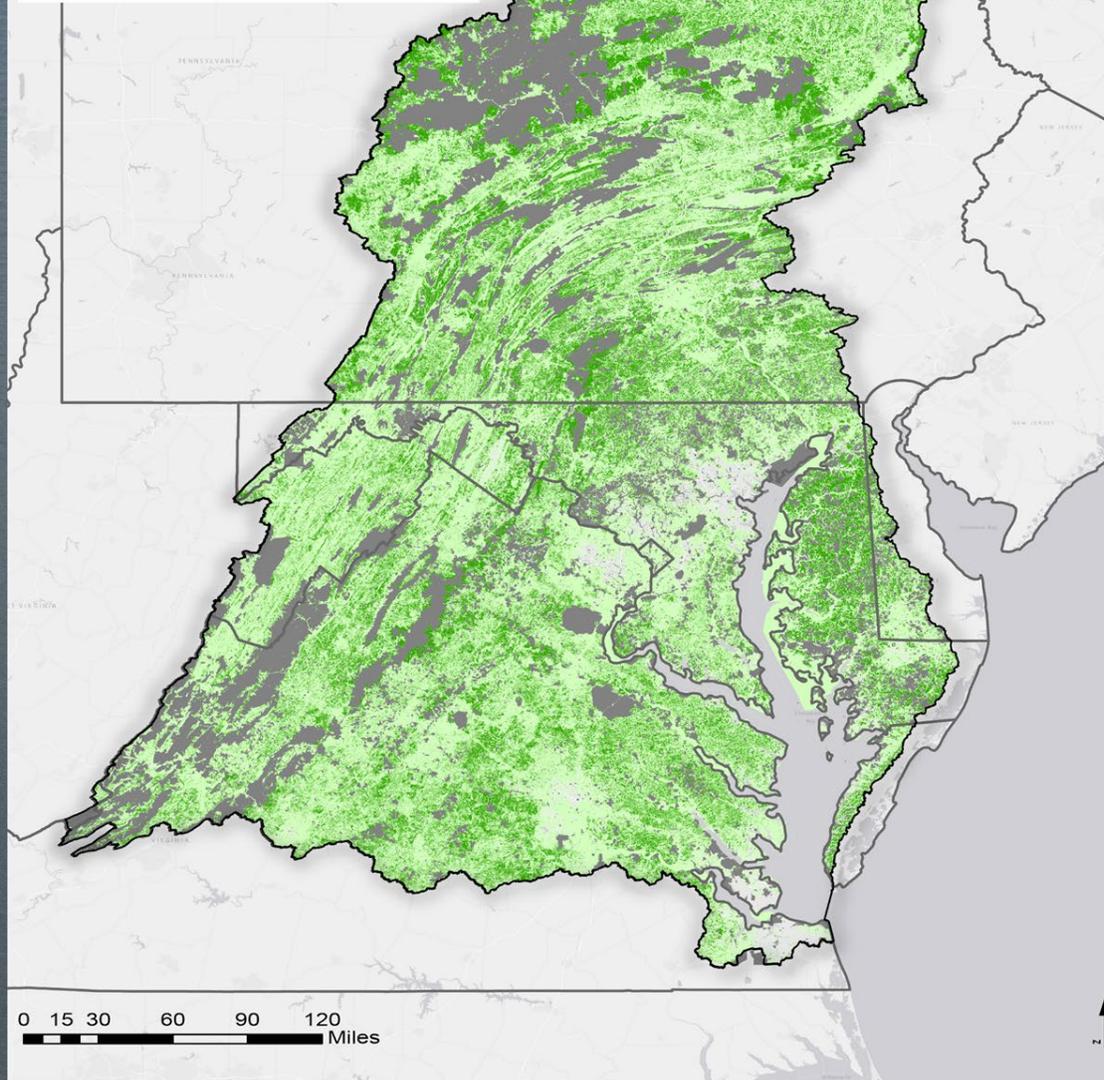
Chesapeake

CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP

Valued Lands

This depicts a composite of the Farms, Forests, Habitat and Heritage goal maps. It highlights areas of greatest overlap in values (most valued), other valued lands and areas already protected.

-  Lands Already Protected
-  Most Valued Lands
-  Other Valued Lands



Recommendation:

Support large landscape partnerships

Photo: Valued lands in Bay watershed
(about 50% of watershed)



Chesapeake Conservation Partnership

- Nearly 80 partners
 - 9 federal agencies / departments
 - 15 national non-profits
 - 6 states + DC
 - Dozens of local land trusts and conservation organizations

Recommendation:

Use state policy to enable greater private capital investment in conservation

Photo: Comprehensive Conservation Finance Act legislation, introduced and passed by MD State Senate in 2021 General Assembly session

SENATE BILL 737

M3, P2

1lr1909

By: ~~Senator Rosapepe~~ Senators Rosapepe, Elfreth, Guzzone, Hester, Smith, Washington, and Young

Introduced and read first time: February 5, 2021

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted with floor amendments

Read second time: February 27, 2021

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Comprehensive Conservation Finance Act**

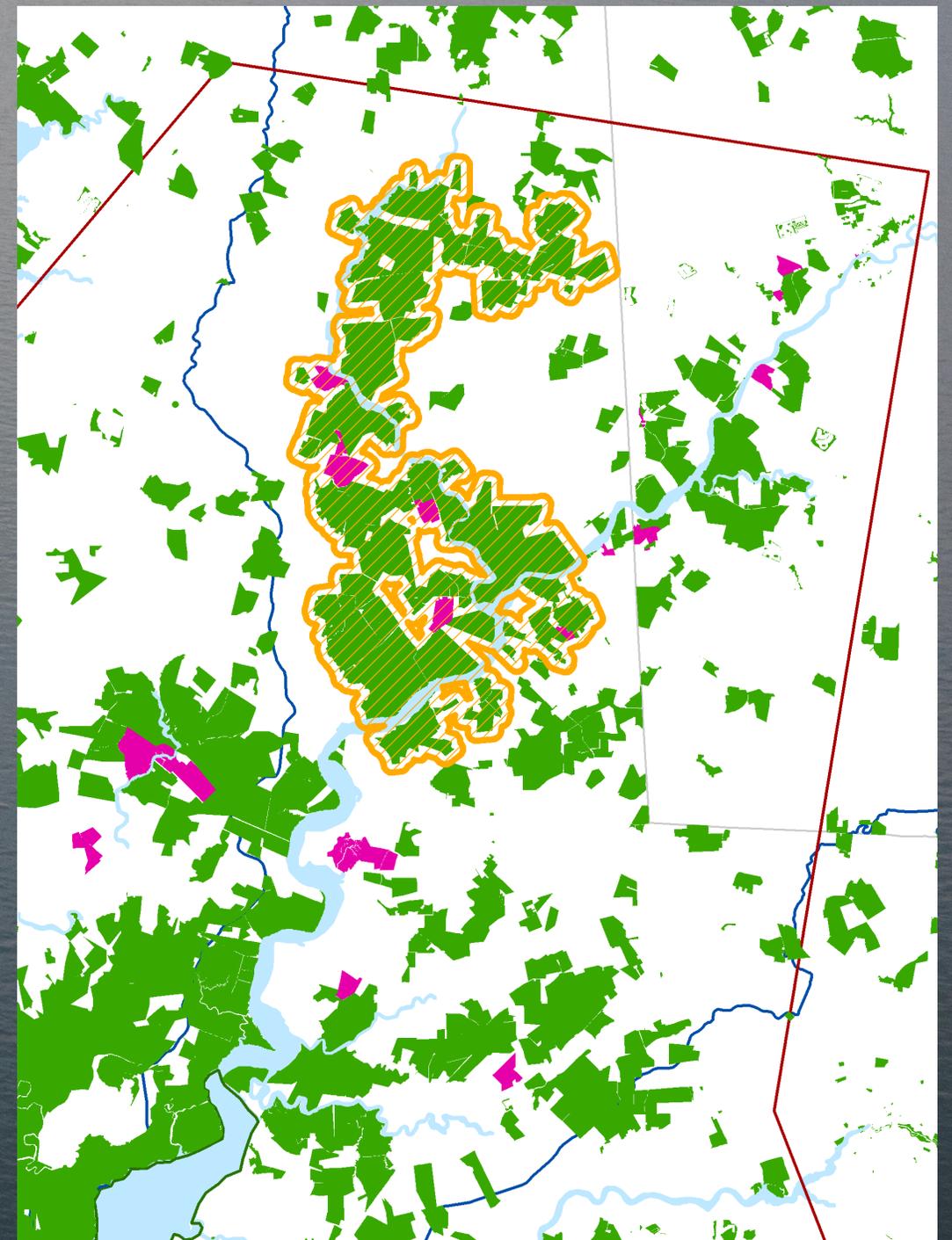
3 FOR the purpose of providing that the Department of Agriculture, the Department of
4 Natural Resources, and the Maryland Environmental Trust must allow participants
5 in certain programs to participate in and receive compensation from certain markets,
6 credits, or programs under certain circumstances; authorizing the Department of
7 Agriculture and the Department of Natural Resources to enter into certain
8 partnerships for certain purposes; altering the duties of the Commission on
9 Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities; authorizing the Department
10 of the Environment to take certain actions with respect to certain water
11 infrastructure assets that are priorities for removal to improve fish passage or for
12 small hydroelectric power plant installation; requiring the Department of the
13 Environment to provide a certain notice to the Maryland Industrial Development
14 Financing Authority under certain circumstances; establishing that it is the policy
15 of the State that the maintenance and repair of certain source watersheds is eligible
16 for certain financial assistance; expanding the purposes for which amounts in the
17 Maryland Water Quality Revolving Loan Fund may be used; altering the terms and
18 authorized uses of the Maryland Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund; altering the
19 name of the Maryland Water Quality Financing Administration to be the Maryland
20 Water Infrastructure Financing Administration; requiring the Maryland Water
21 Infrastructure Financing Administration to prioritize certain opportunities in
22 creating a certain intended use plan; requiring certain financial incentives developed
23 by the State to include allowing landowners to use forests located on State lands for

Recommendation:

Leverage all available tools and programs

Photo right: Conservancy conservation projects in Nanticoke River watershed

Photo below: Celebration of Nanticoke project with DOD REPI, NPS, DNREC



Recommendation:

Leverage outdoor recreation economy to build support for conservation

Outdoor recreation economy in Chesapeake Bay states (source: Outdoor Industry Association)	Consumer Spending (billions)	Direct Jobs	Wages and Salaries (billions)	State and Local Tax Revenue (billions)
Pennsylvania	\$ 29.1	251,000	\$ 8.6	\$ 1.9
West Virginia	\$ 9.0	91,000	\$ 2.4	\$ 0.7
Virginia	\$ 21.9	197,000	\$ 6.5	\$ 1.2
Maryland	\$ 14.0	109,000	\$ 4.4	\$ 1.0
Delaware	\$ 3.1	29,000	\$ 1.0	\$ 0.1
New York	\$ 41.8	313,000	\$ 14.0	\$ 3.6

Thank you!

