



# Maryland Forest Service Overview

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DECEMBER 9, 2025



# MD Forest Action Plan-5 Yr check-in

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**Maryland Goal I. Grow Forests, Habitats, Markets, and Jobs**

**Maryland Goal II. Manage Forest Health and Fire**

**Maryland Goal III. Provide Clean Water**

**Maryland Goal IV. Create Healthy, Livable Communities with Trees and Forests**

**Maryland Goal V. Respond to Climate Change**

*Keeping Goals, Refining Implementation,  
Expediting Federal Review*





# 2025 MFS Highlights

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**Expanding Forests & Care** - 5 Million Trees progress

**Sustainable State Forests** – recreation, timber, habitat (including bats), water quality, carbon

**Support for forest landowners** - Technical advice, Forest stewardship plans, Cost-share practices, Landscape-scale planning (FY25, 502 plans, 25K ac practices)

**Wildfire** suppression, prevention, risk reduction – busy spring!

**Nursery** production and transition

**Urban Forestry/Community Forestry**  
Coordinators in Regional Teams –

- **LTE transition** to online renewal with credit card option
- **Forest Conservation Act** – new mitigation options and shift to 1:1 replacement
- **FCA Woodland Incentive Program** funding is available!

**Workforce efforts**

- Internships – Carroll, Worcester
- High School Apprenticeship – St. Mary's
- Evergreen Heritage Center training w/ACC & FSU
- Natural Resources Career Camp in Garrett County
- Urban Forestry Camp at UMD College Park



# Wildfire and Prescribed Burns

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## Fall fire season 2025

- Continued dry weather in most of the state



## Spring Fire Season 2025 – moderate to severe drought

9x acreage from 2024 (burn ban helped control 2024 acres)

*167 wildfires* for 8,168 acres so far in 2025

*145 prescribed burns* on 7,291 acres so far in 2025

## Tools

Partnerships, including Mid-Atlantic Fire Compact

Wildfire Risk Reduction, State Fire Capacity, and Volunteer Fire Capacity grants

Community Wildfire Defense Grants –federal IIA grants, open now, have MD Coordinator

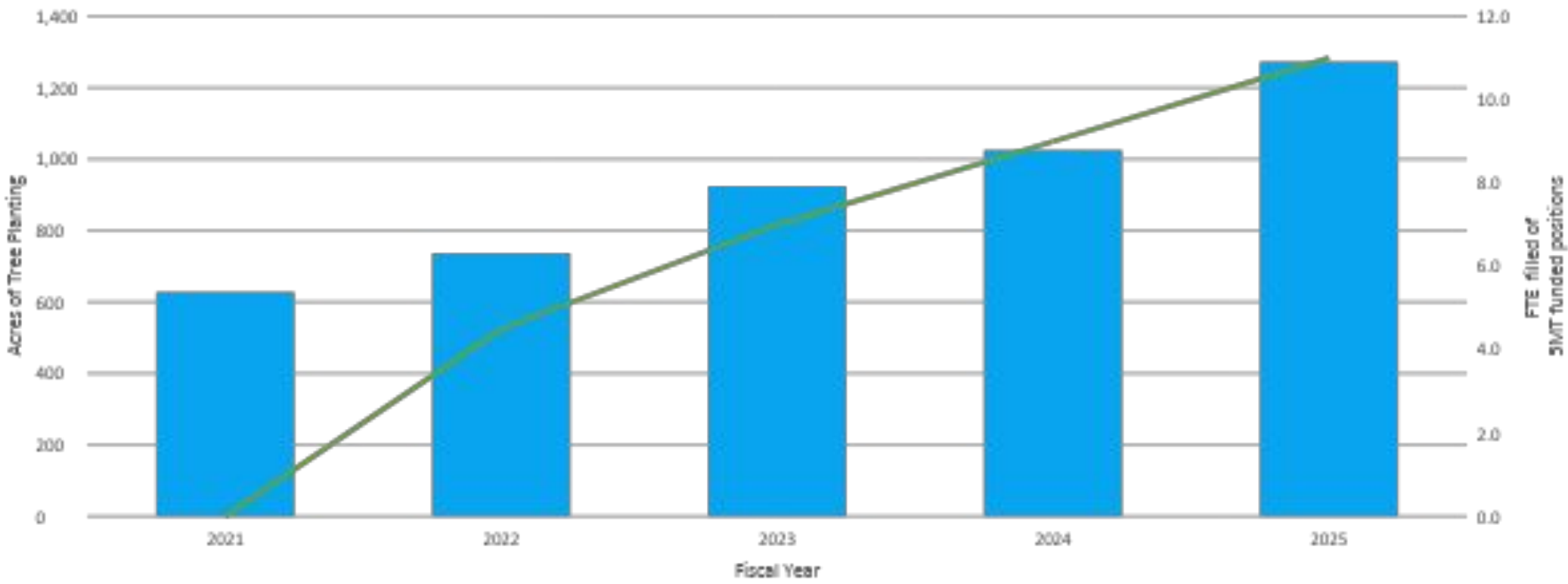
Prescribed Burn Council – companion to DE, PA, VA

MD Prescribed Burn Association

National Wildfire Coordinating Group Standards

# People = Progress: 5MT Example

Acres of Tree Planting (MFR) and FTE for SMT by FY



# MD Forest Service Staffing

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**Permanent positions** – 116 (4 vacant)

**Hiring Freeze in effect since 7/1/25**

- minimal exceptions, careful approvals
- seasonal hiring has blanket approval

**New staff** (in last 6 months):

- Charles County Forester **Tyler Locke**
- Allegany Watershed Forester **Colby Whiteside**
- Southern Urban Forester **Gaby Elliott**
- Carroll Forester **Marie Walters** (first since 7/1!)

**Retired** (9/30/25):

- LTE/Training Coordinator **Chip Broadwater**
- Fire Programs Manager **Derek Albers**
- Eastern State Lands Admin **Denise Snyder**

**1 PIN Reduction**

**Contractual Conversions** - 15!

- Regional staff
- 5MT staff
- Stewardship/Health/Urban staff
- Admin staff



# Budget and Federal/State Partnerships

## Federal Funding < 1/3 of \$20.6 million budget

- US Forest Service, EPA, DOT, all payments now proceeding
- Most FY25 grants received, 6 pending, timing uncertain
- No terminations of contracts to states so far, some funding declines
- State, Private, and Tribal Forestry and R&D still at risk

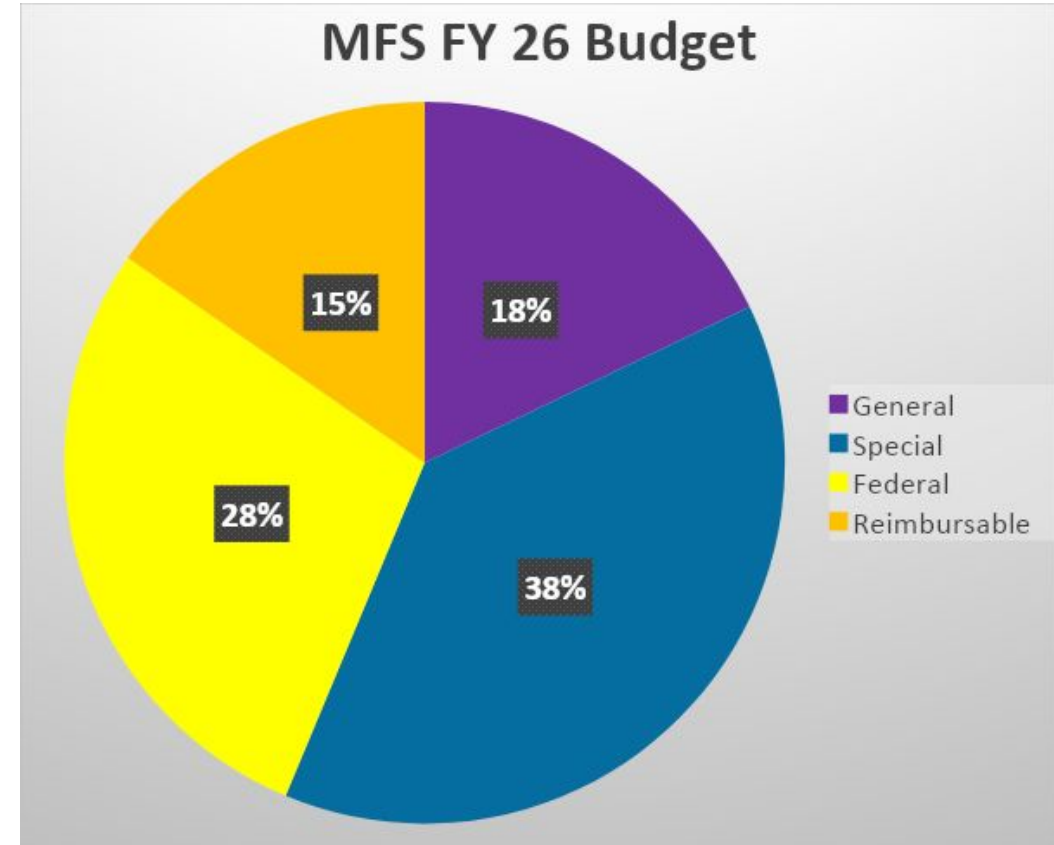
## Interstate coordination and training (NASF, NMSFA)

- Fire Compacts, NWCG Fire standards, National mutual aid
- State Forester and staff coordination – Urban/Community, Fire, Management, Health, Markets, FIA, Planning, Communications

## Forest Inventory & Analysis

- MD signing on as data collection partner
- 2X intensity, better data for statewide management
- Part of USFS Research (silviculture, watershed, forest products, fire, health...)

## Chesapeake Bay Forestry Coordination – Shared Stewardship





# New Opportunities

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**Climate Pollution Reduction Grant** – Mid and Lower Shore forest restoration – tree planting, invasive species control, thinning (also wetlands)

**LSR Forests for Habitat** – Dynamic Forest Restoration Blocks with Ruffed Grouse/American Woodcock Society, TNC, Audubon, more

**FCA/WIP** – Higher cost-share for 10-year+ commitment

**Forest Stewardship Underserved Landowner** cost-share – federal grants to expand cost-share availability for good forestry practices

**Recreation** – Trails, especially beginner options

Expanded flexibility and funding for **Forestry Boards**

**Markets** – challenges, but seeking market sector, expansion (Inventwood, Edrich examples)





# Chesapeake Bay Agreement Approved

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Riparian Forest Buffer and Urban Tree Canopy goals retained, refined

- Annual goals lower but still very ambitious
- Long-term buffer goal 75%, up from 70%, to reflect new data and science

Conservation elevated – forest conservation goal to be developed

Land Use/Land Cover products re-focusing on local government needs



# Forest Service Structure

CURRENT 10/1/2025

