



Maryland Forest Service Overview

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MD Forest Action Plan-5 Yr check-in

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

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

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

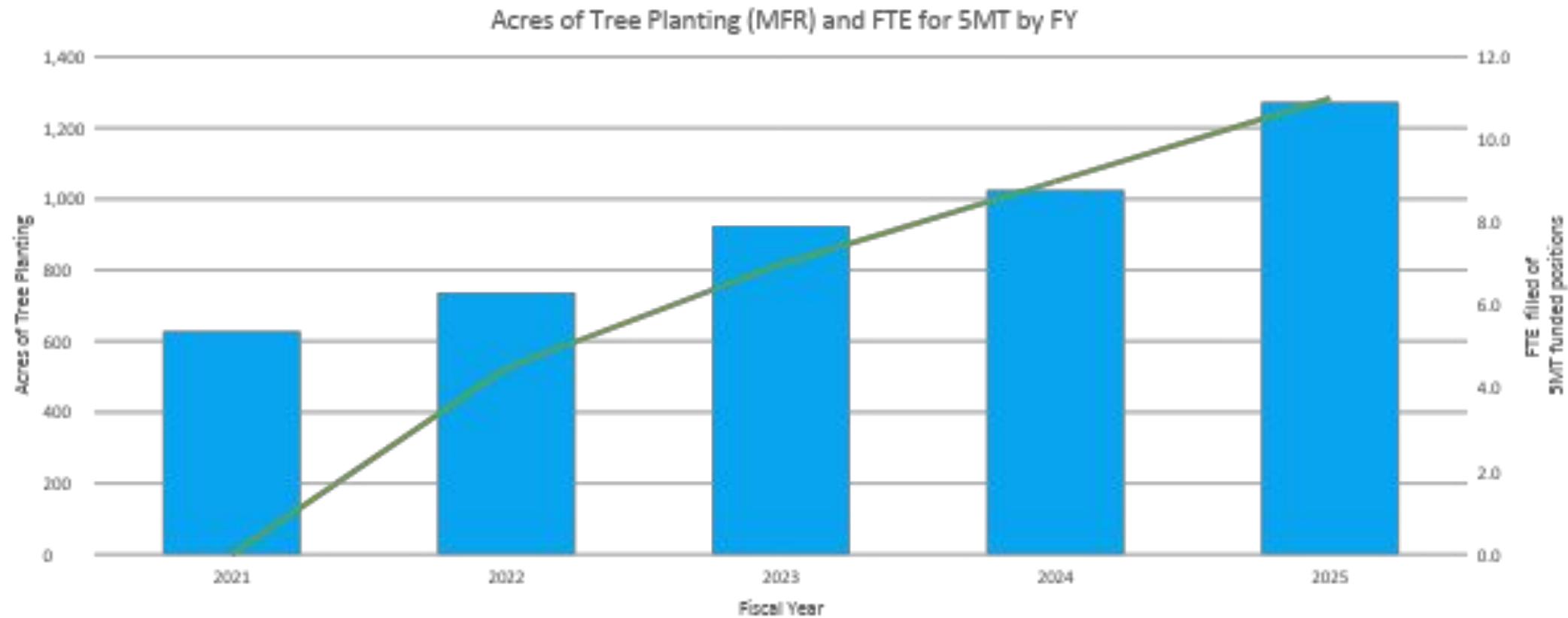
Community Wildfire Defense Grants –federal IIJA grants, open now, have MD Coordinator

Prescribed Burn Council – companion to DE, PA, VA

MD Prescribed Burn Association

National Wildfire Coordinating Group Standards

People = Progress: 5MT Example



MD Forest Service Staffing

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

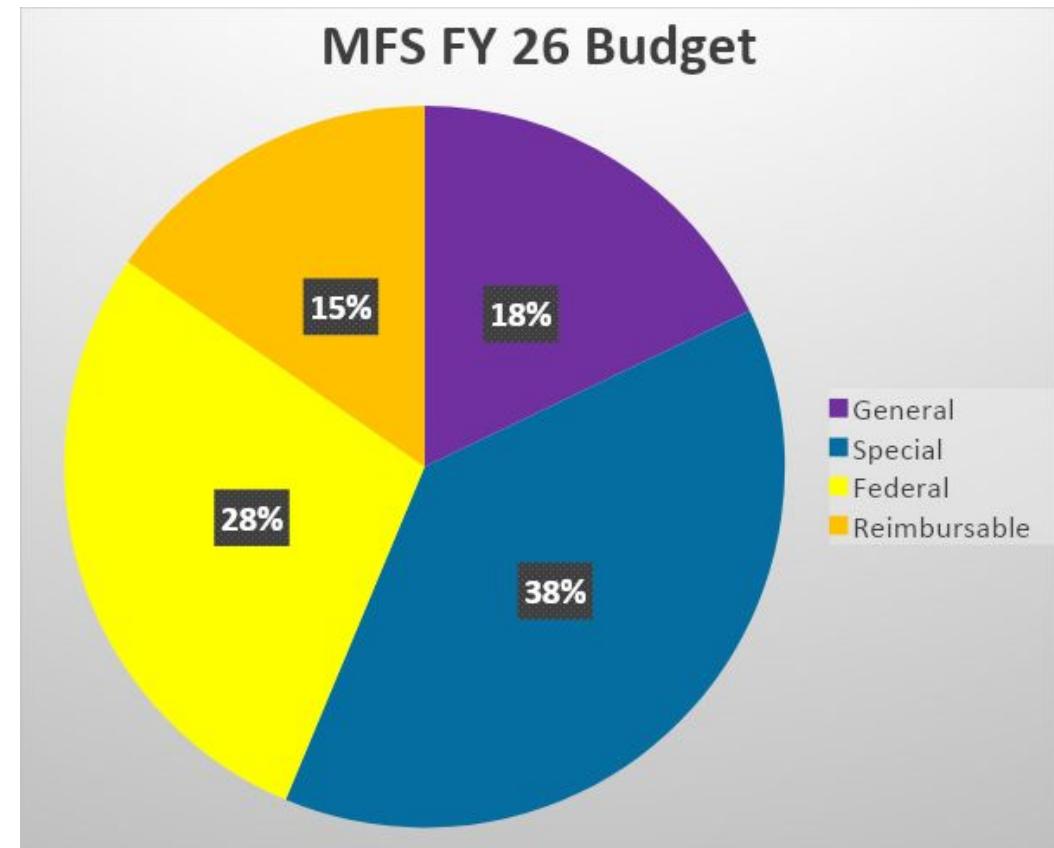
Interstate coordination and training (NASF, NMSFA)

- 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

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

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

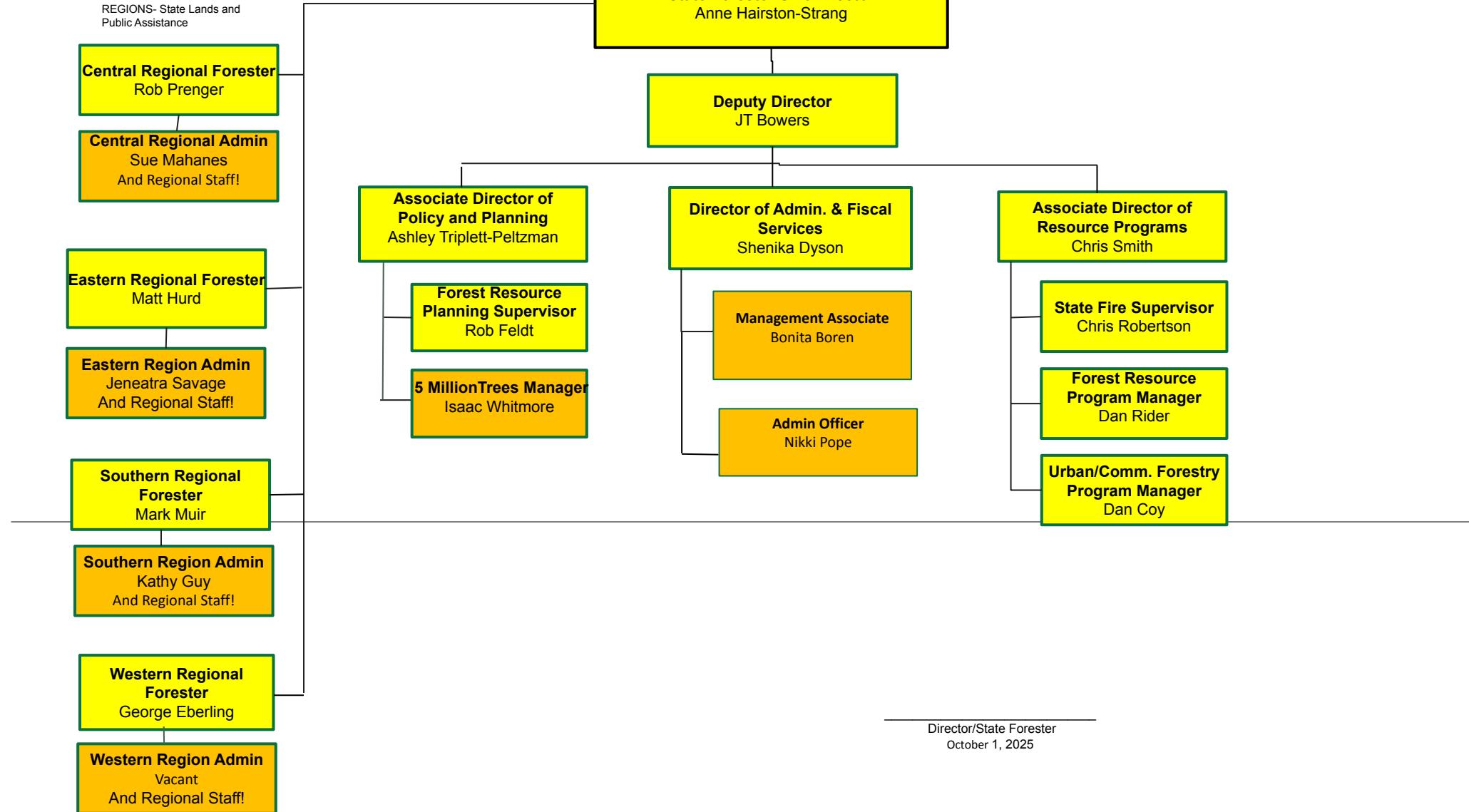
Conservation elevated – forest conservation goal to be developed

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



CURRENT 10/1/2025

Forest Service Structure



Director/State Forester
October 1, 2025