Sustainable Forestry Council

No-Net-Loss of Forest Policy
Recommendations to the Maryland Department of Natural Resources

http://www.dnr.state.md.us/forests/sfcouncil.asp
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sustainable Forestry Council</th>
<th>Why now?</th>
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<td>• Forests and trees provide clean air, clean water, flood control, etc.</td>
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<td>• Over the last 60 years, Maryland has lost an average ~7,000 acres per year and loss is expected to continue</td>
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<td>• “(D)evelopment of forests due to <strong>uninformed local land use decisions</strong> leading to the parcelization and fragmentation of forests and conversion to non-forest uses.”</td>
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<td>• Maryland General Assembly asked for these recommendations through:</td>
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<td>• Forest Conservation Act (SB 666)—No Net Loss of Forest Policy</td>
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What is a No-Net-Loss of Forest Policy?

- Reduce the rate of loss by 2020
- Maintain the state’s existing 40% forest coverage
- Not just extent, but also quality

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Prioritize Forest Conservation
  – Adopt a green infrastructure approach to FCA

Protect High Quality Forests
  – New planning requirements

Offset All Sources of Forest Loss
  – Develop strategy to mitigate loss from sources currently exempt in FCA

Encourage Stewardship
  – Incentives for forest landowners
MARYLAND NO NET LOSS OF FOREST PRIORITY AREAS

OCTOBER 2011

Legend
- County Boundary
- Forest Conservation Area (200 Acres Plus)
- Urban Tree Canopy Areas
- Woodland Conservation Areas
- US Census Bureau Designated Urban Area

Insets above and at right.
Prioritize Forest Conservation

- **Forest Conservation Areas**
  - Forest Patches >200 acres
    - 73% of Maryland’s forest
  - For every acre developed, mitigate four acres of forest

- **Urban Tree Canopy Areas**
  - All trees, woods, and forests in urban areas
    - 7% of Maryland’s forest
  - Achieve and maintain 40% urban tree canopy cover
  - Two acres of required mitigation can be met with one acre

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Prioritize Forest Conservation

Woodland Conservation Areas

- All forest outside Forest Conservation and Urban Tree Canopy Areas
  - 20% of Maryland’s forest
- Development will continue: avoid forest loss to the extent possible
- Development that can be sited anywhere should be mitigated with a one to one ratio
- Non-discretionary development should be mitigated at 0.75 acres per acre of forest that is converted

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Protection of High Quality Forests

- Require a new Models and Guidelines for Forest Resources
  - Forest Resource Assessment
  - Forest Vulnerability Assessment

- Require a Forest Resource Element
  - Similar to, but simpler than a Water Resource Element
  - Stimulate local forest conservation by encouraging U.S. EPA to credit “actual” forest cover as a BMP (i.e., planted forest)

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Offset All Forest Losses

- Develop a mitigation requirement for existing exempt sources
  - Utility rights-of-way, mining, agriculture, etc.

- Assist local governments in the design and use of fee-in-lieu funds

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Encourage forest conservation by facilitating landowner involvement in third-party forest certification systems.

Provide technical and financial assistance for programs that promote the conversion of residential turf to trees.

Ensure landowner access to emerging markets through appropriate incentives in areas like wood biomass energy.

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Defining and Tracking Loss

- Need a consistent and reliable data source
  - Use imagery every three years to document net change
  - Baseline year is 2007

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Tangible options to “bend the curve”

Comments?

Final draft ready on 11/22
### About the Sustainable Forestry Council

Advising the Department of Natural Resources on strategies to sustain Maryland’s forests

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<tr>
<th>Gary Allen, Chair</th>
<th>Don Outen</th>
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<td>Eric Sprague, Vice-chair</td>
<td>Gregory Pumell</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kim Finch</td>
<td>Kenneth Roberts</td>
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<td>Al Goetzel</td>
<td>Kirk Rodgers</td>
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<td>Connie Hoge</td>
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