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

- Forests and trees provide clean air, clean water, flood control, etc.

- Over the last 60 years, Maryland has lost an average ~7,000 acres per year and loss is expected to continue

- "(D)evelopment of forests due to **uninformed local land use decisions** leading to the parcelization and fragmentation of forests and conversion to non-forest uses."

- Maryland General Assembly asked for these recommendations through:
  - Sustainable Forestry Act of 2009 (SB 549) and
  - Forest Conservation Act (SB 666)—No Net Loss of Forest Policy

http://www.dnr.state.md.us/forests/sfcouncil.asp

- Reduce the rate of loss by 2020

- Maintain the state's existing 40% forest coverage

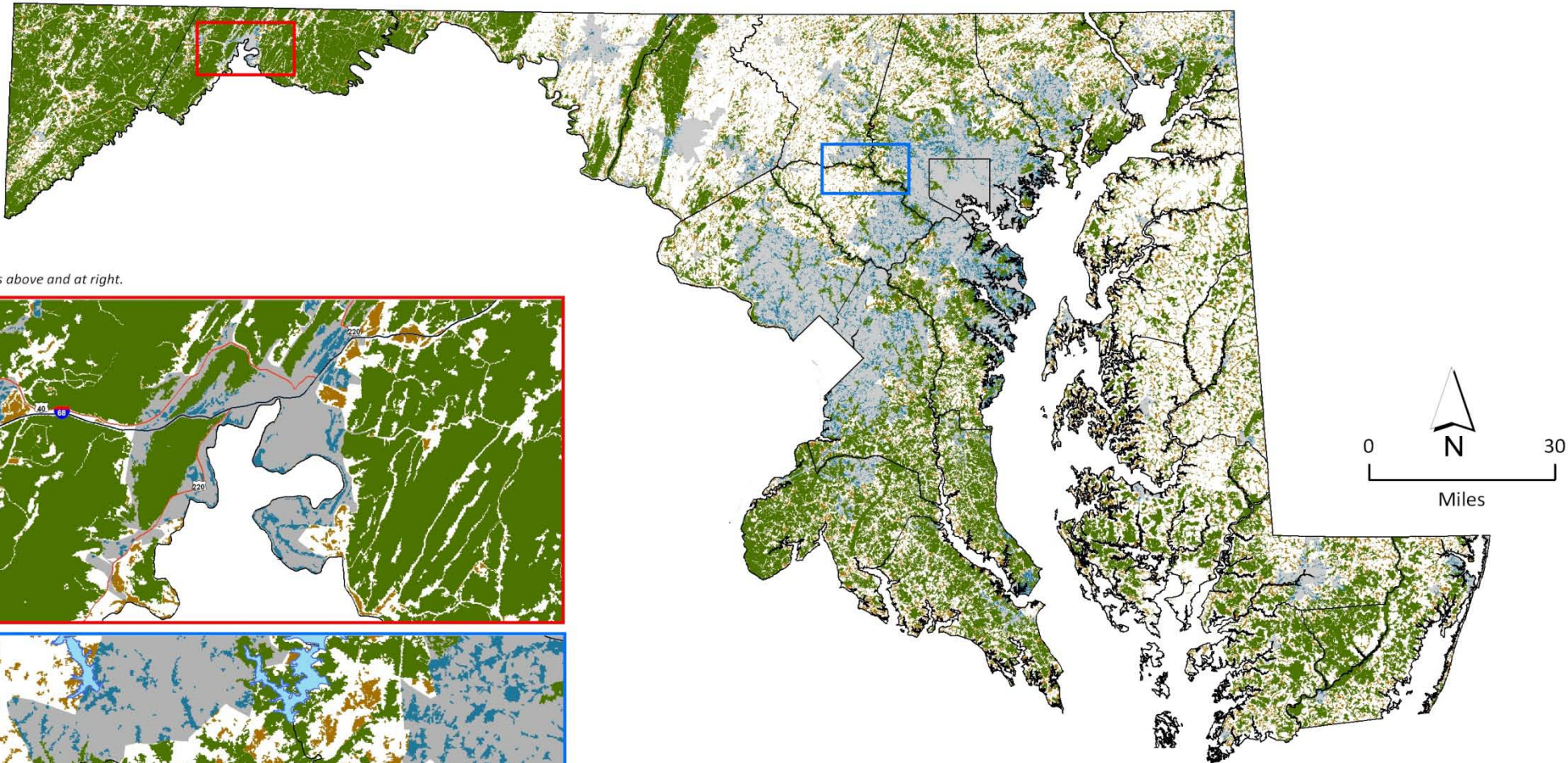- Not just extent, but also quality

- 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
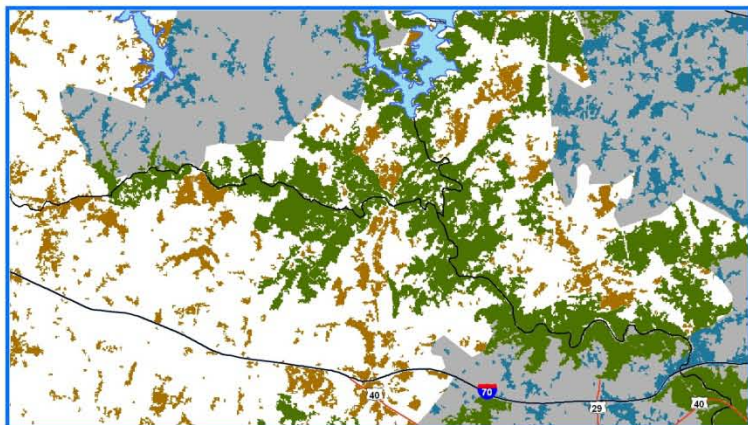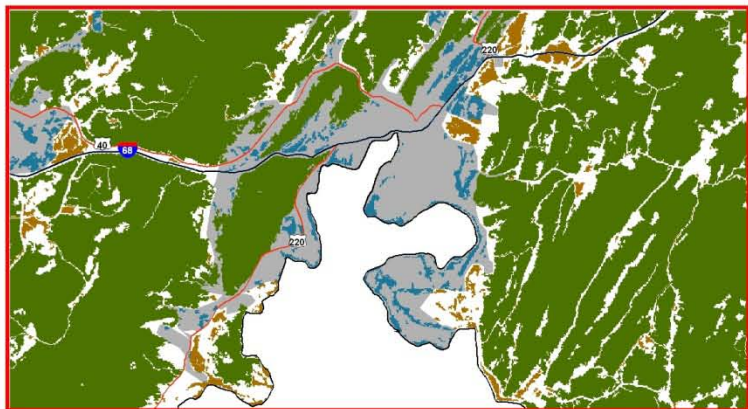- Encourage Stewardship
  - Incentives for forest landowners

http://www.dnr.state.md.us/forests/sfcouncil.asp

MARYLAND NO NET LOSS OF FOREST
PRIORITY AREAS

OCTOBER 2011

Insets above and at right.

Legend

○ County Boundary

🟩 Forest Conservation Area (200 Acres Plus)

🟦 Urban Tree Canopy Areas

🟫 Woodland Conservation Areas

⬜ US Census Bureau Designated Urban Area

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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- ## 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
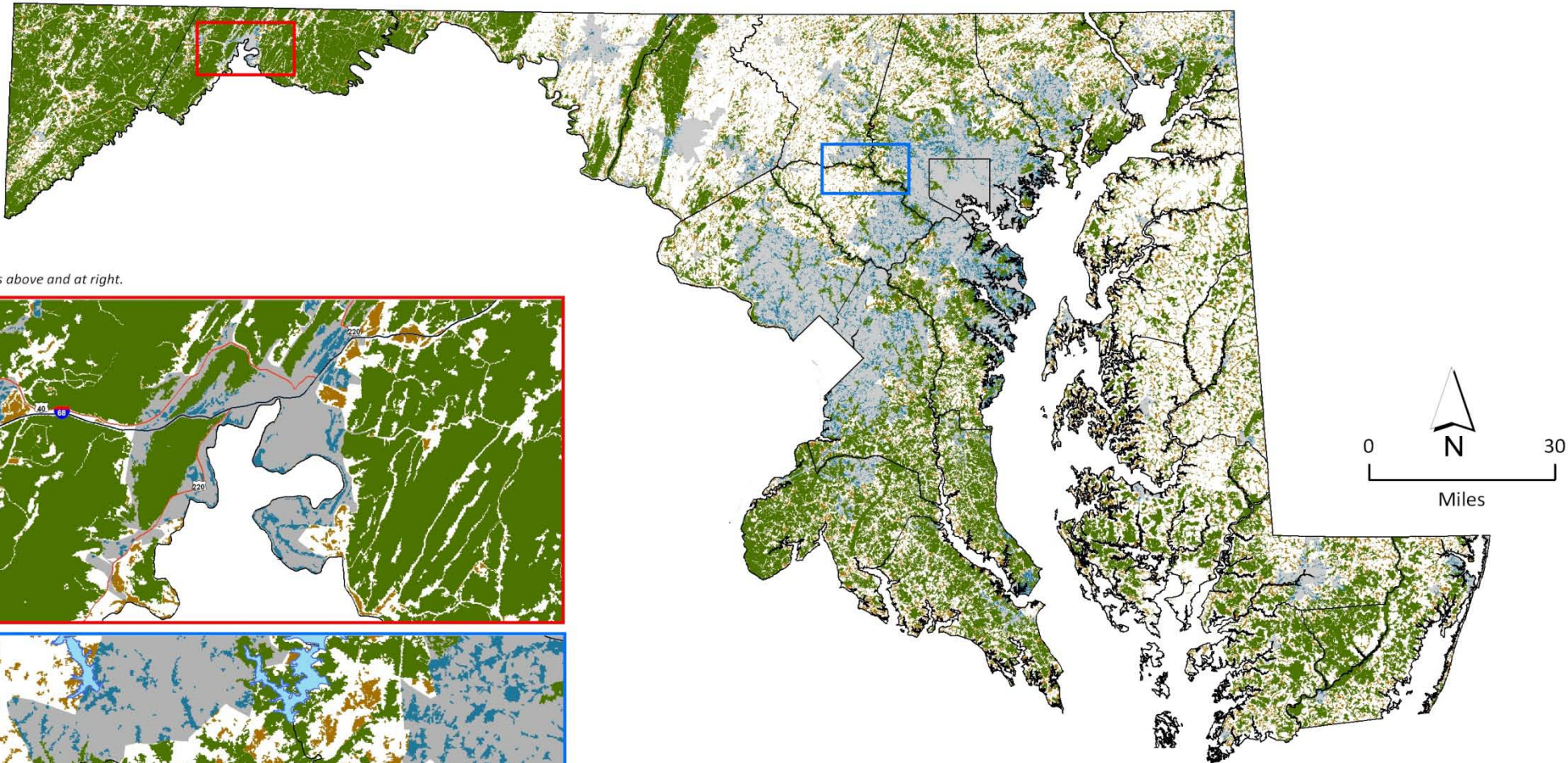
- Woodland Conservation Areas

  – 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
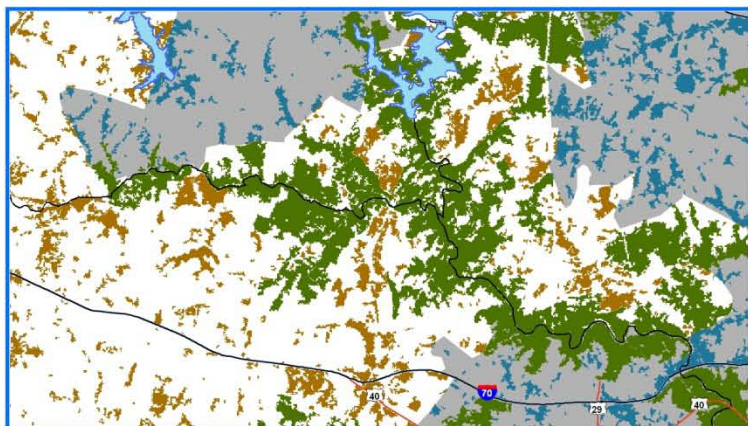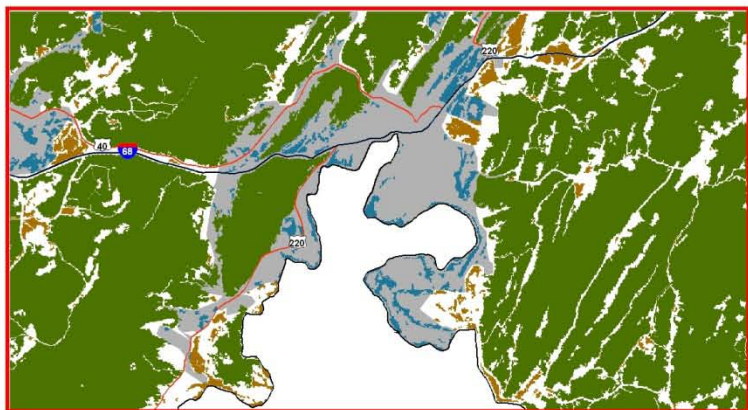

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MARYLAND NO NET LOSS OF FOREST
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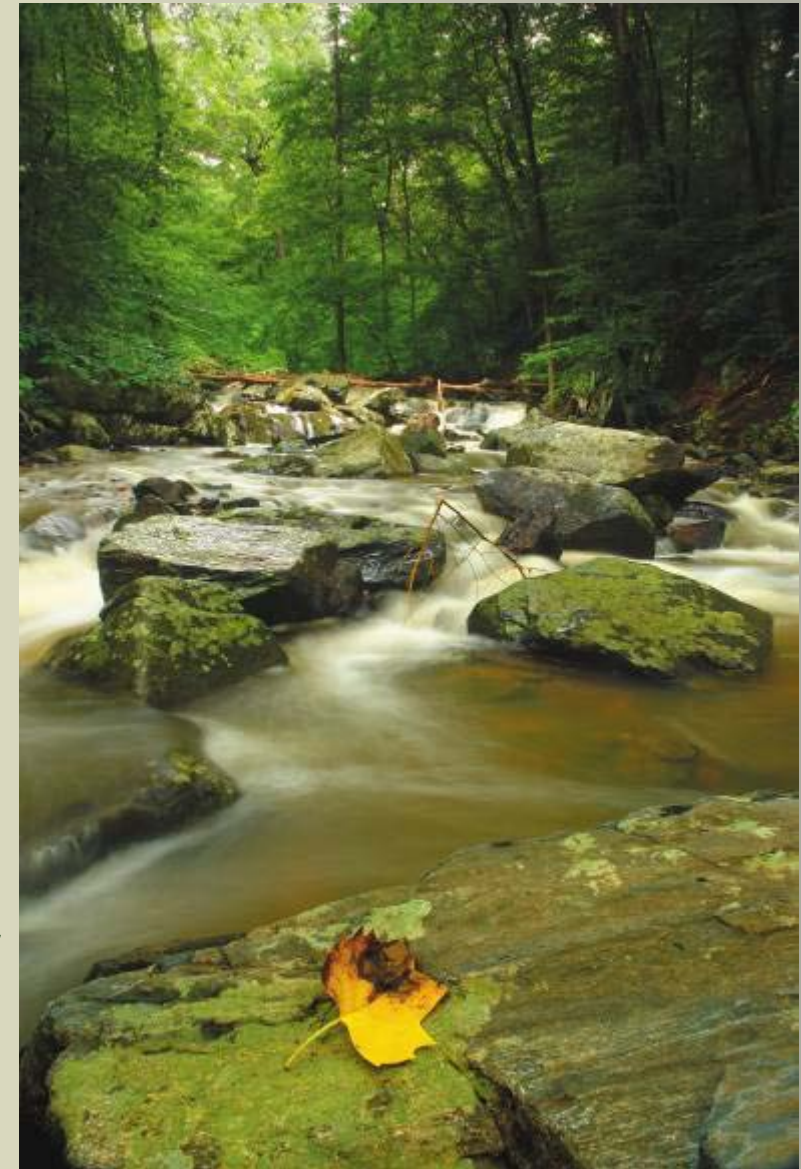### OCTOBER 2011

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

0   N   30
Miles

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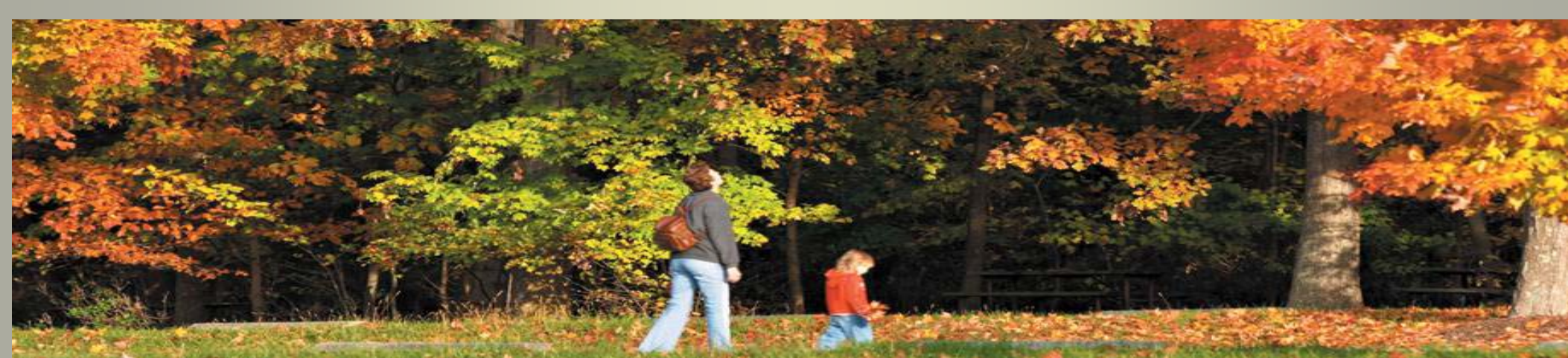
- Develop a mitigation requirement for existing exempt sources
  - Utility rights-of-way, mining, agriculture, etc.

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

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

  - Baseline year is 2007

- Tangible options to "bend the curve"

- Comments?

- Final draft ready on 11/22

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

Gary Allen, Chair
Eric Sprague, Vice-chair
Kim Finch
Al Goetzel
Connie Hoge

Don Outen
Gregory Purnell
Kenneth Roberts
Kirk Rodgers

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