

Mapping a Sustainable Forestry Strategy for Maryland:

Report on the Public Engagement Process



HARRY R. HUGHES CENTER FOR
AGRO-ECOLOGY, INC.



Harry R. Hughes Center for Agro-Ecology, Inc.

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Executive Summary

During 2009, a multi-stakeholder partnership led by the Harry R. Hughes Center for Agro-Ecology and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources – Forest Service developed a plan for obtaining public input in identifying key issues and strategies for sustaining forests and forestry in Maryland. Sponsoring organizations¹ included The Harry R. Hughes Center for Agro-Ecology*; The Biophilia Foundation*; Chesapeake Bay Program; Chesapeake Bay Trust*; The Conservation Fund; Maryland Department of Natural Resources – Forest Service; Forest Industry; Maryland Agriculture Council*; Maryland Forest Association; The Nature Conservancy; The Pinchot Institute; Town Creek Foundation*; and University of Maryland Extension.

The public engagement plan included a public survey of Maryland’s forestry leaders and other interested parties, five listening sessions held throughout the State in June 2009, and a Statewide Forestry Summit held in October 2009, in Linthicum, Maryland. The public engagement process resulted in the identification of four issue areas and for each issue, strategies and recommended actions. Strategies and recommended actions are both presented in order of priority with the highest priority first.

Issue 1. Maintaining Viable Forests and a Viable Forest Industry in Maryland

Strategy 1.1: Inventory forests that have high environmental, economic and social value at the landscape scale and adjust management accordingly.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

- Priority 1: Inventory and manage State-owned forests as sustainable working forests.
- Priority 2: Monitor and mitigate forest threats from invasive species, fires, and predation.
- Priority 3: Increase the amount of certified forest land, both public and private.
- Priority 4: Maintain and enhance forest biodiversity.

Strategy 1.2: Assess impacts of current regulations and institute improvements to retain forest-based enterprises.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

- Priority 1: Review laws or ordinances that affect the health of Maryland’s forests.
- Priority 2: Reduce and streamline regulations that unnecessarily constrain landowners in managing and harvesting timber.
- Priority 3: Develop and implement industry-focused land use regulations at the state and local level.

¹ Sponsors that provided financial support are marked with an *. A grant from the Maryland Agriculture Council is designated for the publication and distribution of the Summit proceedings.

Strategy 1.3: Increase State financial assistance to help industry upgrade and modernize.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

- Priority 1: For tax credits, take a long view over short term budget-based decisions.
- Priority 2: Increase funding and opportunities for logger training and education to increase efficiency, profitability, and public profile of harvest operators.
- Priority 3: Implement tax exemption program for all equipment and pollution control/mitigation devices used in wood harvesting and manufacturing processes.

Strategy 1.4: Market Maryland-based products through a Maryland Forests Products Utilization and Marketing Program.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

- Priority 1: Establish a “Buy Local” campaign.
- Priority 2: Offer forest product utilization funds for new ideas and products.

Issue 2. Demographic, Social, Cultural, and Economic Trends as Impediments to Forest Retention

Strategy 2.1: Address Fragmentation and Parcelization.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

- Priority 1: Make it a State priority to keep large tracts of forest land intact and working.
- Priority 2: Provide education and incentives to encourage landowners to manage parcelized ownerships as a single large unit.
- Priority 3: Develop and implement forestry-focused land use regulations at the local level.
- Priority 4: Prepare for pending intergenerational transfer of land.
- Priority 5: Manage the urban forest and green space.

Issue 3. Strengthening Forest Management by the Private Landowner

Strategy 3.1: Increase knowledge and implementation of forest values and practice through education.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

- Priority 1: Build capacity among woodland landowners to educate themselves and access professional assistance.
- Priority 2: Educate legislators and local government officials so they can make informed decisions about the sustainable management of forest resources.
- Priority 3: Educate citizens/consumers of wood products to support use of sustainably harvested forest products and sustainably managed urban forest systems.
- Priority 4: Increase use of forest-related curriculum by school children and teachers and increase implementation of forest practices on school properties.

Strategy 3.2: *Increase outreach capacity and technical assistance for landowners.*

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

- Priority 1: Develop a portal for private landowners that provides access to available education, technical and financial assistance – foresters, consultants, nonprofits, certifiers, educators, etc. – through increased partnering of different organizations to leverage limited resources and maximize impacts.
- Priority 2: Obtain detailed survey information on private landowners to target outreach education.
- Priority 3: Increase staffing and resources at the State level (Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Forest Service, University of Maryland Extension) to fill gaps.
- Priority 4: Create and enhance enterprise opportunities for private foresters.

Strategy 3.3: *Create and provide incentives to private landowners for managing forest land.*

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

- Priority 1: Provide income and property tax credits for landowners who implement their forest management plan.
- Priority 2: Offer incentives to engage owners of forested tracts 10 acres or smaller in active forest management.
- Priority 3: Improve the partnership between green industry and the forest industry.

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| Issue 4: New and Emerging Markets for Forest-based Resources |
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Strategy 4.1: *Expand the Maryland Forests Products Utilization and Marketing Program in support of private forest landowners and develop a robust plan addressing emerging opportunities such as biofuels and ecosystem services.*

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

- Priority 1: Establish pilot projects based on prior research into product viability, new markets, and income options.
- Priority 2: Increase public awareness through education and information about these opportunities.
- Priority 3: Explore possibilities and create financial incentives to support these opportunities.
- Priority 4: Provide technical assistance and tools to the industry and to private landowners to take advantage of these opportunities.

The Maryland DNR will incorporate the survey, listening sessions, and summit outcomes in the Maryland Forest Assessment, due in January 2010, and the Maryland State-wide Response Plan, due to the USDA in June 2010 to be used as a base for potential Federal funding from the Department of Agriculture.

Mapping a Sustainable Forestry Strategy for Maryland: *Report on the Public Engagement Process*

In Maryland, change is affecting every aspect of forests and forestry. Many forest landowners are struggling to plan for the future of their family lands in the face of reduced timber values and increased regulation. It will take smart and inclusive planning, strategic public and private investment, and leadership at all levels to prepare Maryland's landowners, communities, forestry professionals and forest industry to succeed and thrive in this new world.

In addition, the 2008 Farm Bill requires that all States complete statewide forest resource assessments and strategies by June 2010 to be eligible to receive Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act funding. In developing their State Assessments, State forestry agencies must both identify key forest-related issues and outline strategies for addressing these issues in a long-term State Strategy.

Leading a multi-stakeholder partnership, the Harry R. Hughes Center for Agro-Ecology and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources – Forest Service developed a plan for obtaining public input in identifying key issues and strategies. Sponsoring organizations² included The Harry R. Hughes Center for Agro-Ecology*; The Biophilia Foundation*; Chesapeake Bay Program; Chesapeake Bay Trust*; The Conservation Fund; Maryland Department of Natural Resources – Forest Service; Forest Industry; Maryland Agriculture Council*; Maryland Forest Association; The Nature Conservancy; The Pinchot Institute; Town Creek Foundation*; and University of Maryland Extension.

The Survey

The first step taken was to develop a survey on forestry issues in Maryland, based on work done by various organizations and entities since the mid-1990's. The survey addressed five issue areas:

- Retention and Management of Private Forests
- Retention and Management of Public Forests
- Economic Viability of Forestry Industry in Maryland
- Maintaining Forest Diversity in Maryland
- Value-Added Alternative Opportunities

Within each issue area, the survey identified the top recommended actions. Survey participants were then asked to rank the importance of the recommendations based on the current economic, environmental, and political climate. Respondents were also given the opportunity to add additional recommendations.

During Spring 2009, the survey was circulated to 155 of Maryland's forestry leaders and others in the state interested in forestry issues. The response rate was 26%; the results were collated into the slides presented in Appendix I.

² Sponsors that provided financial support are marked with an *. A grant from the Maryland Agriculture Council is designated for the publication and distribution of the Summit proceedings.

Listening Sessions

During June 2009, five regional listening sessions were held around the state to further explore forestry issues and opportunities in Maryland. Locations and dates were as follows:

June 08, 2009 – Harford Community College, Bel Air, MD
June 10, 2009 – The Ramada Inn and Conference Center, Salisbury, MD
June 15, 2009 – The College Of Southern Maryland, La Plata, MD
June 16, 2009 – The Urbana Library, Urbana, MD
June 17, 2009 – Frostburg University, Frostburg, MD

Approximately 45 – 55 people attended each session. The goal of the listening sessions was to more fully identify the problems that currently threaten Maryland forests and the kinds of technical support, educational opportunities, and cost share programs needed to help landowners manage their forest land and market forest products in the future.

Listening session participants were first presented with the results of the survey to provide context. They were then asked to identify their own concerns, a summary of which follows:

Summary of Concerns

I. Greatest Concerns Regarding Retention and Management of Private Forests

Conversion of forests to non-forest uses through commercial and residential development was a primary concern. Fragmentation and parcelization of forests were also cited as key areas of concern, as was the lack of viable management strategies for the remaining small parcels. Many others cited the lack of appropriately structured financial incentives for retaining forest land and heavy tax burdens as disincentives.

Some were concerned that forest management plans and conservation easements were not being enforced. Many worried that individuals now acquiring forested home sites of 10 acres or less have never owned forestland in the past and need landowner assistance programs. The lack of access to professional services by landowners and the reduction of MD DNR foresters concerned many; the aging of forestry professionals also worried some. As one person summed it up, “the old axiom of ‘doing more with less’ has reached its limit.”

Others saw challenges due to the lack of public education and understanding about how forests function and the benefits they provide, such as water quality, forest diversity, forest industry, jobs, recreation, wildlife habitat, etc. Many cited the lack of markets as a threat to retaining private forest lands. Others felt that climate change and unsustainable management practices were significant threats.

II. Greatest Concerns Regarding Retention and Management of Public Forests

The lack of people on the ground in the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and Department of Agriculture was seen as the greatest threat to retaining and managing public lands. Many felt that the agencies were top heavy, with too many people in administrative positions, leaving little budget for adding people at the field level. Inadequate funding for purchase of land by the State was also seen as a problem, especially with regard to in holdings

and buffer areas adjacent to forests. Many expressed concern over the State's ability to protect large contiguous tracts from development.

Publicly-owned forests were seen as particularly vulnerable given the current economic crisis. Concerns were also expressed about the effects of local regulation and zoning that was perceived as promoting development at the expense of forest land, especially in rural counties. Public lands were seen as at risk as long as elected officials were amenable to converting forests to other public purposes such as hospitals, schools, or water treatment facilities.

Many people expressed concern over the lack of active management on public forest lands, noting that benign neglect is insufficient to maintain the health and vigor of forest resources. Invasive pests were seen as indicative of inadequate management, and many expressed concern that pests were damaging the publicly-owned forests and then spreading from public to private land. Others feared that native biodiversity was being lost, and felt the role of State lands should be more holistic. The lack of public understanding of forest functions and benefits was seen as a threat to public lands, given that political will was necessary to sustain healthy forests and markets.

III. Greatest Concerns Regarding Economic Viability of Forestry Industry in Maryland

Viability for the forest products industry in Maryland was seen as directly correlated to maintaining viable forests—that is, without a forest resource, there is no industry, and vice versa. It was feared that many people would not concern themselves with forest sustainability without a viable forest products industry to place an economic value on forest lands. Forest fragmentation was also a concern, given the difficulty of harvesting small parcels profitably. Regulatory issues, such as the difficulty of acquiring harvesting permits in a timely fashion, were also seen as problematic.

As also noted under Issue 5, some were worried about maintaining a balance between a viable forest products industry focused on lumber and paper while also expanding forest-based enterprises using biomass for things like energy. In particular, there was concern that government assistance for alternatives would drive the price of wood fiber up too high for traditional forest industry to compete. Given the changing patterns of land ownership and decreasing parcel size, the lack of public education or understanding of forests and forest systems was again seen as a major shortcoming, as was the lack of technical assistance for business owners.

Concern was significant over the perceived lack of appropriate financial incentives in support of both producers and the mills forest industry, given the uncertainty of current markets and questionable return on investment. In particular, more support was sought for small and medium scale forestry enterprises in all parts of the state. Concerns were also expressed regarding redundant or duplicated processes and cumbersome regulations seen as discouraging forest owners from implementing forest improvement practices.

IV. Greatest Concerns Regarding Maintaining Forest Diversity in Maryland

Maintaining diversity was a primary concern for only a limited number of people, although problems associated with invasive species and changes in tree species mix were cited frequently in other categories of concern. For those concerned about maintaining forest diversity, the perceived lack of Maryland DNR field personnel was seen as a real problem, as was the effect of

forest conversion due to development, climate change, and wild fire. Logging permits that did not address forest diversity as a criterion was also a concern. Many people worried that a lack of public education about forests and forest diversity benefits was making a bad situation worse.

V. Greatest Concerns Regarding Value-Added Alternative Opportunities

Value-added alternatives were most often a secondary concern, generally in the context of improving opportunities for forest landowners with small holdings and others who are most likely to convert forests to other land use purposes. Interests ranged broadly from biofuels and biomass opportunities to recreation and traditional non-timber products such as mushrooms, ginseng, ferns, etc. Some were worried about maintaining a balance between a viable forest products industry focused on lumber and paper while also expanding forest-based enterprises using biomass for things like energy. In particular, there was concern that government assistance for alternatives would drive the price of wood fiber up too high for traditional forest industry.

People also saw a conflict between the need for economic cost-share and technical help to develop these markets and the reductions in staffing identified at MD DNR. Given that the market for traditional forest products is cyclical at best, some were concerned as to how the viability and sustainability of new opportunities would be tested. However, there was broad consensus that a healthy forest products industry is crucial to helping forest landowners keep their forests intact by providing economic incentives through the market.

VI. Other Concerns

Participants were also given the opportunity to raise additional concerns outside of the identified categories. Citing the rate of development and the inevitability of transformation from development, urban forests were seen as an area in need of more research, resources, and regulation. Concerns were also expressed over the adoption of poorly thought out regulation that ignore urban revitalization and inhibit urban renewal, seeing smart growth as protecting more forest than any other form of land development. Others saw the need to return a portion of Maryland forests to old growth conditions. Some called for more effective tools to assess the benefits of forests and to more effectively communicate the benefits to both policy makers and the public to build political will. Worries were expressed over the lack of communication and collaboration between stakeholders and agency professionals focused on the economic values of production and harvest versus those focused on environmental values of conservation and preservation. Similarly, people were concerned about landowners' lack of understanding of forest attributes, both economic and systemic. People's disconnection from forests and the value of forests in their busy lives was also a concern.

Participants then proposed actions that they felt would address their concerns. The lists of recommended actions generated during the listening sessions fell into four issue categories:

- Issue 1. Maintaining Viable Forests and a Viable Forest Industry
- Issue 2. Demographic, Social, Cultural, and Economic Trends as Impediments to Forest Retention
- Issue 3. Strengthening Forest Management by the Private Landowner
- Issue 4: New and Emerging Markets for Forest-based Resources

The recommended actions were summarized and served as the basis for the State-wide Forestry Summit. A more detailed summary of the recommended actions are included in Appendix II.

Forestry Summit

On October 5, 2009, a State-wide Forestry Summit was held in Linthicum, Maryland, with approximately 100 participants. Four speakers were respectively asked to address each of the four issue categories, describing for participants the opportunities and challenges associated with each issue and the possible strategies that Maryland might want to consider in setting a new strategic path for sustaining forests and forestry in the State. The Summit Agenda and the Registrants List can be found in Appendices III and IV, the Speaker Bios in Appendix V.

Over the course of the day, summit attendees:

- reviewed the findings from the listening sessions,
- considered the additional input from the issue experts,
- discussed the issues in small group roundtable sessions, and
- prioritized for their small group the list of actions that they felt would adequately address the identified forestry issues facing Maryland.

The small group outcomes were then collated into an over all set of prioritized action strategies and priorities, with the highest priority first as follows:

Issue 1. Maintaining Viable Forests and a Viable Forest Industry in Maryland

Speaker: Robert W. Slocum, Jr., Executive Vice President, North Carolina Forestry Association

Strategy 1.1: Inventory forests that have high environmental, economic and social value at the landscape scale and adjust management accordingly

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

- Priority 1: Inventory and manage State-owned forests as sustainable working forests.
- Priority 2: Monitor and mitigate forest threats from invasive species, fires, and predation.
- Priority 3: Increase the amount of certified forest land, both public and private.
- Priority 4: Maintain and enhance forest biodiversity.

Strategy 1.2: Assess impacts of current regulations and institute improvements to retain forest-based enterprises.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

- Priority 1: Review laws or ordinances that affect the health of Maryland's forests.
- Priority 2: Reduce and streamline regulations that unnecessarily constrain landowners in managing and harvesting timber.
- Priority 3: Develop and implement industry-focused land use regulations at the state and local level.

Strategy 1.3: Increase State financial assistance to help industry upgrade and modernize.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

- Priority 1: For tax credits, take a long term view over short term budget-based decisions.
- Priority 2: Increase funding and opportunities for logger training and education to increase efficiency, profitability, and public profile of harvest operators.
- Priority 3: Implement tax exemption program for all equipment and pollution control/mitigation devices used in wood harvesting and manufacturing processes.

Strategy 1.4: Market Maryland-based products through a Maryland Forests Products Utilization and Marketing Program.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

- Priority 1: Establish a “Buy Local” campaign.
- Priority 2: Offer forest product utilization funds for new ideas and products.

Issue 2. Demographic, Social, Cultural, and Economic Trends as Impediments to Forest Retention

Speaker: Don Outen, AICP, Natural Resource Manager, Department of Environmental Protection and Resource Management, Baltimore County

Strategy 2.1: Address Fragmentation and Parcelization.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

- Priority 1: Make it a state priority to keep large tracts of forest land intact and working.
- Priority 2: Provide education and incentives to encourage landowners to manage parcelized ownerships as a single large unit.
- Priority 3: Develop and implement forestry-focused land use regulations at the local level.
- Priority 4: Prepare for pending intergenerational transfer of land.
- Priority 5: Manage the urban forest and green space.

Issue 3. Strengthening Forest Management by the Private Landowner

Speaker: Jonathan Kays, Natural Resources Extension Specialist, University of Maryland Extension

Strategy 3.1: Increase knowledge and implementation of forest values and practice through education.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

- Priority 1: Build capacity among woodland landowners to educate themselves and access professional assistance.

- Priority 2: Educate legislators and local government officials so they can make informed decisions about the sustainable management of forest resources.
- Priority 3: Educate citizens/consumers of wood products to support use of sustainably harvested forest products and sustainably managed urban forest systems.
- Priority 4: Increase use of forest-related curriculum by school children and teachers and increase implementation of forest practices on school properties.

Strategy 3.2: *Increase outreach capacity and technical assistance for landowners.*

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

- Priority 1: Develop a portal for private landowners that provides access to available education, technical and financial assistance – foresters, consultants, nonprofits, certifiers, educators, etc. – through increased partnering of different organizations to leverage limited resources and maximize impacts.
- Priority 2: Obtain detailed survey information on private landowners to target outreach education.
- Priority 3: Increase staffing and resources at the State level (Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Forest Service, University of Maryland Extension) to fill gaps.
- Priority 4: Create and enhance enterprise opportunities for private foresters.

Strategy 3.3: *Create and provide incentives to private landowners for managing forest land.*

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

- Priority 1: Provide income and property tax credits for landowners who implement their forest management plan.
- Priority 2: Offer incentives to engage owners of forested tracts 10 acres or smaller in active forest management.
- Priority 3: Improve the partnership between green industry and the forest industry.

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| Issue 4: New and Emerging Markets for Forest-based Resources |
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Speaker: Eric C. Sprague, Program Director, Pinchot Institute for Conservation

Strategy 4.1: *Expand the Maryland Forests Products Utilization and Marketing Program in support of private forest landowners and develop a robust plan addressing emerging opportunities such as biofuels and ecosystem services.*

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

- Priority 1: Establish pilot projects based on prior research into product viability, new markets, and income options.
- Priority 2: Increase public awareness through education and information about these opportunities.

Priority 3: Explore possibilities and create financial incentives to support these opportunities.

Priority 4: Provide technical assistance and tools to the industry and to private landowners to take advantage of these opportunities.

Next Steps

The Maryland DNR will incorporate the survey, listening sessions, and summit outcomes in the Maryland Forest Assessment, due in January 2010, and the Maryland State-wide Response Plan, due to the USDA in June 2010. The report will also be provided to Governor O'Malley and his Administration as a basis for decision making, to selected legislators active on forestry and natural resource issues, to task forces and commissions, to the Department of State Planning and to the various forestry (such as Maryland Forest Association, Maryland forestry boards, the Partnership for Sustainable Forestry), agricultural, environmental, local governmental and non-profit stakeholders for implementation.

Appendices

Appendix I: Survey Results

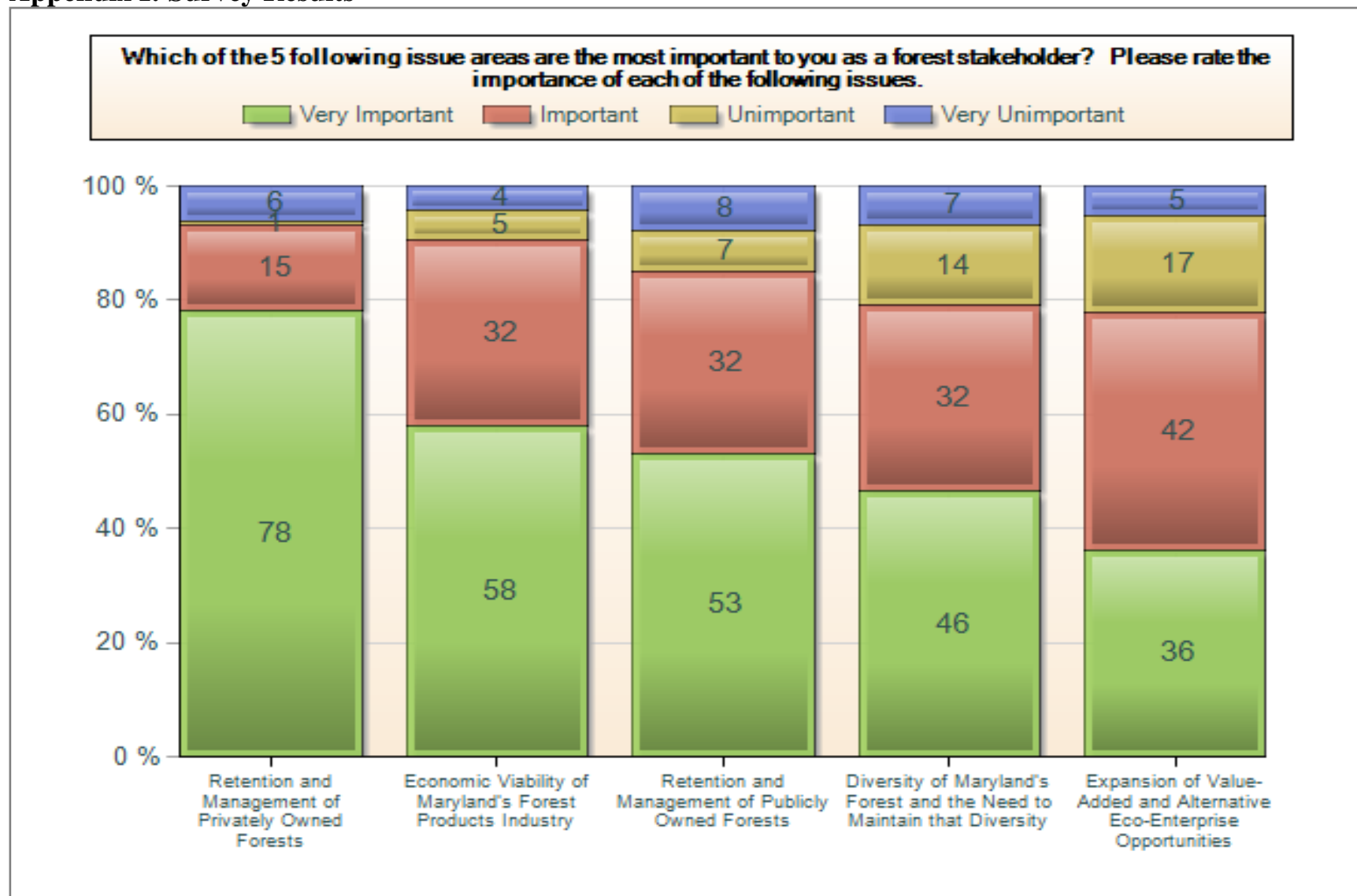
Appendix II: Recommended Actions and Status

Appendix III: Forestry Summit Agenda

Appendix IV: Forestry Summit Registrants

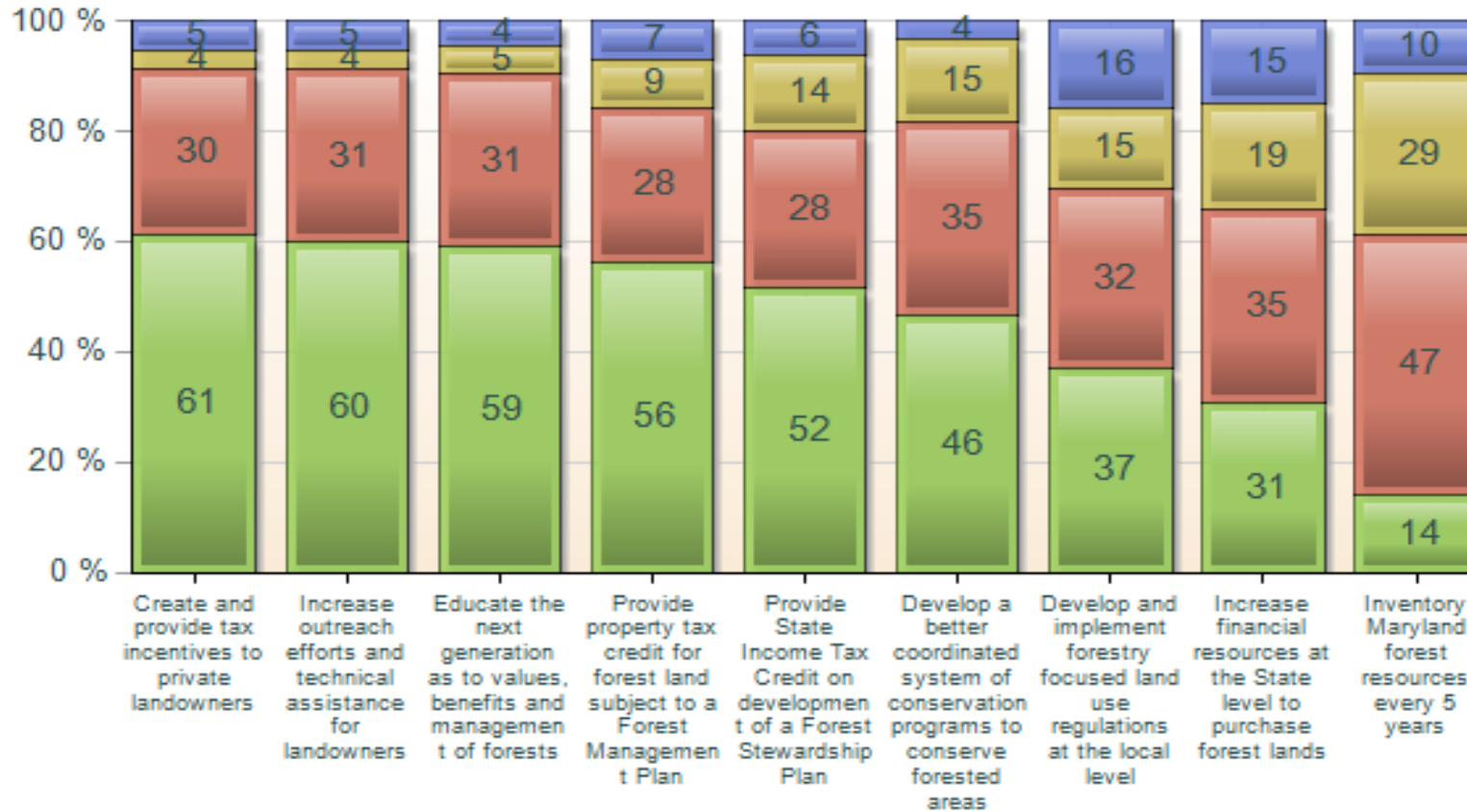
Appendix V: Speaker Bios

Appendix I: Survey Results



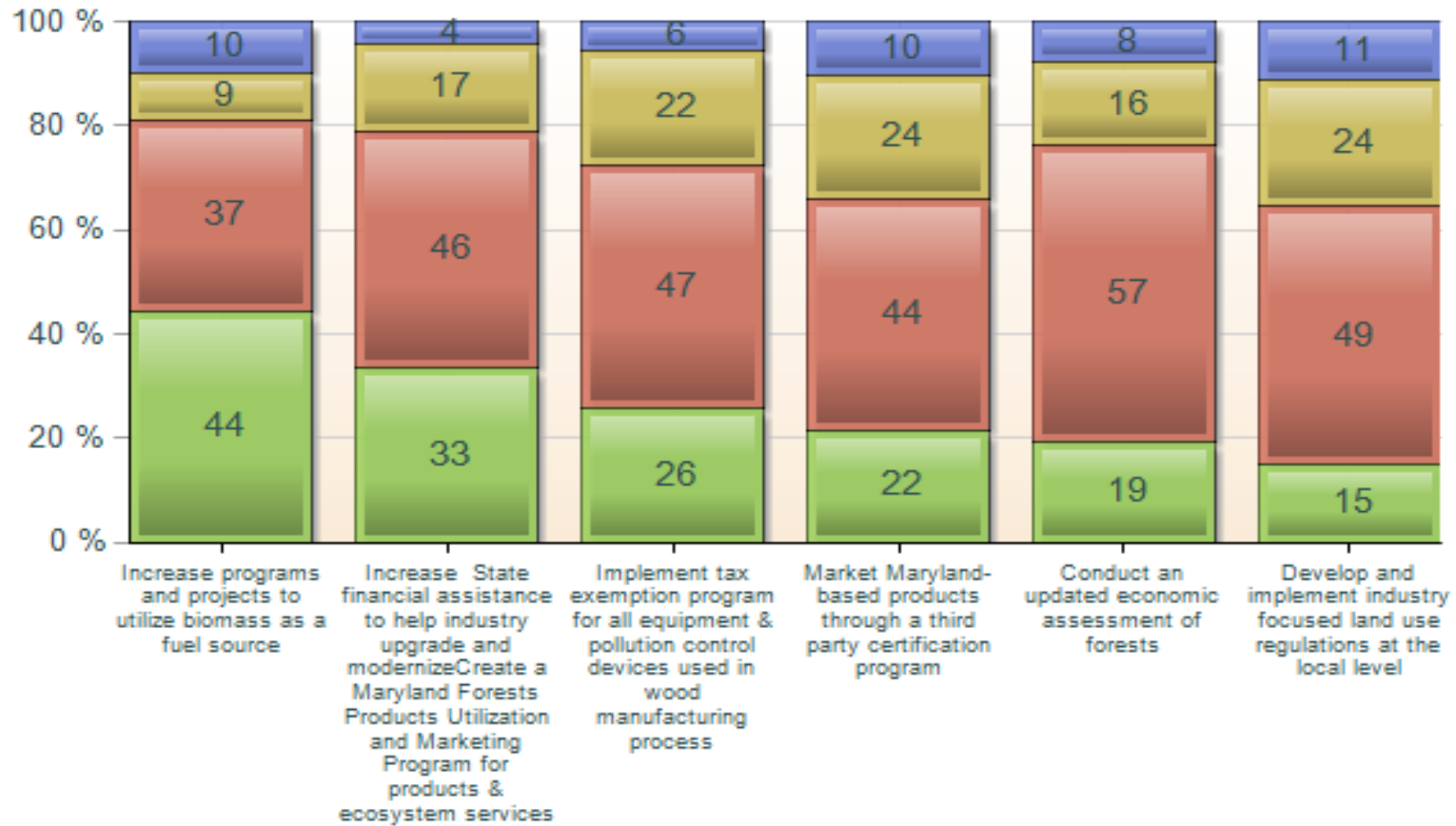
Several previous studies and reports written by the State and others have identified Retention & Management of Privately Owned Forests as a key issue. Forests cover 40% of Maryland and 80% of that forestland is owned by private landowners. Please indicate the importance of each related recommendation below.

Very Important Important Unimportant Very unimportant



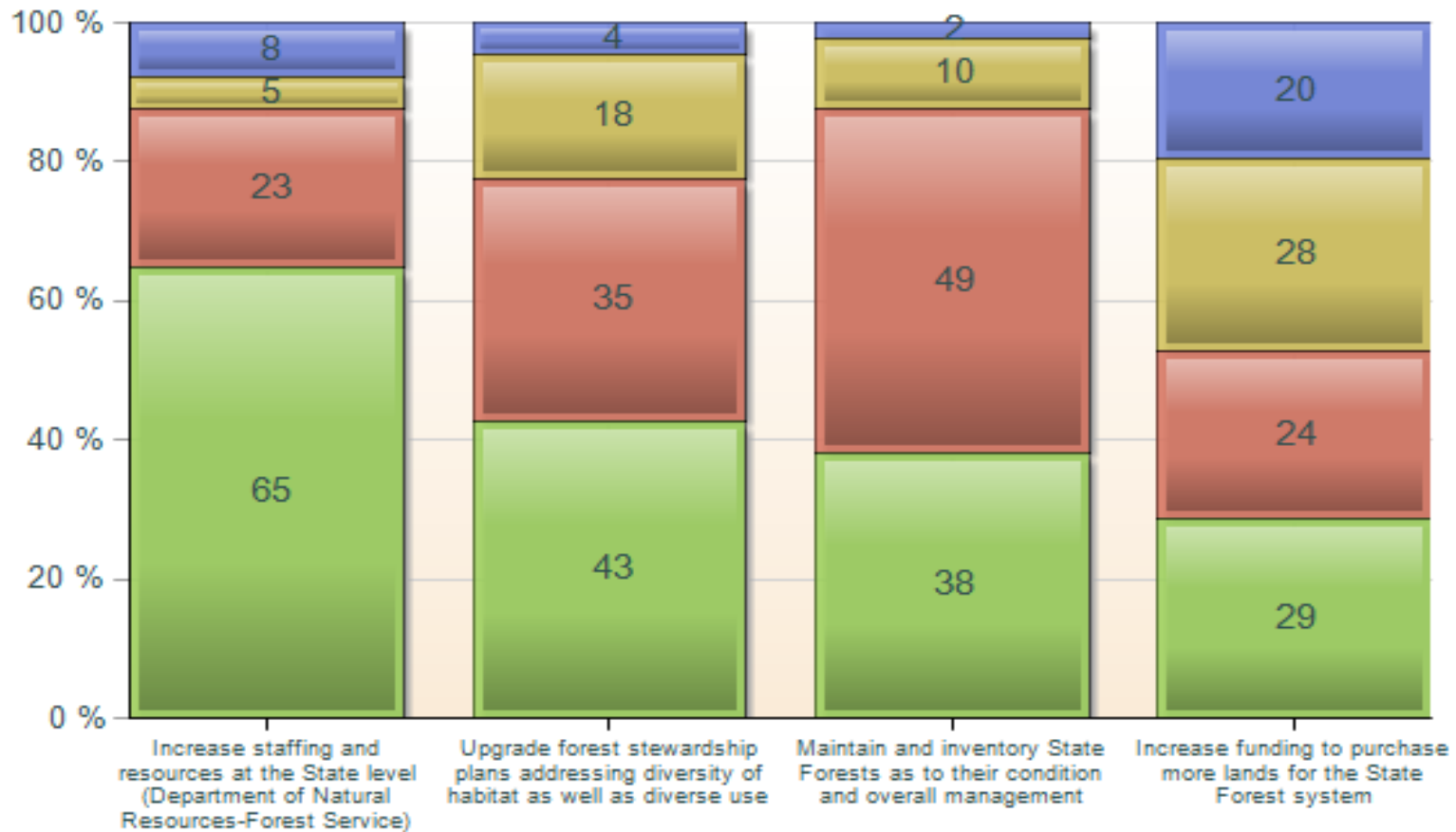
A second key issue, contained in previous studies and reports, pertains to Economic Viability of Maryland's Forest Products Industry. Please indicate the importance of each related recommendation below.

Very Important Important Unimportant Very Unimportant



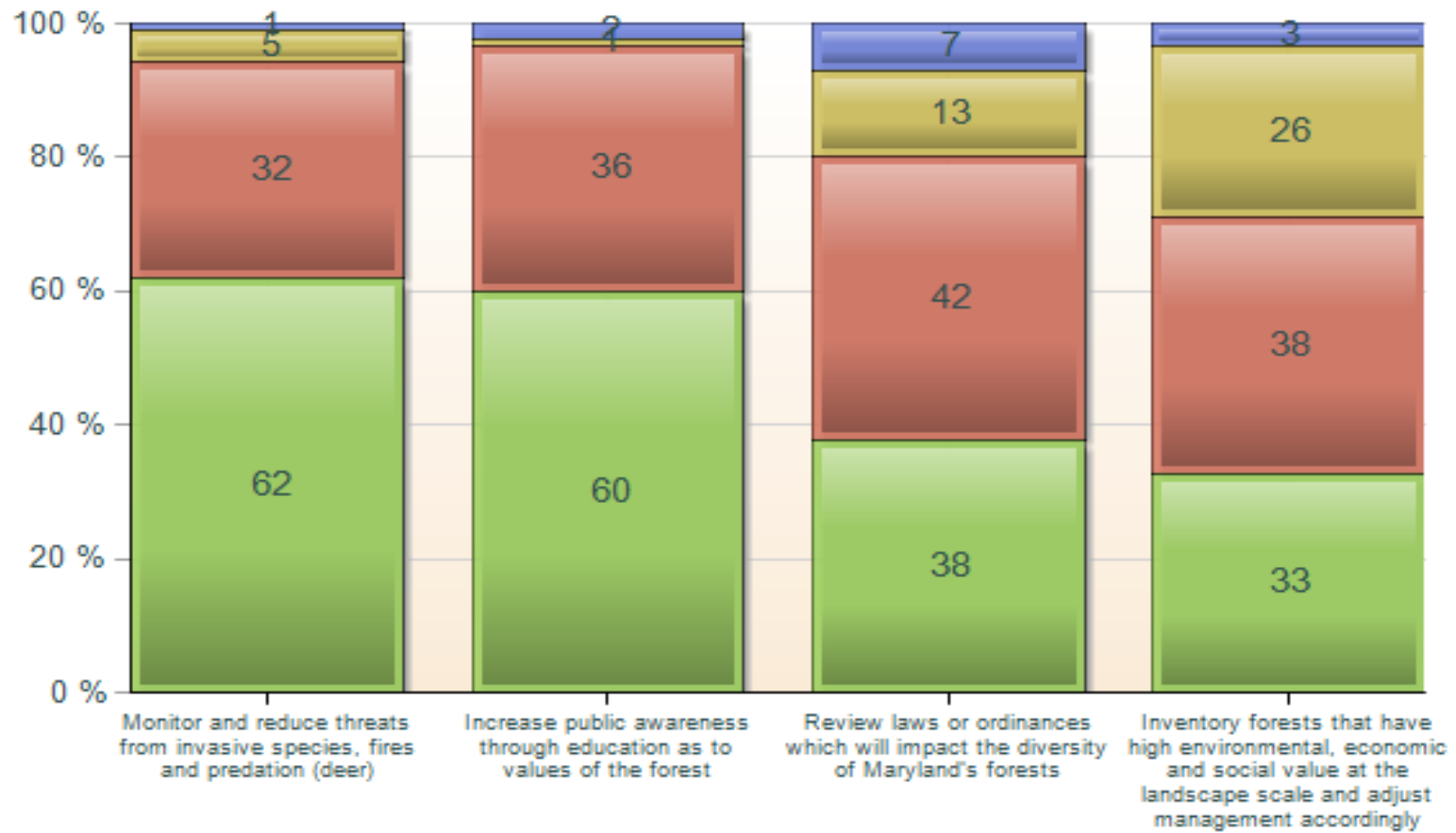
A third issue that runs through Maryland's forestry reports is the Retention & Management of Publicly Owned Forests. Please indicate the importance of each related recommendation below.

Very Important Important Unimportant Very Unimportant



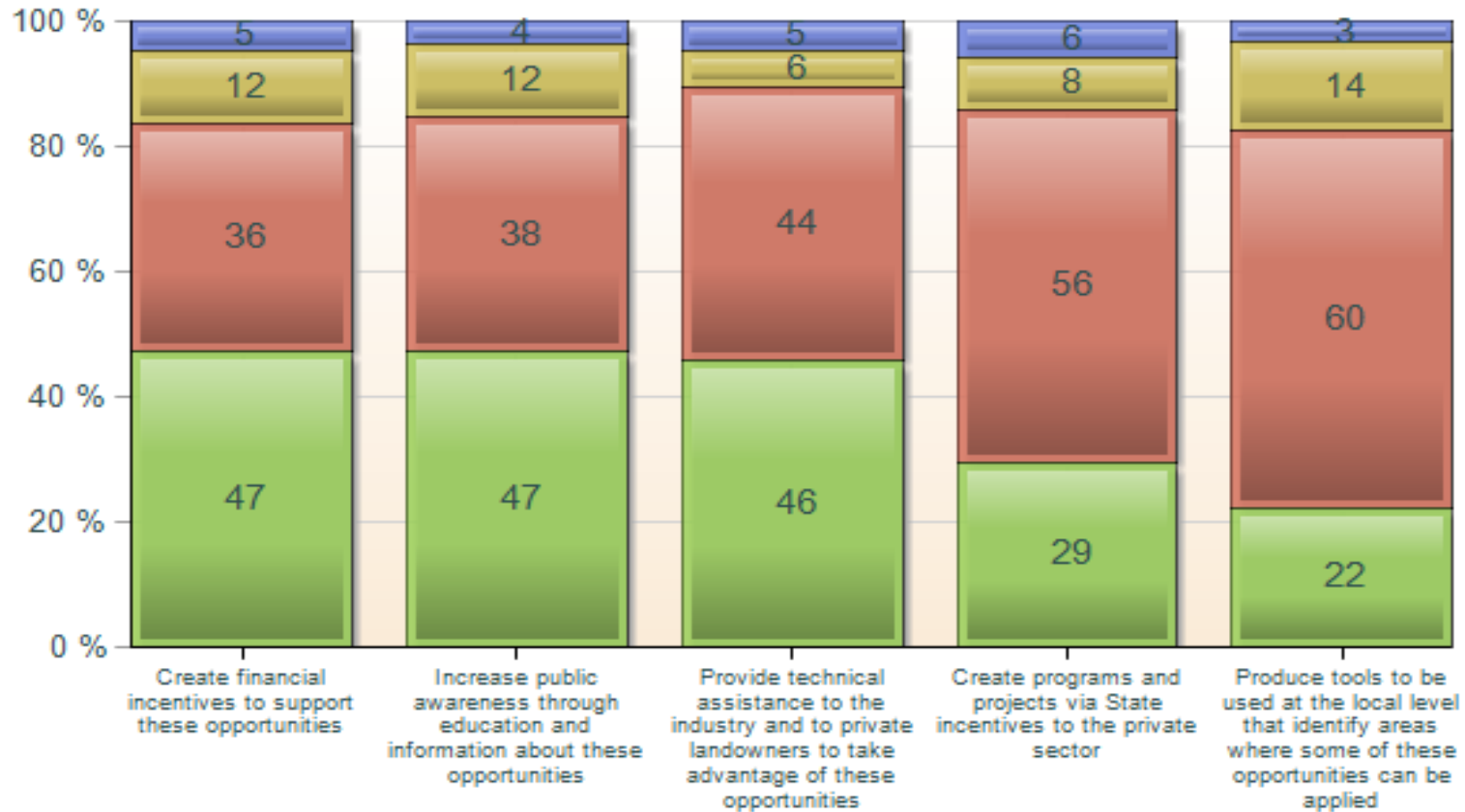
A fourth key issue is the Diversity of Maryland's Forests and the Need to Maintain that Diversity. Please indicate the importance of each related recommendation below.

Very Important Important Unimportant Very Unimportant



The last issue is the Expansion of Value-Added and Alternative Eco-Enterprise Opportunities. A fourth key issue is the Diversity of Maryland's Forests and the Need to Maintain that Diversity. Please indicate the importance of each related recommendation below.

Very Important Important Unimportant Very Unimportant



Appendix II: Recommended Actions and Status

NOTE: The following represents a compilation of ideas generated during the five listening sessions conducted during Summer 2009 and the Forestry Summit held in October 2009. The hundreds of individual ideas generated were analyzed and grouped into a set of recommended actions; the bulleted items are a representative sampling of ideas and suggestions.

Issue 1. Maintaining Viable Forests and a Viable Forest Industry in Maryland

Strategy 1.1: *Inventory forests that have high environmental, economic and social value at the landscape scale and adjust management accordingly.*

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

Priority 1:

Inventory and manage State-owned forests as sustainable working forests.

- *Inventory all forests.*
- *Review forest management plans on public lands and ensure that management objectives reflect diverse needs and values; while we argue over what to do about forests, we are losing them.*
- *Manage State forests with science instead of politics.*
- *Manage forests under a comprehensive watershed management plan that includes public and private lands.*
- *Resist pressure on State lands to become locations for commercial enterprises like ski resorts rather than working forests.*

STATUS, LEADERS, AND STAKEHOLDERS:

Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is moving to dual certification on all their lands – in progress.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

Priority 2:

Monitor and mitigate forest threats from invasive species, fires, and predation.

- *Coordinate efforts on public and private land to mutual benefit.*
- *Implement an effective program for controlling invasive species, including a contingency fund; engage the counties, consider volunteers and prisoners as sources of labor.*
- *Increase funding for the control of invasive species.*
- *Hire enough staff to use prescribed fire for beneficial purposes, avoiding the costs of wild fire control.*
- *Develop a deer management program that works, resulting in appropriate buck/doe ratio.*

STATUS, LEADERS, AND STAKEHOLDERS:

Efforts are ongoing. DNR handles fire suppression and predation efforts and Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) handles efforts for invasives.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

Priority 3:

Increase the amount of certified forest land, both public and private.

- *Certify State-owned lands to enhance credibility and increase supply of certified products.*
- *Encourage the use of all major forest certification schemes in State building projects.*
- *Support umbrella and aggregation programs that allow owners of smaller forest land to share the cost of certification.*
- *Develop series of indicators for a sustainable forest at the State and large landscape level.*

STATUS, LEADERS, AND STAKEHOLDERS:

Certification efforts are ongoing for public land in Garrett and Allegany Counties. Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification is handled by DNR and New Page Corporation.

Certification efforts are ongoing for private lands. Sustainable Forest Initiative (SFI) and American Tree Farm System (ATFS) certification is instituted by DNR and the ATFS participants.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

Priority 4:

Maintain and enhance forest biodiversity.

- *Ensure a balanced mix of pine and hardwood forest types where appropriate.*
- *Forest stewardship plans should address diversity of habitat as well as diverse use of forest lands.*
- *Implement wildlife action plans that stress biodiversity and specify sustainable management actions.*
- *Connect green areas.*
- *Identify and conserve core areas for Forest Interior Dwelling Species.*

STATUS, LEADERS, AND STAKEHOLDERS:

Efforts are ongoing and involve numerous organizations led by DNR. Other agencies that could be more fully involved include Maryland Environmental Trust (MET), Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation (MALPF), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Soil Conservation District (SCD) and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). In addition, The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Allegany Highlands Conservancy, Biophilia Foundation, Chesapeake Wildlife Heritage, Cove Point Natural Heritage Trust, Lower Shore Land Trust, Potomac Conservancy and other organizations who either manage programs that purchase easements or land fee simple and also assist with management plans to enhance biodiversity.

Strategy 1.2: Assess impacts of current regulations and institute improvements to retain forest-based enterprises.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

Priority 1:

Review laws or ordinances that affect the health of Maryland's forests.

- *Enhance regulation and enforcement to protect forests and water.*
- *Regulations should not prevent a silvicultural treatment of pests.*
- *Allow wider parameters for forest buffers and encourage multiple species; encourage management in buffer areas and easements.*
- *Keep two-wheelers and four-wheelers from having unrestricted access to forest land, private or public.*

STATUS, LEADERS, AND STAKEHOLDERS:

A review was previously completed but needs to be reexamined. Additionally, the Seed Tree Law should also be reviewed to determine the support for biodiversity. DNR will contact the University of Baltimore School of Law to determine the feasibility and timing of this project.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

Priority 2:

Reduce and streamline regulations that unnecessarily constrain landowners in managing and harvesting timber.

- *Review current regulations imposed on landowners and determine extent of unintended consequences.*
- *Where mitigation is required, match up developers with landowners (for example, by using a free web-based marketplace) and have them negotiate within regulations.*
- *Improve permitting process so people can work within regulations in a timely manner.*

STATUS, LEADERS, AND STAKEHOLDERS:

An assessment of the counties' current regulations is the first step. DNR will contact Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) and Maryland Municipal League (MML) to coordinate this project. Additionally, Ginger Myers of the University of Maryland Extension (UME)'s previous work in streamlining agricultural regulations could be adapted to a similar approach to streamline the forestry regulations.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

Priority 3:

Develop and implement industry-focused land use regulations at the state and local level.

- *Align county regulations with the State's; a binding agreement on forestry policies should exist between the State and the counties.*
- *Streamline government regulations to improve efficiency.*

- *A jurisdiction should rank its priority forest areas with regulations specific to objectives – timber, water, wildlife – with the State setting the overall standards.*
- *Work with DOT to allow moving of equipment from site to site.*
- *Mitigation fees and transfer taxes should be able to be used by counties to provide needed services.*

STATUS, LEADERS, AND STAKEHOLDERS:

A Task Force will need to be created to look into these matters. The Task Force should include representatives of the Association of Forest Industries (AFI), Forestry Boards, Maryland Forest Association (MFA), The Partnership for Sustainable Forestry and county governments as counties have the authority to retain forests through zoning or other ways.

Strategy 1.3: *Increase State financial assistance to help industry upgrade and modernize.*

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

Priority 1:

For tax credits, take a long view over short term budget-based decisions.

- *Provide incentives to sawmills for modernization and environmental improvements.*
- *Find ways to keep mills in operation; offer incentives for new forest enterprise.*
- *Maintain tax incentives currently in place, and offer additional incentives to loggers.*
- *Create parity between agricultural and silvicultural incentives and tax policy.*
- *Protect viable industry in western Maryland; don't just promote new bio-based initiatives.*
- *Extend priority preservation areas defined by the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation to include forests.*

STATUS, LEADERS, AND STAKEHOLDERS:

An agenda for this legislative initiative will need to be developed for the FY2012 Session. DNR will lead this project with input from the Maryland State Department of Assessments and Taxation (DAT), the Maryland Department of Budget and Management (DBM) and Maryland Agricultural and Resource-Based Industries Corporation (MARBIDCO).

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

Priority 2:

Increase funding and opportunities for logger training and education to increase efficiency, profitability, and public profile of harvest operators.

- *Some funds from county fees for forest harvest permits should go back into the forest harvest industry instead of into the county's general fund.*
- *Collect an assessment per unit harvested on wood from State forestland to fund the Master Logger program: loggers are required to have Master Logger status to log on State land so the program should receive some benefit for their work there.*
- *Raise awareness of existing logger education and assistance programs.*

STATUS, LEADERS, AND STAKEHOLDERS:

A Delaware-Maryland Master Logger Training Program currently exists. This program is led by the Maryland/Delaware Sustainable Forestry Initiative Committee (SIC) and training and program coordination are provided by the University of Maryland Extension Service. Funding is currently provided by SIC members including Forest Industry, Maryland and Delaware state governments and the University of DE and MD Extension Services. Due to attrition in the industry, the SIC is seeking additional funding to maintain and expand its current course offerings to meet the 2010-2014 Sustainable Forestry Initiative Program Requirements. Members are: Delaware Forest Service, Glatfelter Pulp Wood Company, Maryland Forest Service, MFA, New Page Corporation, Vision Forestry and University of Maryland Extension.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

Priority 3:

Implement tax exemption program for all equipment and pollution control/mitigation devices used in wood harvesting and manufacturing processes.

- *The value of equipment needs to go down to zero in Maryland tax assessment, the same as with the Federal government.*
- *Conduct a state review of legislation to compare incentives for manufacturing with disincentives.*
- *Local governments should offer the same manufacturing exemption as the State.*

STATUS, LEADERS, AND STAKEHOLDERS:

An agenda for this legislative initiative will need to be developed for FY2012. DNR will work with the Maryland forestry boards, AFI and MFA to develop the agenda.

Strategy 1.4: Market Maryland-based products through a Maryland Forests Products Utilization and Marketing Program.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

Priority 1:

Establish a “Buy Local” campaign.

- *Encourage use of Maryland-grown wood in buildings.*
- *Establish a “Use recyclable wood products” campaign.*
- *Certify additional forestland to increase the product marketability.*
- *Increase emphasis on agro-forestry.*

STATUS, LEADERS, AND STAKEHOLDERS:

This initiative will require the establishment of a program and funding sources. Partners in this effort could be DNR, AFI, Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA), Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development (DBED), Harry R. Hughes Center for Agro-Ecology

(HRHCAE), University of Maryland Extension, University of Maryland Environmental Finance Center (EFC), and Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

Priority 2:

Offer forest product utilization funds for new ideas and products.

- *Increase investment and research for expanding markets regionally.*
- *Educate communities on value of locally-based forest business.*

See also recommendations under Issue 4: New and Emerging Markets

STATUS, LEADERS, AND STAKEHOLDERS:

An agenda for this legislative initiative will be developed for FY2012 by DNR, AFI, MARBIDCO and the Partnership for Sustainable Forestry.

Issue 2. Demographic, Social, Cultural, and Economic Trends as Impediments to Forest Retention

Strategy 2.1: Address Fragmentation and Parcelization.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

Priority 1:

Make it a state priority to keep large tracts of forest land intact and working.

NOTE: Forestland includes public and private. Priority setting includes State budget and policy priorities (DNR and MDA), as well as directing the use of federal funds that are available to Maryland.

- *Set priorities on a statewide basis, e.g., using Greenprint/Green Infrastructure, or Strategic Forest Land Assessment.*
- *Don't fragment public land, e.g., by new roads, utilities, other kinds of infrastructure. And, where feasible, consolidate separate parcels into a larger whole.*
- *Foster increased cooperation among the many different natural resource agencies and organizations for the common good of the forests, e.g., the Sustainable Forestry Council, established by the Sustainable Forestry Act of 2009, might take on such a role.*
- *Develop a better coordinated system of conservation programs to conserve forested areas.*
- *Target the incentives and education efforts to be able to retain the forest base. Focus on threatened 10 acre pieces and the large intact tracts. Provide more funds or offer charitable donation credit for conservation easements on working forests.*
- *Harmonize state and local land use planning issues and reduce conflicts, e.g., MDP review Sensitive Area elements in comprehensive plans and make recommendations to local governments for protecting contiguous forests from subdivision and development.*
- *Encourage Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation (MALPF) to provide parity between agriculture and forestry in terms of land conservation.*

STATUS, LEADERS, AND STAKEHOLDERS:

Efforts are on-going but may require policy and/or ordinance changes to encourage this practice. Leaders for this effort include DNR, local governments, MACo, MALPF, Maryland Department of Planning (MDP), Maryland Rural Legacy Program, Maryland Environmental Trust (MET), USDA Forest Legacy Program, TNC and other land trusts.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

Priority 2:

Provide education and incentives to encourage landowners to manage parcelized ownerships as a single large unit.

- *Increase the rewards to landowners for the donations of conservation easements on forest land, including MD state income tax credits. Such easements might require that a Forest Stewardship Plan be implemented whenever the landowner initiates active management practices. Consider making the tax credits transferable (sellable) as in VA and CO.*
- *Increase educational offerings on how to manage small parcels of forest to retain ecosystem values.*
- *Address smaller parcels of 1 to 4 acres through tax incentives, especially for group management. e.g. increase property tax relief for contiguous woodland parcels of this size, subject to a non-development commitment.*

STATUS, LEADERS, AND STAKEHOLDERS:

Identify a pilot watershed for the establishment of a co-op. The project would include the development of an umbrella management plan, tax breaks and identification of potential marketable products. Leaders for this effort include DNR, Center for Watershed Protection, Chesapeake Bay Trust (CBT), HRHCAE, University of Maryland Extension and private foundations.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

Priority 3:

Develop and implement forestry-focused land use regulations at the local level.

- *Educate community leadership on existing state and local land use regulations, their strengths and weaknesses with respect to forest protection and management, and current levels of implementation and enforcement.*
- *A jurisdiction should rank its priority forest areas with regulations specific to objectives – timber, water, wildlife – with the State setting the overall standards.*
- *Improve long term enforcement of local land use regulations, and make such enforcement more uniform across jurisdictions.*
- *Planning and zoning offices need help from DNR to implement appropriate plans, e.g., identify forest lands intended for resource protection or conservation as part of the sensitive areas element of county comprehensive plans (as required by HB 1141).*
- *Provide seed money to counties to hold local listening sessions with local planning and generate locally grown ideas.*

- *Encourage forest mitigation banking on large contiguous acreage as the preferred form of mitigation under MD's Forest Conservation Act when forests are cleared for development.*
- *Provide disincentives or penalties for the conversion of forests to development, such as a targeted land conversion tax, with revenue going toward forest land protection.*

STATUS, LEADERS, AND STAKEHOLDERS:

Identify and review efforts in other states that have implemented local-level ordinances. Programs should be targeted for local government officials. DNR, MACo, MDP, MML with perhaps a student intern could provide a review of current efforts. Reference should be made to Department of Environmental Protection and Resource Management of Baltimore County (Don Outen) as a base model as well as the Western Maryland Local Government Exchange model for local government officials' education.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

Priority 4:

Prepare for pending intergenerational transfer of land.

- *Educate the next generation as to values, benefits and management of forests.*
- *Change tax laws that serve as disincentives to pass forest land on to heirs. e.g. provide MD inheritance tax relief to forest landowners who donate or sell a conservation easement. Consider also ongoing tax relief for owners whose forest land is already subject to a perpetual conservation easement.*
- *Look at what neighboring states are doing to retain forest ownership over time.*

STATUS, LEADERS, AND STAKEHOLDERS:

Three estate tax relief bills for farms and woodland are currently pending in the Maryland legislature. Plan and hold 1-2 annual seminars on estate planning on the role of conservation easements as an estate/inheritance tax planning tool. The coordination of the seminars could be led by the University of Maryland Extension with assistance of other organizations. Information should be gleaned from Oregon State University and resources in other states that use intergenerational family approaches to estate planning and incorporate approaches from Stephen Small's estate planning guide. Maryland legal, housing and real estate experts such as Jim Constable, Fred Franke, and Harrison "Bif" Wetherill along with the Maryland Association of Realtors and Homebuilders should be consulted to focus on houses on lands of five acres or less. Everyone should lobby Congress on federal estate tax policy. The Land Trust Alliance can assist in this area.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

Priority 5:

Manage the urban forest and green space.

- *Revitalize cities with urban forests; smart growth would cut down on urban sprawl.*
- *Set urban canopy goals, support big tree programs.*
- *Urban is a growing aspect of forest issues in MD, an opportunity to rethink the definition of forest. Show how value of property ties to mature trees to start support for urban.*

STATUS, LEADERS, AND STAKEHOLDERS:

Management is on-going but requires local governments' involvement in Urban Tree Canopy projects and other programs. DNR, MACo, MML, and the University of Maryland Extension Home and Garden Information Center and Master Gardener Program will assist with management.

Issue 3. Strengthening Forest Management by the Private Landowner

Strategy 3.1: *Increase knowledge and implementation of forest values and practice through education.*

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

Priority 1:

Build capacity among woodland landowners to educate themselves and access professional assistance.

- *Maintain and expand peer to peer mentoring programs such as Maryland Woodland Stewards; train volunteers to educate landowners on forest values setting objectives, using professionals, and implementing good forest management practices.*
- *Support organization of local woodland owners associations and encourage collaboration with local University of Maryland Extension offices, professional foresters, and industry.*
- *Target organizations that own and manage forests in addition to private woodland owners.*
- *Provide professional assistance to support landowner workshops on topics of interest.*

STATUS, LEADERS, AND STAKEHOLDERS:

The Maryland Woodlands Steward program is on-going but needs funding to renew. The University of Maryland Extension is developing a peer to peer program for small acreage owners based on the Woods In Your Backyard program. A new training program for forestry boards needs to be developed to further expand local outreach. These efforts will encourage the formation of local woodland associations. University of Maryland Extension will work with local governments, forestry boards, Forestry for the Bay and other organizations to enhance and expand peer to peer learning.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

Priority 2:

Educate legislators and local government officials so they can make informed decisions about the sustainable management of forest resources.

- *Explain how forests tie to Governor O'Malley's priorities – sustainability, Chesapeake Bay health, climate change.*
- *Educate legislators about good forest management, role of and benefits from private forests.*

STATUS, LEADERS, AND STAKEHOLDERS:

The existing Western Maryland Local Government Exchange should be expanded to other geographic areas of the State to educate local government officials on forestry and conservation issues. The annual woodland coalition breakfast or dinner and recognition of a Maryland legislator should be reinstated. Leaders for these projects include the University of Maryland Extension, AFI, Collaborative for Land Use Education (CLUE), DNR, forestry boards, HRHCAE, Western Maryland Local Government Exchange Planning Committee and MFA.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

Priority 3:

Educate citizens/consumers of wood products to support use of sustainably harvested forest products and sustainably managed urban forest systems.

- *Help the general public understand the connection between sustainably managed and harvested forests, the role of forest certification, and Maryland-based forest products.*
- *Encourage local conservation groups.*
- *Offer community service hours to students who work in the woods.*

STATUS, LEADERS, AND STAKEHOLDERS:

Organize a forum for suppliers and consumers focusing on the wood products in the different geographic areas of the State. Organizing the forum are AFI, DNR, Forestry Boards, HRHCAE, MFA, Partnership for Sustainable Forestry, and the University of Maryland Extension.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

Priority 4:

Increase use of forest-related curriculum by school children and teachers and increase implementation of forest practices on school properties.

- *Work with programs such as Envirothon, Woods In Your Backyard, Project Learning Tree, Arbor Day, etc., to orient young people on forest and environment issues and careers. Develop new programs as needed.*
- *Work with local Boards of Education to link forestry to curriculum goals; offer teacher training.*

STATUS, LEADERS, AND STAKEHOLDERS:

The educational programs, Project Learning Tree, Project Wet and Project Wild currently exist. University of Maryland Extension's Woods In Your Backyard curriculum should be adapted for use by students on school properties. The curriculum should be adapted to meet the Maryland Voluntary State Curriculum. Training on the forestry curriculum should also be offered to the Maryland Vocational Association. Funding will need to be secured for these programs and a coordinator secured to schedule and offer the programs to the Maryland Department of Education, Maryland Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education (MAEOE), University of Maryland Extension's 4-H and forestry programs.

Strategy 3.2: Increase outreach capacity and technical assistance for landowners.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

Priority 1:

Develop an on-line portal for private landowners that provides access to available education, technical and financial assistance – foresters, consultants, nonprofits, certifiers, educators, etc. – through increased partnering of different organizations to leverage limited resources and maximize impacts.

- *Partner with allies – forestry boards, master gardeners; watershed organizations can be good advocates for forests because of link to water quality goals.*
- *Use existing website such as Forest Stewardship Extension (www.naturalresources.umd.edu)*

STATUS, LEADERS, AND STAKEHOLDERS:

The University of Maryland Extension’s website currently serves as an information portal. Extension partners with Forestry for the Bay, Bay Bank and other organizations to update the information. University of Maryland Extension produces “Branching Out” newsletter targeted to woodland owners and is initiating an online woodland owners’ forum. The next step is development of a list of foresters and loggers willing to work on smaller acreages. University of Maryland Extension, Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP), Forestry for the Bay, and the Pinchot Institute are leaders in these areas.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

Priority 2:

Obtain detailed survey information on private landowners to target outreach education.

- *Funding for a detailed woodland owner survey is essential to provide regional and county level information on landowner demographics, knowledge and motivations. Current US Forest Service Woodland Owner survey receives very limited response and only gives state level data.*

STATUS, LEADERS, AND STAKEHOLDERS:

Secure funding to develop survey and locate representative woodland owner sample to determine detailed demographic and attitudinal data on woodland owners down to the county level. As a result, develop meaningful and relevant educational programs and assistance. Current U.S. Forest Service woodland owner data is not sufficient for this purpose. Similar survey instruments, process and analysis is available from New York and Pennsylvania Extension. Consultant Virginia Mater developed a survey instrument used in Wisconsin to garner the information from private landowners. University of Maryland Extension could lead this effort with sufficient funding.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

Priority 3:

Increase staffing and resources at the State level (Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Forest Service, University of Maryland Extension) to fill gaps.

- *MD DNR must be able to retain people and keep them focused on the right work, such as landowner assistance and building local outreach capacity. Technical forest service providers are needed but in short supply, so landowners don't know what they should do.*

STATUS, LEADERS, AND STAKEHOLDERS:

This priority is a legislative item. The difficulty exists as a result of limited technical assistance to landowners. Reexamine the role of forestry assistants as local contacts to support local woodland owner associations. (Federal legislation provides for \$4.3m available funds for Maryland in 2010, \$7.3m in 2011 and an undetermined amount in 2012 for assistance.) DNR, Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D), SCD, and the University of Maryland Extension should request funding for 10-15 positions so the three year increase in Federal moneys for technical assistance is not lost. Current staffing prohibits taking advantage of this opportunity.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

Priority 4:

Create and enhance enterprise opportunities for private foresters.

- *Offer education and incentives for young people to consider natural resource careers.*
- *Ensure career paths for young people in MD DNR, not just contract positions with no benefits and low pay.*
- *Look at new markets for forestry opportunities with the green industry.*
- *Create programs to encourage new forestry businesses in the state.*
- *Develop a Wii lumberjack for ESPN.*

STATUS, LEADERS, AND STAKEHOLDERS:

This action is a legislative initiative. Existing programs such as the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) should be expanded for forestry, and new programs need to be created to increase the parity between forestry and agriculture. The Maryland Rural Enterprise Development Center could assist in providing business and enterprise training for foresters and loggers. Leaders in this category include DNR, MDA, Society of American Foresters, and the University of Maryland Extension.

Strategy 3.3: Create and provide incentives to private landowners for managing forest land.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

Priority 1:

Provide income and property tax credits for landowners who implement their forest management plan.

- *Forestry plans should be more like agriculture plans for cost-share and provide funding for management activities such as fertilizing.*
- *Increase incentives for maintaining working forests rather than preserves.*
- *Increase opportunities for lower value and non-traditional forest products, help keep land in large parcels.*

STATUS, LEADERS, AND STAKEHOLDERS:

This action is a legislative initiative. Forest Conservation and Forest Management (FCMA) and tree planting currently exists in Timber Standard Improvement (TSI), but the law needs to be expanded to include other practices. DNR and other partnering agencies such as DAT and DBM will lead this effort.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

Priority 2:

Offer incentives to engage owners of forested tracts 10 acres or smaller in active forest management.

- *Support contiguous property owners in developing a common forestry plan (with the proper legal instruments).*
- *Expand the Woods in Your Backyard program to encourage lawn conversion, and working with neighbors toward shared goals.*
- *Improve access of small acreage owners to cost-share programs and working forest easements.*
- *Make “Tree-mendous Maryland” native species trees less expensive for small parcels.*

STATUS, LEADERS, AND STAKEHOLDERS:

This priority requires a legislative initiative to form Tax District(s) that would group smaller acre landowners together and provide a greater tax break. DNR would lead this action. Local land trusts could promote FCMA's, Forest Stewardship Plans and Working Forest Conservation Easements to the land owners.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

Priority 3:

Improve the partnership between green industry and the forest industry.

- *Contacts between arborists and nurseries as well as the forestry sector need to be made to improve services to smaller acreage forest land holders.*

STATUS, LEADERS, AND STAKEHOLDERS:

Programs need to be established to promote urban waste wood as a fuel source for schools and develop training programs and assistance for green industry as possible service providers of some forest conservation programs. Partnerships with the arborist industry and local governments and local sawmills will be crucial in the program’s success. DNR Forestry Service currently administers FCA mitigation banking on the State level and Carroll and Frederick Counties have active mitigation banking programs. Landscape Contractors Association, Inc. MD-DE-VA, University of Maryland Extension, Maryland Arborist Association (MAA), Maryland National Capital Park & Planning Commission, and local governments will be key stakeholders. On the national level, everyone needs to lobby Congress for cap and trade legislation to make carbon markets viable.

Issue 4: New and Emerging Markets for Forest-based Resources

Strategy 4.1: *Expand the Maryland Forests Products Utilization and Marketing Program in support of private forest landowners and develop a robust plan addressing emerging opportunities such as biofuels and ecosystem services.*

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

Priority 1:

Establish pilot projects based on prior research into product viability, new markets, and income options.

- *Increase programs and projects to use biomass as a fuel source – can existing electric generation stations burn waste products and keep MD grown material in MD while diversifying income.*
- *Assess sustainable levels of harvest so we don’t exhaust the resource for biomass.*
- *Determine what the State could do to help increase revenue streams and set priorities for what may be possible.*

STATUS, LEADERS, AND STAKEHOLDERS:

DNR, Bay Bank, CBP, HRHCAE, and the Pinchot Institute will review progress to date and develop a plan for potential projects.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

Priority 2:

Increase public awareness through education and information about these opportunities.

- *Create more common ground between forest interests and forest conservation.*
- *Engage people in large scale education and planning on forest management for ecosystem services. Information is needed on carbon sequestration and how Maryland can take advantage of this – can our forests be part of cap and trade system?*

- *Engage the Forest Service and others with respect to the Federal programs that are being designed for the private forest landowner.*

STATUS, LEADERS, AND STAKEHOLDERS:

Without the passage of cap and trade legislation, viable markets for carbon may not emerge. HRHCAE and the University of Maryland Extension will provide education and information to the public with support from private foundations.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

Priority 3:

Explore possibilities and create financial incentives to support these opportunities.

- *There are non-tangible economic values for the forests and so there needs to be incentives to the property owner to retain these non-tangible values.*
- *Need to be able to “stack” payments so a landowner can get multiple income streams from their land, creating mildly competitive options to development. One practice and its intended design ought to yield one stream with another practice yielding another stream.*
- *Increased markets to provide landowners with additional income stream opportunities.*

STATUS, LEADERS, AND STAKEHOLDERS:

Ongoing support for research and development is needed to monetize credits for ecosystems services. Salable credits mean financial incentives to retain forests. Organizations currently working in this area include Bay Bank, Biophilia Foundation, Capital Returns, Chesapeake EcoFinance Development Corporation, Chicago Climate Exchange, Defenders of Wildlife, Forest Trends, Katoomba Group, and Pinchot Institute.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

Priority 4:

Provide technical assistance and tools to the industry and to private landowners to take advantage of these opportunities.

- *Create local markets for carbon sequestration. Encourage use of biofuels for heating schools and hospitals – retrofits will soon be due for many schools and public buildings. Now is the time to plan for retrofits to biomass, but need to work with local officials to get started, then develop long term contracts for landowners to supply fuel.*
- *Certification (FSC, Tree Farm, etc.) feeds into carbon sequestration; one way to do this would be to create certification networks with landowners.*

STATUS, LEADERS, AND STAKEHOLDERS:

Identify individual with technical expertise to assess forest lands for carbon sequestration potential. Dr. Thomas Simpson of Water Stewardship, Inc. could assist with the estimation and certification of water quality benefits from riparian forests. Dr. Steve Seagle’s GIS mapping report funded by HRHCAE with USDA CSREES dollars will provide county-by-county location of afforestation areas as well as reforestation areas.

Appendix III: Forestry Summit Agenda

Monday, October 5, 2009

The Conference Center at The Maritime Institute

Linthicum Heights, MD

- 8:30 – 9:00 a.m. **Registration and Visits with Exhibitors**
- 9:00 a.m. **Welcome**
Former Governor Harry R. Hughes (Invited)
Frances H. Flanigan, Vice-President
Harry R. Hughes Center for Agro-Ecology
- Opening Remarks**
Governor Martin O'Malley (Invited)
Secretary John R. Griffin, Maryland Department of Natural Resources
- Overview of Forestry Efforts**
Steven W. Koehn, Maryland State Forester
Maryland Department of Natural Resources
- Overview of the Summit**
Michelle Harvey, Facilitator
- 9:45 a.m. **Issue 1: Viable Timber Industry**
Robert W. Slocum, Executive Vice President
North Carolina Forestry Association
- 10:15 a.m. **Issue 2: Demographic, Social, Cultural and Economic Trends as**
 Impediments to Forest Retention
Don Outen, AICP, Natural Resource Manager
Department of Environmental Protection and Resource Management,
Baltimore County
- 10:45 – 12:15 p.m. **Group Review and Discussion of Recommendations for Issues 1 and 2**
- 12:15- 1:15 p.m. **Lunch and Visits with Exhibitors**
- 1:30 p.m. **Issue 3: Strengthening Forest Management by the Private Landowner**
Jonathan Kays, Natural Resources Extension Specialist University of
Maryland Extension
- 2:00 p.m. **Issue 4: New and Emerging Markets**
Eric Sprague, Program Director
Pinchot Institute for Conservation
- 2:30 p.m. **Group Review and Discussion of Recommendations for Issues 3 and 4**
- 3:30 p.m. **Next Steps**
Dr. Russ Brinsfield, Executive Director
Harry R. Hughes Center for Agro-Ecology, Inc.
- 3:45 p.m. **Closing Remarks**
Michelle Harvey

Appendix IV: Forestry Summit Registrants

James Allen
Maryland Environmental Service
Millersville, MD

Arthur Allen
University of Maryland Eastern Shore
Princess Anne, MD

Gary G. Allen
Partnership for Sustainable Forestry
Annapolis, MD

Michael Allinder
Allinder Forestry Services, LLC
Pocomoke, MD

Vince Berg
Forestry and Conservation, Inc.
Derwood, MD

Adam Block
Maryland Environmental Trust
Crownsville, MD

Earl Bradley
Annapolis, MD

Russ Brinsfield
Harry R. Hughes Center for Agro-Ecology
Queenstown, MD

Torrey C. Brown
Non-Profit Land Conservation
Organizations Intralytix, Inc.
Baltimore, MD

William Brumbley
Acorn Forest Planning
Waldorf, MD

Steve Bunker
The Nature Conservancy
LaPlata, MD

Pamela Bush
Maryland Department of Natural Resources
Annapolis, MD

Elliott Campbell
University of Maryland
College Park, MD

Sally Claggett
USDA/FS
Annapolis, MD

Bill Crouch
The Conservation Fund
Annapolis, MD

David Czawlytko
Maryland Environmental Service
Millersville, MD

Megan D'Arcy
Eastern Shore Land Conservancy
Queenstown, MD

Donna Davis
Maryland Forest Service Carroll County
Westminster, MD

Charles E. Day, III
Forest Conservancy District Board of
Harford County
Darlington, MD

Cheryl DeBerry
Garrett County
Oakland, MD

Wade R. Dorsey
LaVale, MD 21502

Ajax Eastman
Baltimore, MD

David Eick
Joppa, MD

Enrique Escobar
University of Maryland Extension
Princess Anne, MD

Robert Feldt
Maryland Forestry Service
Annapolis, MD

Jeff Fisher
The Glatfelter Pulpwood
Salisbury, MD

Frances H. Flanigan
Baltimore, MD

Harry Ford
Woodsboro, MD

Phil Frantz
Red Rock Enterprises, LLC
Friendsville, MD

David Gailey
Maryland Forest Service
Leonardtown, MD

Mary Grant
La Plata, MD

John R. Griffin
Maryland Department of Natural Resources
Annapolis, MD

Anne Hairston-Strang
Maryland Department of Natural Resources
Annapolis, MD

Fatimah Hasan
Prince George's Countywide Planning
Division
Upper Malboro, MD

Sarah Hines
Newtown Square, PA

Charles N. Hoffeditz
Garrett County Forestry Board
McHenry, MD

Connie Hoge
Forestry Board of Carroll County
Westminster, MD

John C. Houser
Chaptico, MD

Clark Howells
Elderburg, MD

Janna Howley
Prince George's County Extension
Clinton, MD

Stephen Huber
Exploration Research Inc./FSH Associates
Elkridge, MD

John Hutson
Maryland Environmental Trust
Crownsville, MD

Steve Jarvis
Forest Resources Association
Rockville, MD

Jonathan Kays
University of Maryland Extension
Keedysville, MD

Donnelle Keech
The Nature Conservancy - MD/DC Chapter
Cumberland, MD

Steven W. Koehn
Maryland State Forester
Annapolis, MD

Calvin D. Lubben
Coastal Supply Company
Pocomoke City, MD

Lori Lynch
Agricultural and Resource Economics
University of Maryland
College Park, MD

Edward Lynch, III
Snow Hill, MD

Jerome Martin
Town of Smithsburg
Smithsburg, MD

Robert Matthews
Laurel, DE

Stephen McHenry
MARBIDCO
Annapolis, MD

Wayne Merkel
Maryland Forest Service
Bel Air, MD

Mark Muir
Maryland Forest Service
Leonardtown, MD

Nancy Nunn
Harry R. Hughes Center for Agro-Ecology
Queenstown, MD

Jesse Oakley
Accokeek Foundation
Accokeek, MD

Donald C. Outen
Baltimore County Dept. of Environ.
Protection & Resource Management
Towson, MD

Jack Perdue
Grasonville, MD

Daniel R. Rider
Maryland Department of Natural Resources
Annapolis, MD

Jerry Ringling
Charles County Government
LaPlata, MD

Kristen Robinson
Annapolis, MD

Hannah Robinson
Rodgers Consulting, Inc.
Germantown, MD

Emily Russell-Roy
The Pacific Forest Trust
Boston, MA

Matthew Sampson
The Forestland Group
Wellsboro, PA

Kristin Saunders Evans
Maryland Department of Natural Resources
Annapolis, MD

Art & Vera Mae Schultz
Germantown, MD

Eric C. Schwaab
Maryland Department of Natural Resources
Annapolis, MD

Steven Seagle
Appalachian State University
Boone, NC

Robert W. Slocum
North Carolina Forestry Association
Raleigh, NC

John Smith, II
Ota Stevenson, Inc.
Snow Hill, MD

Mike Spencer
Weymouth Farm
Phoenix, MD

Eric Sprague
Pinchot Institute for Conservation
Washington, DC

Richard Stanfield
Edrich Lumber Co.
Windsor Mill, MD

Clyde Stevenson, Jr.
Ota Stevenson, Inc.
Salisbury, MD

Gene Stum
URS Corporation
Hunt Valley, MD

Brian Stupak
Prince Frederick, MD

Sarah Taylor-Rogers
Harry R. Hughes Center for Agro-Ecology
Queenstown, MD

David R. Tilley
University of Maryland
Biological Resources Engineering and
Natural Resources
College Park, MD

Robert Tjaden
University of Maryland Extension
College Park, MD

Toby Turpin
Silver Spring, MD
Larry Walton
Vision Forestry, LLC
Salisbury, MD

Elizabeth Warner
Forest Pest Management Office of the
Maryland Department of Agriculture
Frederick, MD

Robert Webster
Maryland Department of Natural Resources
Cumberland, MD

Jennifer Willoughby
Interstate Commission on the Potomac River
Basin
Rockville, MD

Len Wrabel
Mar-Len Environmental Service
Westminster, MD

Sandy Wright
Dorchester County
Cambridge, MD

Amelia "Mimi" Wright
Church Creek, MD

Lucy Wright
Prettyboy Watershed Alliance
Sparks, MD

Appendix V: Speaker Bios

Opening Remarks

Steven W. Koehn, Maryland State Forester

MD Department of Natural Resources

Steven W. Koehn is the current president of the National Association of State Foresters (NASF). Koehn has previously served as NASF's vice-president and treasurer and as president of the Northeastern Area Association of State Foresters. He also served as chair of NASF's Water Resource Committee. During his 26-year forestry career, Koehn has served as director of the Maryland Forest Service for the past nine years, a position in which he is responsible for the statewide delivery of all technical and financial forestry assistance programs on both public and private lands. Koehn holds a bachelor's degree in forest science from Pennsylvania State University. He also taught forestry courses for eight years at the Johns Hopkins School of Professional Studies in Business Education. He also has held leadership positions in the Chesapeake Bay Program Forestry Workgroup, the Maryland-Delaware Division of the Allegheny SAF, the Maryland Association of Forest Conservancy District Boards, and the Maryland Forests Association. He joined the Society of American Foresters in 1983.

Issue 1: Viable Timber Industry

Robert W. Slocum, Jr., Executive Vice President

North Carolina Forestry Association

Since 1988, Robert Slocum has served as Executive Vice President of the N.C. Forestry Association. He is responsible for guiding the programs and policies of the state's oldest conservation organization and representing the organization with the state legislature, the media, and other organizations. Prior to his current position, Mr. Slocum served the National Forests Products Association by managing the forest industry's national policy and research programs pertaining to private forestry. He organized the forest industry's first national forest resource research committee and its first forest biotechnology task force; staffed the forest industry's first national conference on climate change and forests and in 1986 became Vice President, Forest Policy and Research with the American Forest Council. He holds a B.S. in forest management from N.C. State University ('73).

Issue 2: Demographic, Social, Cultural and Economic Trends as Impediments to Forest Retention

Don Outen, AICP, Natural Resource Manager

Department of Environmental Protection and Resource Management, Baltimore County

Don Outen is a Baltimore native who has worked for 36 years in land use planning and environmental management in Maryland, including employment at the state, regional and county levels of government and in academia. He earned a B.S. in Geography and Environmental Planning from Towson University and a M.S. in Urban Planning from The Johns Hopkins University. Since 1987 Don has developed and managed environmental programs for Baltimore County's Department of Environmental Protection and Resource Management, where he is currently a Natural Resource Manager. The focus of Don's recent work at DEPRM includes reservoir protection, evaluation of land development trends, and development and implementation of a County-wide forest sustainability program. Don is a member of the Core Group of the national Roundtable on Sustainable Forests. He is a long-time member of the Association of American Geographers, and is a Charter member of the American Institute of

Certified Planners. Don and his family reside north of Baltimore in the Chesapeake Bay's Gunpowder River basin.

Issue 3: Strengthening Forest Management by the Private Landowner

Jonathan Kays, Natural Resources Extension Specialist

University of Maryland Extension

Jonathan Kays holds an M.S. Degree in Forestry, Virginia Tech.; and a B.S. Degree in Natural Resource Management, Cook College, Rutgers University. His professional experience includes working at the State level as a forester in Virginia, a Research Assistant at the N.Y. Institute of Ecosystem Studies; and a Forestry Technician with the U. S. Forest Service. Since 1988, he has served as a Natural Resources Extension Specialist at the Western Maryland Research and Education Center, University of Maryland, near Hagerstown being responsible for developing and implementing extension programs covering: forest stewardship, woodland owner volunteer training, wildlife damage management and use of biosolids for energy production and growing trees on gravel spoils. He produces "Branching Out" for Maryland forest owners along with other materials to be found at: www.naturalresources.umd.edu.

Issue 4: New and Emerging Markets

Eric C. Sprague, Program Director

Pinchot Institute for Conservation

Eric Sprague is helping the Pinchot Institute investigate opportunities for increasing sustainable management on private forestlands. His current projects include developing the Bay Bank, an online ecosystem service marketplace for private landowners, and the sustainable forestry revolving loan fund, a low-interest loan fund that promotes sustainable management and lessens the need for family land to be sold to pay back short- to mid-term debts. Eric received a Master of Science in Environmental Science and a Master of Public Affairs from Indiana University. Between 2000 and 2004, Eric served as the natural resource and farmland protection expert for the U.S. EPA's smart growth program. From 2004 to 2006, Eric managed The State of Chesapeake Forests project for The Conservation Fund. Synthesizing more than a decade's worth of data, the resulting report presents a comprehensive picture of the status of forestland in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.