Report from the Riparian Forest Buffer Action Team

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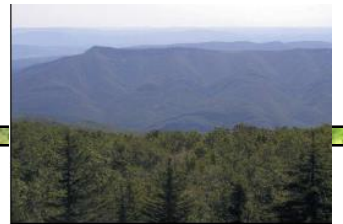
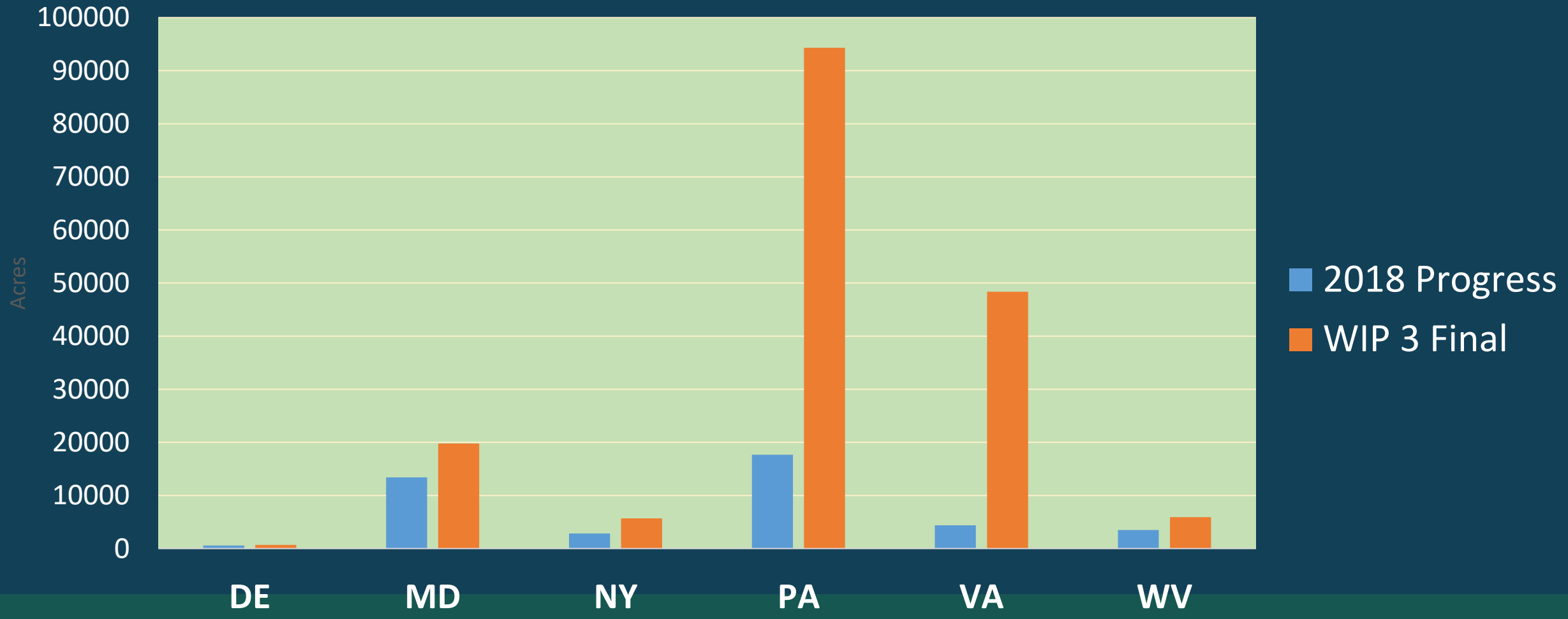



Ag Riparian Forest Buffers Progress vs. Goals



Capital required - **$239 million (low end)**

Opportunities and Ideas

- We all have big buffer goals, and shared issues.
- **Status Quo will not work--** need less reliance on CREP, volunteer programs, ad hoc grants
- Convergence at state level on Buffer program design.
- We need to **scale up now** to meet WIPs and 2025
- How to move forward on a committed approach to Buffers?

Turn-Key Program Examples from Jurisdictions

- **NY: USC Buffer Program and DEC's Trees for Tributaries**
  - USC Buffers- Matches State/Fed program, or stand-alone, application involves site-suitability assessment, funds whole systems, or components.
  - Trees-for-Tribs- Buffer gap-filler program- provides materials, plants, and technical assistance. Short, two-page application. Locally-led (CD or Municipality), work w/ landowner to complete tasks such as site prep, etc.
- **PA: Stream ReLeaf**
  - Buffer Gap-filler program for shovel-ready projects.
  - Flat per-acre rate. Very flexible- each buffer designed for landowner by partner, approved by forester.
  - Requires local-partner lead (NGO, CD, etc.)
- **VA: James River Buffer Program** -
  - Very low-cost, site-specific, and flexible- allow for natural re-gen, bare-root, etc.
  - Designed based on forester recommendations and landowner desires.
  - Blueprint/framework intended to be replicated beyond James River eventually.
- **MD: Healthy Waters, Healthy Forests**
  - CBT funded (gas tax) Forestry Boards
  - Alliance does recruitment and orders plantings
  - Tree planting and 2 years of maintenance provided free.
  - Targets non ag – properties with extra lawn (not in septic areas)

Suggesting Watershed-Wide Solutions

- Need to get elements in place now to greatly amplify buffer restoration
- $5-10 million seed funding/start-up funds
  - Expand infrastructure and begin implementation
  - *What does PSC need to help secure this funding?*
- Will be leverage for private $$ investment
- Feasibility/Scoping Study to learn more details on private conservation investment schema.

Scoping/Feasibility for Conservation Finance

- Which partners are needed and how would relationships be structured?
- How can we mitigate or minimize risks to partners?
- What type of credits (nutrient, carbon, others) could be generated and what is the state of the market?
- What financial models are recommended?

Next Step: conduct scoping sessions, deliver report (90 days, practice focus, watershed-wide)

Conclusions and PSC Action

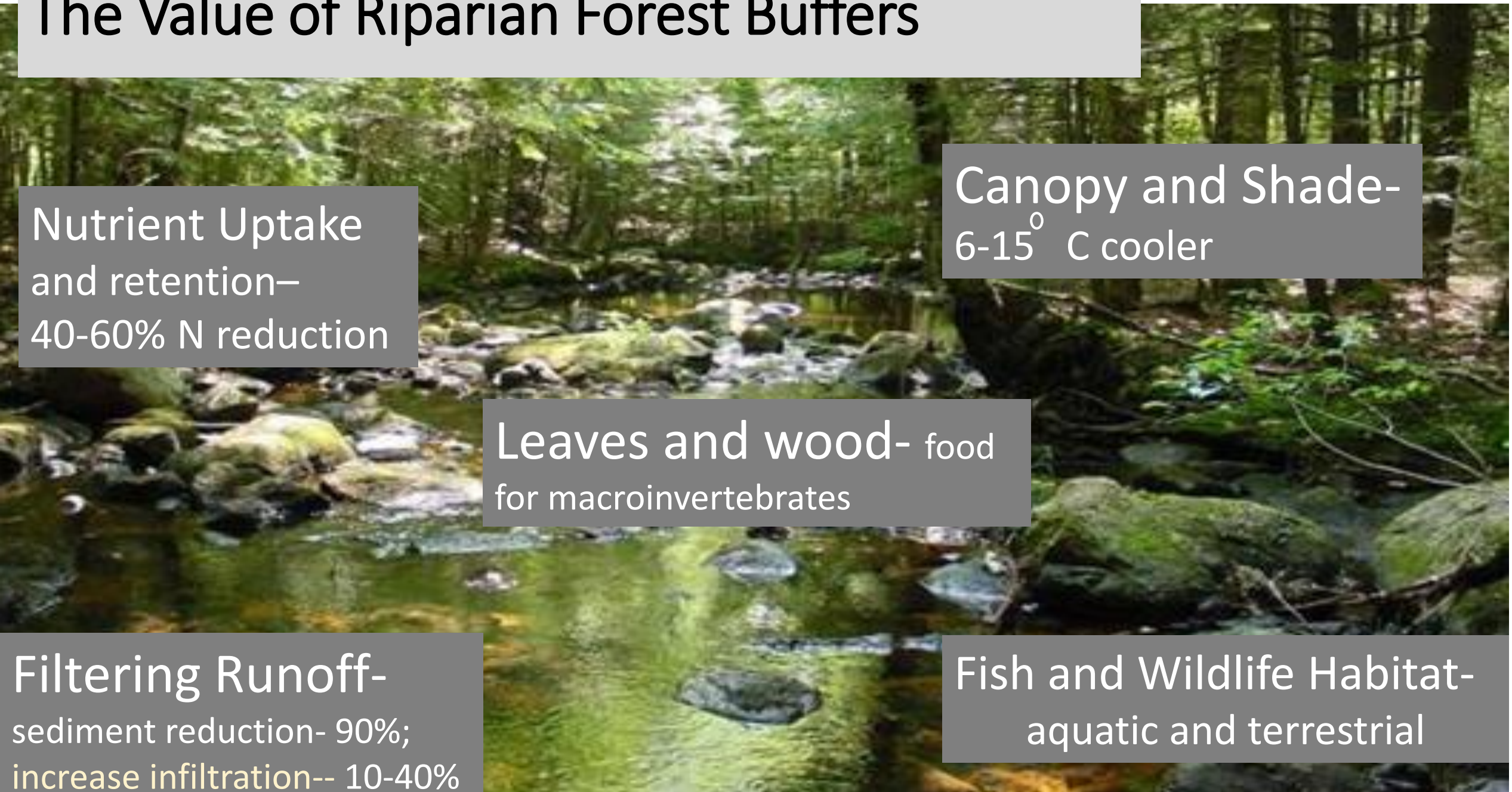
- We need Partnership to help us broaden our thinking to:
  - 1) Explore scaling-up these solutions, and identifying new solutions to plant forest buffers at scale.
  - 2) Need your agreement to follow this path. What do you need to know to help garner funding for a Bay Buffer Program?

- Ideas for EC Engagement- Lower Susquehanna Farm with a Buffer Visit?

- **Thank you!**
  - We look forward to your feedback and coming back to your next meeting with more detail.

- END OF PSC PRESENTATION

The Value of Riparian Forest Buffers



Nutrient Uptake
and retention–
40-60% N reduction

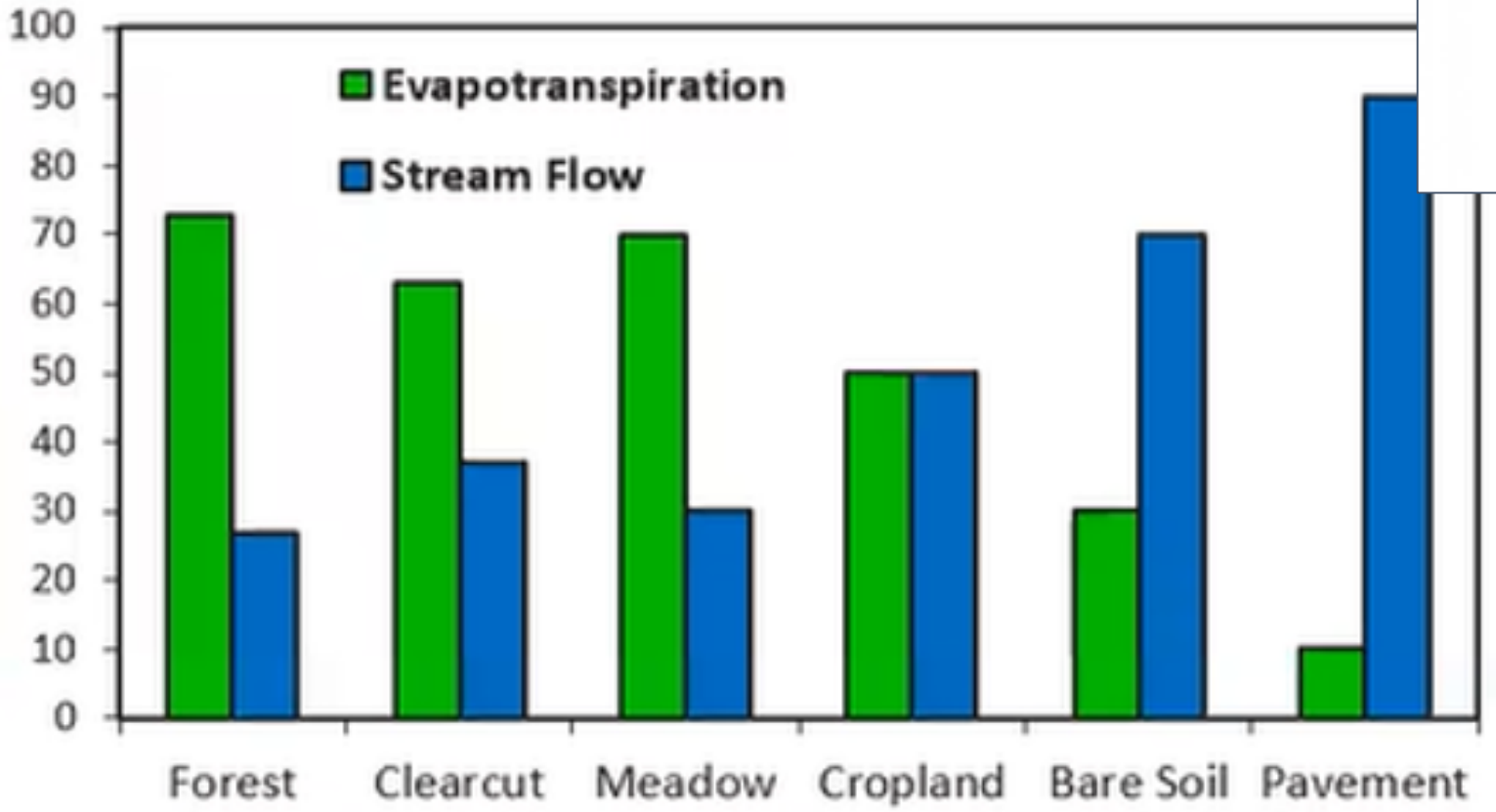
Canopy and Shade-
6-15^{o} C cooler

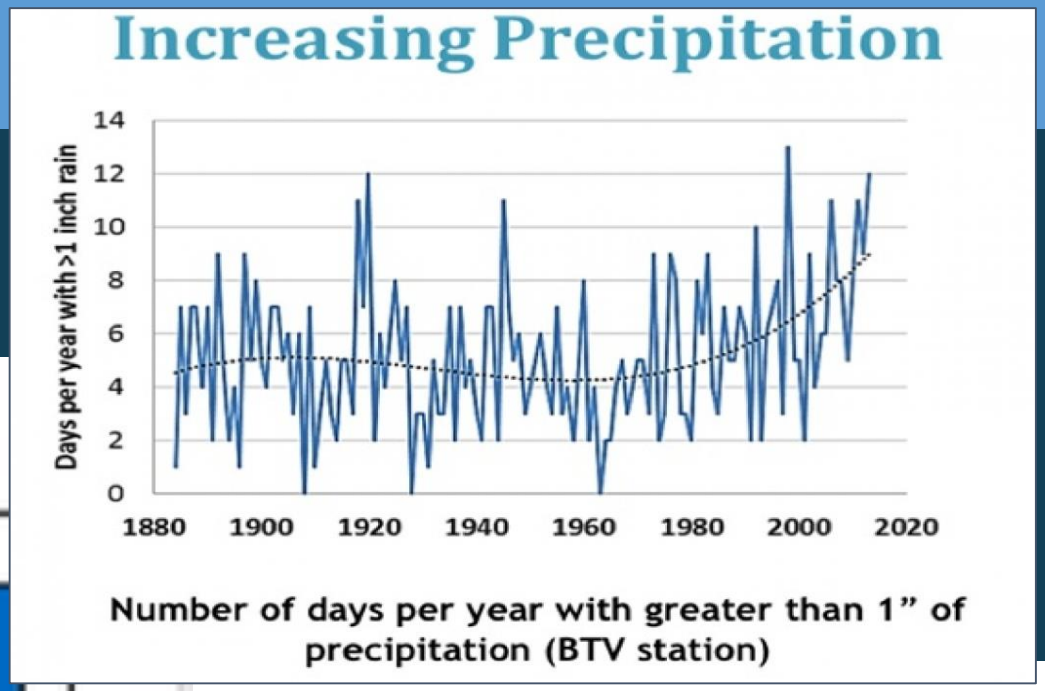
Leaves and wood- food
for macroinvertebrates

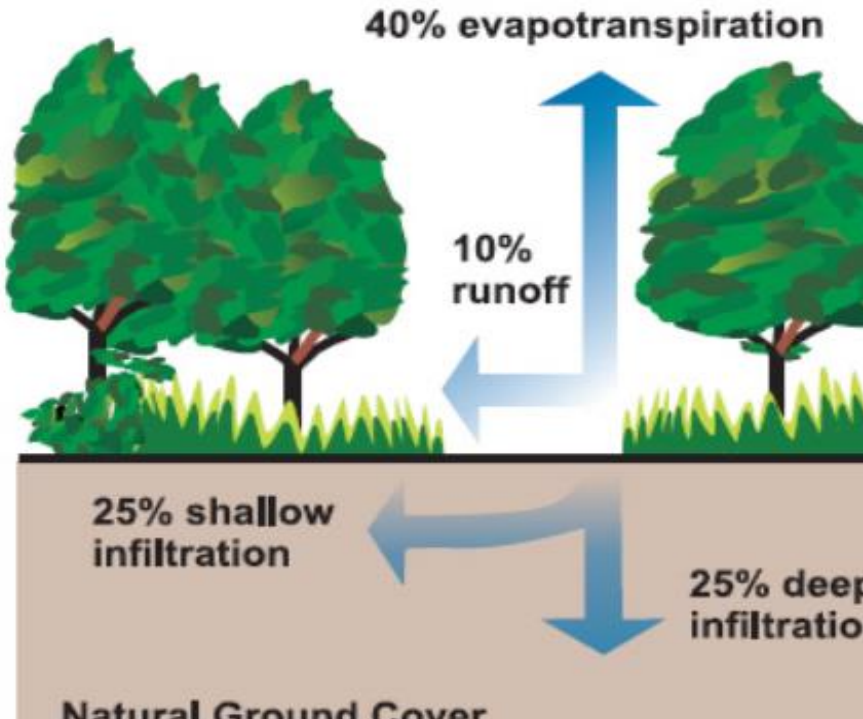
Filtering Runoff-
sediment reduction- 90%;
increase infiltration-- 10-40%

Fish and Wildlife Habitat-
aquatic and terrestrial

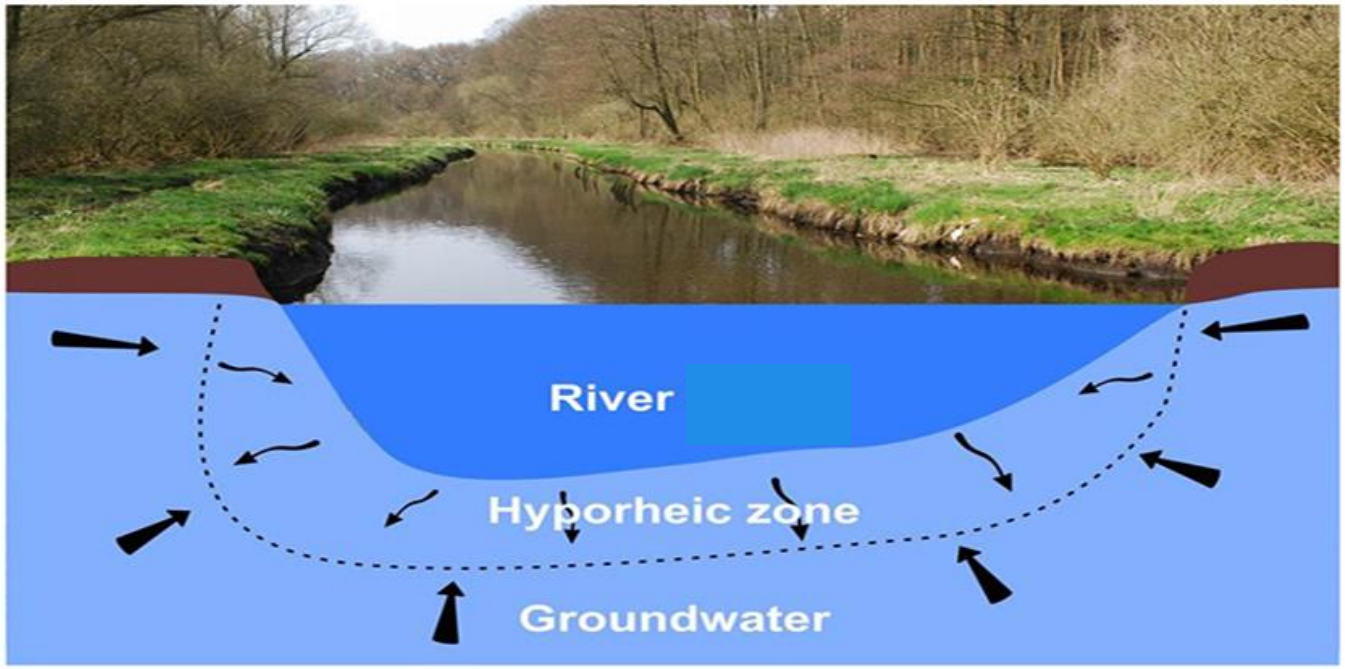
Forest Hydrology Important

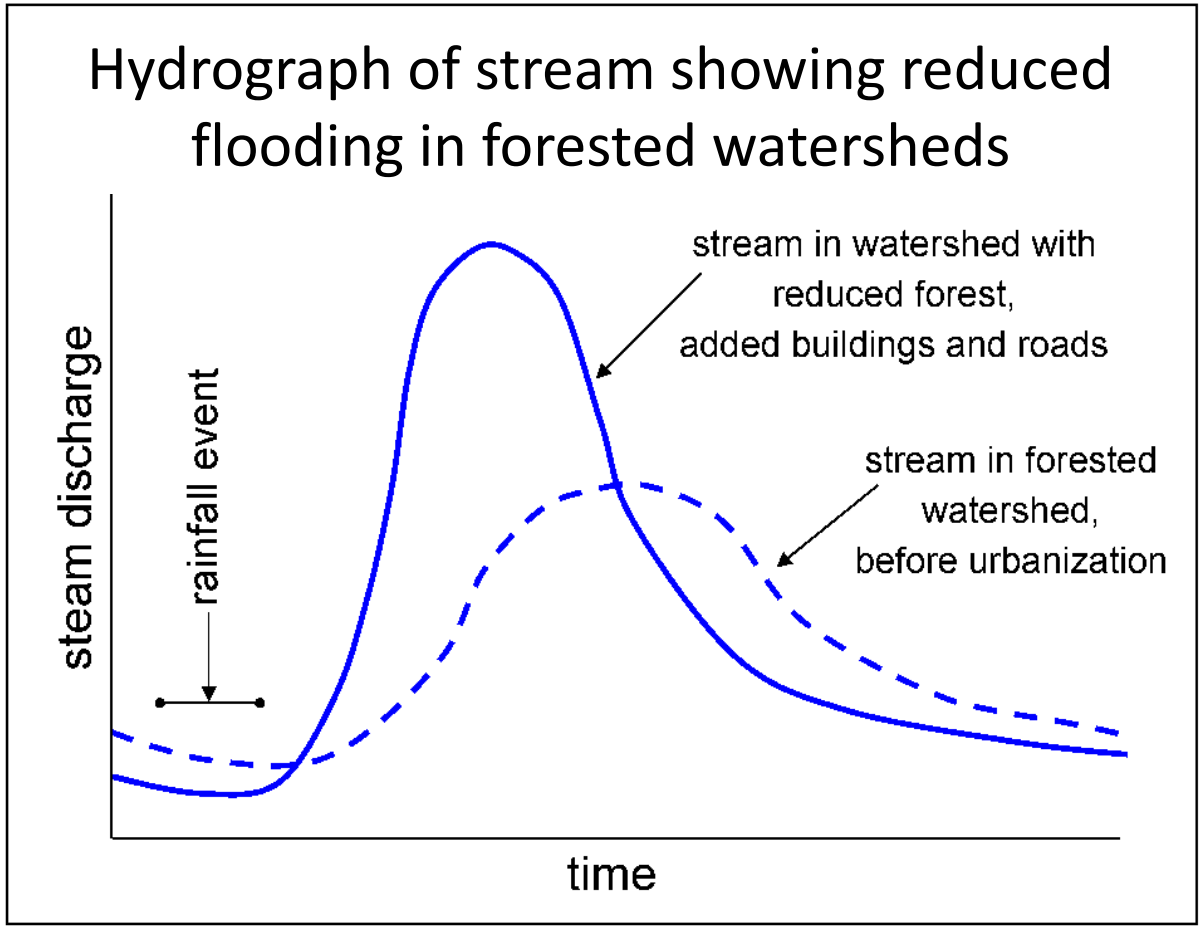




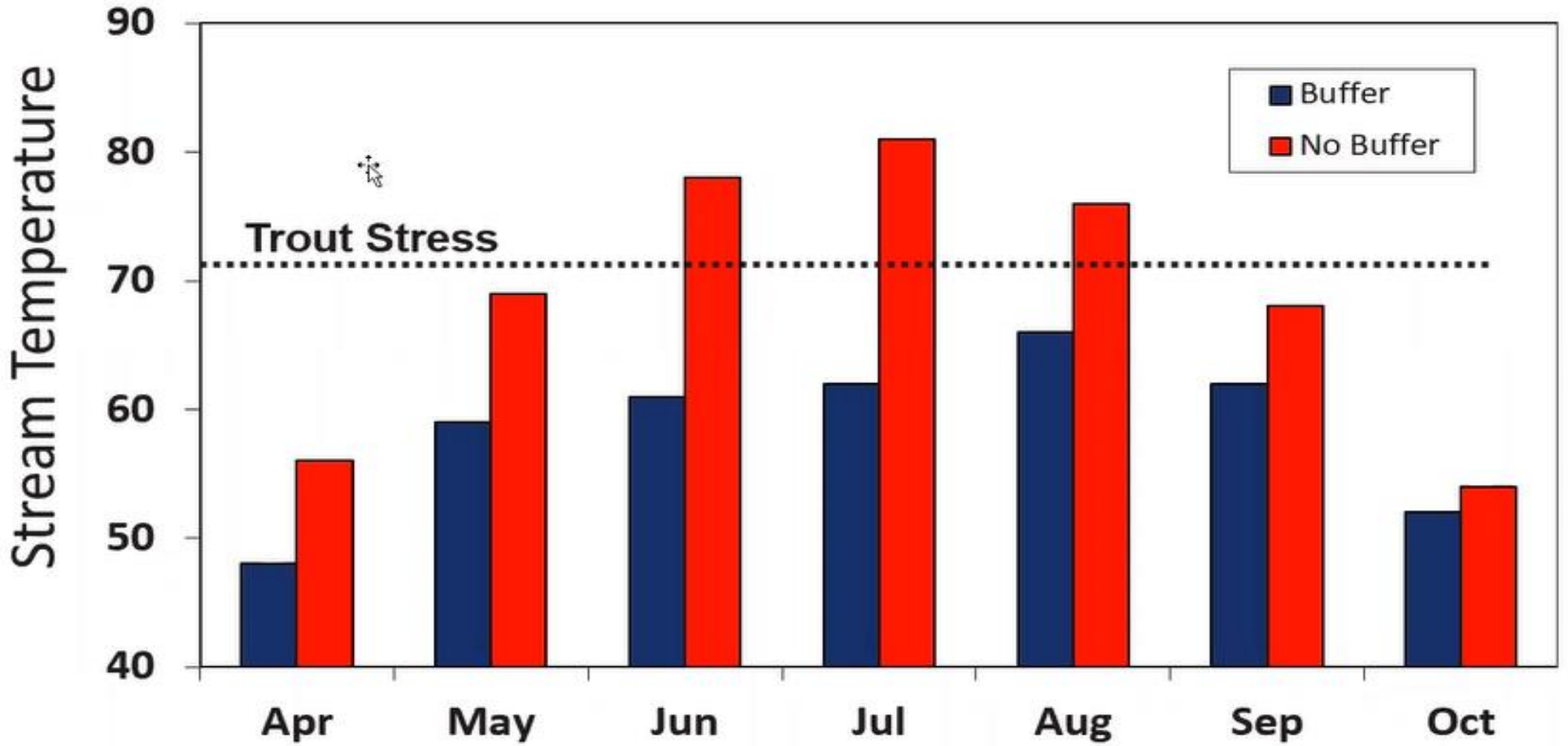


Active Riparian (hyporheic) Zone





Forest Buffers and Stream Temperature



PennState Extension