



Land Protection Efforts in West Virginia

Presented to the ICPRB Drinking Water Source
Protection Partnership

August 2006

Since 1993, Potomac Conservancy has been protecting the health, beauty, and enjoyment of the Potomac River and its tributaries.



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health

beauty

enjoyment



Organizational Focus

- Protecting Water Quality
 - P, N, Sediment
- Preserving Scenic Beauty
- Encouraging Responsible Recreation
- Public Support

Headwaters Land Conservation & Source Water Protection



- Preserve and enhance natural landscapes in order to create and preserve multiple barriers to water contamination.
- Maintain habitat connectivity.
- More natural watersheds function properly and present fewer problems to water quality and supply.

Restoration and Preservation- Working with Landowners to Protect Water Quality

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- A photograph of a duck swimming in a pond with lily pads. The duck is in the center of the frame, facing right. The water is greenish, and there are lily pads in the background.
- Riparian Buffer Restoration
 - BMPs
 - Rain Gardens
 - Low-Impact Development (LID)
 - Conservation buyers
 - Education and Workshops
 - Conservation Easements

Riparian Restoration



Stream Frontage

Since our first easement in 1997, we have protected approximately 30 miles of stream frontage in Maryland, Virginia and West Virginia through both easement and ownership.

Currently all of the properties Potomac Conservancy owns are islands in the Potomac River.

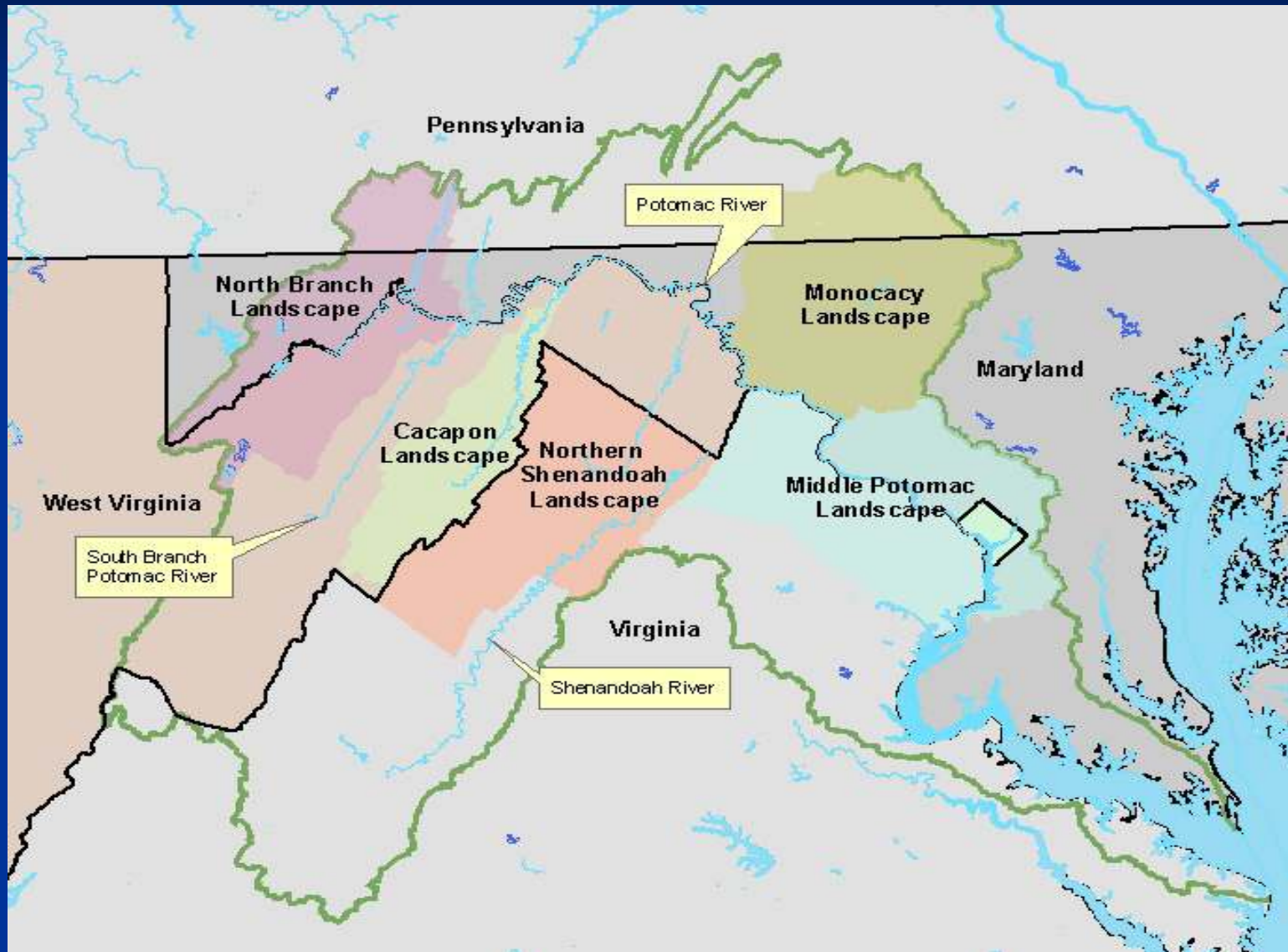




Land Protection: Easements and Ownership

Potomac Conservancy has permanently protected **8,311 acres** of forest and agricultural land throughout the Potomac Watershed.

Potomac Watershed Landscapes



Easements in West Virginia



1st Property Protected in 2000
18 Properties under easement today
6,581.6 acres
5 counties
15.69 miles of stream frontage protected

Mortenson property-Pendleton County



Spaid

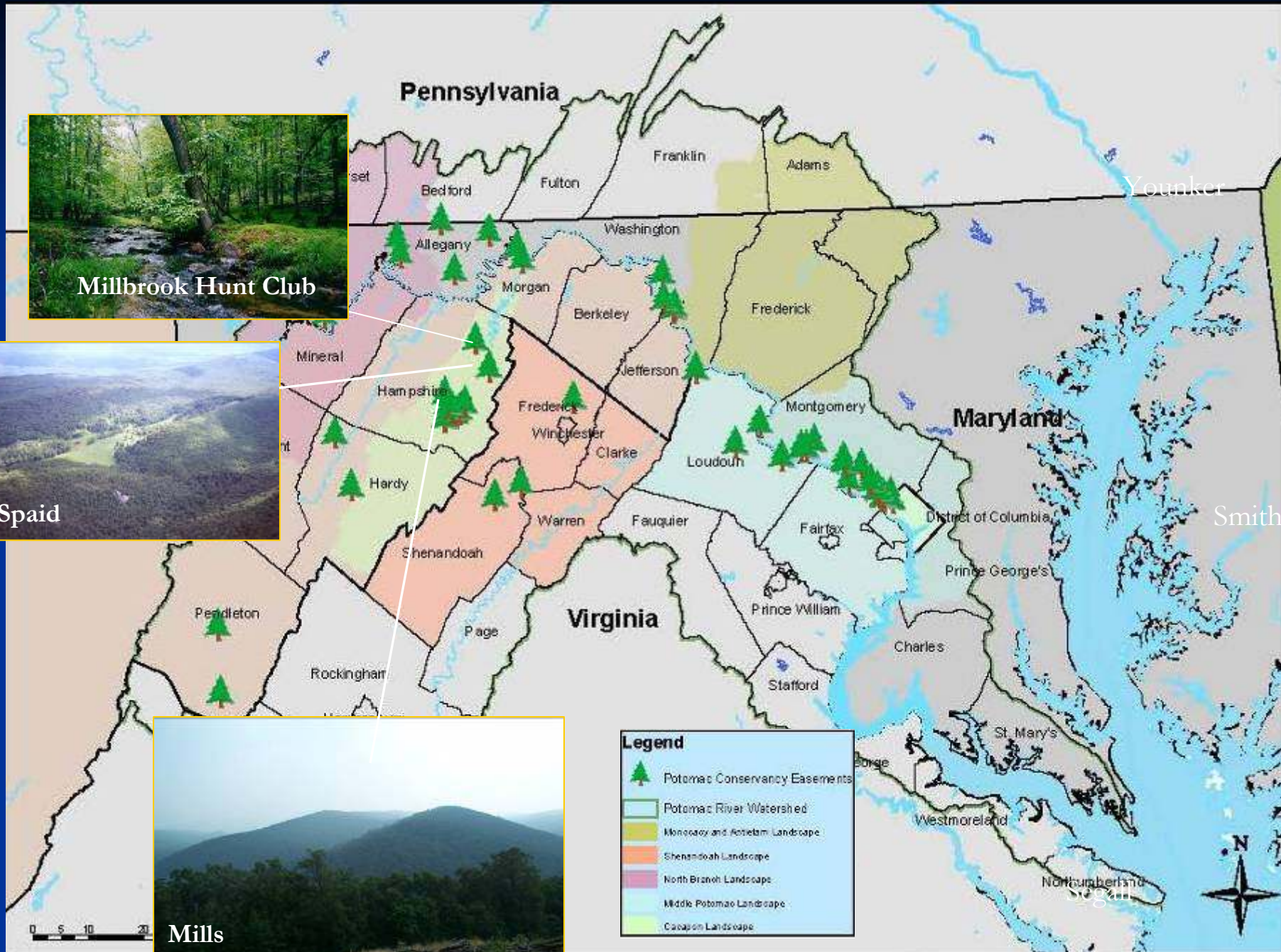
Conserved properties in West Virginia range in size from 8.5 acres to 1,657 acres



Huston



Millbrook Hunt Club



Millbrook Hunt Club



Spaid



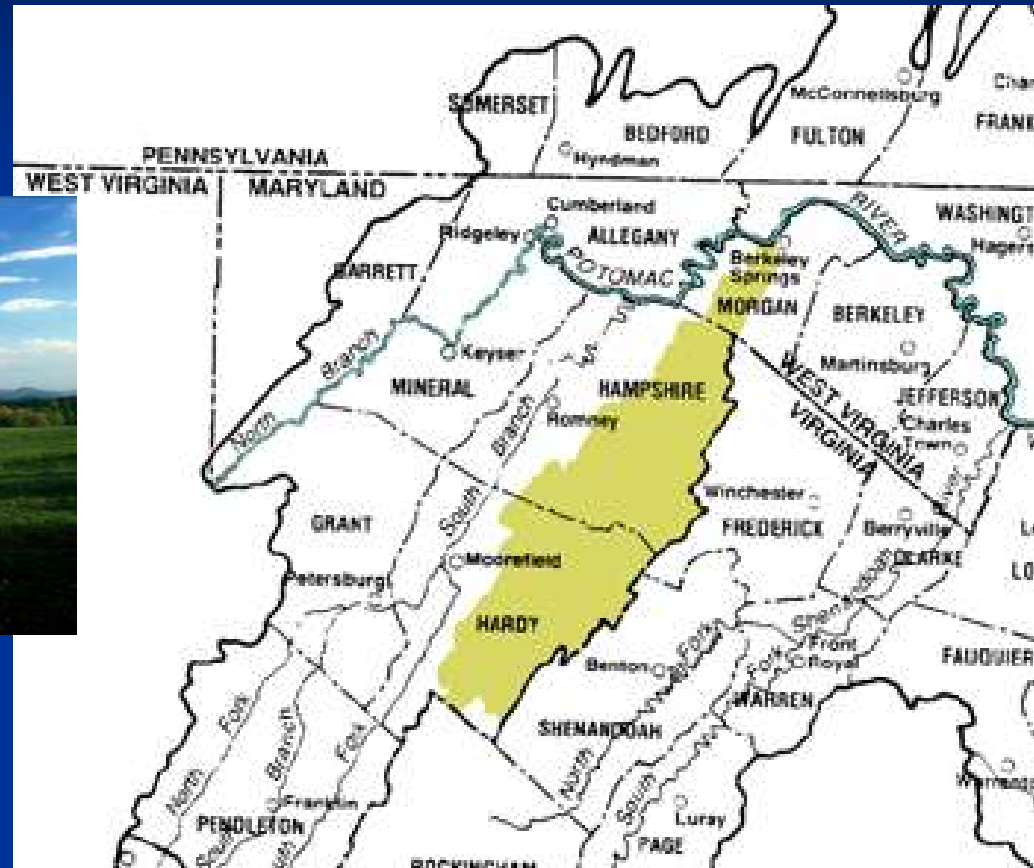
Mills



Permanent Protection: Continuous Stewardship

- Annual stewardship visits
- Legal responsibility
- Landowner relationship and trust
- Opportunities for further conservation action on the property—expanded/more restrictive easement; riparian buffers; forest/cropland management
- Adjacent property outreach

Cacapon Landscape



Partnerships are Essential

- The Cacapon & Lost Rivers Land Trust, founded in 1995 and the largest land trust in West Virginia, works to protect forests and farmland in the Lost River/Cacapon River Watershed.
- Farm Protection Bureau--- Jefferson and Hardy Counties





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