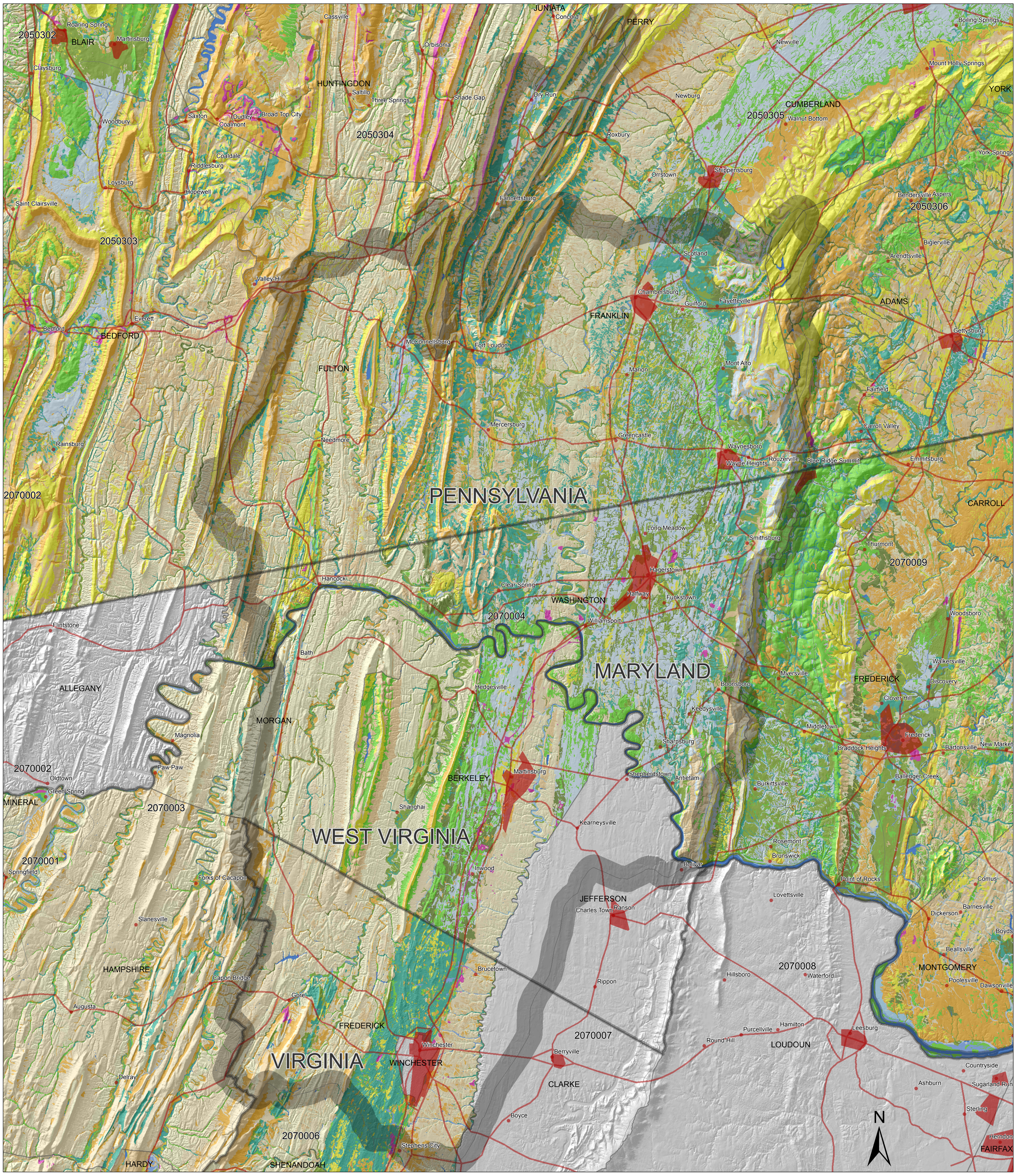
# Soil Root Zone Available Water Capacity (RZAWC)

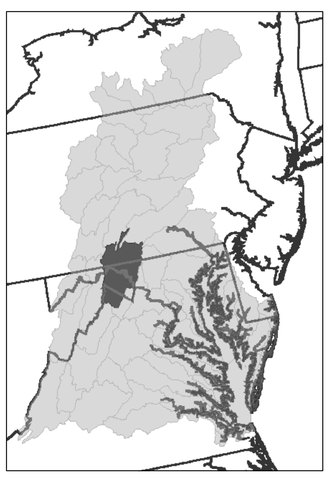
## Conococheague-Opequon Watershed 8-Digit HUC - 02070004

(Draft 06/09/2006)




### Soil Root Zone Available Water Capacity (RZAWC)

The Root Zone Available Water Capacity (RZAWC) arrays soils for their inherent capacity to supply moisture to plants. RZAWC effects crop production and is an important physical soil property. The soil is rated through the depth to the beginning of the first restrictive soil layer, such as bedrock or a very dense layer, or to a depth of 150 cm. The quantity of water held in the root zone, and available for plant use, directly influences productivity. The sum of available water capacity (AWC) times thickness, for all layers in the root zone, approximates the volume of plant available water that can be held in the root zone. The AWC varies geographically, because the capacity to hold water during key parts of the growing season is more critical in some climates than in others. Water in the surface layer is critical to establish plants, but the amount of available water throughout the root zone usually determines the most productive soils.



Location Within Chesapeake Bay Watershed

Albers Equal Area Map Projection
North American Datum of 1983

0 2.5 5 7.5
Miles

0 2.5 5 7.5 10
Kilometers

1:150,000

**Analytical Hillshade**

- County Boundaries
- State Boundaries
- 8-Digit HUCs
- Conococheague Opequon
- Cities
- Roads
- Urban Centers

**RZAWC (in inches)**

- Digital Mapping Not Available
- Water
- Null
- 0 < 2
- 2 < 3
- 3 < 4
- 4 < 5
- 5 < 6
- 6 < 7
- 7 < 8
- 8 < 9
- 9 < 10
- 10 < 11
- 11 < 12
- 12 < 14
- 14 < 30

Sources:
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Map colors based in part on www.ColorBrewer.org, by Cynthia A. Brewer, Penn State.

NRCS Natural Resources Conservation Service