

Wetland Indicators

JANUARY 27, 2020

Wetlands Outcome:

Continually increase the capacity of wetlands to provide water quality and habitat benefits throughout the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

Create or reestablish 85,000 acres of tidal and non-tidal wetlands

- 83,000 of these restored acres should take place on agricultural lands

Enhance the function of an additional 150,000 acres of degraded wetlands

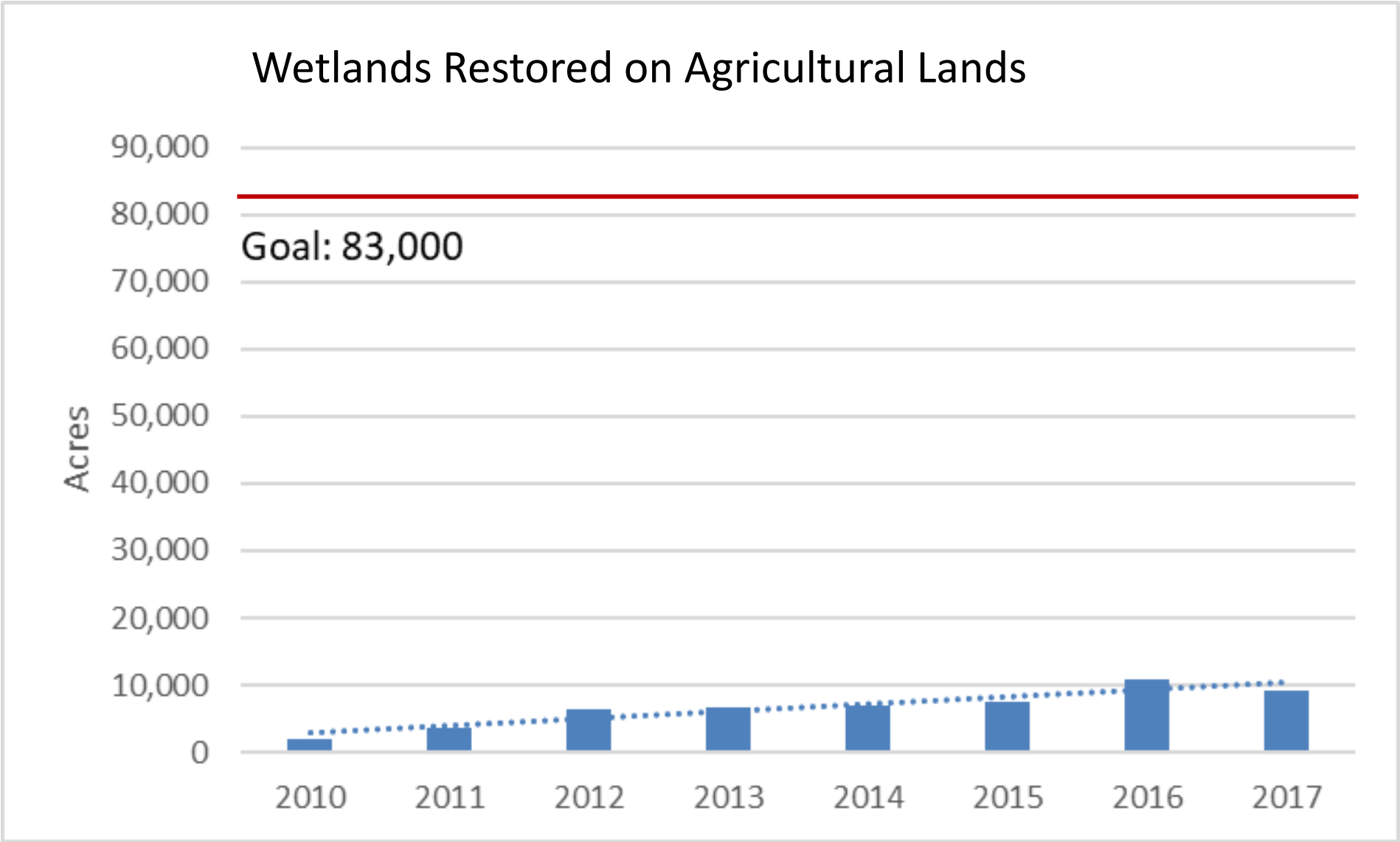
These activities may occur in any land use (including urban), but should primarily occur in agricultural or natural landscapes.

Wetlands Outcome:

- Regulatory Programs designed to meet No Net Loss
 - Some jurisdictions report incremental net gain. Is this counted?
- Creation/ Reestablishment (restoration) comes from Voluntary Actions
 - Jurisdictions struggle with voluntary action accounting
 - Certain funding programs limit access to location-based information
- Accounting systems are generally separate often in different agencies

Progress

Percent of Goal
Reached: 11%



Wetlands Outcome: Climate Effects

- **Wetland loss and degradation due to:**
 - Development
 - Climate
 - Both in synergy
- **Need**
 - Data on Development extent and trends
 - Hydrology data and models
 - Robust projections on wetland areal extent and distribution
 - Tidal wetlands
 - Drowning: Sediment supply and accumulation. Organic material production
 - Migration Corridors: Limited by Development and Topography
 - Non-tidal wetland effects from precipitation, surface, and groundwater withdrawal/ recharge

Moving Forward on Indicator Data

- CBP recognizes that collecting acreages has been a burden to the workgroup in the past.
- Workgroup focus on data collection takes significant time from work on Strategy and Work Plan.
- Rectifying Wetland Status and Trends with Restoration Data
- High rates of Bay watershed development and sea level rise mean wetlands are at great risk
- Low restoration numbers raise concern that we are not only way behind on the goal, but that the baseline is also changing.