



Beyond 2025 Update

Wetlands Workgroup Meeting
7/15/2025

Revised Outcome Language For Public Feedback

Restore, create, enhance and protect wetlands to support people and living resources, including waterbirds and fish, provide water quality, flood and erosion protection, recreation and other valuable benefits to people.

- **Tidal Wetlands Target:** Restore or create 1,000 acres and enhance 15,000 acres by 2035.
- **Non-tidal Wetlands Target:** Restore or create 2,000 acres and enhance 15,000 acres by 2035.
- **Buffer Protection Target:** Same as the Protected Lands Outcome and will be tracked under that goal.
- Waterbirds represent wetlands functioning at its highest level, specific species priorities will be developed over the next 12 to 18 months.



Watershed Agreement Revisions: July - August

- **July 1 – September 1:** Public feedback period.
 - Review Team (RT) who volunteered to consider public feedback begins tackling work in late July and iterates as comments are received.
 - RT engages experts, as needed.
- **August 14:** Management Board meeting.
 - RT presents preliminary public feedback.
- **August 20:** Principals' Staff Committee meeting.
 - RT presents preliminary public feedback.

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**WE WANT ALL THE
FEEDBACK!**

- Public feedback period will open on Tuesday, July 1 and run for 60 days until Monday, September 1.
- Everything you need to know can be found at <https://www.chesapeakebay.net/what/what-guides-us/planning-for-2025-and-beyond>
- Feedback can be emailed to comments@chesapeakebay.net.
- Chesapeake Bay Program staff is available to talk with any of your members or groups about Beyond 2025.



QUESTIONS?



Wetlands Protection Target

Wetlands: By 2040, permanently protect a total of _XX_ acres of wetlands focusing on the protection of buffer zones.

Wetlands Protection Target: Tidal Example

Objective: Quantify protected and unprotected lands upslope and adjacent to tidal wetlands.

*"inland": within the zone of 3-ft SLR + 1000-ft buffer (excluding all open water)

Numbers produced by the CBP GIS Team

Statistics

- Buffer area: 1.18 million acres
- Tidal wetlands within buffer: 284,000 acres (99% of all tidal wetlands in the Bay)
- Tidal wetlands protected within buffer: 128,000 acres (45% of tidal wetlands within buffer)
- Lands upslope and near tidal wetlands: 893,000 acres
- Protected lands upslope and near tidal wetlands: 222,000 acres (25% of upslope near tidal lands)
- Unprotected lands upslope and near tidal wetlands: 670,000 acres



The image above of the Blackwater Wildlife Refuge region shows tidal wetlands in light green and the remaining buffer area in brown. There are many other criteria and datasets that could be considered in this analysis including marsh migration zones, UVVR, habitat values, proximity to refuges, etc. Consider this a first and draft attempt.



Next Steps

- Talk to Protected Lands Workgroup - Consult with Peter Claggett to define buffer zones
 - Determine the extent to which buffer zones are currently protected
 - Once the PLWG has the current acreage numbers, a discussion on acreage goals for the target can take place in Fall 2025
 - Submit comments during the public feedback period
 - Feedback can be emailed to comments@chesapeakebay.net
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