HOW RIPARIAN FOREST BUFFERS HELP MEET OTHER CHESAPEAKE BAY GOALS

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FOREST BUFFER OUTCOME

- **Continually increase capacity throughout the watershed**
- **Restore 900 miles per year**
- **Conserve existing buffers until at least 70 percent of riparian areas are forested**

FACTORS WE CAN'T CONTROL

- **Fluctuation in commodity crop prices**
- **Inter-generational transfer of ag lands**
- **Loss of agricultural lands**
- **Congressional authority for Farm Bill**

HIGH PRIORITY FACTORS

- Insufficient emphasis
- Insufficient technical assistance
- Interagency coordination
- Lackluster incentives
- Unused federal funds (lack of 20% match)
- Inflexible federal programs
- Outreach to landowners
- Understanding lack of re-enrollment
- Lack of information for landowners & assistance providers
- Unsatisfactory survival rate of buffer plantings
- Complicated process (application/implementation)
- Targeting areas where most effective
- Need for permanent protection

CURRENT EFFORTS & GAPS

Chesapeake Riparian Forest Buffer Initiative

- USDA, EPA and Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay
- Spring 2014 – Kicked off Task Force process
- Many partners engaged in each state
- Needs/Actions summarized in Buffer Management Strategy and Workplan:

http://www.chesapeakebay.net/managementstrategies/strategy/forest_buffer

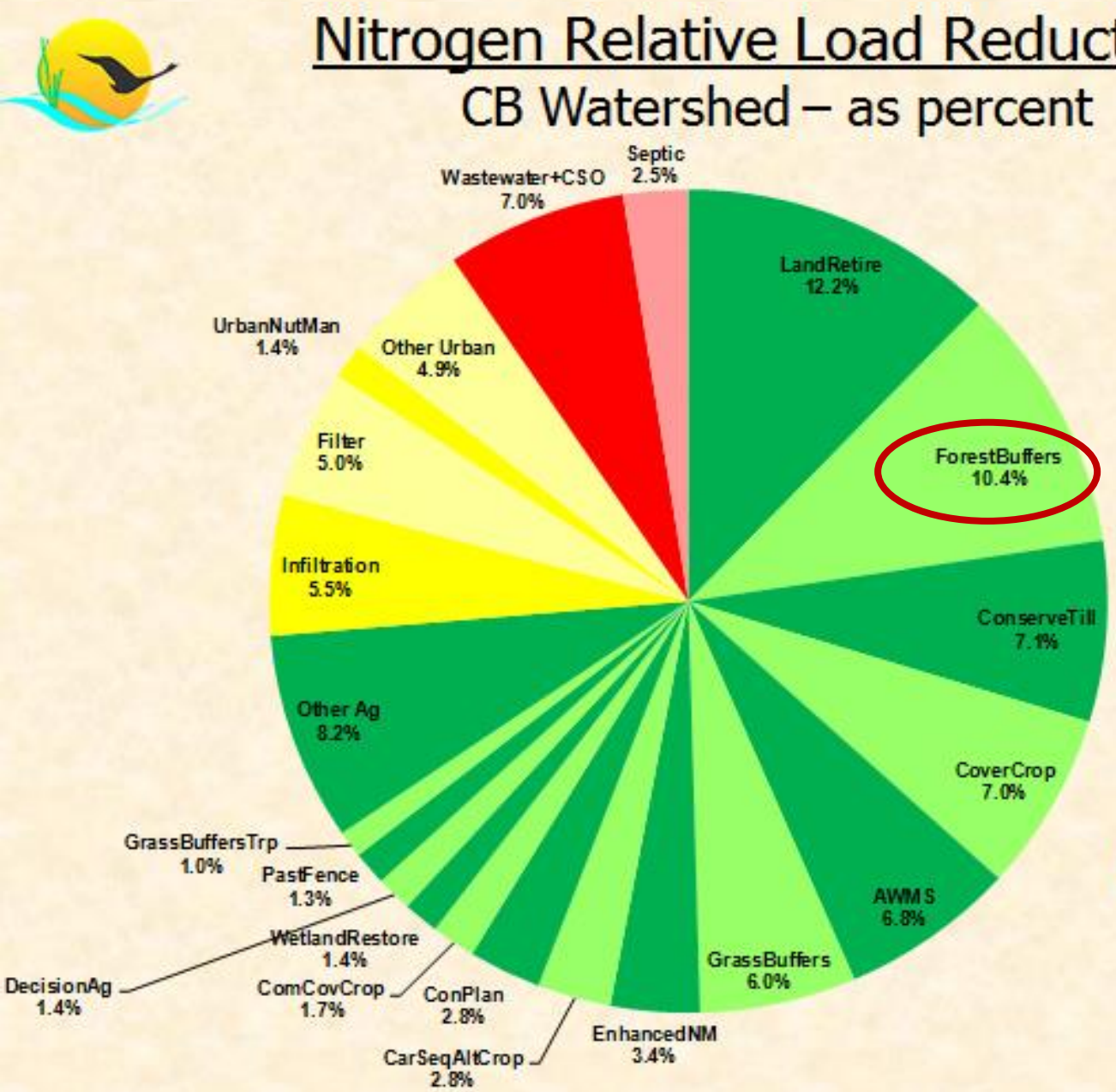
RIPARIAN FOREST BENEFITS

- **Clean water**
- **Habitat (aquatic and terrestrial)**
- **All the co-benefits that trees provide including air quality, cooling, carbon sequestration, etc**
- **Need to review the science? See recorded webinar by Bern Sweeney: https://usfs.adobeconnect.com/p1uc3sf8jj5**

RIPARIAN FOREST BUFFERS AND WATER QUALITY

- **Riparian forest buffers among most effective practices to reduce nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment**
- **Credited in Chesapeake Bay Program models as "Forest Buffers on Fenced Pasture Corridor" and "Forest Buffers"**
- **Converts agriculture or urban land uses to forest land use**
- **Also reduces upland pollution**
  - **Each acre of "Forest Buffer" reduces nitrogen from 4 upland acres in agriculture**

STATES RELYING ON PAST AND FUTURE ACRES

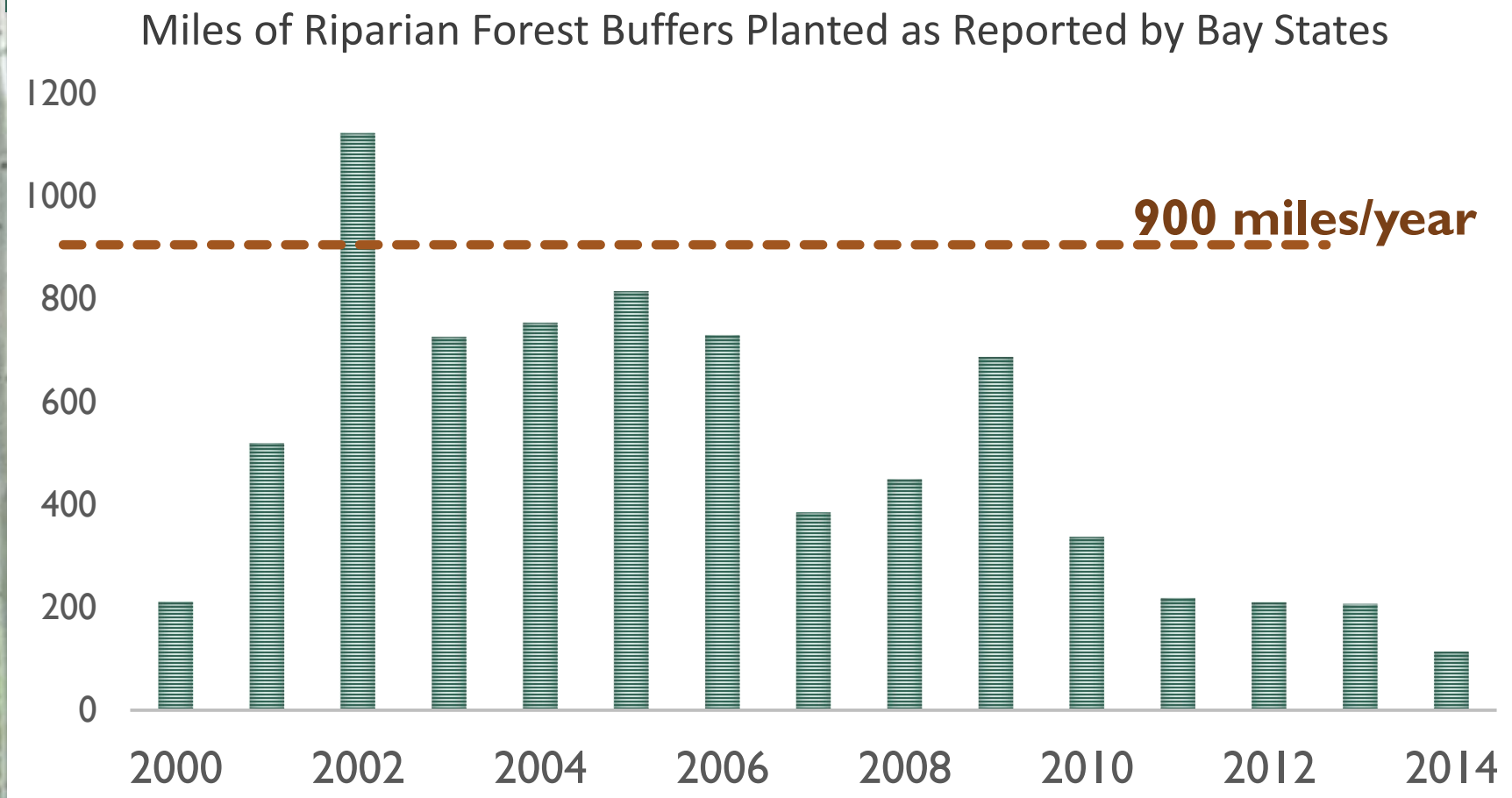


Forest Buffers rank second of all nonpoint source BMPs needed to meet TMDL targets for N according to state WIPs

Each slice represents the percent of the total load reduction attributable to planned implementation levels for that BMP.

Data Source: Chesapeake Bay Program Modeling Team (Sweeney)

PAST PROGRESS



Data source: Miles of new riparian forest buffer reported by states to the CBP Forestry Workgroup

FOREST BUFFER PROGRESS TOWARD TMDL/WIP TARGETS

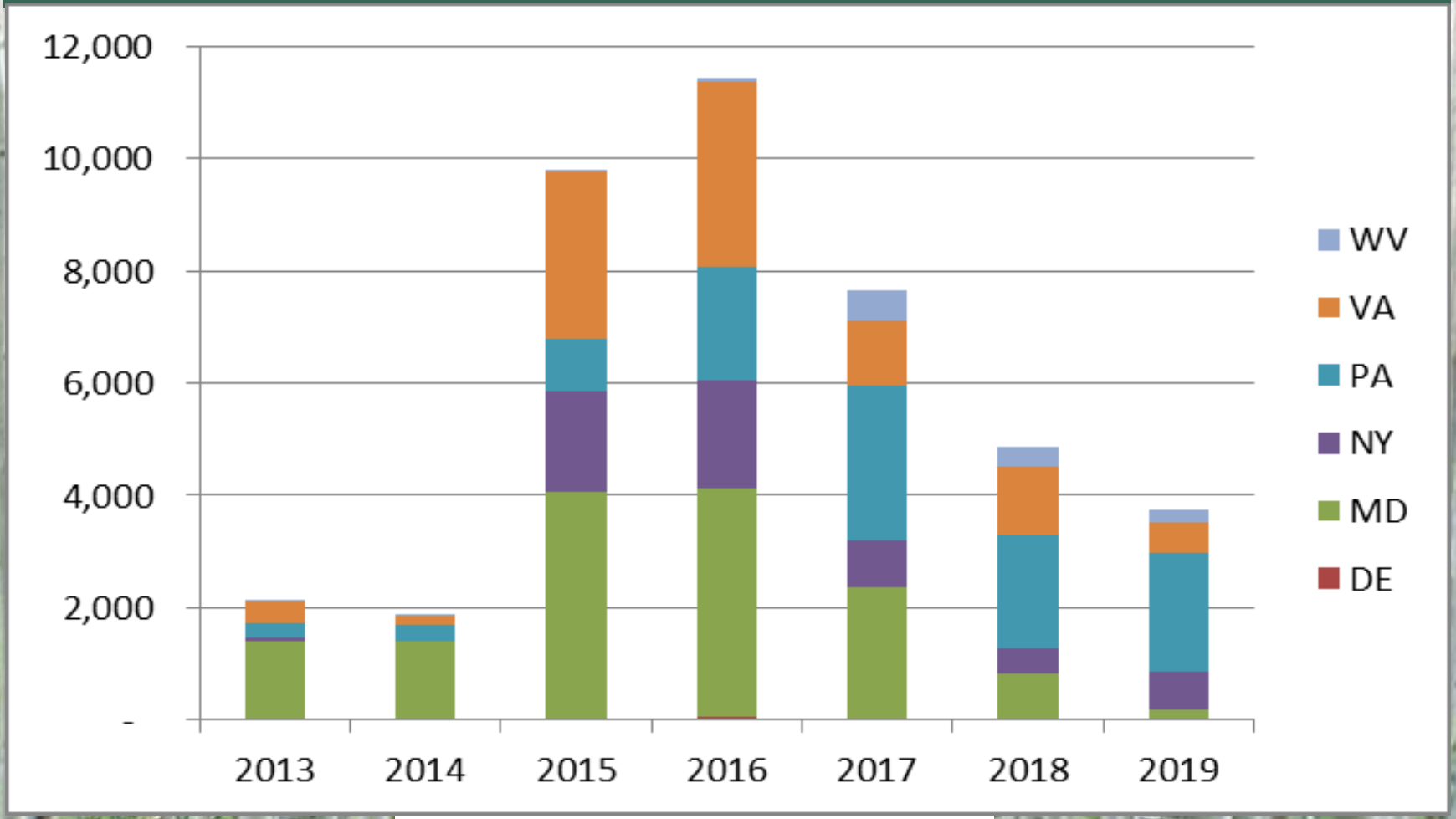
	Total New Acres Needed 2015-2025	Acres/year needed	2015 CP-22 new acres	Expired in 2015 (not re-enrolled)
Delaware	4,527	453	0	14
Maryland	1,126	113	122	2,693
New York	5,376	538	42	1,557
Pennsylvania	100,277	10,028	207	589
Virginia	79,586	7,959	212	1,269
West Virginia	2,787	279	68	28
TOTAL	**193,679**	**19,368**	**651**	**6,150**

19,368 acres/year = 1,598 miles/year of 100ft wide buffers

Data Source: Chesapeake Bay Program draft 2015 Progress Version 7 and 2014 data from USDA Farm Services Agency

EXPIRING CONTRACTS

CP-22 ACRES EXPIRING 2013-2019



Data Source: USDA Farm Services Agency

SUMMARY

- ✓ RFBs are critical
- ✓ Effort should be commensurate with its importance in state Watershed Implementation Plans
- ✓ Need clear commitment and supportive ground-level operations
- ✓ Eliminate barriers to implementation – act on recommendations in Management Strategy