Protected Lands Outcome

John Griffin
Chesapeake Conservation Partnership

Protected Lands in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed 2015 - 2016

GOAL: Conserve landscapes treasured by citizens in order to maintain water quality and habitat; sustain working forests, farms and maritime communities; and conserve lands of cultural, indigenous and community value.

By 2025, **protect an additional two million acres** of lands throughout the watershed—currently identified as high-conservation priorities at the federal, state or local level—including 225,000 acres of wetlands and 695,000 acres of forest land of highest value for maintaining water quality.

Create strong incentives for:

- State of the art BMPs on permanently protected land

- Permanent protection of larger landscapes that preclude conversion and future loads

- Long-term conservation policies

1

Setting the Stage:

What are our assumptions?

Based on what we've learned, we plan to…

- Revising work plan, management strategy and completing logic table by August

- But, the bigger lift is …

- Creating support for long-term conservation and new funding streams

2

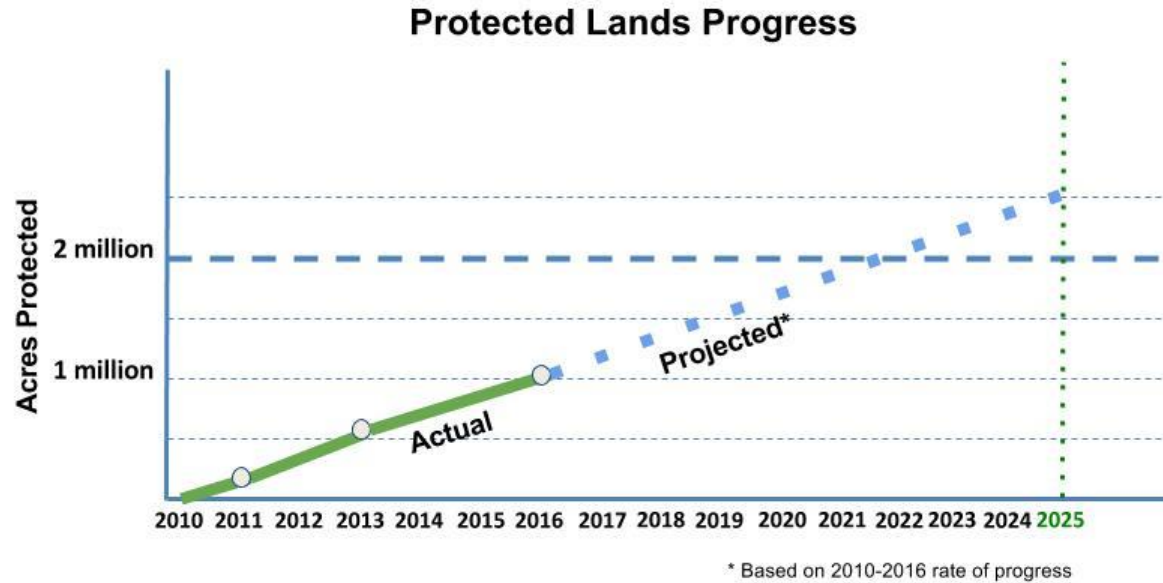**Progress:**
Are we doing what we said we would do?

Yes

8.8 million acres and counting

CBP

Progress

	2010	2011	2013	2015-16
Total Acres Protected Lands	7,800,000	8,013,132	8,409,076	8,804,577
Acres toward Goal	--	213,132	609,076	1,004,577
Percent of Goal Achieved	--	10.7%	30.5%	**50.2%**

Are we on track?

Protected Lands Progress

Acres Protected

2 million
1 million

Actual

Projected*

2010 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022 2023 2024 2025

* Based on 2010-2016 rate of progress

Which actions are most critical to progress?

- Sustained land protection funding
- Development of new financing mechanisms
- Building capacity of land trusts
- Marrying strategic planning, use of mapping & data with organizational capacity
- Public support

3

Challenges:
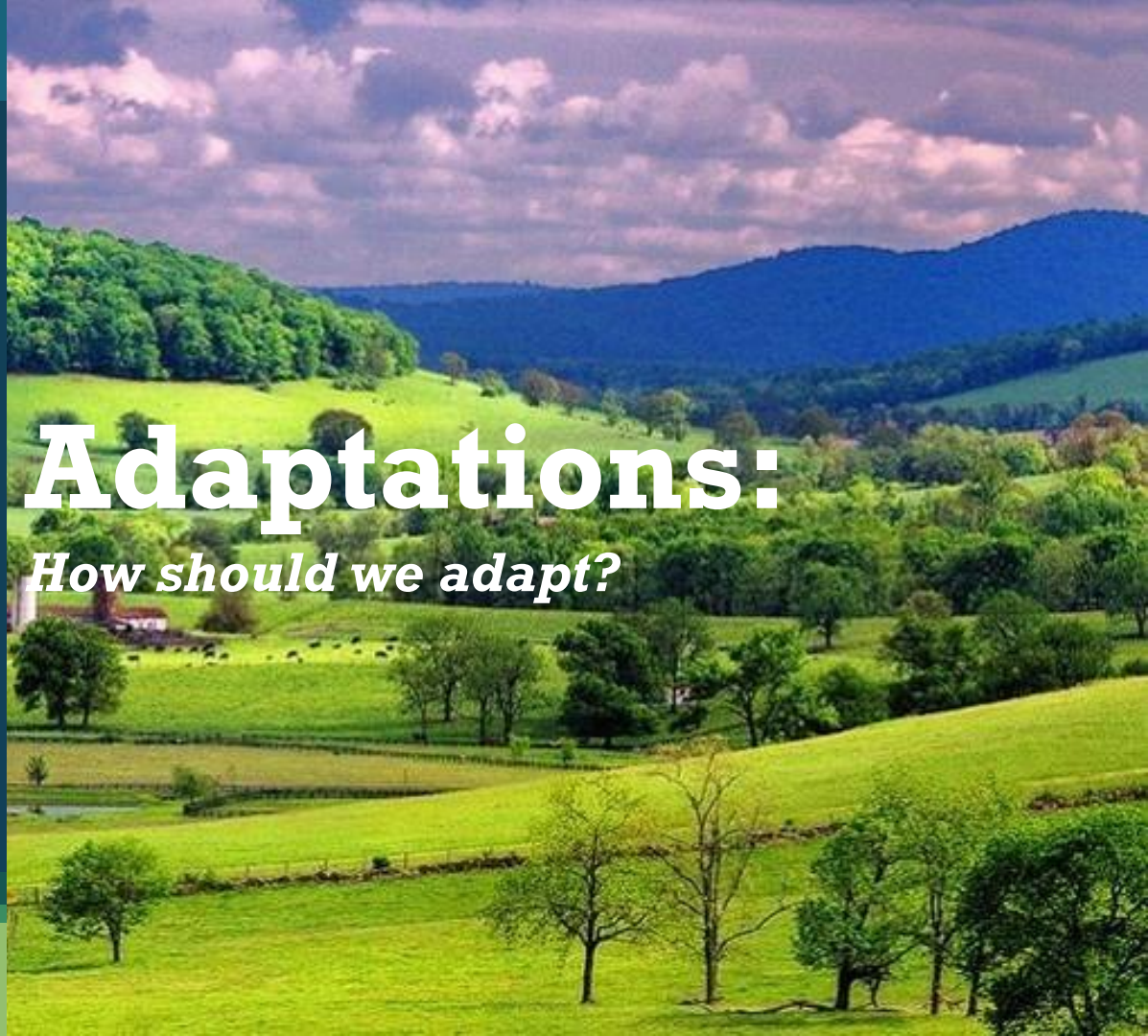*Are our actions having the expected effect?*

Yes

Challenges

- Changing federal funding climate for land protection
- Impact on state and local revenues from changing federal funding
- Support for funding land protection varies based on economy and understanding of long-term goals

4

Adaptations:
How should we adapt?

Adaptations Include

1 **Set Long-term Goals (BHAG)**

2 **Document & Illustrate Them**

3 **'Grow the Pie' Strategies**
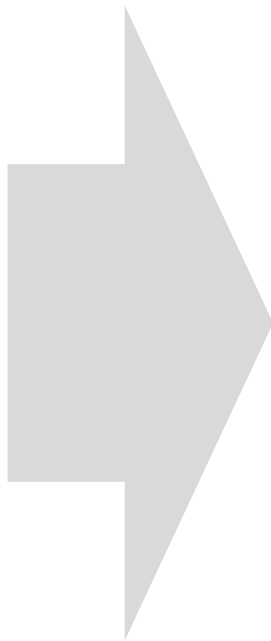
4 **Track Progress**

Farms

Forests

Habitat

Heritage

Health

All interconnected:

Clean water

Vibrant economy

Strong communities

Healthy people

Working farms/forests

Thriving native wildlife

Healthy watersheds

Shared heritage

Recreation

Quality of life

No better, more reliable platform for achieving many co-benefits
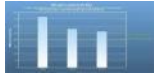
Agreement Goals and Outcomes

Sustainable Fisheries
- Blue Crab Abundance
- Blue Crab Management
- Oyster
- Forage Fish
- Fish Habitat

Vital Habitats Goal
- Wetlands
- Black Duck
- Stream Health
- Brook Trout
- Fish Passage
- Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV)
- Forest Buffer
- Tree Canopy

Water Quality Goal
- 2017 Watershed Implementation Plans (WIP)
- 2025 WIP
- Water Quality Standards Attainment and Monitoring

Toxic Contaminants Goal
- Toxic Contaminants Research Toxic Contaminants Policy and Prevention

Healthy Watersheds Goal
- Healthy Waters

Stewardship Goal
- Citizen Stewardship
- Local Leadership
- Diversity

Land Conservation Goal
- Protected Lands
- Land Use Methods and Metrics Development Land Use Options Evaluation

Public Access Goal
- Public Access Site Development

Environmental Literacy Goal
- Student
- Sustainable Schools
- Environmental Literacy Planning

Climate Resiliency Goal
- Monitoring and Assessment
- Adaptation Outcome

- **Durability**
- **Additionality**
- **Co-Benefits**

Least → **Most**

| 1 Acre | 1 Acre | 1 Acre | 1 Acre |

Unprotected No BMPs   **Unprotected with BMPs**   **Protected No BMPs**   **Protected with BMPs**

What We Want

Create strong incentives for:

- State of the art BMPs on permanently protected land

- Permanent protection of larger landscapes that preclude conversion and future loads

- Long-term conservation policies

Discussion