



# Black Duck

## Action Team Updates

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Action Team*



*Through the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement, the Chesapeake Bay Program has committed to...*

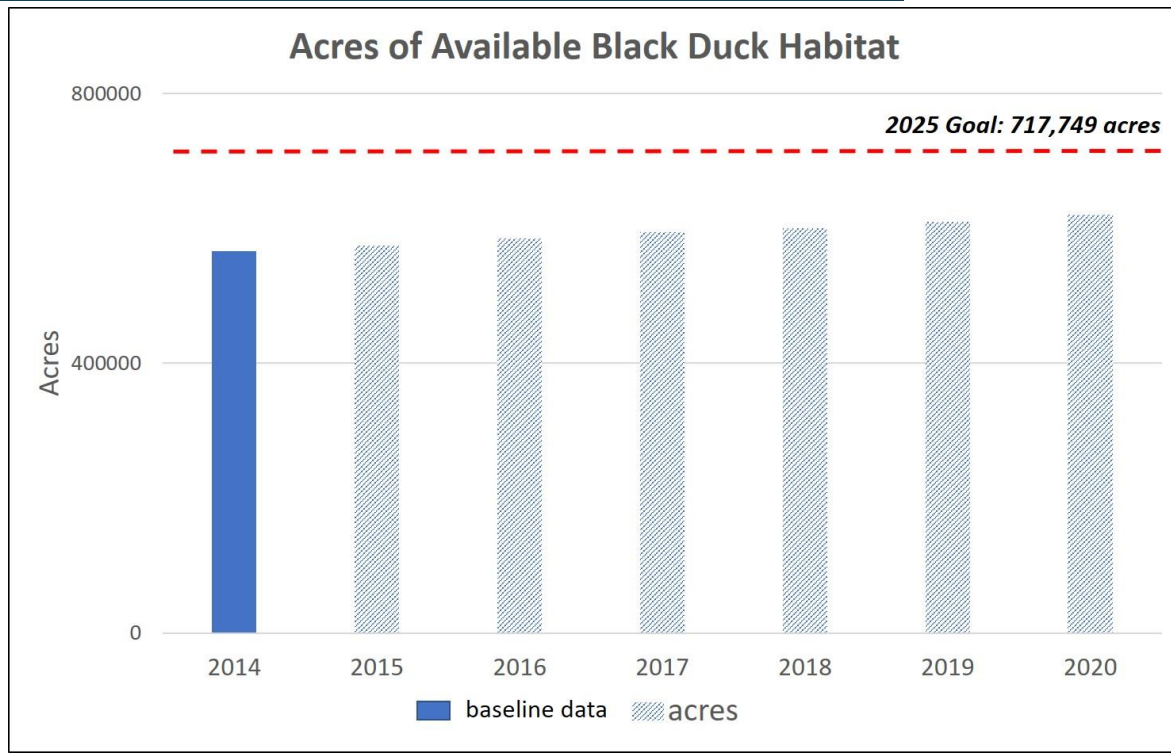


## Goal: Vital Habitats (*Black Duck*)

**Outcome:** By 2025, restore, enhance and preserve wetland habitats that support a wintering population of 100,000 black ducks, a species representative of the health of tidal marshes across the watershed. Refine population targets through 2025 based on best available science.



## What is our Expected and Actual Progress?



**2014 Baseline:** 566,477 acres

**2025 Goal:** 717,749 acres

**Restoration goal:** 151,272 additional acres

*\*based on results from the Decision Support Tool (DST)\**



## Successes and Challenges

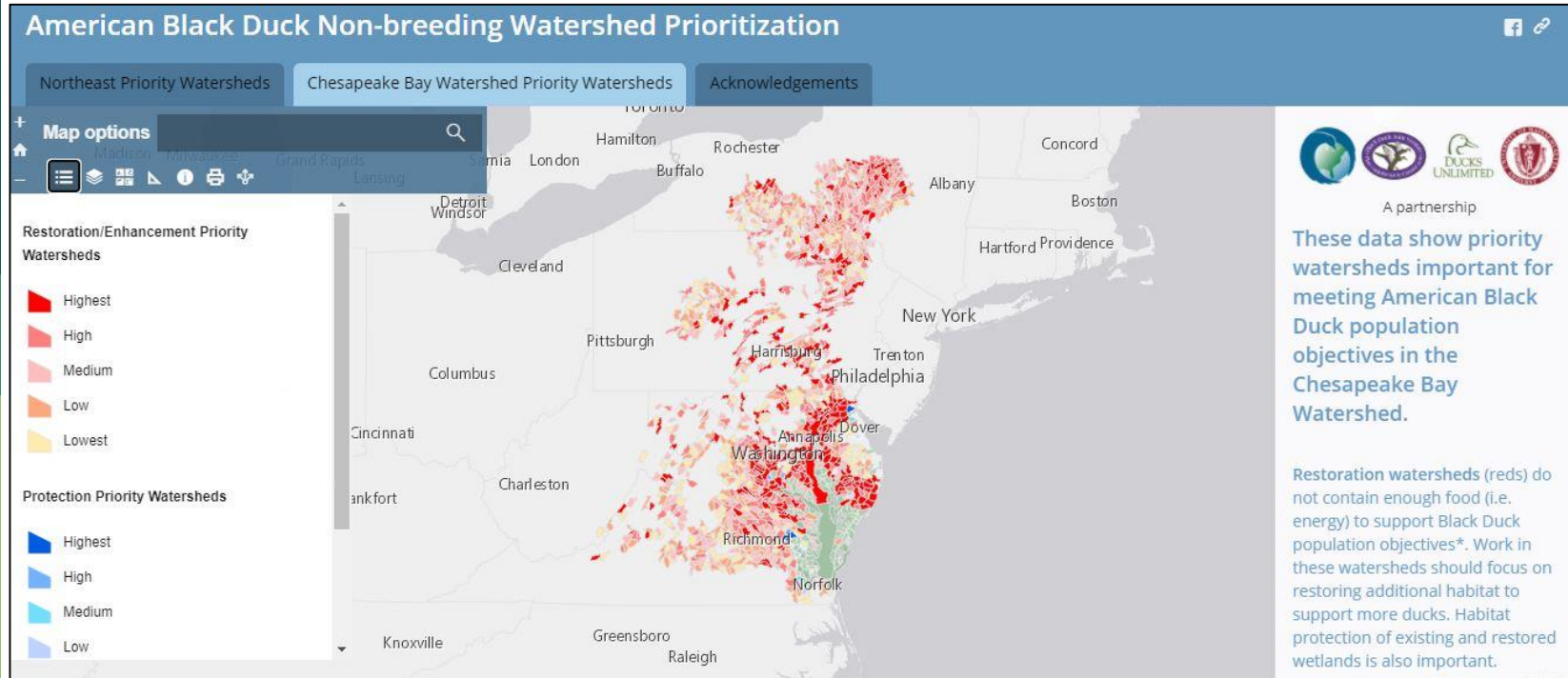
- Most actions have been completed, are on track, or are ongoing
- Current factors affecting progress are still accurate
- Development of DST is biggest success
- Biggest obstacle tracking of wetland restoration acres towards outcome





## Successes and Challenges

- Black Duck Decision Support Tool (DST) was a successful project that fills the info. gap of knowing which areas are highest priority for restoration and conservation
- New available science related to the DST is informing an update to the model and will affect the restoration goal when completed





## On the Horizon

- **Scientific:** The update to the DST is currently underway and is expected to be complete in 1-2 years.
- Updates:
  - 1) a new NWI layer
  - 2) Impacts of Climate Change
  - 3) changes to the model that will more accurately calculate the restoration goal
- Will likely lead to a change in the number of acres that are needed to support a population of 100,000 black ducks, which impacts the outcome.



## Challenges

- Biggest obstacle: tracking of restoration acres toward the outcome
- Overlap of project partners (double counting)
- Types of projects (Restoration/Enhancement)
- Project boundaries are not clear cut
- Turnover of staff implementing projects
- Common theme with Wetland Workgroup





## Based on what we learned, we plan to ...

- Continue ongoing habitat restoration work
- Improve our tracking of habitat restoration so we can accurately track progress towards the outcome
- Work with the Indicators Team at the Bay Program to develop this indicator for Chesapeake Progress and Bay Barometer





## In-progress

- Asked Management Board for staff capacity to help identify where the NEIEN system is underrepresenting progress towards the wetland and black duck outcomes, and ultimately, all other living resources outcomes. We are asking for support in the NEIEN system to ensure that the system is capturing living resource goals particularly as it relates to black duck and wetlands.