

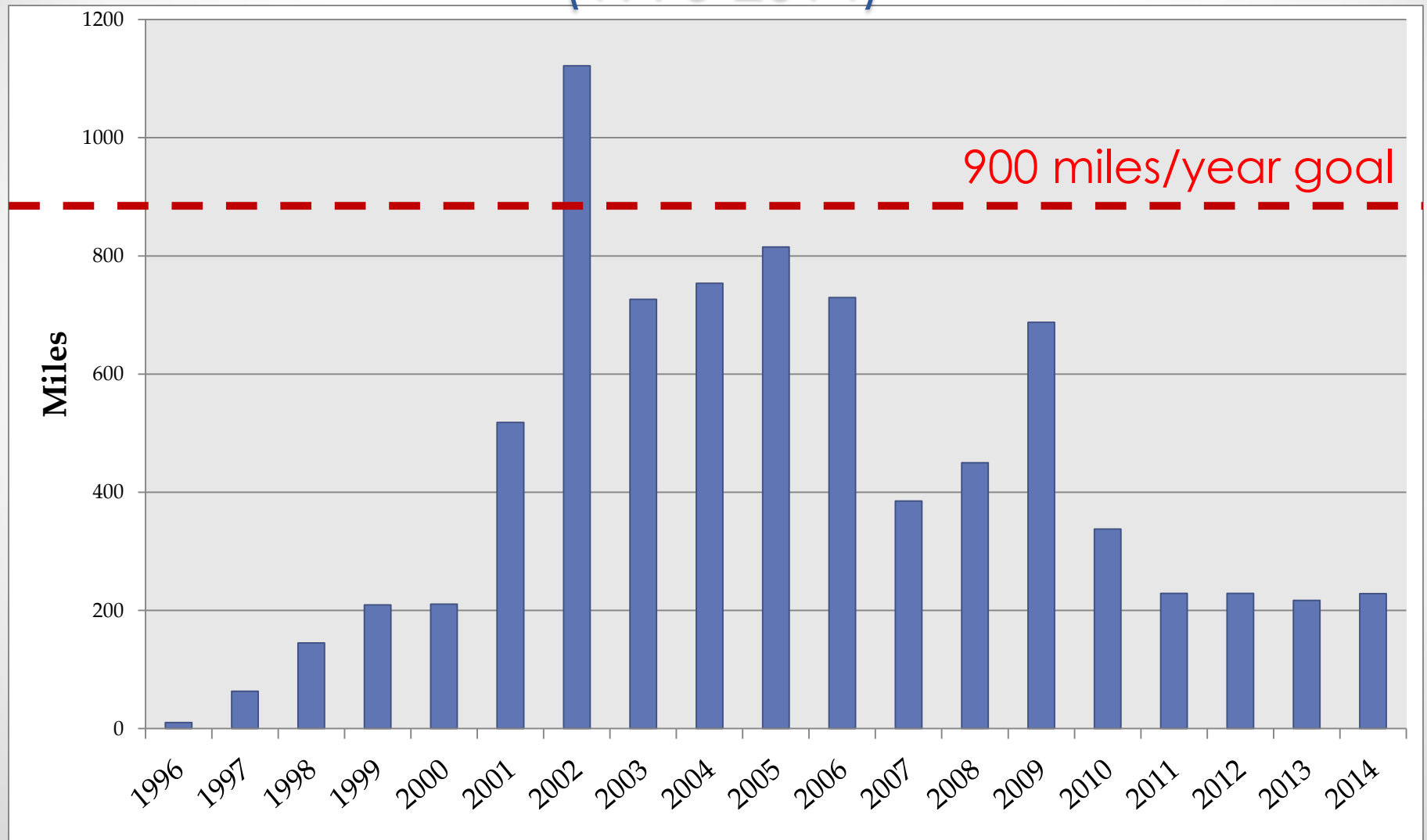
Riparian Forest Buffer Goals: Integration and Attainment

Sally Claggett, US Forest Service
Presented to Agriculture Workgroup
March 18, 2015

RFB Management Strategy

- Builds off Riparian Forest Buffer Initiative
- Single guidance document going forward
- Out for public review
- Working on biennial workplan
- Ongoing: developing improved baseline

Waning Effort—Riparian Forest Buffer progress (1996-2014)

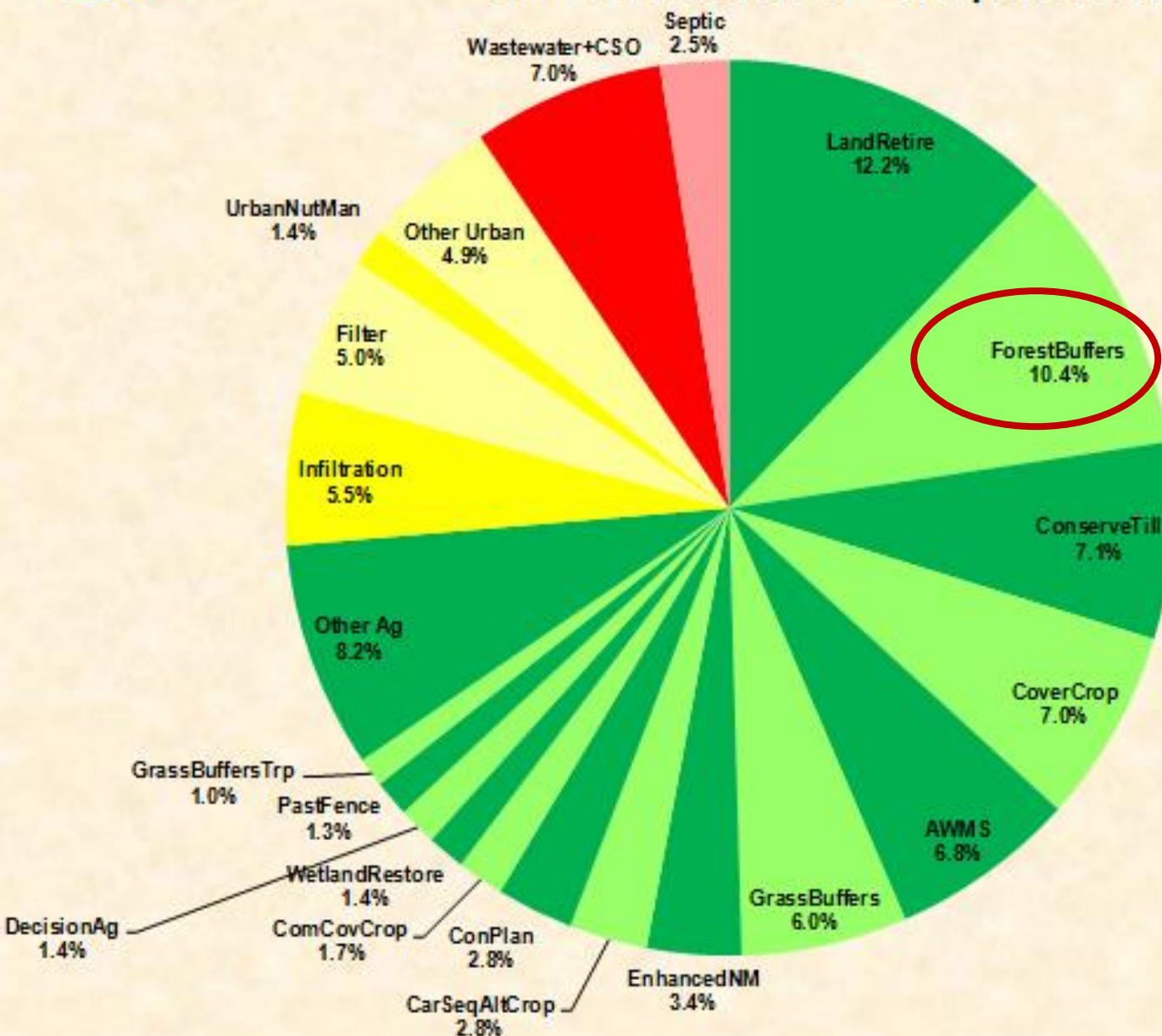


Data source: US Forest Service/Chesapeake Bay Program



Nitrogen Relative Load Reductions

CB Watershed – as percent



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

TMDL/WIP targets for forest buffers

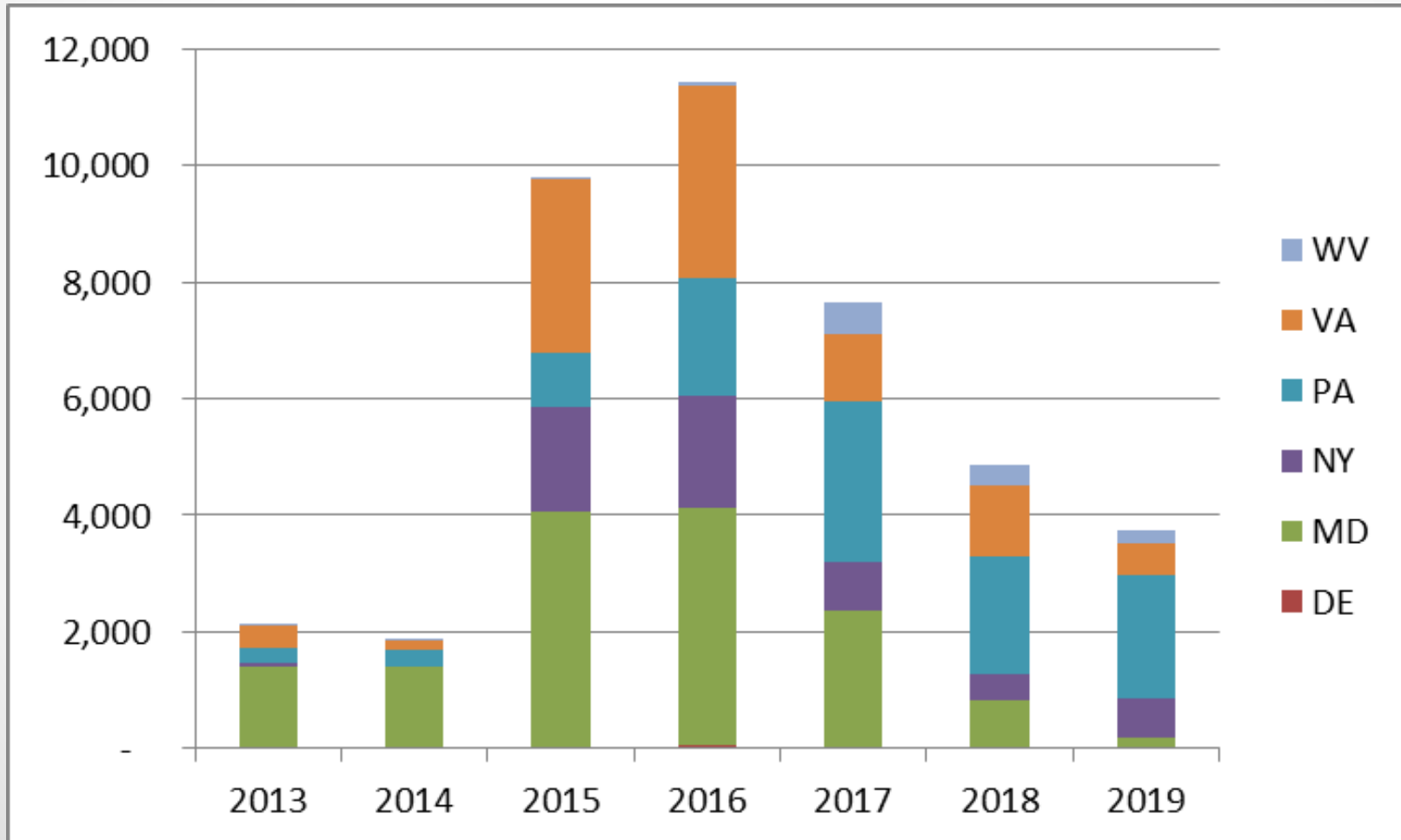
	Total <u>New Acres</u> Needed 2012-2025	New acres/year needed	2014 new acres
Delaware	4,790	399	0
Maryland	1,560	130	144
New York	5,920	493	18
Pennsylvania	103,970	8,664	193
Virginia	79,730	6,644	123
West Virginia	2,910	243	43
TOTAL	198,880	16,573	521

vs.

16,573 acres/year = 1,367 miles/year of 100 ft wide buffers

Riparian Forest Buffer Contract (CP-22)

Acres expiring 2013-2019



LOSING GROUND

Net Loss of CP-22 (2012 vs 2014)

State (CB only)	2012 CP-22 acres	2014 CP-22 acres
Delaware	80	69
Maryland	16,689	14,920
New York	8,599	7,607
Pennsylvania	20,150	18,963
Virginia	14,360	13,468
West Virginia	3,346	3,431
TOTAL	63,224	58,458

Data Source: USDA Farm Services Agency

Opportunity is NOW:

Riparian Forest Buffer Initiative

- Currently led by USDA
- USDA will add funding and make policy changes,
****states need to champion these requests****
- Recommendations being developed by State-level Task Forces

Big Picture

- Timing: To meet WIP goals, have **opportunity now with USDA leadership engaged in the RFB Initiative**
- State **leadership to advocate** for proposals
- Target state program \$s to best advantage, **leveraging federal \$s**
- **Better coordination** across state agencies

CREP

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

- CREP = primary driver of RFB enrollment in all 6 States
- Shared state/federal program: > \$600,000,000 of federal resources in watershed
- 80/20 USDA/state (and/or NGO) funding
- ***States propel CREP design/process – have tremendous flexibility***

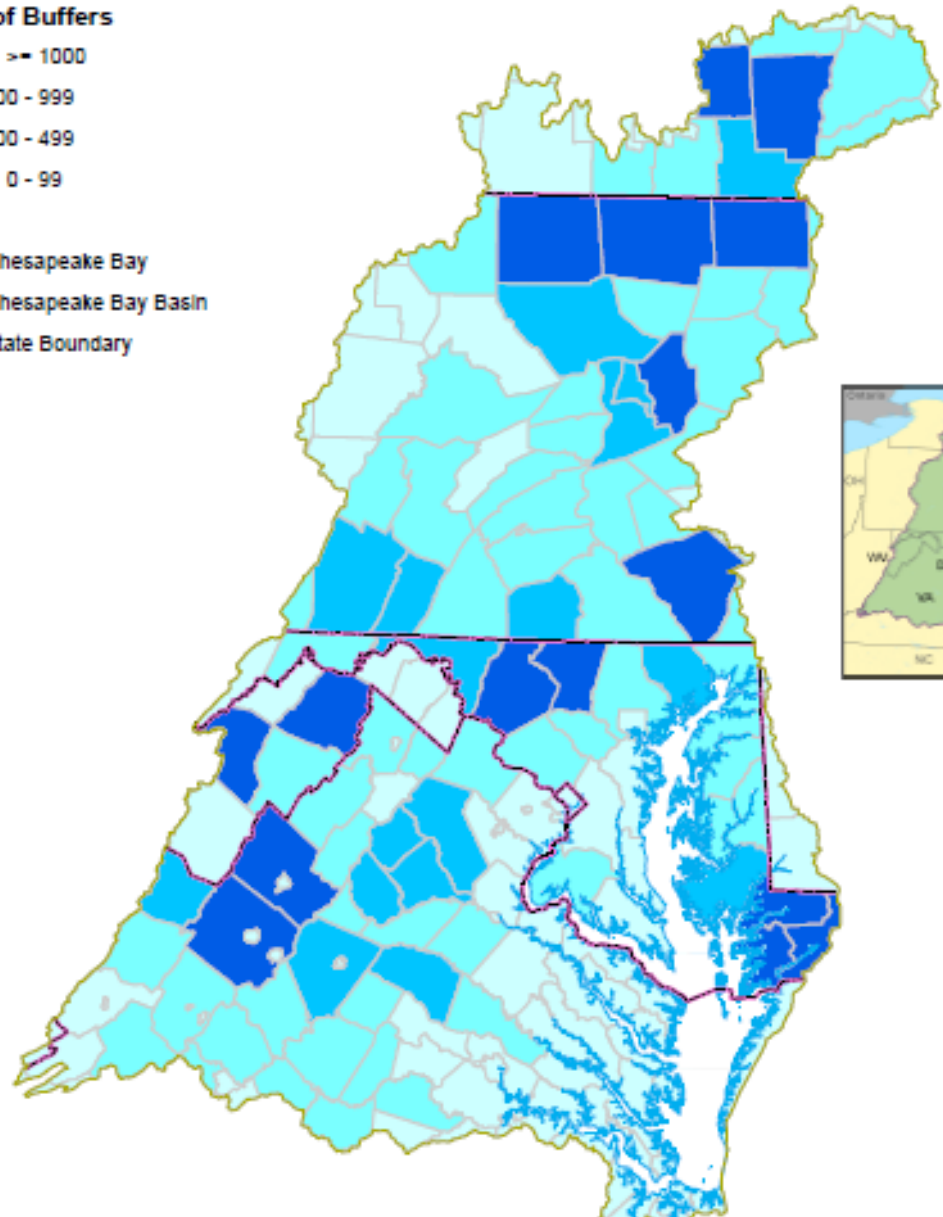
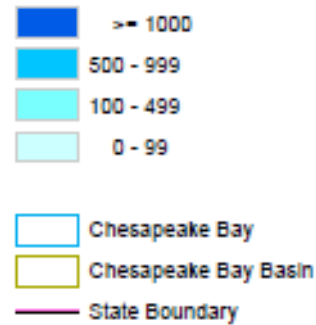
Follow the Leaders

One-quarter of
counties restored
75% of the buffer
acres

Acres of Forest Buffers Restored Through CRP/CREP in
the Chesapeake Bay Basin, by County (1998-2012)



Acres of Buffers



Suggested that PSC:

- Designate a high-level State Lead
--work directly with state and USDA partners to build improved program
- Have EC send letter to USDA leadership
- Identify new and existing state programs that can help

RFB Verification Guidance and Webinar

- Planned for May-June timeframe
- Target multi-disciplinary audience
- Overlaps with Ag Verification Guidance

Verification and Data Clean-up

RFB Reporting: FSA vs FWG vs Model
(in relative amounts)

