Riparian Forest Buffers

Why Riparian Buffers in the Chesapeake Bay?

- **The why is an Alphabet Soup**

Why Riparian Buffers in the Chesapeake Bay?

CB TMDL - Chesapeake Bay - Total Maximum Daily Load

1. **Puts the Chesapeake Bay states on nutrient diet**

2. **Requires the States to identify their diet plan and stay on the diet**

Why Riparian Buffers in the Chesapeake Bay?

Chesapeake Bay - Total Maximum Daily Load

WIP - Watershed Implementation Plans

1. **This the Diet**

2. **Specifies among other things BPMs to used and how many will be installed**

Why Riparian Buffers in the Chesapeake Bay?

Chesapeake Bay - Total Maximum Daily Load
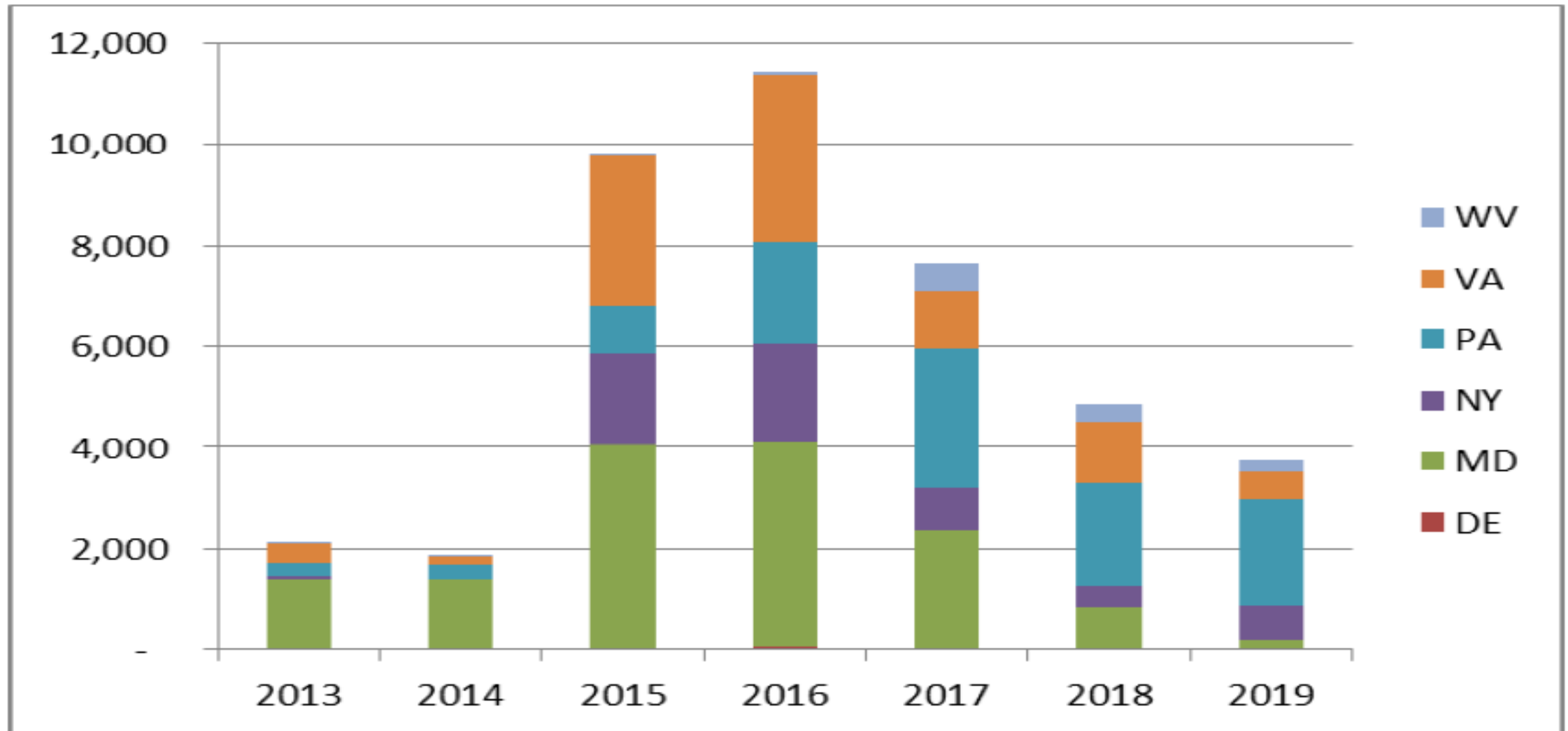**Watershed Implementation Plans**

BMPs – Best Management Practices

- **This where the Riparian Forested Buffers comes in**

Chesapeake Bay CREP RFBs: Caps, Enrolled, and Needed for WIP Goal

State	CREP acreage cap	Type of cap: state or CB only	CREP acres enrolled under this cap (June 2013)	Acres left that are available under this cap	New acres FB needed 2012-2025 for WIP	
DE	10,000	state	5,540	4,460	4790	
MD	100,000	state	67,660		32,340	1190
NY	40,000	state	10,970		29,030	6180
PA	219,746	CB	125,110		94,636	89,630
VA	25,000	CB	14,800		10,200	80,820
WV	9,160	state	5,690		3,470	3250

Expiring CREP Riparian Forest Acres

Why Riparian Buffers in the Chesapeake Bay?

Chesapeake Bay - Total Maximum Daily Load

Watershed Implementation Plans

Best Management Practices

- **MAE – Monitoring Assessment and Evaluation**

FSA – ARS – PSU CB RFB Study

- **Objectives**

  - **Quantify Water Quality Benefits from CREP RFBs**

  - **Assess the Effectiveness of CREP RFBs within the CB Watershed**

  - **Identify Strategies to Enhance RFB Effectiveness**

  - **Develop Criteria to Better Target RFBs**

FSA – ARS – PSU CB RFB Study

- **Visited 150 buffers**

- **Modeled hydrologic flow across these buffers**

- **Estimated reductions in sediment, nitrogen, phosphorus from buffers**

- **Estimated Stream Wetland Riparian Index (SWR) for each site**

CREP Forest Buffer Landowner Survey

- **Sent to Landowners with Expiring Chesapeake Bay Riparian Buffers between 2014 and 2017**

- **2719 surveys sent out - 1260 responses 46.5%**

- **Asked about why landowners enrolled, whether contract reenrolled, satisfaction with CREP, factors considered in the reenrollment decision, and plans for the buffer after it leaves the program.**

- **Provides a tool for targeting outreach to specific audiences.**