Black Duck

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Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources
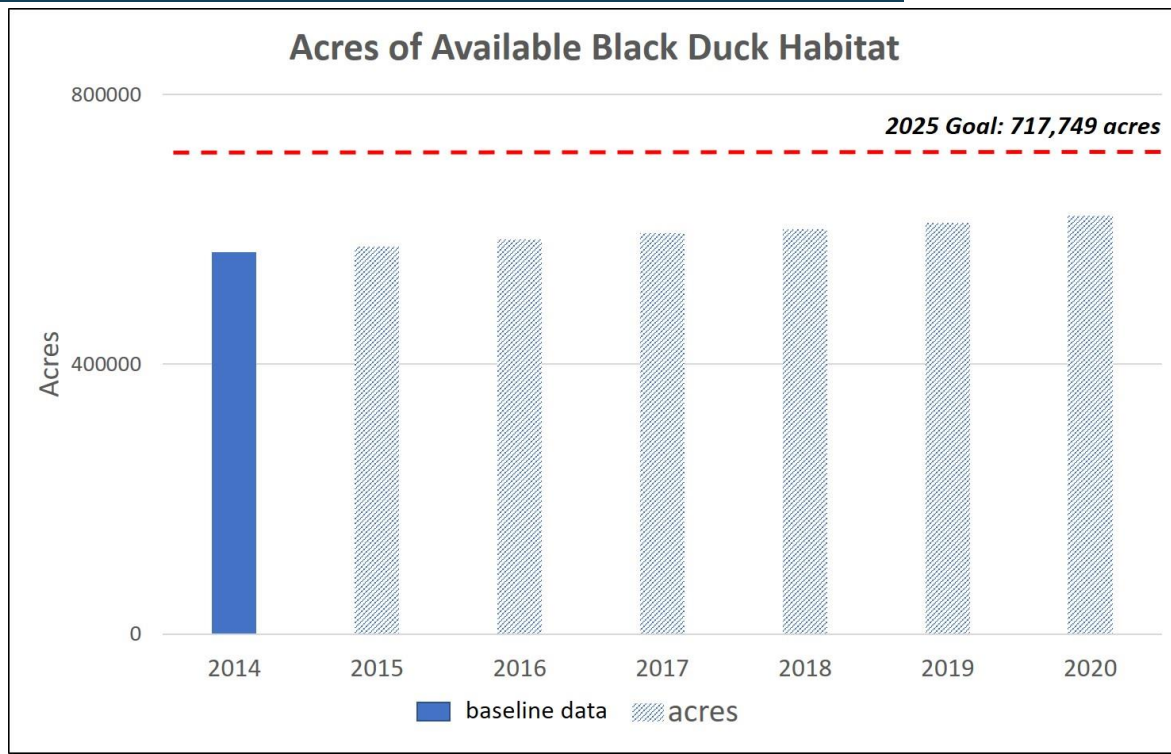*Chair, Black Duck Action Team*

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.
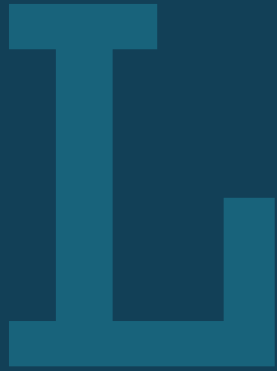
What is our Expected and Actual Progress?

Acres of Available Black Duck Habitat

2025 Goal: 717,749 acres

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)

Learn

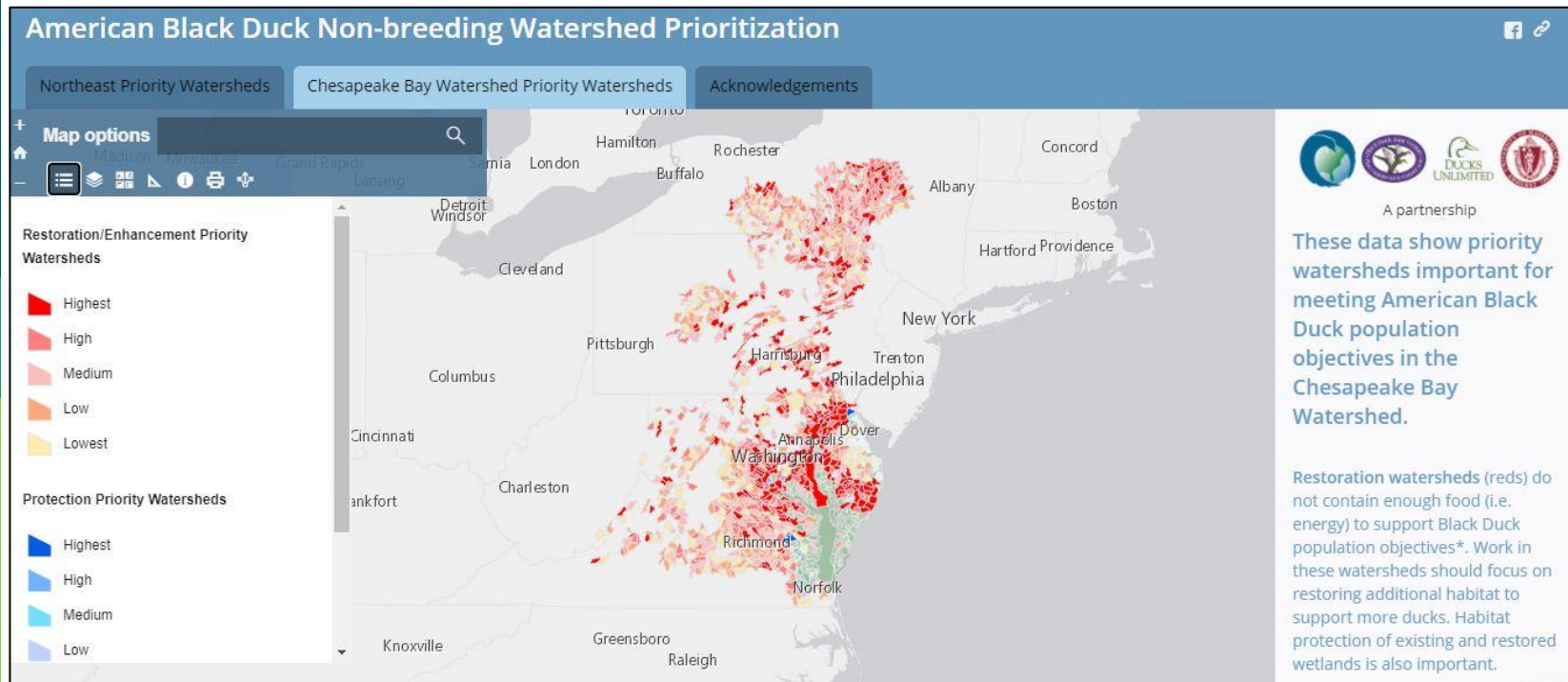*What have we learned in the last two years?*

Successes and Challenges

- Most actions have been completed, are on track, or are ongoing
- Current factors affecting progress are still accurate
- Biggest obstacle: tracking of restoration acres toward the 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

American Black Duck Non-breeding Watershed Prioritization

Northeast Priority Watersheds | Chesapeake Bay Watershed Priority Watersheds | Acknowledgements

Map options

Restoration/Enhancement Priority Watersheds

- Highest
- High
- Medium
- Low
- Lowest

Protection Priority Watersheds

- Highest
- High
- Medium
- Low

A partnership

These data show priority watersheds important for meeting American Black Duck population objectives in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

Restoration watersheds (reds) do not contain enough food (i.e. energy) to support Black Duck population objectives*. Work in these watersheds should focus on restoring additional habitat to support more ducks. Habitat protection of existing and restored wetlands is also important.

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) 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.

Adapt

How does all of this impact our work?

- 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

Help

How can the Management Board lead the Program to adapt?

How You Can Help

- Unsure what our progress is due to data collection challenges
- Biggest challenge is development of indicator

Help Needed

- Support and coordination in tracking the acres of restored wetlands (both tidal and non-tidal habitat)
- Reaching out to partners individually to collect the last 5 years of wetland restoration data has had little success
- MB could help coordinate this data collection by instituting a formal data call or by encouraging the partners in their respective jurisdictions to provide their restoration numbers each year

Discussion