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**\*As amended, May 26,2020**

# GOALS & OUTCOMES

## VITAL HABITATS (CONTINUED)



**GOAL:** Restore, enhance and protect a network of land and water habitats to support fish and wildlife, and to afford other public benefits, including water quality, recreational uses and scenic value across the watershed.

Fish Passage Outcome



Continually increase access to habitat to support sustainable migratory fish populations in the Chesapeake Bay watershed's freshwater rivers and streams. By 2025, restore historical fish migration routes by opening an additional 132 miles every two years to fish passage. Restoration success will be indicated by the consistent presence of alewife, blueback herring, American shad, hickory shad, American eel and brook trout, to be monitored in accordance with available agency resources and collaboratively developed methods.\***Amended on 1/24/20 by PSC; see p. 17 for details.**

Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV) Outcome



Sustain and increase the habitat benefits of SAV (underwater grasses) in the Chesapeake Bay. Achieve and sustain the ultimate outcome of 185,000 acres of SAV Bay-wide necessary for a restored Bay. Progress toward this ultimate outcome will be measured against a target of 90,000 acres by 2017 and 130,000 acres by 2025.

Forest Buffer Outcome



Continually increase the capacity of forest buffers to provide water quality and habitat benefits throughout the watershed. Restore 900 miles per year of riparian forest buffer and conserve existing buffers until at least 70 percent of riparian areas throughout the watershed are forested.

Tree Canopy Outcome



Continually increase urban tree canopy capacity to provide air quality, water quality and habitat benefits throughout the watershed. Expand urban tree canopy by 2,400 acres by 2025.

## GOALS & OUTCOMES

### STEWARDSHIP

The long-term success of the Chesapeake Bay restoration effort will depend on local leadership—and local action that depends primarily on a strong citizen stewardship. More than 600 local conservation and watershed organizations in our region are educating and empowering citizens to restore and protect their local streams and rivers. Tens of thousands of local citizen volunteers continue to donate their time and talent to our shared goals. Building a larger, broader, and more diverse constituency of stewards is vital to achieving many of the Goals and Outcomes outlined in this Agreement.



**GOAL:** Increase the number and the diversity of local citizen stewards and local governments that actively support and carry out the conservation and restoration activities that achieve healthy local streams, rivers and a vibrant Chesapeake Bay.

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#### Citizen Stewardship Outcome



Increase the number and diversity of trained and mobilized citizen volunteers with the knowledge and skills needed to enhance the health of their local watersheds.

#### Local Leadership Outcome



Continually increase the knowledge and capacity of local officials on issues related to water resources and in the implementation of economic and policy incentives that will support local conservation actions.

#### Diversity Outcome



Identify stakeholder groups not currently represented in the leadership, decision-making or implementation of current conservation and restoration activities and create meaningful opportunities and programs to recruit and engage these groups in the Partnership's efforts. **\*Amended on 1/24/20 by PSC; see p. 17 for details.**

## GOALS & OUTCOMES

### LAND CONSERVATION

The landscapes around the Bay and its tributaries are ecologically, culturally, historically and recreationally valuable to the people and communities of the region. Stimulating, renewing and expanding commitments to conserve priority lands for use and enjoyment is an integral part of furthering the watershed's identity and spirit.



**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.

#### Protected Lands Outcome



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. (2010 baseline year)

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#### Land Use Methods and Metrics Development Outcome



Continually improve our knowledge of land conversion and the associated impacts throughout the watershed. By December 2021, develop a watershed-wide methodology and local-level metrics for characterizing the rate of farmland, forest and wetland conversion, measuring the extent and rate of change in impervious surface coverage and quantifying the potential impacts of land conversion to water quality, healthy watersheds and communities. Launch a public awareness campaign to share this information with local governments, elected officials and stakeholders. **\*Amended on 1/24/20 by PSC; see p. 17 for details.**

#### Land Use Options Evaluation Outcome



or their representatives, evaluate policy options, incentives and planning tools that could assist them in continually improving their capacity to reduce the rate of conversion of agricultural lands, forests and wetlands as well as the rate of changing landscapes from more natural lands that soak up pollutants to those that are paved over, hardscaped or otherwise impervious. Strategies should be developed for supporting local governments' and others' efforts in reducing these rates by 2025 and beyond

## AFFIRMATION

As Chesapeake Bay Program Partners, we recognize the need to accelerate implementation of actions necessary to achieve the Goals and Outcomes outlined herein and realize our shared Vision of a healthy and vibrant Chesapeake Bay watershed.

As Chesapeake Bay Program Partners, we acknowledge that this Agreement is voluntary and subject to the availability of appropriated funds. This Agreement is not a contract or an assistance agreement. We also understand that this Agreement does not pre-empt, supersede or override any other law or regulation applicable to each signatory.

We, the undersigned members of the Chesapeake Executive Council, re-affirm our commitment to support the Goals of this Agreement and to work cooperatively in its implementation. We agree to work both independently and collaboratively toward the Goals and Outcomes of this Agreement and to implement specific Management Strategies to achieve them. Every citizen of this great watershed is invited to join with the Partnership, uniting as a region and embracing the actions that will lead to success.

Date: June 16, 2014

For the Chesapeake Bay Commission



*Ronald E. Miller*

For the State of Delaware



*Jeff Markell*

For the District of Columbia



*Vernant C. Gray*

For the State of Maryland



*Anthony S. Hall*

For the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania



*Tom Corbett*

For the State of New York



*Andrew Cuomo*

For the Commonwealth of Virginia



*Eric D. Hinkle*

For the State of West Virginia



*Earl Ray Tomblin*

For the United States of America  
on behalf of the Federal Government and the  
Federal Leadership Committee for the Chesapeake Bay:



*John A. McClure*

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
U.S. Department of Defense  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
U.S. Department of Transportation



Chesapeake Bay Program  
Jointed, Restored Partnership

## Amendments to Goals and Outcomes

As discussed on page 3 of this Watershed Agreement, the signatory partners recognized that, “As the signatories identify new opportunities and concerns, Goals or Outcomes may be adopted or modified. Any changes or additions to Goals will be approved by the Executive Council. The Principals’ Staff Committee (PSC) will approve changes or additions to Outcomes, although significant changes or additions will be raised to the Executive Council for approval. Proposed changes to Goals and Outcomes or the addition of new ones will be open for public input before being finalized.”

On January 24, 2020, the PSC approved the following modifications to three *2014 Watershed Agreement* outcomes. The PSC agreed that final approval of these edits to the original outcomes by the Executive Council was not necessary:

- Diversity: “Identify ~~minority~~ stakeholder groups not currently represented in the leadership, decision-making or implementation of current conservation and restoration activities and create meaningful opportunities and programs to recruit and engage these groups in the Partnership’s efforts.”
- Fish Passage: “Continually increase ~~available~~ access to habitat to support sustainable migratory fish populations in the Chesapeake Bay watershed’s freshwater rivers and streams. By 2025, restore historical fish migration routes by opening ~~1,000 additional stream miles~~ an additional 132 miles every two years to fish passage. Restoration success will be indicated by the consistent presence of alewife, blueback herring, American shad, hickory shad, American eel and brook trout, to be monitored in accordance with available agency resources and collaboratively developed methods.”
- Land Use Methods and Metrics: “Continually improve our knowledge of land conversion and the associated impacts throughout the watershed. By ~~2016~~ December 2021, develop a watershed-wide methodology and local-level metrics for characterizing the rate of farmland, forest and wetland conversion, measuring the extent and rate of change in impervious surface coverage and quantifying the potential impacts of land conversion to water quality, healthy watersheds and communities. Launch a public awareness campaign to share this information with local governments, elected officials and stakeholders.”

# CHESAPEAKE BAY WATERSHED



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