



Riparian Forest Buffers

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



Vital Habitats Goal

Riparian Forest Buffer Outcome: *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.

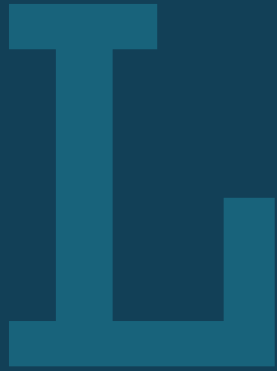


How You Can Help



High-level summary:

- We are far off-track in meeting our buffer goals
- We haven't fully addressed the factors influencing progress
- We have identified opportunities that need advancement
- We need additional support from CBP and WQ GIT leadership



Learn

What have we learned in the last two years?

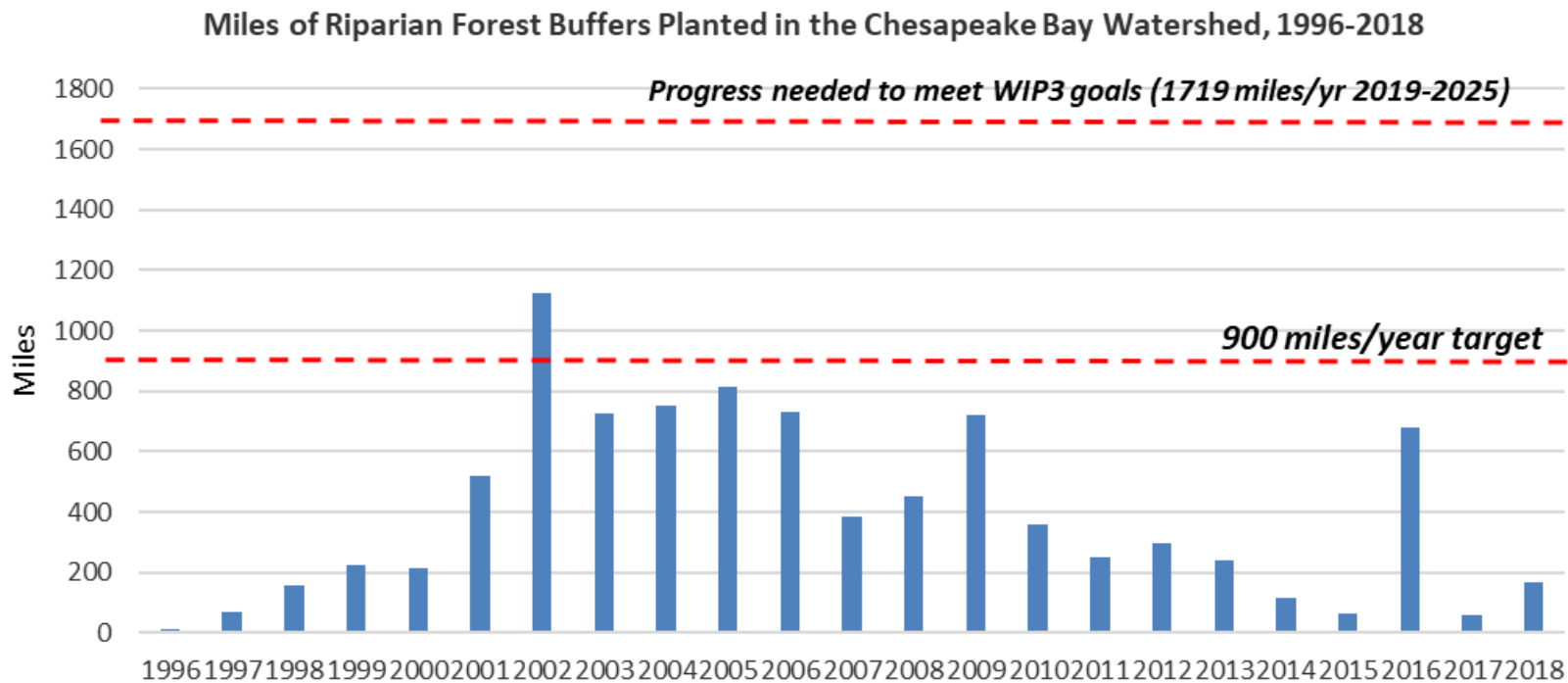


Successes and Challenges

- RFB Action Team work
 - Can't rely on CREP alone
 - New Natural Filters Restoration Program
- Additional TA support from USDA a step in the right direction. More TA is needed.
- We know a lot more about geographic and demographic priorities



What is our Expected and Actual Progress?





On the Horizon

- New provisions in the 2018 Farm Bill
- Covid-19 impacts to state budgets, personnel
- Accessibility of public/private financing
- New high-res land use and hydrography data
- Climate change



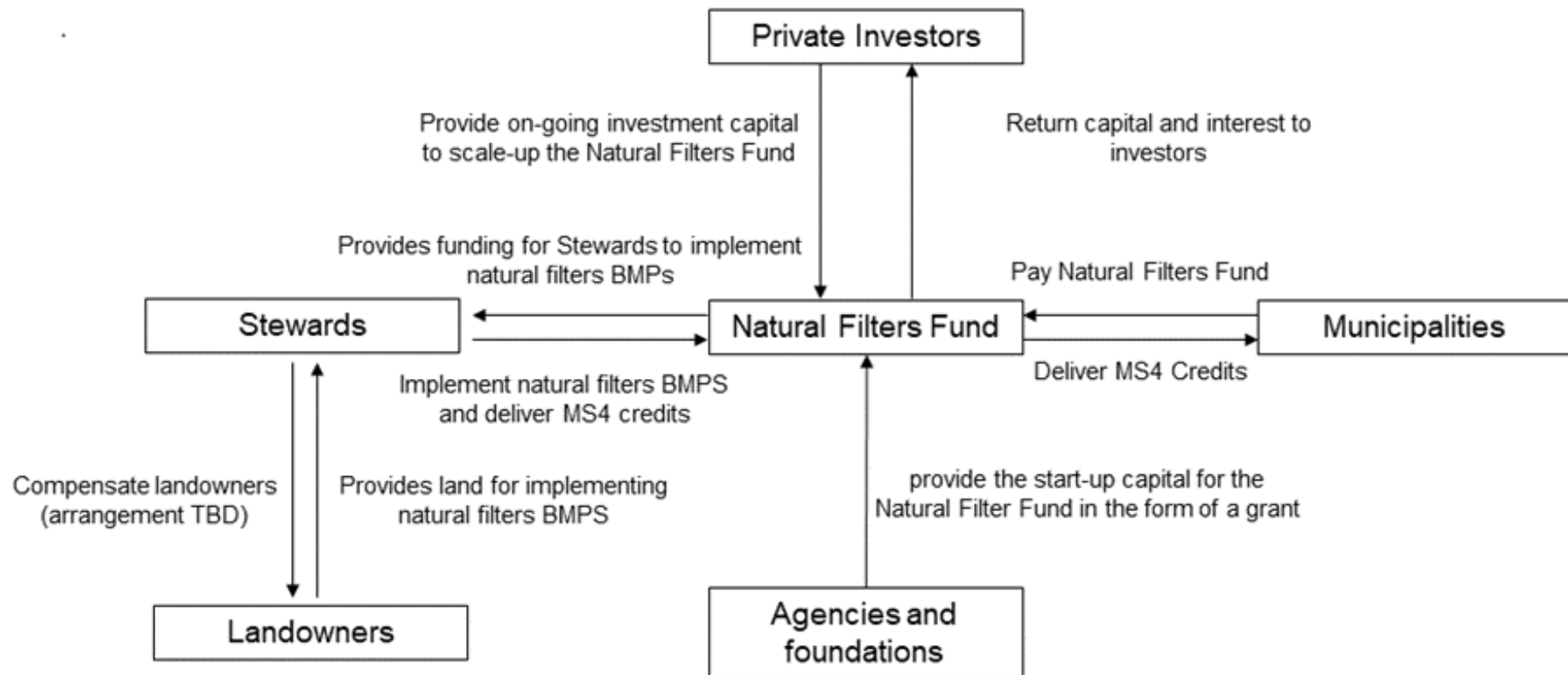
Adapt

How does all of this impact our work?



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

- Expand the workforce for buffer installation and maintenance, including training and certifying TSPs
- Work with other goal teams and workgroups to better integrate forest buffers with other restoration projects
- Focus on supporting new and existing buffer programs
- Explore opportunities for private finance through the Natural Filters Restoration Program





Help

*How can the Management Board
lead the Program to adapt?*



Help Needed

- Support the development of the new Natural Filters Restoration Program
- Identify public financing opportunities that could contribute to new Natural Filters program as leverage to attract private financing (i.e. SRF, 319)
- Identify point person to look at help assess most likely funding sources each state
- Assist with promoting a large Buffer Forum (or state Buffer Forums) for technical assistance providers



Discussion