**Wetland Action Team**

**Goal**

Restore 30,000 and enhance 150,000 acres of tidal and non-tidal wetlands across the Chesapeake Bay watershed by 2025.

Both restoration and enhancement are intended to provide a range of living resource (including American black duck) and water quality benefits. Restoration, which results in actual gain of wetland acreage, is tracked separately from enhancement, which results in gains in function of existing wetlands, for purposes of clarity and accuracy.

**Factors Influencing Goal**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Factors Influencing Goal**  |   |
| Resources |   |
|   | funding for project implementation |
|   | staff capacity |
|   |
| Landowner willingness |   |
|   | community/landowner willingnessincentives for cooperation |
|   |  |
| Understanding of need for restoration among decision makers |   |
|   | understanding of need for restoration |
|  |  |
|   | understanding of ecosystem services, economic opportunities, and public safety benefits provided by dam removal |
| Technical understanding among restoration practitioners |  |
|   | Technical understanding of factors influencing restoration success including wetland loss, sudden marsh dieback, impacts of SLR on coastal marshes |
|  |  |

**Current Efforts and Gaps**

In 2010, 1,344 acres of wetlands were restored, and 11,416 acres of wetlands were enhanced across the Chesapeake Bay watershed. To hasten progress toward this goal, the Wetland Action Team seeks to initiate action teams in each state to focus on implementation in support of State WIPs and State Wildlife Action Plans. A team in Maryland was established in 2011

 **Acres Restored Acres Enhanced**

**MD** 158.8 11152.1
**PA** 836.7 NA \*acreages pulled from BMP implementation data

**VA** 10.5 60.0

**DC** 0 0

**NY** 277.4 48.3

**DE** 60.8 60.0

**WV** 0.7 2.0

**Management Strategies**

The following strategies have been identified as critical to the success of wetland habitat goals.

Maximize limited resources by focusing efforts on projects that help Chesapeake Bay Program partners meet multiple goals.

* Focus restoration efforts on projects that benefit species requiring high quality wetland habitats, and incorporate water quality benefits where possible.
* Work with experts in black duck ecology to help deliver the habitat needed in the Chesapeake Bay watershed to deliver the Executive Order 13508 Black Duck Outcome (Restore a three-year average wintering black duck population of 100,000 birds by 2025).

Increase understanding of need for restoration among decision makers.

* Engage other Chesapeake Bay Program teams, such as the Land Conservation Workgroup and Healthy Watershed GIT, on mutual issues such as wetland protection.

Increase technical understanding of factors that influence restoration project success.

* Identify tools, models, and other science needs for improving wetland restoration enhancement activities, and correlating water quality and wildlife habitat accomplishments.

**Monitoring**

To track progress towards the goal, representatives from each watershed state compile all State, Federal, and non-governmental wetland restoration and enhancement accomplishments that take place in their states. Data are reviewed by Wetland Action Team leadership, combined into watershed-wide acreage totals, and shared with the Wetland Action Team before being submitted to the Chesapeake Bay Program for public reporting.

**Performance Assessment**

The Wetland Action Team uses two year milestones to assess progress towards the goal. In order to restore 30,000 and enhance 150,000 acres of wetlands by 2025, the Wetlands Action Team must restore 4,000 and enhance 20,000 acres every two years.