

QUARTERLY PROGRESS MEETING – August 2020
Chesapeake Bay Program



Riparian Forest Buffers

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Forestry Workgroup Coordinator*

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



Vital Habitats Goal

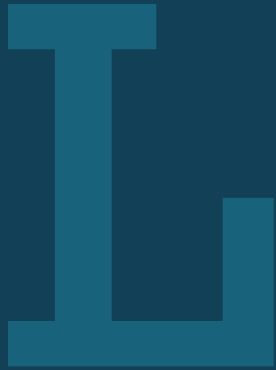
Riparian Forest Buffer Outcome: *Restore 900 miles per year of riparian forest buffer and conserve existing buffers* until at least 70 percent of riparian areas throughout the watershed are forested.



How You Can Help

High-level summary:

- We are far off-track in meeting our buffer goals
- We haven't fully addressed the factors from 2 years ago
- There are new opportunities
- We need unprecedented leadership from CBP at various levels



Learn

What have we learned in the last two years?



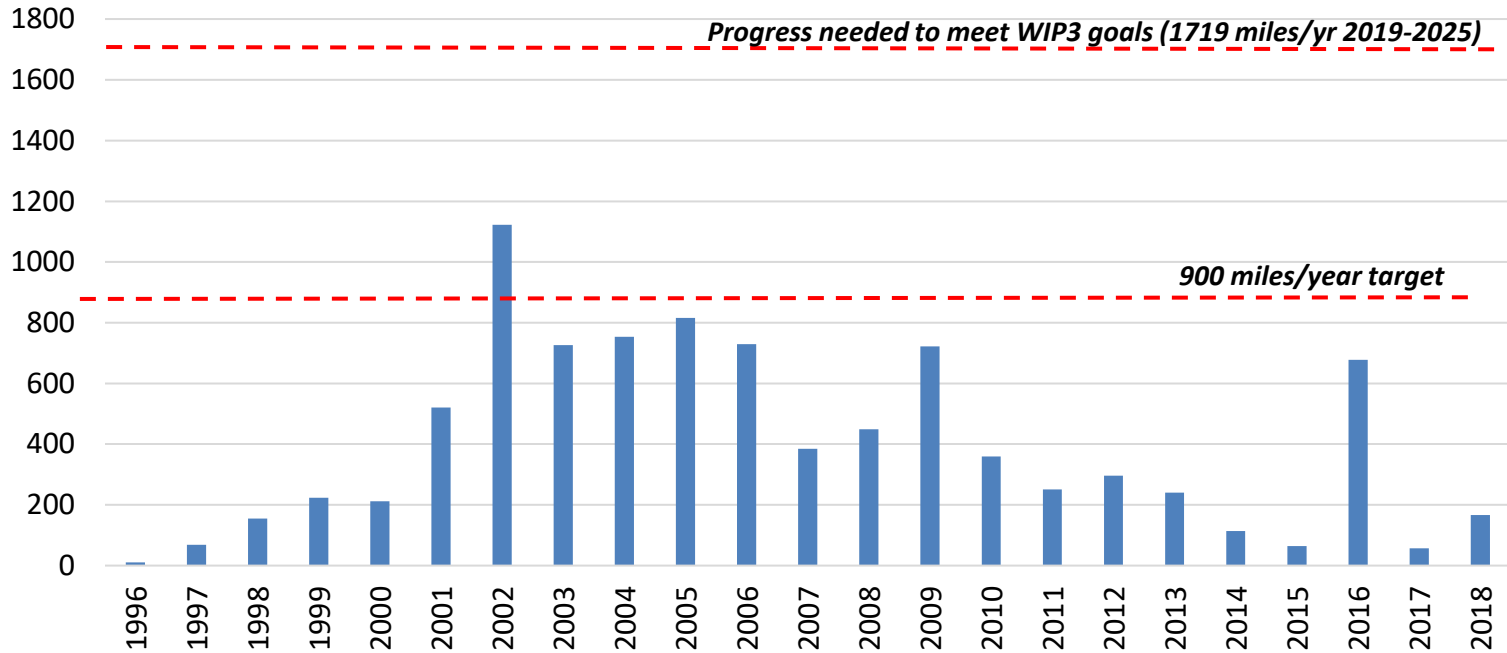
Successes and Challenges

- RFB Action Team
 - Existing programs are inadequate
 - New Natural Filters Restoration Program
- Favorable language for CREP in the Farm Bill
- TA support: Secured additional TAs (but more is needed)
- Better data for geographic and demographic targeting
- Successes in using buffers as a requirement to get to other state or federal funding (but need to be more widely applied)
- Programmatic coordination and prioritization still lacking



What is our Expected and Actual Progress?

Miles of Riparian Forest Buffers Planted in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed



The Value of Riparian Forest Buffers

A photograph of a forest stream with mossy rocks and a dense canopy. The water is clear and flows over large, moss-covered rocks. The surrounding forest is lush with green trees and undergrowth.

Nutrient Uptake
and retention—
40-60% N
reduction

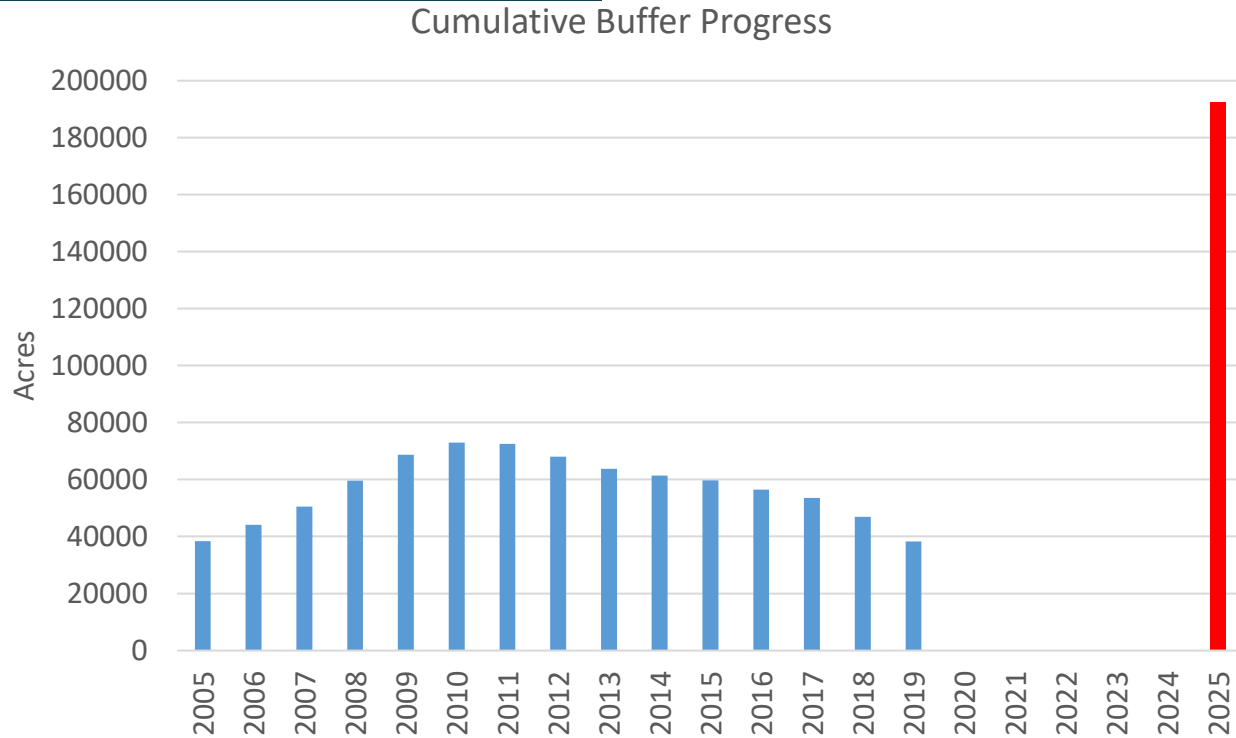
Canopy and
Shade- 6-15 ° C
cooler

Leaves and wood-
food for macroinvertebrates

Filtering Runoff-
sediment reduction- 90%;
increase infiltration-- 10-40%

Fish and Wildlife Habitat-
aquatic and terrestrial

What is our Expected and Actual Progress?





On the Horizon

New provisions in
the 2018 Farm Bill

Accessibility of
public/private
financing

New high-res land
use and hydrography
data

Climate change

Covid-19 budget,
logistical impacts

A large, stylized, blue letter 'A' is positioned on the left side of the slide. The background is a dark teal color, with a lighter teal horizontal bar at the top and a light green horizontal bar at the bottom.

Adapt

How does all of this impact our work?



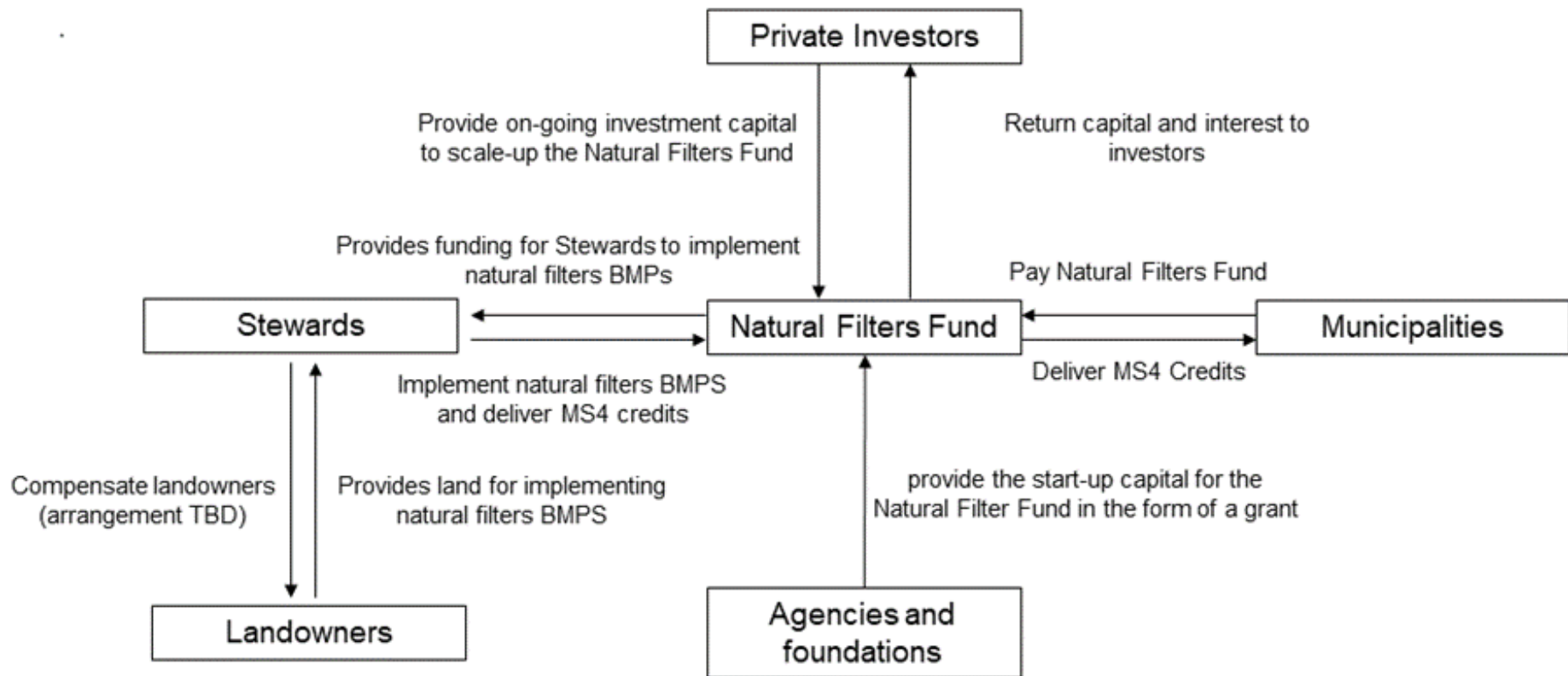
Based on what we learned, we plan to ...

Work with other goal teams and CBP leadership to elevate and integrate forest buffers with other projects

- Look at state/federal landowner assistance programs that could include or require buffers

Develop and implement the Natural Filters Restoration Program

- Explore opportunities for public/private finance
- Provide stability needed to grow a buffer workforce





Help

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



Help Needed

Support the new Natural Filters Restoration Program

- Identify public funding that could be leveraged (e.g. SRF, 319)
- Dedicate a staff person to help develop the Program and stay engaged

Fully use existing programs to prioritize buffers

- Identify 1-2 landowner assistance programs that could include or require buffers, amend the program, and pilot the improved program
- Technical Assistance adjustments

WQ GIT will conduct gap analysis of current state buffer implementation trends and water quality implications and report out to MB

Natural Filters Program



Identify public funding that could be leveraged (e.g. SRF, 319)



Dedicate a staff person to help develop the Program and stay engaged

Prioritize Buffer Programs



Identify 1-2 landowner assistance programs that could include or require buffers, amend the program, and pilot the improved program



Technical Assistance adjustments

WQGIT Gap Analysis



Current state buffer
implementation trends and
water quality implications
and report out to MB

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Discussion

