BLACK DUCK – NOVEMBER 12, 2020

The narrative analysis summarizes the findings of the logic and action plan and serves as the bridge between the logic and action plan and the quarterly progress meeting presentation. Based on what you learned over the past two years from your successes and challenges, you will describe whether the partnership should make adaptations or change course.

Use your completed pre-quarterly logic and action plan to answer the questions below. After the quarterly progress meeting, your responses to these questions will guide your updates to your logic and action plan. Additional guidance can be found on ChesapeakeDecisions.

1. Examine your red/yellow/green analysis of your management actions. What lessons have you learned over the past two years of implementation?

Summarize what you have learned about what worked and what didn't. For example, have you identified additional factors to consider or filled an information gap?

Most of the actions listed in the workplan have been completed, are on track, or are ongoing. The current factors affecting progress are still accurate, and each of the actions has addressed or is addressing the factors. The development of the Black Duck Decision Support Tool (DST) was a successful project that fills the information gap of knowing which areas are the highest priority for restoration and conservation. A new information gap that has arisen is new available science related to the DST, which is informing an update to the model and will affect the restoration goal when completed.

The biggest obstacle that the workgroup has is the tracking of restoration acres toward the outcome. The current method of reaching out to jurisdictional partners for their restoration numbers is burdensome on the chair and the workgroup members, and likely has problems with accuracy. Going forward, this outcome needs a better method for tracking restoration in order to successfully develop an indicator of progress.

2. Regardless of how successful your short-term progress has been over the past two years, indicate whether we are making progress at a rate that is necessary to achieve the outcome you are working toward. The example graph below illustrates this concept.

As mentioned above, it has been a challenge for the workgroup to collect the necessary data for the indicator from each of the jurisdictions. Without restoration numbers for each year, it is impossible to track progress toward the outcome. The graph below is what we expect to fill in with data once it is received, but for now just has placeholder data.

Acres of Available Black Duck Habitat

2025 Goal: 717,749 acres

Legend: baseline data, acres
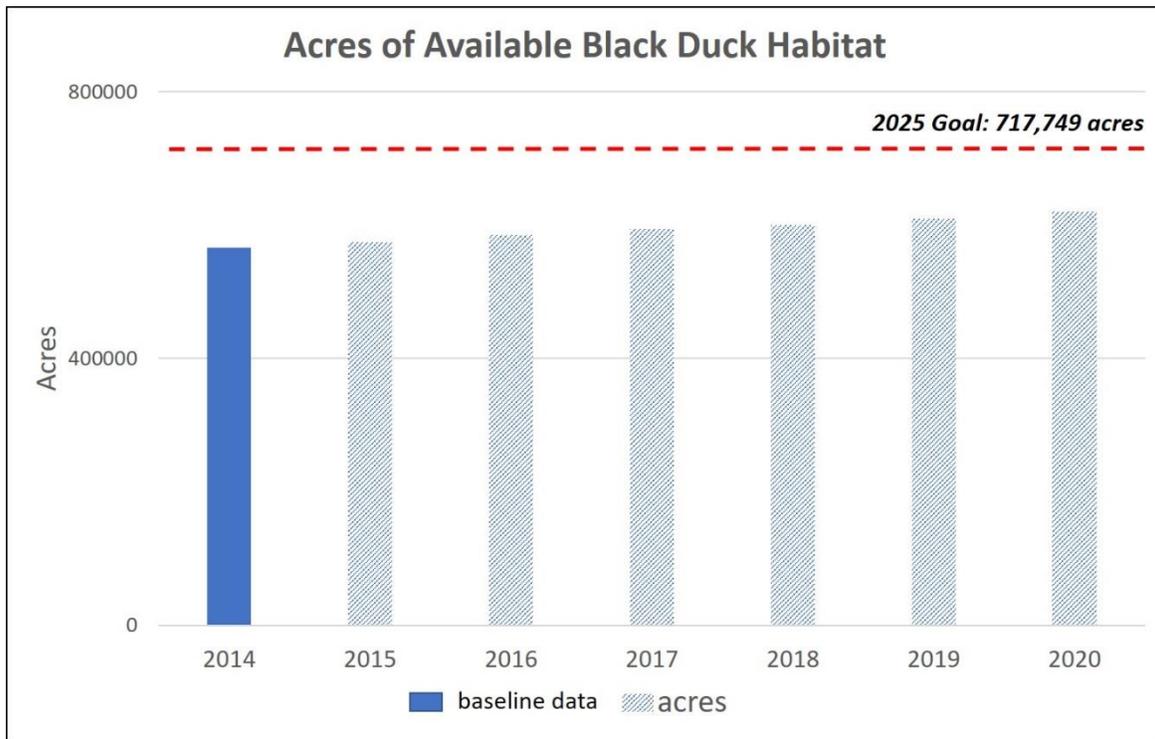
3. What scientific, fiscal and policy-related developments will influence your work over the next two years?

This may include information learned at the previous biennial SRS meeting or more specific information about your outcome such as an increase or decrease in funding, new programs that address gaps, and new scientific data or research. Describe how these developments are likely to impact your recommended measure(s) of progress, the factors you believe impact your ability to succeed, and newly created or filled gaps. These changes should be reflected in the first three columns of your revised logic and action plan after your quarterly progress meeting.

Scientific: The update to the DST is currently underway and is expected to be complete in 1-2 years. The update will incorporate a new NWI layer and some changes to the model that will more accurately calculate the restoration goal. This 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.

4. Based on your response to the questions above, how will your work change over the next two years?

Describe the adaptations that will be necessary to more efficiently achieve your outcome and explain how these changes will lead you to adjust your management strategy or the actions described in column four of your logic and action plan. Changes that the workgroup, GIT or Management Board consider significant should be reflected in your management strategy.

We will likely not add many new actions to the workplan and instead focus on those that are ongoing. We need to find a better method of collecting data that is necessary for tracking progress

towards the outcome, and then work with the Indicators Team at the Bay Program to develop this indicator.

5. What, if any, actions can the Management Board take to help ensure success in achieving your outcome?

Please be as specific as possible. Do you need direct action by the Management Board? Or can the Management Board direct or facilitate action through other groups? Can you describe efforts the workgroup has already taken to address this issue? If this need is not met, how will progress toward your outcome be affected? This assistance may include support from within a Management Board member's jurisdiction or agency.

We need support from the Management Board in tracking the restoration acres. Currently, the chair of the workgroup has been reaching out to partners individually to collect the last 5 years of wetland restoration data and has had little success. The 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. We would also like MB members to encourage available funding be used for habitat restoration that would support this outcome.