Protected Lands Outcome
GIT 5 Fostering Chesapeake Stewardship

John Griffin, Chesapeake Conservation Partnership
Jonathan Doherty, National Park Service
Protected Lands Outcome Leads
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.

*River’s Bend along the James (VA) protected in 2018*
“Land conservation is a BMP that benefits all other outcomes in the agreement.”

Kristin Saunders

28,300 acre Harriet Tubman Rural Legacy Area created in 2018 to support land conservation (MD)
How You Can Help

- On track - 68% of 2 million acre goal achieved

- Management Board Asks:
  - Sustain and grow public financing for land conservation
  - Identify new sources of financing for land conservation (e.g. private capital)

Cookie Davis protected 2.3 miles of Rappahannock riverfront (VA) in 2018
Learn

What have we learned in the last two years?

Capital Region Land Conservancy protected the 871 acre Malvern Hill Farm (VA) in 2018
Successes and Challenges

- Progress is facilitated or constrained by availability of public and private sector financing sources.
- Sustaining and increasing funding levels critical to maintaining progress and meeting 2025 goal.
- Management actions provide information and education that supports public financing, policy and new financing sources.
What is our Expected and Actual Progress?

**TOTAL ACRES OF PROTECTED LAND IN THE CHESAPEAKE BAY WATERSHED THROUGH 2018**

- Acres of Protected: 5,296,875 (13%)
- Acres of Unprotected (developed): 26,289,867 (65%)
- Acres of Unprotected (not developed): 9,150,456 (22%)

Glenmary Farm (VA) protected in 2018
What is our Expected and Actual Progress?

To date: **1.36 million acres** or 169,807 acres/year

Need 133,333 acres/year
On the Horizon

- **Fiscal**: Pressure for legislators and executives to reallocate state and federal land protection financing.
- **Policy**:
  - private capital investment
  - commercial scale solar and wind generation
  - infrastructure project mitigation impacts
  - land policy BMPs as part of Phase III WIPs
- **Scientific**: How will key trends/issues influence protection (climate, biodiversity, urban populations, development, etc.)

Hellam Hills Preserve (PA) protected in 2018
Adapt

How does all of this impact our work?

New 1,172 acre Wildlife Management Area (MD) protected in 2018
Based on what we learned, we plan to ...

- Chesapeake Conservation Partnership working towards 2025 and longer-term goals beyond.

Michaux State Forest (PA) expanded in 2018

All interconnected:
- Vibrant economy
- Strong communities
- Healthy people
- Working farms/forests
- Thriving native wildlife
- Clean water
- Healthy watersheds
- Shared heritage
- Recreation
- Quality of life
Based on what we learned, we plan to ...

Current core management of actions remain sound and on target:

- Sustain and expand federal, state, local and private sector funding and incentives for conservation
- Build and sustain public support for land conservation
- Increase capacity and effectiveness of land trusts
- Improve development, sharing and use of integrated conservation value data for the watershed
- Improve planning and policies for addressing threats to conservation values
Help

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

Brook Trout habitat in Owego Creek watershed (NY) protected in 2018
▪ Invest in engaging new generation of conservationists
▪ Sustain and grow public financing for land conservation
▪ Facilitate new sources of financing for land conservation (e.g. private capital)
▪ Fund science and research on trends influencing land protection
Discussion