



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. (2010 baseline year)

Why is this outcome important?

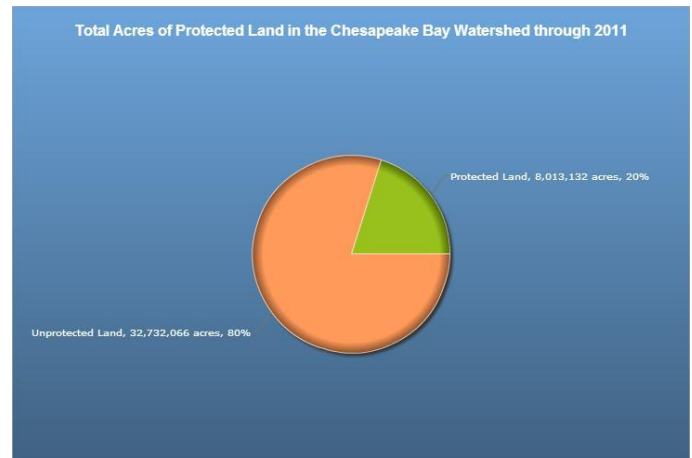
The human population in the Chesapeake Bay watershed continues to grow. By 2030, experts predict nearly 20 million people will live in the region. The development and land conversion this growth implies rank among the top stressors the Bay's ecosystem will face and are major threats to its restoration and protection. One strategy to combat the loss of high value lands is to permanently protect them from development.

Current Conditions:

As of the end of 2011, data indicates that just over 8 million acres of land have been permanently protected in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

How was the outcome derived? Who came up with it?

In 2009 and 2010, state, federal and non-governmental land conservation and public access partners met at a series of collaborative sessions to develop recommendations for supporting further progress in these areas. These sessions provided the basis for actions included in the 2010 Strategy for Protecting and Restoring the Chesapeake Bay Watershed and for this agreement's new goal statement and outcomes.



See how protected lands are doing at chesapeakebay.net

What was the basis or baseline?

At the time the outcome was originally defined in 2010, the most detailed information on the status of protected lands came from the Chesapeake Bay Program's tracking of land protection in the three states that signed the Chesapeake 2000 agreement (Maryland, Pennsylvania and Virginia).

For the headwater states of New York, Delaware and West Virginia, the extent of protected lands was indicated by GIS data that was provided to the Chesapeake Bay Program.

For More:

<http://www.chesapeakebay.net/issues/issue/development>

http://www.chesapeakebay.net/issues/issue/population_growth

http://www.chesapeakebay.net/indicators/indicator/chesapeake_bay_watershed_population

http://www.chesapeakebay.net/indicators/indicator/preserving_lands