



Black Duck



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



Goal: Vital Habitats (*Black Duck*)

Outcome: By 2025, restore, enhance and preserve wetland habitats that support a wintering population of 100,000 black ducks, a species representative of the health of tidal marshes across the watershed. Refine population targets through 2025 based on best available science.



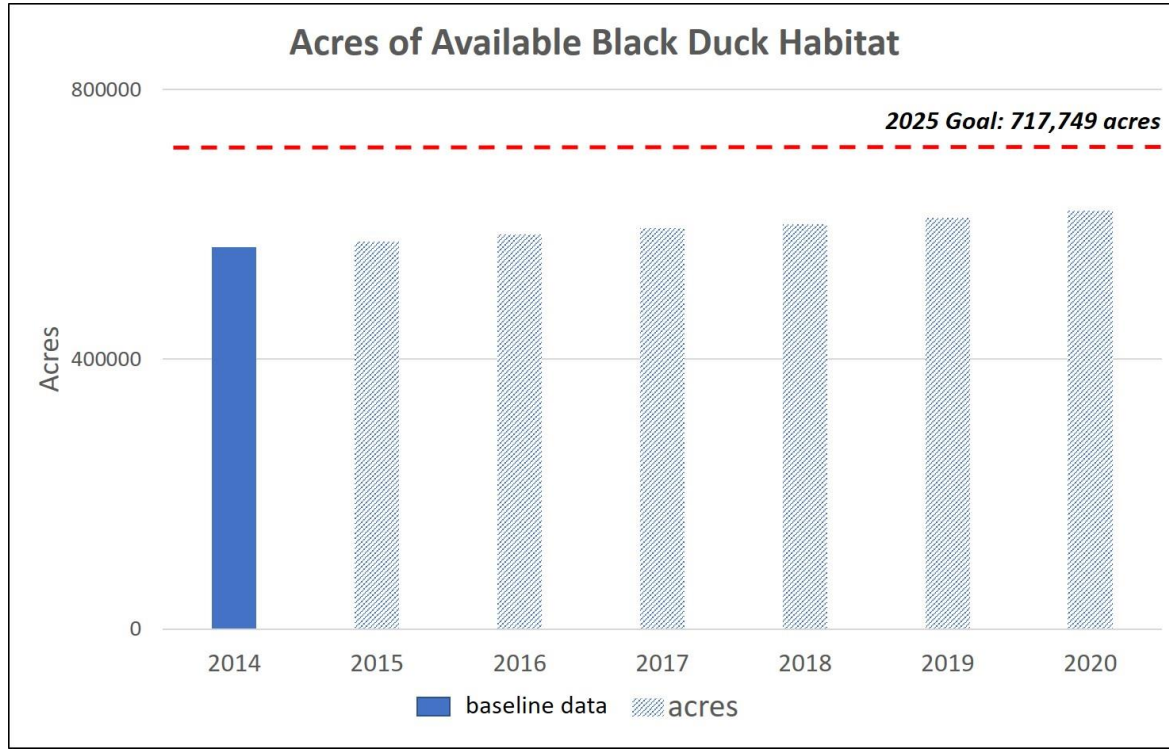
Black Ducks and the Chesapeake



- Historically the primary dabbling duck in the Chesapeake Bay
- Chesapeake Bay critical wintering area
- Experienced drastic decline with a recent population stabilization
- Important indicator species of the health of the Chesapeake Bay



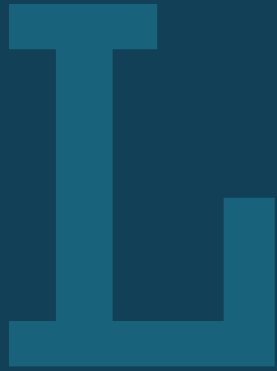
What is our Expected and Actual Progress?



2014 Baseline: 566,477 acres
2025 Goal: 717,749 acres

Restoration goal: 151,272
additional acres

**based on results from the
Decision Support Tool (DST)**



Learn

What have we learned in the last two years?



Successes and Challenges

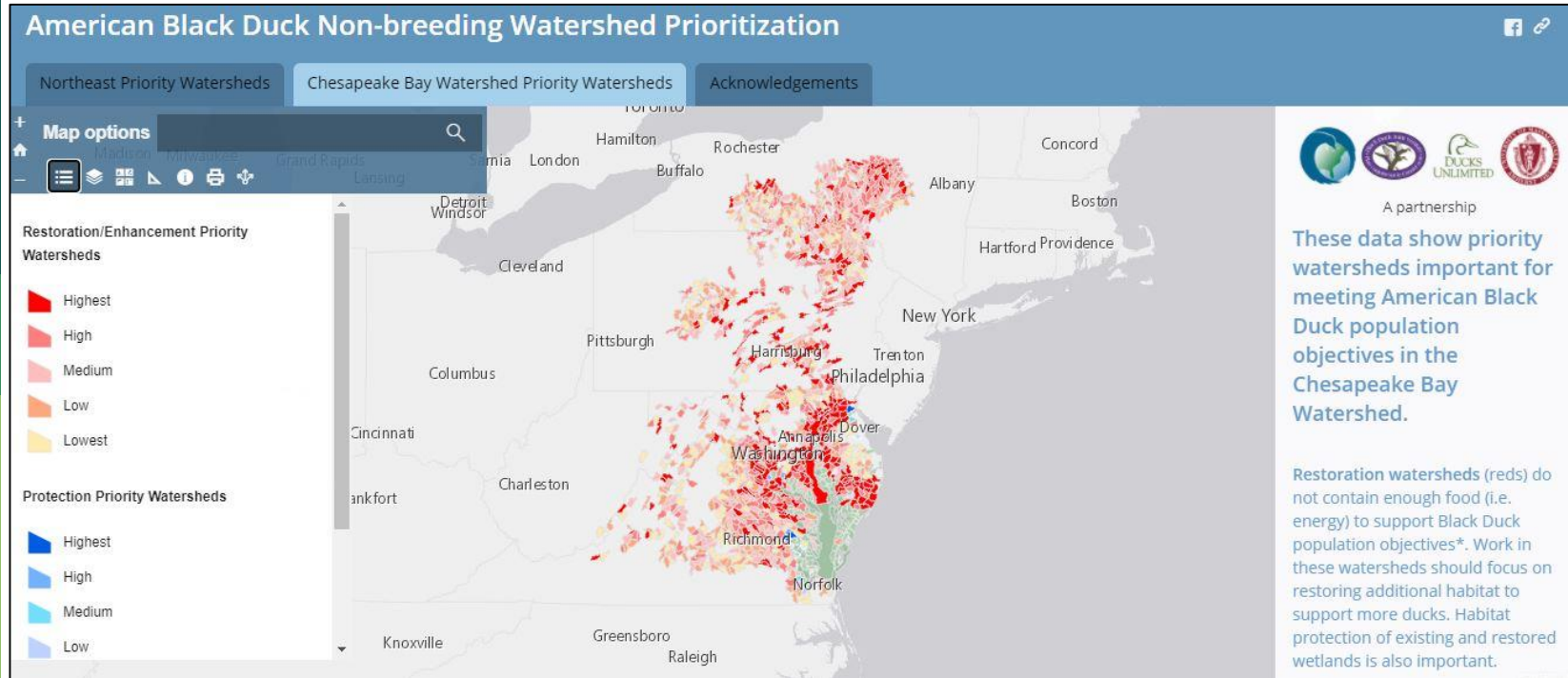
- Most actions have been completed, are on track, or are ongoing
- Current factors affecting progress are still accurate
- Development of DST is biggest success
- Biggest obstacle tracking of wetland restoration acres towards outcome





Successes and Challenges

- Black Duck Decision Support Tool (DST) was a successful project that fills the info. gap of knowing which areas are highest priority for restoration and conservation
- New available science related to the DST is informing an update to the model and will affect the restoration goal when completed





Challenges

- Biggest obstacle: tracking of restoration acres toward the outcome
- Overlap of project partners (double counting)
- Types of projects (Restoration/Enhancement)
- Project boundaries are not clear cut
- Turnover of staff implementing projects
- Common theme with Wetland Workgroup





On the Horizon

- **Scientific:** The update to the DST is currently underway and is expected to be complete in 1-2 years.
- Updates:
 - 1) a new NWI layer
 - 2) Impacts of Climate Change
 - 3) changes to the model that will more accurately calculate the restoration goal
- 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.

A large, stylized, blue letter 'A' is positioned on the left side of the slide. The background behind it is a dark blue vertical band, which is part of a larger design consisting of horizontal stripes in shades of blue and green.

Adapt

How does all of this impact our work?



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

- Continue ongoing habitat restoration work
- Improve our tracking of habitat restoration so we can accurately track progress towards the outcome
- Work with the Indicators Team at the Bay Program to develop this indicator



Help

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



How You Can Help



- Unsure what our progress is due to data collection challenges
- Biggest challenge is development of indicator



Help Needed

- Support and coordination in tracking the acres of restored wetlands (both tidal and non-tidal habitat)
- Reaching out to partners individually to collect the last 5 years of wetland restoration data has had little success
- 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

QUARTERLY PROGRESS MEETING
Chesapeake Bay Program



Discussion

