

# HOW RIPARIAN FOREST BUFFERS HELP MEET CHESAPEAKE BAY GOALS

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# RIPARIAN FOREST BENEFITS

- Clean water – nutrient reductions
- Stabilized stream banks
- Habitat (aquatic and terrestrial)
- Cool streams
- All the co-benefits that trees provide including air quality, carbon sequestration, etc.
- Cost effective, improve over time, low maintenance

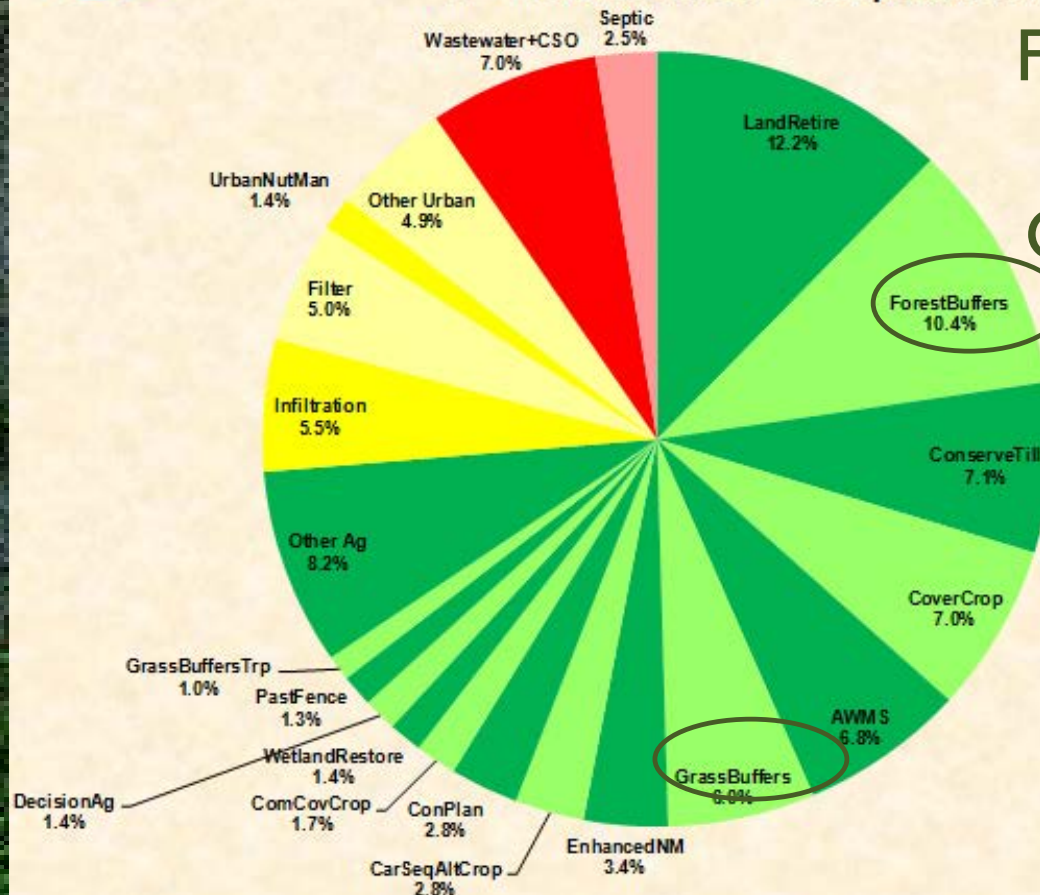
# CHESAPEAKE BAY WATERSHED AGREEMENT 2014

- Continually increase capacity of riparian forest buffers to provide water quality and habitat benefits throughout the watershed
- Restore 900 miles per year
- Conserve existing buffers until at least 70 percent of riparian areas are forested

# STATE HEAVY RELIANCE ON BUFFERS



## Nitrogen Relative Load Reductions CB Watershed – as percent



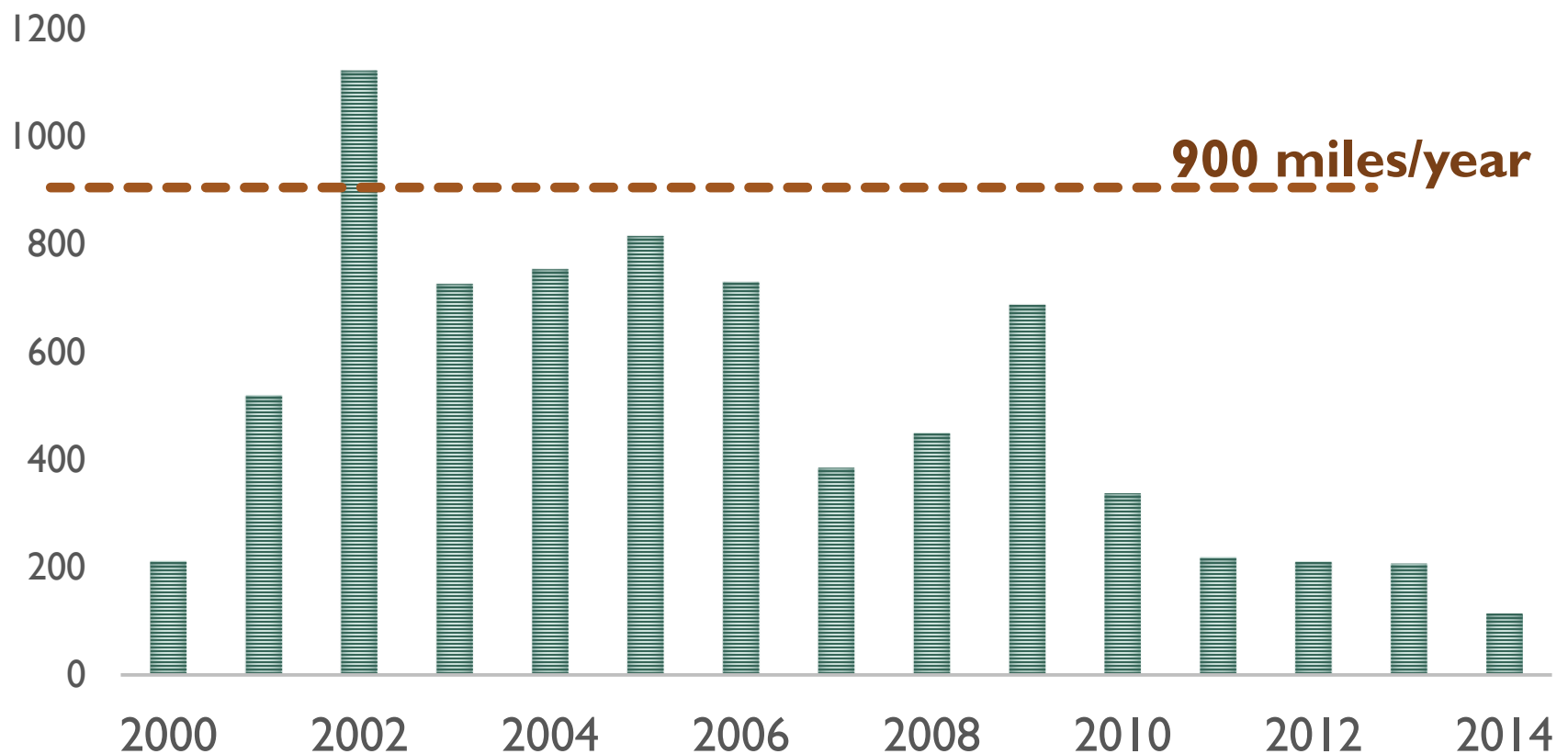
Forest Buffers  
10%

Grass Buffers  
6%

Each slice represents the percent of the total load reduction attributable to planned implementation levels for that BMP.

# PROGRESS

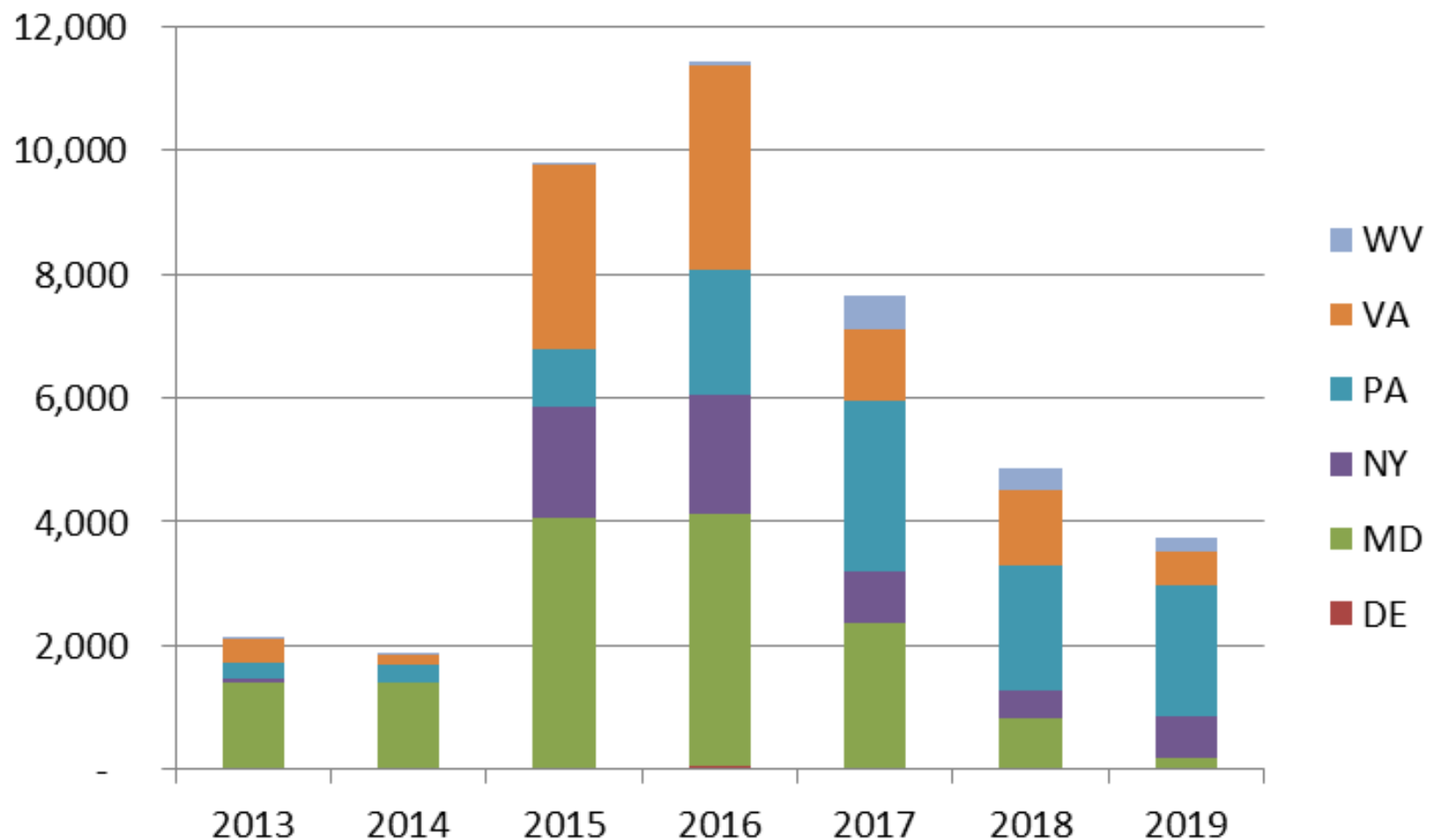
Miles of Riparian Forest Buffers Planted as Reported by Bay States



Data source: Miles of new riparian forest buffer reported by states to the CBP Forestry Workgroup

# FACTORS AFFECTING PROGRESS

## CP-22 Acres Expiring



# FACTORS AFFECTING PROGRESS

- **Higher commodity crop prices**
- **Landowner retirement – sale/development**
- **Declining staff and technical assistance**
- **Declining outreach**
- **Confusion on programs and funding sources**



# AGRICULTURE





# WHAT ARE STATES ASKING AGRICULTURE TO DO?



No-Till



Stream Exclusion



Nutrient Management



Buffers



Cover Crops



Animal Waste Systems

Poultry Phytase

# PARTNERSHIPS ARE KEY

- Riparian Forest Buffers are essential to Bay restoration.
- Commitment and support should be on par with state Watershed Implementation Plan commitments.
- Address barriers to implementation by acting on state strategies.
- Together we can do this!



# NFWF FY2017 RFP OUT ON THE STREETS/FIELDS

- **National Fish & Wildlife Foundation**
- **Up to \$12 million in grants** – contingent on available funding
- **EPA, USDA, USFS, USFWS, NOAA, Altria Group, CSX**
- **Proposals due May 9<sup>th</sup>**
- **Webinar for applicants March 21<sup>st</sup>**

***<http://www.nfwf.org/chesapeake/Pages/2017rfp.aspx>***