



# Update on plan for Management Strategy development

# Direction for Management Strategies in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement

- “..... [CBP] will update or develop Management Strategies for Outcomes and their Targets that support the Goals of this Watershed Agreement. These strategies shall **outline the means for accomplishing each Outcome and its Targets** as well as **monitoring, assessing and reporting progress** and **coordinating actions** among partners and stakeholders as necessary”

# Management Strategies in the Watershed Agreement

- Management Strategies will be developed as six-year strategies
- Work plans will be updated more frequently
- Workplan will not go out for public feedback but will also likely need to be finalized by summer 2027

# Draft CBP Adaptive Management Framework

## Plan

- a) Set or revise goals and outcomes
- b) Conduct situation analysis
- c) Prioritize
- d) Develop or revise strategy

## Act

Coordinate & implement workplans  
Monitor progress

## Evaluate & Adjust

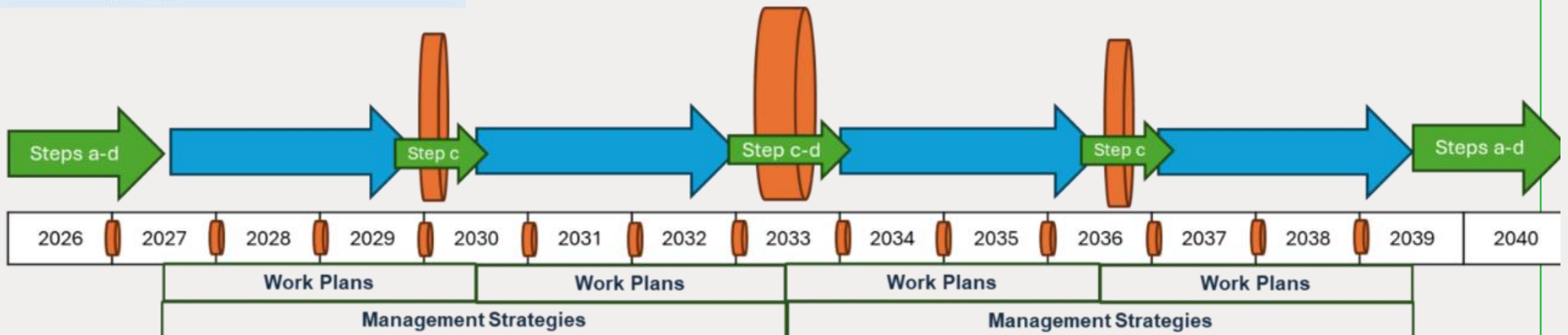
Assess performance  
Communicate findings

**Annual Review** – Where are we? **Prioritize needs.**

**Workplan Review\*** – Did we get there? **Reconfigure and/or develop plans.**

**Strategy Review** – Are we headed in the right direction? **Reconfigure strategies.**

\*CBP Symposium every 3 years



# Updates on new Management Strategies

- The Program will develop a strategic plan consisting of a collaborative introduction and executive summary, followed by four goal management strategies that will serve as chapters.
  - Outcome-level strategies will be sub-chapter
- Strategic plan with Management Strategies will be finalized by summer 2027 with a public input period before finalization (likely January 2027)
- Nov 5<sup>th</sup>- presentation to PSC for feedback
- Outcome sub-chapters will likely need to be completed early October?
- Final template should be approved by the MB on April 16<sup>th</sup>

# Key Elements of the Management Strategies

\*subject to Management Board approval

## Goals

- Situation analysis that identifies key challenges
- Management approaches (optional)

## Outcomes

- Baseline and current condition
- Monitoring progress and indicators
- Situation analysis that identifies key challenges
- Snapshot of signatory programs
- Management approaches
- Participating partners
- Appendix: Signatory statutory authorities driving outcome attainment

# Snapshot of signatory programs

- Seeks to better recognize contributions from individual signatories and federal agencies toward outcome attainment
- Does not need to be a comprehensive list, but should include the “biggest ticket” programs for each outcome and signatory partner
  - May consider having the “biggest ticket” program for each target (from each signatory)
- Each program listed should include FY25 appropriation amounts (with caveats that this may not be representative of future investments) and a one sentence description

## Appendix: Signatory statutory authorities driving outcome attainment

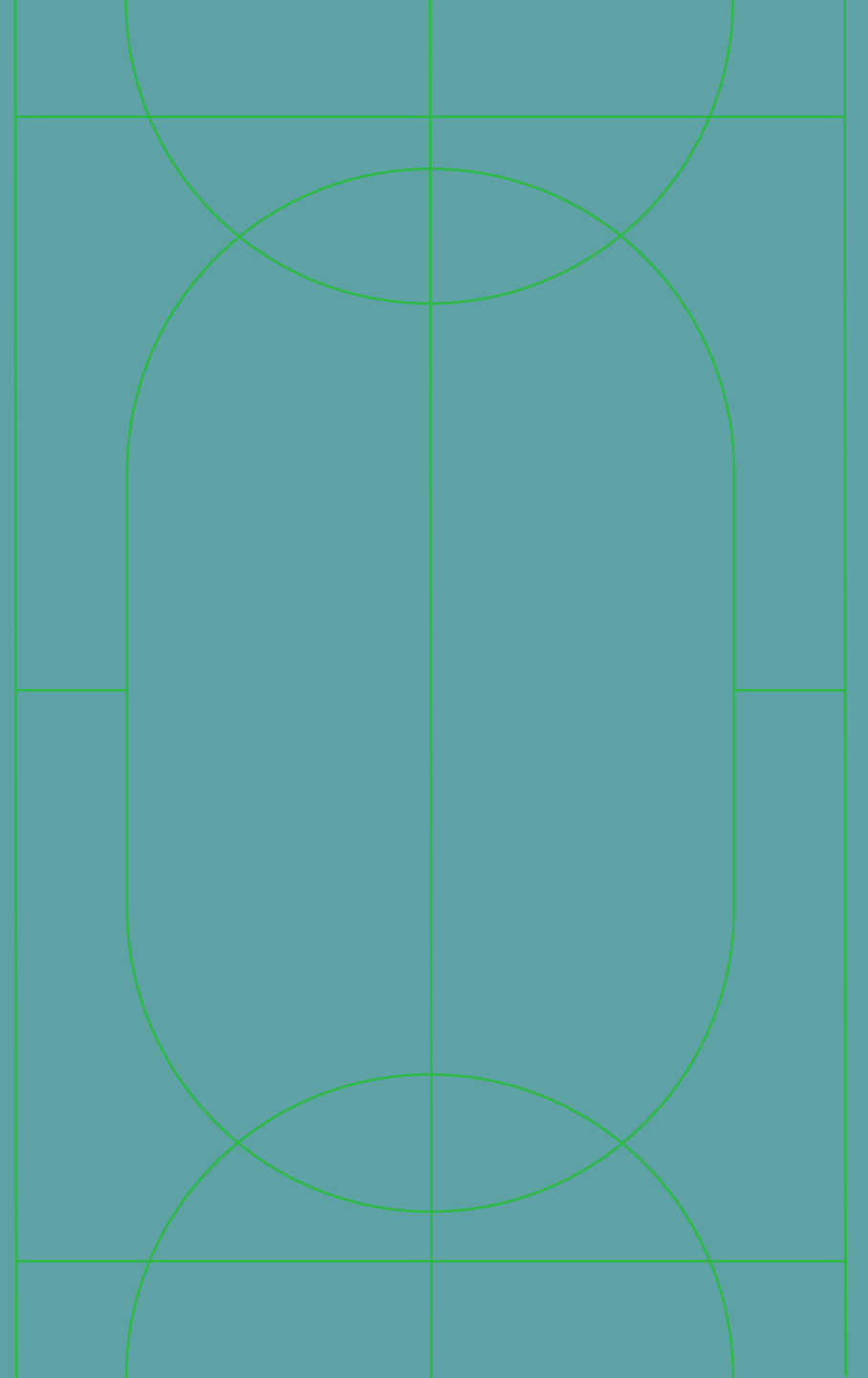
- Identifies core statutory authorities for each signatory to support attainment of Watershed Agreement Outcomes and related Targets
- Does not need to be an exhaustive list of relevant laws and regulations
- Should identify “the driving motivators” contributing to signatory partner engagement



# Next steps on Management Strategy

- **TODAY: Explore data sources that could be used to set a baseline and monitor/evaluate progress on the Forest Conservation target**
- May 11<sup>th</sup>: Healthy Landscapes meeting
  - Discuss Management Strategy approach/timeline with Goal Team leadership
  - Lay the groundwork to consider cross-outcome challenges and management approaches
- June 3<sup>rd</sup>: In-person meeting in VA
  - Review highlights and recommendations from STAC Healthy Forests workshop report
- July 1<sup>st</sup>: Discuss remaining elements of the Management Strategy
  - Situation analysis and management approaches (FWG coordination team to draft)
  - Snapshot of signatory resources and signatory statutory authorities (**Need help from states!**)
- July and beyond: Pull together full draft for review

*Any feedback or  
questions?*





# Exploring Data for Establishing the Forest Conservation Target Baseline and Monitoring Progress

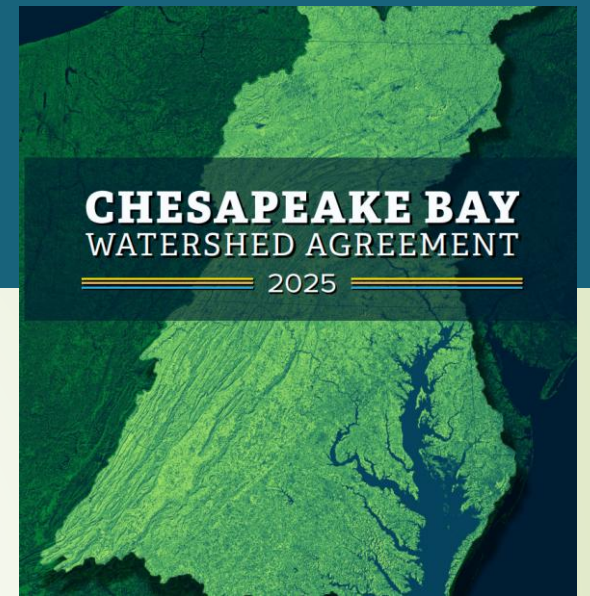


# Data needs for the Management Strategy

- Baseline and Current Condition
  - Establishes a baseline and/or current condition from which progress will be assessed
- Monitoring Progress and Indicators
  - Describe the future indicator, along with the plan and timeline to attain and report the necessary information
  - If an indicator will not be developed, describe how progress towards target attainment will be demonstrated, how often progress will be assessed and how CBP will communicate progress to support partner decision-making
- Will use existing indicators for Forest Buffers and Community Tree Canopy- need discussion on new Forest Conservation target

# New Healthy Forests and Trees Outcome

Conserve, manage and restore forests and tree cover to maximize benefits for water quality, habitat and people throughout the watershed, with a particular focus on riparian areas and communities.



## TARGETS

**Tree Canopy:** Conserve tree canopy within communities by reducing the rate of loss of existing canopy and planting and maintaining 45,000 acres of community trees by 2040 to achieve a net gain in canopy over the long term.

**Forest Buffers:** Conserve riparian forest by reducing the rate of loss of existing buffers and planting and maintaining 7,500 acres of forest buffers annually to achieve no less than 71.5% riparian forest cover by 2040 and 75% riparian forest cover over the long term.

**Forest Conservation:** Achieve a net gain in forests over the long-term by reducing the rate of forest conversion to other land uses by 33%, permanently protecting a total of 9 million acres of forested land, and planting, maintaining and managing 202,000 acres of new forests by 2040.

# Potential components and options for a Forest Conservation baseline

- Permanent protection of forested land – CBP protected lands data
- Rate of forest conversion to other land uses- CBP high-res land use data
- Planting/maintenance of new forests- CBP annual BMP reporting
- Management/stewardship of existing forests- USFS Forest Stewardship Program data, NRCS data