



Chesapeake Bay Program
Science. Restoration. Partnership.

August 25, 2025

Path Ahead for Phase 7, 2026-2027

Presented by Jeremy Hanson, CRC, WQGIT Coordinator

Acknowledgements: WQGIT Leadership (Greg, Petra, Caroline) + CBP I&E Team (Bo, Kaylyn, Tom, Auston, Olivia, Helen, Jess, others) + Peter, Sarah, Lew, Lee

Overview

- Current context & objectives
- Caveats & disclaimer
- DRAFT timeline walkthrough: 2026-2027
- Discussion
- Putting it all together

Context

The PSC approved the model development schedule extension. What does this mean for the WQGIT in 2026 and 2027?

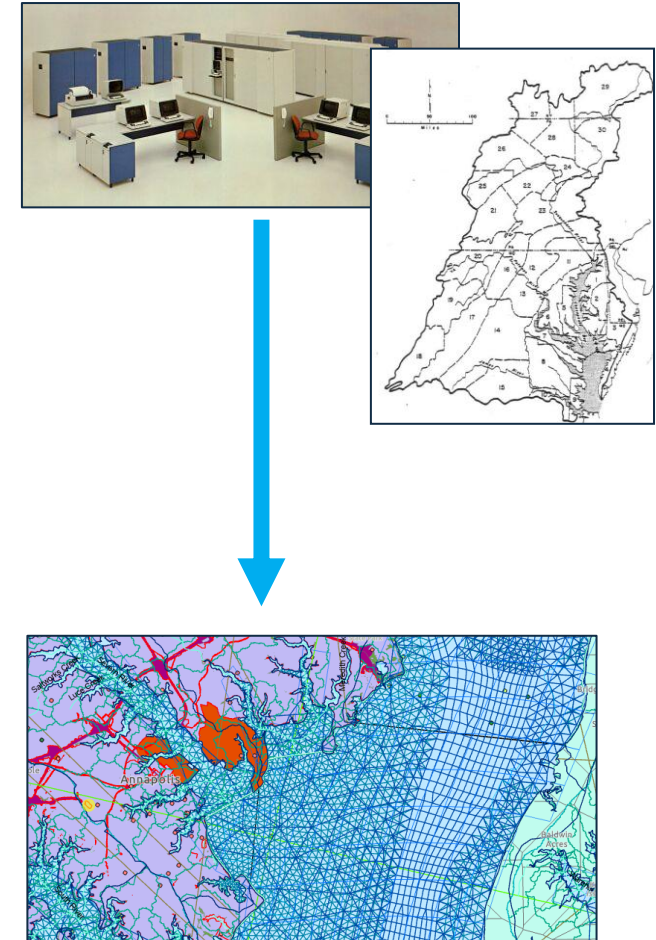
Objectives

Share the draft concept from now through end of 2027. Receive feedback and suggestions for what products will be most useful or should be a focus for continued conversation.

CBP Models Have Grown with the Partnership

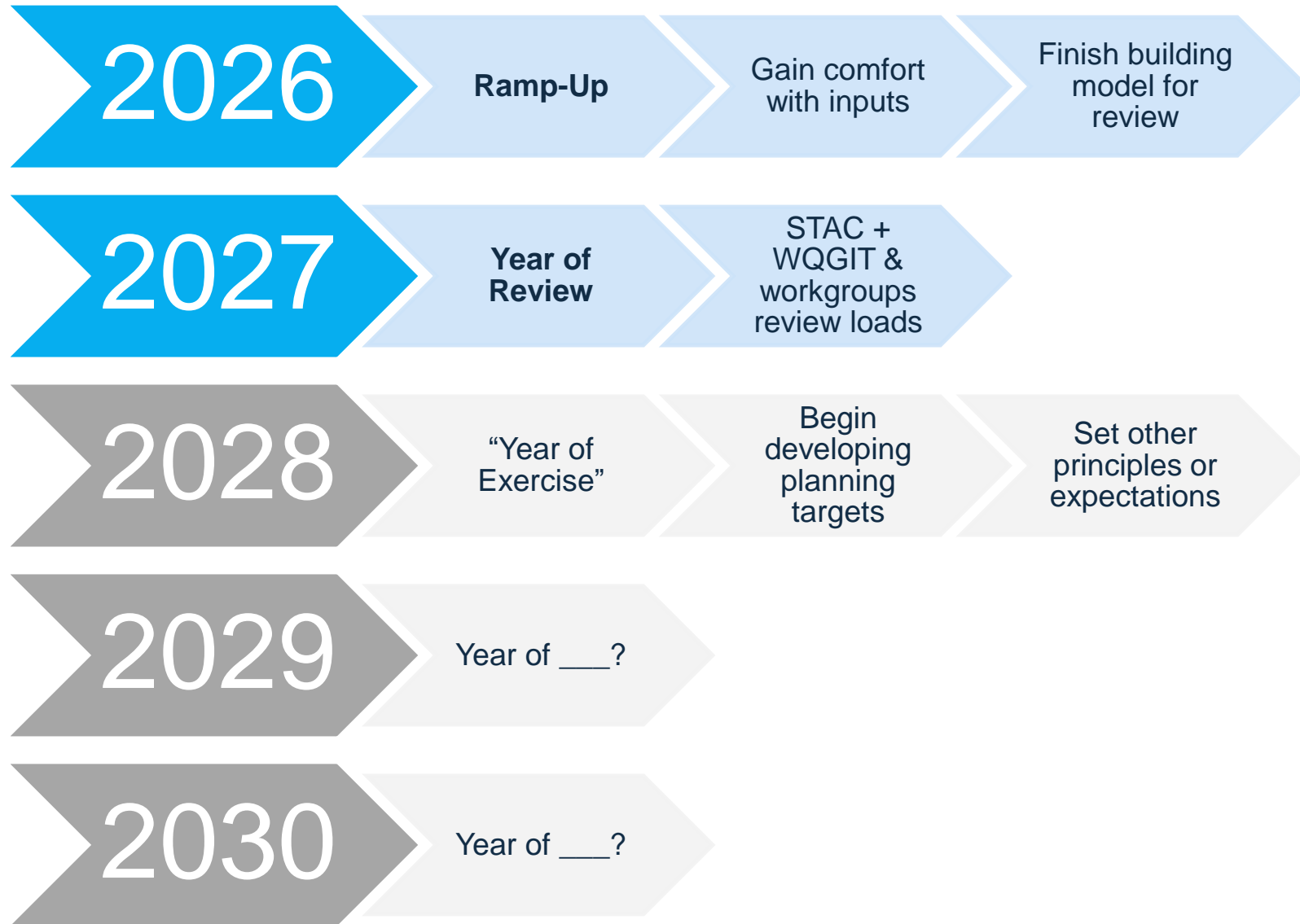
- CBP models to:
 1. Explain monitoring data
 2. Plan management actions
 3. Combine the effects of different management actions
- CBP has a long history of modeling
- Models are built by the partnership
 - Expression of the CBP partnership's knowledge about the Chesapeake system

<u>Time</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Scenarios</u>
Mid 1980s		0
Early 1990s	Phase 2	<10
Late 1990s	Phase 4.1	37
Early 2000s	Phase 4.3	400+
2009 – 2010	Phase 5.3.0	300+
2011 – 2017	Phase 5.3.2	1000 or so
2017- Now	Phase 6	1000s per year
2028	Phase 7	Many more...



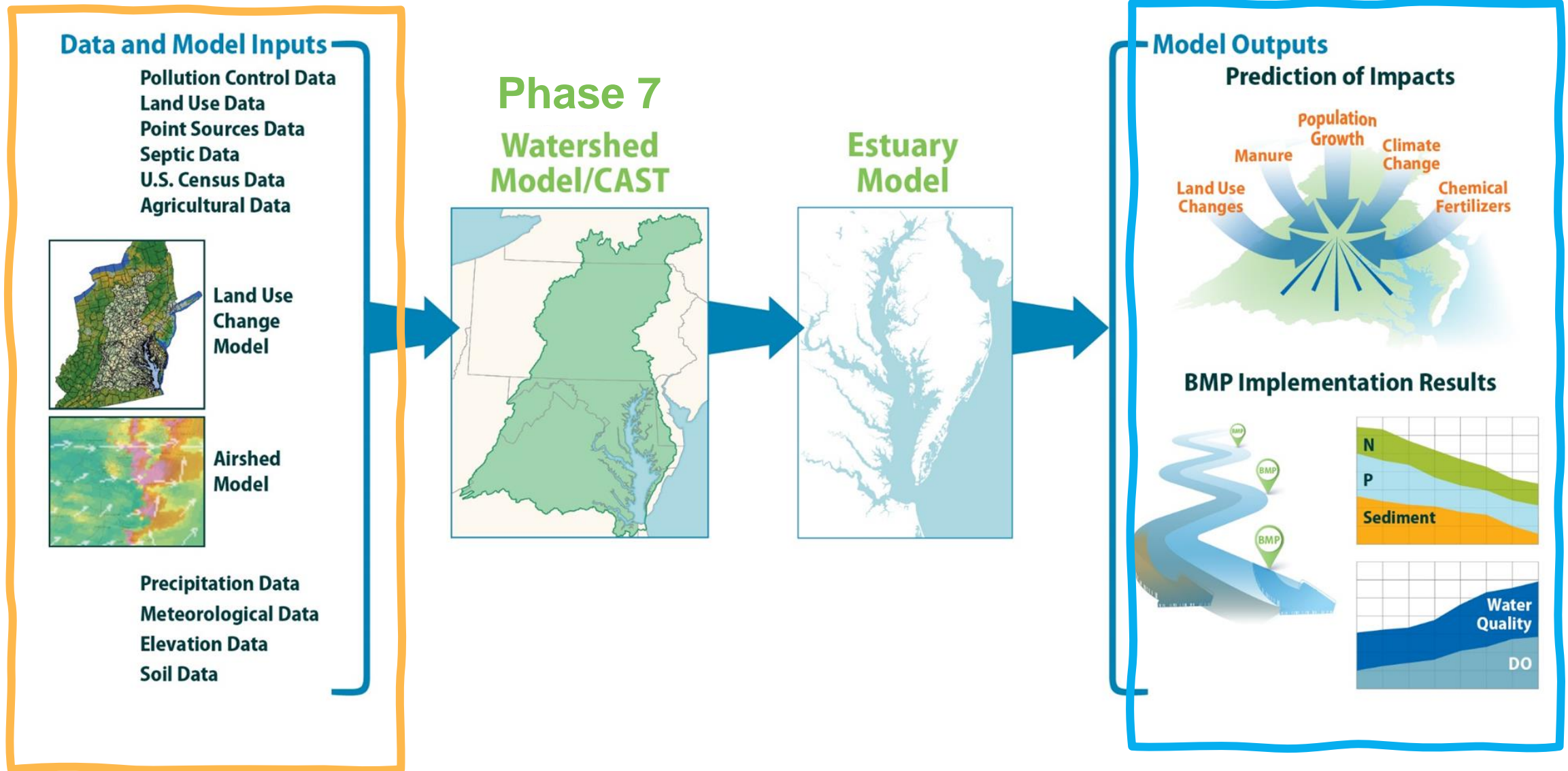
Caveats & Disclaimers

- Graphics are high level & focused on general Phase 7 model development or Watershed Model/CAST
 - Audience: WQGIT + workgroups, workflow or details not shown
- Everything here is DRAFT
 - Details will change, be clarified or corrected
 - Good enough >> Perfect
- Feedback welcome!



Use “ramp up” thru 2026 to view inputs

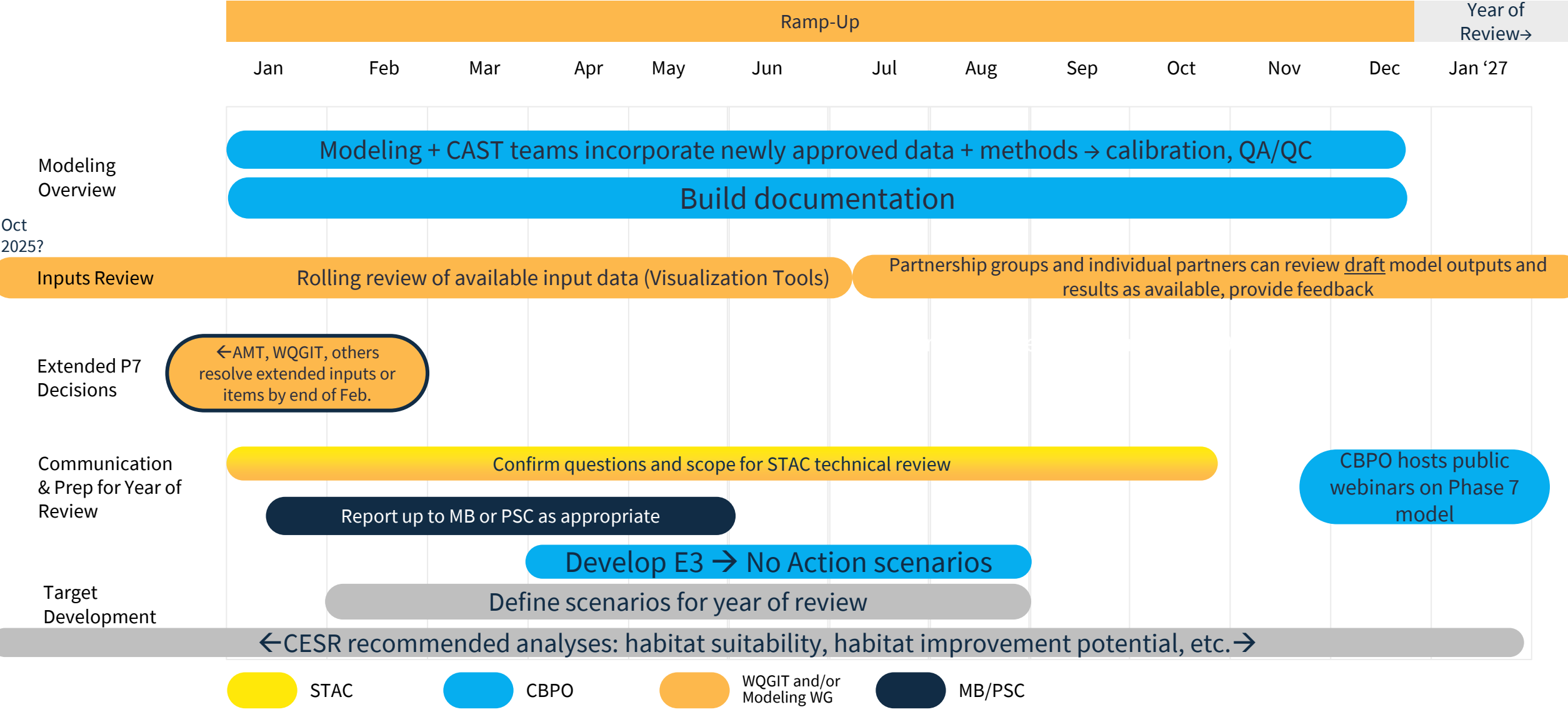
Partnership review in 2027 of the results



“Ramp-up” (Now through 2026)

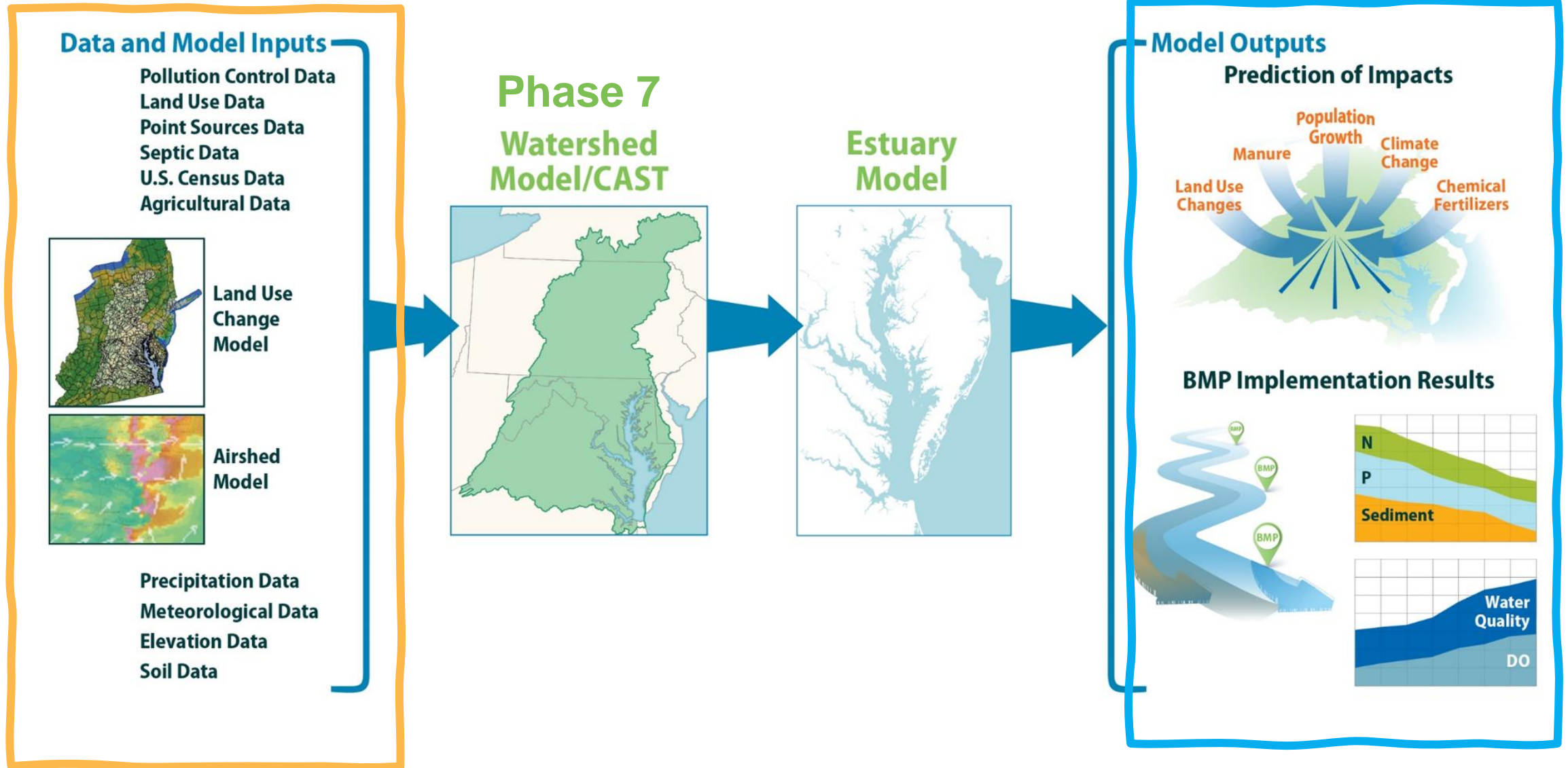
- Follow extended timeline to finalize decisions and deliver model suite at beginning of 2027
 - Decisions due by end of September 2025
 - Extended decisions (AMT ag inputs) due by end of February 2026
- Model results (loads) not available until watershed model delivered for Year of Review
- Model inputs will be available for rolling “review”
 - Past February 2026, no more formal decisions to make on inputs unless unexpected issues arise (danger of impact to workflow)
- Objectives for rolling review: gain familiarity with information, see if there are errors or omissions that slipped through QA/QC, identify quirks or oddities that are valid but require effective communication

“Ramp-Up” (2026)



Use “ramp up” thru 2026 to view inputs

Partnership review in 2027 of the results

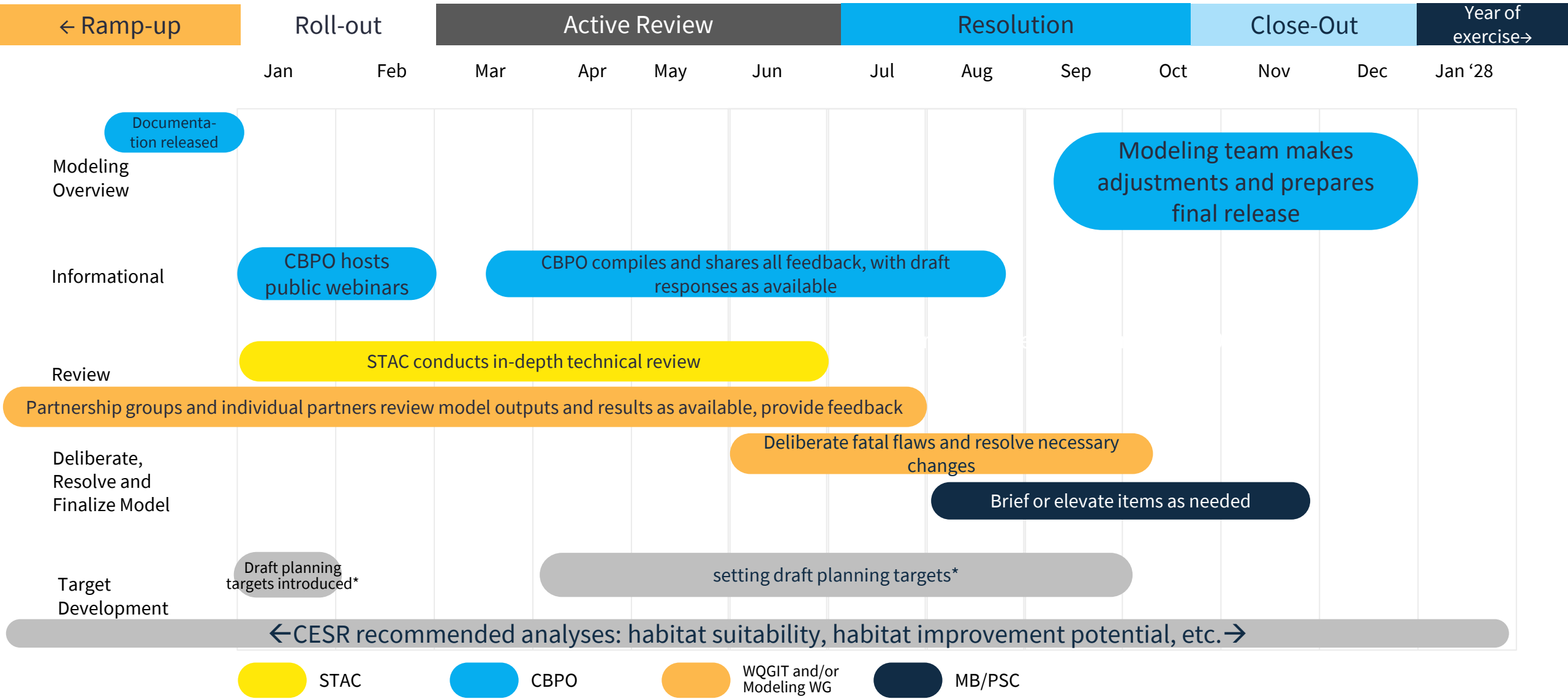


Year of Review (2027)

- STAC review will follow agreed upon scope and process
- The partnership's "management" review will be led by WQGIT and relevant sector workgroups
 - Can focus on results and identification of "fatal flaws" similar to Phase 6 review
- Iterative steps or schedule for partnership review are negotiable/TBD, but some considerations:
 - Include some "buffer" time in the schedule in case of late-identified or controversial fatal flaws that need more time
 - Include time to account for year-end work schedules, FFY challenges, and work by modelers to incorporate final decisions and internal QA/QC procedures
- Final partnership-approved model suite available at start of 2028 for "year of exercise"

Year of Review (2027)

*Draft planning targets based on current approach used in Phases 5 and 6



Discussion questions for Ramp-Up & Review

- Any major high level points missing related to model development or planning targets?
- What format/updates to the gantt chart info would be most valuable for us to provide?
- What's most critical for our October – December agendas?
- What would help equip you for future reviews?

Putting it all together (past 2027)

- What does pushing back the review do to everything else??? We have more time, BUT a lot of points are TBD...
 - What our structure and governance looks like...
 - Tiered planning targets?? Underlying science underway...
 - Year of Exercise, developing planning targets
 - How often will we update Phase 7? (new BMPs, new imagery, Ag Census, etc.) – coming from MB
 - If/when a new WIP process makes sense & what that entails
 - Milestones after the “near term” (i.e., once Phase 7 becomes “model of record”)

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Feedback welcome...how can we make it better for overview purposes?

#	DETAILS		2027												2028												2029															
					Q1				Q2				Q3				Q4				Q1				Q2				Q3				Q4									
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1	Continued Implementation of Phase III WIPs & Annual progress cycle	Progress Year (implementation)	2027 Progress Year				2028 Progress Year								2029 Progress Year								2030 Progress Year																			
		Reporting							Report '27 Progress									Report '28 Progress																								
		Review and evaluation																																								
		Release of progress results + modeled loads indicator	Release of '26 Progress												Release of '27 Progress																											
2	Milestones	Development							28-'29 milestones																																	
		Submission and review																																								
		Revisions and re-submission																																								
		Final milestones and EPA evaluation																																								
3	Phase 7 Model Development	Phase 6 (CAST 2023) as model of record																																								
		Build models																																								
		Review models - "Year of Review"																																								
		Model Exercise & New 2035 climate targets, Model Assessment of WQS																																								
		Release of final Phase 7 model for WIP Planning																																								
4	Targets & WIP development	- Explore tiered targets and pre-requisite work																																								
		- Develop targets or tiered targets																																								
		- Phase 4 WIP pre-work (expectations, timelines)																																								
		- Phase 4 WIP development																																								

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