

# HWGIT Priority Project

## Tracking Protected Lands

**Why is it time sensitive?**

**Conservation has been suggested as new pillar of the Chesapeake Bay Program, but the CBP Partners cannot establish realistic (how much?) and strategic (where?) land protection goals given the poor attribution of the current data.**

**Protection has occurred on healthy and intact watershed lands. However, only 62% of land protection records (7.14 million acres) have valid "date-of-establishment" field values. For the remaining 38% of the records (2.97 million acres), we don't know when they were protected!**

**For the 62% valid records, 764,000 acres were protected after 2010. The outstanding records represent 4x this area. Therefore, our progress towards land protection goals is uncertain.**

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- 1) A standardized reporting framework**
- 2) A process that will help reconcile older versions of the data.**
- 3) An agreement on the level of protection afforded by different conservation mechanisms that would be included in the Protected Lands Indicator.**
- 4) Support and approval from Bay Program Partners**

# Example of what can be known with quality data: 732,000 acres of Land Conserved since 1991

