



Chesapeake Bay Program
Science. Restoration. Partnership.

August 14, 2025

Outcome Placeholder Development

September 11th MB Discussions & Decisions

- Consider and discuss public feedback, including any feedback received on target placeholders.
- Discuss target values for developed placeholders.
 - Deadline for target value proposals: September 4th
- For targets with remaining placeholders, decide:
 - if the MB agrees with the timeline and process for developing the placeholder values.
 - what the MB wants to do with targets that would still have placeholders in the final version of the Watershed Agreement.

Two types of targets being considered:

- Targets with placeholders (XX acres, XX%)
- Language describing plans to develop targets
(Develop an acid mine drainage target...)

Common elements of process

- Seeking expertise & expanding team membership
- Establishing definitions that are applicable watershed-wide
- Specifying criteria for inclusion/exclusion in tracking
- Defining tracking methods and metrics
- Identifying baselines
- Calculating placeholder values
- Building consensus within WGs and GITs
- Refining placeholders based on public feedback, as appropriate

Outcome	Target	Placeholder	Development Deadline
Protected Lands	Protected Lands	protect an additional <u>1.5-2 million acres</u> of land	End of August 2025*
Protected Lands	Forests	protect a total of <u>XX</u> acres of forest, of which <u>XX</u> % are in riparian areas.	By September 2025*
Protected Lands	Wetlands	protect a total of <u>XX</u> acres of wetlands, focusing on the protection of buffer zones	By December 2025*
Protected Lands	Watershed Health	protect a total of <u>XX</u> acres of natural lands in watersheds that support good stream health	By December 2027*
Protected Lands	Tribal Lands	securing protection status and/or co-management agreements for a total of <u>XX</u> acres of tribal homelands	By December 2027*
Protected Lands	Agricultural Lands	protect a total of <u>XX</u> acres of agricultural lands	By December 2027*
Protected Lands	Community Greenspace	protect a total of <u>XX</u> acres of community greenspace	By December 2027*

Target development ongoing beyond September 2025 (critical date for inclusion in Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement)

*Pending availability of USGS, GSAT or PLWG data

**Dependent on receipt of STAC workshop funding

Outcome	Target	Placeholder	Development Deadline
Healthy Forests and Trees	Forest Conservation	plant and maintain _XX_ acres of new forests	September 2025
Brook Trout	Identified Threats	reduce identified threats by _XX_ %	End of December 2025*
Public Access	Urban Lands	expand access to _XX_% of urban lands and community green spaces	March 2026*

Outcome	Target	Plans for Targets	Development Deadline
Fish Habitat	Acid Mine Drainage	develop an acid mine drainage target w/ Brook Trout	Drafted in September 2025
Wetlands	Waterbirds	priorities for specific species	December 2026**
Reducing Excess Nitrogen, Phosphorous and Sediment***	Updated Water Quality Targets	revised targets that include a timeline	By December 2030

Target development ongoing beyond September 2025 (critical date for inclusion in Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement)

*Pending availability of USGS, GSAT or PLWG data

**Dependent on receipt of STAC workshop funding

***Flightpath and timeline are described in the targets themselves and were presented to the PSC in June and to the MB in June & July.

Options for Targets with Placeholders

- A. **Keep** targets with placeholders in the agreement, as is, until values are developed.
- B. **Rephrase** targets using “continually increase/decrease,” or similar.
- C. **Rephrase** targets using “continually increase/decrease” and specify that targets will be **replaced** with specific values (include deadlines to complete development).
- D. **Replace** targets with language describing plans to develop the targets (include deadlines to complete development).
- E. **Remove** targets from the agreement until sufficient details have been developed, then follow the Governance procedures to add Outcome/Target language, if appropriate.

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Thank you!

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