PRESENTATIONS & DISCUSSION

Proposed values and paths forward for targets with placeholders

Protected Lands:
Protected Lands Target

Decision 1: By 2040, permanently protect a total of **10.8 or 11.3** million acres of land throughout the watershed at the federal, state, or local level, building on a 2025 baseline of 9.3 million acres already protected.

Draft Language: By 2040, permanently protect an additional 1.5 M - 2 M acres of land throughout the watershed at the federal, state, or local level.

11.3M Million Acres

- An additional 2 million acres
- Mirrors the 2014 goal, but to be accomplished over a longer period
  - 15 years instead of 10
- The public does not want to see a reduction in ambition.
- No major concerns from jurisdictions about 2M-acre target
- Other partners would like to see a more ambitious goal; 2 million feels like the bare minimum
- Workgroup supports a 2 million additional acre goal

10.8 Million Acres

- An additional 1.5 million acres
- A reduction from the last agreement
- Preferred by most Jurisdictions
- Seen as more achievable given land prices and availability, capacity, and funding
- Will be seen as a major reduction by the public, who would like to see a more ambitious goal.

Decision 2: Move the forest target to the Healthy Forest and Trees Outcome. Other targets would be defined in the Protected Lands Management Strategy

Editing Target Language

- Very clear, no one wants XX in the agreement.

- Editing language to still emphasize the target areas, but drop acreage goal numbers until defined with all emphasis areas being defined by 2027.

- Would still define targets and identify goals by 2027
    - A number could be added to the agreement at a later date
    - Get rid of target numbers for emphasis areas altogether and just define in management strategies.

Edited Target Language: Keeping Target Goals within Protected Lands

By 2040, permanently protect a **total of 10.8/11.3** million acres of land throughout the watershed at the federal, state, or local level, building on a 2025 baseline of 9.3 million acres already protected.

- By 2040, permanently protect a total of 8.5/9 million acres of forest.

- By 2027, define and identify target goals for forest buffers, wetlands and adjacent areas, natural lands supporting healthy streams, agricultural lands, tribal homelands, and community greenspaces.

Edited Target Language: Moving Target Goals to other Outcomes

By 2040, permanently protect a total of 10.8/11.3 million acres of land throughout the watershed at the federal, state, or local level, building on a 2025 baseline of 9.3 million acres already protected and continually increase the protection of forests, riparian forests, wetlands and adjacent areas, natural areas supporting healthy streams, agricultural lands, tribal homelands, and community green spaces.

Healthy Forests and Trees

Forest Conservation Target Development

Healthy Forests and Trees

Conserve 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 in draft revised agreement	New Target / Update of Existing Target	Date estimate for target being developed
Tree Canopy: Reduce the loss of existing canopy and plant and maintain 35,000 acres of community trees by 2035 to achieve a net gain in canopy over the long term.	Update	Ready
Forest Buffers: Reduce the loss of existing buffers and plant and maintain 7,500 acres of forest buffers annually to achieve no less than 71% riparian forest cover by 2035 and 75% riparian forest cover over the long term.	Update	Ready
Forest Conservation: Reduce the loss of forests to development through planning and conservation and plant and maintain ## acres of new forests by 2035 to achieve a net gain in forests over the long term.	New	Summer 25

Initial Proposed Forest Conservation Target

Achieve a net gain in forests over the long term by reducing the rate of forest conversion to other land uses by 33% and planting and maintaining 155,000 acres of new forests by 2035.

Justification for modifications

- Reworked the outcome language to lead with the long-term goal of achieving a net gain in forests

- To emphasize the focus on conservation, established a numeric target for reducing the rate of forest conversion to other land uses to complement the planting target

- Together, the numeric targets for planting and reduced forest conversion would support achieving a (slight) net gain in forests

Numeric Target Calculations

Achieve a net gain in forests over the long term by reducing the rate of forest conversion to other land uses by 33% and planting and maintaining 155,000 acres of new forests by 2035.

- Loss:
  - Annual rate of net loss (2013/14-2021/22): 14,020 acres
  - Reducing 14,020 by 33%= 14,020-4,626= **9,394 acres** target for the maximum annual rate of loss
  - There has been a 13% increase in the annual rate of loss between the two time steps currently available (2013/14-2017/18, 2017/18-2021/22)

- Gains/Planting
  - Additional planting needed to achieve 155,000 acres- 103,400 acres
  - Average annual planting needed 2025-2035= **9,400 acres**
  - This would be a doubling of our current average planting rate (4,700 acres/year)

Potential revised target including forested protected lands

Achieve a net gain in forests over the long term by reducing the rate of forest loss by conversion to other land uses by 33%, permanently protecting a total of 8.2/8.5 million acres of forested lands, and planting and maintaining 155,000 acres of new forests by 2035.

- Pros of including protected lands target
  - Would integrate all of the forest-related targets under the Healthy Forests and Trees umbrella
  - Would clarify that permanent land protection is a critical component of a broader strategy to conserve forests
  - Likely easier for the public to understand

- Cons of including protected lands target
  - Would break up the protected lands targets across multiple outcomes, requiring additional coordination with the Protected Lands Workgroup
  - May result in protected lands targets having different timelines (2035 under Healthy Forests, 2040 under Protected Lands)

Requested Management Board Feedback

Do Management Board Members prefer a protection goal of 10.8 or 11.3 million acres of land?

Does the Management Board prefer the forest protection target to stay with the Protected Lands Outcome, or should it move to the Healthy Forests and Trees Outcome?

Do Management Board Members have feedback on the revised numbers of the Forest Conservation Targets?

Public Access Outcome

Target with Placeholder:

Expanding Access to Urban Lands

Original Submitted Language

Enhance new and existing public access sites to the Bay and its tributaries through a combination of actions aimed at improving recreational opportunities and accessibility while addressing barriers to access by increasing the number, quality and geographic distribution of sites.

- **New Access Sites:** By 2040, add 100 new public access sites with a strong emphasis on providing opportunities for recreation where feasible.
- **Improving ADA/ABA Accessibility:** By 2040, improve 3% of existing public water access sites by adding ADA/ABA accessible features, where feasible, to meet the needs of communities.
- **Access Upgrades, Maintenance and Expansion:** By 2040, improve at least 100 existing public water access sites by upgrading or maintaining site grounds and structures—including signage, parking, seating and public facilities—and expanding the range of active and passive recreation opportunities, such as kayaking, boating, trails, courts, piers, wildlife viewing and picnic areas.
- **Expanding Access to Urban Lands:** By 2040, expand access to _XX_% of urban lands and community green spaces identified in the Protected Lands data set. An initial baseline study is to be conducted by 2025-2026 to determine appropriate numeric targets for this metric.

[ ] = has a placeholder value

Rephrase Target with Directional Language

Original Target Language:

By 2040, expand access to XX% of urban lands and community green spaces identified in the Protected Lands data set. An initial baseline study is to be conducted by 2025-2026 to determine appropriate numeric targets for this metric.

Proposed Change:

By 2040, continually expand access to urban and community greenspace identified in the Protected Lands data set. An initial baseline study is to be conducted by 2025-2026 to determine appropriate numeric targets for this metric.

Reasoning for Change

- Provide time to thoughtfully plan out the metrics for expanding access to greenspace, including the definitions and boundaries of greenspace and how access will be tracked.

- Emphasize the existing focus of increasing public access to the watershed into the future, while detailing specific plans for creating a SMART metric.

Brook Trout Outcome:

Target with Placeholder: Identified Threats

Fish Habitat Outcome:

Target with Placeholder: Acid Mine Drainage

Beyond 2025 Proposed Brook Trout Outcome Language

Protect and enhance brook trout within the Chesapeake Bay watershed by increasing occupancy, abundance and resilience to changing environmental conditions.

- By 2035, increase brook trout occupancy by 1% **(155 miles)** in watersheds supporting healthy populations while achieving no net loss in other watersheds.

  By 2035, increase abundance at 10 long-term monitoring sites.

- **By 2035, reduce identified threats by _XX_% to increase brook trout resilience in watersheds supporting healthy populations.**

Beyond 2025 Proposed Brook Trout Outcome Language if we can't have variables.

Protect and enhance brook trout within the Chesapeake Bay watershed by increasing occupancy, abundance and resilience to changing environmental conditions.

- By 2035, increase brook trout occupancy by 1% **(155 miles)** in watersheds supporting healthy populations while achieving no net loss in other watersheds.

  By 2035, increase abundance at 10 long-term monitoring sites.

- Develop a strategy to reduce threats in healthy brook trout patches including unforested riparian areas, fish passage barriers, acid mine drainage, dirt gravel roads, and unpaved roads by January 2026. Improve resiliency within healthy patches by implementing this strategy by 2035.

Draft Fish Habitat AMD Target for Revised Watershed Agreement

Current Language: Develop an acid-mine drainage target, in collaboration with the Brook Trout outcome, that strives to better understand the impacts and mitigation opportunities for Acid Mine Drainage throughout the watershed.

Progress: Each State reports differently, but a data source for tracking has been determined. The team would prefer to base improvement on modified chemistry and not delisting, but monitoring and reporting is not available. Target will be based on impaired miles.

Possible Drafts*: Continually increase available habitat to support fish populations by improving 180 (or a %) miles of AMD-impaired waters by 2035.

Jurisdiction	Estimated miles	Source Data
Maryland	103	303d IR
Pennsylvania	1,647	303d IR
West Virginia	35	AMD ATTAINS
Virginia	7	Chemistry ATTAINS
New York	N/A	
Delaware	N/A	
Washington, D.C.	N/A	
SUM AMD IMPAIRED MILES (Baseline)	1792	
10% of Sum	179.20	

* Final Language for consideration will be available before the Retreat.