

Beyond 2025 Update

Tidal Wetlands Workgroup Meeting
6/17/25

Outcome Language Presented to the PSC

Restore, create, enhance and protect wetlands to support people and living resources, including waterbirds and fish, provide water quality, flood and erosion protection, recreation and other valuable benefits to people.

- Tidal Wetlands Target:** Restore or create 1,000 acres and enhance 15,000 acres by 2035.

- Non-tidal Wetlands Target:** Restore or create 2,000 acres and enhance 15,000 acres by 2035.

- Buffer Protection Target:** Same as the Protected Lands Outcome and will be tracked under that goal.

- Waterbirds represent wetlands functioning at its highest level, specific species priorities will be developed over the next 12 to 18 months.



The Road to Watershed Agreement Revisions





Watershed Agreement Revisions: July - August

- **July 1 – September 1:** Public feedback period.
 - Review Team (RT) who volunteered to consider public feedback begins tackling work in late July and iterates as comments are received.
 - RT engages experts, as needed.
- **August 14:** Management Board meeting.
 - RT presents preliminary public feedback.
- **August 20:** Principals' Staff Committee meeting.
 - RT presents preliminary public feedback.

SEPTEMBER

Public feedback period ends

X

RT classify and review comments

X X X X

X X X

MB meeting: RT presents on public feedback received

X

Expert input, as needed

X X X X X

RT consolidates & agrees on revision recommendations

X X X X X

MB reviews recommendations

X X X

PROPOSED MB Retreat: RT presents suggested revisions. MB discuss & vote to approve or flag issues for negotiation

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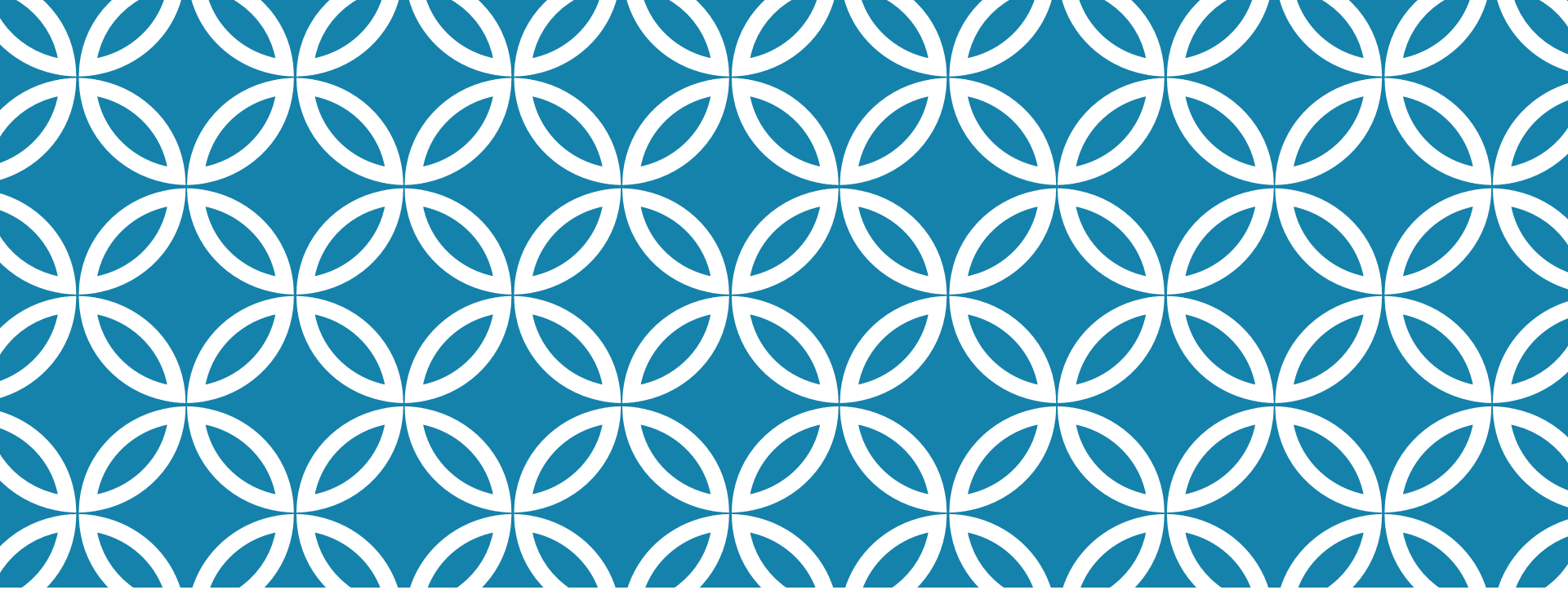
MB negotiates & resolves any remaining revisions

X X



WE WANT ALL THE
FEEDBACK!

- Public feedback period will open on Tuesday, July 1 and run for 60 days until Monday, September 1.
- Everything you need to know can be found at <https://www.chesapeakebay.net/what/what-guides-us/planning-for-2025-and-beyond>
- Feedback can be emailed to comments@chesapeakebay.net.
- Chesapeake Bay Program staff is available to talk with any of your members or groups about Beyond 2025.



QUESTIONS?



Wetlands Protection Target

Wetlands: By 2040, permanently protect a total of _XX_ acres of wetlands focusing on the protection of buffer zones.

Wetlands Protection Target: Tidal Example

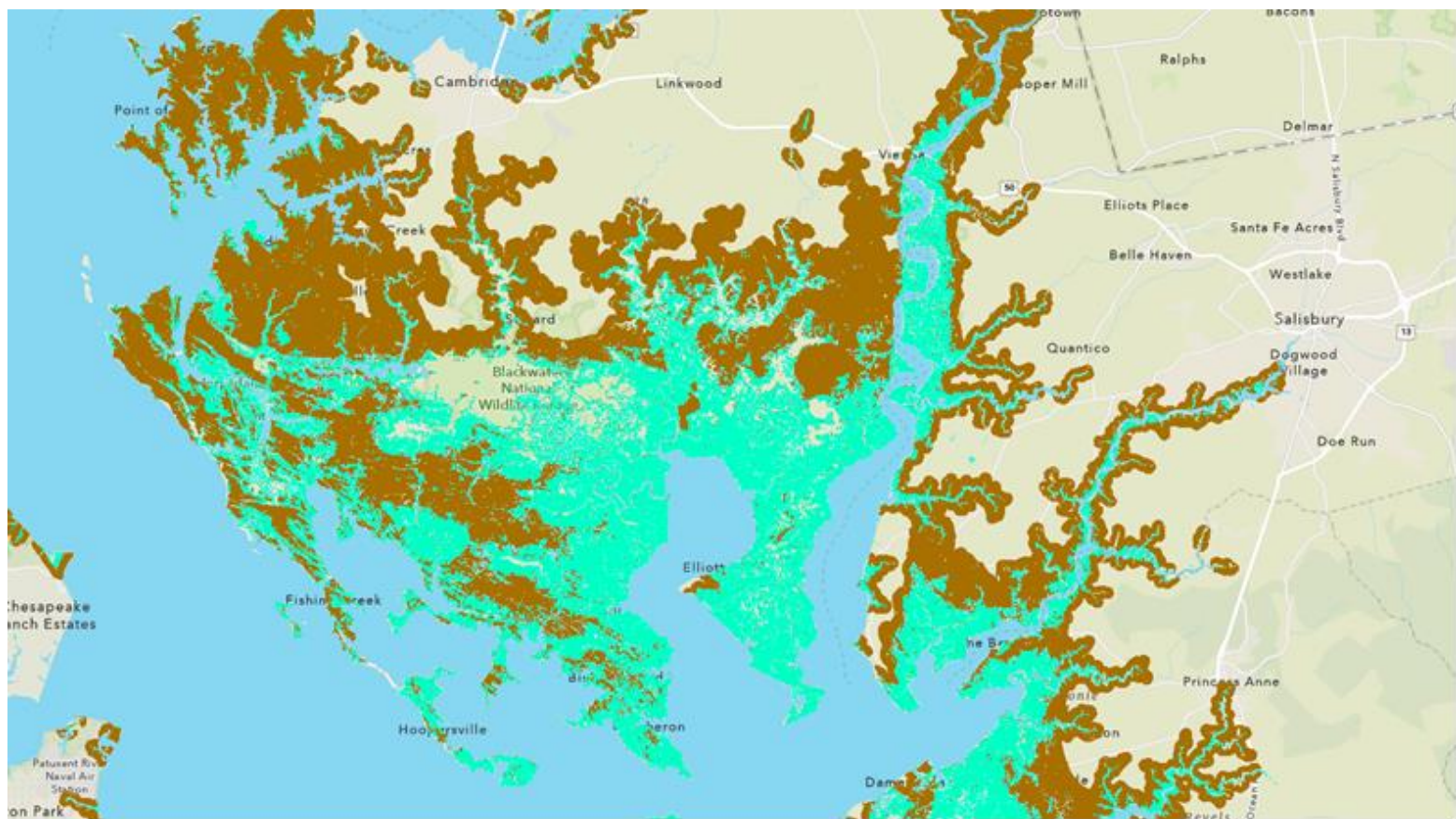
Objective: Quantify protected and unprotected lands upslope and adjacent to tidal wetlands.

*"inland": within the zone of 3-ft SLR + 1000-ft buffer (excluding all open water)

Numbers produced by the CBP GIS Team

Statistics

- Buffer area: 1.18 million acres
- Tidal wetlands within buffer: 284,000 acres (99% of all tidal wetlands in the Bay)
- Tidal wetlands protected within buffer: 128,000 acres (45% of tidal wetlands within buffer)
- Lands upslope and near tidal wetlands: 893,000 acres
- Protected lands upslope and near tidal wetlands: 222,000 acres (25% of upslope near tidal lands)
- Unprotected lands upslope and near tidal wetlands: 670,000 acres



The image above of the Blackwater Wildlife Refuge region shows tidal wetlands in light green and the remaining buffer area in brown. There are many other criteria and datasets that could be considered in this analysis including marsh migration zones, UVVR, habitat values, proximity to refuges, etc. Consider this a first and draft attempt.

Next Steps

- Talk to Protected Lands Workgroup
 - Next Meeting July 1st
- Submit comments during the public feedback period
 - Feedback can be emailed to comments@chesapeakebay.net