



# Logic and Action Plan: Post-Quarterly Progress Meeting

## Wetlands – 2023-2024

**Long-term Target:** 85,000 acres created or restored; 150,000 acres enhanced

**Two-year Target:** 29,548 acres (based on 2017 progress)

Factor	Current Efforts	Gap	Actions	Metrics	Expected Response and Application	Learn/Adapt
What is impacting our ability to achieve our outcome?	What current efforts are addressing this factor?	What further efforts or information are needed to fully address this factor?	What actions are essential (to help fill this gap) to achieve our outcome?	What will we measure or observe to determine progress in filling identified gap?	How and when do we expect these actions to address the identified gap? How might that affect our work going forward?	What did we learn from taking this action? How will this lesson impact our work?
<b>Funding and incentives</b>	Accumulation of State plans, programs, and initiatives in Virginia that could act as an example.	Co-benefits of wetlands may not be emphasized in conservation and restoration. Additional credit for creating or restoring wetland as habitat, including as part of other creditable BMPs, would help advance the goal.	<a href="#">5.4 Work with the Communication Workgroup to develop state-specific factsheets that identify State plans, programs, and initiatives that encourage wetland restoration and implementation of living shorelines.</a>	A factsheet produced for each jurisdiction.  One factsheet for Virginia.	Factsheets will identify the co-benefits of wetlands and incentivize restoration.	

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			<a href="#">5.5 Present the state-specific factsheets to the Principal’s Staff Committee for awareness along with a recommendation for cross-program prioritization of these actions by the Bay States as a wise use of limited resources.</a>	Factsheets have been presented to the MB and PSC. Kevin duBois presented in VA.	Greater awareness at the PSC level can help prioritize wetland restoration throughout jurisdictions.	
<b>Communication with landowners</b>	The Nature Conservancy’s NFWF funded project “Accelerating Wetland Restoration Across the Chesapeake Bay Watershed by Strengthening Partnerships and Increasing Landowner Engagement” started to address this work starting January 2020	Landowner interest and willingness for conservation/ restoration; Incomplete information for public engagement	<a href="#">2.4 Support Bay Program efforts to develop targeted messaging towards coastal landowners about shoreline protection options, particularly living shorelines.</a>	Participation of WWG members. Presentations made to the WWG on this project.	Builds capacity for information exchange between CBP partners and landowners.	
			<a href="#">5.3 Identify/ create “Wetland Outreach Coordinators” in each state/ priority area that will identify key outreach opportunities, find funding for the right programs, and provide a way to address competing messages.</a>	TNC is lead.		

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			<a href="#">2.1 Expand inventory of wetland programs that fund wetland restoration in each state to include tidal and non-agricultural wetlands, as well as any other non-traditional funding sources.</a>	Programs added to inventory.	Increases information available to public and helps support linkages for practitioners.	
	Identifying/interviewing landowners for new success stories, collaboration with CBP web and communications team to better market the WetlandsWork.org site and increase traffic	Incomplete information for public engagement	<a href="#">2.3 Improve WetlandsWork.org by adding new success stories, implementing the marketing strategies that were developed to increase traffic of the site, and improving security and certifications to ensure site access to all.</a>	2-3 stories added per year. Number of site visitors increases over time according to site analytics.	Provides additional information to the public about the benefits and opportunities for wetland restoration on private lands.	
	Creation of a standing agenda item at Wetland Workgroup meetings to discuss legislation and policy related to wetland restoration	Incomplete information for public engagement	<a href="#">2.2 Identify legal or regulatory barriers to wetland creation and enhancement and develop strategies to overcome these obstacles on an annual basis.</a>	Presentations regarding this topic made to the workgroup on a semi-regular basis. Chairs lead a facilitated conversation on barriers. 3-4 presentations	Increases knowledge of barriers to WWG members and creates opportunity for discussion of solutions.	
<b>Communication with decision-makers</b>	Accumulation of State plans, programs, and initiatives in Virginia that could act as an example	Co-benefits may not be emphasized in conservation and restoration decision-making	<a href="#">5.2 Work with CBP Communications Office to update existing co-benefit fact sheet to increase engagement and address leadership and practitioners.</a>	Updated factsheet is completed.	Increases understanding of wetland co-benefits to decisionmakers (agencies, MB/PSC members, etc.).	

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		Co-benefits may not be emphasized in conservation and restoration decision-making	<p><a href="#">5.4 Work with the Communication Workgroup and State partners to develop state-specific factsheets that identify State plans, programs, and initiatives that encourage wetland restoration and implementation of living shorelines.</a></p> <p><a href="#">5.5 Present the state-specific factsheets to the Principal's Staff Committee for awareness along with a recommendation for cross-program prioritization of these actions by the Bay States as a wise use of limited resources.</a></p>	A factsheet completed for each jurisdiction.	Identifies role of wetlands for multiple state goals and encourages wetland restoration in each jurisdiction.	
	The City of Norfolk, VA treats unpermitted wetland mowing as a violation of State wetland regulations and conducts enforcement to stop it. The courts have affirmed this approach.	Lack of awareness on the breadth and impact of wetland mowing Bay-wide. Conflicting perspectives from federal, state, and local regulatory entities on whether wetland mowing is a regulated activity or whether wetland mowing constitutes a violation of law. Lack of an official Chesapeake Bay	<p><a href="#">5.6 Identify the occurrence of wetland mowing throughout the Bay and prepare a Wetland Workgroup position on the regulation and cessation of wetland mowing and whether documented areas of restoration would count towards CBP wetland enhancement goals.</a></p>	Creation of factsheet.	Describes adverse effects of mowing and increases awareness of negative impacts which can then be used to encourage regulatory/policy changes.	

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<b>Communication with practitioners</b>		Program position on whether efforts to cease wetland mowing would count towards wetland enhancement goals and outcomes.				
		Information sharing between practitioners, across workgroups within Goal Teams, and across Goal Teams as appropriate.	<a href="#">1.1 Encourage ongoing commitment to improving tidal and nontidal wetland mapping by working with CBP GIS and modeling teams to support best available science.</a>	WWG engagement with mapping experts and presentations/convos with the WG at meetings.	Improves communication and information exchange between workgroups and improves wetland mapping efforts, which contributes to more effective research and analysis related to land use.	
	Compiled a list of presentations to schedule for upcoming workgroup meetings	Information sharing between practitioners, across workgroups within Goal Teams, and across Goal Teams as appropriate. Reoccurring errors and delays in reporting acreage numbers from states	<a href="#">3.3 Work with other Bay Program goal teams, work groups, and partners to continuously inform work group members of latest information, science, technology, tools, policy, and funding opportunities related to tidal and non-tidal wetland restoration.</a>	Each meeting (6 annually) has at least 1 science presentation related to these topics.	Improves understanding within WG and encourages sharing of information within organizations and among partners.	
			<a href="#">5.1 Hold a panel discussion at Marsh Resilience Summit to present this action plan &amp; identify partners and paths forward</a>	Marsh Summit was not held.		
		Information sharing between practitioners, across workgroups within	<a href="#">4.1 Identify areas where wetland restoration would greatly benefit water</a>	Shared conversations and joint meetings occur.	Improved information exchange across WGs and GITs.	

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		Goal Teams, and across Goal Teams as appropriate. Reoccurring errors and delays in reporting acreage numbers from states	<a href="#">quality, other complementary living resource commitments, and habitat.</a>			
	CBPO is exploring options to fund a Living Resource Data Manager position that would support multiple Living Resource Outcomes within the Habitat GIT outcomes	Information sharing between practitioners, across workgroups within Goal Teams, and across Goal Teams as appropriate. Reoccurring errors and delays in reporting acreage numbers from states	<a href="#">1.2 Make recommendations to improve the form and process of inputting NEIEN data collection for each State, as well as confirm the accuracy of information reported.</a>	Updated and accurate wetland data gets contributed to the watershed model and other CBP commitments. An improved process for reporting data within jurisdictions is created.	Addresses inaccuracies in the current data reporting process, which helps us better understand progress toward the Wetlands Outcome.	
<b>Data and reporting</b>	Land use workgroup is seeking input on updated land use/land cover classification scheme.	Potential inaccuracies in model efficiencies result in inaccurate crediting	<a href="#">1.1 Encourage ongoing commitment to improving tidal and nontidal wetland mapping by working with CBP GIS and modeling teams to support best available science.</a>	WWG engagement with mapping experts and presentations/convos with the WG at meetings. Worked with GIS mapping team	Improves communication and information exchange between workgroups and improves wetland mapping efforts, which contributes to more effective research and analysis related to land use.	
		Current BMP crediting in the Bay Program often causes "perverse incentives" that prioritize other BMPs (such as buffer restoration) over wetlands restoration	<a href="#">3.1 Develop a proposal for a STAC workshop that will address developing a systems approach toward BMP crediting.</a>	Completed proposal is submitted. Hybrid meeting held March 2022. Working on report. 40 participants. Well received and good conversations	Improved accounting processes for wetlands projects are created.	
	Ongoing research by USGS as part of their 2025 workplan.	Ongoing research is needed to better understand the factors affecting the prioritization and	<a href="#">3.2 Assess risks to coastal habitats by forecasting vulnerability and resiliency of coastal</a>	Risk assessment reports/tools/etc. are created as a result of these studies. GIT Funded wetlands	Increases likelihood for wetland persistence.	

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		restoration of wetlands	<a href="#">systems to future change.</a>	workgroup project complete.		
	Work with Modeling and GIS Teams to mine the Phase 3 WIPs for priority wetlands for water quality and habitat co-benefits.	Ongoing research is needed to better understand the factors affecting the prioritization and restoration of wetlands. Data related to SLR and marsh migration is not available/accessible in one place, making it difficult to use.	<a href="#">4.1 Identify areas where wetland restoration would greatly benefit water quality, other complementary living resource commitments, and habitat.</a>	Wetland restoration targeting occurs as a part of the planning process.	Maximizes co-benefits for wetland projects.	
<a href="#">4.2 Lead the implementation of FY20 GIT-funded project “Synthesis of Shoreline, Sea Level Rise, and Marsh Migration Data for Wetland Restoration Targeting.”</a>			Presentations made to WWG seeking linkages to project outcomes to marsh restoration planning and priorities	Project can be used as an example of how to best use available data for wetland restoration/conservation targeting in different areas.		
<a href="#">5.2 Work with CBP Communications Office to update existing co-benefit fact sheet to increase engagement and address leadership and practitioners.</a>			Updated Virginia factsheet is completed.	Increases understanding of wetland co-benefits to decisionmakers (agencies, MB/PSC members, etc.).		
<b>Leadership and commitment</b>	Creation of a standing agenda item at Wetland Workgroup meetings to address legislation and policy related to wetland restoration		<a href="#">2.2 Identify legal or regulatory barriers to wetland creation, restoration, and enhancement and develop strategies to overcome these obstacles on an annual basis.</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Presentations regarding this topic made to the workgroup on a semi-regular basis.</li> <li>- Chairs lead a facilitated convo on barriers.</li> <li>- Restoring Wetlands of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Workshop</li> </ul>	Increases knowledge of barriers to WWG members and creates opportunity for discussion of solutions.	
		<a href="#">1.3 Investigate a bay-wide status and trends process.</a>				

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	The City of Norfolk, VA treats unpermitted wetland mowing as a violation of State wetland regulations and conducts enforcement to stop it. The courts have affirmed this approach.	See above under “Communication with Decision-makers”	<a href="#">5.6 Identify the occurrence of wetland mowing throughout the Bay and prepare a Wetland Workgroup position on the regulation and cessation of wetland mowing and whether documented areas of restoration would count towards CBP wetland enhancement goals.</a>	Creation of factsheet.	Describes adverse effects of mowing and increases awareness of negative impacts which can then be used to encourage regulatory/policy changes.	

### ACTIONS – 2022-2024

Action #	Description	Performance Target(s)	Responsible Party (or Parties)	Geographic Location	Expected Timeline
<b>Management Approach 1: Improve wetland mapping, and the wetland restoration reporting and tracking process</b>					
1.1	Encourage ongoing commitment to improving tidal and nontidal wetland mapping by working with CBP GIS and modeling teams to support best available science.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Provide input on new LULC classifications pertaining to wetlands</li> <li>2. Invite presentation from GIS Team at WWG meeting.</li> <li>3. Support and collaborate with USGS on GIT projects</li> </ol>	Wetland Workgroup, CBP GIS Team, CBP Modeling Team; NWI	Bay-wide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- December 2022-2023</li> <li>- Continue to collaborate with CBP GIS and modeling teams</li> </ul>
1.2	Lead, facilitate and collaborate on the continued development, QAQC, implementation and status tracking enabled by the Living Resources Database in development.	Work with Living Resource Database developer to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Continue to collaborate on data and database development and application</li> <li>2. Identify where data, already captured on NEIEN, could be used</li> </ol>	Wetland Workgroup, Habitat GIT, CBP Data Center, NEIEN Contacts for each State	Bay-wide	Two years from start of LRDM position



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		<p>as part of the measures of progress toward the wetland outcome.</p> <p>3. Identify and implement modifications to NEIEN to maximize existing data reporting processes towards wetlands outcome.</p> <p>4. Develop a training module and streamline processes that helps organizations, localities, states, and the federal government report data that could be accommodated with NEIEN to better track the associated data.</p>			
<b>1.3</b>	Investigate a bay-wide status and trends process.	Conduct an overview or audit of the regulatory and non-regulatory accounting processes and natural change for wetland status and trends.	Wetland Workgroup	Bay-wide	Not Started
<b>Management Approach 2: Develop solutions to address barriers to wetland restoration.</b>					
<b>2.1</b>	Expand inventory of wetland programs that fund wetland restoration in each state to include tidal and non-agricultural wetlands, as well as any other non-traditional funding sources.	Completed list of wetland programs in each state. Use wetland factsheets as a starting point for programs to investigate for inclusion.	Wetland Workgroup, Wetland Outcome Attainability Workshop	Bay-wide	December 2022  Wetlands Outcome Action Plan will contain this information.
<b>2.2</b>	Identify legal or regulatory barriers to wetland creation and enhancement and develop strategies to overcome these obstacles on an annual basis.	Incorporate policy as a subject matter for presentations at workgroup meetings on a semi-regular basis.	Wetland Workgroup, CB Commission,	Bay-wide	- Ongoing. Conversations started in Outcome workshop.

## ACTIONS – 2022-2024

Action #	Description	Performance Target(s)	Responsible Party (or Parties)	Geographic Location	Expected Timeline
					- Including regular presentations in WWG meetings
2.3	Improve WetlandsWork.org by adding new success stories, implementing the marketing strategies that were developed to increase traffic of the site, and improving security and certifications to ensure site access to all.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Add 2-3 new success stories to the site per year.</li> <li>2. Direct users to site to increase traffic</li> <li>3. DoD access to site</li> </ol>	Wetland Workgroup, CBP Comm Office, Web Team	Bay-wide	Ongoing. Limited by staffing shortage  Check in on actions 2 and 3.
2.4	Support Bay Program efforts to develop targeted messaging towards coastal landowners about shoreline protection options, particularly living shorelines.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Collaborate with CBP Communications Office on their implementation of 2018 GIT-funded project "Social Marketing to Improve Shoreline Management".</li> <li>2. Support the Fish Habitat Action Team's 2019 RFP to build upon social marketing study by using recommendations to create targeted messaging toward coastal landowners. Coordinate with CCRM/VIMS steering committee members to support this next phase of the project.</li> </ol>	Wetland Workgroup CBP Comm Office Fish Habitat Action.		December 2021  TNC/ NFWF currently working on this
2.5	Support production of native plants appropriate for wetlands				

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Action #	Description	Performance Target(s)	Responsible Party (or Parties)	Geographic Location	Expected Timeline
<b>Management Approach 3: Increase our technical understanding of the factors influencing restoration and enhancement success.</b>					
<b>3.1</b>	Create and promote state or regional restoration workshops and/or trainings to build and leverage partner capacity and expertise and access funding	Engage scientists, managers, funders and jurisdictions technical staff in a process to expand the community of practice working on wetlands projects	Wetland Workgroup, Black Duck Action Team, Other interested GITs/WGs (CRWG, Stream Health, Forest Buffers, etc.) STAC	Bay-wide	Dec 2023
<b>3.2</b>	Support risk assessment on wetland habitats forecasting vulnerability and resiliency to future change.	1. Explain how the non-tidal to tidal fresh habitats will change over time.	USGS (Noe)		Ongoing
		2. Provide managers and stakeholders with marsh vulnerability indices and the potential for change.	USGS (Ganju)		Ongoing
		3. Identify sites for detailed modeling effort to ascertain how climate change drivers impact waterbird habitat.	USGS (Prosser and Carr)		Ongoing
		4. Update our understanding of subsidence across the Bay.	USGS (McCoy)		Ongoing
		5. Ascertain controls of marsh habitat resilience and current	USGS (Guntenspergen and Carr)		Ongoing

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		state in order to project future marsh extent.			
		6. Engage stakeholders to address science needs and inform decisions.	USGS (Carr)		Ongoing
<b>3.3</b>	Lead, develop, and implement joint training	Develop joint training meeting for regulators and practitioners to ensure that regulators and applicants understand the needs.	Wetlands Workgroup, CRWG, SHWG, FWG. May be consideration for future GIT funding		There is no timeline on this action
<b>3.4</b>	Collaborate to improve cross-GIT and WG communications to continuously inform work group members of latest information, science, technology, tools, policy, and funding opportunities related to tidal and non-tidal wetland restoration.	Regular presentations at workgroup meetings from both members and partners. Coordinate on the Wetland Jurisdictional, Federal, and NGO Action Plans.	Wetland Workgroup requires action from other CBP partners	Bay-wide	Ongoing
<b>3.5.1</b>	Lead/ Collaborate with CRWG on metrics for tidal wetlands resilience	Develop list of metrics	Academic partners, USGS		2023
<b>3.5.2</b>	Review recommendations on resilience and social vulnerability metrics being developed as part of the CRWG's Marsh Adaptation		TNC, NOAA		

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	GIT-funded project to help inform the targeting of marsh restoration projects.				
<b>Management Approach 4: Prioritize areas for wetland restoration.</b>					
4.1	Identify areas where wetland restoration would greatly benefit water quality, other complementary living resource commitments, and habitat.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Evaluate the availability and use of existing targeting and prioritization tools in the jurisdictions and assess need for new tools.</li> <li>2. If needed, explore expansion of Virginia’s Wetland Condition Assessment Tool (WetCAT) or development of similar tool to develop prioritization criteria and identify priority areas for each state.</li> <li>3. Coordinate with Black Duck and Fish Habitat Action Teams to identify wetland areas that are suitable black duck and fish habitat and would be ideal for restoration.</li> </ol>	Wetland Workgroup VA DEQ BDAT FHAT	Bay-wide	<p>December 2022</p> <p>Ineffective knowledge transfer between the WWG and the Water quality GIT around wetlands as a load (land cover) and an BMP (Efficiency) disincentivizes the wetlands workgroup from prioritizing working this item.</p> <p>However, we know that localities would like this crediting.</p> <p><b>Need to ask for Management Board help.</b></p> <p>STAC Workshop</p>

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Action #	Description	Performance Target(s)	Responsible Party (or Parties)	Geographic Location	Expected Timeline
<b>Management Approach 5: Expand the involvement of local stakeholders.</b>					
5.1.1	Increased dedicated outreach capacity to engage landowners	Support and participate in processes to increase capacity of communicators and bridgers. Much of the success in achieving the wetlands outcomes has to do with landowner acceptance. Landowner acceptance requires “boots on the ground” working either directly with the landowners or working with those whose role is working with landowners (e.g., NRCS/ Farm Service Agency (FSA).	Wetland Workgroup, CBP Comms		
5.1.2	Expand on existing outreach materials and develop new specific materials for landowners and community (such as WetlandsWorks.org).	Identify/interview landowners for new success stories, collaboration with CBP web and communications team to better market the WetlandsWork.org site and increase traffic	Wetland Workgroup, TNC, CBP Comms		Uncertain. Dependent on appropriate level of staffing at CBP
5.2	Work with CBP Communications Office to update existing co-benefit fact sheet to increase engagement and address leadership and practitioners.	Co-benefit fact sheet with updated language targeted to leadership and practitioners.	Wetland Workgroup CBP Comm Office	Bay-wide	December 2022  Halted due to capacity issues, resulting from the loss of a staffer.
5.3	Identify/ create “Wetland Outreach Coordinators” in each state/ priority area that will identify key outreach opportunities, find funding for the right programs, and provide	1. Advocate for each state to fund at least one outreach coordinator position. Work with TNC to support NFWF funded project “Accelerating Wetland Restoration Across the Chesapeake Bay Watershed by Strengthening Partnerships and	Wetland Workgroup TNC Local stakeholders	Bay-wide Delmarva, PA, VA	December 2022  Coordinators are in place. Effort is ongoing

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	a way to address competing messages.	<p>Increasing Landowner Engagement”, which is directly addressing this work.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Generate a list of regulatory/enforcement contacts to coordinate with the outreach person.</li> <li>3. Use the social marketing recommendations from the 2015 project “Landowner Attitudes Toward Wetland Restoration” to inform outreach approaches in this project.</li> </ol>			
5.4	Work with the Communication Workgroup and State partners to develop state-specific factsheets that identify State plans, programs, and initiatives that encourage wetland restoration and implementation of living shorelines.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A factsheet for each state in the Watershed that identifies that wetland restoration and living shoreline implementation provide co-benefits that meet multiple state goals.</li> <li>2. Expand factsheet into website or social media site with designated webmasters to design and refresh the site periodically.</li> </ol>	Wetland Workgroup, CBP Strategic Engagement Team	Bay-wide	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Only one was developed for Virginia, due to capacity issues resulting from staffing limitations.</p>
5.5	Present the state-specific factsheets to the Principal’s Staff Committee for awareness along with a recommendation for cross-program prioritization of these actions by the Bay	Increased knowledge of wetland restoration and creation co-benefits. Greater number of projects with more partnerships.	Wetland Workgroup	Bay-wide	2022: Prepared and presented one factsheet for Virginia

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	States as a wise use of limited resources.				
5.6	Identify the occurrence of wetland mowing throughout the Bay and prepare a Wetland Workgroup position on the regulation and cessation of wetland mowing and whether documented areas of restoration would count towards CBP wetland enhancement goals.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Prepare factsheet on wetland mowing to build awareness on the issue and state the Wetlands Workgroup/Habitat GIT's position on wetland mowing cessation as a strategy to support wetland enhancement goals. Include information on options for using native plants.</li> <li>2. Present and provide the factsheet to the PSC for action by the jurisdictional partners.</li> </ol>	Wetland Workgroup, Communications Workgroup, Other CBP Partners	Bay-wide	<p><del>December 2022</del></p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Developed RFP for 2021 GIT Funded project to assess extent of mowing. Twice advertised and not yet awarded.</p>
<b>Management Approach 6: Promote funding for Wetlands Projects</b>					
6.1	Wetlands workgroup coordinate with NFWF to encourage language in grants that promote wetland projects	Incorporate considerations from the WWG STAC workshop on crediting and the Wetlands Outcome Attainability Workshop	WWG, NFWF		
6.2	<p>Ensure funding streams are appropriately matched to the outcomes that they support.</p> <p>Grant programs associated with this money can be used for short- and long-term capacity-building.</p>	Lead and participate in conversation, workshops, surveys, etc to communicate WWG goals to help ensure wetlands projects are being implemented. Identify and develop elements of successful grant applications.			



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6.3	<p>Ensure funding streams are appropriately matched to the outcomes that they support.</p> <p>that the funding included in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Legislation and the Inflation Reduction Acts, and the grant programs associated with this money can be used for design, and implementation.</p>				
6.4	<p>Explore ways to use Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP)-WRE, CRP/CREP for long term capacity building and landowner outreach work in tidal wetlands migration corridors.</p>		NRCS, FSA		