BIENNIAL STRATEGY REVIEW SYSTEM
Chesapeake Bay Program

and Action Plan: [Pre- OR Post-] Quarterly Progress Meeting

Protected Lands Outcome – [2022-2023]

Long-term Target: By 2025, protect an additional two million acres of lands throughout the watershed – currently identified as high conservation priorities at the federal, state or local level – including 225,000 acres of wetlands and 695,000 acres of forest land of highest value for maintaining water quality. (2010 baseline year)

Two-year Target: 183,300 additional acres protected by end of 2021 (average annual rate of 91,650 acres based on 641,544 acres remaining to be protected by end of 2025, from 2018 reporting) -- *to be updated in early 2022 when new data is available.*

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?*
Limited funding and incentives for land conservation	Efforts to sustain and expand Federal, State, local and private sector funding for conservation	There is an expected increase in conservation funding from the private sector and all levels of government, but it is not yet clear if/how we can best access it, still need to sustain and expand current efforts.	Management Approach 4: Expand conservation financing and enhance organizational capacity	Track appropriations for state and federal land protection funding programs by compiling a periodic account of public sector land protection funding.	An annual analysis of appropriation trends for state and federal land protection funding programs will reveal if resources have increased and highlight where future efforts should focus.	
Limited organizational capacity among agencies and land trusts to carry out land protection and steward lands conserved	Efforts to increase capacity and effectiveness of land trusts and certain government agencies.	Current funding is not sufficient to build capacity necessary for land trusts; and additional staff, skills and tools are needed among partners. Need for increased capacity to steward lands already conserved.	Management Approach 4: Expand conservation financing and enhance organizational capacity	Seek input on the relationship between resources provided (such as guidance, training, best practices, partnerships) and changes in capacity status of partners.	Reflection and evaluation among partners at the end of 2023 (and ongoing) will help determine effectiveness of these actions, and what additional resources need to be secured / provided in the future.	

Threats to high value lands (ex. increased development and climate change).	Efforts to incorporate data and information on threats into conservation planning. Examples include the Chesapeake Conservation Atlas and Land Policy BMPs	Need to protect more land at a faster rate to address the threats. Need expanded analysis of projected impacts due to climate change and development, especially to critical resources including water supply and habitats. Need more comprehensive coordination among interests (wetlands, buffers, stream health, habitat).	Management Approach 1: Accelerate protection of lands through collaboration across sectors, working toward protecting 30% of the watershed by 2030.

and

Management Approach 3. Provide watershed-wide conservation data and analysis. | Compare the rate of acres conserved from 2022-2023 to the rate of conservation in earlier years. Emphasize tracking progress toward subgoals for wetland and forest acres as well as the total acres of protected lands. | By the end of 2023, analyze whether efforts listed in this plan have contributed to an increase in the rate of land conservation in the watershed. This will inform planning beyond 2023. *Analysis method to be determined in consultation with USGS CBP staff.* | |
| Limited access to and use of coordinated, integrated conservation value data for aligning conservation planning and tracking | Efforts to improve the development, sharing and use of integrated conservation value data for the watershed. Example: Conservation Atlas | Continuous improvement of data (resolution, new information, etc.) requires ongoing iterative analysis and mapping of conservation values | Management Approach 3. Provide watershed-wide conservation data and analysis | Evaluate accuracy or other improvements in tracking and mapping conserved lands. An improved, comprehensive tracking methodology is being completed that will provide accurate and more timely updates of land conservation data; expected Dec 2021. | Annual evaluation with data/mapping staff | |
| Lack of access to greenspace in under-resourced communities | Efforts to increase equitable access to greenspace. Recognition of the relationship between access to green space and public health. | Urgent need to focus efforts on under-resourced communities of color, both urban and rural, to address public health and equity of access to green spaces. Missing standards and metrics to target conservation in these communities (efforts underway to map communities and determine the level of access to greenspace with FY21 Scope #10). | Management Approach 2: Improve public health through increasing green spaces in under-resourced communities | Observing changes in prioritization of conservation efforts in underrepresented communities. | By the end of 2023, outreach and briefings for land conservation communities on the GIS products from the 2021 project to map communities and determine the level of access to greenspace. Encourage governments and nonprofits to use the mapping products of this project to set priorities for providing greenspaces in these communities. could inform organizations as they make conservation decisions. | |

ACTIONS – 2022-2023					
Action #	Description	Performance Target(s)	Responsible Party (or Parties)	Geographic Location	Expected Timeline
Management Approach 1: Accelerate protection of lands in accordance with current science through collaboration across sectors to align all partners and resources needed to meet and exceed the Outcome target, working toward protecting 30% of the watershed by 2030 (an additional 2.4 million acres above the 2025 Outcome target).					
1.1	Facilitate coordination throughout the watershed across sectors, engaging partners and programs working in land conservation, as well as fields concerning fish, wildlife, habitat, water quality, climate resiliency, etc., to achieve mutual goals and outcomes.	1.1.a. Convene partners through various means to identify and plan to implement effective strategies, collaborative actions, priorities, opportunities, resources, etc. to achieve 30% of valuable lands in the watershed protected by 2030 ("30x30") and associated multiple ecosystem services / co-benefits. This will help meet the Protected Lands and other Watershed Agreement Outcomes.	Chesapeake Conservation Partnership (CCP), Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP)	Watershed-wide	Ongoing 2022-23
		i. Coordinate regularly with other CBP workgroups, such as wetlands, forestry, brook trout, and climate resiliency.	Protected Lands WG	Watershed-wide	Ongoing 2022-23
		ii. Convene partners by July 2022, annually thereafter.	CCP, CBP	Watershed-wide	Ongoing 2022-23
		iii. As a result of the convening, update this Logic & Action Plan or other work plans as needed to guide work and assist coordination.	Protected Lands WG	Watershed-wide	2022
		1.1.b. Produce and share a consolidated set of recommended means to direct resources, metrics, best practices, programs, partners, etc. to help align as needed to reach 30x30 and ultimately to exceed it in the future.	Protected Lands WG, CCP, Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP)	Watershed-wide	2022
1.2	Assure that implementation of the Chesapeake WILD (Watershed Investments in Landscape Defense) program is coordinated with and done	1.2.a. Include CBP representation on the WILD partnership's implementation group and associated action teams/communities of practice, and provide and facilitate regular	Chesapeake Conservation Partnership (CCP), USFWS, Chesapeake	Watershed-wide	Ongoing 2022-23

	in consultation with Chesapeake Bay Program leadership.	communication and updates between WILD and CBP.	Bay Program (CBP) including CBP Communications		
		1.2.b. Coordinate with the WILD partnership to align the funding program with priorities identified by both the CCP/Protected Lands Workgroup and other areas of CBP work. Recommend priorities to be included in the annual funding RFPs.	USFWS, Chesapeake Conservation Partnership (CCP), Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP)	Watershed-wide	Ongoing 2022-23
1.3	Align with climate change efforts, in concert with the 2021 Chesapeake Executive Council's Climate Directive. Provide guidance to the conservation community to prioritize protecting/conserving areas needed to support biological and community resiliency.	1.3.a. Advance the protected lands work outlined in the Directive, which states "Prioritize achieving our outcomes to conserve and restore wetlands, forest buffers and urban tree canopies for both increased resilience to climate impacts and to assist in meeting national goals for achieving 30% of lands and waters conserved by 2030." *[Language comes originally from President Biden's Executive Order Tackling the Climate Crisis and Home and Abroad, Section 216, Conserving Our Nations Lands and Waters; January 27, 2021.]*	Protected Lands WG w/ other CBP Workgroups	Watershed-wide	Ongoing 2022-23
		1.3.b. Work with the team developing a STAC workshop and materials on Rising Water Temperatures to to assist in identifying ways that land conservation can be helpful as a strategy in reducing rising temperatures -- and, as appropriate, use results to inform future protection measures and/or incorporate findings into future habitat priority data/map layers.	CCP, United States Geological Survey (USGS), CBP, Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)	Watershed-wide	2022
		1.3.c. Coordinate with the CBP Climate Resiliency Workgroup to identify needs relevant to land conservation, such as protecting land for managed retreat for coastal areas, so they can be addressed throughout the work.	Protected Lands WG w/ CBP Climate Resiliency WG	Watershed-wide	2022
1.4	Identify and implement opportunities for land protection/restoration that will contribute to the Protected Lands Outcome target including the wetlands and forest subgoals, and focus on activities on conserved land that	1.4.a. Participate in CBP workshops on Outcome Attainability for tidal and nontidal wetlands, and riparian forest buffers, to offer the perspective of land protection and conservation BMPs; and assist with associated resulting activity toward solutions, policy changes, etc.	CCP	Watershed-wide	2022

		1.4.b. Prioritize and accelerate:	*see below*		
	contribute to water quality BMPs including restoration of wetlands and establishing riparian forest buffers. Utilize mapping resources provided through the CCP to support decision-making.	i. **Conserving** acres of tidal and nontidal wetlands and forests of highest value to water quality, including (when possible) land with existing riparian forest buffers;	Protected Lands WG will convene and/or follow up with points of contact for each of the Watershed Agreement's Signatories, to determine if there are actions they can undertake to help advance efforts to achieve this action.	Watershed-wide, each of the jurisdictions	PLWG / Signatories identify actions 2022 that can be achieved or underway by end of 2023 and ongoing in future.
		ii. **Restoring** wetlands and riparian forest buffers and/or implementing BMPs on existing conserved acreage to contribute to water quality, stream health and brook trout habitat goals; and	(as above)	(as above)	(as above)
		iii. **Developing or accelerating** conservation programs/initiatives that allow for marsh migration in coastal areas and that protect/restore green infrastructure for inland flood mitigation.	(as above)	(as above)	(as above)

Management Approach 2: Improve public health through increasing green spaces in under-resourced communities; and address equity, diversity, and inclusion through community-focused efforts.

2.1	Collaborate with communities historically under-resourced by land conservation and public lands to identify a conservation agenda for the future.	2.1.a. Explore options for expanded partnerships between the land conservation community and community land trusts to address both affordable housing and greening projects in under-resourced communities of color.	CCP	Watershed-wide	Ongoing 2022-23
		2.1.b. Undertake the mapping of under-resourced communities of color, assessing each community's adequacy of outdoor green spaces, and recommending a community sustainability model with consultation from community listening sessions.	CCP, CBP Stewardship Goal Implementation Team with contractor (Skeo Solutions).	Watershed-wide	2022 (contract underway)
		2.1.c. Develop strategic and innovative methods to leverage urban parks, trails, and other green spaces to drive systemic change in public health,	National Park Service (NPS), CCP, Trust for Public Land (TPL)	Watershed-wide	2022

		climate, equity, and economic opportunity in large urban centers in the watershed, with consultation from community listening sessions.			
		2.1.d. Fill critical gaps in documentation of sites and landscapes in the watershed important to communities historically underrepresented in land conservation.	*see below*		
		i. Partner with the National Park Service, National Trust for Historic Preservation, key states and others to carry out a community-driven initiative for documenting sites and landscapes important to African Americans (Phase 1).	NPS; National Historic Trust for Preservation (NTHP) and its counterparts in MD, PA and VA; and CCP.	VA, MD, PA (as pilots)	2022 (contract underway)
		ii. Conduct Phase 2 of the project documenting sites and landscapes important to African Americans -- to crowdsource African American sites and landscapes of significance throughout the watershed and add these on a Chesapeake Conservation Atlas layer and other related applications of this data.	NPS, NTHP, CCP, and all partner states.	VA, MD, PA (as pilots)	2022 (contract underway)
		iii. Seek funding to partner with key organizations to identify Latinx community concerns and needs related to landscapes and conservation, and determine how actions to address them can be supported through mapping, data and analysis.	CCP w/ NPS	Watershed-wide	2023
2.2	Implement actions to focus resources on providing accessible green space to benefit public health and improve equity in under-resourced communities. This emphasizes needs for people while contributing to protected acres and supporting multiple Watershed Agreement Outcomes.	2.2.a. Each jurisdiction develop annual plans and secure new or utilize existing funding mechanisms to implement greening projects in under-resourced communities, working through federal, state, and local governments and other partners. Projects might include green infrastructure that provides environmental benefits to water and air quality, cooling, flood protection and resiliency, while prominently providing for passive or active recreational use to contribute to local residents' health and wellness. Utilize mapping resources and projects provided	Protected Lands WG will convene and/or follow up with points of contact for each of the Watershed Agreement's Signatories, to determine if there are actions they can undertake to help advance efforts to achieve this action.	Each of the jurisdictions watershed-wide	PLWG / Signatories identify actions 2022 that can be achieved or underway by end of 2023 and ongoing in future.

		through CCP and CBP to identify communities and inform planning.			
		2.2.b. Encourage all state agency partners to revise or amend as necessary their State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plans (SCORPS) to include priorities for greening under-resourced communities.	Chesapeake Conservation Partnership (CCP)	Each of the jurisdictions watershed-wide	2023
		2.2.c. Develop and implement an outreach strategy to inform and engage local governments and community based organizations about the need to implement "greening" projects in under-resourced communities and to assist them with funding.	CCP, CBP / Communications WG and Local Government WG	Watershed-wide	2023
2.3	Facilitate equitable and inclusive land protection financing.	2.3.a. Build upon and utilize ongoing work among CBP partners to evaluate what the professional community is learning and convene partners to share best practices and identify means for increasing equity in land protection financing programs throughout the watershed. Focus primarily on projects funded through CBP, such as those about identifying and serving under-resourced communities, determining adequacy of greenspace, identifying barriers to water access, increasing equity practices among grantmakers, etc.	Protected Lands WG w/ CCP	Watershed-wide	2022
		2.3.b. From the findings of (a) above, facilitate coordination among existing land protection programs to develop recommendations for policy options for land conservation funders that better ensure land protection financing is equitable and inclusive, addressing the needs of underserved communities.	CCP	Watershed-wide	2023
Management Approach 3: Provide watershed-wide conservation data and analysis to help identify potential conservation priorities and focus on where increased benefits can be achieved.					
3.1	Track progress toward the Outcome target.	3.1.a. In collaboration with USGS, CBP and the Chesapeake Conservancy use the updated and improved Protected Lands Indicator and tracking process for reporting and mapping watershed-wide land protection progress.	CCP, Chesapeake Conservancy, NPS, USGS.	Watershed-wide	Annually, ongoing

3.2	Maintain broadly accessible, up-to-date watershed-wide land conservation mapping and analyses supporting all Partnership goals.	3.2.a. Implement a scoping project (with 2021 GIT Funding awarded) to review the existing Important Habitat dataset and additional datasets related to habitat, including evolving or new data related to wildlife movement corridors. Investigate how to leverage high resolution land change data products developed by CBP to update the existing Habitat Conservation Priority layer of the CCP Atlas. Report recommendations on best practices, datasets, and analysis methods, and propose 1-3 options to move forward with the creation of a new CCP Habitat dataset (to be accomplished in future if funding is secured for implementation).	CCP, USGS	Watershed-wide	2022 RFP for contractor, implemented through 2023
		3.2.b. Facilitate regular means for state, federal and non-governmental partners in the Chesapeake watershed to share information and active work and identify future mapping and analysis needs and areas for collaboration.	CCP / Protected Lands WG, USGS, CBP, multiple CBP Workgroups	Watershed-wide	Ongoing 2022-23
3.3	Provide, share, and encourage use of maps as a resource to help partners select priorities for conservation of lands to contribute to the outcome target, as well to benefit other Watershed Agreement goals and outcomes.	3.3.a. Work across outcomes to inform progress and targeting for land conservation, incorporating considerations for healthy watersheds, wildlife, and stream habitats. Utilize mapping, data, and analysis resources to enable better forecasting of high value lands vulnerable to land conversion and lands vulnerable to climate change to inform long-term conservation decisions.	CCP, USGS, Healthy Watersheds GIT, Land Use Workgroup, other partners.	Watershed-wide	Ongoing 2022-23
		3.3.b. Continue project to provide mapping to identify priorities for land protection that will support protection of drinking water sources. Work with USGS and other partners to map the lands and factors key to protecting the watershed's public drinking water sources, both surface and ground waters, for water quality and quantity (drinksheds). Share/use surface water maps completed; and address barriers to mapping of groundwater sources.	NPS, USGS, CCP, and state geological service offices.	Watershed-wide	2023
		3.3.c. Develop the scope and workplan to document (i) the level of public access allowed by the managing entity of each protected parcel or property, based on the differing access level categories used within PAD-US and confirmed	CBP GIS Team, CBP Public Access Workgroup, CCP, Chesapeake Conservancy, and	Watershed-wide	2023

		with institutional knowledge and landowner outreach; and (ii) report on the percentage of protected shoreline within each access category.	other CBP Workgroups and Goal Teams (GITs)		

Management Approach 4: Expand conservation financing and additional resources for accelerated land protection as well as to sustain and enhance organizational capacity for agencies and land trusts.

4.1	Support partners in sustaining and growing public sector land protection funding.	4.1.a. Provide transparent watershed-wide annual financing data: Compile a periodic account of public sector land protection program funding levels and trends, publish the data on-line, and share the information with decision-makers, local governments, program leads, and conservation practitioners.	CCP	Watershed-wide	Update data report in 2023
		4.1.b. Connect partners to share best practices around the use of State Revolving Funds for water quality-focused land protection.	CCP	Watershed-wide	2023
		4.1.c. Regularly share information to keep partners current on existing, developing, and new funding streams and mechanisms, through federal, regional, state and local sources and programs.	CCP / Protected Lands WG	Watershed-wide	Ongoing 2022-23
4.2	Utilize conservation finance where appropriate to leverage public and increase private investments in conservation and restoration, including emerging carbon markets, as called for in the 2021 Chesapeake Executive Council's Climate Directive.	4.2.a. Leverage land conservation to support climate adaptation, mitigation, and resilience by employing conservation finance, and when appropriate, investments in emerging carbon offset markets.	*see below*		
		i. Develop a research report describing various models for the aggregation of parcels of private forest and agricultural lands in sufficient acreage necessary to allow the landowners to sell carbon offsets in growing markets, listing the success factors common to successful models, and making recommendations for next steps and approaches relevant in the Bay Watershed.	NPS, CCP with contractor (Lyme Timber).		2022
		ii. Facilitate efforts to pair expert consultation to land conservation partners in terms of how to capture and take advantage	CCP, NPS, and contractor	Watershed-wide	Ongoing 2022-23

		of conservation finance including carbon offsets and other ecosystem service markets.			
		4.2.b. Promote among partners the use of land policy BMPs as an effective way to meet the TMDL requirements to offset the pollution impacts of future growth and development.	CCP, CBP	Watershed-wide	Ongoing 2022-23
		4.2.c. Seek enactment of the Comprehensive Conservation Finance Act during the 2022 MD General Assembly session. If enacted, encourage other states in the watershed to pursue enactment of their respective versions of the law.	*see below*		
		i. Conduct the third annual Land Conservation Intensive with ~30 representatives of the Bay land conservation community (pending funding).	CCP, NPS, Land Trust Alliance (LTA), Conservation Finance Network (CFN)	Watershed-wide	2023
		ii. Continue/complete the pilot Technical Assistance (*) Program and evaluate the outcomes. *(* Formerly referred to as circuit riders)*	Conservation Finance Network (CFN), CCP, LTA, and pilot technical assistance providers.	TBD	2022
		iii. Complete Chesapeake Finance Network (CFN) survey report on level of private capital investment in PA, MD and VA allocated by the state for identified restoration and land conservation projects.	CFN	PA, MD, VA	2022
		4.2.d. Build skills among land trust staff and government officials to handle real estate and conservation transactions in the context of conservation finance.	CCP in coord. with government agency partners' training programs	Watershed-wide	2023
		4.2.e. Provide guidance materials to partners to assist in enhancing natural resource, climate and ecological goals in easements.	Protected Lands WG/ CCP, w/ CBP Communications	Watershed-wide	2023

Management Approach 5: Recommend conservation policy options to reach targets for protected acreage and conserved ecosystem services.

5.1	Work with partners across sectors to identify and recommend policy changes that will accelerate protection of lands to achieve mutual goals and outcomes throughout the watershed.	5.1.a. Produce and share innovative examples (such as incentive programs) and a set of recommended means to direct resources, metrics, best practices, programs, partners, etc. to help align as needed to reach 30x30 and ultimately to exceed it in the future.	CCP with CBP	Watershed-wide	2023
5.2	Assist partners in developing and evaluating options for improving policies to avoid and mitigate the impacts of development projects on protected and valued resource lands.	5.2.a. Scenic Landscape Impact Assessment, Phase 2: Use the methodology developed in 2021 to develop and deliver associated training for ~7-8 GIS practitioners; distribute training case studies and lessons learned to all partners; and encourage use of the methodology by partners.	CCP w/ contractor (TJBoyle, through NPS).	Watershed-wide	2022
		5.2.b. Scenic Landscape Impact Assessment, Phase 3: Seek funding to support development of a "Landscape Character Framework" for identifying and describing different unique landscapes within the watershed, to facilitate public understanding of how proposed land use changes might impact them.	CCP	Watershed-wide	2023