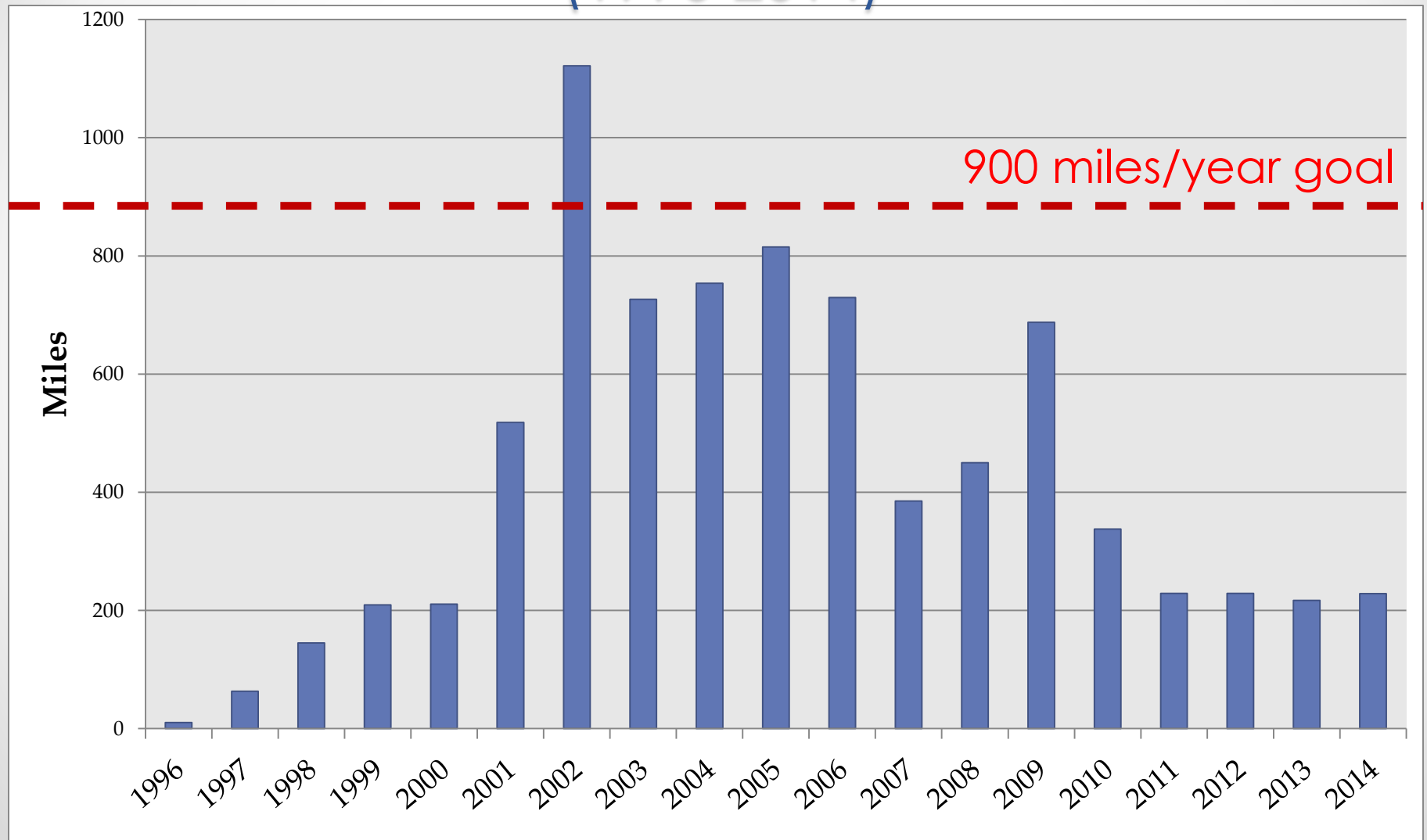


# Waning Effort—Riparian Forest Buffer progress (1996-2014)



Data source: US Forest Service/Chesapeake Bay Program

# Big Picture

- Timing: To meet WIP goals, have **opportunity now with USDA leadership** engaged in the **RFB Initiative**
- State **leadership to advocate** for proposals
- Target state program \$s to best advantage, **leveraging federal \$s**
- **Better coordination** across state agencies

# CREP

## Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

- CREP = primary driver of RFB enrollment in all 6 States
- Shared state/federal program: > \$600,000,000 of federal resources in watershed
- 80/20 USDA/state (and/or NGO) funding
- ***States propel CREP design/process – have tremendous flexibility***

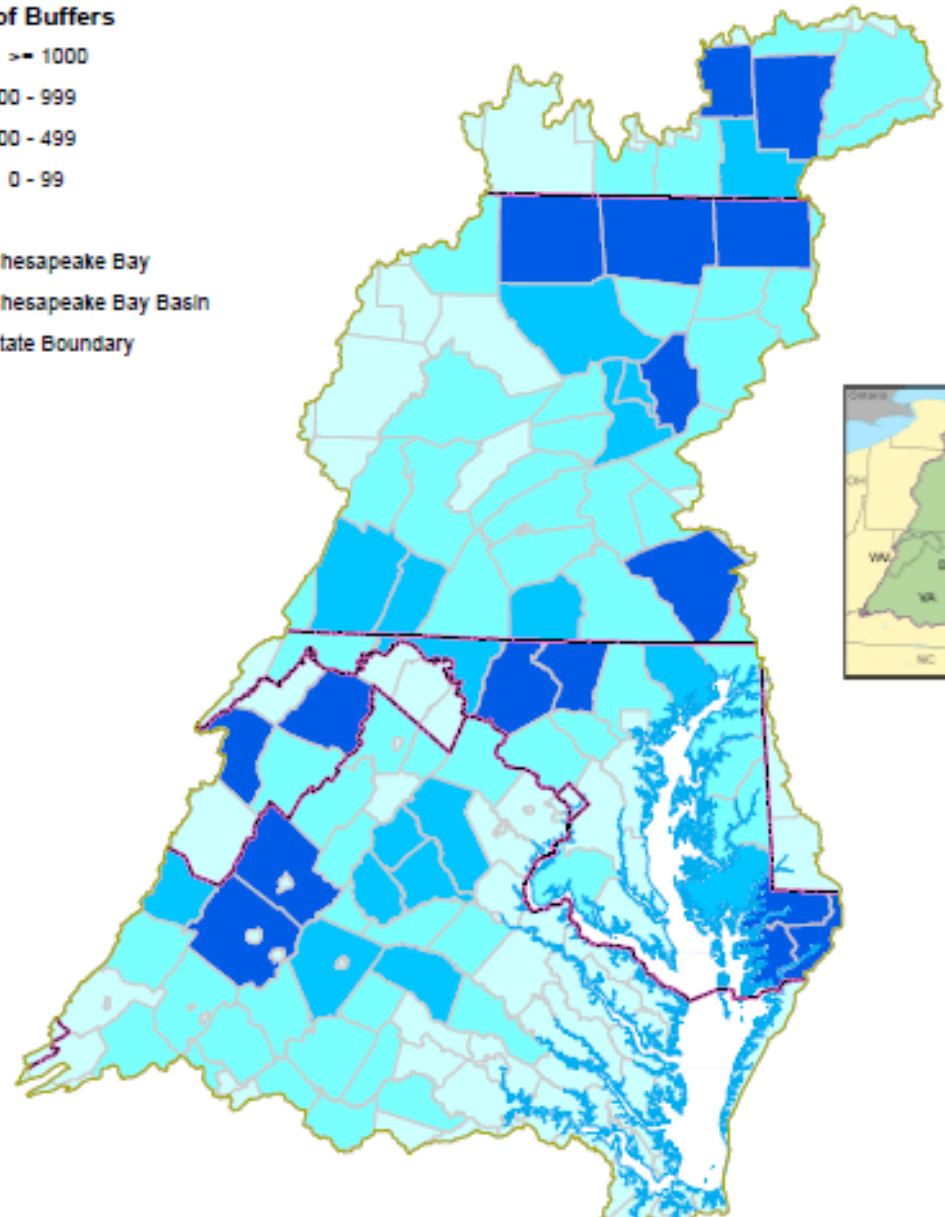
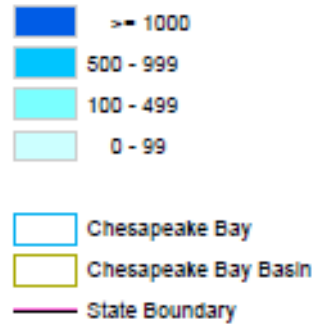
# Follow the Leaders

One-quarter of  
counties restored  
75% of the buffer  
acres

Acres of Forest Buffers Restored Through CRP/CREP in  
the Chesapeake Bay Basin, by County (1998-2012)



Acres of Buffers



# Role for PSC

- Establish that **this is a priority practice**
- Designate **a single RFB State Lead**
  - Empowered to work across agencies
  - Able to direct policy, coordinate/track implementation
  - Work directly with USDA at state/local level
- Send clear message to USDA leadership for continued support
- Identify **new sources of non-federal funds**

# Decision Requested

Suggest that PSC:

- Designate a high-level State Lead  
--work directly with state and USDA partners to build improved program
- Have EC send letter to USDA leadership
- Identify new and existing state programs that can help