

QUARTERLY PROGRESS MEETING – August 2020
Chesapeake Bay Program



Riparian Forest Buffers

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Through the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement, the Chesapeake Bay Program has committed to...



Vital Habitats Goal

Riparian Forest Buffer Outcome: *Restore 900 miles per year of riparian forest buffer and conserve existing buffers* until at least 70 percent of riparian areas throughout the watershed are forested.



The Value of Riparian Forest Buffers

A photograph of a small, clear stream flowing through a dense forest. The water is shallow and flows over moss-covered rocks. The surrounding trees and foliage are vibrant green, creating a lush and natural setting. The stream is the central focus, with the forest floor and canopy visible in the background and foreground.

Nutrient Uptake
and retention—
40-60% N
reduction

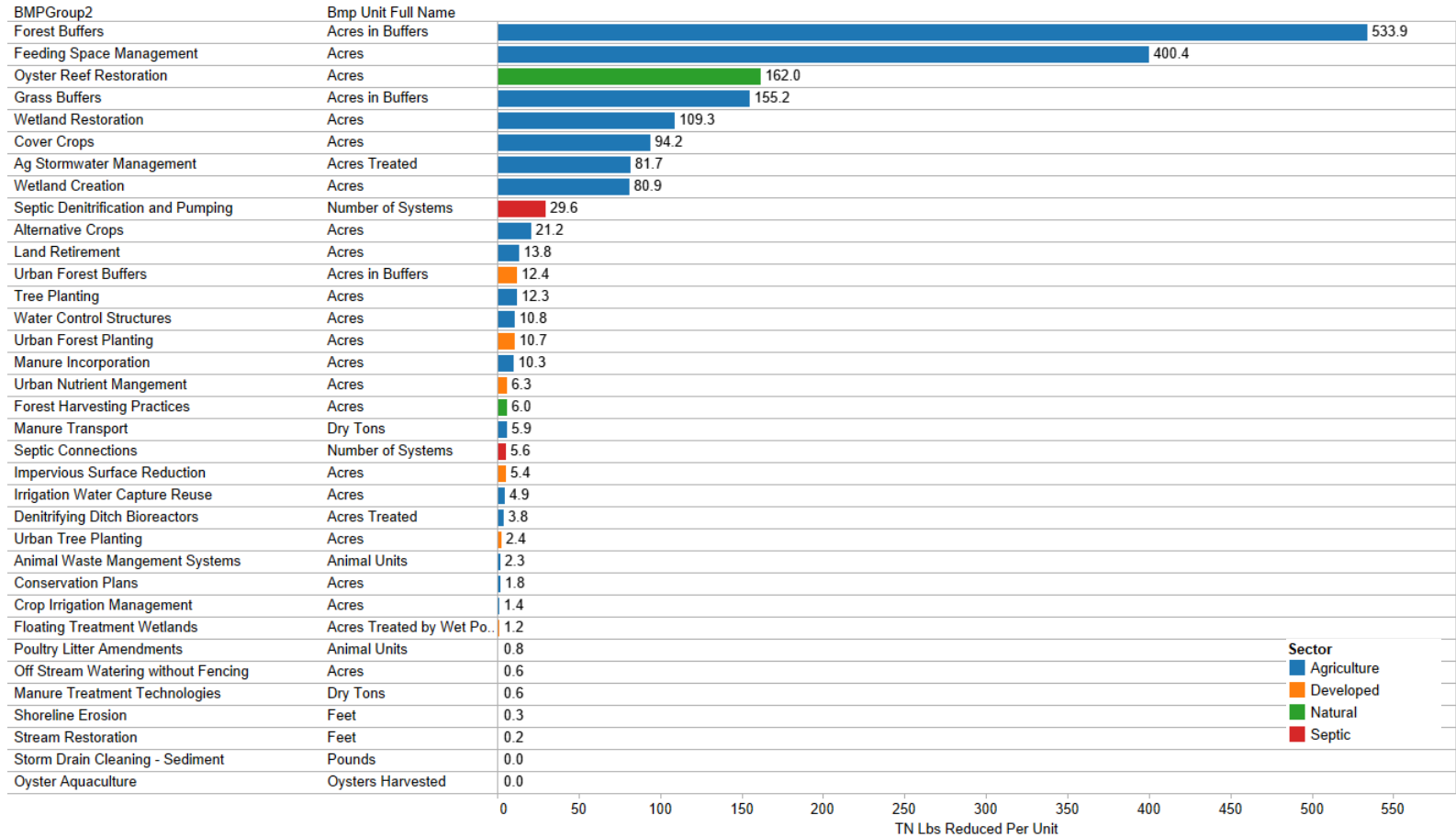
Canopy and
Shade- 6-15 ° C
cooler

Leaves and wood-
carbon, food for
macroinvertebrates

Filtering Runoff-
sediment reduction- 90%;
increase infiltration-- 10-40%

Aquatic and Terrestrial
Habitat

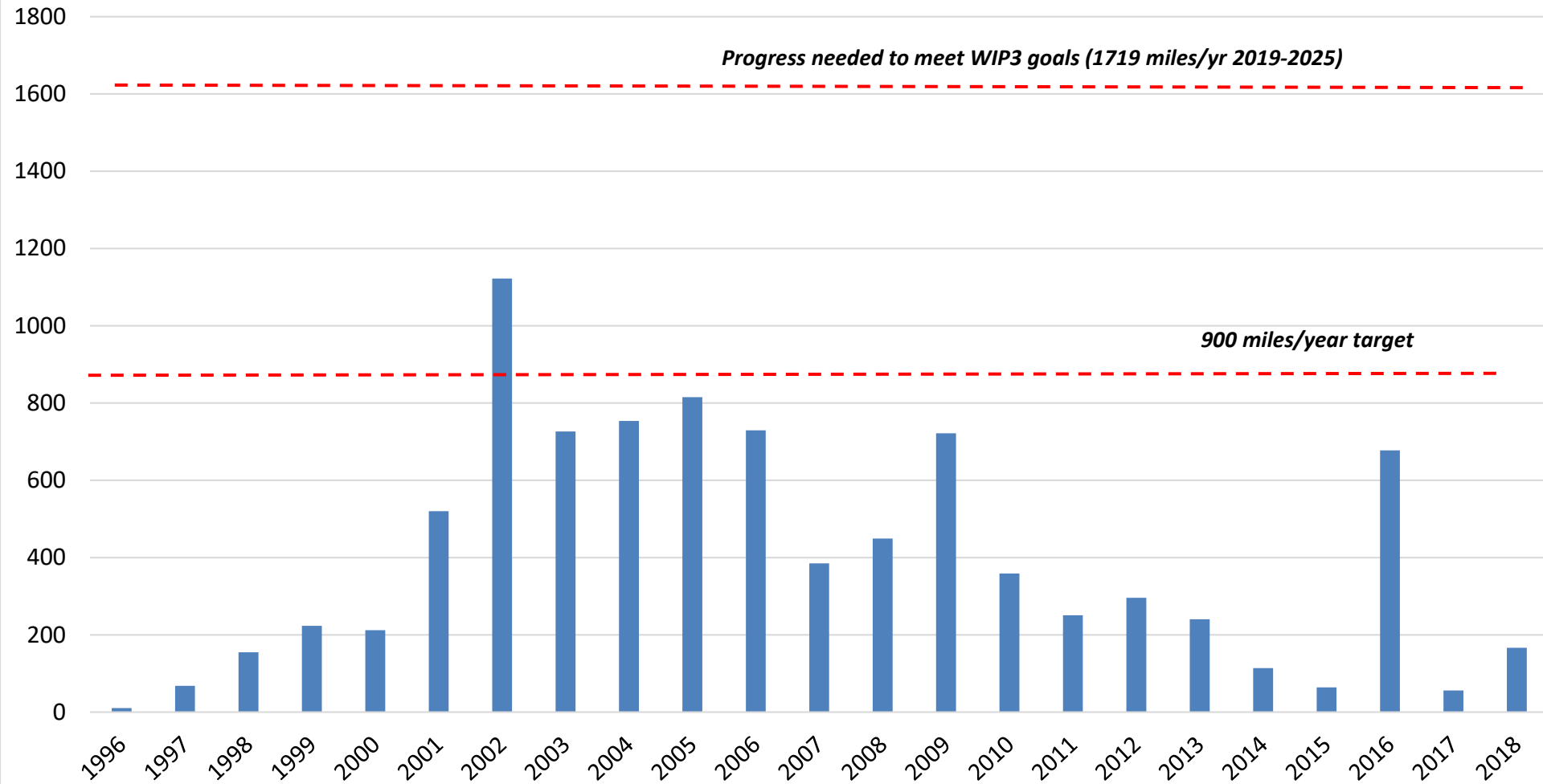
Most effective BMPs for TN reduction



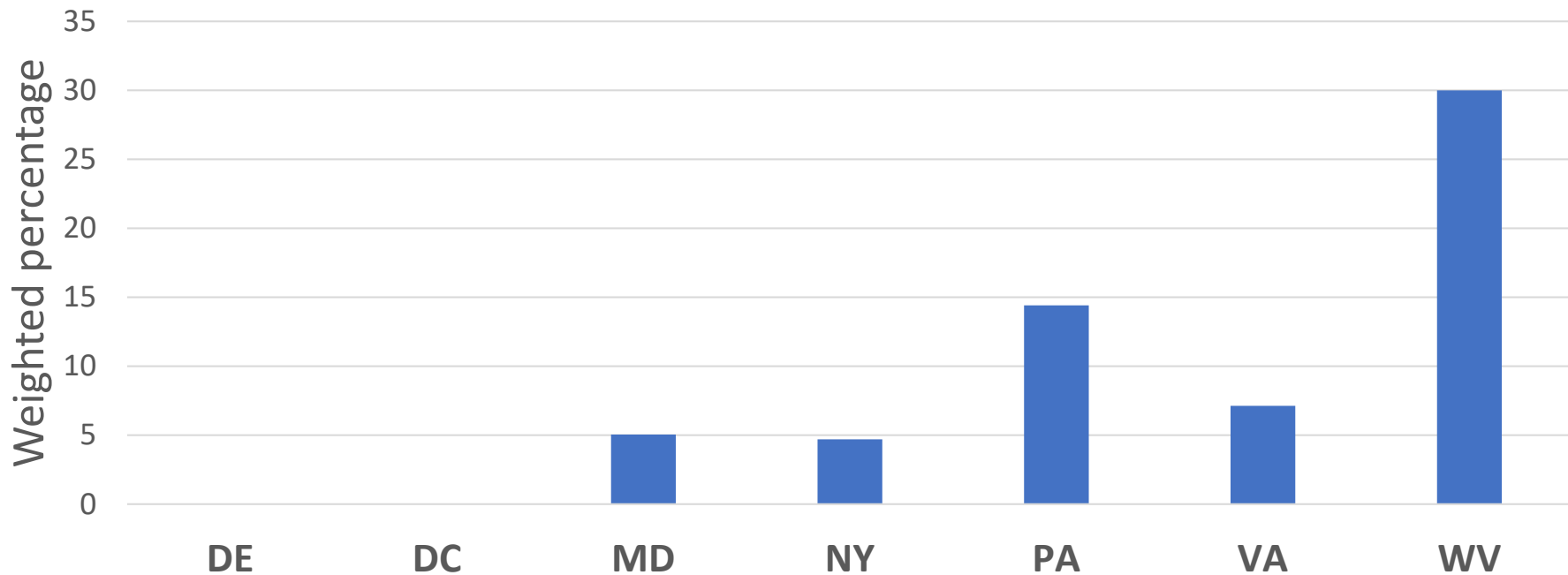
Miles of Riparian Forest Buffers Planted in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed

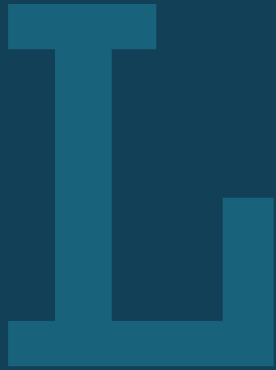
Progress needed to meet WIP3 goals (1719 miles/yr 2019-2025)

900 miles/year target



Ag Forest Buffer BMP Effectiveness for TN in WIP3s by state





Learn

What have we learned in the last two years?



Successes and Challenges

- 1) Existing programs are inadequate
- 2) RFB Action Team
- 3) Favorable language for CREP in the 2018 Farm Bill
- 4) TA support increased (more needed)
- 5) New Chesapeake Forest Restoration Strategy
- 6) Better data for geographic and demographic targeting
- 7) Program coordination and prioritization lacking





On the Horizon

New provisions in
the 2018 Farm Bill

Accessibility of
public/private
financing

New high-res land
use and hydrography
data

Climate change

Covid-19 budget,
logistical impacts



POSTED

A large, stylized, blue letter 'A' is positioned on the left side of the slide. The background is a dark teal color, with a lighter teal horizontal bar at the top and a light green horizontal bar at the bottom.

Adapt

How does all of this impact our work?



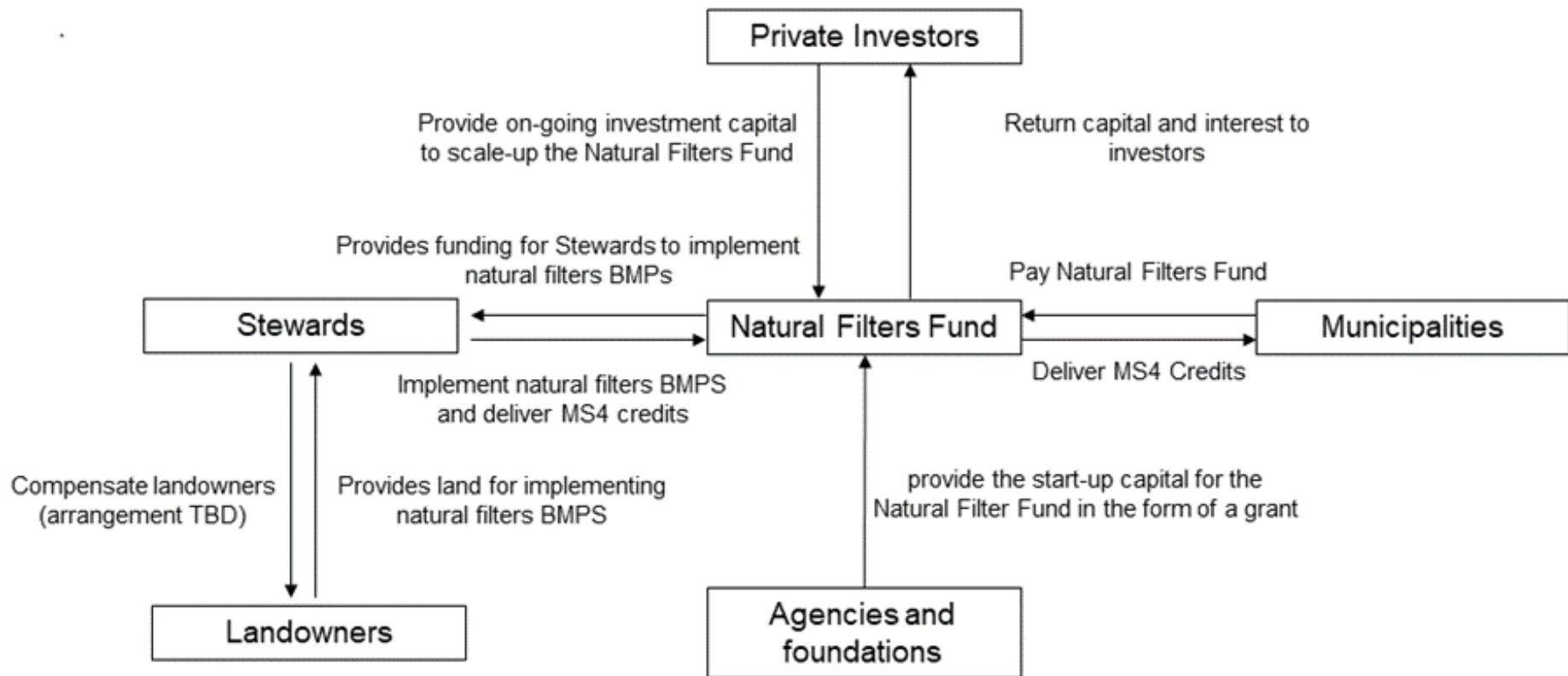
Based on what we learned, we plan to ...

Work within CBP to elevate and integrate forest buffers with other projects

- Look at state/federal landowner assistance programs that could include or require buffers

Develop and implement the Natural Filters Restoration Program

- Explore opportunities for public/private finance
- Provide stability needed to grow a buffer workforce





Help

*How can the Management Board
lead the Program to adapt?*



Help Needed

- Support the new Natural Filters Restoration Program
 - Fully use existing programs to prioritize buffers

Natural Filters Program



Identify public funding that could be leveraged (e.g. SRF, 319)



Dedicate a staff person to help develop the Program and stay engaged

Prioritize Buffer Programs



Use existing landowner assistance programs to require buffers: identify, amend, and institutionalize the improved programs



Develop
Comprehensive
Statewide Buffer
Strategy for all
partners

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Chesapeake Bay Program

Discussion

