

## Protected Lands Outcome

### Follow-up to SRS Review / Management Board Actions -- Submitted 9/30/2021

In preparation for 2022-23 Logic & Action Plan update

PLWG Request of MB	Action (Assigned by MB)	Due Date
(1) Assist with facilitating a focus on health and equity to help meet multiple Watershed Agreement outcomes	Action: <b>PLWG will draft language</b> for these bullets to be action items in their next LAP. <b>MB members will review and be prepared to offer comments</b> at the October MB meeting.	Language due 9/30/21 for discussion at 10/14/21 MB meeting
(2) Engage land conservation efforts to aid wetland and forest buffer BMPs	Action: <b>PLWG will draft language</b> as action items in their next LAP which addresses land conservation efforts to aid wetland and forest buffer Outcomes and other water quality BMPs. <b>MB members will review the draft language and come prepared to discuss how their jurisdiction / agency can contribute in their respective programs.</b>	Language due 9/30/21 for discussion at 10/14/21 MB meeting

#### Background:

The Protected Lands Workgroup (PLWG) is served by the Steering Committee of the Chesapeake Conservation Partnership (CCP). As CCP partners are emphasizing and prioritizing both of the above efforts in their work, the recommendation was that the MB encourage partners throughout the CBP to do the same. Doing so could assist with achieving the Protected Lands Outcome subgoals (acres of wetlands and forest protected), as well as contributing to additional Outcomes that are currently identified as off course in their progress (e.g., wetlands and riparian forest buffers in particular, also will assist stream health and brook trout). The intent was not to attempt to prescribe what would be done in the jurisdictions, especially recognizing that shifts in programs, approaches and resources might be needed, and that each of the jurisdictions as well as Federal lands may have their own specific concerns and solutions. Therefore, the MB's direction was for the PLWG to draft actions for the 2-year plan to which the signatories would respond by submitting their own means to contribute to achieving the actions. In the Protected Lands Outcome's 2022-23 Logic & Action Plan, the commitments submitted by the Signatories will be nested below the appropriate Management Approaches, actions, and performance targets as indicated below.

#### (1) Assist with facilitating a focus on health and equity to help meet multiple Watershed Agreement outcomes --

##### Management Approach:

**Improve public health through increasing green spaces in under-resourced communities.**

*Also relates to work under this **MA: Increase equity, diversity, and inclusion of partners in conservation.***

##### Action:

Implement actions to focus resources on providing accessible green space to benefit public health and improve equity in under-resourced communities.

##### Performance Targets:

- a. Federal agencies and state and local governments in each jurisdiction work with partners to develop annual plans and funding sources to implement greening projects in under-resourced communities. 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 through CCP and CBP to identify communities and inform planning.
- 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.
- c. Develop and implement an outreach strategy to inform and engage local governments about the need to

implement “greening” projects in under-resourced communities and to assist them with funding.

[PLACEHOLDER: **SIGNATORIES (States and Feds) WILL EACH INSERT** the tasks they are committing to in order to advance efforts to achieve this action (consider listing at least one), with a target completion date and a **named responsible entity**].

In developing your tasks, consider:

- This action comports with the commitments under the CBP DEIJ directive and strategy. The team hopes the MB will make this a priority within their jurisdictions and will put resources toward the effort moving forward in their own state implementation (as discussed in August 2021 MB meeting).
- The multiple ecosystem service projects currently ongoing will help with providing information to support facilitating a focus on health and equity that will also help meet multiple Watershed Agreement Outcomes (as discussed in August 2021 MB meeting).
- Developing annual project and funding plans specifically to support and mobilize this work.
- Consulting and collaborating across sectors, agencies, CBP Goal Teams, advisory committees and workgroups to determine needs of local governments, communities, and others that may be met along with environmental co-benefits.

## **(2) Engage land conservation efforts to aid wetland and forest buffer Outcomes and other water quality BMPs --**

### **Management Approach:**

**Accelerate protection of lands in accordance with current science through collaboration across sectors to align all partners and resources needed to meet stated targets.**

### **Action:**

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 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.

### **Performance Targets:**

- 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. [2022]
- b. Prioritize, and accelerate:
  - 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;
  - 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
  - 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.

[PLACEHOLDER: **SIGNATORIES (States and Feds) WILL EACH INSERT** the tasks they are committing to in order to advance efforts to achieve this action (consider listing at least one), with a target completion date and a **named responsible entity**].

In developing your tasks, consider:

- Creative solutions, such as ways to offer additional payments or other incentives beyond regulatory requirements to do BMPs in addition to easements (e.g., PA’s Buffer Bonus Program).
- Reviewing mapping resources and an assessment of available land to determine the potential to reach the target.
- Determine measures best implemented within jurisdictions that will contribute to this action and to

achieving the overall Outcome target and subgoals for wetlands and forests.

- Jurisdiction-specific plans could include ways to increase programs, incentives, funding, partnerships, capacity, and/or landowner support to accommodate achieving the target.
- Within jurisdictions and/or federally, can land conservation funding also fund restoration? Or can restoration funds and land conservation funds be combined?
- Do conservation programs target for restoration potential or are plans put in place to restore wetlands and buffers when properties are conserved? If not, can you identify opportunities to make changes that will help implement restoration/BMPs on conserved land?
- Each jurisdiction will designate a responsible party for each of their specific actions.