

Wetland and Forest Buffer Restoration Fact Sheet Relationship to Phase III Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) Commitments

Concerns have been raised regarding the lack of progress in meeting wetland and riparian buffer restoration outcomes and the implications this brings to bear on successfully meeting the Bay-wide 2025 TMDL goal. This fact sheet provides an overview of how the

- outcome targets were established,
- progress to date, and
- relationship to Phase III WIP commitments.

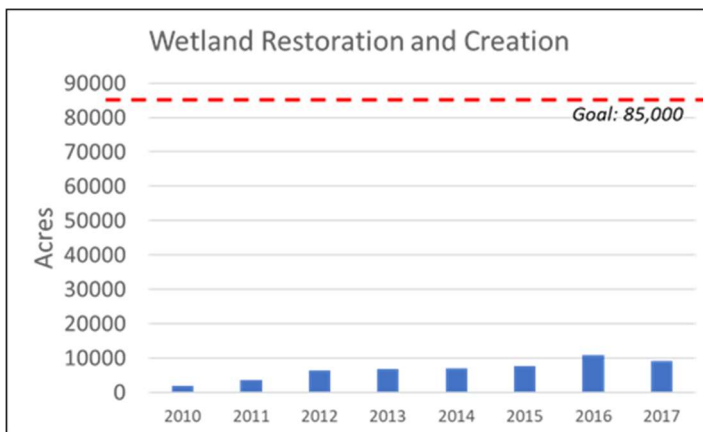
Wetlands Restoration/Creation

Outcome: Create or reestablish 85,000 acres of tidal and non-tidal wetlands by 2025

Establishment of 85,000 acre target: The target was based on projected implementation of practices in the Phase I WIPs.

Progress and Relationship to Phase III WIP commitments: As of 2019, 16,130 acres of wetlands have been restored on agricultural lands since 2010. The Phase III WIPs commit to 38,579 acres of wetland restoration and creation.

Note that the graph reflects 2017 progress whereas the table, derived from CAST reporting, reflects 2019 progress.



Wetland Restoration/Creation Cumulative Acres		
	2019 Progress	WIP 3 Commitment
MD	8,729	13,051
PA	1,633	5,266
VA	319	3,665
DE	4,782	15,298
NY	637	1,274
WV	28	23
DC	0	0
CB Watershed	16,130	38,579

Finding: The wetlands outcome target is significantly higher than the Phase III WIP commitment. However, the current rate of implementation is still insufficient to meet the acreage target established in the Phase III WIPs.

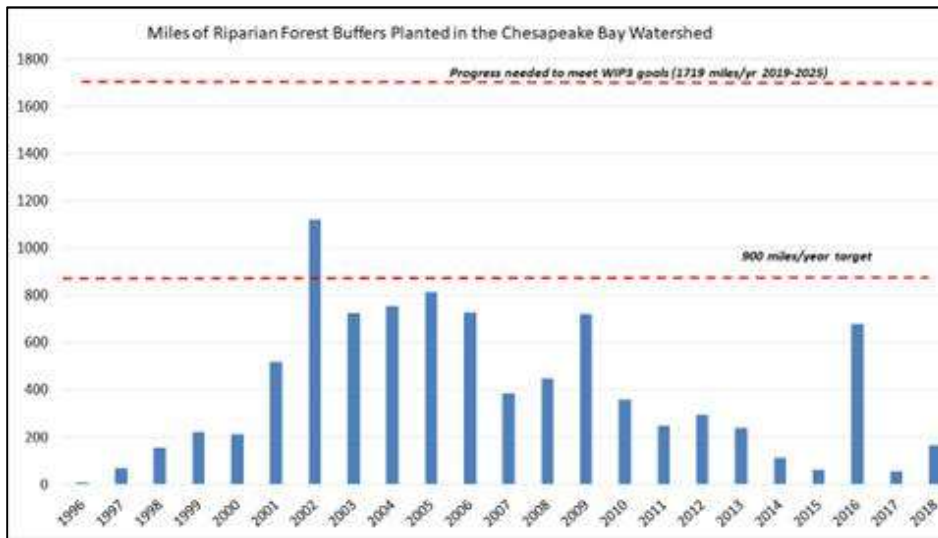
Forest Buffers Restoration:

Outcome: Restore 900 miles of riparian forest buffers per year

Establishment of 900 miles of buffer per year target: The target was based on projected implementation of practices in the Phase I WIPs.

Progress and Relationship to Phase III WIP commitments: Since 2010, the miles of forest buffers planted each year has averaged just 25% of the yearly restoration target. The Phase III WIPs commit to restoring 1,719 miles of buffer/year between 2019 to 2025.

Note that the graph reflects annual progress up to 2018 towards the mileage outcome target. The table, derived from CAST reporting, reflects 2019 progress on a cumulative basis, expressed in acres. Jurisdictions report by acres and the CBP converts those metrics to miles for annual outcome tracking.



Riparian Forest Buffer Cumulative Acres		
	2019 Progress	WIP 3 Commitment
MD	17,673	20,516
PA	10,073	97,374
VA	3,389	58,375
DE	541	692
NY	3,298	8,800
WV	3,282	5,919
DC	0	0
CB Watershed	38,255	191,674

Finding: The forest buffer outcome target continues to be linked to the Phase III WIP commitments. However, the 2019-2025 commitments nearly double the annual rate of implementation in comparison to the outcome target. Between 2020 and 2025, states would need to add 2,075 miles per year to meet the targets in their Phase III WIPs; a target far beyond the current average rates of implementation.