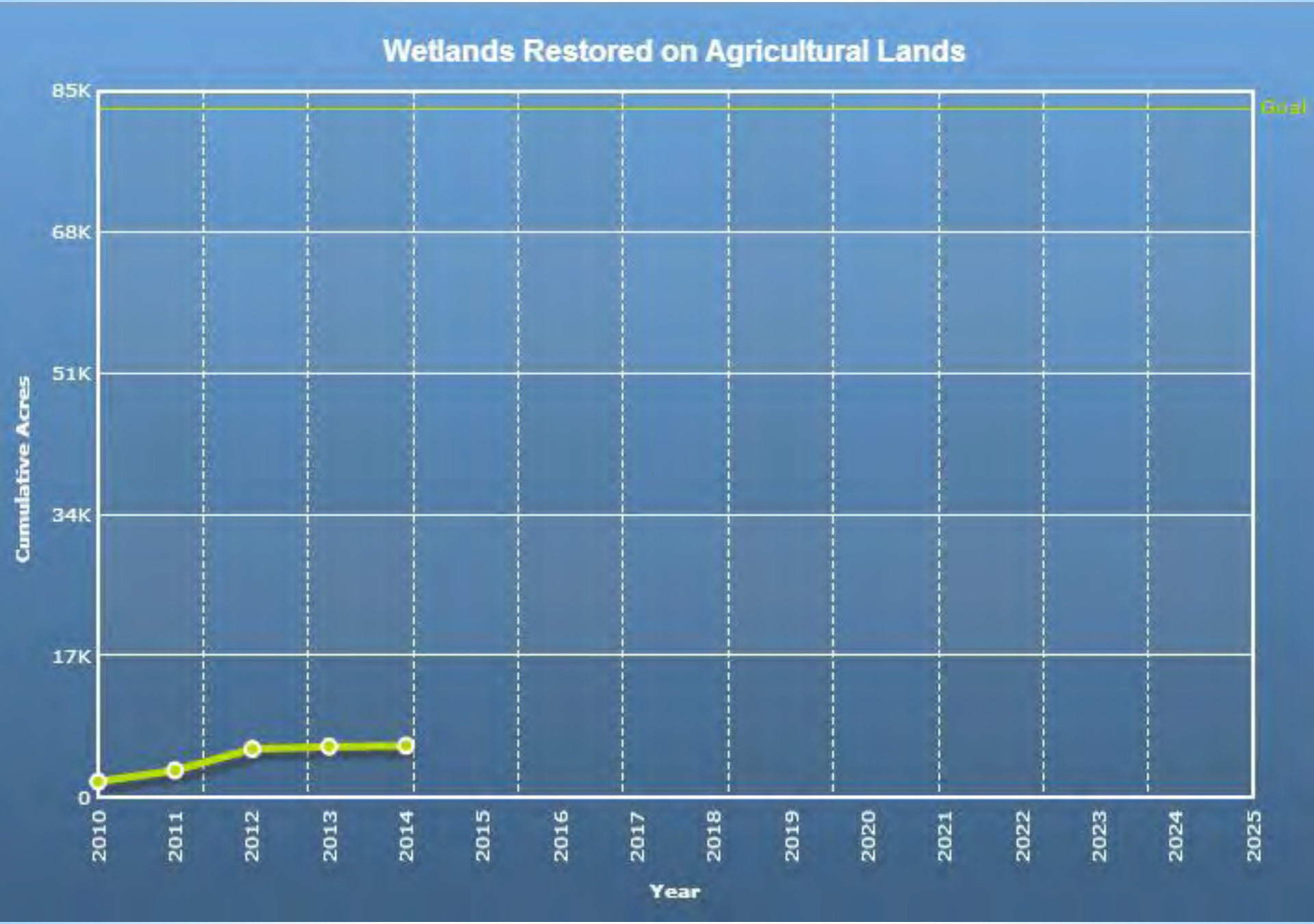
Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model

STAC Workshop January 14, 2016


Wetlands Restored on Agricultural Lands
85K
68K
51K
34K
17K
0
Cumulative Acres
Goal
2010
2011
2012
2013
2014
2015
2016
2017
2018
2019
2020
2021
2022
2023
2024
2025
Year

Chesapeake Bay Wetland Progress Toward Goals

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2025 WIP Goal	Yearly acres needed to meet 2025 Goal (2015 to 2025)
NY	5,360	5,725	6,363	6,216	6,278	6,307	13,792	680
PA	3,837	4,708	4,709	4,549 [a]	3,857[a]	3,858	54,135	4,570
MD	7,716	8,248	8,614	9,037	9,260	9,284	12,849	324
VA	214	213	411	420	420	452	19,215	1,705
WV	203	203	203	203	203	208	406	18
DE	286	438	588	2,694	2,697	2,699	5,725	275
Totals:	**17,616**	**19,536**	**20,888**	**23,119**	**22,715**	**22,808**	**106,122**	**7,574**

Accelerating Wetland Restoration in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed

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Accelerating Wetland Restoration in the Chesapeake

Project Goal:
Accelerate wetland restoration in priority areas of four states in the Bay Watershed that will result in improved water quality and habitat.

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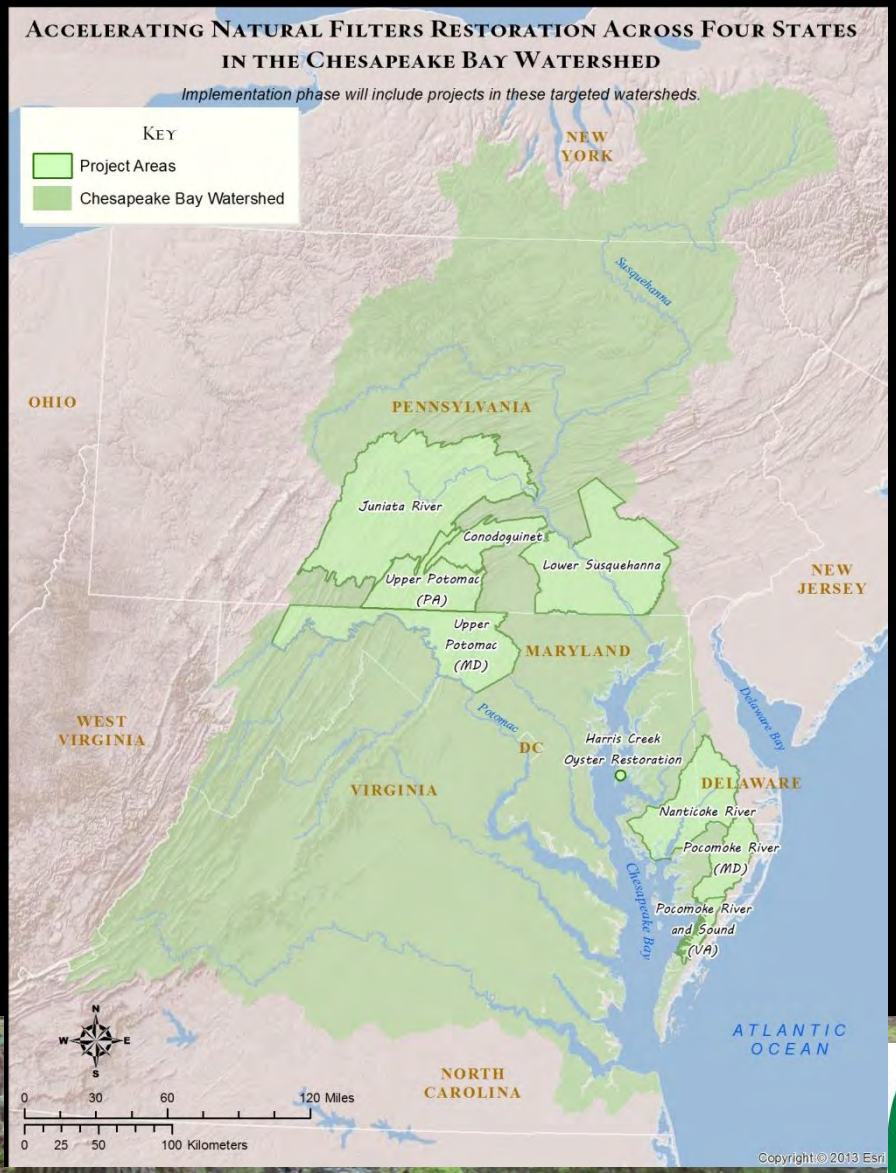

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Project Components:

1. ***Interview stakeholders*** in four states to identify technical, economic, and social obstacles and develop recommendations for addressing.
2. ***Identify locations*** where wetland restoration will best improve water quality and enhance habitat.
3. Apply selected recommendations to ***implement restoration*** in priority locations.

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Obstacle 1: Limited funding

Solutions:

- Secure sustained funding for all phases of restoration
- Focus funding to priority areas
- Advocate for increased funding for existing programs

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Obstacle 2: Outreach is limited/ not coordinated

Solutions:

- Designate a local leader for outreach and coordination
- Host annual cross-training for wetland practitioners
- Develop better marketing strategies

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Obstacle 3:Programmatic or Institutional

Solutions:

- Increase flexibility of WRE
- Increase flexibility of CREP
- Develop program with local conservation groups to offer private restoration options
- Invest in market research to evaluate the need to change incentive values

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Obstacle 4: Permitting

Recommendation:

- Reduce regulatory burden for environmentally beneficial projects
- Separate the review process for restoration and development projects
- Develop list of information to support permit applications

Obstacle 5: Limited Approaches to Restoring Wetlands

Solutions:

- Implement demonstration projects to model a variety of practices and approaches
- Disseminate alternative restoration designs and information to practitioners, agencies, and funders

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Next Steps:

- Complete targeting in priority watersheds
- Implement selected recommendations
- Restore/ monitor sites

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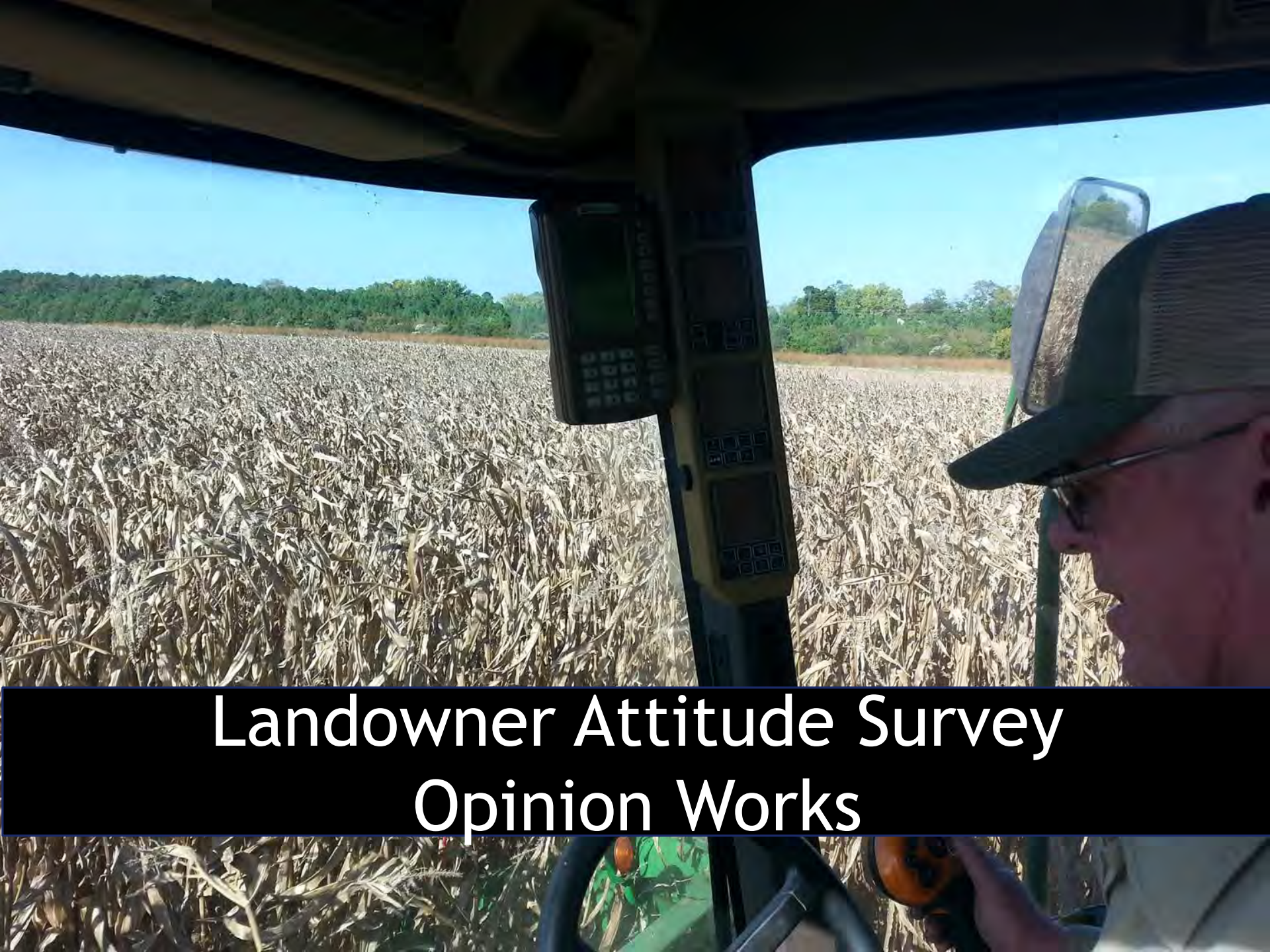

Landowner Attitude Survey
Opinion Works

OPINIONWORKS
PUBLIC SPIRITED RESEARCH

August 2015; N=409 (200 phone, 209 mail)

	Phone	Mail
Caroline, MD	10%	12%
Dorchester, MD	8%	6%
Juniata, PA	18%	7%
Kent, MD	6%	8%
Lancaster, PA	15%	17%
Somerset, MD	4%	6%
Wicomico, MD	12%	10%
Worcester, MD	8%	7%
York, PA	14%	24%
Talbot, MD	*%	7%
Other county in Maryland or Pennsylvania *(Record county.)*	6%	3%

Wet Areas of Your Land

Do you have any areas that are normally saturated with water such a shallow pond, wetland, marsh, or wet woods?

	Phone	Mail
Yes	46%	54%
No	52%	42%
Not sure	2%	4%

Do you have any farm fields where the yield is lower because they are prone to occasional flooding?

	Phone	Mail
Yes	19%	22%
No	80%	70%
Not sure	1%	8%

Are you aware of any programs that are meant to help you preserve wet areas on your land, or restore them to natural habitat, through technical or financial assistance? Such programs might be offered by agencies such as the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Farm Service Agency, or your state's Department of Agriculture, or through private grantors such as Ducks Unlimited or the Chesapeake Bay Trust.

	Phone	Mail
Yes, aware	58%	61%
No, not aware/ Not sure	42%	39%

Which of these would come the closest to describing why you might consider participating in such a program? *(Allow multiple but do not probe for multiple.)*

	Phone	Mail
To receive a rental payment for the land that is in the program	36%	32%
To create wildlife habitat, for example, for hunting	28%	30%
To improve water quality in nearby streams and creeks	37%	35%
Or another reason *(Specify.)*	6%	6%
(Do not read): None of those/ Not sure	32%	33%

If you were told about a program to help you preserve or restore wet areas on your land as a way of providing wildlife habitat and protecting local streams, and if the program paid enough to cover your costs of participating, without forcing you to give up too much control of what happens on your land, how likely would you be to seriously consider it?

	Phone	Mail
Definitely would	5%	11%
Probably would	17%	29%
Might or might not	35%	35%
Probably would not	23%	13%
Definitely would not	20%	11%

General Observations from Focus Groups:

- There are the expected reservations and suspicions about dealing with government agencies - general consensus that government needs more “common sense.”

- But many ag landowners in MD are already engaged with government programs. They understand that such programs come with strings attached

- There is very little outreach to these landowners. The ones who have investigated this concept have reached out themselves.

General Observations (continued):

- These programs needs to be linked to farmers' underlying perspective that all land must be "useful."
- The word wetland has mostly negative associations.
- In PA most landowners better related to streams.
- Positive toward wetlands:
  - Wildlife habitat (near consensus motivation)
  - Water filtration (good understanding of the roles wetlands play)
  - Guard against development
  - Rental payments and possible hunting revenue

Wetland Management Strategy

- Two-year workplan

Timeline

- December 18, 2015 – Draft Work Plans due to Management Board for four week review
- January 22, 2016 – Begin 45-day public comment period (through March 8)
- March 8, 2016 – GIT's review and revise work plans
- March 25, 2016 – Revised Draft Work Plans due to Management Board
- April 22, 2016 – Final revision period
- April 30, 2016 – Final Work Plans go public

Biennial Work Plan

- Management Approach 1: Improve wetland mapping, and the wetland restoration reporting and tracking process.
  - Key Actions
    1. Collaborate with Wetland Expert Panel and Modeling Team to improve wetland mapping for Chesapeake Bay Watershed
       - ✓ Support the CBP decision to fund updating of wetland data for the Chesapeake Bay watershed in Pennsylvania
       - b. Review updated Pennsylvania wetland data
    - ✓ Streamline NEIEN data collection for each State.
    3. Confirm the accuracy of information reported.
    4. Improve mapping of tidal wetlands to document loss due to sea level rise and other factors

Biennial Work Plan

- Management Approach 2: Identify barriers to wetland restoration and develop solutions to address them.
  - Key Actions:
    - ✓ Identify barriers to wetland restoration for practitioners.
    - ✓ Identify barriers to landowner willingness for agricultural landowners.
    3. Workshop at Delaware Wetland Conference to refine marketing and outreach strategies.
    4. Develop solutions to address barriers and improve outreach.

Biennial Work Plan

- Management Approach 3: Increase our technical understanding of the factors influencing restoration success.
  - Key Actions:
    1. Continue to include technical presentations at Wetland Workgroup meetings.
    2. Conduct research to optimize nontidal wetland restoration designs (USGS)

- Management Approach 4: Prioritize areas for wetland restoration.
  - Key Actions:
    1. Coordinate with Black Duck Workgroup.
    2. Identify areas where wetland restoration would greatly benefit water quality and habitat.
    3. Identify opportunities to restore large wetland acreages.

Biennial Work Plan

- Management Approach 5: Expand the involvement of local stakeholders.
  - Key Actions:
    1. STAC Workshop - ”Linking Wetland Work Plan Goals to Enhance Capacity, Increase Implementation"