

FEDERAL CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAMMATIC TWO-YEAR MILESTONES COMMITMENTS
JANUARY 1, 2026-DECEMBER 31, 2027

Narrative Summary: *This 2026-2027 milestone document conveys key efforts the federal government will undertake between January 1, 2026, and December 31, 2027, to protect and restore water quality of the Chesapeake Bay and its watershed. Meeting the clean water goals set forth by the CBP partnership requires federal agency leadership and interagency coordination as well as close collaboration with state and local partners. As such, several actions below are cooperative federal projects intended to inform and support activities at the state and local levels. Actions are categorized by priority sector initiative. All actions and initiatives are contingent upon Congressional appropriations based on the President’s Budget for Fiscal Years 2026 and 2027.*

OVERSIGHT AND WIP/MILESTONE SUPPORT

Narrative Summary: *Federal agencies provide essential oversight and support for implementation of the Chesapeake Bay jurisdictions’ Phase III WIPs and two-year Milestones. These actions represent the priority actions federal agencies will take to support progress towards the programmatic and water quality goals of the TMDL, WIPs and Milestones.*

CORE SECTOR ACTIVITIES

Milestone Number	Agencies	Actions	Expected Outputs and/or Outcomes (target date)	Funding Source
1	EPA	Maintain oversight of Chesapeake Bay watershed jurisdiction programs and progress towards WIP and milestone goals.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluation of jurisdictional and federal two-year 2024-2025 milestone progress and commitments. (2026) Annual assessment of watershed-wide and jurisdiction progress towards nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment reduction goals via MLRI. (2026, 2027) 	Annual appropriation
2	EPA	Provide oversight of Clean Water Act programs including but not limited to NPDES permitting programs, enforcement and compliance assistance, and monitoring and assessment actions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 125 Anticipated permits received Number of CWA NPDES Inspections conducted in the Chesapeake Bay watershed (expect to conduct at least 20 inspections annually). (2026, 2027) Trainings and workshops, as requested 	Annual appropriation

MONITORING AND SCIENCE SUPPORT

Narrative Summary: *Federal agencies provide core programmatic, funding and coordination support for the partnership’s monitoring, modeling, and scientific activities. For the milestone period, federal agencies will maintain their core functions and seek opportunities to improve and expand partnership capacity to measure, predict, and track changes in water quality and ecosystem response.*

Milestone Number	Agencies	Actions	Expected Outputs and/or Outcomes (target date(s))	Funding Source
3	USGS, EPA	Monitor and evaluate non-tidal nutrient and sediment water quality loads and trends across the CBP non-tidal monitoring network to assess progress and inform adaptive management of WIPs and milestones.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual updates of monitored nutrient and sediment loads to the Bay based on the Chesapeake Bay Program non-tidal monitoring network. (USGS, EPA) Technical assistance and data interpretation for jurisdictional partners (USGS, EPA) 	Annual appropriation
4	NOAA, EPA, USGS	Monitor tidal water quality conditions and trends and assess attainment of water quality standards and associated conditions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual updates of trends in estuary monitoring data. (2026, 2027) Update water quality standards attainment indicator. Develop a 4D interpolator tool to support assessment of water quality standards attainment. (2027) Annual surveys of submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) to inform attainment of water quality standards. (2026, 2027) Provide technical leadership and resources to implement and maintain the water column hypoxia monitoring system 	Annual appropriation
5	EPA, USGS	Complete Phase 7 suite of partnership modeling tools w/ partnership direction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Calibrated and partnership-approved Phase 7 suite of partnership modeling tools (2027) 	Annual Appropriation
6	EPA, USGS	Develop and refine remote-sensing workflows, tools, and datasets to detect and assess agricultural conservation best management practice (e.g., winter cover crops and conservation tillage) across the Chesapeake Bay watershed, enabling science-based, scalable verification approaches.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operational remote-sensing workflow and method prototypes for tracking and verifying cover crop and tillage practices (2027) 	Science and Technology Funds

ATMOSPHERIC DEPOSITION

Narrative Summary: Under the Chesapeake Bay TMDL, EPA committed to reduce air deposition of nitrogen to the tidal waters of the Chesapeake Bay through implementation of federal air regulations.

Milestone Number	Agencies	Actions	Expected Outputs and/or Outcomes (target date(s))	Funding Source
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7	EPA	Reduce atmospheric nitrogen deposition to tidal waters through implementation of national rules under the Clean Air Act.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduction of air deposition load by 0.71 million pounds of nitrogen (2027) 	Annual appropriation
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FUNDING AND GRANT SUPPORT

Narrative Summary: Federal agencies will provide oversight for funded activities that support implementation and progress on water quality goals.

Milestone Number	Agencies	Actions	Expected Outputs and/or Outcomes (target date(s))	Funding Source
8	EPA	Provide oversight on implementation, monitoring, and technical assistance grants to ensure funded activities are driving progress on water quality goals and other objectives under the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Award approximately \$39.5M in federal funds in FY26 to Signatory Implementation Grants to support state watershed restoration efforts. Award \$22M in federal funding in FY26 for the Small Watershed Grants (SWG) program and Innovative Nutrient and Sediment Reduction (INSR) grants to advance local and regional watershed restoration efforts. 	Annual appropriation

AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY

Narrative Summary: Federal agencies provide leadership and programmatic coordination support for actions that will improve water quality from agricultural and forested lands while supporting implementation of the 2025 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement.

Milestone Number	Agencies	Actions	Expected Outputs and/or Outcomes (target date(s))	Funding Source
9	USFS	Implement projects on National Forests that will improve water quality and restore habitats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water or soil resources improved (ac) (2027) Priority subwatersheds improved or maintained in good condition (#) (2027) Stream habitat enhanced (mi) (2027) Stream crossings improved (#) (2027) 	Staffing
10	USFS	Work with state forestry agencies and other CBPO partners to develop a strategy, workplan and indicators to support implementation of the Healthy Forests and Trees Outcome in the 2025 Chesapeake Bay watershed agreement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategy developed and approved by the partnership (2027) People engaged in strategy development (2027) 	Staffing
11	USFS	Track watershed forestry BMP implementation on federal, state, and private lands to support water quality improvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indicators updated annually on Chesapeake Progress (2026, 2027) 	Staffing

12	NRCS	Support voluntary actions by farmers and landowners to improve water quality and other resources by providing technical assistance through its Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA) program; and technical and financial assistance from the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP), Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA) Program, Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP), Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). (USDA-NRCS)	Funds allocated to states for continued obligation of contracts and easements on the landscape for environmental benefits in fiscal year 2026 (ending 9/30/26).	Annual appropriation
13	NRCS, FSA	Provide financial and technical support for voluntary temporary retirement of cropland and marginal pasture and establishment of conservation cover for water quality and wildlife habitat improvement, through the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP). (USDA-FSA, USDA-NRCS)	The Farm Service Agency does not allocate funds to states but works off of an acreage allowance. Projects reduce sediment and nutrient runoff and improve soil health, wildlife habitat, stream health, water quality, and macroinvertebrate and fish community health. Continued efforts region wide in fiscal year 2026 (ending 9/30/26)	Annual appropriation
14	NRCS	Targeting ag impaired stream watersheds through the National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI) for outreach, education, technical support, and financial assistance to reduce sediments and nutrients in an effort to move streams off the state impaired streams list. Partners include EPA, USFWS, State environmental protection departments, County Conservation Districts, Non-Government Organizations, local watershed groups, and non-profit organizations, etc. Tracking water quality outcomes is an important part of this initiative under EQIP.	This initiative under the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) targets agriculturally impaired watersheds for outreach, education, assistance, and funding to reduce nutrient and sediment impacts to water quality. The initiative continues in fiscal year 2026 (ending 9/30/26).	

STORMWATER: DEVELOPED SECTOR

Milestone Number	Agencies	Actions	Expected Outputs and/or Outcomes (target date(s))	Funding Source
15	DoW	By 1 October, annually, report BMP implementation progress to EPA and the Bay jurisdictions	Report BMP implementation progress to EPA and Bay jurisdictions.	DoW
16	DoW	Submit 2026-2027 planned BMP implementation in CAST for VA, MD, DC, and PA (Numeric Milestone). Provide EPA with access to the numeric milestone	Based on information provided by installations, the following nutrient reductions (in lbs./yr) are anticipated to be achieved by the end of the milestone period: VA: 2,019 TN, 303 TP MD: 2,190 TN, 1,342 TP DC: 121 TN, 10 TP PA: 640 TN, 207 TP	DoW
17	DoW	Given available funding, conduct DoD Chesapeake Bay TMDL Progress Evaluations for VA, MD, DC, and PA.	Completion of one report for internal progress communication, program evaluation, and program improvement	DoW
18	DoW	Participate in the Federal Facilities Workgroup to enhance collaborative efforts within the Chesapeake Bay Program Partnership.	Understanding the role of USACE loads and BMPs, additional jurisdiction pollutant load allocations, reporting of purchased nutrient credits, reporting non-fertilized lands for TMDL credit, and other factors affecting DoD TMDL Progress.	DoW
19	EPA, DoW	In support of District of Columbia's Phase III WIP, continue to meet with DC's Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE) to reconcile BMP datasets, improve BMP crediting in CAST, and address any remaining equity issues.	Increase the number of credited BMPs above 59% as reported in the DoD's annual BMP Credit Reports	EPA, DoW
20	DoW	Given available funding, continue to develop BMP Crediting Reports in VA, MD, DC, and PA. Provide the reports to DoD installations and jurisdictions to identify opportunities to maximize TMDL credit in CAST.	Completion of Credit Reports for VA, MD, DC, and PA, annually. Maintain or increase the number of credited BMPs in support of jurisdiction WIPs	DoW
21	DoW	Work with the Maryland Department of Environment to establish a new Federal Planning Goal tied to MS4 permit compliance	Development of a uniform tracking standard for DoD progress in support of Maryland's Phase III WIP.	DoW

May 15, 2026

22	DoW	Conduct Earth Day, Clean the Base Day, and other military installation clean ups	Report to the Chesapeake Bay Foundation with pounds of trash, including plastics and other harmful material, removed from the watershed and properly disposed of to prevent human health and wildlife impacts.	DoW
23	DoW	Incorporate water quality themes into DoD CBP outreach materials (Quarterly Journal articles, factsheets, Annual Progress Report, etc.) to build environmental literacy and an informed workforce.	Report on at least five water quality themed outreach materials to build environmental literacy during the milestone period.	DoW

STORMWATER: NATURAL SECTOR

Milestone Number	Agencies	Actions	Expected Outputs and/or Outcomes (target date(s))	Funding
24	DoW	Plant trees on military installations in support of Watershed Agreement goals and outcomes	Report number of trees planted in the DoD Chesapeake Bay Program Annual Progress Report. Based on data collected from FY23 to FY25, we predict a total of 20,000 trees will be planted throughout the watershed during the milestone period.	DoW
25	DoW	Restore shorelines and streambanks at military installations, in support of Watershed Agreement goals and outcomes.	Based on data collected from FY23 to FY25, we predict 8,000 linear feet of streambank and shoreline will be restored throughout the watershed during the milestone period.	DoW
26	DoW	Complete Land Conservation (Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI), REPI Challenge, and Sentinel Landscape) projects	Based on data collected from FY23 to FY25, we predict 8,000 acres of land will be conserved throughout the watershed during the milestone period.	DoW (REPI)
27	DoW	Support Middle Chesapeake (MD), Tidewater and Potomac (VA), and Kittatinny Ridge (PA) Sentinel Landscapes to implement off-base projects that provide for water quality improvements in support of jurisdiction WIPs. Implemented projects will be reported in the updates.	One application for REPI or other funding within the watershed each calendar year to support Sentinel Landscape projects.	DoW

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28	DoW	Collaborate with partners to enhance installation resilience with a water quality co-benefit (Engineering with Nature, VCRMPF, SERDP research, MIR/CUP planning efforts, CBF Billion Oysters for the Bay, etc.)	Report on the completion of at least one significant collaborative effort each year throughout the milestone period.	DoW
29	DoW	Work to develop a short film or video to promote Sentinel Landscapes in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.	One promotional film under production during the milestone period.	DoW & Partner Funding