

IV. Adjustments to Phase III WIP State-Basin Targets and the Phase II WIP Source Sector Goals

In July 2018, the Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) Partnership agreed on nitrogen and phosphorus planning targets, established at the major basin scale. Maryland received targets for the Eastern Shore, Patuxent River Basin, Potomac River Basin, Susquehanna River Basin, and the Western Shore.

Maryland's Phase III WIP state-basin targets are provided in Table 8. The targets are established at a major basin scale so that Maryland has targets for the Eastern Shore, the Patuxent River Basin, the Potomac River Basin, the Susquehanna River Basin and the Western Shore. Appendix F provides a detailed description of the process used in establishing the final targets. Maryland's Phase III WIP surpasses the statewide nitrogen and phosphorus targets by 1,000,000 pounds per year and 440,000 pounds per year, respectively. Reductions achieved beyond the targets will be used to meet future reduction requirements, including those due to climate change.

Sediment loads are managed in the Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load to specifically address the water clarity/submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) water quality standards. Research has shown that the water clarity/SAV water quality standard is generally more responsive to nutrient load reductions than it is to sediment load reductions. This is because algae fueled by nutrients can block as much, or more, light from reaching SAV as suspended sediments.

The sediment targets developed for the Phase III Watershed Implementation Plans (WIPs), as they have been for previous WIPs, will be formed on the basis of the sediment load delivered to the Chesapeake Bay associated with management actions taken to address the Phase III WIP nitrogen and phosphorus targets. In other words, the Best Management Practices (BMPs) that are identified in this WIP to meet the Phase III WIP nitrogen and phosphorus targets will be run through the Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) partnership's Phase 6 suite of modeling tools, and the resulting sediment loads will form the basis for the Phase III WIP sediment targets. These sediment loads will be adjusted proportionally to account for any overshooting or undershooting of the Phase III WIP nitrogen and phosphorus targets. An additional 10% allowance will be added to the calculated Phase III WIP sediment target in each major basin.

The resulting final Phase III WIP sediment targets will be appended to this final Phase III WIP in October 2019, once they have been approved by the CBP partnership. The Phase III WIP sediment targets will not affect the BMPs called for in the WIP and are not intended to be the driver for implementation moving forward.

Table 8: Maryland’s Phase III WIP nutrient pollution targets by major basin.

Major Basin	Phase III WIP Target (<i>Million lbs/yr</i>)	
	Nitrogen	Phosphorus
Eastern Shore of Chesapeake Bay	15.6	1.29
Patuxent River Basin	3.1	0.30
Potomac River Basin	15.8	1.09
Susquehanna River Basin	1.6	0.05
Western Shore of Chesapeake Bay	9.6	0.95
Total	45.8	3.68