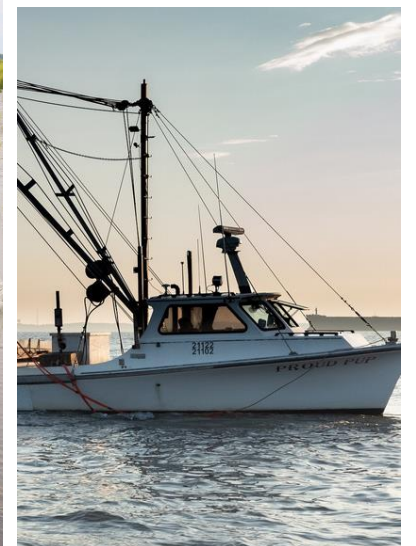




DELMARVA RESTORATION & CONSERVATION NETWORK

DELMARVA RESTORATION & CONSERVATION NETWORK



Dan Murphy
Chesapeake Bay Field Office

WHO WE ARE

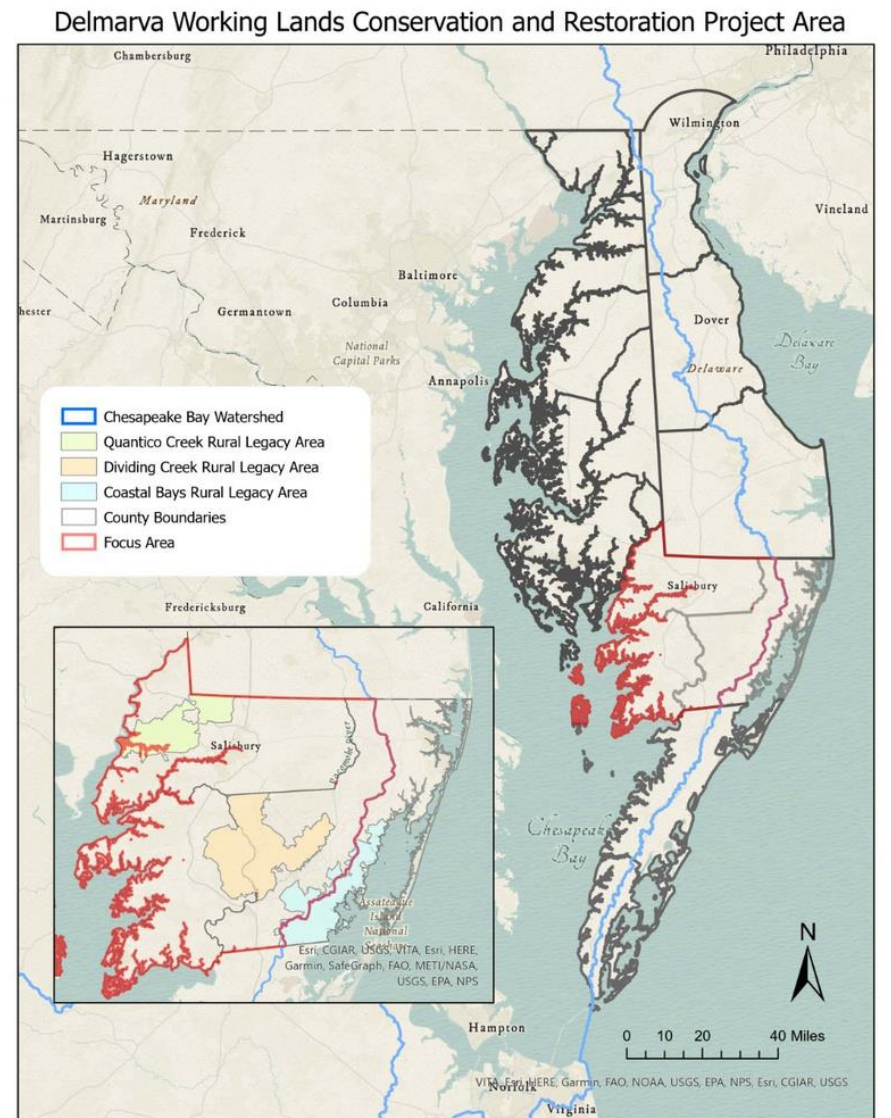


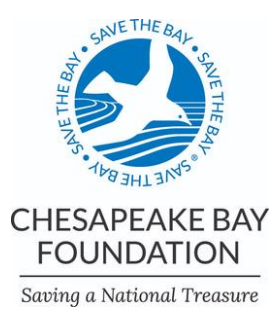
DELMARVA RESTORATION & CONSERVATION NETWORK

Collaborative of local, state and federal agencies and NGO's working on the scale of the Delmarva Peninsula

Del - Mar - Va =
Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia

Convened in 2017 by:





and more!



"The DRCN mission is to restore and conserve Delmarva's landscapes, waterways, and shorelines that are special to its people, fundamental to its economy, and vital for its native fish, wildlife, and plants."



1

Why Delmarva?



2

Our Approach



3

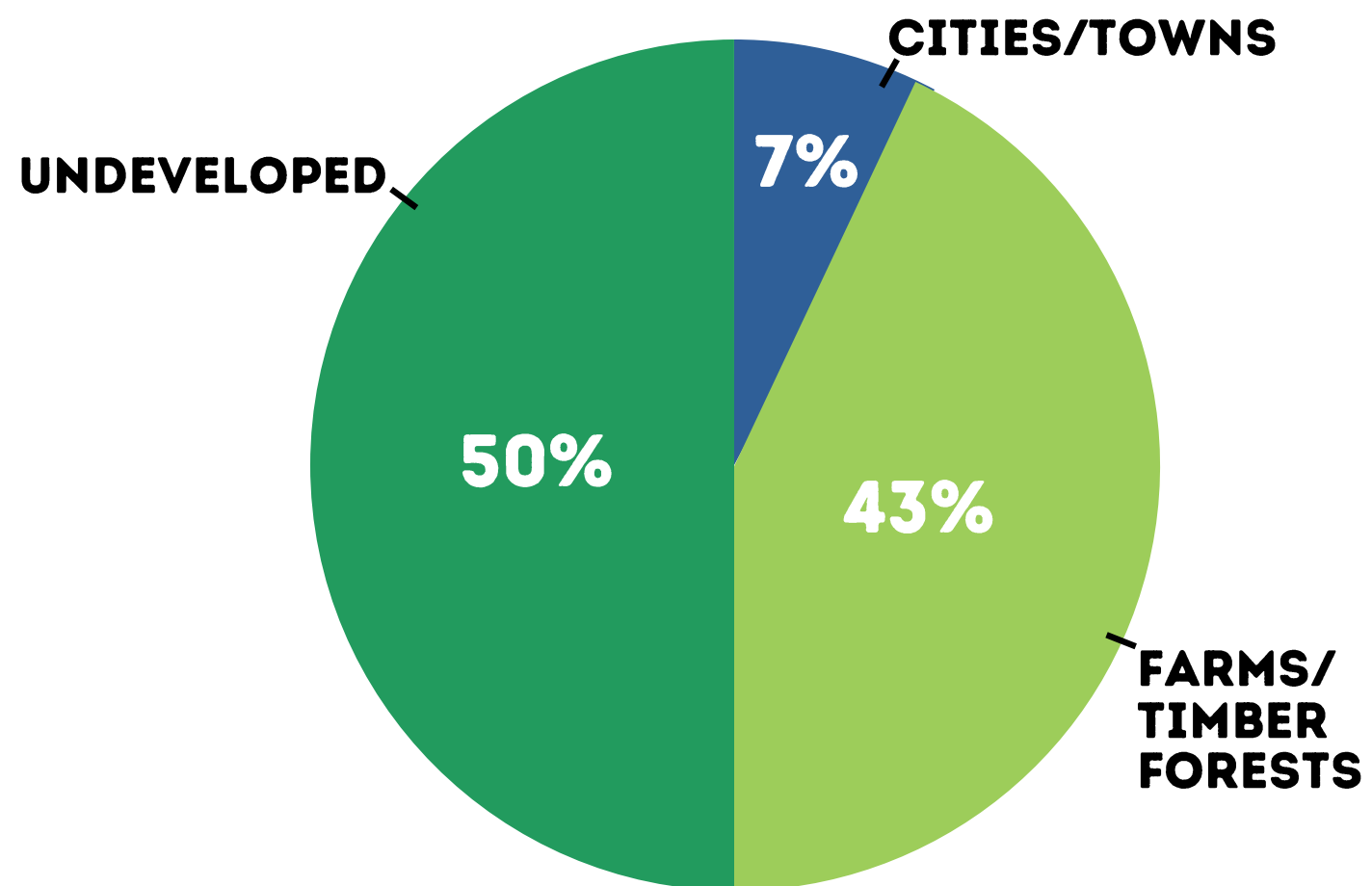
The Results





WHY DELMARVA?

RELATIVELY UNDEVELOPED



VALUABLE FOR WILDLIFE AND PEOPLE



yields \$2.8 billion in farm products annually on 1.3 million acres of farm land



wetlands, forests, grasslands, & pasture worth \$15 billion in ecological benefits



contains 10 National Wildlife Refuges (incl. barrier islands)

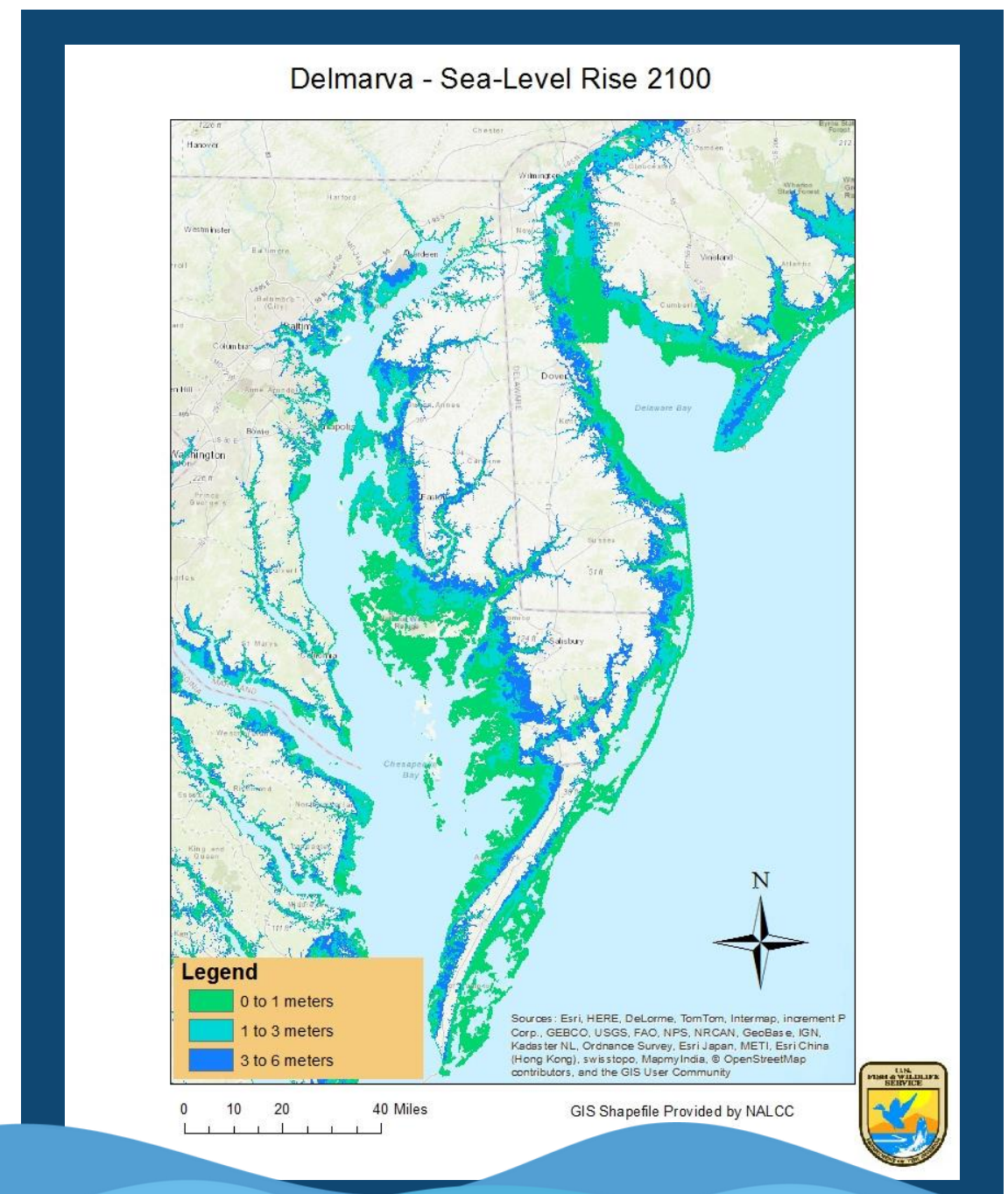


brings in up to \$3.9 billion in outdoor tourism each year

*A 2012 study on the economics of natural areas (including farmland) on Delmarva by Southwick Associates & a socio-economic study by the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program.

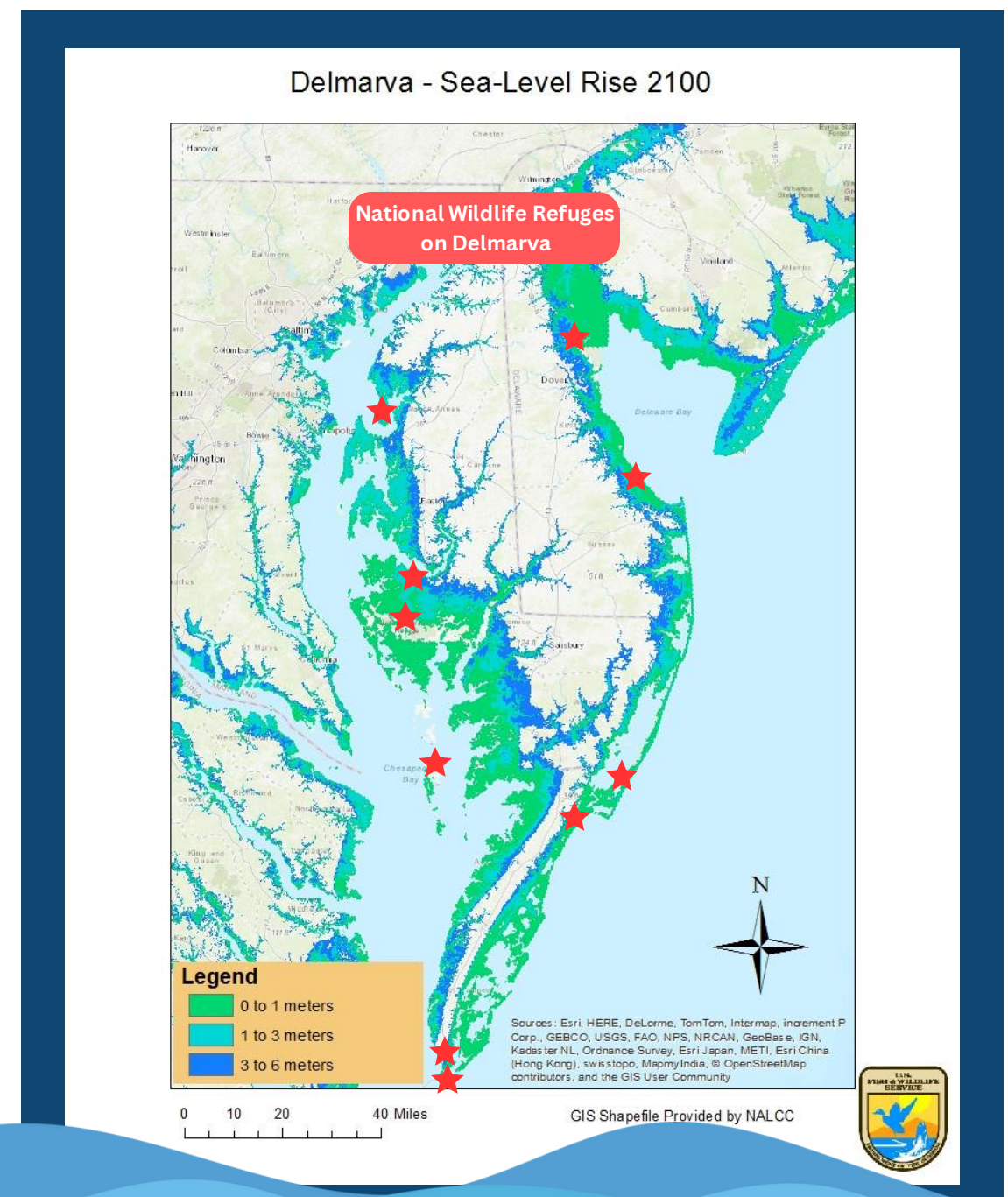
VULNERABLE TO SEA LEVEL RISE

- **Sea level predicted to rise 2 feet by 2100 (under conservative estimates)**
- **Resulting in the loss of:**
 - **625 sq miles of land**
 - **36% of tidal marshes**
 - **69% of ocean beaches**



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OUR APPROACH

OUR

ADDDO



DELMARVA RESTORATION &
CONSERVATION NETWORK

start local - scale up - put money on the ground.



ORGANIZE

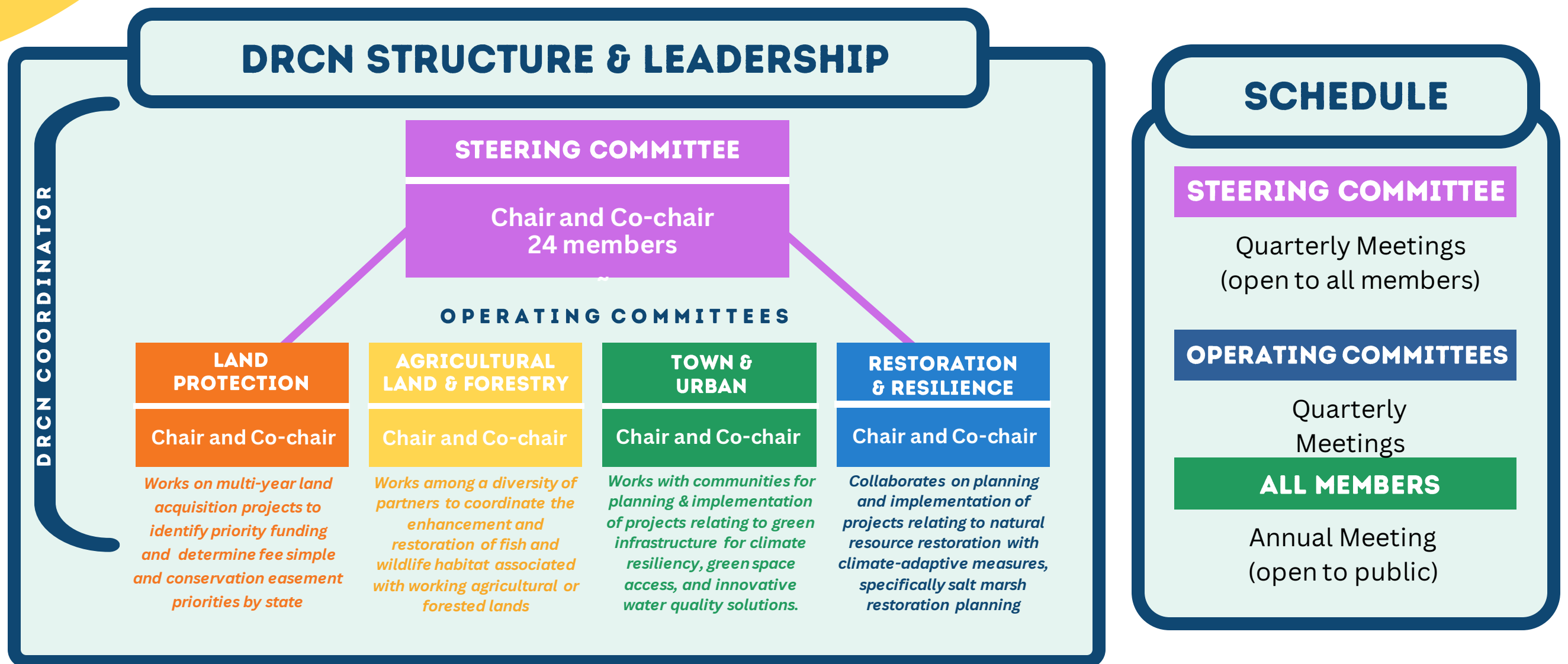


Convened around a mission, vision, and 3 common goals

- **Create cooperative partnerships** among the people, organizations, and industries that rely on Delmarva's natural resources.
- **Support resource-based industries** that enable the economies of Delmarva to thrive.
- **Protect and restore natural resources** that support a diversity of habitats and maintain resiliency with development and climate change

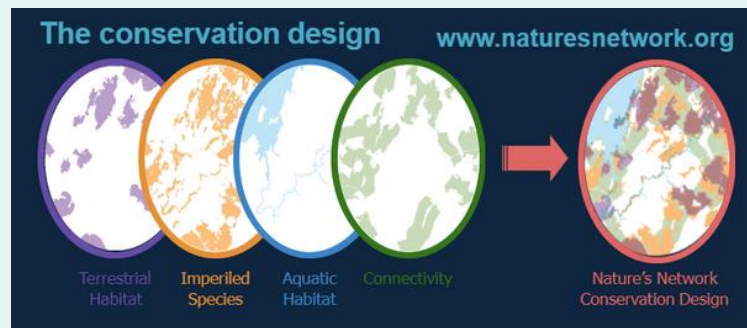
ORGANIZE

Decided on group structure, leadership, and meeting frequency

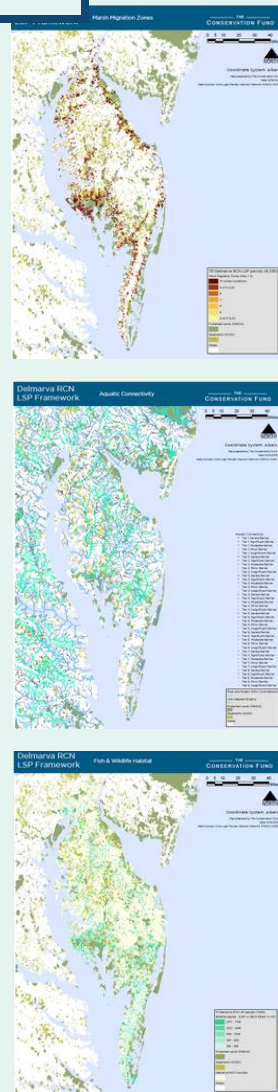


Strategized, Prioritized, Told a Compelling Story

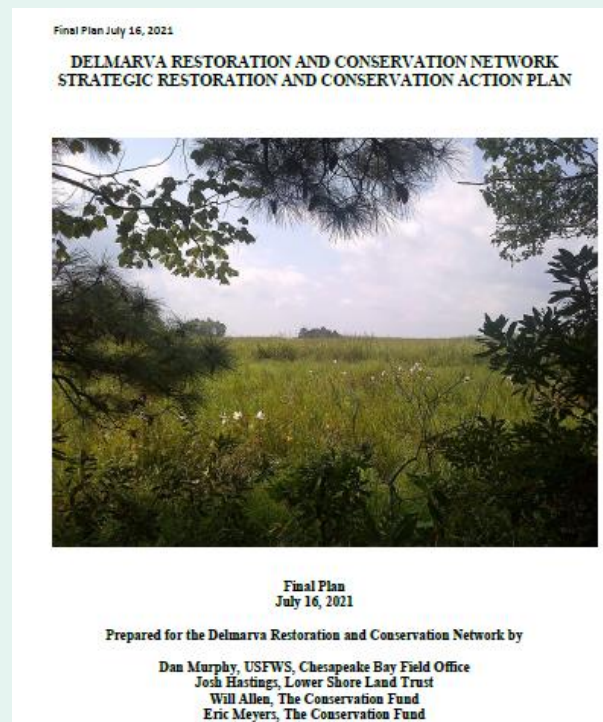
Conservation Design



- **Foundation: Natures Network Data/Mapping**
- **Incorporated Delmarva specific data:**
 - State, NGO, & local layers
 - input from local stakeholders (structured decision making workshop, Logic Scoring Preference Method)

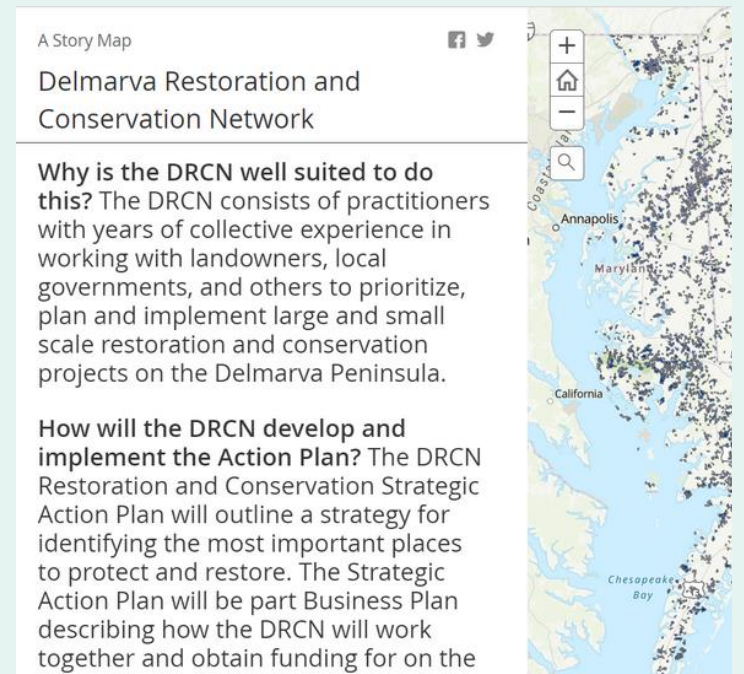


Strategic Action Plan



- **Communicated the value of Delmarva**
- **Highlighted priorities**
- **Outlined next steps and progress tracking**

Story Map



Turned the action plan and conservation design into digestible format

FUND



- (2018)
 - **partners brought DRCN story map and conservation design to congress**
- **proposed Delmarva funding program - became Chesapeake WILD**

Capacity funding:

- (2019)
 - **Network for Landscape Conservation grant**
- (2021)
 - **Small Watershed Grant**
- (2023)
 - **Chesapeake WILD grant**
- **Staff capacity**

(2023)
\$500,000
earmark for DRCN longer-term capacity, communications campaign, and updated mapping

- (2022-2024)
 - **Provided \$1.6 million of funding for marsh restoration: executed through the Restoration & Resilience Committee**
- **Staff capacity (SA, coastal, refuges)**

(2022)
National Coastal Resilience Grant to extend marsh work past Chesapeake Bay watershed, into the MD coastal bays



Put money on the ground.

- **First through Chesapeake WILD**
 - **Next through the...**
- "Marshes for Tomorrow Initiative"**

Results

MARSHES FOR TOMORROW



DELMARVA RESTORATION & CONSERVATION NETWORK

- Lead by Audubon Mid-Atlantic
- Executed in collaboration with the DRCN R&R Committee and USFWS
- Funded by USFWS & NOAA NCF



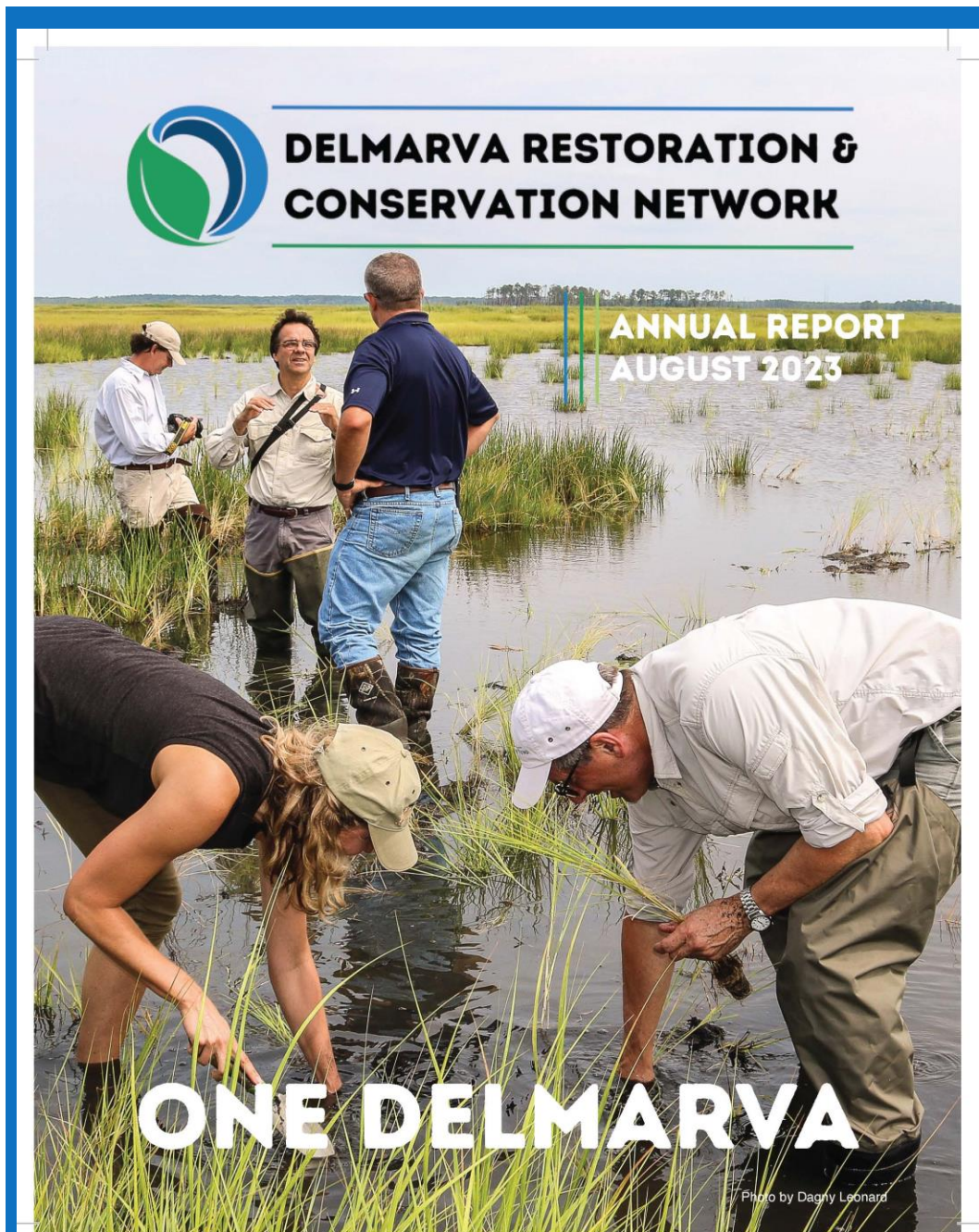
Objectives:

- **Implementation plan** for tidal marsh restoration on a landscape scale in MD portion of Delmarva (25k acres for SALS)
- **Pilot project** to restore damaged tidal marsh on private lands - begin Summer 2023

Results



DELMARVA RESTORATION & CONSERVATION NETWORK



MEETING OBJECTIVES

- Establish support for DRCN annual meeting theme: *“One Delmarva - celebrating Delmarva as a place that connects people across states, political parties, industries, and interests.”*
- Review and reinforce DRCN mission, vision, and values.
- Hear from community members on how DRCN should define its scope moving forward.
- Collaboratively set DRCN priorities for the coming 2-5 years.



MEASURING OUR PROGRESS

Metrics to measure progress toward the DRCN vision annually.

Policies and Actions

Metrics Aligned with Operating Committees

Steering Committee

- Conservation and restoration priorities and maps re-evaluated biennially
- Policy priorities developed and evaluated at the annual meeting
 - Advocacy successes or failures under individual network partners, towards the DRCN goals
- Amount of capacity funds obtained by and for DRCN partners
- # of grant applications applied for under the DRCN network/partnership
 - # of letters of support completed on behalf of the network
- # of new agencies added to the DRCN
- # of new local NGOs or partner organizations added to the DRCN
- # of meetings, webinars, or presentations that DRCN leadership provides to the public and the # of attendees to outreach events
- # of residents, decision makers, community leaders, and other stakeholders that DRCN contacts
- Annual DRCN All Network Meeting hosted
- # of strategic action plan copies distributed

Land Protection

- # of technical assistance actions provided by and to DRCN partners
- # of landowners contacted regarding conservation and restoration opportunities within Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia
- # of acres of habitat restored and/or conserved
 - Types of targeted species (Black Duck, Saltmarsh Sparrow, etc.) within acres
- Conservation and restoration priorities and maps re-evaluated biennially
- # of farmers and landowners engaged regarding conservation and restoration opportunities within Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia
 - # of resource publications distributed to landowners and land managers with the network

Restoration and Resilience

- # of technical assistance actions provided by and to DRCN partners
- # of landowners contacted regarding conservation and restoration opportunities within Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia
- # of acres of habitat restored and/or conserved
 - Types of targeted species (Black Duck, Saltmarsh Sparrow, etc.) within acres
- # of acres of riparian buffers installed under network partnership
- # of best management practices installed for climate change mitigation
- Conservation and restoration priorities and maps re-evaluated biennially

- Original list of metrics listed in strategic action plan
- Getting ready to update those based on what we've learned so far



We envision a Delmarva where native fish and wildlife thrive; working lands and waters enrich the lives of those who live, work, and play here; and rich forestlands and coasts support and sustain present and future generations.



A scenic landscape photograph featuring a wide, green field with scattered white flowers. The field is framed by dark, silhouetted branches of pine trees and other leafy plants in the foreground. The sky is a clear, bright blue with soft, white clouds. The overall mood is peaceful and natural.

THANK YOU!