



Do Wetlands Count? Tracking and mapping a moving target

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Framework for Tracking Wetlands

- USING EPA CORE ELEMENTS:

- **Monitoring and Assessment**
- **Regulatory**
- **Voluntary Restoration**
- **Planning and Sustainability**
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Monitoring and Assessment

- Does M&A include mapping
- Do you map wetlands?
- Do you rely on other mapping products?
 - Has the Sackett decision impacted the mapped data?
 - Jurisdictional or scientific maps
 - Mapping approach: raster or polygon- how refined is the boundary?

Monitoring and Assessment

- Rapidly changing wetlands systems
 - Climate drives hydrology changes
 - Sea level rise
 - Flood/ drought patterns



Regulatory

- No Net Loss
 - On paper or on the ground
 - In Lieu fees
 - Banking credits
- State wetland laws for nontidal wetlands?
- Enforcement and Violations
- Differences in Agriculture and Urban programs
 - Two Silos



Voluntary Restoration

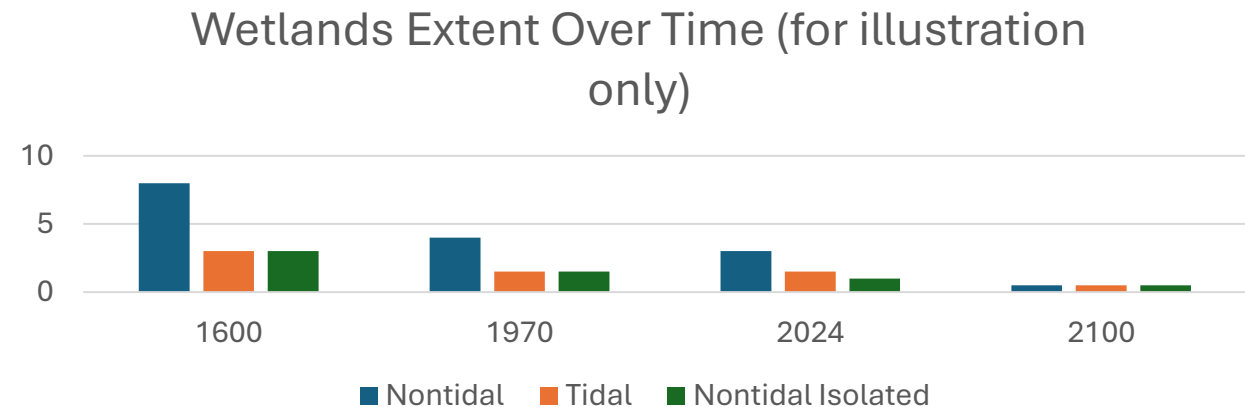
- What counts as “restoration?”
- Placed based restoration
 - Can not georeference Agricultural Wetland Practices
- Tacking via database or mapping
 - Database isn’t mapped
 - Mapping takes time to “see” wetlands via landcover analysis
- How does restoration impact ecosystem services



Limitations on Accurate Tracking

- Semantics

- Differing entities use different terms for the same action
- What would you call a wetland easement?
 - Protection
 - Management
 - Conservation
- What would you call a rock sill on the eroding edge of a wetland?
 - Protection
 - Management
 - Persistence





Tracking and Accounting

- Reporting for differing programs, systems, funders
- Regulatory Tracking and Restoration Tracking
- Are we all using the same terms for the same practices
- How to accumulate climate losses/ gains with voluntary gains and regulatory “no net loss”

Chesapeake Bay Program Perspective



Semantics

White paper on terms for shared understanding

Cross-walk partners definition



Tacking

Habitat Tracker: all wetland projects

BMP tracking: wetlands as best management practices

Complicated by various data entry responsibilities

Does not work well without an obligation/commitment