

Drew Pizzala, Stewardship GIT Staffer

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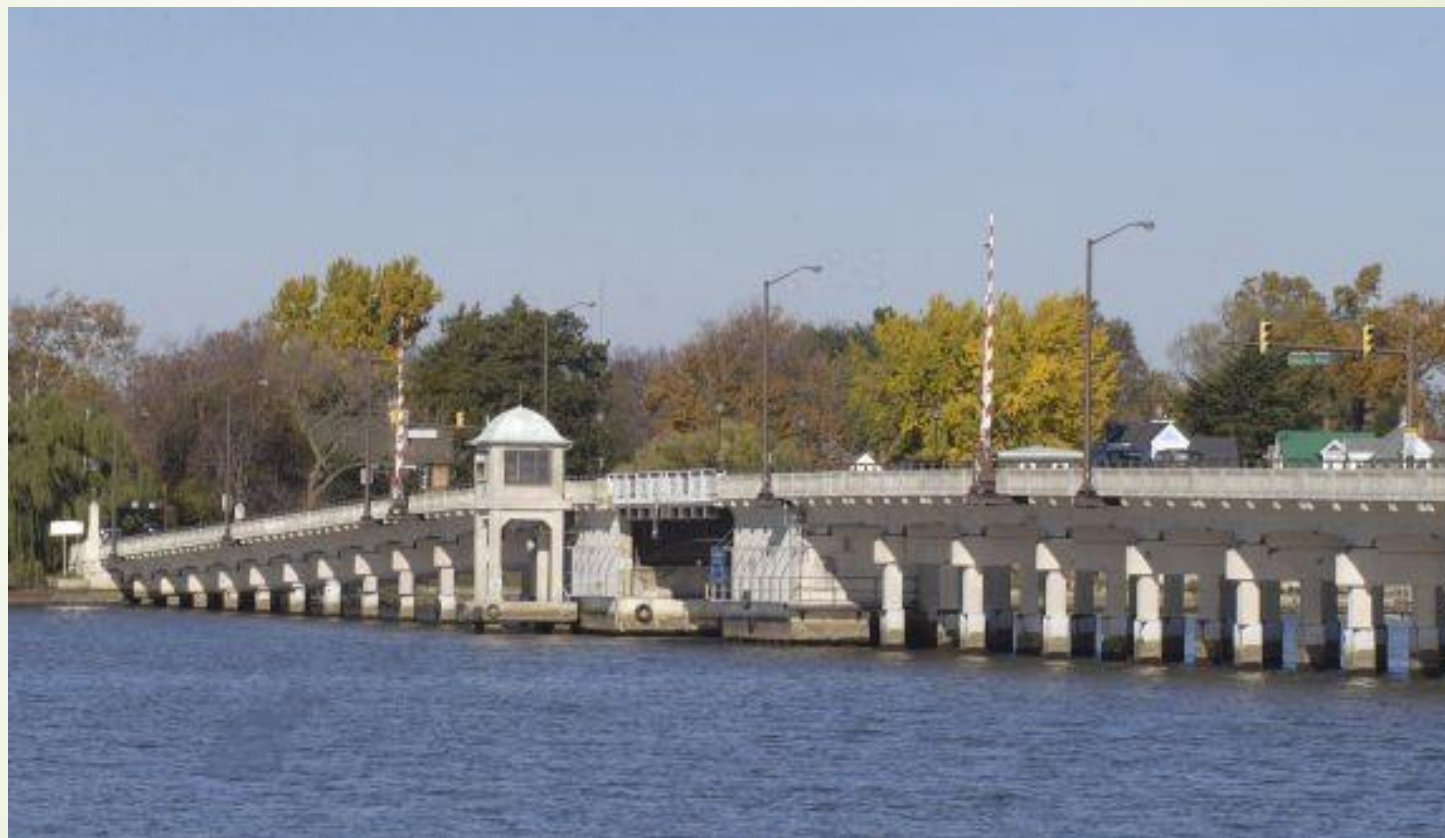






Some Things you Should
Know about Me









Senior Research Thesis:
Changes in Benthic Macroinvertebrate
Diversity and Abundance Across the
Axis of the Chester River, a Tidally
Affected, Maryland Estuary of the
Chesapeake Bay



Chesapeake Conservation Corps



Chesapeake Bay
National Estuarine Research Reserve
Maryland



CCC Capstone Project: Monie Bay BioBlitz



Volunteer Mike Quinlan explains distinguishing characteristics of a frog to 3 members of the Chesapeake Conservation Corps cohort of 2015-2016 while observations are uploaded to iNaturalist.



Crown-tipped Coral Fungi growing on a decaying log in upland wooded area.



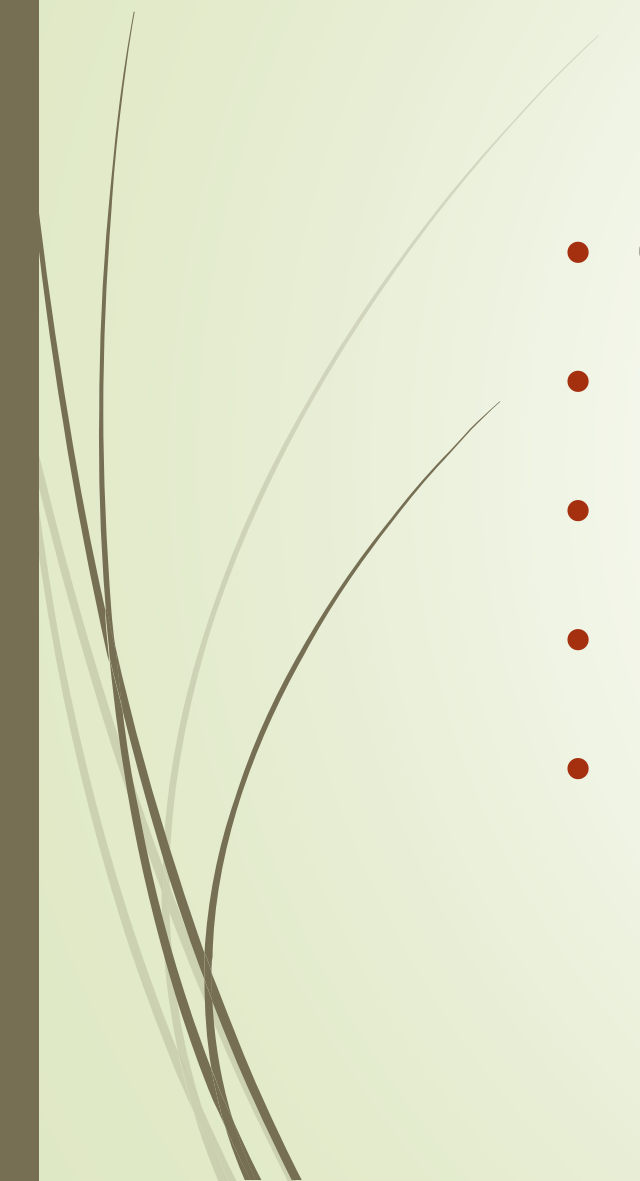
Mating Green Tree frogs spotted near a ditch filled with rain water.



Today at CRC

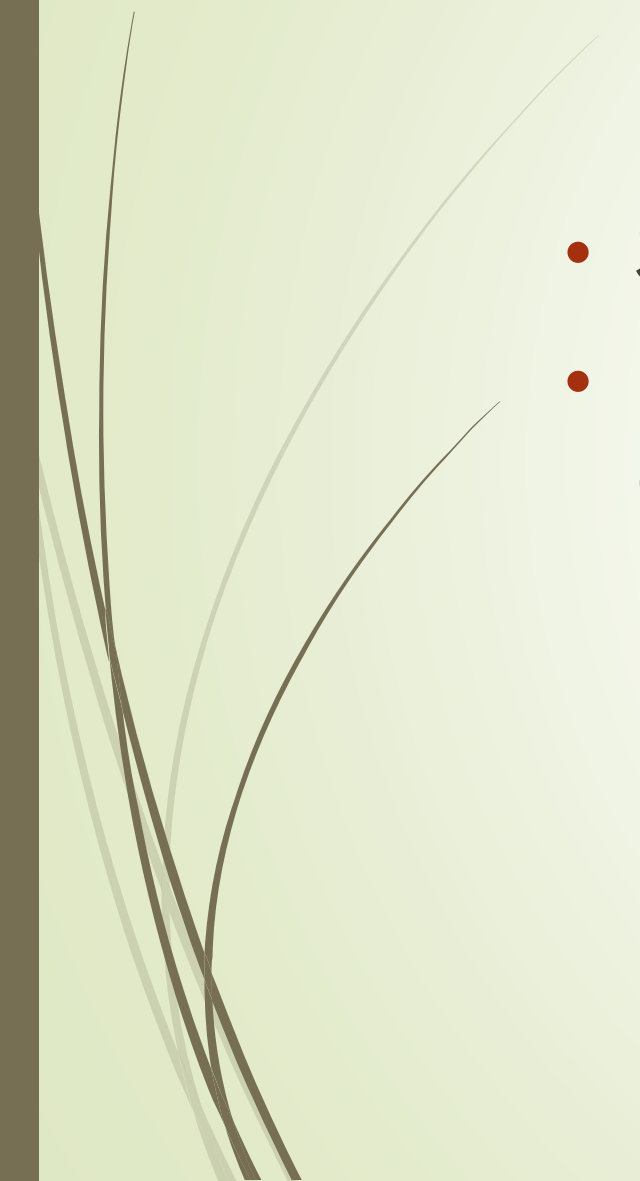


Stewardship GIT

- Citizen Stewardship Goal
 - Public Access Goal
 - Environmental Literacy Goal
 - Land Conservation Goal
 - Diversity Goal
- 



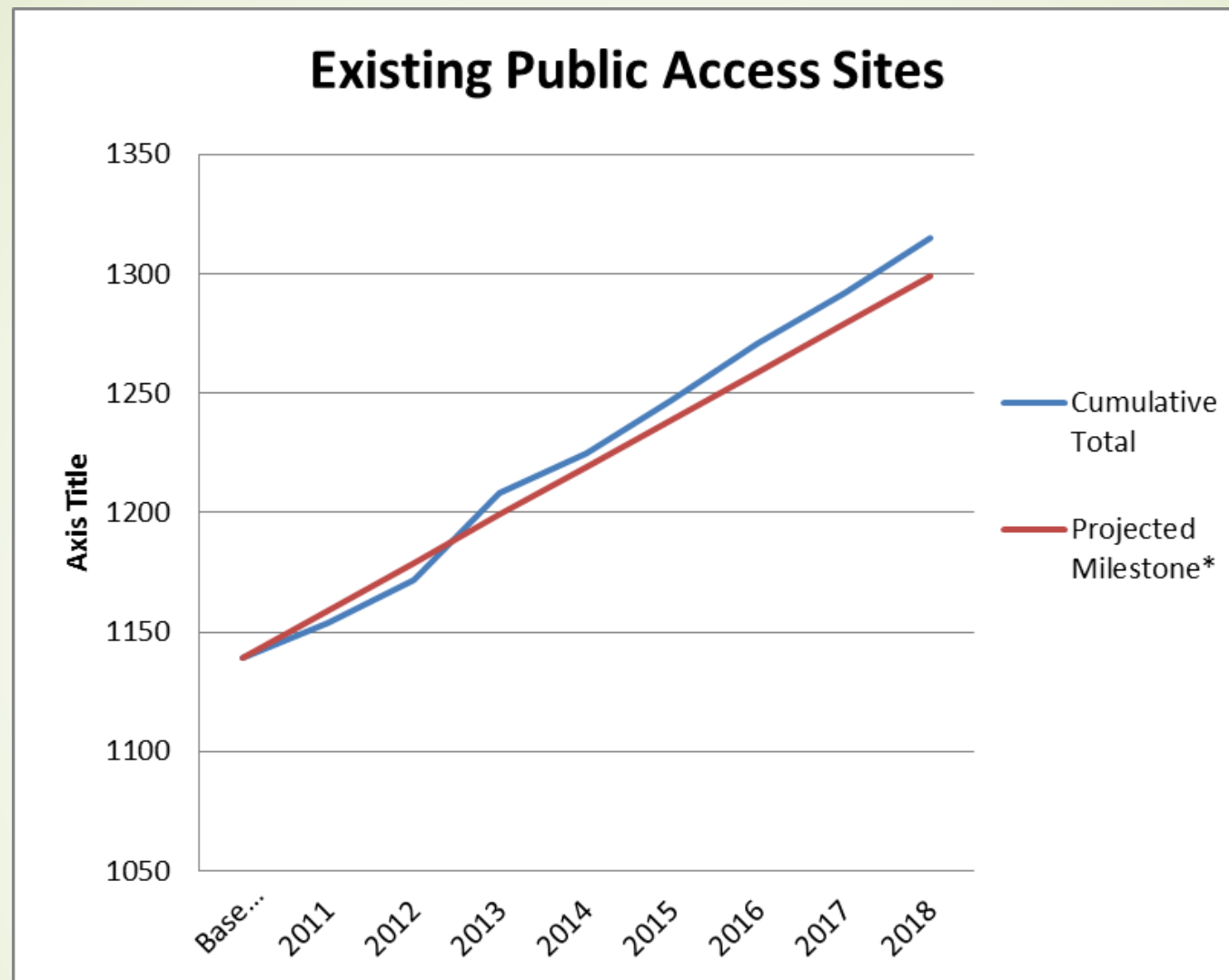
Citizen Stewardship

- Stewardship Online Tool
 - Behavior Change In House Training (Cross GIT)
- 



Public Access

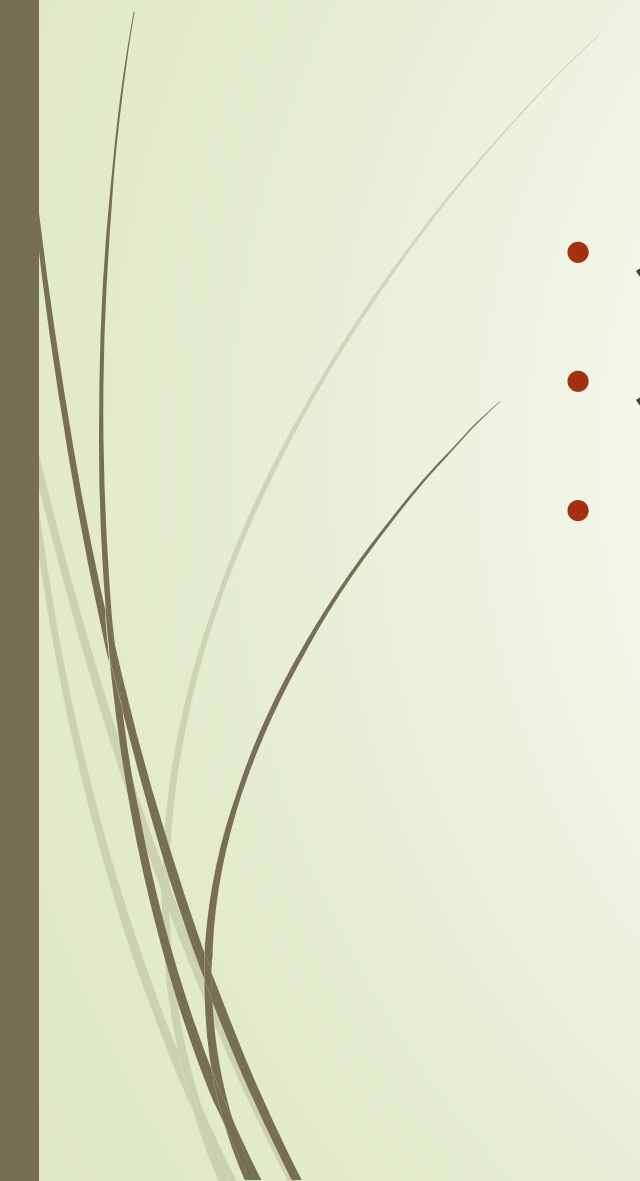
- 23 new public access sites opened in 2018
 - 12 in MD
 - 4 in PA
 - 7 in VA
 - No new sites recorded in DC, NY, or WV



1,315 out of 1,439 sites opened = 59% of 300 added public access sites by 2025



Environmental Literacy

- Student Outcome
 - Sustainable Schools Outcome
 - Environmental Literacy Planning
- 



Environmental Literacy

- [MWEE 101 Online Training Launched!](#)



Land Conservation

- Land Conservation Financing Database Development
- 



Catalog of Land Conservation Financing ...

How was the need identified?

- The Chesapeake Conservation Partnership identified the need to
 - (a) inform efforts to support and maintain existing public funding sources
 - (b) advise efforts to develop or expand sources to address gaps and opportunities.
- The inventory includes state financing sources that fund land protection initiatives in the Chesapeake Bay watershed states.



Funding Level Summary Tables.xlsx

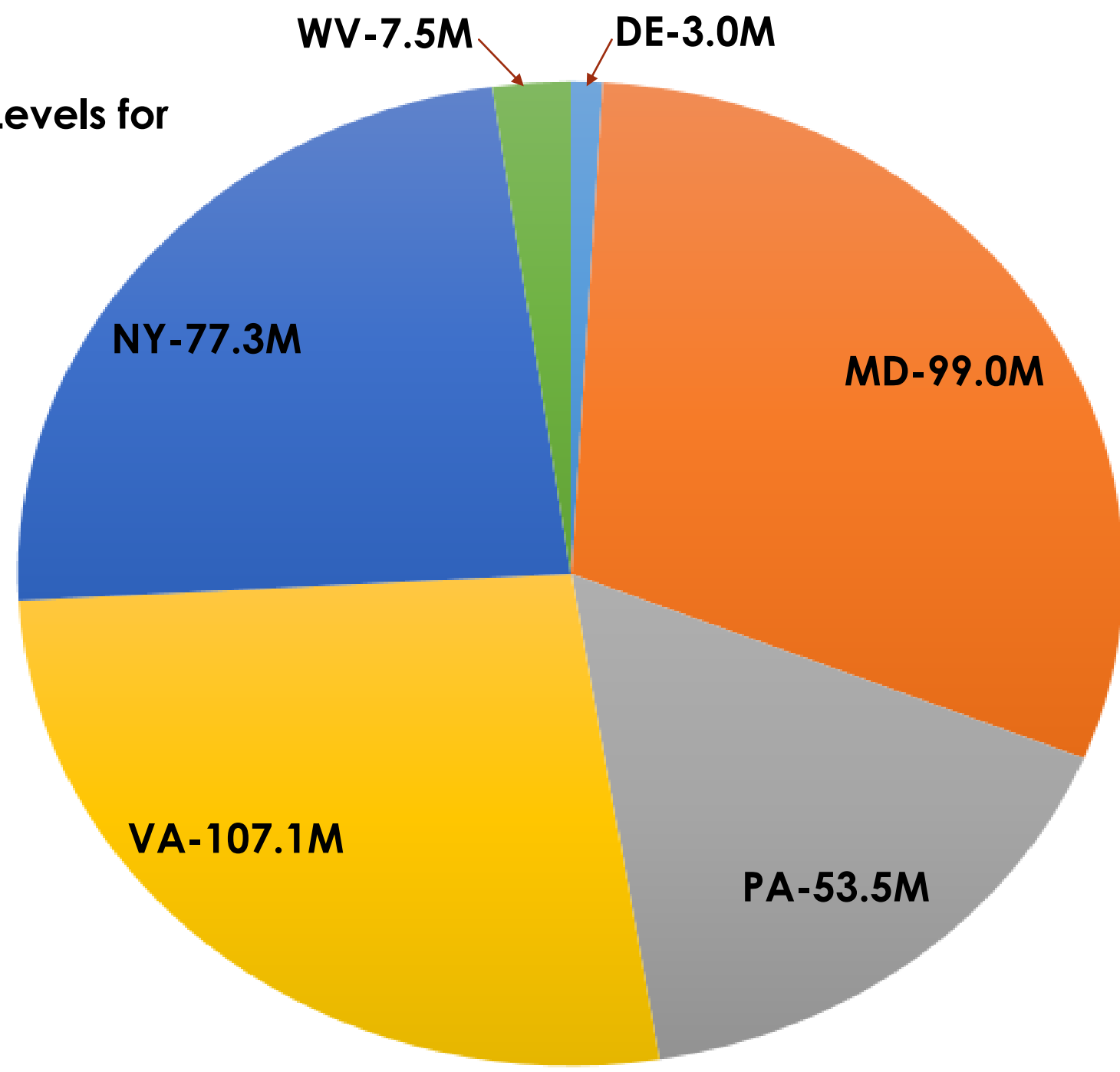


What criteria were we asking for from states?

- Program Name
- Concise Program Description
- Eligible and Priority Geographies
- Eligible and Priority Project Types
- Nature of Financing
- Last Three Year Funding Levels
- Last Three Year Expenditure Levels (what was actually spent)
- Available Unexpected Funding (back log of funds from prior fiscal years?)
- Current Issues/Opportunities
- Anticipated Future Funding Trend (increase, decrease, remain the same)

[MDRuralLegacyProgram.pdf](#)

**2018 State Funding Levels for
Land Protection**



**Total State Funding
Levels Combined:
\$347.4M**

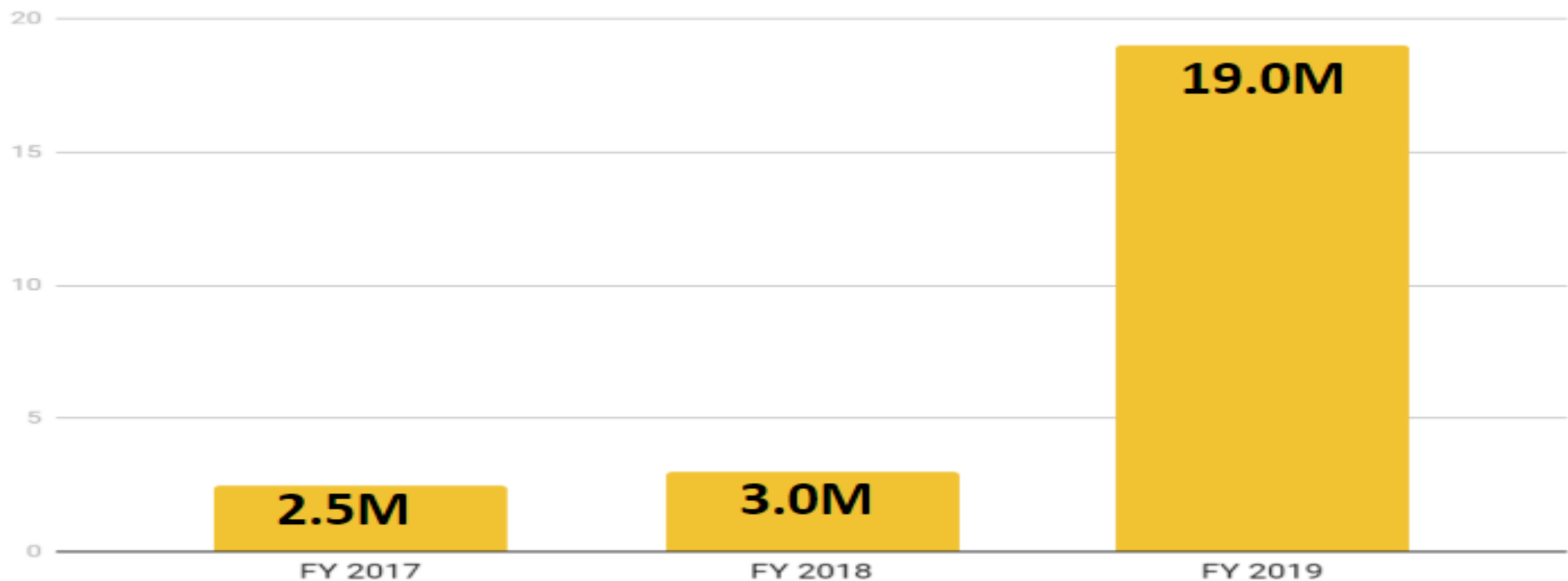


Selected Highlight Years

Catalog of Land Conservation Financing

Delaware

State-wide Totals

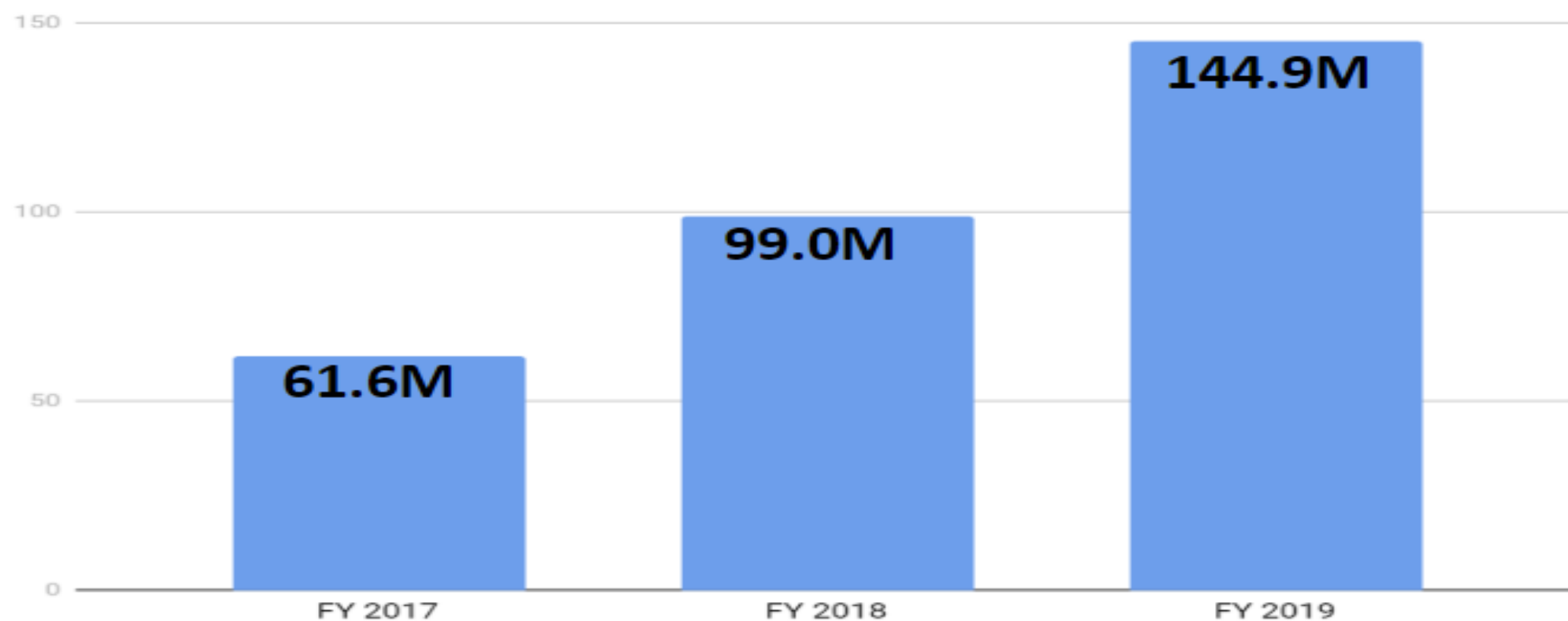


Source: DE Division of Fish and Wildlife, DE Department of Agriculture

Catalog of Land Conservation Financing

Maryland

State-wide Totals

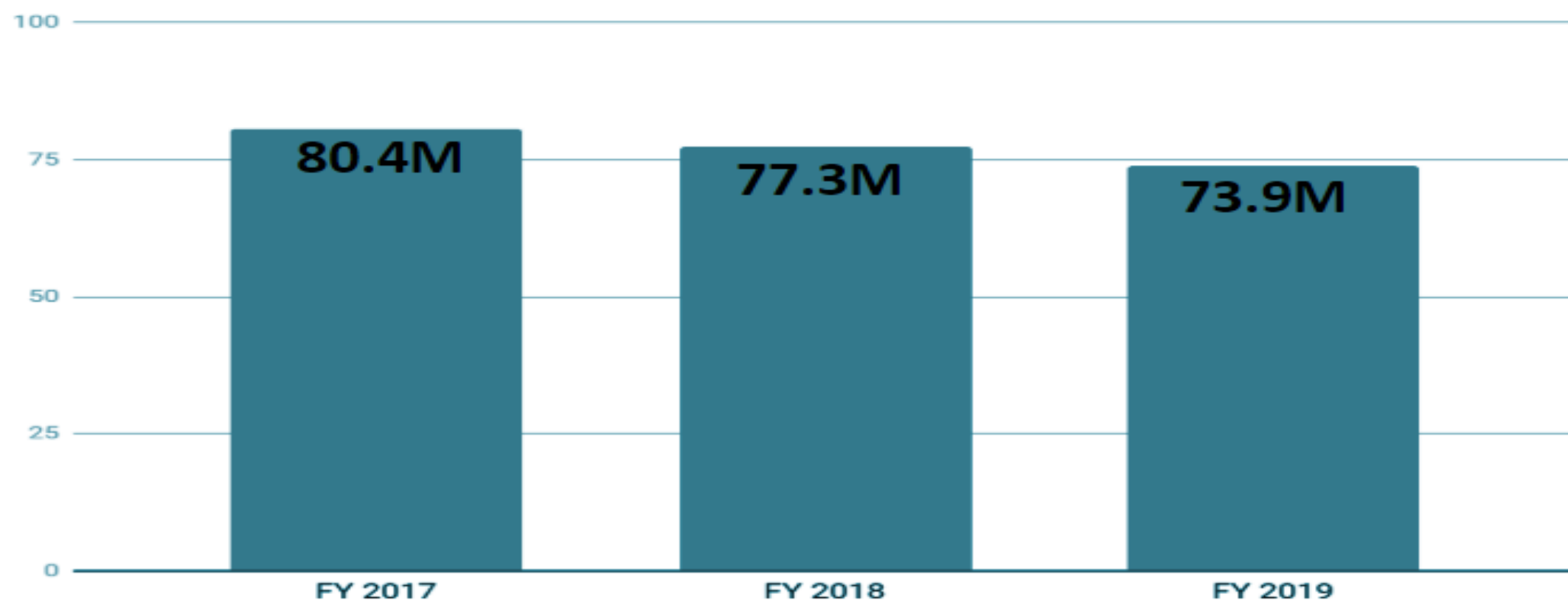


Source: MD Department of Natural Resources

Catalog of Land Conservation Financing

New York

State-wide Totals

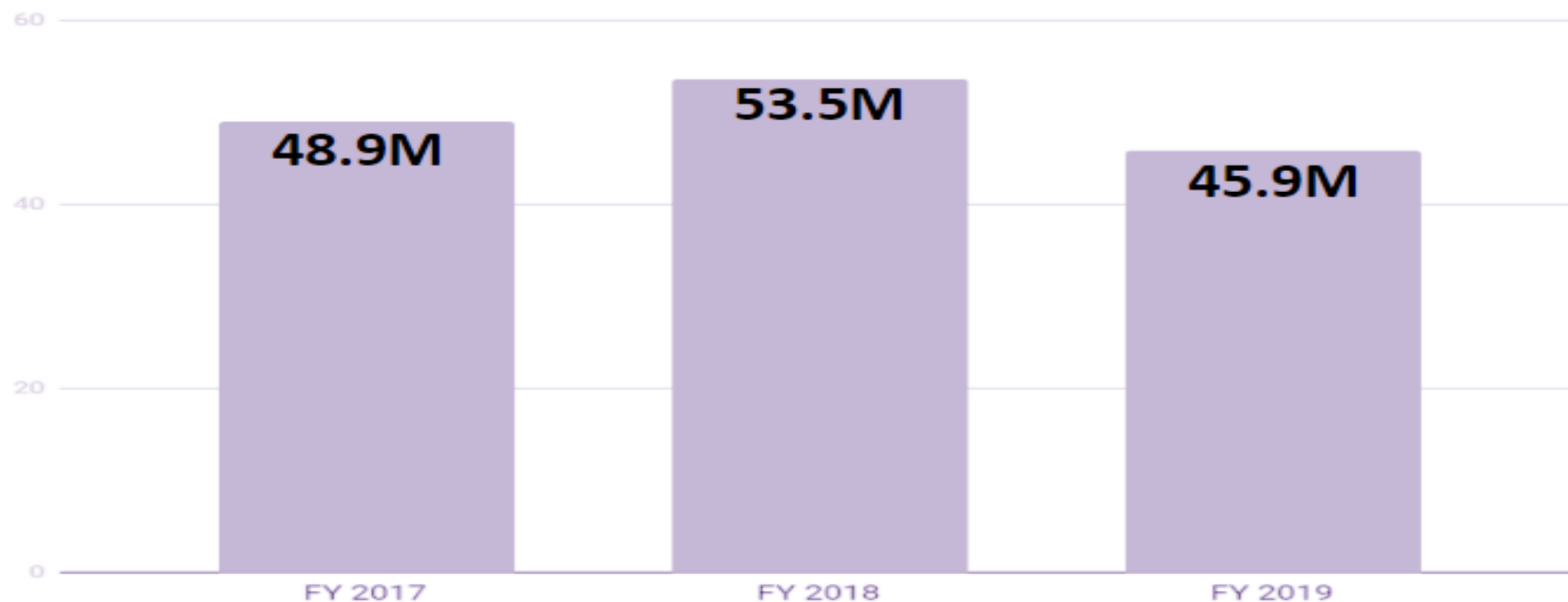


Source: NY Department of Environmental Conservation

Catalog of Land Conservation Financing

Pennsylvania

State-wide Totals

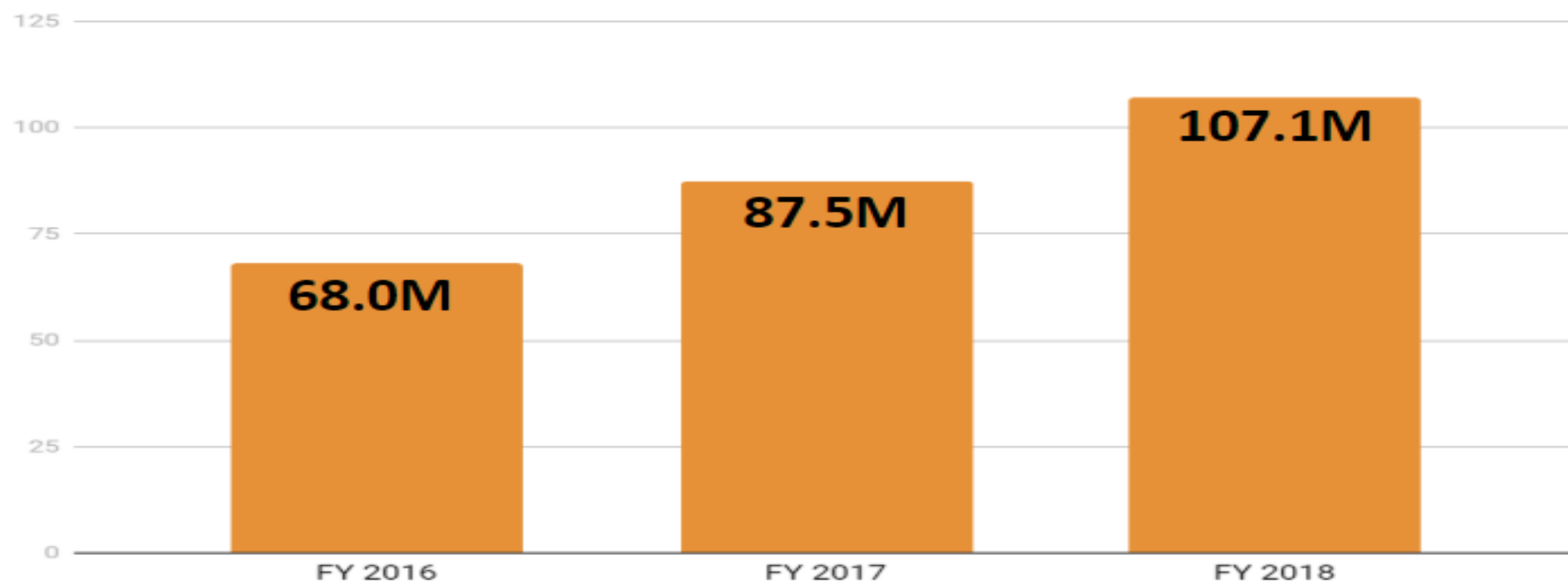


Source: PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

Catalog of Land Conservation Financing

Virginia

State-wide Totals

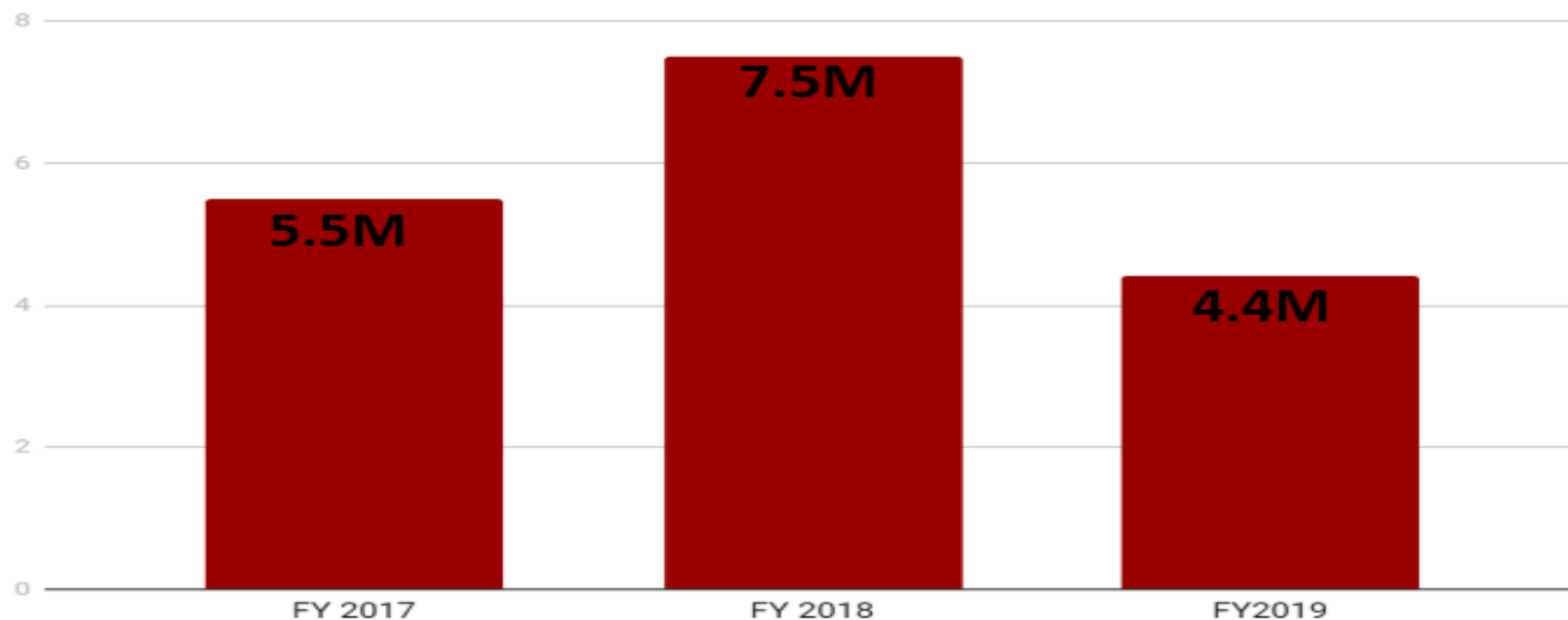


Source: VA Department of Conservation and Recreation, VA Department of Historic Resources

Catalog of Land Conservation Financing

West Virginia

State-wide Totals



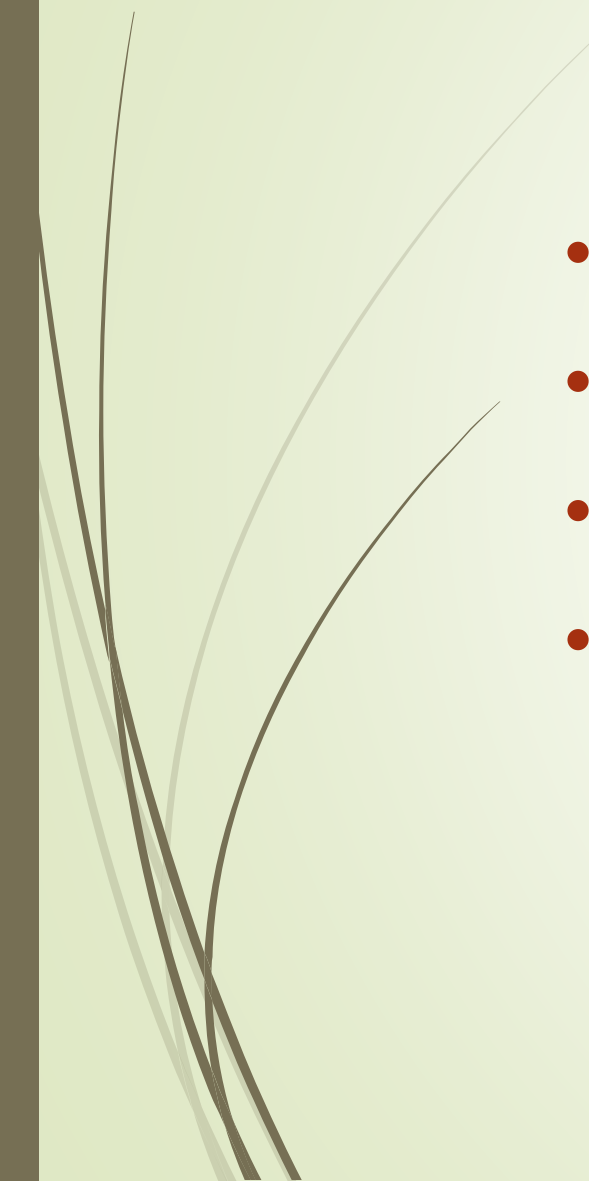
Source: WV Agricultural Land Protection Authority

Analysis Summary

- Funding levels and trends in these programs vary significantly by state:
- Delaware saw a substantial increase (six-fold) in fiscal year 2019 over recent prior years.
- Maryland's land protection funding has more than doubled in fiscal year 2019 from 2017 levels. Maryland also has by far the highest overall level of land protection funding of the six watershed states.
- New York's Environmental Protection Fund levels for land protection have been fairly consistent over several years, but in 2017, the legislature approved a new investment in source water protection through \$110 million in bonded capital, to be spent over five years.
- Pennsylvania's farmland preservation program, long nationally recognized, continues to have the highest annual investment in land protection among the commonwealth's programs, at \$45.9 million in fiscal year 2019.
- Virginia's largest financing source is through the Land Preservation Tax Credit for conservation easements which is capped at \$75 million per year, though actual levels vary by what is submitted from landowners. 2019 tax credit levels are not yet available, but in 2018 submitted credits were down substantially from prior years. Appropriated funds for acquisition are down in fiscal year 2019. The Commonwealth saw significant funding allocated in restricted funds in 2018 as a result of mitigation settlements.
- West Virginia's investments in land protection are fairly consistent over the past several years, spread across several programs, totaling \$7.5 million in fiscal year 2018.
- Generally, advocates for state land protection funding need to regularly make the case to governors and legislators of the importance of sustaining or growing these programs.

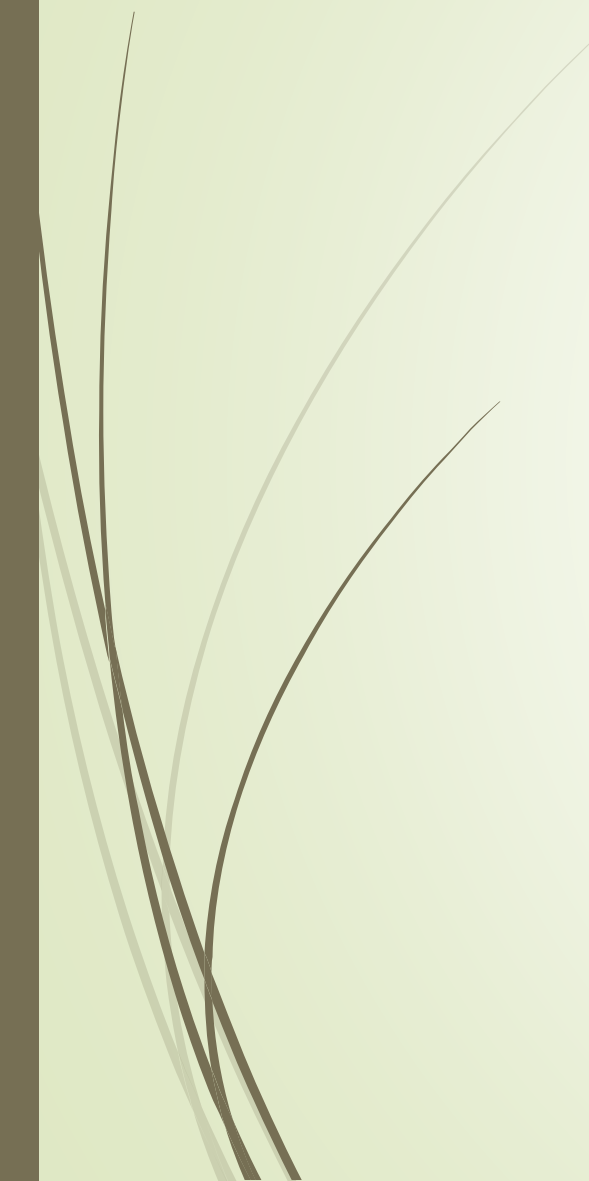


Next Steps

- States are reviewing funding levels
 - Continue to build out federal funding sources
 - Identify sources of county funding
 - Identify sources of private funding
- 



Future Plans



Questions I Have

- What are STAC's priority areas across GITs right now? Are there more opportunities for collaboration in stewardship-related activities or projects?
- Does STAC see possible uses of the land conservation catalog in an academic or research setting?
- From an academic standpoint, how are behavior change and the social sciences being implemented into science research? What are the gaps or opportunities?



Questions for Me?



Thank You!

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