

DWAC Carrot Subcommittee: Status Report

- Setting the table--



DWAC Carrot Subcommittee: Status Report continued

- Asking the QUESTION:
 - What are the priority wetland habitat types that an incentive program should target?

How Many Wetlands Do We Have?

- 25% of Delaware's land area is covered by wetlands
- 320,000 acres identified
- Non-tidal wetlands comprise roughly two-thirds of the State's wetlands



Historic Wetland Loss

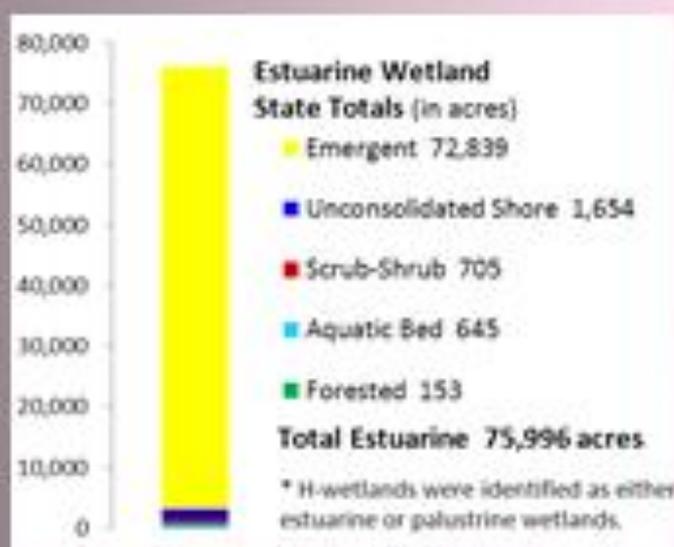
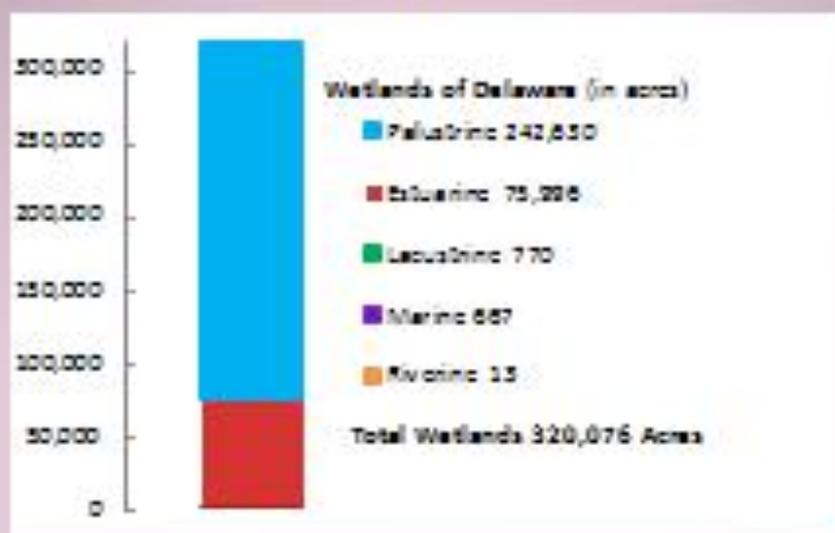
54% of Delaware's wetland acreage was lost between 1780's and 1980's



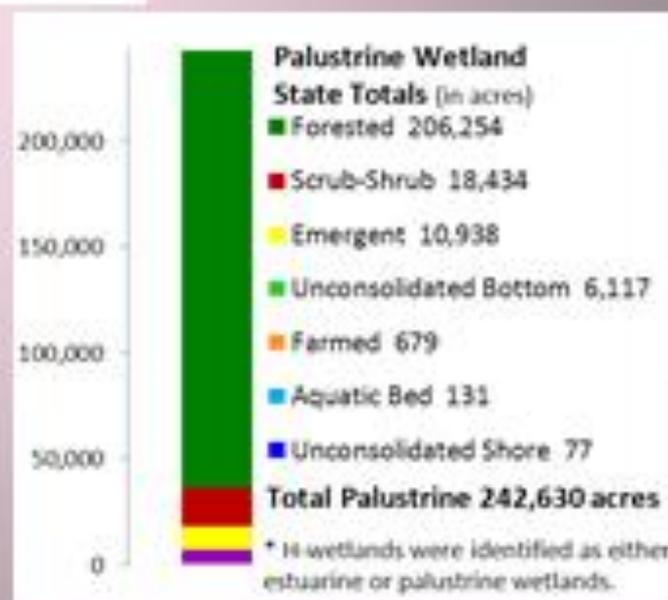
Most historic loss due to ditching and channelization and direct conversion of large forests to other uses

2007 Delaware Wetlands- Status (by ecological classification)

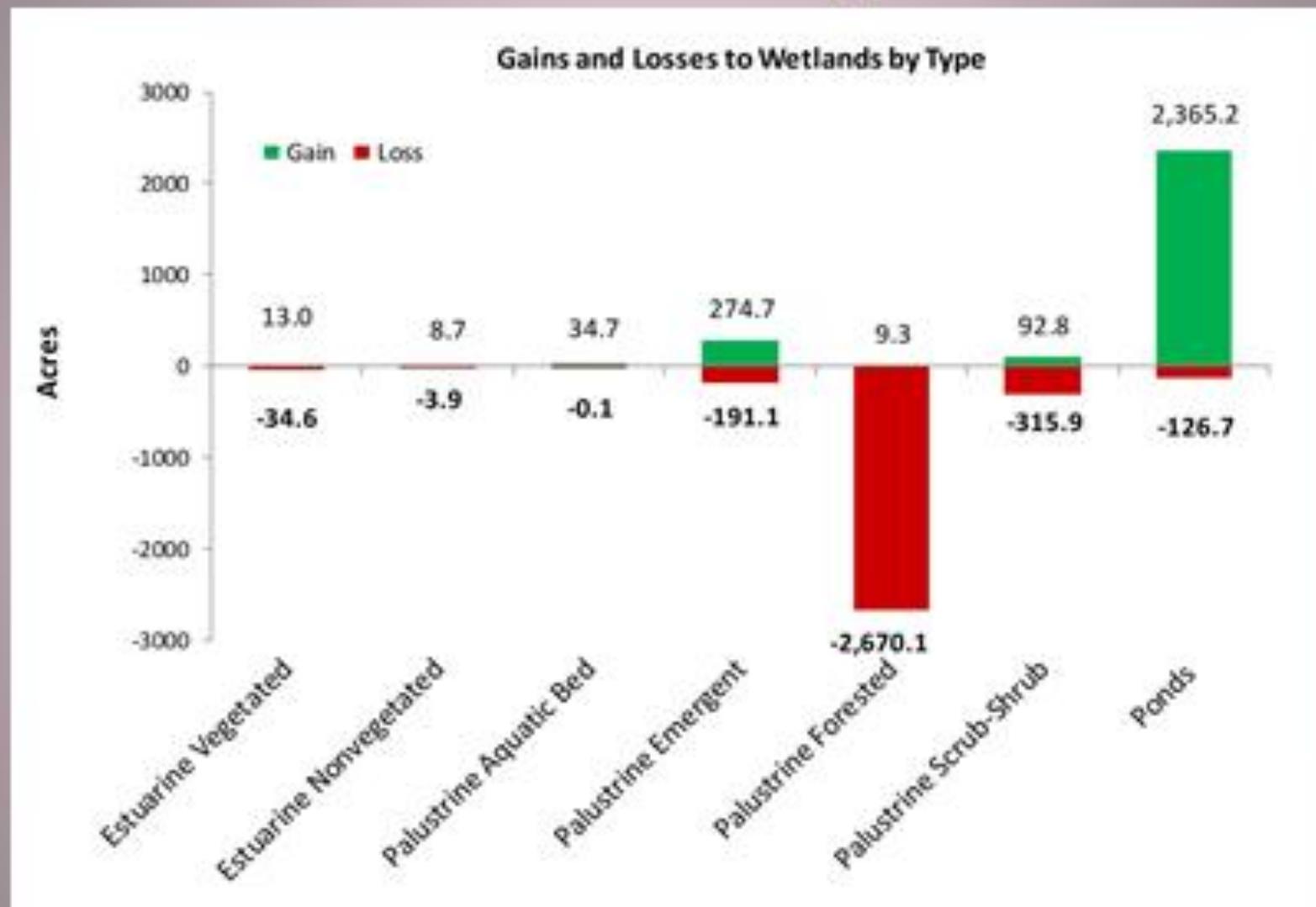
2/3 of state wetlands are non-tidal



85% of nontidal wetlands are forested



Delaware Wetlands – Changes 1992 to 2007



NOTE: Ponds do not provide near as many functional benefits as natural forested wetlands.

DWAC Carrot Subcommittee: Status Report continued

- Answering the QUESTION:

Subcommittee is recommending a focus on **forested habitats** that contain wetland complexes (such as Delmarva Bays and headwater wetlands) as a priority for developing and targeting incentives.

ALSO

***Approximately 80% of
our State's wetlands
are privately owned.***

***Landowners with wetlands on their property
can serve as stewards of these rich natural
resources by voluntarily enrolling in
conservation and restoration opportunities
for their land. Everyone has a role to play in
wetland conservation and everyone can make
a difference!***



What are some of the key components that should be included in an incentive program?

EXAMPLES:

- Leverage existing state and federal programs
- Conservation NGOs participation and funding
- Be voluntary
- Program should have understandable criteria
- Provide for permanent protection
- Have a dedicated source of funding

Next Steps

Land Conservation Forum:

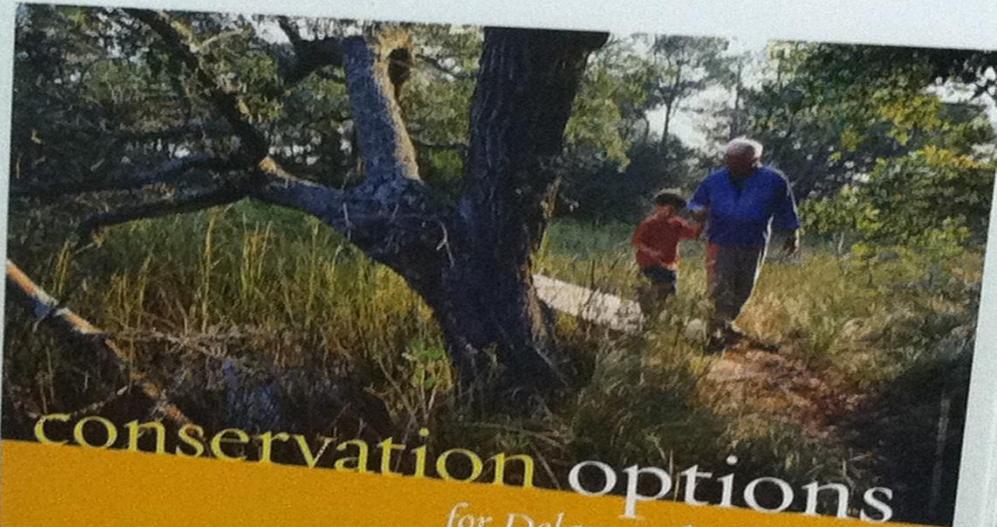
*Tools for
Professional
Advisors
and
Landowners*



Tuesday, May 24, 2005
8:45 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Bellevue Hall
Bellevue State Park
Wilmington, DE

Presented by the Delaware Nature Society in partnership with:
The Brandywine Conservancy • The Conservation Fund • The Delaware Department of Natural Resources
& Environmental Control • The Nature Conservancy in Delaware • The Frederick Academy of Real Estate
The Delaware State Bar Association

The Nature Conservancy 
SAVING THE LAST GREAT PLACES ON EARTH



conservation options
for Delaware landowners

A FORUM AND RESOURCE KIT

Next Steps

- Jim McCulley will consult with county and municipal land use practitioners regarding the feasibility of implementing a “natural resource protection incentive ordinance” which will include the protection of high priority wetlands, rare species habitats and forest resources.
- The subcommittee will review the Agricultural Lands Preservation model and evaluate how the lessons learned can be applied to the now dormant Forestlands Preservation Program in providing incentives for landowners to protect the state’s remaining forested wetlands.
- We will evaluate all carrot committee recommendations against the Parkowski Points before bringing any recommendations forward to the full committee.

Next Steps continued

- Continue to work on identifying existing studies within Delaware and from surrounding states that document the attitudes and opinions of private landowners concerning the voluntary participation in conservation programs (aim here is to increase participation rates) Sarah Cooksey will lead this effort for the carrot committee.
- At the March meeting of the DWAC present up two to three case study incentive approaches for consideration.
- Continue to coordinate with DNREC Conservation and Restoration subcommittee.