

A report of Implementation Activities
Relating to the Implementation of the
Buzzards Bay
Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan
in accordance with the
Government Performance and Results Act

for the period
October 1, 2001 to September 30, 2002.

prepared by the
Buzzards Bay Project National Estuary Program
October 25, 2002

Background

The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), is required to conform to the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA), which measures performance or progress towards established goals. The following goal and objective adopted by EPA relates to National Estuary Programs, including the Buzzards Bay Project:

Goal #2 is Clean and Safe Water.

Objective #2 under that goal is as follows: By 2005, conserve and enhance the ecological health of the nation's (state, interstate and tribal) waters and aquatic ecosystems - - rivers and streams, lakes, wetlands, estuaries, coastal areas, oceans and groundwaters - - so that 75% of waters support healthy aquatic communities.

Sub-objective 2.1 states: By 2005, restore and protect watersheds so that 75% of waters support healthy watersheds as shown by comprehensive assessment of the nation's watersheds.

One of EPA's Annual Planning Goals is to restore and protect estuaries through the implementation of Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plans. Success in meeting this Annual Planning Goal is measured through Annual Planning Measures. To conform to GPRA, the measures adopted by the EPA in 2001 were:

- 1) the number of priority actions initiated across the NEP, and
- 2) the acres of habitat protected and restored.

With respect to the habitat measure, NEPs have been asked to report those acres protected or restored during the reporting period. The information in this GPRA report covers the period October 1, 2001 to September 30, 2002 (i.e., Federal FY2002).

CCMP Priority Actions Initiated and Completed

The Buzzards Bay Project has not revised the priorities in our CCMP or added any new actions during the past year. The summary in Table 1 for FY 2002 accomplishments continues from where the Buzzards Bay Project's previous GPRA report submitted in October 2001 left off.

It is important to recognize that a summary like Table 1 cannot capture the essence of implementation activities in Buzzards Bay. For example, during the past 7 years, perhaps 25% of the Buzzards Bay Project's and Buzzards Bay municipal effort (dollars and manpower) related directly or indirectly to the remediation of stormwater discharges contributing to beach or shellfish bed closures. This effort has paid off big dividends with the rehabilitation of hundreds of acres of shellfish beds over the years, with many more acres of shellfish beds open during at least part of each year (see Figures 1, and 2).

The work on stormwater contributing to the reopening of shellfish resource areas relates to only two or three Buzzards Bay CCMP recommendations that recommend remediation of problematic stormwater discharges. At the current level of effort, it will take 20 years or more and tens of millions of dollars for these Management Plan recommendations. Thus, despite the success of

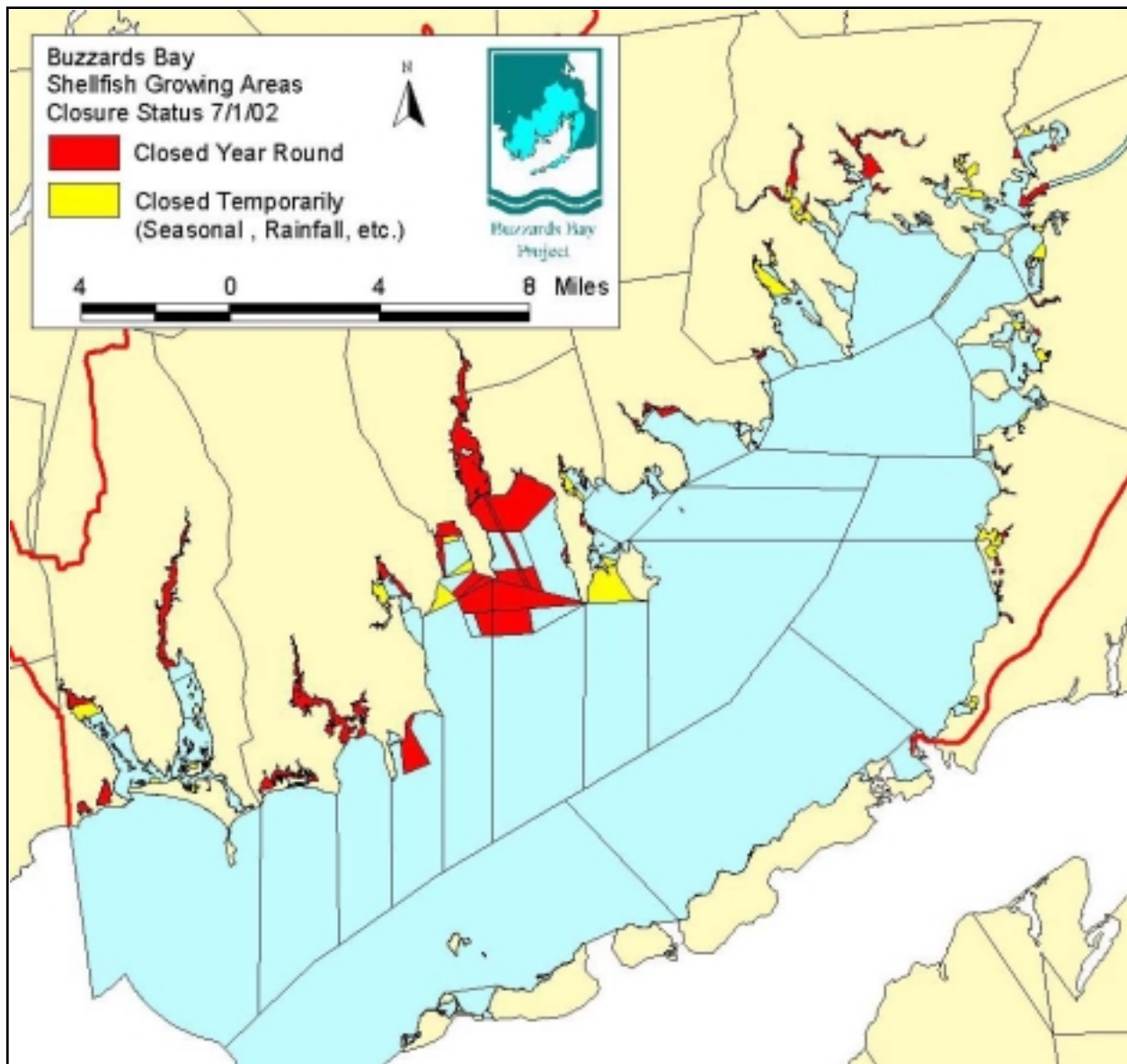


Figure 1. Shellfish beds closed year round and temporarily because of water quality impairment.

these efforts, no new CCMP actions can be identified as being completed because the CCMP states all problematic discharges must be remediated.

A summary of completed recommendations is shown in Figure 3. Although 119 actions are contained in the CCMP, 7 actions have been deemed obsolete or no longer relevant when the actions were reviewed in 2001 by BBP staff and the EPA Region I Project Officer.

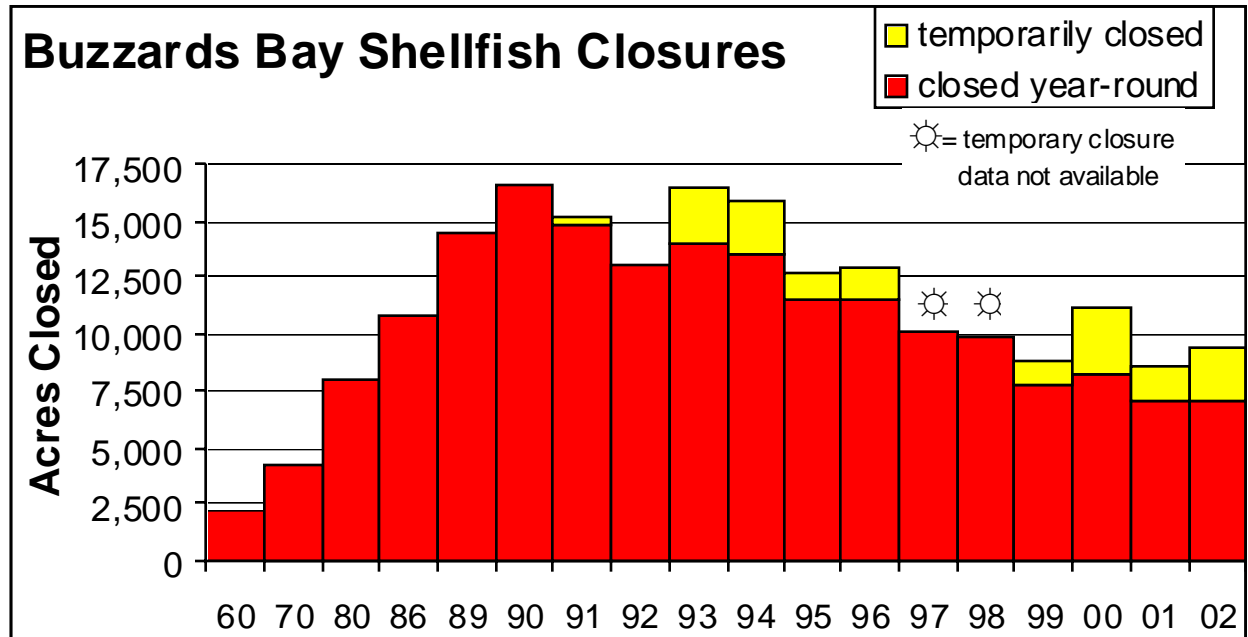


Figure 2. Shellfish beds closed in Buzzards Bay on July 1st of each year. Temporarily closed beds for 1997 and 1998 not available. Temporarily closed areas were those seasonally closed (summer closure) or after heavy rains as of July 1.

Habitat Protection and Restoration

With respect to amount of habitat protected and restored, we have included created areas, protected areas resulting from acquisition, conservation easement or deed restriction, submerged aquatic vegetation coverage increases, permanent shellfish bed openings, anadromous fish habitat increases, etc. If a shellfish bed was temporarily closed and then reopened, we did not count this acreage, and only areas removed from the “permanent” closure categories were included. Because shellfish bed openings are generally the result of many individual projects typically initiated primarily by the municipalities without state or BBP funding, we do not have a firm cost estimate for all these projects. Reported acreage is only for this reporting year (10/1/01 - 9/30/02). Because these categories have been a major focus of the Buzzards Bay Project and other partners, progress has continued throughout Federal FY 2002.

In the reporting table, we have employed the US EPA’s recommended categories and definitions for the Wetland Habitat Category as follows:

- estuarine
- beaches and dunes
- barrier island
- man groves
- SAV
- wetland
- riparian
- instream
- uplands
- other (as specified)

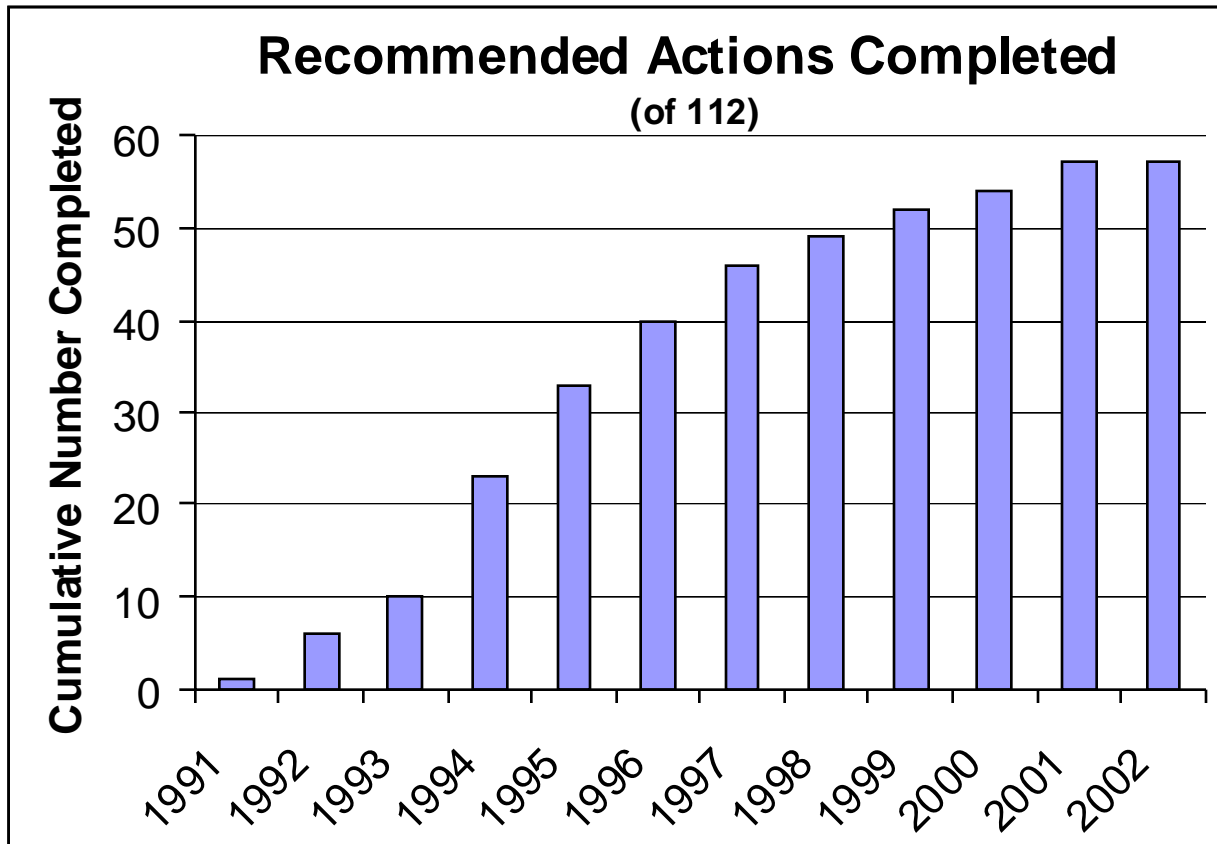


Figure 2. Cumulative CCMP recommendations completed over time.

Additionally, we have employed the US EPA's recommended categories and definitions for t Implementation Activity Type, as follows:

- **Establishment:** The manipulation of the physical, chemical, or biological characteristics present to develop a habitat that did not previously exist on an upland or deep water site. Establishment results in a gain in acres. Includes activities commonly associated with creation.
- **Re-establishment:** The manipulation of the physical, chemical, or biological characteristics of a site with the goal of **returning** natural/historic functions to former estuary habitat. Re-establishment results in rebuilding former estuary habitat and **results in a gain in habitat acres.**
- **Rehabilitation:** The manipulation of the physical, chemical, or biological characteristics of a site with the goal of **repairing** natural/historic functions of degraded estuary habitat. Rehabilitation results in a gain in habitat function, but **does not result in a gain in habitat acres.**

- **Enhancement:** The manipulation of the physical, chemical, or biological characteristics of a undisturbed or degraded site to heighten, intensify, or improve specific functions or to change the growth stage or composition of the vegetation present. Enhancement is undertaken for a purpose of such as water quality improvement, flood water retention or wildlife habitat. The term includes activities commonly associated with the terms enhancement, management, manipulation, and directed alteration.
- **Protection:** The preservation of habitat by mechanisms such as land acquisition, conservation easements, deed restrictions, etc.

One of these categories, the permanent protection of open space, wetlands, and habitat is a high priority for the Buzzards Bay Project and its partners. Results for the past four years are summarized in Figure 3 below. The amount of land acquired in any given year depends on a number of factors including state and local funding, economic conditions, and land availability. As shown in Figure 4, open space acquisition in the 2002 reporting period was highly successful, accounting for more than 200 acres.

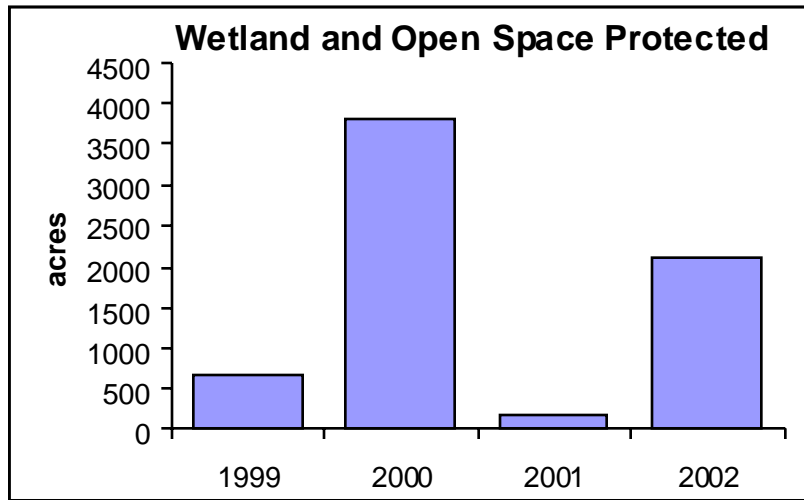


Figure 4. Protected open space and wetlands in Buzzards Bay.

Of the 276,580 acres (432 square miles) in the mainland portion of the Buzzards Bay watershed, 53,803 acres, or 19.5% of the land is now protected open space. These protected opens space parcels are shown in Figure 5.

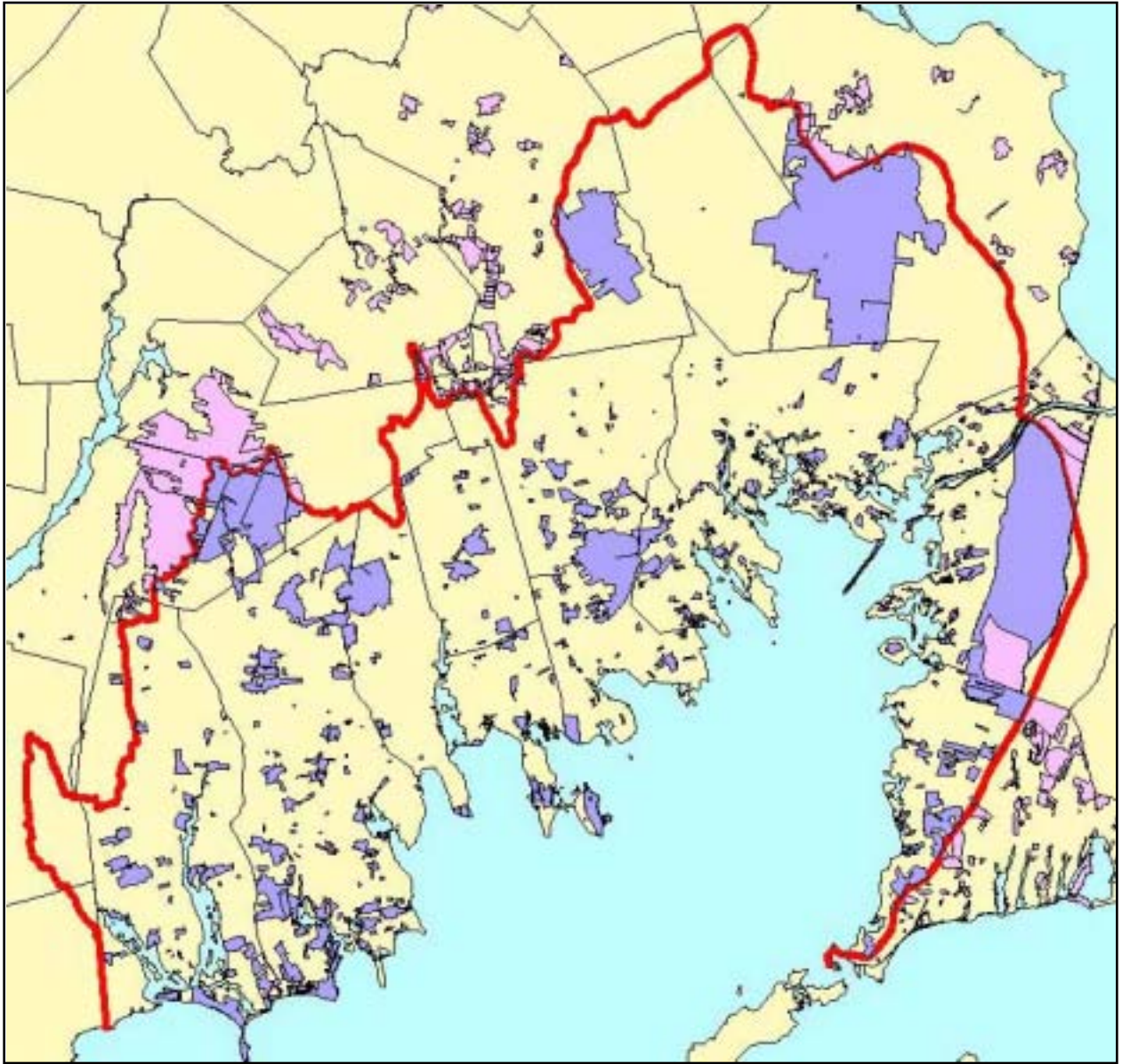


Figure 5. Protected open space in the Buzzards Bay watershed (shaded dark blue). These lands account for 19.5% of the mainland watershed.

Table 1. CCMP Priority Actions Initiated and Completed October 1, 2001 to September 30, 2002. Because 103 of 112 recommended action plans have been initiated to some degree, but only 52 actions completed, no remaining new priorities will be initiated. Instead existing initiated priorities will remain the focus of implementation efforts.

Total Priority Actions in CCMP	Number and Title of CCMP Priority Actions Initiated This Year	Total Priority Actions Initiated This Year* (Since last GPRA report)	Total Percentage of all CCMP Priority Actions Initiated This Year (FY 2002)	Target of Priority Actions Initiated by 9/2003	Number of Ongoing Priority Actions This Year (Since initial GPRA Report)	Number of Total Priority Actions Completed This Year (Since last GPRA report)	Cumulative Number of Priority Actions Completed To Date
112	0	0	0%	103	9	0	57

Table 2. Habitat Protection and Restoration October 1, 2001 to September 2, 2002.

<u>nep name</u>	<u>ccmp action</u>	<u>project name</u>	<u>habitat description</u>	<u>habitat category</u>	<u>project description</u>	<u>activity</u>	<u>partners</u>	<u>acreage</u>	<u>linear miles</u>	<u>project cost</u>	<u>nep cost</u>	<u>initiation-completion date</u>	<u>reporting year</u>
Buzzards Bay	Stormwater and NPS control	Stormwater and NPS control	shellfish beds	estuarine	MA DMF Shellfish Bed Classification Program	Rehabilitation	BB Towns, MA Division of Marine Fisheries	99	0	\$500,000	\$0	10/1/01-9/30/02	2002
Buzzards Bay	Wetlands & Habitat	Foster Howard Rd (parcels 1 & 2)	forested uplands	Uplands	Purchase for conservation of open space	Protection	Bourne Conservation Trust & private landowner	1.3		\$180,000	\$0	02/01/02 - 08/05/01	2002
Buzzards Bay	Wetlands & Habitat	Catumett Crossing	forested uplands	Uplands	Purchase for conservation of open space	Protection	Bourne Conservation Trust & private landowner	3.39		\$700,000	\$0	04/01/02 - 10/03/01	2002
Buzzards Bay	Wetlands & Habitat	Mattapoisett River Valley Land Protection	wetlands, upland, river front	Riparian	Purchase of land and CRs to protect drinking water supplies	Protection	Rochester Land Trust, Towns of Rochester & Mattapoisett, CBB, BBP, DEP	258		\$484,390	\$5,000	06/01/02 - 12/03/01	2002
Buzzards Bay	Wetlands & Habitat	Fearing Hill Conservation Project (Prager parcel)	wetlands, upland, river front	Riparian	Purchase for conservation of open space	Protection	Wareham Land Trust, Town of Wareham, CBB, State Self-Help Funds used	66		\$347,000	\$0	06/01/02 - 12/03/01	2002
Buzzards Bay	Wetlands & Habitat	Beaton Cranberry Conservation Project	cranberry bogs, uplands & wetlands	Wetland	Purchase of land and purchase of CRs on cranberry bogs	Protection	Sippican Lands Trust, Town of Marion, CBB	246	0.4	\$1,650,000	\$2,500	08/01/02 - 02/02/02	2002
Buzzards Bay	Wetlands & Habitat	Long Plain Property (Zyskowski parcel)	farm field	Upland	Purchase of farm field in danger of being developed	Protection	Fairhaven-Acushnet Land Trust, CBB, NB Harbor Trustees Funds used	20		\$264,000	\$0	12/01/01 - 06/04/01	2002

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Buzzards Bay	Wetlands & Habitat	Aunt Bea's Hallow (Gov oni parcel)	upland & riv erf ront	Uplands	Purchase for conservation of open space	Protection	Fairhaven-Acushnet Land Trust, CBB, NB Harbor Trustees Funds used	30		\$396,000	\$0	12/01/01 - 06/04/01	2002
Buzzards Bay	Wetlands & Habitat	Waite Farm APR	pig farm	Uplands	Purchase of APR	Protection	Town of Westport, Trustees of Reservations, Westport Land Conservation Trust	33.5		\$260,000	\$0	10/01/02 - 04/04/02	2002
Buzzards Bay	Wetlands & Habitat	Tripp Farm APR	dairy farm	Uplands	Purchase of a Convertible APR - APR will be sold to State when funds are available	Protection	Town of Westport, Trustees of Reservations, Westport Land Conservation Trust, State APR Program	161		\$300,000	\$0	12/01/01 - 06/04/01	2002
Buzzards Bay	Wetlands & Habitat	Craig Parcel	forested uplands	Uplands	Donation to Westport Land Conservation trust for conservation purposes	Protection	Westport Land Conservation Trust & private landowner	8.5		\$340,000	\$0	12/01/01 - 06/04/01	2002
Buzzards Bay	Wetlands & Habitat	River View Park	wetlands, upland, riv erf ront	Riparian	Donation of land for park purposes, trails on site, riv erf ront land	Protection	Town of Acushnet & private landowner	4		\$160,000	\$0	10/01/01 - 04/04/01	2002
Buzzards Bay	Wetlands & Habitat	River's End Park	wetlands, upland, riv erf ront	Riparian	Purchase for conservation of open space & recreational purposes	Protection	City of New Bedford - Land & Water Conservation Funds used	3.2		\$416,000	\$0	10/01/01 - 04/04/01	2002

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Buzzards Bay	Wetlands & Habitat	Red Brook Reserve	wetlands, upland, river front	Wetlands	Purchase for conservation of open space	Protection	Trustees of Reservations, Division of Fisheries & Wildlife & Trout Unlimited	638		\$2,490,000	\$0	08/01/02 - 02/02/02	2002
Buzzards Bay	Wetlands & Habitat	Copicut Woods	wetlands, upland, river front	Wetlands	Purchase for conservation of open space	Protection	Trustees of Reservations & private landowner	488		\$2,000,000	\$0	06/02/02 - 12/04/01	2002
Buzzards Bay	Wetlands & Habitat	Wisnewski Property	uplands	Uplands	Purchase for conservation of open space	Protection	Town of Falmouth & private landowner	6.68		\$265,000	\$0	07/01/02 - 01/02/02	2002
Buzzards Bay	Wetlands & Habitat	Clauson Property	uplands	Uplands	Purchase for conservation of open space	Protection	Town of Falmouth & private landowner	31.97		\$985,000	\$0	07/01/02 - 01/02/02	2002
Buzzards Bay	Wetlands & Habitat	Govoni Property	uplands & wetlands	Wetlands	Purchase for conservation of open space	Protection	Waquoit Bay National Estuary Research Reserve	8.24		\$200,000	\$0	02/01/02 - 08/05/01	2002
Buzzards Bay	Wetlands & Habitat	Souza Property	uplands	Uplands	Purchase for conservation of open space	Protection	Town of Falmouth & private landowner	9.2		\$260,000	\$0	12/01/01 - 06/04/01	2002
Buzzards Bay	Wetlands & Habitat	Conservation Easement	uplands & wetlands	Wetlands	Donation of conservation restriction	Protection	Falmouth 300 Committee & private landowner	8.3		\$83,000	\$0	10/01/01 - 04/04/01	2002
Buzzards Bay	Wetlands & Habitat	Faunce Reserve	wetlands, upland, river front	Riparian	Purchase for conservation of open space	Protection	Dartmouth Natural Resources Trust & private landowner	8		\$6,500	\$0	06/01/02 - 12/03/01	2002

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Buzzards Bay	Wetlands & Habitat	Ostric-Hopkins Reserve	uplands & wetlands	Wetlands	Purchase for conservation of open space	Protection	Dartmouth Natural Resources Trust & private landowner	41		\$120,000	\$0	09/01/02 - 03/05/02	2002
Buzzards Bay	Wetlands & Habitat	Eliot S. Knowles Reserve	uplands & wetlands	Wetlands	Donation of land for conservation of open space	Protection	Dartmouth Natural Resources Trust & private landowner	9.5		\$380,000	\$0	03/01/02 - 09/02/01	2002
Buzzards Bay	Wetlands & Habitat	Wing House Conservation Restriction	wetlands, upland, river front	Wetlands	Donation of conservation restriction for conservation of open space	Protection	Dartmouth Natural Resources Trust	12.41		\$496,400	\$0	11/01/01 - 05/05/01	2002
Buzzards Bay	Wetlands & Habitat	Adamsville Pond Herring Ladder Replacement	river and anadromous fish	Instream	Repair of Herring Ladder that was washed out	Rehabilitation	Westport, NRCS, BBP		0.1	\$2,000	\$2,000	11/01/01 - 05/05/01	2002
Buzzards Bay	Wetlands & Habitat	Kennard Bog Fishway	river and anadromous fish	Instream	Repair of Herring Ladder that was washed out	Rehabilitation	NOAA, NRCS		0.1	\$33,395	\$0	7/10/01 - 10/13/2002	2002
Buzzards Bay	Wetlands & Habitat	Winsegansett Phase II Salt Marsh Restoration	salt marsh	wetland	Restoration of a tidal restriction	Rehabilitation	Fairhaven, BBP, MET, WRP	13.41		\$68,948	\$16,000	11/02/01 - 05/06/01	2002
Buzzards Bay	Wetlands & Habitat	Wings Neck Restoration	salt marsh	wetland	Restoration of a tidal restriction	Rehabilitation	Town of Bourne, MA Wetlands Restoration Program, Buzzards Bay Project, NRCS, USFWS	8		\$100,000	\$10,000	4/12/2001 - 6/25/2002	2002

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Buzzards Bay	Wetlands & Habitat	Star of the Sea Drive Restoration	salt marsh	wetland	Restoration of a tidal restriction (removal of obstructing rocks)	Rehabilitation	Town of Dartmouth, Buzzards Bay Project	11		\$3,000	\$500	3/23/2002-5/17/2002	2002
Buzzards Bay	Wetlands & Habitat	Hammetts Cove Restoration	salt marsh	wetland	Restoration of a tidal restriction	Rehabilitation	Town of Marion, Buzzards Bay Project, NRCS	3		\$80,000	\$5,000	1/4/01-7/28/02	2002
Buzzards Bay	Wetlands & Habitat	Little Bay Salt Marsh Protection Effort	salt marsh	wetland	Construction of a barrier to protect salt marsh from off-road vehicle access	Protection	Town of Fairhaven, BBP	2		\$4,800	\$4,800	11/6/01-3/25/02	2002
Totals								2232.6	0.61	\$13,575,433	\$45,800		