



Sustain state-identified healthy waters and watersheds, recognized for their high quality and/or high ecological value.

Why is this outcome important?

Promoting the long-term conservation and protection of healthy watersheds is critical to the health of the Chesapeake Bay. Healthy watersheds provide clean water, critical habitat, are capable of storing large amounts of carbon, and are more resilient to the effects of invasive species and changing conditions. Furthermore, healthy watersheds provide a variety of ecosystem services and generate both social and economic benefits. These benefits are often expensive and difficult to replicate when restoring impaired watersheds. Thus, the maintenance of healthy watersheds is also important for the ecosystems and communities that rely on these many services.

Current Conditions:

There are currently many healthy watersheds across the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. However, most of these watersheds are threatened by development and increasing population.

How was the outcome derived?

Who came up with it?

The Maintain Healthy Watersheds Goal Implementation team collaborated with Chesapeake Bay Program partners to derive this outcome through a series of discussions.



For more on healthy watersheds, visit chesapeakebay.net

What was the basis or baseline?

Each State uses its own criteria to identify its healthy watersheds. The Goal Team has drafted a map of State-identified healthy waters and watersheds. This map will most likely be refined in the near future for a final map of baseline healthy watershed conditions.

For More:

http://www.chesapeakebay.net/channel_files/21249/healthy_watersheds_11_25_13.pdf

http://stat.chesapeakebay.net/?q=node/131&quicktabs_21=0