Chesapeake Bay Program
Science. Restoration. Partnership.

April 8, 2024

Healthy Watersheds GIT

B25 Healthy Watersheds Recommendations

Credits

A special thanks to:

- Katie Brownson, USFS
- Sherri Degraphenreed, NRCS
- Kevin DuBois, DOD
- KC Filipino, HRPDC
- Ken Hyer, USGS
- Bill Jenkins, EPA
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- Jeff Lerner, EPA GIT 4
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- Jason Dubow, MDP
- Kristin Saunders, UMCES
- Peter Claggett, USGS
- Sophie Waterman, CRC

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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Vanguard Idea

Integrate a more holistic and people-centric approach to improving and maintaining watershed health as a foundational goal of the partnership

Moving towards healthy watersheds

Data, Tools, Monitoring

Accountability

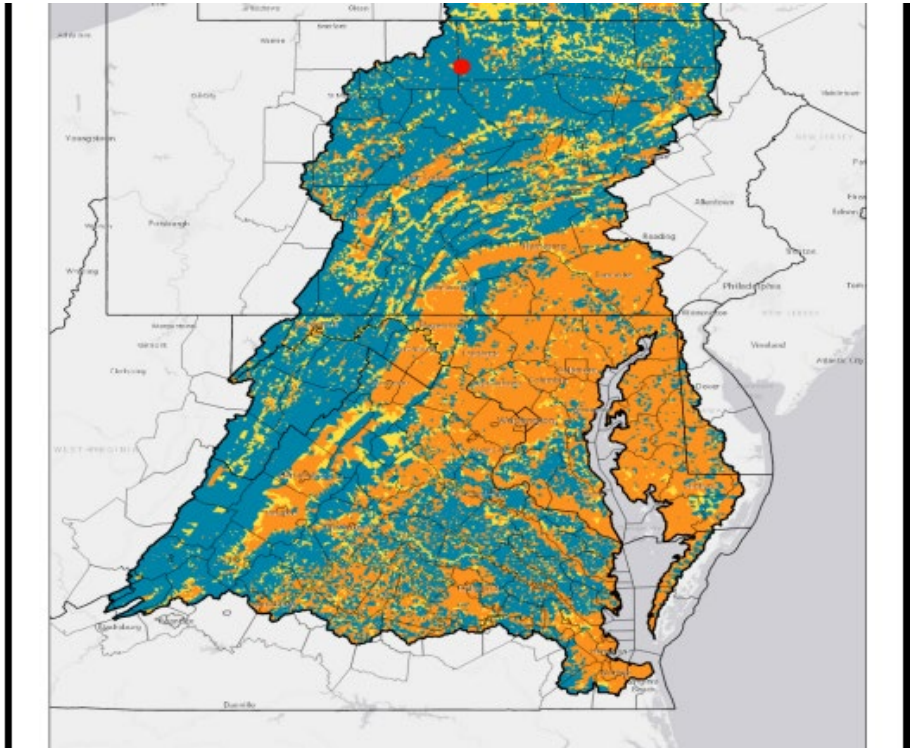
Planning

Watershed Actions

Local Engagement

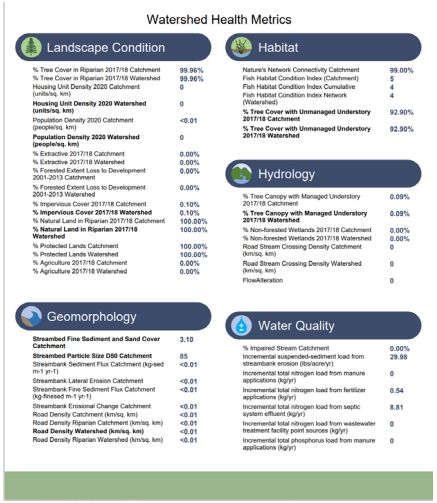
Integrate Habitat, Climate, DEIJ

Data, Tools and Monitoring



CHWA

- Stream Health
- Landscape Integrity



https://gis.chesapeakebay.net/chwa/?page=Overall

Planning

Many scales: Local, Regional, State, Basin-wide

Green Infrastructure Concepts

Integrate into existing plans

State Plans

- **Wildlife (SWAPs)**
- **Forests (SFAPs)**
- **Recreation (SCORPs)**
- **Water (Nonpoint Source Plans)**

Community and Partner Engagement

DE Grant Assistance Program
D.C. City Council, COG, DOEE
MD Sea Grant watershed restoration specialists
NY Regional Economic Development Organizations
PA Community Clean Water Action Plan Coordinators
VA Assoc. of Planning District Commissions
WV Regional Planning Councils

Progress Through Partnerships

On October 11, 2023, DEP's Bureau of Watershed Restoration and Nonpoint Source Management (BWRNSM) hosted the first Clean Water Gathering of State Program Action Leaders and Countywide Action Planning (CAP) leaders. Over 80 partners, representing county, state and federal organizations, came together to celebrate successes and discuss high level needs, issues and challenges to continued progress. BWRNSM's Chesapeake Bay Watershed Restoration Division is using the recommendations from this meeting to build collaborative county/state partner Progress Teams that focus on "Strategies for Success" that address challenges and build on successes from Phase 3 WIP and CAP efforts.

Circuit Riders/Coordinators

- Facilitation
- Communication
- Planning
- Funding/Finance
- Project Management
- Watershed Action
- Tracking

Watershed Actions

- Land Protection
- Stewardship
- Restoration

Measuring Watershed Outcomes

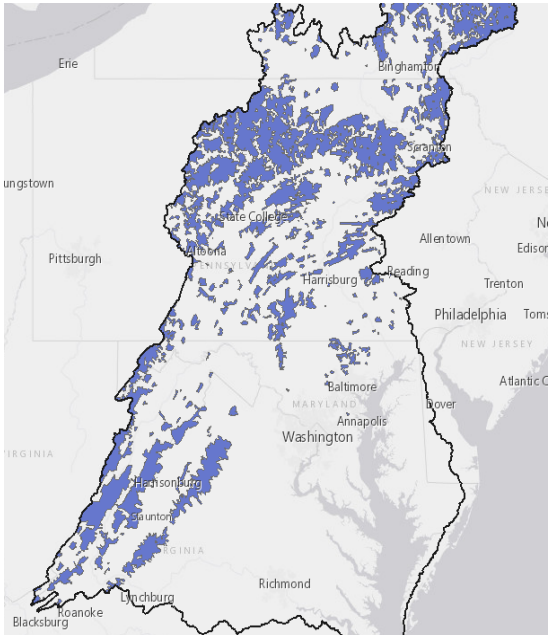
- Prevention of pollution
- Habitat for Living Resources
- Condition of Living Resources
- Thresholds for impervious surface or forest cover
- Stewardship of our investments

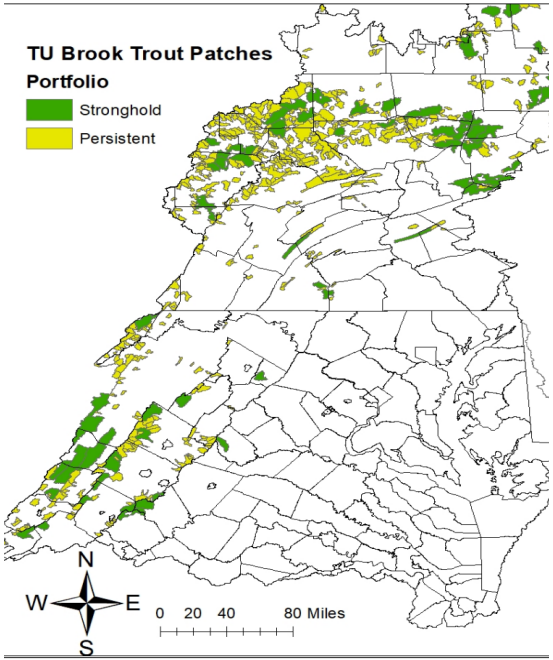
- Pollution reduction (N, P, S)
- Count Practices
- WIPs designed for TMDL

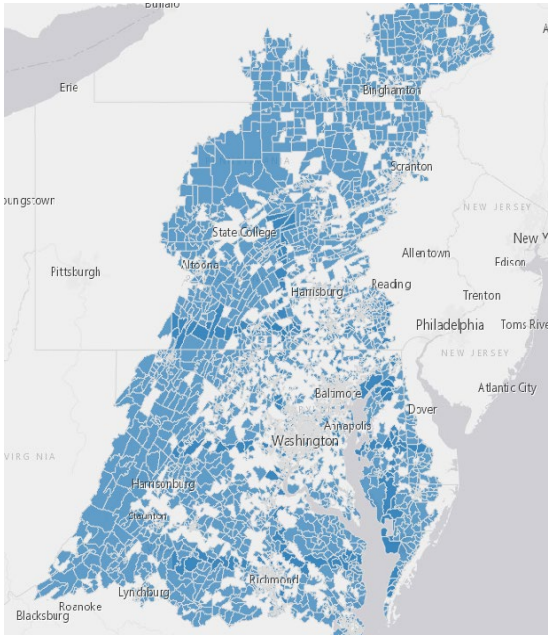
Shift toward counting outcomes rather than practices

Integration

Brook Trout







Habitat **Climate** **EJ**

Recommendations

1. **Data, Tools and Monitoring – Characterize Watershed Health**
2. **Planning – Green Infrastructure at multiple scales**
3. **Community Engagement – Capacity for coordinators**
4. **Watershed Actions – Accelerate and elevate**
    - Land Conservation
    - Stewardship
    - Restoration
5. **Measuring Outcomes – Outcomes vs. Outputs**

Integrate Habitat, Climate and DEIJ into above recommendations.

“Chesapeake Bay Program partners envision an environmentally and economically sustainable Chesapeake Bay watershed with clean water, abundant life, conserved lands and access to the water, a vibrant cultural heritage, and a diversity of engaged stakeholders.”

Moving towards healthy watersheds

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Accountability

Planning

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Local Engagement

Integrate Habitat, Climate, DEIJ

Thank you!

Any questions? Jeff Lerner, HWGIT chair
You can contact me at lerner.jeffrey@epa.gov

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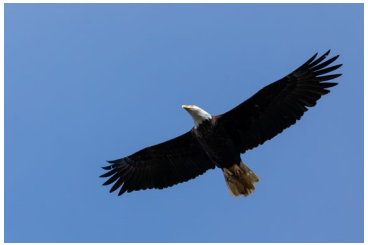

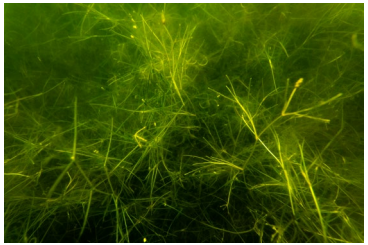

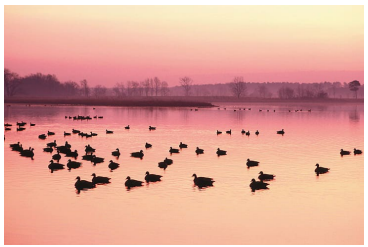

Extra Slides

Other Comprehensive Plans

Great Lakes has a 5 year action plan and are in the process of developing their next one to start in 2025. In the current 30 page plan there are 5 focus areas:

1. Toxic Subsances
2. Invasive Species
3. Nonpoint Source Pollution Impacts on Nearshore Health
4. Habitat and Species
5. Foundations for Future Restoration Actions

https://glri.us/documents

Other Comprehensive Plans

Puget Sound completed a 5 year action plan in 2022. The 15 page plan includes 5 priority actions and a larger appendix.

1. Cross Cutting Actions
2. Habitat
3. Stormwater
4. Shellfish
5. Science and Monitoring

https://www.psp.wa.gov/2022AAupdate.php

Other Comprehensive Plans

Long Island Sound made a 5 year update to their Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) in 2020. The 17 page document includes 4 key themes:

1. Clean Waters and Healthy Watersheds
2. Thriving and Abundant Wildlife
3. Sustainable and Resilient Economies
4. Sound Science and Inclusive Management
5. The more complete Long Island CCMP was created in 2015 and is about 50 pages plus appendices.

https://longislandsoundstudy.net/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/CCMP_LowRes_Hyperlink_singles.pdf