



Healthy Watersheds Outcome

*Renee Thompson,
Maintain Healthy Watersheds
Coordinator*

Through the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement, the Chesapeake Bay Program has committed to...



Healthy Watersheds Goal: Sustain state-identified healthy waters and watersheds recognized for their high quality and/or high ecological value.

Outcome: 100 percent of state-identified currently healthy waters and watersheds remain healthy



Participating Partners



- State of Delaware
- District of Columbia
- State of Maryland
- Commonwealth of Virginia
- State of West Virginia
- Chesapeake Bay Commission
- National Park Service (NPS)
- U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
- U.S. Forest Service (USFS)
- The Nature Conservancy (TNC)
- Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF)



What We Want



- Consistent partner participation
- Pathway to communicate tools and information to planners and watershed organizations (2-way)
- Monitoring and assessment
- Inclusion in the WIPs

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Setting the Stage:

What are our assumptions?

History, Context Background



- Clean Water
- Resilience (flooding, climate change, invasive sp.)
- Social and economic benefits
- Drinking water sources
- Critical habitat and connectivity
- Recreational opportunities



Cost to Protect

VS.



Cost to Restore



Logic Behind Our Outcome



Following the Decision Framework:

Factors

- Scientific and Technical Understanding
- Government and Nongovernmental Engagement
- Population Growth

Current Efforts and Gaps

- Inventory and assessment
- Understanding threats
- Tool development
- Engagement efforts
 - Healthy watersheds are lower priority

Management Approaches

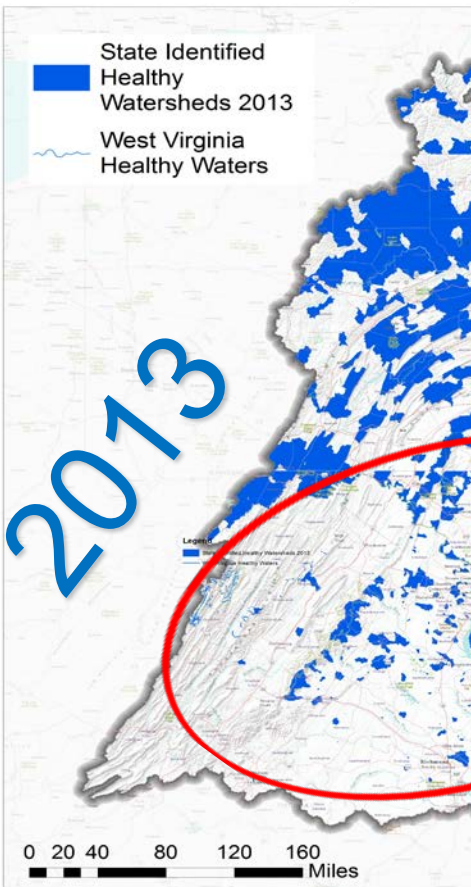
- Tracking health, threats, protection
- Local Leadership
- Federal & State Leadership
- Support state-based efforts

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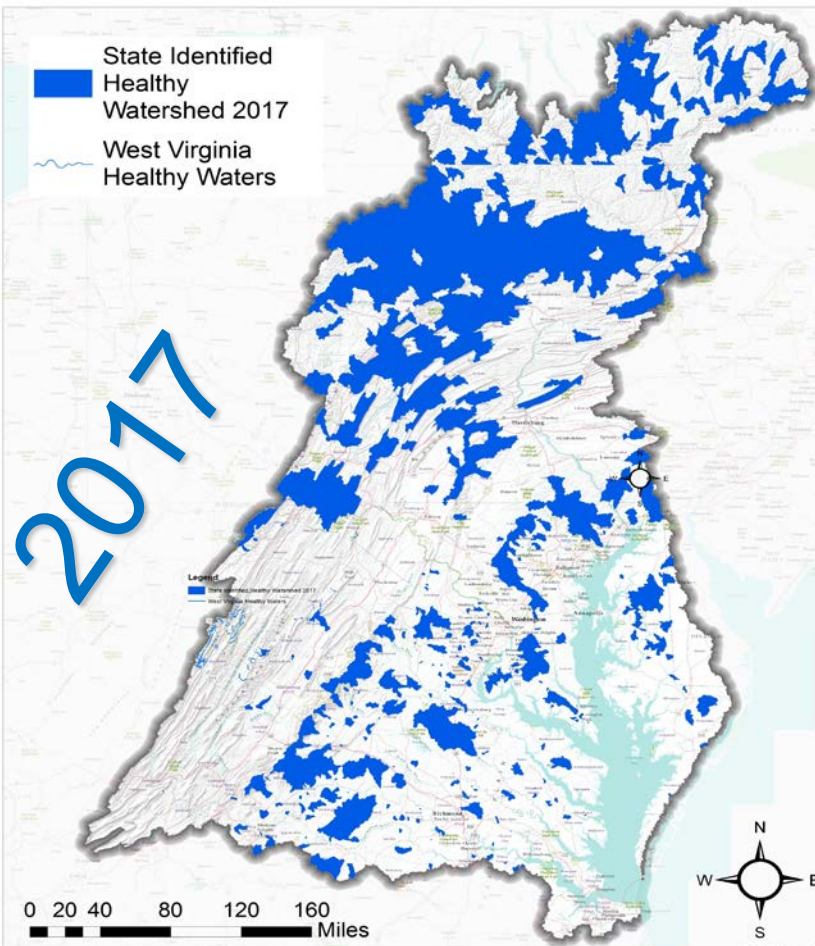
Progress:

Are we doing what we said we would do?

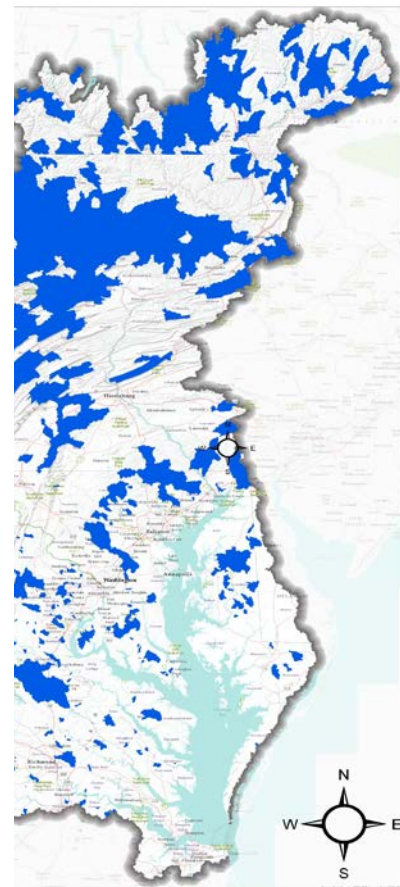
State Identified Healthy Watersheds



State Identified Healthy Watersheds



Watersheds





What is our progress?



GIT Funding

- Identification of WV Healthy Watersheds
- Demonstrate Value of Retaining Forestland
- Evaluate Policies that Reduce Land Conversion
- High Resolution Stream Mapping



Cross GIT Work

- Utilizing other outcomes to inform progress
- Threat information
 - Protected lands
 - High quality habitats



Tracking

Assessing the status of state-identified healthy waters and watersheds

Tracking Framework

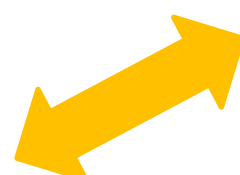
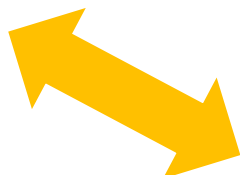
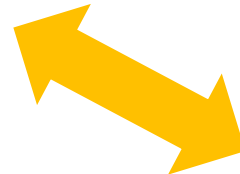


1) Where are the healthy watersheds located?

2) Which healthy watershed are threatened?

4) How are we tracking the health and viability of those watersheds over time?

3) What is being done to ensure that healthy watersheds are protected?





What is our progress? Shared Key Action Items



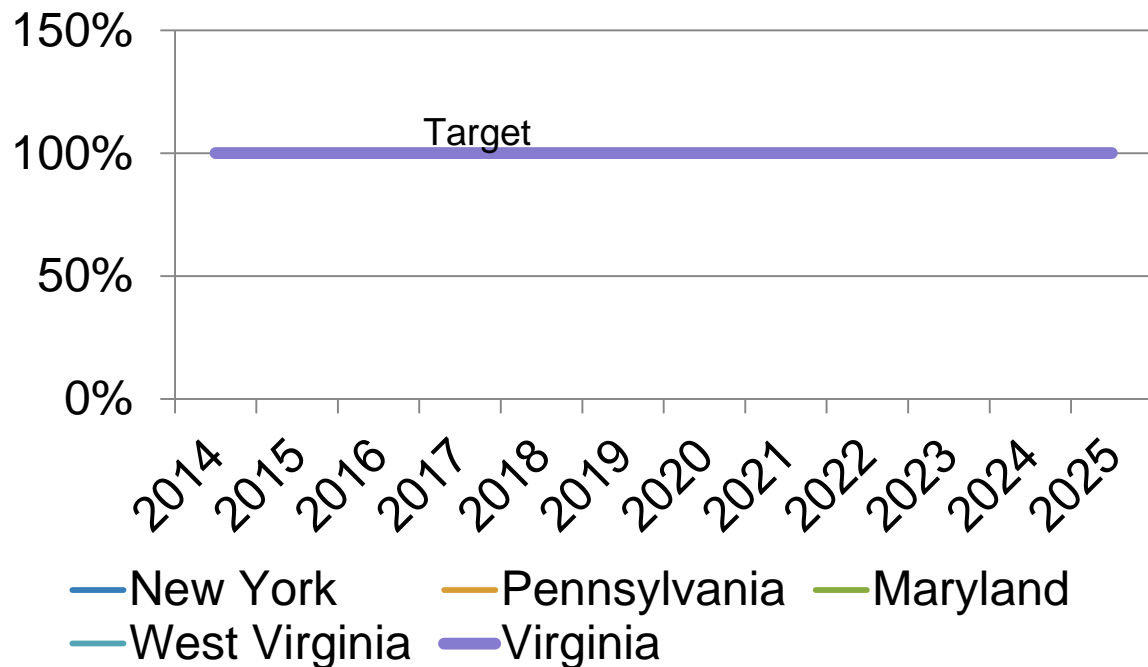
1. Within multiple federal agencies, identify opportunities to model healthy watershed protections for state and local governments. (Tracking framework 3.)
2. Assess protected status of healthy watersheds (Tracking framework 2.)
3. Meet 2-4 times a year and host relevant case study presentations (Tracking framework 3.)
4. Work with CBP and partners to incorporate conservation practices into modeling efforts and to explore how to incentivize land use protections (crediting conservation) (Tracking framework 2.)
5. Improve and diversify outreach strategies to determine the best approaches and methods for reaching key stakeholders (Tracking framework 3.)



Are we on track?



Outcome: 100 percent of state-identified currently healthy waters and watersheds remain healthy



Are we on track?





Analysis



Critical actions thus far

- Identifying healthy watersheds
- Developing a framework for identifying vulnerability
- Supporting state efforts by serving as a forum for dialogue and mutual learning

Critical actions for the future

- Threat assessment data
- Local leadership and outreach actions
- Prioritization of protection efforts

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Challenges:

Are our actions having the expected effect?

Participating Partners

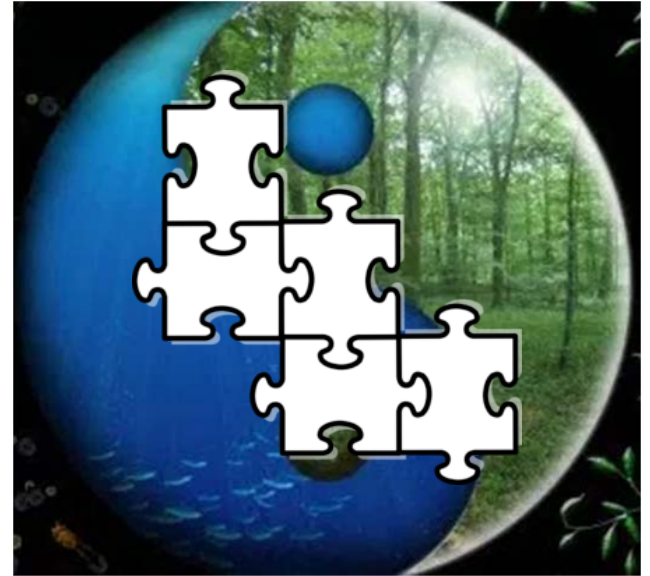


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- Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF)

Participating Partners



- State of New York
- Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
- Local Jurisdiction Partners





Challenges



Science

- Focus on water quality
- Continued monitoring and tracking
- Threats and vulnerability data

Fiscal

- Local, State, Federal allocation of resources
 - Capacity
 - Monitoring/Assessing
- Articulating the economic value of healthy watersheds (pathway)

Policy

- Participation
- Engagement with local planners, NGOs, and land trusts
- Rolling out tools
- Prioritization
- Variability in defining and tracking

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Adaptations:

How should we adapt?



**Based on what we've
learned, we plan to...**



1. Focus on threat assessment
2. More actions for engaging local planners, NGOs, and land trusts and increasing the capacity of those entities
3. Continued monitoring efforts
4. Develop a clear path forward related to climate change



What We Want



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- *Cross GIT ask – crediting conservation.

Discussion