



Habitat Goal Implementation Team

Stream Health Work Group

SCOPE AND PURPOSE: An interdisciplinary forum for experts to help resolve issues and find common ground to improve the physical, chemical, biological and habitat value of streams and maintain high quality streams and habitat. The work group understands and acknowledges the nexus between the regulatory framework and the scientific basis to protect and restore streams within the Bay watershed. The importance of maintaining and restoring stream health within the Chesapeake Bay watershed is underscored by the estimated 700 miles of planned stream restoration projects by Bay States in their Watershed Implementation Plans and biological impairments identified as part of local TMDLs.

The Stream Health Work Group complements activities underway by the Chesapeake Bay Program Partnership and serves to coordinate input and make recommendations that advance a holistic approach to stream restoration projects and protection of high quality streams and habitat. Liaison with and input from other Goal Implementation Teams and their work groups is encouraged to achieve a healthy watershed.

Near-term focus areas and tasks for this work group include:

- **FOCUS AREA:** Identify priority needs for stream health protection, restoration and research and identify and recommend funding sources to address these needs

TASK:

- STAC workshop “to “Designing Sustainable Stream Restoration Projects within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed” in Feb/Mar 2014

- **FOCUS AREA:** To identify and recommend development of tools and necessary guidance to maintain and restore stream health

TASKS:

- Promote and coordinate adoption of a process for Bay States to implement the Stream Restoration Verification Principles.
- Provide input and guidance on measurements of stream health (e.g., IBI indicators)
- Coordinate and/or Liaison with Wetlands Expert Panel
- Identify special protection areas and assure programs and policies are in place to continue to protect these areas

- **FOCUS AREA:** Provide opportunities to test and demonstrate application of tools or other innovations through demonstration or pilot projects to advance the science and understanding of stream restoration

- *TASK:* TBD



The Stream Health Work Group helps to support the following Stream Health Outcomes under the Chesapeake Bay Program:

- **Stream Health Outcome:** Restore stream health and function by 10% above the 2008 level throughout the watershed by 2025.

Note: STAR's NTWG will re-assess baseline. Monitoring and assessment of IBI should be compiled by states between 2008-2016 and between 2017 and 2025.

- **Brook Trout:** Restore naturally reproducing brook trout populations with an 8% increase in total cumulative brook trout patch area by 2025 in Chesapeake headwater streams.
- **Fish Passage Outcome Alternative:** During the period 2011-2025, restore historical fish migratory routes by opening 1,000 additional stream miles, with restoration success indicated by the presence of Alewife, Blueback herring, American shad, Hickory shad, American eel or Brook Trout.