

# MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

# HEALTHY WATERSHEDS

## GOAL: Healthy Watersheds

### OUTCOME

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

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### CURRENT EFFORTS

- All states have some level of physical and chemical monitoring data to assess healthy watershed status.
- USGS and others have urban land use change data that can be used for vulnerability assessment tools.
- Multiple protective, federal and state laws and regulations (e.g. anti-degradation laws).
- A variety of local stakeholders often influence watershed management
- Scientific, technical, and policy tools to identify, characterize and protect healthy watersheds
- Engagement and involvement of local communities.

### GAPS

- Lack of information for assessing healthy watershed vulnerability and lack of prioritization.
- Local managers are not aware of status or resources.
- Protective measures, policies and tools for healthy watersheds varies by jurisdiction. Need better coordination.
- Protective measures vary in their application across the Bay region, and can vary in effectiveness
- Better outreach and education for local governments, watershed organizations
- Use of existing tools is not universal and some tools are underdeveloped, poorly supported and unsuitable.

### MANAGEMENT APPROACHES

- 1) Tracking—A new Tracking Workgroup will be established to further explore and refine tracking health and protection status of state-defined healthy waters and watersheds. Key actions include: refine the inventory of healthy watersheds; develop and apply tools and methods to characterize vulnerability; prioritize watersheds for additional protective measures; and maintain and expand assessment activities.
- 2) Local Leadership—Strengthen local commitment and capacity to protect healthy watersheds; convey information on the status of healthy watersheds and identify tools local governments and others can use to protect them.
- 3) Federal and State Leadership—Increase communication within federal agencies, so that federal programs and agency decision-making are more protective of state-identified healthy watersheds.
- 4) Support state-based efforts—encourage and recognize important activities within states. Promote state-led and state-based activities to identify, assess, and monitor healthy watersheds. Examples include: state purchase or lease of land or easements, negotiating preservation of critical riparian and adjacent areas; more stringent post-construction stormwater management controls.



For the full management strategy, visit: [www.chesapeakebay.net/managementstrategies](http://www.chesapeakebay.net/managementstrategies)