

WHAT MAKES “HEALTHY WATERSHEDS” HEALTHY?

Looking back at the original vision for the
Healthy Watersheds GIT and where we're
headed now

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

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



HEALTHY WATERSHEDS GOAL

Sustain watershed health where it is high, exceptional and/or outstanding...

to increase the number of healthy watersheds in the future...

Provide the forum for mutual shared learning...

Develop information resources...

and

Promote the science

HEALTHY
WATERSHEDS
VISION



MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

Based on what we learned, we plan to:

- ❖ Disseminate Healthy Watershed Assessment information
- ❖ Learn from CHWA and integrate new science
- ❖ Pilot State-scale Watershed Assessment

Tracking Healthy
Waters and Watersheds

Local Leadership

Support State-Based
Efforts

Federal and State
Leadership

STATE METRICS

Pennsylvania

- Benthic macroinvertebrate community
- Located in designated state or national protected, owned, or managed areas
- Designated wilderness trout stream by the Fish and Boat commission
- Chemical data such as DO, toxics, pH

Virginia

- INSTAR-Interactive stream assessment resource, index of biotic integrity
- Data on fish and macroinvertebrate communities, instream and riparian habitat
- High numbers of native/broad diversity of species, few or no non-native aquatic species, few generalist species

STATE METRICS

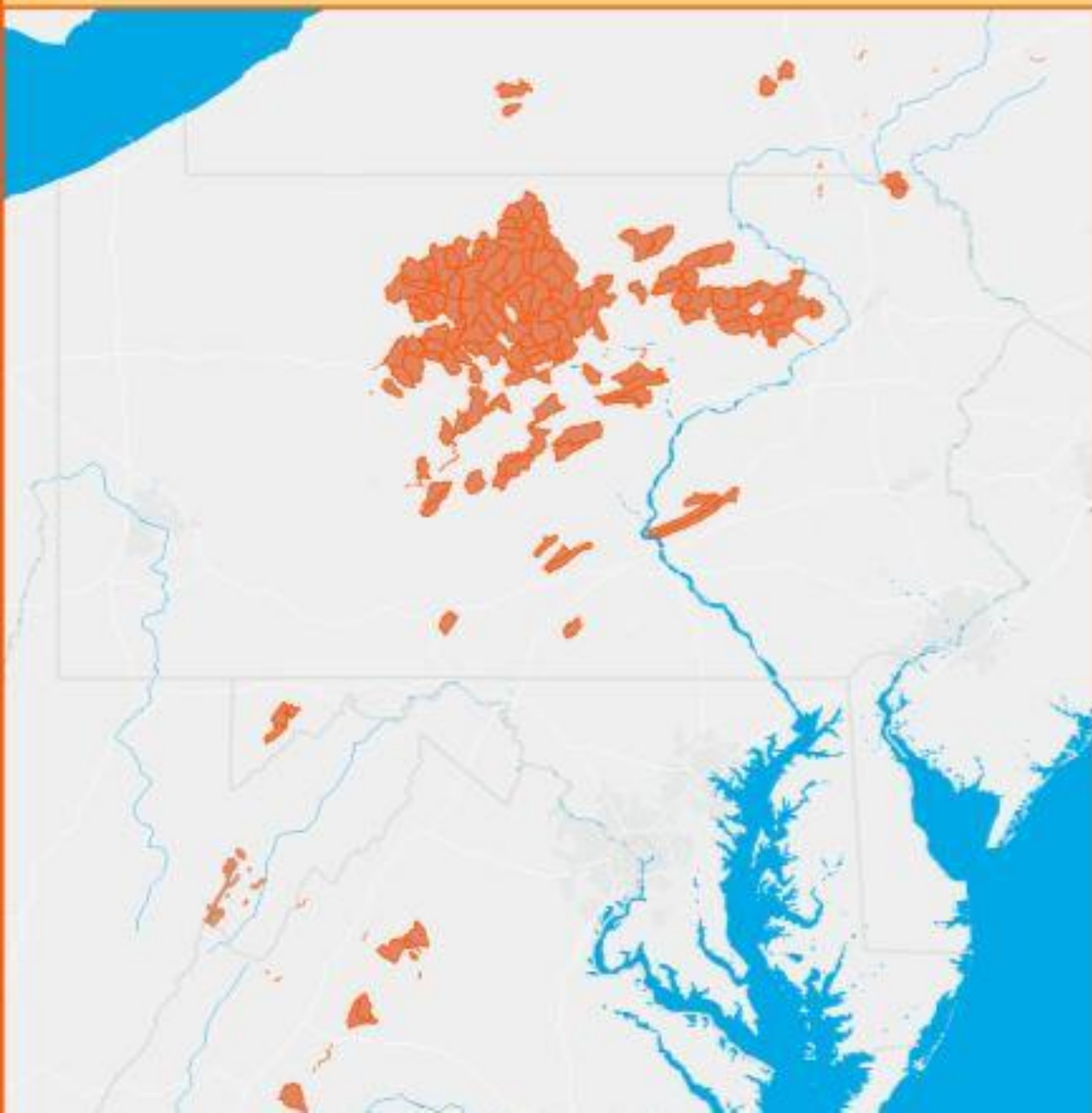
Maryland

- Tier II streams are identified according to fish and benthic indices of biotic integrity
- Based on data collection and analysis from Maryland Biological Stream Survey (MBSS) Protocols
- Tier II streams are grouped into catchments and those with Assimilative Capacity, or the natural capacity of a water body to dilute and absorb pollutants

West Virginia

- No state-defined “healthy watersheds”
- Known as Tier 3: “outstanding national resource waters”
- Have exceptionally high benthic macroinvertebrate communities
- Located in Federal Wilderness areas, state and national parks, national forests, and protected by the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act
- Naturally reproducing trout streams

Brook Trout "Conserve" in Healthy Watersheds



CROSS-GIT OUTCOMES

*How are we working towards
our vision?*

