# DRAFT MANAGEMENT STRATEGY HEALTHY WATERSHEDS

# GOAL: Healthy Watersheds

#### OUTCOME

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

### CURRENT EFFORTS

- Collection of comprehensive healthy watershed status and/or condition information
- Characterization of existing protective measures for state-identified healthy watersheds
- Assessments of healthy watershed vulnerability
- Prioritization approaches for protection efforts
- Identification and application of protective measures for healthy watersheds facing high-level near-term risks
- Scientific, technical, and policy tools to identify, characterize and protect healthy watersheds
- Engagement and involvement of local communities

#### GAPS

- Lack of information for assessing "health"
- Lack of routine collection of information about status
- Protective measures vary in their application across the Bay region, and can vary in effectiveness
- Widespread assessments of vulnerability are not available
- Some level of prioritization within agencies/organizations may exist, but details are not clear and information may not be readily accessible to external parties
- Enhancements are needed for the array of scientific, technical and policy tools; usage of tools is not universal
- Disconnect between local proponents and supporters of healthy waters and the public and private sector tools that can establish and maintain protective measures
- Outreach, awareness building, education

## MANAGEMENT APPROACHES

- 1) Track the health of watersheds and our effectiveness in protecting them
  - Inventory of Healthy Watersheds
  - Assessment Information
  - Vulnerability Information
  - Prioritization for Protection
- 2) Local Leadership strengthen local commitment and capacity to protect their healthy watersheds
- 3) Federal Leadership—improve protection of state-identified healthy watersheds under federal programs and federal agency decision-making
- 4) Support state-based efforts—encourage and recognize important activities within states



For the full draft management strategy, visit: <a href="www.chesapeakebay.net/managementstrategies">www.chesapeakebay.net/managementstrategies</a>