

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

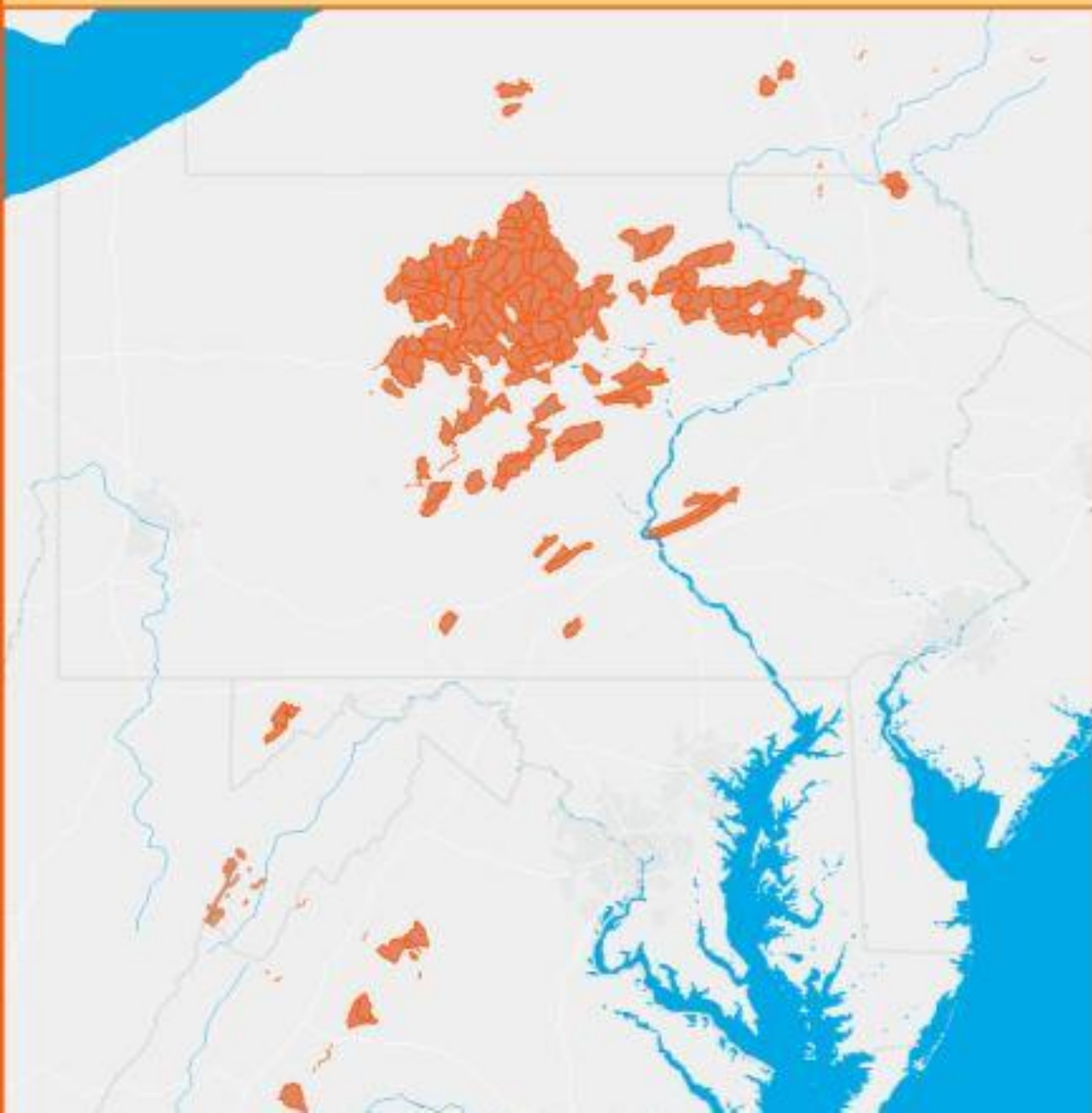
Maryland

- 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?*

