Healthy Watersheds

100 % of state-identified currently healthy waters and watersheds remain healthy

<u>Current Indicators</u>: None listed on indicators page, maps of state-identified healthy watersheds (update completed 2015)

<u>Potential Indicators</u>: Percentage of healthy waters and watersheds that remain healthy through time

Monitoring Plan: State definitions of healthy watersheds and their list/files of those existing, GIS data layers for determining watershed status

Science Needs:

- Indicator/metrics to report besides GIS dataset of healthy waters and watersheds
- Analyses plans/protocol for determining status of each watershed in succeeding years (is the watershed threatened?)
- Determine a way to track "marginally" healthy waters and watersheds (shared data gap with steam health workgroup)
- Address shifting baseline issue (states reassess and the "healthy watersheds" are changing annually)
- What metrics should be evaluated to determine health and threats?
- Formation of a tracking workgroup (STAR) should include other GITs that have tracking needs

locations vulnerabilities determine

Brook Trout restoration abundance existing

vulnerability annual factors Management enhancement

Bay level wetlands reporting data harvest waterfowl Prioritization policy streams strategy floodplain forage prioritize habitats removals high population effort black duck dam rise habitats removals high population effort water groups acreage life water groups acreage life utilization local protection efforts catchments Watersheds BIBI public monitoring uses sea decision restored recovery impair year stages size assist limit actions health maps working species acres wintering application threats patches distribution food indicators tools indicators tools prosence within Strategies approach progress quality layer

progress quality layer

sub-watersheds support stream habitat needs model developing



A framework for tracking healthy watersheds and waters protection could be thought as a four legged stool or feedback loop including: 1) maps of state-identified healthy watersheds, 2) the best available assessments of the vulnerability of those watersheds, 3) the most current information on protections that are in place to assure long-term sustainability of watershed health, and 4) analyses on land use change or other landscape characteristics to track the health and viability of the watersheds over time.

