Goal Team Collaboration: Habitat and STAC

Mike Slattery, USFWS
Chair, Habitat GIT

Science, Technical Advisory Committee, June 17, 2014

Chesapeake Bay Program
Science. Restoration. Partnership.

Mission of Habitat Goal Implementation Team

"Restore, enhance, and protect a network of land and water habitats to support fish and wildlife and to afford other public benefits, including water quality, recreational uses and scenic value across the watershed."

New Watershed Agreement – Habitat Outcomes

Outcome	2025 Target
Streams	Restore stream health and function by 10% above 2008 baseline
Brook Trout	8% increase in occupied habitat
Fish Passage	Open 1,000 stream miles
Wetlands	Create or re-establish 85,000 acres; enhance 150,000 acres
Black Duck	Restore habitats to support wintering population of 100,000 black duck
SAV	Ultimate Goal of 185K acres. 2017 target: 90K acres and 2025 target: 130K acres
Forest Buffer	Restore 900 miles per year of riparian forest buffer
Tree Canopy	Expand urban tree canopy by 2,400 acres





Stream Health

"Continually improve stream health and function throughout the watershed. Improve health and function of 10% of stream miles above the 2008 baseline for the Chesapeake Bay watershed. *Note: a 2008 baseline will be established by 2015."

•Explore expansion of stream health indicator beyond Chessie BIBI

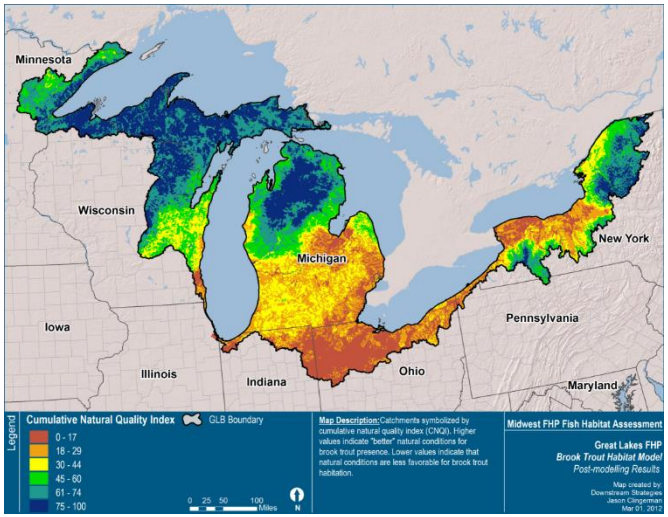
Next Step: Healthy Waters indicator should inform Stream Health WG discussions on more robust stream health indicator

Brook Trout

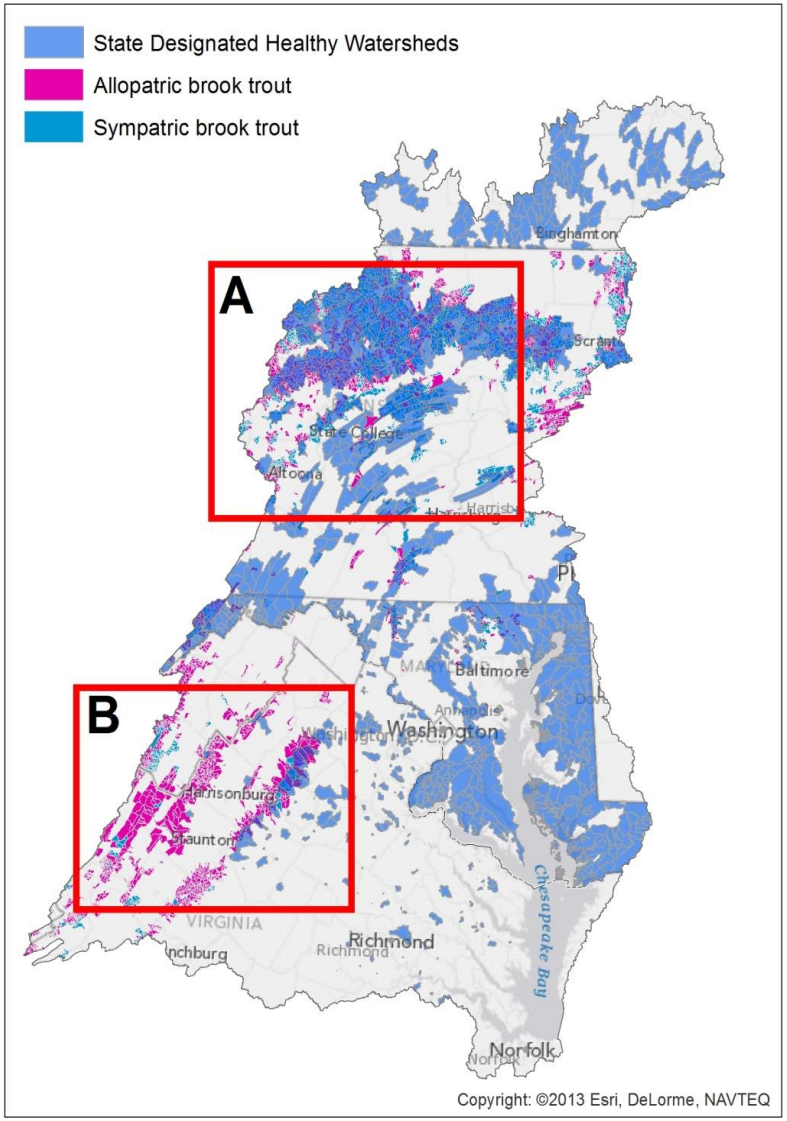
"Restore and sustain naturally reproducing brook trout populations in Chesapeake headwater streams with an 8 percent increase in occupied habitat by 2025."

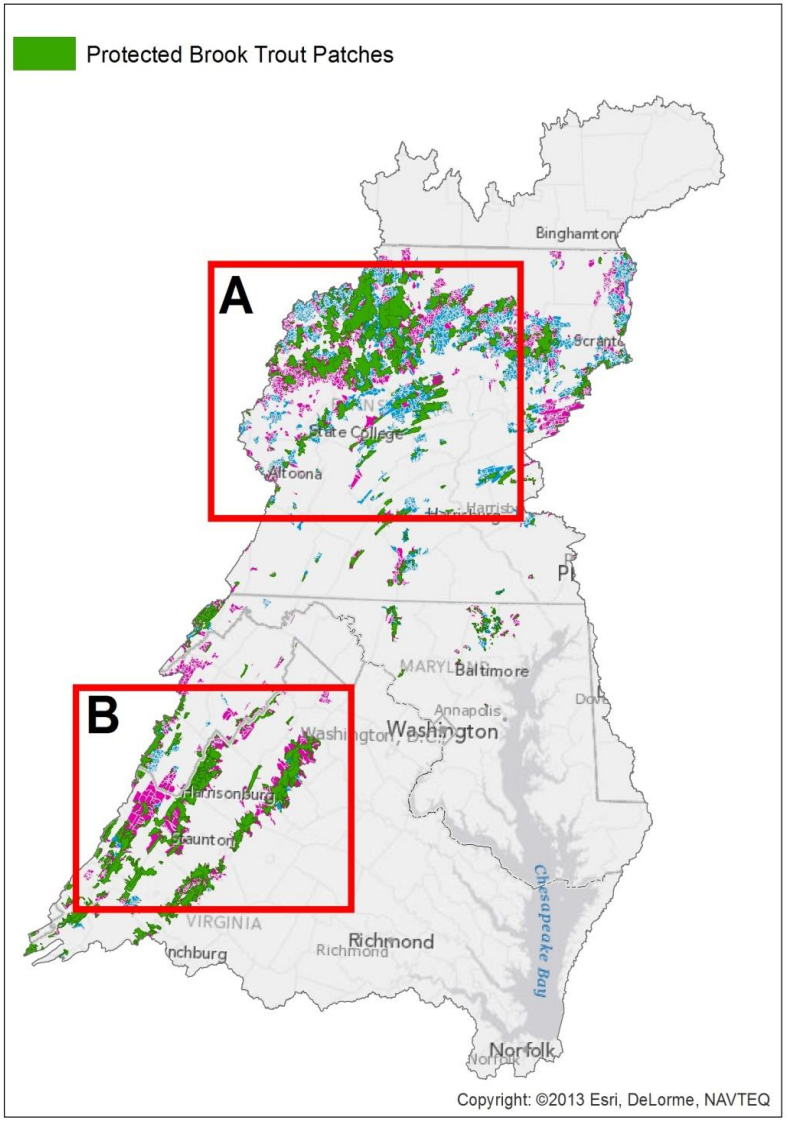
- Brook Trout Prioritization Tool being developed for the Chesapeake Bay Watershed (Downstream Strategies, WVU, EBTJV, North Atlantic LCC)

Next Step: Overlay output of model and occupancy map with SPARROW, State Identified Healthy Watersheds map to determine areas of overlap



Brook Trout Catchments: Healthy Watersheds and Protected Lands



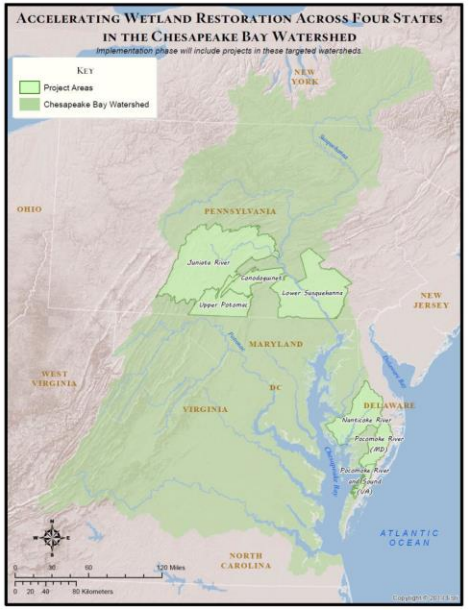


Wetlands

"Continually increase the capacity of wetlands to provide water quality and habitat benefits throughout the watershed. **Create or re-establish 85,000 acres of tidal and non-tidal wetlands and enhance function of an additional 150,000 acres of degraded wetlands by 2025**. These activities may occur in any land use (including urban) but primarily occur in agricultural or natural landscapes."

- Multi-State Wetland Initiative (MD, VA, PA, DE)
- Newly refreshed wetland workgroup leadership

Next Step: Convene wetland workgroup and HWGIT representatives (and others) to discuss priority watersheds



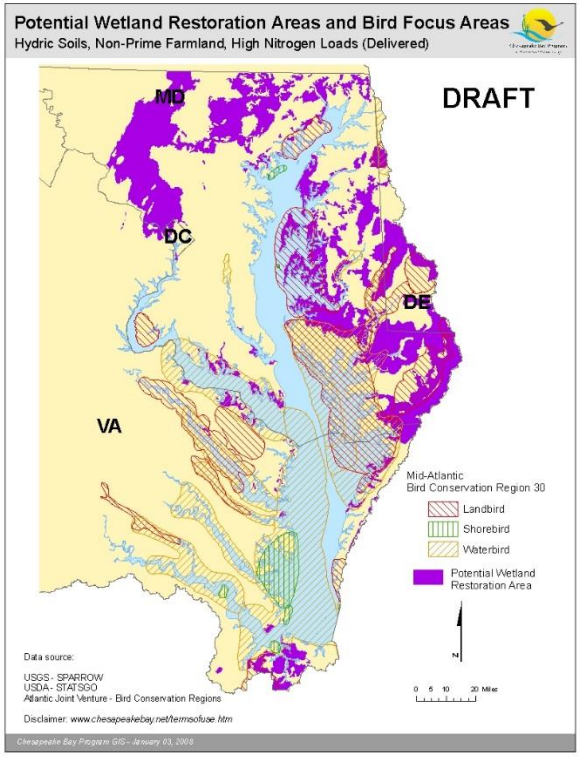
Black Duck

"By 2025, restore, enhance and preserve wetland habitats that support a wintering population of 100,000 black duck, a species representative of the health of tidal marshes across the watershed. Refine population targets through 2025 based on best available science."

- Discussed prioritization for black duck habitat with ACJV and USGS; Jan2015 Initial product target map

- Climate Adaptation Modeling at Blackwater (marsh migration)

Next Steps: Overlay black duck priority habitat with State Identified Healthy Watersheds map; use results to inform selection of sites for Multi-State Wetland Initiative



STAC Workshop Report: "Designing Sustainable Coastal Habitats"

(March, 2014)

1. Balanced approach to restoration by integrating water quality, habitat, and ecosystem based species goals
2. Expand spatial/temporal scales used to set restoration/conservation targets
3. Use Adaptive Management Framework to align complex management objectives
4. Initiate pilot study of landscape-scale restoration approaches
5. Form Habitat Modeling group
6. Build economic arguments and lag times into public messaging

Next Steps

Chesapeake Habitat Conservation Design

- Identify Landscape(s) – *Chesapeake*
- Assemble Conservation Design Team
- Recommend priority species and habitat conservation targets
- Recommend priority species for future data collection (data gaps)
- Set Objectives for Species/Habitats
- Develop decision support tools to (A) identify specific Conservation Opportunities Areas and (B) guide adaptive management efforts to help land managers and policymakers monitor progress
- Identify Limiting Factors to reach objectives (habitat - non-habitat)
- Prioritize Limiting Factors (scope – severity – irreversibility)
- Prioritize Conservation Actions to address limiting factors (contribution to outcome – feasibility – leverage – public values)
- Organize agency expertise and capacity (who does what best?)
- Develop Integrated Landscape Implementation and Annual Work Plans & Monitoring

Common Priority Species

North Atlantic LCC Representative Species List

202g Species Matrix

Northeast SWAP Synthesis List

Terrestrial Species

- American Black Duck
- American Woodcock
- Diamond-backed Terrapin
- Grasshopper Sparrow
- Louisiana Waterthrush
- Prairie Warbler
- Prothonotary Warbler
- Bog Turtle
- Wood Thrush
- Worm-eating Warbler

Aquatic Species

- Brook Trout
- American eel
- Shad
- River herring
- Freshwater mussels

- Adaptive Management Framework – shared understanding across GITs
- Metrics – Outcomes measurement poorly understood
- Monitoring – much more investment needed to develop efficient systems
- Workshops - $$ to support GITs collaborative highest order needs

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