Chesapeake
Healthy Watersheds Assessment:
Assessing the Health and Vulnerability of Healthy Watersheds within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed

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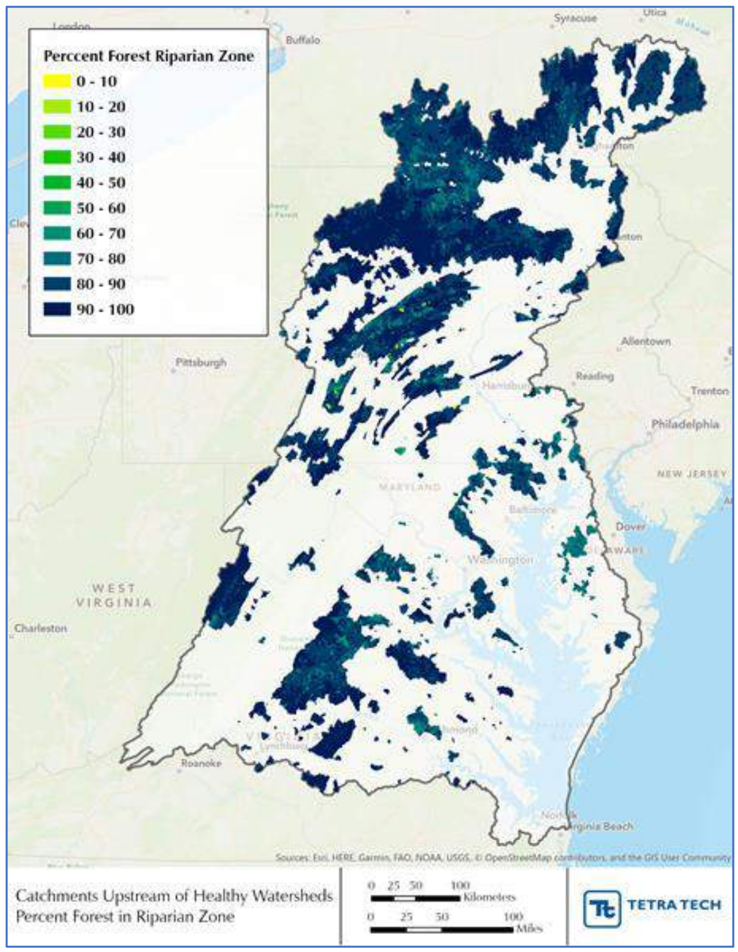

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Executive Summary

The Chesapeake Bay Program, through its Maintain Healthy Watersheds Goal Implementation Team, has a goal of maintaining the long-term health of watersheds identified as healthy by its partner jurisdictions. Quantitative indicators are important to assess current watershed condition, track future condition, and assess the vulnerability of these state-identified watersheds to future degradation. Building upon the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Preliminary Healthy Watershed Assessment (PHWA) framework, a set of candidate metrics characterizing multiple aspects of landscape condition, hydrology, geomorphology, habitat, biological condition, and water quality were assembled and evaluated for integration into an overall watershed health index. Geospatial analyses were structured, where possible, to leverage data from EPA StreamCat, the National Fish Habitat Partnership, the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model for nutrient loads, Chesapeake Bay high-resolution land use / land cover data, and other regional data sources. In addition, a set of vulnerability metrics were derived representing aspects of land use change, water use, wildfire risk, and climate change. Metric values were compiled for the nearly 84,000 NHDPlus (v.2) catchments Bay-wide and were used to assess conditions and vulnerability within the catchments associated with the current set of state-identified healthy watersheds. Metrics were combined into sub-indices and an overall Watershed Health index. These indicators will be available to federal, state, and local managers as a geospatial tool, providing critical information for maintaining watershed health. The Chesapeake Healthy Watersheds Assessment (CHWA) provides a framework for tracking condition at future intervals, with the ability to integrate new data that become available.

The assessment framework, metrics, and geodatabase created for the CHWA are intended to be useful for a variety of management applications. Primarily, the assessment will support the Chesapeake Bay Program and its jurisdiction partners in detecting signals of change in the state-identified healthy watersheds, providing information useful to support strategies to protect and maintain watershed health. In particular, indicators of vulnerability may help to provide an “early warning” to identify factors that could cause future degradation, allowing for steps to be taken to head off these potential negative effects. The CHWA will also be integrated with other Bay Program efforts in support of stream and watershed health.

1. Introduction - Purpose and Objectives

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA 2019a) defines a healthy watershed as one in which natural land cover supports:

- dynamic hydrologic and geomorphic processes within their natural range of variation,
- habitat of sufficient size and connectivity to support native aquatic and riparian species, and
- physical and chemical water quality conditions able to support healthy biological communities.

Through its Healthy Watersheds Program, EPA promotes the protection of healthy watersheds through a variety of assessment and management approaches (EPA 2012). Protection of healthy watersheds is an integral component of overall strategy to meet the goal of the Clean Water Act, specifically "…to restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the Nation's waters." EPA's Healthy Watersheds efforts are intended to "protect and maintain remaining healthy watersheds having natural, intact aquatic ecosystems; prevent them from becoming impaired; and accelerate restoration successes." (EPA 2012)

The Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) recognizes the importance of conserving healthy watersheds within the Chesapeake Bay region as part of the overall Bay restoration effort. In addition to clean water and high-quality habitat for aquatic species, healthy watersheds also provide social and economic benefits such as clean drinking water, wildlife habitat, flood protection, and recreation. Conservation of healthy watersheds is a proactive approach that can reduce the need for future and costly restoration of watersheds that become degraded (CBP 2020a).

Through the Maintain Healthy Watersheds Goal Implementation Team (HWGIT), the Bay Program and its partners have established a goal of sustaining the long-term health of watersheds identified as healthy by partner jurisdictions. Quantitative information on watershed health will contribute to an understanding of the current condition of the state-identified healthy watersheds and will help to track conditions in the future. The Healthy Watersheds Outcome Management Strategy (CBP 2020a) identifies efforts underway and planned for achieving the intended outcome: that 100 percent of state-identified currently healthy waters and watersheds remain healthy.

- *Healthy Watersheds Goal: Sustain state-identified healthy waters and watersheds recognized for their high quality and/or high ecological value.*
- *Healthy Watersheds Outcome: 100 percent of state-identified currently healthy waters and watersheds remain healthy.*

- Healthy Watersheds Outcome Management Strategy (CBP 2020a)

To provide information that will help in watershed assessment, this project applied the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Preliminary Healthy Watersheds Assessment (PHWA) framework to develop an approach for characterizing the health of watersheds in the Chesapeake Bay. This effort will support the HWGIT in tracking progress towards the Healthy Watersheds Outcome. Further, this project gathered additional information that can be applied towards assessing vulnerabilities of healthy watersheds to future degradation, and to help target and inform management efforts in these areas. The project had three objectives:

1. To apply the PHWA framework to assess the current condition of state-identified healthy watersheds within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

2. To develop an approach to use the PHWA framework to track the health of state-identified healthy watersheds over time to determine if watershed health is being maintained.

3. To apply the PHWA framework to identify vulnerabilities in state-identified healthy watersheds.

Although developed in support of the HWGIT, the Chesapeake Healthy Watersheds Assessment (CHWA) has many cross-connections to other CBP efforts, including stream health, fish habitat assessment, water quality, climate change, and local engagement. Watershed health data developed for this project will be applicable in support of these interrelated programs for Bay protection and restoration.

2. Background: EPA's Preliminary Healthy Watersheds Assessment Framework

The linkages between landscape conditions and stream health have been well documented, at a range of scales from the local reach to broader watershed scale (Allan 2004). A variety of studies have investigated landscape influences on stream and riverine ecology (see review by Steel et al. 2010), particularly with the intent to inform watershed management and conservation activities. Advances in geospatial tools and data visualization bring new opportunities for applying landscape-scale data to inform the management of streams and watersheds to promote healthy conditions.

Recent efforts by EPA's Healthy Watersheds program have brought together key, nationally consistent data to assess watershed health and vulnerability. The approach provided by the nationwide PHWA (EPA 2017) includes an index of watershed health, incorporating six key ecological attributes inherent in the definition of healthy watersheds: landscape condition, geomorphology, habitat, water quality, hydrology, and biological condition (Figure 1). In addition, the PHWA vulnerability index incorporates a limited number of potential stressors representing three categories: land use change, water use, and wildfire risk. In April 2017, EPA rolled out the PHWA, with a set of 48 statewide and 85 ecoregional-scale assessments of watershed health and vulnerability across the conterminous United States. The PHWA was intended to serve as a useful framework that could be built upon by states and regions. To support further use and refinement, EPA produced state-specific PHWA geodatabases including a suite of indicators at the 12-digit hydrologic unit code (HUC) scale.

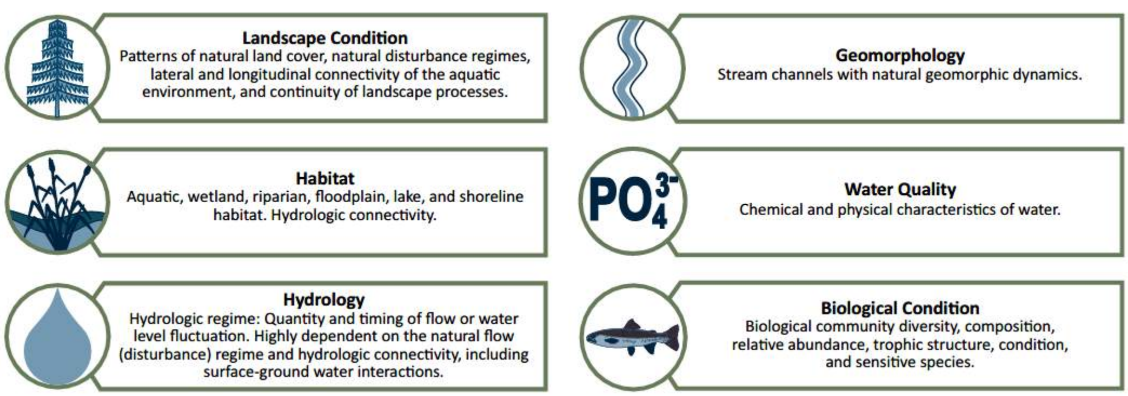


Figure 1: Six attributes of watershed health described in EPA's Identifying and Protecting Healthy Watersheds: Concepts, Assessments, and Management Approaches (EPA 2012).

EPA's PHWA employed a suite of metrics in each of the six overall categories for watershed health (Figure 2). PHWA metrics were designed to be used individually or combined into six sub-indices representing those categories and a final, overall index of watershed health. The PHWA also compiled vulnerability metrics in three categories (Figure 3).

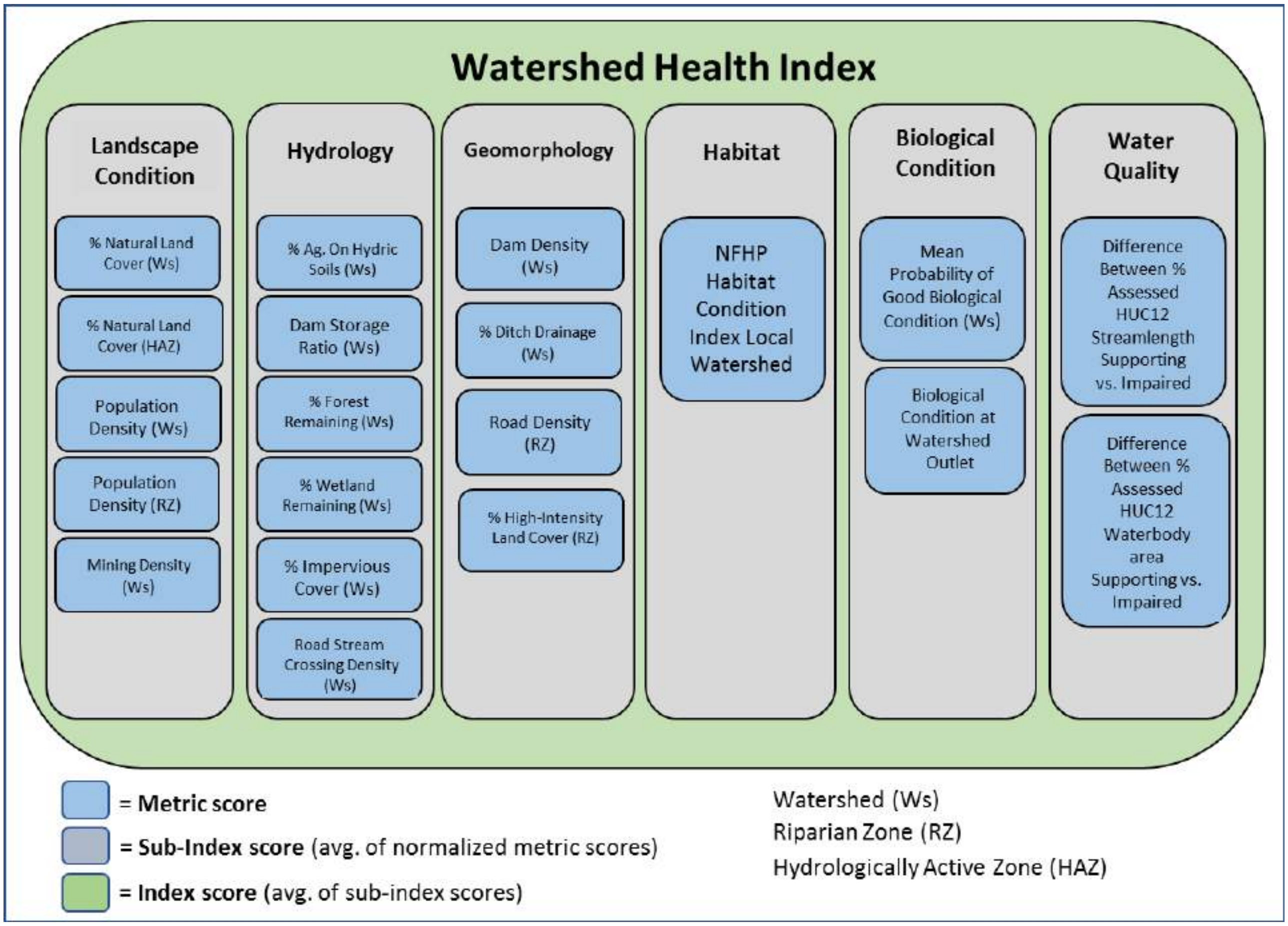


Figure 2: EPA's PHWA Watershed Health Index and sub-index structure with component metrics in each of six categories (Source: EPA 2017).

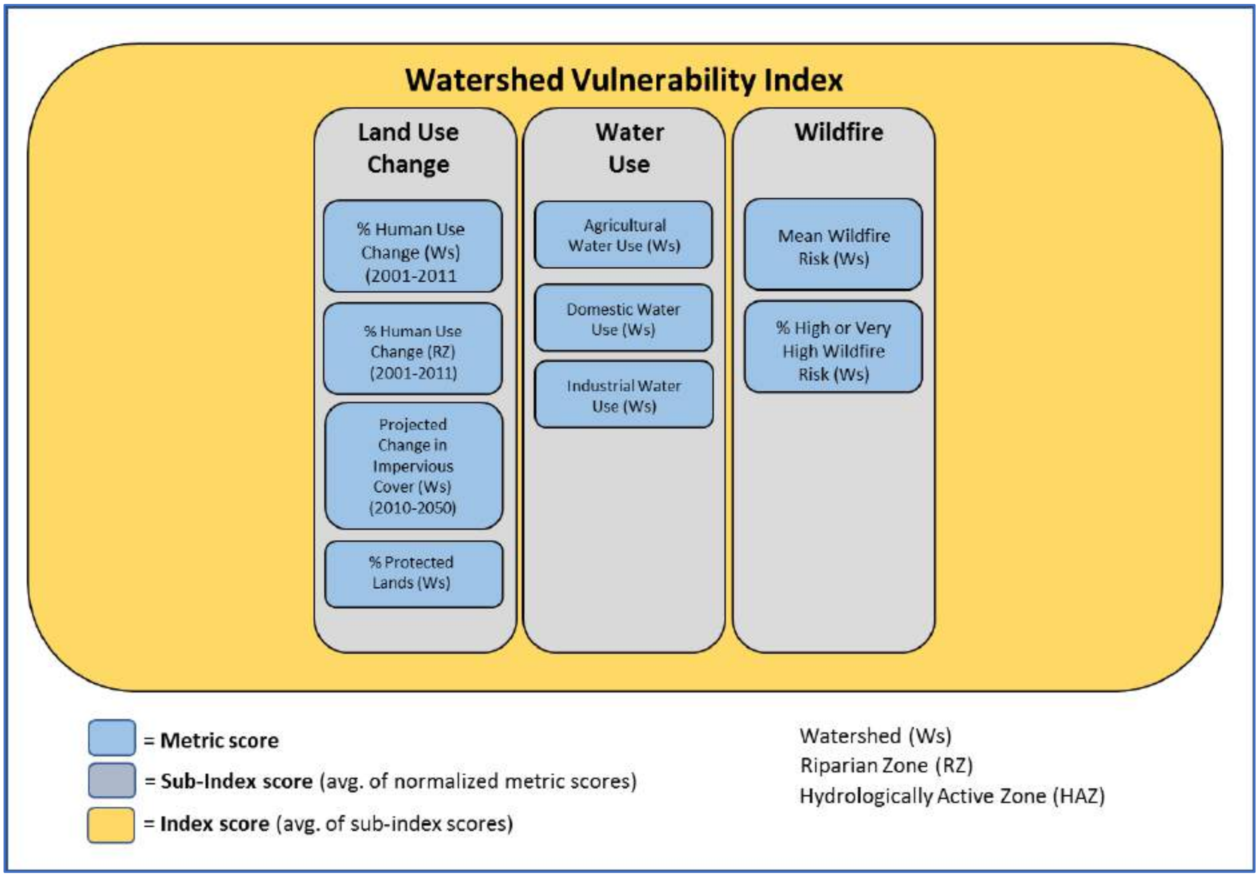


Figure 3: EPA's PHWA Watershed Vulnerability Index and sub-index structure with component metrics (Source: EPA 2017).

3. State-Identified Healthy Watersheds within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed

Each of the Chesapeake Bay jurisdictions have set their own definitions of "healthy waters and watersheds", and a map of these state-identified healthy waters and watersheds is maintained by the Bay Program (CBP 2019). These waters and watersheds, as identified in 2017, will serve as the baseline from which watershed health will be assessed and progress toward the healthy watershed outcome will be measured. Individual jurisdictions have defined their healthy waters and watersheds, as shown in Table 1. In addition to region-wide efforts, individual jurisdictions have their own programs to support protection of high-quality waters and watersheds. The HWGIT encourages these efforts and also seeks to provide data and tools to assist in tracking the status of conditions in the healthy watersheds and in identifying signals of change and vulnerability.

Table 1: Individual jurisdictions' definitions of healthy waters and watersheds (CBP 2019)

Jurisdiction	Definition of Healthy Waters or Watersheds
New York	Waterbodies that have been categorized as "No Known Impact" because monitoring data and information indicate an absence of use restrictions are considered healthy.
Pennsylvania	Waters and watersheds that have been classified as High Quality or Exceptional Value are considered healthy.
Maryland	Tier II Waters: streams and their catchments are designated Tier II when their biological characteristics are significantly better than minimum water quality standards.
West Virginia	Waters that have been designated Tier 3 are known as outstanding national resource waters and are considered healthy.
Virginia	Waters and watersheds that are identified as having high aquatic integrity according to the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation's Division of Natural Heritage Healthy Waters Program are defined as ecologically healthy waters.
Delaware	Currently no healthy watersheds defined. All of the state's tributaries to the Chesapeake Bay are impaired by nitrogen, phosphorus, sediment and/or bacteria, and will only be considered healthy when their Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) are achieved and their surface water quality standards are met.
District of Columbia	Because the District primarily urbanized, it has not currently identified healthy watersheds.

4. Interagency Coordination in Development of the Chesapeake Healthy Watersheds Assessment

The development of the Chesapeake Healthy Watersheds Assessment was sponsored by the CBP and involved coordination with Bay Program staff, the HWGIT, and a core group of state and federal partners, including state data contacts. GIT and core group members are listed in Appendix A. Throughout the course of the project, meetings were held to provide updates and seek input from GIT members and core group partners. Summaries and presentations from the following meetings are included in Appendix B of this report:

- Project kickoff meeting, October 27, 2017
- Core group meeting, December 18, 2017
- HWGIT meeting, January 24, 2018
- Core group meeting, October 22, 2018
- HWGIT meeting, June 6, 2019

5. Scale of Analysis

Although the national PHWA provided data at the 12-digit HUC scale, initial inspection of healthy watershed examples within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed indicated that a finer scale of analysis would be needed to for the CHWA. Analysis needed to be appropriate for assessing the state-identified healthy watersheds, as many of these watersheds are themselves smaller than a 12-digit HUC. Even for larger healthy watersheds, managers of state programs had expressed interest in having access to environmental and landscape data on the particular sub-areas within those watersheds to inform management and decision-making processes, and especially, to help locate and address land-based stressors that may be affecting watershed health.

For the current analysis conducted for the Chesapeake Healthy Watersheds Assessment, the geographic units selected were catchments from the National Hydrography Dataset Plus Version 2 (NHDPlus) geospatial dataset developed by EPA and USGS. These NHDPlus catchments represent the direct drainage area of individual NHDPlus stream reaches and therefore allowed assessment of conditions at a finer scale than provided by the PHWA. Within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed, the average area of a 12-digit HUC is 89.97 square kilometers (34.74 square miles = 22,233.6 acres), while the average area of an NHDPlus catchment is 2.04 square kilometers (0.79 square miles = 505.6 acres). If needed, catchment data can be aggregated up to larger landscape units. Using the NHDPlus catchments as the basic unit of analysis provides data to characterize watershed health and vulnerability within a spatial framework that supports watershed protection and planning across various spatial scales and hydrologic units.

An initial step was to prepare a map representing the drainage areas of the healthy watersheds in Chesapeake Bay Watershed (Figure 4), created from the state-identified waters and watersheds provided by the Bay Program. A further step was to identify those NHDPlus catchments associated with each of the state-identified healthy watersheds, so that catchment-specific data can be examined for these watersheds of interest, either individually or as a group. However, metrics were computed for all catchments across the entire Bay watershed, not only for those within healthy watersheds.

Other state and regional efforts to characterize and identify healthy watersheds have also selected NHDPlus catchments as the basic geographic unit for analysis. Examples include Tennessee's statewide assessment of watershed health and vulnerability (Matthews et al. 2015) and the Alabama-Mobile Bay healthy watershed assessment (Cadmus Group 2014a) – both were based on NHDPlus catchments. Similarly, Wisconsin's statewide assessment of watershed health and vulnerability (Cadmus Group 2014b) employed state-specific boundaries at a catchment scale, using reach-scale watershed segments from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources 24K hydro geodatabase.

As described in the Tennessee healthy watersheds assessment (Matthews et al. 2015), using the NHDPlus catchment scale provides a spatial framework for watershed protection planning at a variety of scales and offers several advantages:

> NHDPlus is a medium-resolution dataset of all stream reaches in the nation and their corresponding catchments. Each NHDPlus catchment represents the direct, or local, drainage area for an individual stream reach and has a common identifier (COMID) assigned to it in the dataset. A separate table identifies the "from" and "to" COMID for every catchment in the dataset, giving

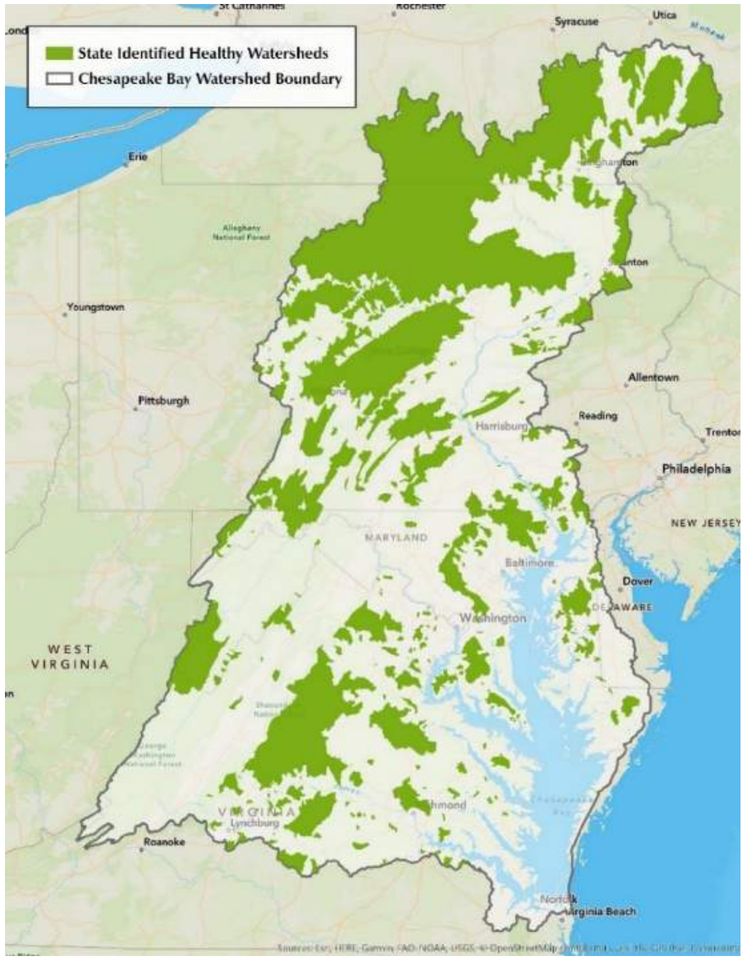


Figure 4: Drainage areas of state-identified healthy waters and watersheds in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

a complete picture of the hydrologic relationships between every catchment in the stream network at the 1:100,000 scale.

The hydrologic relationships in NHDPlus allow for calculations of watershed characteristics (e.g., drainage area, stream length, land use) at both the incremental (within catchment boundaries) and cumulative scales (within all upstream catchments) for any stream reach. Cumulative values are included in the Assessment because of the potential for upstream conditions to influence the health of a given stream reach. For example, high percent imperviousness in the cumulative watershed is expected to influence downstream biological communities even though the incremental imperviousness for the catchment may be low. In addition to its analytical benefits, NHDPlus catchments can be aggregated to larger watershed scales. This allows for flexible reporting of results at other watershed scales appropriate for multiple management or communication objectives.

> Watershed health and vulnerability metrics were quantified on a catchment-by-catchment basis. The NHDPlus dataset supports aggregation of incremental-to-cumulative data by storing a unique numeric identifier for each catchment as well as upstream/downstream catchments.

For the Chesapeake assessment, working at the NHDPlus catchment scale provided the benefits described above and also enabled the leveraging of data and approaches from the EPA's Stream-Catchment (StreamCat) Dataset (Hill et al. 2016) in compiling catchment-scale metric data. Developed by EPA's Office of Research and Development (ORD), the StreamCat dataset (https://www.epa.gov/national-aquatic-resource-surveys/streamcat) is an extensive collection of landscape metrics for 2.6 million streams and associated catchments within the conterminous U.S., including both natural and human-related landscape features. Of particular importance, StreamCat data are summarized both for individual stream catchments and for cumulative upstream watersheds (Figure 5), based on the NHDPlus Version 2 geospatial framework (EPA 2019b).

Using the same approach, most of the metrics included in the Chesapeake Healthy Watersheds Assessment were computed as integrating conditions throughout the entire upstream watershed. For certain applications of the data, use of catchment-specific (not watershed) data may also be of interest. For example, data on landscape conditions by individual catchments may be useful to help understand the various stressors acting in different parts of a watershed, whereas values that integrate conditions across the entire upstream watershed may blur or smooth these differences.

As in the national PHWA, certain CHWA metrics were computed for the riparian area only, defined as the area within approximately 100 meters on either side of the stream-line. Other metrics were computed for slight variations of this defined riparian area, known as the hydrologically connected or hydrologically active zone, as defined in the PHWA (Table 2 and Figure 6).

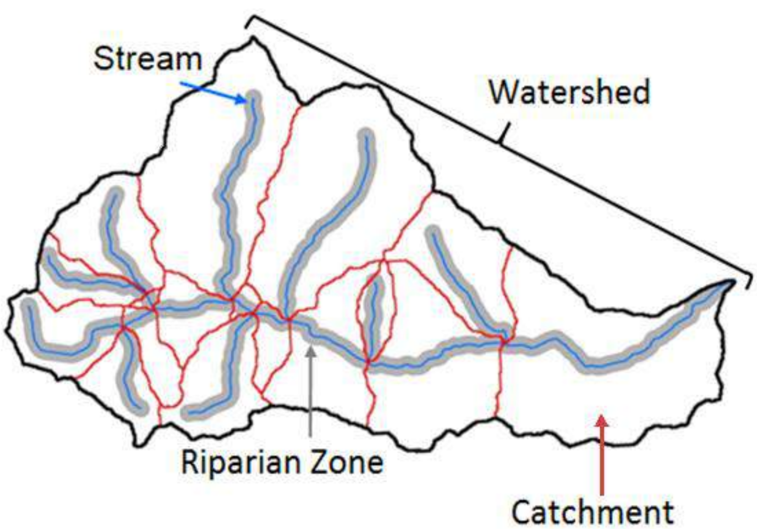


Figure 5: Diagram of catchment and watershed terms as used in StreamCat and the Chesapeake Healthy Watersheds Assessment. A riparian buffer area is here defined as land within approximately 100 meters on each side of stream. Diagram modified from StreamCat documentation (EPA 2019b).

Table 2: EPA StreamCat/PHWA definitions for riparian zone, hydrologically connected zone, and hydrologically active zone. (Source: PHWA MD dataset, MD_PHWA_TabularResults_170518)

Riparian Zone (RZ)	The Riparian Zone (RZ) is the corridor of land adjacent to surface waters. The RZ is delineated for the United States in a geospatial grid dataset depicting surface water features and adjacent buffer areas. The RZ grid was generated by creating a 108-meter buffer around surface waters in the Water Mask grid. The buffer includes areas on both sides of surface waters and the buffer size of 108 meters was selected based on the spatial resolution of the Water Mask grid to approximate a 100-meter buffer. The spatial resolution of the RZ grid is 30 meters.
Hydrologically Connected Zone (HCZ)	The Hydrologically Connected Zone (HCZ) is comprised of wet areas with high runoff potential that are contiguous to surface water. The HCZ is delineated for the United States for indicator calculations in a geospatial grid dataset depicting surface water features and wet areas that are contiguous to surface water. The HCZ grid was generated using the Wetness Index and Water Mask grids. The Wetness Index grid was first used to identify wet areas based on topography (i.e., low-lying, low-slope areas), defined as pixels with a Wetness Index of 550 or greater. The HCZ was then delineated as wet pixels in the Wetness Index grid that were also contiguous to surface water in the Water Mask. Wet pixels that were isolated from surface water were not included in the HCZ grid. The spatial resolution of the HCZ grid is 30 meters.
Hydrologically Active Zone (HAZ)	The Hydrologically Active Zone (HAZ) is a geospatial grid dataset that combines the Riparian Zone grid and the Hydrologically Connected Zone grid. (See also Riparian Zone and Hydrologically Connected Zone definitions).

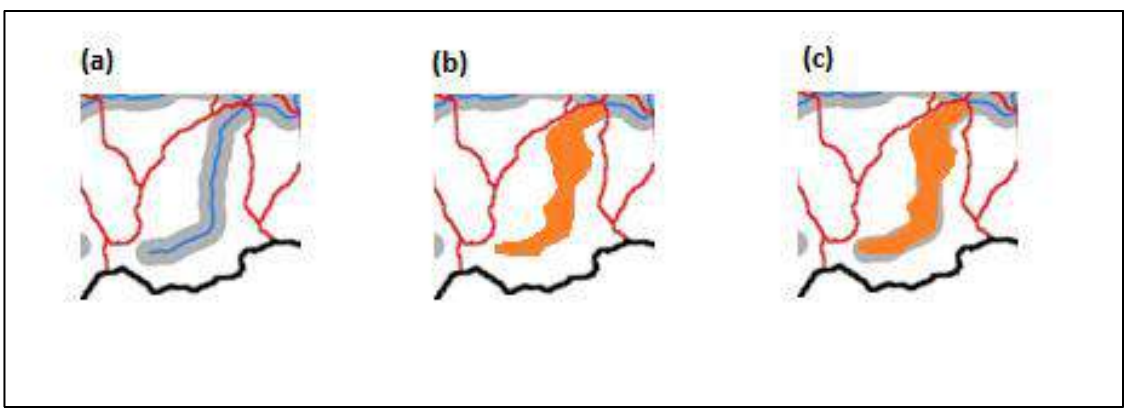


Figure 6: Depiction of EPA StreamCat/PHWA definitions for (a) riparian zone, (b) hydrologically connected zone, and (c) hydrologically active zone.

6. Developing an Assessment of Watershed Health

For the Chesapeake Healthy Watersheds Assessment, candidate metrics in each of the six categories describing ecological attributes of watershed health condition were considered and evaluated as potential indicators of watershed health. Input from CBP partners, HWGIT members, and state data contacts was gathered to inform the process of proposing and selecting candidate metrics. Candidates included the original suite of PHWA metrics, calculated at the catchment rather than HUC-12 scale, along with Chesapeake Bay Watershed-specific renditions of those metrics, based upon regional rather than national data sets, when available. In addition, new metrics were proposed and considered, including those based on additional demographic, geomorphic, habitat, and biological data, as well as nutrient load data from SPARROW and the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model.

Ecological filters were applied to reduce the original set of candidate metrics to a final recommended suite. Criteria for selecting metrics included availability of data at an appropriate scale (generally at the catchment or finer level), coverage of the entire study area, and low redundancy with other potential metrics (Figure 7). Data that did not provide broad spatial coverage but were more limited in scope, such as site-specific monitoring data, were not included in the current analysis. Future management efforts directed toward maintenance of conditions in healthy watersheds may benefit from more localized data. Data were compiled and watershed health metrics were developed for each of the 83,623 NHDPlus catchments within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

A final recommended suite of metrics for assessing watershed health is presented in Figure 8, with a summary of these metrics and data source information in Table 3. Further details can be found in Appendix C and in metadata within the accompanying geodatabase.

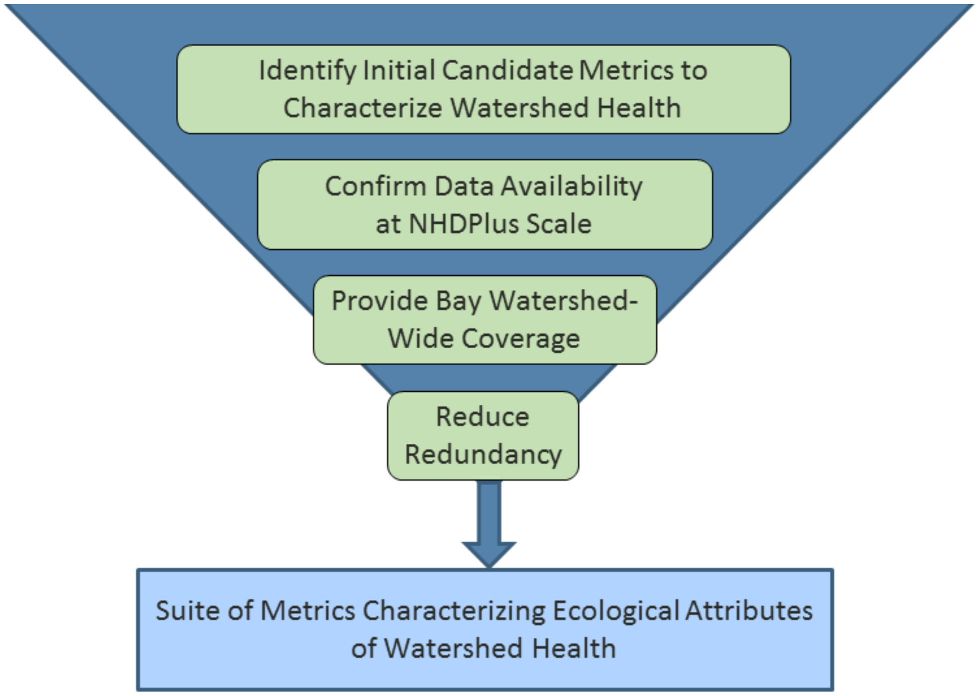


Figure 7: Filters applied to select candidate metrics characterizing watershed health

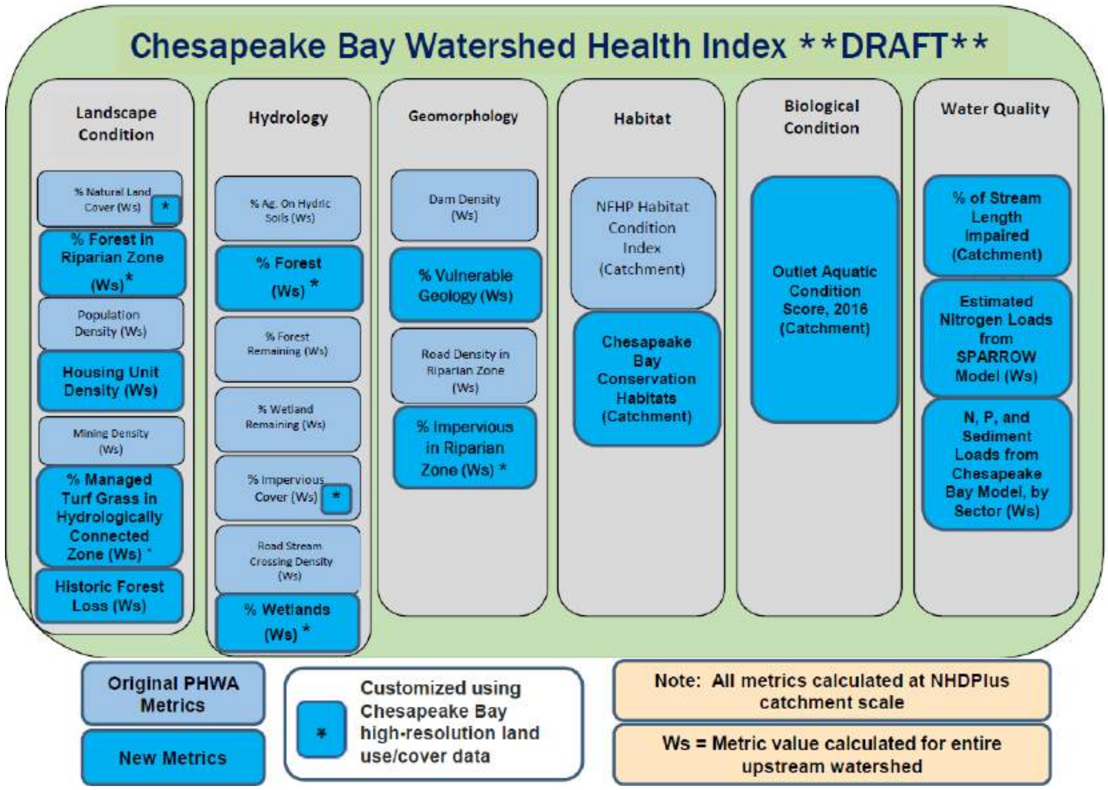


Figure 8: Recommended suite of metrics indicative of watershed health for catchments in Chesapeake Bay Watershed. Light blue boxes are metrics from the original, national PHWA, but developed here at the catchment scale. Bright blue boxes indicate new or modified metrics.

Table 3: Recommended watershed health metrics for catchments in Chesapeake Bay watershed

Sub-Index	Metrics	Notes: Data Source
Landscape Condition	% Natural Land Cover in Watershed	CBP high-resolution land use/land cover data, 2013
	% Forest in Riparian Zone in Watershed	CBP high-resolution land use/land cover data, 2013
	Population Density in Watershed	StreamCat, 2010 census data
	Housing Unit Density in Watershed	StreamCat, 2010 data
	Mining Density in Watershed	StreamCat
	% Managed Turf Grass in Hydrologically Connected Zone (HCZ) in Watershed	CBP high-resolution land use/land cover data, 2013
	Historic Forest Loss in Watershed	LANDFIRE. Reflects forest loss from European colonization to 2010. 2014 data.
Hydrology	% Agriculture on Hydric Soil in Watershed	EPA EnviroAtlas
	% Forest in Watershed	CBP high-resolution land use/land cover data, 2013
	% Forest Remaining in Watershed	LANDFIRE, 2014 data
	% Wetlands Remaining in Watershed	LANDFIRE, 2014 data
	% Impervious in Watershed	CBP high-resolution land use/land cover data, 2013
	Density Road-Stream Crossings in Watershed	StreamCat, 2010 data
	% Wetlands in Watershed	CBP high-resolution land use/land cover data, 2013
Geomorphology	Dam Density in Watershed	StreamCat, 2013 data
	Vulnerable Geology in Watershed	CBP
	Road Density in Riparian Zone, in Watershed	StreamCat
	% Impervious in Riparian Zone in Watershed	CBP high-resolution land use/land cover data, 2013
Habitat	National Fish Habitat Partnership (NFHP) Habitat Condition Index in Catchment	NFHP 2015 data (from USGS)
	Chesapeake Bay Conservation Habitats in Catchment	Landscope / Nature's Network Conservation Design for the Northeast

Table 3: Recommended watershed health metrics for catchments in Chesapeake Bay watershed

Sub-Index	Metrics	Notes: Data Source
Biological Condition	Outlet Aquatic Condition Score in Catchment	EPA Office of Research and Development, StreamCat-based model of National Rivers and Streams Assessment (NRSA) biological condition, 2016
Water Quality	% of Stream Length Impaired in Catchment	EPA ATTAINS
	Estimated Nitrogen Load from SPARROW Model (lbs/acre/yr), in Watershed	CBP SPARROW model
	Nitrogen, Phosphorus, and Sediment Load from Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model, by Sector (Developed Land, Agriculture, Wastewater, Septic, and Combined Sewer Overflow, CSO), in Watershed (13 separate metrics)	CBP Model (Phase 6)

Metric data by catchment were assembled into the project geodatabase. Each catchment (designated with a unique identifier, COMID) has data for all of the selected metrics, as well as other attributes such as catchment area, a flag indicating whether the catchment is located within a healthy watershed, whether located at its outlet, and the identity of that healthy watershed. Metrics are organized under the six topic areas described above. Data are available for all catchments, not just those within state-identified healthy watersheds.

As an example of results that can be derived from CHWA data, descriptive statistics for watershed health metrics in the state-identified healthy watersheds are shown in Appendix D (Table D-1). The values presented in Table D-1 are for catchments at the outlet of each state-identified healthy watershed. For metrics designated as watershed-wide, these data reflect conditions throughout the upstream area of the healthy watershed. For example, the mean percent natural land cover upstream of state-identified healthy watersheds is 58% (ranging from <1% to 100%), while the mean percent impervious cover is 3% (range 0% to 48%). Table D-1 is provided as an example of the type of summary statistics that can be derived from the CHWA. Further breakdowns by state or for particular types of catchments can also be produced.

The CHWA geodatabase provides a useful means for visualizing data at broad scales (i.e., across the entire Chesapeake Bay Watershed, an entire state, or a large river basin) or at a local scale. For example, the metric for Percent Forest in Riparian Zone (Watershed) can be displayed for all catchments throughout the Chesapeake Bay Watershed or for only those catchments within the state-identified healthy watersheds (Figure 9). As expected, many of the state-identified healthy watersheds have high values for the Percent Forest in Riparian Zone metric, with a mean of 88%, and a range 22% to 98%. Low values for Percent Forest in Riparian Zone are within areas dominated by urban or agricultural land uses.

The Percent Forest in Riparian Zone is a metric describing landscape condition and was created using the Chesapeake Bay Program's high-resolution land use / land cover data, in combination with a mask including a 100-m buffer on each site of stream. Values were calculated for the entire upstream riparian area in the watershed. The map below depicts the Percent Forest in Riparian Zone (Watershed) for all catchments within the state-identified healthy watersheds. Riparian forest cover is generally high within the catchments associated with state-identified healthy watersheds, although a few gaps appear, which would be candidates for consideration as locations for forest buffer improvements.

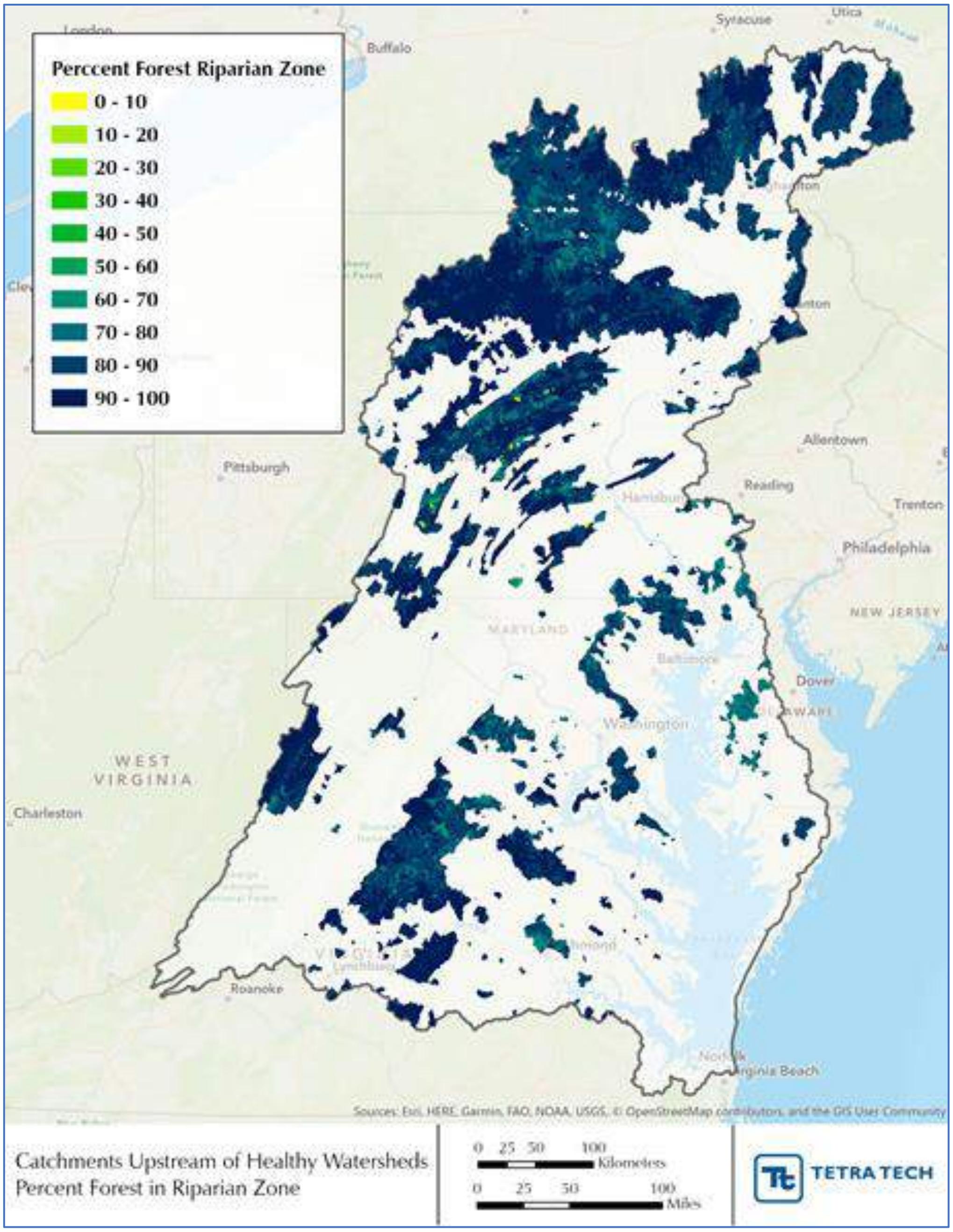


Figure 9: Example watershed condition metric: Percent Forest in Riparian Zone, shown for only the catchments within state-identified healthy watersheds

Depending on the intended application, catchment or watershed data may be most relevant. For some purposes, use of local catchment data, in contrast to values that integrate over the entire upstream watershed, may be appropriate. For example, the metric variation Percent Forest in Riparian Zone (Catchment) represents a slightly different aspect of watershed health than Percent Forest in Riparian Zone (Watershed). The catchment variation of the metric quantifies the extent of riparian forest at the local catchment scale only, rather than across the entire upstream watershed. This variation of the riparian forest metric exhibits greater contrast and more clearly depicts local conditions associated with specific catchments, rather than smoothing those differences.

As described in the following sections, the watershed health metrics were examined in exploratory analyses of correlations and predictive ability. In addition, they were used to create sub-indices of watershed health associated with each of the six aspects of watershed health and an overall watershed health index. Further development of the CHWA offers the opportunity to conduct additional statistical properties of the metrics, test for predictive ability, and adapt the CHWA approach for state-specific management needs (Figure 10). Although the proposed CHWA metrics and indices are subject to further refinement and analysis, they serve as useful tools for beginning to examine conditions throughout the Bay watershed and particularly within the state-identified healthy watersheds.

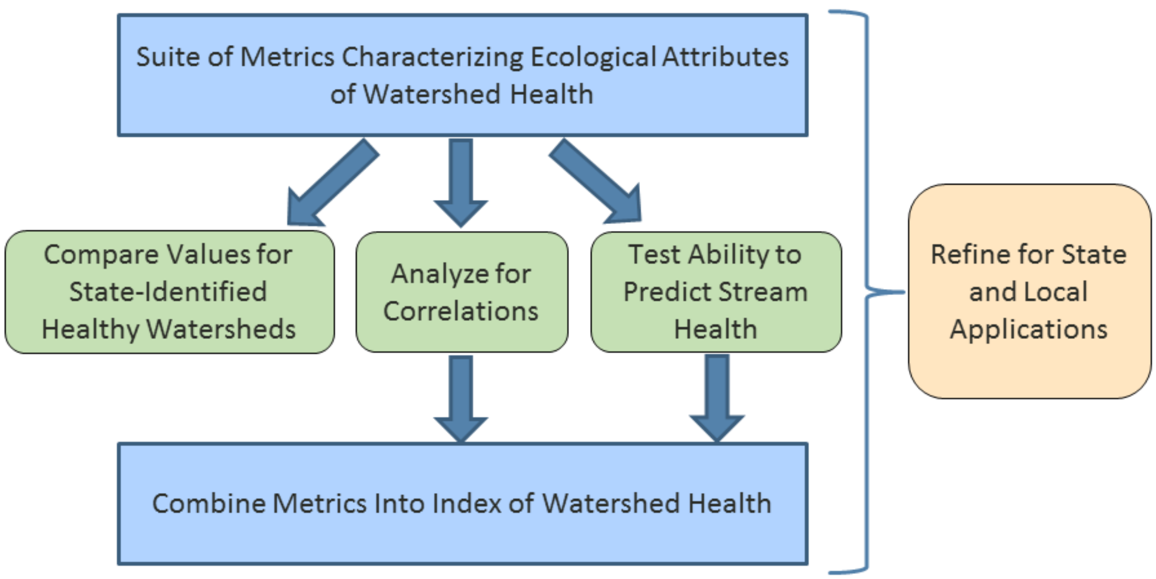


Figure 10: Exploration and refinement of metrics of watershed health. While initial analyses have been completed, additional investigations and refinement are proposed as future steps for the CHWA.

6.1 Distributions of Watershed Health Metric Scores by Catchment

To examine metric values for the state-identified healthy watersheds in relation to other watersheds, box-and-whisker plots were prepared to illustrate the distribution of metric values in different types of catchments. For an initial characterization of conditions using watershed health metrics, catchments were grouped into those outside of state-identified healthy watersheds (n=60,978 total, within Chesapeake Bay Watershed) v. those within healthy watersheds (n=22,645). Catchments within healthy watersheds were further subdivided based on their location either (1) at the outlet of a designated healthy watershed (n=828) or (2) other catchments that are within the drainage area of a healthy watershed, other than the catchment located specifically at the outlet (n=21,817). The first type of healthy watershed catchments may be useful for characterizing the entire area contributing to the healthy watershed, while the second type may help in identifying the heterogeneity of conditions present across the larger area, perhaps to help locate areas where particular stressors are likely to be most influential (e.g., higher percentage of impervious cover affecting a particular tributary branch) or to target management actions (e.g., upgrading stormwater practices in those areas of greater impervious cover). These three catchment types are illustrated in the schematic diagram in Figure 11.

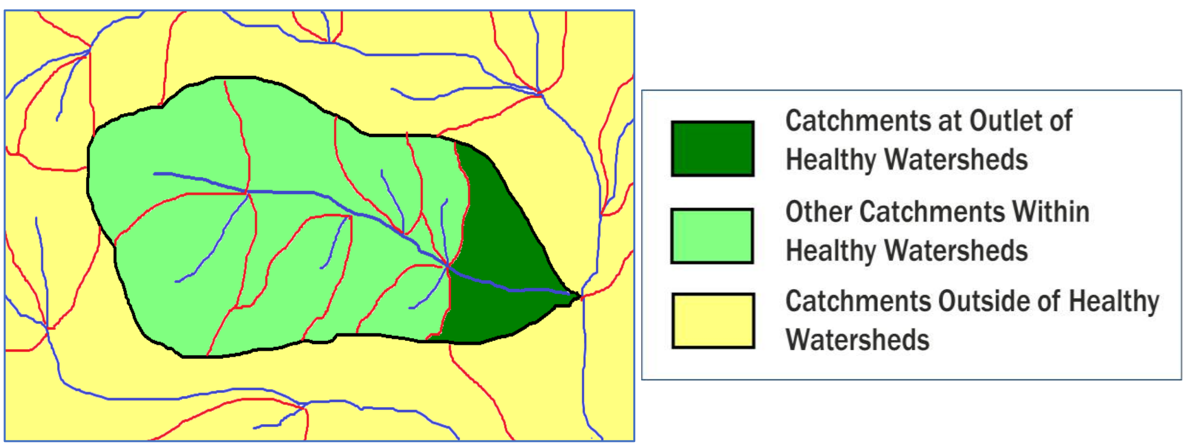
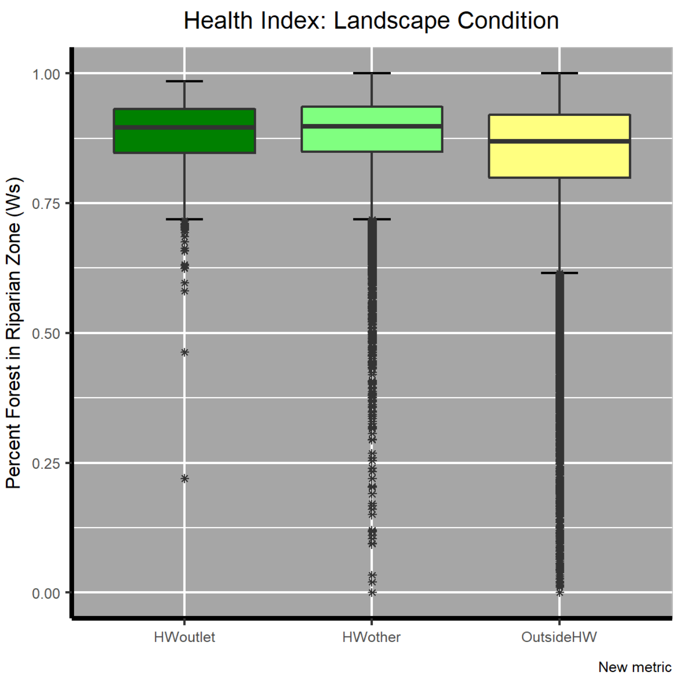


Figure 11: Diagram of catchment labeling as within state-identified healthy watersheds (at outlet and other catchments) v. outside of healthy watersheds.

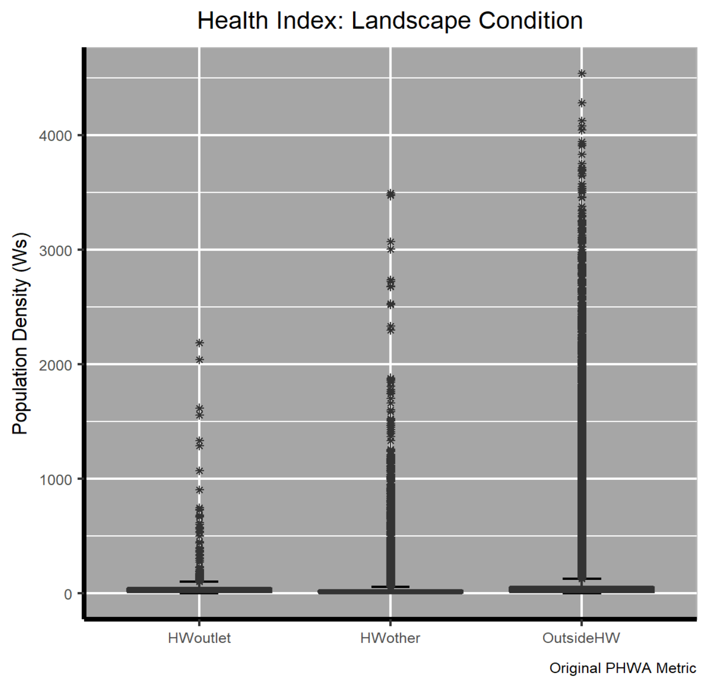
Examples of distributions for watershed health metrics using these groupings are shown in Figures 12-17. Plots for some metrics demonstrated that metric values were distributed differently in state-identified healthy watersheds compared with those outside. For example, the Percent Impervious in Watershed far exceeded 50% in some catchments outside of the state-identified healthy watersheds (to a maximum value of 98%) but was less than 48% in all catchments that were at the outlets of healthy watersheds (Figure 13E).

However, many of the metrics did not exhibit a clear difference between watersheds designated as healthy and those outside. Substantial overlap was apparent between values within and outside of healthy watersheds, rather than the significant difference that might be expected. Several factors are likely contributing to this overlap. First, the state-identified healthy watersheds are not a complete set of all healthy watersheds in the region. There are many areas outside of state-identified healthy watersheds that share similar characteristics of good environmental quality, such as highly forested areas, low amounts of impervious cover, and low population density. In addition, metric formulations that integrate over the entire watershed area reduce the contrast across areas varying in quality and condition. Metrics based on catchment data may provide greater discriminatory power. We recommend that further evaluations be conducted using independent assessments of stream (or watershed) condition, to better evaluate metric performance and predictive ability.

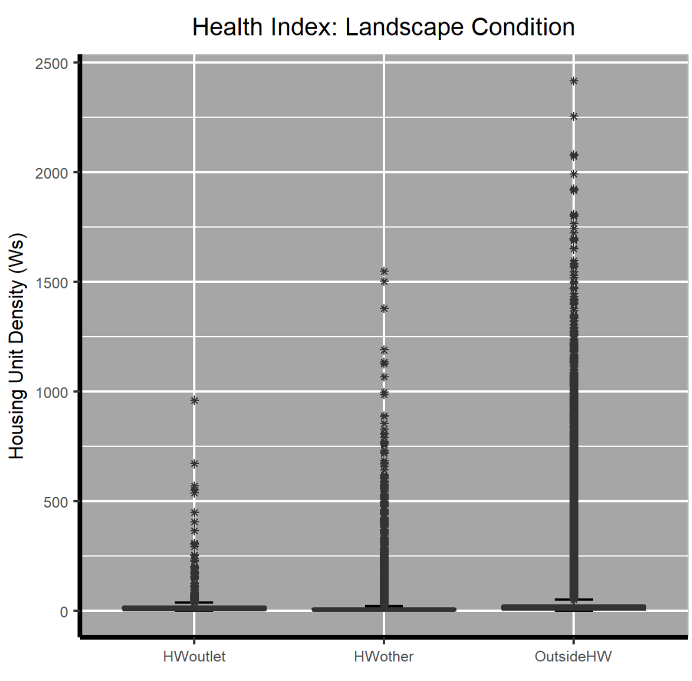
(A)


Health Index: Landscape Condition
Percent Forest in Riparian Zone (Ws)
1.00
0.75
0.50
0.25
0.00
HWoutlet
HWother
OutsideHW
New metric

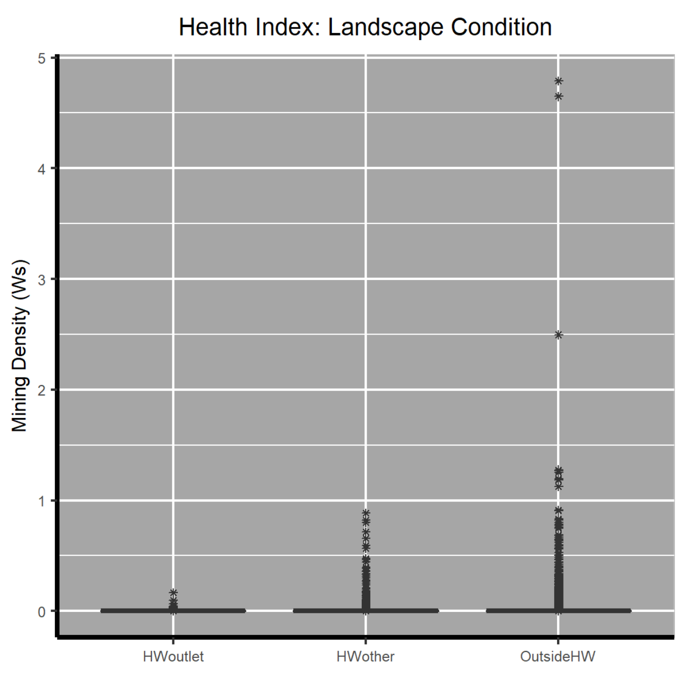
(B)


Health Index: Landscape Condition
Population Density (Ws)
4000
3000
2000
1000
0
HWoutlet
HWother
OutsideHW
Original PHWA Metric

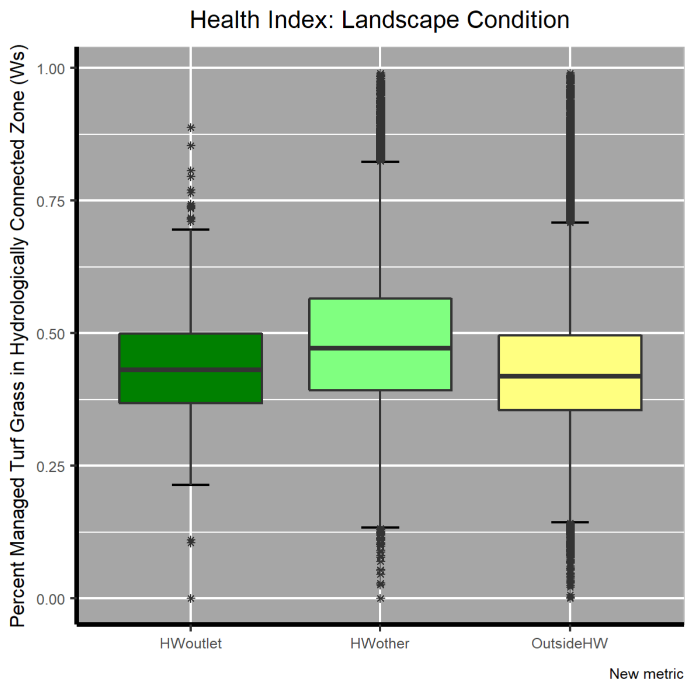
(C)


Health Index: Landscape Condition
Housing Unit Density (Ws)
2500
2000
1500
1000
500
0
HWoutlet
HWother
OutsideHW
New metric

(D)


Health Index: Landscape Condition
Mining Density (Ws)
5
4
3
2
1
0
HWoutlet
HWother
OutsideHW
Original PHWA Metric

(E)



(F)

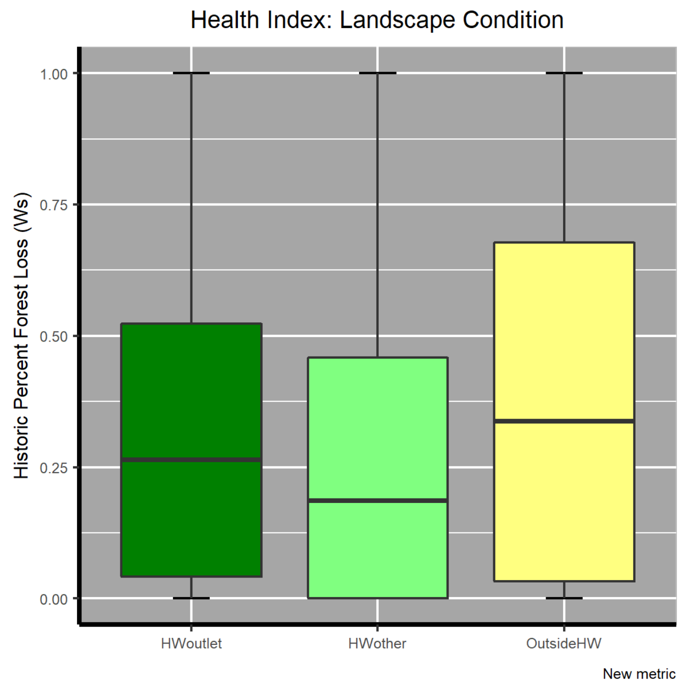
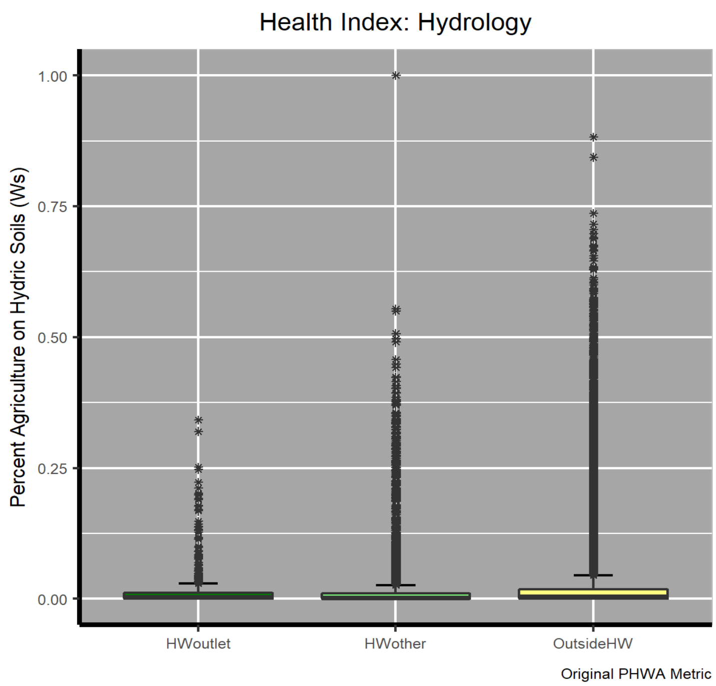
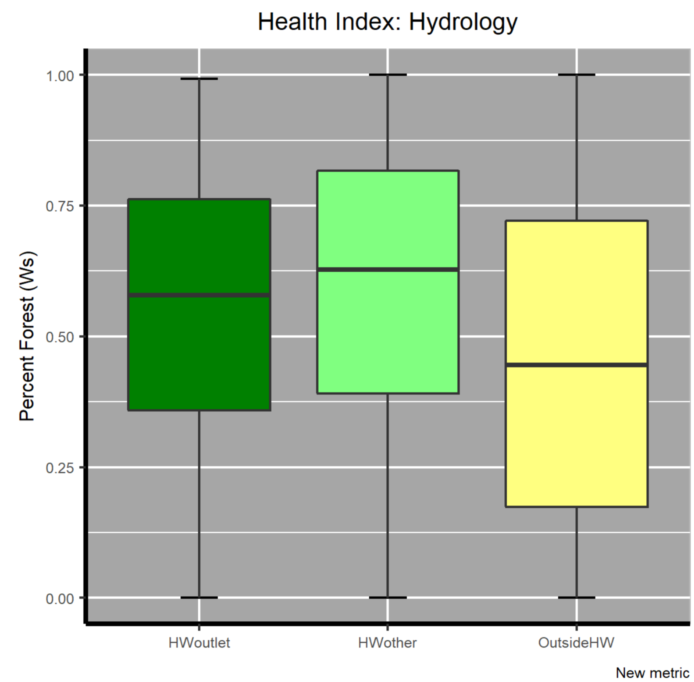


Figure 12: Comparison of distributions for landscape condition metrics for catchments at outlet of state-identified healthy watersheds (dark green), other catchments within those healthy watersheds (light green), and catchments outside of those healthy watersheds (yellow) for (A) Percent Forest in Riparian Zone, (B) Population Density, (C) Housing Unit Density, (D) Mining Density, (E) Percent Managed Turf Grass in Hydrologically Connected Zone, and (F) Historic Percent Forest Loss.

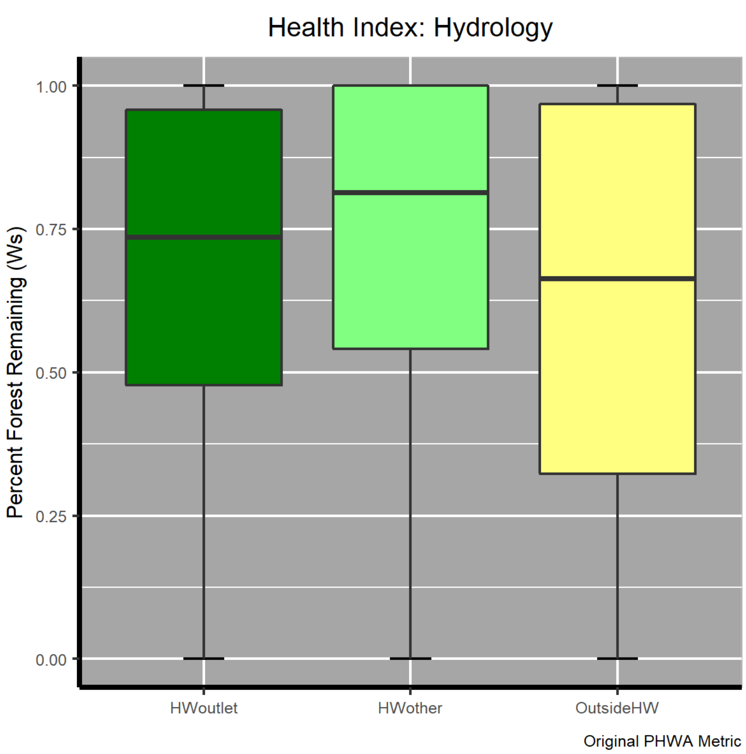
(A)


Health Index: Hydrology
Percent Agriculture on Hydric Soils (Ws)
1.00
0.75
0.50
0.25
0.00
HWoutlet
HWother
OutsideHW
Original PHWA Metric

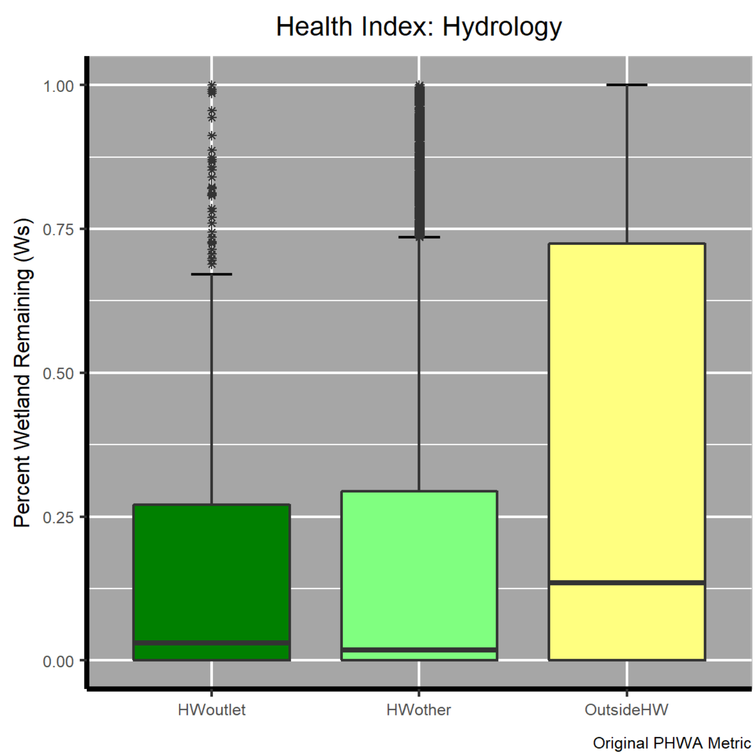
(B)


Health Index: Hydrology
Percent Forest (Ws)
1.00
0.75
0.50
0.25
0.00
HWoutlet
HWother
OutsideHW
New metric

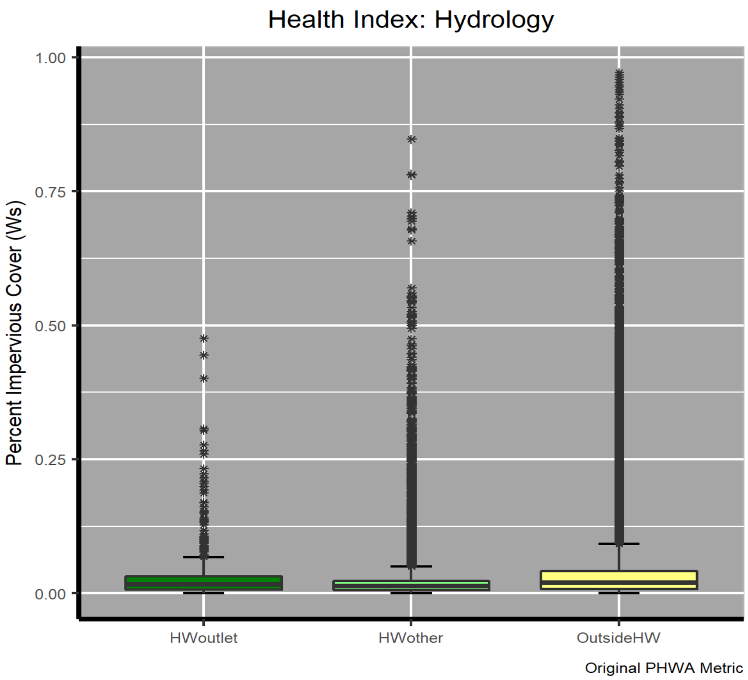
(C)


Health Index: Hydrology
Percent Forest Remaining (Ws)
1.00
0.75
0.50
0.25
0.00
HWoutlet
HWother
OutsideHW
Original PHWA Metric

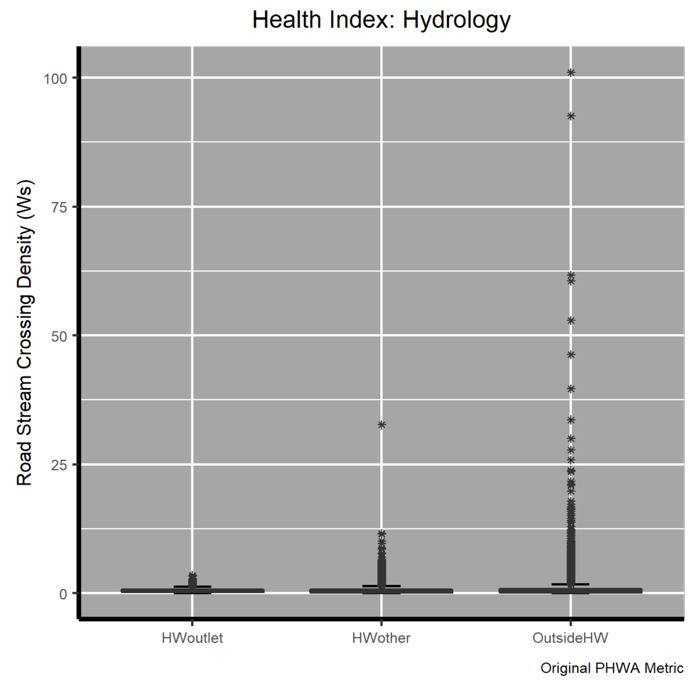
(D)


Health Index: Hydrology
Percent Wetland Remaining (Ws)
1.00
0.75
0.50
0.25
0.00
HWoutlet
HWother
OutsideHW
Original PHWA Metric

(E)



(F)



(G)

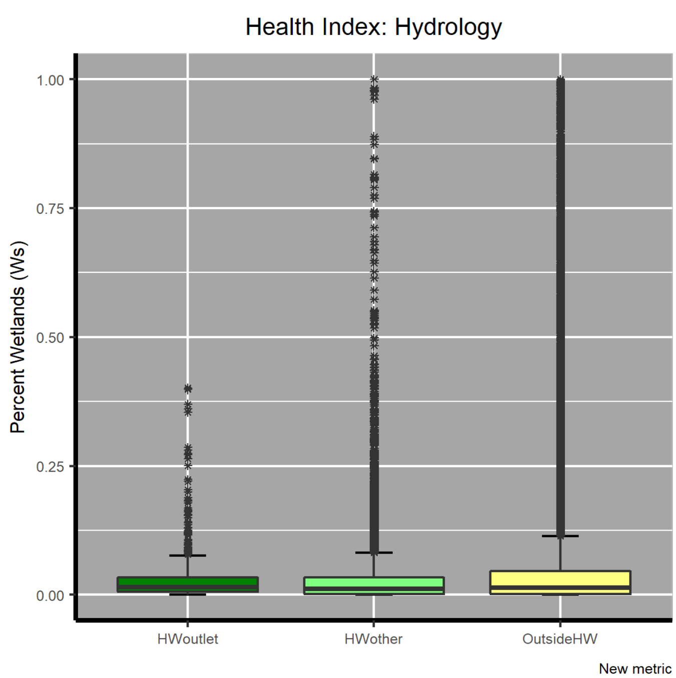


Figure 13: Comparison of distributions for hydrology metrics for catchments at outlet of state-identified healthy watersheds (dark green), other catchments within those healthy watersheds (light green), and catchments outside of those healthy watersheds (yellow) for (A) Percent Agriculture on Hydric Soil, (B) Percent Forest, (C) Percent Forest Remaining, (D) Percent Wetlands Remaining, (E) Percent Impervious, (F) Density of Road-Stream Crossings, and (G) Percent Wetlands.

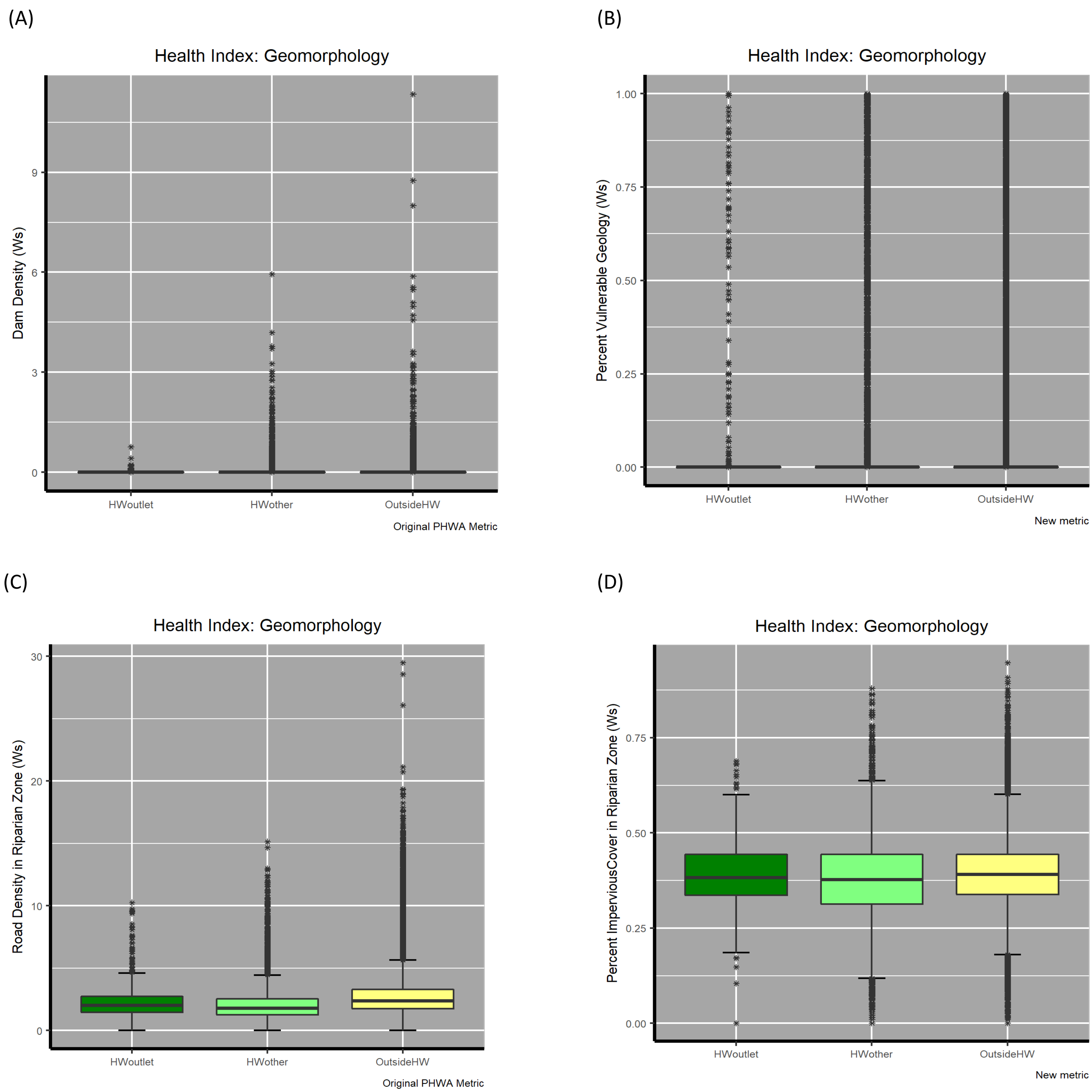


Figure 14: Comparison of distributions for geomorphology metrics for catchments at outlet of state-identified healthy watersheds (dark green), other catchments within those healthy watersheds (light green), and catchments outside of those healthy watersheds (yellow) for (A) Dam Density, (B) Percent Vulnerable Geology, (C) Road Density in Riparian Zone, (D) Percent Impervious in Riparian Zone.

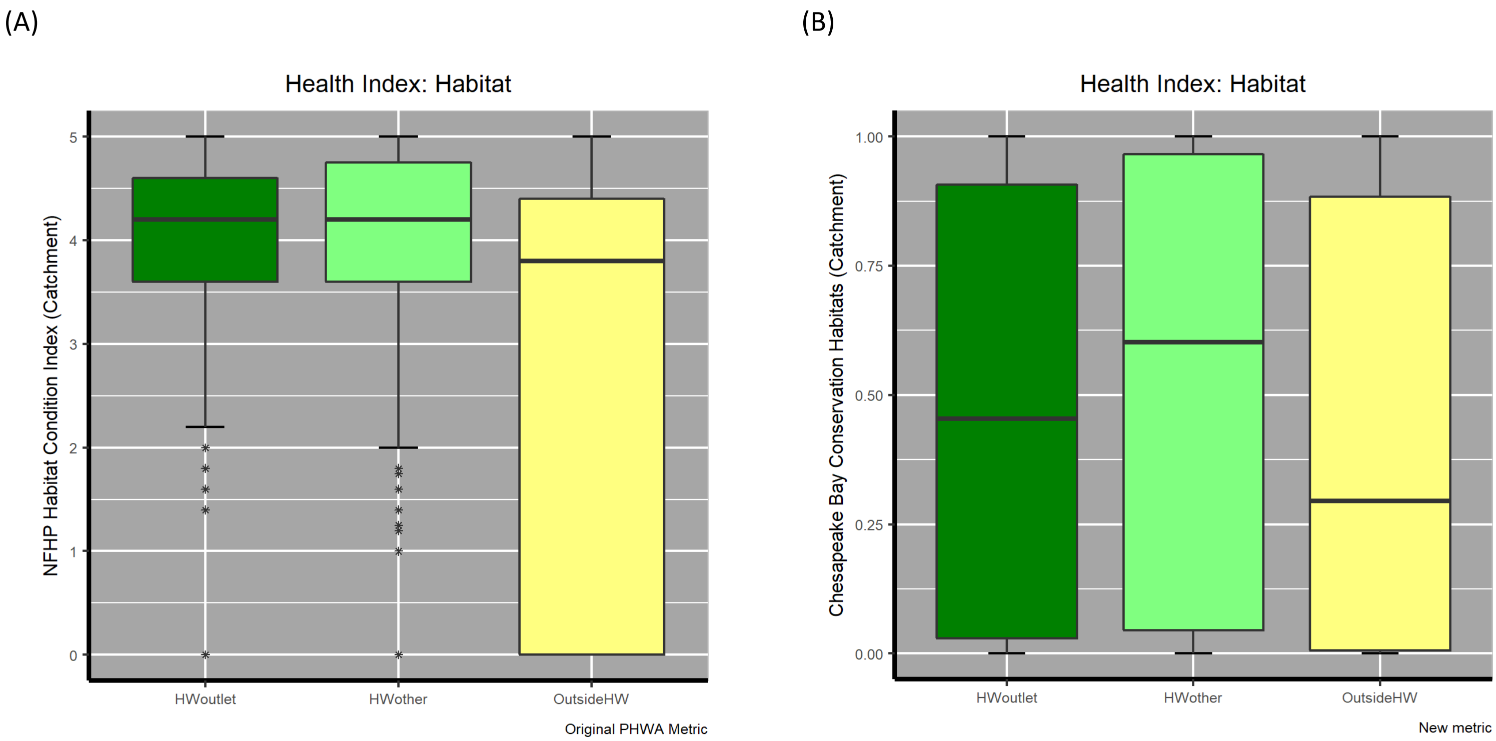


Figure 15: Comparison of distributions for habitat metrics for catchments at outlet of state-identified healthy watersheds (dark green), other catchments within those healthy watersheds (light green), and catchments outside of those healthy watersheds (yellow) for (A) National Fish Habitat Partnership (NFHP) Habitat Condition Index in Catchment and (B) Chesapeake Bay Conservation Habitats in Catchment

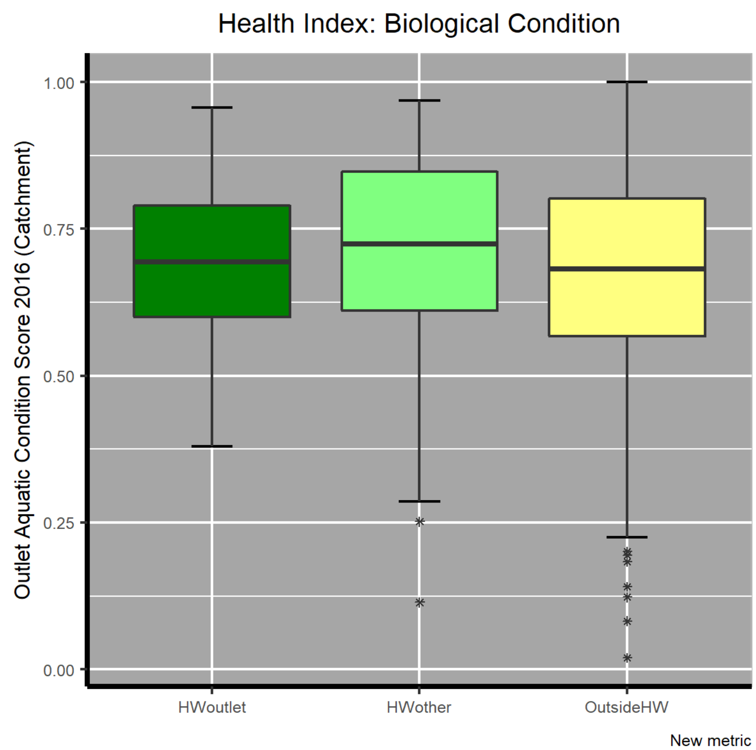
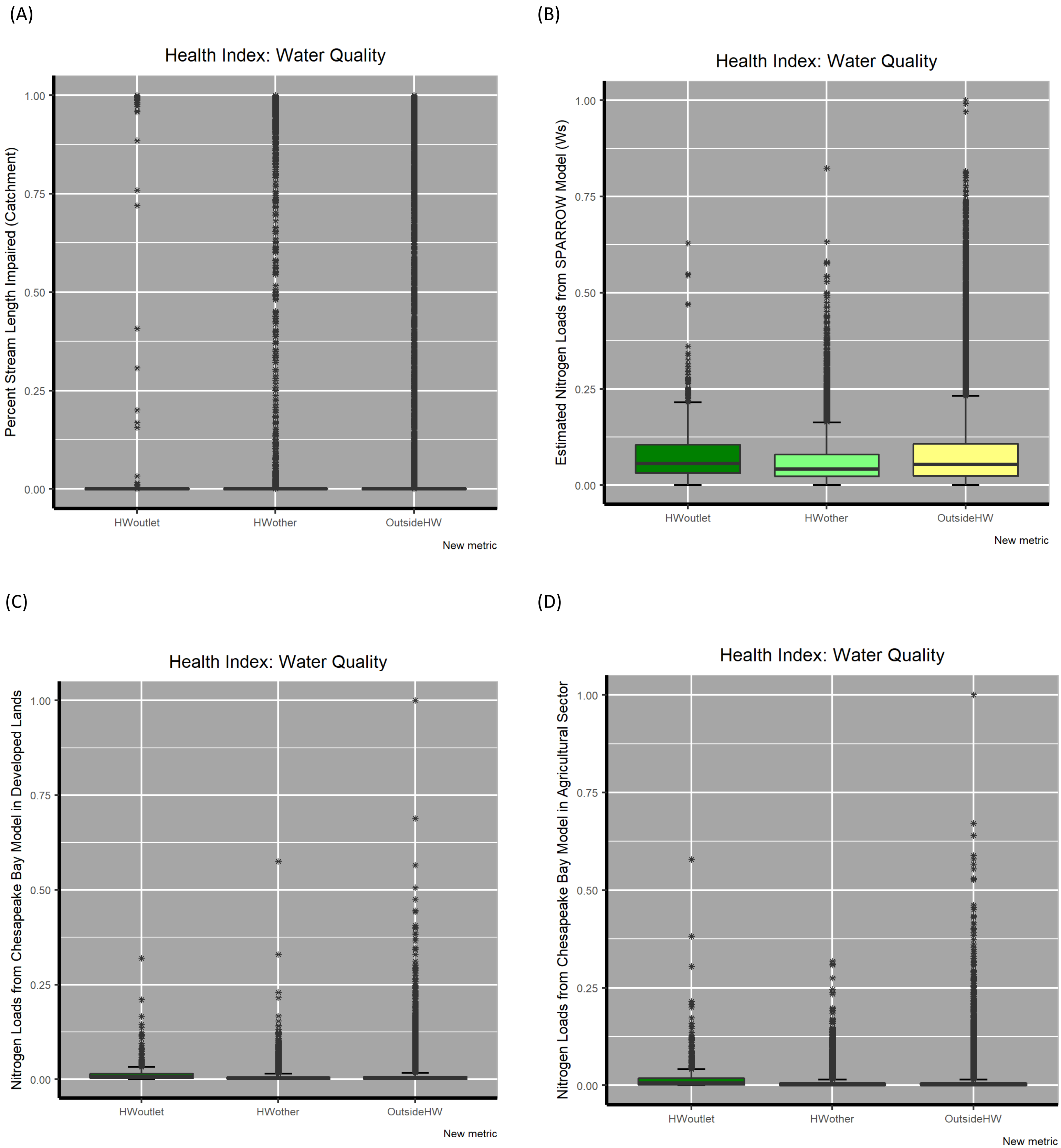
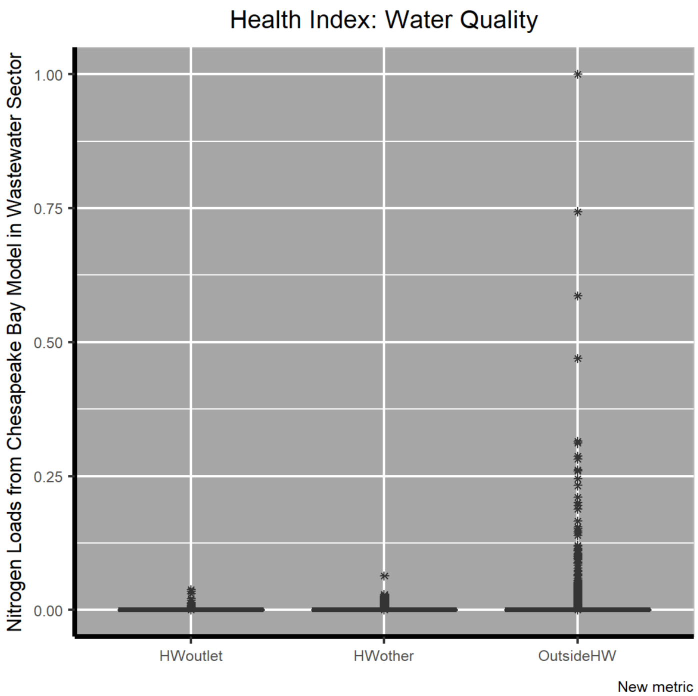


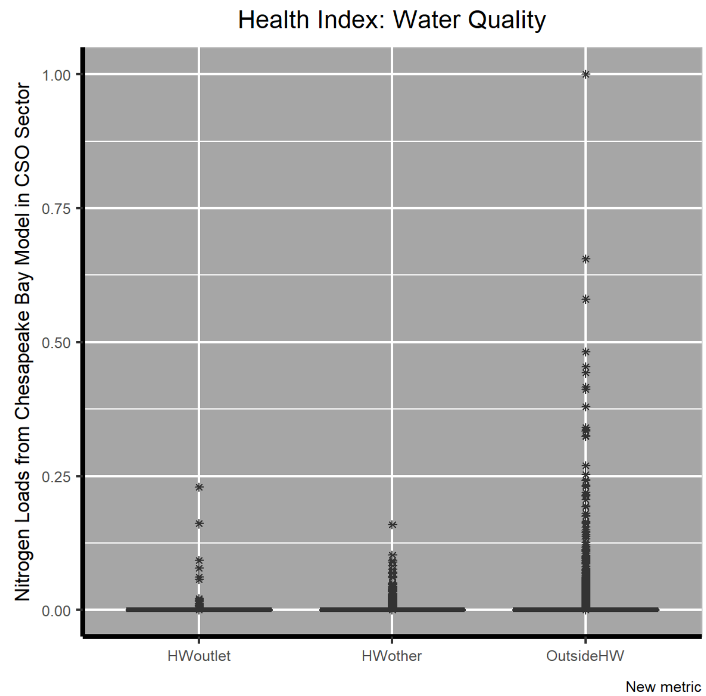
Figure 16: Comparison of distributions for biological condition metric for catchments at outlet of state-identified healthy watersheds (dark green), other catchments within those healthy watersheds (light green), and catchments outside of those healthy watersheds (yellow)


(A)
Health Index: Water Quality
Percent Stream Length Impaired (Catchment)
1.00
0.75
0.50
0.25
0.00
HWoutlet
HWother
OutsideHW
New metric
(B)
Health Index: Water Quality
Estimated Nitrogen Loads from SPARROW Model (Ws)
1.00
0.75
0.50
0.25
0.00
HWoutlet
HWother
OutsideHW
New metric
(C)
Health Index: Water Quality
Nitrogen Loads from Chesapeake Bay Model in Developed Lands
1.00
0.75
0.50
0.25
0.00
HWoutlet
HWother
OutsideHW
New metric
(D)
Health Index: Water Quality
Nitrogen Loads from Chesapeake Bay Model in Agricultural Sector
1.00
0.75
0.50
0.25
0.00
HWoutlet
HWother
OutsideHW
New metric

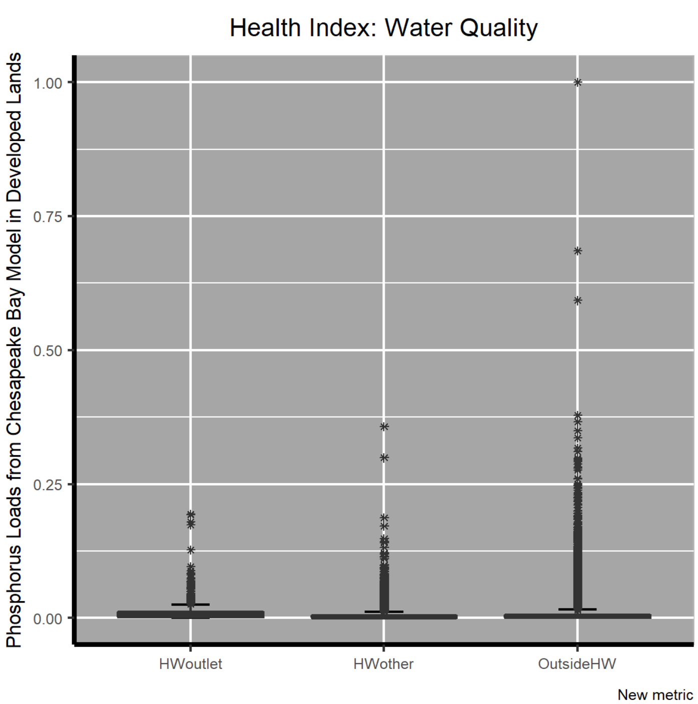
(E)


Health Index: Water Quality
Nitrogen Loads from Chesapeake Bay Model in Wastewater Sector
1.00
0.75
0.50
0.25
0.00
HWoutlet
HWother
OutsideHW
New metric

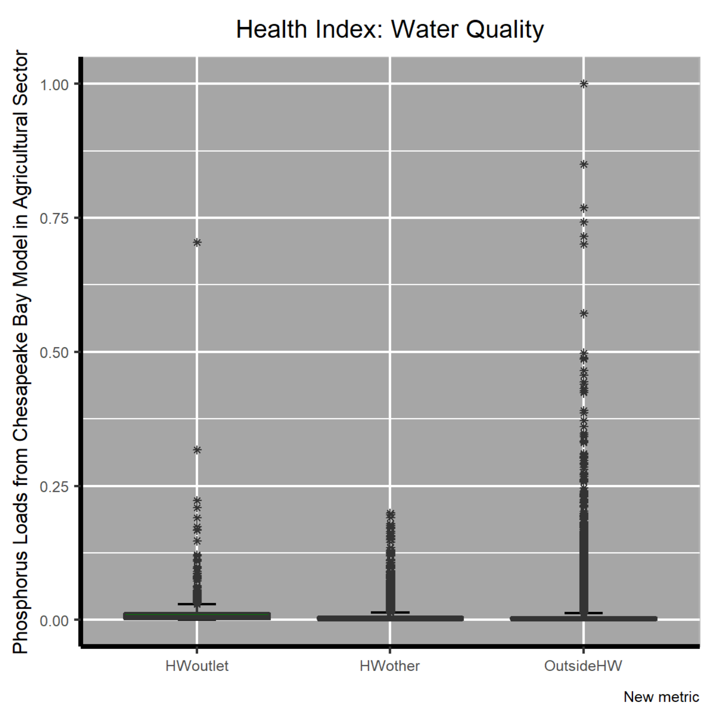
(F)


Health Index: Water Quality
Nitrogen Loads from Chesapeake Bay Model in CSO Sector
1.00
0.75
0.50
0.25
0.00
HWoutlet
HWother
OutsideHW
New metric

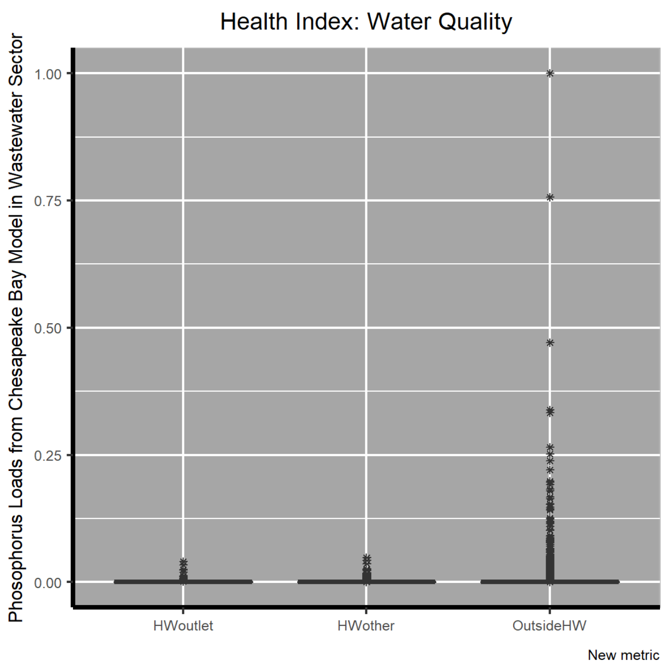
(G)


Health Index: Water Quality
Phosphorus Loads from Chesapeake Bay Model in Developed Lands
1.00
0.75
0.50
0.25
0.00
HWoutlet
HWother
OutsideHW
New metric

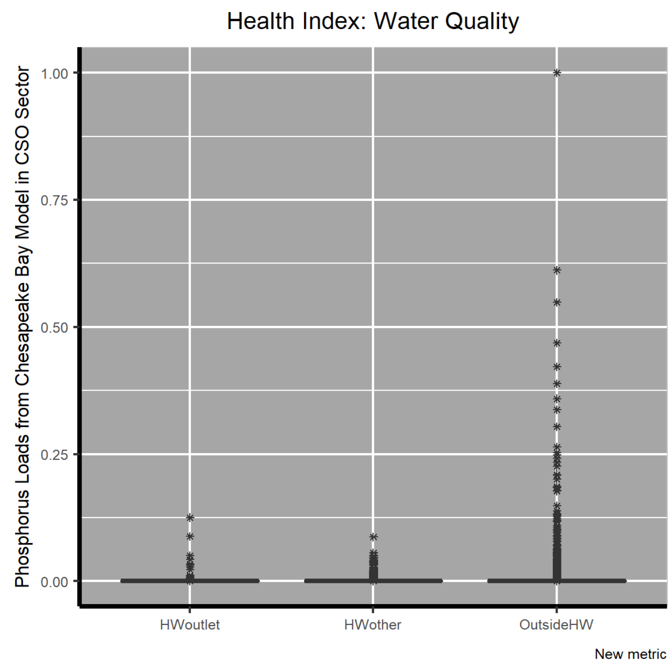
(H)


Health Index: Water Quality
Phosphorus Loads from Chesapeake Bay Model in Agricultural Sector
1.00
0.75
0.50
0.25
0.00
HWoutlet
HWother
OutsideHW
New metric

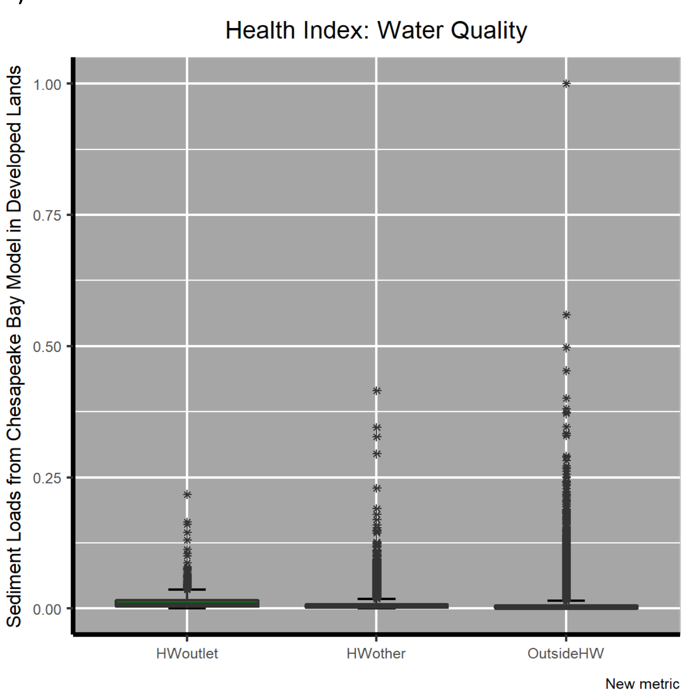
(I)



(J)



(K)



(L)

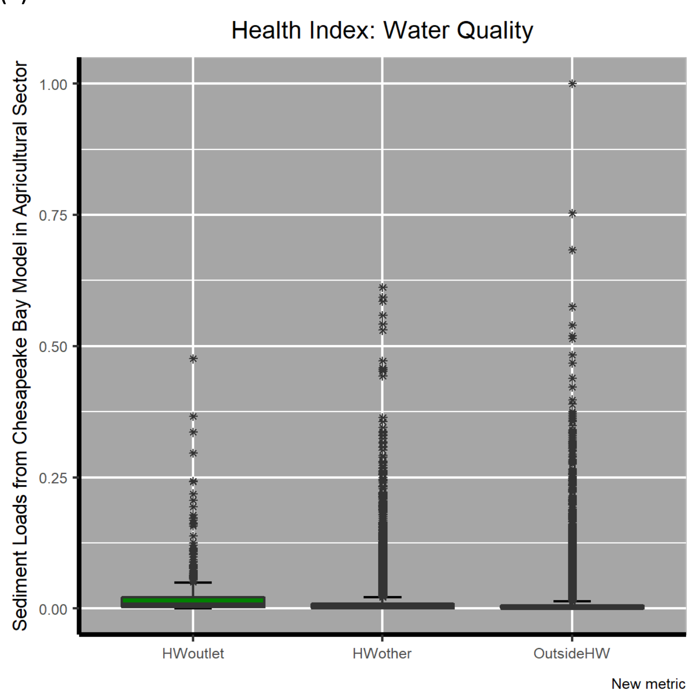


Figure 17: Comparison of distributions for example water quality metrics for catchments at outlet of state-identified healthy watersheds (dark green), other catchments within those healthy watersheds (light green), and catchments outside of those healthy watersheds (yellow) for (A) Percent of Stream Length Impaired, (B) Estimated Nitrogen Load from SPARROW Model (lbs/acre/yr), and Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model Load Estimates for (C) Nitrogen from Developed Lands, (D) Nitrogen from Agriculture, (E) Nitrogen from Wastewater, (F) Nitrogen from Combined Sewer Overflows (CSO), (G) Phosphorus from Developed Lands, (H) Phosphorus from Agriculture, (I) Phosphorus from Wastewater, (J) Phosphorus from CSO, (K) Sediment from Developed Lands, and (L) Sediment from Agriculture.

6.2 Correlations Among Metrics

Correlations among all of the proposed suite of metrics were evaluated to identify relationships between individual candidate metrics. Correlations demonstrate how strongly (either positively or negatively) pairs of variables are related. This information was used to assess whether metrics were providing similar or redundant information. The range of Pearson correlations (r values) and a graphic depiction of correlation results are presented in Figure 18. The Pearson correlation coefficient is a test statistic that measures the relationship between two continuous variables. It is widely considered the best method for measuring the association between two variables because it provides insight into the magnitude and directionality of the correlation.

The highest positive correlations ($r > 0.6$) were noted for

- Percent Natural Land Cover in Watershed vs. Percent Forest in Watershed
- Population Density in Watershed vs. Housing Unit Density in Watershed
- Population Density in Watershed vs. Percent Impervious in Watershed
- Housing Unit Density vs. Percent Impervious in Watershed
- Percent Forest Remaining vs. Outlet Aquatic Condition Score
- Estimated Nitrogen Load from SPARROW Model vs. Outlet Aquatic Condition Score
- Nitrogen (N) Load from Agriculture vs. Phosphorus (P) Load from Agriculture and Sediment Load from Agriculture
- P Load from Agriculture vs. Sediment Load from Agriculture
- N Load from CSO vs. P Load from CSO and Sediment Load from CSO
- P Load from CSO vs. Sediment Load from CSO
- N Load from Development vs. P Load from Development and Sediment Load from Development
- P Load from Development vs. Sediment Load from Development
- N Load from Wastewater vs. P Load from Wastewater

The strongest negative correlations were noted for

- Percent Forest Loss vs. Percent Forest Remaining
- Percent Forest Loss vs. Outlet Aquatic Condition Score

Many of the correlation results confirm what would be expected with respect to relationships among metrics and may be useful in future applications of the healthy watersheds data. A strong correlation suggests that either the Population or Housing Unit Density could be used alone. Both are strongly related to Percent Impervious, a landscape characteristic that can be evaluated through remote sensing data, often at a greater frequency than the 10-year census estimates of population. The correlations among nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment load metrics within source types suggest that they could be combined under categories of Agricultural, CSO, Development, and Wastewater pollution sources.

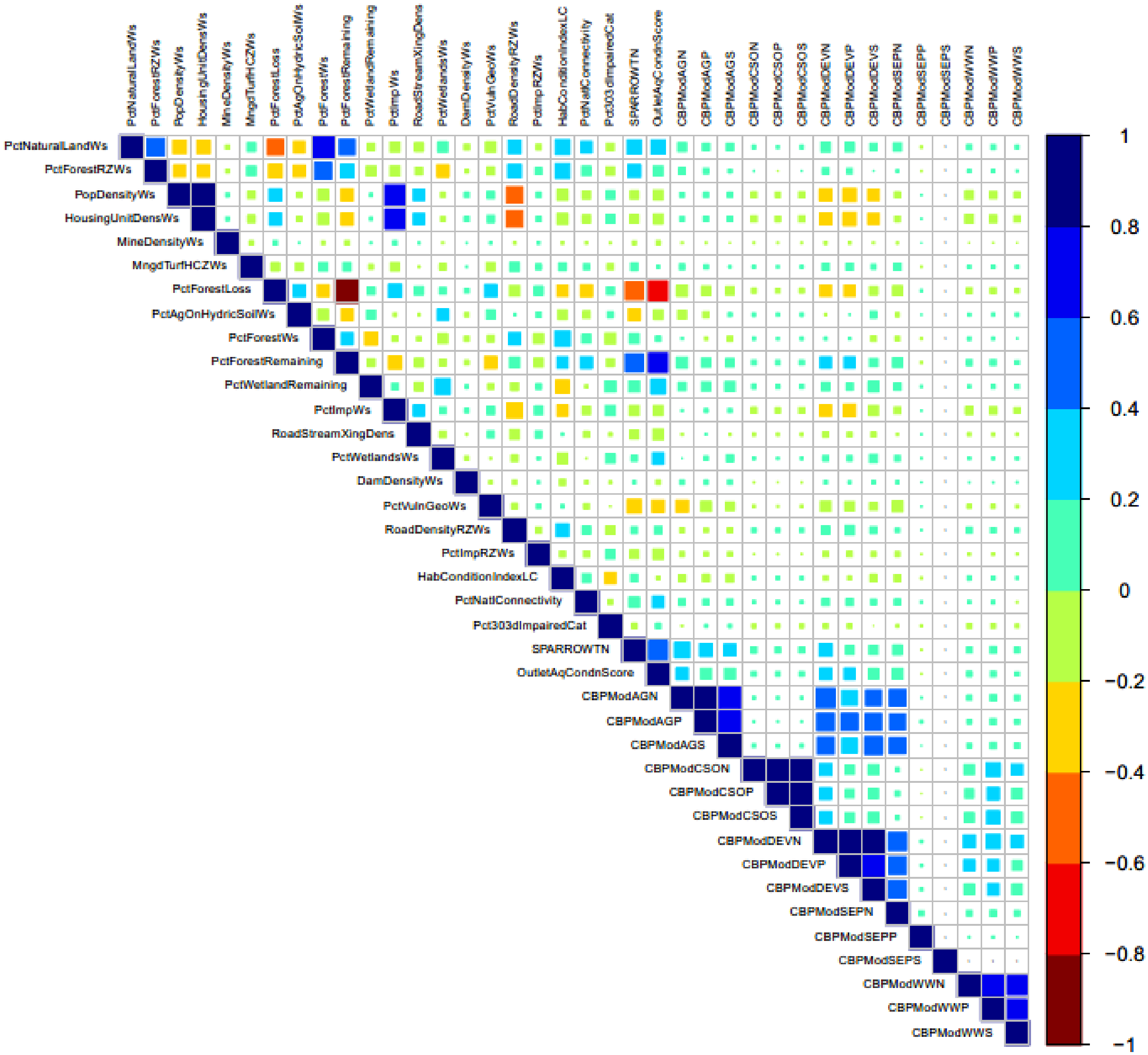


Figure 18: Correlations among candidate watershed condition metrics. The correlation between any two variables is shown as strongly positive (dark blue) to strongly negative (dark red). The colored symbols in each box represent the Pearson correlation coefficients (r values) for each pair of variables, according to the scale shown. Variable names are listed in Appendix C.

6.3 Combining Metrics into Overall Watershed Health Indicator – Sub-Index Method

Although individual metrics provide information about certain aspects of watershed condition, they can also be combined into an overall indicator of watershed health. The national PHWA approach was to calculate six sub-indices as the mean of normalized values for the individual metrics in each of the defined categories: landscape condition, hydrology, geomorphology, habitat, biological condition, and water quality. The mean of these six sub-indices was calculated to yield an overall index of watershed health.

This PHWA method was used to calculate sub-indices and a watershed health indicator for each of the catchments in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. Before combining into sub-indices, values were converted to a 0 to 1 scale using a unity normal transformation, where 1 = the maximum value and other values were computed as the original value divided by the maximum. Positive metrics (i.e., those such as Percent Forest, with values expected to be higher in healthy watersheds) were not further transformed, but negative metrics (i.e., those such as Percent Impervious Cover, with values expected to be lower in healthy watersheds) were transformed as one minus the metric, to yield an adjusted score that would be positively associated with watershed health. Each sub-index was calculated as the mean of individual metric scores in that category, and an overall index of watershed health was calculated as the mean of the six sub-index values.

Watershed health sub-index values for state-identified healthy watersheds are shown in the maps in Figures 19 to 24. Distributions of the six sub-indices for catchments in three groups (those at the outlet, within, and outside of state-identified healthy watersheds) are shown in Figure 25. Plots of the landscape condition, biological condition, and water quality sub-indices suggest that catchments within state-identified healthy watersheds do not generally score in the lowest part of the range for these sub-indices, in comparison with catchments outside of healthy watersheds.

The overall combined Watershed Health index is mapped for catchments in state-identified healthy watersheds in Figure 26. Figure 27 shows the distributions of Watershed Health index values for catchments throughout Chesapeake Bay Watershed, by catchment group. The median Watershed Health index for catchments within state-identified healthy watersheds (either at outlets or otherwise within) is slightly higher than for catchments outside; however, there is substantial overlap in the distributions.

In future refinement of the CHWA, additional options should be explored regarding the method of constructing an overall index of watershed health. First, transforming of metrics via simple normalization could reduce the skewness currently observed with some metrics. Simple normalization reduces the influence of a single or few outlier values that may bias results. Second, the method currently used to calculate sub-indices and watershed health indicator is a simple equal-weighted average. There are many other options that could be employed, such as trans-distance weighting (which accounts for correlation between each variable). Finally, predictive models of watershed health, as discussed in Section 6.4, offer additional options to represent overall watershed health.

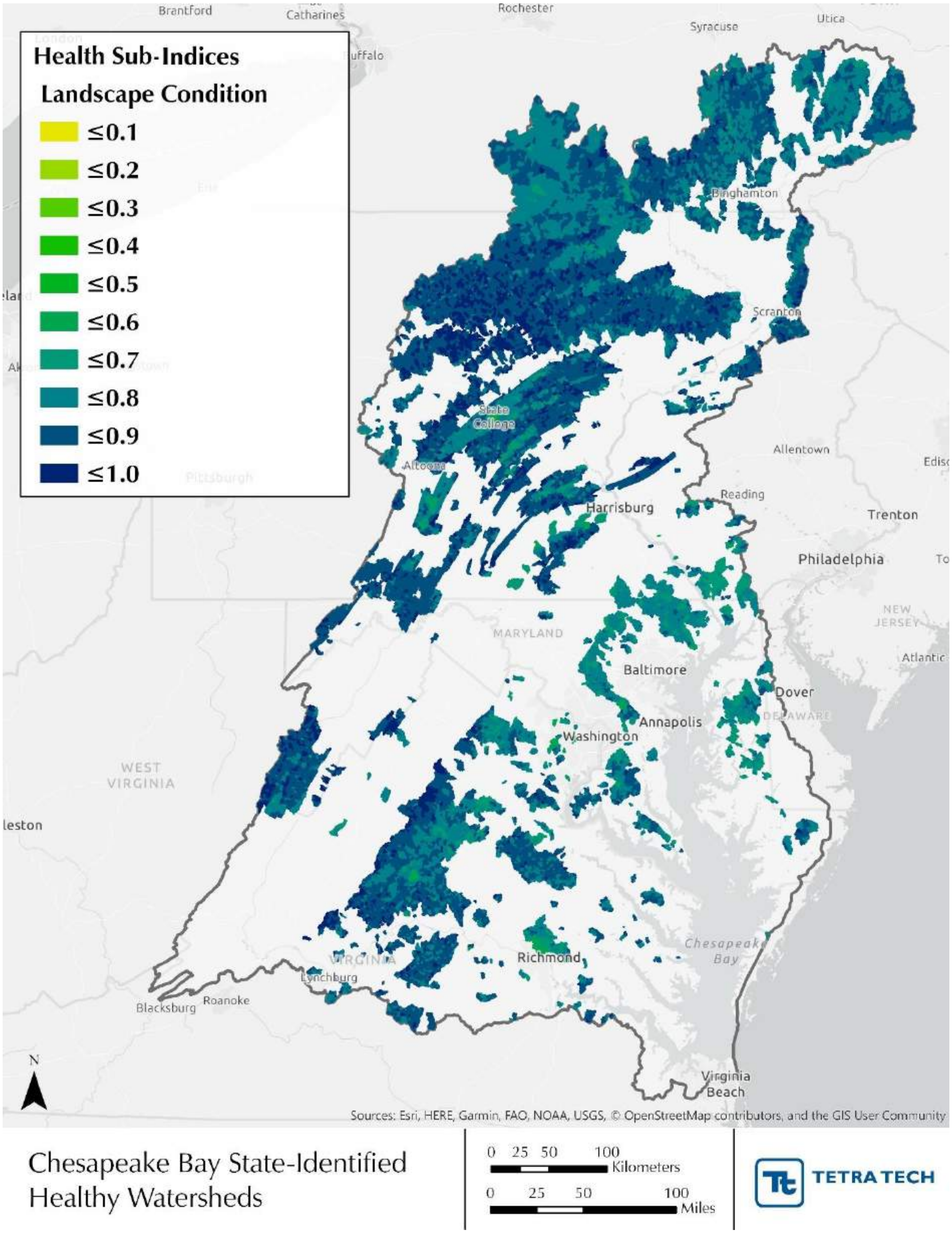


Figure 19: Characterizing watershed health: Landscape Condition sub-index scores for catchments in state-identified healthy watersheds

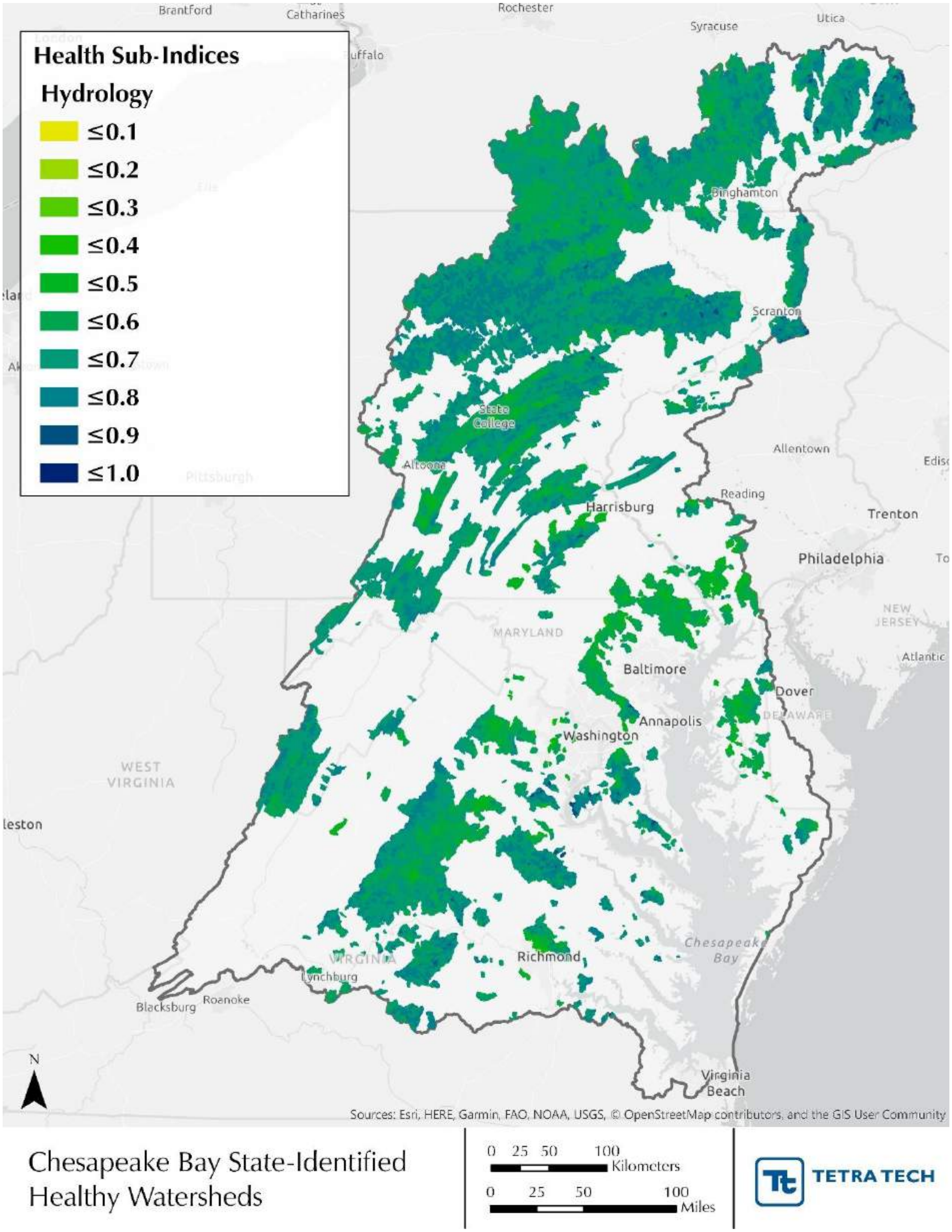


Figure 20: Characterizing watershed health: Hydrology sub-index scores for catchments in state-identified healthy watersheds

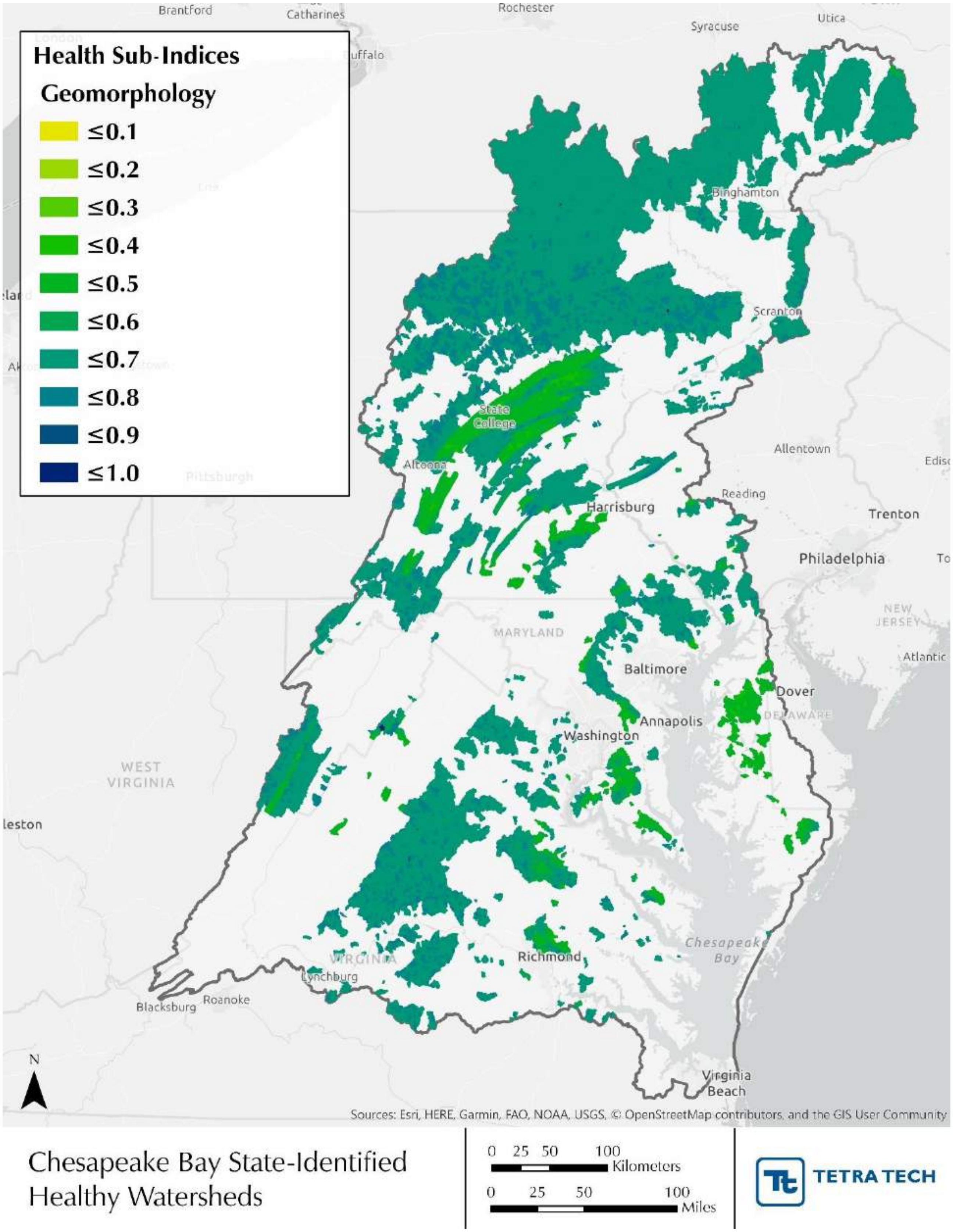


Figure 21: Characterizing watershed health: Geomorphology sub-index scores for catchments in state-identified healthy watersheds

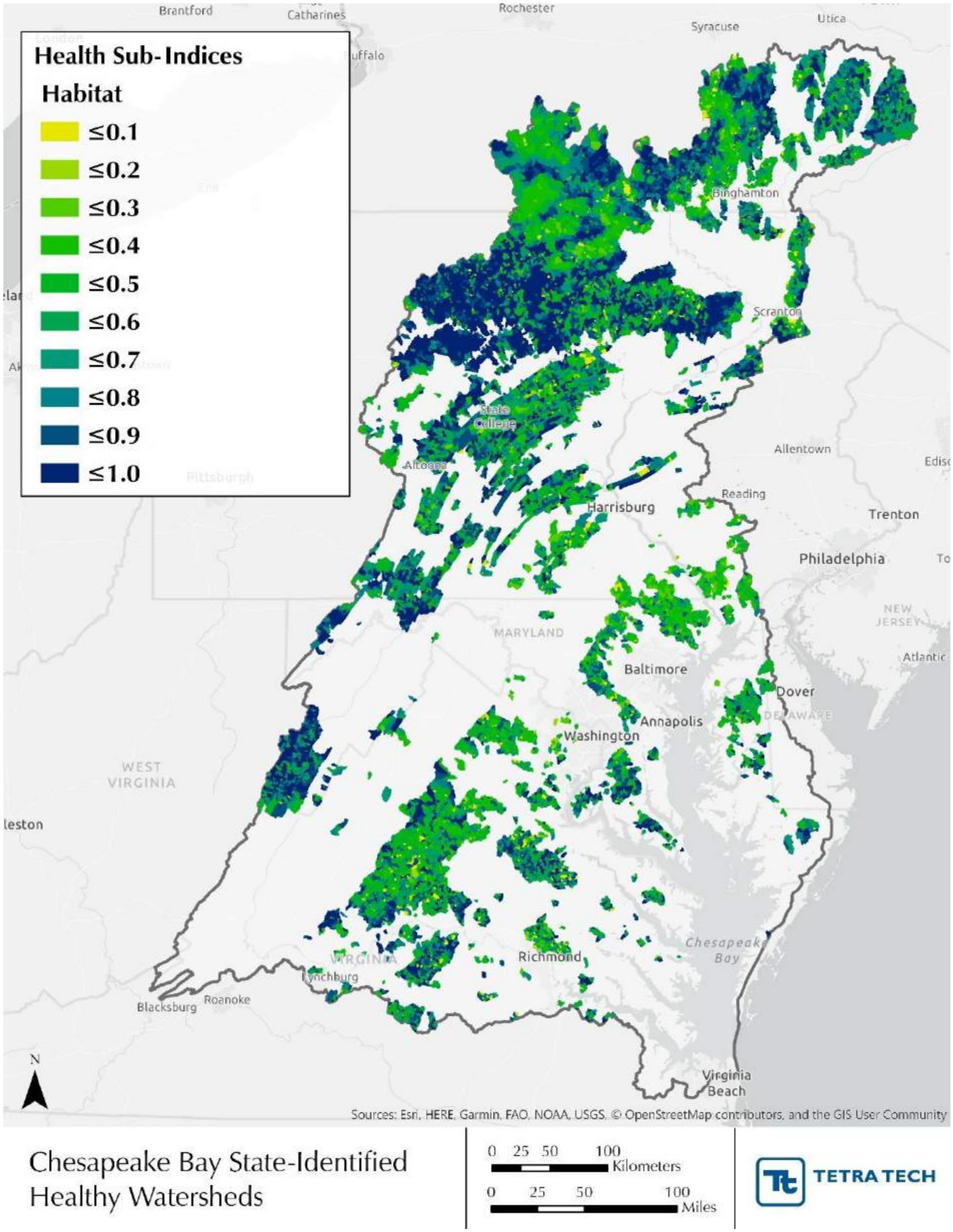


Figure 22: Characterizing watershed health: Habitat sub-index scores for catchments in state-identified healthy watersheds

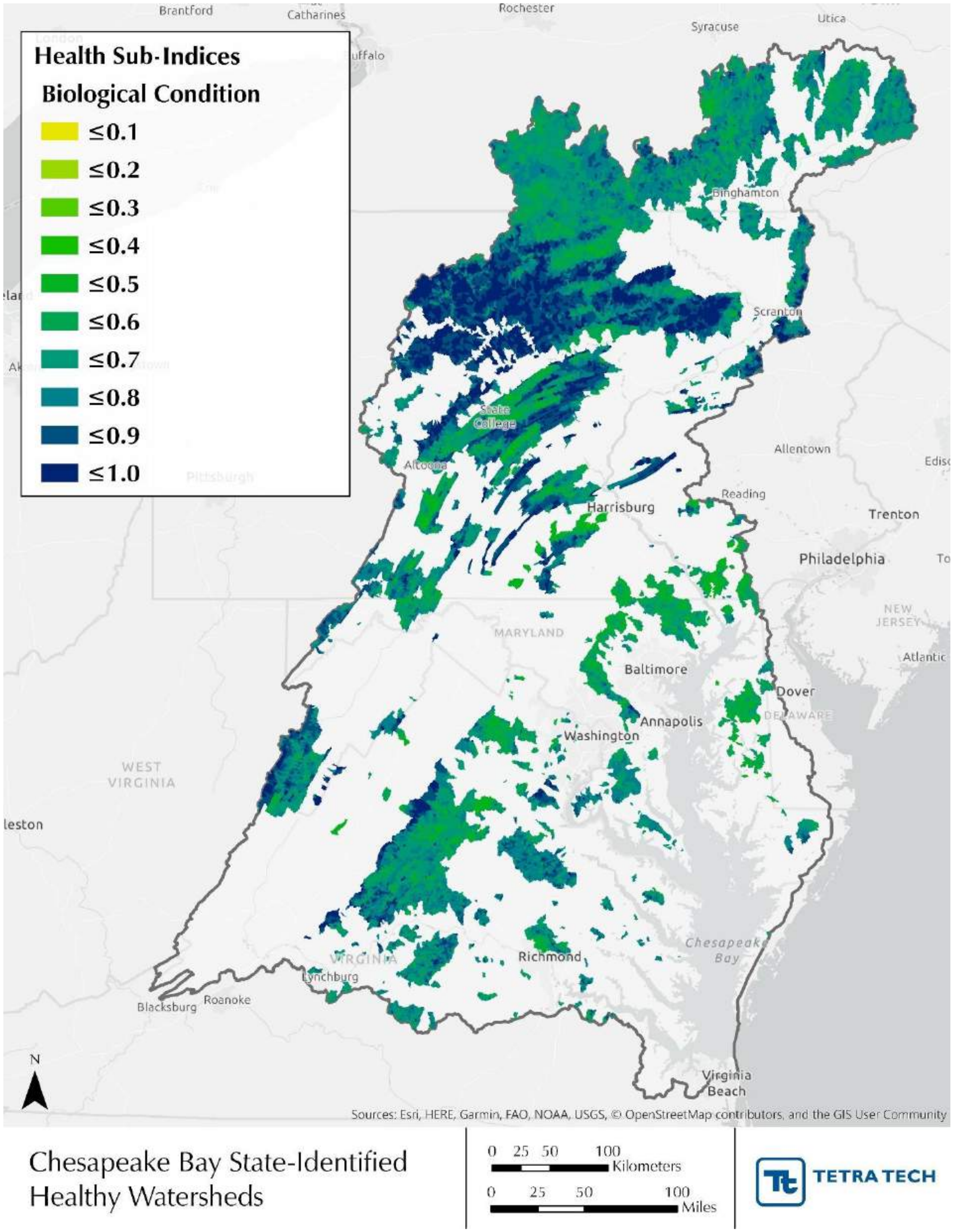


Figure 23: Characterizing watershed health: Biological Condition sub-index scores for catchments in state-identified healthy watersheds

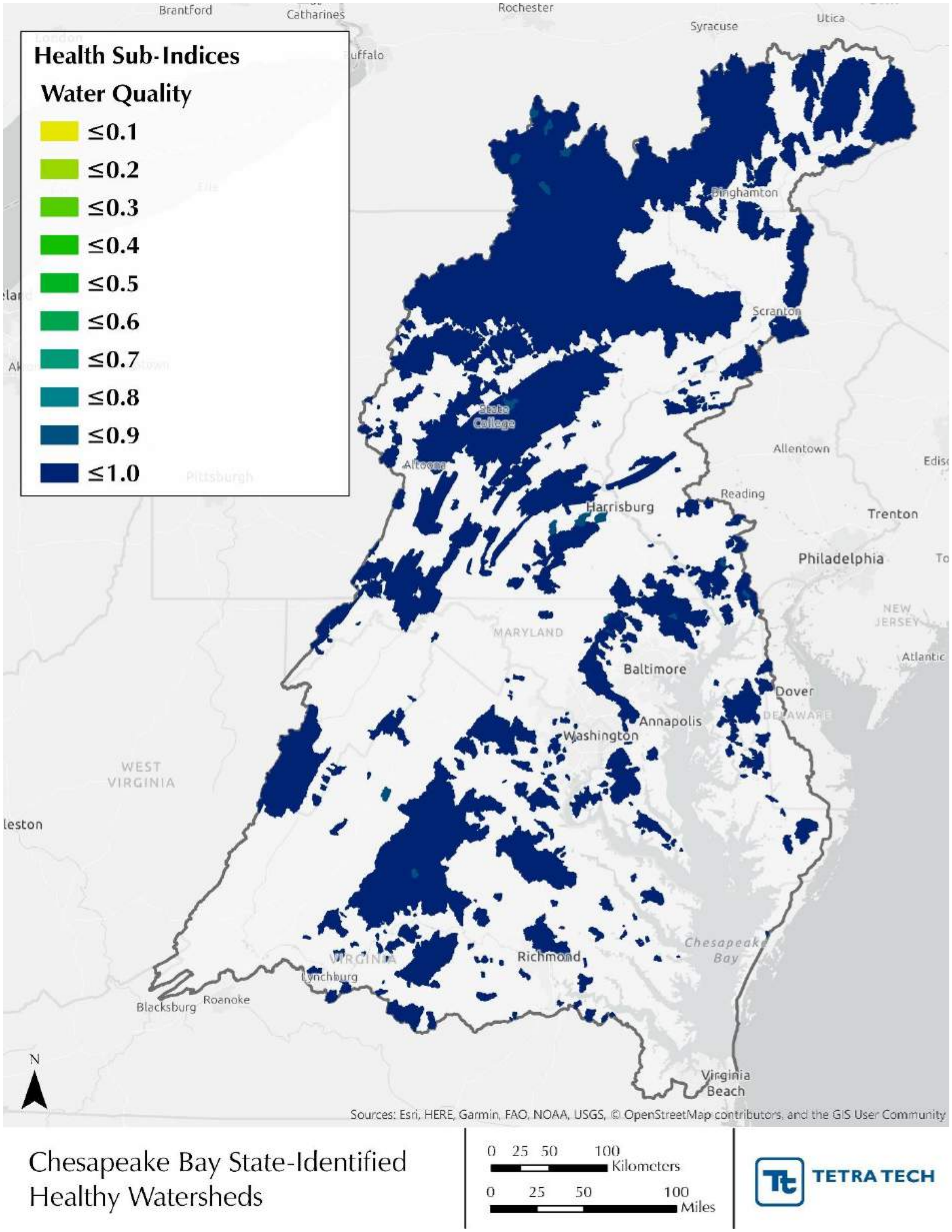
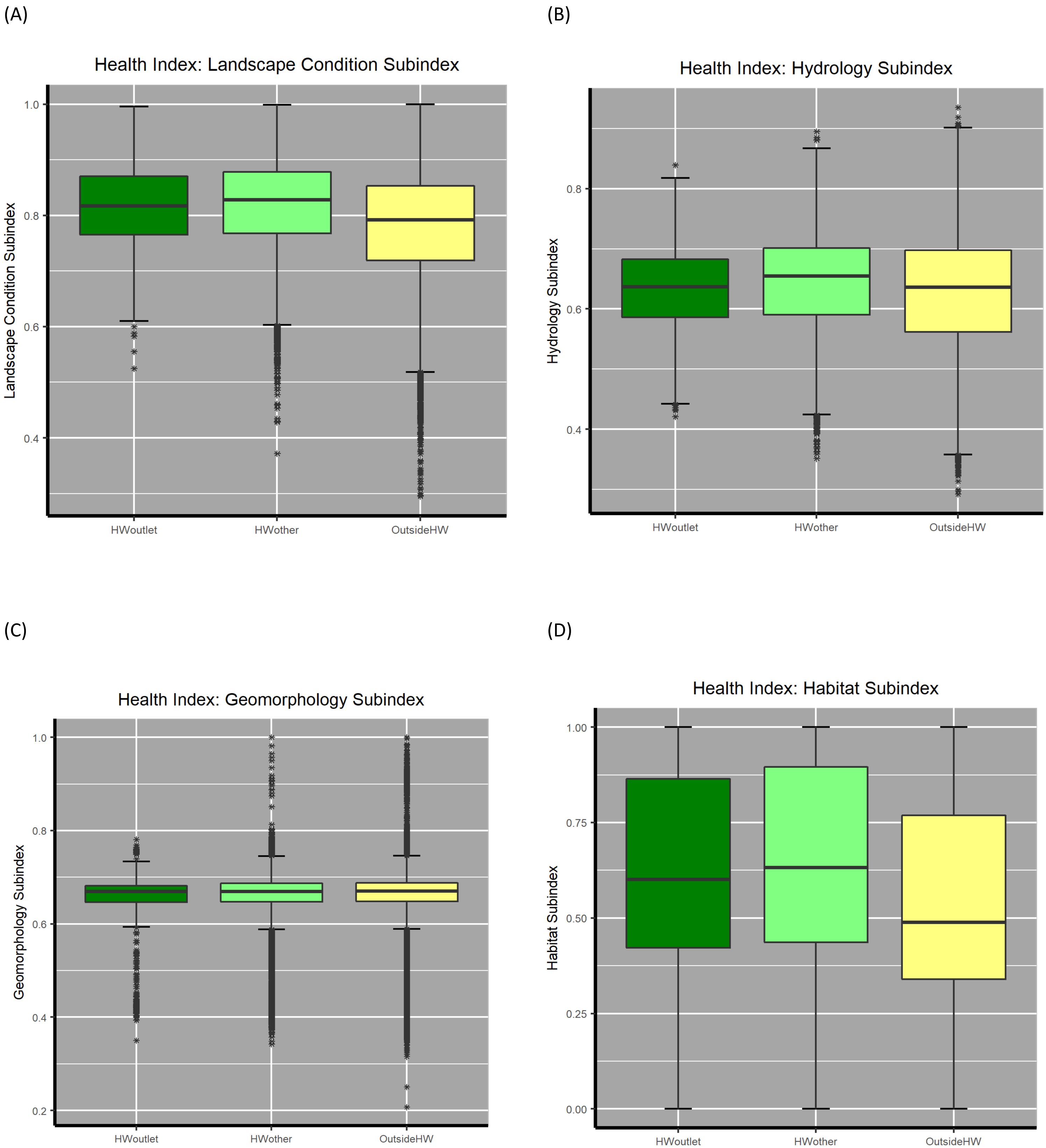
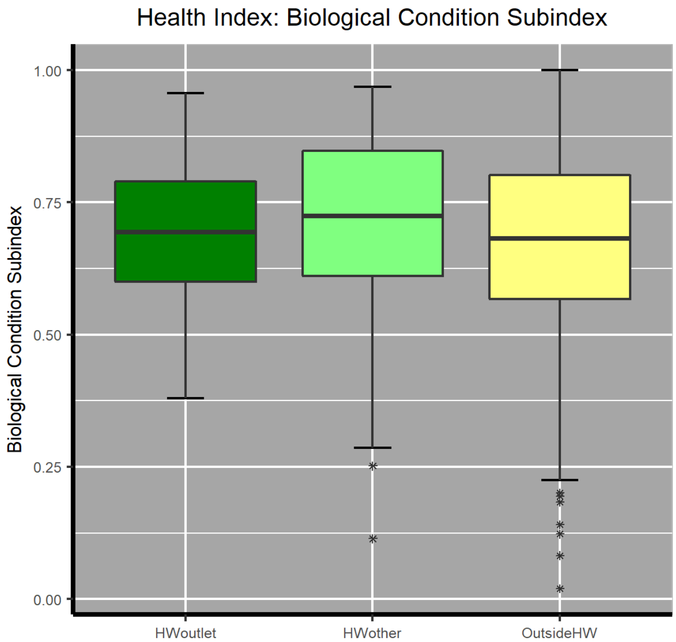


Figure 24: Characterizing watershed health: Water Quality sub-index scores for catchments in state-identified healthy watersheds


(A)
Health Index: Landscape Condition Subindex
Landscape Condition Subindex
1.0
0.8
0.6
0.4
HWoutlet
HWother
OutsideHW
(B)
Health Index: Hydrology Subindex
Hydrology Subindex
0.8
0.6
0.4
HWoutlet
HWother
OutsideHW
(C)
Health Index: Geomorphology Subindex
Geomorphology Subindex
1.0
0.8
0.6
0.4
0.2
HWoutlet
HWother
OutsideHW
(D)
Health Index: Habitat Subindex
Habitat Subindex
1.00
0.75
0.50
0.25
0.00
HWoutlet
HWother
OutsideHW

(E)



(F)

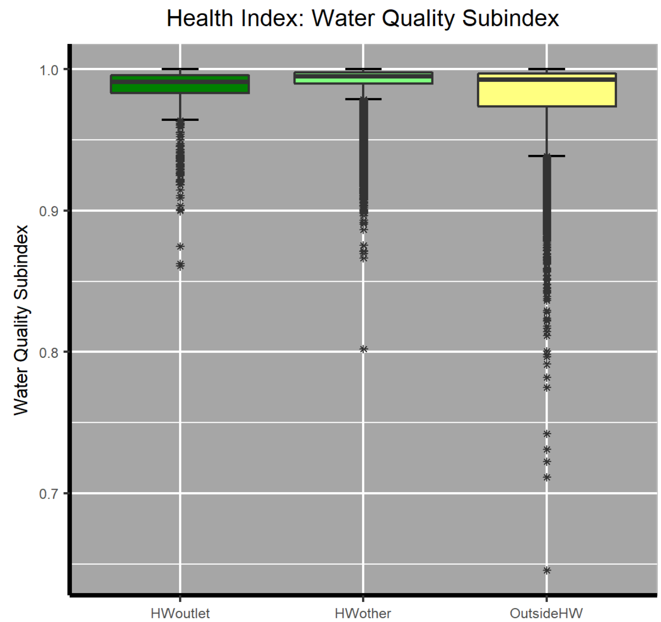


Figure 25: Comparison of distributions of six watershed health sub-indices for catchments at outlet of state-identified healthy watersheds (dark green), other catchments within those healthy watersheds (light green), and catchments outside of those healthy watersheds (yellow) for (A) Landscape Condition, (B) Hydrology, (C) Geomorphology, (D) Habitat, (E) Biological Condition, and (F) Water Quality.

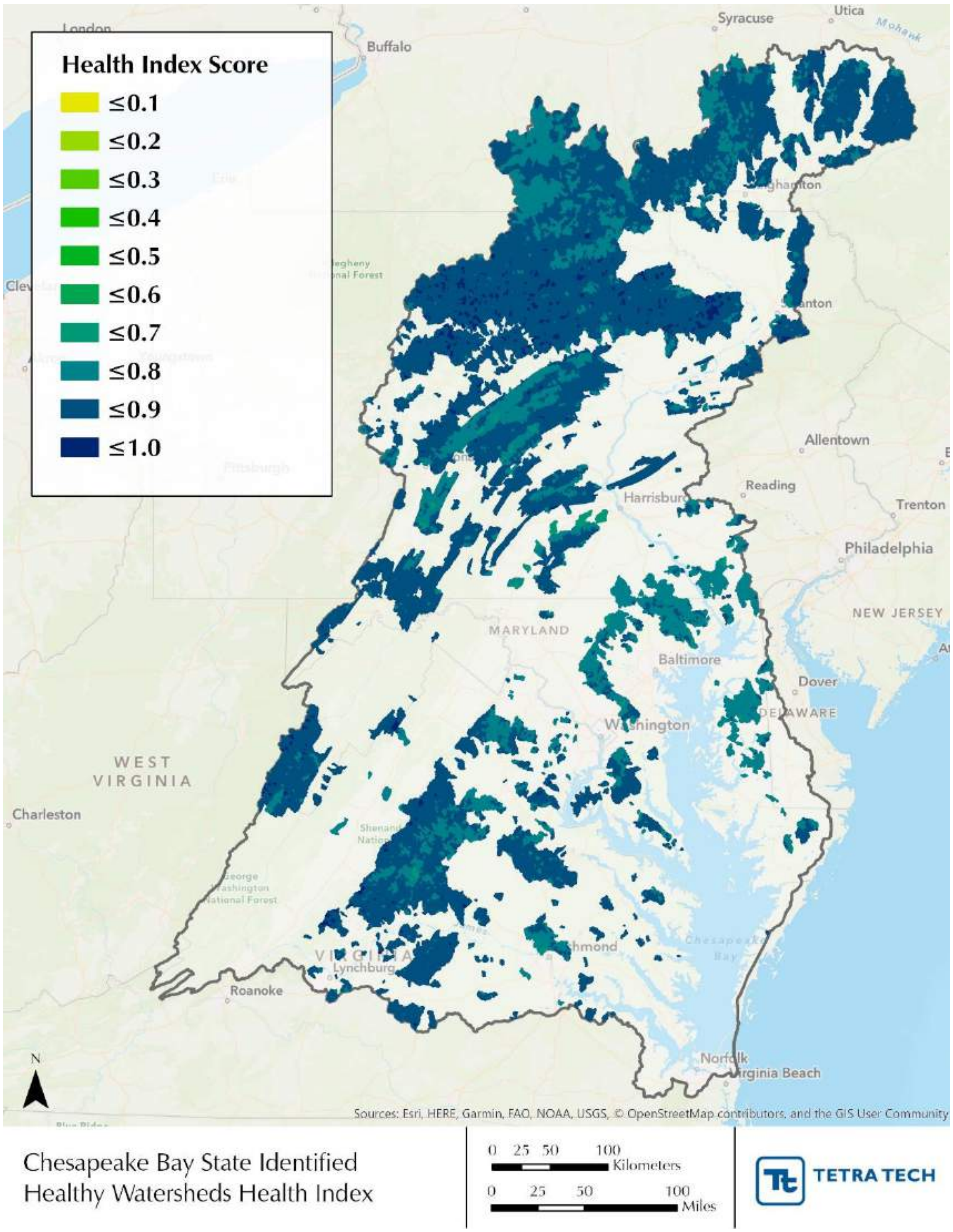


Figure 26: Characterizing watershed health: overall Watershed Health index scores for catchments in state-identified healthy watersheds

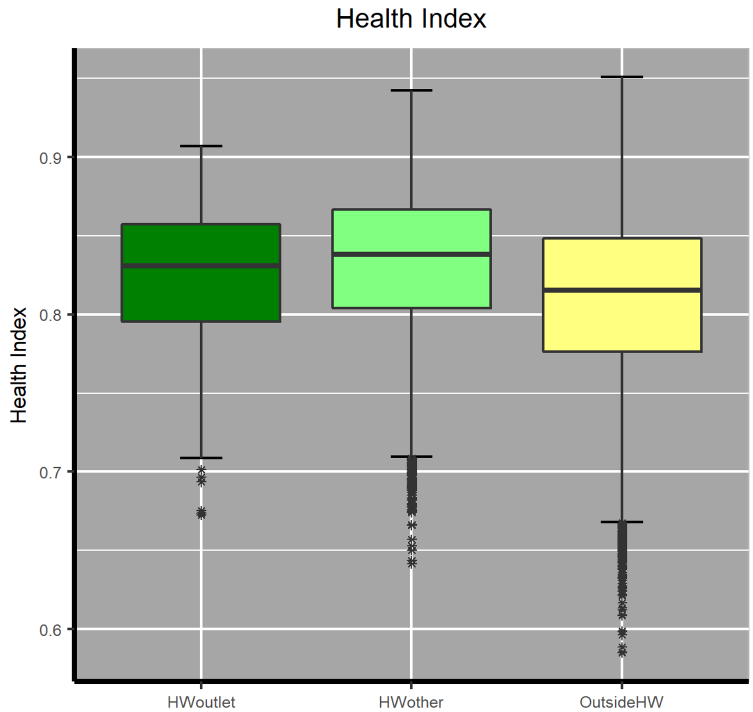


Figure 27: Comparison of distributions of the overall Watershed Health index for catchments at outlet of state-identified healthy watersheds (dark green), other catchments within those healthy watersheds (light green), and catchments outside of those healthy watersheds (yellow)

6.4 Evaluating Predictive Ability of Metrics – Stepwise Regression Model

Another approach explored for the Chesapeake Healthy Watersheds Assessment was to examine the predictive ability of all candidate metrics using a stepwise regression model, with individual metrics as predictors and classification of a catchment as healthy or non-healthy (based on state-identified designations of watershed health) as the response variable. The correlation assessment described above provides both a visual and numeric estimation of how related variables are to one another. Here, stepwise regression tests multiple combinations of variables while systematically removing those that are not important. It does this in a "stepwise" manner, where after each regression test the model removes the weakest correlated variable. At the end, the model retains only the variables that explain the distribution of data the best.

Results of exploratory analyses showed that about 10 metrics were consistently selected in model iterations as significant predictors of catchment health (see examples, Figure 28). If these metrics alone were combined into a watershed health index, its performance would be stronger than the index that employs all metrics. Among these 10 metrics, high correlations were noted for Percent Forest vs. Percent Forest in Riparian Zone, and Percent Forest vs. Percent Natural Land.

Further investigations can be employed to explore the benefits of this approach in developing an overall indicator of watershed health. Ideally, metric performance would be tested against independent, diagnostic measures of stream and watershed health (Claggett et al. 2019), to ascertain which metrics are the best predictors. Further testing of the CHWA metrics should employ independent data quantifying aspects of stream health, such as hydrologic measures (e.g., flow variability or other indicators derived from flow data), aquatic community condition (e.g., indicators such as the fish or benthic Index of Biotic Integrity), temperature indicators, or water chemistry. Predictive models can then be used to select the most effective watershed health metrics for assessing and tracking conditions, individually or within a combined watershed health index.

Similar multi-factor predictive models have been employed to predict stream quality from landscape, physical, and water chemistry data in other investigations. The healthy watersheds assessment for Wisconsin (Cadmus Group 2014b) used boosted regression tree models to predict stream nutrient and sediment concentrations, habitat ratings, and biological integrity ratings for fish and benthic macroinvertebrates, to provide values for catchments where direct data were lacking. A similar modeling approach could predict scores and compare them with known data. Hill et al. (2017) employed a random forest model with geospatial indicators of land use, land cover, climate, and other landscape features from StreamCat to correctly predict the biological condition class of 75% of sites in national stream survey data. In the Chesapeake region, Maloney et al. (2018) developed random forest models to predict stream macroinvertebrate ratings for the Chesapeake Bay Basin-wide Index of Biotic Integrity (Chessie BIBI) from landscape, physical, and atmospheric deposition data to provide biological assessments for unsampled watersheds. In earlier work within Maryland, Vølstad et al. (2003) integrated landscape and habitat assessments with Maryland Biological Stream Survey data to predict benthic condition class under varying degrees of urbanization. These or additional, related types of statistical analyses can be customized for use with the CHWA metrics.

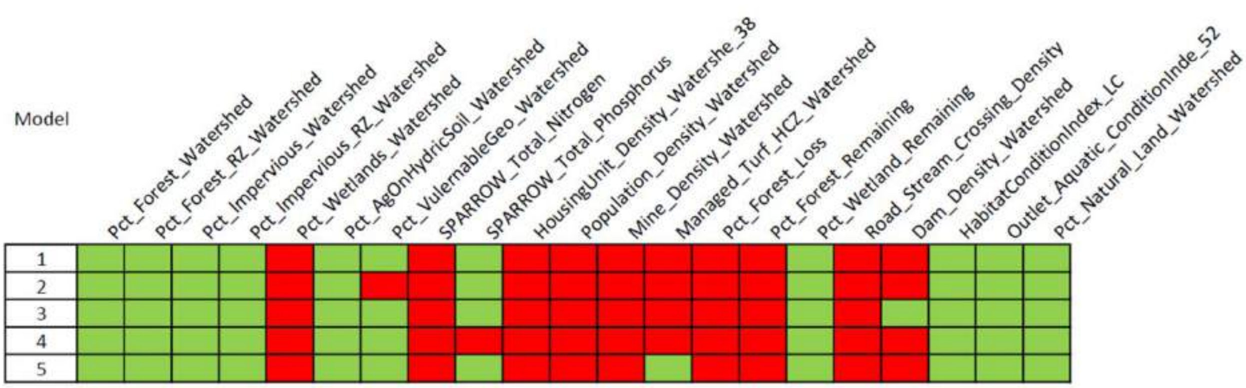


Figure 28: Exploratory analyses: best five model runs showing metrics selected by stepwise linear model. Green box indicates metric provided significant contribution when added to model; red indicates not significant

7. Developing an Assessment of Watershed Vulnerability

In addition to providing information about current conditions, one of the main objectives of the Chesapeake Healthy Watersheds Assessment was to provide information about the vulnerability of healthy watersheds to future degradation. A series of candidate metrics of watershed vulnerability were considered and evaluated as indicators of the susceptibility of watersheds to key stressors. Data were compiled and vulnerability metrics were developed for each of the 83,623 catchments within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. A final recommended set of metrics available for assessing watershed vulnerability is presented in Figure 29. A summary of these metrics and data sources is provided in Table 4. Further details regarding data sources will be found in metadata within the accompanying geodatabase.

Nearly all data supported derivation of data at the catchment scale. While the three water use metrics were assigned to catchments, their values were downscaled from USGS HUC-12 data provided by EnviroAtlas because finer-scale data were not available.

Prior to analysis, project partners had emphasized an interest in handling watershed vulnerability indicators separately to best support watershed managers in evaluating individual vulnerability factors, rather than compiling these metrics into a combined indicator. Therefore, results are presented here for individual vulnerability metrics and sub-indices, but not as a combined index.

Individual vulnerability metrics may be used to examine factors of interest. For example, climate change may bring warmer temperatures that result in less-favorable habitat for cold-water species like Eastern brook trout. Examining spatial patterns of predicted brook trout occurrence under current v. warmer conditions can point to areas that may be most vulnerable. The climate change metric related to predicted change in occurrence of brook trout is illustrated in Figure 30.

Descriptive statistics for vulnerability metrics in the state-identified healthy watersheds are shown in Appendix D, Table D-1. The values presented in Table D-1 are for catchments at the outlet of each state-identified healthy watershed; therefore, for metrics designated as watershed-wide, these data reflect conditions throughout the area draining to each healthy watershed.

Vulnerability results can be used to quantify factors that may affect future watershed health. For example, according to modeled land use change by 2050, the mean percent of additional developed land upstream of state-identified healthy watersheds is estimated at 1.5% (ranging from 0 to 48%). The mean percentage of protected land upstream of state-identified healthy watersheds is 21% (range 0 to 100%). Further breakdowns by state or for various catchment types can also be produced from the data set. Results can be used to drill down to watersheds (or catchments) most vulnerable to future stress, for example those where future development is expected to be high or the current percentage of protected land is low. Alternatively, areas that forecast future brook trout populations in the face of increasing temperature and increased impervious cover may indicate resilience to certain climatic factors due to more protected lands coverage or greater proportions of riparian forest buffers.

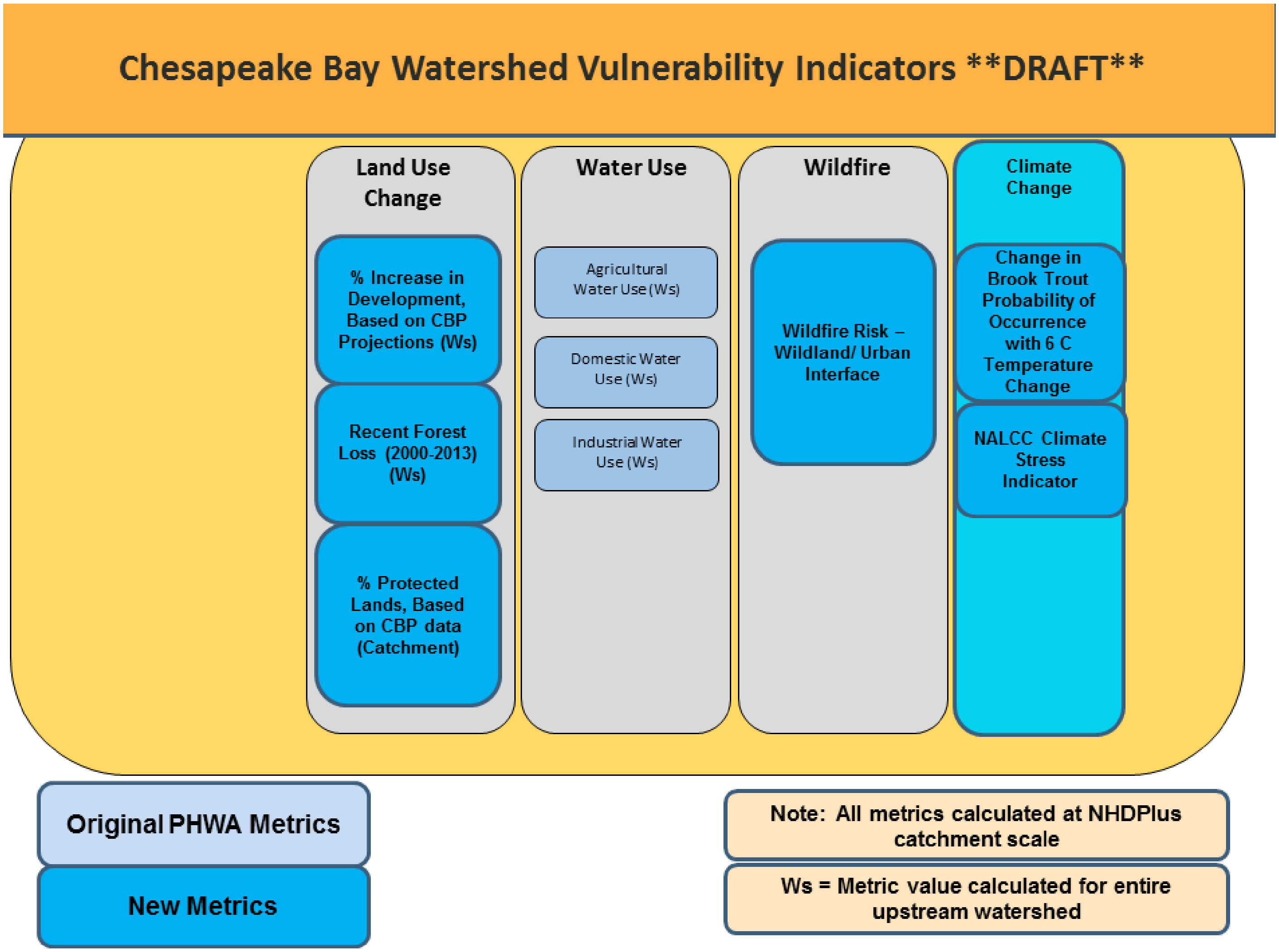
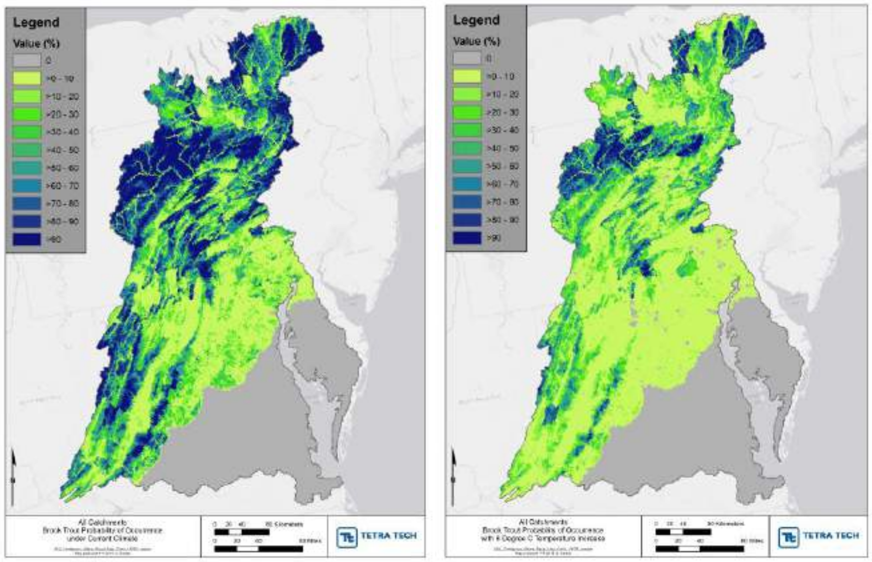


Figure 29: Recommended metrics indicative of watershed vulnerability for catchments in Chesapeake Bay Watershed. Light blue boxes are metrics from the original, national PHWA, but developed here at the catchment scale. Bright blue boxes indicate new metrics.

Table 4: Recommended watershed vulnerability metrics for catchments in Chesapeake Bay watershed

Sub-Index	Metrics	Notes: Data Source
Land Use Change	% Increase in Development in Watershed	CBLCM v4, 2050 projection, 2018 data set
	Recent Forest Loss in Watershed	StreamCat, Forest Loss 2000-2013 / Global Forest Change
	% Protected Lands in Catchment	CBP Protected Lands data, Dec. 2018
Water Use	Agricultural Water Use in Watershed	Downscaled from HUC12 data, EPA EnviroAtlas, 2015
	Domestic Water Use in Watershed	Downscaled from HUC12 data, EPA EnviroAtlas, 2015
	Industrial Water Use in Watershed	Downscaled from HUC12 data, EPA EnviroAtlas, 2015
Wildfire Risk	% Wildland Urban Interface	University of Wisconsin - Madison SILVIS lab. Wildland Urban Interface, 2010 data, published 2017.
Climate Change	Change in Probability of Brook Trout Occurrence, Current Conditions v. Future Conditions (plus 6 degrees C)	North Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative (NALCC), Nature's Network, USGS Conte Lab, 2017
	Climate Stress indicator	North Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative (NALCC), Nature's Network, 2017

Nature's Network / USGS Conte Lab has developed a model of predicted brook trout occurrence, which can be used to project future conditions under various climate change scenarios. The model incorporates influences of landscape, land-use, and climate variables on the probability of brook trout occupancy in stream reaches. Predictions are available for current condition and with increased stream temperature of 2 to 6 degrees; the 6-degree scenario was chosen to provide the most sensitive signal of potential change across the region. For Chesapeake Bay catchments, results show the Brook Trout Probability of Occurrence under current climate condition (left) decreasing across much of the region with a 6 degree C increase in stream temperature (right).



Expressed as the difference between current and future probability of occurrence, the Change in Brook Trout Probability of Occurrence can be a useful vulnerability metric, providing an early warning for areas most susceptible to loss of suitable habitat for brook trout with increasing temperature. Results (as illustrated below) can be obtained for all catchments (left) or in those associated with state-identified healthy watersheds (right). Areas with the greatest anticipated decline in brook trout occurrence are in New York and Pennsylvania, which currently support the greatest percent occurrence. Healthy watersheds in the states farther south also appear to be susceptible to declines in brook trout occurrence, such that the species may be highly threatened in some watersheds currently providing suitable coldwater habitat.

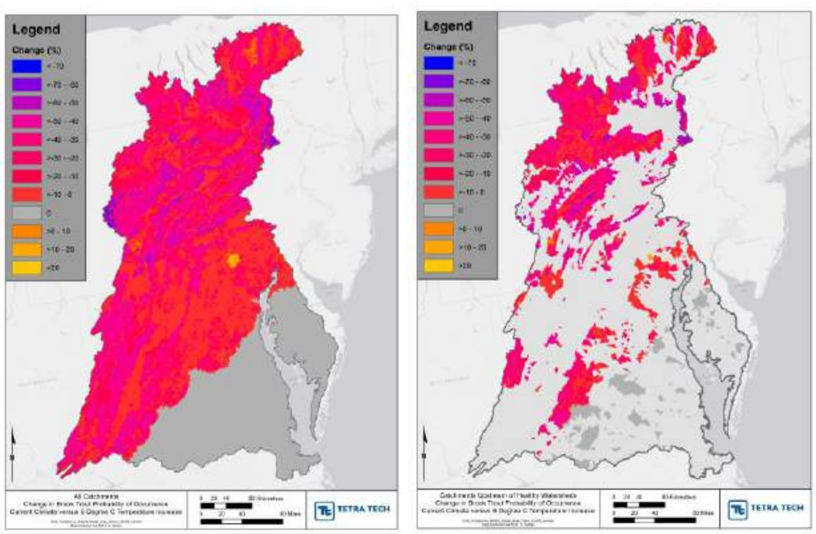


Figure 30: Example watershed vulnerability metric: Change in Brook Trout Probability of Occurrence with Increasing Temperature

7.1 Distributions of Watershed Vulnerability Metric Scores by Catchment

To examine the range of metric values for healthy watersheds, as well as other watersheds, box-and-whisker plots were prepared to illustrate the distribution of metric values in different types of catchments, i.e., those at the outlet, within, and outside of state-identified healthy watersheds. Distributions of individual watershed vulnerability metrics for catchments in three groups (those at the outlet, within, and outside of state-identified healthy watersheds) are shown in Figures 31-34.

These plots illustrate how vulnerability metrics for catchment within the healthy watersheds compare to values across the broader population of catchments not designated as healthy. Although there is substantial overlap for many metrics, it is interesting to note some patterns. For example, projections of future development for catchments at the outlet of state-identified healthy watersheds are at the lower end of the scale (all less than 49%), while some catchments outside of healthy watersheds are projected to have much more development (Figure 31A). State-identified healthy watersheds appear to be as vulnerable as other watersheds to water use demands (Figure 32). Wildfire risk in the state-identified healthy watersheds may be slightly greater in comparison with other watersheds, simply because of more proximity to forest wildlands, but again there is substantial overlap in values (Figure 33). Median values for climate stress in state-identified healthy watersheds is higher than elsewhere, perhaps because of the presence of more and diverse sensitive species within healthy watersheds, but distributions overlap greatly (Figure 34B).

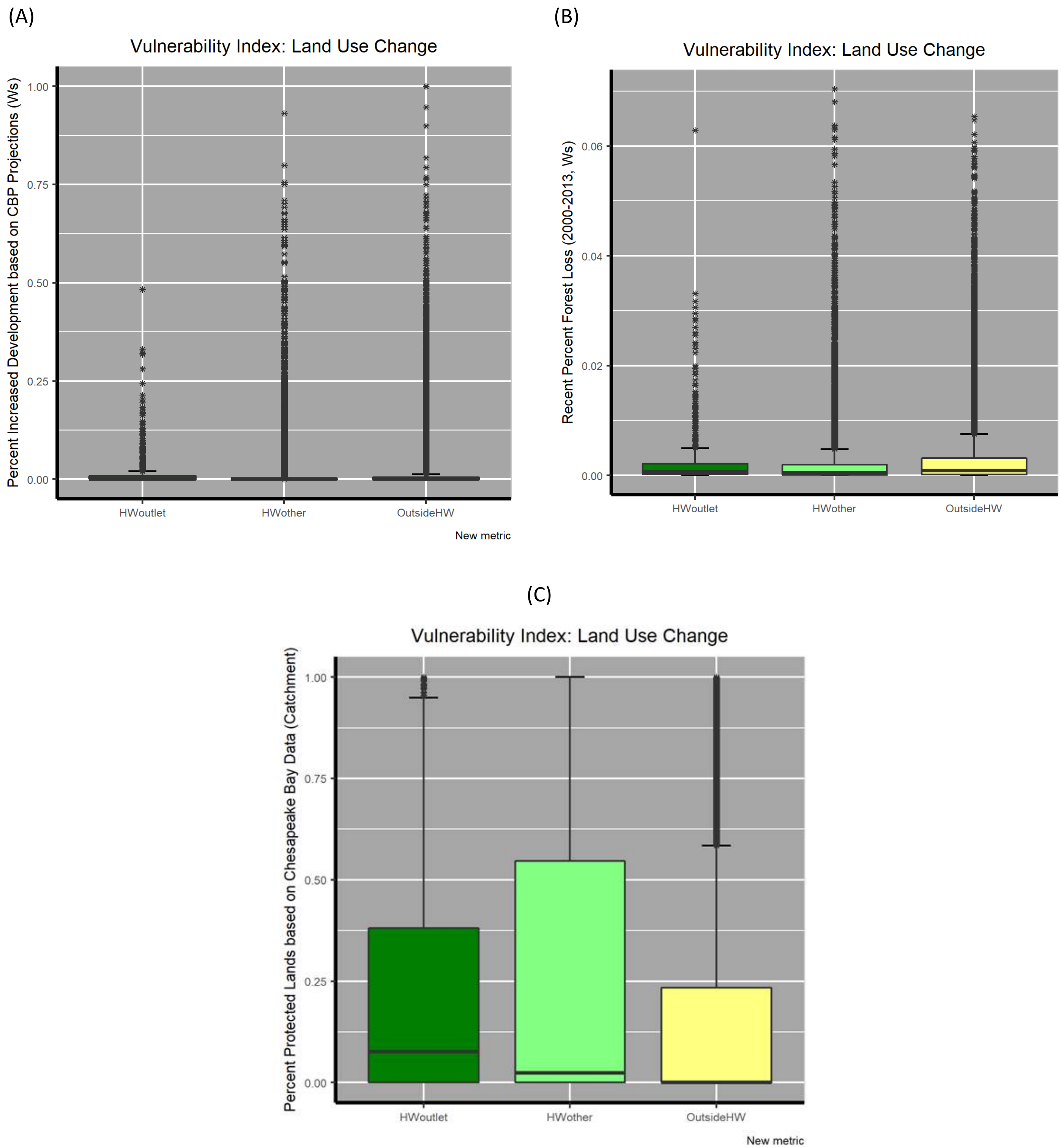
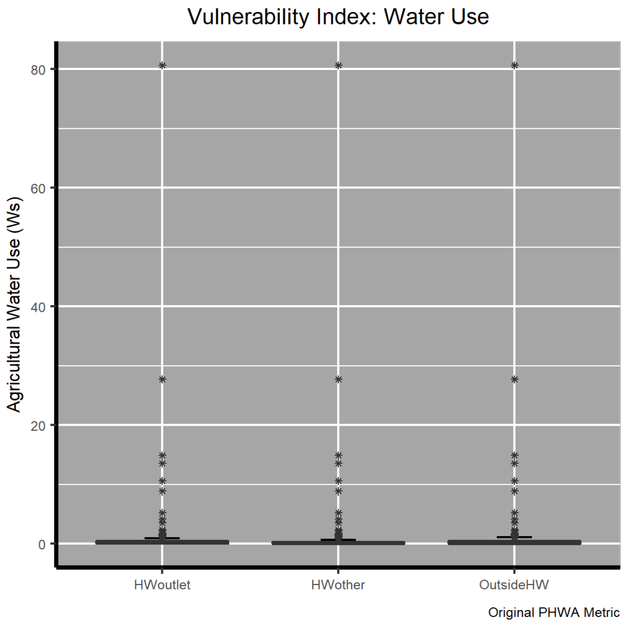
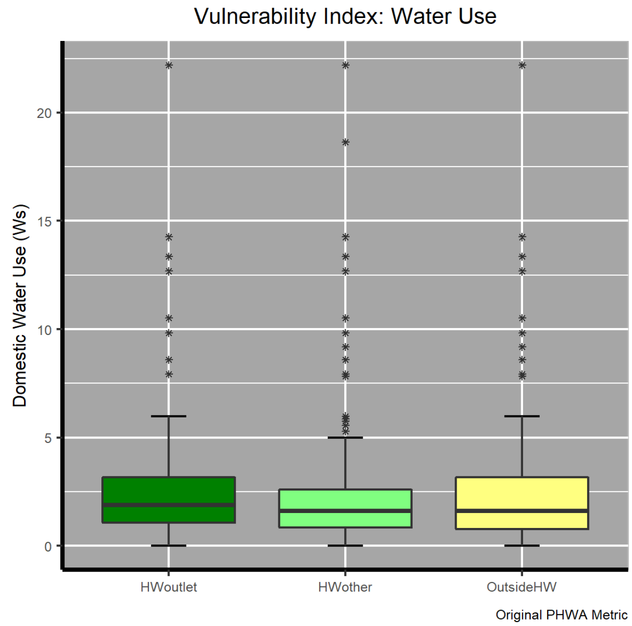


Figure 31: Comparison of distributions for land use change vulnerability metrics for catchments at outlet of state-identified healthy watersheds (dark green), other catchments within those healthy watersheds (light green), and catchments outside of those healthy watersheds (yellow) for (A) Percent Increase in Development, (B) Recent Forest Loss, and (C) Percent Protected Lands

(A)



(B)



(C)

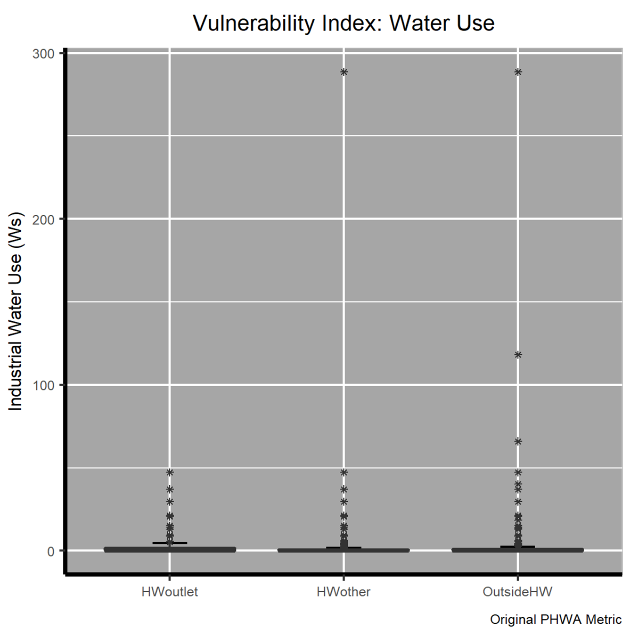


Figure 32: Comparison of distributions for water use vulnerability metrics for catchments at outlet of state-identified healthy watersheds (dark green), other catchments within those healthy watersheds (light green), and catchments outside of those healthy watersheds (yellow) for (A) Agricultural, (B) Domestic, and (C) Industrial Water Use

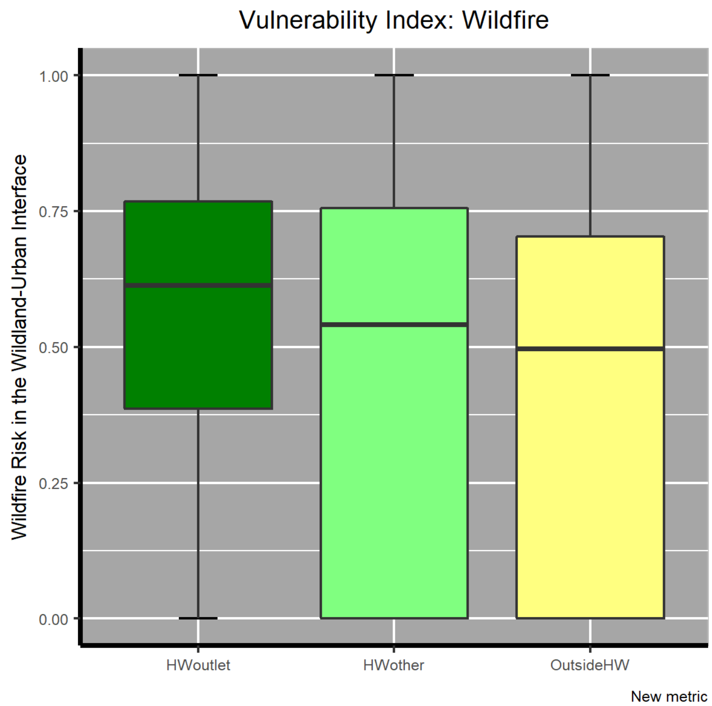
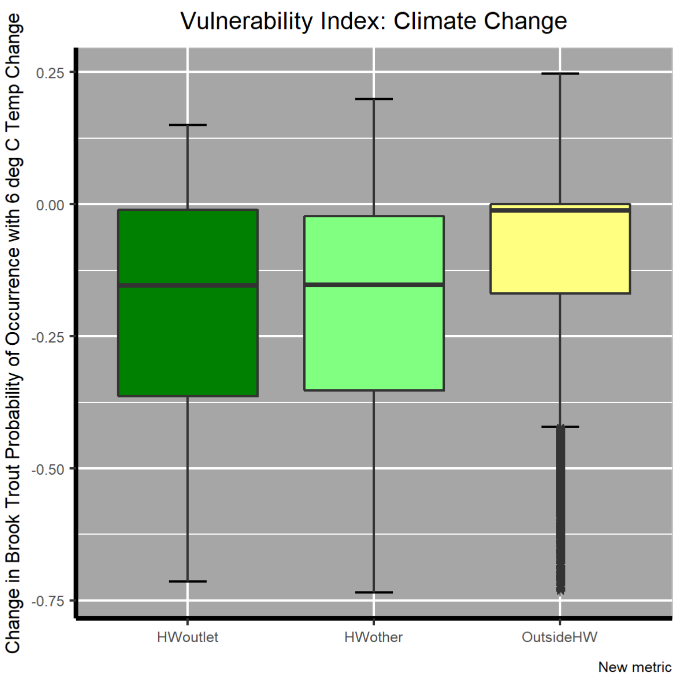


Figure 33: Comparison of distributions for wildfire risk vulnerability metric for catchments at outlet of state-identified healthy watersheds (dark green), other catchments within those healthy watersheds (light green), and catchments outside of those healthy watersheds (yellow)

(A)



(B)

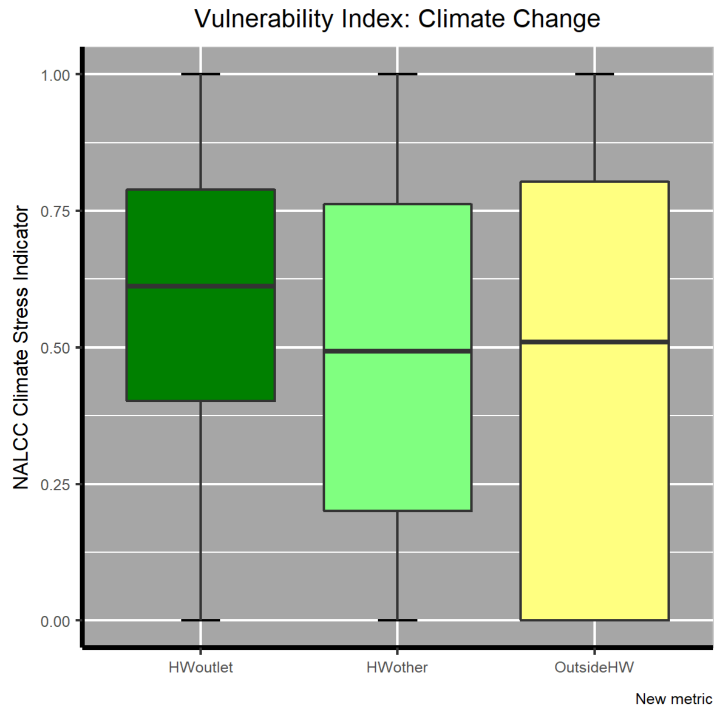


Figure 34: Comparison of distributions for climate change vulnerability metrics for catchments at outlet of state-identified healthy watersheds (dark green), other catchments within those healthy watersheds (light green), and catchments outside of those healthy watersheds (yellow) for (A) Change in Brook Trout Probability of Occurrence with 6 Degree Temperature Change and (B) NALCC Climate Stress Indicator

7.2 Combining Metrics into Watershed Vulnerability Sub-Indices

The individual vulnerability metrics were combined into four sub-indices of vulnerability: land use change, water use, wildfire risk, and climate change. The approach for combining metrics followed the same method used in combining watershed health metrics, as described in Section 6.3. To explore data, maps were prepared for each of these four sub-indices, as shown in Figures 35 to 38. Distributions of scores for the four sub-indices for catchments in three groups (those at the outlet, within, and outside of state-identified healthy watersheds) are shown in Figure 39.

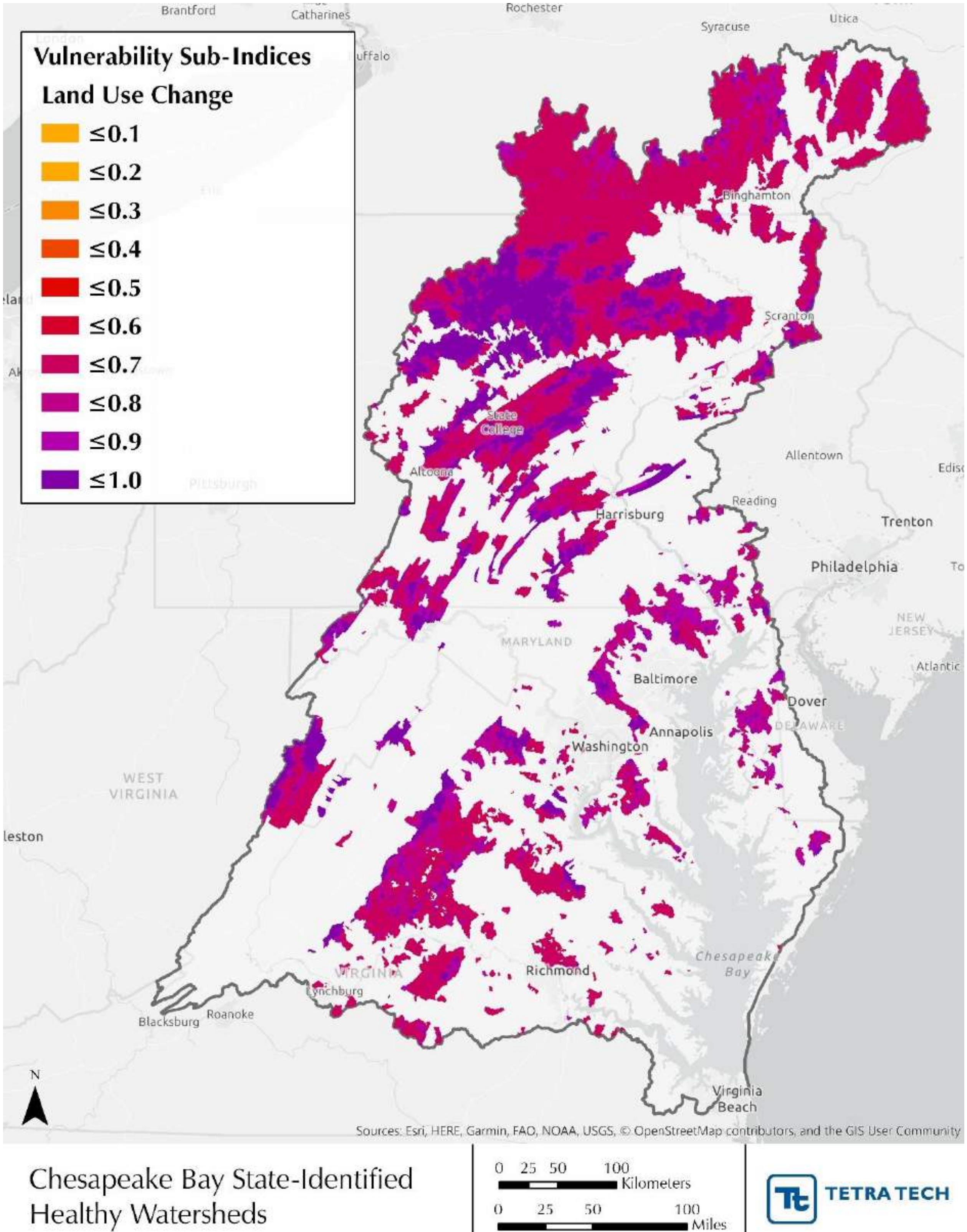


Figure 35: Characterizing watershed vulnerability: Land Use Change sub-index scores for catchments in state-identified healthy watersheds

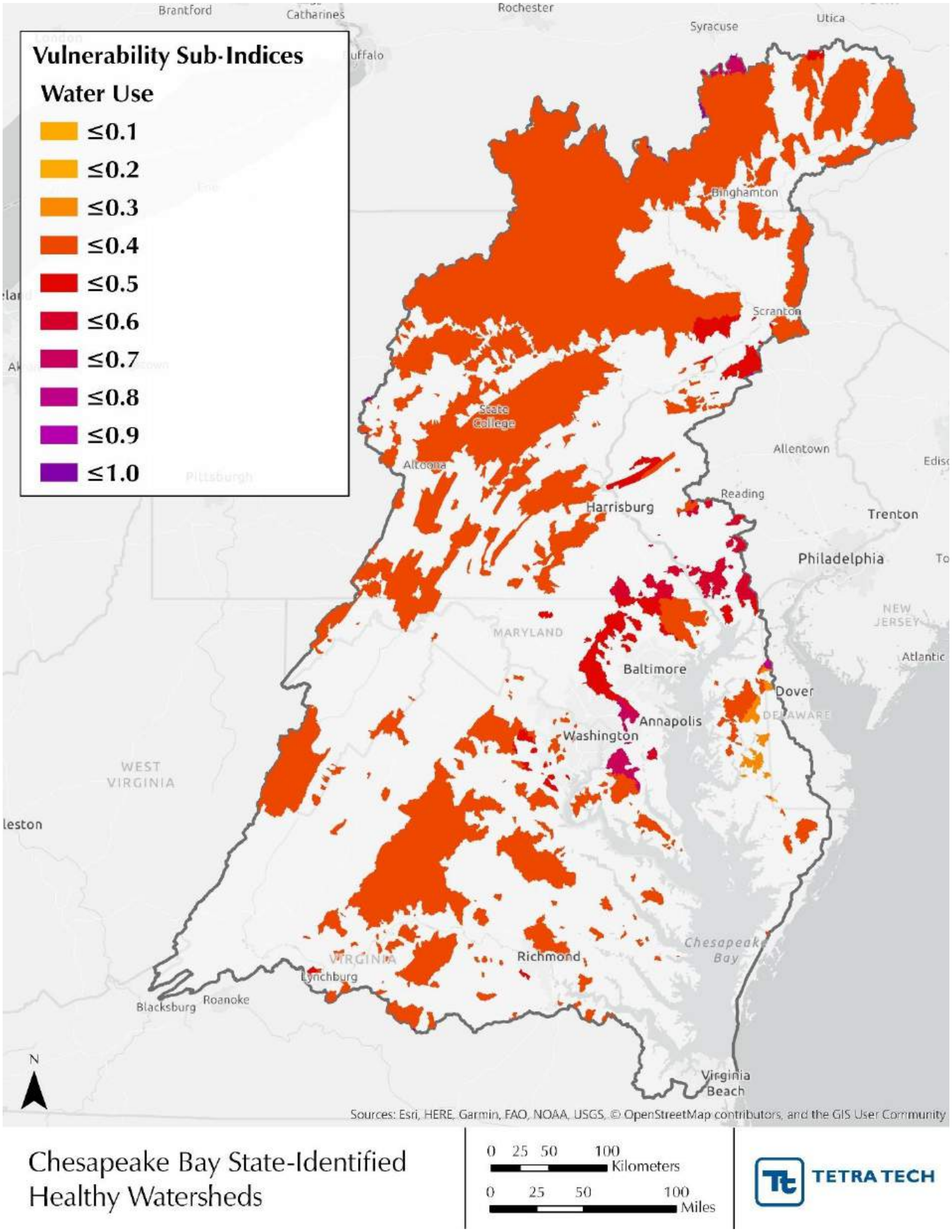


Figure 36: Characterizing watershed vulnerability: Water Use sub-index scores for catchments in state-identified healthy watersheds

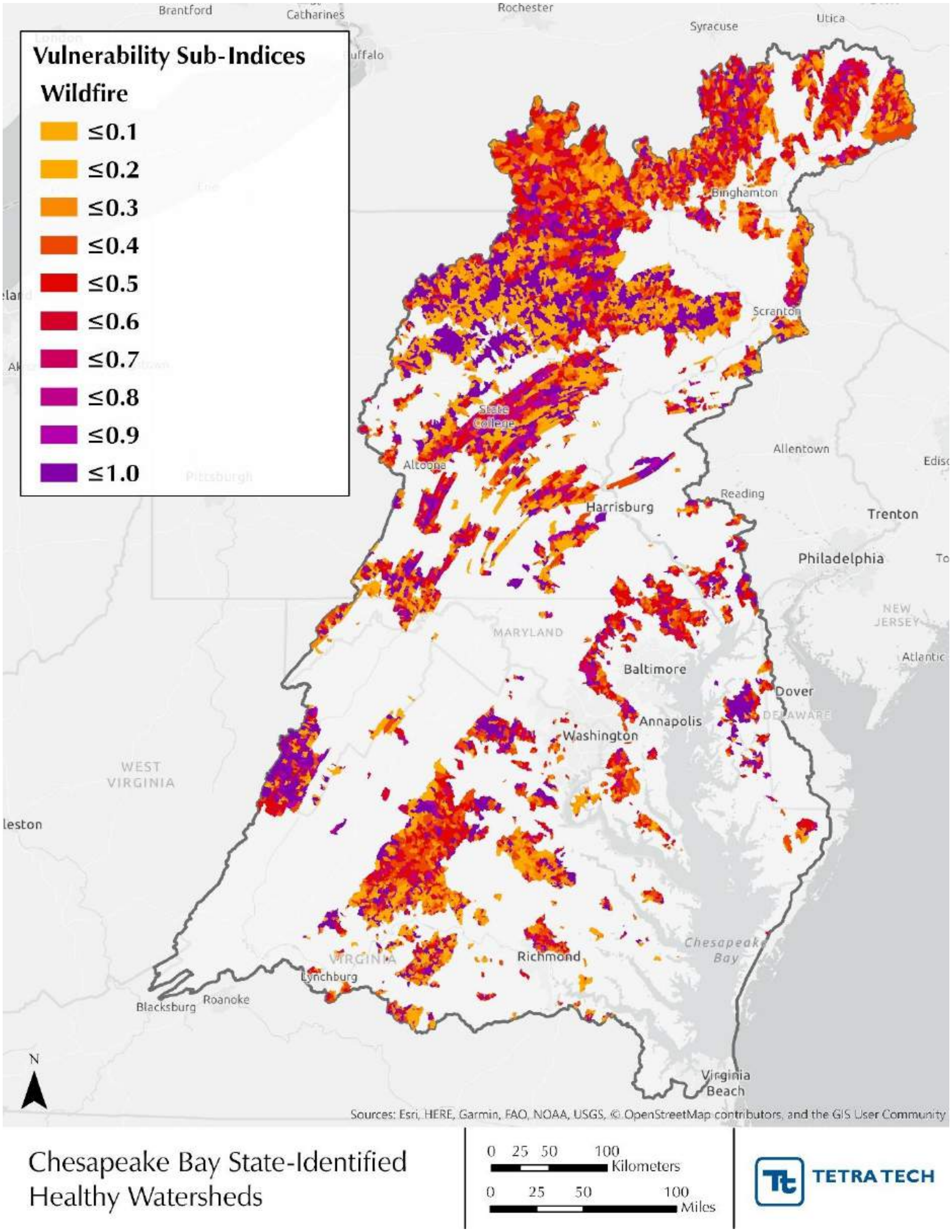


Figure 37: Characterizing watershed vulnerability: Wildfire Risk sub-index scores for catchments in state-identified healthy watersheds

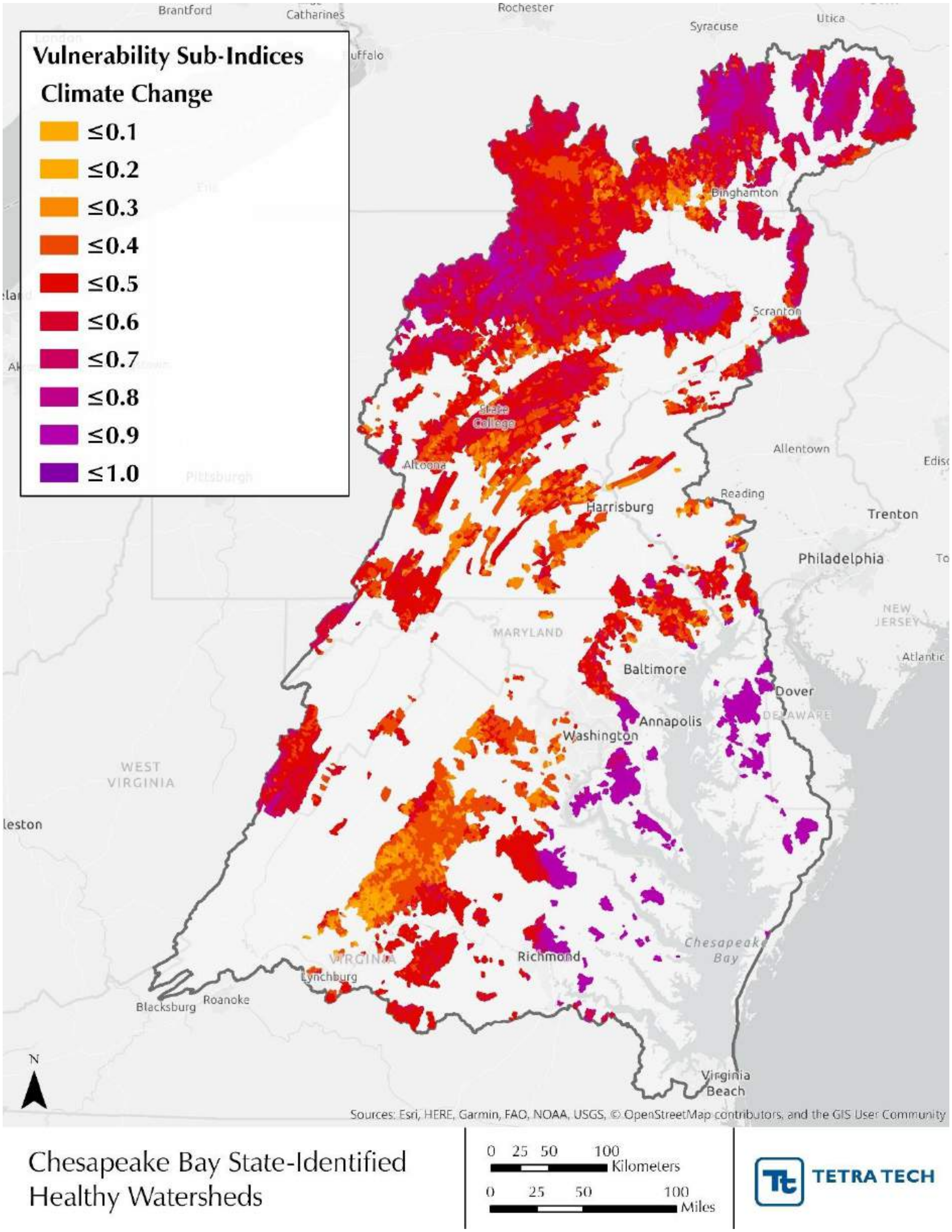


Figure 38 : Characterizing watershed vulnerability: Climate Change sub-index scores for catchments in state-identified healthy watersheds

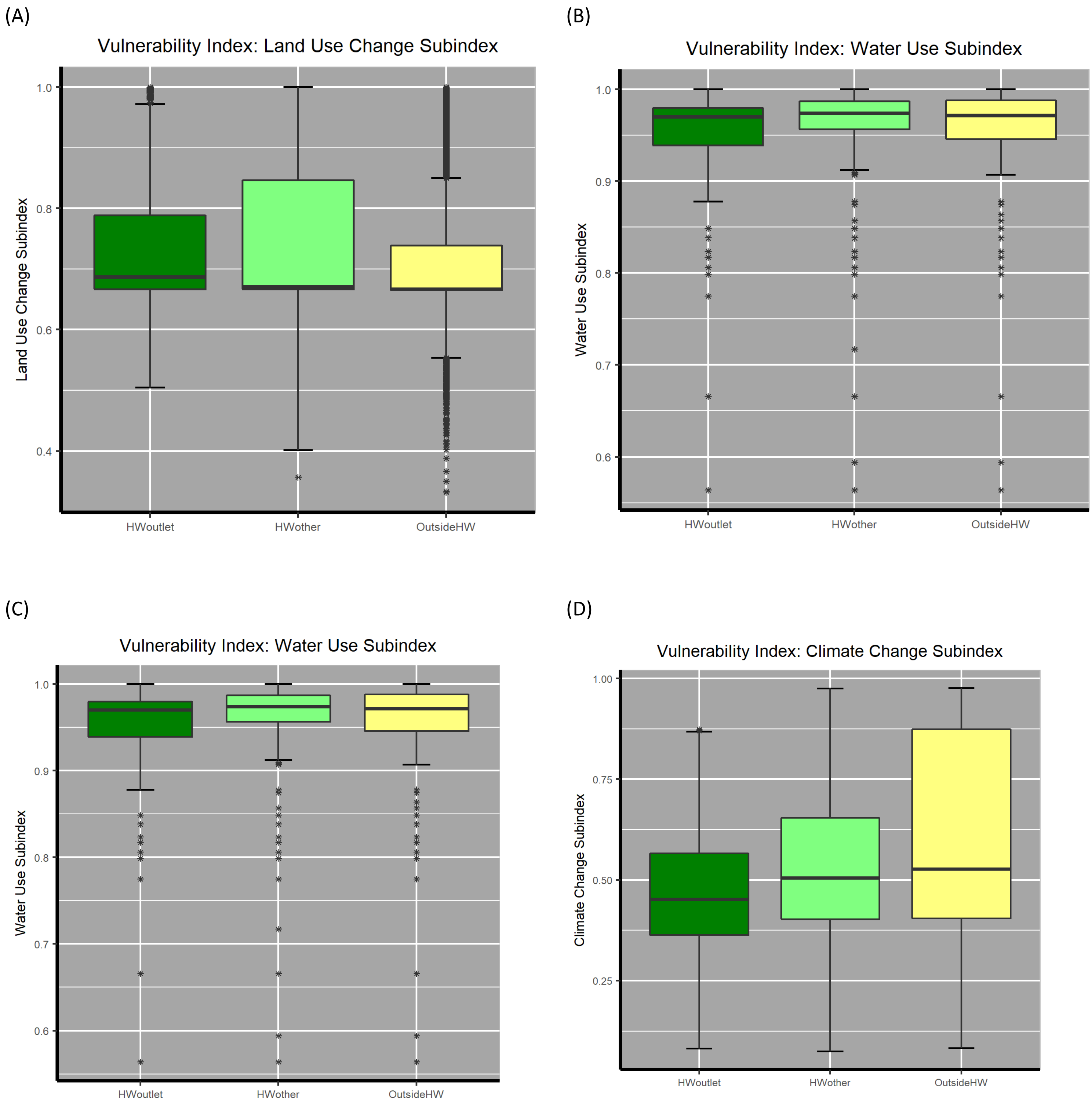


Figure 39: Comparison of distributions of four watershed vulnerability sub-indices for catchments at outlet of state-identified healthy watersheds (dark green), other catchments within those healthy watersheds (light green), and catchments outside of those healthy watersheds (yellow) for (A) Land Use Change, (B) Water Use, (C) Wildfire Risk, and (D) Climate Change

8. Recommendations for Tracking Watershed Health and Vulnerability

Using CHWA metrics, watershed health and vulnerability can be tracked, offering information on the degree to which watershed health is being sustained or providing a warning sign that health may be declining or about to decline. These signals of change would be useful for management purposes, potentially helping to identify and address current or future stressors that threaten watershed health. While on-the-ground monitoring may be ideal for documenting and tracking conditions in healthy watersheds, resources for collecting field data are often limited. The CHWA offers another way to characterize conditions, detect change, and target future monitoring if needed.

The Chesapeake Bay metrics for watershed health and vulnerability compiled here represent a first step towards assessing and tracking conditions in the state-identified healthy watersheds, as well as other areas within the Bay watershed. As new data become available, this framework can be adapted to include new or updated data to provide a refined assessment of overall watershed condition or aspects of condition, as well as tracking changes in condition. Data will allow assessments of vulnerability using the currently available data or new data that can be incorporated at the catchment scale. The geodatabase is intended to provide a flexible framework for integrating additional data, whether available throughout the Bay watershed or within a subarea.

Some metrics lend themselves to being updated with new versions of datasets that are scheduled or likely to be updated. Table 5 summarizes future data updates that are expected. For example, metrics based on Chesapeake Bay high-resolution land use/land cover data can be updated at regular intervals as those data are slated to be refined frequently based on newly acquired imagery. LANDFIRE data for the Northeast are scheduled for next release in 2020 through the LANDFIRE Remap effort (LandFire 2019). Metrics that are derived from national sources such as EPA's StreamCat and EnviroAtlas can be updated when periodic updates of those datasets become available, although a schedule of updates has not been established.

Long-term tracking of stream and watershed conditions in healthy watersheds may ideally make use of two types of data, both from actual or direct monitoring and also from indicators derived from landscape and other metrics available at a broad spatial scale. Given that monitoring data are not likely to be available at all locations or perhaps not at a frequency that would be desired, metrics such as those provided by the CHWA can be useful predictors of condition. The relationships between metrics and diagnostic measures of stream and watershed condition can be assessed at locations where data are available, to build models for predicting stream and watershed health applicable elsewhere. In addition to CHWA's regional data, available state-specific data should be integrated into further diagnostic investigations. As discussed in Section 6.4, further statistical evaluations of the watershed health and vulnerability metrics and their relationships with independent measures will be an important next step to establish a framework for evaluating when a statistically significant change is occurring (or about to occur) and to provide signals of change to understand when conditions are likely to fall short of expectations for healthy watersheds. Predictive models can inform the selection of watershed health metrics for assessing and tracking conditions, individually or within a combined watershed health index.

Table 5: Future availability of data for watershed condition and vulnerability metrics

Watershed Condition Metrics		
Sub-Index	**Metrics**	**Notes: Future Data Availability**
Landscape Condition	% Natural Land Cover in Watershed	CBP high-resolution land use/land cover data - future iterations (e.g., 2017, 2019, 2021, 2023 updates)
	% Forest in Riparian Zone in Watershed	CBP high-resolution land use/land cover data - future iterations (e.g., 2017, 2019, 2021, 2023 updates)
	Population Density in Watershed	StreamCat - future census data (2020 and beyond)
	Housing Unit Density in Watershed	StreamCat updates
	Mining Density in Watershed	StreamCat updates
	% Managed Turf Grass in Hydrologically Connected Zone (HCZ) in Watershed	CBP high-resolution land use/land cover data - future iterations (e.g., 2017, 2019, 2021, 2023 updates)
	Historic Forest Loss in Watershed	LANDFIRE Remap for Northeastern US, scheduled for release January - June 2020
Hydrology	% Agriculture on Hydric Soil in Watershed	EPA EnviroAtlas - future updates
	% Forest in Watershed	CBP high-resolution land use/land cover data - future iterations (e.g., 2017, 2019, 2021, 2023 updates)
	% Forest Remaining in Watershed	LANDFIRE Remap for Northeastern US, scheduled for release January - June 2020
	% Wetlands Remaining in Watershed	LANDFIRE Remap for Northeastern US, scheduled for release January - June 2020
	% Imperviousness in Watershed	CBP high-resolution land use/land cover data - future iterations (e.g., 2017, 2019, 2021, 2023 updates)
	Density Road-Stream Crossings in Watershed	StreamCat updates
	% Wetlands in Watershed	CBP high-resolution land use/land cover data - future iterations (e.g., 2017, 2019, 2021, 2023 updates)
Geomorphology	Dam Density in Watershed	StreamCat updates
	Vulnerable Geology in Watershed	Geologic data, unlikely to change
	Road Density in Riparian Zone, in Watershed	StreamCat updates

Table 5: Future availability of data for watershed condition and vulnerability metrics

	% Impervious in Riparian Zone in Watershed	CBP high-resolution land use/land cover data - future iterations (e.g., 2017, 2019, 2021, 2023 updates)
Habitat	National Fish Habitat Partnership (NFHP) Habitat Condition Index in Catchment	Updates to national fish habitat indicator and new regional fish habitat assessment under development for CBP
	Chesapeake Bay Conservation Habitats in Catchment	Updates to Landscope / Nature's Network Conservation Design for the Northeast
Biological Condition	Outlet Aquatic Condition Score in Catchment	CBP / ICPRB Chessie BIBI
Water Quality	% of Stream Length Impaired in Catchment	EPA ATTAINS or State-specific data
	Estimated Nitrogen Load from SPARROW Model (lbs/acre/yr), in Watershed	
	Nitrogen, Phosphorus, and Sediment Load from Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model, by Sector (Developed Land, Agriculture, Wastewater, Septic, and CSO), in Watershed (13 separate metrics)	Future CBP Model Estimates
Watershed Vulnerability Metrics		
Land Use Change	% Increase in Development in Watershed	Future updates to CBP model
	Recent Forest Loss in Watershed	Updates to StreamCat, Global Forest Watch
	% Protected Lands in Catchment	CBP and partner updates to protected lands data
Water Use	Agricultural Water Use in Watershed	Updates to USGS water use data
	Domestic Water Use in Watershed	Updates to USGS water use data
	Industrial Water Use in Watershed	Updates to USGS water use data
Wildfire Risk	% Wildland Urban Interface	Updates to Wildland Urban Interface data, University of Wisconsin - Madison SILVIS lab. A 2020 version of the WUI data is planned using 2020 census data, expected to be ready by 2021. Future versions are likely using decadal census data. Also, SILVIS currently in the process of generating future decadal WUI projection datasets for 2020-2070 using econometric models that predict where housing growth will

Table 5: Future availability of data for watershed condition and vulnerability metrics

		occur across the U.S. over that time frame. Projection data may be ready by end of 2019.
Climate Change	Change in Probability of Brook Trout Occurrence, Current Conditions v. Future Conditions (plus 6 degrees C)	New/updated research on brook trout vulnerability
	Climate Stress indicator	New/updated research on climate stress

In addition, new indicators based on analyses currently under development will provide information for integration into future versions of the healthy watershed assessment for Chesapeake Bay.

- ***Stream biological condition.*** The Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin (ICPRB) has led the development and refinement of an index for assessing stream biological integrity based on benthic macroinvertebrates, the Chesapeake Basin-wide Index of Biotic Integrity (Chessie BIBI, Smith et al. 2017). Using the Chessie BIBI, ICPRB and its partners have developed a preliminary baseline condition assessment for stream health throughout the Bay watershed (Buchanan et al. 2018), applying a combination of monitoring data and modeling predictions. Their results are provided by HUC-12 subwatershed but incorporate random forest model analysis conducted at the catchment scale (Maloney et al. 2018).

- ***Fish habitat.*** updates to the NFHP assessments are made every five years. In addition, the Chesapeake Bay Program is undertaking development of a fish habitat assessment for the Bay's tidal and non-tidal systems, beginning with development of an assessment framework and inventory and evaluation of extensive data sets to support a regional assessment (Hunt et al. 2018).

- ***Climate change.*** Ongoing CBP work to develop indicators related to climate change trends and impacts may provide new information at a scale applicable to assessing the vulnerability of healthy watersheds.

As new environmental issues gain importance, the healthy watersheds framework can be a useful tool for organizing regional data. For example, data on water use for hydraulic fracturing (fracking) could be included. The tool will enable statistical analyses to be conducted and updated as new metrics are incorporated.

9. Management Applications and Availability of Chesapeake Healthy Watersheds Assessment Data

The assessment framework, metrics, and geodatabase created for the Chesapeake Healthy Watersheds Assessment (CHWA) are intended to be useful for a variety of management applications. Primarily, the assessment will support the Chesapeake Bay Program and its jurisdiction partners in detecting signals of change in the state-identified healthy watersheds, providing information useful to support strategies to protect and maintain watershed health. In particular, indicators of vulnerability may help to provide an "early warning" to identify factors that could cause future degradation, allowing for steps to be taken related to communication and management actions to head off these potential negative effects.

The CHWA will be integrated with other Bay Program efforts in support of ecosystem health. For one, the CBP Stewardship, Habitat, Healthy Watersheds, and Water Quality Goal Implementation Teams (GITs) want to better understand key stressors or "risk factors" impacting stream health and aquatic habitats beyond nutrient and sediment impairments. Online tools can be utilized to better communicate watershed and aquatic habitat health, vulnerability, and resilience to decisionmakers and other stakeholders. For example, The Planning for Change Module of the Watershed Data Dashboard and Chesapeake Open Data Portal can be further developed to better visualize and communicate:

- Which streams, watersheds, and vital lands are most vulnerable and resilient to future impacts from land use and climate change?
- How do landscape patterns and hydrologic connectivity affect the impact of historic and future land use change on stream and aquatic health?

The CHWA will support a number of strategies and actions outlined in the Chesapeake Bay Program's recently updated Management Strategy for the Healthy Watersheds Outcome (CBP 2020a) and 2020-2021 Logic and Action Plan (CBP 2020b). The CHWA will provide information in support of federal and state efforts in assessing watershed status and characterizing watershed vulnerability to future risks. The geospatial data provided by the CHWA will be useful in conveying information to local governments and other decision makers for the protection of healthy watersheds. In addition, the CHWA will assist in understanding and addressing specific healthy watershed vulnerabilities.

CHWA data can help managers prioritize healthy watersheds in terms of risk and the need for additional protective measures, using available information on their current condition, existing protections and relative vulnerability. The landscape metrics in the CHWA, along with other, direct measures of stream and watershed health, can provide "signals of change" to identify locations where ecological health is threatened and where appropriate steps can be taken to help prevent further degradation.

The CHWA can contribute to watershed assessment and protection efforts within an overall management framework (CBP 2020a) that includes:

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 ensure the 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.

As outlined in the Management Strategy (CBP 2020a), the CHWA can support the Healthy Watersheds GIT in its interactions with other Bay Program efforts, including the following:

- Coordination with the Scientific and Technical Assessment and Reporting Team in developing approaches for identifying, assessing, and monitoring the condition of existing healthy watersheds.
- Collaborate with the Sustainable Fisheries Goal Implementation Team and Fish Habitat Action Team in integrating CHWA findings with the regional Fish Habitat Assessments being developed for non-tidal and tidal waters that will inform habitat restoration and conservation efforts. The groups should investigate opportunities to integrate online visualization of the CHWA and the ongoing work related to the Fish Habitat Assessment to better understand landscape and instream stressors to both healthy watersheds and fish habitat.
- Coordination with the Habitat Goal Implementation Team and the Stream Health Workgroup, as those groups apply Bay-wide stream assessment tools (such as the Chesapeake basin-wide index of biotic integrity, Chessie BIBI) to track stream health and compile additional research findings about stressors affecting stream and watershed health in the Bay watershed.
- Work with the Enhancing Partnering, Leadership and Management Goal Implementation Team and Local Leadership Workgroup to engage with local organizations on conservation measures that support and maintain watershed health.
- Integrating with the Climate Resiliency workgroup to better understand the vulnerability and resilience of healthy watersheds to the impacts of climate change.
- Help with communication efforts to convey information about healthy watersheds to local stakeholders.

State-level healthy watershed program managers and state agencies can use the information from the CHWA and other sources pro-actively to implement improvements to policies, incentives, plans and tools that will reduce losses of natural lands and other stressors that threaten watershed health. For example, Maryland Department of Environment can use CHWA data to track conditions in its Tier II waters to identify and evaluate potential threats to watershed health and to adapt management strategies to best protect and maintain these high-quality waters. Similarly, local agencies, land trusts, and other conservation organizations can use data to guide watershed protection. The CHWA provides a flexible framework that can be updated periodically and can be augmented with new or more specific local data.

Because the CHWA provides data on all catchments, not just those within areas currently designated as healthy watersheds, it can also potentially be used to screen watersheds to identify healthy ecosystems not currently protected as healthy watersheds. CHWA data can help to better understand watershed health, vulnerability, and resilience of catchments across the Bay watershed and could potentially be used to identify watersheds that are stressed.

Other potential management applications of the CHWA include:

- Examining/quantifying stressors affecting stream health (not just in healthy watersheds)
- Assessing landscape factors affecting fish habitat in non-tidal and tidal watersheds, in coordination with CBP's Fish Habitat Assessments
- Identifying areas of brook trout populations susceptible to climate shifts
- Engagement with local governments to inform land use decisions
- Supporting land trusts and other organizations managing protected lands
- Source water protection (drinking water)

- Examining spatial patterns of population density and land use change in association with watershed health

The geodatabase produced for this assessment provides a framework for data management and additional analyses, with data for the various metrics organized by NHDPlus Catchment (with identifier "COMID"). The structure is simple, presenting the CHWA watershed health metrics organized within the six topic areas, vulnerability metrics within the four topic areas, values for sub-indices, and the watershed health index. In addition, the geodatabase includes attributes for each catchment such as state, HUC, and whether within state-identified healthy watersheds to assist the user in sorting data for display and analysis. The geodatabase provides a straightforward display of catchment data, readily integrated with other user data, and the ability to conduct queries by location, score, or other factors defined by the geodatabase user.

Data will be made available through the CBP online platform for a variety of users including state and local governments and watershed groups. Further development of data analysis and visualization components through a user-friendly interface would help users in exploring and accessing data to address new management questions at a variety of scales, from regional to statewide to local. Statistics such as rankings and percentiles (either Baywide or by state) or comparisons of local catchment scores to regional distributions can be developed and displayed. Data visualization functions can be built into a web-based mapping application, allowing users online access to view maps, graphs, and other data summaries. It is recommended that the Healthy Watersheds GIT work with others at CBP to share information and develop on online platform that meets multiple end user needs.

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Appendix A

Members of the Maintain Healthy Watersheds Goal Implementation Team and Chesapeake Bay Healthy Watersheds Assessment Core Group

Maintain Healthy Watersheds Goal Implementation Team (July 2019)

Angel Valdez (Chair), Maryland Department of the Environment
Jason Dubow (Vice Chair), Maryland Department of Planning
Renee Thompson (Coordinator), U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)
Nora Jackson (Staffer), Chesapeake Research Consortium
Peter Claggett, U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)
Sally Claggett, U.S. Forest Service (USFS)
Tim Craddock, West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection
Lee Epstein, Chesapeake Bay Foundation
Gregory Evans, Virginia Department of Agriculture & Forestry
Greg Garman, Virginia Commonwealth University
Amy Handen, National Park Service (NPS)
Mark Hoffman, Chesapeake Bay Commission
Todd Janeski, Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation
Bill Jenkins, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - Region 3
Nesha McRae, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Dan Murphy, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
Mike Naylor, Maryland Department of Natural Resources
Tish Robertson, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Matthew Robinson, District of Columbia Department of Energy & Environment (DOEE)
Nicole Sandberg, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Scott Stranko, Maryland Department of Natural Resources
Lauren Townley, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
Stephen Williams, Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control
John Wolf, U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)

Chesapeake Bay Healthy Watersheds Assessment Core Group

Renee Thompson, CBP-USGS
Nancy Roth, Tetra Tech
Christopher Wharton, Tetra Tech
Katherine Wares, CBP-CRC
Nora Jackson, CBP-CRC
Peter Cada, Tetra Tech
Peter Claggett, CBP
Debbie Herr Cornwell, MDP
Cassandra Davis, NYSDEC
Steve Epting, EPA-OWOW/Healthy Watersheds
Todd Janeski, Virginia DCR Healthy Watershed Program
Bill Jenkins, CBP-EPA
Kelly Maloney, USGS
Kelly Matthews, VDEQ Office of Watershed Programs
Kristen Saunders, UMCES
Mark Southerland, AKRF
Gregory Steyer, USGS
Matthew Stover, MDE
Peter Tango, CBP-USGS
Chad Thompson, WV DEP
Lauren Townley, NYSDEC
Emily Trentacoste, CBP-EPA
Angel Valdez, MDE, HWGIT Chair
Angie Wei, UMCES
Amy Williams, PA DEP
John Wolf, CBP-USGS

Appendix B

Meeting Notes and Presentations

Preliminary State-Identified Healthy Watersheds Vulnerability Assessment for the Chesapeake Bay Watershed

Kickoff Meeting/Conference Call Oct. 27, 2017

Hosted by CBP

Meeting Minutes

Participants

Renee Thompson, CBP-USGS
Katherine Wares, CBP-CRC
Doug Norton, EPA-OWOW/Healthy Watersheds
Angel Valdez, MDE, HWGIT Chair
Hannah Martin, CBT
Nancy Roth, Tetra Tech
Peter Cada, Tetra Tech
Chris Wharton, Tetra Tech
Mark Southerland, AKRF

Introductions / Roles

All participants introduced themselves and roles.

Review Scope of Work and Schedule

Renee began with an overview of the project and its purpose in support of the Chesapeake Bay Program's Maintain Healthy Watersheds Goal Implementation Team (HWGIT). Nancy gave a brief overview of the major work elements:

- Apply the Preliminary Healthy Watersheds Assessment (PHWA) Framework to Assess The Current Condition of State-Identified Healthy Watersheds Within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed
- Develop an Approach to Use the PHWA Framework to Assess the Health of State-Identified Healthy Watersheds Over Time
- Apply the PHWA Framework to Identify Vulnerabilities in State-Identified Healthy Watersheds

Nancy noted that data compilation will be (by its nature) adaptive, depending what data are available. Renee noted that as work progresses, it will be helpful to note what information we have now and what we would like to have in the future. New Chesapeake data sets and CBP indicators may be available during the project or in future. State-identified Healthy Watersheds will provide a baseline for assessing future change. With this project, Renee noted, the program will be able to develop a point-in-time assessment and a plan for a 2-5 year (or more) reassessment, with indicators or a framework that will enable the program to move forward in considering how best to maintain healthy watersheds.

Nancy reviewed the proposed project schedule. Renee suggested that the team should plan for an in-person meeting or webinar with key state contacts and the larger HWGIT in January, but also an intermediate meeting in December with the core group participating in this kickoff, plus state data contacts. Nancy will modify the schedule to reflect this plan.

Following initial assessment of current condition, the team will work on the second key element: developing an approach for tracking changes in condition over time. Jason Dubow of Maryland Department of Planning (HWGIT Vice Chair) is very interested in this issue. Nancy said the December meeting will be a good time to brainstorm and get ideas from the group to help develop approach.

Doug pointed out that a key part of this project will be this second element, setting up a framework or approach to look at change over time. Enhancements to the PHWA to look at change will provide an opportunity to move forward, particularly as there is no expectation currently for repeating the national PHWA soon.

On vulnerability assessment, Renee noted some data are readily available but some may be more difficult or not possible to obtain. USGS has data on energy development. Other available data include land use and climate change, from Integrated Climate and Land-Use Scenarios (ICLUS). Water demand data may be harder to find, but USGS might have something. Data on invasive species may be harder to track down. Information on future transportation corridors could possibly be found in transportation improvement plans developed by state agencies.

Peter noted EPA's 20 Watersheds and EnviroAtlas projects may have useful data, including a year 2050 scenario, and SWAT and HSPF modeling of effects on future water quality. Renee said the CBP land use team is looking at a future land use scenario for year 2025 and this should be published by Nov. 15.

Renee pointed out that if a large proportion of the healthy watersheds are found to be vulnerable, that could affect management approaches. Doug noted that PHWA downplayed the vulnerability assessment because only limited data were available nationally. Land use, water use, and fire were considered. The national assessment also looked at changes going back in time.

Doug emphasized it will be important to look at individual vulnerabilities rather than try to combine into one index. If factors are averaged or combined into a multi-metric indicator, a strong, overriding vulnerability factor may not be detected, or could be overlooked. Renee agreed that looking at vulnerabilities individually is more useful for management purposes in being able to identify key policies and plans to address vulnerabilities.

There is research in terms of past trends and patterns, e.g., an urban infill development study examining how much urbanization can be absorbed with infill v. green field development. Doug noted that in looking from past to present, an area may be fully built out and therefore not as susceptible to future growth.

Re project deliverables, Renee said CBP is looking for assessments of the state-identified healthy watersheds (e.g., good condition, middle, poor) and their vulnerability. She would also like the project report to note what may be done in the future, with a suggested list of next steps. The report should also include a summary of when data were collected and recommendation of when this assessment can be done again (e.g., perhaps 2-5 years, depending on data sources). She is looking for guidance on moving forward on developing an indicator of watershed health. Nancy will modify the report language in scope of work about providing a report outline.

Hannah agreed that the changes to the scope and schedule discussed today are minor and do not require any change to the contract.

<u>Data Requests - Process</u>

Renee noted that there is an updated state data contact list, which Katherine can provide to the Tetra Tech project team.

Doug noted he can provide a list of contacts from the PHWA that included state contacts in 303d TMDL and 319 NPS programs.

Katherine and Renee can help with data requests. Renee will make initial contact with state data contacts to let them know Tetra Tech may be making requests for data. Angel can help with Maryland contacts.

Katherine will provide a shapefile with boundaries of state-identified healthy watersheds. Some are stream segments, others are catchments or HUCs.

Renee is working with Peter Claggett on a land cover change model that will examine changes in metrics such as farmland and development. Renee noted the CBP has great high-resolution data and is working on high-resolution land use data, which will be useful to examine development pressure. Renee and Peter Claggett will be good contacts for this.

Regarding scale, Doug noted a lot of prior work has been on the HUC12 basis. Catchments can use StreamCAT from ORD work. He suggested that if pourpoints are available for the healthy watersheds, this would be useful to identify the specific upstream watershed area. Peter said it will be important to look at multiple states and make sure their different spatial units are addressed.

Peter also noted that when we encounter limitations in the data, it will be important to stay true to the data source to get the most information but also, when possible, remain consistent across different areas when needed.

Angel asked about example of Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA) Data, which may differ from Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT). Peter suggested that on case-by-case basis, analysis could either work with with lowest common denominator or could perhaps extrapolate from existing data to other areas.

Angel noted high quality streams in Maryland are identified at the stream scale, but healthy watersheds at the watershed scale.

<u>Communications and Coordination</u>

- With CBP and CBT
- With Healthy Watersheds GIT
- Other partners/stakeholders

Some details on coordination with the HWGIT and other partners are discussed above.

Doug thanked Renee and others for involving EPA's Healthy Watersheds program and offered assistance if there are any questions about how PHWA was put together. Steve Epting (epting.steve@epa.gov) of Doug's team may be involved in future meetings and coordination.

The group discussed state involvement. Renee said there are no designated Healthy Watersheds in DC or Delaware but they may designate some in future, so these states are participating in the HWGIT. Each of the other states define their healthy watersheds differently.

There is a shapefile with a "mini preliminary HWA" for a portion of West Virginia, done by Misty Downing of TNC. Renee can provide this shapefile for informational purposes.

Angel noted this CBP project will be useful to Maryland in managing to reduce watershed impacts.

Renee asked about the size of Tetra Tech team. Nancy noted that the core members of team will do most of the work, but that other staff can be tapped for their knowledge of regional data.

Mark Southerland is serving as consultant, based on his past experience with healthy watershed assessments. He describing a concurrent study he is doing in partnership with Maryland, looking at condition of protected areas (v. unprotected areas) and how those have changed over time. That effort may provide information about the expected variability and biological change over time, which can inform the CBP project. Mark is coordinating with Maryland to compile state data on different classes of protected lands; Renee described Chesapeake Bay protected lands data (from MDNR, MDP, and others, with information on development rights).

Peter noted it will be great to have insights from partners on what data are likely to be useful and what data are on the horizon for future use.

Renee described partner support as three sides of triangle: CBP oversight of the project team's work, EPA technical support and guidance, and state partners. Angel will provide support in terms of state data, contact, and ideas. Renee and Nancy will communicate regularly and as needed will convene meetings or conference calls with this core team (participants on this call and others who may be added). The larger HWGIT will be involved in one meeting in the middle of project (targeted for January, to solicit input on data and indicators) and one at the end (to review draft final product). The project team will send "thought questions" to the HWGIT in advance of the January meeting.

<u>Preparation of QAPP – confirm format</u>

Renee will confer with her program's quality assurance coordinator and get back to Nancy about the proposed QAPP format.

<u>Next steps</u>

- Data compilation and review
- Prepare for December meeting

<u>Action Items</u>:

- Katherine to provide updated state data contact list to Tetra Tech.
- Doug to provide state data contact list from PHWA.
- Angel to help with Maryland contacts.

- Renee will make initial contact with state data contacts to let them know Tetra Tech may be making requests for data.
- Katherine will provide a shapefile with boundaries of state-identified healthy watersheds.
- Nancy will modify schedule and scope to reflect discussion at this kickoff meeting.
- Renee to provide shapefile with “mini preliminary HWA” for portion of West Virginia, done by Misty Downing of TNC, for informational purposes.
- Renee will confer with her program’s quality assurance coordinator and get back to Nancy about the proposed QAPP format.

Meeting minutes prepared by:

Nancy Roth
Tetra Tech
Nov. 10, 2017

Preliminary State-Identified Healthy Watersheds Vulnerability Assessment for the Chesapeake Bay Watershed

Meeting Dec. 18, 2017

Hosted by CBP

Meeting Minutes

Participants

Peter Cada, Tetra Tech
Peter Claggett, CBP
Debbie Herr Cornwell, MDP
Cassandra Davis, NYSDEP
Steve Epting, EPA-OWOW/Healthy Watersheds
Todd Janeski, Virginia DCR Healthy Watershed Program
Kelly Matthews, VDEQ Office of Watershed Programs
Nancy Roth, Tetra Tech
Mark Southerland, AKRF
Matthew Stover, MDE
Peter Tango, CBP
Renee Thompson, CBP-USGS
Angel Valdez, MDE, HWGIT Chair
Katherine Wares, CBP-CRC
Chris Wharton, Tetra Tech
Amy Williams, PA DEP
John Wolf, CBP-USGS

Introductions

All participants introduced themselves and described their interest in the project.

Project Overview

Renee Thompson welcomed all participants and gave a brief introduction of the project and its purpose in support of the Chesapeake Bay Program's Maintain Healthy Watersheds Goal Implementation Team (HWGIT).

Nancy Roth gave a brief overview of the project's major work elements:

- Apply the Preliminary Healthy Watersheds Assessment (PHWA) Framework to Assess The Current Condition of State-Identified Healthy Watersheds Within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed
- Develop an Approach to Use the PHWA Framework to Assess the Health of State-Identified Healthy Watersheds Over Time

- Apply the PHWA Framework to Identify Vulnerabilities in State-Identified Healthy Watersheds

Approach to Address Challenges of Scale

Peter Cada discussed the proposed approach to deal with scale issues by working at the NHD+ catchment scale. He presented examples of state-identified healthy watersheds in each of the Bay states, along with HUC-12 and NHD+ catchment boundaries. Use of NHD+ catchments would facilitate use of many readily available (or readily calculated) indicators across the entire Chesapeake Bay watershed by using source data and StreamCat tools. Analysis would be able to include entire upstream watersheds for identified healthy stream segments, as needed. Using a Virginia example, he discussed decisions that will need to be made, such as how to handle cases where the downstream end of a state-identified healthy watershed extends below one catchment into another, or cases of very small state-identified watersheds (smaller than an NHD+ catchment). For Pennsylvania and New York, where entire HUC-12s have been identified as healthy watersheds, conducting the analysis at NHD+ scale may be particularly useful to focus on the portion of HUC-12 where a high quality segment of interest is located.

Peter Cada presented a list of potential datasets from PHWA, color-coded as to their availability at NHD+ scale: available (green), able to be derived via scripts (yellow), and not as simple to derive (pink). Renee noted that even for those designated green, there may be better local data to incorporate. For example, recent high-resolution land cover/land cover change data will be available for the Chesapeake watershed. These and other local indicators may be swapped in for PHWA indicators, both for assessing present-day and for updates on future condition over time. Where possible, consistency across state lines is desirable, but may depend on data availability.

Todd Janeski said that Virginia is continuing to look at identifying healthy watersheds based on fish community data, as well as vulnerability, with its Natural Heritage program, using stream conservation units from INSTAR monitoring locations. Todd would like to see more examples of the NHD+ catchments with Virginia's healthy watersheds before weighing in on the proposed scale approach.

Steve Epting noted the national PHWA effort did not identify healthy watershed thresholds, but does provide a system for relative scoring by state or ecoregion to help states or others identify watersheds that are relatively healthy.

Peter Cada pointed out Chesapeake Bay states may be farther along in the process, having already designated healthy watersheds, but that the PHWA framework still provides a suite of indicators useful for the purposes of the HWGIT. One question to address will be what is the total population of watersheds that we want to assess, whether that be by state, baywide, or through comparisons among the designated healthy watersheds.

Peter Claggett noted CBP's purpose for this project includes tracking condition and examining vulnerability for the existing suite of state-identified healthy watersheds, and that working at the smallest relevant unit would be good, and that NHD+ makes sense for that reason. He noted there is a lot of spatial variability, and differences between watershed condition and stream condition, and it would be beneficial to be able to compare proximal and distal landscape conditions within the state-identified healthy watersheds. Peter Cada asked about the watershed scale used by the Bay model; Peter Claggett said it was roughly HUC-12 but with modifications to account for County boundaries and other factors. The SPARROW model is based on NHD+ catchments.

Angel Valdez noted there needs to be clear decision rules for defining the watershed boundaries (specifically to deal with special cases such as those presented). In Maryland, MBSS data were initially used to identify high-quality segments, and then the watershed areas draining to them, designated as healthy watersheds.

Renee suggested that the project team put together a shape file showing state-identified healthy watersheds and NHD+ catchments, for participants to review.

Angel said that after this discussion, she was feeling better about using the NHD+ scale. She said that looking at whole watershed scale (e.g., Patuxent River) often didn't provide enough detail.

Nancy said the NHD+ scale would help to capture the heterogeneity within larger watersheds, enabling a visual presentation of results similar to a stained-glass window showing variation, rather than a single results over larger area.

Peter Tango brought up point about brook trout, present in streams in 11% of Bay watershed area, and the varying data available across the region. Drilling down to finer scale can provide information on highly sensitive species such as brook trout. He also said CBP is looking at benthic macroinvertebrate results from about 25,000 samples Bay-wide, which will be considered in an April 2018 workshop.

Renee asked the group about thoughts on NY, WV, and PA, where the state-identified healthy watersheds are at HUC-12 scale but where state data may indicate more specific healthy streams within those areas. Cassandra Davis will review NY watersheds with Lauren Townley.

<u>Seeking Input on Additional Data</u>

Nancy presented a brief list and asked the group for additional input on known data sources. Peter Claggett said there will be 10-meter aggregated data available for percent impervious and other "percent land use" classes (derived from the 1-m high resolution data). Future land use, year 2025, will be available from CBP in January. By about March, future land use for every decade to 2100 should be available. He also said U.S. Conterminous Wall-to-Wall Anthropogenic Land Use Trends (NWALT) data provide good information on changes from 1974- 2012 at 60 m resolution, and that it is often important to look at past data to understand processes (e.g., early land use affects current sediment regime in streams).

Renee suggested the project team provide an updated version of the PHWA data sources table from the presentation, showing data available now, which she and others at the Bay Program will update, with CBP data sets to augment the PHWA data. Then she will send this table to the group to add suggestions on additional state-level data.

Peter Tango asked whether Maryland included tidal waters in its Healthy Watersheds; Angel replied that in Maryland only non-tidal stream data were used to designate Healthy Watersheds. Tidal waters may be considered in the future.

Peter Claggett mentioned benthic data, which are also available from states and from Bay-wide compilation. He noted that benthic monitoring datasets also include habitat variables such as bank erosion and substrate metrics, which may be useful to consider in tracking watershed condition and vulnerability.

Peter Claggett also asked about repeatability and whether the project would be producing scripts (R, Python). Peter Cada said at the end of the project, the team would provide any scripts produced, for CBP's later use. The ability to run analysis in the future is an important feature, whether to update the framework with better data or to track watershed condition over time.

For January meeting with larger HWGIT, the project team will apply indicators and provide example results for discussion.

Peter Cada asked for thoughts on what is the appropriate population – all watersheds in Bay watersheds? All healthy watersheds? And noted that comparisons can be run by ecoregion or by state. Peter Claggett said that to assess whether the sate-identified watersheds are healthy, it would be helpful to do wall-to-wall analysis (i.e., for all catchments in Bay watershed) to start to understand how these stack up and why they are healthy.

Peter Tango pointed to a concern about single landowners (e.g., large farms) and sensitivity about how data are portrayed in results tables and visuals, since a since property may be a catchment at NHD+ scale.

Peter Tango also noted the climate indicator workgroup is currently working on narrowing list of key indicators, from 164 candidate indicators to smaller number. John Wolf said that geospatial data for the indicators of climate change are to be created in 2018.

Nancy presented two slides as "food for thought" regarding future tracking of watershed condition and vulnerabilities, which will be considered in more detail at and after the January meeting.

Peter Claggett said there will be LiDAR data for 2 million stream cross-sections, potentially providing data on bank condition that may be useful the assessment.

<u>Next steps</u>

- Decision on watershed scale
- Data compilation and review
- Prepare for January HWGIT meeting

<u>Action Items</u>:

- Peter Cada to prepare GIS files showing scale overlays (state-identified healthy watersheds, NHD+, HUC-12)
- Peter Cada and Nancy Roth provide handout with explanation and background on scale issues related to applying PHWA framework

- Peter Cada and Nancy Roth to update list of candidate data and provide to Renee Thompson. Renee and other CBP staff will update with CBP data and then Renee will send to the group for input and additional information on data available
- Renee and Katherine work on plans for HWGIT meeting in mid-January
- Renee to send today's presentation (PDF) to the group

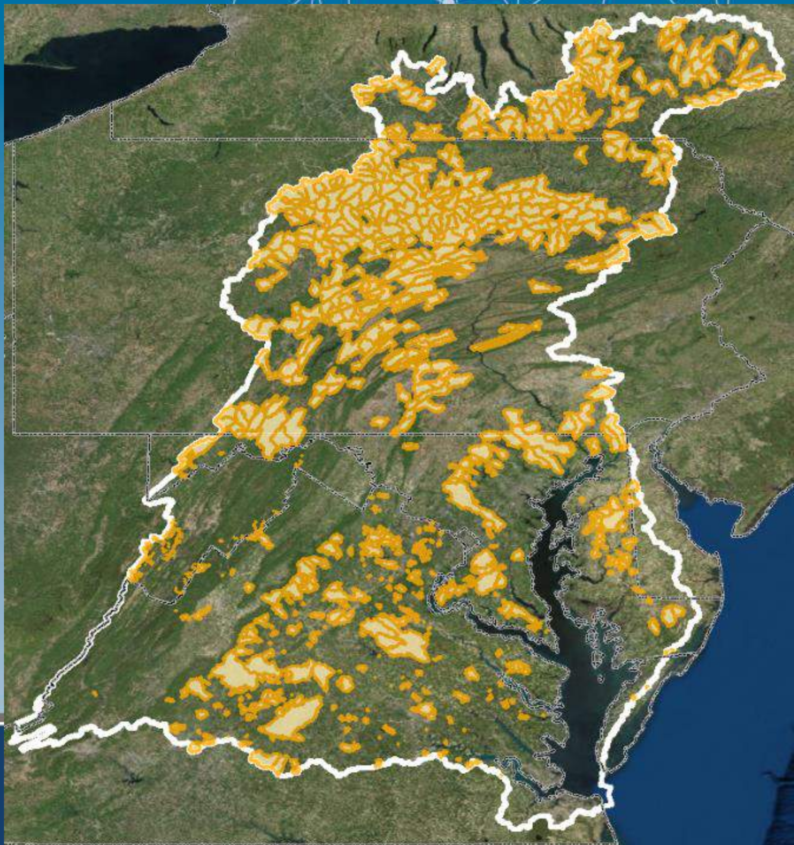
Meeting minutes prepared by:

Nancy Roth
Tetra Tech
Dec. 22, 2017

TETRA TECH

Preliminary State-Identified Healthy Watersheds Vulnerability Assessment for the Chesapeake Bay Watershed

December 18, 2017 meeting



Today's meeting

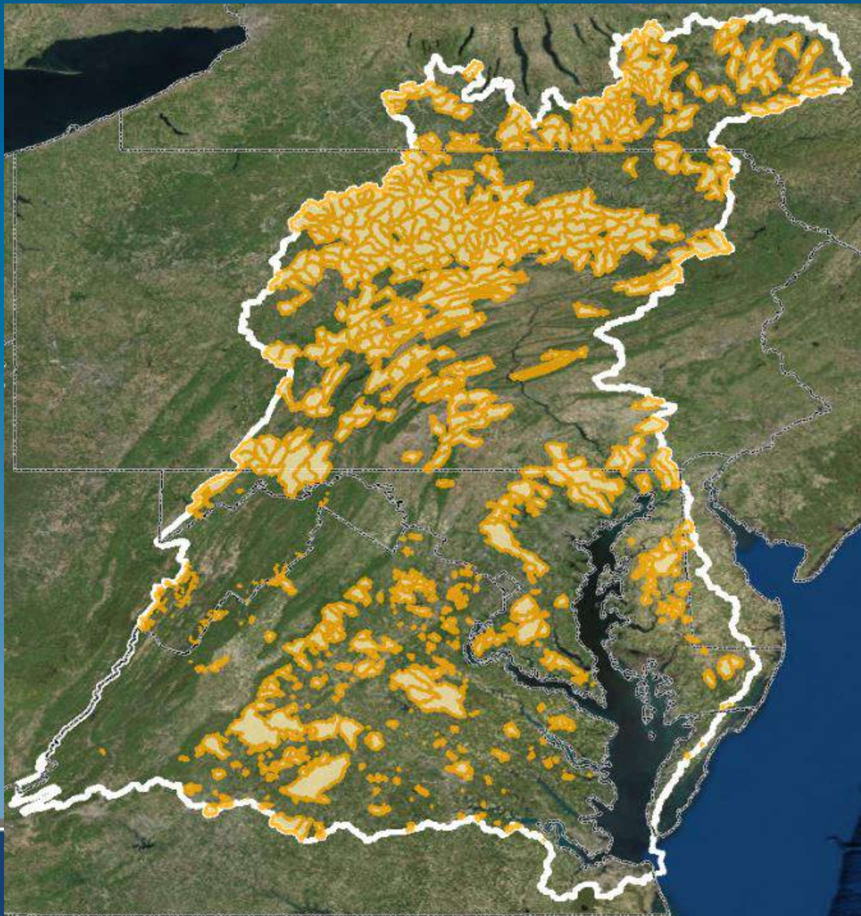
- Introduce the project
- Approach to address challenge of scale
- Seek input on additional data

Project Overview

- **Apply the Preliminary Healthy Watersheds Assessment framework to**
  - (1) assess current condition of State-Identified Healthy Watersheds,
  - (2) develop an approach for future tracking of condition, and
  - (3) assess vulnerabilities of these watersheds.

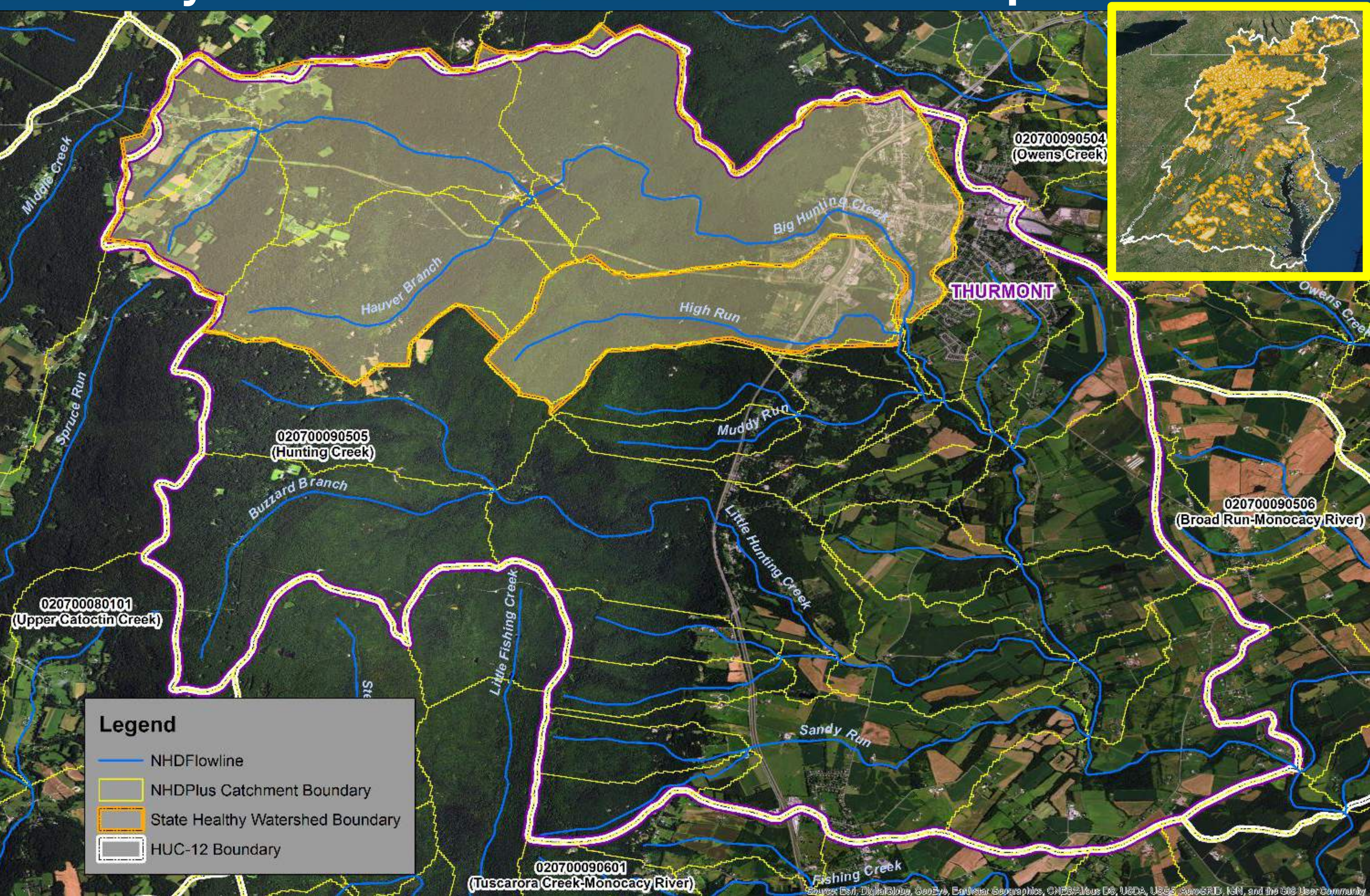
Challenge: Addressing Watershed Scale

- **PHWA developed nationally to provide data at HUC12 scale**
- **Healthy watersheds identified by Chesapeake Bay states**
  - Differing Approaches/Scales
    - Streamlines only (WV)
    - Custom (total) Watershed Boundaries (VA/MD)
    - HUC12 selections (PA/NY)

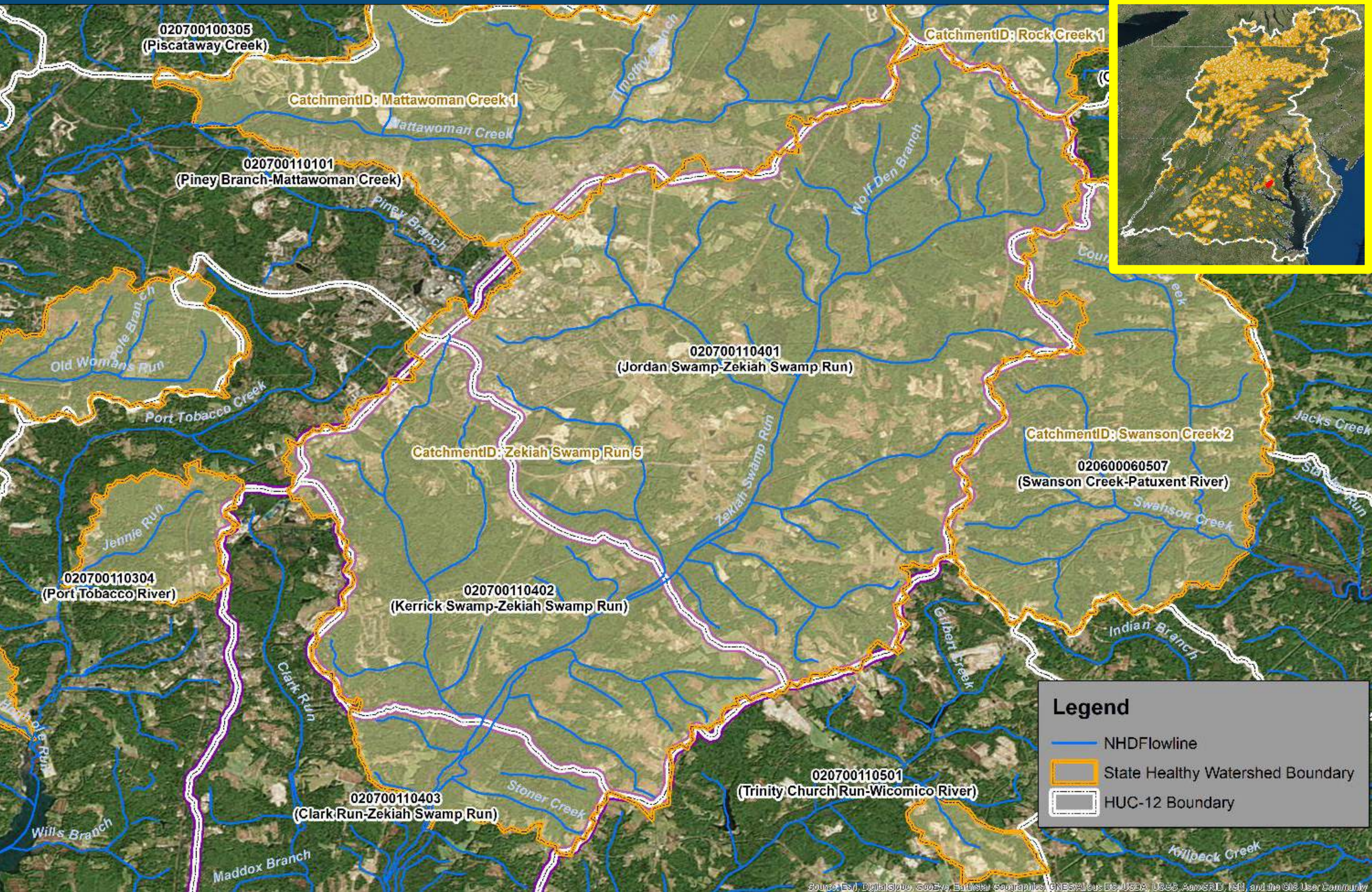


Healthy Watersheds Scale – MD example #1

Healthy Watersheds Scale – MD example #1



Healthy Watersheds Scale – MD example #2



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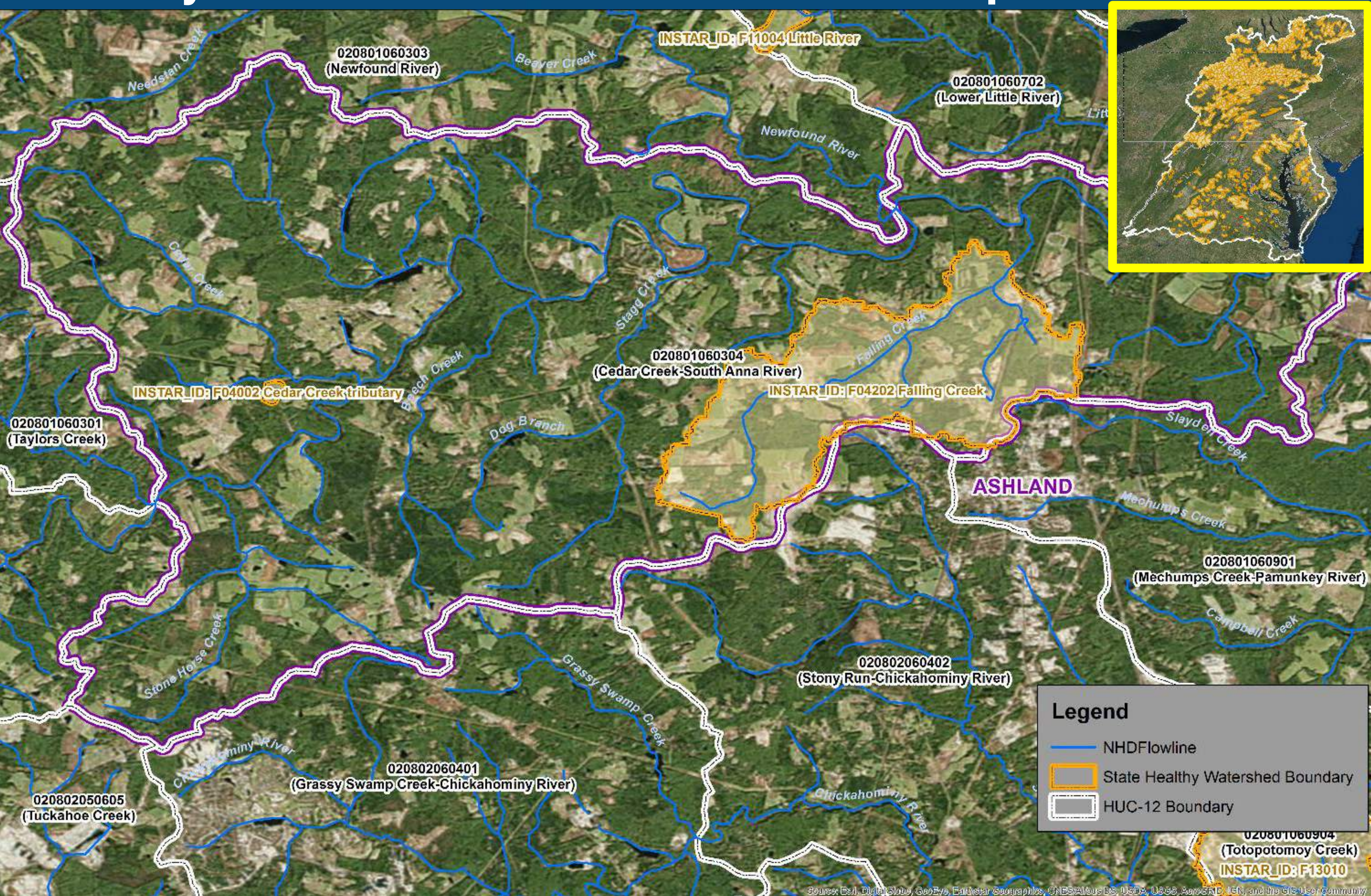
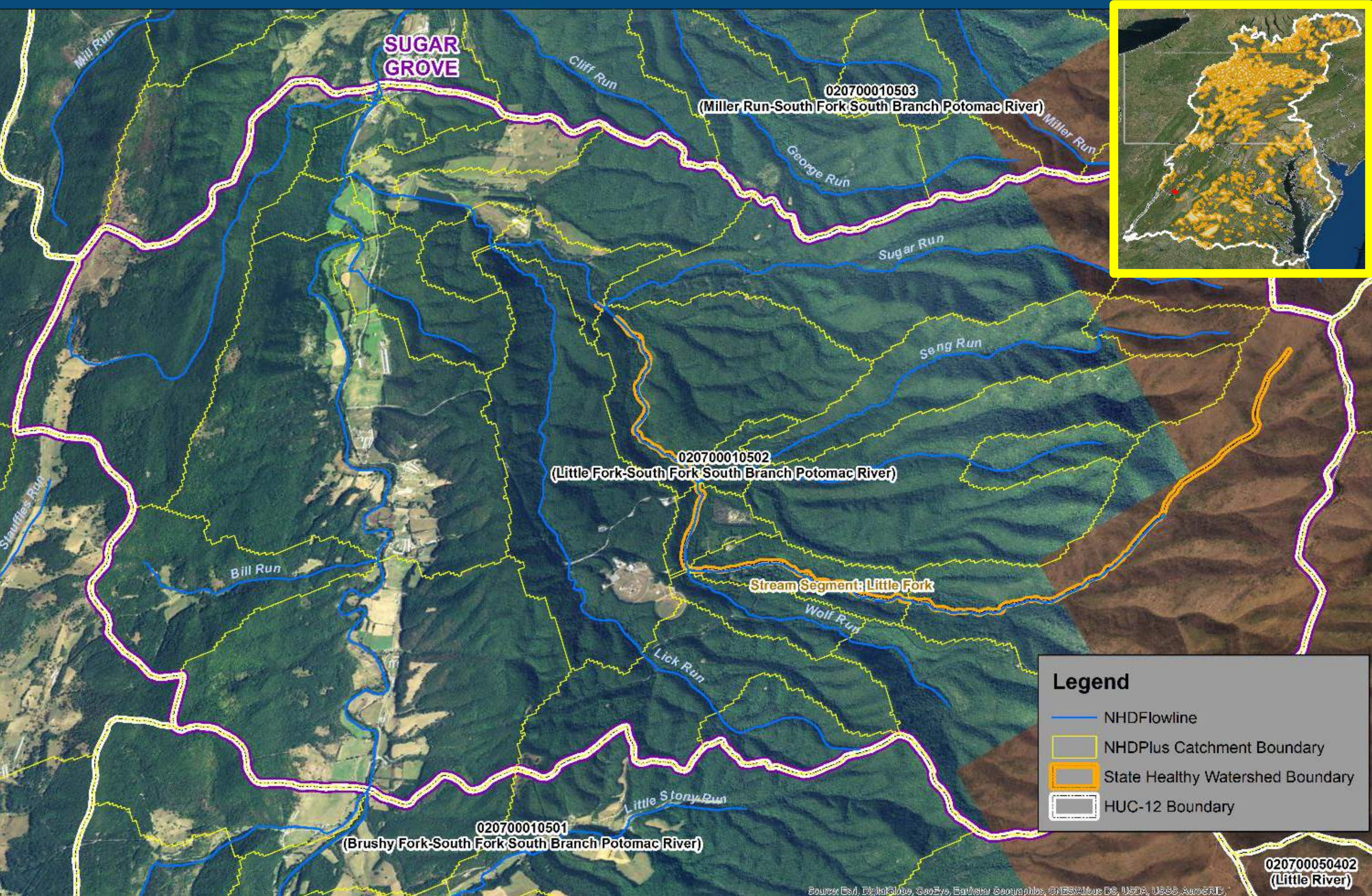
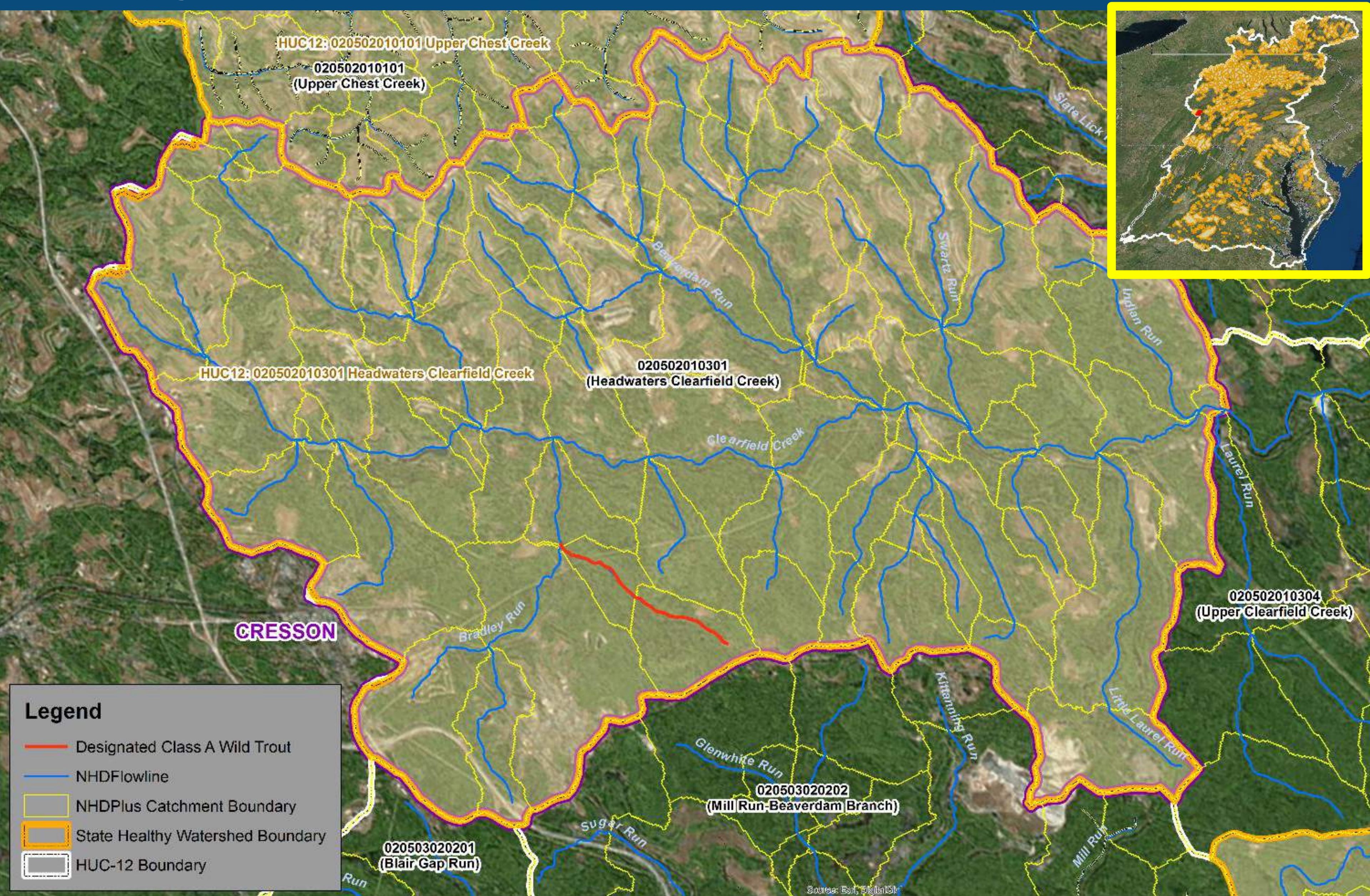
Healthy Watersheds Scale – VA example #1



Healthy Watersheds Scale – WV example (Line)



Healthy Watersheds Scale – PA example (HUC12)



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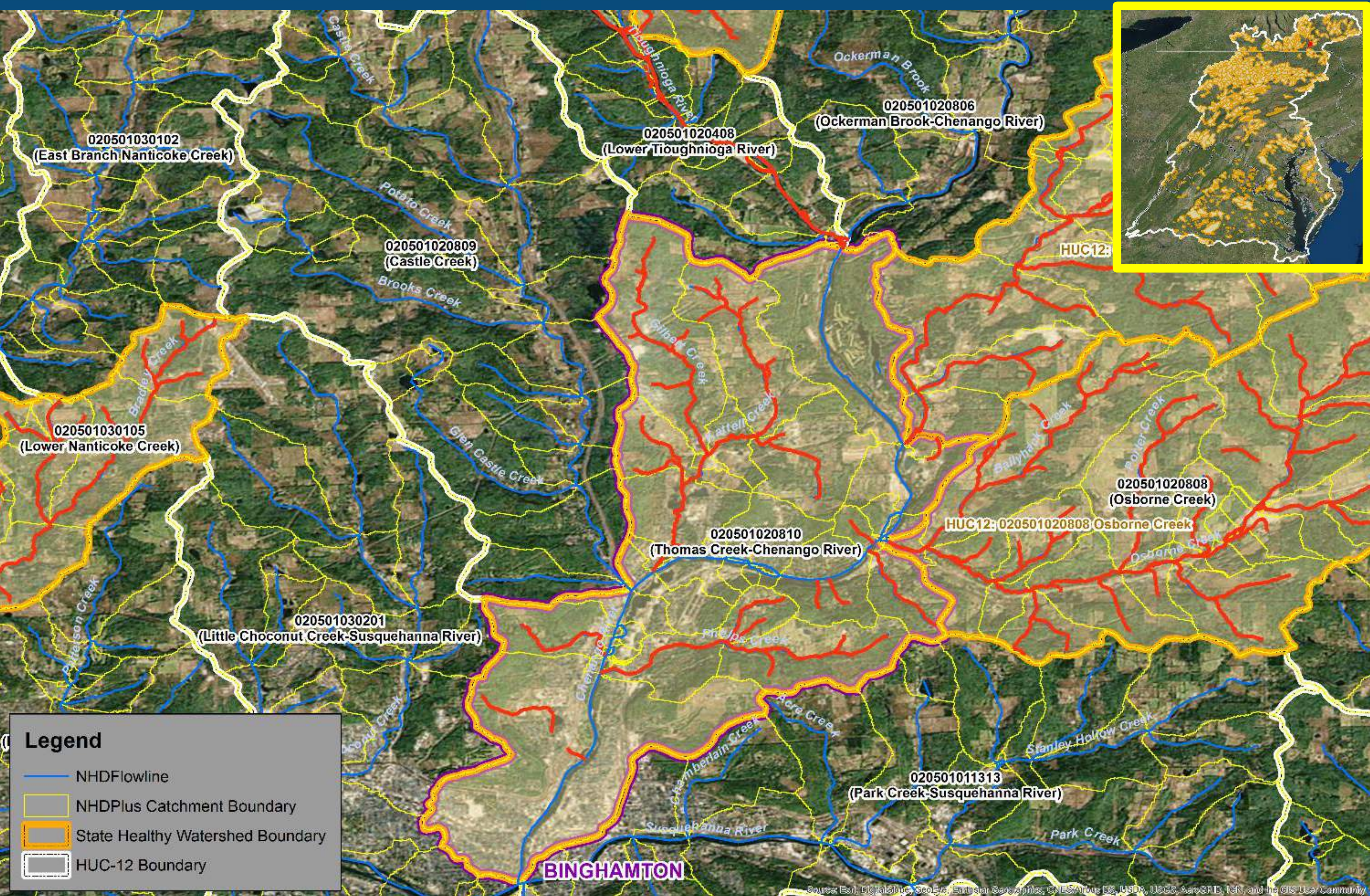
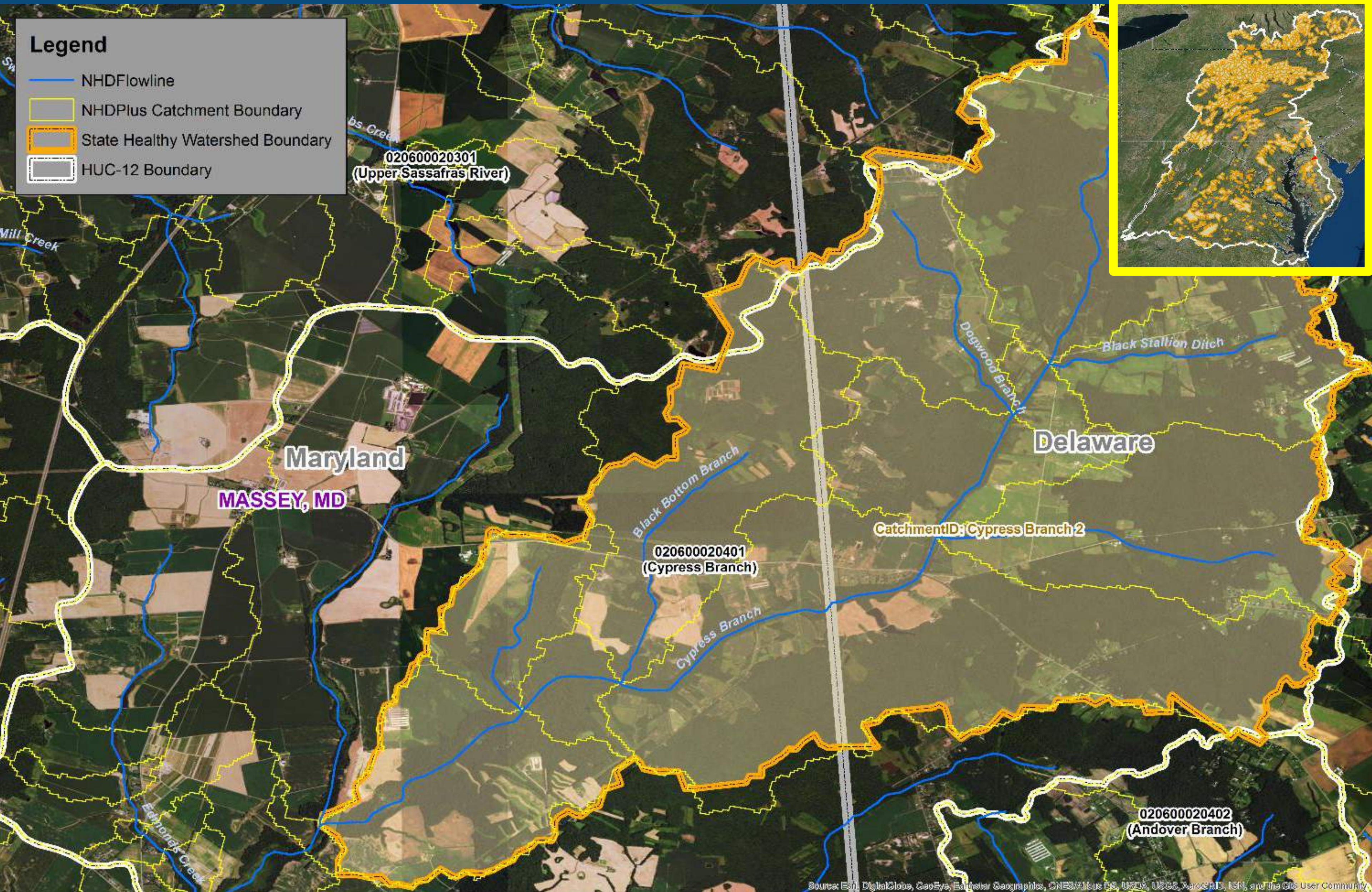
Healthy Watersheds Scale – NY example



Healthy Watersheds Scale – DE "example"



Seeking Input on Additional/Different Data to Assess Current Condition

- While the PHWA provides indicators derived from national data, at HUC-12 scale, regional application of the PHWA framework may be augmented through the use of additional data
- First: some PHWA indicators are already (or can be) calculated at NHD+ catchment scale (see next slide)
- Next: additional regional / state data may be useful to enhance the assessment of state-identified Healthy Watersheds

NHDPlus Scale – Available (Prepocessed) Data

- Are there better 'substitutions'?
- Local Data

PHWA Indicator - Description	NHDPlus-Scale, Preprocessed Data Available?	Notes
% Forest Remaining in WS	Yes	
% Wetlands Remaining in WS	No	Needs to be processed in GIS, with python (like StreamCat)
% N-Index1 in WS (2011)	Yes	
% N-Index1 in HAZ (2011)	No, but similar	StreamCat has it for 100-meter Riparian Buffer Area
% N-Index2 in WS (2011)	Yes	
% N-Index2 in HAZ (2011)	No, but similar	StreamCat has it for 100-meter Riparian Buffer Area
Habitat Condition Index WS (2015)	No	Needs to be processed in GIS, with python (like StreamCat)
Mean Aquatic Condition Score (2016)	No	Needs to be processed in GIS, with python (like StreamCat)
Outlet Aquatic Condition Score (2016)	No, but similar	StreamCat: Predicted probability that a stream segment is in good biologial condition based on a random forest model of the NRSA benthic invertebrate multimetric index (BMMI)
% Developed, High Intensity in RZ (2011)	Yes	
% Pasture/Hay in HCZ (2011)	No, but similar	StreamCat has it for 100-meter Riparian Buffer Area
Density All Roads in RZ (2015)	Yes	
Density Road-Stream Crossing in WS (2015)	Yes	
% Agriculture on Hydric Soil in WS	No, but similar	Done for EPA EnviroAtlas already
% Imperviousness, Mean in WS (2011)	Yes	
Population Density in RZ	Yes	
Housing Unit Density in WS	Yes	
Dam Density in WS	No, but similar	
Dam Storage Ratio in WS	No, but similar	
% Tile or Ditch Drained in WS	Not Really	StreamCat: Density of NHDPlus line features classified as canal, ditch, or pipeline within the catchment (km/ square km), or, Needs to be processed in GIS, with python (like StreamCat)
% Assessed Streamlength Supporting Minus Impaired (2015)	No	Needs to be processed in GIS, with python (like StreamCat)
% Assessed Waterbody Area Supporting Minus Impaired (2015)	No	Needs to be processed in GIS, with python (like StreamCat)

Potential Data Sources

- **For example,**
  - CBP current land cover / land use (high-resolution)
  - CBP future land use
  - Impervious cover
  - Forest cover, forest change
  - Stream bioassessment data

Seeking Input on Additional Data to Assess Current Condition

- **Food for thought: Key questions**
  - What are the watershed features or attributes most important to assess?
    - PHWA categories: Landscape Condition, Geomorphology, Habitat, Water Quality, Hydrology, and Biological Condition (and detailed indicators within each category)
    - What data are available to assess those attributes, perhaps in more detail than was possible in the PHWA?
    - What are the limitations (if any) of the available data?

Attributes	Data Available	Limitations/Other Notes	Who Can Provide

Next Steps

- Compile and apply additional data sets to assess current condition
- Begin to define data needs for tracking future condition and vulnerabilities
- Meeting/coordination with HWGIT

Future Steps

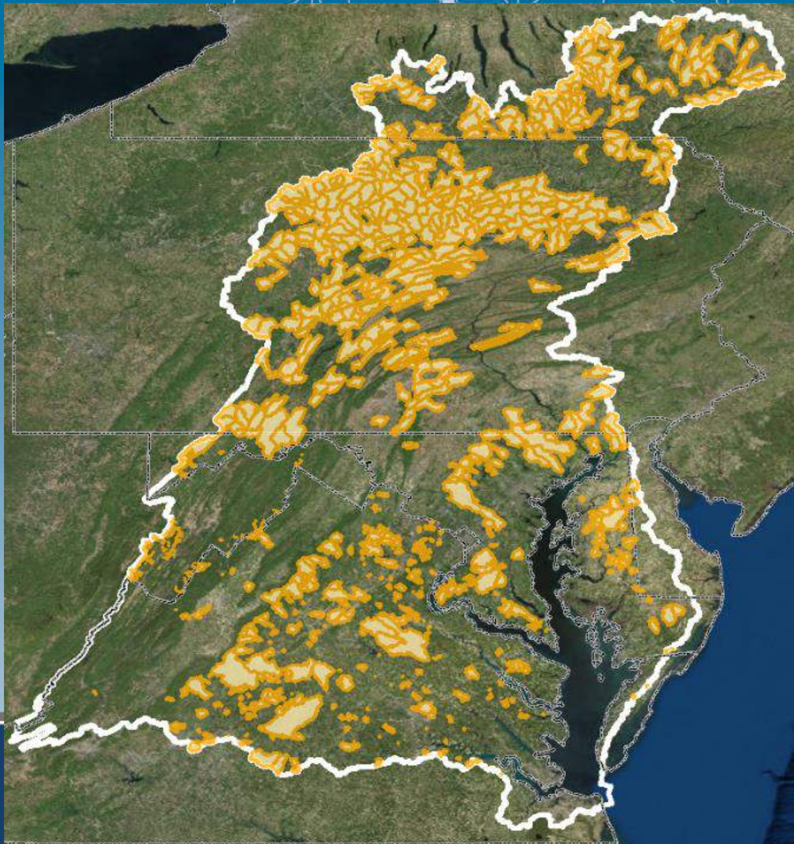
- **Develop an approach to use the PHWA framework to assess the health of state-identified healthy watersheds over time**
  - May require monitoring data or other indicators that will be updated at a frequency that will provide timely information on watershed health needed by managers
- **More food for thought:**
  - How to define when watersheds are successfully maintained as healthy?
  - Are there certain thresholds of condition that must be maintained?
  - What degree of natural variability is to be expected, and how will tracking determine whether watershed conditions remain within the expected range of natural variability, or when does a change indicate loss or degradation of watershed health?
  - Over what time period and at what intervals should watershed health be tracked?
  - Spatial and temporal resolution of data

Future Steps

- **Apply the PHWA Framework to Identify Vulnerabilities in State-Identified Healthy Watersheds**
  - Provide information will be useful to target state management efforts in healthy watersheds.
- **More Food for Thought:**
  - HWGIT has begun to consider various influences on watershed vulnerability to future risks, e.g., urban growth, energy development, water demand, invasive species, upstream activities, land ownership type and future plans, current and future transportation corridors, climate change, and sea level rise.
    - Anything else to consider? Are data available?
  - Vulnerabilities will be addressed individually, not as a combined index.
  - Available geospatial data layer within Chesapeake Bay watershed relevant to vulnerability assessments. Examples:
    - Land use projections
    - Climate change vulnerability assessment data
    - Thermal and hydrologic data
  - Spatial and temporal resolution of data

Preliminary State-Identified Healthy Watersheds Vulnerability Assessment for the Chesapeake Bay Watershed

Maintain Healthy Watersheds
Goal Implementation Team (GIT)
January 24, 2018 meeting



TETRA TECH

Today's Update

- Introduce the project
- Approach to address challenge of scale
- Seeking input on indicators of watershed condition and vulnerability

Project Overview

- **Apply the Preliminary Healthy Watersheds Assessment (PHWA) framework to**
  - (1) assess current condition of State-Identified Healthy Watersheds,
  - (2) develop an approach for future tracking of condition, and
  - (3) assess vulnerabilities of these watersheds.

TETRA TECH

Assessing Watershed Health

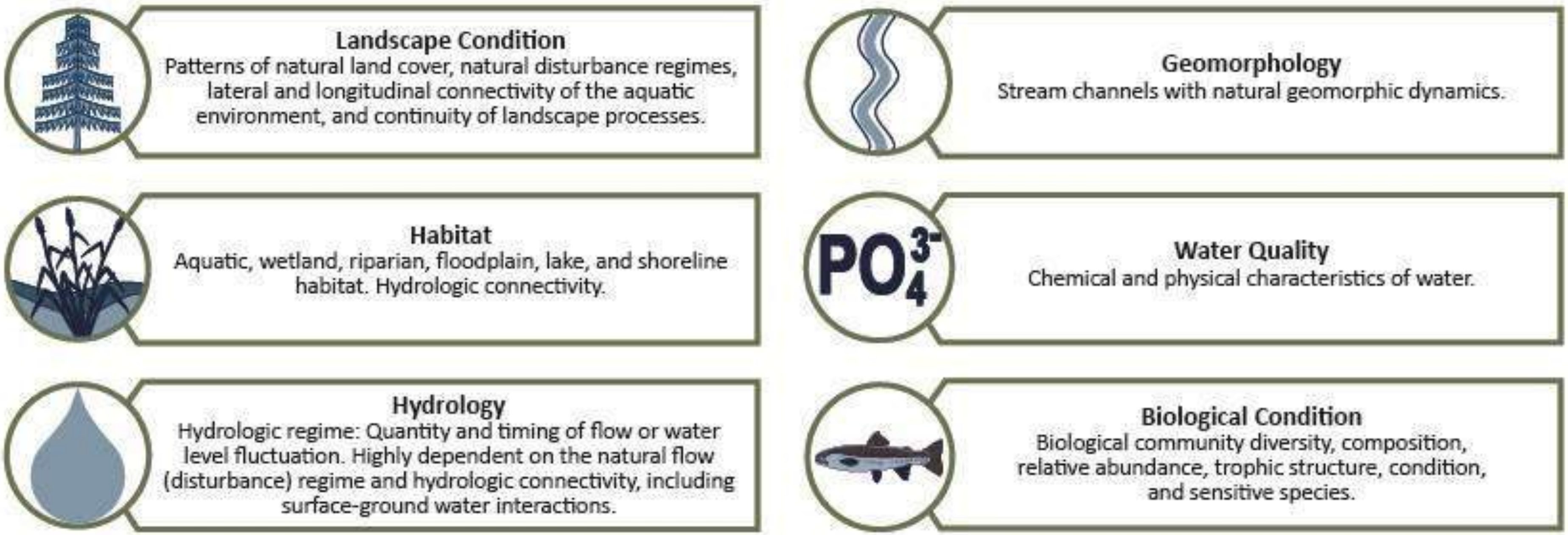
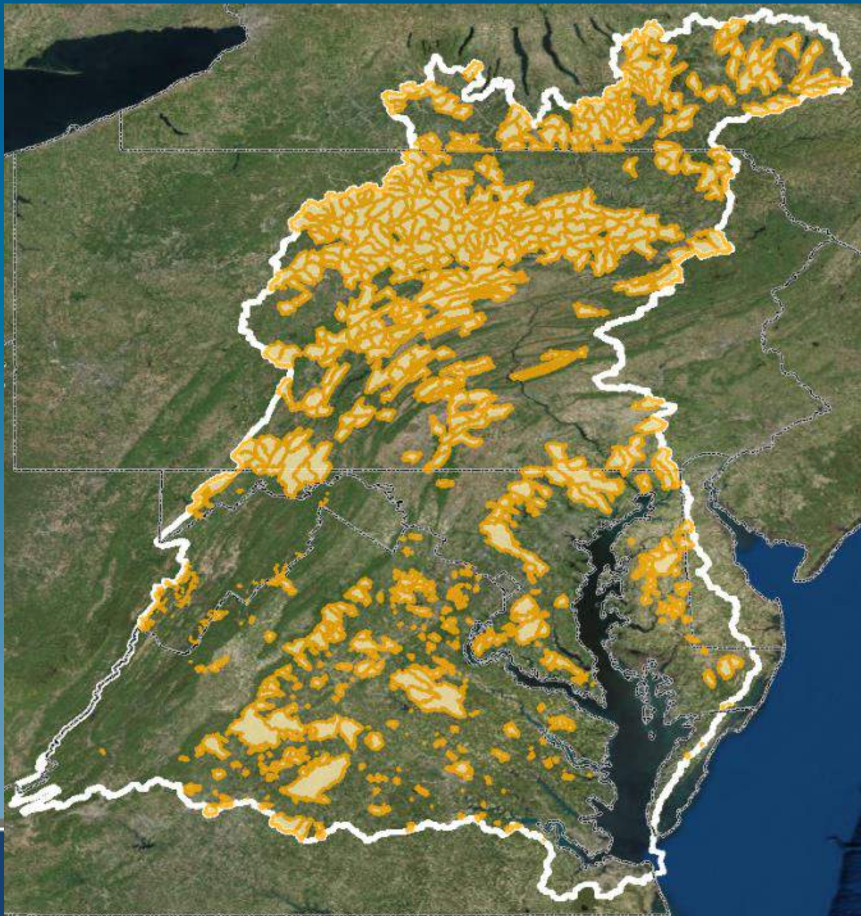


Figure 1. Six attributes of watershed health described in *Identifying and Protecting Healthy Watersheds: Concepts, Assessments, and Management Approaches* (USEPA 2012). Measurement of watershed indicators related to each attribute (i.e., "sub-index") provides the basis for the Watershed Health Index score.

EPA Office of Water Healthy Watersheds Program, March 2017

Challenge: Addressing Watershed Scale

- **PHWA developed nationally to provide data at HUC12 scale**
- **Healthy watersheds identified by Chesapeake Bay states**
  - Differing Approaches/Scales
    - Streamlines only (WV)
    - Custom (total) watersheds upstream of reaches designated as healthy waters (VA/MD)
    - HUC12 selections containing healthy reaches (PA/NY)
- **This project: Provide assessments of state-identified Healthy Watersheds, at scale finer than national PHWA (primarily NHDPlus catchment scale)**



Seeking Input on Additional/Different Data to Assess Current Condition

- While the PHWA provides indicators derived from national data, at HUC-12 scale, regional application of the PHWA framework may be augmented through the use of additional data
- Some of the original PHWA indicators are already (or can be) calculated at NHDPlus catchment scale
- Additional regional / state data may be useful to enhance the assessment of state-identified Healthy Watersheds

Seeking Input on Additional Data to Assess Current Condition

- **Food for thought: Key questions**
  - What are the watershed features or attributes most important to assess?
    - PHWA categories: Landscape Condition, Geomorphology, Habitat, Water Quality, Hydrology, and Biological Condition (and detailed indicators within each category)
    - What data are available to assess those attributes, perhaps in more detail than was possible in the PHWA?
    - What are the limitations (if any) of the available data?

Potential Data Sources

- **For example,**
  - CBP current land cover / land use (high-resolution)
  - Impervious cover
  - Forest cover, forest change
  - Stream bioassessment data

Next Steps

- Currently: getting input from state data contacts
- Compiling and applying additional data to assess current condition
- Define data needs for tracking future condition and vulnerabilities

Tracking Condition of Watershed Health Over Time

- **Develop an approach to use the PHWA framework to assess the health of state-identified healthy watersheds over time**
  - May require monitoring data or other indicators that will be updated at a frequency that will provide timely information on watershed health needed by managers
- **More food for thought:**
  - How to define when watersheds are successfully maintained as healthy?
  - Are there certain thresholds of condition that must be maintained?
  - What degree of natural variability is to be expected, and how will tracking determine whether watershed conditions remain within the expected range of natural variability, or when does a change indicate loss or degradation of watershed health?
  - Over what time period and at what intervals should watershed health be tracked?
  - Spatial and temporal resolution of data

Assessing Vulnerability

- **Apply the PHWA Framework to Identify Vulnerabilities in State-Identified Healthy Watersheds**
  - Provide information will be useful to target state management efforts in healthy watersheds.
- **More Food for Thought:**
  - HWGIT has begun to consider various influences on watershed vulnerability to future risks, e.g., urban growth, energy development, water demand, invasive species, upstream activities, land ownership type and future plans, current and future transportation corridors, climate change, and sea level rise.
    - Anything else to consider? Are data available?
  - Vulnerabilities will be addressed individually, not as a combined index.
  - Available geospatial data layer within Chesapeake Bay watershed relevant to vulnerability assessments. Examples:
    - Land use projections
    - Climate change vulnerability assessment data
    - Thermal and hydrologic data
  - Spatial and temporal resolution of data

Preliminary State-Identified Healthy Watersheds Vulnerability Assessment for the Chesapeake Bay Watershed

Geospatial Data Analyses
To Address Watershed Scale

Summary of Outputs

January 19, 2018

TETRA TECH

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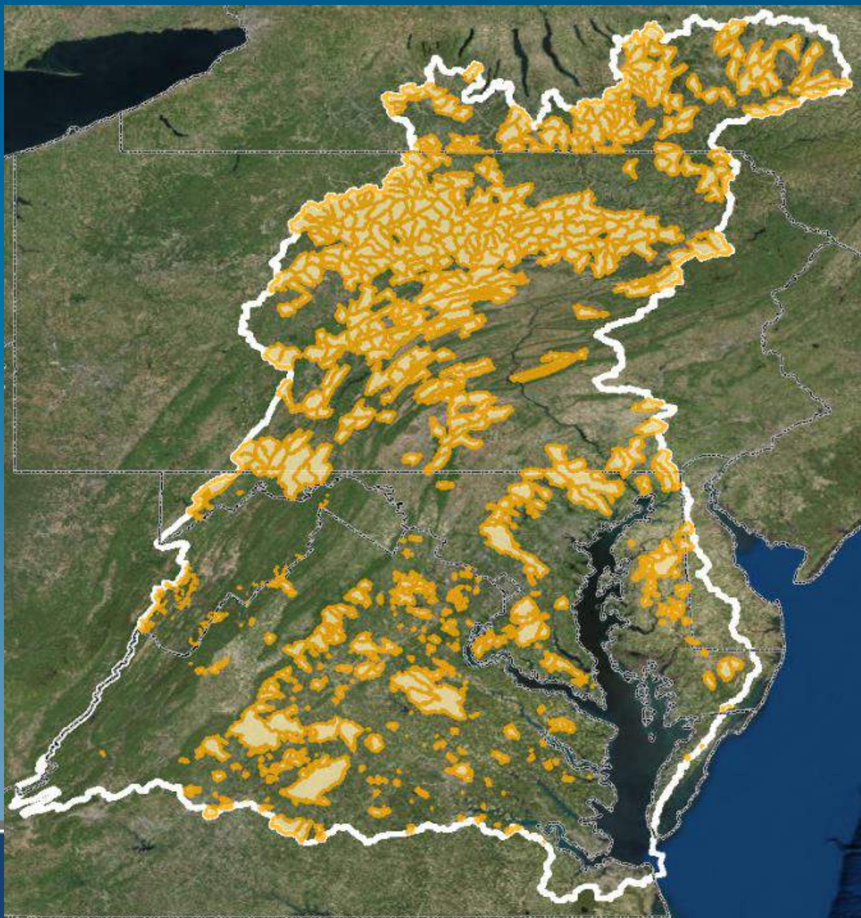
Challenge: Addressing Watershed Scale

- **PHWA was developed nationally to provide data at HUC12 scale**
  - In applying PHWA framework for our Chesapeake Bay region, need for finer scale, desire for consistent approach across states.
  - NHDPlus catchments are at finer scale and are appropriate/useful for many analysis

Challenge: Addressing Watershed Scale

- **Starting with dataset for defining Healthy Watershed boundaries: Healthy Watersheds as identified by Chesapeake Bay states**
  - Differing Approaches/Scales
    - Streamlines only (WV)
    - Custom watersheds draining to reaches designated as healthy waters (VA/MD)
    - HUC12 selections containing healthy reaches (PA/NY)



TETRA TECH

Overview - GIS Approach to Scale Issue

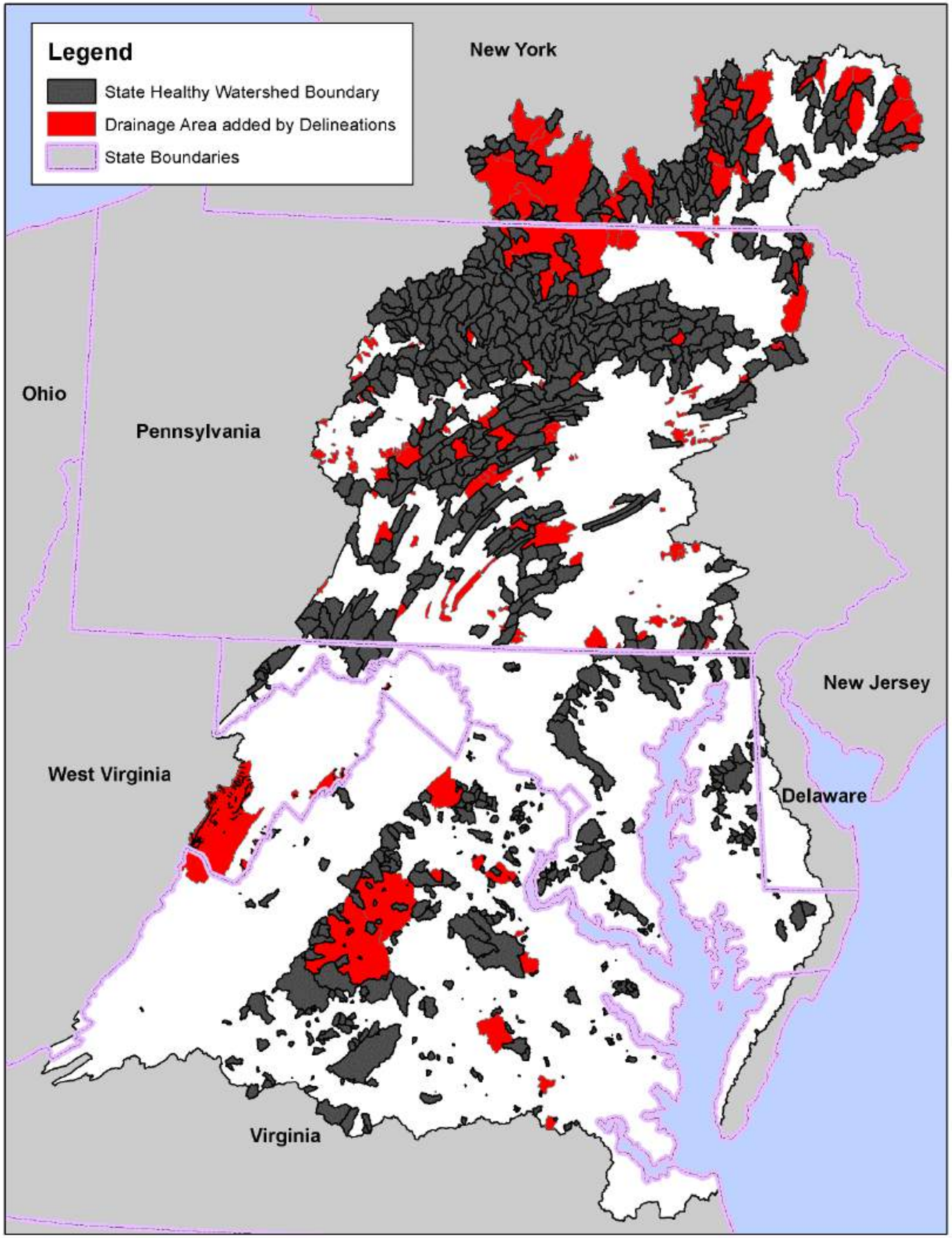
State	State-Identified Healthy Watersheds	Update for PHWA-Based Analyses
WV	Streamlines for healthy waters	Designate entire watersheds upstream of healthy waters, Overlay/select NHDPlus catchments, Review / visual check
MD	Custom (total) watersheds upstream of reaches designated as healthy waters	Overlay/select NHDPlus catchments, Review / visual check
VA	Custom (not always total) watersheds upstream of reaches designated as healthy waters	Designate entire watersheds upstream of healthy reaches (includes some new area, excludes land not draining to healthy reaches), Overlay/select NHDPlus catchments, Review / visual check
PA/NY	HUC12 selections containing healthy reaches	Designate entire watersheds upstream of healthy reaches (includes some new area, excludes land not draining to healthy reaches), Overlay/select NHDPlus catchments, Review / visual check
DE	(none designated)	Demonstrate using areas upstream of MD healthy waters, Overlay/select NHDPlus catchments, Review / visual check

Overview - GIS Approach to Scale Issue: Small Watersheds

State	State-Identified Healthy Watersheds	Update for PHWA-Based Analyses
All	Some healthy watersheds smaller than a single NHDPlus Catchment	Use actual watershed boundary as provided by state-identified healthy watershed designation Conduct visual check

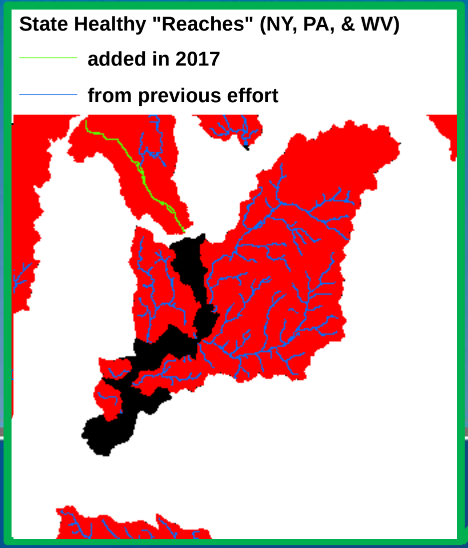
TETRA TECH

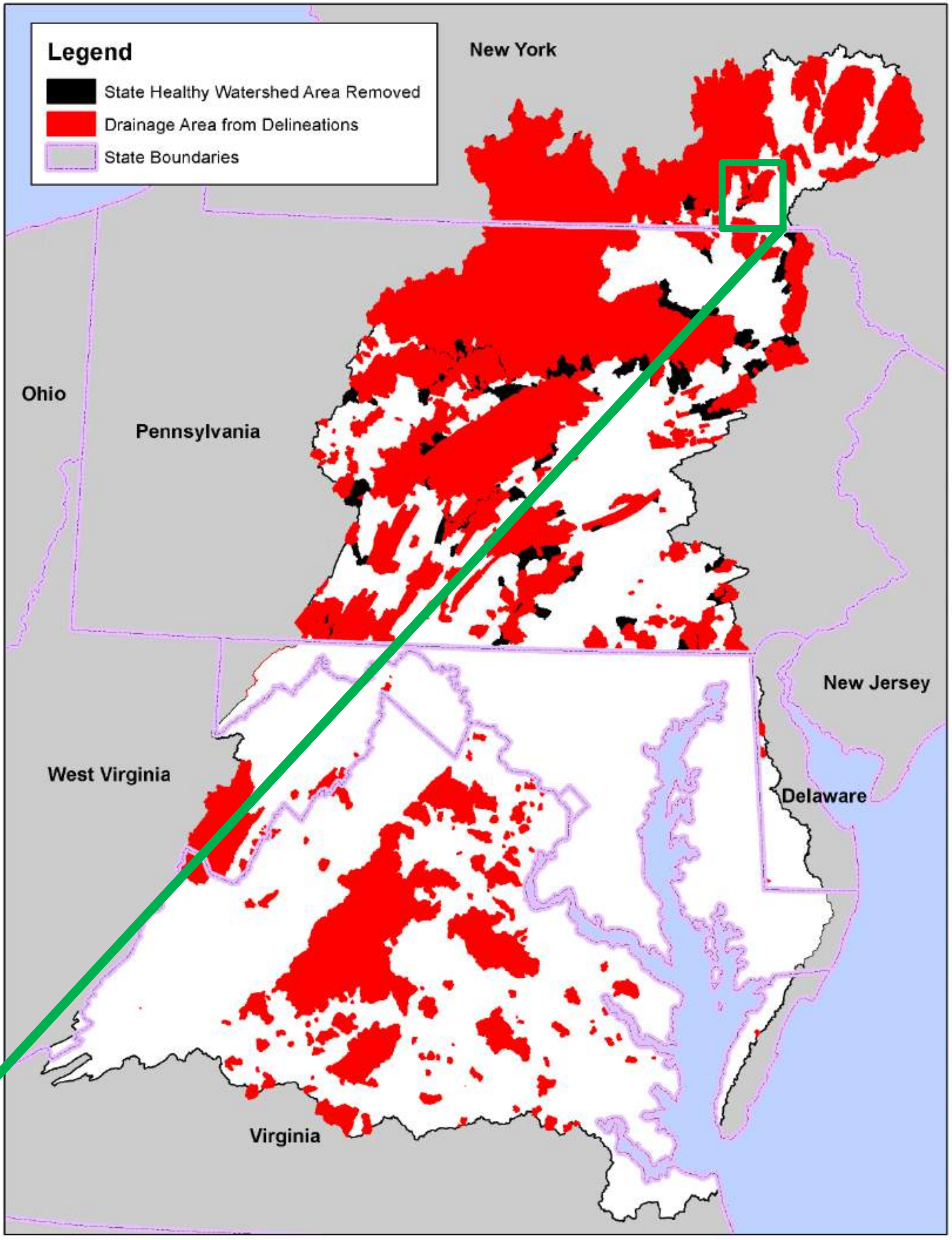
- Delineation of Total Upstream Drainage Areas for NY, PA, and WV healthy water **streamlines**
  - includes 2017 lines for NY and PA
- **Adds significant areas**
- Removes some areas
  - see next map/slide

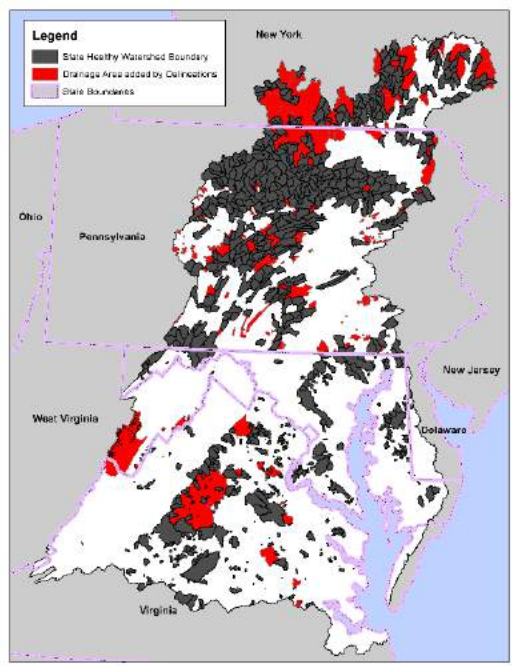


- Delineation of Total Upstream Drainage Areas for NY, PA, and WV healthy water **streamlines**

- Adds significant areas
- **Removes some areas**

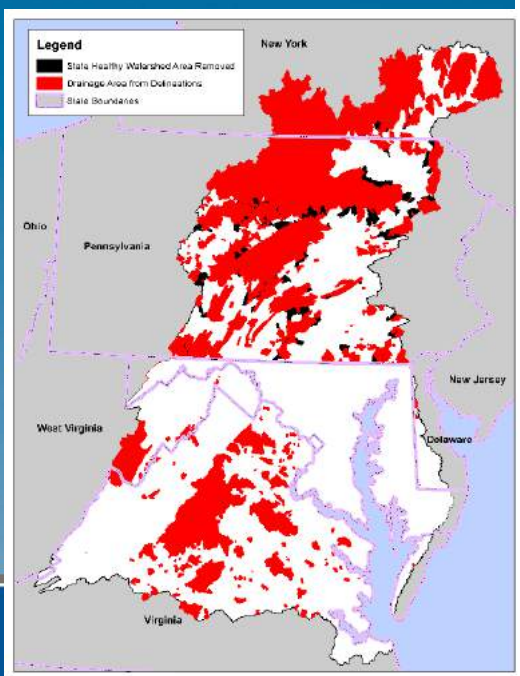






State	Within State-Identified Watershed Boundaries			
	Length of State Identified Healthy Waterways (miles)	Length of Other Waterways, NHDPlus-based (miles)	Total Length of Waterways (miles)	Watershed Area (sq mi)
NY	4,263	359	4,623	2,537
PA	13,474	2,864	16,338	9,777
WV[1]	144	n/a	144	n/a
MD	n/a	2,228	2,228	1,776
VA	n/a	4,265	4,265	3,333
DE[2]	n/a	34	34	27
CBW Total	17,881	9,750	27,632	17,450

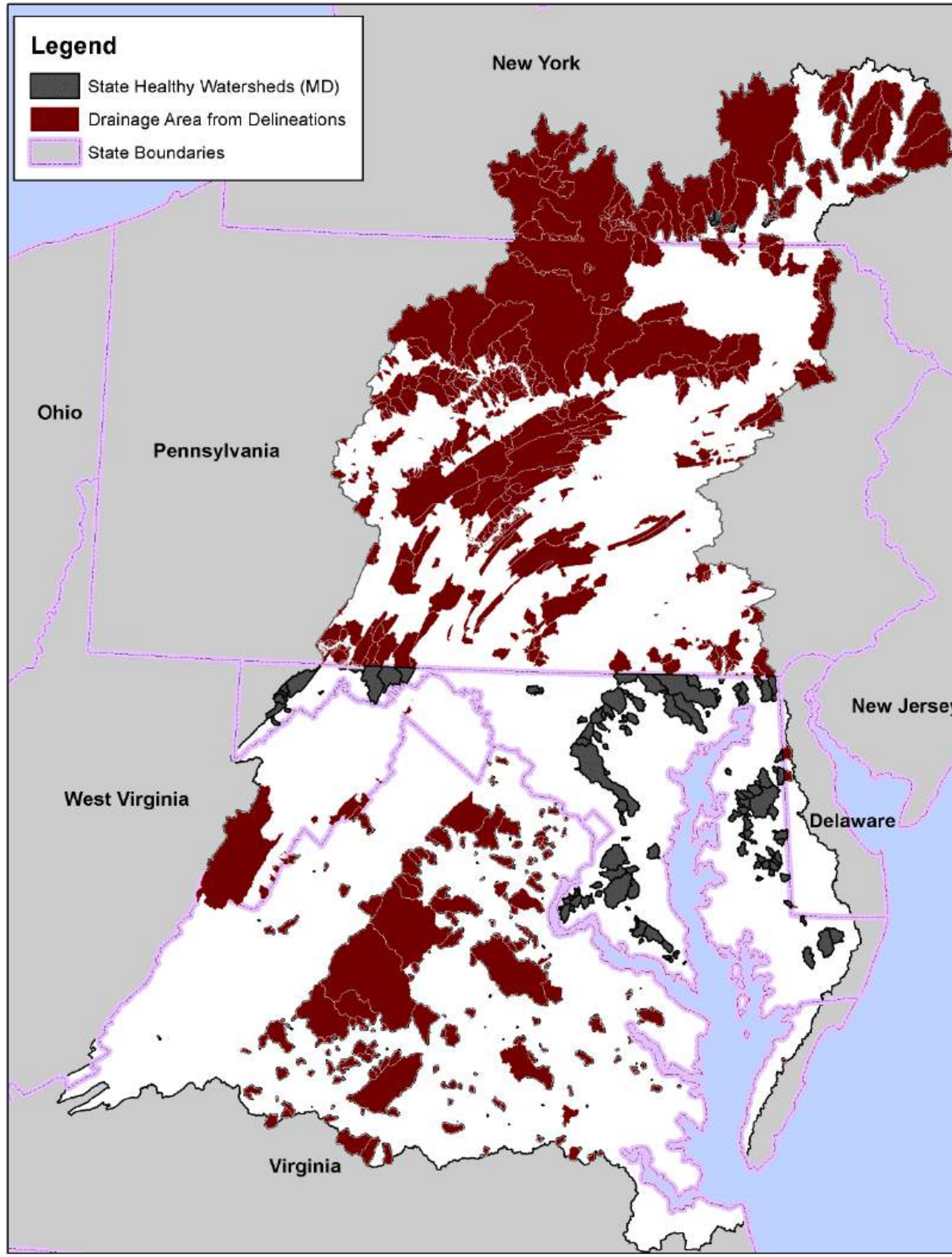
1 – Lengths were calculated using NHDPlus Flowlines; 2 – Areas are from MD-provided HW polygons



State	Within Delineated (Total Upstream) Watershed Boundaries			
	Length of State Identified Healthy Waterways (miles)	Length of Other Waterways, NHDPlus-based (miles)	Total Length of Waterways (miles)	Watershed Area (sq mi)
NY	5,670	2,332	8,002	4,336 (+939; Chemung)
PA	14,253	2,697	16,950	9,291
WV[1]	139	555	694	731
MD	n/a	2,228	2,228	1,776
VA	n/a	5,099	5,099	4,087
DE[2]	n/a	34	34	27
CBW Total	20,062	12,945	33,007	20,248 (21,187 with Chemung)

TETRA TECH

- For moving forward…
- Delineation of Total Upstream Drainage Areas for NY, PA, and WV healthy water **streamlines**
- Delineation of Total Upstream Drainage Areas for certain VA healthy **watersheds** as provided.
- MD and many VA Watersheds used "as-is"
    - MD includes some areas coming from DE



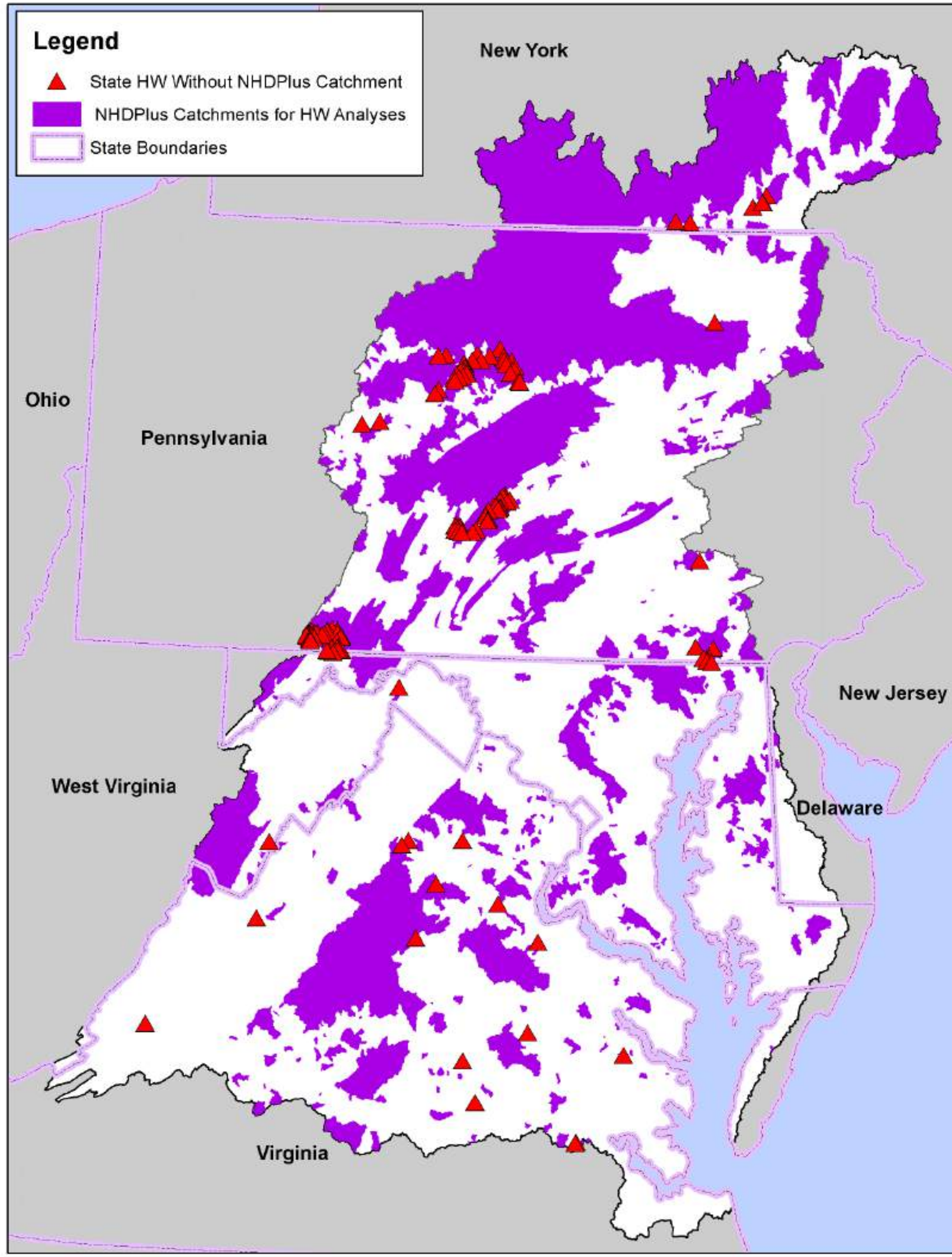
TETRA TECH

- Selection of NHDPlus Catchment Boundaries for subsequent PHWA-based Analyses

- Red Triangles mark those areas where State HW (watershed or watershed-derived from a State's identified HW "streamline") are smaller than NHDPlus Catchment – direct zonal stats should be used for these, not NHDPlus boundaries, StreamCat, etc.

- Review of Selected NHDPlus Catchments is requested

    (GIS layers provided)



PHWA Core Group Meeting
October 22, 2018

<u>Attendees</u>
Renee Thompson, USGS
Nancy Roth, Tetra Tech
Chris Wharton, Tetra Tech
Katherine Wares, CRC
Bill Jenkins, EPA
Emily Trentacoste, EPA
Kristen Saunders, UMCES
Angie Wei, UMCES
Chad Thompson, WV DEP
Angel Valdez, MDE
Deborah Herr Cornwell, MD DEP
Todd Janeski, VA
Cassandra Davis, NYSDEC
Lauren Townley, NYSDEC
Steve Epting, EPA
John Wolf, USGS
Kelly Maloney, USGS
Peter Tango, USGS
Gregory Steyer, USGS
Peter Cada, Tetra Tech

Tetra Tech ran through the draft Chesapeake Bay Watershed Health Index. The Index has the same six sub-indices as the National Preliminary Healthy Watersheds Assessment (PHWA) Index. The list of metrics uses some of the same metrics in the National PHWA Index and some new metrics using CBP and federal agency data. Work still needs to be done to see if there is overlap of some of these metrics. The Chesapeake Bay Watershed Health Index metrics and their source are listed in the presentation. In the Biological Condition sub-index, the metric Outlet Aquatic Condition Score, 2016 (catchment) can be replaced by the Chessie BIBI when it is complete.

- <u>Discussion</u>
  - Tetra Tech used previously made mask to define spatial areas such as the riparian buffer or hydrologically active zone; Steve Epting/EPA HW used a 100meter buffer around NHD Plus
  - There are several landscape condition metrics that go into the Aquatic Condition Index (as previously calculated). Similarly, the National Fish Habitat Partnership indicator incorporates other data. We need to make sure when we use these model-based indicatorsthat we aren't double weighing the metrics that go into them. We need to think about this as we develop weightings for an overall indicator.

Tetra Tech ran through the draft Chesapeake Bay Watershed Vulnerability Indicators. There were three sub-indices in the National PHWA Index; a fourth sub-index, Climate Change, has been added. ***Renee will send Nancy and Chris the updated Protected Lands layers***.

- <u>Discussion</u>

- CBP Climate Change Indicators can be added when they are developed. Some of these are developed, but it would be difficult to translate them to NHDPlus catchments.
- Peter Tango suggested an additional groundwater dataset (from National Water-Quality Assessment, NAWQA) that could be helpful.

Tetra Tech ran through some examples of metric data within the healthy watershed segment, other catchments upstream of the healthy watershed outlet, and non-healthy watershed catchments. For the graphs, the dark green is the healthy watershed segment/catchments at outlet of healthy watersheds. The light green is other catchments within the healthy watershed/the full watershed that includes the upstream area. The yellow is catchments outside of healthy watersheds/areas without healthy watersheds.

- <u>Discussion</u>
    - These graphs are interesting in that they are showing potential thresholds for healthy watersheds.
    - There's a correlation between vulnerable geology and agriculture, so it's possible healthy watersheds aren't typically in areas with vulnerable geology since agricultural activities and land use also tend to be in that area.
    - ***Nancy will check to see if nutrient loads were normalized to watershed size.***
    - Another way to look at brook trout metric could be change in probability.

Next will be to normalize metric score to 0 and 1 and calculate mean score for each of the six sub-indices. The application for this assessment is to assess condition and vulnerability of state-identified healthy watersheds and to track state-identified healthy watersheds in the future.

- <u>Discussion</u>
    - We can brainstorm additional uses and could present this to coordinator-staffers down the road to see if this can be helpful to other outcomes and indicators, but we're also still determining how to inform the Healthy Watersheds outcome.
    - Angel Valdez has the idea of creating a dashboard of county specific tier II watershed information.
    - Todd wants to look at the data closer before making any decisions. ***Renee will work with Todd on how to best package it for Virginia.***
    - John Wolf hopes this data would be available and accessible to the CBP Partners and GIS Team. ***Renee will work with Angie to make the data is the appropriate format for open data.***
    - Can we see what percent of upstream area is also a healthy watershed? It could be "% Upstream Watershed Area that is State-Designated Healthy Watershed".
    - Can we visualize healthy watersheds across state lines?
        - This assessment calculates on a watershed scale, including watershed area across state links. Data users should be able to view and sort by political boundaries, which would be useful for state and local partners.
    - Can we see connectivity? Was there discussion about including landscape connectivity data/indicators (habitat fragmentation) in in the assessment?
        - Data could come from Maryland green print, North Atlantic LCC data, CCP priority layers, Peter Claggett's wetland migration data. We should also keep track of the data that wasn't included in the end product. ***Bill Jenkins and Renee will consider and recommend which summary data may be most useful to characterize habitat value and connectivity. Nancy will look into adding this information.***

    - Will it be possible to see what metrics are on the edge for areas to see which are close to meeting that metric in order to try and improve that metric?
        - Data will be useable for this purpose.

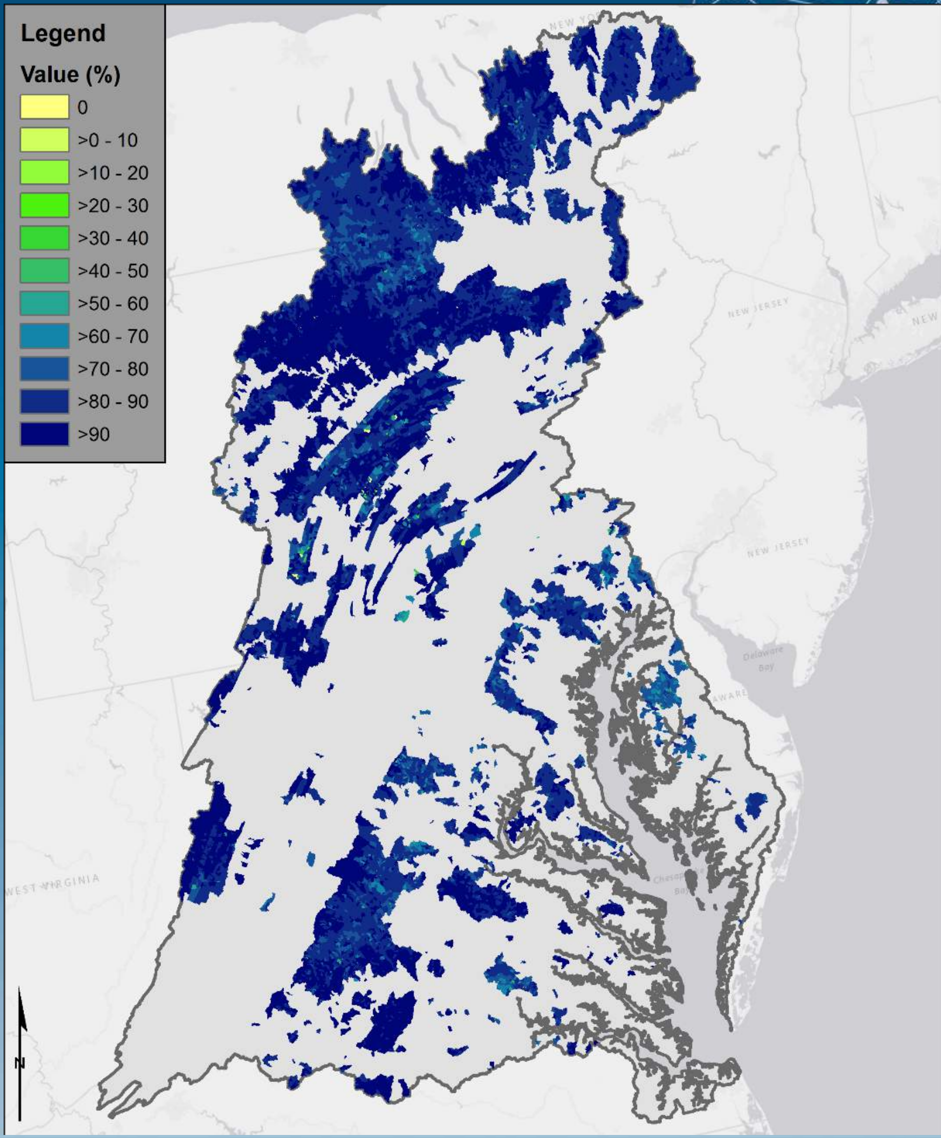
<u>Next Steps</u>

- ***Renee would like to have a demo/tutorial with Chris Wharton and state leads in December on how the data is organized and how to use it.***
- ***Katherine will set up a phone call between Emily, Renee, Nancy, and Chris to discuss weighing the indices and aggregating to find correlations off line***.

TETRA TECH

Preliminary State-Identified Healthy Watersheds Vulnerability Assessment for the Chesapeake Bay Watershed

Project Update
October 2018



Project Overview

- **Apply the Preliminary Healthy Watersheds Assessment (PHWA) framework to**
  - (1) assess current condition of State-Identified Healthy Watersheds,
  - (2) develop an approach for future tracking of condition, and
  - (3) assess vulnerabilities of these watersheds.

Today's Update

- Review PHWA approach and scale of analysis
- Overview of candidate metrics
  - Indicators of watershed condition
  - Indicators of watershed vulnerability
- Evaluating metric performance for catchments in Chesapeake Bay watershed
- Approach for combining metrics into index of Watershed Health

TETRA TECH

Assessing Watershed Health

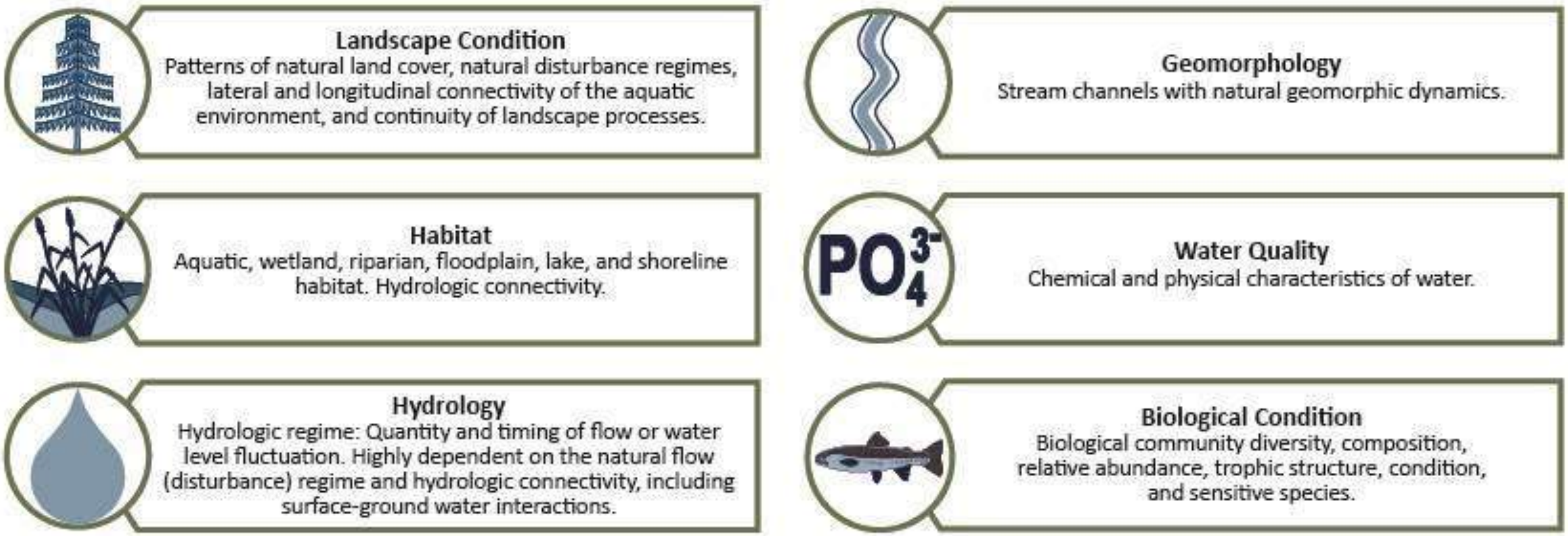
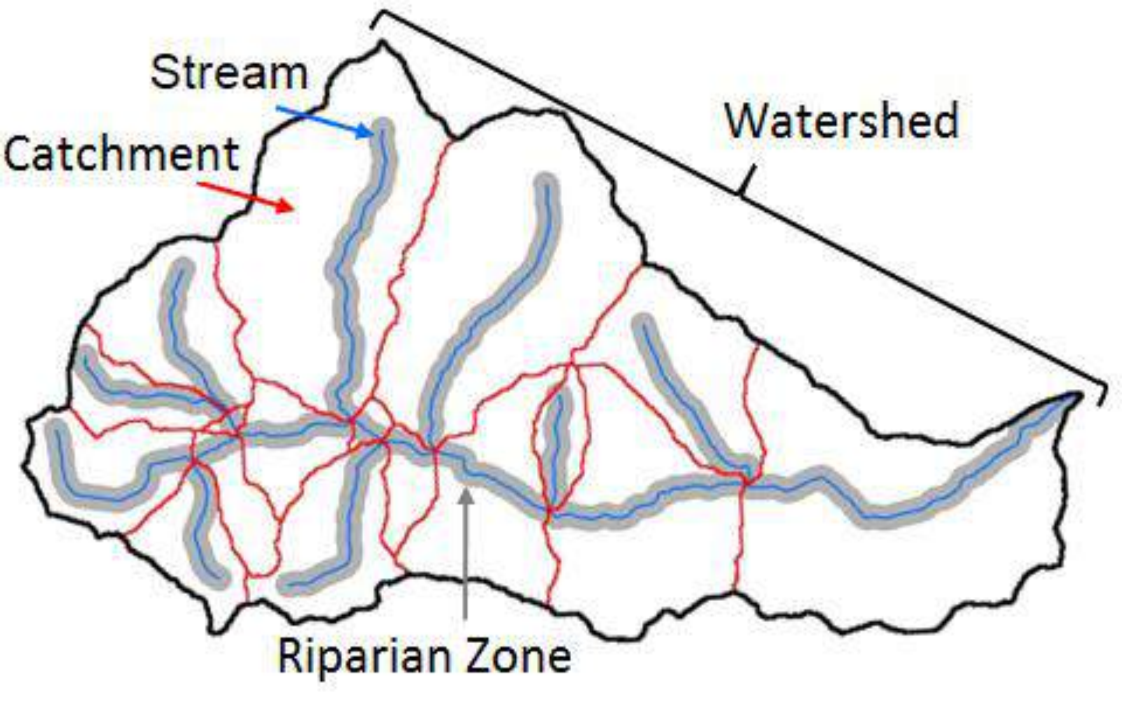


Figure 1. Six attributes of watershed health described in *Identifying and Protecting Healthy Watersheds: Concepts, Assessments, and Management Approaches* (USEPA 2012). Measurement of watershed indicators related to each attribute (i.e., "sub-index") provides the basis for the Watershed Health Index score.

EPA Office of Water Healthy Watersheds Program, March 2017

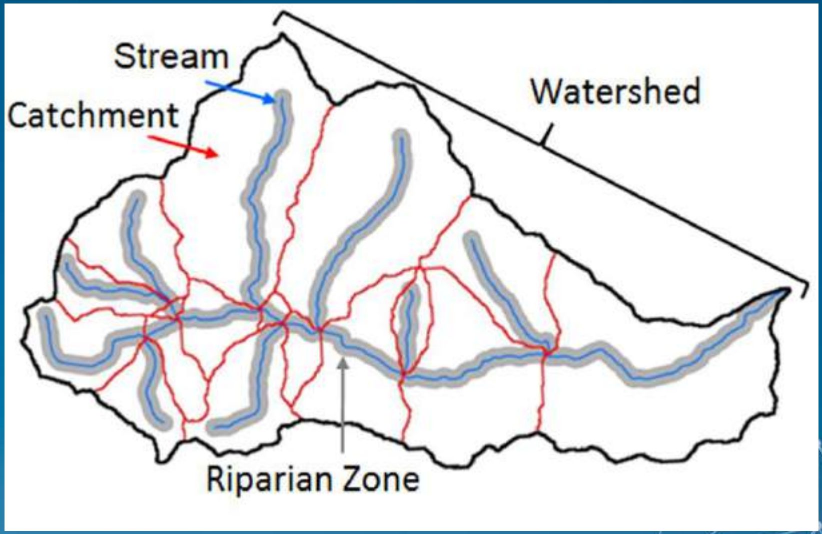
Healthy Watersheds – Naming Conventions



Modified from EPA StreamCat

Catchment- and Watershed-Scale Metrics

- “Catchment” - Local catchment condition
- “Watershed” - Cumulative condition over entire watershed upstream of outlet



- Most Chesapeake Bay candidate metrics were calculated as watershed-scale metrics, reflecting influence of entire upstream watershed
  - Ex: Percent Impervious Cover in Watershed
- A few at catchment scale only
  - Ex: Aquatic Biological Condition at Outlet

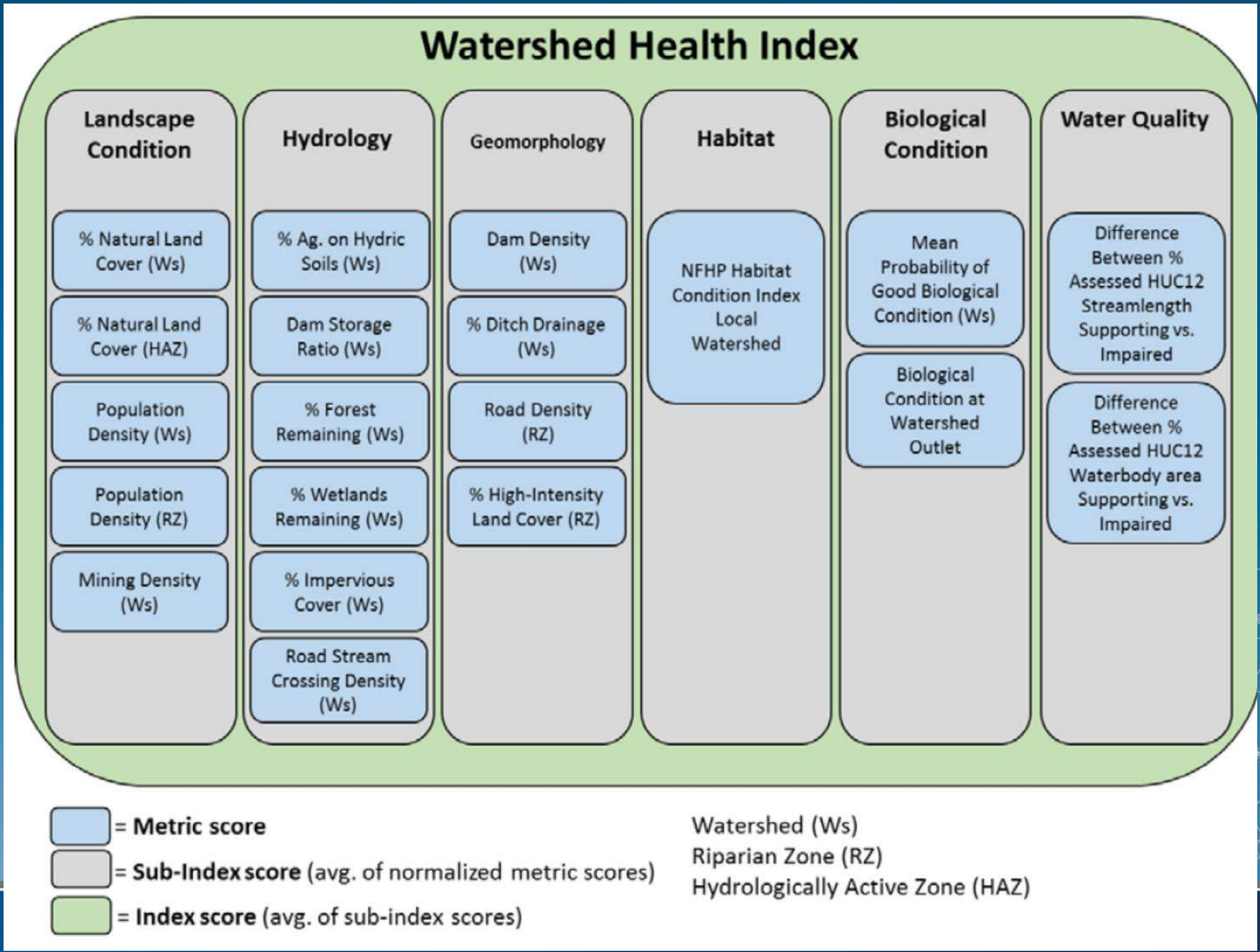
Spatial Zones

The PHWA utilized watershed indicators measured in three different spatial zones (EPA PHWA overview and metadata, Feb. 2017)

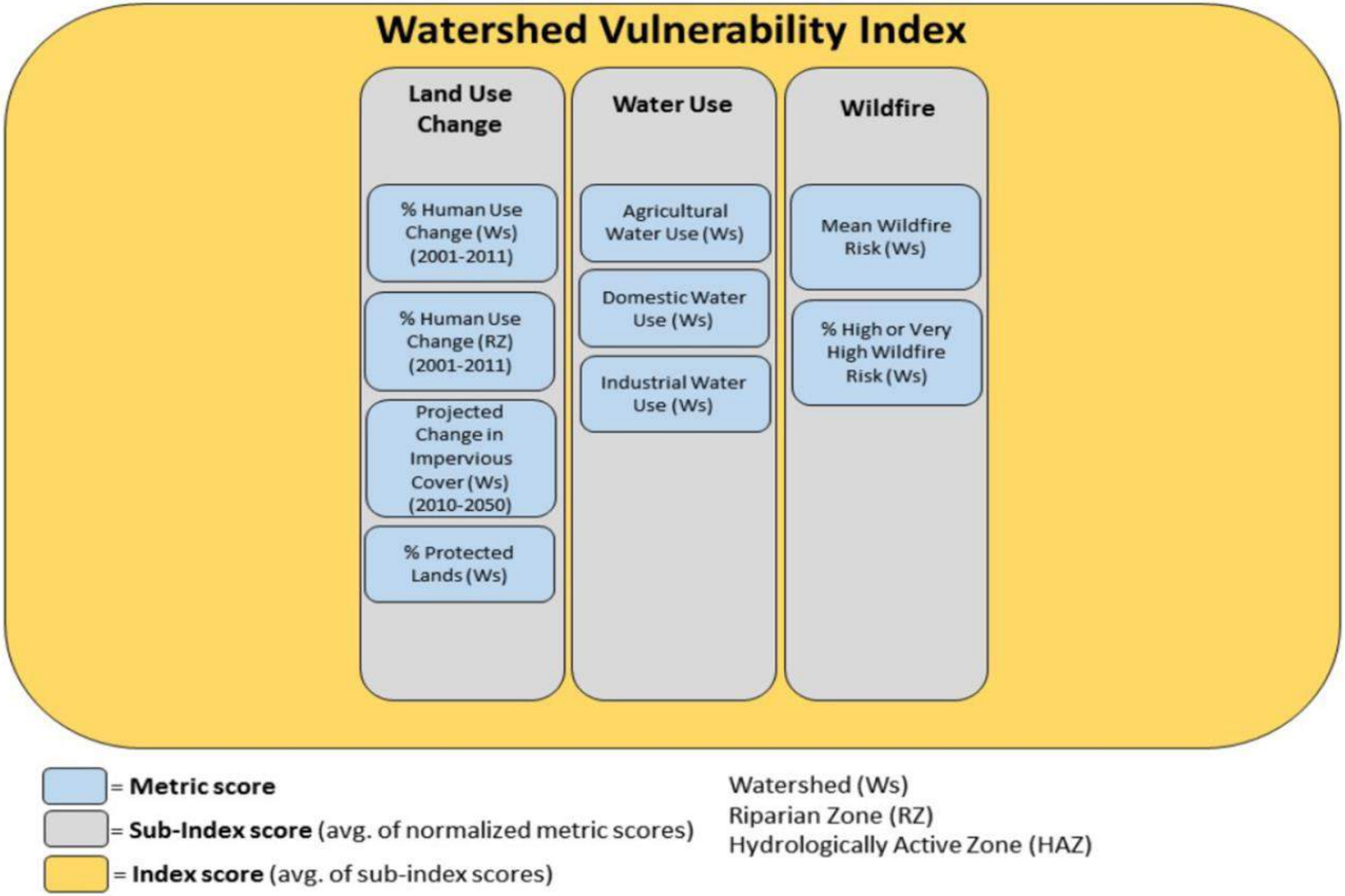
1. The watershed
2. The riparian zone (RZ), the corridor of land adjacent to surface waters, within a 100-meter buffer of the stream
3. The hydrologically active zone (HAZ), defined by the riparian corridor adjacent to surface waters combined with areas of high topographic wetness potential that are contiguous to surface waters (the hydrologically connected zone, HCZ).

TETRA TECH

PHWA Metrics – Watershed Health

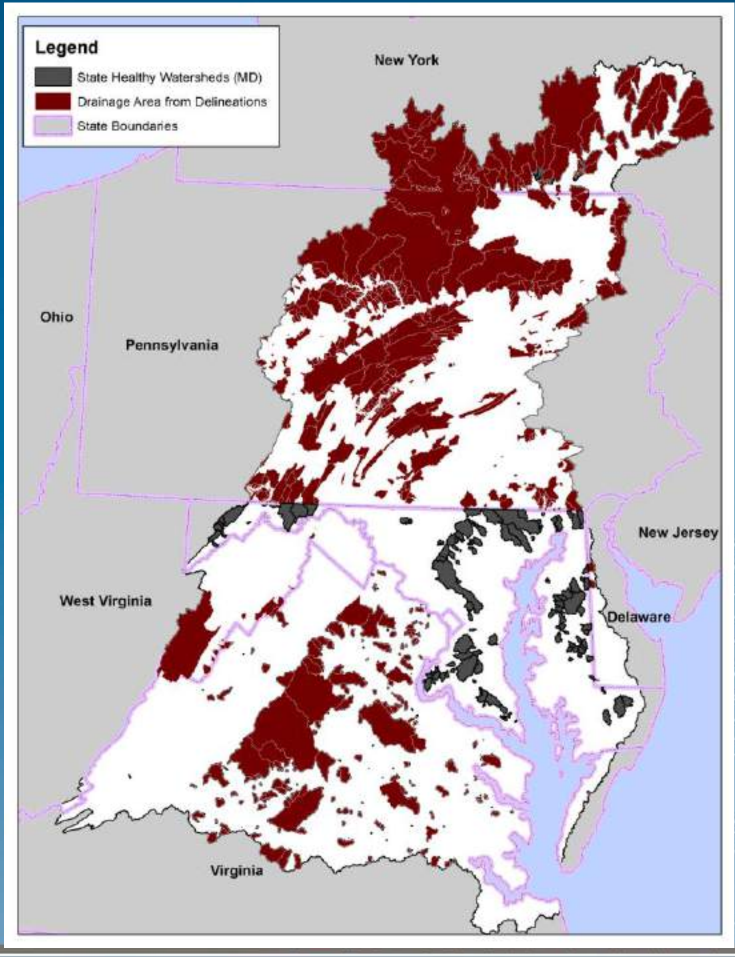


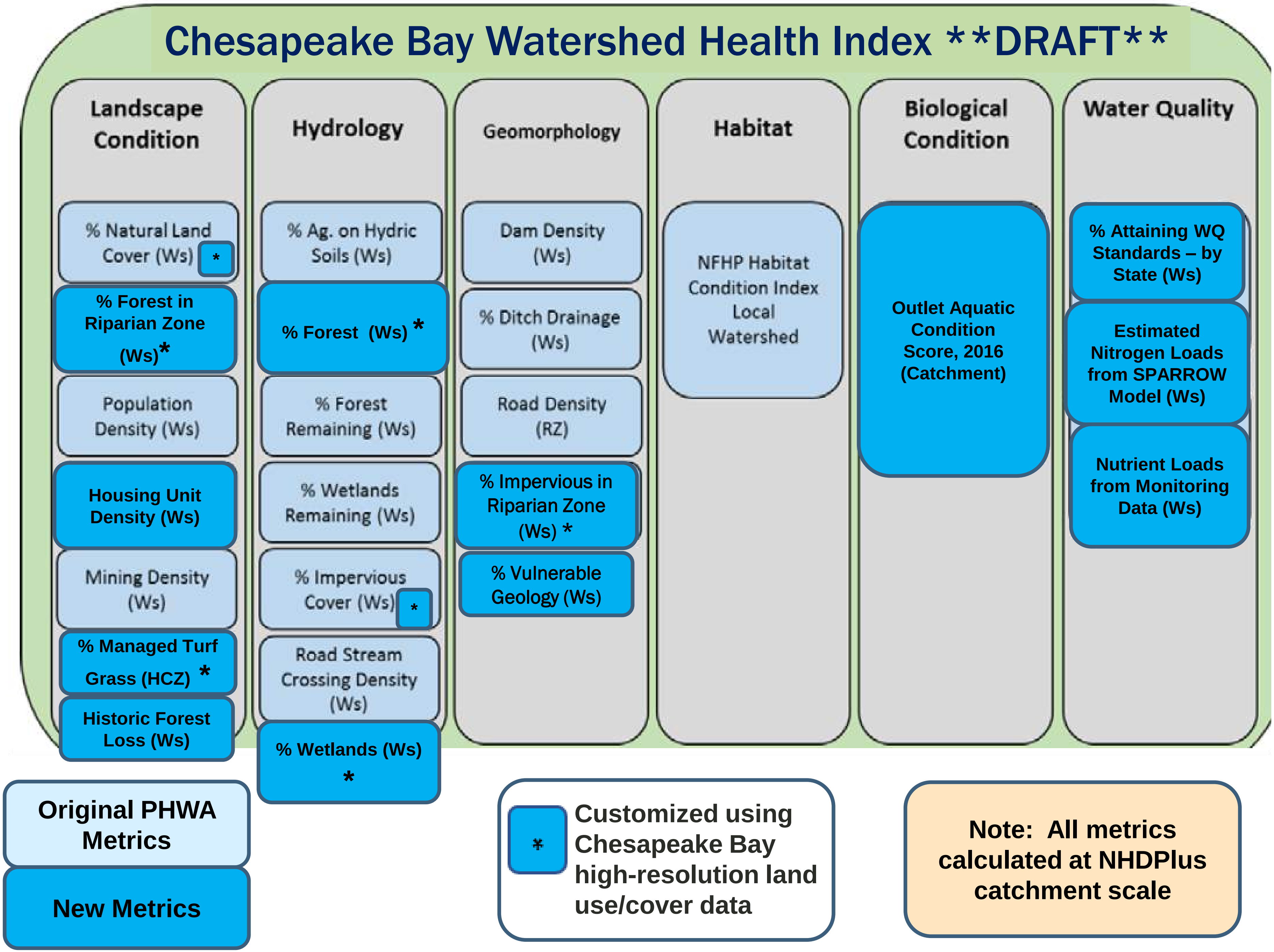
PHWA Metrics – Watershed Vulnerability



Addressing Watershed Scale

- **PHWA developed nationally to provide data at HUC12 scale**
- **Healthy watersheds identified by Chesapeake Bay states**
  - Differing Approaches/Scales
    - Streamlines only (WV)
    - Custom (total) watersheds upstream of reaches designated as healthy waters (VA/MD)
    - HUC12 selections containing healthy reaches (PA/NY)
- **This project: Provide assessments of state-identified Healthy Watersheds, at scale finer than national PHWA**
- **Primarily NHDPlus catchment scale**




Chesapeake Bay Watershed Health Index **DRAFT**
Landscape Condition
% Natural Land Cover (Ws) *
% Forest in Riparian Zone (Ws)*
Population Density (Ws)
Housing Unit Density (Ws)
Mining Density (Ws)
% Managed Turf Grass (HCZ) *
Historic Forest Loss (Ws)
Hydrology
% Ag. on Hydric Soils (Ws)
% Forest (Ws) *
% Forest Remaining (Ws)
% Wetlands Remaining (Ws)
% Impervious Cover (Ws) *
Road Stream Crossing Density (Ws)
% Wetlands (Ws) *
Geomorphology
Dam Density (Ws)
% Ditch Drainage (Ws)
Road Density (RZ)
% Impervious in Riparian Zone (Ws) *
% Vulnerable Geology (Ws)
Habitat
NFHP Habitat Condition Index Local Watershed
Biological Condition
Outlet Aquatic Condition Score, 2016 (Catchment)
Water Quality
% Attaining WQ Standards – by State (Ws)
Estimated Nitrogen Loads from SPARROW Model (Ws)
Nutrient Loads from Monitoring Data (Ws)
Original PHWA Metrics
New Metrics
* Customized using Chesapeake Bay high-resolution land use/cover data
Note: All metrics calculated at NHDPlus catchment scale

Chesapeake Bay Watershed Vulnerability Indicators **DRAFT**

Land Use Change
- % Increase in Development, Based on CBP Projections (Ws)
- Recent Forest Loss (2000-2013)
- % Protected Lands, Based on CBP data (Ws)

Water Use
- Agricultural Water Use (Ws)
- Domestic Water Use (Ws)
- Industrial Water Use (Ws)

Wildfire
- Wildfire Risk – Wildland/ Urban Interface

Climate Change
- Brook Trout Probability of Occurrence with 6 C Temperature Change
- NALCC Climate Stress Indicator

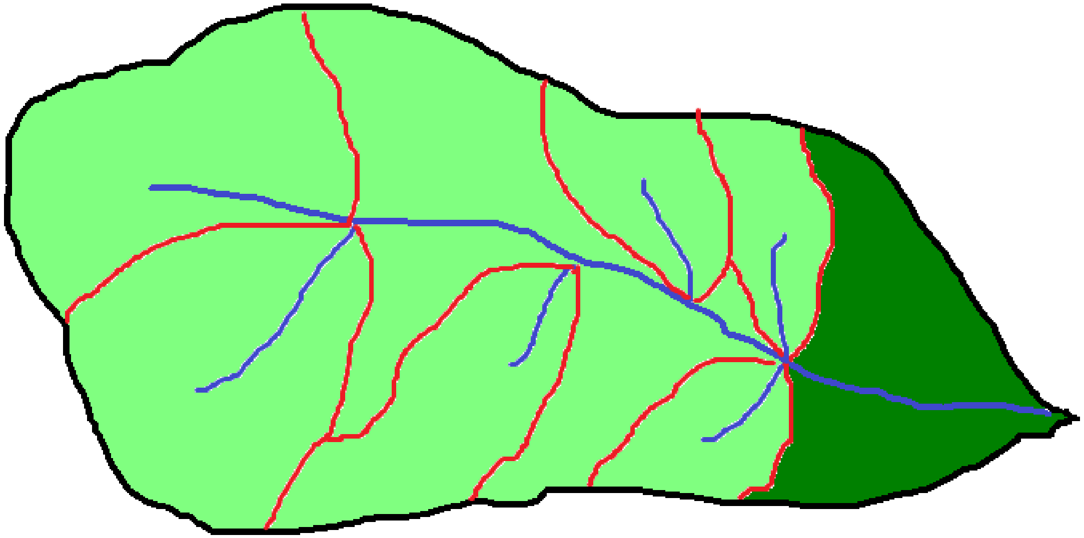
Original PHWA Metrics

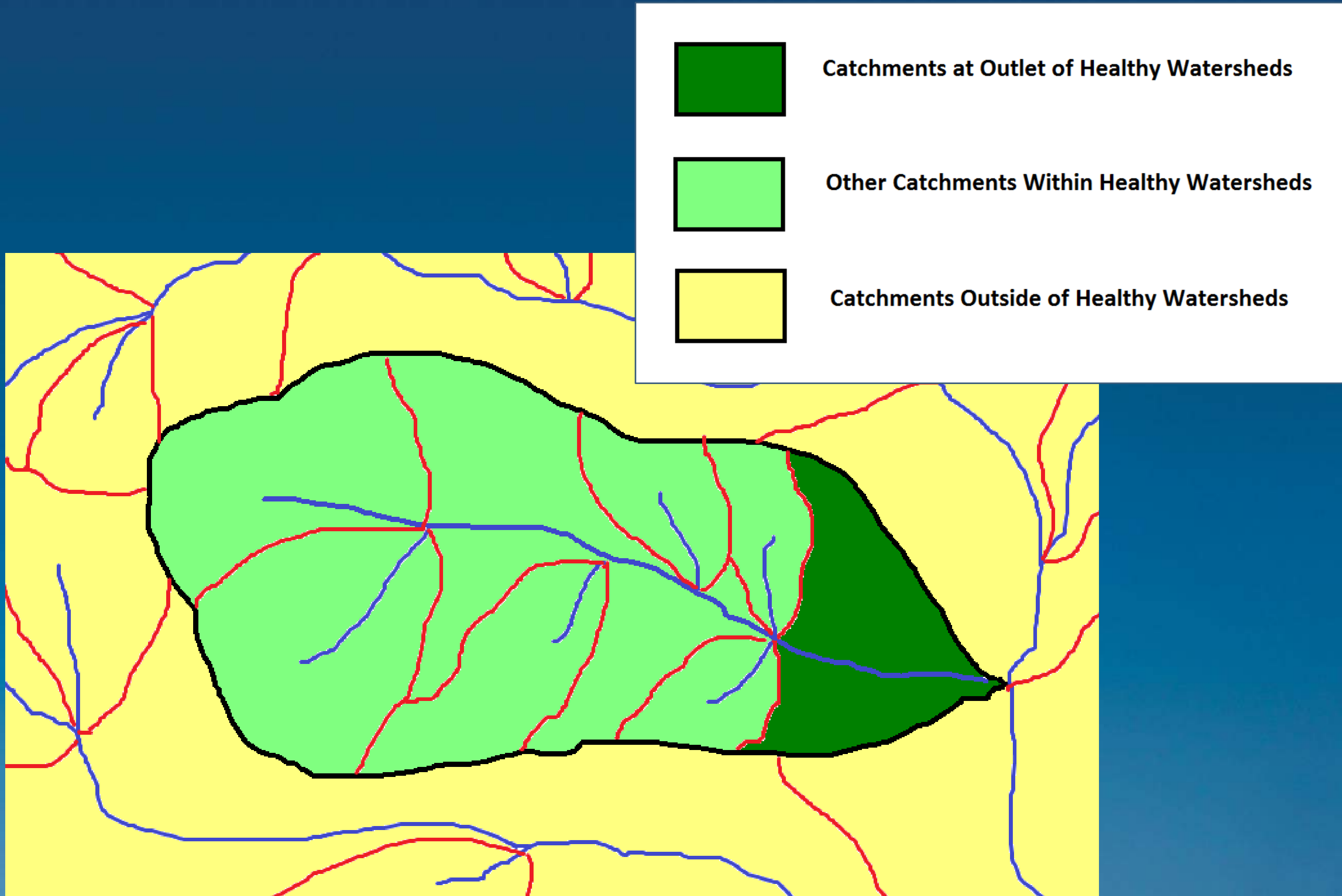
New Metrics

Note: All metrics calculated at NHDPlus catchment scale

Evaluating Metric Performance

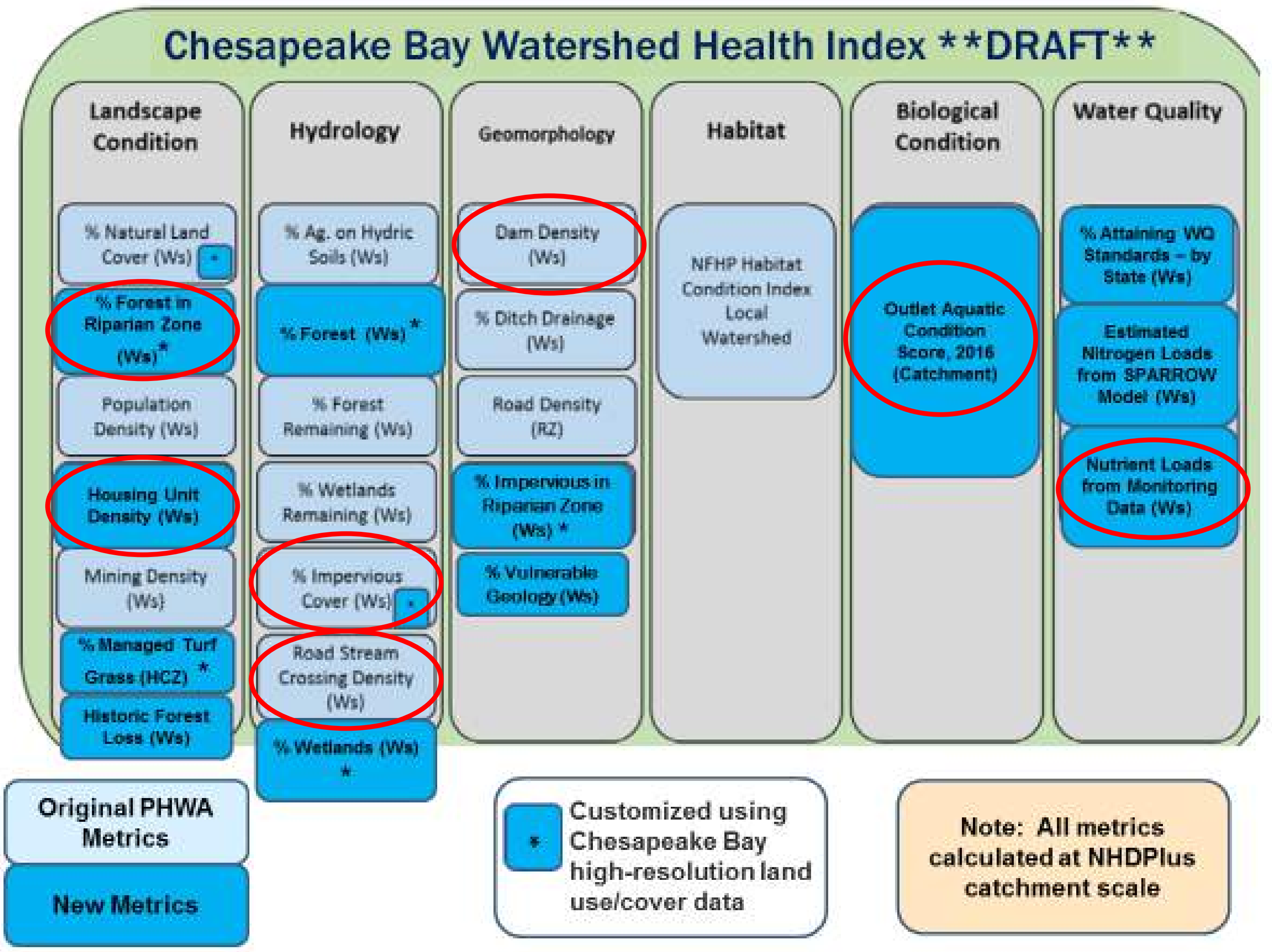
- Distributions of scores for healthy watersheds
- Comparison with distribution of scores for areas outside of healthy watersheds
- Appropriateness of scale




Catchments at Outlet of Healthy Watersheds
Other Catchments Within Healthy Watersheds
Catchments Outside of Healthy Watersheds

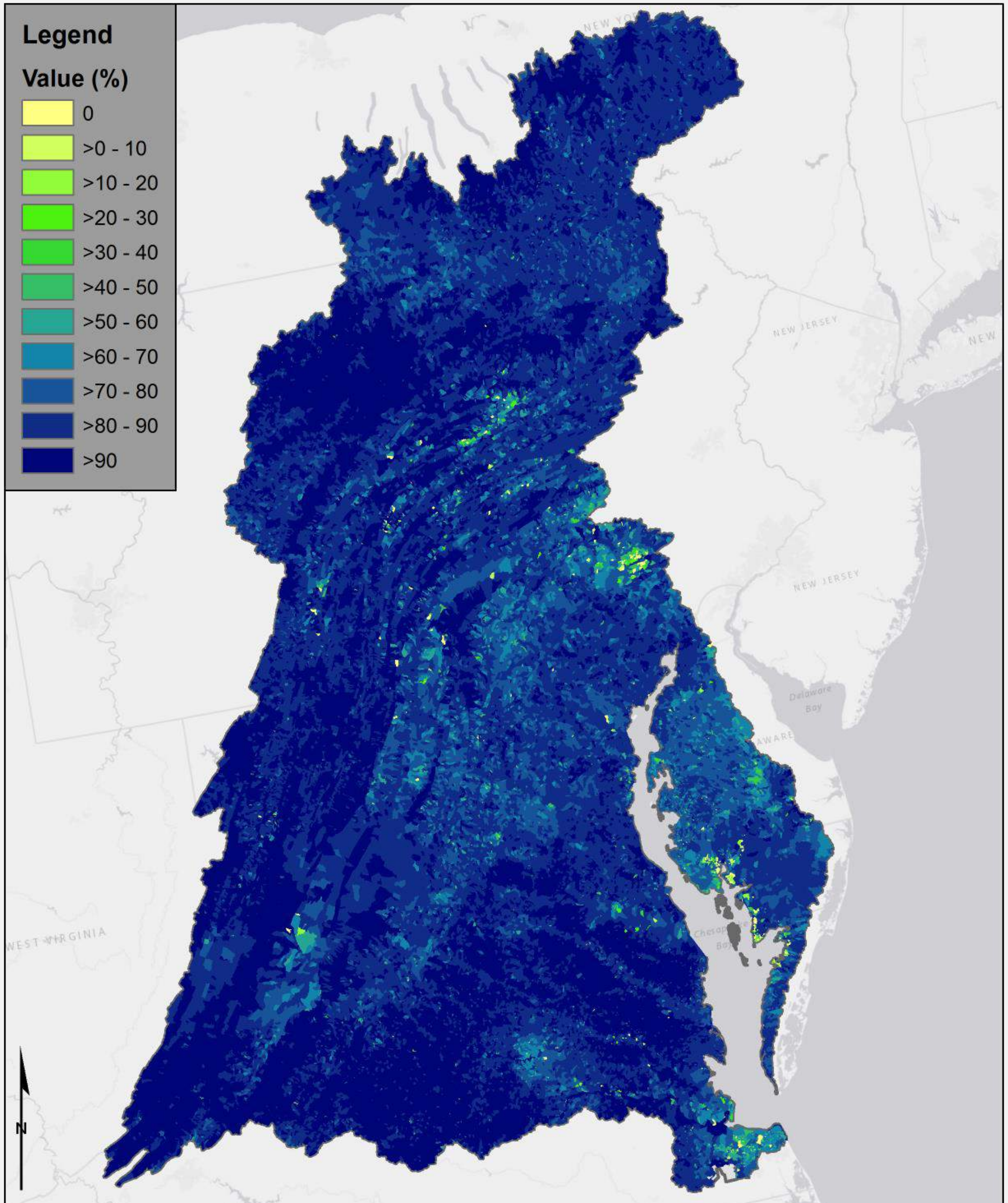
Metric Performance

- Examples:



Metric Performance

- Example: Percent Forest in Riparian Zone
- Indicative of: Landscape condition
- Value calculated for entire upstream riparian zone
- Metric expected to be high in healthy watersheds



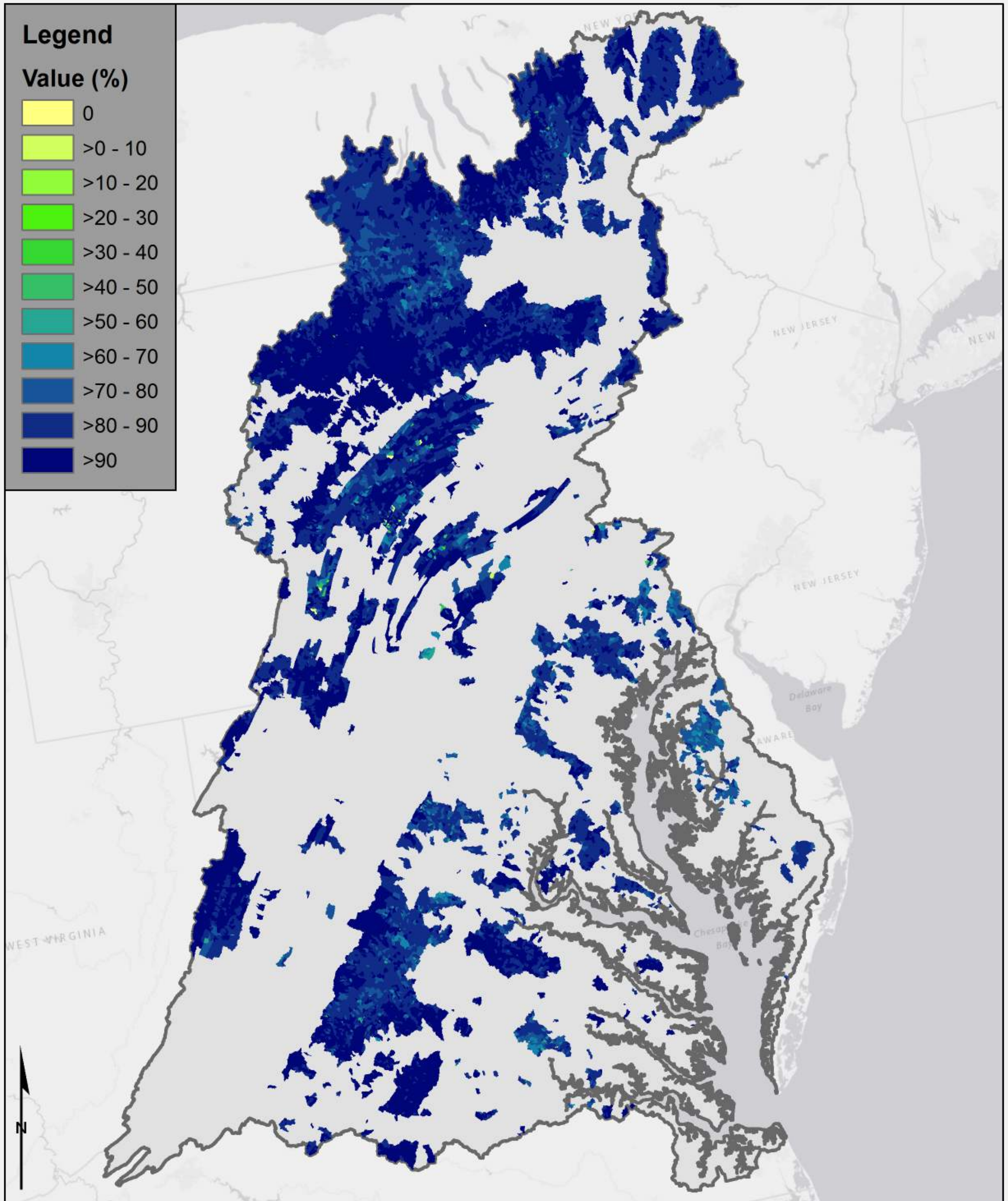
All Catchments
Percent Forest in Riparian Zone

USA_Contiguous_Albers_Equal_Area_Conic_USGS_version
Map produced 10-19-2018 S. Sarkar

0 20 40 80 Kilometers

0 20 40 80 Miles

TETRA TECH



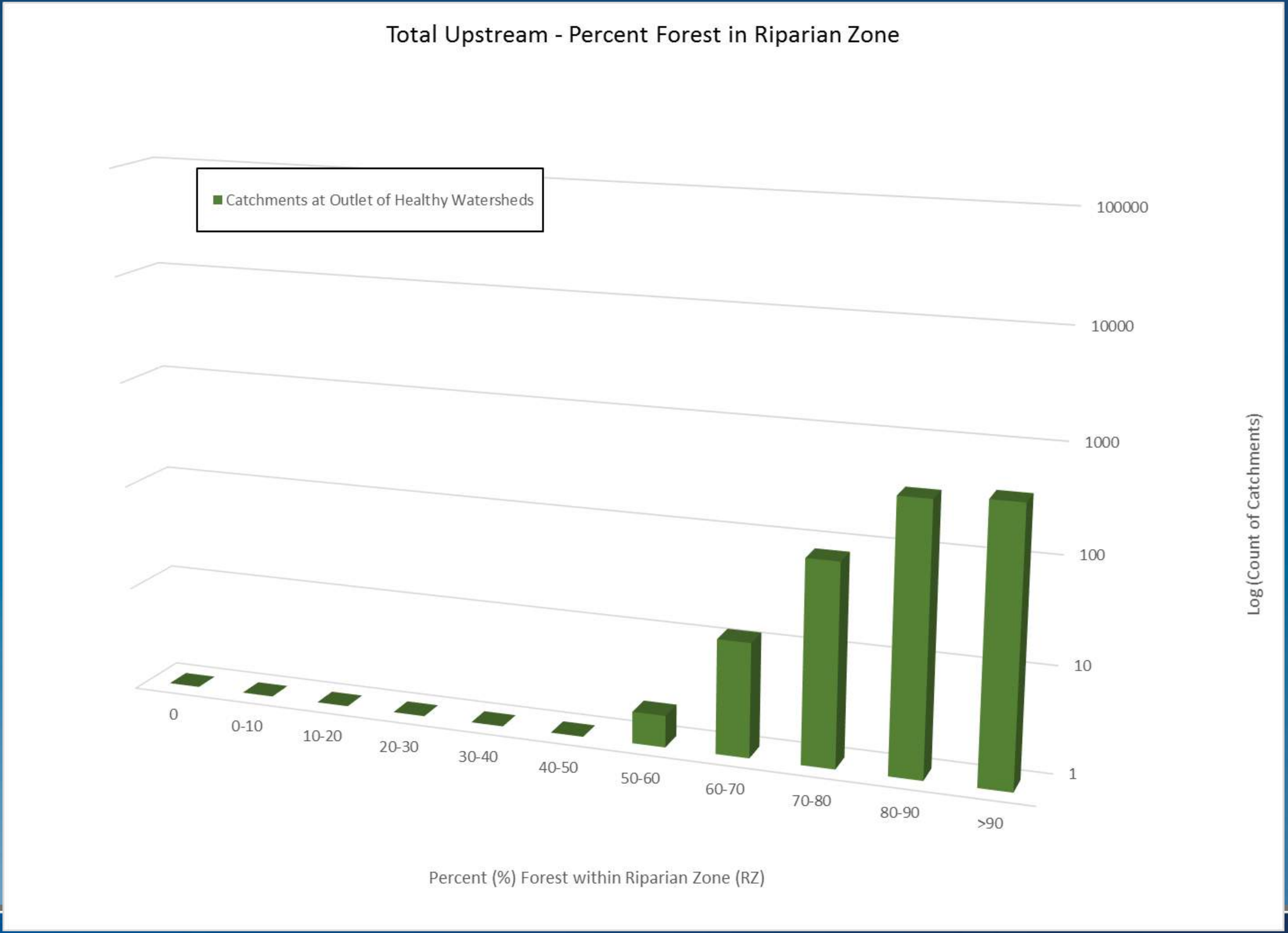
Catchments Upstream of Healthy Watersheds
Percent Forest in Riparian Zone

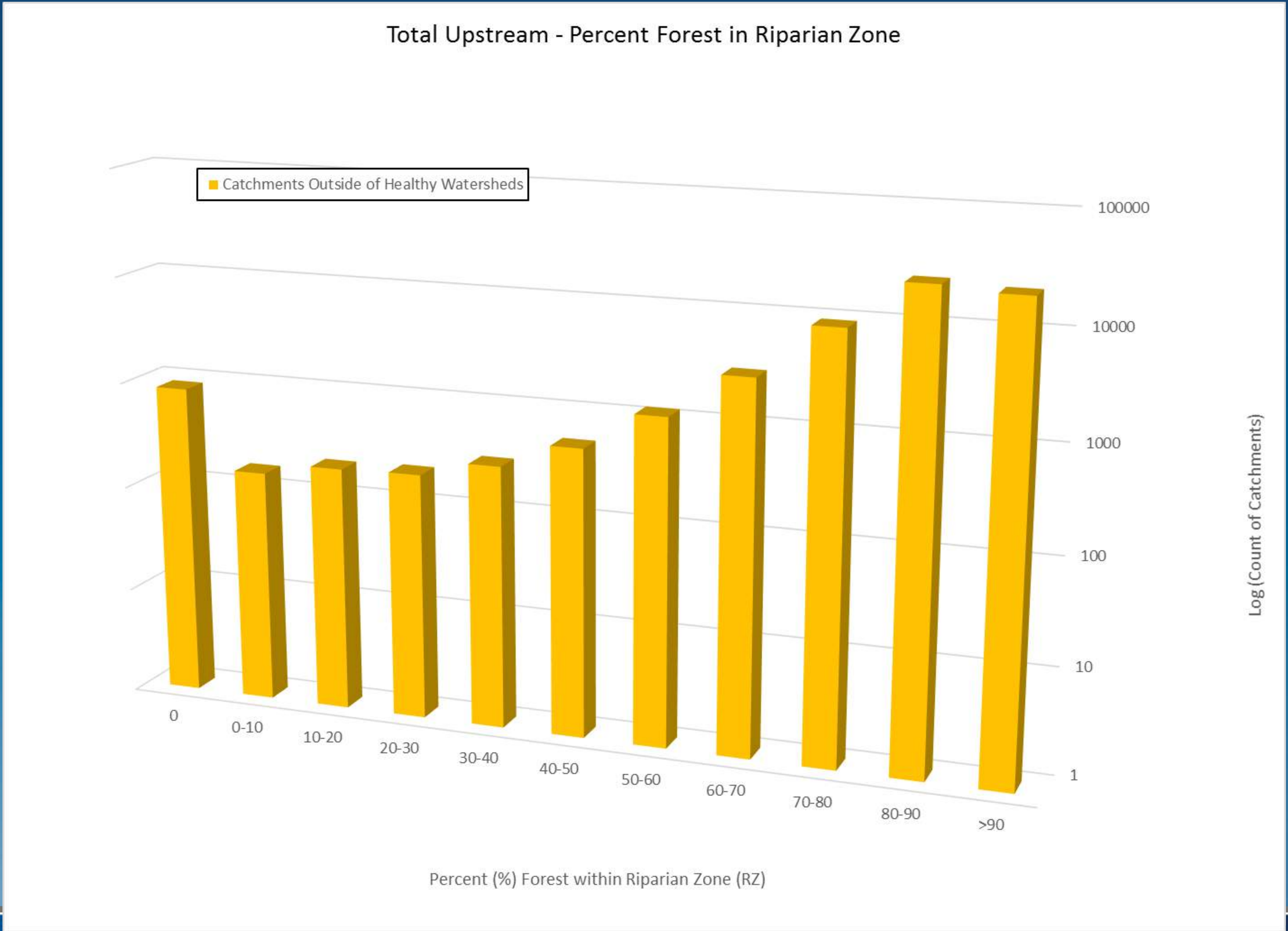
USA_Contiguous_Albers_Equal_Area_Conic_USGS_version
Map produced 10-19-2018 S. Sarkar

0 20 40 80 Kilometers

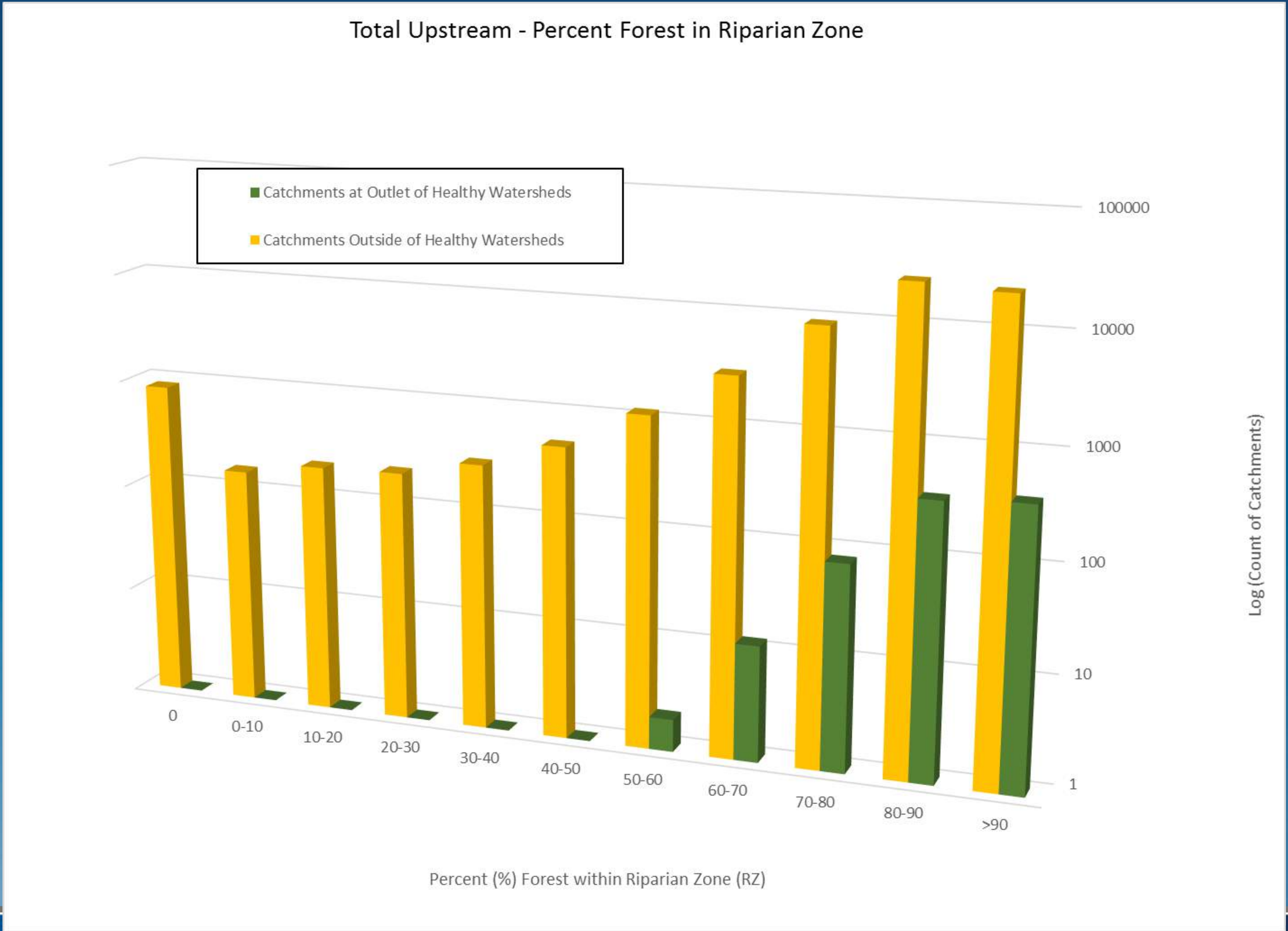
0 20 40 80 Miles

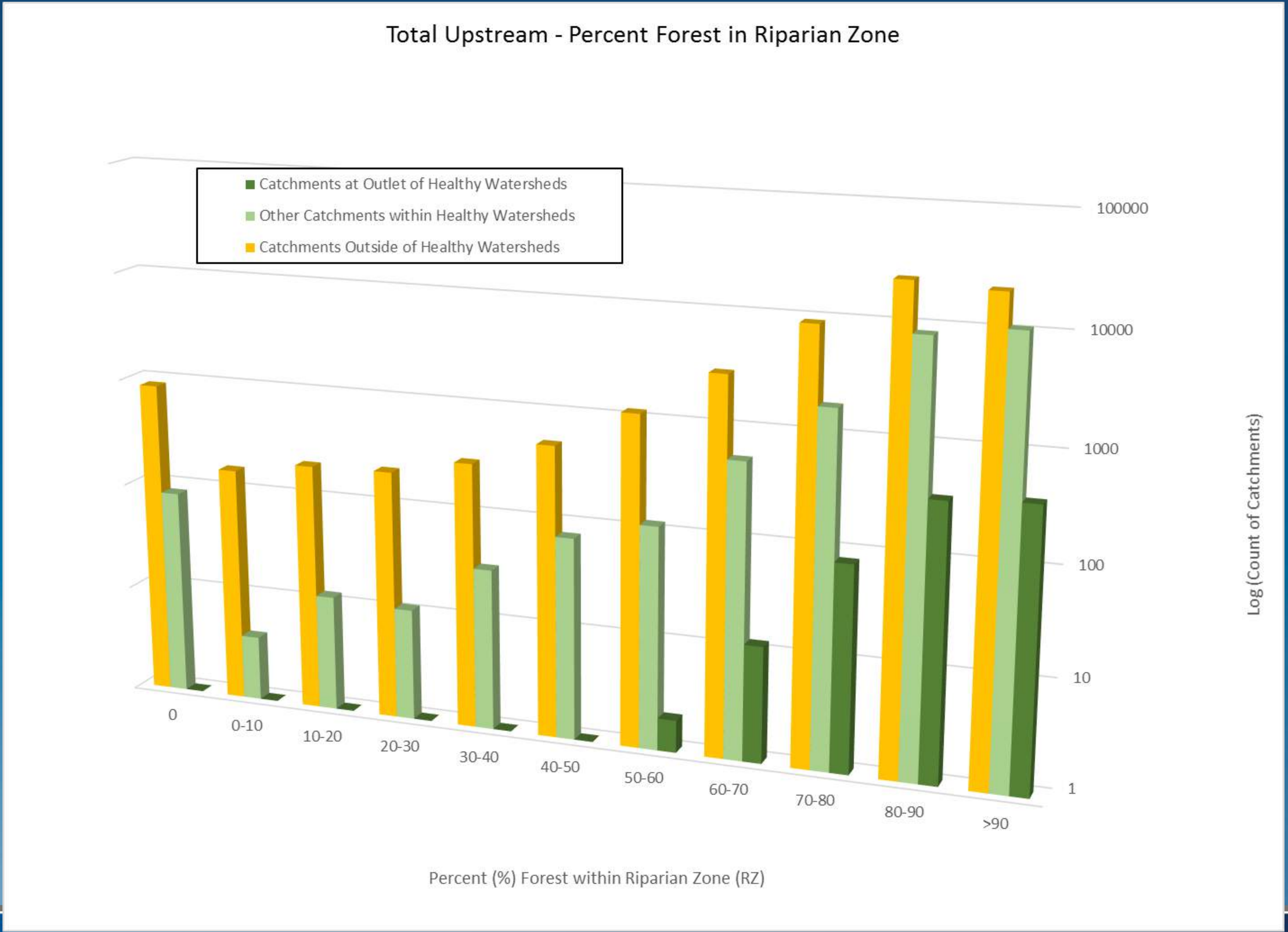
TETRA TECH


Total Upstream - Percent Forest in Riparian Zone
Catchments at Outlet of Healthy Watersheds
100000
10000
1000
100
10
1
Log (Count of Catchments)
0
0-10
10-20
20-30
30-40
40-50
50-60
60-70
70-80
80-90
>90
Percent (%) Forest within Riparian Zone (RZ)



Total Upstream - Percent Forest in Riparian Zone
Catchments Outside of Healthy Watersheds
100000
10000
1000
100
10
1
Log (Count of Catchments)
0
0-10
10-20
20-30
30-40
40-50
50-60
60-70
70-80
80-90
>90
Percent (%) Forest within Riparian Zone (RZ)


Total Upstream - Percent Forest in Riparian Zone
Catchments at Outlet of Healthy Watersheds
Catchments Outside of Healthy Watersheds
100000
10000
1000
100
10
1
Log (Count of Catchments)
0
0-10
10-20
20-30
30-40
40-50
50-60
60-70
70-80
80-90
>90
Percent (%) Forest within Riparian Zone (RZ)


Total Upstream - Percent Forest in Riparian Zone
Catchments at Outlet of Healthy Watersheds
Other Catchments within Healthy Watersheds
Catchments Outside of Healthy Watersheds
100000
10000
1000
100
10
1
Log (Count of Catchments)
0
0-10
10-20
20-30
30-40
40-50
50-60
60-70
70-80
80-90
>90
Percent (%) Forest within Riparian Zone (RZ)

Metric Performance

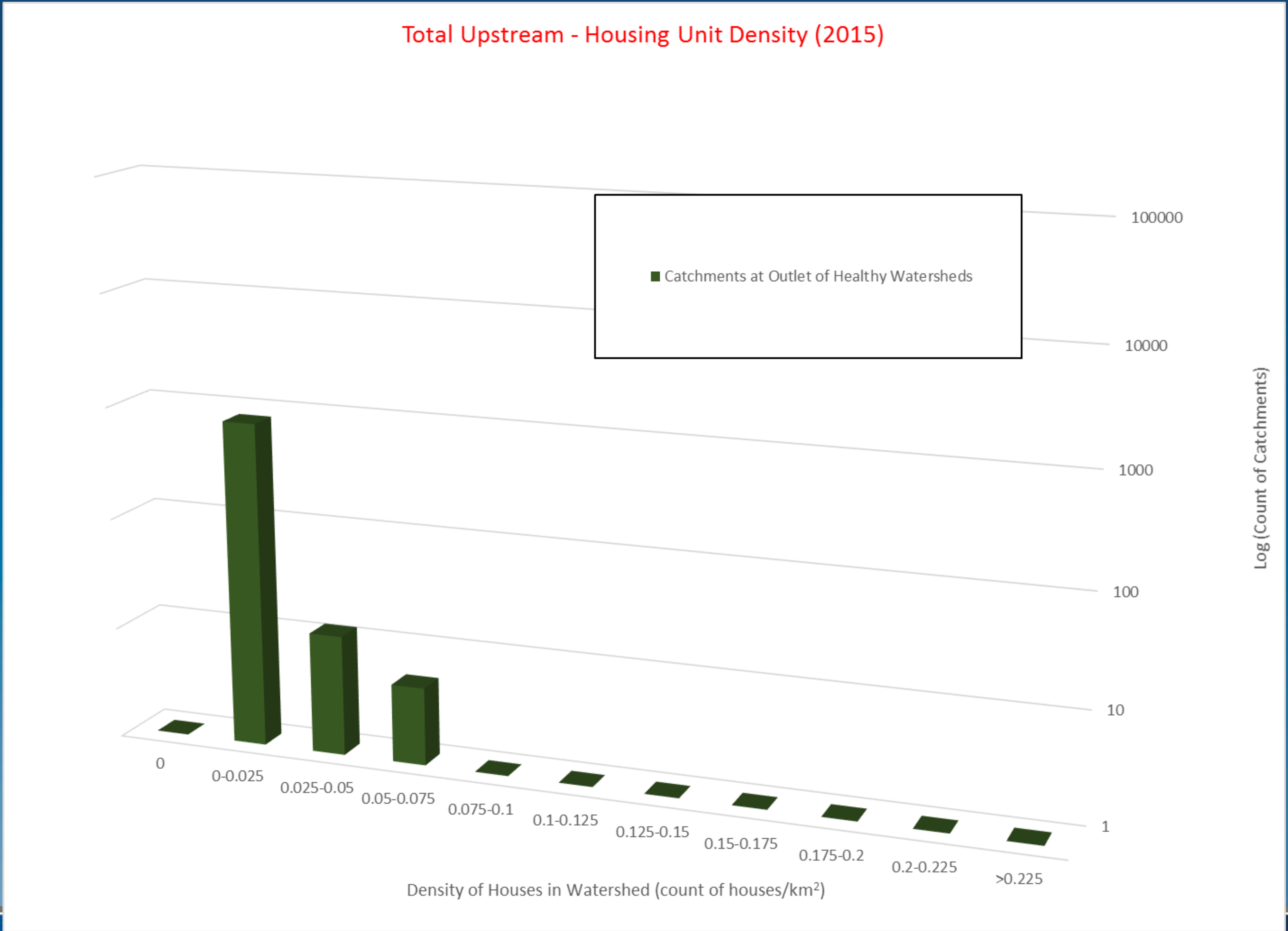
- Example: Percent Forest in Riparian Zone
- Indicative of: Landscape condition
- Value calculated for entire upstream riparian zone
- Metric expected to be high in healthy watersheds

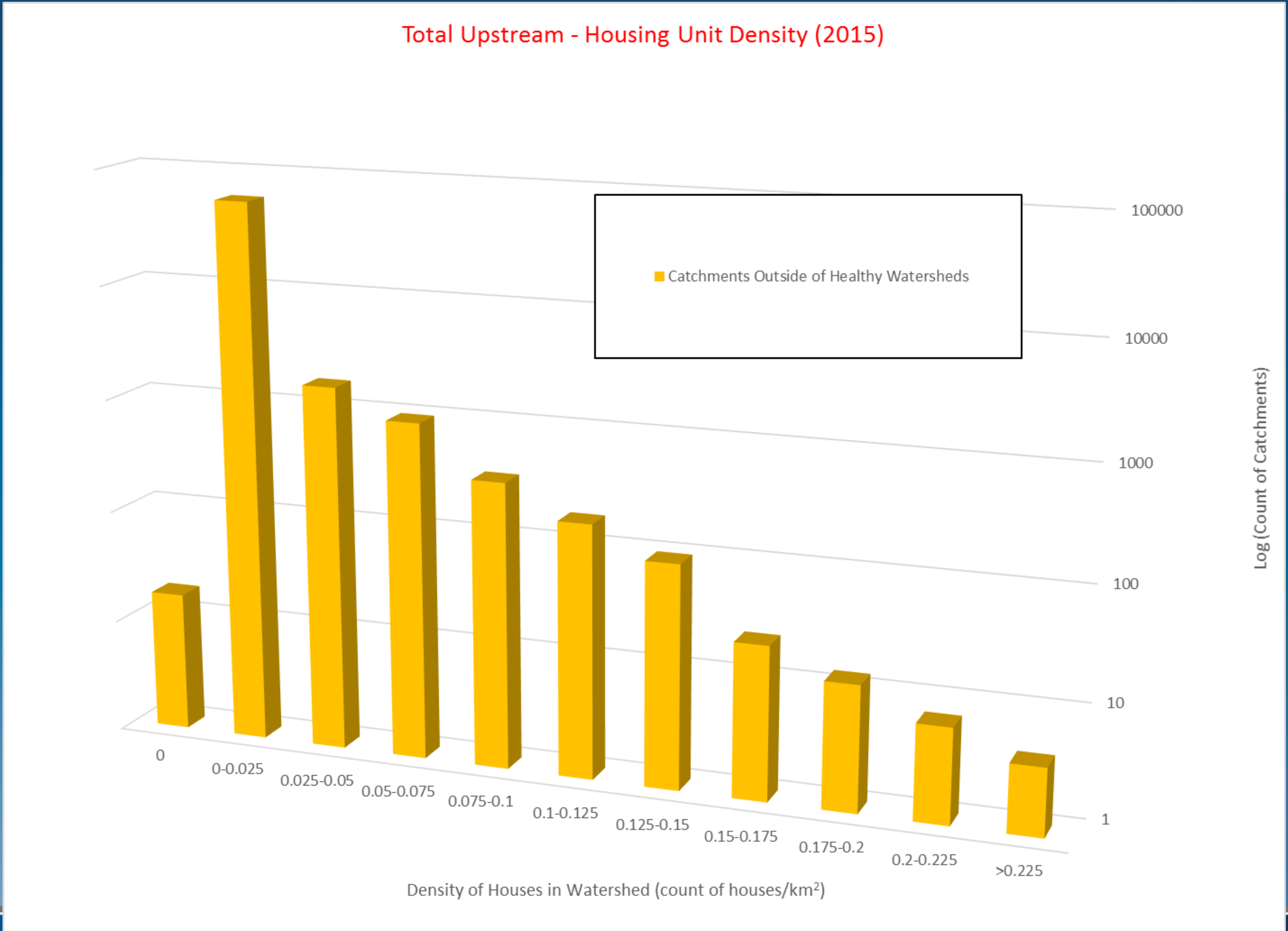
Findings:

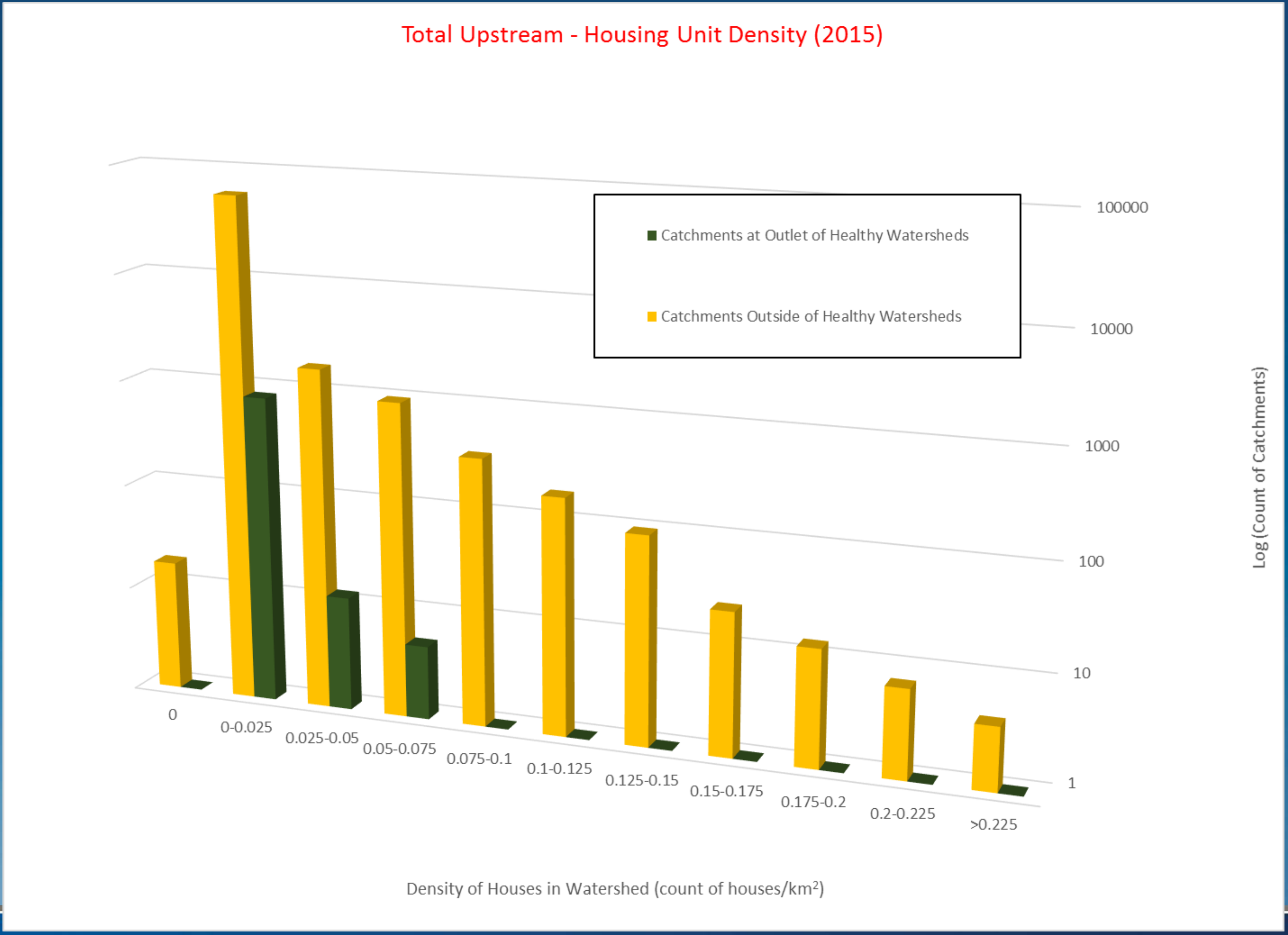
- As expected, values for percent riparian forest are high in the Chesapeake Bay (CB) Healthy Watersheds, all with >50% forest in riparian zone

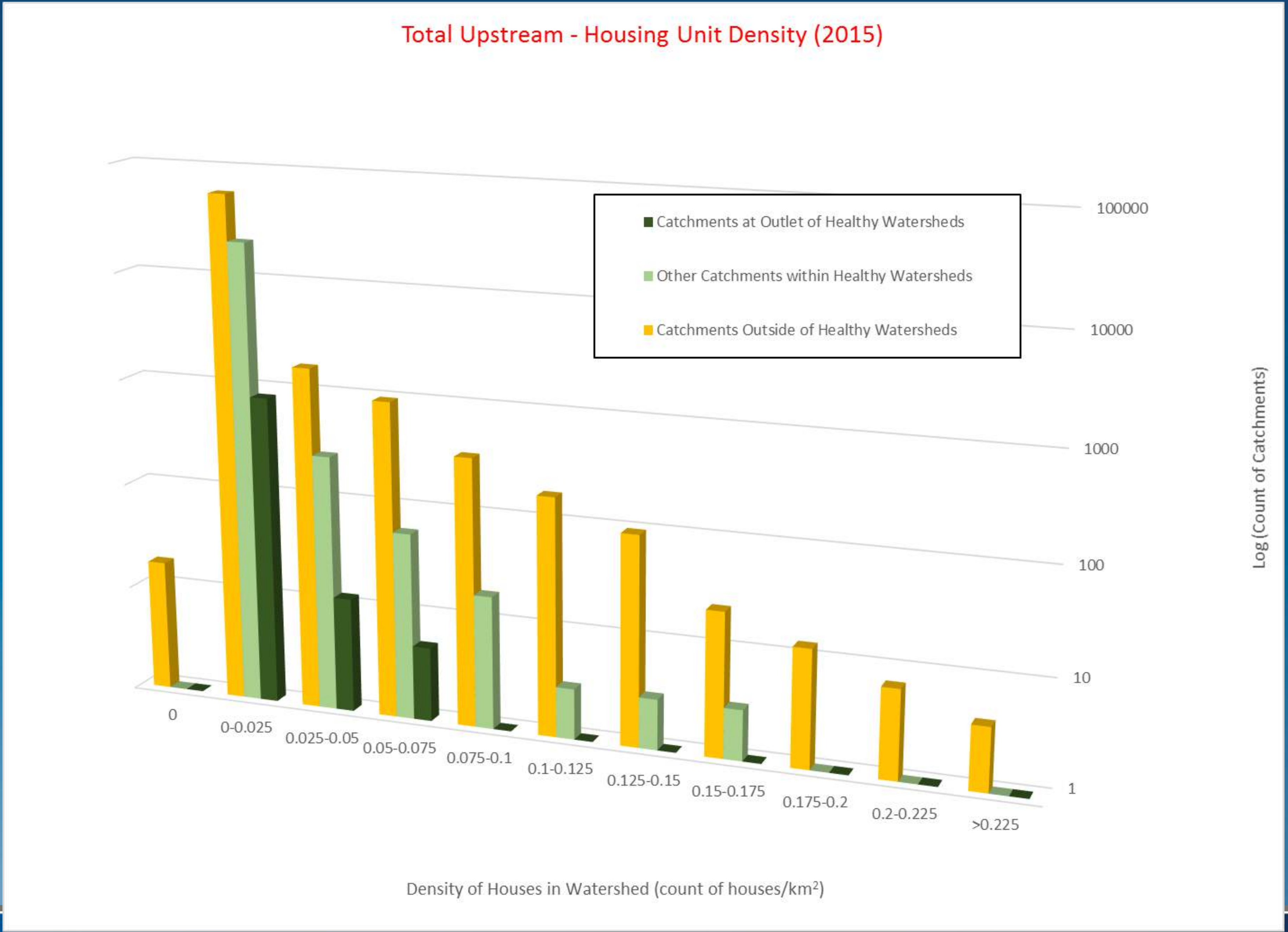
Metric Performance

- Example: Housing Unit Density
- Indicative of: Landscape condition
- Value calculated for entire upstream watershed area
- Metric expected to be low in healthy watersheds


Total Upstream - Housing Unit Density (2015)
Catchments at Outlet of Healthy Watersheds
100000
10000
1000
100
10
1
Log (Count of Catchments)
0
0-0.025
0.025-0.05
0.05-0.075
0.075-0.1
0.1-0.125
0.125-0.15
0.15-0.175
0.175-0.2
0.2-0.225
>0.225
Density of Houses in Watershed (count of houses/km²)


Total Upstream - Housing Unit Density (2015)
Catchments Outside of Healthy Watersheds
100000
10000
1000
100
10
1
Log (Count of Catchments)
0
0-0.025
0.025-0.05
0.05-0.075
0.075-0.1
0.1-0.125
0.125-0.15
0.15-0.175
0.175-0.2
0.2-0.225
>0.225
Density of Houses in Watershed (count of houses/km²)


Total Upstream - Housing Unit Density (2015)
Catchments at Outlet of Healthy Watersheds
Catchments Outside of Healthy Watersheds
100000
10000
1000
100
10
1
Log (Count of Catchments)
0
0-0.025
0.025-0.05
0.05-0.075
0.075-0.1
0.1-0.125
0.125-0.15
0.15-0.175
0.175-0.2
0.2-0.225
>0.225
Density of Houses in Watershed (count of houses/km²)



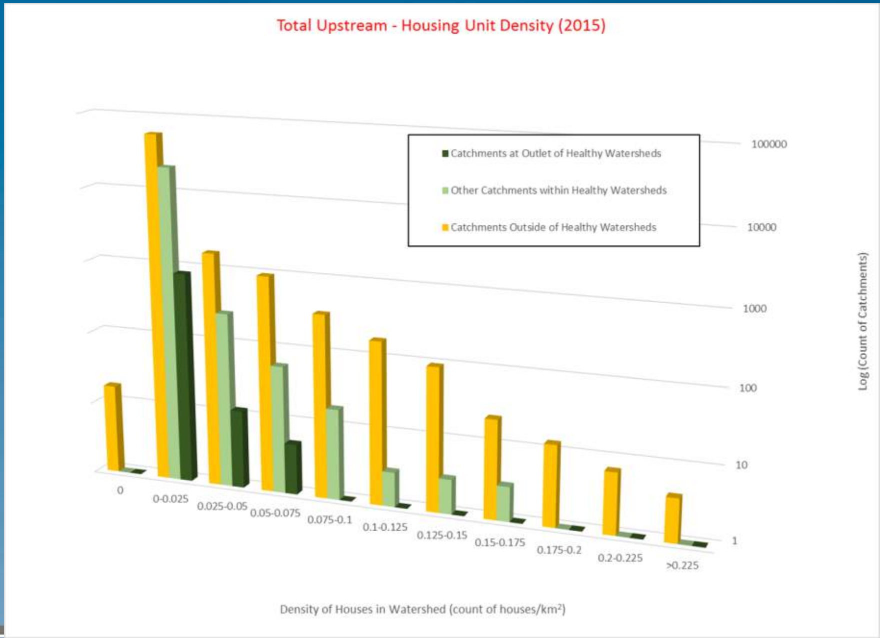
Total Upstream - Housing Unit Density (2015)
Catchments at Outlet of Healthy Watersheds
Other Catchments within Healthy Watersheds
Catchments Outside of Healthy Watersheds
100000
10000
1000
100
10
1
Log (Count of Catchments)
0
0-0.025
0.025-0.05
0.05-0.075
0.075-0.1
0.1-0.125
0.125-0.15
0.15-0.175
0.175-0.2
0.2-0.225
>0.225
Density of Houses in Watershed (count of houses/km^2)

Metric Performance

- Example: Housing Unit Density
- Indicative of: Landscape condition
- Value calculated for entire upstream watershed area
- Metric expected to be low in healthy watersheds

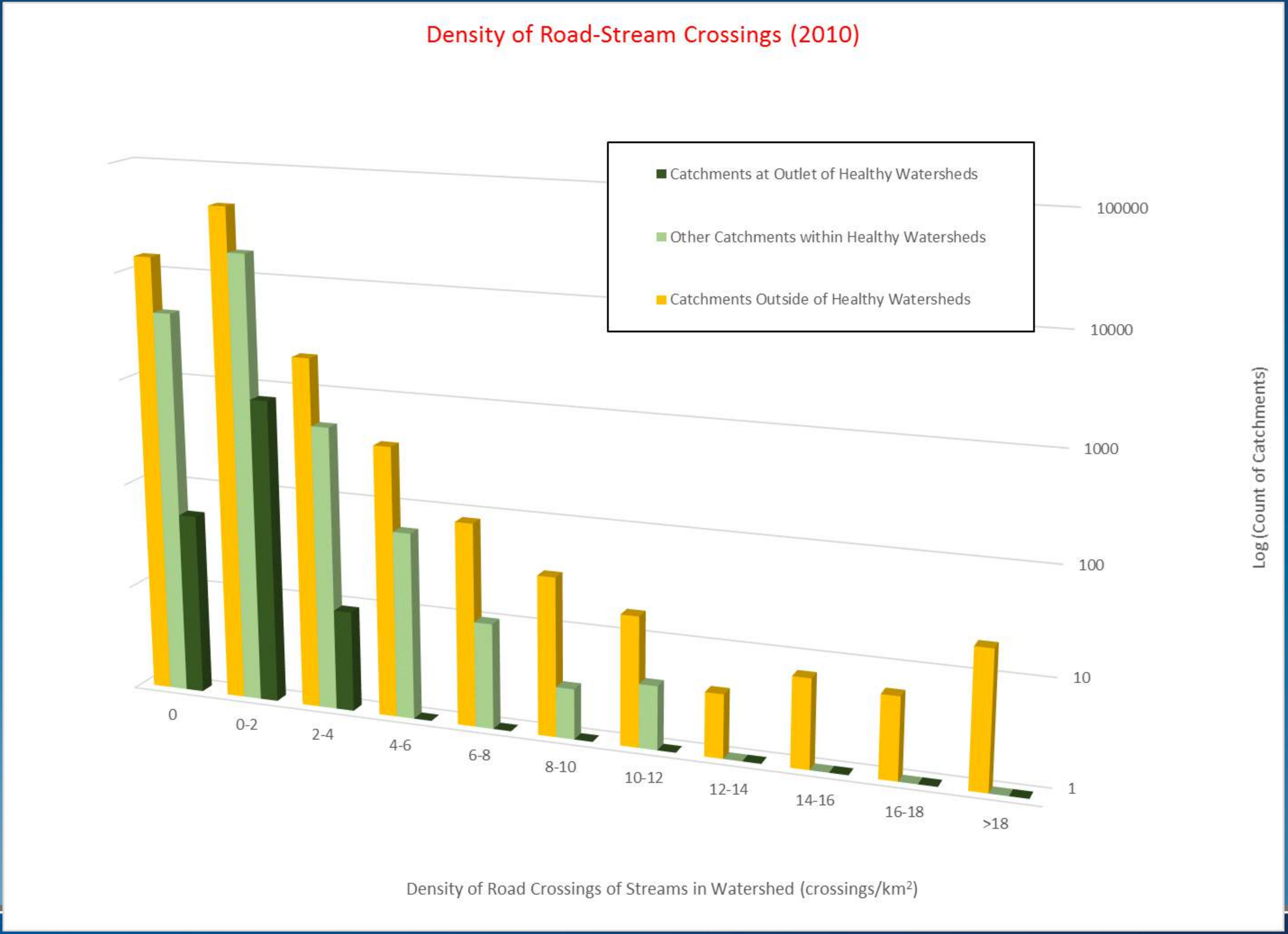
Findings:

- As expected, housing unit densities are low in CB Healthy Watersheds



Metric Performance

- Example: Density of Road-Stream Crossings in Watershed
- Indicative of: Hydrologic condition
- Value calculated for entire upstream watershed area
- Metric expected to be low in healthy watersheds

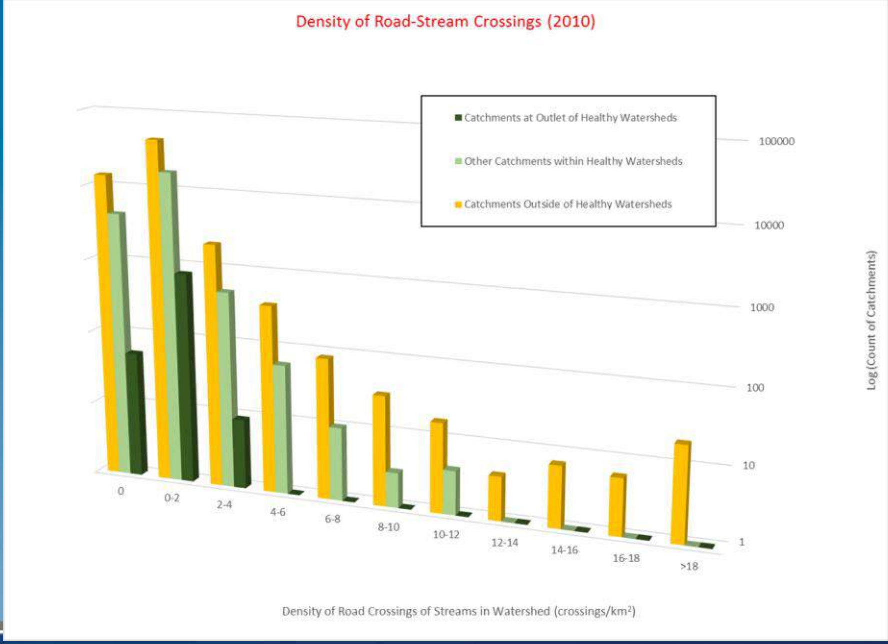

Density of Road-Stream Crossings (2010)
Catchments at Outlet of Healthy Watersheds
Other Catchments within Healthy Watersheds
Catchments Outside of Healthy Watersheds
100000
10000
1000
100
10
1
Log (Count of Catchments)
0
0-2
2-4
4-6
6-8
8-10
10-12
12-14
14-16
16-18
>18
Density of Road Crossings of Streams in Watershed (crossings/km2)

Metric Performance

- Example: Density of Road-Stream Crossings in Watershed
- Indicative of: Hydrologic condition
- Value calculated for entire upstream watershed area
- Metric expected to be low in healthy watersheds

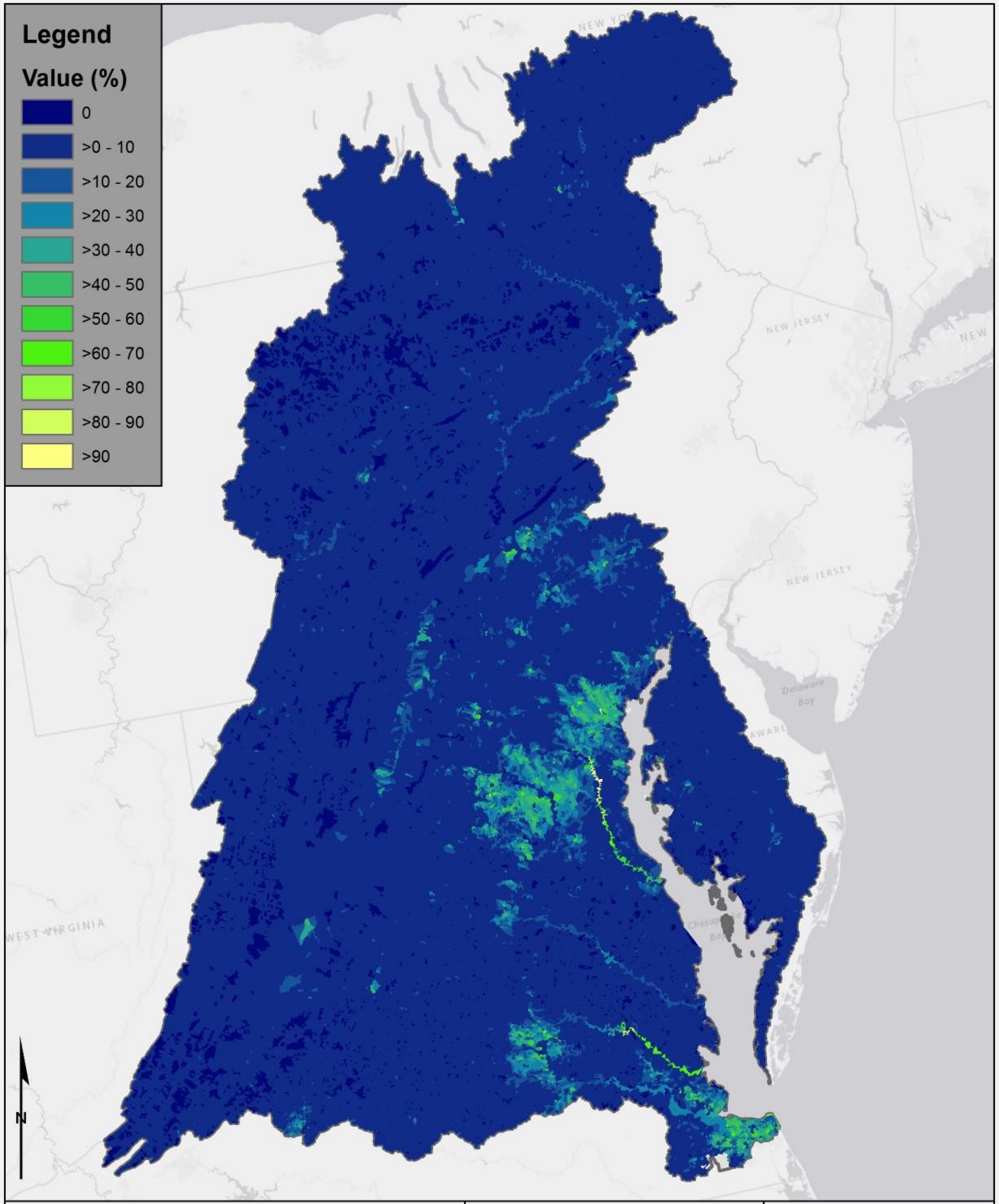
Findings:

- In CB Healthy Watershed, values for density of road-stream crossings are at low end of scale, as expected
- Many zero values



Metric Performance

- Example: Percent Impervious Surface Cover in Watershed
- Indicative of: Hydrologic condition
- Value calculated for entire upstream watershed area
- Metric expected to be low in healthy watersheds



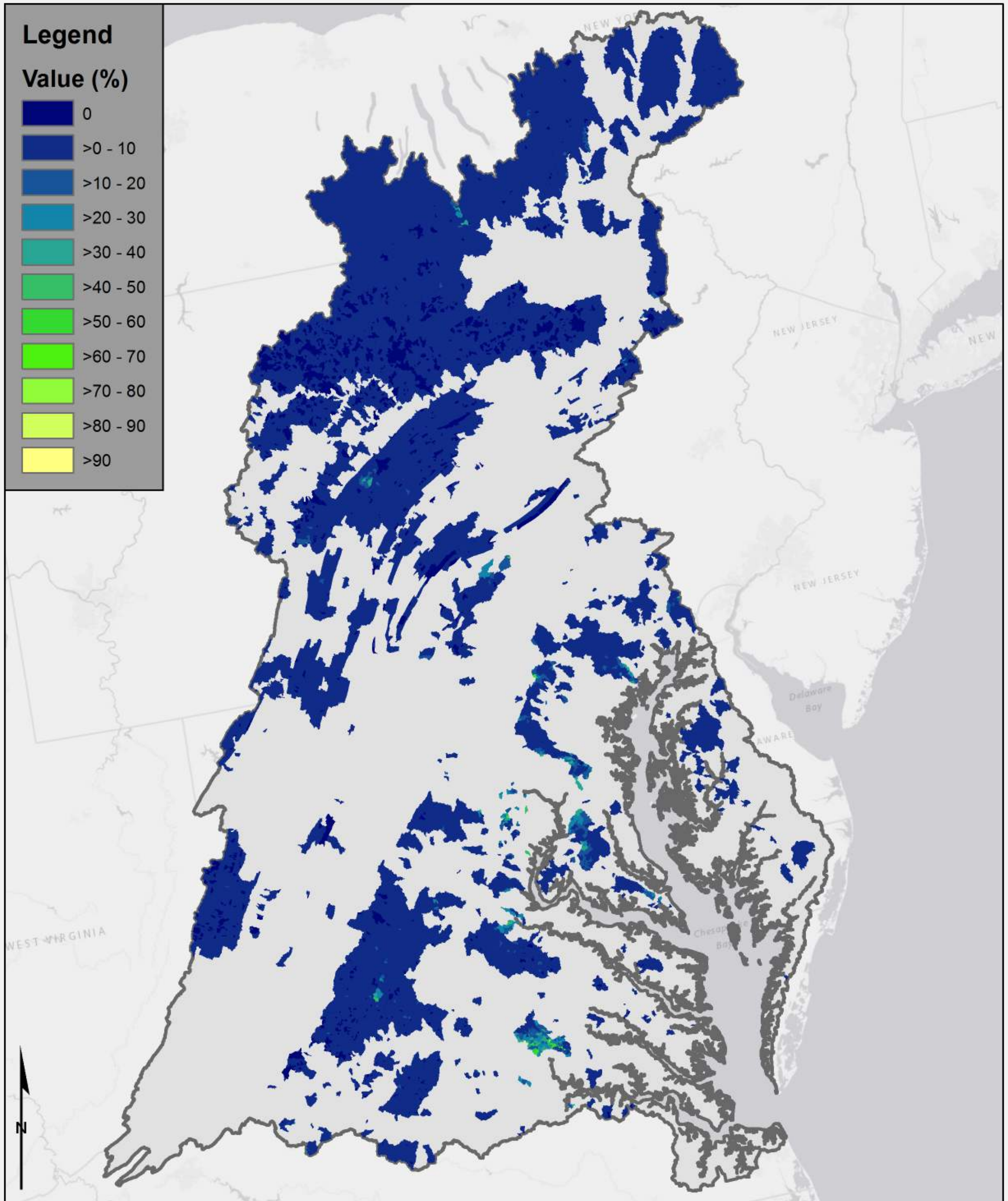
All Catchments
Percent Impervious

USA_Contiguous_Albers_Equal_Area_Conic_USGS_version
Map produced 10-19-2018 S. Sarkar

0 20 40 80 Kilometers

0 20 40 80 Miles

TETRA TECH



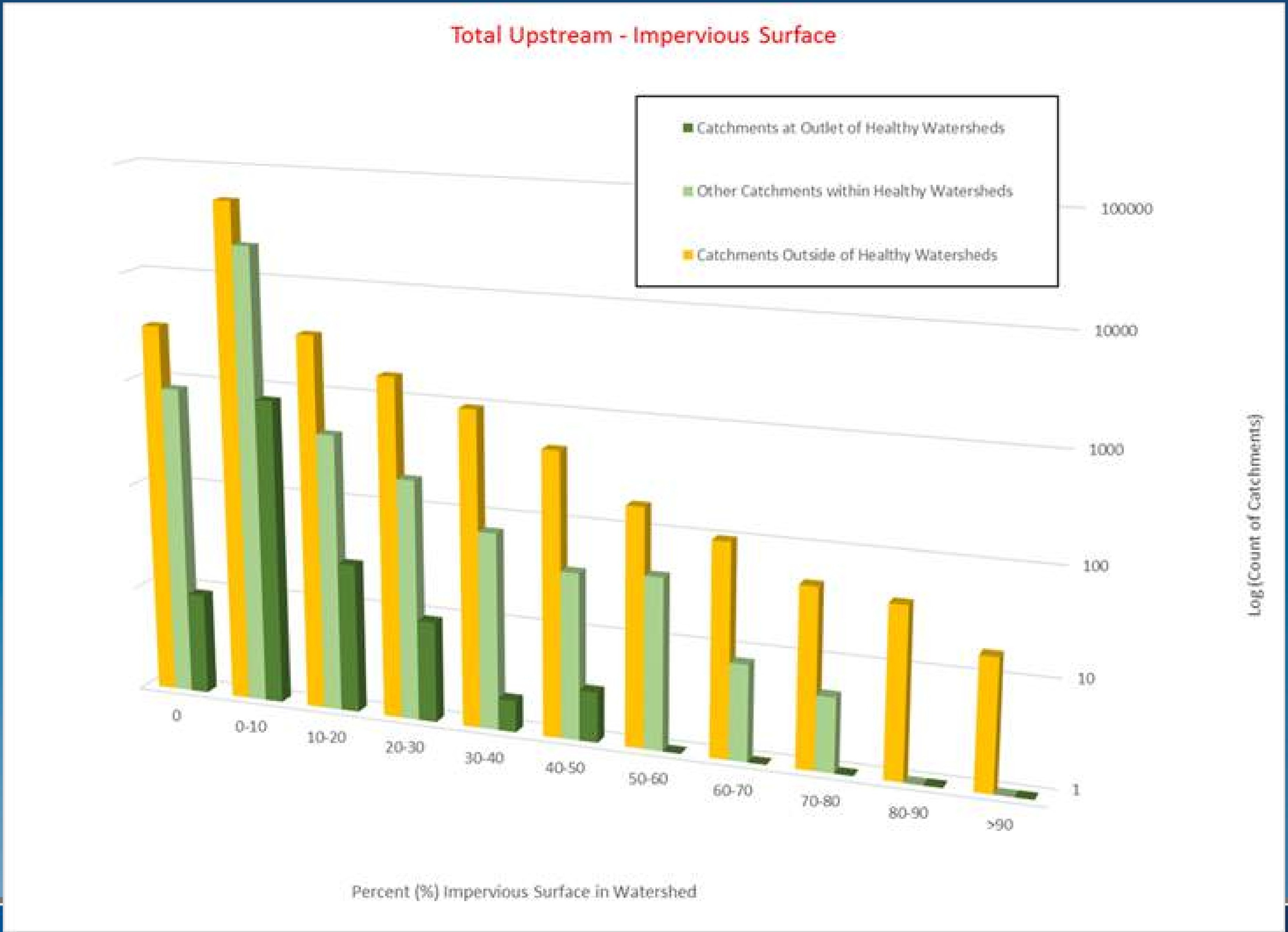
Catchments Upstream of Healthy Watersheds
Percent Impervious

USA_Contiguous_Albers_Equal_Area_Conic_USGS_version
Map produced 10-19-2018 S. Sarkar

0 20 40 80 Kilometers

0 20 40 80 Miles

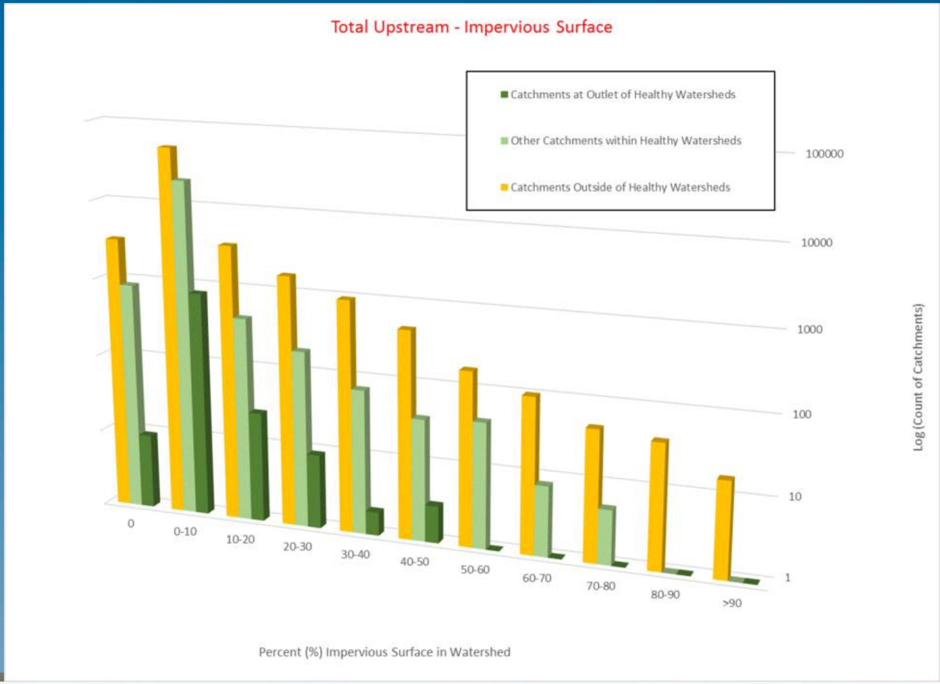
TETRA TECH



Total Upstream - Impervious Surface
Catchments at Outlet of Healthy Watersheds
Other Catchments within Healthy Watersheds
Catchments Outside of Healthy Watersheds
100000
10000
1000
100
10
1
Log (Count of Catchments)
0
0-10
10-20
20-30
30-40
40-50
50-60
60-70
70-80
80-90
>90
Percent (%) Impervious Surface in Watershed

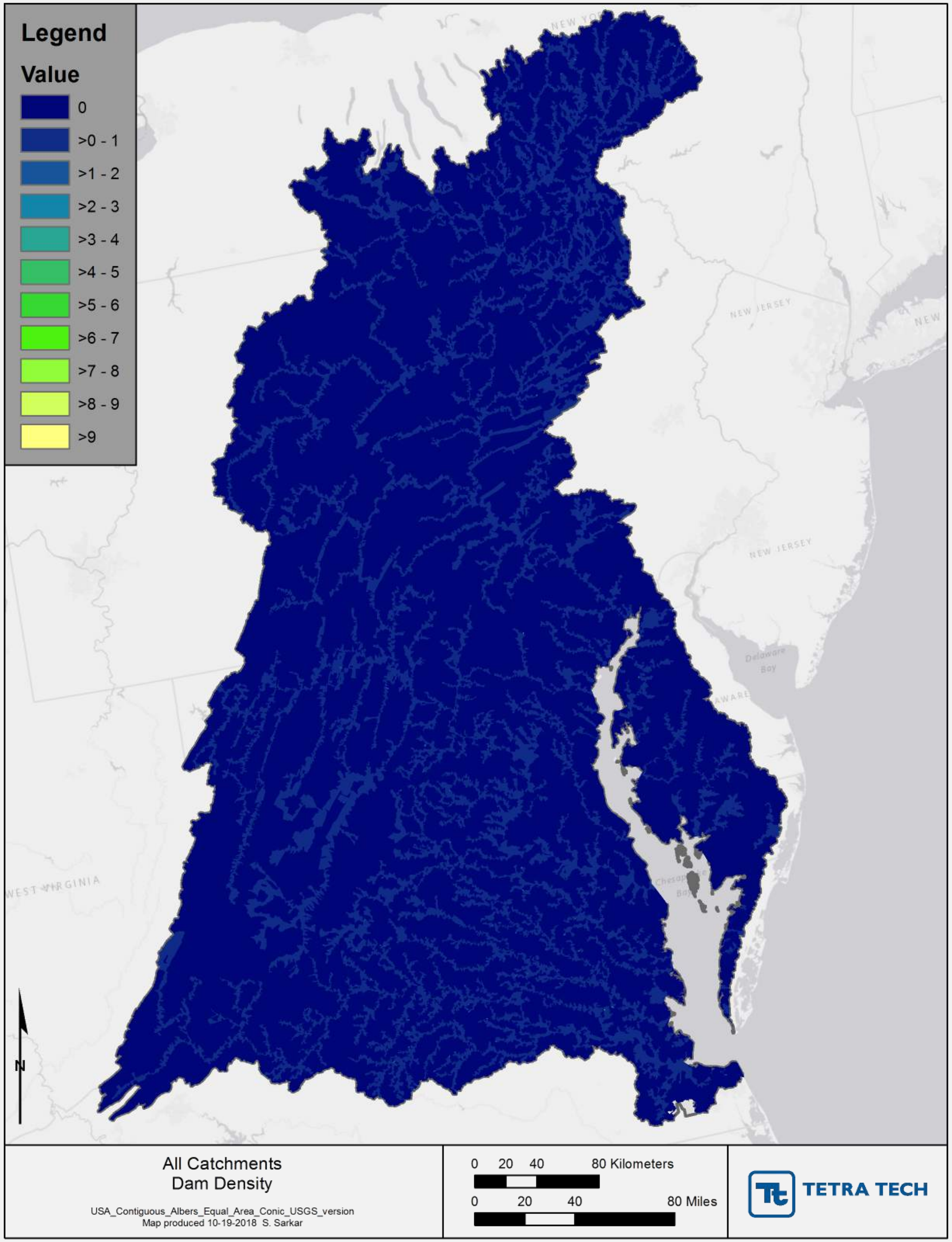
Metric Performance

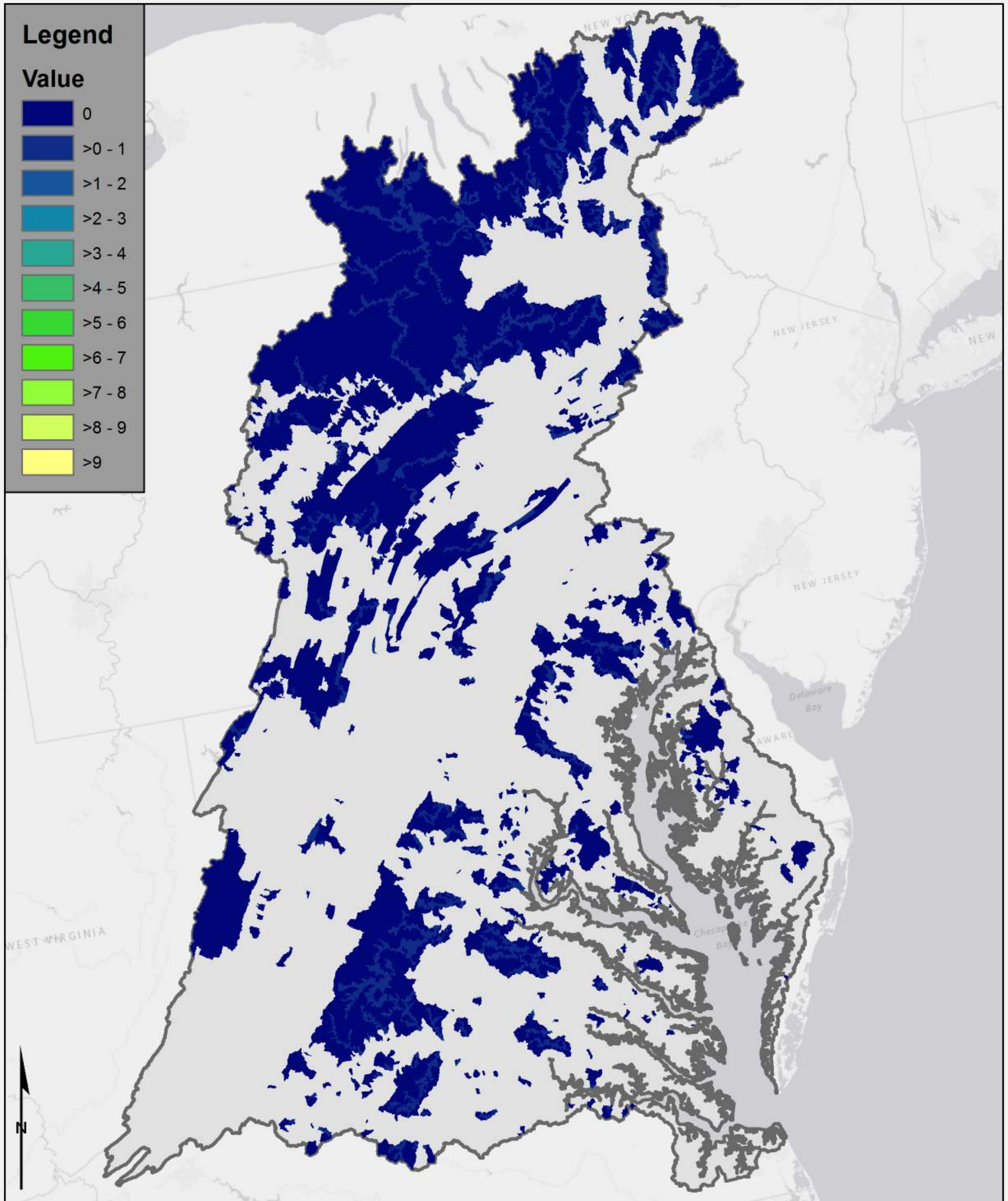
- Example: Percent Impervious Surface Cover in Watershed
- Indicative of: Hydrologic condition
- Value calculated for entire upstream watershed area
- Metric expected to be low in healthy watersheds
- Findings:
- Impervious cover is generally low in CB Healthy Watersheds, many with <10% or <20% impervious cover
- Some with 20-50% impervious cover, levels that may lead to degradation



Metric Performance

- Example: Dam Density in Watershed
- Indicative of: Geomorphic condition
- Value calculated for entire upstream watershed area
- Metric expected to be low in healthy watersheds


Legend
Value
0
>0 - 1
>1 - 2
>2 - 3
>3 - 4
>4 - 5
>5 - 6
>6 - 7
>7 - 8
>8 - 9
>9
NEW JERSEY
NEW JERSEY
WEST VIRGINIA
Delaware Bay
N
All Catchments
Dam Density
USA_Contiguous_Albers_Equal_Area_Conic_USGS_version
Map produced 10-19-2018 S. Sarkar
0 20 40 80 Kilometers
0 20 40 80 Miles
TETRA TECH



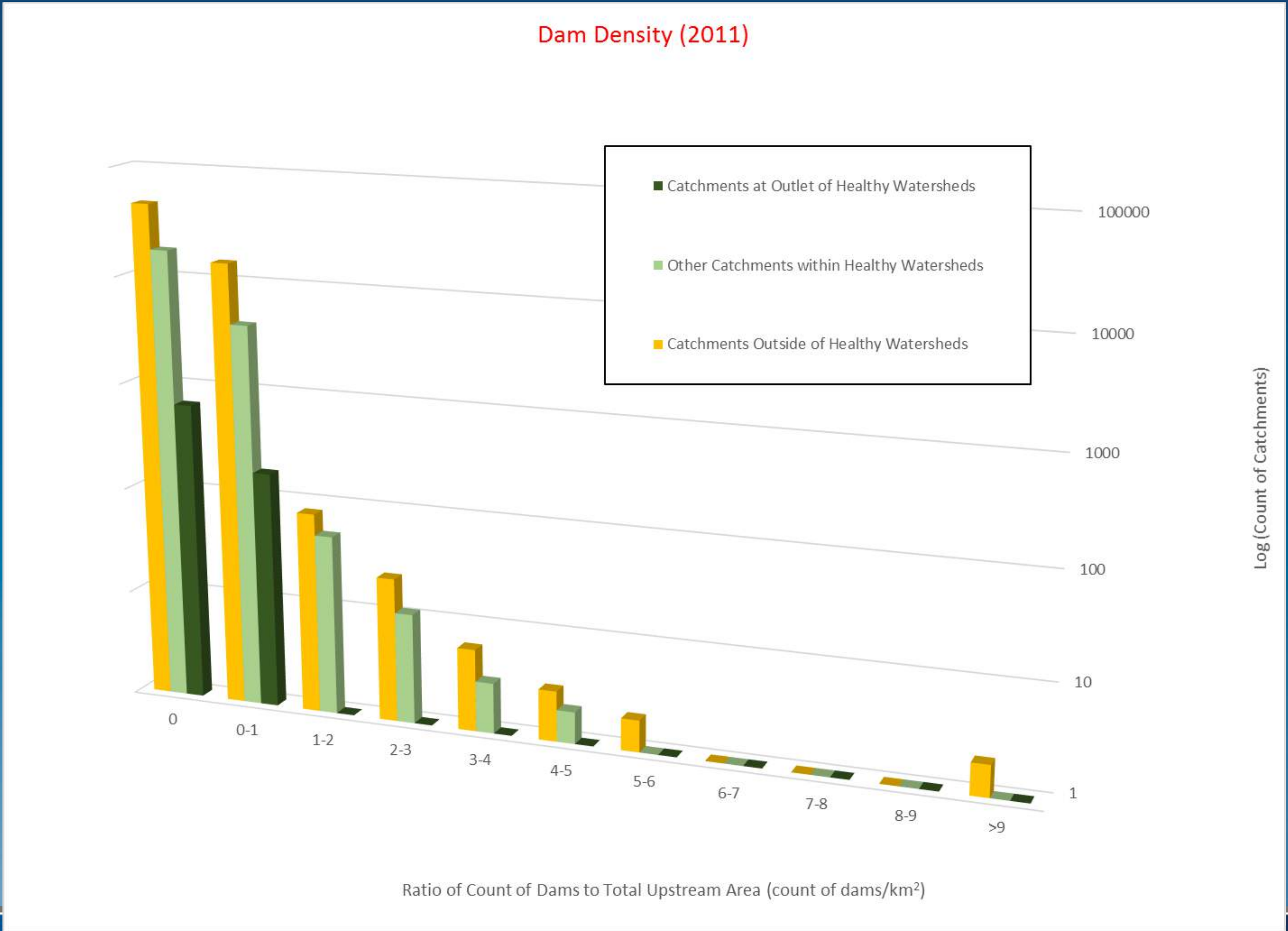
Catchments Upstream of Healthy Watersheds
Dam Density

USA_Contiguous_Albers_Equal_Area_Conic_USGS_version
Map produced 10-19-2018 S. Sarkar

0 20 40 80 Kilometers

0 20 40 80 Miles

TETRA TECH



Dam Density (2011)
Catchments at Outlet of Healthy Watersheds
Other Catchments within Healthy Watersheds
Catchments Outside of Healthy Watersheds
100000
10000
1000
100
10
1
Log (Count of Catchments)
0
0-1
1-2
2-3
3-4
4-5
5-6
6-7
7-8
8-9
>9
Ratio of Count of Dams to Total Upstream Area (count of dams/km2)

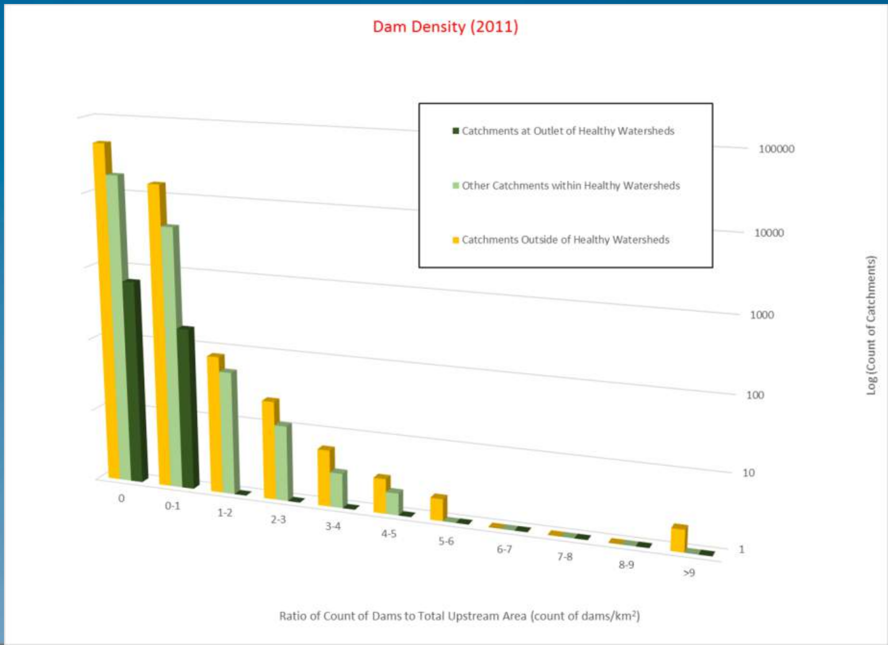
TETRA TECH

Metric Performance

- Example: Dam Density in Watershed
- Indicative of: Geomorphic condition
- Value calculated for entire upstream watershed area
- Metric expected to be low in healthy watersheds

Findings:

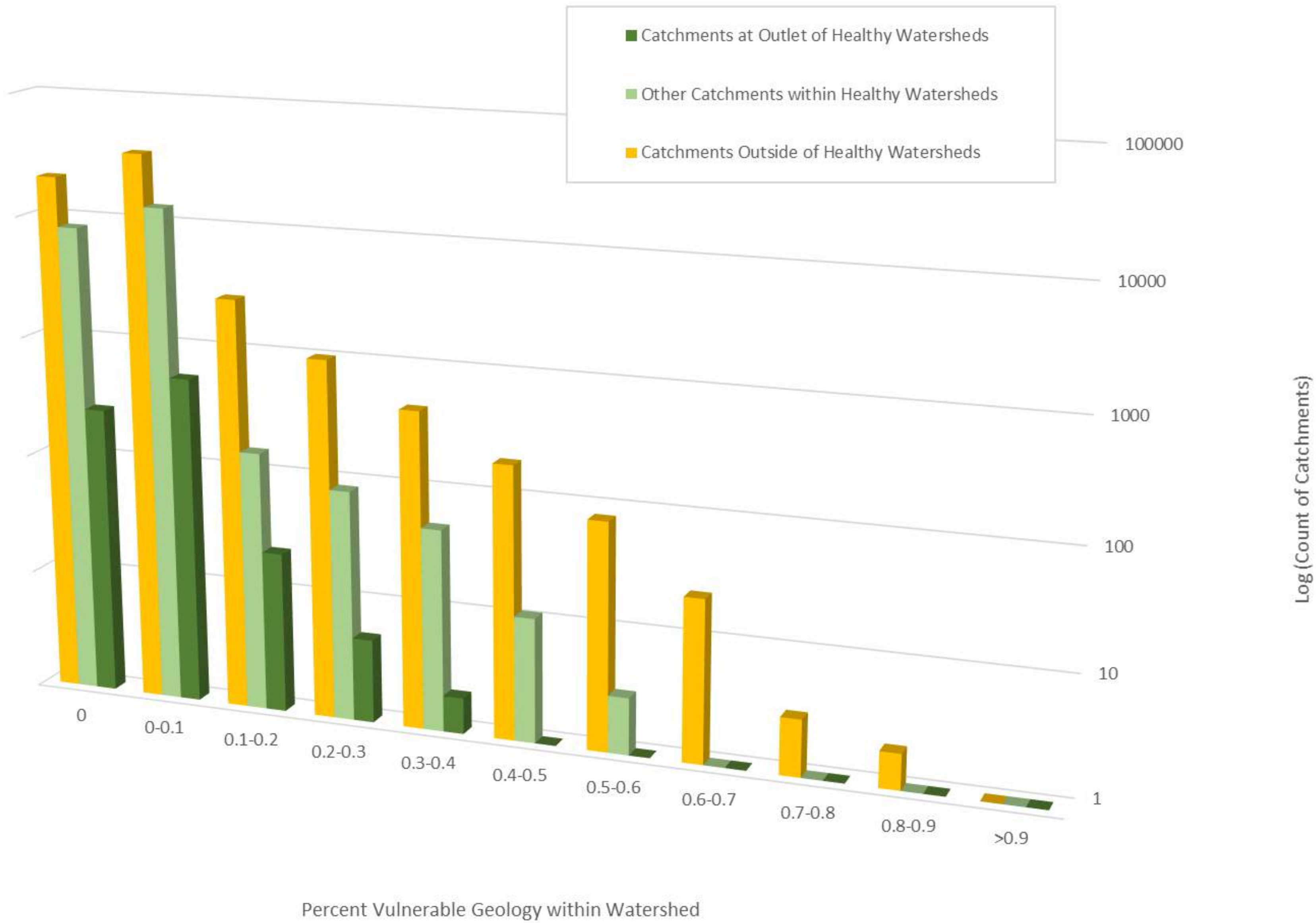
- Dam density low in CB Healthy Watersheds; 0 to 1 dam per km^2
- Many zero values



Metric Performance

- Example: Percent Vulnerable Geology in Watershed
- Indicative of: Geomorphic condition
- Value calculated for entire upstream watershed area
- Metric expected to be low in healthy watersheds

Percent Vulnerable Geology in Watershed

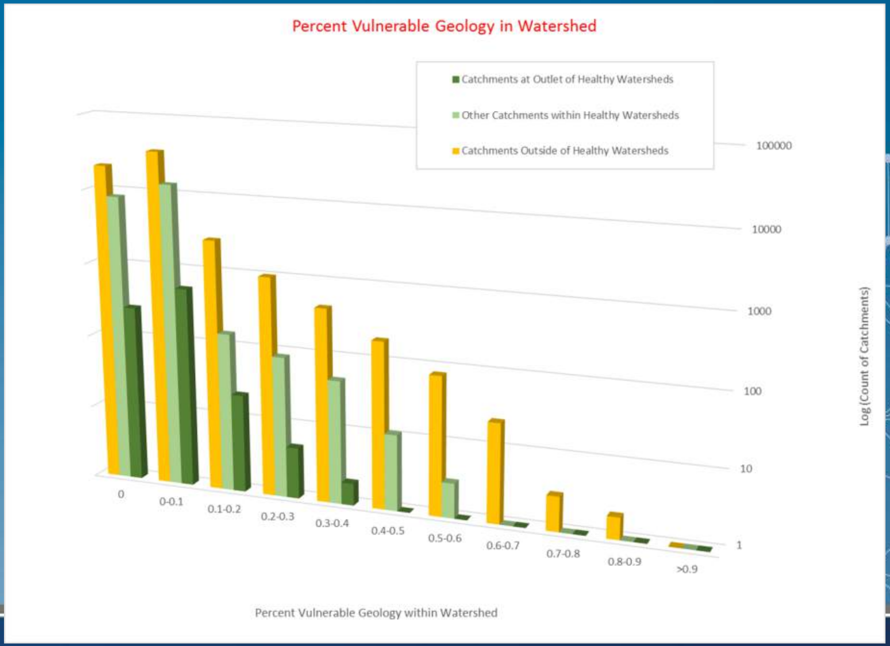


Metric Performance

- Example: Percent Vulnerable Geology in Watershed
- Indicative of: Geomorphic condition
- Value calculated for entire upstream watershed area
- Metric expected to be low in healthy watersheds

Findings:

- Vulnerable geology tends to be low in CB Healthy Watersheds

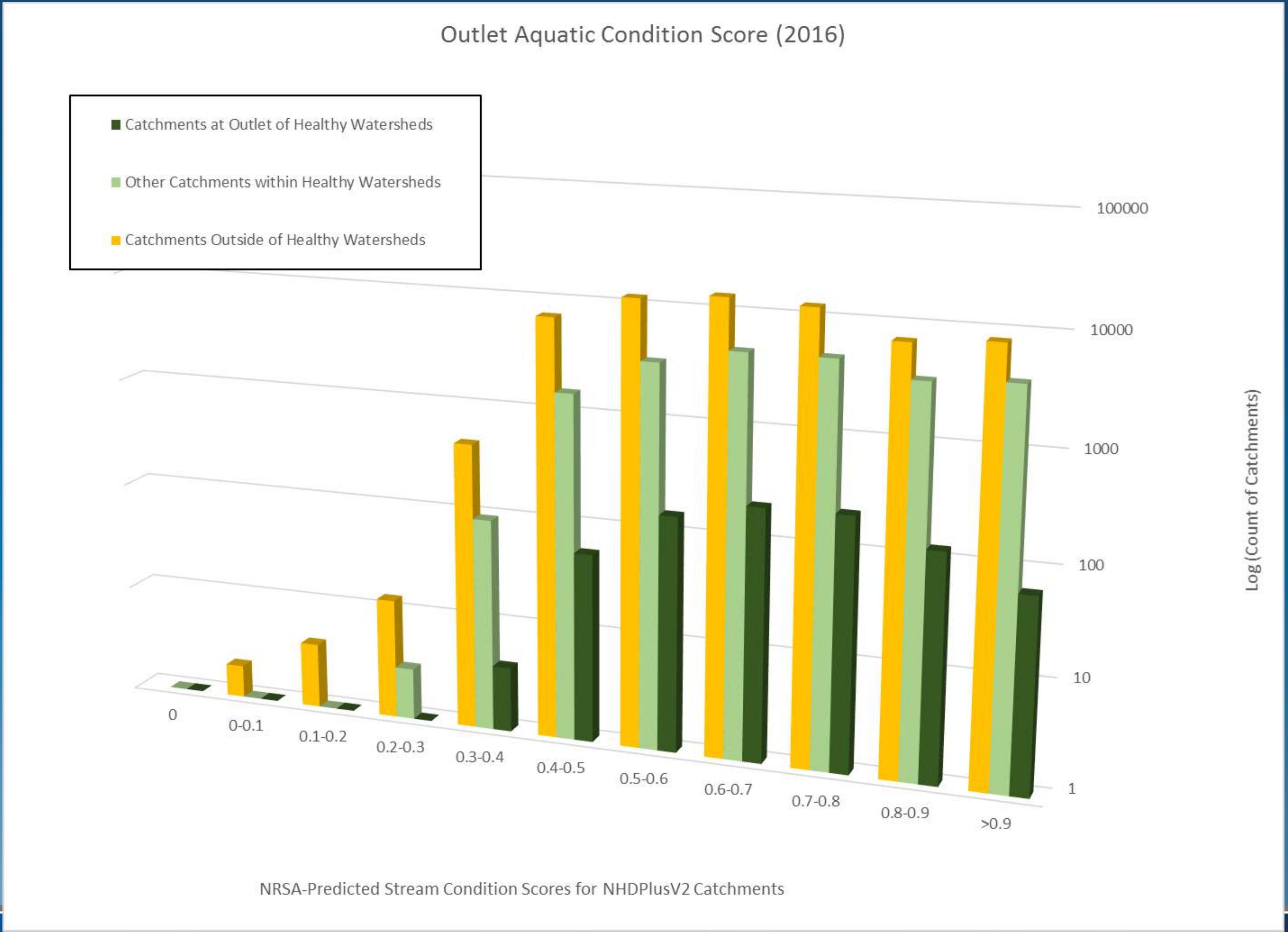


Metric Performance

- Example: National Fish Habitat Condition Index in Catchment
- Indicative of: Habitat condition
- Value calculated for catchment at healthy watershed outlet only
- Metric expected to be high in healthy watersheds

Metric Performance

- Example: Aquatic Condition Score
- Indicative of: Biological condition
- Value calculated for catchment at healthy watershed outlet only
- Metric expected to be high in healthy watersheds

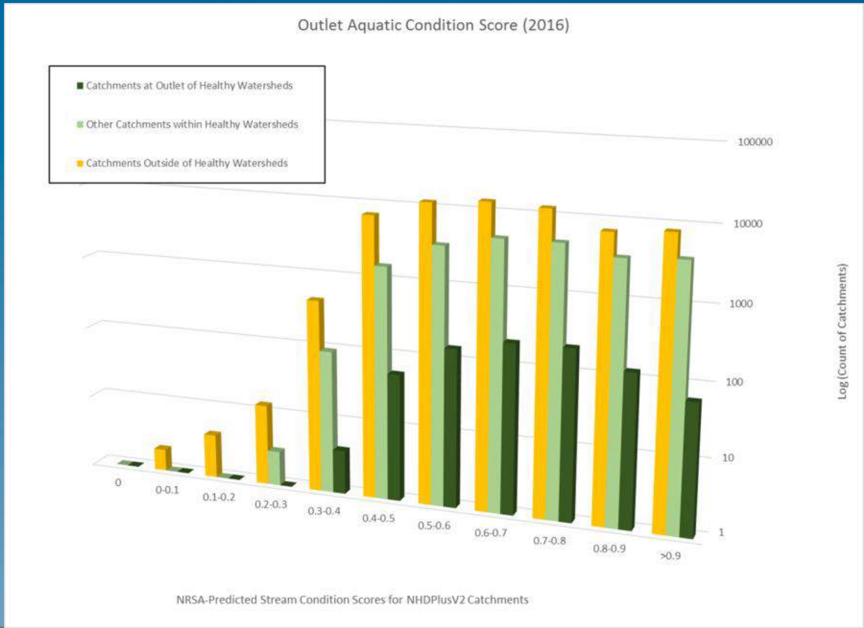

Outlet Aquatic Condition Score (2016)
Catchments at Outlet of Healthy Watersheds
Other Catchments within Healthy Watersheds
Catchments Outside of Healthy Watersheds
100000
10000
1000
100
10
1
Log (Count of Catchments)
0
0-0.1
0.1-0.2
0.2-0.3
0.3-0.4
0.4-0.5
0.5-0.6
0.6-0.7
0.7-0.8
0.8-0.9
>0.9
NRSA-Predicted Stream Condition Scores for NHDPlusV2 Catchments

Metric Performance

- Example: Aquatic Condition Score
- Indicative of: Biological condition
- Value calculated for catchment at healthy watershed outlet only
- Metric expected to be high in healthy watersheds

Findings:

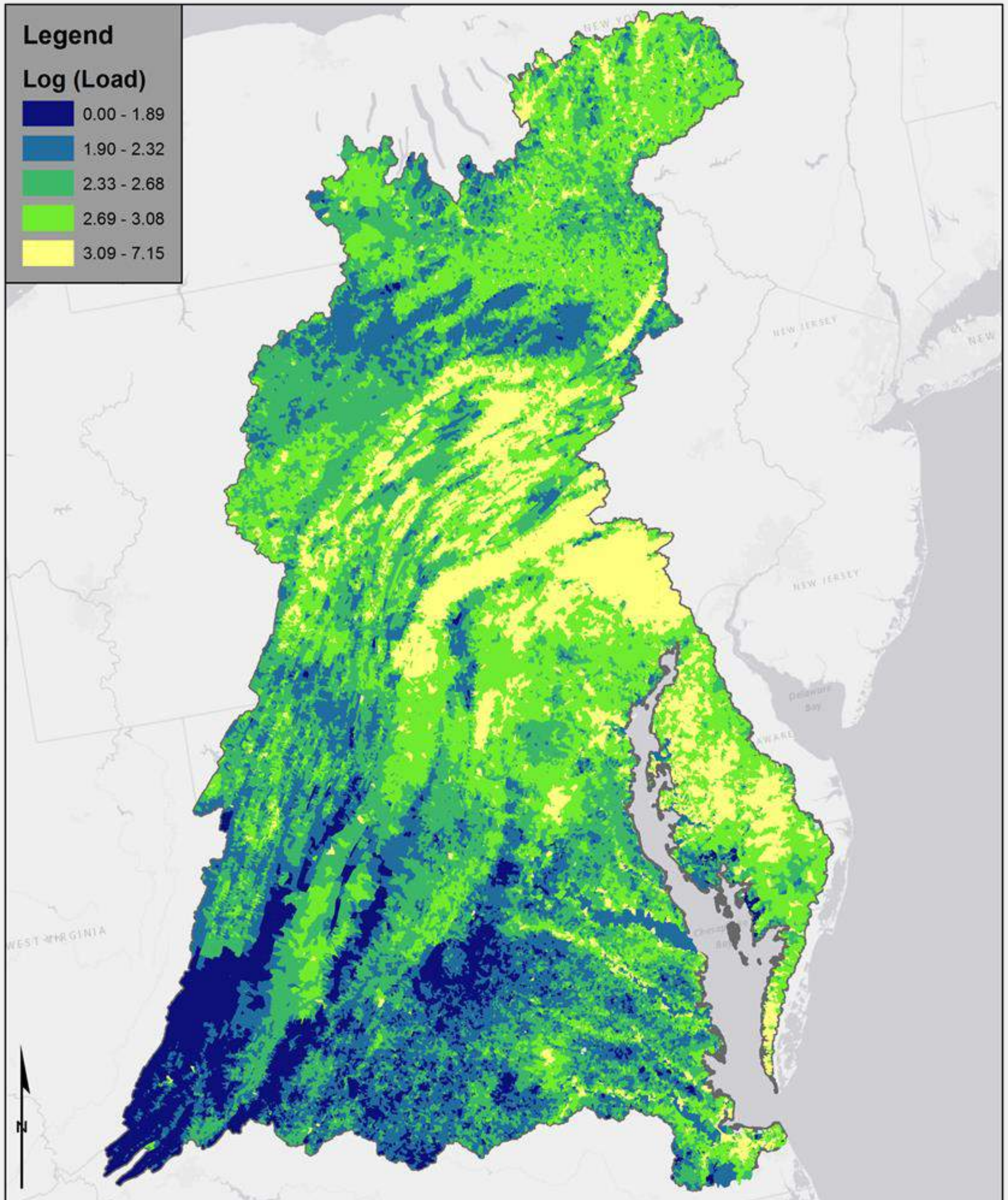
- Aquatic condition scores tend to be higher in CB Healthy Watersheds
- Current indicator provides estimates across all watersheds using national model; Stream Health modeling may provide CB region-specific estimates to apply in future



Metric Performance

- Example: Nutrient Loading
- Indicative of: Water Quality condition
- Values calculated for entire upstream watershed area
- Metric expected to be low in healthy watersheds

- Data sources:
  - SPARROW model of total N loads
  - CB Model of nutrient loading for N, P, and sediment, by sector (developed, agricultural, wastewater, combined sewer overflow, septic) – 15 individual metrics



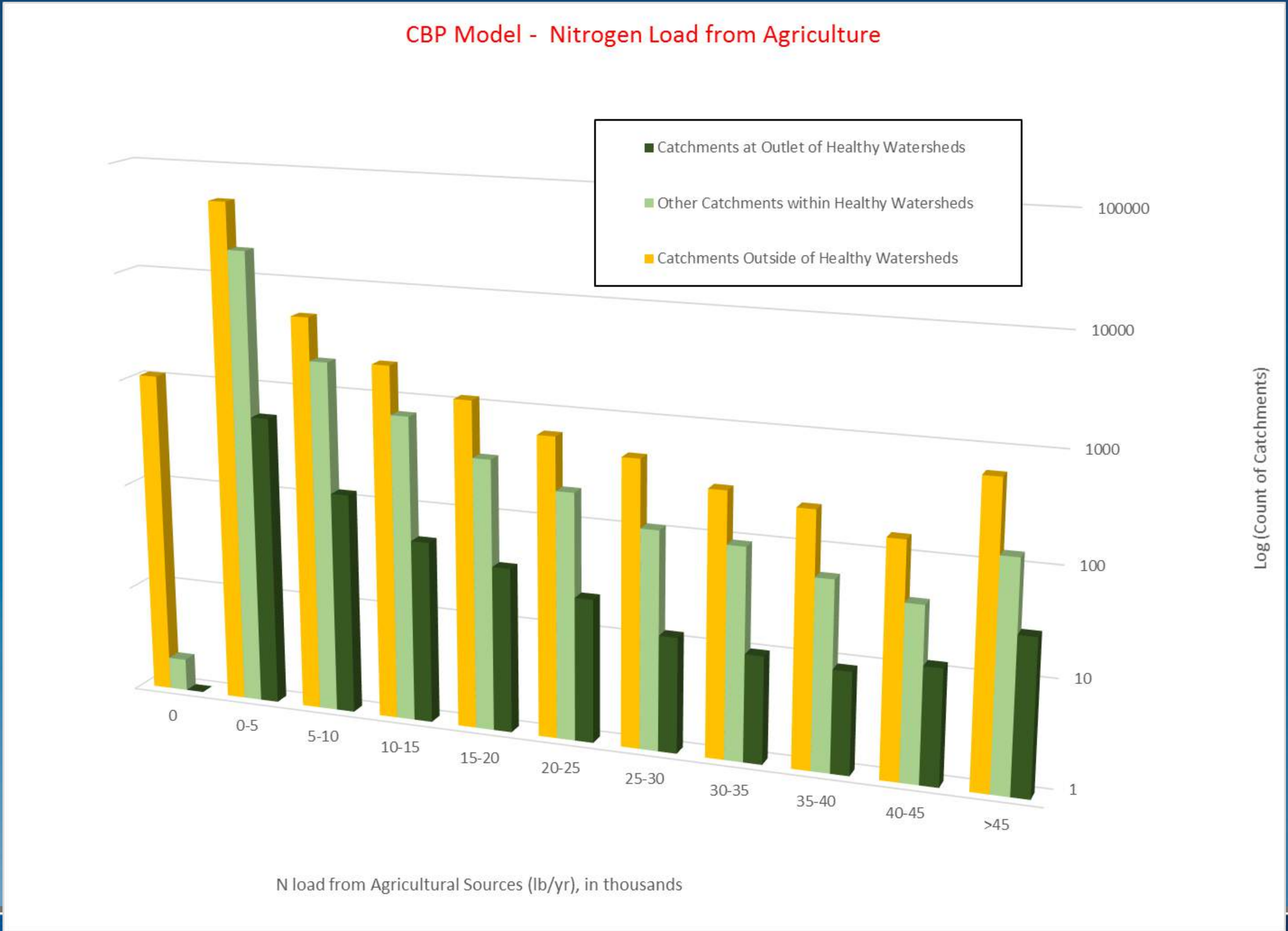
All Catchments
SPARROW - Total Nitrogen Load (lbs/yr)

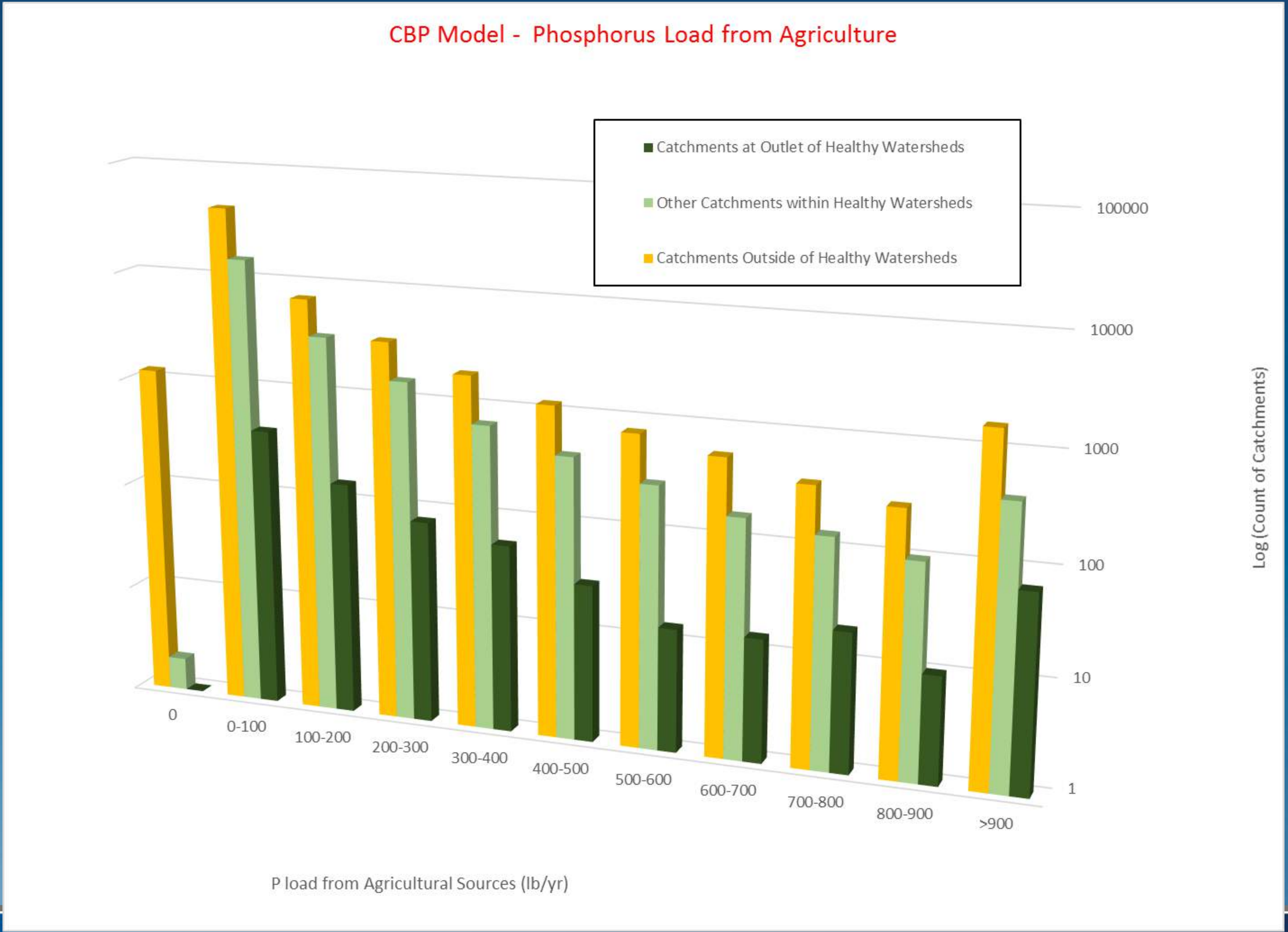
USA_Contiguous_Albers_Equal_Area_Conic_USGS_version
Map produced 10-19-2018 S. Sarkar

0 20 40 80 Kilometers

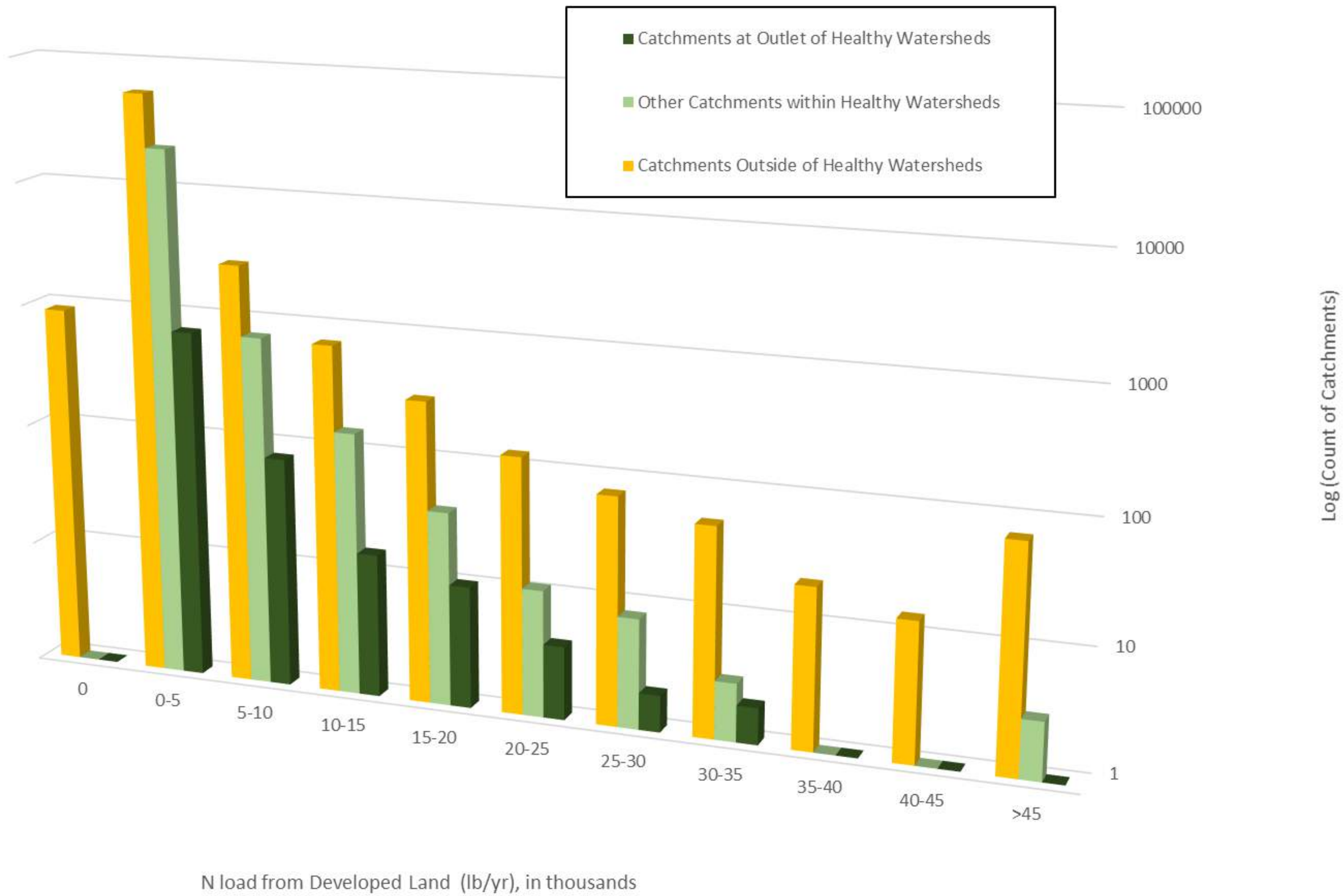
0 20 40 80 Miles

TETRA TECH


CBP Model - Nitrogen Load from Agriculture
Catchments at Outlet of Healthy Watersheds
Other Catchments within Healthy Watersheds
Catchments Outside of Healthy Watersheds
100000
10000
1000
100
10
1
Log (Count of Catchments)
0
0-5
5-10
10-15
15-20
20-25
25-30
30-35
35-40
40-45
>45
N load from Agricultural Sources (lb/yr), in thousands

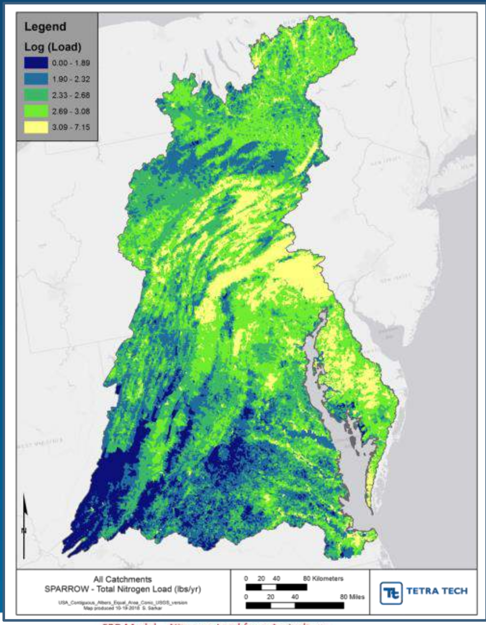

CBP Model - Phosphorus Load from Agriculture
Catchments at Outlet of Healthy Watersheds
Other Catchments within Healthy Watersheds
Catchments Outside of Healthy Watersheds
100000
10000
1000
100
10
1
Log (Count of Catchments)
0
0-100
100-200
200-300
300-400
400-500
500-600
600-700
700-800
800-900
>900
P load from Agricultural Sources (lb/yr)

CBP Model - Nitrogen Load from Development



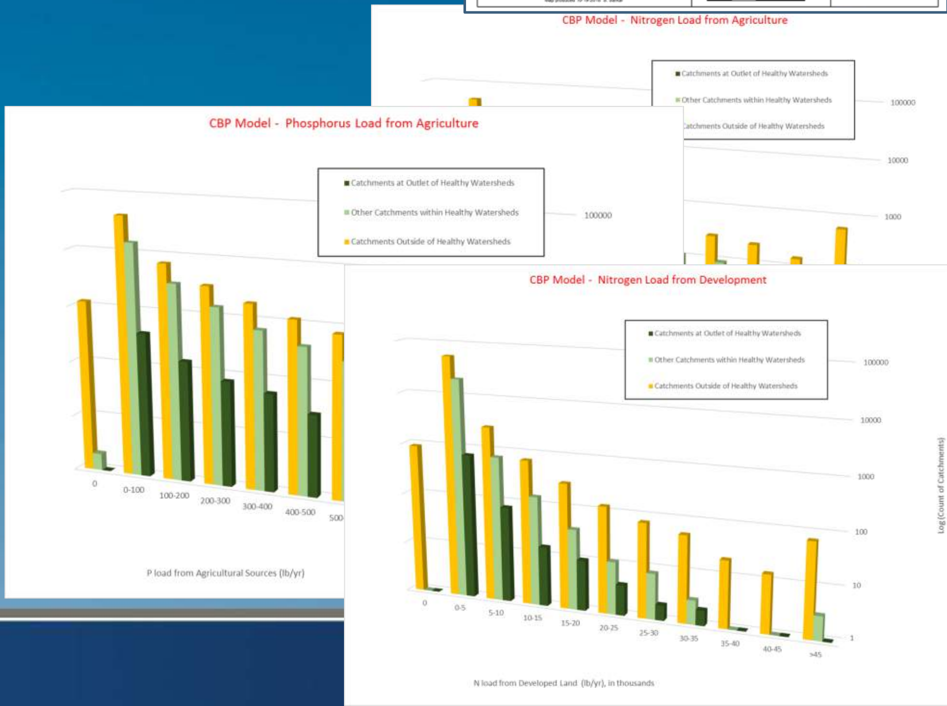
Metric Performance

- Example: Nutrient Loading
- Indicative of: Water Quality condition
- Value calculated for entire upstream watershed area
- Metric expected to be low in healthy watersheds



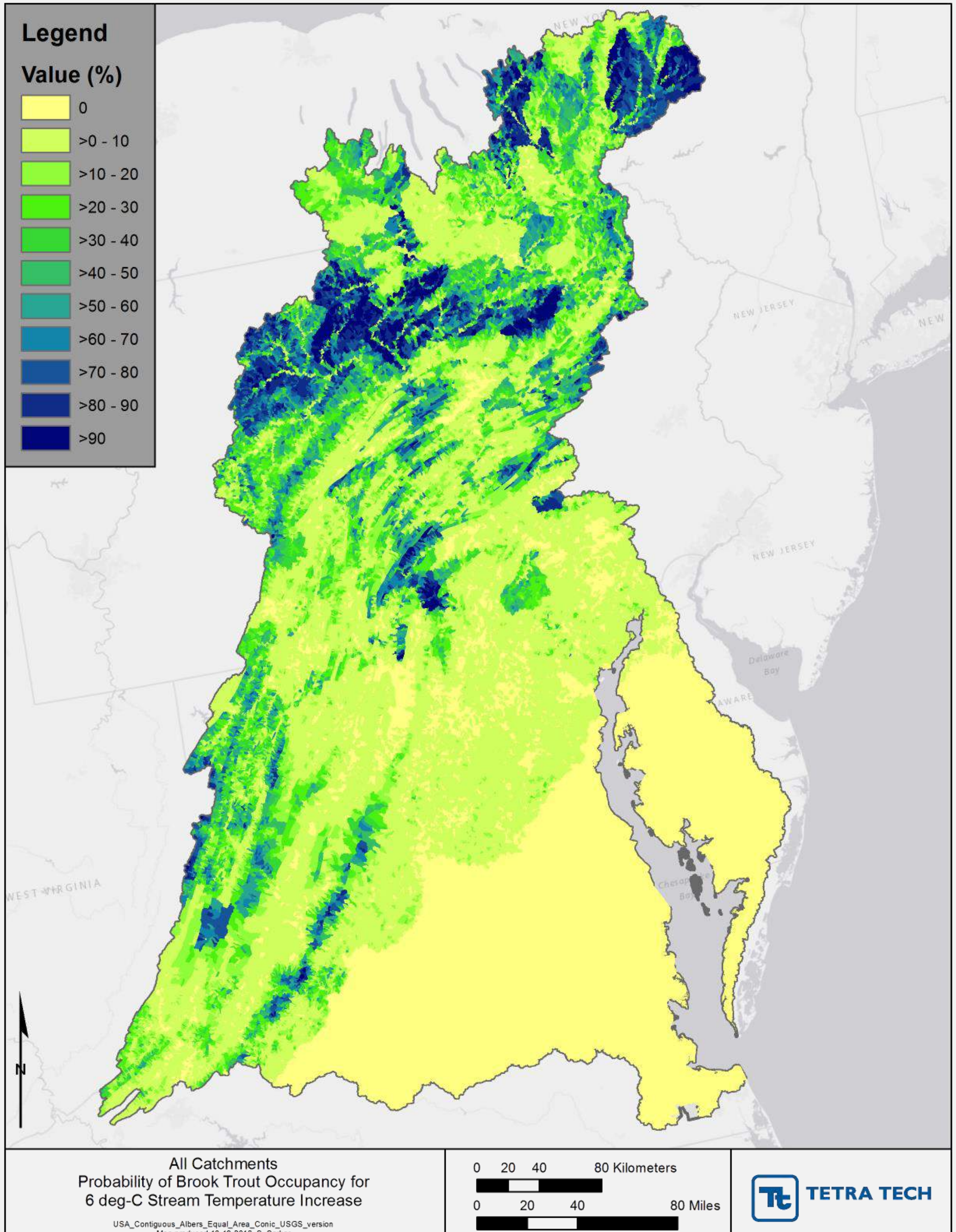
Findings:

- SPARROW provides good single metric describing N loads across the Bay watershed
- Individual source- and parameter-specific metrics from Bay Model may serve as diagnostic tools



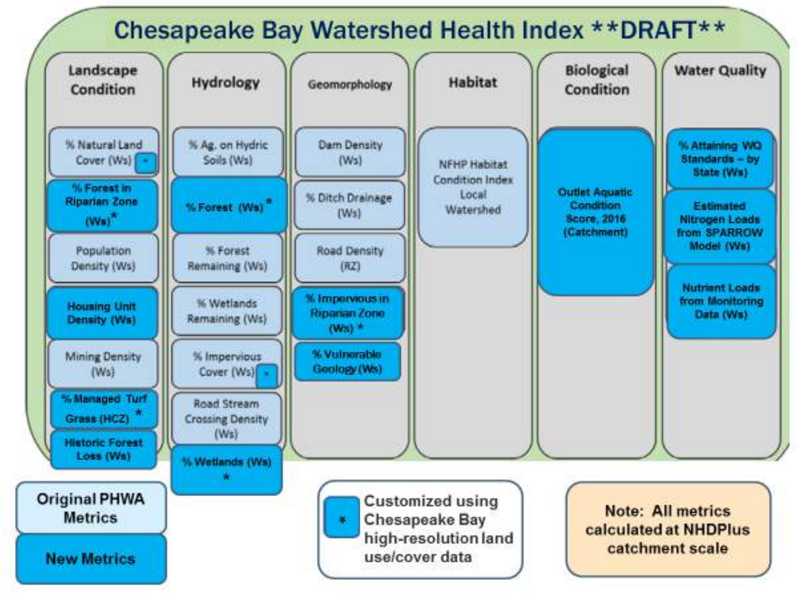
Metric Performance (Example of Vulnerability)

- Example: <u>Brook Trout Occurrence with 6 degree C Temperature Change</u>
- Indicative of: <u>Climate Change</u>
- Values calculated for entire upstream watershed area
- Metric expected to be <u>high</u> in healthy watersheds


Legend
Value (%)
0
>0 - 10
>10 - 20
>20 - 30
>30 - 40
>40 - 50
>50 - 60
>60 - 70
>70 - 80
>80 - 90
>90
NEW JERSEY
NEW JERSEY
WEST VIRGINIA
Delaware Bay
N
All Catchments
Probability of Brook Trout Occupancy for
6 deg-C Stream Temperature Increase
USA_Contiguous_Albers_Equal_Area_Conic_USGS_version
Map produced 10-19-2018 S. Sarkar
0 20 40 80 Kilometers
0 20 40 80 Miles
TETRA TECH

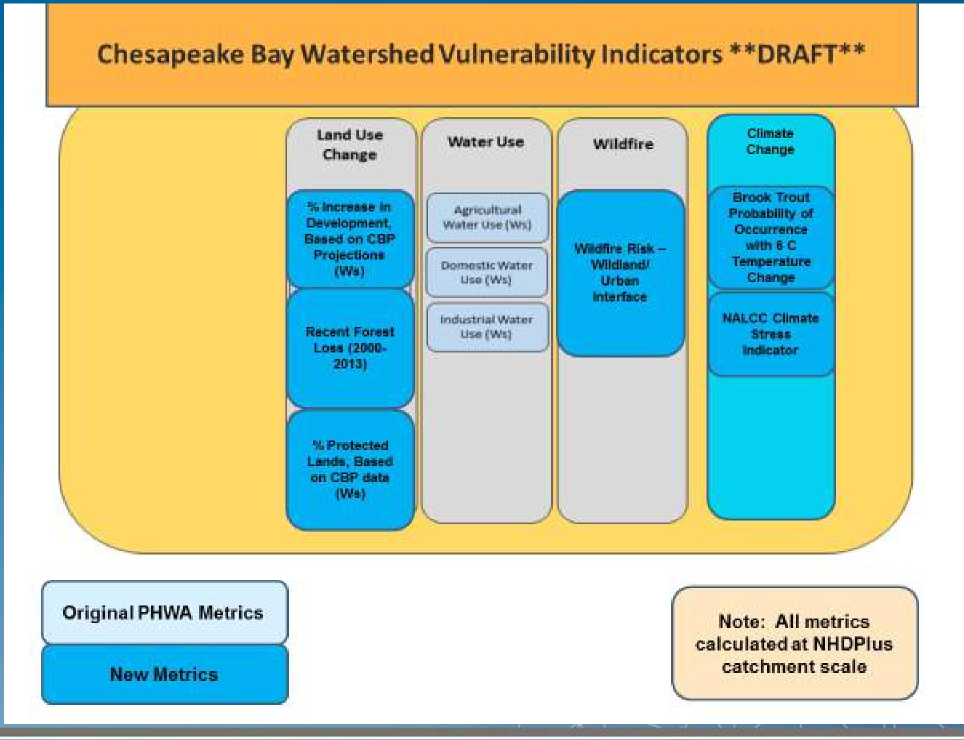
Combining Metrics into Sub-indices and Index of Watershed Health

- Normalize metric scores to 0 to 1
- Calculate mean score for each of six sub-indices (landscape condition, hydrology, geomorphology, habitat, biological condition, water quality)
- Calculate mean score – scaled from 0 to 1 – to obtain overall Index of Watershed Health



Combining Metrics into Sub-indices for Watershed Vulnerability

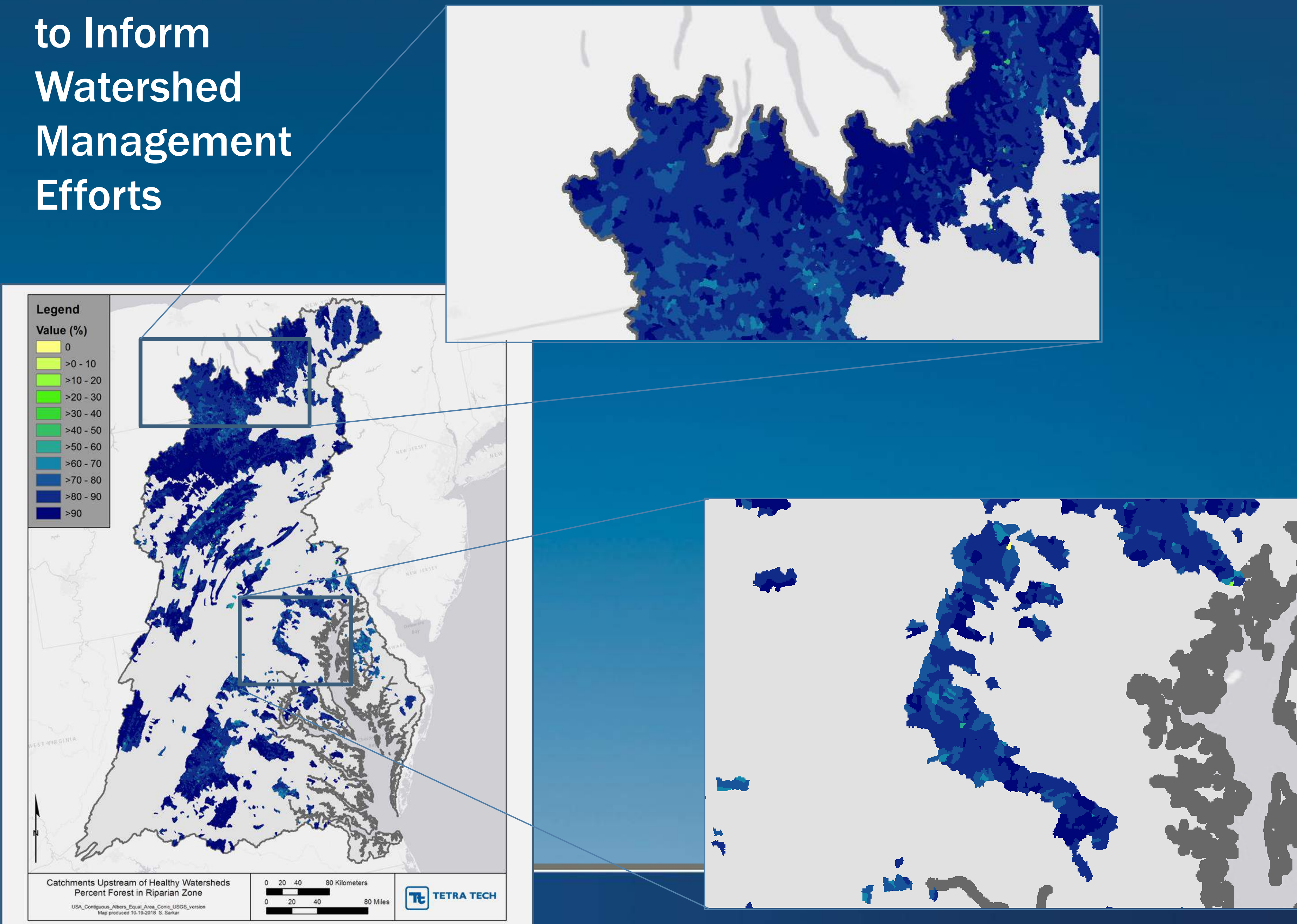
- Normalize metric scores to 0 to 1
- Calculate mean score for each of four sub-indices (land use change, water use, wildfire risk, climate change)



Applications of Chesapeake Bay Healthy Watershed Assessment

- Bay-wide and state-specific assessments of the condition of CB Healthy Watersheds
- Understand vulnerability of the CB Healthy Watersheds
- Assess conditions to inform watershed management efforts for particular CB Healthy Watersheds
- Future tracking

Assess Conditions to Inform Watershed Management Efforts

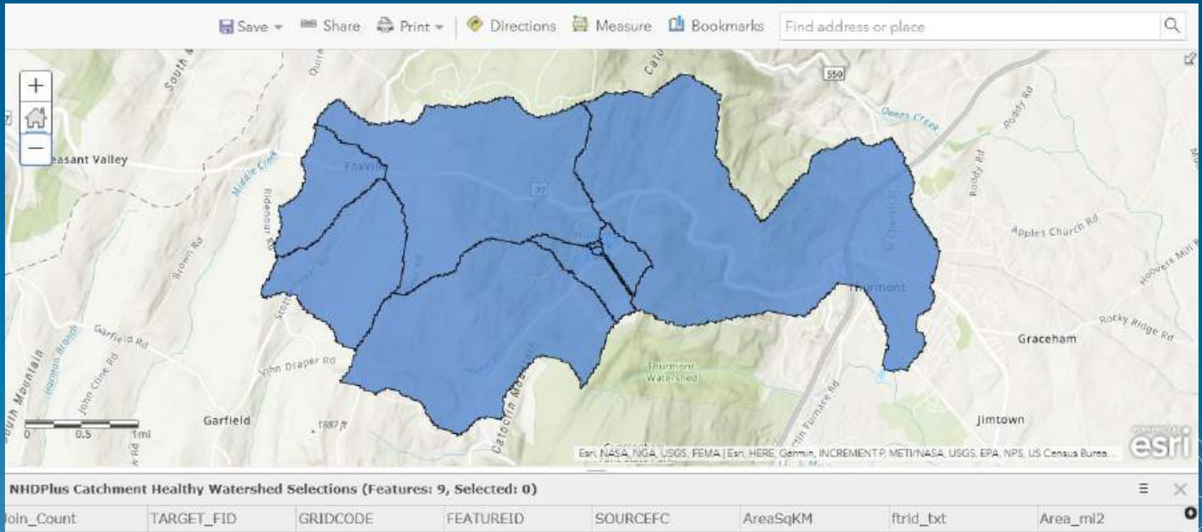


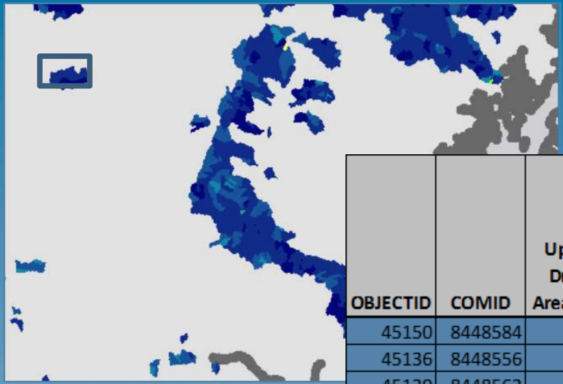
Assess Conditions to Inform Watershed Management Efforts

Provide suite of Healthy Watershed metrics and indicators for future data visualization and analysis

Example: Hunting Creek near Thurmont, MD

- 1 CB Healthy Watershed, containing 9 NHDPlus catchments





OBJECTID	COMID	Total Upstream Drainage Area (sq km)	Aquatic Condition Index	Road Density (Cs)	Road Density (Ws)	Road/Stream Crossings (Ws)	Housing Unit Density 2010 (Ws)	Population Density 2010 (Ws)	Impervious (Cs)	Impervious (Ws)	Impervious RZ (Cs)	Impervi RZ (W
45150	8448584	29.5938	0.6538	5.3470	3.5362	0.4731	0.0041	0.0045	0.0891	0.0111	0.4883	0.
45136	8448556	10.4337	0.7589	3.2747	2.8520	0.4792	0.0011	0.0012	0.0280	0.0141	0.3968	0.
45139	8448562	6.9849	0.8106	4.5346	1.7741	0.2863	0.0011	0.0012	0.0023	0.0235	0.1700	0.
45149	8448582	6.3117	0.8198	1.5082	1.5082	0.3169	0.0011	0.0012	0.0220	0.0220	0.2945	0.
45388	8449076	1.4373	0.6660	2.2839	2.2839	0.6957	0.0011	0.0012	0.0415	0.0415	0.4069	0.
45389	8449078	2.6784	0.7116	2.6806	2.6806	0.7467	0.0011	0.0012	0.0326	0.0326	0.3932	0.
45419	8449144	17.7921	0.8604	2.3465	2.4658	0.3934	0.0011	0.0012	0.0108	0.0182	0.3303	0.
45420	8449146	10.4481	0.8853	4.5346	2.8538	0.4786	0.0011	0.0012	0.0118	0.0310	0.2125	0.
45421	8449150	6.9516	0.7945	4.1690	1.7659	0.2877	0.0011	0.0012	0.0391	0.0036	0.5096	0.

Tracking Conditions in Healthy Watersheds in the Future

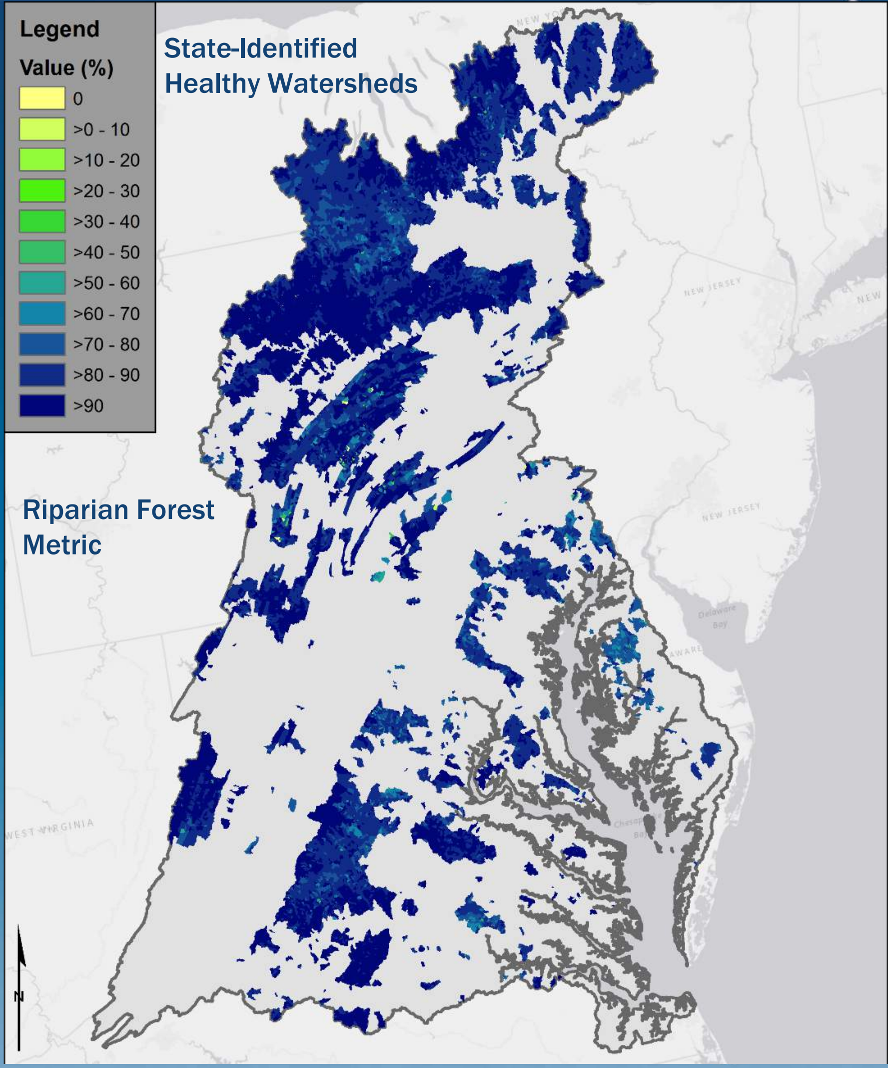
- **Updates to Source Data**
  - CBP high-resolution land use/land cover data - future iterations
  - StreamCat – will be updated as new data become available (e.g.: 2020 census data and every 10 years beyond)
  - LANDFIRE - periodic updates - next version 2020
  - State data - updates available with 303(d) reports, every 2 years

Tracking Conditions in Healthy Watersheds in the Future

- **New metrics under development**
  - Chesapeake B-IBI (Chessie B-IBI) and current efforts to extrapolate from point data and apply areawide; model-based estimates for unsampled watersheds - CBP Stream Health Workgroup
  - Fish Habitat indicator development – CBP Sustainable Fisheries and Habitat Goal Implementation Teams
  - Climate Change indicator development – CBP Climate Resiliency

Questions/Discussion

Preliminary Healthy Watershed Assessment (PHWA) in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed



Tetra Tech Team:
- Nancy Roth
- Christopher Wharton
- Sam Sarkar
- Brian Pickard

Healthy Watersheds Goal Implementation Team Meeting
June 2019

Background

- Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) Healthy Watersheds Goal Implementation Team identified need for quantitative indicators to support watershed assessment and management
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Preliminary Healthy Watershed Assessment (PHWA) as framework

Project Overview

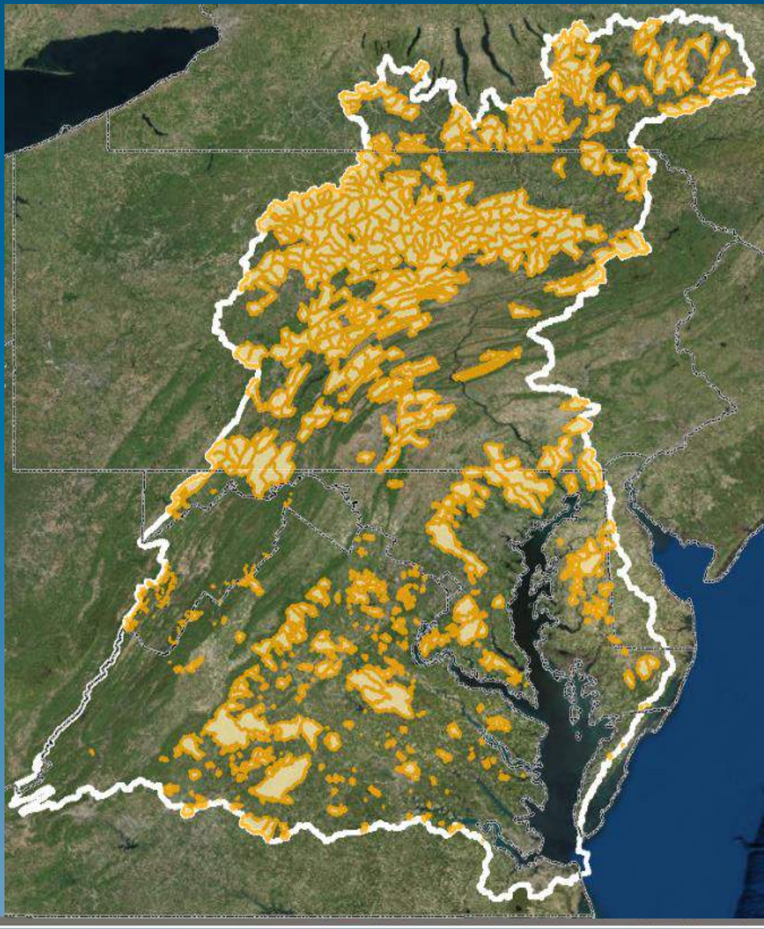
- **Apply and adapt EPA's Preliminary Healthy Watersheds Assessment framework to**
  - Assess current condition of state-identified Healthy Watersheds
  - Develop an approach for future tracking of condition
  - Assess vulnerabilities of these watersheds
- **Provide data that will help inform watershed management activities that best support the maintenance of watershed health**

Management Goals and Outcome

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

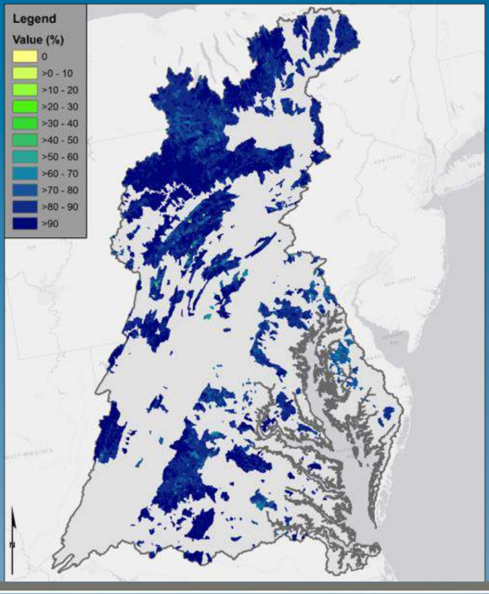
Target Outcome: 100 percent of state-identified currently healthy waters and watersheds remain healthy

- CBP Healthy Watersheds Outcome Management Strategy, 2018



Today's Presentation

- Adapting the PHWA approach and addressing scale
- Indicators of watershed condition
- Indicators of watershed vulnerability
- Data visualization and access to data



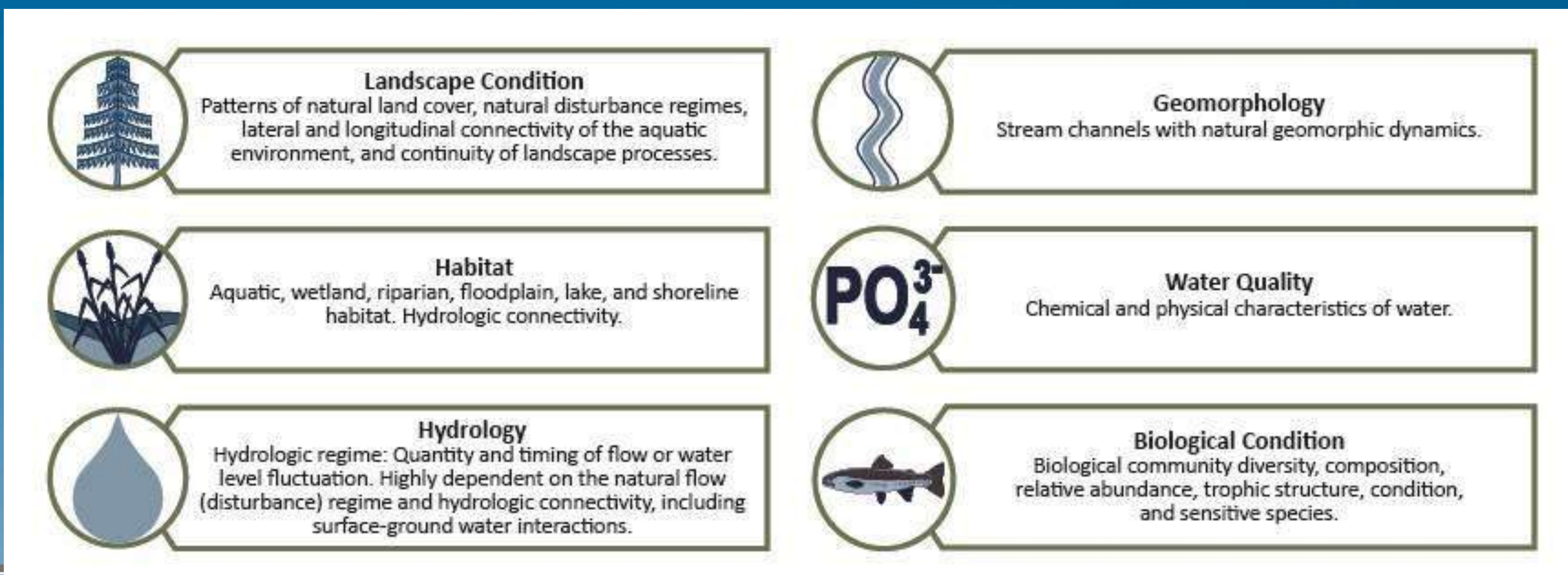
Today's Presentation

- Adapting the PHWA approach and addressing scale
- Indicators of watershed condition
- Indicators of watershed vulnerability
- Data visualization and access to data

Assessing Watershed Health

PHWA employs metrics in six categories:

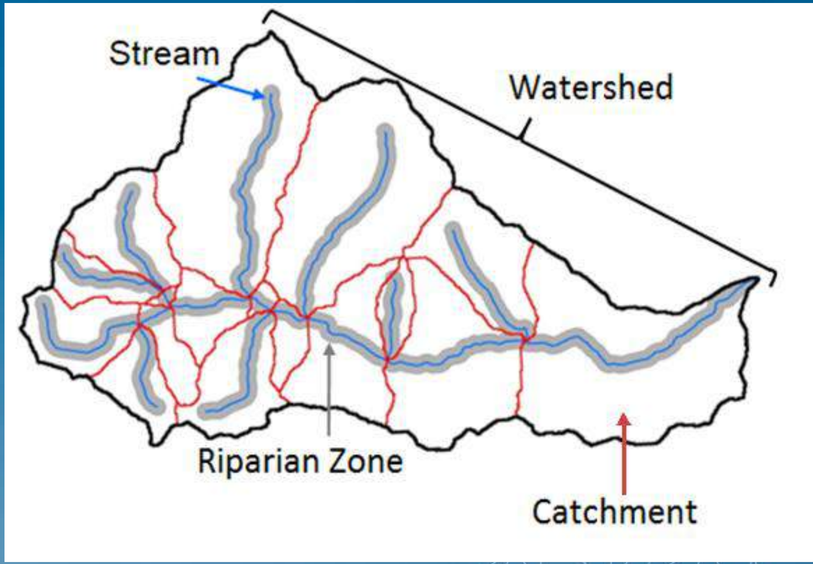
- Landscape condition
- Habitat
- Hydrology
- Geomorphology
- Water quality
- Biological condition



EPA Office of Water, Healthy Watersheds Program, March 2017

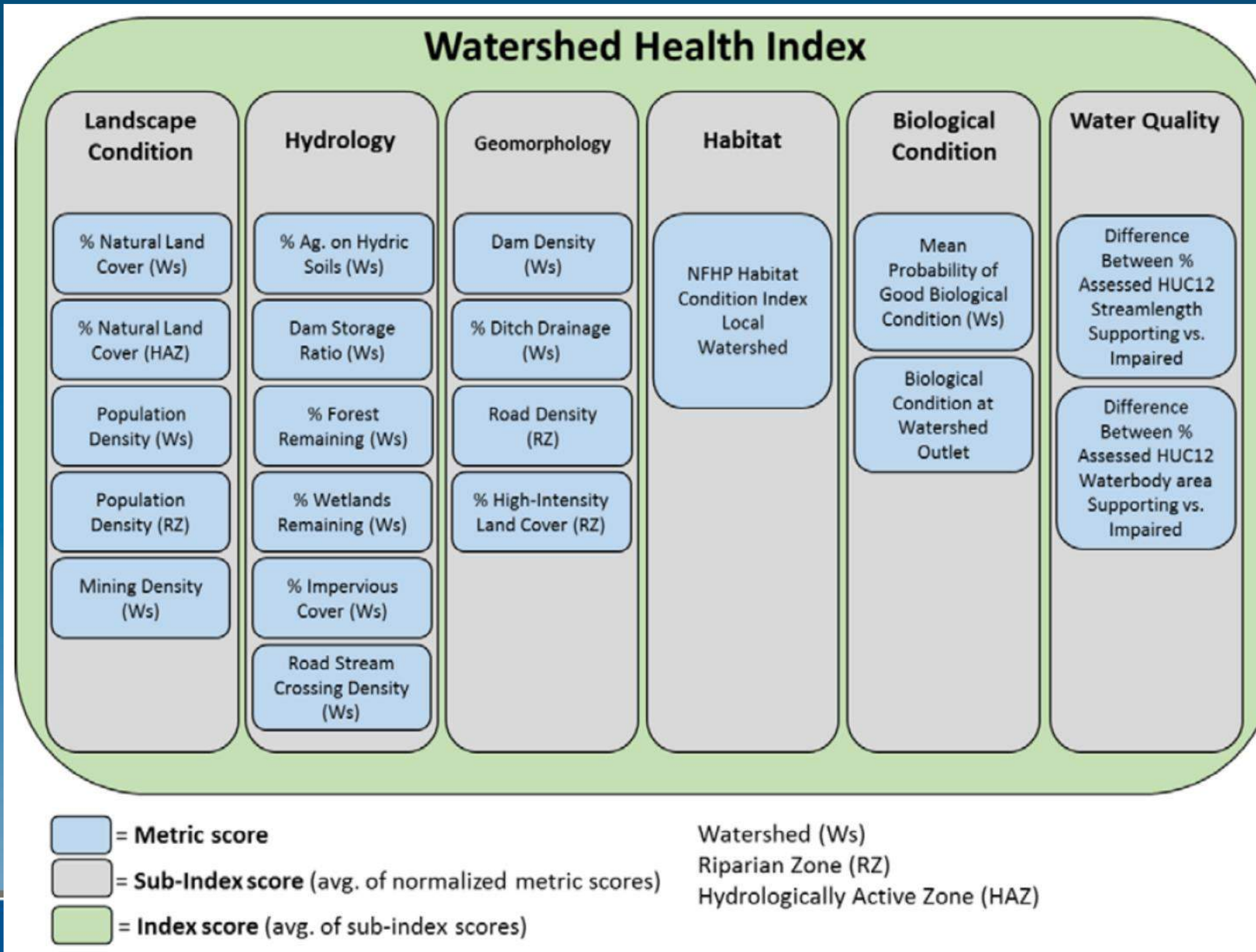
Healthy Watersheds: Catchment- and Watershed-Scale Metrics

- "Catchment" - Local catchment condition
- "Watershed" - Cumulative condition over entire watershed upstream of outlet
- Most Chesapeake Bay candidate metrics were calculated as watershed-scale metrics, reflecting influence of entire upstream watershed
  - Ex: Percent Impervious Cover in Watershed
- A few at catchment scale only
  - Ex: Aquatic Biological Condition at Outlet
- Some for riparian zone only: the corridor of land within 100 meters of stream



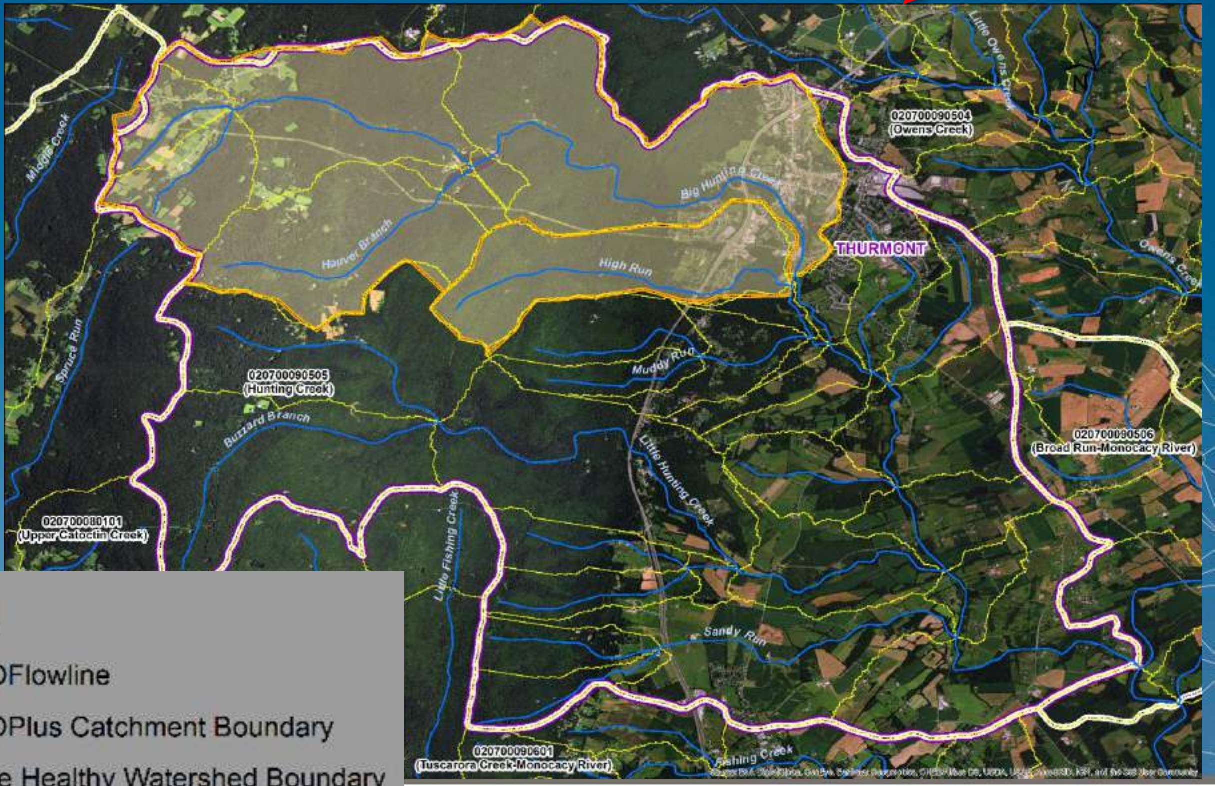
Modified from EPA StreamCat

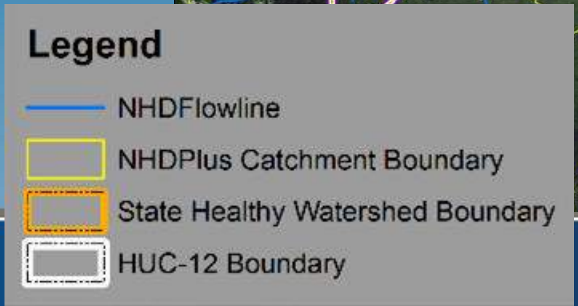
PHWA Metrics – Watershed Health



Addressing Watershed Scale

- PHWA developed nationally to provide data at HUC12 scale; this regional application required finer scale
- Developed metrics at NHDPlus catchment scale
- Calculated for all 83,623 catchments in Chesapeake watershed (average area ~2 km^2)





Today's Presentation

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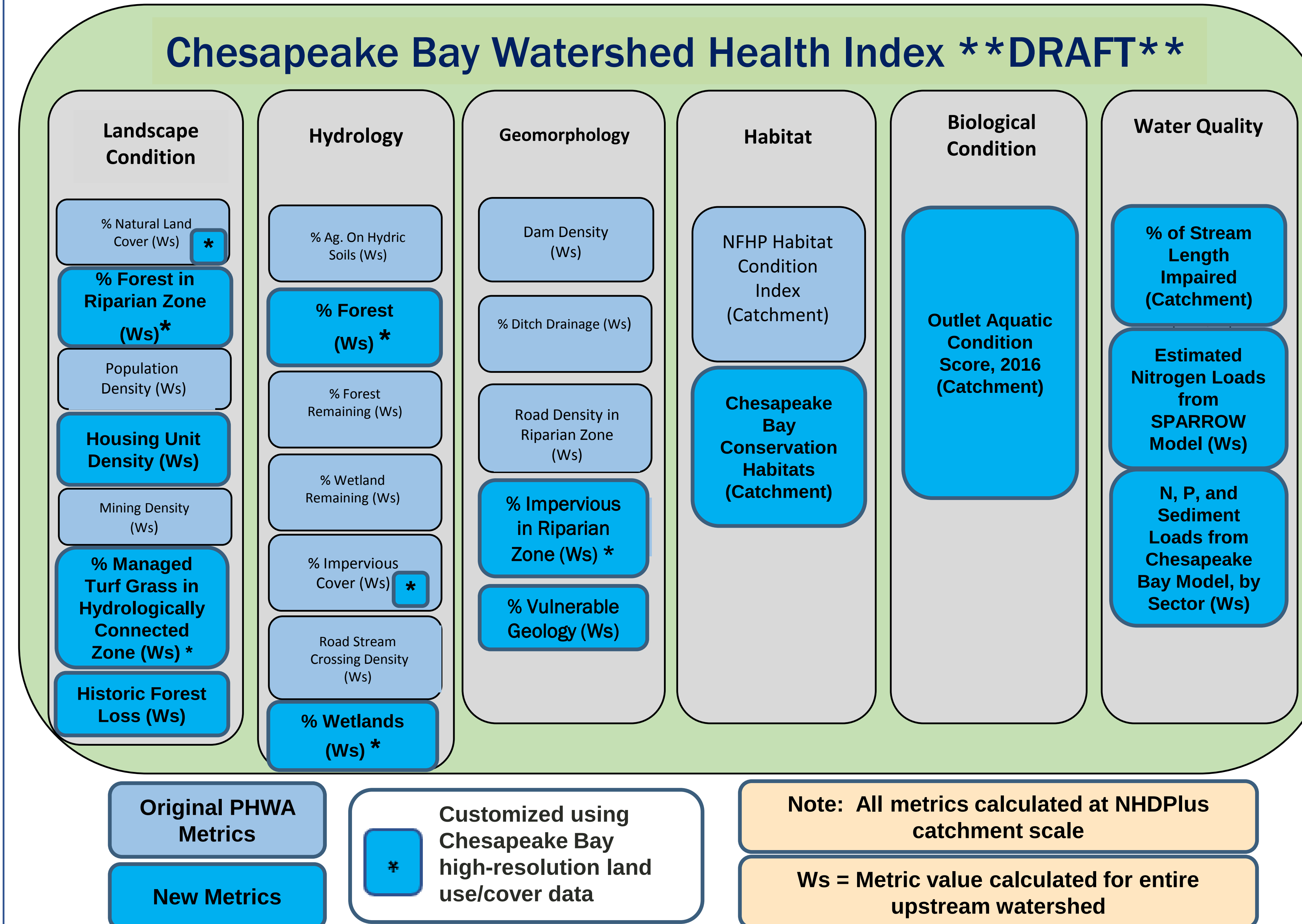
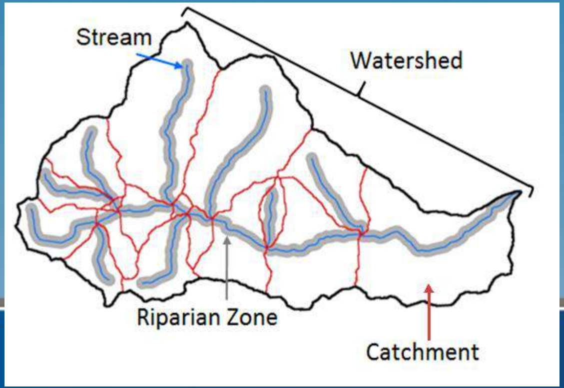

Chesapeake Bay Watershed Health Index **DRAFT**
Landscape Condition
% Natural Land Cover (Ws) *
% Forest in Riparian Zone (Ws)*
Population Density (Ws)
Housing Unit Density (Ws)
Mining Density (Ws)
% Managed Turf Grass in Hydrologically Connected Zone (Ws) *
Historic Forest Loss (Ws)
Hydrology
% Ag. On Hydric Soils (Ws)
% Forest (Ws) *
% Forest Remaining (Ws)
% Wetland Remaining (Ws)
% Impervious Cover (Ws) *
Road Stream Crossing Density (Ws)
% Wetlands (Ws) *
Geomorphology
Dam Density (Ws)
% Ditch Drainage (Ws)
Road Density in Riparian Zone (Ws)
% Impervious in Riparian Zone (Ws) *
% Vulnerable Geology (Ws)
Habitat
NFHP Habitat Condition Index (Catchment)
Chesapeake Bay Conservation Habitats (Catchment)
Biological Condition
Outlet Aquatic Condition Score, 2016 (Catchment)
Water Quality
% of Stream Length Impaired (Catchment)
Estimated Nitrogen Loads from SPARROW Model (Ws)
N, P, and Sediment Loads from Chesapeake Bay Model, by Sector (Ws)
Original PHWA Metrics
New Metrics
* Customized using Chesapeake Bay high-resolution land use/cover data
Note: All metrics calculated at NHDPlus catchment scale
Ws = Metric value calculated for entire upstream watershed

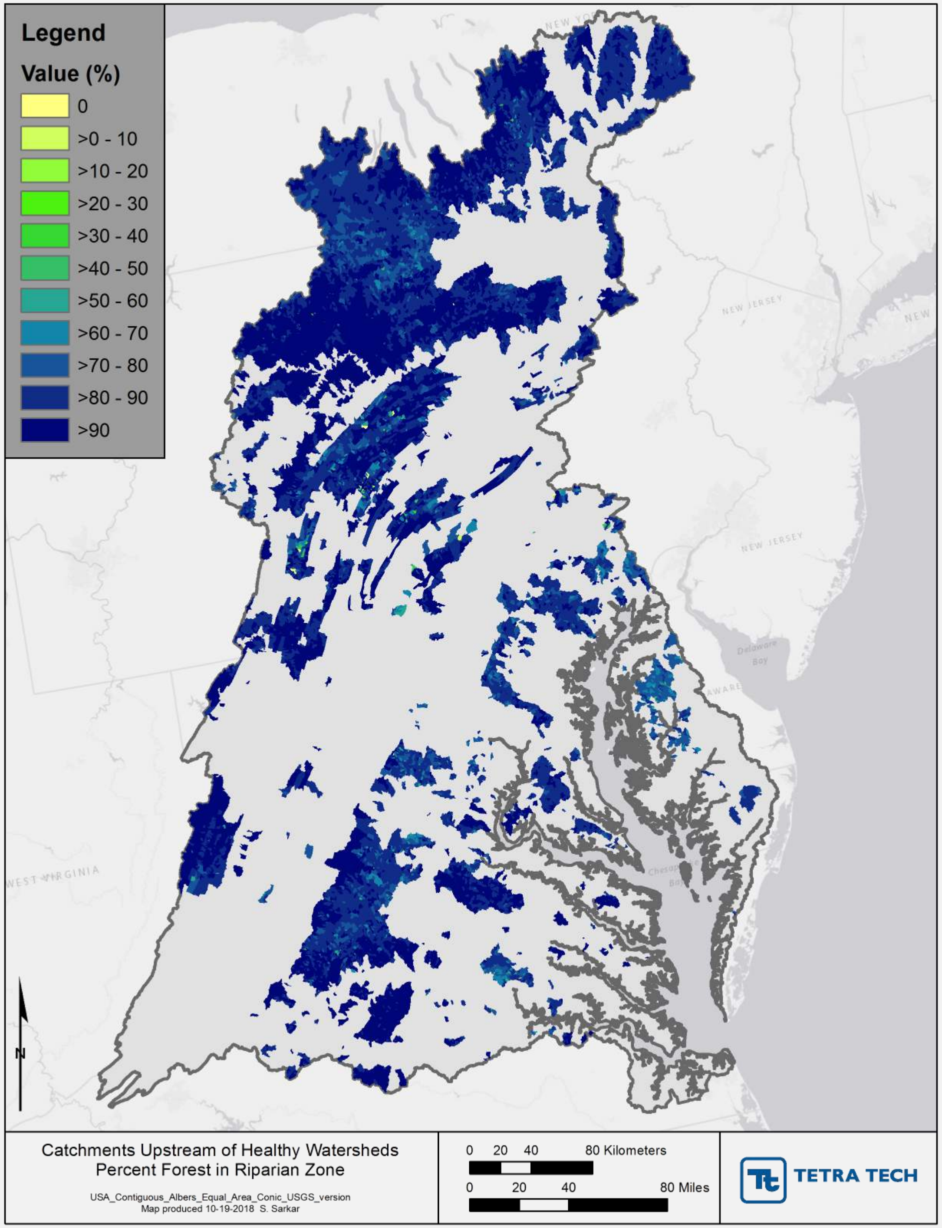
Data Sources

- For use Bay-wide, sought data that would provide consistent, wall-to-wall coverage
- Needed data at catchment or finer-scale resolution
- Derived several key indicators from recent high-resolution Chesapeake Bay land use/land cover data developed by CBP and partners
- Where possible, leveraged other geospatial data from regional sources, for example:
  - EPA StreamCat
  - National Fish Habitat Partnership
  - Chesapeake Bay model for nutrient loads
  - North Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative
  - LandScope/Nature's Network

Metric Performance Example

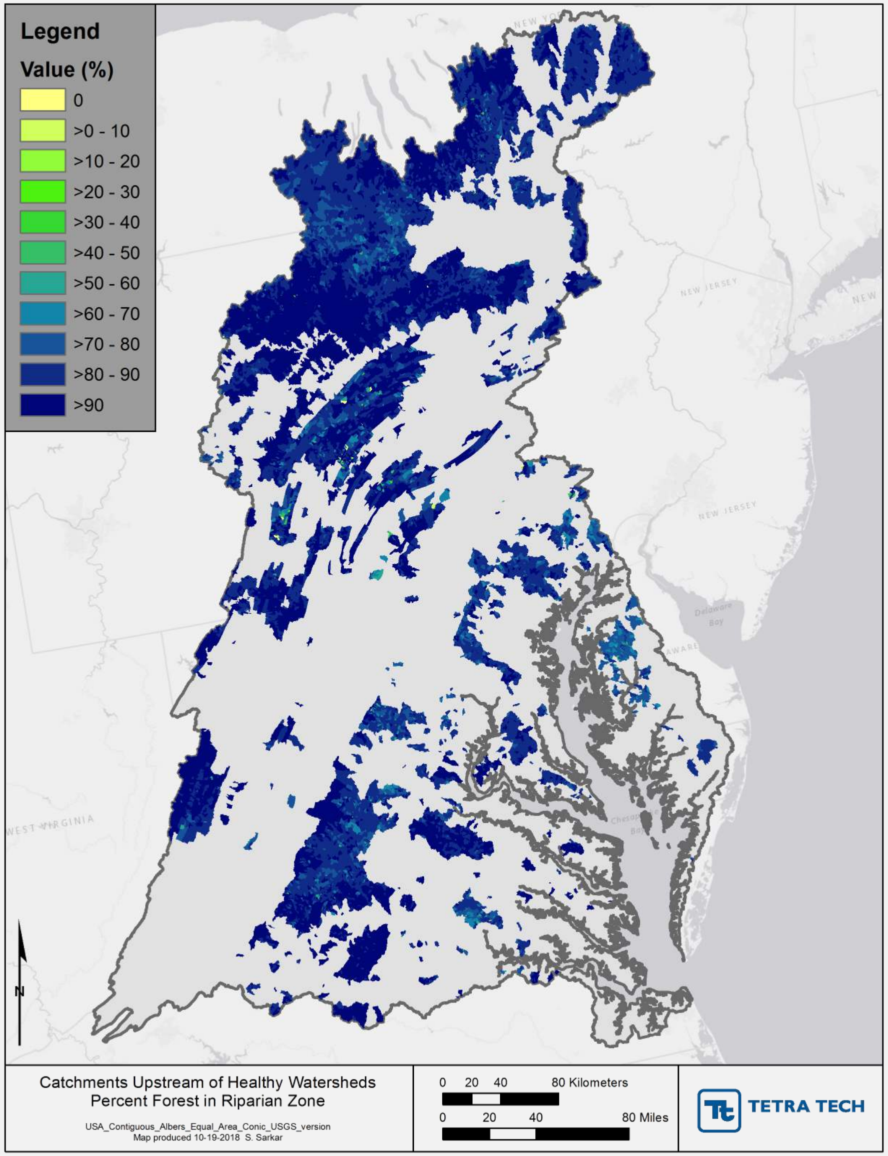
- Example: Percent Forest in Riparian Zone
- Indicative of: Landscape condition
- Value calculated for riparian zone in entire upstream watershed
- Metric expected to be high in healthy watersheds

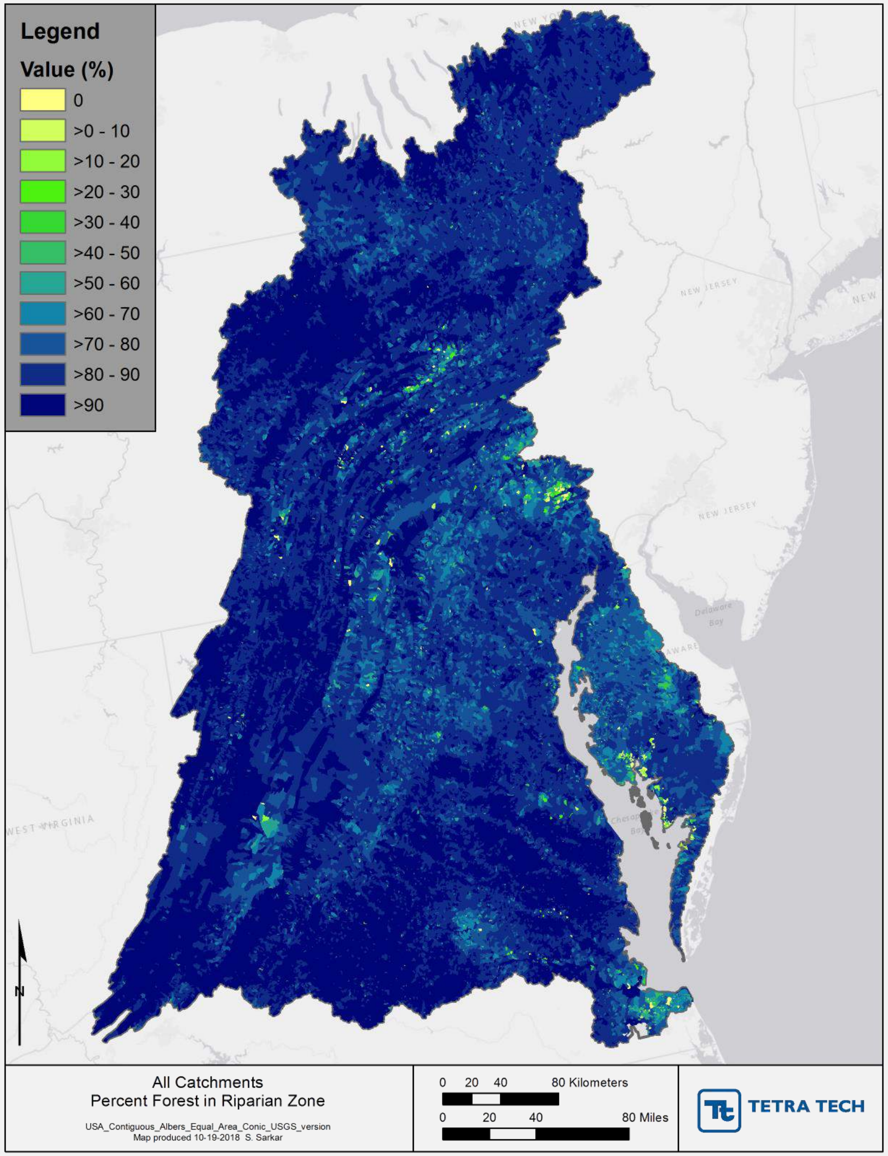




Metric Performance

- Example: Percent Forest in Riparian Zone





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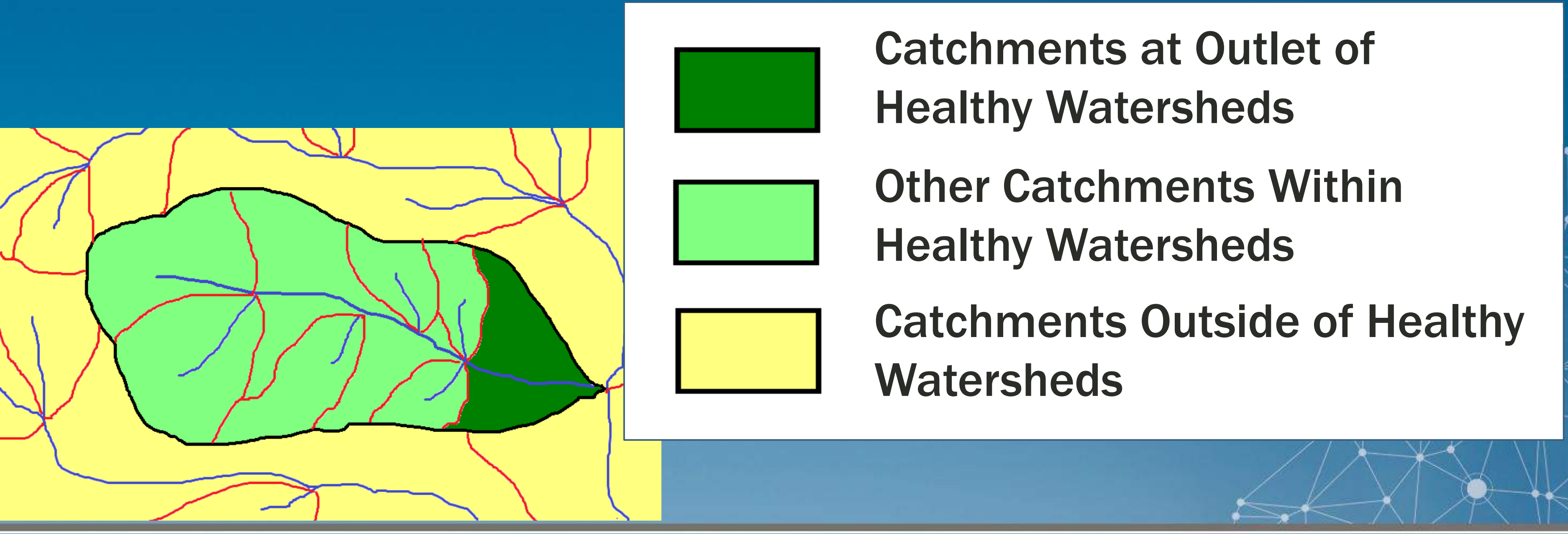
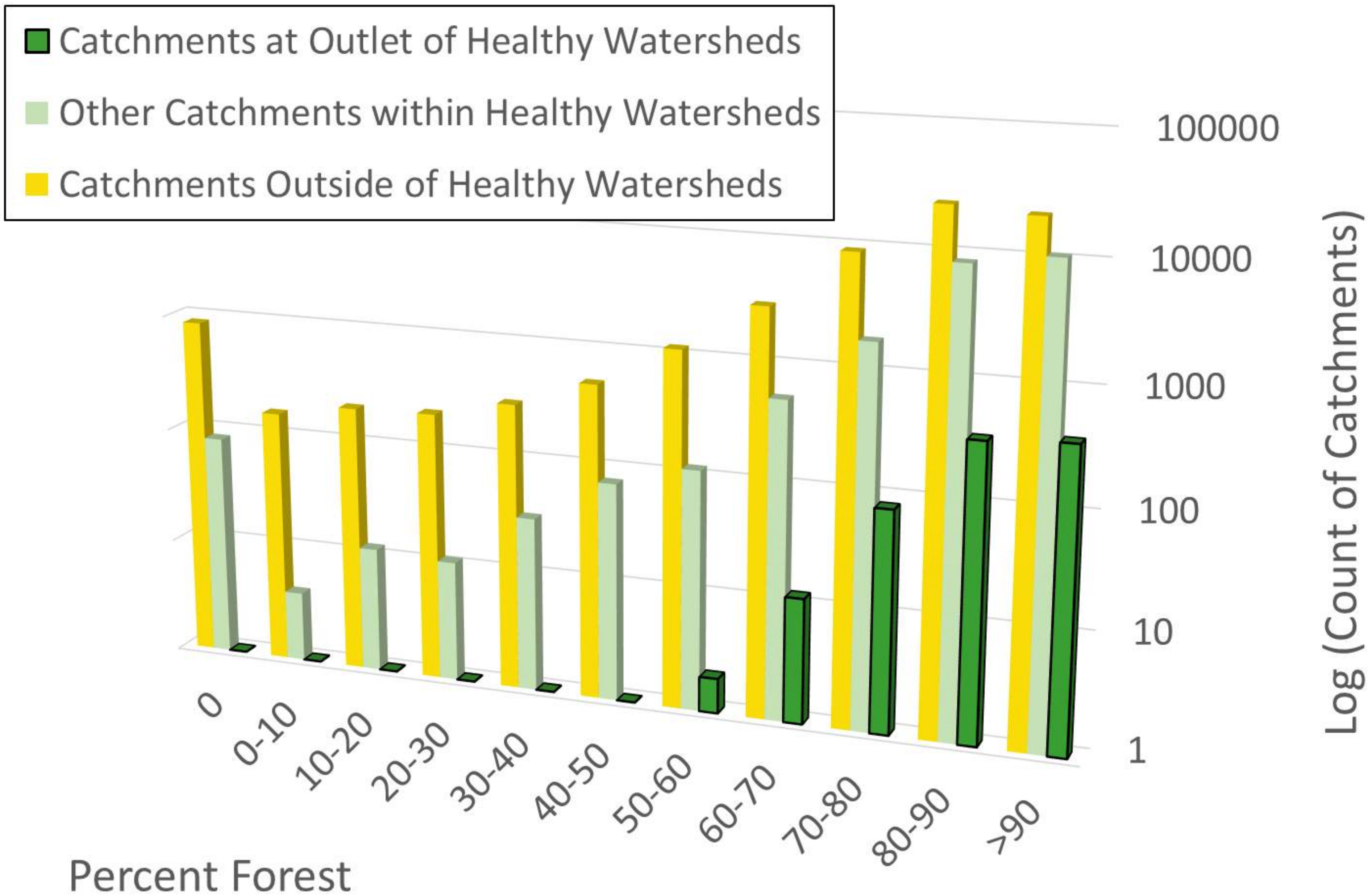
Evaluating Metric Performance

- Appropriateness of data scale and completeness
- Distributions of scores for healthy watersheds
- Comparison with distribution of scores for areas outside of healthy watersheds



Percent Forest in Riparian Zone

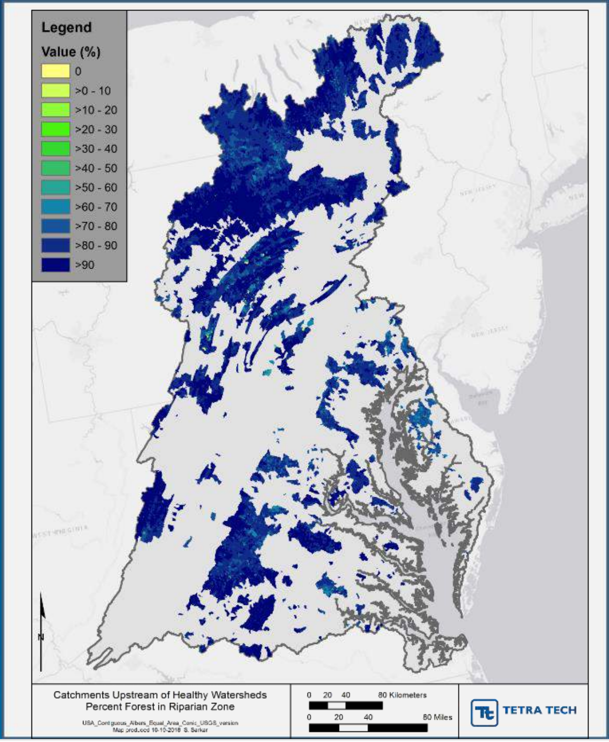


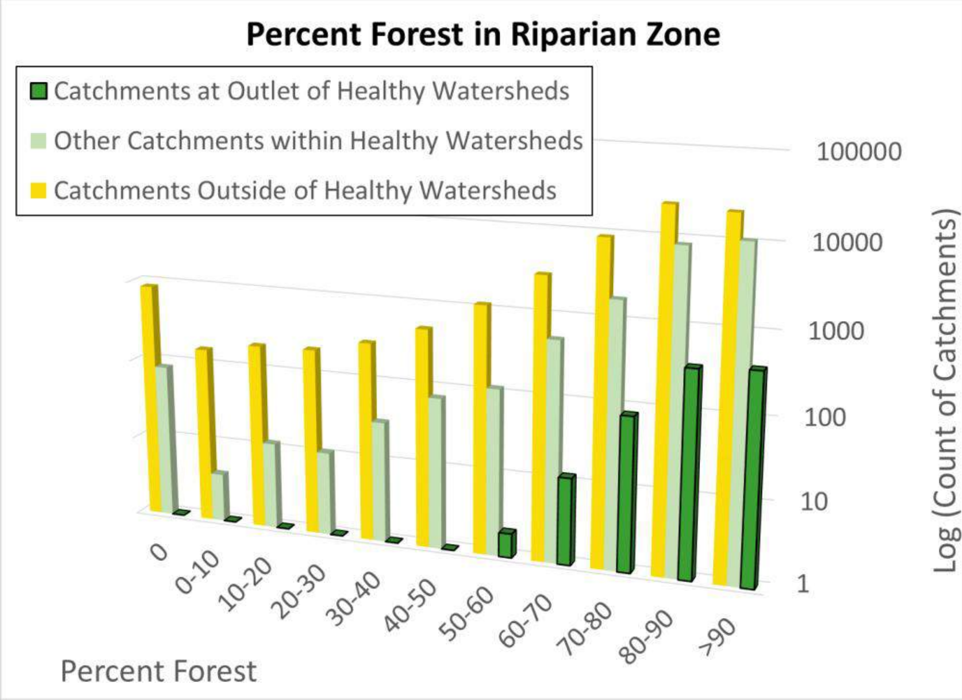
Metric Performance

- Example: Percent Forest in Riparian Zone
- Indicative of: Landscape condition
- Value calculated for entire upstream riparian zone
- Metric expected to be high in healthy watersheds

Findings:

- As expected, values for percent riparian forest are high in the Chesapeake Bay (CB) Healthy Watersheds, all with >50% forest in riparian zone



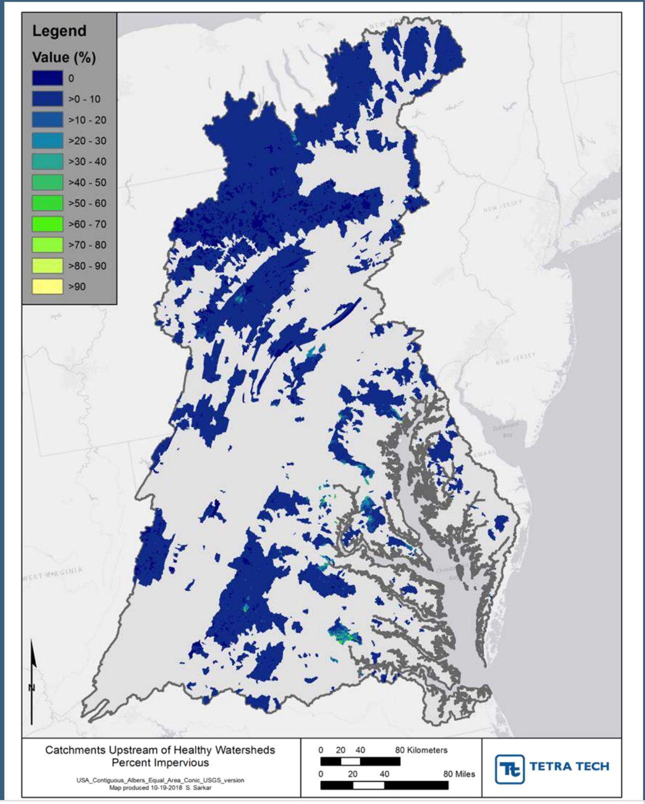


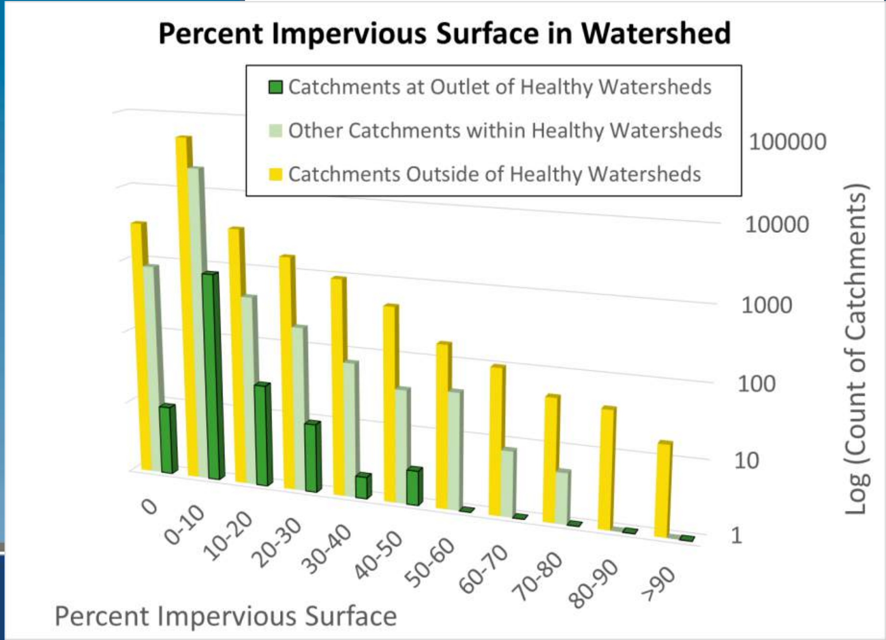
Metric Performance

- Example: Percent Impervious Surface Cover in Watershed
- Indicative of: Hydrologic condition
- Value calculated for entire upstream watershed area
- Metric expected to be low in healthy watersheds

Findings:

- Impervious cover is generally low in CB Healthy Watersheds, many with <10% or <20% impervious cover
- Some with 20-50% impervious cover, levels that may lead to degradation



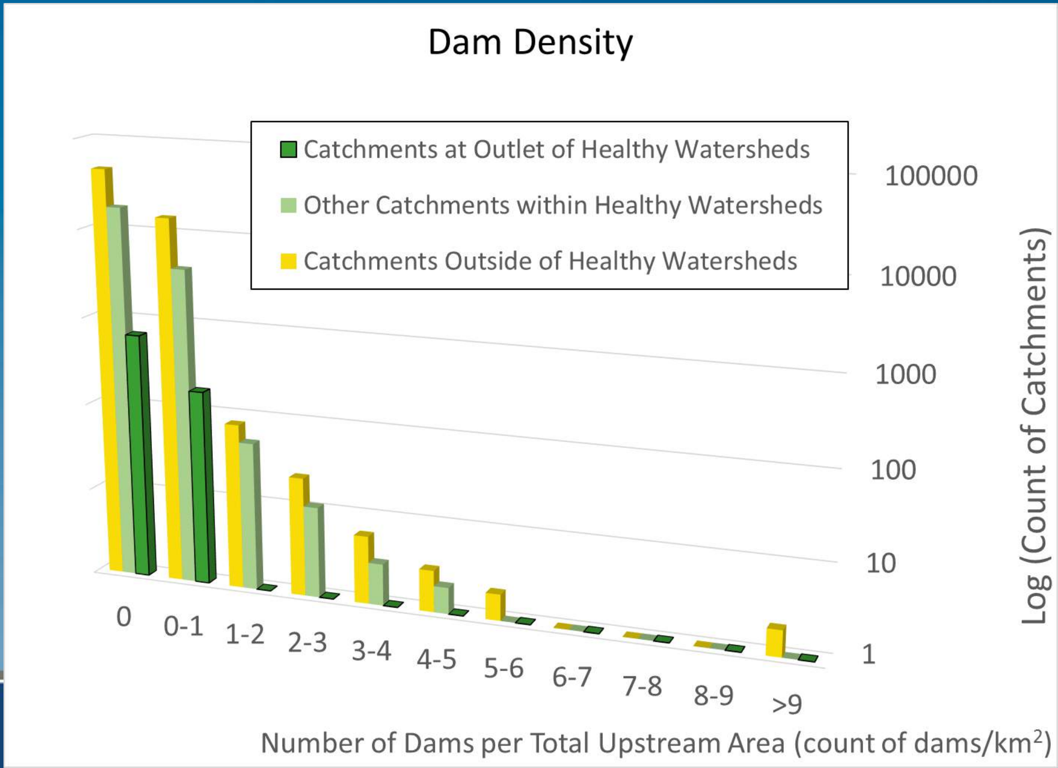


Metric Performance

- Example: Dam Density in Watershed
- Indicative of: Geomorphic condition
- Value calculated for entire upstream watershed area
- Metric expected to be low in healthy watersheds

Findings:

- Dam density low in CB Healthy Watersheds; 0 to 1 dam per km^2
- Many zero values

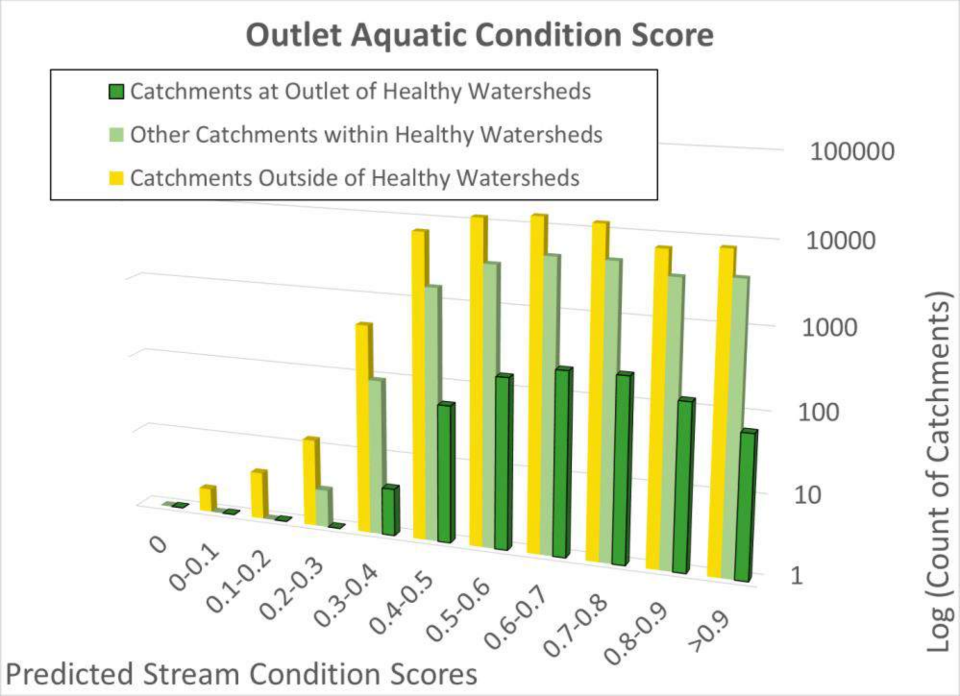


Metric Performance

- Example: Aquatic Condition Score
- Indicative of: Biological condition
- Value calculated for catchment at healthy watershed outlet only
- Metric expected to be high in healthy watersheds

Findings:

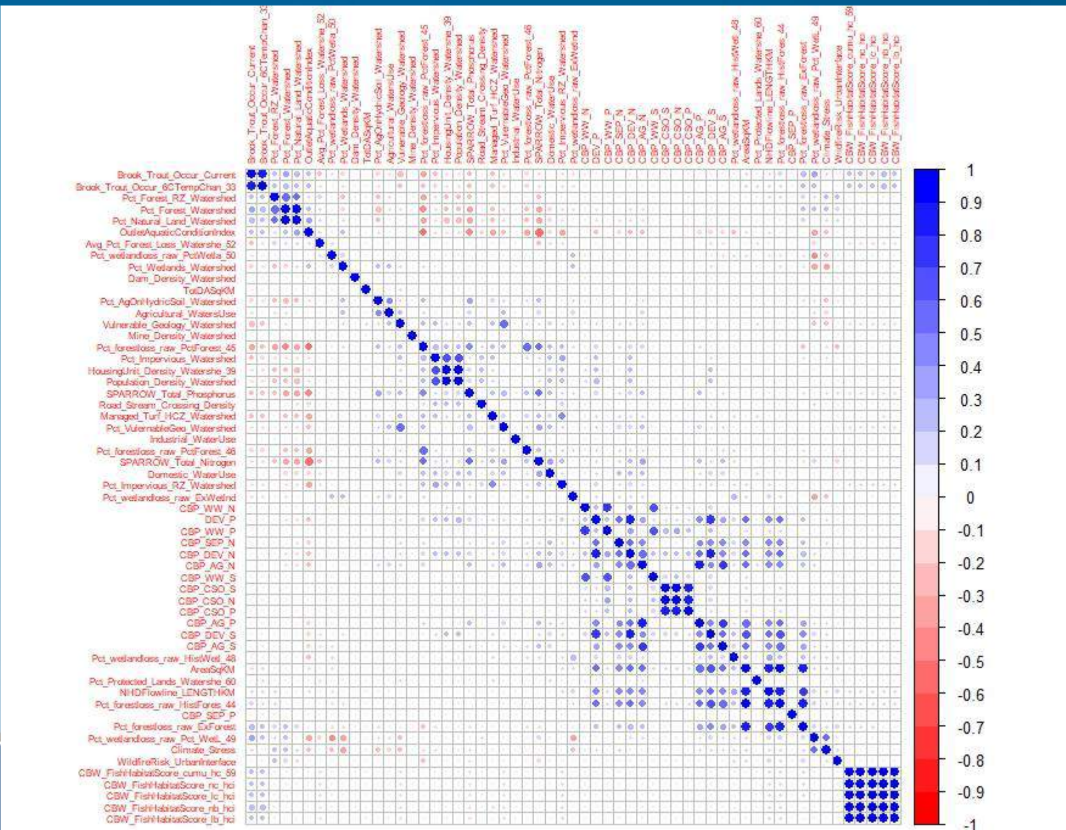
- Aquatic condition scores tend to be higher in CB Healthy Watersheds
- Current indicator provides estimates across all watersheds using national model



TETRA TECH

Developing an Overall Index of Watershed Health

- Assessed correlations among watershed condition metrics
- PHWA employed simple additive approach to build six subindices and one overall index
- Also testing random forest / stepwise regression approach to build index based on individual watershed condition metrics



```
Call:
glm(formula = ExistingHW ~ ., family = binomial, data = fishy)

Deviance Residuals:
    Min       1Q   Median       3Q      Max
-1.9625  -0.7985  -0.6189   0.8986   3.6844

Coefficients:
                                Estimate Std. Error z value Pr(>|z|)
(Intercept)                    -2.361567   0.087448 -27.005  < 2e-16 ***
Pct_Forest_Watershed            2.847948   0.139195  20.460  < 2e-16 ***
Pct_Forest_RZ_Watershed         0.594413   0.085540   6.949 3.68e-12 ***
Pct_Impervious_Watershed       -4.232838   0.202585 -20.894  < 2e-16 ***
Pct_Impervious_RZ_Watershed    -0.506342   0.067466  -7.505 6.14e-14 ***
Pct_AgOnHydricSoil_Watershed   -4.499293   0.288726 -15.583  < 2e-16 ***
Pct_VulernableGeo_Watershed     0.119759   0.028768   4.163 3.14e-05 ***
SPARROW_Total_Phosphorus        1.003068   0.264111   3.798 0.000146 ***
Pct_Wetland_Remaining          -0.371099   0.036634 -10.130  < 2e-16 ***
HabitatConditionIndex_LC        0.404602   0.006549  61.777  < 2e-16 ***
Outlet_Aquatic_ConditionInde_52 1.074884   0.067844  15.843  < 2e-16 ***
Pct_Natural_Land_Watershed     -2.123635   0.134579 -15.780  < 2e-16 ***
---
Signif. codes:  0 ‘***’ 0.001 ‘**’ 0.01 ‘*’ 0.05 ‘.’ 0.1 ‘ ’ 1

(Dispersion parameter for binomial family taken to be 1)

    Null deviance: 97589  on 83622  degrees of freedom
Residual deviance: 87827  on 83611  degrees of freedom
AIC: 87851

Number of Fisher Scoring iterations: 5
```

Metric Contributions

Future Tracking of Watershed Health

- **Certain metrics able to be updated readily with new data**
  - Example: Land use/land cover metrics – future versions of Chesapeake Bay high-resolution data
  - Example: Metrics derived from StreamCat and EnviroAtlas – periodic updates of EPA datasets
- **New metrics under development**
  - Fish Habitat: new CBP regional fish habitat assessment under development
  - Biological condition: CBP freshwater benthic index ("Chessie BIBI"), with hybrid monitoring/modeling approach to develop baseline condition and periodic assessments to track stream health

2019…2025…2030…2040…2050…

Today's Presentation

- Adapting the PHWA approach and addressing scale
- Indicators of watershed condition
- Indicators of watershed vulnerability
- Data visualization and access to data

Indicators of Watershed Vulnerability

- **Important to consider stressors that affect healthy watersheds or result in future degradation, such as:**
  - Future development
  - Forest loss
  - Extent of land protection
  - Water use
  - Wildfire risk
  - Climate change

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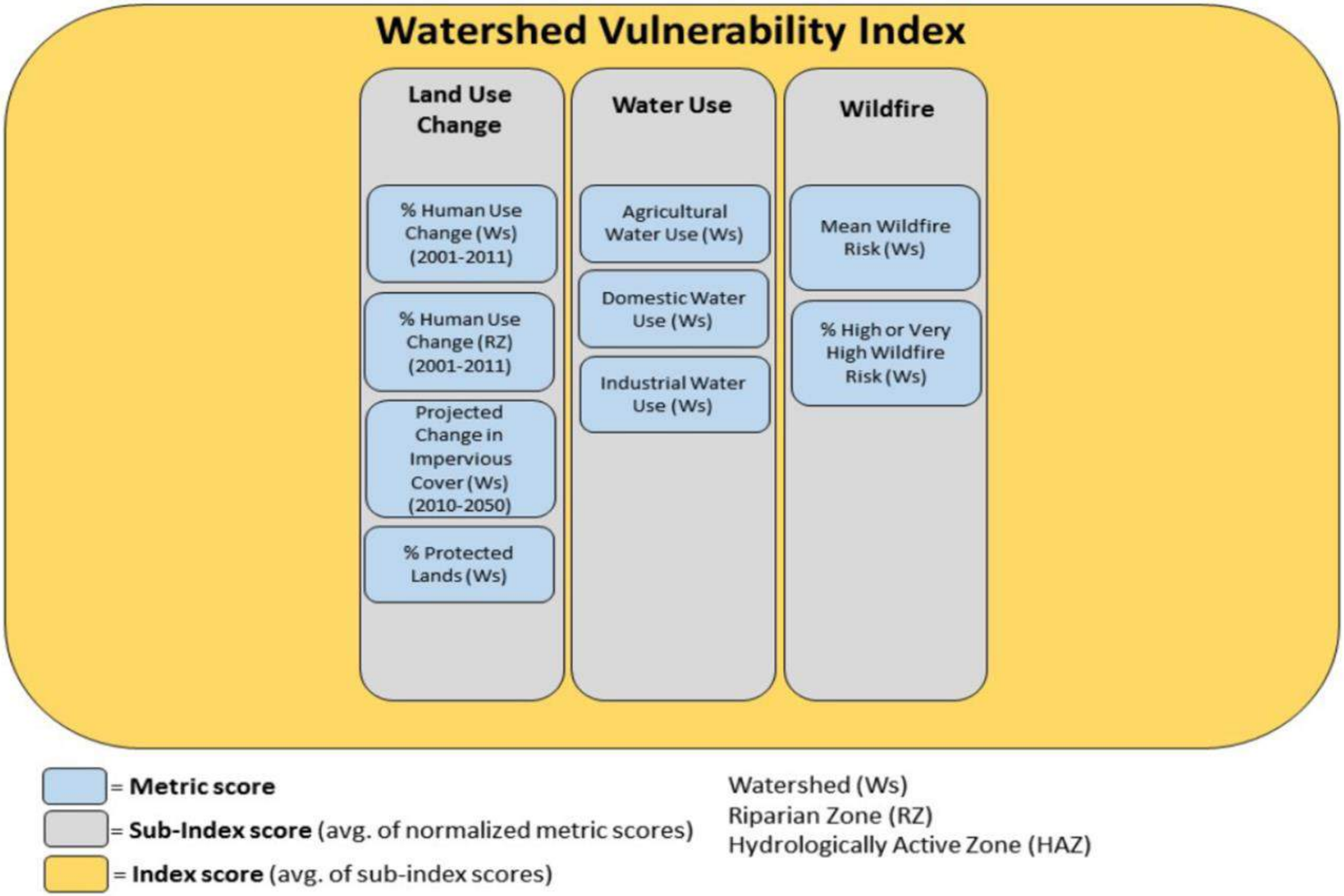
PHWA Metrics – Watershed Vulnerability



Chesapeake Bay Watershed Vulnerability Indicators **DRAFT**

Land Use Change

- % Increase in Development, Based on CBP Projections (Ws)
- Recent Forest Loss (2000-2013) (Ws)
- % Protected Lands, Based on CBP data (Ws)

Water Use

- Agricultural Water Use (Ws)
- Domestic Water Use (Ws)
- Industrial Water Use (Ws)

Wildfire

- Wildfire Risk – Wildland/ Urban Interface

Climate Change

- Change in Brook Trout Probability of Occurrence with 6 C Temperature Change
- NALCC Climate Stress Indicator

Original PHWA Metrics

New Metrics

Note: All metrics calculated at NHDPlus catchment scale

Ws = Metric value calculated for entire upstream watershed

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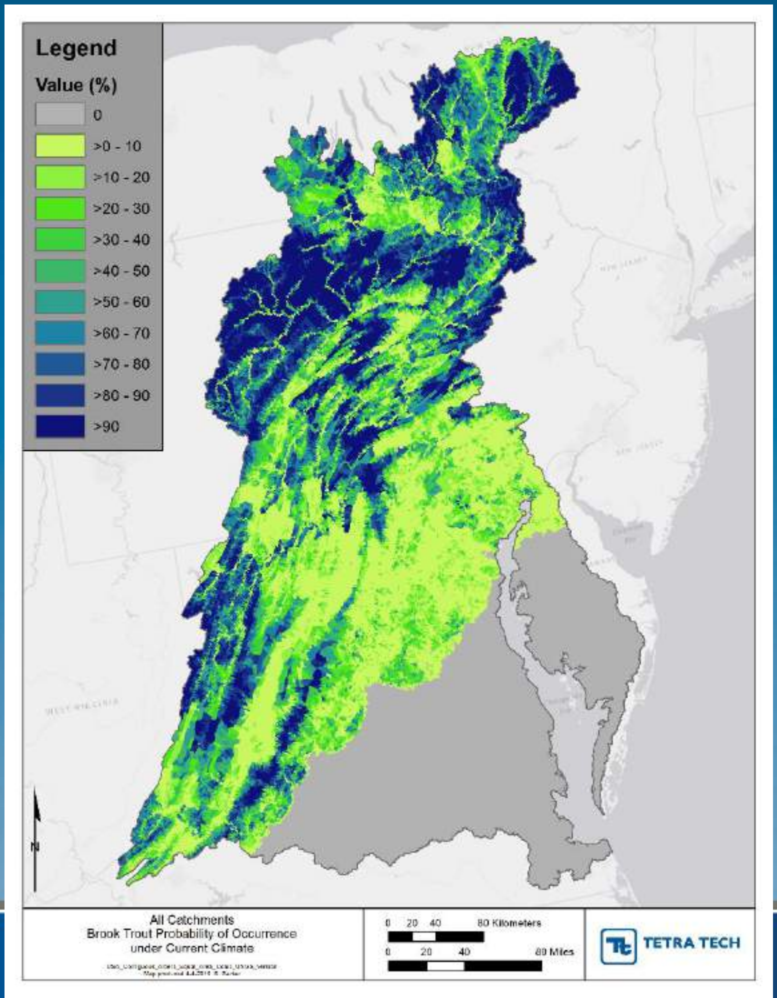
Vulnerability to Climate Change

- Example: <u>Brook Trout Probability of Occurrence</u>

Current climate condition

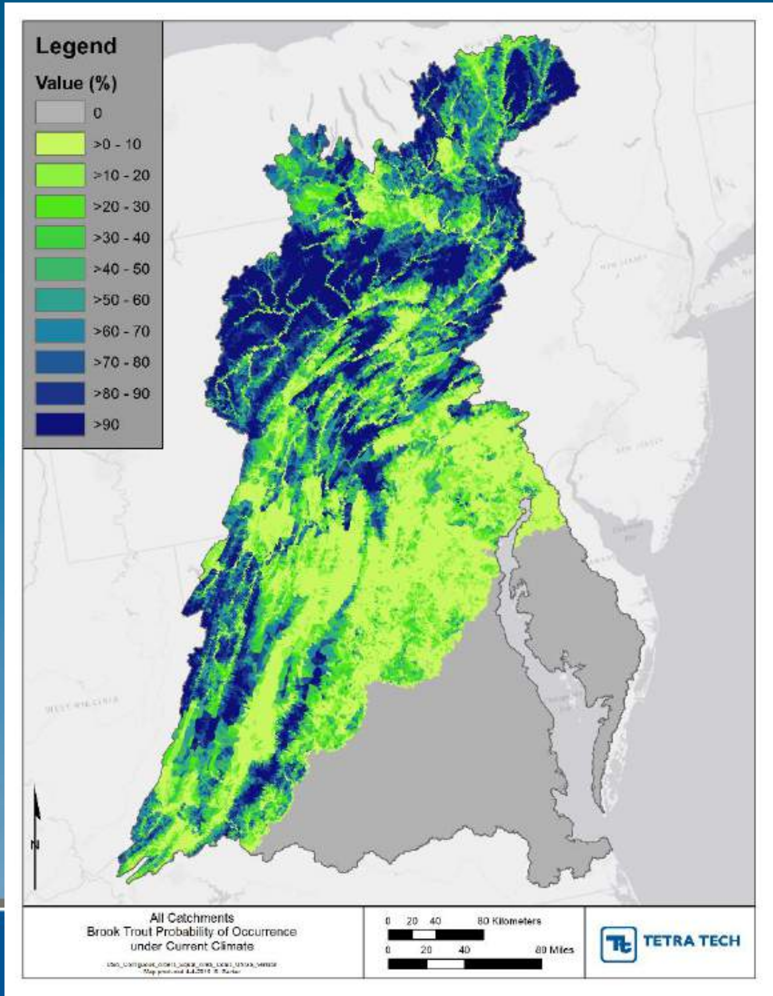


- Data source: Nature's Network, USGS Conte Lab
- Model included effects of landscape, land-use, and climate variables on the probability of brook trout occupancy in stream reaches
- Provides predictions under current environmental conditions and future increases in stream temperature.

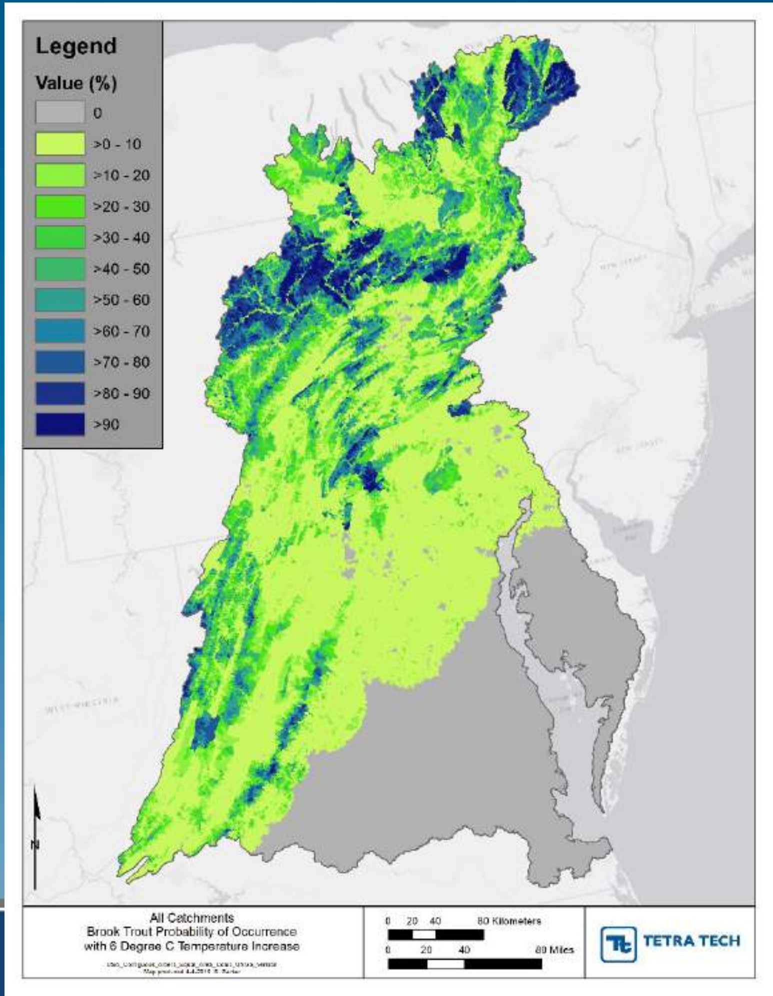
Vulnerability to Climate Change

- Example: Brook Trout Probability of Occurrence

Current climate condition



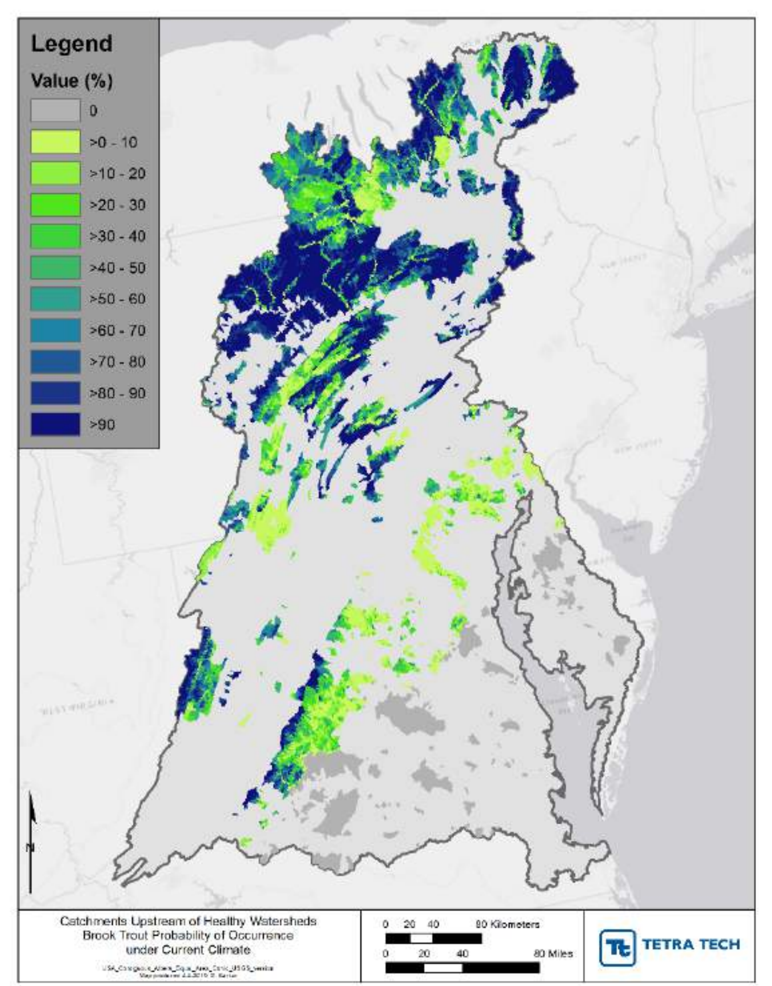
With 6 degree C increase



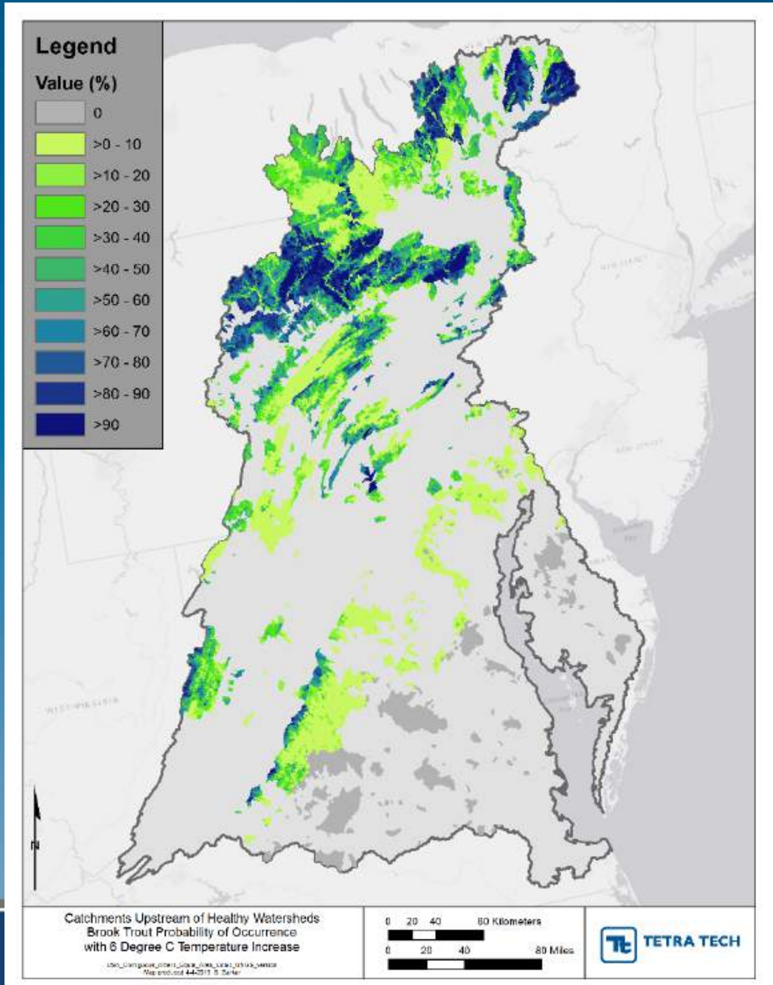
Vulnerability to Climate Change

- Example: <u>Brook Trout Probability of Occurrence</u>

Current climate condition



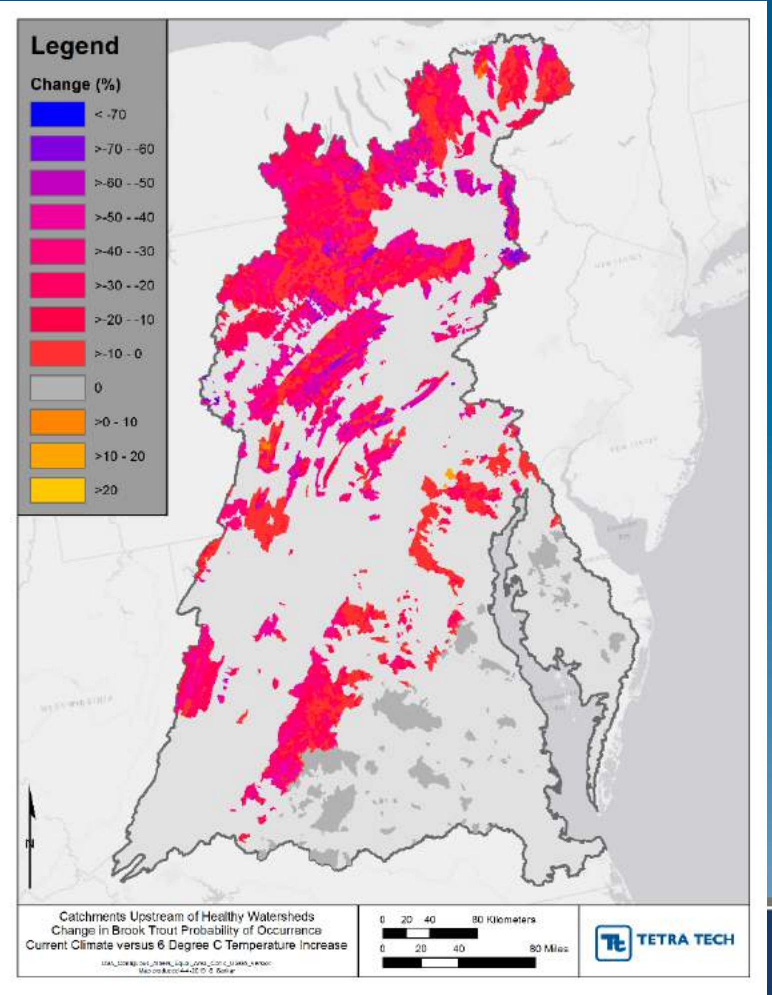
With 6 degree C increase



Vulnerability to Climate Change

- Example Metric: Change in Brook Trout Probability of Occurrence

In Healthy Watersheds



Today's Presentation

- Adapting the PHWA approach and addressing scale
- Indicators of watershed condition
- Indicators of watershed vulnerability
- Data visualization and access to data

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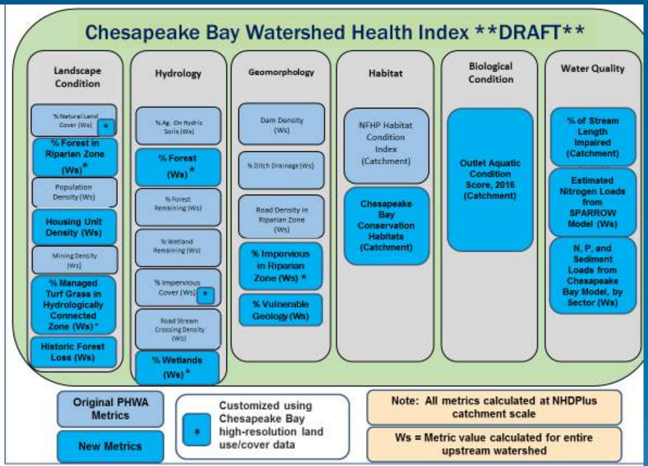
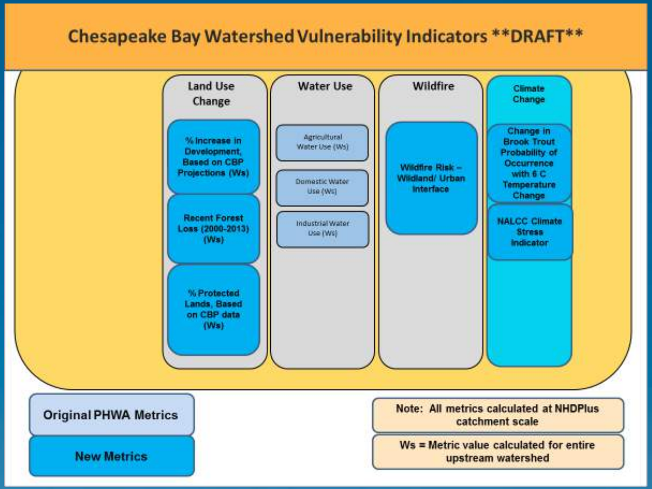
Data Visualization and Access Tools

Watershed Health and Vulnerability Metrics





Geodatabase with suite of data, basic approach for analysis and visualization

Combine Metrics for Tracking Watershed Health

Identify Vulnerabilities

Data Visualization and Access Tools

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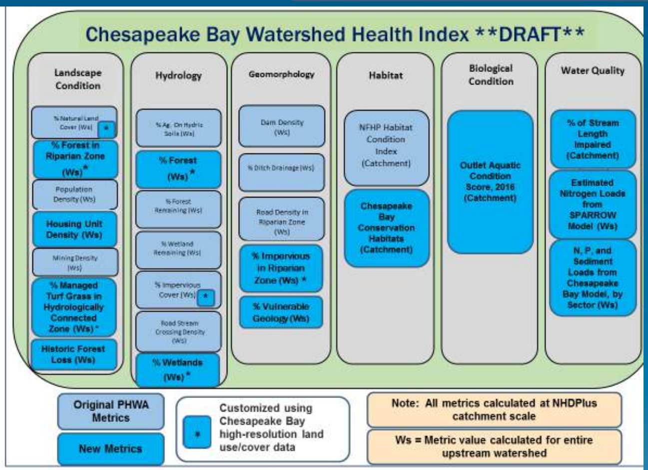
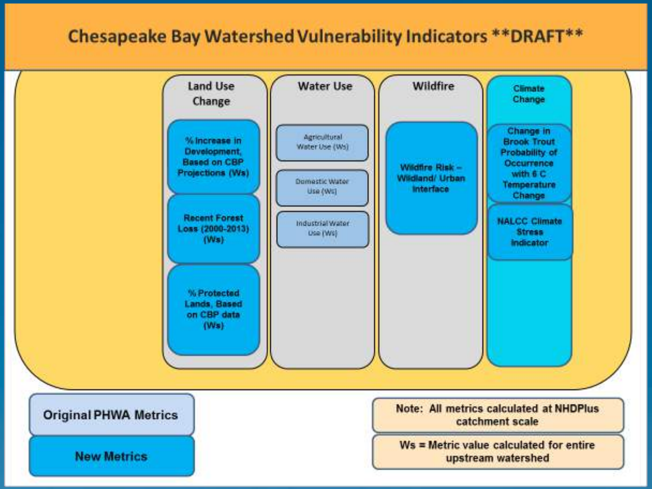
Watershed Health and Vulnerability Metrics





Geodatabase with suite of data, basic approach for analysis and visualization

Advanced Tools for Analysis and Visualization

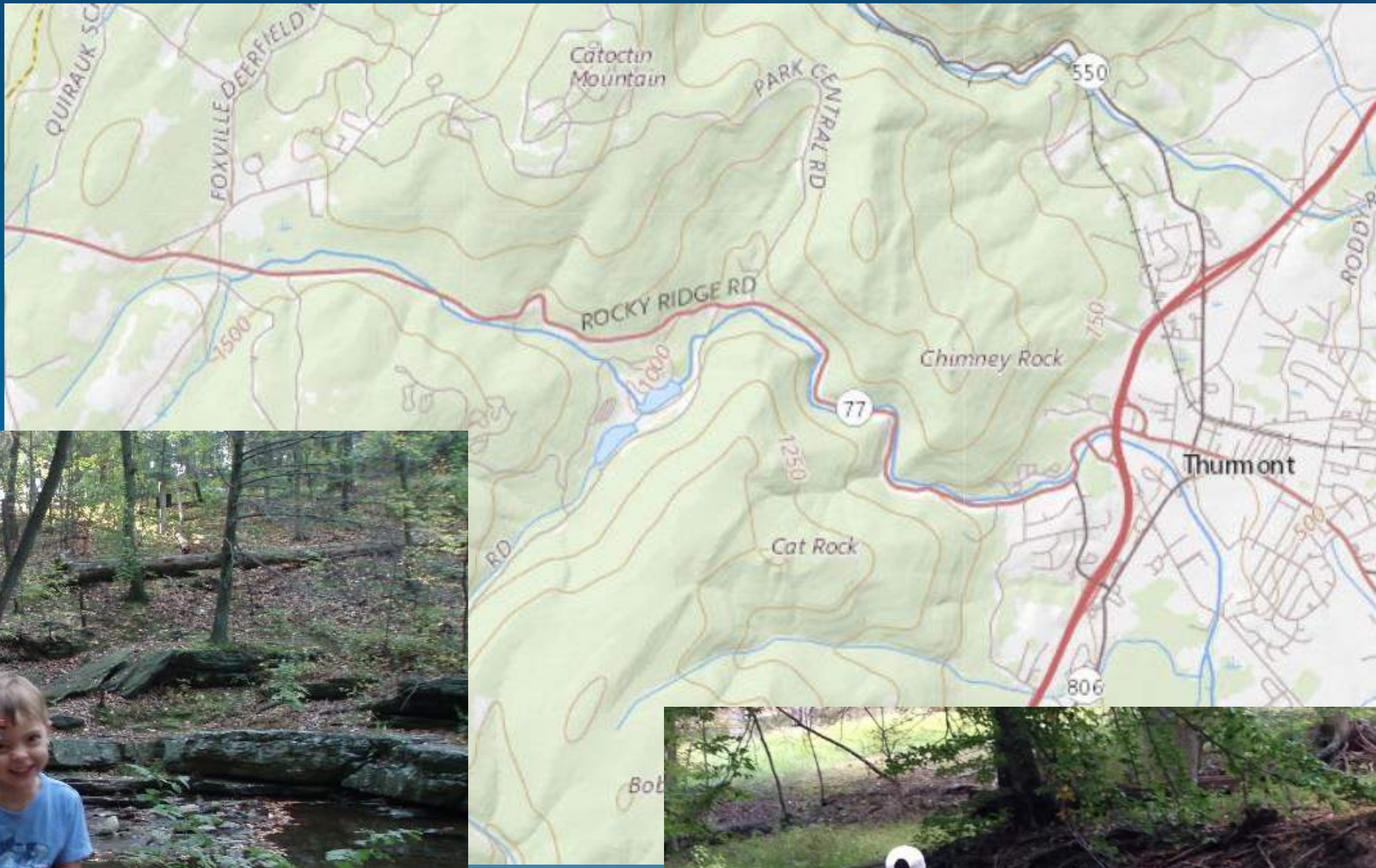
Combine Metrics for Tracking Watershed Health

Identify Vulnerabilities

Online Data Access

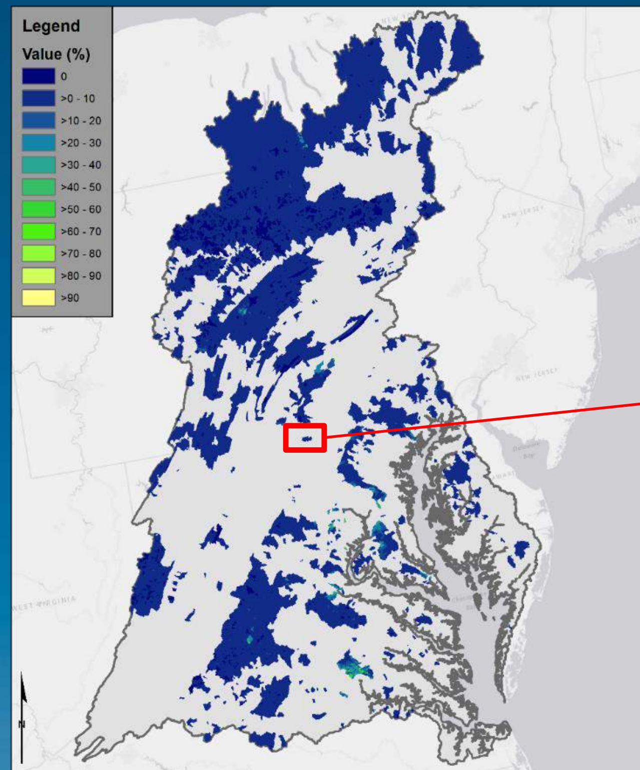
- Provide suite of Healthy Watershed metrics and indicators for data visualization and analysis
- Geodatabase structured by catchment (COMID)
- Ability to select areas of interest, compare values, visualize data…and more
- Accessible via ArcGIS Online or CBP Chesapeake Open Data portal

Example: Big Hunting Creek near Thurmont, MD

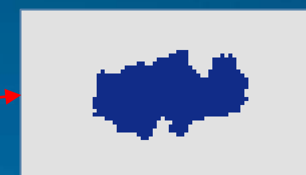


Example: Percent Impervious Cover

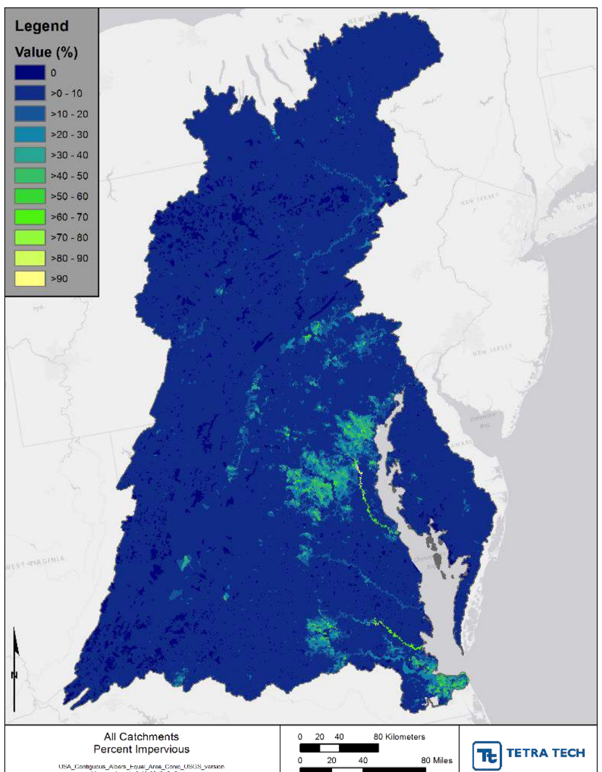
Healthy Watersheds



Big Hunting Creek



All Catchments



OBJECTID	COMID	Total Upstream Drainage Area (sq km)	Aquatic Condition Index	Road Density (Cs)	Road Density (Ws)	Road/Stream Crossings (Ws)	Housing Unit Density 2010 (Ws)	Population Density 2010 (Ws)	Impervious (Cs)	Impervious (Ws)
45150	8448584	29.5938	0.6538	5.3470	3.5362	0.4731	0.0041	0.0045	0.0891	0.0111
45136	8448556	10.4337	0.7589	3.2747	2.8520	0.4792	0.0011	0.0012	0.0280	0.0141
45139	8448562	6.9849	0.8106	4.5346	1.7741	0.2863	0.0011	0.0012	0.0023	0.0235
45149	8448582	6.3117	0.8198	1.5082	1.5082	0.3169	0.0011	0.0012	0.0220	0.0220
45388	8449076	1.4373	0.6660	2.2839	2.2839	0.6957	0.0011	0.0012	0.0415	0.0415
45389	8449078	2.6784	0.7116	2.6806	2.6806	0.7467	0.0011	0.0012	0.0326	0.0326
45419	8449144	17.7921	0.8604	2.3465	2.4658	0.3934	0.0011	0.0012	0.0108	0.0182
45420	8449146	10.4481	0.8853	4.5346	2.8538	0.4786	0.0011	0.0012	0.0118	0.0310
45421	8449150	6.9516	0.7945	4.1690	1.7659	0.2877	0.0011	0.0012	0.0391	0.0036

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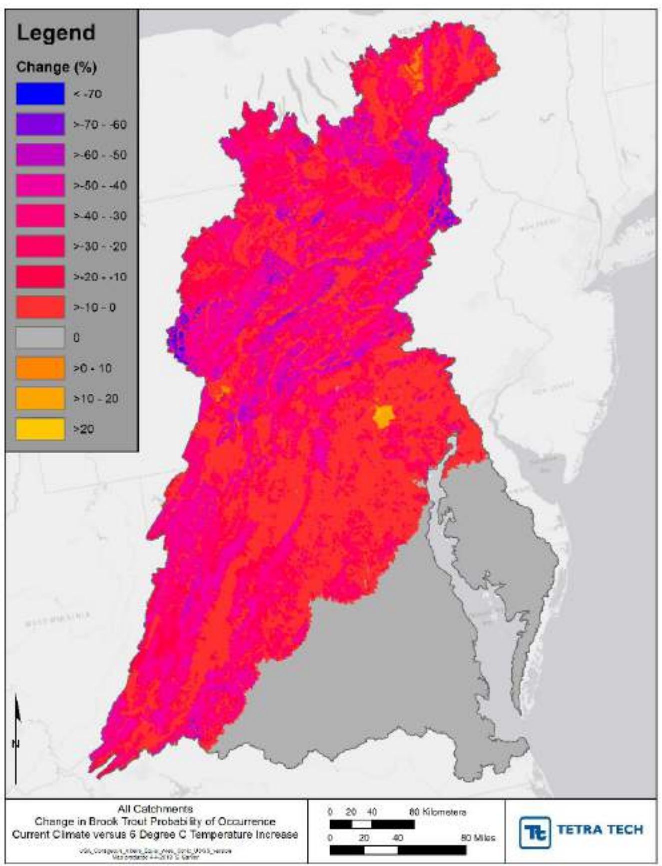
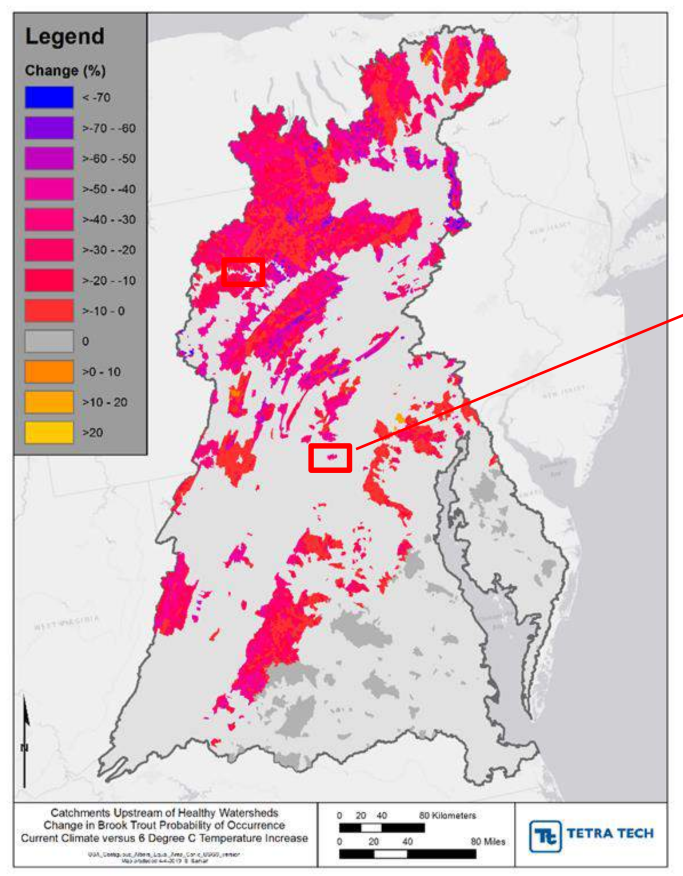
Example: Change in Brook Trout Probability of Occurrence

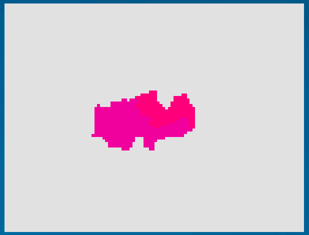
All Catchments



Healthy Watersheds



Big Hunting Creek



Demonstration

Management Applications

- Chesapeake Bay Program - assess/track conditions, support management strategies
- State agencies / healthy watershed program managers: track conditions in Tier II waters, identify and evaluate potential threats, adapt management strategies
- Data readily available through CBP online platform for variety of users and uses including local governments and watershed groups
- Flexible framework that can be updated periodically, augmented with new or more specific local data
- Potential to screen watersheds to identify healthy ecosystems not currently protected

Seeking Your Feedback

- How will you be able to use these data?
- How best to provide data for a variety of users?
- What should be added/updated in future?

Acknowledgements

- Chesapeake Bay Program
- EPA Healthy Watersheds Program
- Jurisdictional watershed managers and data contacts – NY, PA, WV, VA, DC, MD, DE
- Peter Cada, formerly Tetra Tech
- Chesapeake Bay Trust

Appendix C

List of Metrics and Source Data

Sub-Index	Watershed Condition Metrics					
Sub-Index	**Metrics (NHD+ Catchments)**	**Notes / Data Source**	**Notes / Future Data Availability**	**Field Name**	**Metric Description**	**Data Source Details**
Landscape Condition	% Natural Land Cover in Watershed	CBP high-resolution land use/land cover data, 2013	CBP high-resolution land use/land cover data - future iterations (e.g., 2017, 2019, 2021, 2023 updates)	PctNaturalLandWs	Percent Forest + Percent Wetland = Percent Natural land in watershed. From Chesapeake Bay Program High Resolution Land Use / Land Cover data, 2013.	Chesapeake Bay Program LULC 10m grids (combining WLF, WLO, WLT, and FOR). Data provided by Peter Claggett, USGS Chesapeake Bay Program. Calculated zonal statistics by catchment and integrated across the entire upstream watershed.
	% Forest in Riparian Zone in Watershed	CBP high-resolution land use/land cover data, 2013	CBP high-resolution land use/land cover data - future iterations (e.g., 2017, 2019, 2021, 2023 updates)	PctForestRZWs	Percent Forest in riparian zone within watershed	Chesapeake Bay Program LULC 10m grids; data provided by Peter Claggett, USGS Chesapeake Bay Program. Applied 100-m riparian buffer. Calculated statistics by catchment and integrated across entire upstream riparian area.
	Population Density in Watershed	StreamCat, 2010 census data	StreamCat - future census data (2020 and beyond)	PopDensityWs	Mean population density (people/square km) within watershed	Mean of all popden2010 values within the upstream watershed (Ws). Raster of population density derived from an ESRI shapefile of block group-level 2010 US Census data. Density was calculated as block group population / block group area. This shapefile was then converted to 90m x 90m resolution raster. 2014
	Housing Unit Density in Watershed	StreamCat, 2010 data	StreamCat updates	HousingUnitDensWs	Mean housing unit density (housing units/square km) within watershed	Mean of all huden values within the upstream watershed. Raster of population density derived from an ESRI shapefile of block group-level 2010 US Census data. Density was calculated as block group population / block group area. This shapefile was then converted to 90m x 90m resolution raster. 2014
	Mining Density in Watershed	StreamCat	StreamCat updates	MineDensityWs	Density of mine sites within watershed (mines/square km)	Density of georeferenced mine sites (mines.shp) within the upstream watershed (Ws). Shapefile of georeferenced locations (points) of mines and mineral plants in the USA that were considered active in 2003.
	% Managed Turf Grass in Hydrologically Connected Zone (HCZ) in Watershed	CBP high-resolution land use/land cover data, 2013	CBP high-resolution land use/land cover data - future iterations (e.g., 2017, 2019, 2021, 2023 updates)	MngdTurfHCZWs	Percent Managed Vegetation in hydrologically connected zone in watershed	Chesapeake Bay Program LULC 10m grids; data provided by Peter Claggett, USGS Chesapeake Bay Program. Applied HCZ mask proved by U.S. EPA; calculated statistics by catchment and integrated across entire upstream riparian area.
	Historic Forest Loss in Watershed	LANDFIRE. Reflects forest loss from European colonization to 2010. 2014 data.	LANDFIRE Remap for Northeastern US, scheduled for release January - June 2020	PctForestLoss	Percent of forest cover loss relative to pre-development forest cover.	Source data were from the Landscape Fire and Resource Management Planning Tools (LANDFIRE) program (http://www.landfire.gov/viewer/). LANDFIRE classifies vegetative cover across the US at 30-meter resolution. Used LANDFIRE Environment Site Potential (ESP) and Existing Vegetation Type (EVT) to get delta (change in forest cover) and then calculated zonal stats for NHDPlus v2.1 catchments. 2014
Hydrology	% Agriculture on Hydric Soil in Watershed	EPA EnviroAtlas	EPA EnviroAtlas - future updates	Pct_AgHydWs	Percent Agriculture on Hydric soils in watershed	Percentage of land managed for agriculture that has hydric soils within each subwatershed (12-digit HUC) for 2006-2010. This includes all land dedicated to the production of crops, but excludes land managed for pasture.

Sub-Index	Watershed Condition Metrics					
Sub-Index	**Metrics (NHD+ Catchments)**	**Notes / Data Source**	**Notes / Future Data Availability**	**Field Name**	**Metric Description**	**Data Source Details**
	% Forest in Watershed	CBP high-resolution land use/land cover data, 2013	CBP high-resolution land use/land cover data - future iterations (e.g., 2017, 2019, 2021, 2023 updates)	PctForestWs	Percent forest in watershed	Used data provided by Peter Claggett, USGS Chesapeake Bay Program. CBP high-resolution land use/land cover data, 2013%. Calculated zonal stats.
	% Forest Remaining in Watershed	LANDFIRE, 2014 data.	LANDFIRE Remap for Northeastern US, scheduled for release January - June 2020	PctForestLoss, PctForestRemaining	Percent of forest cover remaining relative to pre-development forest cover	Source data were from the Landscape Fire and Resource Management Planning Tools (LANDFIRE) program (http://www.landfire.gov/viewer/). LANDFIRE classifies vegetative cover across the US at 30-meter resolution. Used LANDFIRE Environment Site Potential (ESP) and Existing Vegetation Type (EVT) to get delta (change in forest cover) and then calculated zonal stats for NHDPlus v2.1 catchments. 2014
	% Wetlands Remaining in Watershed	LANDFIRE, 2014 data.	LANDFIRE Remap for Northeastern US, scheduled for release January - June 2020	PctWetlandLoss, PctWetlandRemaining	Percent of wetland cover remaining relative to pre-development forest cover	Source data were from the Landscape Fire and Resource Management Planning Tools (LANDFIRE) program (http://www.landfire.gov/viewer/). LANDFIRE classifies vegetative cover across the US at 30-meter resolution. Used LANDFIRE Environment Site Potential (ESP) and Existing Vegetation Type (EVT) to get delta (change in forest cover) and then calculated zonal stats for NHDPlus v2.1 catchments. 2014
	% Imperviousness in Watershed	CBP high-resolution land use/land cover data, 2013	CBP high-resolution land use/land cover data - future iterations (e.g., 2017, 2019, 2021, 2023 updates)	PctImpWs	Percent impervious cover in watershed	Used data provided by Peter Claggett, USGS Chesapeake Bay Program. CBP high-resolution land use/land cover data, 2013. Calculated zonal stats.
	Density Road-Stream Crossings in Watershed	StreamCat, 2010 data	StreamCat updates	RoadStreamXingDens	Density of roads-stream intersections (2010 Census Tiger Lines-NHD stream lines) within watershed (crossings/square km)	Sum of all rdstrcrs values within the upstream watershed (Ws) divided by the area of the Ws. A binary raster of road and stream intersections, where 1 = intersection and 0 = no intersection. This raster was provided by James Falcone of the USGS.
	% Wetlands in Watershed	CBP high-resolution land use/land cover data, 2013	CBP high-resolution land use/land cover data - future iterations (e.g., 2017, 2019, 2021, 2023 updates)	WetlndWs	Percent wetland in watershed	Used data provided by Peter Claggett, USGS Chesapeake Bay Program. CBP high-resolution land use/land cover data, 2013. Calculated zonal stats.
Geomorphology	Dam Density in Watershed	StreamCat, 2013 data	StreamCat updates	DamDensWs	Density of georeferenced dams within watershed (dams/ square km)	Density of georeferenced dams within the upstream watershed (Ws). Shapefile of georeferenced dam locations (points) and associated dam and reservoir characteristics (where available), such as dam height, reservoir volume, and year constructed from the National Inventory of Dams.
	Road Density in Riparian Zone, in Watershed	StreamCat	StreamCat updates	RdDensWsRp100	Density of roads (2010 Census Tiger Lines) within watershed and within a 100-m buffer of NHD stream lines (km/square km)	Mean of all rddens values within the upstream watershed (Ws). Raster of road density calculated using 2010 Census Tiger Line files and the ArcGIS Line Density tool.

Sub-Index	Watershed Condition Metrics					
Sub-Index	Metrics (NHD+ Catchments)	Notes / Data Source	Notes / Future Data Availability	Field Name	Metric Description	Data Source Details
	% Impervious in Riparian Zone in Watershed	CBP high-resolution land use/land cover data, 2013	CBP high-resolution land use/land cover data - future iterations (e.g., 2017, 2019, 2021, 2023 updates)	ImpervRZWs	Percent impervious in riparian zone within watershed	Used data provided by Peter Claggett, USGS Chesapeake Bay Program. CBP high-resolution land use/land cover data, 2013. Calculated zonal stats.
	Vulnerable Geology in Watershed	CBP	Geologic data, unlikely to change	PctVulGeoWs	Percent Vulnerable Geology in watershed. Geology makes groundwater (and therefore streams) in some areas especially vulnerable to high nitrogen inputs. These include carbonate and coarse coastal plain geology.	Data provided by Emily Trentacoste, EPA Chesapeake Bay Program. Geology shapefile from USGS called “Gen_Lithology”with GENGEOL attribute; values of “carbonate” and “coarse coastal plain” are considered the vulnerable areas. 2018
Habitat	National Fish Habitat Partnership (NFHP) Habitat Condition Index in Catchment	USGS, 2015 data	Updates to national fish habitat indicator and new regional fish habitat assessment under development for CBP	HabConditionIndexLC	Local catchment Habitat Condition Index (HCI) score. From National Fish Habitat Partnership, national assessment.	Mean Habitat Condition Index (HCI) score for the catchment from the National Fish Habitat Partnership (NFHP) 2015 National Assessment. Scores range from 1 (high likelihood of aquatic habitat degradation) to 5 (low likelihood of aquatic habitat degradation) based on land use, population density, roads, dams, mines, and point-source pollution sites. Source data were NFHP 2015 National Assessment Local Catchment HCI scores. See http://ecosystems.usgs.gov/fishhabitat/nfhap_download.jsp and http://assessment.fishhabitat.org/ for more information on the NFHP National Assessment.
	Chesapeake Bay Conservation Habitats in Catchment	Landscope / Nature's Network Conservation Design for the Northeast	Updates to Landscope / Nature's Network Conservation Design for the Northeast	PctNatlConnectivity	Nature’s Network Conservation Design depicts an interconnected network of lands and waters that, if protected, will support a diversity of fish, wildlife, and natural resources that the people of the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic region depend upon. Includes Core Habitat for Imperiled Species, Terrestrial Core-Connector Network, Grassland Bird Core Areas, Lotic Core Areas, and Lentic Core Areas.	From Nature's Network Conservation Design for the Northeast, available at http://naturesnetwork.org/data-tools/download-tables/. Conservation Design data are a simplified composite layer, available along with its components including Core Habitat for Imperiled Species, Terrestrial Core-Connector Network, Grassland Bird Core Areas, Lotic Core Areas, and Lentic Core Areas. Further information is available at the North American Landscape Conservation Cooperative: https://nalcc.databasin.org/datasets/3d670fad4c924e7ba2ae02f04a128256. 2018
Biological Condition	Outlet Aquatic Condition Score in Catchment	EPA Office of Research and Development, StreamCat-based model of NRSA biological condition, 2016	CBP / ICPRB Chessie BIBI	CIIndex	Index of catchment integrity	StreamCat. EPA Office of Research and Development StreamCat-based model of NRSA biological condition; NHDPlus2 hydrography.

Sub-Index	Watershed Condition Metrics					
Sub-Index	**Metrics (NHD+ Catchments)**	**Notes / Data Source**	**Notes / Future Data Availability**	**Field Name**	**Metric Description**	**Data Source Details**
Water Quality	% of Stream Length Impaired in Catchment	EPA ATTAINS	Future versions of EPA ATTAINS and State data	Pct303dImpairedCat	Percent Impaired Streams in Local Catchment	Under Section 303(d) of the CWA, states, territories, and authorized tribes (referred to here as states) are required to develop lists of impaired waters. These are waters that are too polluted or otherwise degraded to meet the state water quality standards. The law requires that these jurisdictions establish priority rankings for waters on the lists and develop TMDLs for these waters. Note: the CWA Section 303(d) list of impaired waters does not contain impaired waters with an established TMDL, impaired waters for which other pollution control mechanisms are in place and expected to attain water quality standards, or waters impaired as a result of pollution. For more information, please see EPA's Integrated Reporting Guidance at: http://www.epa.gov/tmdl/integrated-reporting-guidance. 2015
	Estimated Nitrogen Load from SPARROW Model (lbs/acre/yr), in Watershed	CBP SPARROW model		-	-	Data provided by EPA Chesapeake Bay Program.
	Nitrogen, Phosphorus, and Sediment Load from Chesapeake Bay Model, by Sector (Developed Land, Agriculture, Wastewater, Septic, and CSO), in Watershed (15 separate metrics)	CBP Model (Phase 6)	Future CBP Model Estimates	CBPModAGN, CBPModAGP, CBPModAGS, CBPModCSON, CBPModCSOP, CBPModCSOS, CBPModDEVN, CBPModDEVP, CBPModDEVS, CBPModSEPN, CBPModSEPP, CBPModSEPS, CBPModWWN, CBPModWWP, CBPModWWS	Nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment loads by sector.	Data provided by Peter Claggett, USGS Chesapeake Bay Program. From the Chesapeake Bay Program Phase 6 Watershed Model. 2019

Sub-Index	Watershed Vulnerability Metrics					
Sub-Index	**Metrics (NHD+ Catchments)**	**Notes / Data Source**	**Notes / Future Data Availability**	**Field Name**	**Metric Description**	**Data Source Details**
Land Use Change	% Increase in Development in Watershed	CBP model (Phase 6), 2050 projection, 2018 data set	Future updates to CBP model (e.g., 2017, 2019, 2021, 2023 updates)	FutureDev	Percent of catchment land projected to undergo development by 2050, according to CBP projections.	Data provided by Peter Claggett, USGS Chesapeake Bay Program. Year 2050 forecast data were provided by NHD catchment for the Current Zoning (cz2) baseline scenario. Data were provided as simplified table showing just the COMID and mean amount of forecasted development (acres) across 101 simulations for the scenario. Acres of forecasted development were used along with catchment (COMID) area to calculate percent of land projected to undergo future development.
	Recent Forest Loss in Watershed	StreamCat, Forest Loss 2000-2013 / Global Forest Change	Updates to StreamCat, Global Forest Change (e.g., 2017, 2019, 2021, 2023 updates)	AvgPctForestLossWs	Percent tree canopy cover loss between years 2000-2013, within the watershed (Ws).	StreamCat tree canopy data were derived from Global Forest Change project, University of Maryland - Department of Geographical Sciences. Hansen, M. C., P. V. Potapov, R. Moore, M. Hancher, S. A. Turubanova, A. Tyukavina, D. Thau, S. V. Stehman, S. J. Goetz, T. R. Loveland, A. Kommareddy, A. Egorov, L. Chini, C. O. Justice, and J. R. G. Townshend. 2013. “High-Resolution Global Maps of 21st-Century Forest Cover Change.” Science 342 (15 November): 850–53. Data available online from: http://earthenginepartners.appspot.com/science-2013-global-forest
	% Protected Lands in Watershed	CBP Protected Lands data, Dec. 2018	CBP and partner updates to protected lands data	PctProtLandsWs	Percent of catchment land protected	Protected Lands data provided December 2018 by Renee Thompson, USGS Chesapeake Bay Program. Includes compilation of protected lands data from: US Geological Survey, Gap Analysis Program (GAP), May 2016, Protected Areas Database of the United States (PADUS), version 1.4 Combined Feature Class (Fee and Easement); Maryland Department of Natural Resources; Maryland Department of Planning; Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (Division of Fish and Wildlife); Freshwater Institute (WV Protected Lands); PA Bureau of Farmland Preservation; PA Department of Conservation & Natural Resources; and VA Department of Conservation and Recreation.
Water Use	Agricultural Water Use in Watershed	EPA EnviroAtlas, 2015	Updates to USGS water use data	AgWaterUse	Daily agricultural water use in the HUC12 (million gallons per day). Agricultural water use includes surface and groundwater that is self-supplied by agricultural producers or supplied by water providers (governments, private companies, or other organizations). Catchments were assigned values from surrounding HUC12.	Water used in a HUC12 may originate from within or outside the HUC12. Calculated by downscaling county water use estimates for 2005 reported by US Geological Survey ("Estimated Use of Water in the United States County-Level Data for 2005") using the 2006 National Land Cover Database (2006 NLCD) Land Cover dataset, the 2010 Cropland Data Layer, and a custom geospatial dataset of irrigated area locations. Counties with zero reported water use were assigned a state-level average value to address issues with water use reporting. This indicator was calculated for EPA EnviroAtlas. Detailed information on source data and calculation methods can be found at: https://edg.epa.gov/metadata/catalog/search/resource/details.page?uuid=%7BD5113083-CFCD-48EC-BC24-0ADA5B9BDDB7%7D

Sub-Index	Watershed Vulnerability Metrics					
Sub-Index	Metrics (NHD+ Catchments)	Notes / Data Source	Notes / Future Data Availability	Field Name	Metric Description	Data Source Details
	Domestic Water Use in Watershed	EPA EnviroAtlas, 2015	Updates to USGS water use data	DomesticWaterUse	Daily domestic water use in the HUC12 (million gallons per day). Domestic water use includes indoor and outdoor household uses, such as drinking, bathing, cleaning, landscaping, and pools. Domestic water can include surface or groundwater that is self-supplied by households or publicly-supplied.	EPA EnviroAtlas "Domestic Water Demand by 12-Digit HUC for the Conterminous United States" dataset. December 15, 2015 version. Water used in a HUC12 may originate from within or outside the HUC12. Calculated by downscaling county water use estimates for 2005 reported by US Geological Survey ("Estimated Use of Water in the United States County-Level Data for 2005") using the 2006 National Land Cover Database (2006 NLCD) Land Cover dataset and 2010 US Census population estimates from the US Census Bureau. This indicator was calculated for EPA EnviroAtlas. Additional information on source data and calculation methods can be found at: https://edg.epa.gov/metadata/catalog/search/resource/details.page?uuid=%7BC6DBEBAB-03EF-43C8-8DCA-8D2845E06A96%7D
	Industrial Water Use in Watershed	EPA EnviroAtlas, 2015	Updates to USGS water use data	IndustrialWaterUse	Daily industrial water use in the HUC12 (million gallons per day). Industrial water use includes water used for chemical, food, paper, wood, and metal production. Only includes self-supplied surface water or groundwater by private wells or reservoirs. Industrial water supplied by public water utilities is not counted.	EPA EnviroAtlas "Industrial Water Use by 12-Digit HUC for the Conterminous United States" dataset. May 7, 2015 version. Water used in a HUC12 may originate from within or outside the HUC12. Calculated by downscaling county water use estimates for 2005 reported by US Geological Survey ("Estimated Use of Water in the United States County-Level Data for 2005") using a geospatial dataset on the location of industrial facilities as of 2009/10. Water use by industrial facilities in counties that were reported to have zero industrial water use in the USGS dataset was estimated from values for nearby facilities. This indicator was calculated for EPA EnviroAtlas. Additional information on source data and calculation methods can be found at: https://edg.epa.gov/metadata/catalog/search/resource/details.page?uuid=%7B4E58C04B-8A17-4B07-9EE4-1D9365D5B0D9%7D
Wildfire Risk	% Wildland Urban Interface	University of Wisconsin - Madison SILVIS lab. Wildland Urban Interface, 2010 data, published 2017.	Updates to Wildland Urban Interface data, University of Wisconsin - Madison SILVIS lab. A 2020 version of the WUI data is planned using 2020 census data, expected to be ready by 2021. Future versions are likely using decadal census data. Also, SILVIS currently in the process of generating future decadal WUI projection datasets for	WildfireRiskUrbInterface	The wildland-urban interface (WUI) is the area where houses meet or intermingle with undeveloped wildland vegetation, making the WUI a focal area for human-environment conflicts such as wildland fires, habitat fragmentation, invasive species, and biodiversity decline. WUI 2010 data were used, including interface and intermix categories.	Wildland Urban Interface data from Univ. of Wisconsin - Madison SILVIS lab, http://silvis.forest.wisc.edu/data/wui-change/ Data developers integrated U.S. Census and USGS National Land Cover Data to map the Federal Register definition of WUI (Federal Register 66:751, 2001) for the conterminous United States from 1990-2010. Reference: Radeloff, Volker C.; Helmers, David P.; Kramer, H. Anu; Mockrin, Miranda H.; Alexandre, Patricia M.; Bar Massada, Avi; Butsic, Van; Hawbaker, Todd J.; Martinuzzi, Sebastián; Syphard, Alexandra D.; Stewart, Susan I. 2017. The 1990-2010 wildland-urban interface of the conterminous United States - geospatial data. 2nd Edition. Fort Collins, CO: Forest Service Research Data Archive. https://doi.org/10.2737/RDS-2015-0012-2. Credit to the USDA Forest Service Northern Research Station.

Sub-Index	Watershed Vulnerability Metrics					
Sub-Index	Metrics (NHD+ Catchments)	Notes / Data Source	Notes / Future Data Availability	Field Name	Metric Description	Data Source Details
			2020-2070 using econometric models that predict where housing growth will occur across the U.S. over that time frame. Projection data may be ready by end of 2019.			
Climate Change	Change in Probability of Brook Trout Occurrence, Current Conditions v. Future Conditions (plus 6 degrees C)	North Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative (NALCC), Nature's Network, USGS Conte Lab, 2017	New/updated research on brook trout vulnerability	Brook_Trout_Occur_6CTempChang, Brook_Trout_Occur_Current	Brook Trout probability of occurrence is intended to provide predictions of occupancy (probability of presence) under current environmental conditions and for future increases in stream temperature. Change in brook trout probability of occurrence was calculated as the difference between probability under current condition vs. the plus 6 degrees C scenario.	Brook Trout probability of occurrence was developed by the Conte Lab for the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic region from Virginia to Maine. The dataset provides predictions under current environmental conditions and for future increases in stream temperature. Data are available for four scenarios: current condition, plus 2 degrees C, plus 4 degrees C, and plus 6 degrees C. Data and information are available through the North Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative at: https://nalcc.databasin.org/datasets/7f3aaf6f9c59423391eb5a1526f28beb For further information see http://conte-ecology.github.io/Northeast_Bkt_Occupancy/ Reference: Benjamin Letcher (Principal Investigator), North Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative (administrator), 2017-06-22 (creation), 2017-10-20 (lastUpdate), 2017-05 (Publication), Brook Trout Probability of Occurrence, Northeast U.S. https://www.sciencebase.gov/arcgis/rest/services/Catalog/594be372e4b062508e385070/MapServer/
	Climate Stress indicator	North Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative (NALCC), Nature's Network, 2017	New/updated research on climate stress	ClimateStress	The Climate Stress Metric is one of a suite of products from the Nature's Network project (naturesnetwork.org). Nature's Network is a collaborative effort to identify shared priorities for conservation in the Northeast, considering the value of fish and wildlife species and the natural areas they inhabit. This dataset represents a measure of the estimated magnitude of climate stress that may be exerted on habitats (ecosystem types) in 2080, on a scale of 30 m^2 cells. Cells where 2080 climate conditions depart substantially from conditions where the underlying ecosystem type currently occurs (the ecosystem's	Data available from https://nalcc.databasin.org/datasets/d207f70858fa403397c631433c2ad57d North Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative (funder), Kevin McGarigal (Principal Investigator), 2017-06-22 (creation), 2017-10-20 (lastUpdate), 2017-03-17 (Publication), Climate Stress Metric, Version 3.0, Northeast U.S. https://www.sciencebase.gov/arcgis/rest/services/Catalog/594c1cc0e4b062508e3854c8/MapServer/

Sub-Index	Watershed Vulnerability Metrics					
Sub-Index	Metrics (NHD+ Catchments)	Notes / Data Source	Notes / Future Data Availability	Field Name	Metric Description	Data Source Details
					“climate niche”) are considered to be stressed. Cells where the projected 2080 climate conditions are not substantially different from the current climate niche in the Northeast region are considered to be under low climate stress. Areas with low or zero climate stress may be candidates to function as climate refugia; these are places where ecosystems and associated species can persist relatively longer, compared to typical locations where the ecosystems currently occur.	

Appendix D

Example Descriptive Statistics for Catchments at the Outlet of State-Identified Healthy Watersheds

Table D-1. Example descriptive statistics for catchments at the outlet of state-identified healthy watersheds. Values include minimum (Min), mean, maximum (Max), standard deviation (SD), and percentiles (5th to 95th percentile)

Sub-Index	Metric	Min	Mean	Max	SD	Percentile						
						q05	q15	q25	q50	q75	q85	q95
Watershed Health Metrics												
Landscape Condition	% Natural Land Cover in Watershed	4E-06	0.578	1	0.25	0.144	0.278	0.388	0.596	0.783	0.862	0.95
	% Forest in Riparian Zone in Watershed	0.22	0.881	0.985	0.0745	0.74	0.814	0.847	0.895	0.932	0.949	0.972
	Population Density in Watershed (people/km2)	0.85	66.9	2190	181	2.85	7.01	10.6	20.7	46.7	82.6	225
	Housing Unit Density in Watershed (housing units/km2)	0.096	26.4	962	68.1	2.63	3.87	5.32	9.54	18.5	31.4	91.7
	Mining Density in Watershed (sites/km2)	0	0.0012	0.168	0.0083	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0037
	% Managed Turf Grass in Hydrologically Connected Zone (HCZ) in Watershed	0	0.437	0.888	0.108	0.286	0.341	0.368	0.431	0.499	0.532	0.621
	Historic Forest Loss in Watershed (%)	0	0.323	1	0.29	0	0	0.0418	0.264	0.523	0.683	0.89
Hydrology	% Agriculture on Hydric Soil in Watershed	0	0.0141	0.342	0.0359	0	0	0	0.0023	0.0117	0.0193	0.0622
	% Forest in Watershed	4E-06	0.548	0.992	0.253	0.112	0.232	0.358	0.579	0.763	0.835	0.907
	% Forest Remaining in Watershed	0	0.677	1	0.29	0.11	0.317	0.477	0.736	0.958	1	1
	% Wetlands Remaining in Watershed	0	0.192	1	0.297	0	0	0	0.0304	0.27	0.474	1
	% Impervious in Watershed	0	0.0291	0.476	0.0462	0.0012	0.0043	0.0071	0.0162	0.0314	0.0461	0.0986
	Density Road-Stream Crossings in Watershed (crossing/km2)	0	0.517	3.5	0.409	0	0.169	0.247	0.45	0.671	0.825	1.22
	% Wetlands in Watershed	0	0.0304	0.401	0.0486	3E-05	0.002	0.0054	0.0144	0.0339	0.0524	0.119
Geomorphology	Dam Density in Watershed (dams/km2)	0	0.0106	0.755	0.0396	0	0	0	0	0	0.0185	0.0497
	% Vulnerable Geology in Watershed	0	0.134	1	0.32	0	0	0	0	0	0.248	1

Table D-1. Example descriptive statistics for catchments at the outlet of state-identified healthy watersheds. Values include minimum (Min), mean, maximum (Max), standard deviation (SD), and percentiles (5th to 95th percentile)

Sub-Index	**Metric**	**Min**	**Mean**	**Max**	**SD**	**Percentile**						
						q05	**q15**	**q25**	**q50**	**q75**	**q85**	**q95**
	Road Density in Riparian Zone, in Watershed (km/km2)	0.652	0.923	1	0.0481	0.839	0.889	0.908	0.932	0.95	0.962	0.98
	% Impervious in Riparian Zone in Watershed	0	0.377	0.688	0.108	0.226	0.307	0.337	0.382	0.444	0.472	0.514
Habitat	National Fish Habitat Partnership (NFHP) Habitat Condition Index in Catchment (Index Score)	0	3.91	5	1.16	0	3.4	3.6	4.2	4.6	4.8	5
	Chesapeake Bay Conservation Habitats in Catchment (%)	0	0.47	1	0.402	0	0.0017	0.0291	0.455	0.907	0.984	1
Biological Condition	Outlet Aquatic Condition Score in Catchment	0.379	0.694	0.957	0.131	0.474	0.552	0.6	0.693	0.79	0.844	0.918
Water Quality	% of Stream Length Impaired in Catchment	0	0.0862	1	0.277	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.997
	Estimated Nitrogen Load from SPARROW Model (lbs/acre/yr), in Watershed	0	0.082	0.628	0.0761	0.0162	0.0258	0.0311	0.056	0.105	0.15	0.239
	N Load from Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model, CSO (millions lbs/yr)	0	0.0011	0.229	0.0111	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0008
	P Load from Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model, CSO (millions lbs/yr)	0	0.0007	0.125	0.0062	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0005
	Sediment Load from Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model, CSO (millions lbs/yr)	0	0.001	0.212	0.0104	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0007
	N Load from Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model, Developed Land (millions lbs/yr)	6E-07	0.0135	0.319	0.0221	0.0006	0.002	0.0031	0.0071	0.0149	0.0224	0.0447

Table D-1. Example descriptive statistics for catchments at the outlet of state-identified healthy watersheds. Values include minimum (Min), mean, maximum (Max), standard deviation (SD), and percentiles (5th to 95th percentile)

Sub-Index	Metric	Min	Mean	Max	SD	Percentile						
						q05	q15	q25	q50	q75	q85	q95
	P Load from Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model, Developed Land (millions lbs/yr)	4E-07	0.0109	0.194	0.0192	0.0005	0.0012	0.002	0.0049	0.0113	0.0185	0.042
	Sediment Load from Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model, Developed Land (millions lbs/yr)	2E-07	0.0134	0.218	0.0193	0.0004	0.0018	0.0032	0.0075	0.0162	0.0233	0.0461
	N Load from Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model, Agriculture (millions lbs/yr)	7E-09	0.0173	0.578	0.0372	0.0001	0.0009	0.0016	0.0055	0.0176	0.0305	0.0756
	P Load from Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model, Agriculture (millions lbs/yr)	4E-08	0.0137	0.704	0.0355	0.0001	0.0007	0.0014	0.0046	0.0127	0.0214	0.0517
	Sediment Load from Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model, Agriculture (millions lbs/yr)	3E-08	0.0204	0.476	0.04	0.0003	0.001	0.0021	0.0074	0.0211	0.0357	0.0817
	N Load from Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model, Septic (millions lbs/yr)	0	0.0176	0.297	0.0314	0.0002	0.0009	0.0019	0.0068	0.0188	0.0322	0.0731
	N Load from Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model, Wastewater (millions lbs/yr)	0	0.0006	0.038	0.0028	0	2E-08	2E-06	5E-05	0.0002	0.0005	0.0021
	P Load from Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model, Wastewater (millions lbs/yr)	0	0.0008	0.0403	0.0026	0	5E-10	4E-06	0.0001	0.0005	0.0009	0.0035
	Sediment Load from Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model, Wastewater (millions lbs/yr)	0	0.0009	0.11	0.0047	0	9E-08	4E-06	7E-05	0.0004	0.0008	0.0036
Vulnerability Metrics												
Land Use Change	% Increase in Development in Watershed	0	0.015	0.483	0.0419	0	0	0	0	0.008	0.0235	0.0816
	Recent Forest Loss in Watershed (%)	0	0.0026	0.0629	0.0051	3E-05	0.0001	0.0003	0.0007	0.0022	0.0044	0.0126
	% Protected Lands in Catchment	0	0.245	1	0.321	0	0	0	0.0756	0.38	0.715	0.967

Table D-1. Example descriptive statistics for catchments at the outlet of state-identified healthy watersheds. Values include minimum (Min), mean, maximum (Max), standard deviation (SD), and percentiles (5th to 95th percentile)

Sub-Index	Metric	Min	Mean	Max	SD	Percentile						
						q05	q15	q25	q50	q75	q85	q95
Water Use	Agricultural Water Use in Watershed (million gallons/day)	0	0.982	80.6	3.93	0	0.02	0.04	0.17	0.44	0.67	3.55
	Domestic Water Use in Watershed (million gallons/day)	0	0.86	1	0.167	0.357	0.796	0.857	0.915	0.952	0.96	0.986
	Industrial Water Use in Watershed (million gallons/day)	0.836	0.993	1	0.0189	0.982	0.987	0.994	1	1	1	1
Wildfire Risk	% Wildland Urban Interface	0	0.541	1	0.296	0	0.0093	0.386	0.613	0.767	0.84	0.916
Climate Change	Change in Probability of Brook Trout Occurrence, Current Conditions v. Future Conditions (plus 6 degrees C) (Index)	-0.714	-0.2	0.15	0.194	-0.537	-0.454	-0.363	-0.154	-0.01	0	0
	Climate Stress indicator (Index)	0	0.557	1	0.3	0	0.0746	0.402	0.612	0.789	0.864	0.949