

A Chesapeake Bay- Focused EMS

Federal Environmental Symposium East
June 4, 2008



The Chesapeake Bay

- ◆ The largest estuary in the United States
- ◆ 64,000 square mile watershed
- ◆ 50 major rivers
- ◆ Covers all or part of 6 states



The Chesapeake Bay Watershed
64,000 Square Miles of Land, Water, and People

"A Better View Through Better Science"

2011

Produced by the USGS from a mosaic of Landsat satellite imagery acquired from 1980-2008



Chesapeake Bay Watershed
64,000 Square Miles of Land, Water, and People

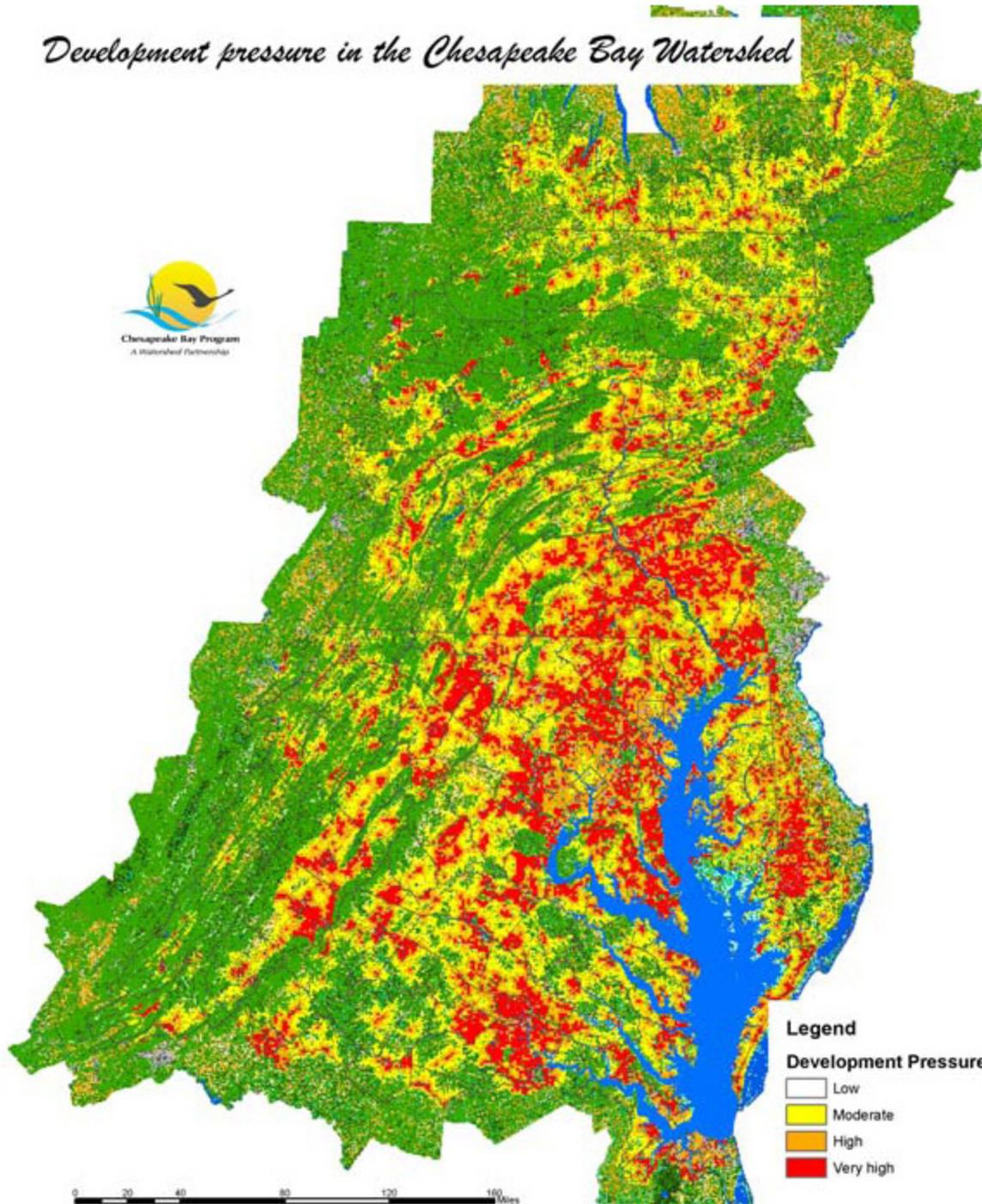


U.S. Geological Survey
Reston, Virginia 20192
1-800-USA-MAPS

The Problems

- ◆ Increase in impervious surfaces
- ◆ High nitrogen and phosphorous concentrations
- ◆ PCB concentrations
- ◆ Synthetic organic pesticides
- ◆ Sedimentation
- ◆ Low dissolved oxygen

Development pressure in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed



What is an Environmental Management System?

- ◆ A set of interrelated elements to develop and implement an organization's environmental policy
- ◆ ISO 14001 the most use system
- ◆ Seventeen elements
- ◆ Beginning with Environmental Policy
- ◆ Ending with Management Review
- ◆ In a continuous cycle

EMS in Action

- ◆ Problems with the community
- ◆ Superfund or Brownfield sites
- ◆ Local health concern
- ◆ Local environmental concern
- ◆ The Chesapeake Bay

Some EMS Elements

- ◆ Environmental Policy
- ◆ Environmental Aspects
- ◆ Competence, Training and Awareness

Environmental Policy

- ◆ Include a specific commitment to Chesapeake Bay, protection, restoration and sustainability
- ◆ Commit to pollution prevention activities focused on Chesapeake Bay Chemicals of Concern

Environmental Aspects

- ◆ Establish significance criteria that reflect risks to Chesapeake Bay
- ◆ Risks might include potential discharge of chemicals of concerns, sediment runoff, habitat loss, point source discharges
- ◆ Ensure that procedures for reviewing the environmental impacts of new projects are effective

Competence, Training and Awareness

- ◆ Establish or modify new employee orientation to include an EMS overview and explicit mention of the commitment to Chesapeake Bay
- ◆ Schedule annual EMS awareness training that includes examples of potential Bay impacts from your organization's activities
- ◆ Pay close attention to activity-level training wherever deviation from procedures could lead to a direct and uncontrolled release within the watershed

What can you do?

Resources

- ◆ Introduction to a Chesapeake Bay-Focused EMS
 - http://www.epa.gov/region03/federal_facilities/documents/CB_Watershed_Focused_EMS-August2006.pdf
- ◆ Greg Allen
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- ◆ Nick DiNardo
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Resources (cont.)

- ◆ FedCenter.gov – The Federal government’s home for comprehensive environmental stewardship and compliance assistance information –
<http://www.fedcenter.gov>
- ◆ <http://www.peercenter.net>
- ◆ Chesapeake Bay Program –
<http://www.chesapeakebay.net>





Thank you!!

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