

Identifying Critical Lands and Habitats in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed

The Chesapeake Bay Program has recently completed the Resource Lands Assessment, which was an effort to map the critical lands and habitats in the Bay watershed. The information will be used to help land protection and restoration, which are important goals related to the restoration of the Bay ecosystem. The USGS participated in the Resource Lands Assessment principally through the effort of Peter Claggett, who is a USGS employee serving as the Land Data Manager for the CBP. Peter helped design the map-based analysis for the Resource Lands Assessment and conducted analysis of population growth patterns to develop a vulnerability map for the watershed. Other USGS data included results from the USGS models relating nutrient sources to loads (the “SPARROW” models) were used to help assess important areas for water-quality protection. Read more about the Resource Lands Assessment in Bay Journal: <http://www.bayjournal.com/> or the CBP WWW site: <http://www.chesapeakebay.net/rla.htm>.

