



Healthy Watersheds Partnership

CA Water Quality Monitoring Council Meeting

June 6, 2019

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HWP KEY OBJECTIVES



- Coordinate and collaborate watershed protection efforts statewide
- Develop and/or make available integrated assessment methods, approaches, data and tools
- Communicate and share watershed data and information via Healthy Watersheds Portal
- Prioritize watershed restoration and management actions



Credit: Wikimedia commons

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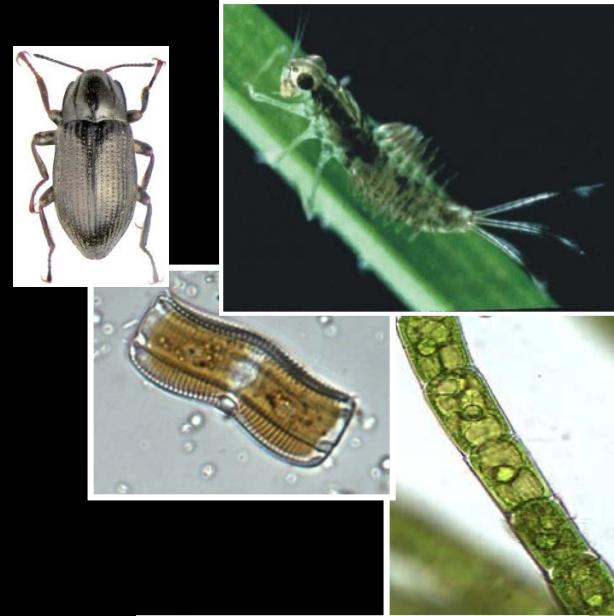
A landscape photograph of a river scene. In the foreground, the river's surface is visible with sunlight reflecting off the water, creating bright highlights. Large, light-colored boulders are scattered along the riverbank. The background features a dense forest of green trees and shrubs, with a rocky hillside rising behind them under a clear blue sky.

A VERY BRIEF BACKGROUND...

California's resource agencies need tools to prioritize protection/remediation

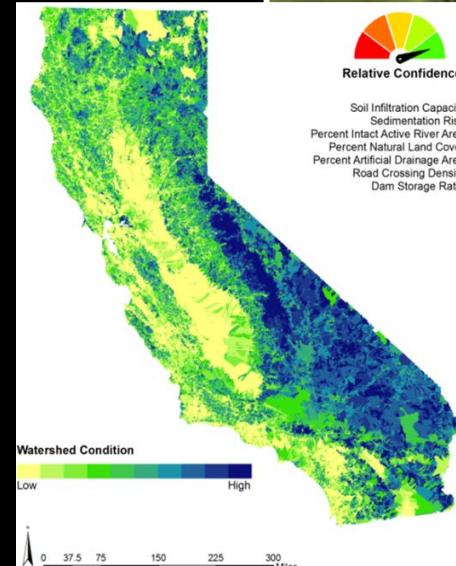
➤ State agencies are building capacity to directly monitor ecological condition

- *benthic invertebrates + benthic algae*
- *riparian condition indicators*



➤ Data needed for assessing watershed health and vulnerability are increasingly available

- *monitoring data (e.g., SWAMP)*
- *remote sensing data*

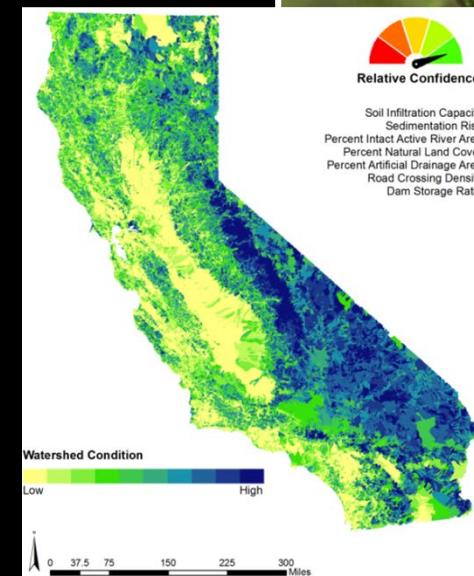


Limits to effective interagency coordination

➤ Need a common framework for interpreting watershed health and vulnerability



➤ Need better tools for coordinating and communicating priorities for protection and remediation



➤ Need an objective approach for tracking progress on acquisition/restoration

USEPA Healthy Watershed Initiative

EPA HWI website

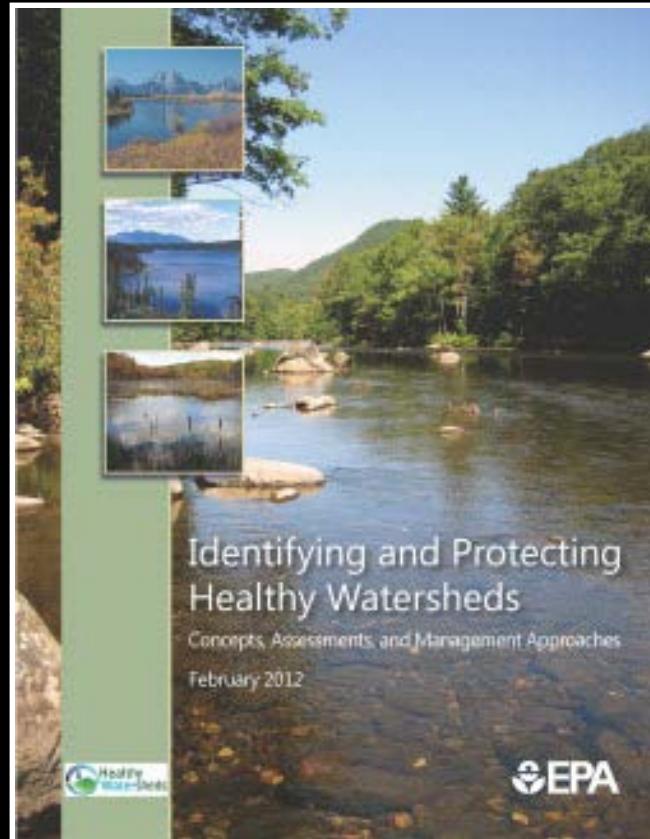
www.epa.gov/healthywatersheds

Goals of the Initiative

- Protect and maintain healthy watersheds, and increase their numbers over time.
- Raise the visibility and importance of protecting high quality waters.

Demonstrations

California, Alabama, Wisconsin





California Integrated Assessment of Watershed Health

Project initiated in 2011
Final report released October 2013

The image shows the front cover of a report titled "CALIFORNIA INTEGRATED ASSESSMENT OF WATERSHED HEALTH". The cover features a green header bar with white text. Below the header are four photographs: a close-up of a stream flowing over rocks, a wide shot of a waterfall cascading down a rocky cliff, a view of a mountain range under a blue sky, and a landscape showing a river flowing through a valley. At the bottom of the cover, there is a green footer bar with white text.

CALIFORNIA INTEGRATED ASSESSMENT
OF WATERSHED HEALTH

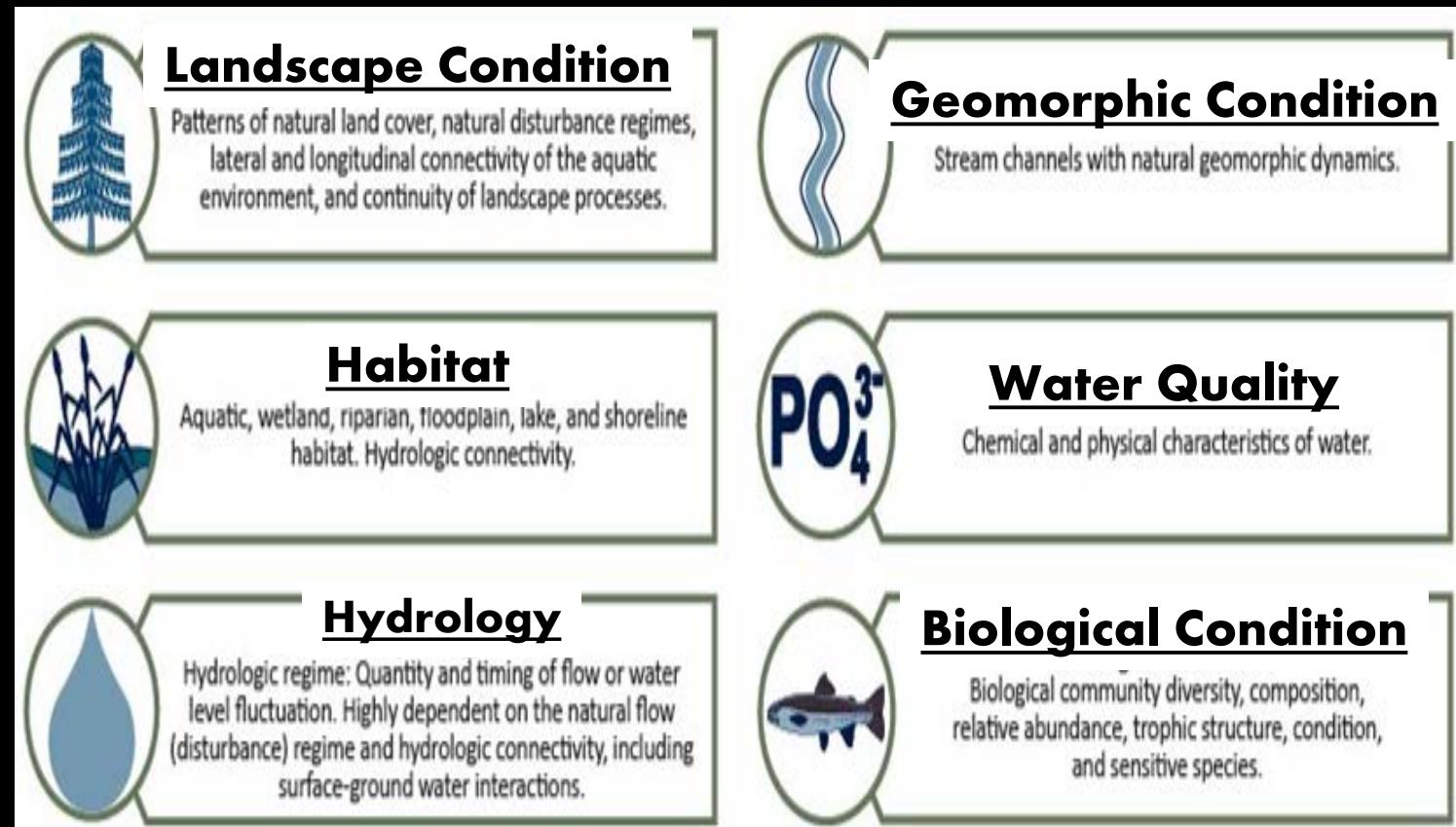
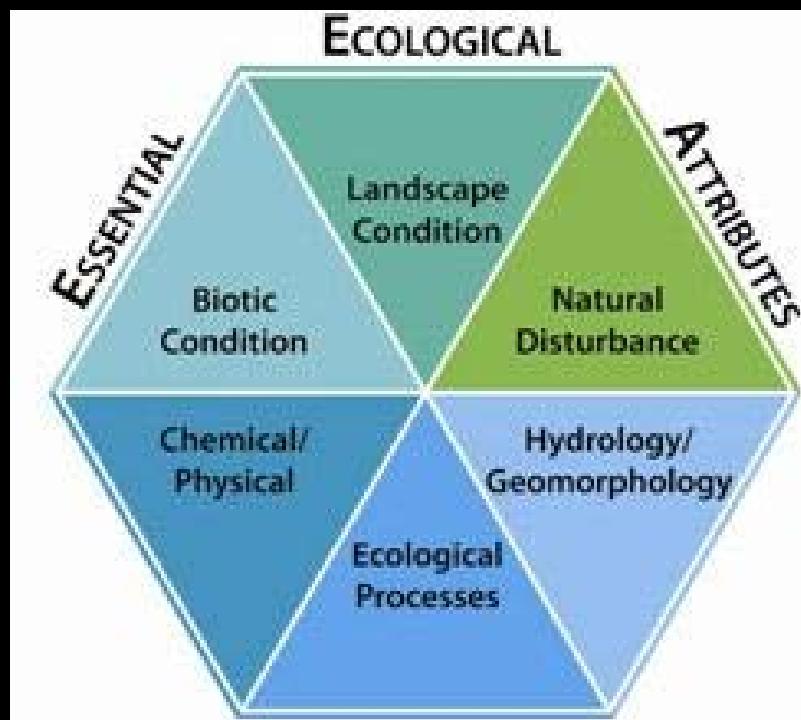
A Report on the Status and Vulnerability of
Watershed Health in California

October 2013

Funded by US EPA with technical support from The Cadmus Group

http://www.mywaterquality.ca.gov/monitoring_council/healthy_streams/documents/ca_hw_report_111213.pdf

HWI's six indicators of watershed health



A scenic view of a river flowing through a forested area. The water is clear and reflects the surrounding greenery. Large, light-colored rocks are scattered along the riverbank and in the water. A dense forest of green trees and shrubs lines the background, leading up to a rocky hillside under a clear blue sky.

AND, THE PRESENT...



1. Update integrated assessment framework with new datasets and approaches

Examples: The Nature Conservancy's Freshwater Species database, CNRA's Ecological Performance Measures approach, CDFW's Areas of Conservation Emphasis (ACE)

2. Create web-based tool/dashboard to integrate and assess data and information about watershed conditions

Hosted on an overhauled and refreshed HWP Portal

3. Conduct regional case studies to inform local examples of healthy watershed planning and protection actions.

North Coast Regional watershed/landscape assessment (Dr. Le and team!)

	CalMAIN	AB 1492	HWP
Who	state natural resource agencies	state, federal, local agencies, NGOs and public	state, federal, local agencies, NGOs and public
What	platform for watershed information, data analysis and evaluation	spatially explicit, consistent approach to track and assess watershed conditions over time	platform of multiple ecosystem/watershed datasets and customizable analytical tools
Where	Upland watersheds	Timberlands (for now)	Statewide
How	combine existing data and tools	public process, methodical 7-step approach (see slide)	build up existing assessment framework (6 attributes) with new datasets, approaches and methods
Why	inform decision making and to foster state agency interaction, analyze existing/planned management actions.	inform decision making to adaptively manage timberland ecosystems and track efficacy of State-led management actions	inform decision making with scientifically defensible, comprehensive, watershed assessments