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Delaware River Basin Commission Meeting
September 12, 2013

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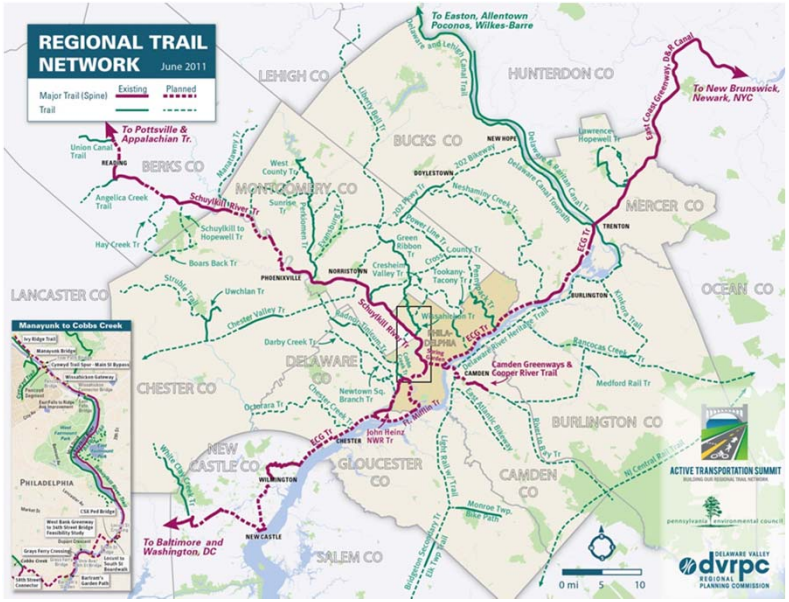
Watershed Protection Program: Protect Water in the Delaware River Basin

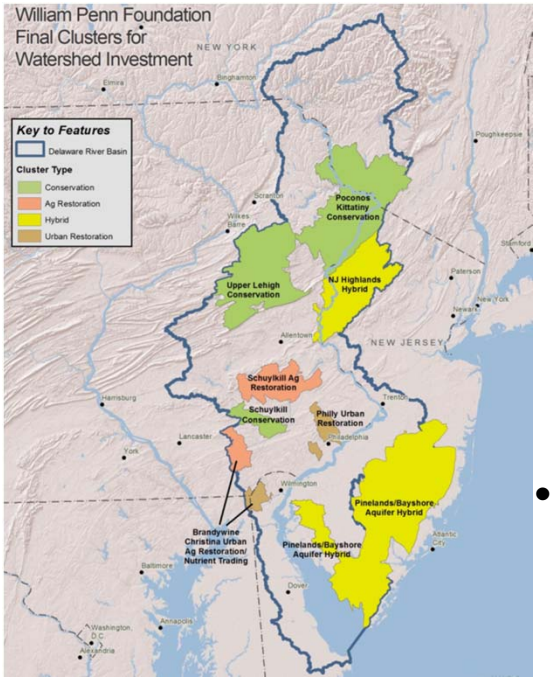
Point Mountain on the Upper Delaware at the Pennsylvania-New York border

- ***Target and Prioritize*** places we work and issues we address, driven by science and data
- ***Identify*** *baseline conditions*
- ***Fund*** strong and effective organizations
- ***Monitor*** *change and impact of interventions we support*
- ***Leverage*** *the work of public and private funders*
- ***Share learning*** *to strengthen work and encourage replication*

Watershed Protection Program:
Three Strategies in the Delaware River Basin

- **Address Watershed-Wide Issues** *through research, monitoring, policy and campaigns*
- **Build the Constituency for Watershed Protection** *by engaging people outdoors on targeted trails and rivers, and organizing people participating in specific outdoor activities, including birding, fishing, and hunting*





- **Protect and Restore Places of Ecological Significance** *through on-the-ground conservation and restoration in eight sub-watershed clusters, to protect or restore water quality*

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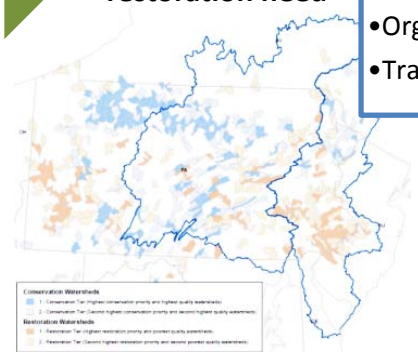
Watershed Protection Site Selection Process

Science screen – Led by Academy of Natural Science

Science-based focus areas

Key data:
- Physical
- Biological
- Development trends
- Protected lands
- Ground water

Ranking of watersheds by conservation / restoration need

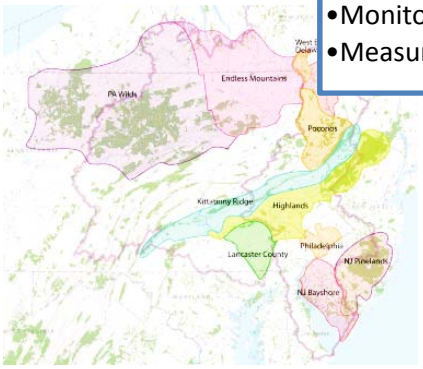


Feasibility Screen – Led by Open Space Institute in consultation with ANS and key experts

Capacity
- Organizations
- Track Records

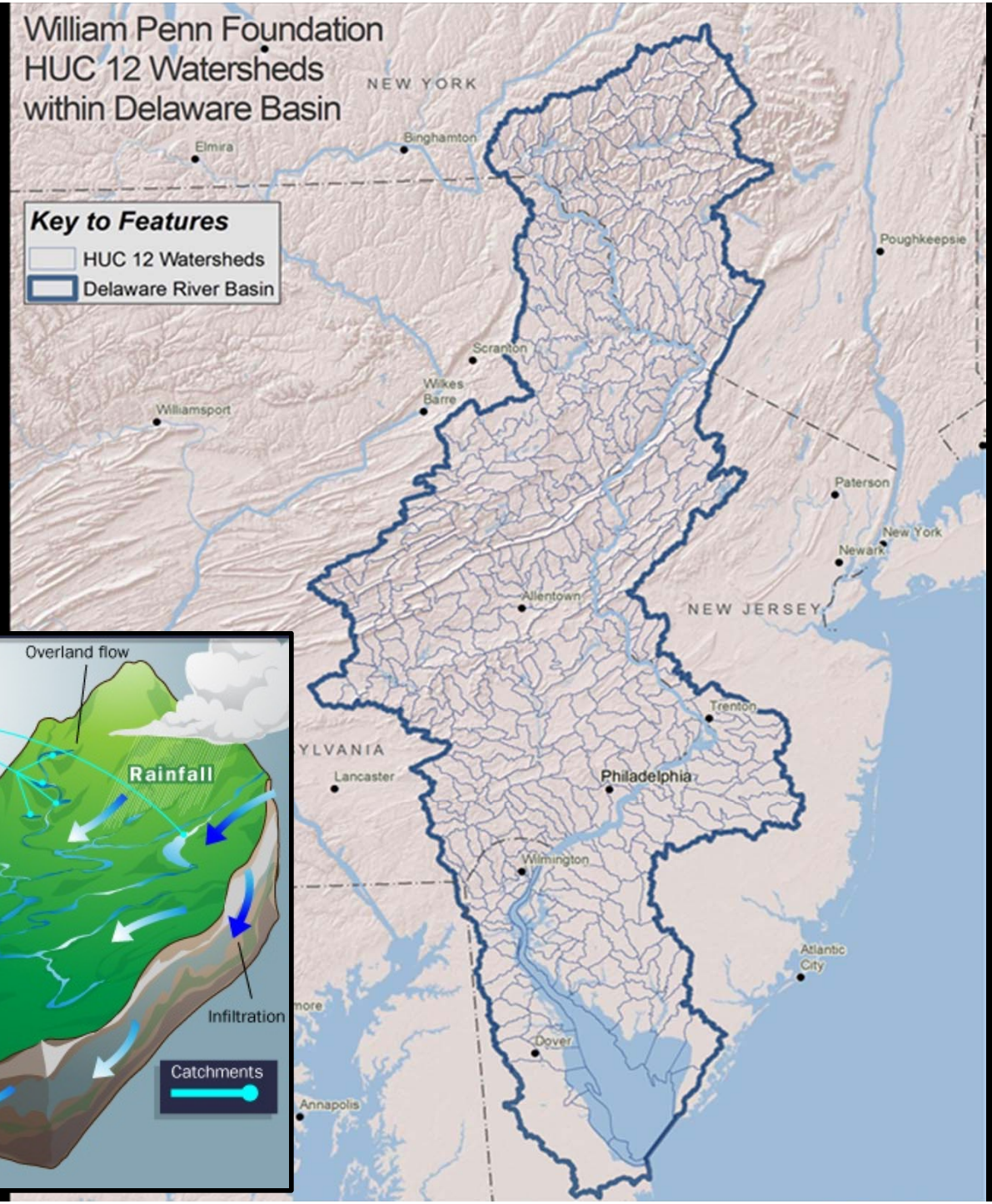
Impact/investment
- Urgency
- Leverage
- Feasibility

Measurability
- Indicators
- Monitoring
- Measures



5 to 12 clusters of watersheds with greatest potential

Develop scale-appropriate indicators linked to specific strategies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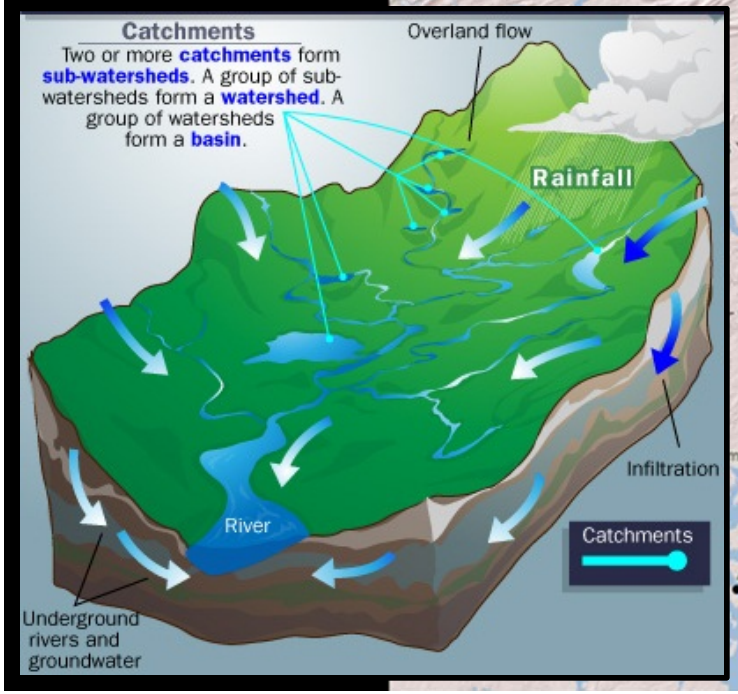
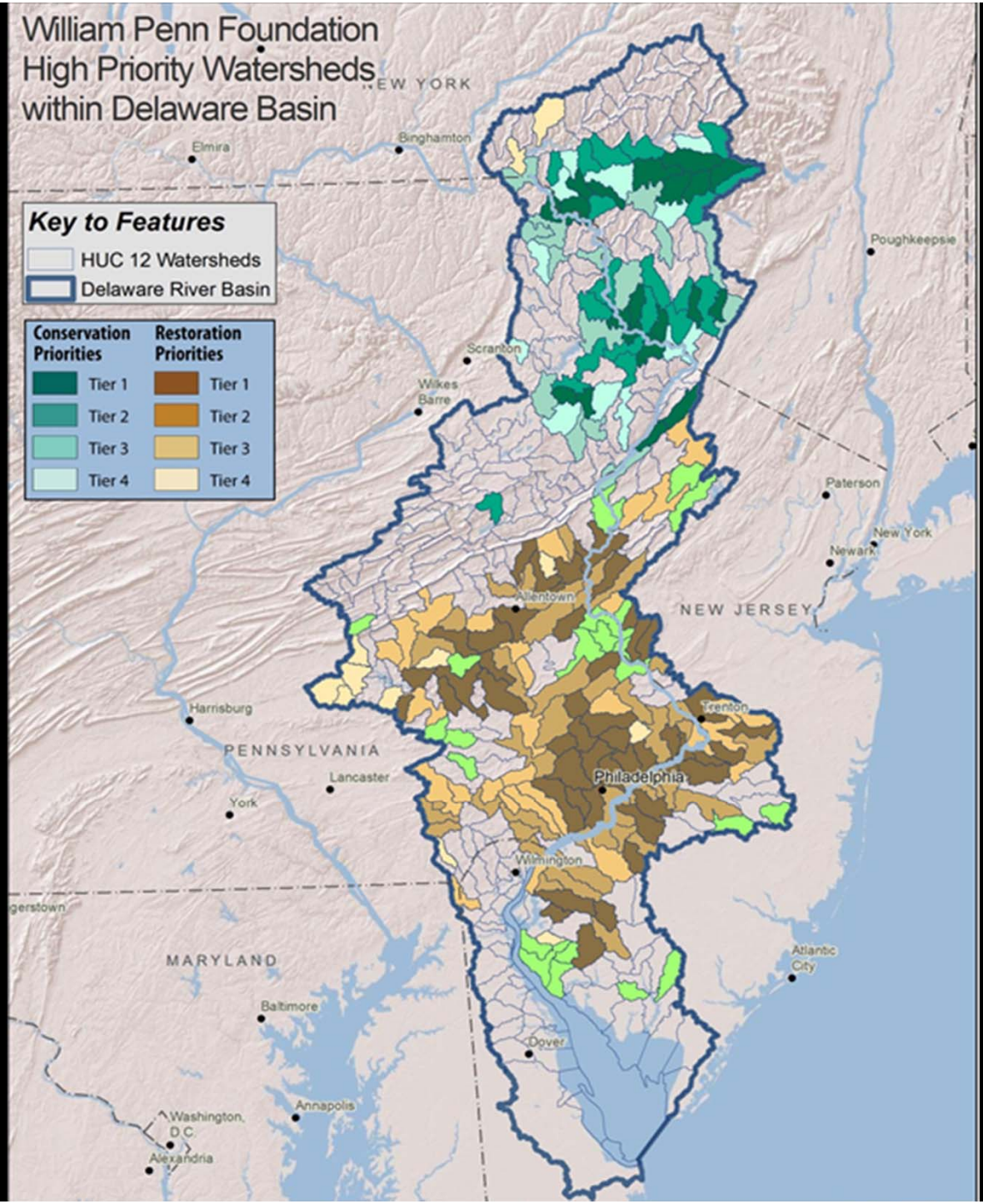
HUC 12 Watersheds
within Delaware Basin
NEW YORK
Elmira
Binghamton
Key to Features
HUC 12 Watersheds
Delaware River Basin
Poughkeepsie
Scranton
Wilkes Barre
Williamsport
Paterson
New York
Newark
Allentown
NEW JERSEY
Trenton
YLVANIA
Lancaster
Philadelphia
Wilmington
Atlantic City
Dover
Annapolis


Catchments
Two or more catchments form sub-watersheds. A group of sub-watersheds form a watershed. A group of watersheds form a basin.
Overland flow
Rainfall
Infiltration
River
Catchments
Underground rivers and groundwater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High Priority Watersheds
within Delaware Basin
NEW YORK
Elmira
Binghamton
Key to Features
HUC 12 Watersheds
Delaware River Basin
Conservation Priorities
Tier 1
Tier 2
Tier 3
Tier 4
Restoration Priorities
Tier 1
Tier 2
Tier 3
Tier 4
Poughkeepsie
Scranton
Wilkes Barre
Paterson
New York
Newark
Allentown
NEW JERSEY
Harrisburg
Trenton
PENNSYLVANIA
Lancaster
Philadelphia
York
Wilmington
MARYLAND
Atlantic City
Baltimore
Dover
Annapolis
Washington, D.C.
Alexandria

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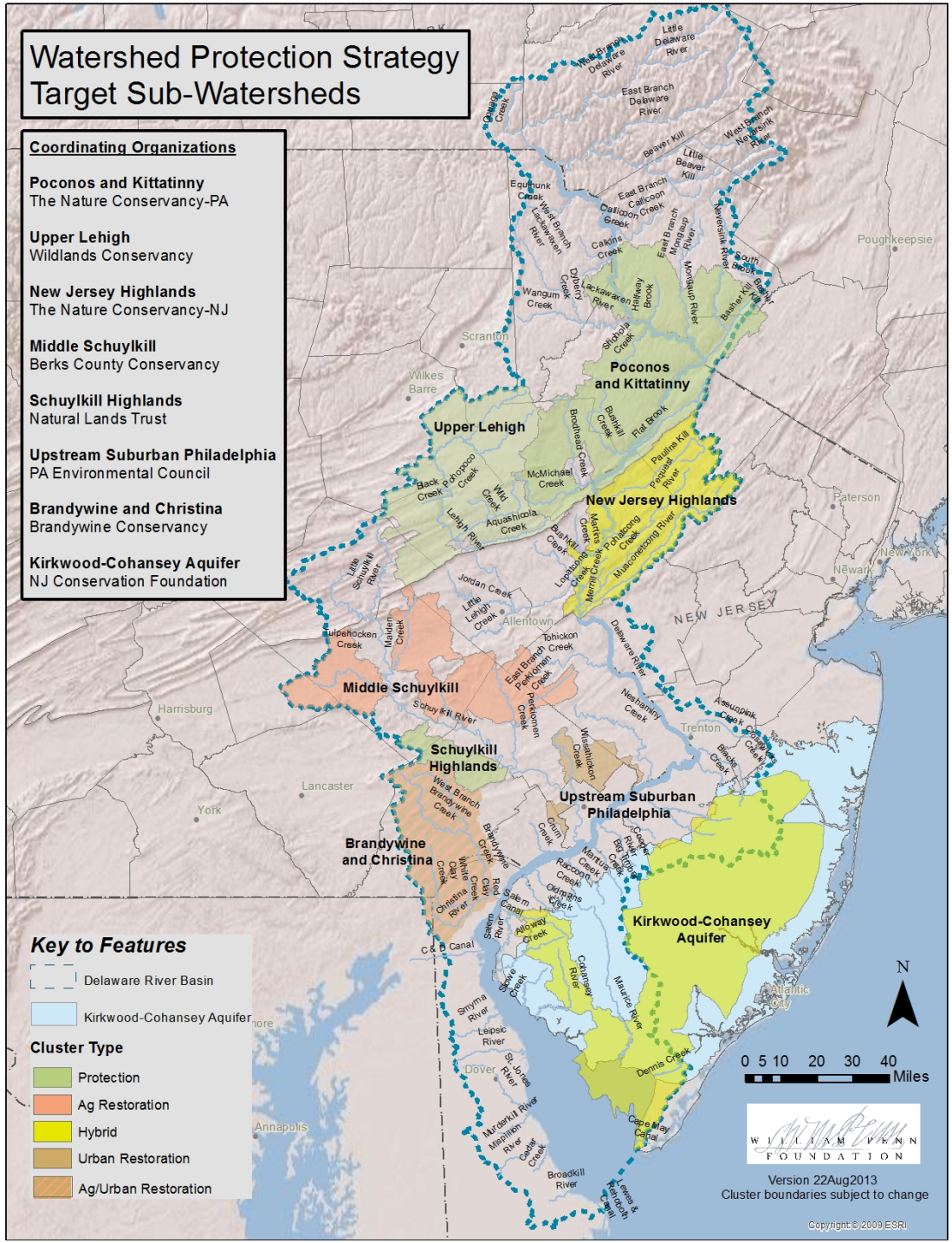
Criteria for Investment in Watersheds

- Potential for Significant Impact
- Urgency to Act
- Organization Capacity
- Cost Efficiency
- Ability to Measure Impact

Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area


Watershed Protection Strategy
Target Sub-Watersheds
Coordinating Organizations
Poconos and Kittatinny
The Nature Conservancy-PA
Upper Lehigh
Wildlands Conservancy
New Jersey Highlands
The Nature Conservancy-NJ
Middle Schuylkill
Berks County Conservancy
Schuylkill Highlands
Natural Lands Trust
Upstream Suburban Philadelphia
PA Environmental Council
Brandywine and Christina
Brandywine Conservancy
Kirkwood-Cohansey Aquifer
NJ Conservation Foundation
Poconos and Kittatinny
Upper Lehigh
New Jersey Highlands
Middle Schuylkill
Schuylkill Highlands
Upstream Suburban Philadelphia
Brandywine and Christina
Kirkwood-Cohansey Aquifer
NEW JERSEY
Key to Features
Delaware River Basin
Kirkwood-Cohansey Aquifer
Cluster Type
Protection
Ag Restoration
Hybrid
Urban Restoration
Ag/Urban Restoration
N
0 5 10 20 30 40
Miles
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Version 22Aug2013
Cluster boundaries subject to change
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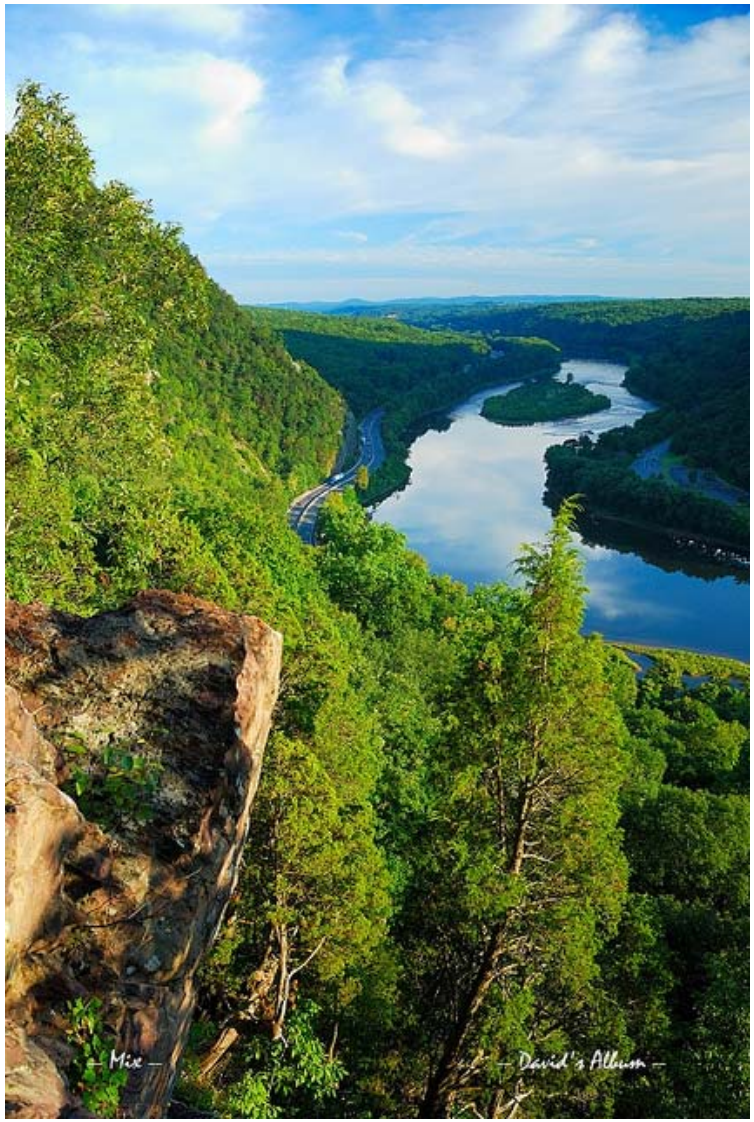
Sub-watershed Strategy Grantmaking

- *Much of the work to implement the subwatershed strategy will be supported through grants in two phases:*

  - **A short Planning Phase,** which has just been completed, through which invited organizations developed shared **Implementation Plans** that address water quality stressors for each subwatershed cluster

  - **An Implementation Phase** beginning in early 2014, through which organizations will perform work identified in the eight Implementation Plans with Foundation support requested via proposals presented for board consideration in January 2014. (There is no guarantee that all elements of all eight plans will be funded, however.)

Questions