New Jersey Clean Water Council
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Delaware River Watershed

- Spans **13,500** sq. miles in 4 states (NY, NJ, PA, DE)
- Provides drinking water for ~**15M** people
- Enables **$25B/yr** business
- Supports globally rare species & habitats
- Offers abundant recreation
William Penn Foundation Strategies for Watershed Protection
$35M/year supporting 3 investment strategies in the Delaware Basin:

• **Watershed-wide Research, Policy, and Practice**
  – Research, data, advocacy aimed at 4 stressors

• **Constituency Building: People Outdoors**
  – Messaging and programming aimed at people who actively use a defined network of connected waterside trails, river access points, and environmental centers

• **Protect & Restore Places of Hydrologic Significance**
  – On-the-ground conservation in targeted places
DELAWARE RIVER WATERSHED INITIATIVE: Accelerating Conservation, Assessing Impact

Poconos-Kittatinny
Upper Lehigh
Schuylkill Highlands
Brandywine-Christina
Middle Schuylkill
Suburban Philadelphia
New Jersey Highlands
Kirkwood-Cohansey
Target specific watershed stressors:

- Headwaters Forest loss/fragmentation
- Stormwater run-off (volume & NPSP)
- Agricultural run-off (NPSP & volume)
- Sustainable aquifer (pollution & depletion)
Target Specific Geographies:

- Delaware River Watershed Initiative Clusters
Align Work in Targeted Places to Accelerate Conservation:

- **Shared restoration and preservation implementation plans** have been developed in each of the 8 sub-watersheds clusters.
  - All of these plans represent aligned work of strong conservation organizations.
  - From 3 to 11 organizations per cluster.
  - All plans were reviewed and vetted by expert panels.

- **46 organizations have $15MM in operational grants to implement** priority elements of these plans.

- **Two competitive regrant funds** have been capitalized: a **$10MM land conservation fund** (Open Space Institute) and **$7MM restoration fund** (National Fish and Wildlife Foundation), exclusively for projects identified in the 8 implementation plans.
  - Both organizations also offer substantial technical assistance

- Institute for Conservation Leadership, has been funded to **convene and facilitate organizations working in each cluster—and across clusters—to insure that they are resourced to collaborate and share lessons learned, to amplify impact.**

- Environmental Leadership Program launching new **Delaware Watershed program aimed at emerging conservation leaders in the 8 sub-watershed clusters**
Assessing Impact at an Unprecedented Scale

An ambitious, unprecedented, level of **water quality monitoring** is in place by the Academy of Natural Sciences under a $3.2MM, three-year grant.

- 300 monitoring sites with standardized sampling protocols across the 8 clusters, aligned with project areas to measure impact of restoration and protection work

- Each cluster has a shared monitoring strategy
Implementation to date...

- **$15MM for operational**
  - Supporting over 50 organizations for 3 years

- **$3.2MM for monitoring**
  - 300 sampling events and nearly 200 monitoring sites and a report of baseline conditions in the clusters

- **$7MM for restoration**
  - Restored 5,676 acres with ag and stormwater BMPs, riparian buffers, and wetland restoration via 30 strategic projects, with $3.9MM invested from WPF/NFWF and $10MM leveraged

- **$9MM for protection**
  - Protected 14,216 acres via 19 strategic projects, with $4.5MM invested from WPF/OSI and $41MM leveraged;

- **$8MM for research, technology, capacity building**
THERE ARE MANY OPPORTUNITIES TO BUILD ON THIS WORK-IN-PROGRESS:

- The Initiative will produce replicable models and create conditions for scaling up within the Delaware Watershed and more broadly.

- Other work in the watershed can be connected to the standardized water quality monitoring.

- William Penn Foundation support is significant, but a fraction of what is necessary to complete the priority projects identified by the cluster organizations.

- Planning for “Phase 2” is underway, informed by a formative evaluation that is in-process and substantial feedback from participants.