Delaware River Basin Commission
Water Resources Resilience Plan



Phase 2 Engagement Session

FUDR Rendezvous - October 22, 2026

Elizabeth Brown – *Director, External Affairs & Communications*
Avery Lentini – *Community Engagement Specialist*
Zachary Soricelli – *Water Resources Resilience Plan Intern*

Delaware River Basin Commission
DELAWARE • NEW JERSEY
PENNSYLVANIA • NEW YORK
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The Delaware River Basin Commission is a federal-interstate government agency



Our Mission

Manage, protect, and improve the water resources of the Delaware River Basin.

Our Vision

Provide trusted, effective, and coordinated management of the Basin's shared water resources.

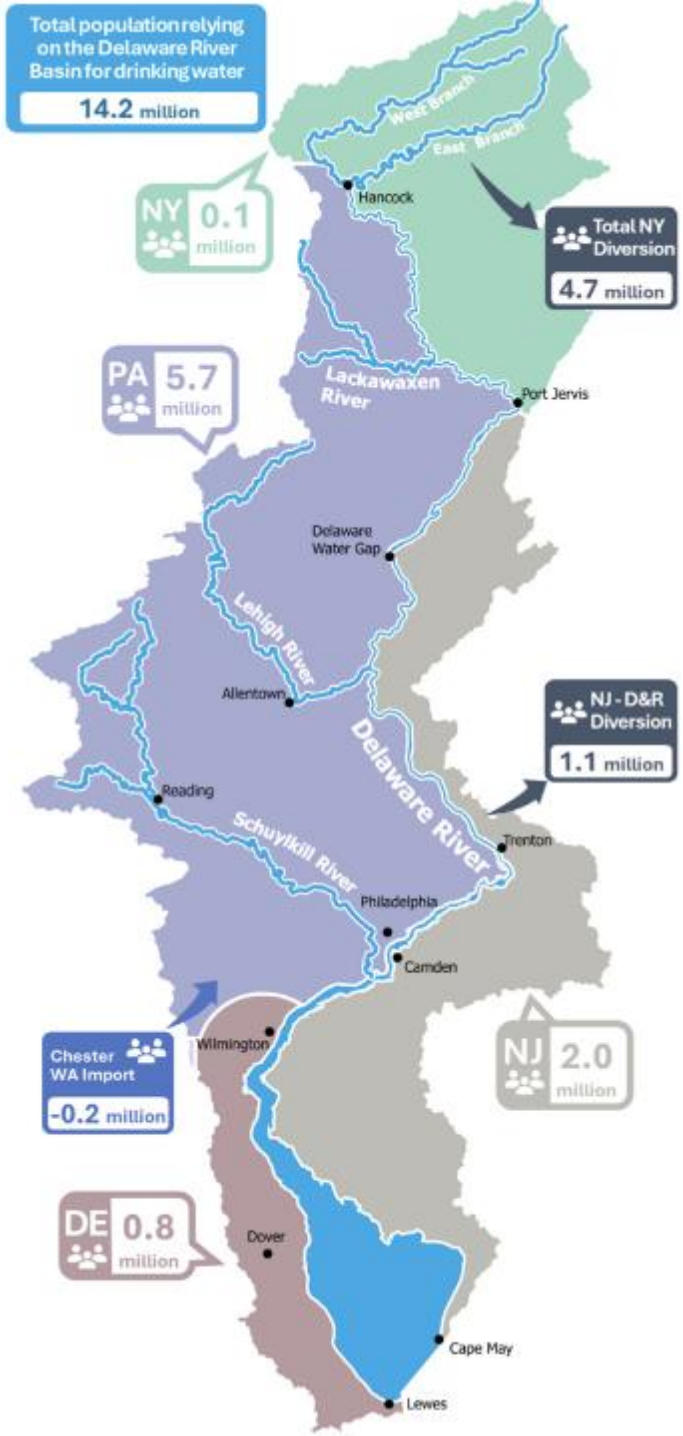
Our Foundation

The Delaware River Basin Compact is both an agreement, federal law and state law.

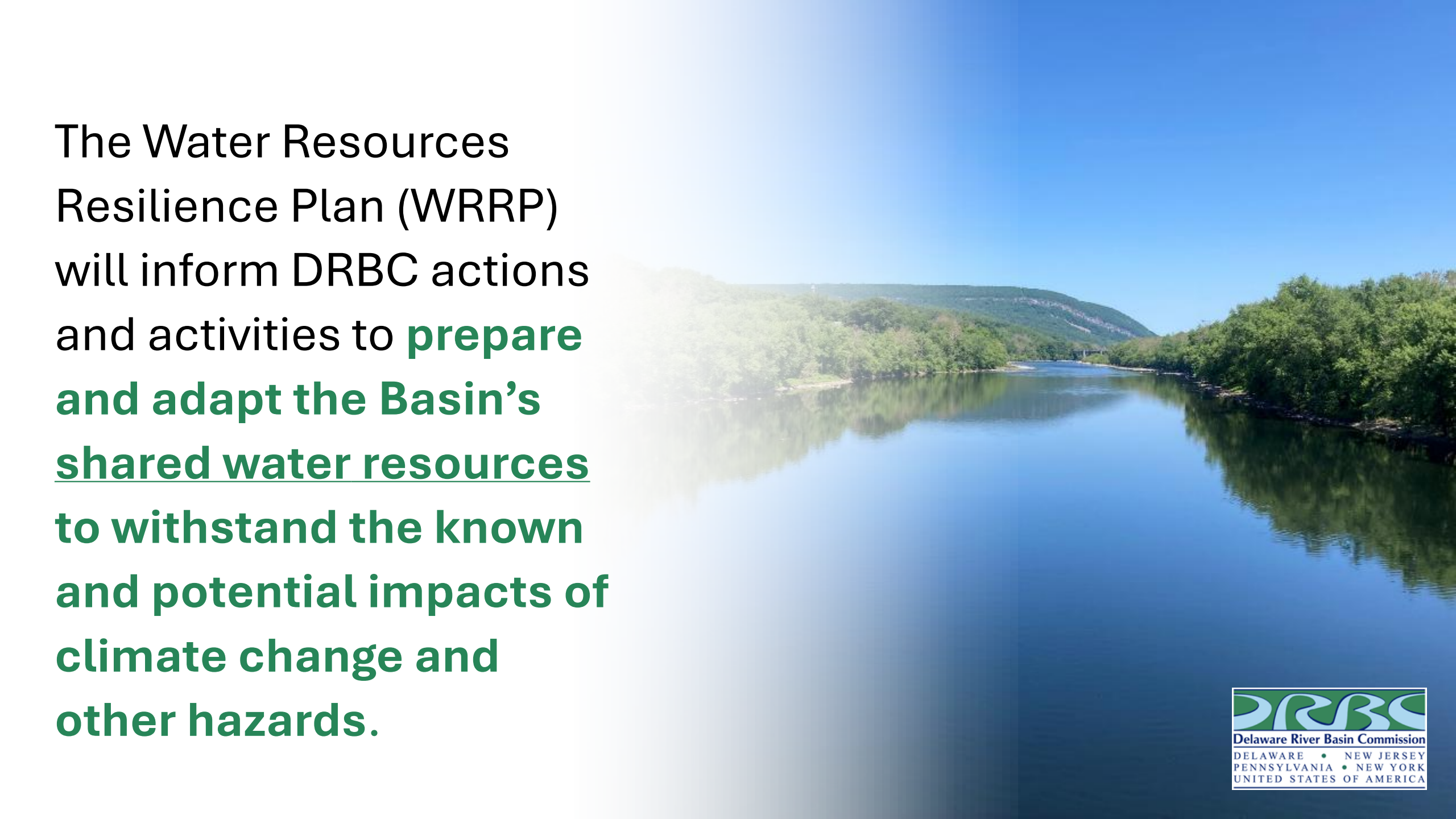
Why is DRBC developing a Water Resources Resilience Plan?

- **14 m+ people** rely on our shared waters
- **13,539** sq. mi. watershed
- **4** states
- **330 river miles**
- **130 miles** tidally influenced

Finding: Climate change is impacting the Basin's water cycle



The Water Resources Resilience Plan (WRRP) will inform DRBC actions and activities to **prepare and adapt the Basin's shared water resources to withstand the known and potential impacts of climate change and other hazards.**



Delaware River Basin Commission
DELAWARE • NEW JERSEY
PENNSYLVANIA • NEW YORK
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

DRBC will **collect stakeholder input** during all 3 Phases of the WRRP

- **P1:** A Framework for DRBC's WRRP
  - Set the stage for work to be done in Phases 2 and 3.
- **P2:** Advancing Resilience of the Delaware River Basin's Water Resources to Climate Change

We are here!

- **P3:** Advancing Resilience of the Delaware River Basin's Water Resources to Additional Challenges

Please fill out a Comment Card!

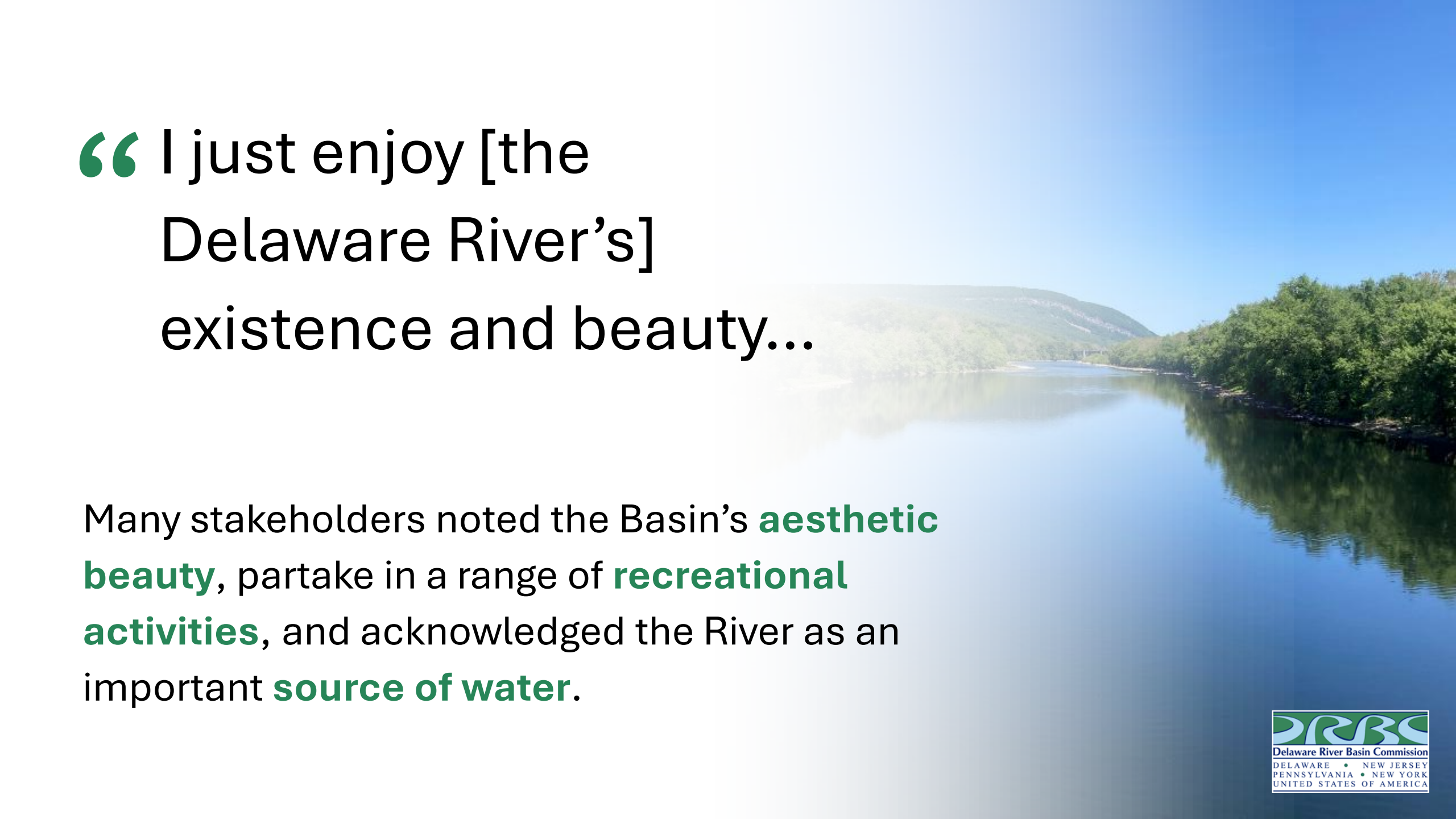
Considering the following WATER RESOURCE ASSETS:	
WATER AVAILABILITY	Quality water supply throughout the Basin that supports human needs
AQUATIC ECOSYSTEM	Habitat that supports species that live in and/or rely on water bodies in the Basin
BUILT ENVIRONMENT	Water-adjacent infrastructure that supports quality of life and recreation

Provide your FEEDBACK:

1. What is important to you about this topic?
2. What efforts and resources relating to climate hazards for the Basin's water resources should we be aware of?
3. What challenges exist to advancing water resources resilience in the Delaware River Basin? What opportunities do you see to address these challenges?



“I just enjoy [the Delaware River’s] existence and beauty…



Many stakeholders noted the Basin’s **aesthetic beauty**, partake in a range of **recreational activities**, and acknowledged the River as an important **source of water**.

Delaware River Basin Commission
DELAWARE • NEW JERSEY
PENNSYLVANIA • NEW YORK
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The WRRP will focus on protecting and managing **three Basin-wide water resource assets**

Delaware River Basin Commission
DELAWARE • NEW JERSEY
PENNSYLVANIA • NEW YORK
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

WATER AVAILABILITY	Quality water supply throughout the Basin that supports human needs





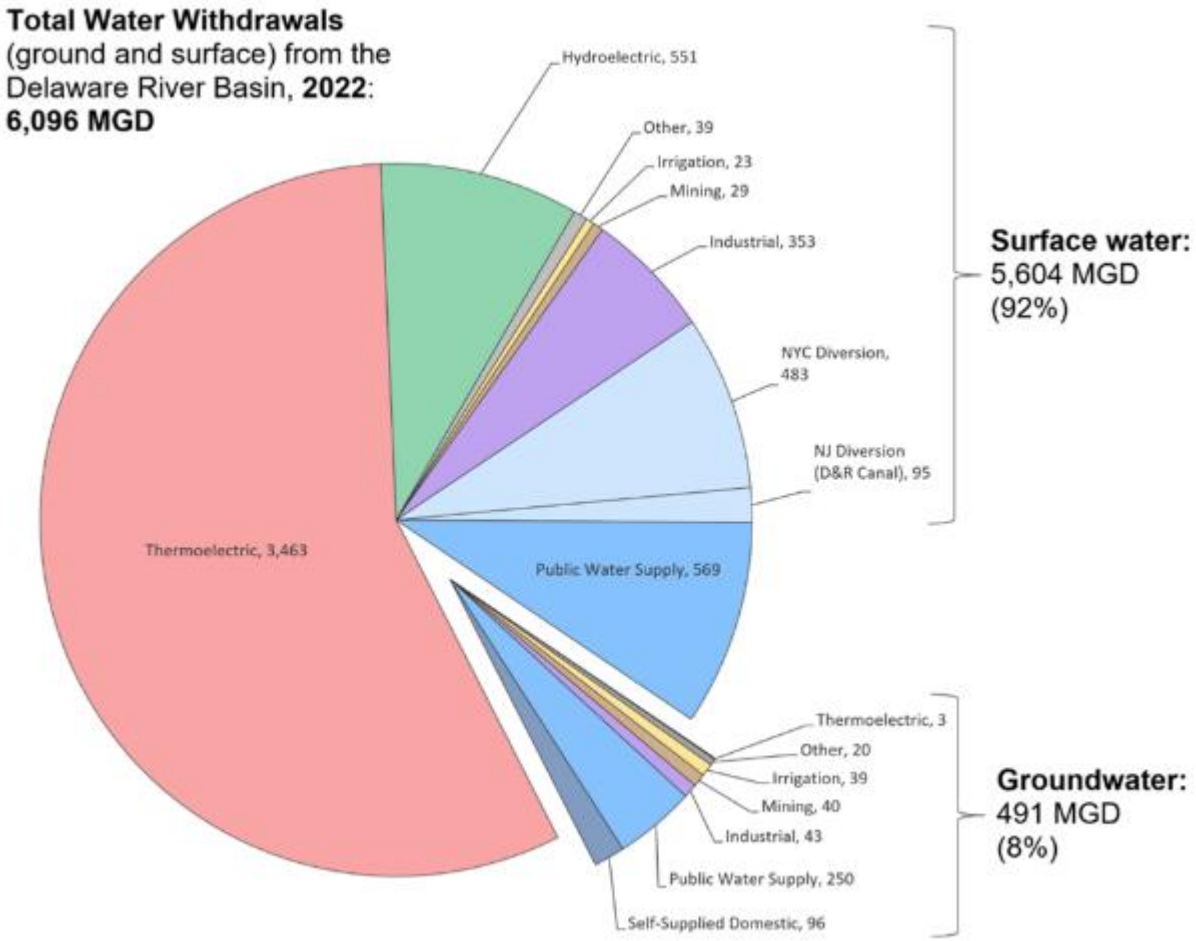


Image credits: DRBC

The WRRP will focus on protecting and managing **three Basin-wide water resource assets**

Delaware River Basin Commission
DELAWARE • NEW JERSEY
PENNSYLVANIA • NEW YORK
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

WATER AVAILABILITY	Quality water supply throughout the Basin that supports human needs
AQUATIC ECOSYSTEM	Habitat that supports species that live in and/or rely on water bodies in the Basin















Image credits: maine.gov, DNREC, Haskins Shellfish Research Laboratory, NPS, John Whyte of the Ontario B.A.S.S. Nation, DNREC, PDE

The WRRP will focus on protecting and managing **three Basin-wide water resource assets**

Delaware River Basin Commission
DELAWARE • NEW JERSEY
PENNSYLVANIA • NEW YORK
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

WATER AVAILABILITY	Quality water supply throughout the Basin that supports human needs
AQUATIC ECOSYSTEM	Habitat that supports species that live in and/or rely on water bodies in the Basin
BUILT ENVIRONMENT	Water-adjacent infrastructure that supports quality of life and recreation



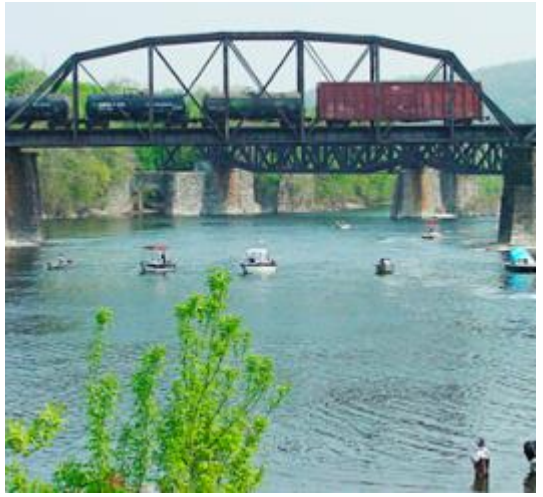




Image credits: NPS, Susan Owens (DRBC), DRBC

The WRRP focuses on 7 **hazards** to water resources.

Delaware River Basin Commission
DELAWARE • NEW JERSEY
PENNSYLVANIA • NEW YORK
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

HAZARDS

- Increasing water temperature
- Declining snowpack
- Drought
- Wildfire
- Flooding
- Land inundation
- Salinity intrusion

CLIMATE CHANGE DRIVERS

HAZARDS TO WATER RESOURCES

EXAMPLE CONSEQUENCES TO WATER RESOURCE ASSETS

Warming air temperatures

Changing precipitation patterns

Sea-level rise

Drought

Less water in streams and rivers

Water availability



Pepacton Reservoir at 63% capacity, 2024



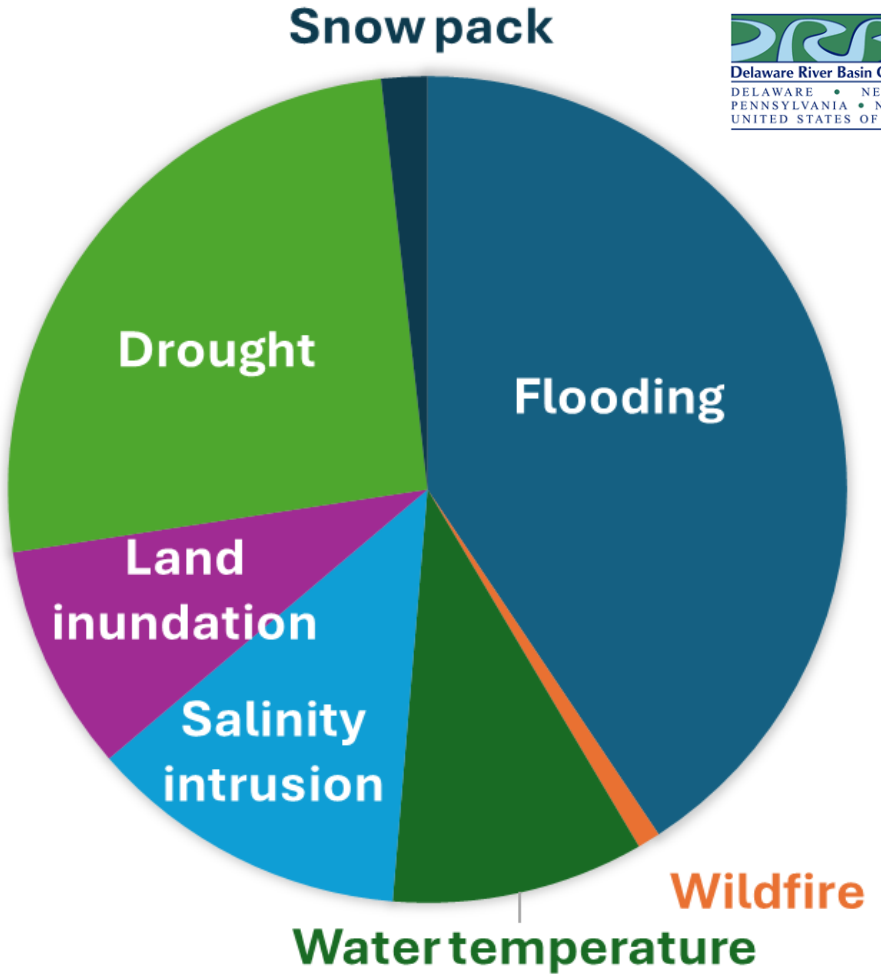
Low flows can impact fish reliant on shallow riffles

Delaware River Basin Commission
DELAWARE • NEW JERSEY
PENNSYLVANIA • NEW YORK
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Image credits: Delaware Currents; Ryan Hagerty, USFWS

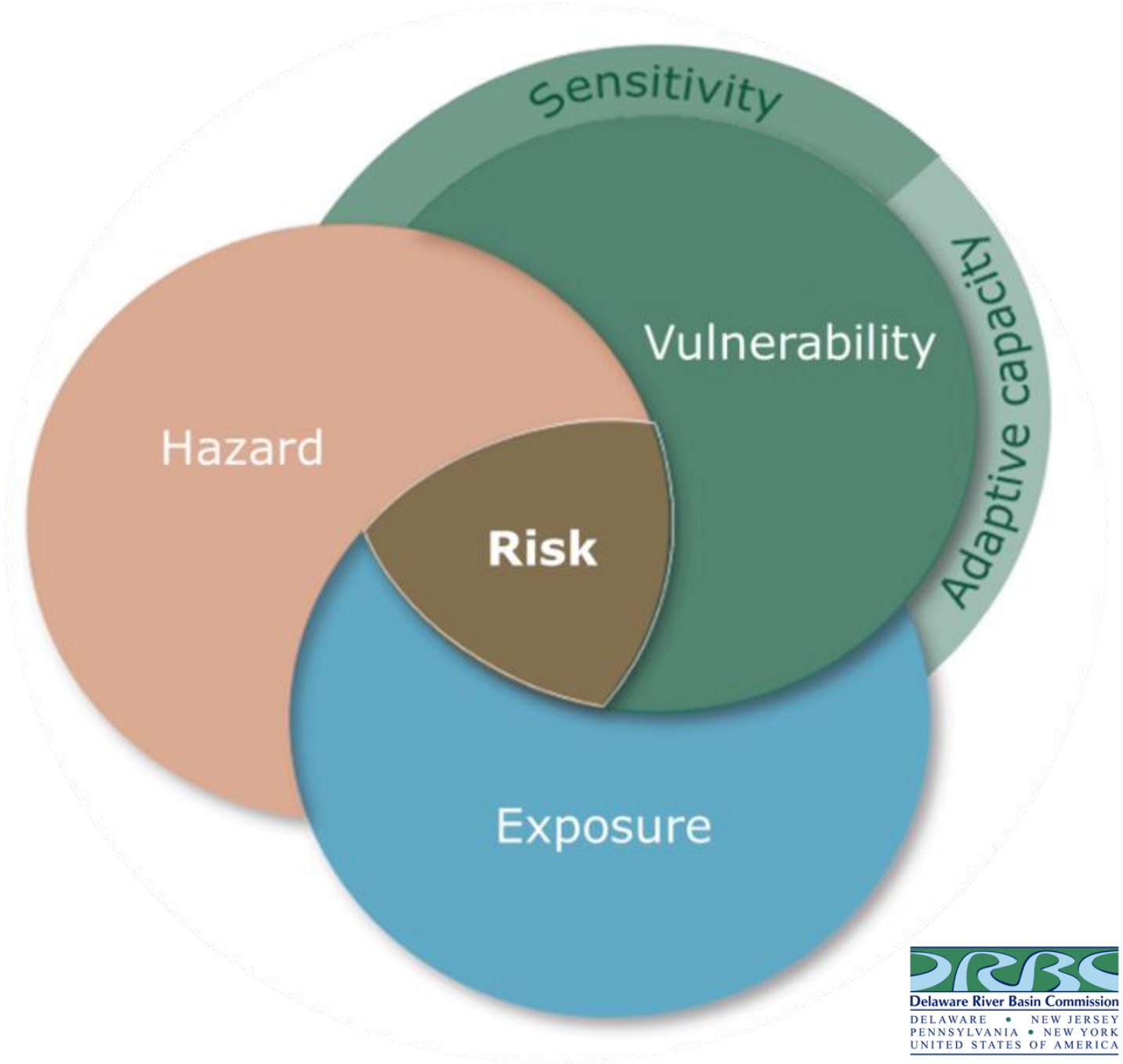
Participants expressed greatest concern around **flooding** and **drought**

- Reflects public knowledge as well as their concerns
- Other challenges mentioned (for consideration in Phase 3):
  - Over development, deforestation
  - PFAS and other contaminants
  - Non-point source pollution
  - Aging infrastructure
  - Freshwater salinization
  - Affordability
  - Public perception
  - Data centers
  - Dredging
  - Hydraulic fracturing



Phase 2 outcomes will include:

- **Vulnerability Assessment**
- **Gap Analysis**



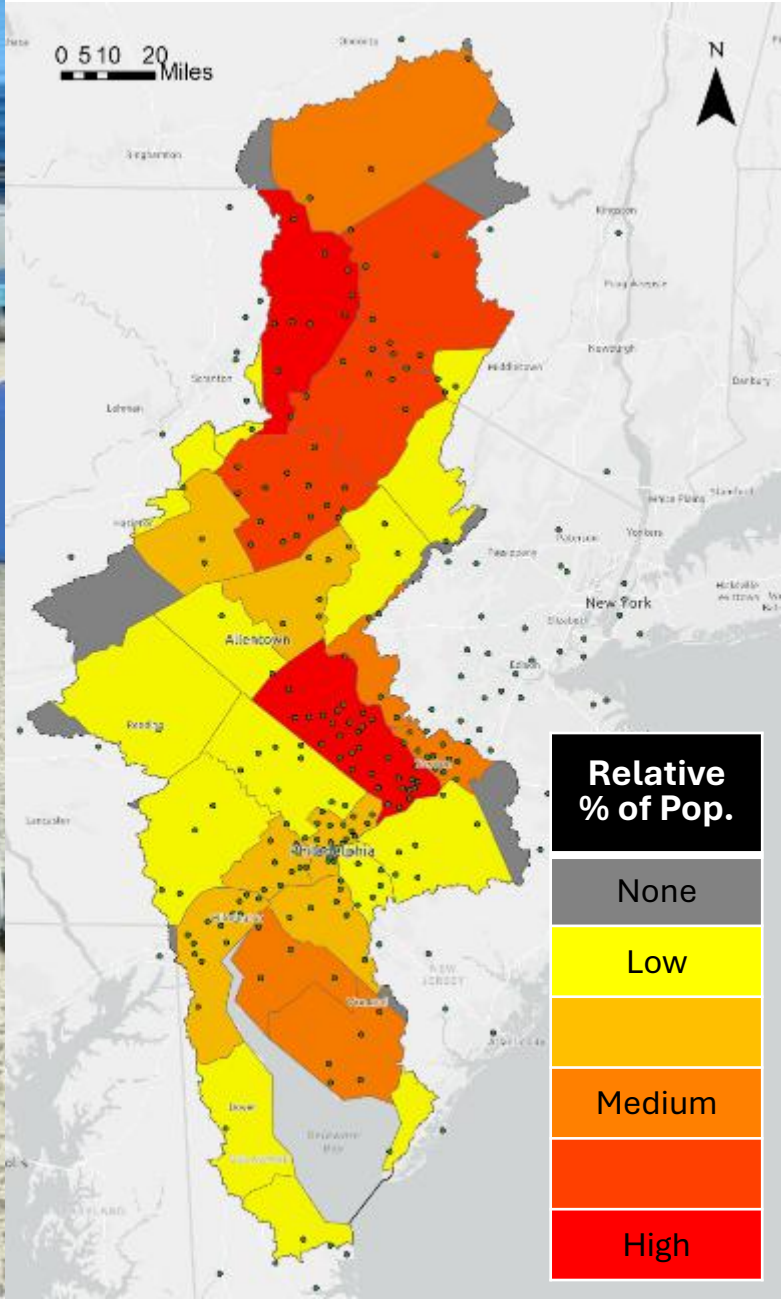
Delaware River Basin Commission
DELAWARE • NEW JERSEY
PENNSYLVANIA • NEW YORK
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A recent public survey is informing the **vulnerability assessment**

- Responses provided data on awareness and ranking of climate change concerns
- Total responses: 892



Responses Collected
(Last Updated 09/25/26)



Today's session is the next step of Phase 2 public input, supporting the **Gap Analysis.**

- The WRRP strives to **support, complement, and build on** existing efforts to promote water resources resilience in the Basin.
- Hear from participants about **efforts of which DRBC should be aware** and **perceived gaps in resilience planning efforts**.



Please fill out a Comment Card!

Considering the following WATER RESOURCE ASSETS:	
WATER AVAILABILITY	Quality water supply throughout the Basin that supports human needs
AQUATIC ECOSYSTEM	Habitat that supports species that live in and/or rely on water bodies in the Basin
BUILT ENVIRONMENT	Water-adjacent infrastructure that supports quality of life and recreation

Provide your FEEDBACK:

1. What is important to you about this topic?
2. What efforts and resources relating to climate hazards for the Basin's water resources should we be aware of?
3. What challenges exist to advancing water resources resilience in the Delaware River Basin? What opportunities do you see to address these challenges?



Stay Engaged

- **Check out the WRRP landing page:** TinyURL.com/DRBC-WRRP
- **Sign up for the WRRP updates listserv:** NJ.gov/drbc/contact/interest/
- Co-host a listening session with us!
- Stay tuned for Phase 3 public participation opportunities…

Thank you for your input!

We invite you to fill out a comment card.

Delaware River Basin Commission
DELAWARE • NEW JERSEY
PENNSYLVANIA • NEW YORK
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA