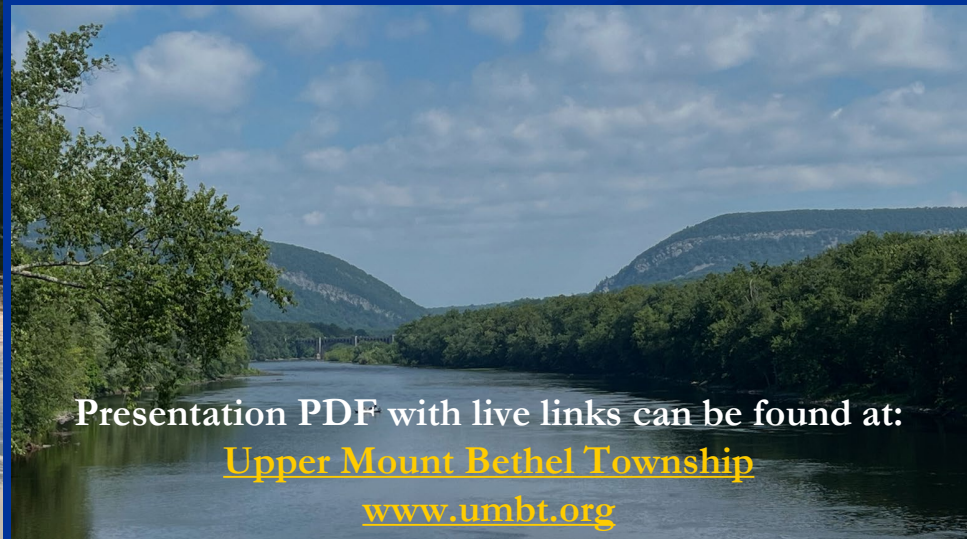


Lower Delaware National PARTNERSHIP

Wild and Scenic River Expansion Project



Tara Mezzanotte
Warren County LDWSR Representative
tara.mezzanotte@gmail.com
www.rivers.gov
www.lowerdelawarewildandscenic.org



Presentation PDF with live links can be found at:
[Upper Mount Bethel Township](http://UpperMountBethelTownship.org)
www.umbt.org

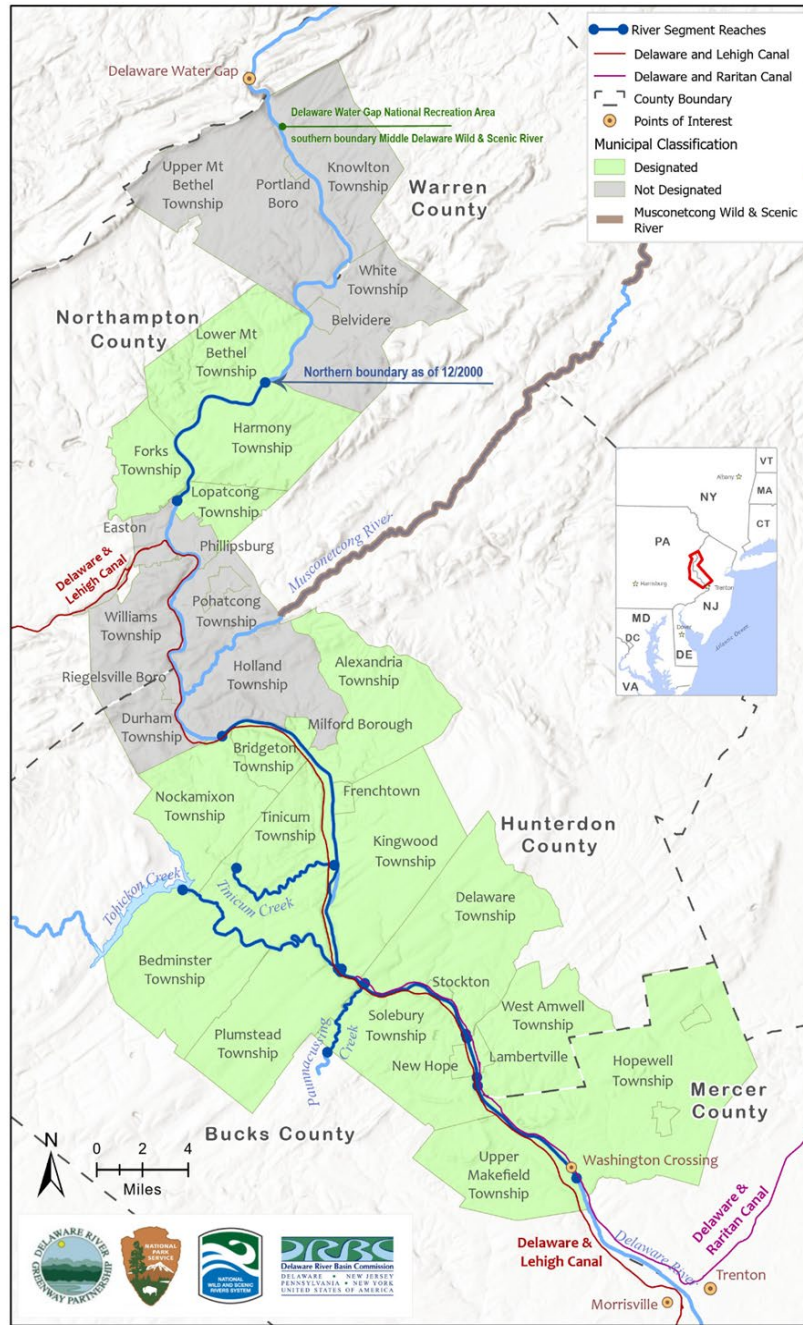
Why Are We Here?






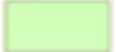


Provide BOS info needed to decide if any UMBT Delaware River segments or tributaries should be added to LDWSR designation

- Share the history of the 1990s-2000 Lower Delaware National Wild and Scenic River designation process
- Re-introduce our designation expansion project 2023-today
- Share UMBT potential ORV findings
- Q&A and Community Discussion



Lower Delaware Wild and Scenic River Municipal Engagement at the time of designation November 2000



-  River Segment Reaches
-  Delaware and Lehigh Canal
-  Delaware and Raritan Canal
-  County Boundary
-  Points of Interest
- Municipal Classification**
 -  Designated
 -  Not Designated
 -  Musconetcong Wild & Scenic River

What is the National Wild & Scenic Rivers (WSR) Program?

1930s - 1960s Government movement for drinking water, hydroelectric & flood mitigation = Dam It, Dam It, Dam It
Hoover, Glen Canyon, Tocks Island - NOT!



1960s Response movement to STOP damming precious pristine rivers



1968 Lyndon B. Johnson signs the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act - Creating the National WSR System

What does the 1968 Wild and Scenic River Act do?

It protects certain selected rivers that possess outstandingly remarkable scenic, recreational geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural, or other similar values (ORVs) in their free-flowing condition, for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations.

What are the requirements for designation?

www.rivers.gov

Eligibility

- Good Water Quality
- Free Flowing: At least a trickle flowing at the time of designation
- Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs): At least ONE river-related value that is rare, unique, or an exemplary at a regional or national scale. ORVs may include scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural, or other similar values.

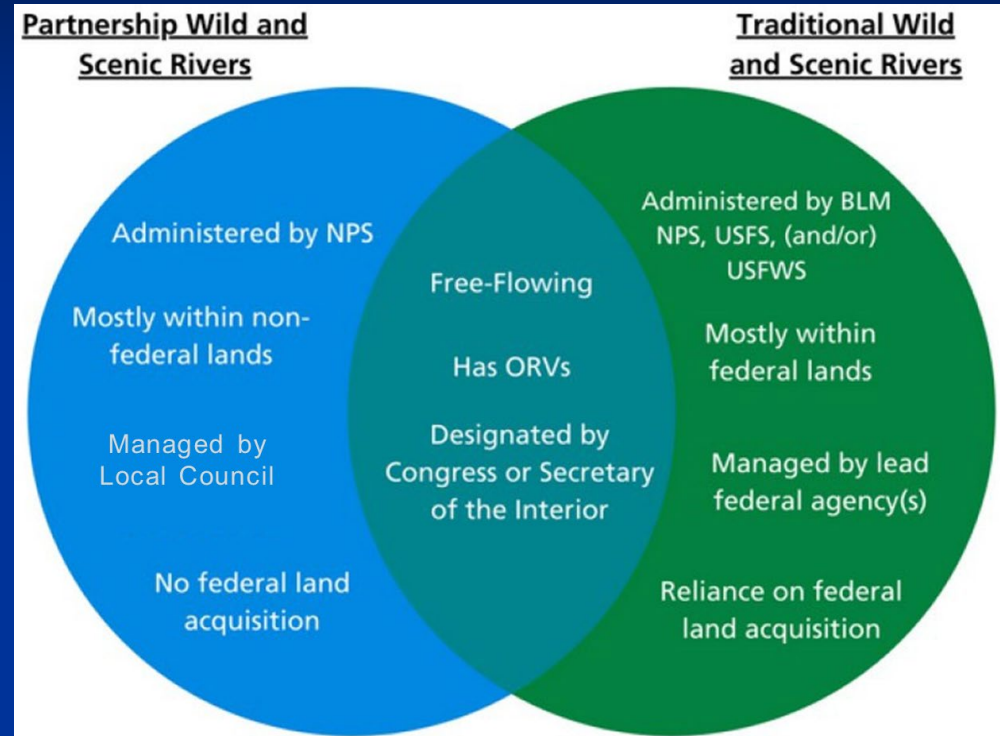
Suitability

- Should the river's values (free-flow, water quality, and ORVs) be protected or are there other conflicting river uses?
- Will the river's values be protected through designation? Is it the best method for protecting the river corridor?
- Is there a demonstrated commitment to protect the river by any non-federal entities that may be partially responsible for implementing protective management?

How is a Partnership (NPS) WSR different than a Traditional WSR?

The **PARTNERSHIP** Wild & Scenic River (PWSR) Program was created so that rivers along mostly **privately owned** lands can benefit.

- ✓ NO - eminent domain!
- ✓ Local community support is required
- ✓ Private property rights remain the same
- ✓ Local & state zoning and water management codes and ordinances remain the same
- ✓ Local communities are represented on a Management Council by their municipality, organizations, county, etc.



NJ's Partnerships WSRs

1992 - Great Egg Harbor

1993 - Maurice River

2000 - Lower Delaware River

2006 - Musconetcong River

TBD - Paulins Kill

What is The Lower Delaware Wild & Scenic River Partnership?



The National Wild & Scenic Rivers (WSR) System falls under the US Department of Interior (DOI)



The Partnership Wild and Scenic River Program is administered by NPS



Our Management Plan budget is passed down from DOI to NPS to our 501c3 Delaware River Greenway Partnership



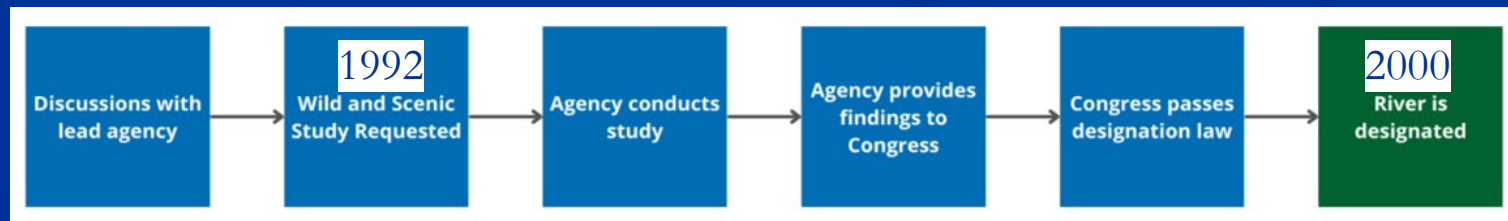
Our Local Management Council (state, county, municipal, organizations) is responsible for the implementation of our Management Plan

Lower Delaware Wild and Scenic Timeline

1992 - Congress authorized the Lower Delaware Wild and Scenic Study Bill

1997 - Our Management Council structure & Management Plan are finalized

2000 - Congress passed the Lower Delaware Wild and Scenic Rivers Act



2023 - Our Tributary Expansion Project begins

What are the Goals of our Management Plan?

■ Water Quality

Maintain and/or improve water quality

■ Natural Resources/Ecological

Preserve and protect the natural ORVs

■ Historic & Cultural Resources

Preserve and protect character ORVs

■ Recreation

Preserve and protect recreational ORVs

■ Economic Development

Encourage sustainable development that preserves water quality and ORVs

■ Open Space Preservation

Preserve and protect open space to protect water quality and ORVs



LDWSR Expansion Study Process

Identify rivers, creeks, runs, brooks, and streams - your tributaries



Local watersheds, residents, and non profits support verified



Municipal support verified



County & state and federal legislator support verified



National Park Service Role

- Assists with vetting Eligible & Suitable requirements
- Prepares Study Report
- Submits Study Report to Congress*



Our congressional delegates introduce a bill that amends the

Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to include your tributaries.*

* With 2025 & 2026 budget and staffing cuts to DOI and NPS programs, we are unsure yet how this may impact timing and appetite for amending the WSR Act for expansion and new designations.

Key Tributary Expansion Facts

- Local community support is required
- Private property rights remain the same
- Local & state zoning and water management codes and ordinances remain the same
- Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs) must be identified & vetted
- Local communities are represented on our Management Council by their municipality, organization, and county, etc.



Benefits of Designation

- **Local** Management Council:
 - Created Management Plan to protect and enhance free-flow, water quality, and ORVs
 - Makes ALL Management Plan decisions*
 - Manages the budget focused on the goals of Management Plan*
- NPS Partnership:
 - Guidance to follow the WSR Act requirements
 - Annual funding for the Management Council Budget**
 - Access to vast array of technical assistance
 - WSR Act Section 7 Review of **federal** (federally funded, DEP permitted & hydroelectric-FERC) projects to minimize potential impact to free-flow, water quality, and ORV
- National recognition and prestige often leading to a local economic lift
- Proven ability to be more competitive for grant applications
- Access to additional external grant opportunities

**Together we strengthen all efforts to protect and improve our
rivers, brooks, streams, and creeks!**

* Since 2016 the Steering Committee has been fulfilling this role for the organization.

**With 2025 & 2026 budget and staffing cuts to DOI and NPS programs, we are unsure yet how this may impact the PWSR Program and Budget for FY2026 (Oct 1, 2025 - Sept 30, 2026) and beyond.

Potential Tributaries

As of January 2025

Pennsylvania

- Slateford
- Jacoby
- Allegheny
- Mill
- Oughoughton
- Martins
 - Waltz
 - Greenwalks
- Little Martins
- Mud Run
- Bushkill Creek
- Lehigh River
- Frys
- Swamp
- Cooks
- Gallows Run
- High Falls
- Cuttalossa
- Primrose
- Aquatong
- Pidcock

New Jersey

- Stony Brook
- Delawanna
- Knowlton Brook
- Ramsaysburg Rd Trib
- Pequest
- Pophandusing
- Buckhorn
- Lopatcong
- Pohatcong
- Hakiwokake
- Hariwokake
- Copper
- Lockatong
- Wickecheoke
- Alexauken
- Moores
- Jacobs

Upper Mount Bethel Township Delaware River Tributaries and Segments Presentation

Links to Tributary ORV Data:

1. [Slateford Creek river mile 209.6](#)
2. [Jacoby Creek \(upstream to Portland Borough\)](#)
3. [Allegheny Creek river mile 199.67](#)
4. [Mill Creek river mile 198.7](#)

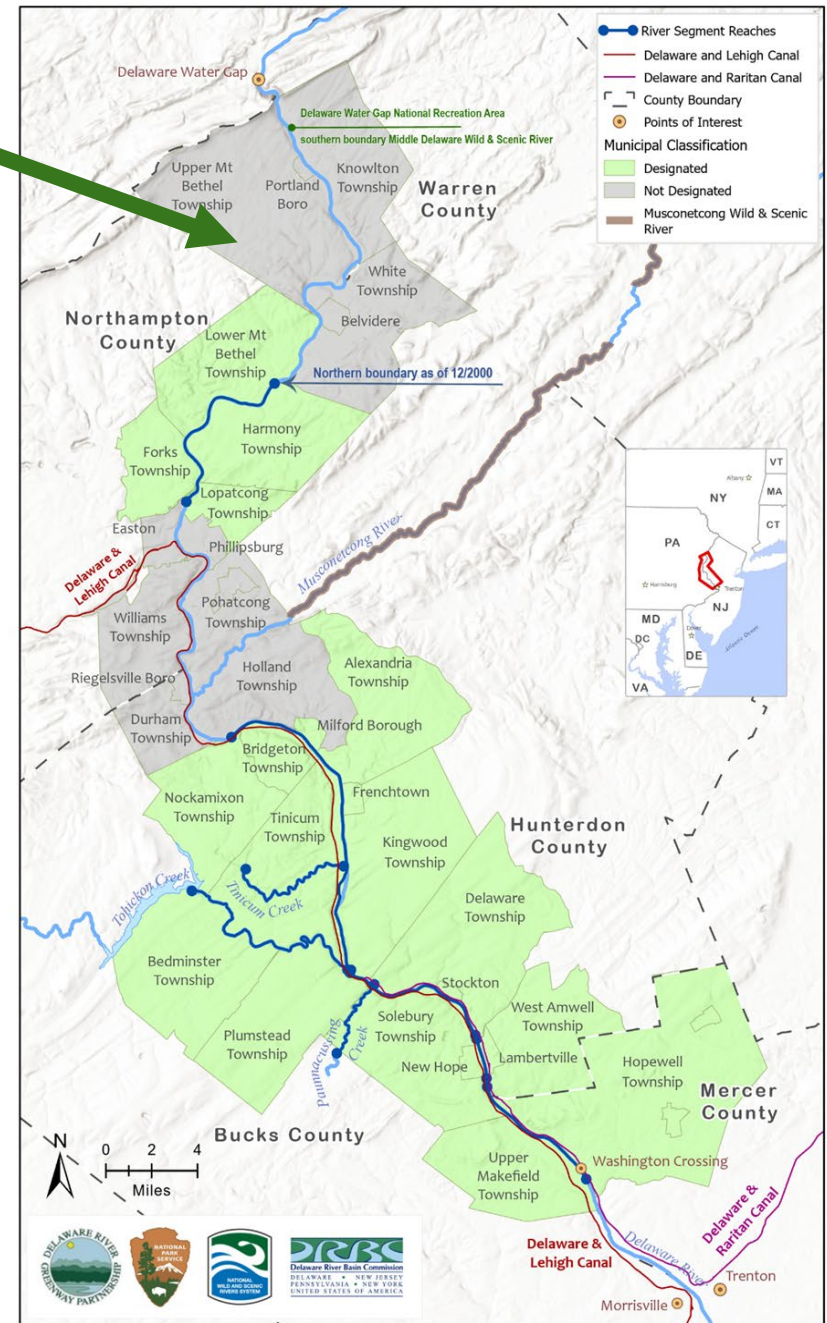
2000 LDWSR Act Segments

1. **2000 Eligible A** - DWG (just above Slateford Creek) to the Columbia Portland Toll Bridge
2. **2000 MetEd Gap: Portland/UMBT** - Columbia-Portland Toll Bridge to the Railroad Trestle
3. **2000 Eligible B** - Railroad Trestle to middle of Dildine Island
4. **2000 BASF Gap: White/UMBT** - Middle of Dildine Island to Southern Tip of Mack Island
5. **2000 Eligible C** - Southern tip of Mack Island to northern border of Belvidere

Links to GeoWeb (GIS) Maps used:

- [Map | PA Conservation Explorer](#)
- [PA-SHARE - Search](#)
- [Map | WAP Conservation Opportunity Area Tool \(pa.gov\)](#)
- [Resilient Land Mapping Tool](#)

Lower Delaware Wild and Scenic River Municipal Engagement
at the time of designation November 2000



UMBT Process

- **Fall 2023-Spring 2024:** Met with Martins Jacoby Watershed Association:
April 2024 MJWA Support Letter
- **Sept 2024:** Met with UMBT EAC & OSC: supportive sees potential funding benefits with focus on grant opportunity and leveraging as well as the environmental educational and outreach value
- **Oct-Nov 2024:** BOS introduction, expansion study support resolution passed, MOU principles agreed to & Management Council Representative appointed
- **Winter-Spring 2025:** Met with UMBT EDC: concern about potential impact to RPL development otherwise supportive, sees potential ecotourism & grant value
- **Spring 2025:** Meet with RPL: concern about potential impact to development plans, otherwise supportive
- **Aug 2025:** LDWSR presents ORV findings & draft endorsement resolution with public Q&A - WE ARE HERE
- **Sept 2025:** Expansion Support Resolution possibly on agenda

Reminder Requirements For Designation

The National Wild & Scenic Rivers System - www.rivers.gov

Eligibility - The focus of this presentation. Reviewed using PADEP and The Nature Conservancy GeoWebs aka (Geographic Information System-GIS)

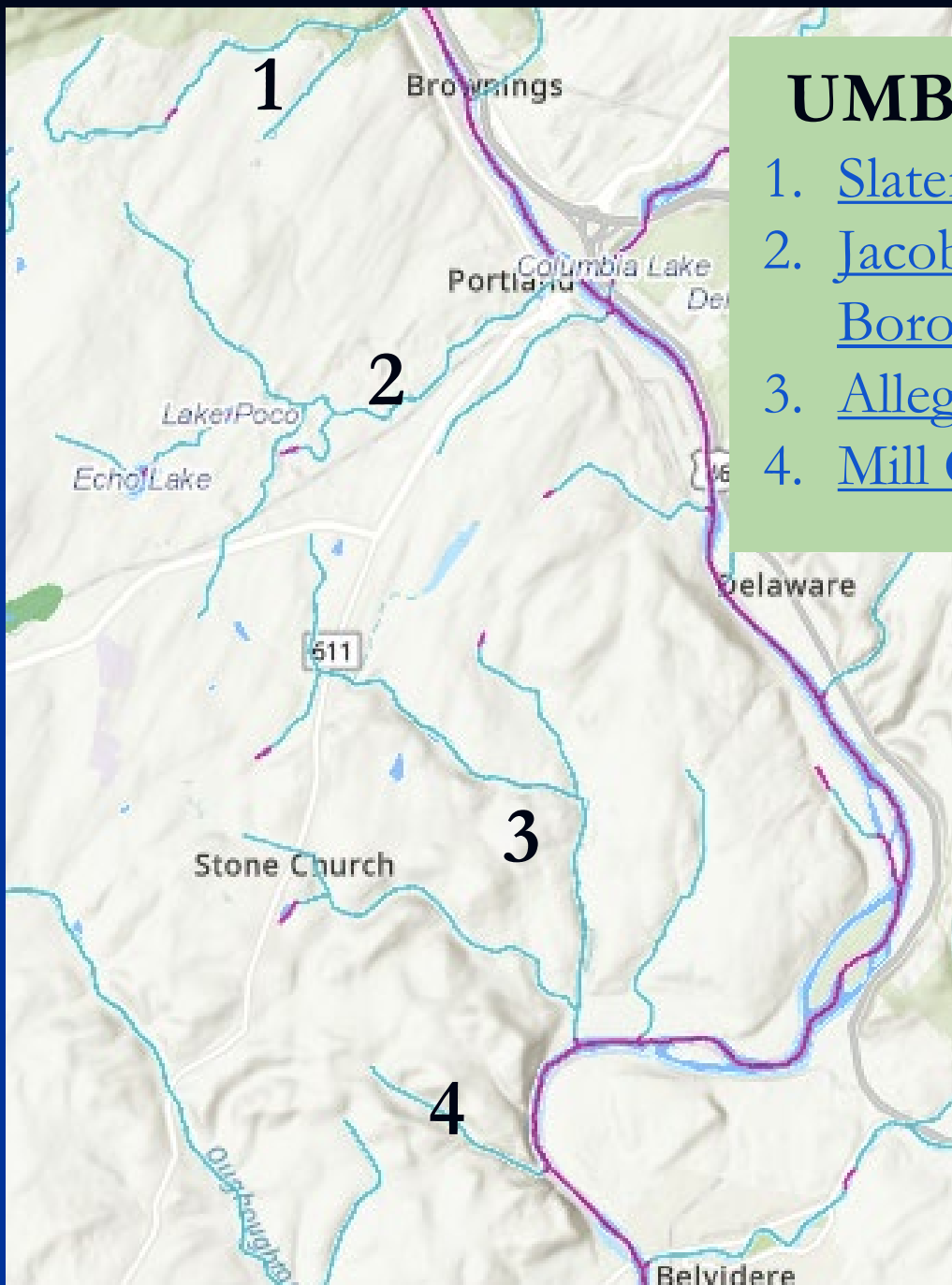
- Free-Flowing: Must be free flowing, not just at the time of designation but with the stipulation that no further impediments will be made.
- Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs): One of the goals of designation and management is to protect river values specific to that watershed - a river-related value that is rare, unique, or an exemplary feature at a regional or national scale. ORVs may include scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife (ecological), historic/cultural, or other similar values.

Suitability - NOT a focus of this presentation

- Should the river's values (free-flow, water quality, and ORVs) be protected or are there other conflicting river uses?
- Will the river's values be protected through designation? Is it the best method for protecting the river corridor?
- Is there a demonstrated commitment to protect the river by any non-federal entities that may be partially responsible for implementing protective management?

UMBT Tributaries Reviewed

1. [Slateford Creek river mile 209.6](#)
2. [Jacoby Creek \(upstream to Portland Borough\)](#)
3. [Allegheny Creek river mile 199.67](#)
4. [Mill Creek river mile 198.7](#)



Upper Mount Bethel River Segments as defined in 2000

Eligible segment under the LDWSR Act under Sec. 2(a)(ii) LDWSR Act SEC 4(2)(e)(1)

- A. the segment from the Delaware Water Gap to the Toll Bridge connecting Columbia, New Jersey, and Portland, Pennsylvania (approximately 9.2 miles)
- B. the segment from the Erie Lackawanna railroad bridge to the southern tip of Dildine Island (approximately 3.6 miles),
- C. the segment from the southern tip of Mack Island to the northern border of the town of Belvidere, New Jersey (approximately 2 miles)

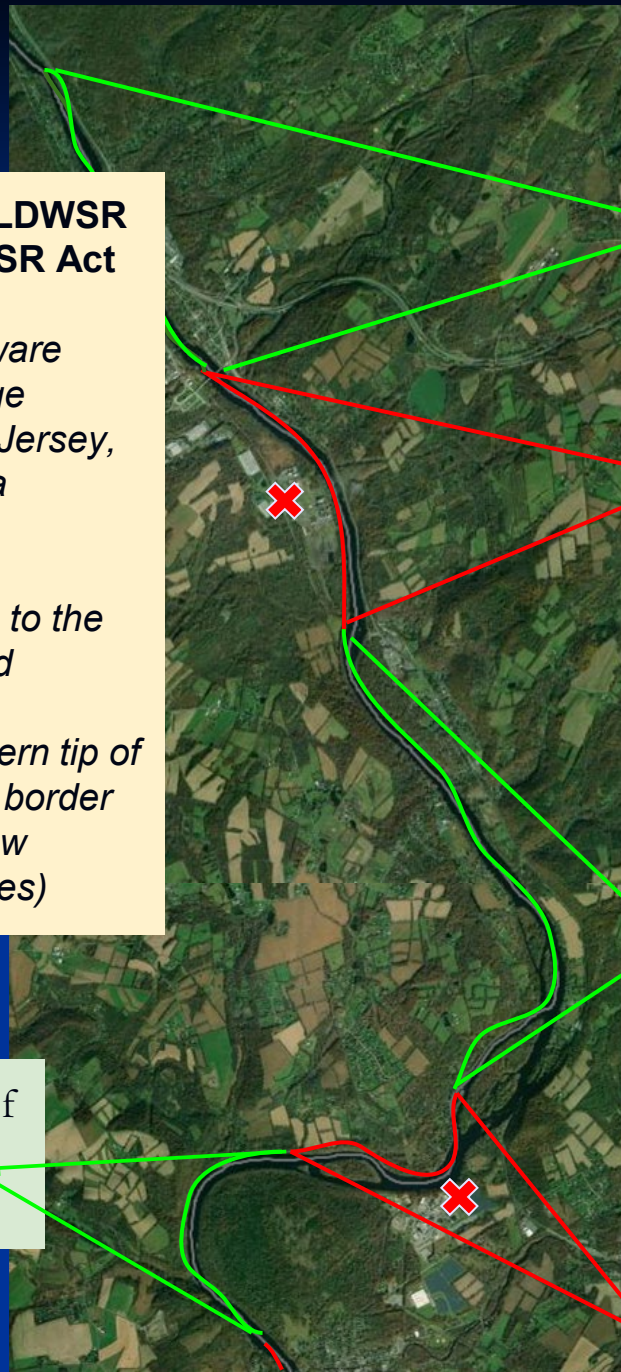
Eligible C - Southern tip of Mack Island to northern border of Belvidere

Eligible A - DWG (just above Slateford Creek) to the Columbia Portland Toll Bridge

MetEd Gap Portland/UMBT - Columbia-Portland Toll Bridge to the Railroad Trestle

Eligible B - Railroad Trestle to middle of Dildine Island

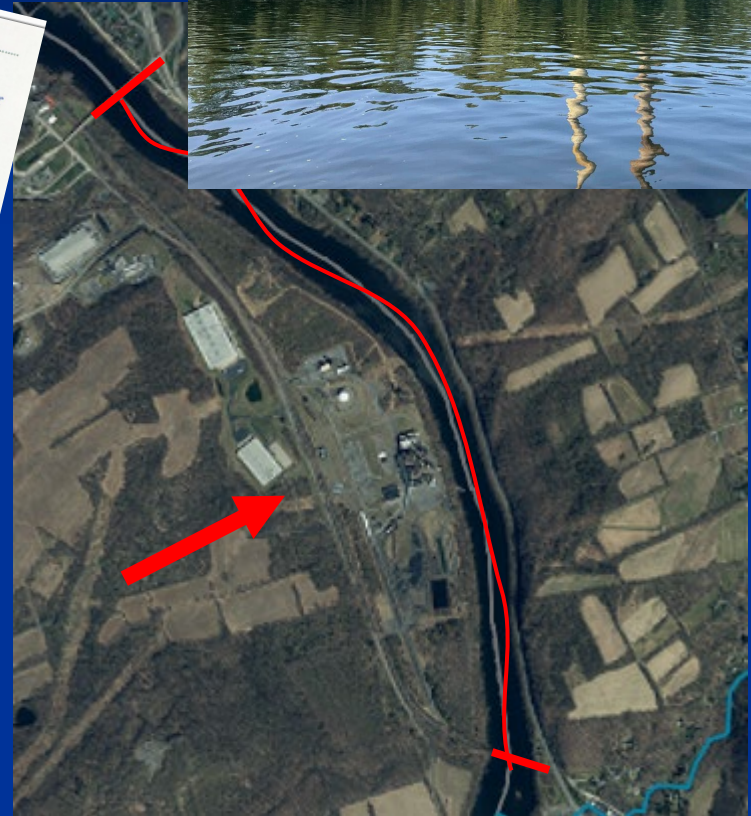
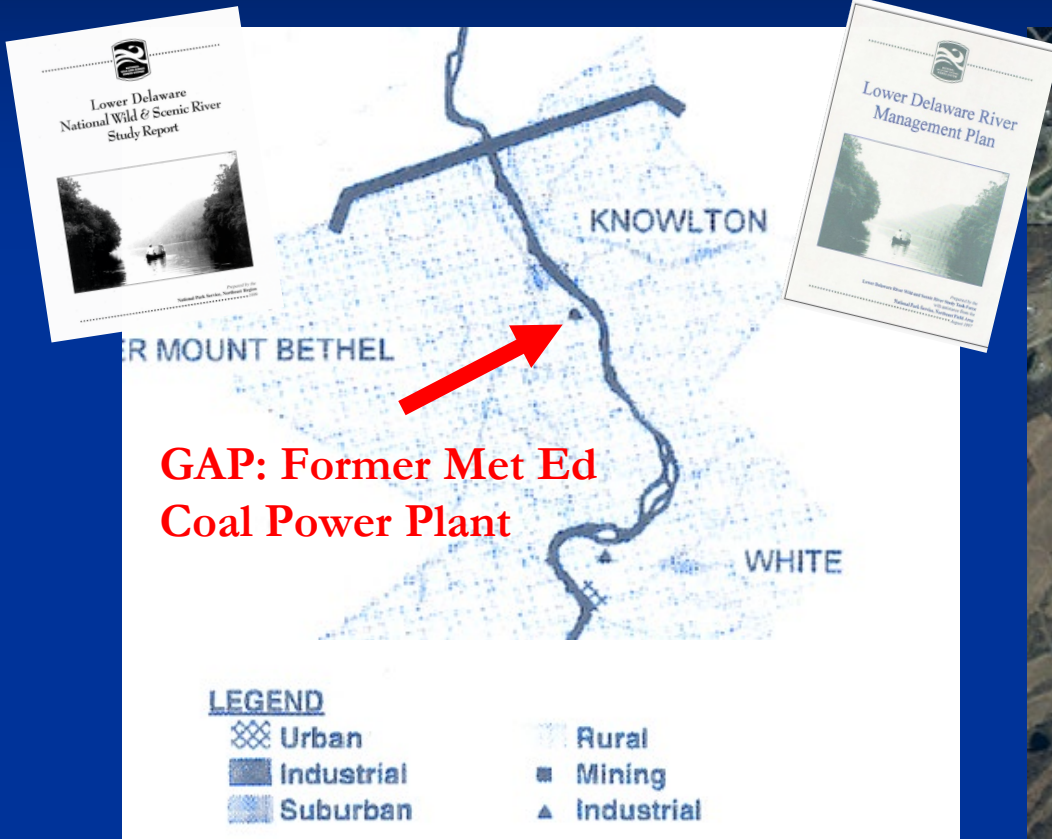
BASF Gap White/UMBT - Middle of Dildine Island to Southern Tip of Mack Island



Q - Why **ineligible Gaps** in 2000?

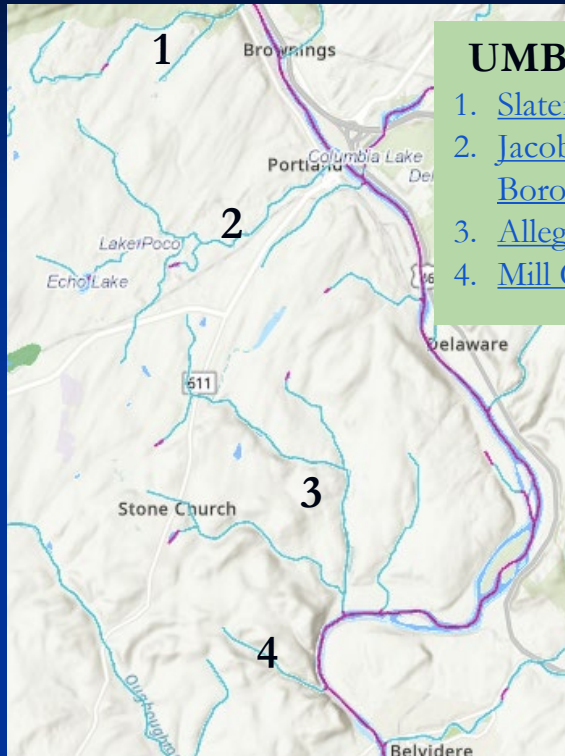
A - They were industrial

Industrial is no longer a disqualifier



- “The more developed [urban] and industrialized parts of the river corridor were excluded from consideration into the National System.” Located on pg. 5 of both our **Study Report** and the **Management Plan** and illustrated on the pg. 53 Map in the **Management Plan**.
- These exist above and below Designated and Eligible Segments as defined in the LDWSR Act.

Next: Review of each tributary ORV data via white sheets.



UMBT Tributaries Reviewed

1. [Slateford Creek river mile 209.6](#)
2. [Jacoby Creek \(upstream to Portland Borough\)](#)
3. [Alleghany Creek river mile 199.67](#)
4. [Mill Creek river mile 198.7](#)



Thank you for the photos:

- Ackerman Family - Driftstone Campground
- Pektor Family - RPL

Learn More:

- www.lowerdelawarewildandscenic.org
- [National Wild and Scenic River System | Rivers.gov](http://NationalWildandScenicRiverSystem|Rivers.gov)
- [Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers Primer](#)

Tara Mezzanotte, Warren County LDWSR Representative - tara.mezzanotte@gmail.com