

# **Wild and Scenic Rivers Act**

*(P.L. 90-542, as amended)*

*(16 U.S.C. 1271-1287)*

*(October 2, 1968)*

## **<sup>1</sup>An Act**

**To provide for a National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, and for other purposes.**

***Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, that,***

**(a) this Act may be cited as the "Wild and Scenic Rivers Act."**

## Congressional declaration of policy.

**1 (b):** It is hereby declared to be the policy of the United States that certain selected rivers of the Nation which, with their immediate environments, possess **outstandingly remarkable** scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural, or other similar **values**, shall be **preserved in free-flowing condition**, and that they and their immediate environments shall be protected for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations. **The Congress declares that the established national policy of dam and other construction at appropriate sections of the rivers of the United States needs to be complemented by a policy that would preserve other selected rivers or sections thereof in their free-flowing condition to protect the water quality of such rivers and to fulfill other vital national conservation purposes.**



# Rivers

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<https://www.nps.gov/subjects/rivers/nationwide-rivers-inventory.htm>

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## Nationwide Rivers Inventory

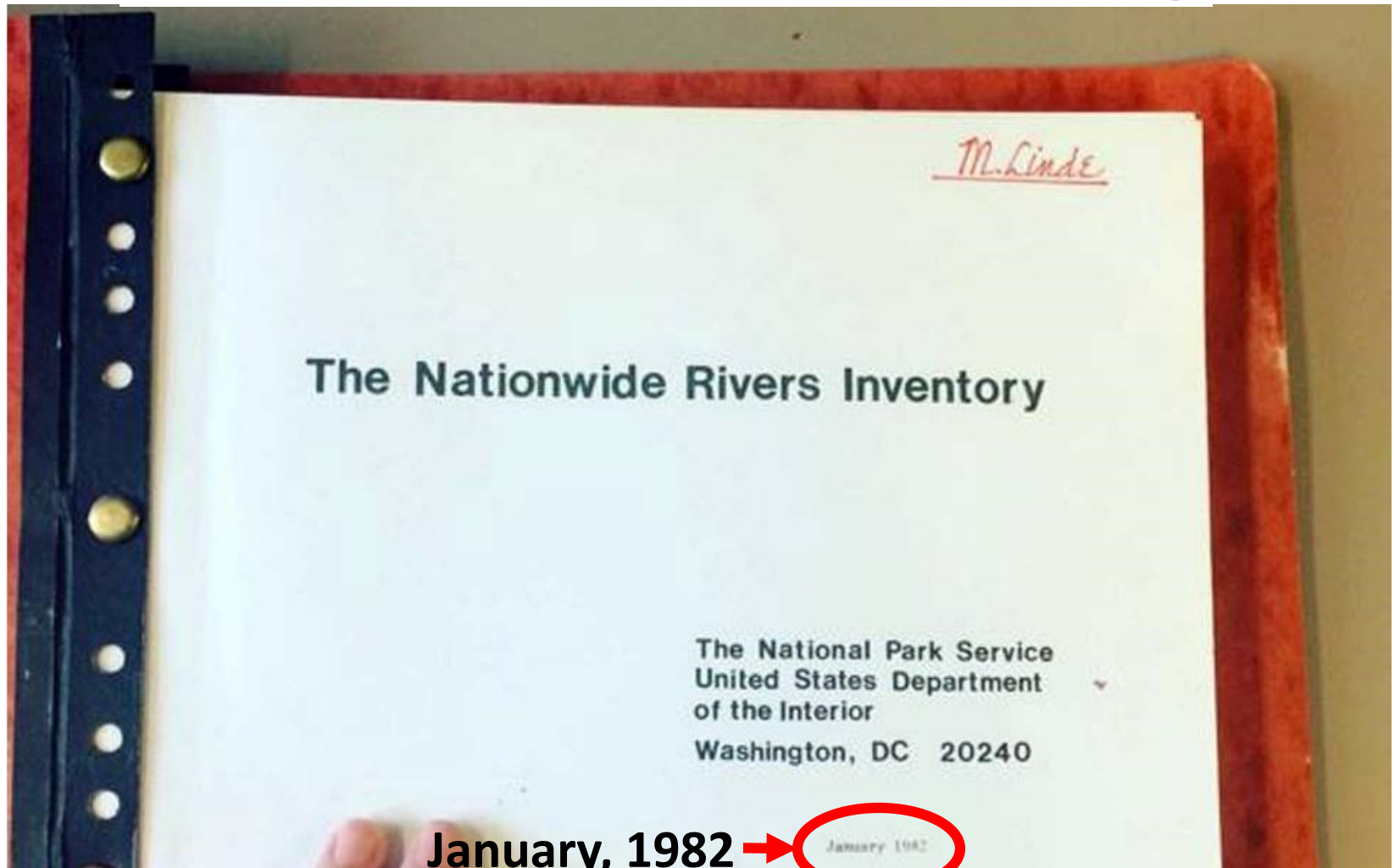


## Authorizations

Section 5.(d) of the **National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1271-1287)** requires that "In all planning for the use and development of water and related land resources, consideration shall be given by all Federal agencies involved to potential national wild, scenic and recreational river areas." It further requires that "the Secretary of the Interior shall make specific studies and investigations to determine which additional wild, scenic and recreational river areas.....shall be evaluated in planning reports by all Federal agencies as potential alternative uses of water and related land resources involved."

**The Nationwide Rivers Inventory:** In partial fulfillment of Section 5(d), NPS maintains the NRI as a national listing of potentially eligible river segments. A river segment may be listed on the NRI if it is **free-flowing** and has one or more "**outstandingly remarkable values**" (ORVs). The kinds **of ORVs** that can qualify a river **for listing** include: **exceptional scenery, fishing or boating, unusual geological formations, rare plant and animal life, and cultural or historical artifacts that are judged to be of more than local or regional significance.**

# Creation of Nationwide Rivers Inventory



January, 1982 →

January 1982

The Nationwide Rivers Inventory (NRI) is a listing of more than **3,200 free-flowing river segments** in the United States that are believed to possess **one or more "outstandingly remarkable" natural or cultural values judged to be at least regionally significant.** Hence, NRI river segments are **potential candidates for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River System.**

Under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act section 5(d)(1) and related guidance, **all federal agencies must seek to avoid or mitigate actions that would adversely affect NRI river segments.** The NPS provides instructions on the process of consulting on projects potentially affecting NRI segments.



**The NRI is a source of information for:**

- 1. Statewide river assessments and federal agencies involved with stream-related projects**
- 2. Any group concerned with ecosystem management, the inventory can provide the location of the nearest naturally-functioning system which might serve as a reference for monitoring activities.**
- 3. It also serves as a listing of plant and animal species for restoration efforts on a similar section of river.**
- 4. For the recreationalist, it provides a listing of free-flowing, relatively undisturbed river segments.**





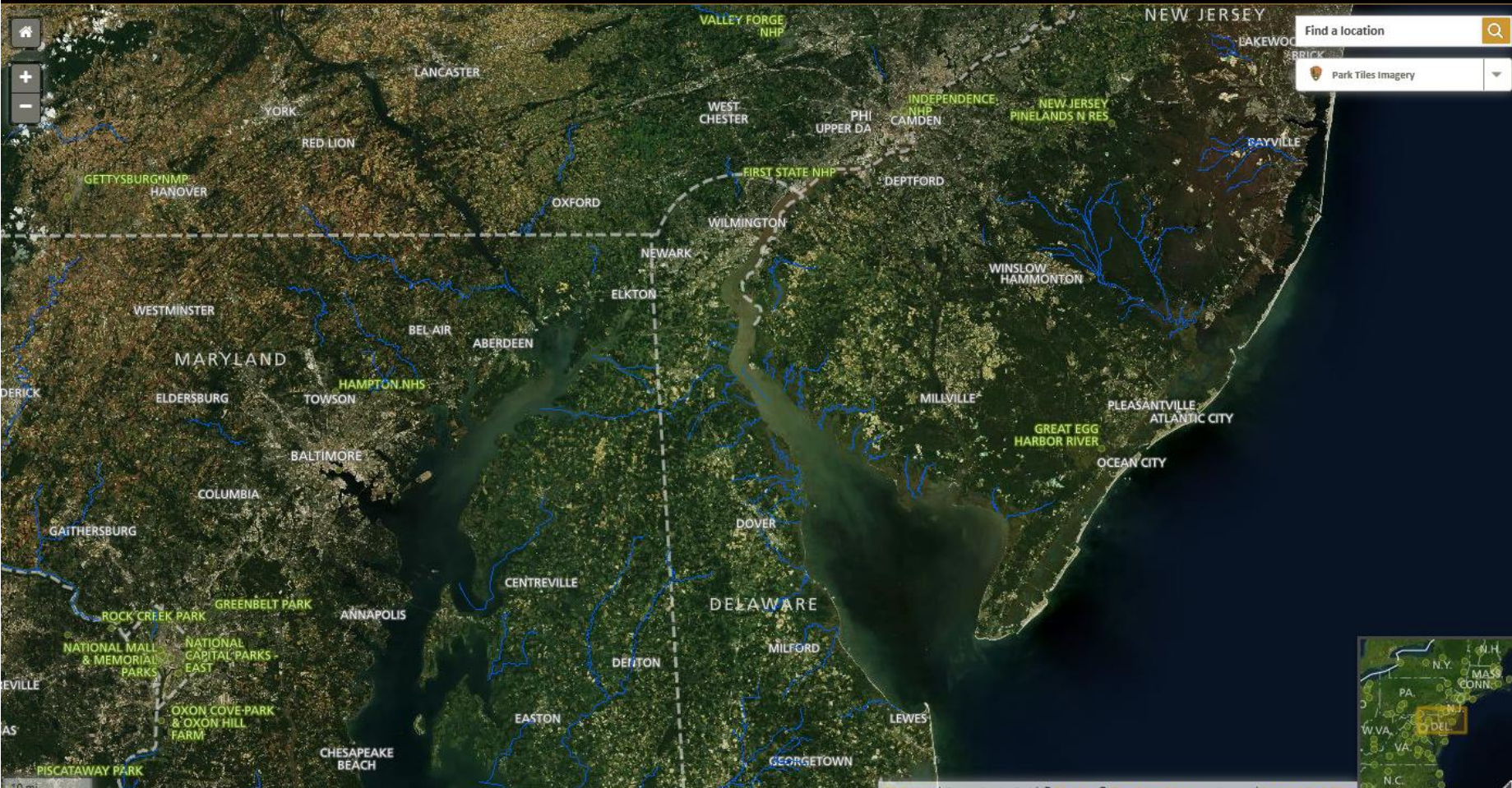
Data is shown by location on the NRI interactive map, but already designated Wild and Scenic Rivers are not shown.

<https://www.nps.gov/subjects/rivers/nationwide-rivers-inventory.htm>

## Nationwide Rivers Inventory

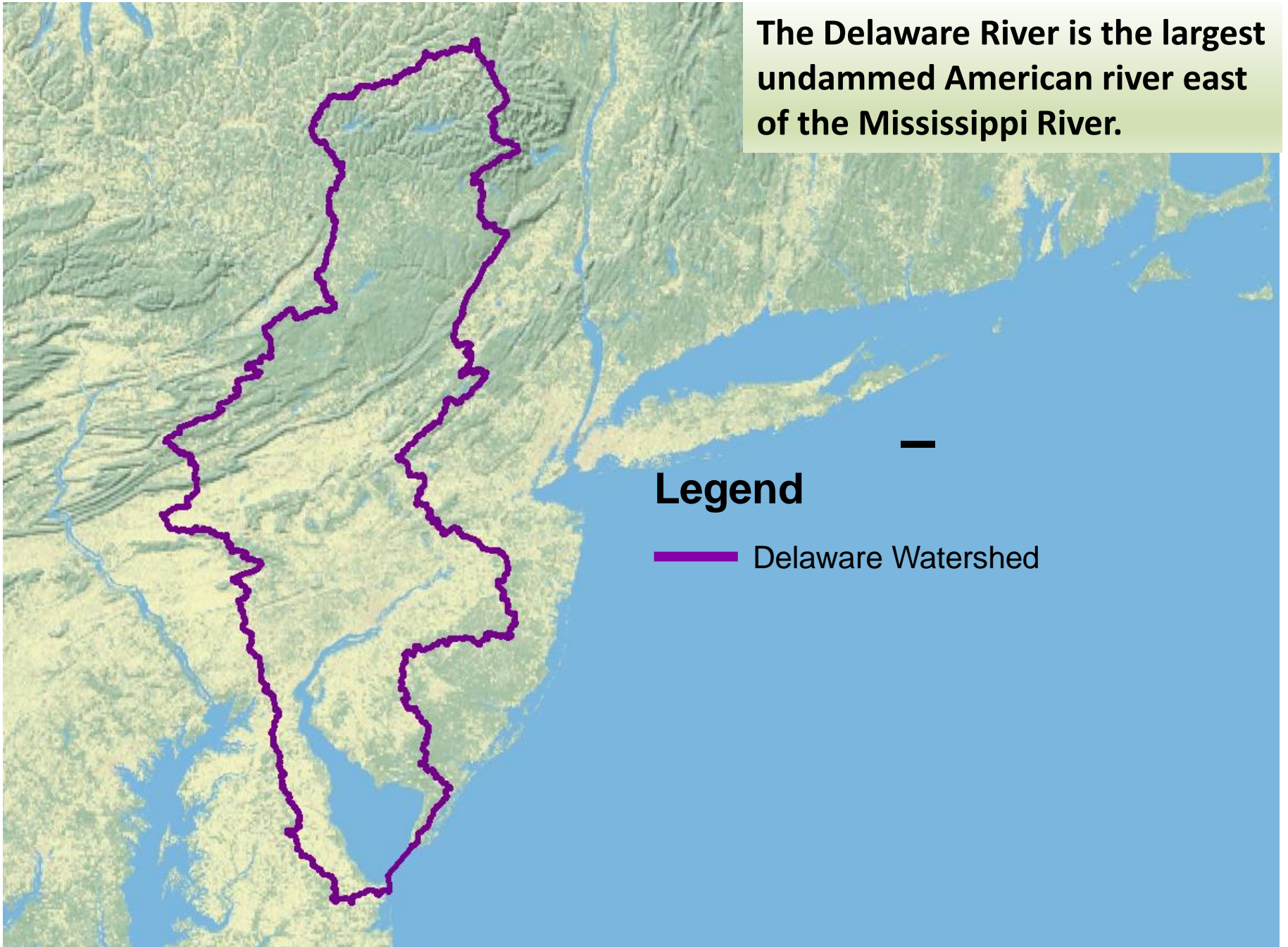
This is a listing of more than 3,200 free-flowing river segments in the U.S. that are believed to possess one or more "outstandingly remarkable" values.

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior





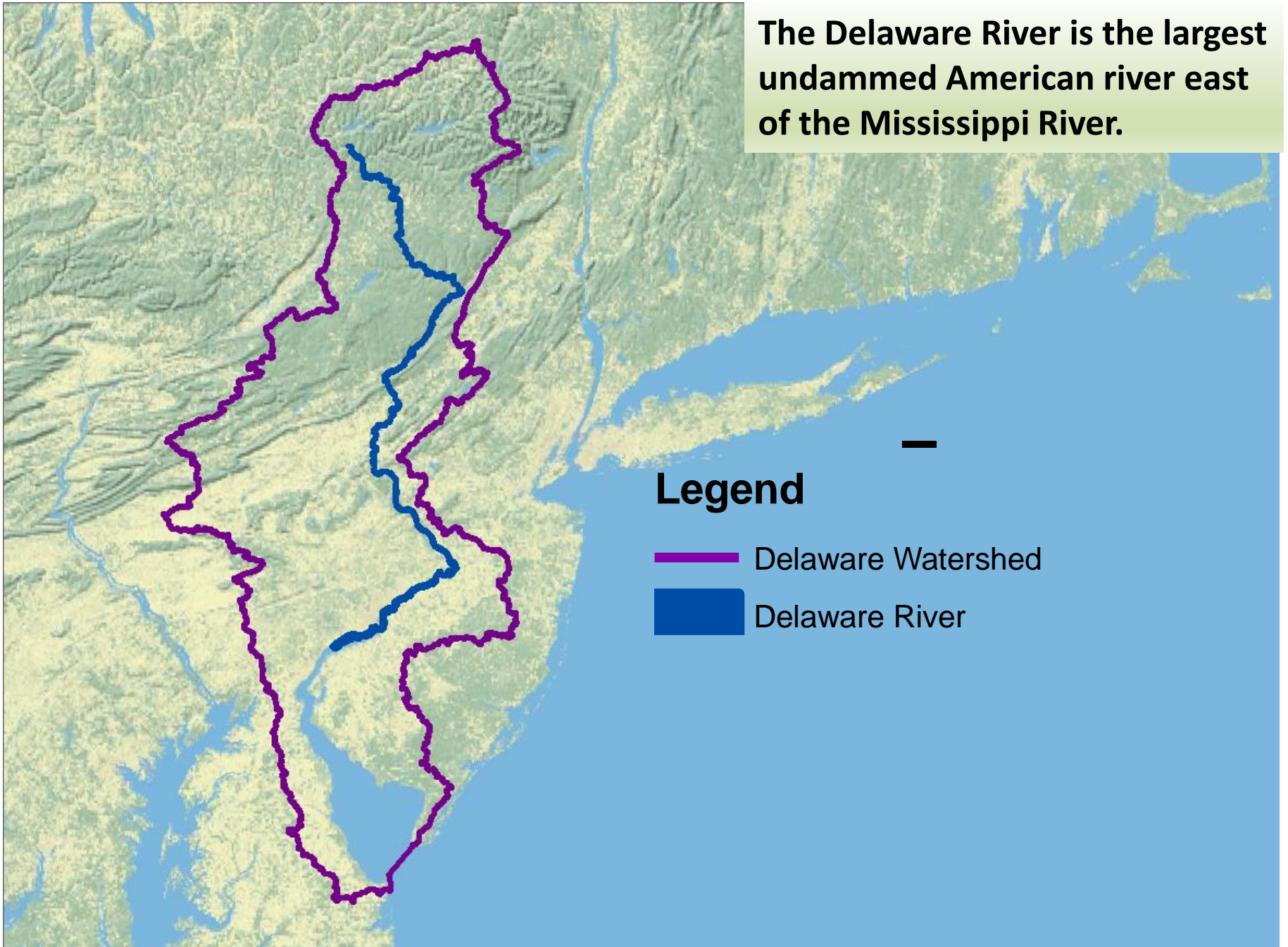
**The Delaware River is the largest undammed American river east of the Mississippi River.**




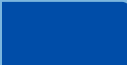
**Legend**

 Delaware Watershed

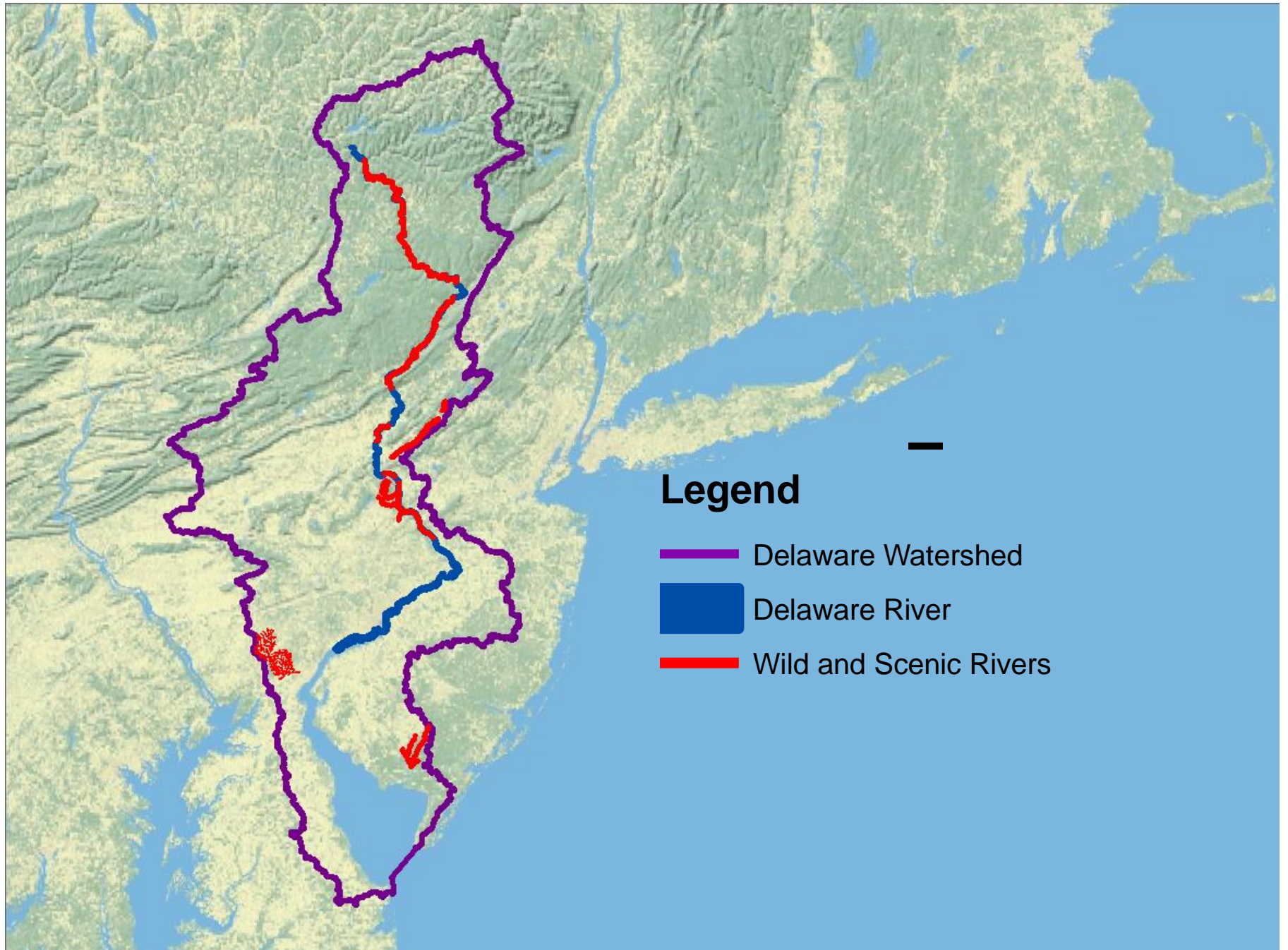
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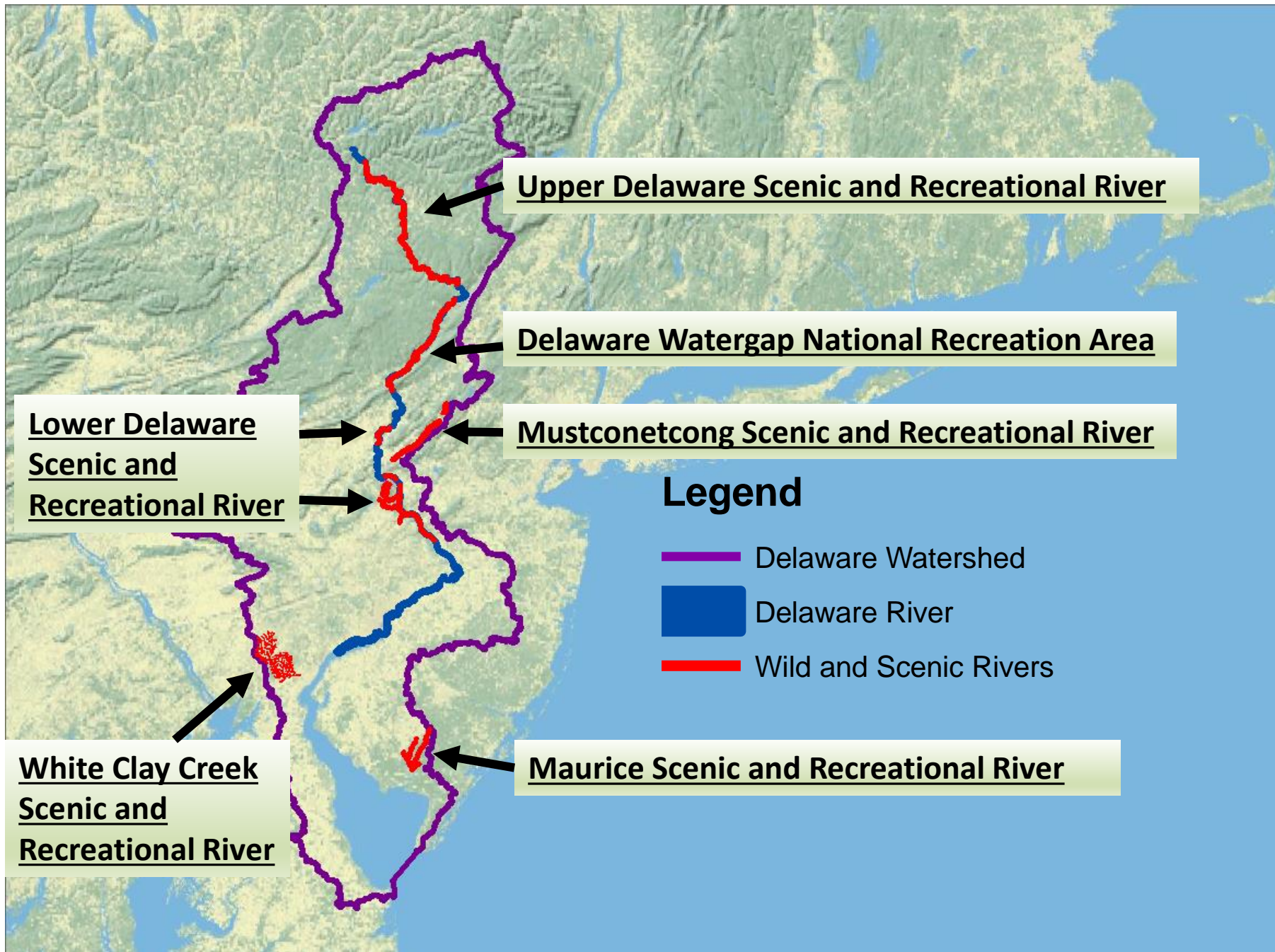


## Legend

-  Delaware Watershed
-  Delaware River







Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River

Delaware Watergap National Recreation Area

Lower Delaware Scenic and Recreational River

Mustconetcong Scenic and Recreational River

### Legend

Delaware Watershed

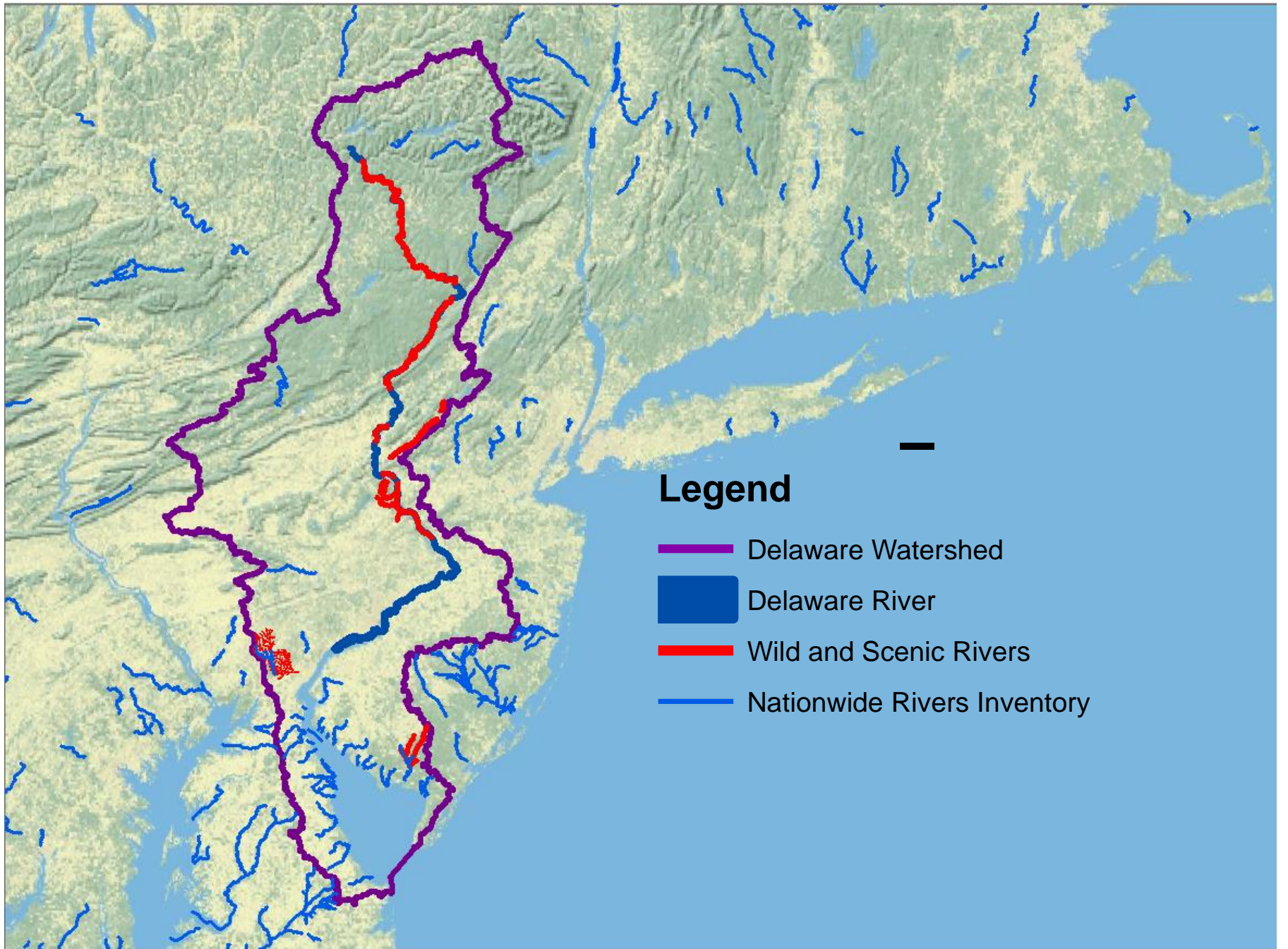
Delaware River

Wild and Scenic Rivers

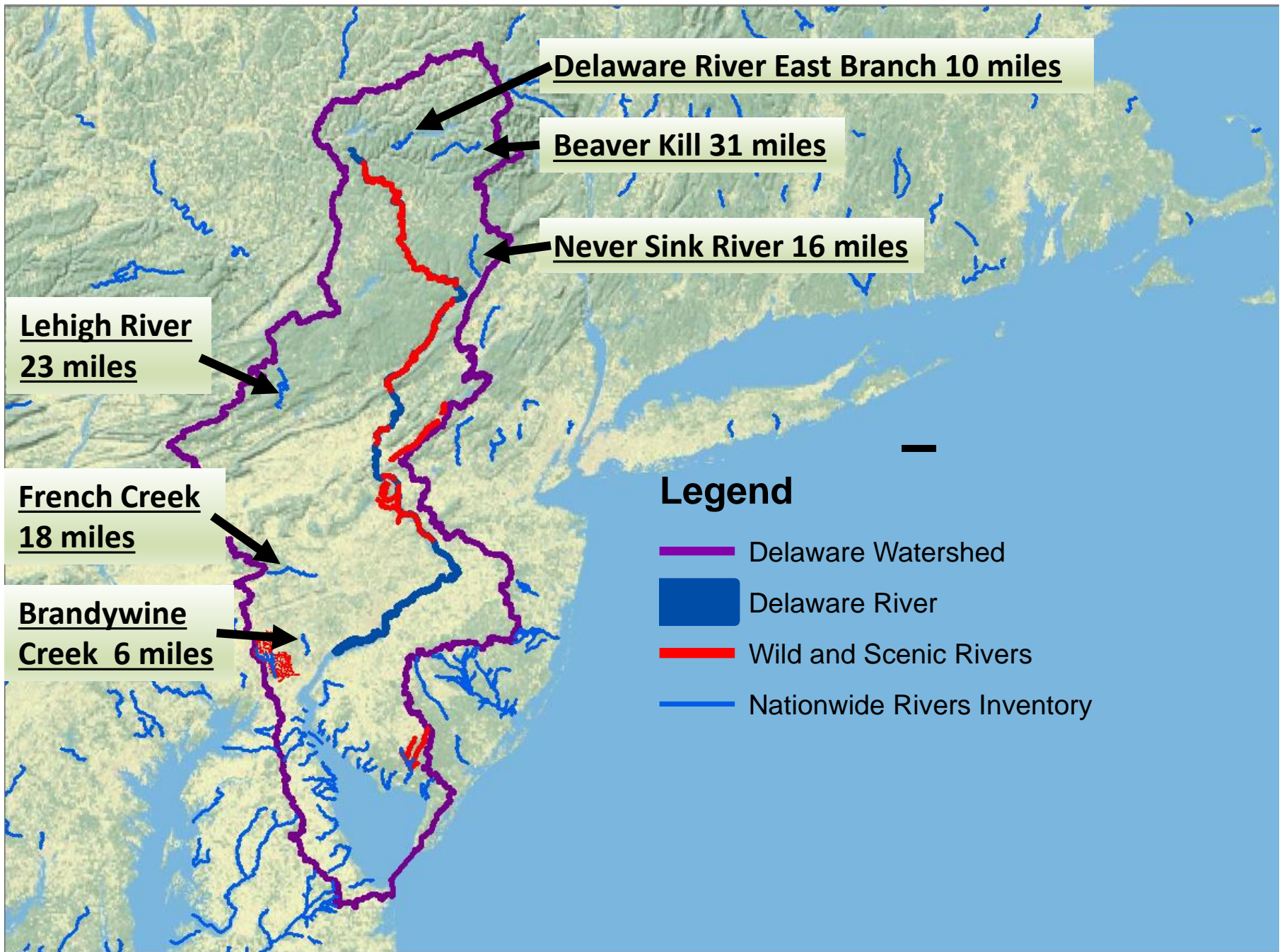
White Clay Creek Scenic and Recreational River

Maurice Scenic and Recreational River








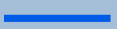




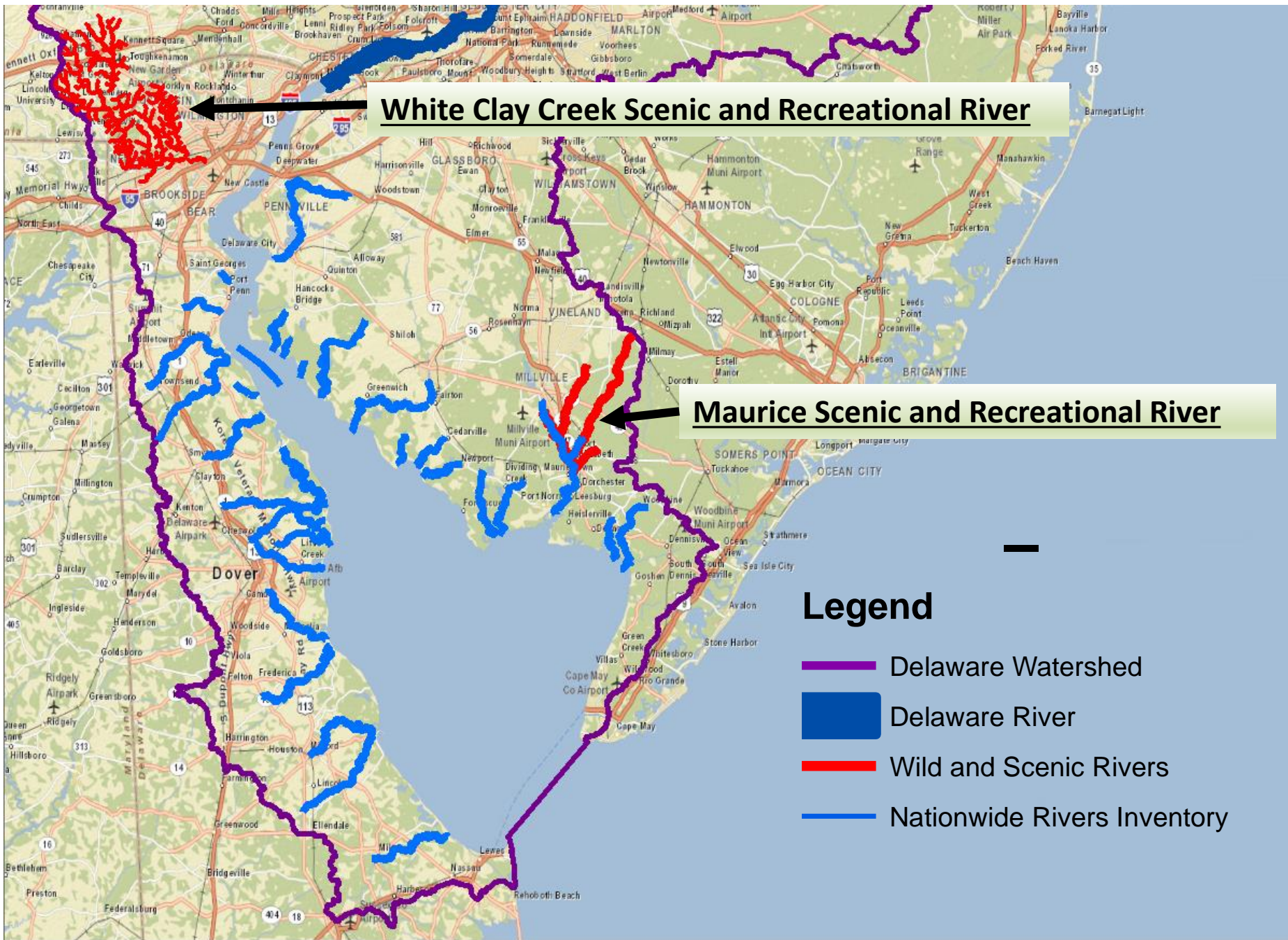




### Legend

-  Delaware Watershed
-  Delaware River
-  Wild and Scenic Rivers
-  Nationwide Rivers Inventory





**White Clay Creek Scenic and Recreational River**

**Maurice Scenic and Recreational River**

- Legend**
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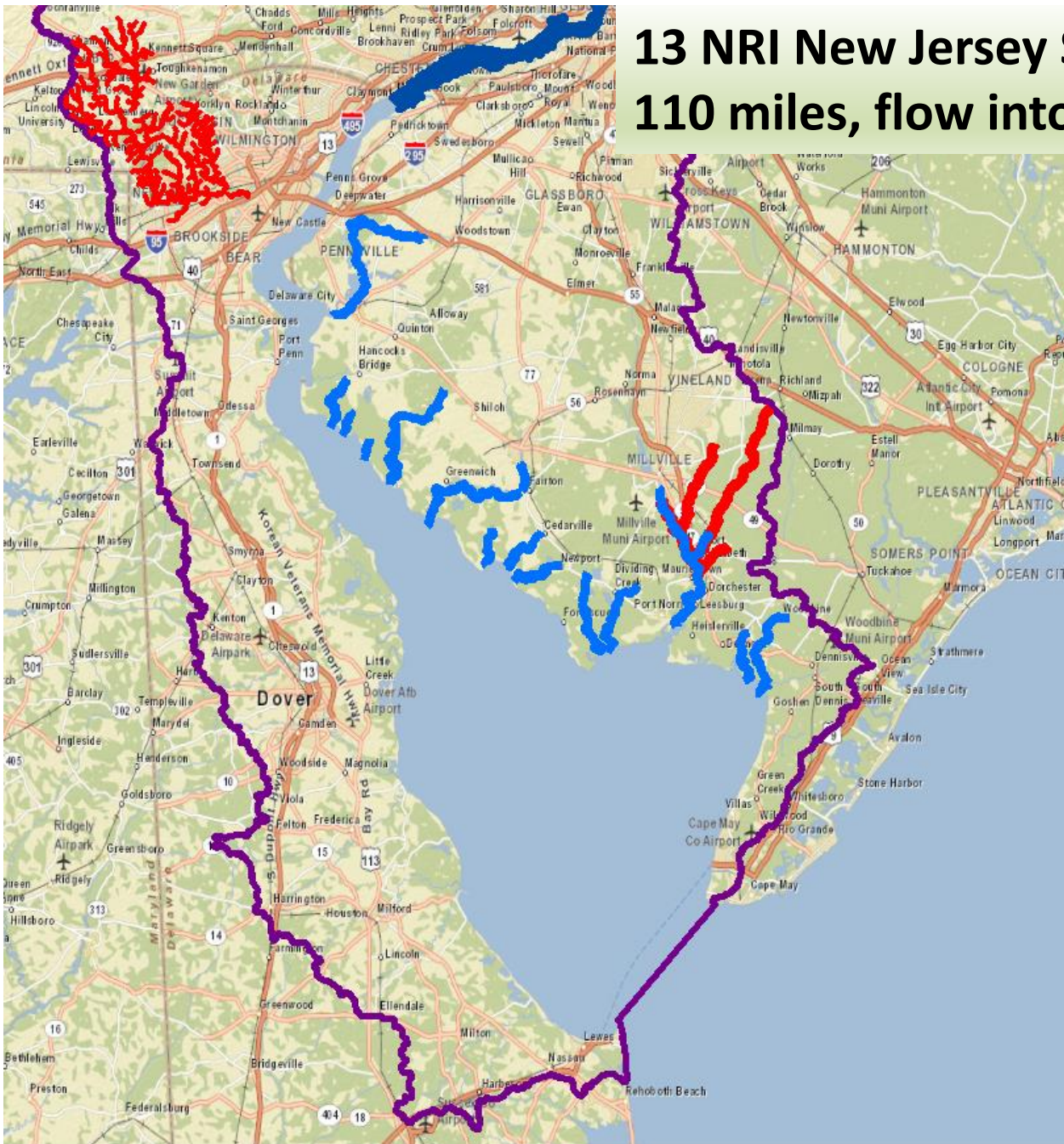
# 19 NRI Delaware Segments, totaling 168 miles, flow into the Delaware Bay



<b>Appoquinimink River</b>	<b>15 miles</b>
<b>Augustine Creek</b>	<b>4 miles</b>
<b>Blackbird Creek</b>	<b>15 miles</b>
<b>Broadkill River</b>	<b>10 miles</b>
<b>Cedar Swamp</b>	<b>5 miles</b>
<b>Cedar Creek</b>	<b>7 miles</b>
<b>Duck Creek</b>	<b>12 miles</b>
<b>Herr Branch</b>	<b>13 miles</b>
<b>Leipsic River</b>	<b>19 miles</b>
<b>Little River</b>	<b>5 miles</b>
<b>Mahon River</b>	<b>3 miles</b>
<b>Mispillion River</b>	<b>9 miles</b>
<b>Muddy Branch</b>	<b>4 miles</b>
<b>Murderkill River</b>	<b>21 miles</b>
<b>Simons River and Green Creek</b>	<b>5 miles</b>
<b>Smyrna River</b>	<b>11 miles</b>
<b>St. Georges Creek</b>	<b>3 miles</b>
<b>St. Jones River</b>	<b>13 miles</b>
<b>Delaware River</b>	<b>4 miles</b>
<b>(Delaware River/Bay System)</b>	<b>168 miles</b>



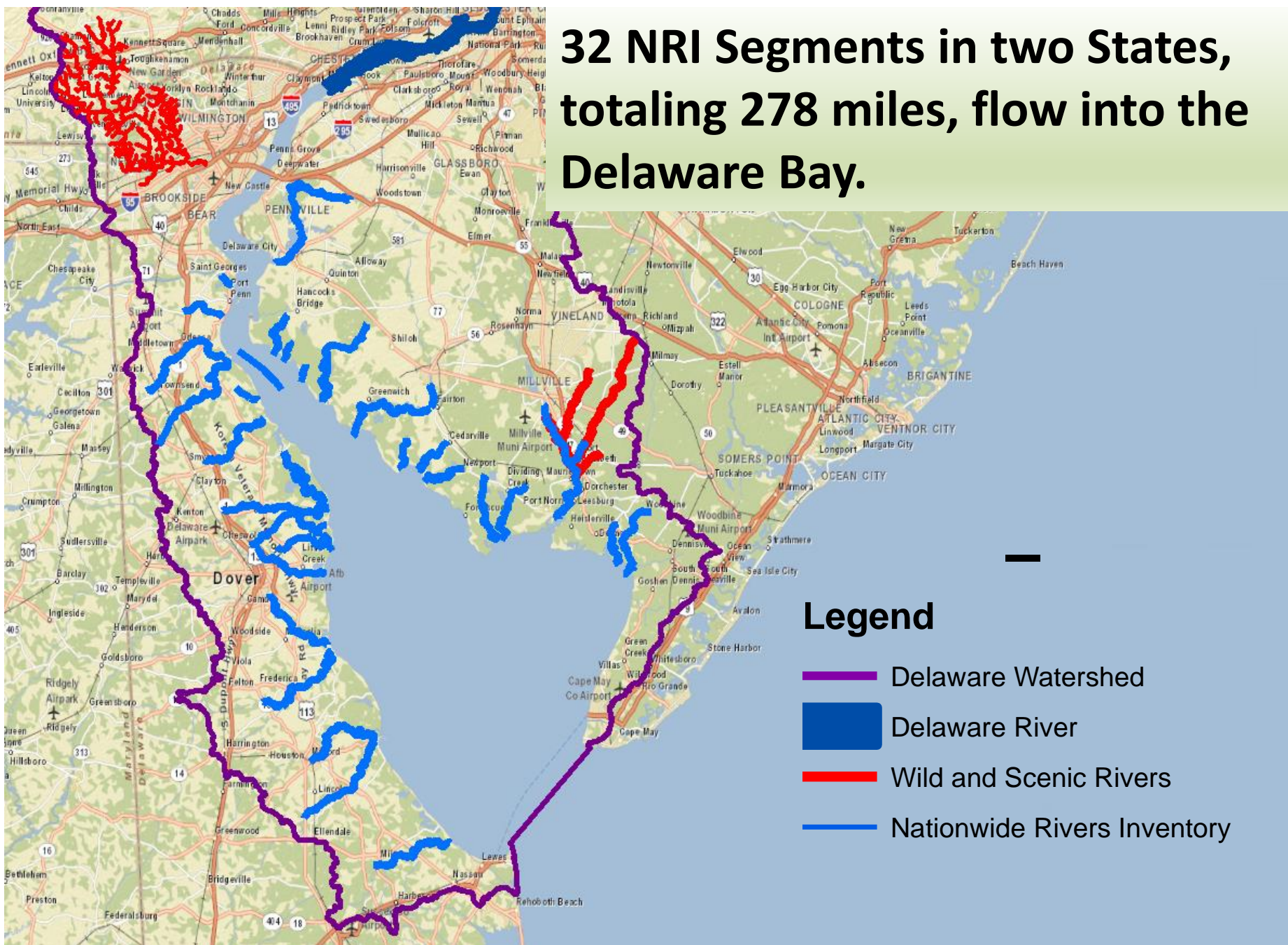
# 13 NRI New Jersey Segments, totaling 110 miles, flow into the Delaware Bay



<b>Back Creek</b>	<b>6 miles</b>
<b>Cedar Creek</b>	<b>5 miles</b>
<b>Cohansey River</b>	<b>16 miles</b>
<b>Dennis Creek</b>	<b>8 miles</b>
<b>Dividing Creek</b>	<b>10 miles</b>
<b>Fishing Creek</b>	<b>3 miles</b>
<b>Hope Creek</b>	<b>4 miles</b>
<b>Mad Horse Creek</b>	<b>7 miles</b>
<b>Nantuxent Creek</b>	<b>6 miles</b>
<b>Oranoaken Creek</b>	<b>9 miles</b>
<b>Salem River</b>	<b>17 miles</b>
<b>Stow Creek</b>	<b>14 miles</b>
<b>West Creek</b>	<b>5 miles</b>
<b>Total 110 miles</b>	
<b>(Maurice River Excluded)</b>	



**32 NRI Segments in two States,  
totaling 278 miles, flow into the  
Delaware Bay.**





## **The Nationwide Rivers Inventory Outstanding Resource Values Narrative from 1982 for 32 NRI Segments for the Delaware Bay**

**Cohansey River Comments (1 NRI Segment):** **Historic**-(Segment includes the Greenwich National Historic District, a town which contributed to development of middle colonies through shipping and trade.) **Wild**-(Segment flows through one of the most inaccessible and undisturbed salt marshes in the section.)

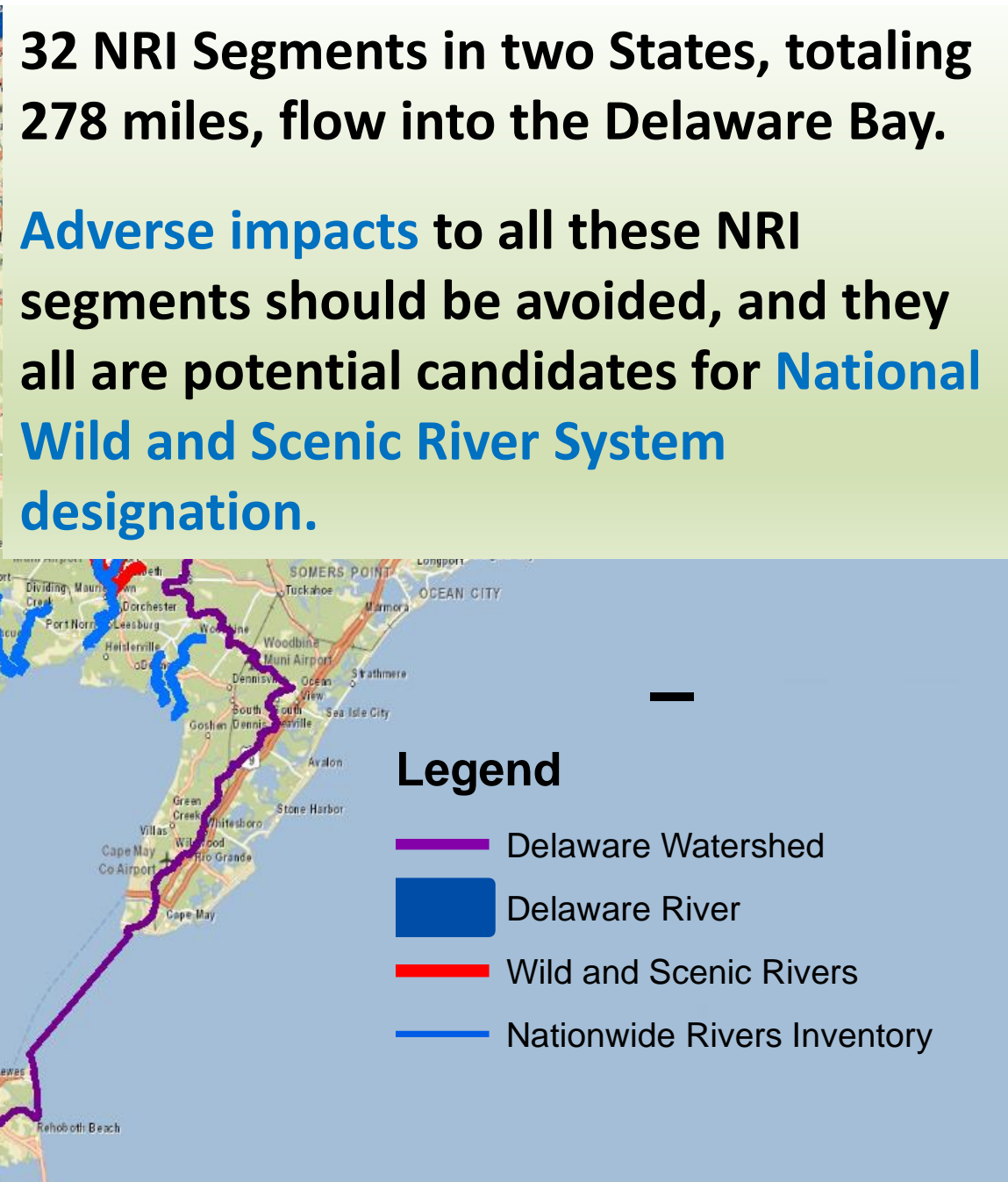
**Leipsic River Comments (6 NRI Segments):** **Historic**-(3 National Historic Register sites in Leipsic.) **Wild**-(Almost totally undeveloped section of tidal marsh in a predominantly agricultural area. National Wildlife Refuge proposed Wilderness area.) **Botanic**-(63% of the segment flows through ecologically significant tidal wetlands which are significant contributors to the Delaware Bay estuarine system and possess excellent examples of a northern cordgrass prairie.) **Wildlife**-(A nationally recognized sanctuary for migratory waterfowl, birds of prey, and passerine species.)

# The Nationwide Rivers Inventory Outstanding Resource Values Narrative from 1982 for 32 NRI Segments for the Delaware Bay

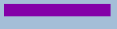


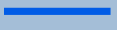
**Delaware River Comments (25 NRI Segments):** **General-**(The Delaware River-Bay System represents an example of undeveloped rivers in an estuarine area. The area in total is composed of several distinct sub-areas which in combination form a highly exemplary, productive and important river mouth estuarine system. The area is the least developed of 16 similar identified areas in the northwest.) **Geologic-**(The main segment of the Delaware River is an outstanding example of a high order drowned river mouth.) **Cultural-**(Rivers and river segments include remnants of the once productive Middle Atlantic fishing industry.) **Historic-**(Segments include numerous National Historic Register Sites.) **Wild-**(System includes almost totally undeveloped river segments, dominated by tidal marsh, in a largely agricultural area.) **Recreation-**(System is accessible to high concentrations of urban populations in Wilmington, Del., Philadelphia, Pa., and Camden, N.J.) **Hydrologic-**(The Delaware River segment is a sparsely developed high order tidal river area.) **Wildlife-**(Areas within and adjacent to river corridors are important nesting, feeding, migrating and wintering sites for waterfowl along the Atlantic flyway.)

**32 NRI Segments in two States, totaling 278 miles, flow into the Delaware Bay.**

**Adverse impacts to all these NRI segments should be avoided, and they all are potential candidates for **National Wild and Scenic River System** designation.**



### Legend

-  Delaware Watershed
-  Delaware River
-  Wild and Scenic Rivers
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