

National Wild and Scenic Rivers of the Delaware River Watershed

"...certain selected rivers... shall be preserved in free-flowing condition, and that they and their immediate environments shall be protected for the benefit of present and future generations."



General U.S. River Facts*

RIVER MILES

3.5 MILLION MILES OF RIVERS AND STREAMS

IMPOUNDED:

**NEARLY 20% OF RIVER MILES IMPOUNDED
BEHIND DAMS**

POLLUTION:

**NEARLY 40% OF ALL RIVERS NOT FISHABLE OR
SWIMABLE**

AQUATIC ANIMALS:

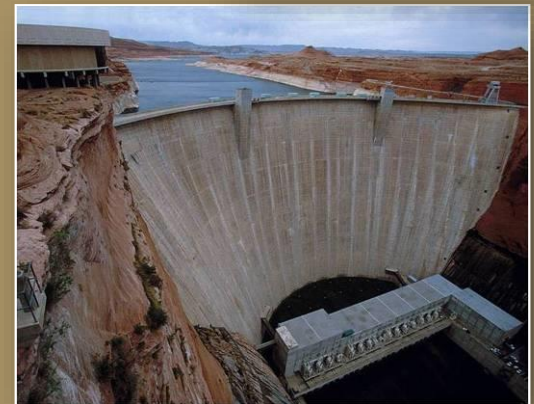
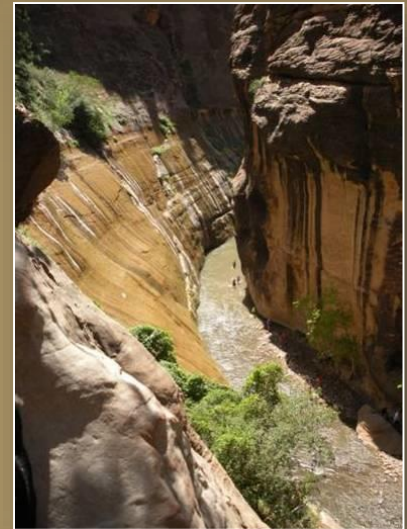
**FRESHWATER SPECIES DISAPPEARING 5 X FASTER
THAN LAND ANIMALS**

RIVER MILES PROTECTED:

**APPROX. 1/4 OF ONE PERCENT OF AMERICA'S
RIVER MILES ARE PROTECTED UNDER THE ACT**

National Wild & Scenic Rivers Act

- Complements national policy of dam and other construction
- Protect and Enhance River Values:
 - Free-flowing Condition
 - Water Quality
 - ID/Protect Outstanding Remarkable Values (ORVs) Scenic, Cultural, Biological)
- Establishes a process to add rivers to National System



WSRA Section 7 Reviews Are an NPS Responsibility

- Federal action, e.g., Grant/Loan (Permits covered under CWA)
- Water Resource Project (Construction in River bed / bank)
- Protects values from construction project adverse impacts

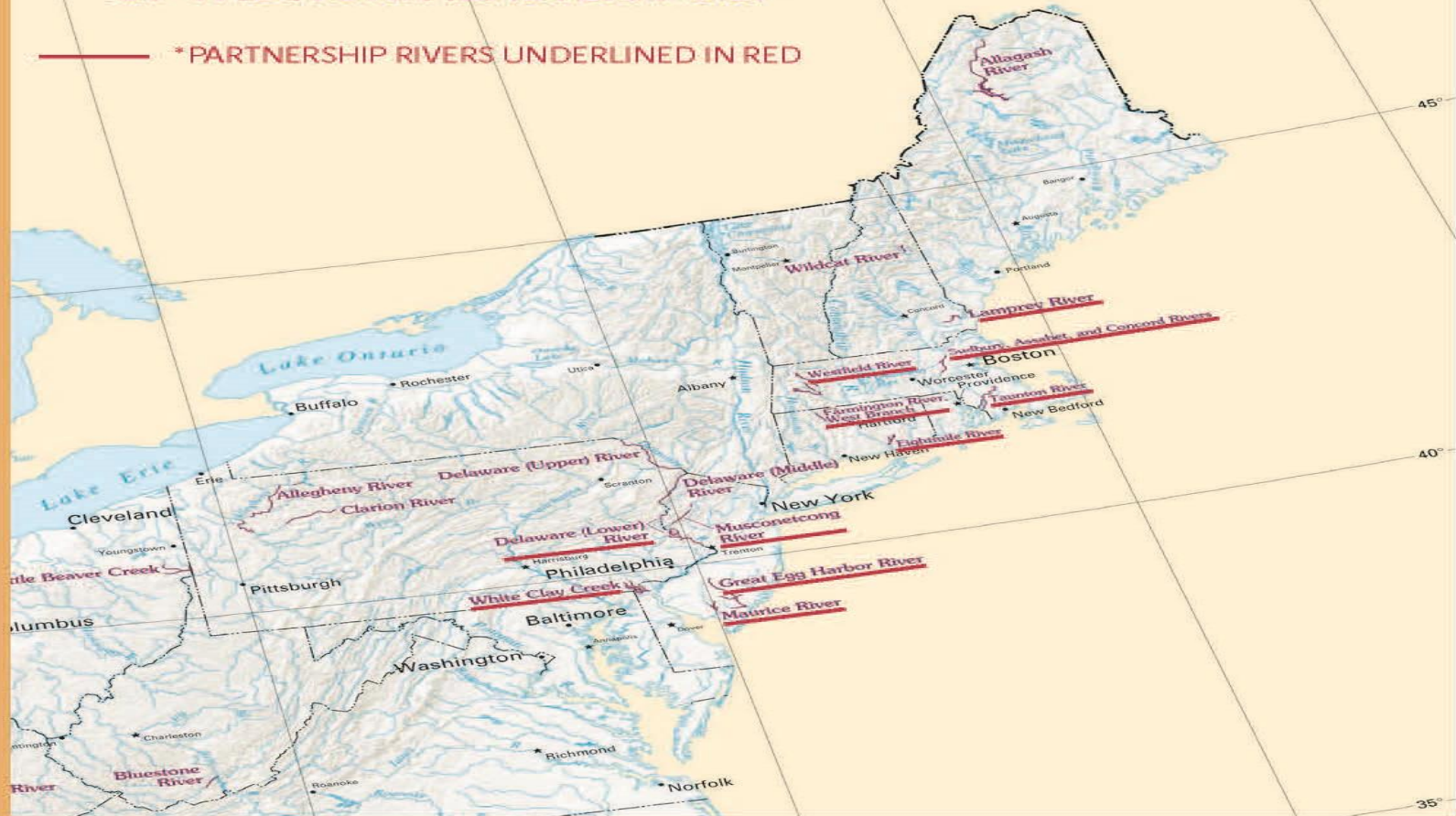




Northeast Region
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

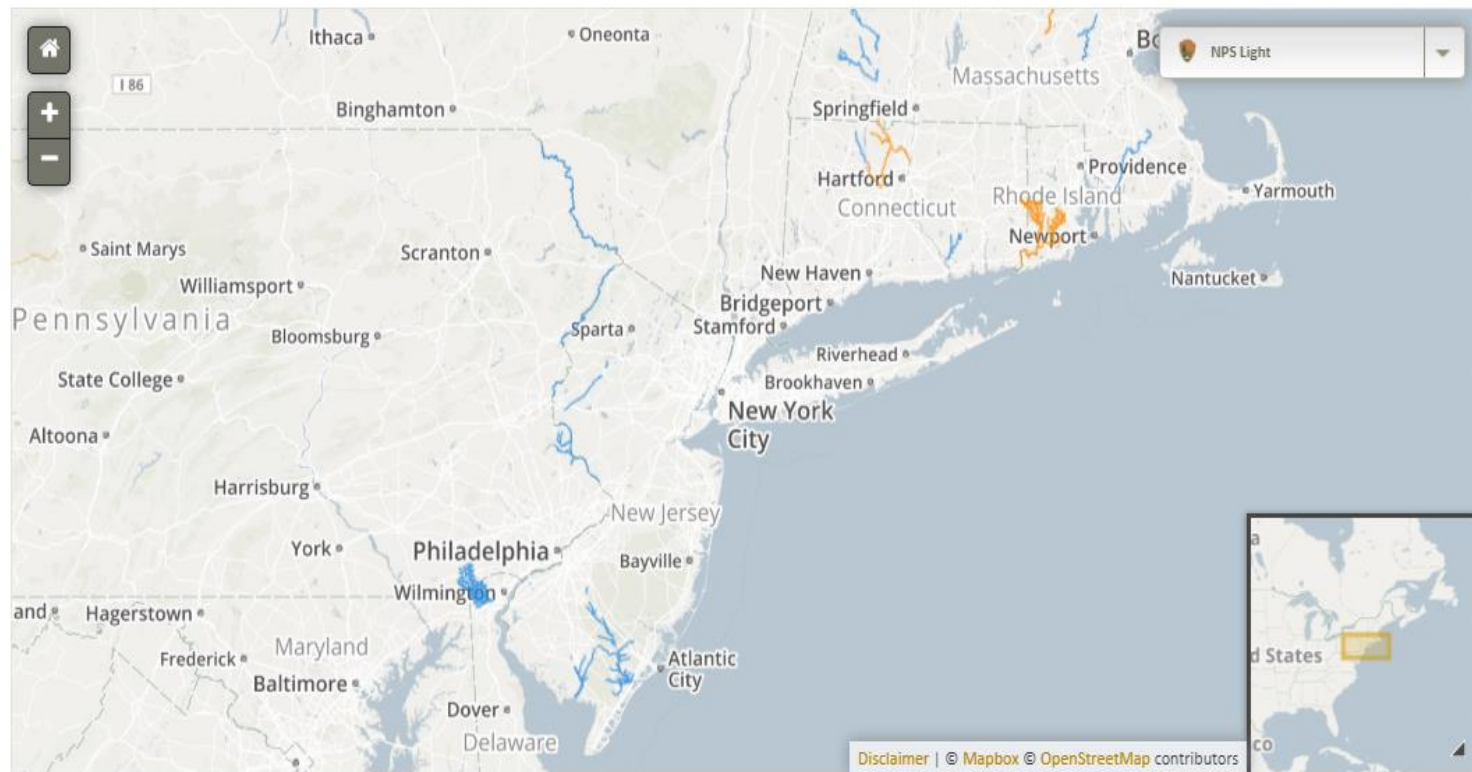
NATIONAL WILD & SCENIC RIVERS OF THE NORTHEASTERN U.S.*

* PARTNERSHIP RIVERS UNDERLINED IN RED



Interactive Map of NPS Wild and Scenic Rivers

NPS Wild & Scenic River Responsibilities



National Wild & Scenic Rivers System

There are Four National Wild and Scenic Rivers in the Delaware River Watershed



Delaware River - Upper, Middle and Lower Designations (NY/PA/NJ) 180.7 miles



Maurice River (NJ) 35.4 miles



White Clay Creek (PA/DE) 201 miles * 2nd largest in the East



Musconetcong River (NJ) 24.2 * miles



Delaware Watershed National Wild & Scenic River Mgmt. Models:

MODELS OF WSR MANAGEMENT
INCLUDE:

1. PARTNERSHIP WILD AND SCENIC
RIVERS ("Private Lands Rivers" -
Musconetcong, Maurice, White Clay
Creek, Lower Delaware)

River Management with shared
responsibilities among NPS, and Local
Government Councils. Responsibilities
of parties are guided by
Comprehensive River Management Plans

2. PARK UNITS (Upper Delaware,
Delaware Water Gap)



Partnership River Elements

- No federal land acquisition or management
- Administration through NPS/local council/NGOs
- Preserves existing zoning/ land use
- Locally developed river mgmt. plans—approved prior to designation—guide management
- Shared management responsibilities w/ local council and NGOs defined In Comprehensive River Mgmt. Plan



Comprehensive River Management Plan (CRMP)

- Comprehensive River Management Plan
 - Identifies ORVs, Lists Goals and Desired Conditions
 - Recognizes Local Land Use Planning/Zoning
 - Defines roles for local/state governments represented by a local River Council
 - Identifies Regulatory Authorities
 - Budgets for Mgmt. Plan Implementation
 - Protects ORVs



Maurice National Scenic & Recreational River, NJ

ORVs

- Ecological – striped bass; swamp pink, sensitive joint vetch
- Scenic Views – Maurice River Bluffs
- Cultural/Historic – Burcham Farm



Challenges

- Recreation User Capacity
- Erosion/Flooding
- Scenic impacts – cell towers

Benefits of W&S Designation

- National recognition / prestige / hall of fame of rivers
- Potential Boost to local economy
- River Council serves as Forum to address river-related issues
- NPS limited funding for Mgmt. Plan Implementation
- Protection from federally assisted projects that would adversely impact river values
- Local govts. are involved in Mgmt.



Delaware River Watershed Wild & Scenic River Resources

White Clay Creek

www.whiteclay.org

[www.rivers.gov/rivers/rivers/
white-clay.php](http://www.rivers.gov/rivers/rivers/white-clay.php)

Lower Delaware River

www.lowerdelawarewildandscenic.org/

www.nps.gov/lode

www.nps.gov/nero/rivers/lowerdel.htm

www.state.nj.us/drbc/basin/wild.html

[www.rivers.gov/rivers/rivers/delaware-
lower.php](http://www.rivers.gov/rivers/rivers/delaware-lower.php)

Upper/Middle Delaware River

www.nps.gov

Great Egg Harbor River

www.gehwa.org

www.nps.gov/greg

[www.rivers.gov/rivers/rivers/great-egg-
harbor.php](http://www.rivers.gov/rivers/rivers/great-egg-harbor.php)

Maurice River

www.cumauriceriver.org

www.rivers.gov/rivers/rivers/maurice.php

Musconetcong River

www.musconetcong.org

www.nps.gov/nero/rivers/muskie.htm

[www.rivers.gov/rivers/rivers/
musconetcong.php](http://www.rivers.gov/rivers/rivers/musconetcong.php)

A man with a beard and long hair, wearing a white shirt and a black life vest, is kayaking through turbulent white-water rapids. He is holding a black paddle and looking forward. The background shows a river with large rocks and lush green trees.

50th ANNIVERSARY

**National Wild And
Scenic Rivers Act,
October 2, 2018**