

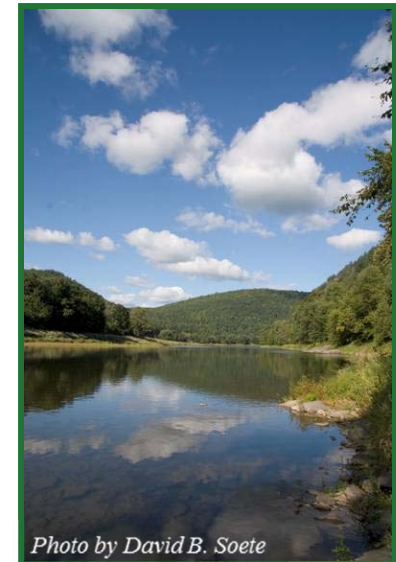
Delaware River Basin Commission

**Coalition for the Delaware
River Watershed**

Watershed Forum

**Steve Tambini
Executive Director, DRBC**

October 22, 2014



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

Let's Talk

- About:
 - Who we are
 - What we do
 - How we are aligned with Coalition watershed objectives

Listening and Learning

EVERYTHING

In the News

US Supreme Court 10/14/2014

On the **Kansas - Nebraska dispute** over allocations in the Republican River:

- * Justices looking for ways to resolve dispute like sending the issue back to the Commission created by the Compact.
- * Justice Breyer acknowledged that the US Supreme Court includes nine people “who couldn’t know less about” water accounting and stated “**is there a chance you guys can work it out?**”

1. True or False?



**1954 Supreme Court
Decree Parties
(FFMP Parties)**

1. True or False?



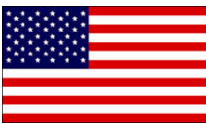
**1954 Supreme Court
Decree Parties
(FFMP Parties)**

FALSE

Delaware River Basin Commission Founded by Compact in 1961

Five Equal Members:

- Delaware
- New Jersey
- Pennsylvania
- New York
- Federal Government



Note: New York City and Philadelphia are “advisors” and not members

DRBC and the Parties to the 1954 Supreme Court Decree

DRBC:

- Delaware
- New Jersey
- Pennsylvania
- New York State
- Federal Government



Parties to the 1954 Supreme Court Decree:

New York City



What is an interstate compact?

- An arrangement between two or more states that is designed to solve their common problems and that becomes part of the laws of each state.
- Under Article 1, Section 10, Clause 3 of the US Constitution states: “No state shall, **without the Consent of Congress**... enter into any Agreement of Compact with any other State”.

1961 Delaware River Basin Compact

- * Recognizes DRB as a regional asset with local State and National interests
- * Management and control of water resources under a **Comprehensive Plan** will bring benefits and is in the public welfare.
- * US Supreme Court decrees on DRB recognized the need for an interstate agency.
- * The Commission shall develop and effectuate **plans, polices and projects** relating to the water resources of the Basin
- * **The Commission** (without unanimous consent of the 1954 Decree parties) **cannot change or impact the Supreme Court Decree.**

“A river is more than an amenity, it is a treasure”

-US Supreme Court Justice
Oliver Wendell Holmes



Fast Facts:

- ❑ Delaware River Main stem river is 330 miles long
- ❑ 15+ million people (about 5% of the U.S. population) rely on the waters of the Delaware River Basin
- ❑ Drains 13,539 mi² or 0.4% of the continental U.S. land area
- ❑ Water withdrawal in the Basin = 8.7 billion gallons a day
- ❑ Delaware River forms an interstate boundary over its entire length
- ❑ Longest, un-dammed U.S. river east of the Mississippi (dams are located on tributaries, not the main stem Delaware)

2. Why was the DRBC created?

- a) Water supply shortages and disputes over the apportionment of the basin's waters;
- b) Serious flooding;
- c) Severe pollution in the Delaware River and its major tributaries;
- d) All of the above

2. Why was the DRBC created?

d) All of the above



DRBC Functional Responsibilities

- Water Supply
- Drought Management
- Flood Loss Reduction
- Water Quality
- Watershed Planning
- Regulatory Review (Permitting)
- Outreach/Education
- Recreation

DRBC's Charge

- ✓ Manage water resources with the watershed without regard for political boundaries
- ✓ Regulate water quantity and water quality
- ✓ Monitor, Assess and Plan on watershed basis
- ✓ Coordinate between federal, state & local governments and private entities with roles in managing water resources
- ✓ Educate the basin community about water resources



3. When was the last DRBC declared Drought?

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When was the last DRBC declared drought? **2010**

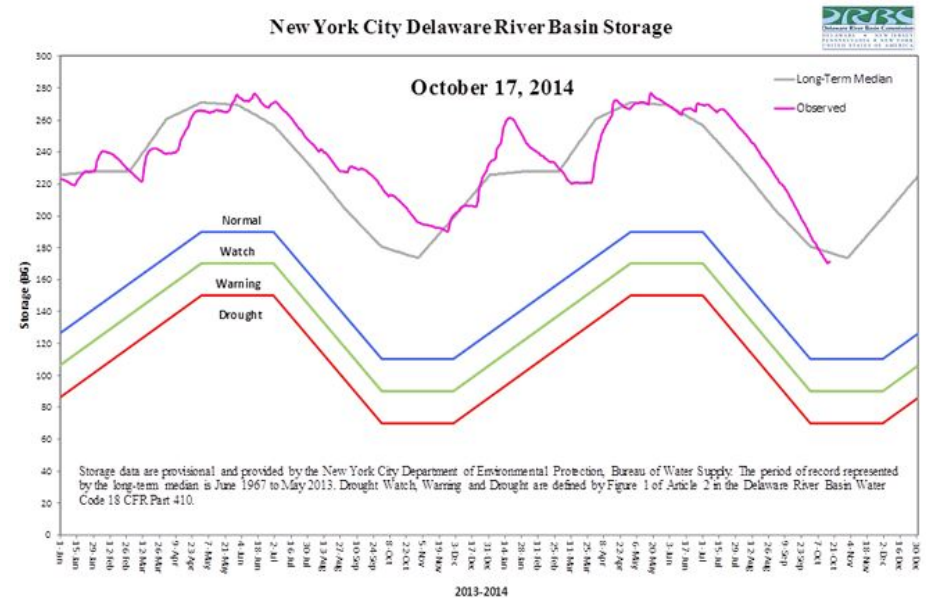
- **2010** - “Lower Basin Drought Warning” (Two Months)
- **2001** through **2002** – Basin Wide “Drought Emergency”
- **1981/1982** and **1985** – “Basin Wide Droughts”
- Several other years with drought warnings.
- **1961 - 1967** Drought of Record for Delaware River Basin



*NYC Cannonsville Reservoir
December 20, 2001 at 6.5% of capacity*

Drought Management

- Drought of record led to the “Good Faith Agreement” in 1983 including:
 - A schedule of phased reductions in out of basin diversions, releases and flow target objectives.
 - Coordination of equitable apportionment of priority water uses.



4. When was the last significant Delaware River Flood?

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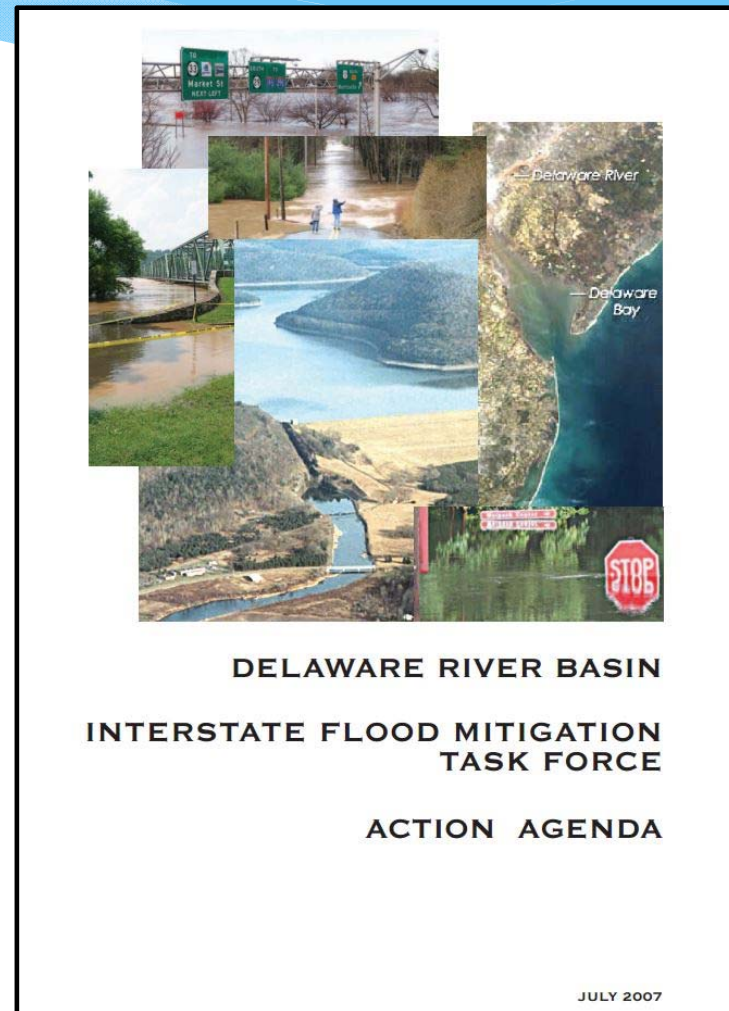
Year	Event	Stage @ Trenton Flood =20'
2011	Hurricane Irene and TS Lee	23.11
2006	June 24 to 26 Heavy Rains	25.09
2005	March April Heavy Rains and Snow Melt	25.33
2004	September TS Ivan	23.41
Record (1904)	Ice Jam	30.60



Yardley, PA June 29, 2006

Interstate Flood Mitigation Task Force

- Reservoir Operations
- Structural and non-structural measures
- Storm water Management
- Floodplain Mapping
- Floodplain regulation
- Flood warning



5. True or False?

**DRBC manages
the flow
releases in the
NYC reservoir
systems**



5. True or False?





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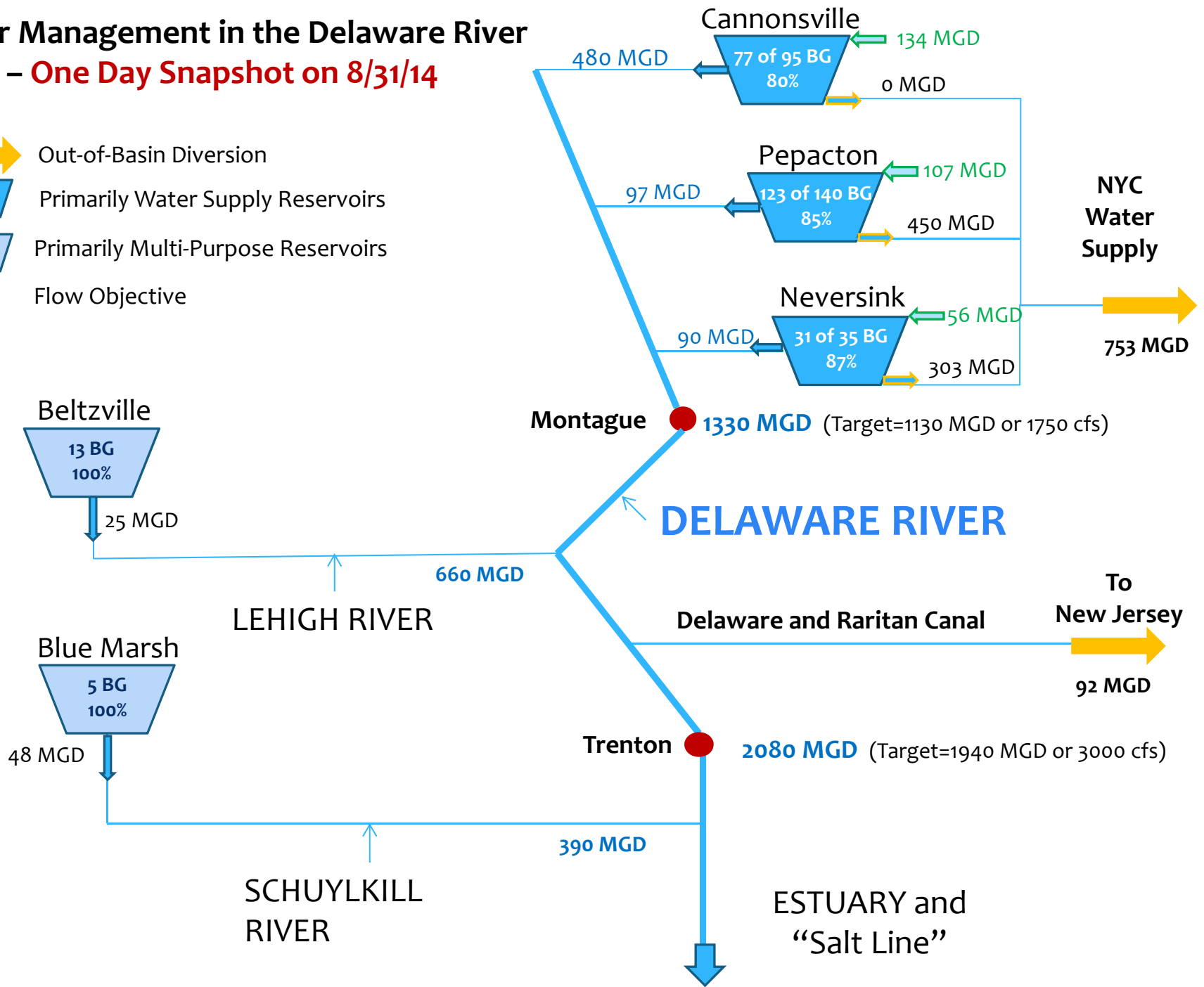
FALSE



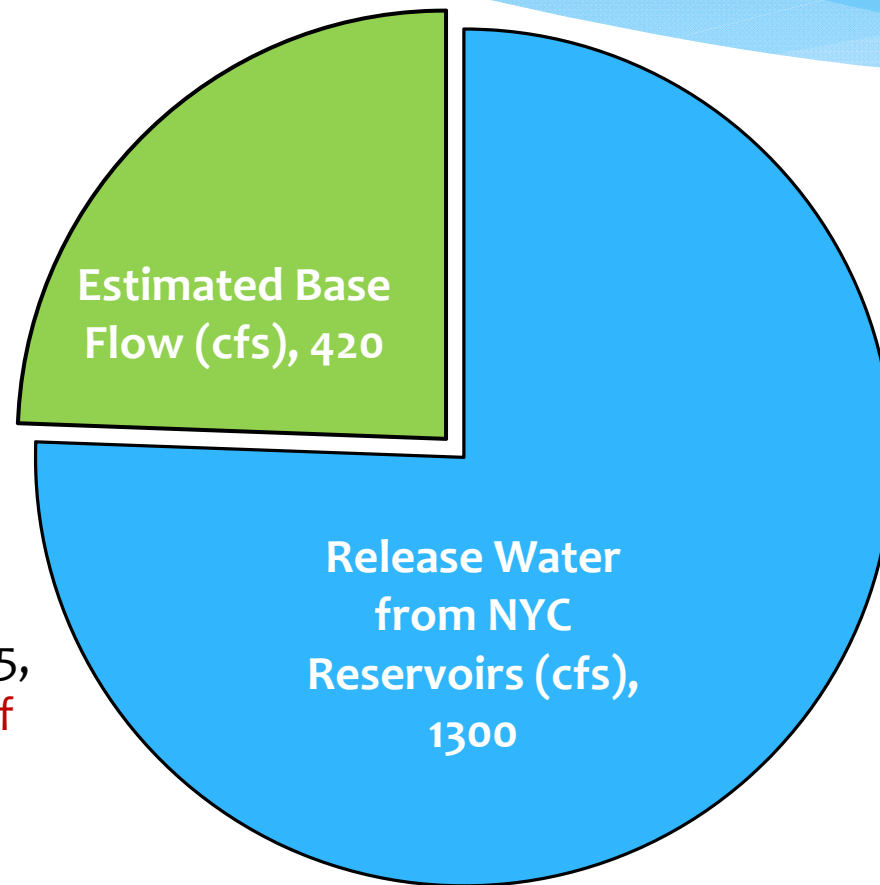
USGS operates the Office of the Delaware River Master

Water Management in the Delaware River Basin – One Day Snapshot on 8/31/14

-  Out-of-Basin Diversion
-  Primarily Water Supply Reservoirs
-  Primarily Multi-Purpose Reservoirs
-  Flow Objective



Flow at Montague, NJ October 15, 2014



Montague Gage:

Flow Target =
1,750 cfs

Estimated average
base flow (9/8 to 10/15,
2104) = **641 cfs (36% of
target).**

6. True or False?

DRBC manages the flow releases in the Blue Marsh and Beltzville reservoir systems to control the “salt line” in the Estuary.



6. True, False or I don't know?

DRBC manages the flow releases in the Blue Marsh and Beltzville reservoir systems to control the “salt line” in the Estuary.

TRUE



Note: US Army Corps of Engineers owns and operates the reservoirs. DRBC pays over \$1.3M annually to support their construction, operations and maintenance

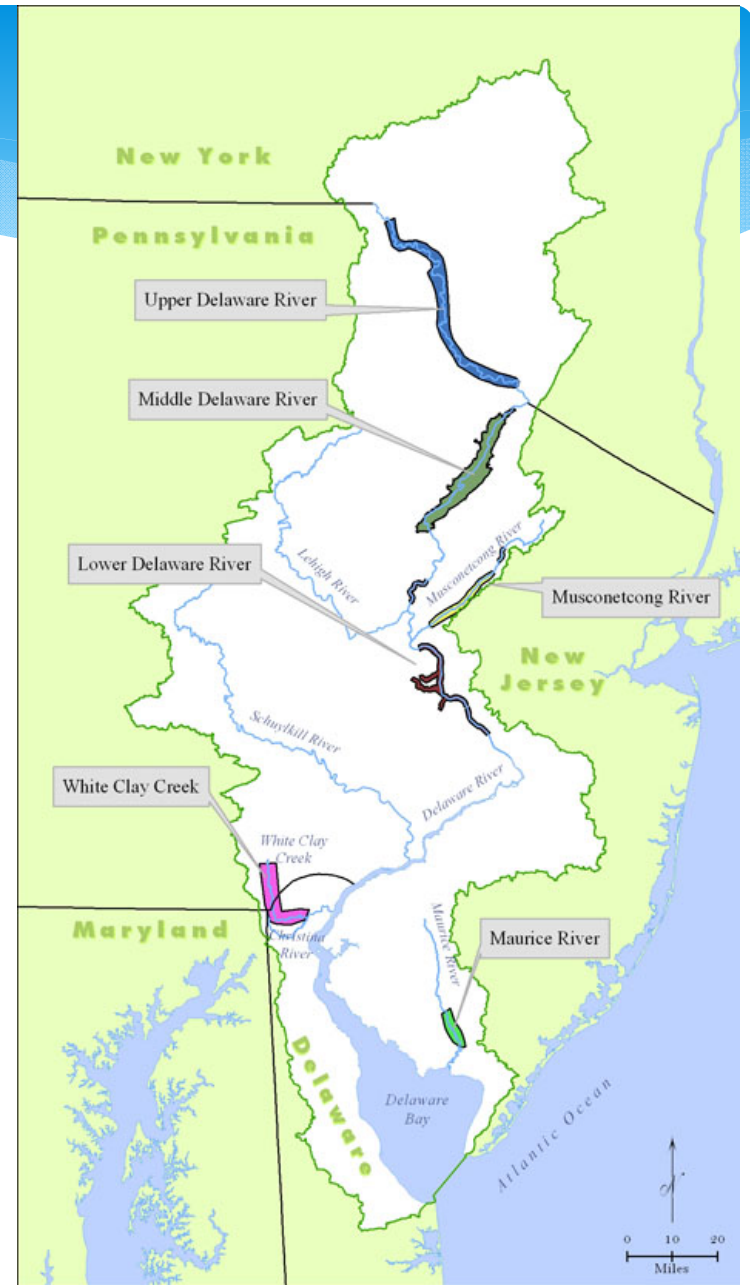
7. The quality of Basin waters shall be maintained for:

- a) Public drinking water (after reasonable treatment)
- b) Recreation
- c) Navigation
- d) Wildlife, fish and other aquatic life
- e) Regulated waste assimilation
- f) All of the above

7. The quality of Basin waters shall be maintained for:

- a) Public drinking water (after reasonable treatment)
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Three-quarters of the non-tidal Delaware River (about 150 miles) has been included in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

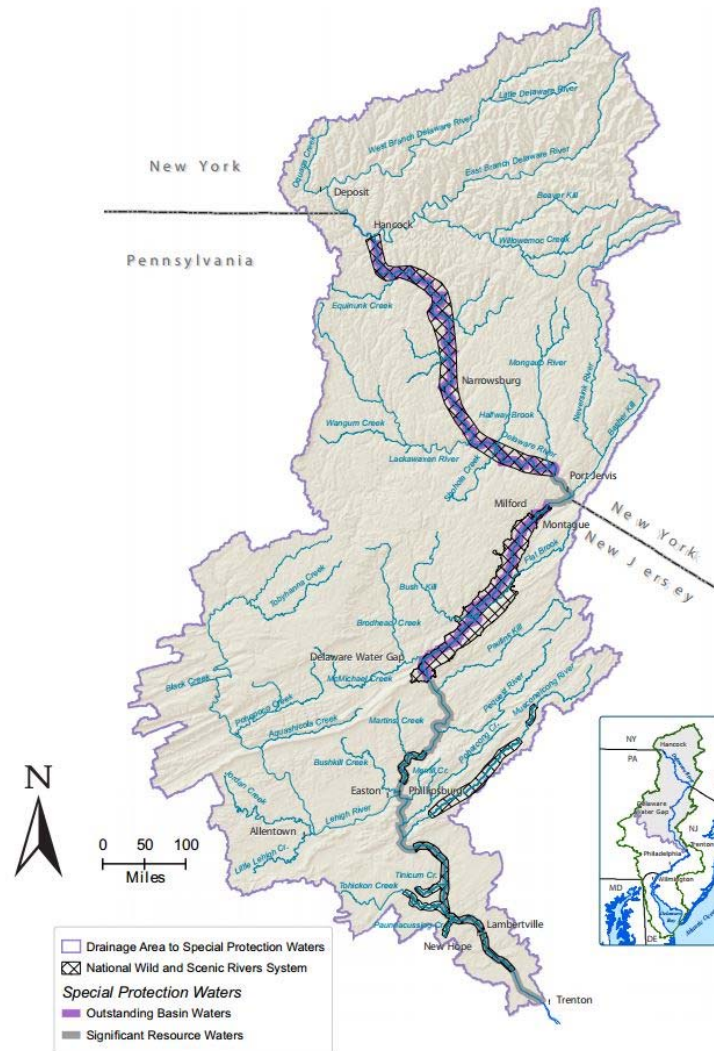


Special Protection Waters Program “Keeping Clean Water Clean”

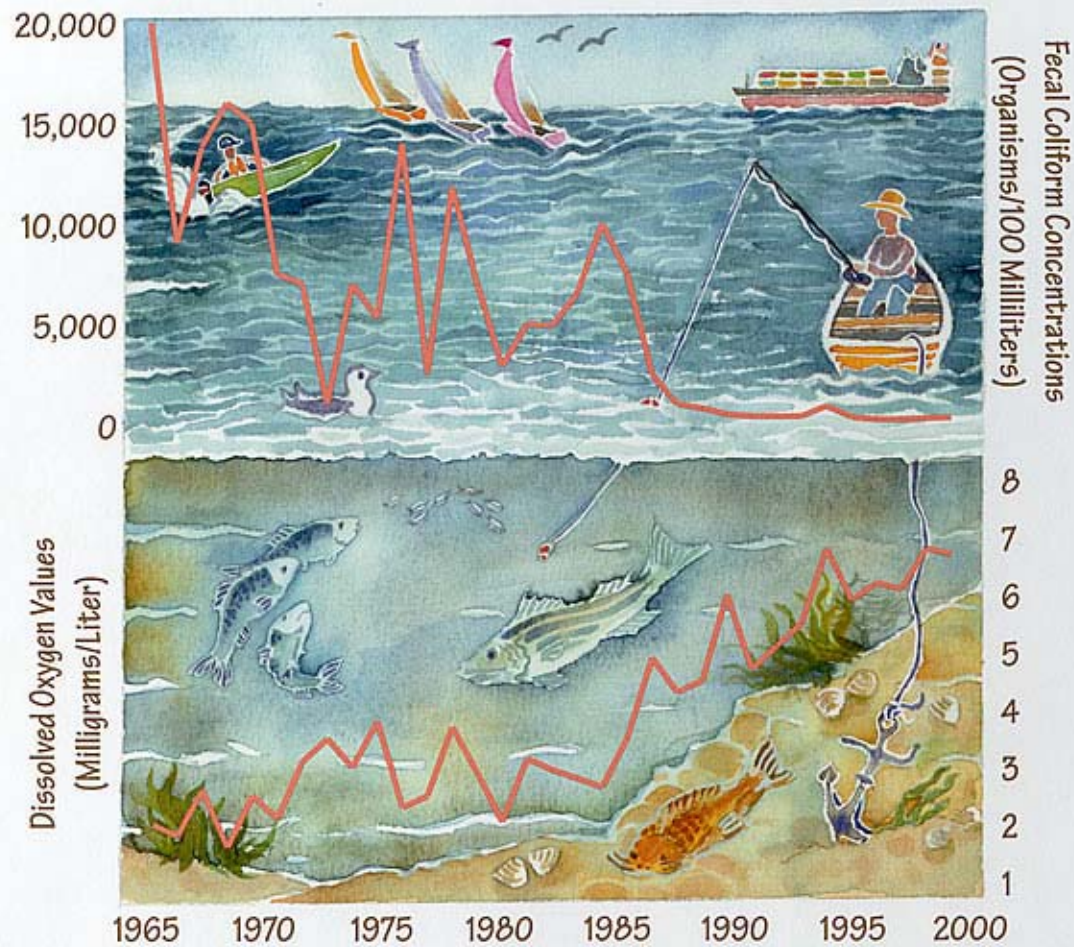
- Anti-degradation regulatory program initially developed to protect existing high quality water in the Upper Delaware River Basin.
- Policy of “no measurable change” in existing water quality except toward natural conditions.



The entire 197-mile non-tidal Delaware River is now protected by the DRBC's Special Protection Waters anti-degradation regulations.



Estuary Water Quality

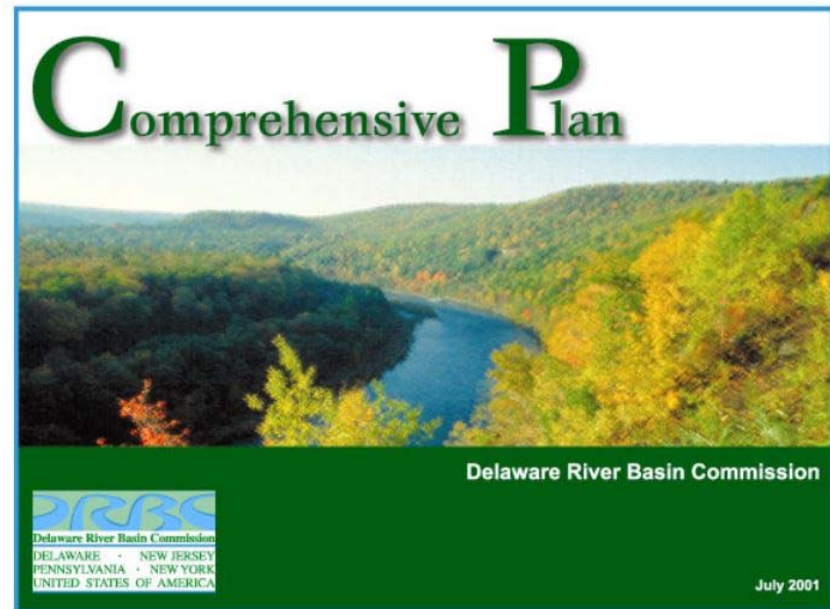


8. The DRBC Comprehensive Plan is required to be updated every:

- a) 20 years
- b) 10 years
- c) 5 years
- d) None of the above

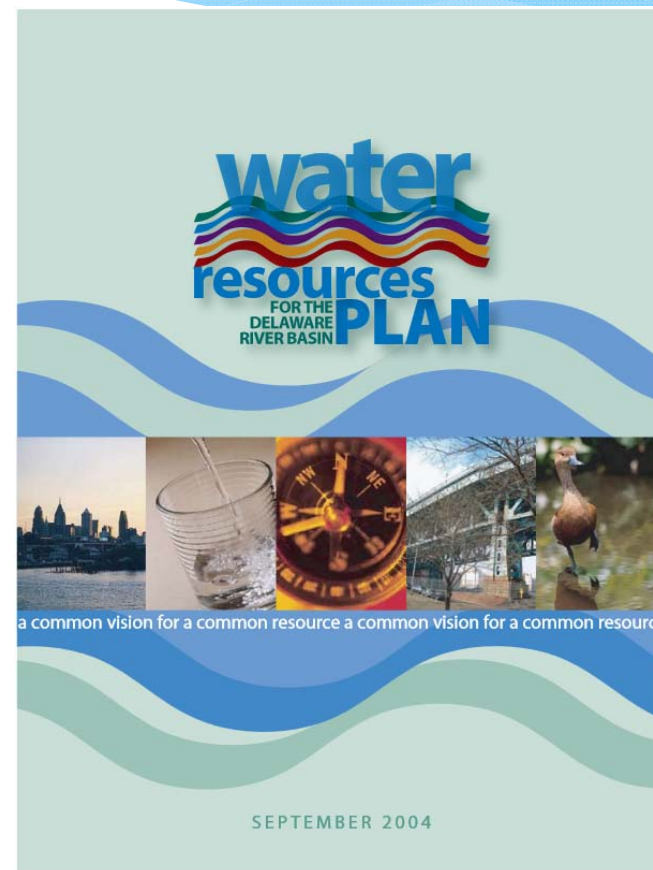
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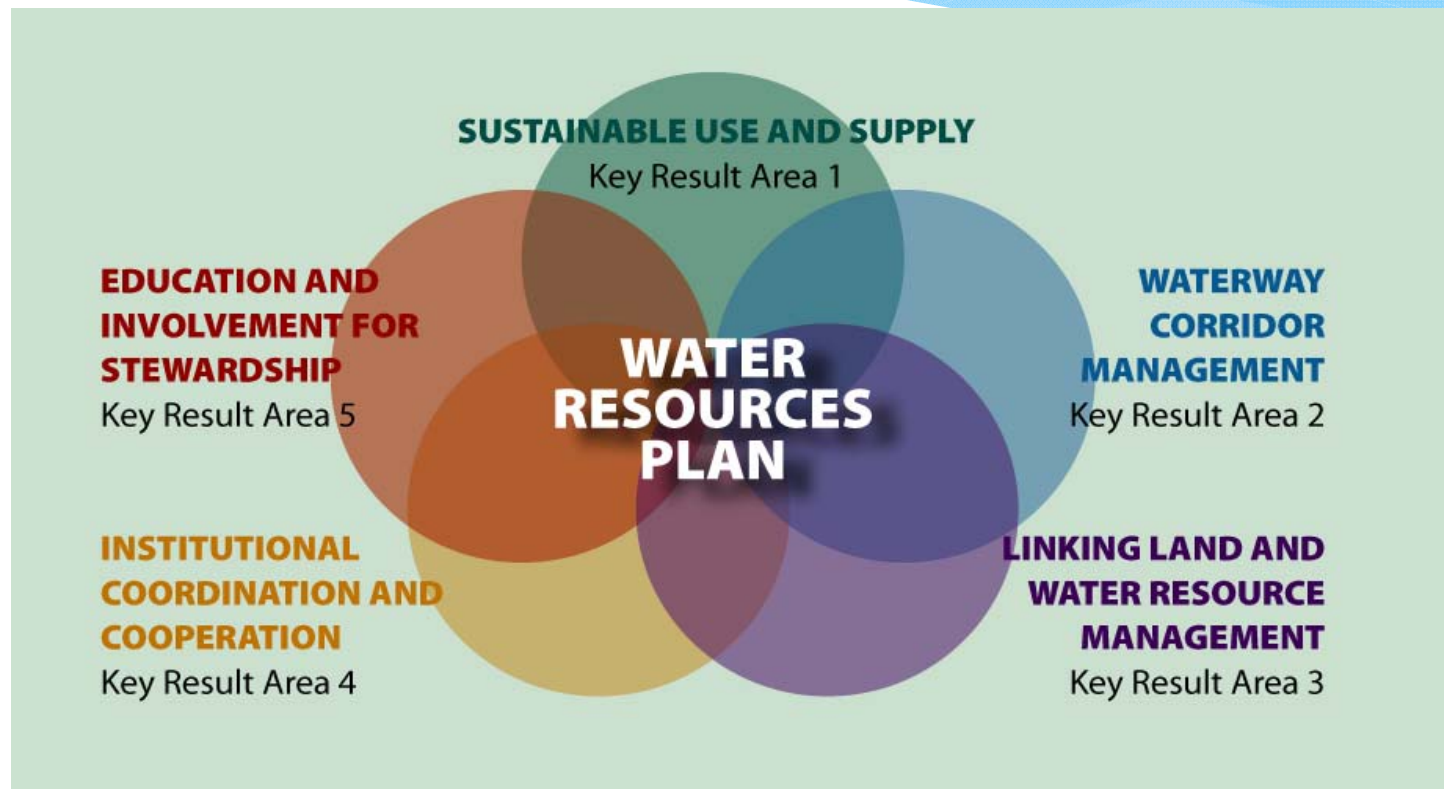


2004 Water Resources Basin Plan

- Basin-wide, Goal-based Plan
- Consensus-based Plan.
- Created and Implemented by ALL Stakeholders
- 5 Key Result Areas
- 21 Goals
- 102 Objectives



2004 Water Resources Basin Plan



“A Delaware Watershed Blueprint”

Mega Trends and other Emerging Planning Issues

- **Demographics:** Changes and Shifts
- **Climate Change:** Sea level rise, frequency and intensity of storms and droughts
- **Energy Water Nexus**
- **Energy and Water Efficiency**
- Possible **Shale Gas** Development
- **Ecological Flows**
- Point and Non-Point Pollution
- Continued Water “Conflicts”



9. True or False?

DRBC Regulations and Standards are more “strict” than state Regulations and Standards?

9. True or False?

DRBC Regulations and Standards are more “strict” than state Regulations and Standards?

FALSE (in general terms).
TRUE (in some cases).

Significant Regulatory Programs

- Water withdrawals
- Wastewater treatment/discharges
- Flood Plain
- Other projects having a “substantial effect on the water resources of the basin”

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■ Delaware



■ New Jersey



■ Pennsylvania



■ New York State



■ Federal Government



Administrative Agreements with States

- DRBC Compact and Rules allow for and encourage the use of administrative agreements with states and state agencies to:
 - ✓ Promote inter-agency collaboration and cooperation on shared mission objectives.
 - ✓ Promote regulatory program efficiencies.
 - ✓ Avoid unnecessary duplication of effort.
- Recognizes the Authority, standards, rules of each agency

10. The DRBC is Funded by....

- a) The “signatory members” (the states and the federal government).
- b) The signatory members; however, full funding is not provided every year.
- c) The signatory members, except the federal government.
- d) The signatory members and regulatory project review fees.
- e) The signatory members, project review fees, water use charges, grants, and other special project sources.

10. Foundational Funding (Revenue) Sources

e) The signatory members, project review fees, water use charges, grants, and other special project sources.

- Signatory Members
- Regulatory Program Fees
- Water Charges
- Other (grants, special projects, etc.)



These need to be stable, sustainable, and “right sized”

So... how did you do?

- Who we are:
 - Watershed based interstate agency
 - Engineers, Scientists, Planners
- What we do:
 - Plan: Watershed based, Comprehensive water resource, Topic Driven, WQ Assessments
 - Policies: Regulations, Standards, Rules of Practice
 - Projects: Supported by DRBC (e.g., Blue Marsh and Beltzville) and supported by others to meet Basin needs.

Cooperation and Collaboration

- How we are aligned with Coalition objectives:
 - ✓ Federal and other funding.
 - ✓ A Delaware Watershed Blueprint.
 - ✓ Clean water and healthy habitat.
 - ✓ Education and awareness.

Steve Tambini, Executive Director

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www.drbc.net

Thank you!



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