



Cole's Mill Dam Public Meeting

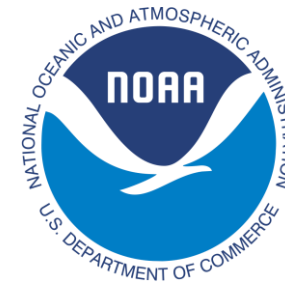
November 29, 2023

Natural Resource Trustees – NJDEP, NOAA, USFWS
Raritan Headwaters Association
Princeton Hydro



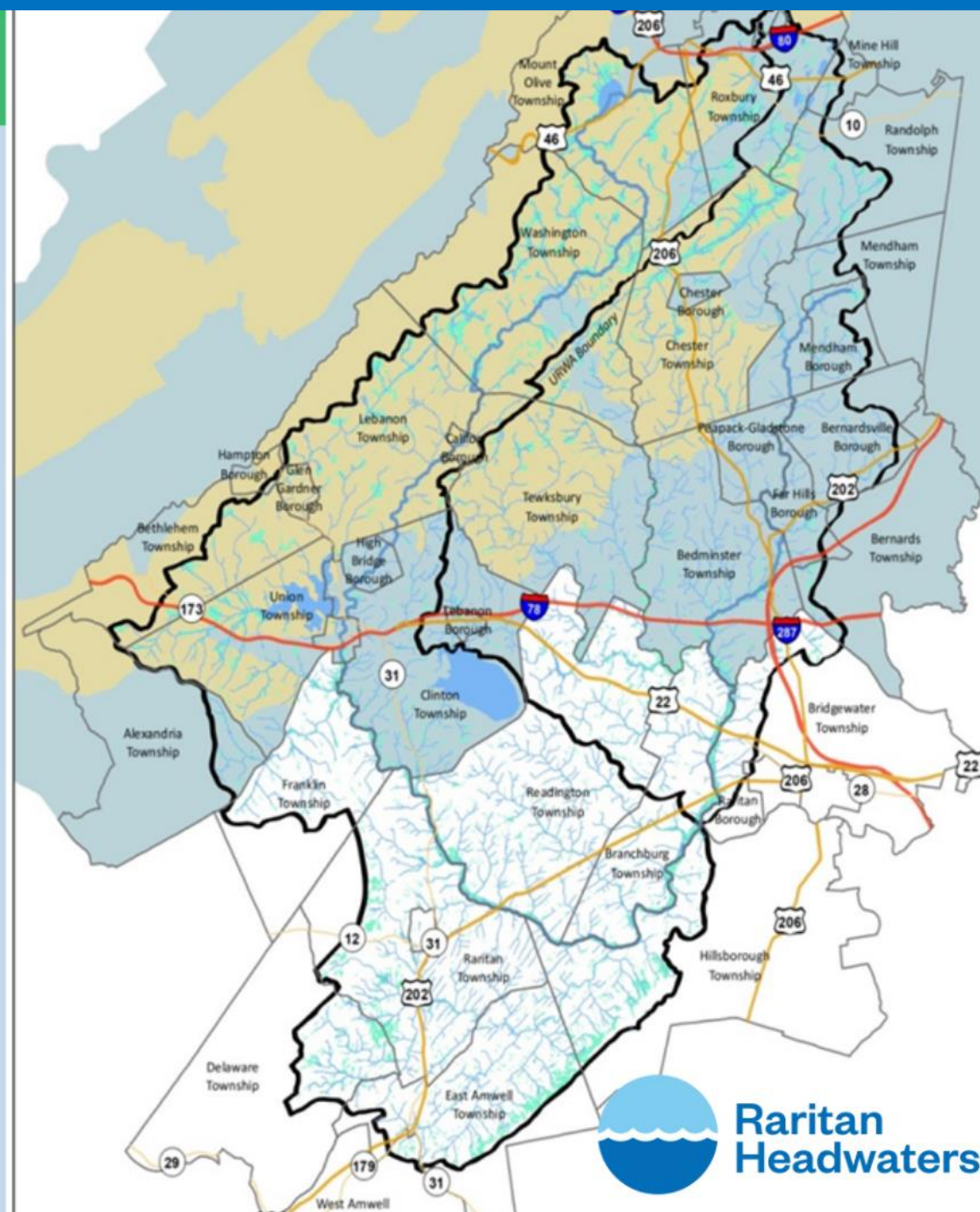
Who are we?

- Raritan Headwaters Association
- Natural Resource Trustees for the Cornell-Dubilier Electronics (CDE) Superfund Site
 - National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
 - New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP)
 - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
- Princeton Hydro



North & South Branch Raritan River Region

- 470 square miles: 43% of the Raritan River Basin
- 3 Counties: Hunterdon, Somerset & Morris - includes 38 municipalities
- Home to nearly 300,000 people
- 34% Urban, 22% Ag, 45% Forest & Wetland
- Over 1,404 miles of rivers and streams provide drinking water to more than 1.5 million citizens living downstream
- Part of the Highlands Water Supply
- Contains 2 of NJ's largest reservoirs, Spruce Run and Round Valley





Raritan Headwaters

To learn more about RHA, visit
www.raritanheadwaters.org



Science

We monitor the health of surface water and groundwater, plants, and animals in the region to identify trends, discover problem areas, and measure the success of our programs.



Education

We craft education programs about water, wildlife conservation, and responsible stewardship practices for children of all ages, teachers, municipalities, home/landowners, and visitors.



Advocacy

As The Watershed Watchdog, we identify key water-related issues at all levels of government. We educate politicians to ensure they understand the environmental ramifications of the decisions before them. We also alert our membership to actions they can take to protect their water and environment.

Preservation & Stewardship

Our cleanup program engages hundreds of volunteers to remove tons of trash every year from our streams. We help preserve land with our partners. We manage our preserved lands using nationally recognized best management practices. Accredited through the Land Trust Alliance 2018.





Legend

Stream Monitoring Sites

- Annual Active Sites
- Restoration Sites
- Incident Site
- Climate Station
- Retired Sites

Microplastic Monitoring Sites



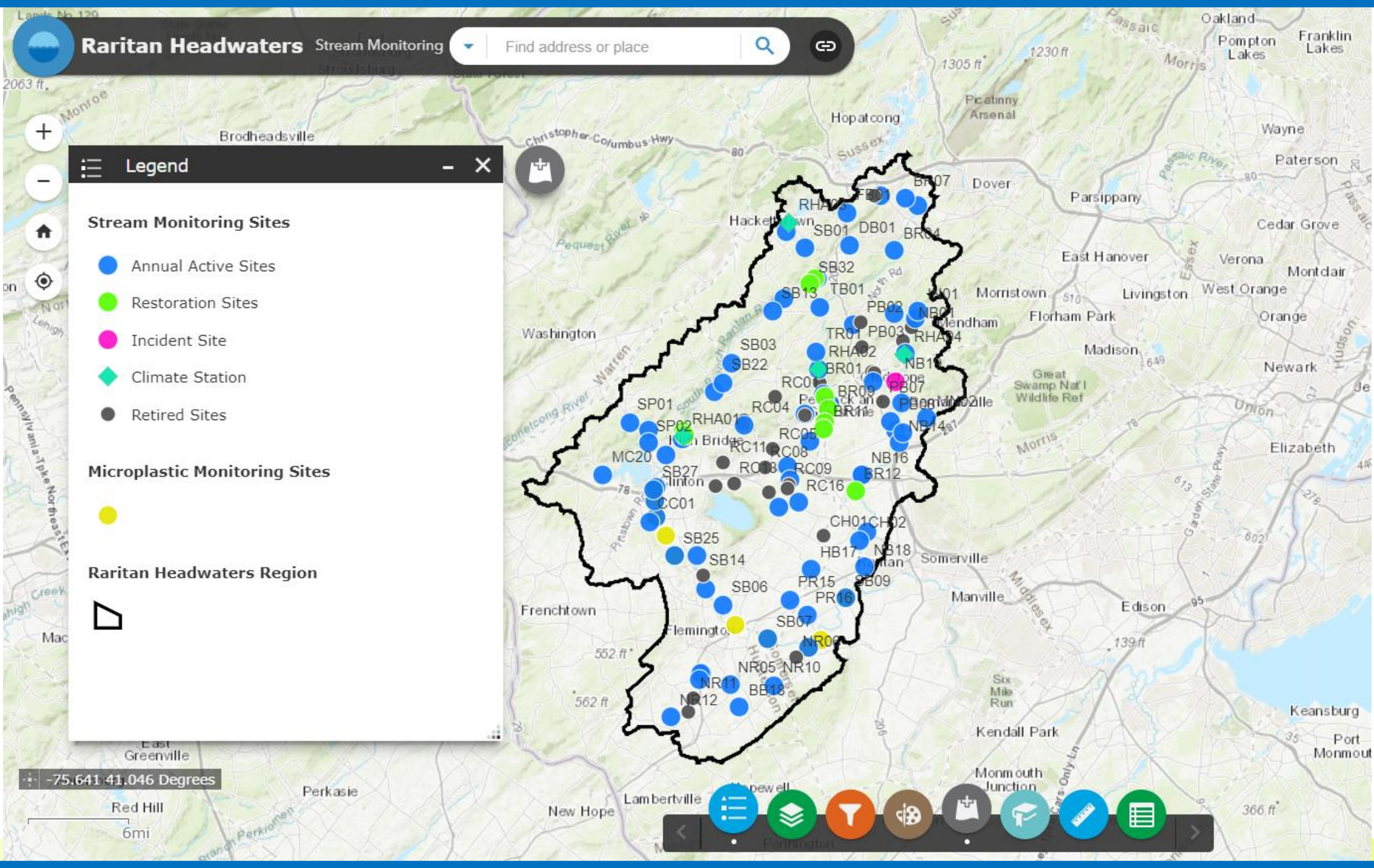
Raritan Headwaters Region



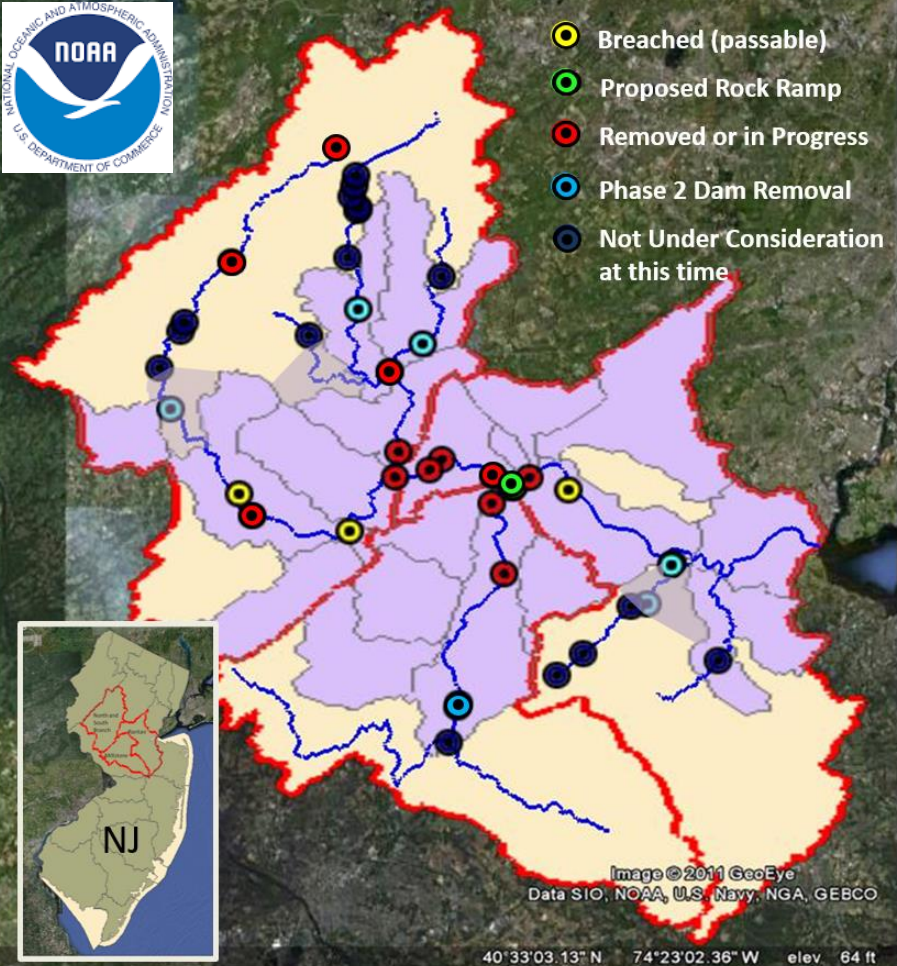
-75.641 41.046 Degrees

Red Hill

6mi



Burnt Mills Dam Removal



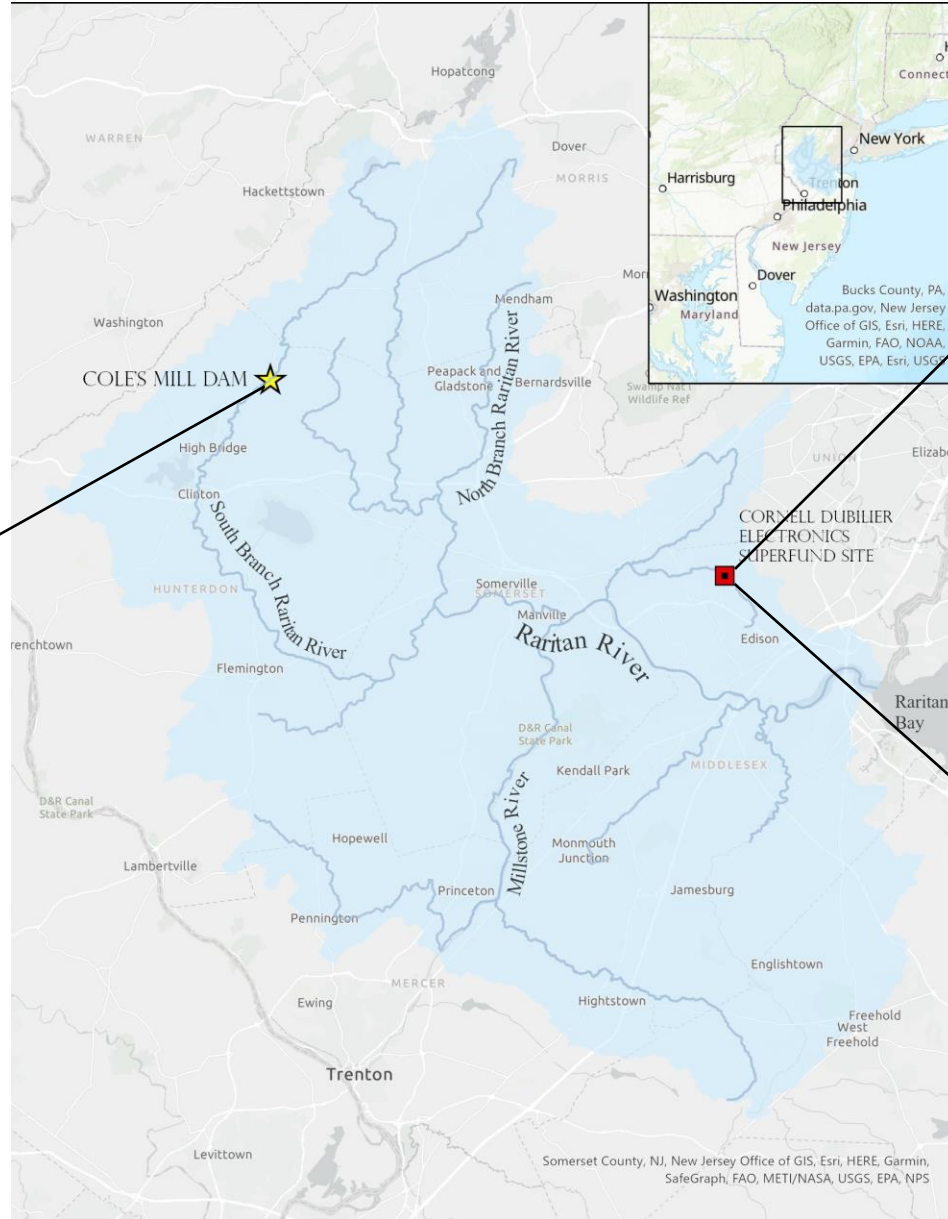
Removed or in progress

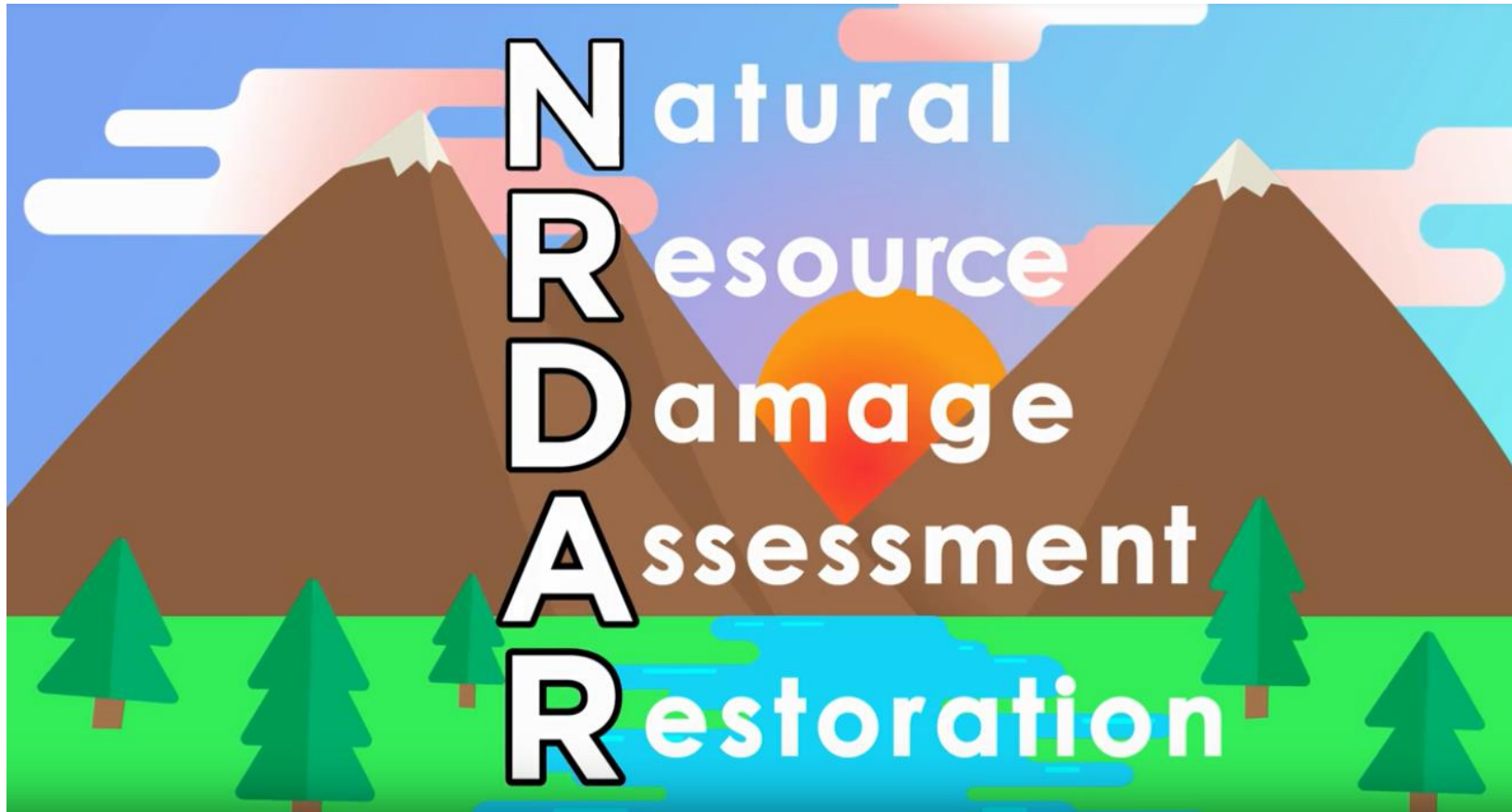
1. Manville Weir REMOVED 2010
2. Calco Dam REMOVED 2011
3. Roberts Street Dam REMOVED 2012
3. Nevius Street Dam REMOVED 2013
4. Weston Mill Dam REMOVED 2017
5. Burnt Mills Dam REMOVED 2018
6. Head Gates IN PROGRESS 2024
7. Coles Mill Dam IN PROGRESS 2024
8. Nunn's Mill Dam IN PROGRESS 2024
9. Rockafellow Mills Dam IN PROGRESS 2025
10. Island Farm Weir Rock Ramp in design 2025

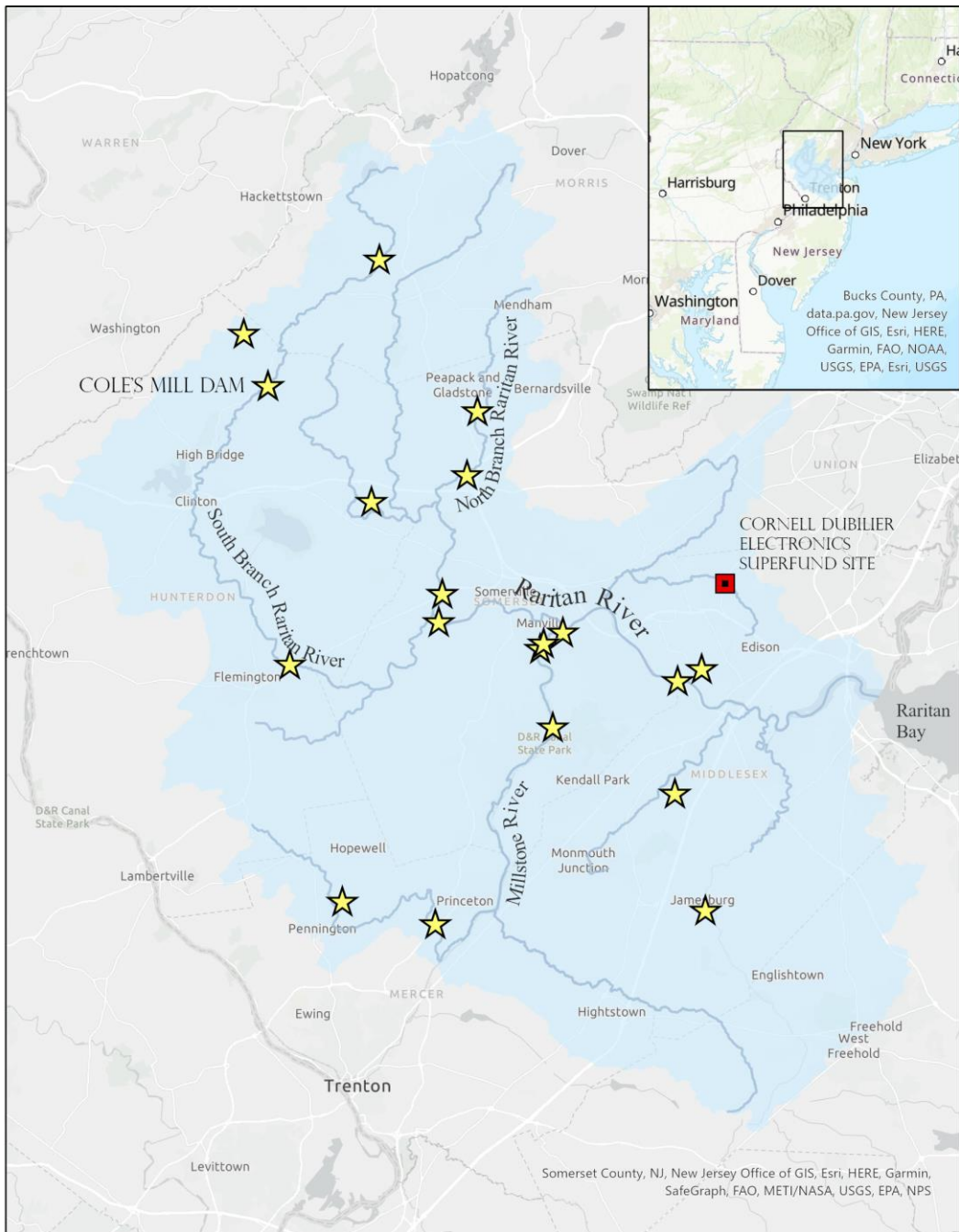
The 1000 square mile Raritan Watershed

Historic Range of Anadromous Species

We Are Connected By Rivers



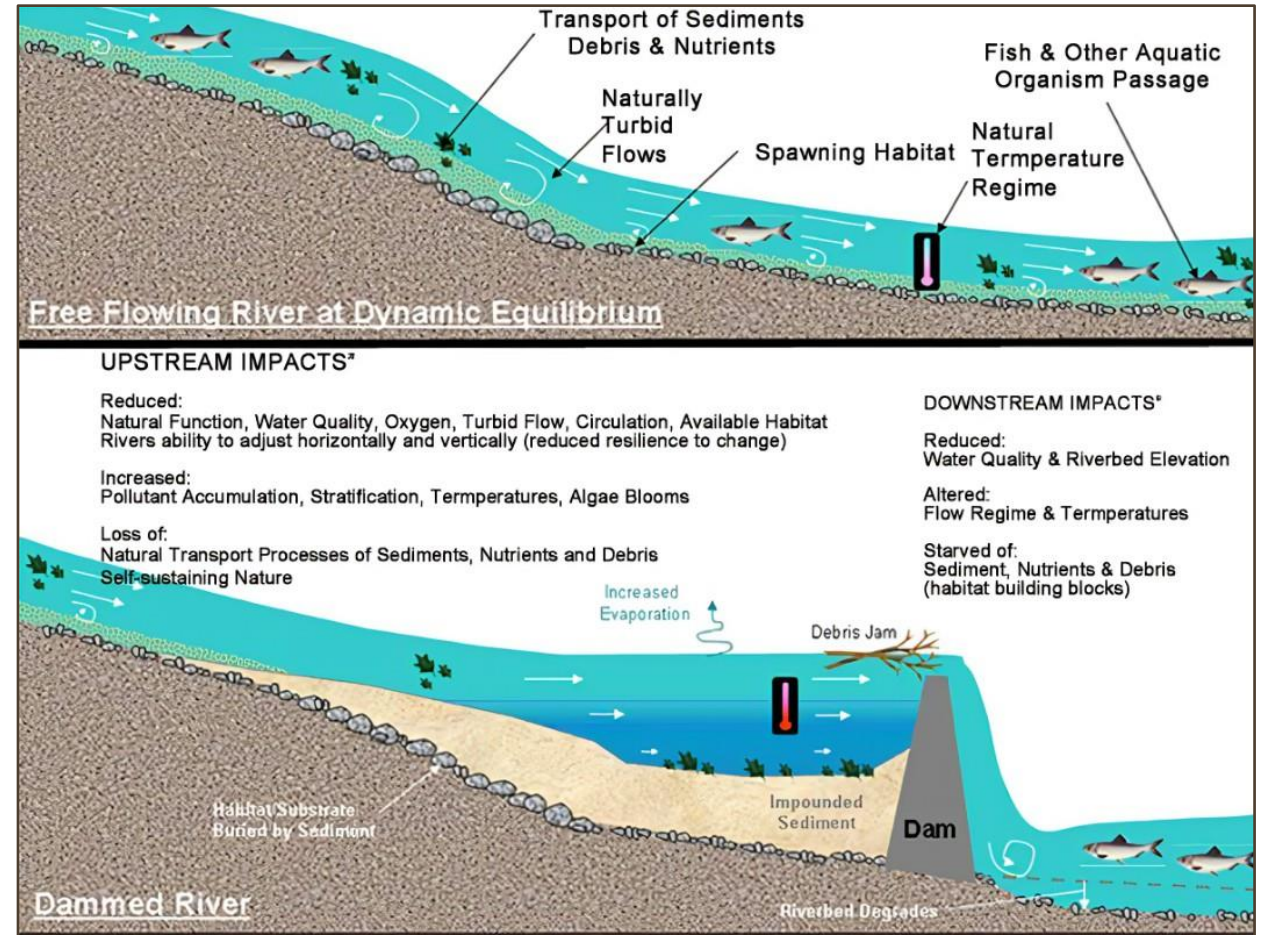




- The CDE Trustees completed a watershed-wide restoration scoping effort
- 150 NGOs, local, state, and federal government organizations were consulted
- Document went out for public comment and was finalized in August 2021
- 20 selected projects [Tier 1 & Tier 2]
 - Cole's Mill Dam Removal is Tier 1 project (highest priority)

Why Dam Removal?

- Many dams in NJ no longer serve their original function and are expensive to fix/repair
- Old dams often become a public safety hazard and liability for dam owner
- Dams are barriers to the movement of fish and other aquatic organisms
- Water quality is often degraded upstream and downstream of dams, creating unsuitable habitat
- Ecological uplift potential is great
 - Restores river and aquatic connectivity
 - Improves floodplain habitat and function





Feasibility Study and Design



Technical Studies

- Desktop Review
- Field Investigations
- Structural Assessment



Design and Engineering

- Feasibility Report
- Conceptual Design Alternatives
- Engineering Plans



Final Steps

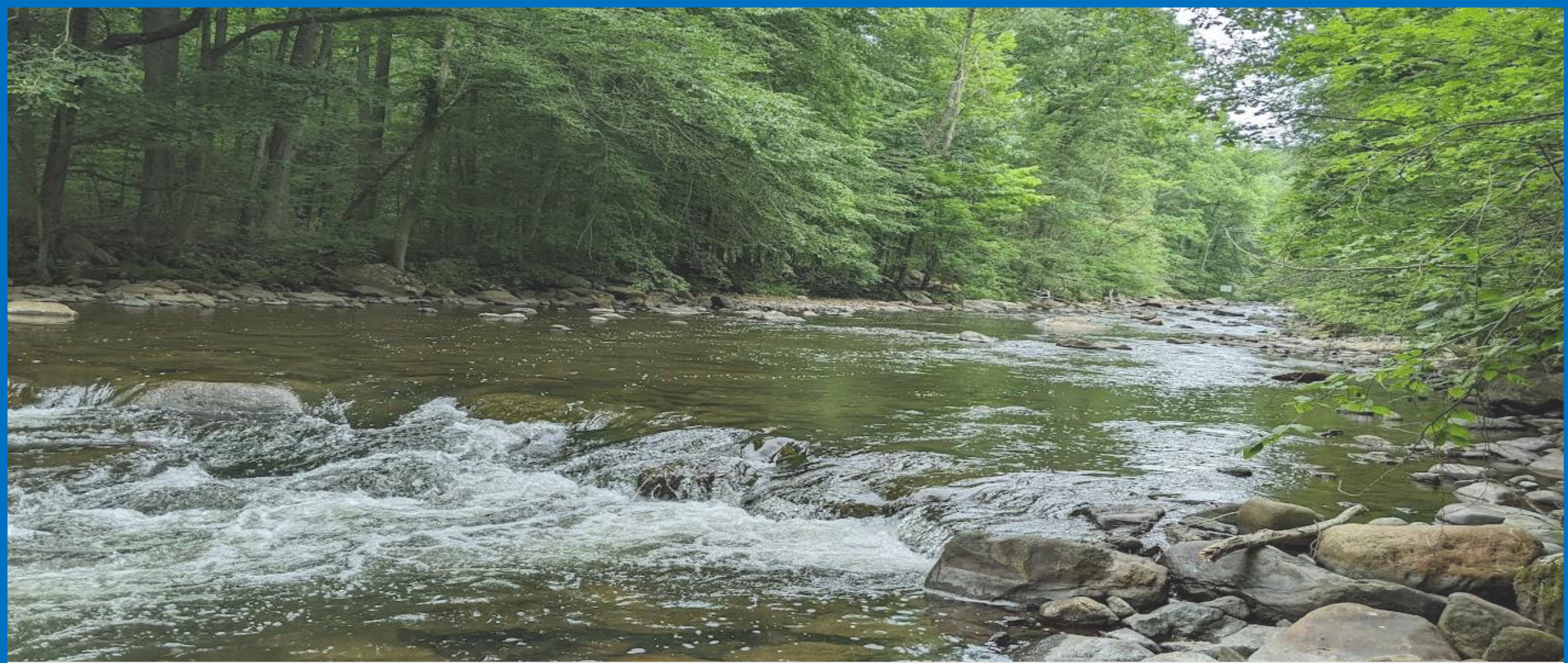
- Local, State, and Federal Approvals
- Final Engineering Plans
- Bid Package

Next Steps...

- **Topographic Survey – December 2024**
- **Field Investigations – February through April 2024**
 - **Wetland Delineation**
 - **Sediment Sampling**
 - **Geomorphic Survey**
 - **Structural Assessment**

Project Schedule





**Raritan
Headwaters**

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