A wide river, likely the Susquehanna River, stretches across the frame under a dramatic sunset sky. The water is calm, reflecting the golden light of the setting sun. In the distance, several small, tree-covered islands are visible in the river. The far banks are lined with dark, silhouetted hills. The overall mood is serene and majestic.

# THE SUSQUEHANNA

## Mother of the Bay

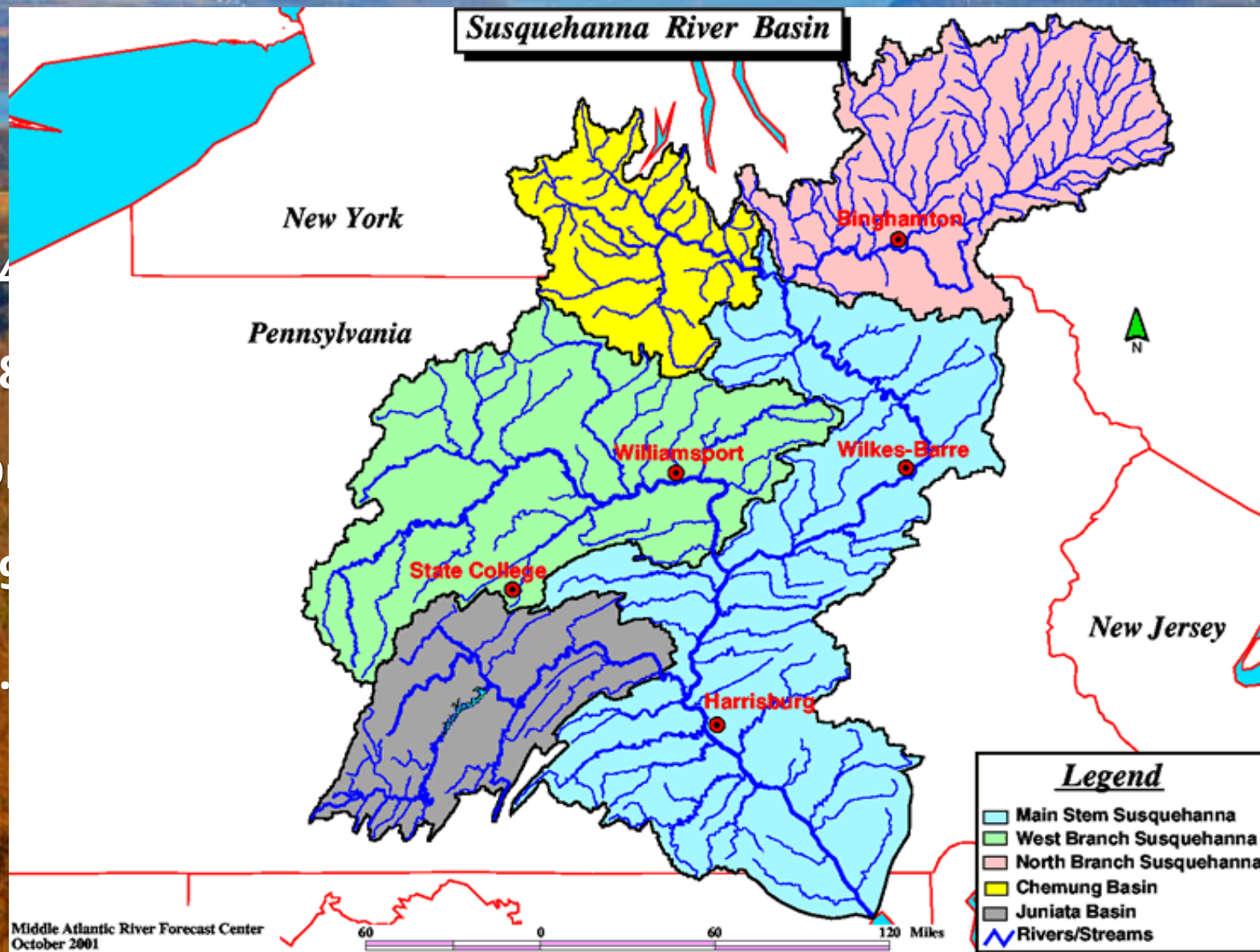
**SUSQUEHANNA HERITAGE**

Connecting People to the River

[www.SusquehannaHeritage.org](http://www.SusquehannaHeritage.org)

# Susquehanna Facts

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# The River is Really Old

List of some of the world's oldest rivers [\[ edit \]](#)

Continent color key					
Africa	Asia	Oceania	Europe	North America	South America
River	Age (Mya)	Outflow	Most significant criterion for the age		
Finke	350–400	Lake Eyre (intermittent)	Predates the <a href="#">Alice Springs Orogeny</a> ; several other smaller rivers in the <a href="#">Northern Territory</a> are of a similar age <sup>[1][2]</sup>		
Meuse	320 to 340	North Sea	<a href="#">Paleozoic</a> , dissects the <a href="#">Ardennes</a> during the <a href="#">Hercynian</a> <sup>[3]</sup>		
New	260 to 325	Kanawha River	Dissects the <a href="#">Appalachian Mountains</a> , formed by the <a href="#">Alleghenian orogeny</a> , 320–340 ma <sup>[4]</sup>		
Susquehanna	260 to 325	Chesapeake Bay	Dissects the <a href="#">Appalachian Mountains</a> , formed by the <a href="#">Alleghenian orogeny</a> , 320–340 ma <sup>[5]</sup>		
French Broad	260 to 325	Tennessee River	Dissects the <a href="#">Appalachian Mountains</a> , formed by the <a href="#">Alleghenian orogeny</a> , 320–340 ma. French Broad and the <a href="#">Susquehanna</a> are the only significant rivers that fully dissect the <a href="#">Appalachian core</a> ; the <a href="#">Hudson River</a> is of more recent geologic origin. <sup>[6]</sup>		
Rhine	240	North Sea	<a href="#">Triassic</a> , possibly older if it dissected mountains uplifted during the <a href="#">Hercynian</a> in addition to the <a href="#">Eocene</a> with the <a href="#">Alps</a> or the <a href="#">Miocene</a> with the <a href="#">Upper Rhine Graben</a>		



# The River Starts Small





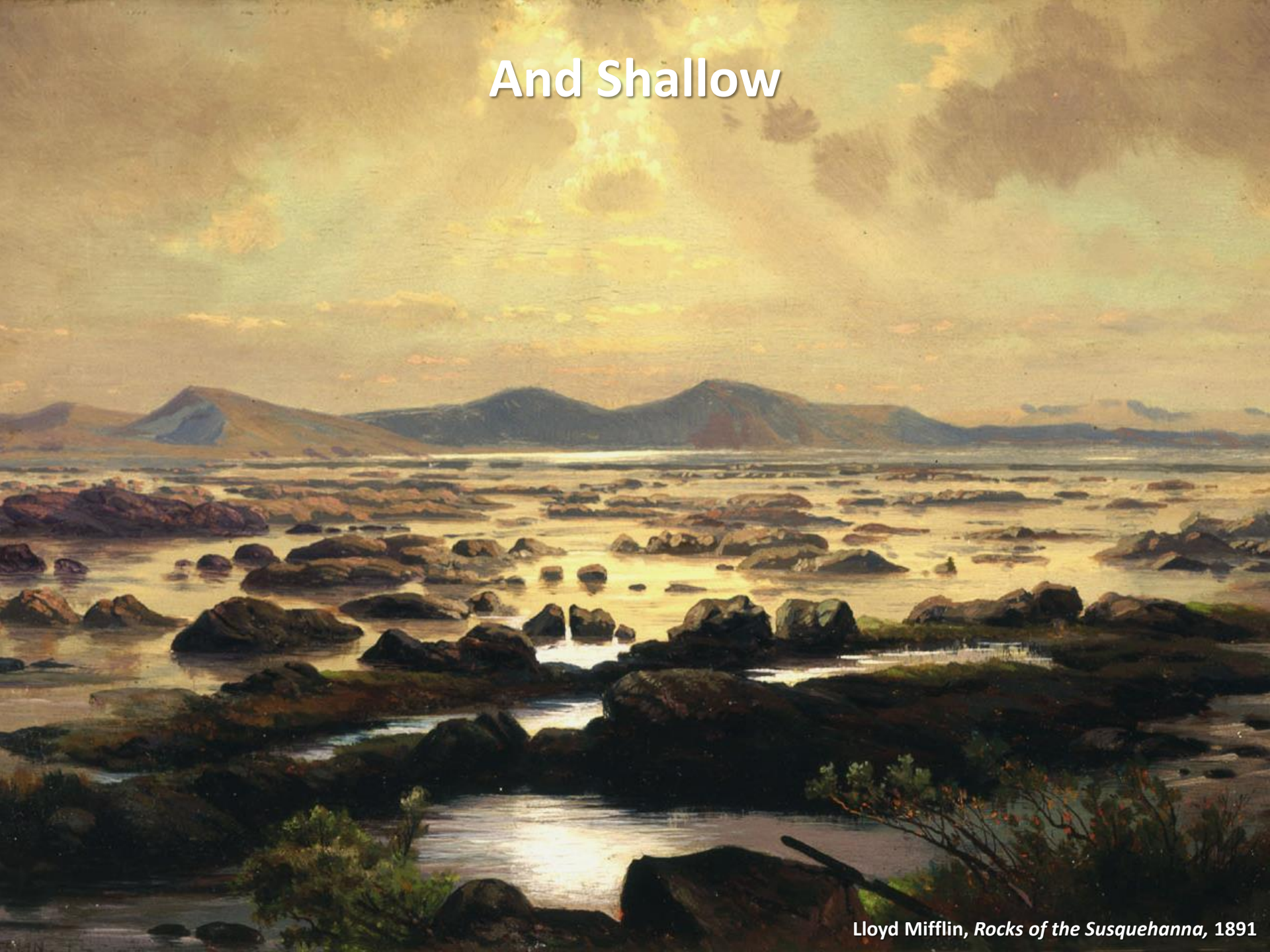
# Gets Really Wide



Fishing at Veterans Memorial Bridge, Wrightsville, PA



# And Shallow



Lloyd Mifflin, *Rocks of the Susquehanna*, 1891



# Except Where It's Narrow & Deep

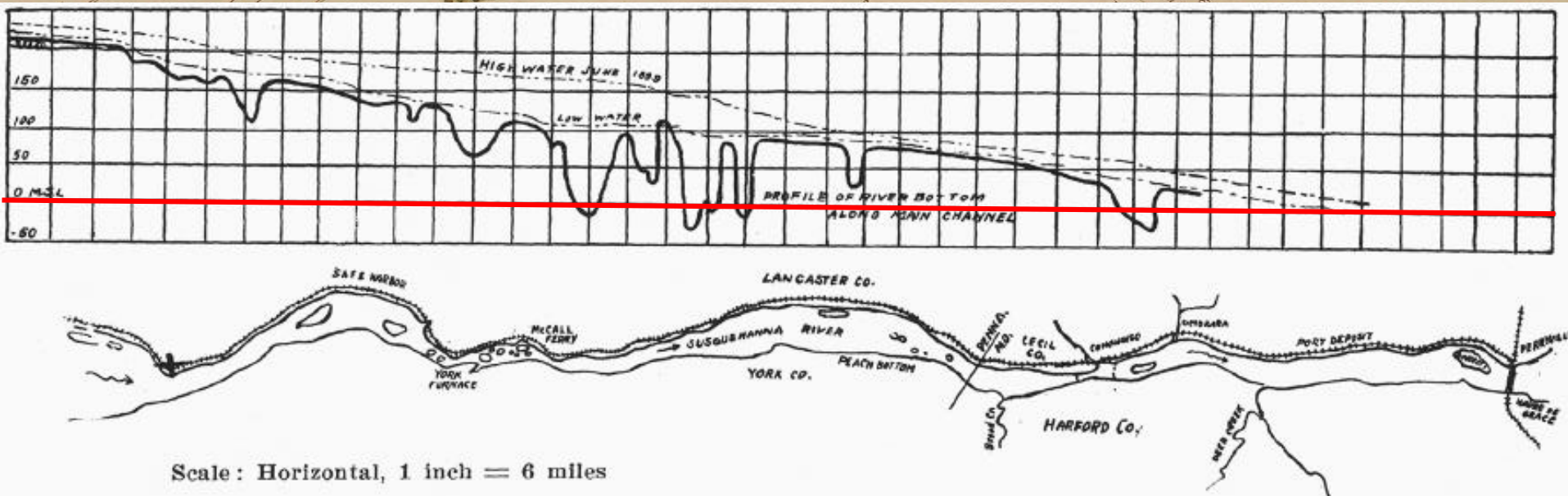
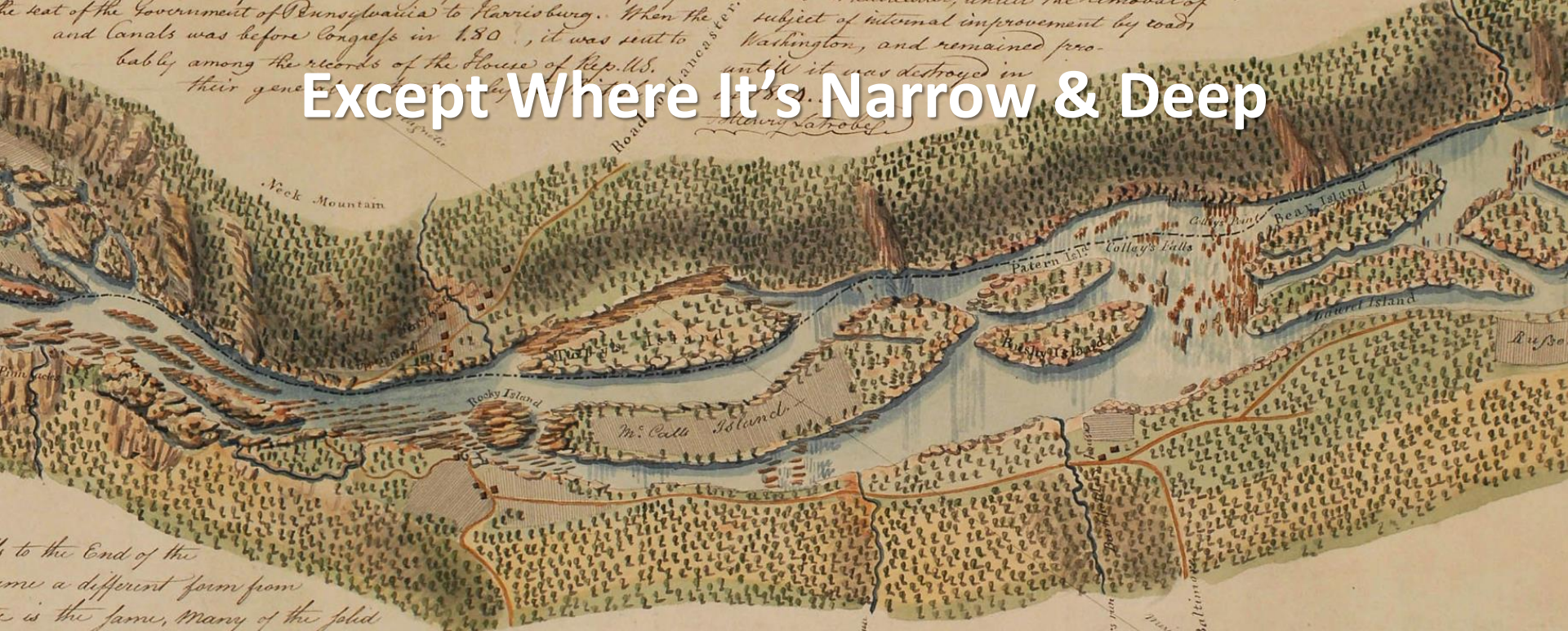


FIGURE 1.—Plan and Profile of Susquehanna River, showing Location of “Deeps”



# The Bay is the River





# The Bay is the River



CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION  
*Saving a National Treasure*

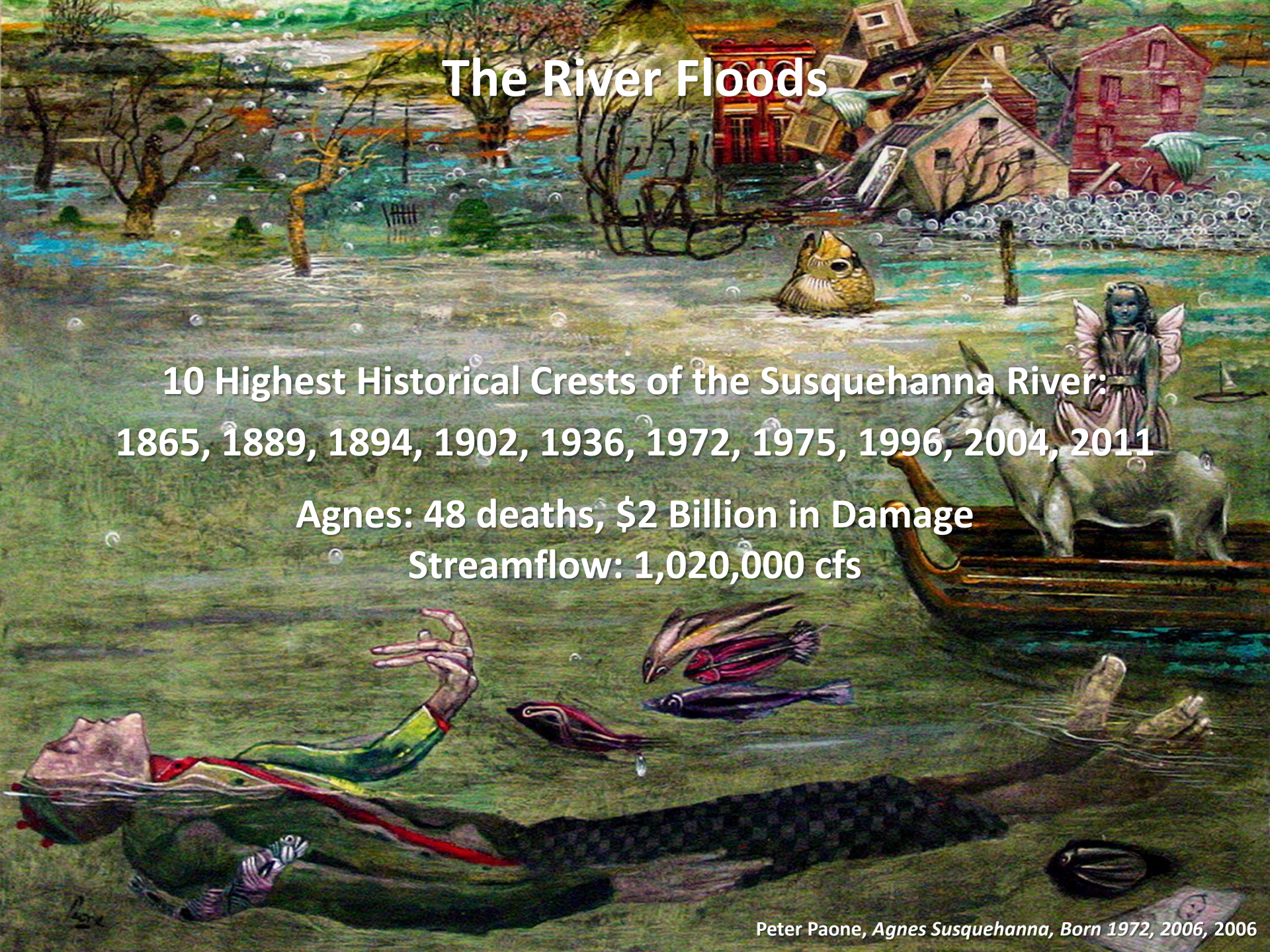
NASA Satellite Image  
September 12, 2011



# The River Floods

10 Highest Historical Crests of the Susquehanna River:  
1865, 1889, 1894, 1902, 1936, 1972, 1975, 1996, 2004, 2011

Agnes: 48 deaths, \$2 Billion in Damage  
Streamflow: 1,020,000 cfs





# Along With Its Tributaries



Mine Run, Accomac, York County, PA, August 31, 2018



# The River Freezes





# And Sometimes it Freezes and Floods





# The River is Historic





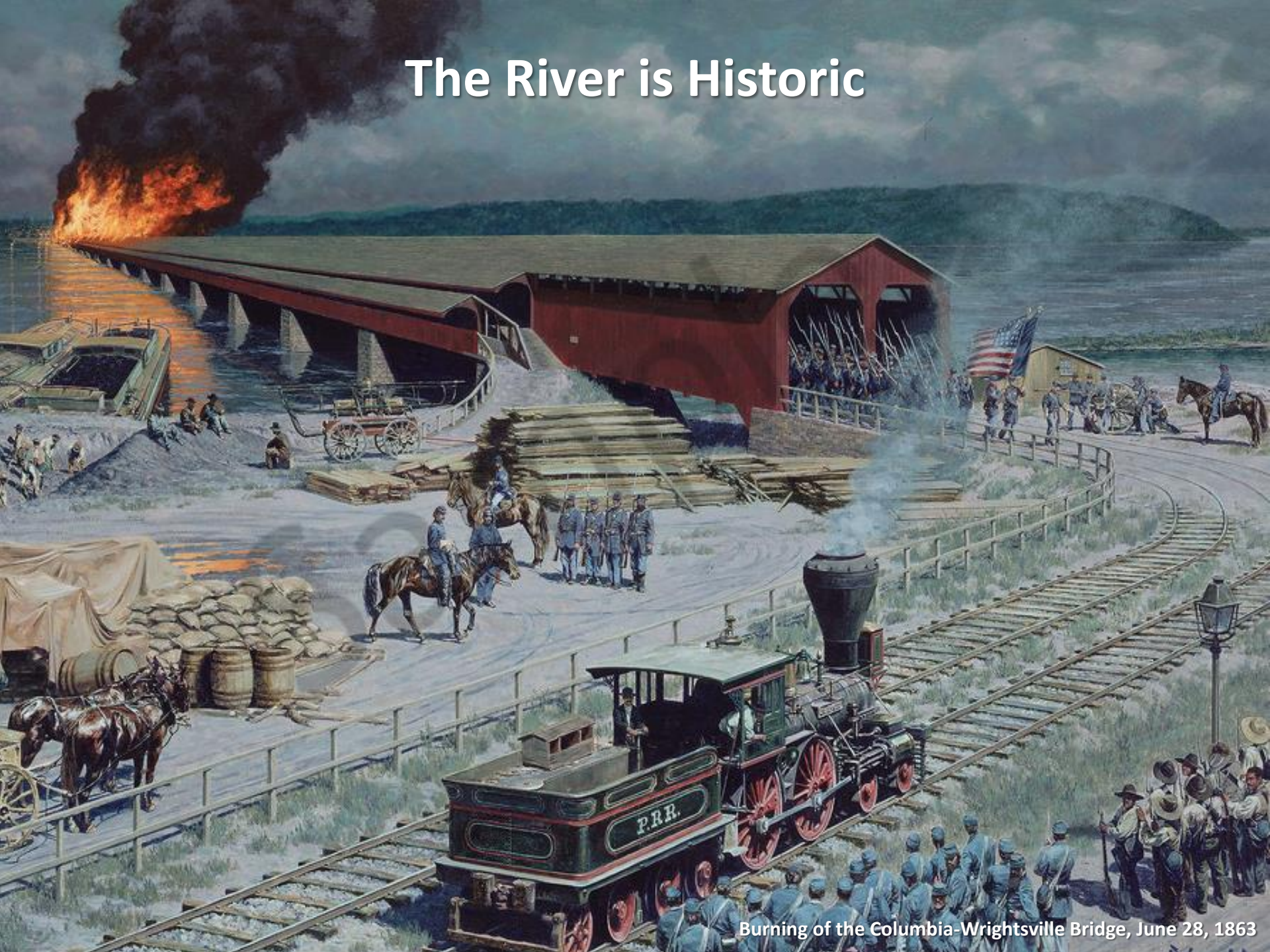
# The River is Historic



Second Continental Congress Escapes Across the Susquehanna, 1777-1778



# The River is Historic



Burning of the Columbia-Wrightsville Bridge, June 28, 1863



# The River is Historic



Three Mile Island Nuclear Accident, March 28, 1979



# The River is Inspirational

*"Let us lie here along the reedy shore  
Where Susquehanna spreads her liquid miles,  
To watch the circles from the dipping oar;  
to see the halycon dip, the eagle soar;  
to drift at dusk around these Indian isles,  
or dream at noon beneath the sycamore "*

*The Collected Sonnets of Lloyd Mifflin, 1907*



# And Sometimes it's Inspirational and Historic



Priesthood Restoration Site, Harmony (Oakland Township), Pennsylvania



# The River is a Place for Recreation





# And for Learning





# The River is Economically Vital



John Wright Restaurant, Wrightsville, PA

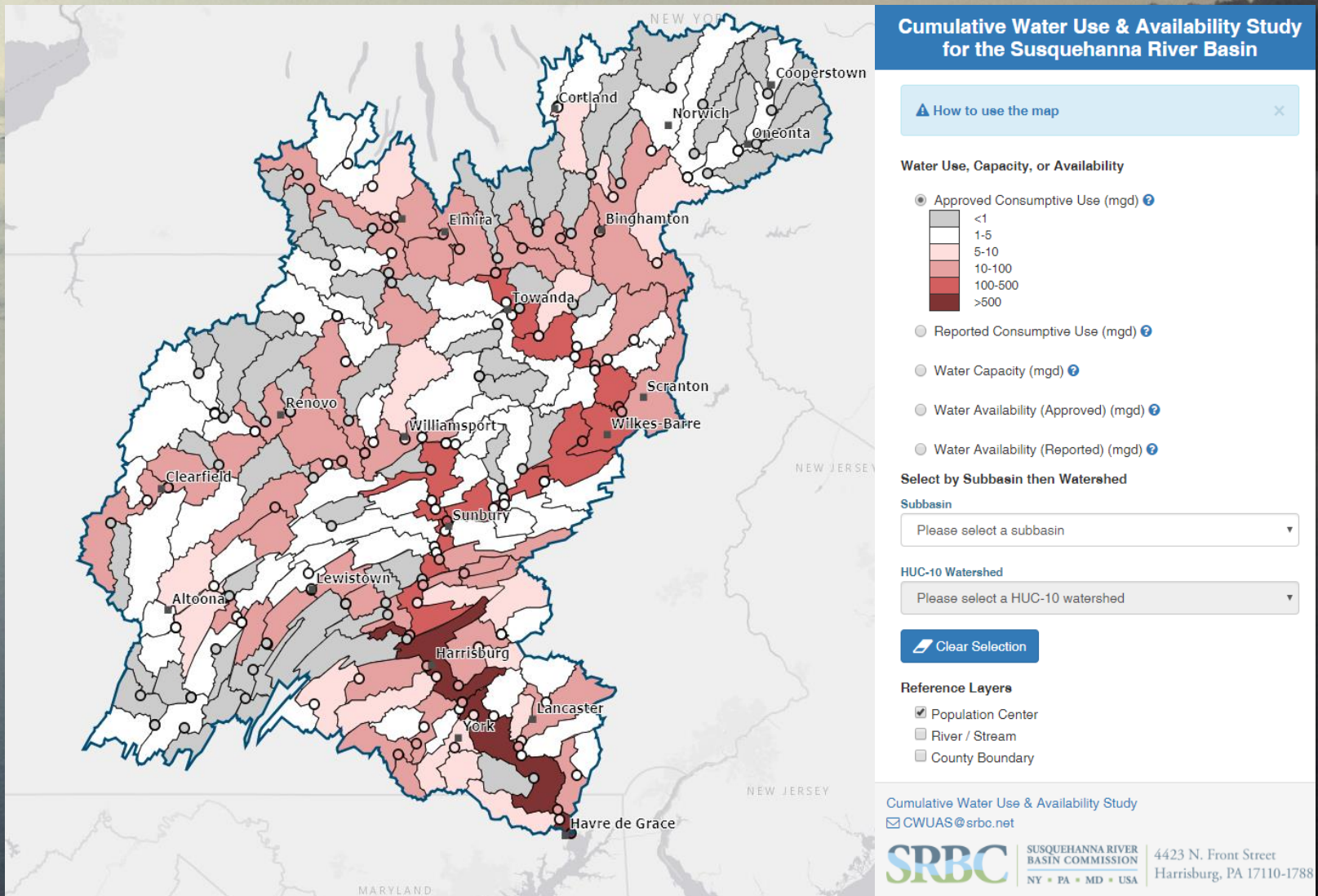


# The River is Economically Vital





# The River is Economically Vital





# The River is Beautiful

*"And when I asked the name...and heard that it was called the Susquehanna, the beauty of the name seemed to be part and parcel of the beauty of the land...That was the name, as no other could be, for that shining river and desirable valley."*

Robert Louis Stevenson, 1879

Jasper Francis Cropsey, *Starrucca Viaduct*, 1865



# The River is Beautiful





# The River is Beautiful





# The River is Beautiful





# The River is Beautiful





# The River is Beautiful





# THE SUSQUEHANNA

## Mother of the Bay



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Jeffrey Reed, *Havre de Grace*, 2006