

Collaboration between Academic Institutions & Nonprofits: A Case Study on the Musconetcong River

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Nancy Roberts-Lawler

- MWA Water Quality Programs-2009
 - Non-ambient monitoring
 - Aquatic connectivity
 - Non point source pollution
 - River Watcher-volunteer program
- Advocate for 20 years
 - Use non-agency data for regulatory use
 - South Branch WA
 - NJDEP-E2/WQDE



Musconetcong Watershed Association

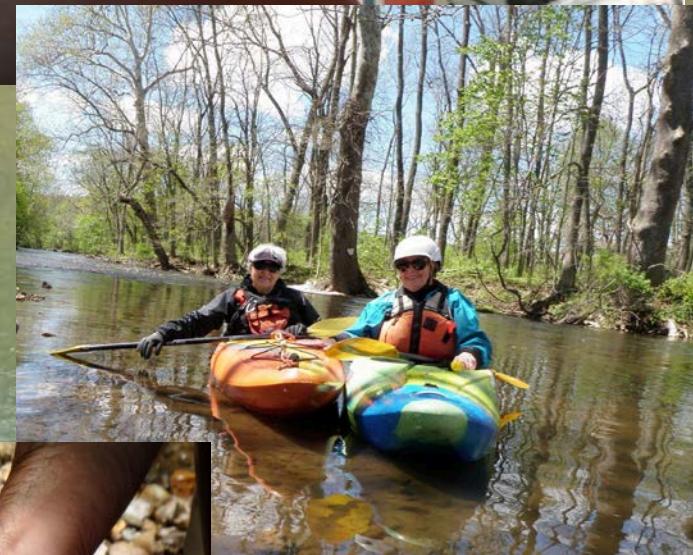
- 501(c)3 Non-profit
- Mission on the Musconetcong
 - Protect & enhance River
 - Natural resources
 - Local cultural resources
 - Build community awareness
 - Foster protection & stewardship
- Philosophy: People
 - Protect natural resources
 - when they understand their value



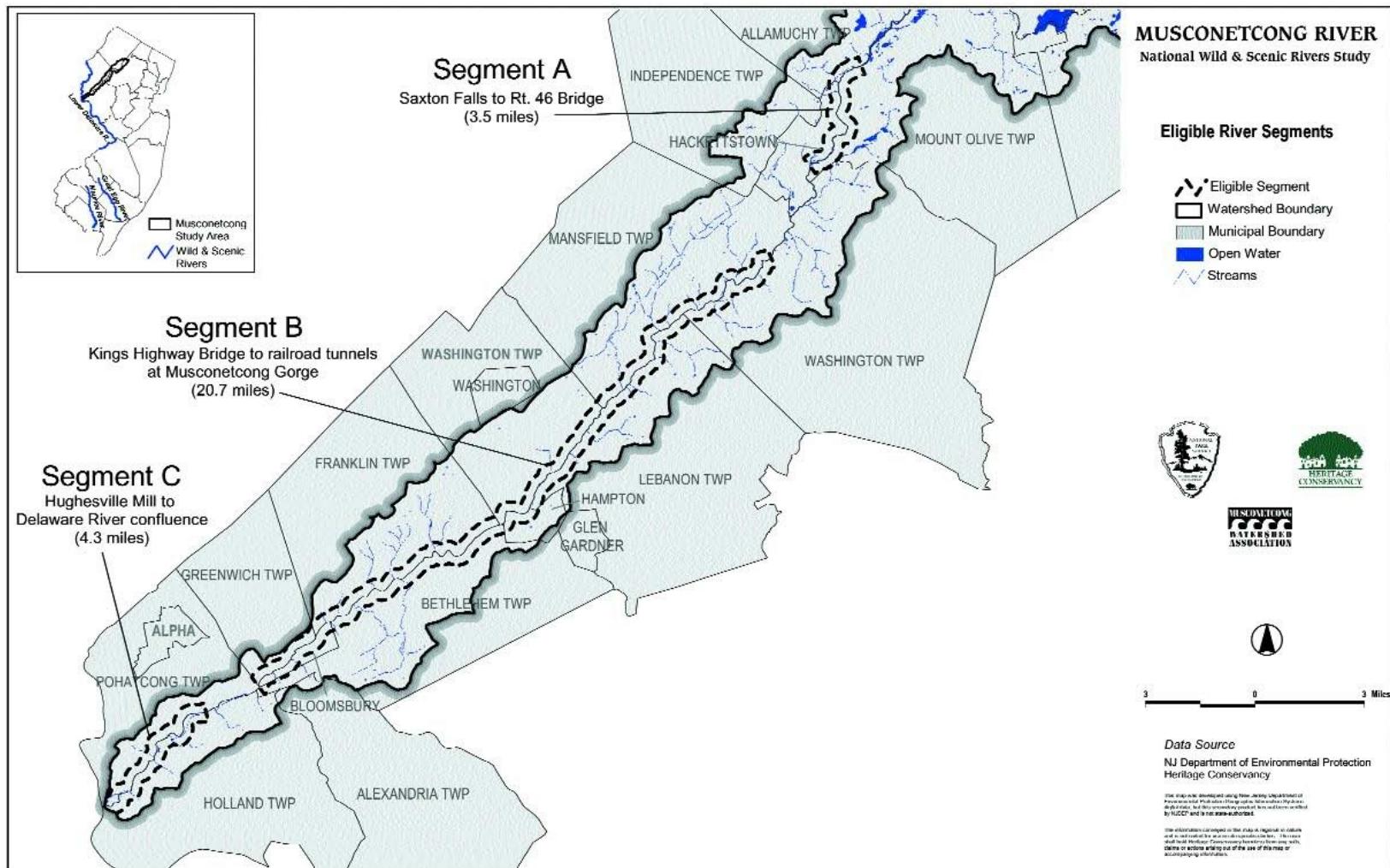
Musconetcong River Watershed

- Outstanding Resource Values
 - Historical
 - Cultural
 - Natural
- Federal Wild & Scenic River
- C-1 protections
 - Fishing and Boating
- Impacts
 - Dams
 - NPSP from Land use
- Targeted for restoration

John Parke



Musconetcong: A National Wild and Scenic River



Musconetcong: High quality, still has problems

- NJDEP identified impairment
 - River segment on 303(d) list
 - High fecal coliforms
- Set restoration plan (TMDL)
 - Requires a 93% reduction
 - Identifies Primary sources
 - agriculture
 - failing septic systems
 - ...and maybe geese



Cows in West Portal Brook with MWA staff

TMDL recommendations

10.2. Segment Specific Recommendations

10.2.1. Watershed Management Area 1

Musconetcong River at Reigelsville (Site ID #01457400) and near Bloomsbury (Site ID #01457000)

Land use in the area is predominantly agriculture, with urban, including some older development on septic systems, and forest. Potential sources of fecal coliform include: livestock; land application of manure; older septic systems in Warren Glen and Finesville area.; geese; and beaver in the river between Finesville and the Delaware River. Strategies: prioritize for EQIP funds to install agricultural BMPs; organize local community based goose management programs; Phase II stormwater program.



LAND USE analysis

Local nonprofits: Stronger together

Combine funding to address Nonpoint Source Pollution



Applies and received
319 (h) funding to work
with landowners and
farmers



NRCS funding that supports
conservation of ground
nesting birds



Bring local knowledge and
connections with local residents,
municipalities supported by NPS

319 (h) Timeline

- North Jersey Resource Conservation & Development
- Collect data-Rutgers 2007-2009
- Musconetcong Watershed Restoration Plan 2010
- Execute plan 2011-2018



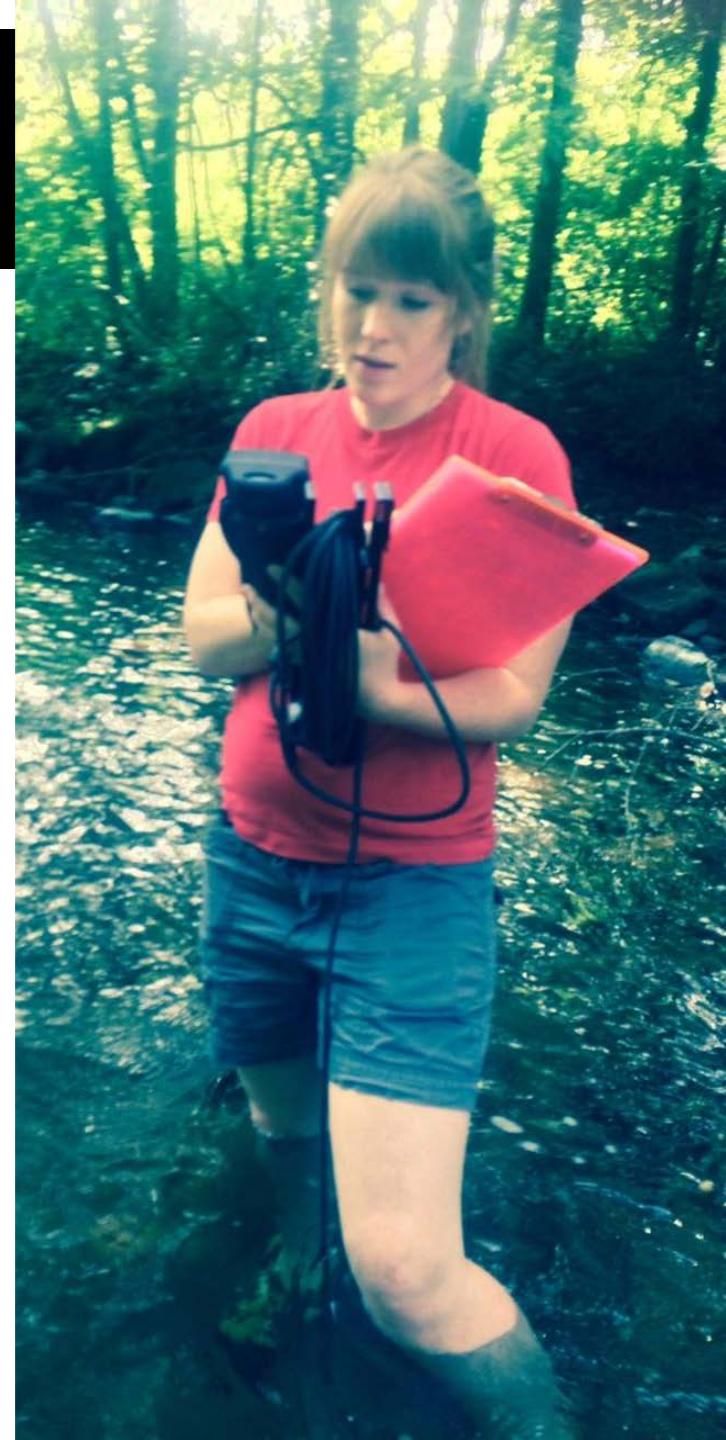
Rutgers Study: 2007-2009

10 Sites

- Nutrients, Environmental indicators
- Bacteria-Some Microbial Source Tracking
- Basic Hydrology

Results

- Elevated water temperature
- Violations of the pH minimum criterion
- Violations of TP criterion
- High % of samples exceeding *E. coli* criteria

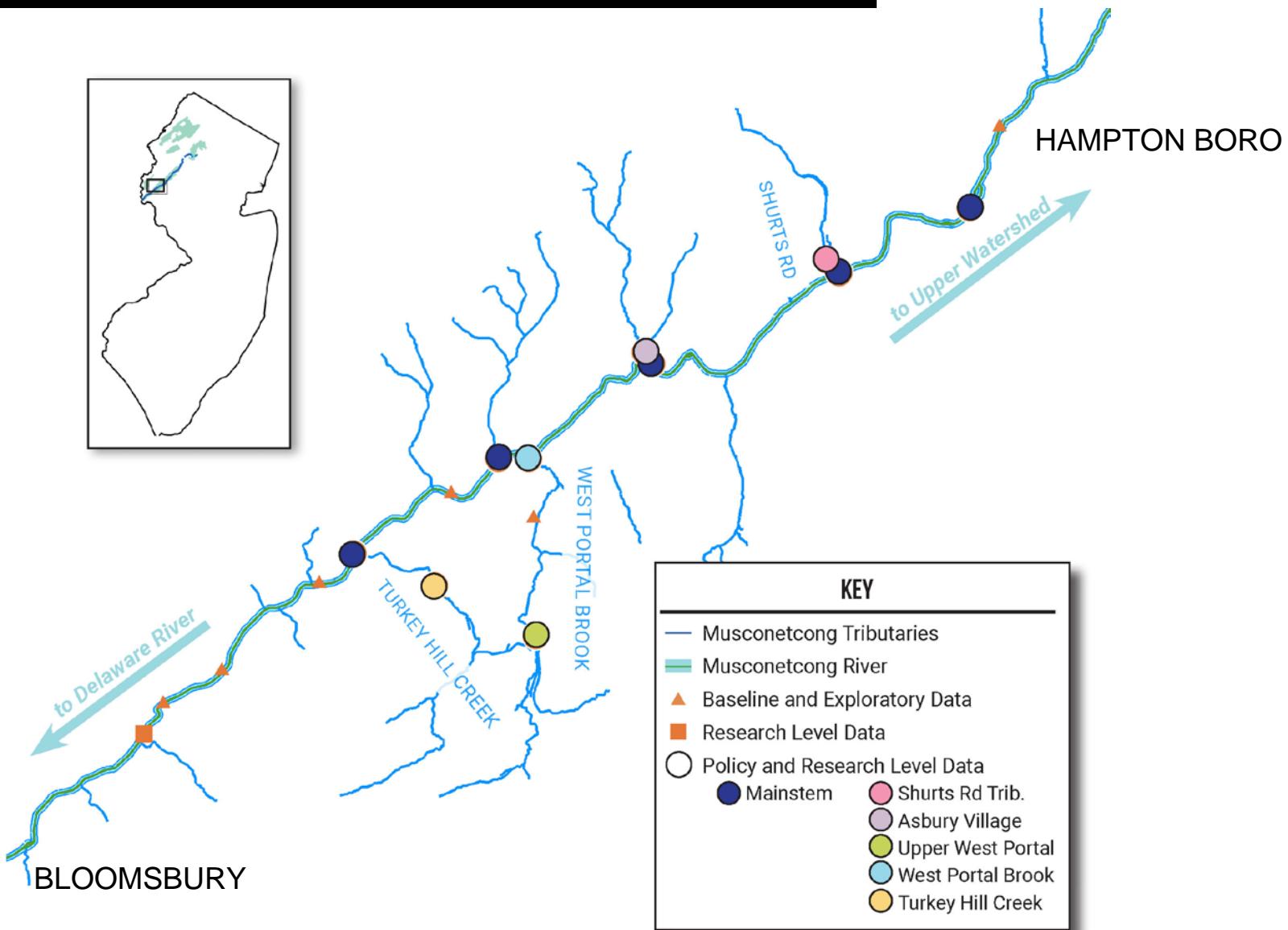


Rutgers 2007 Study



- Concluded River quality was clearly compromised.
- Recommended watershed restoration & management actions

Impaired Area is identified: Hampton to Bloomsbury



Plan to Action 2007-2018

Restoration/Management Projects

Limit sources of fecal contamination

- Limit cow access to stream
 - armored stream crossing
 - Fencing
 - Riparian & Instream restoration
- Beef
 - Convert grain to grass feed
 - Reduce herd
- Cover crop
- Septic pumping incentive program
- 319(h)Work completed 2018



In-stream and Riparian Restoration



Cover crops

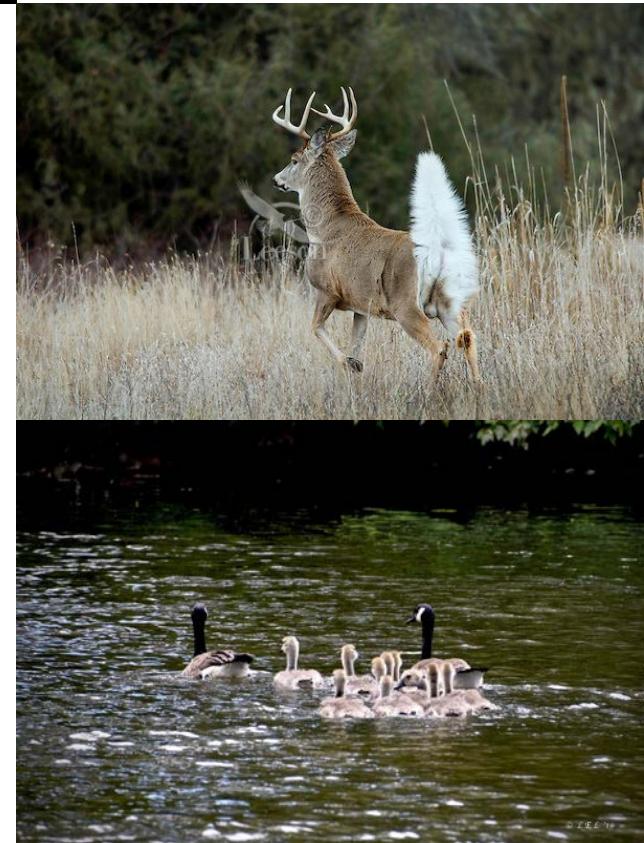


Soil health & Nutrient management assistance



How to track progress in improving water quality?

- Is there a reduction in
 - Fecal bacteria?
 - Erosion?
- Is bacteria from cow/human>wildlife?
- Data will allow us to provide feedback to
 - Landowners, municipalities to encourage continued efforts
 - NJDEP, EPA USDA to support future efforts
- We need a partner with expertise in Microbial Source Tracking





Meiyin Wu, PhD

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Director, Water Analysis Laboratory (NJDEP # 07105)

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Science Advisory Board, NJDEP



Montclair State University

New Jersey Center for

Water Science and Technology

- Water quality and quantity
- Drinking and Recreation Safety
- Seafood consumption safety
- Urban environment
- Biodiversity
- Habitat connectivity
- Pollution transport & control
- Flood risk reduction



Water Quality & Pollution Control

- Water quality assessment
- Plastic free water
- Non-point source pollution & control
- Microbial Source Tracking



Livestock Animals

Domestic Pets

Human
?

Wild Life



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Certified Analysis

- pH
- Turbidity
- Total suspended solids
- Conductivity
- Salinity
- Temperature
- Dissolved Oxygen
- Total Coliform
- *E. coli*
- *Enterococcus*

Other Analysis

- Total Phosphorus
- Orthophosphate
- Total Nitrogen
- Ammonia
- Nitrite
- Nitrate
- Microbial Source Tracking
- Cyanotoxins
- Phytoplankton/cyanobacteria
- Benthic macroinvertebrate

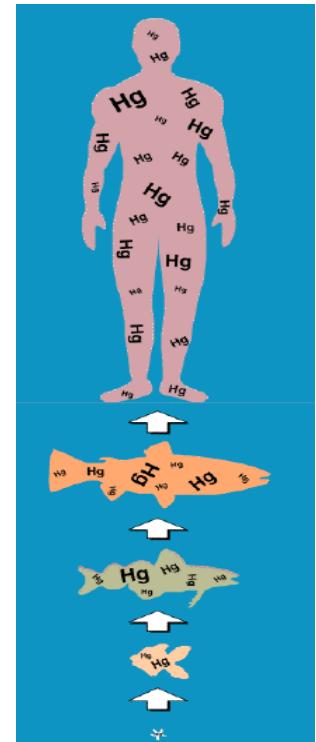
Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs)

- R&D detection & control of HABs & Cyanotoxins
- Identifying environmental variables triggering HABs
- Investigating human health risks related to cyanotoxins exposure
- Preserving biodiversity of freshwater phytoplankton



Seafood Consumption Safety

- Bioaccumulation & biomagnification of contaminants
- Human consumption safety
- Consumption advisory



Biodiversity & Habitat Connectivity

Restore Fragmented Habitats

Remove Habitat Barriers

Preserve Biodiversity

Prevent Flooding



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Environmental Education

- To empower residents
- To promote environmental awareness & stewardships
- K-12 classroom visits/Science Fairs/Club and Community events



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Facilitate Communications

Sponsor conference, workshops & informational meetings



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Environmental Outreach: Provide technical assistance & support for area municipalities, environmental groups & residents.

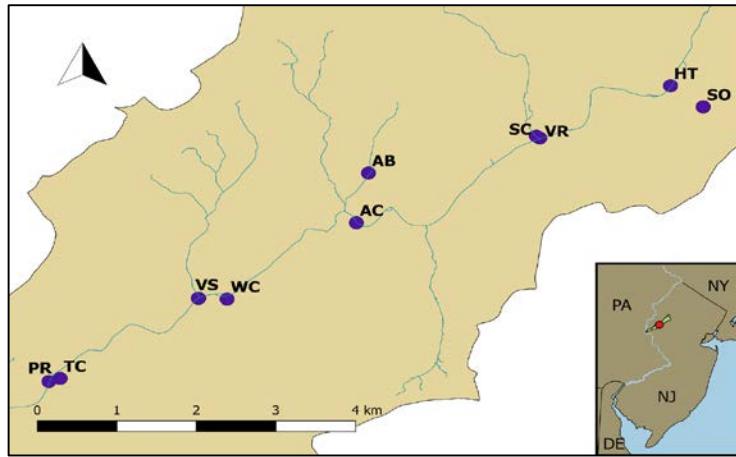


Water quality assessment at
Bonsal Wildlife Preserve



Sediment chemistry assessment at
Lake Hopatcong.

Revisiting the Musconetcong after 10 Years



1. Water Quality & Quantity Monitoring

- Duplicate the 2007 Study & assess water quality and quantity from May to October 2018.
- Understand the trends in water quality and quantity of the Musconetcong River between 2007 and 2018

2. Microbial Source Tracking

- To determine the origins of fecal contamination.
- Examine changes in origins of fecal contaminations between 2007 and 2018.

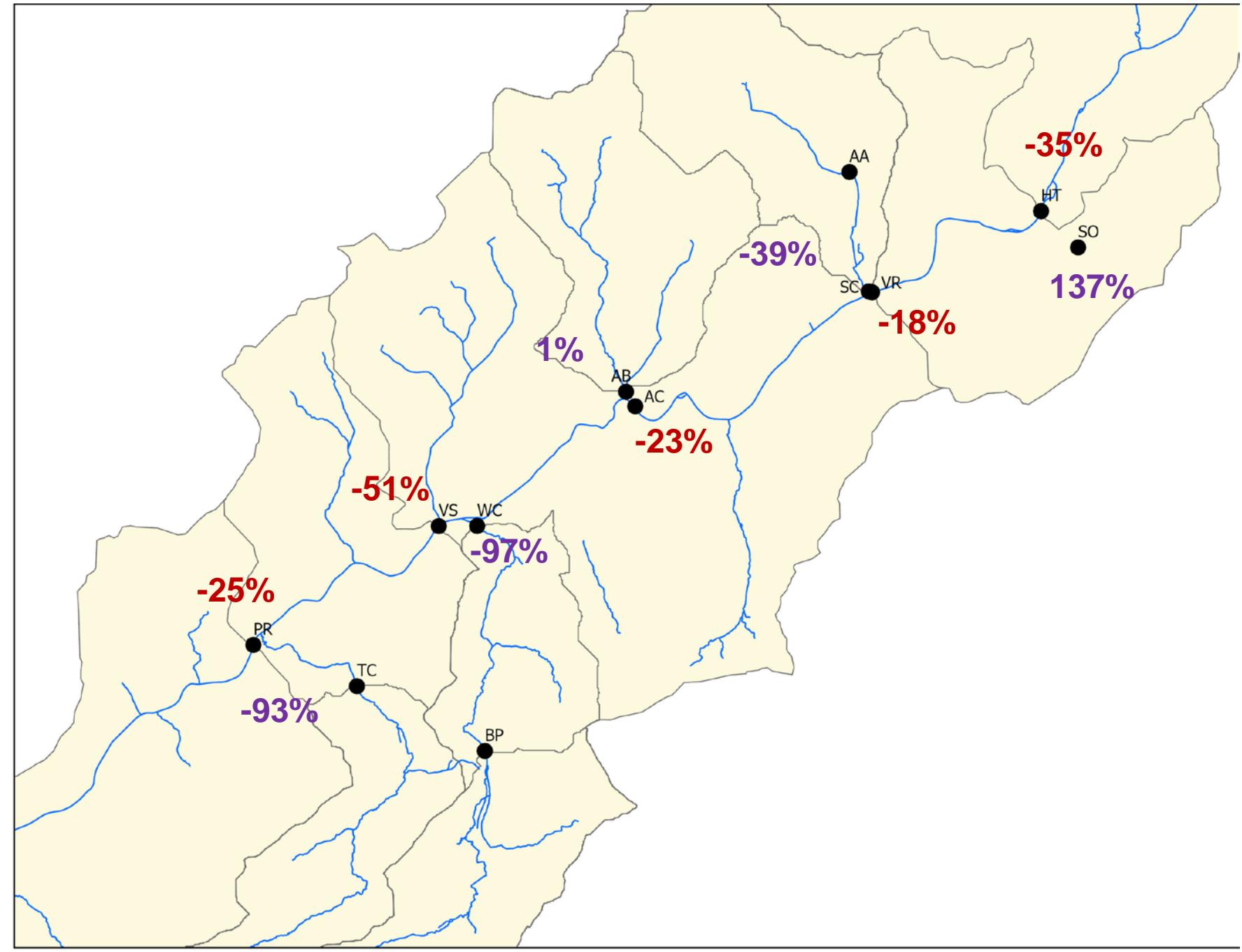


2007 vs. 2018

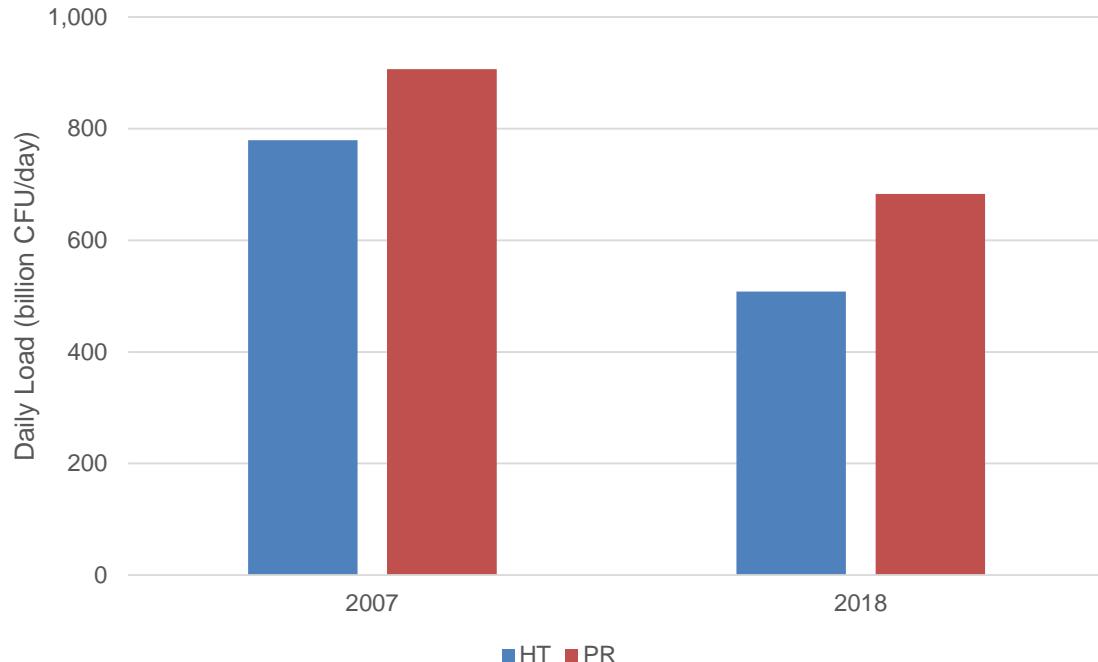
Parameter	Significant (Y/N)	p-value	(+ or -) for the 2018-2007
Discharge	N	0.0762	
pH	Y	<.0001	+
water T	N		
DO	N		
<i>E. coli</i> conc.	Y	<.0001	-
<i>E. coli</i> loads	Y	<.0001	-
TSS conc.	Y	<.0001	+
TSS loads	Y	0.0032	+
TP conc.	Y	<.0001	-
TP loads	N		
NO ₃	Y	0.001	-

2007 to 2018

1. Higher pH
2. Lower *E. coli* counts and loads
3. Higher TSS concentration and loads
4. Lower TP and NO₃ concentrations
5. No significant difference in discharge, water temperature, DO or TP loads.



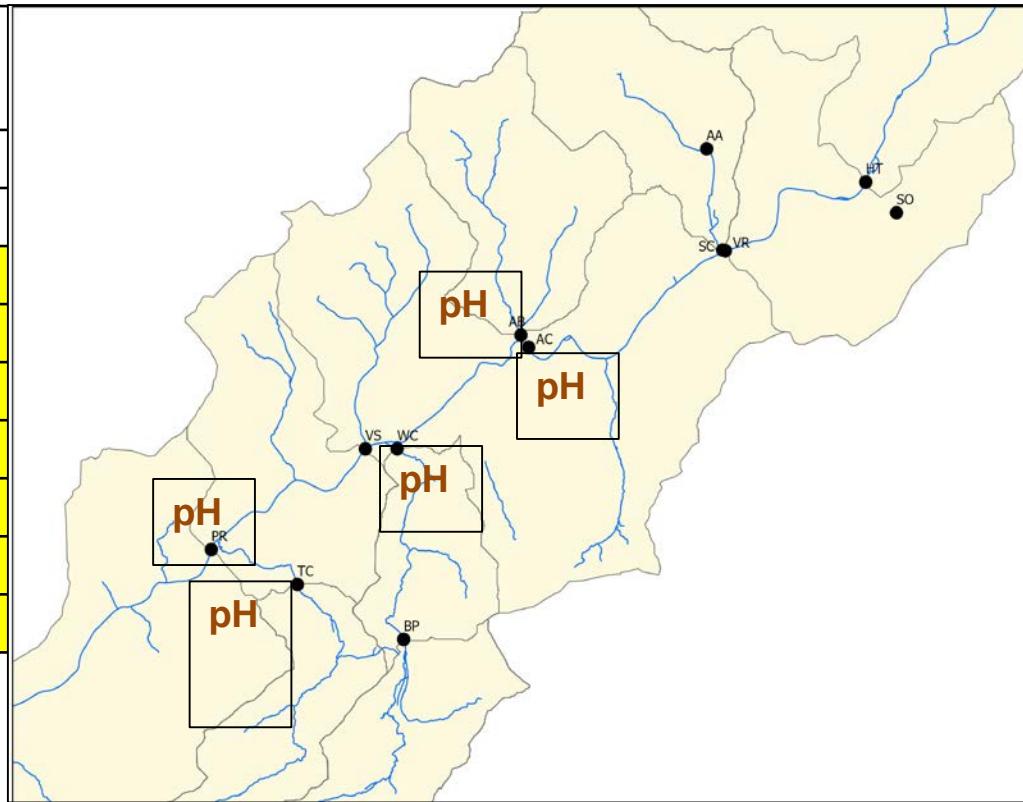
Changes in *E. coli* Loads--Mainstem

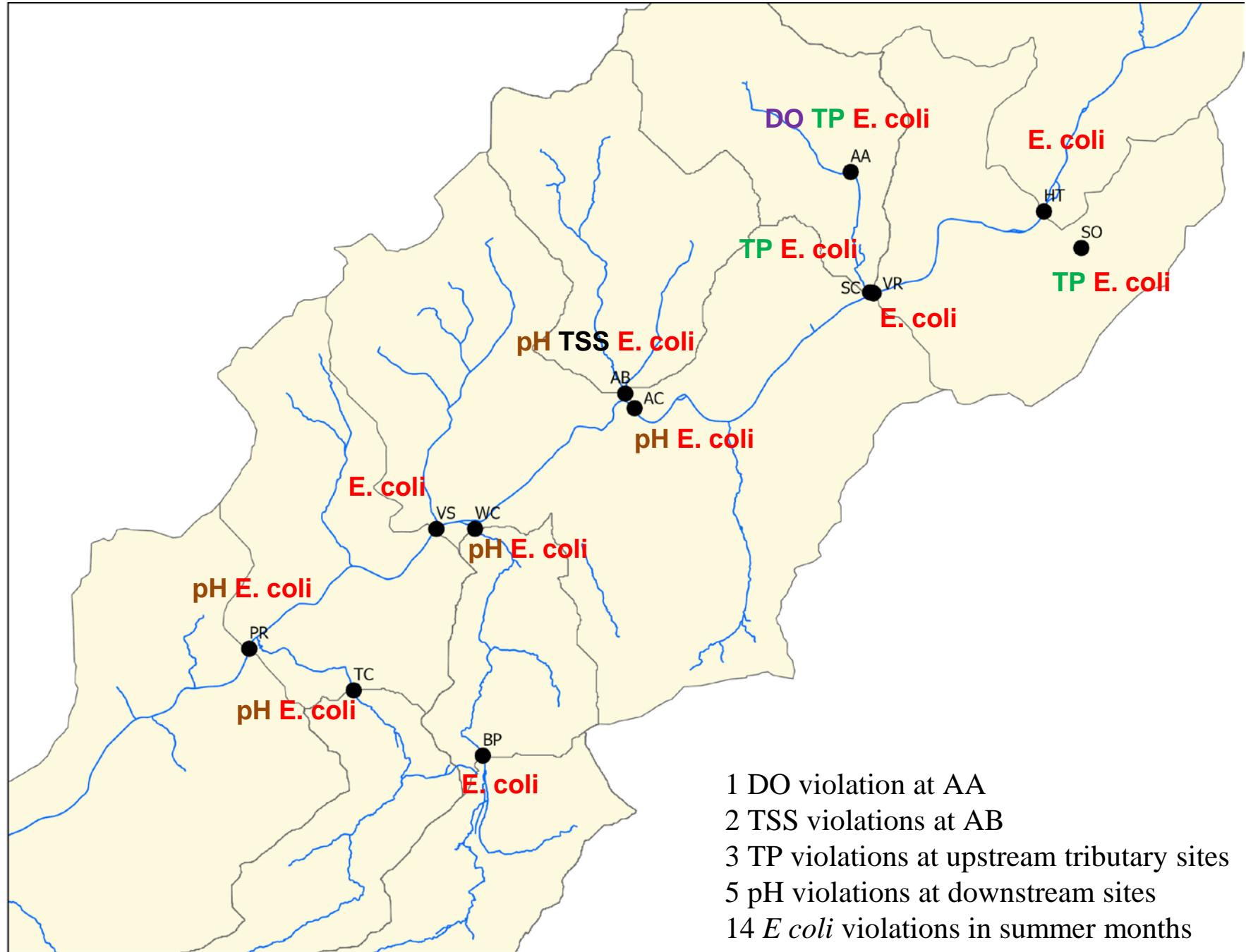


- In 2007, daily load was 779 billion CFU at HT, 906 billion CFU at PR
- Additional 127 billion CFU ; 16% increase in 2007
- In 2018, daily load was 508 billion CFU at HT, 683 billion CFU at PR
- Additional 175 billion CFU; 34% increase in 2018

pH 2007 vs. 2018

Site ID	Significant (Y/N)	<i>p</i> -value	(+ or -) for the 2018-2007
HT	N		
VR	N		
AC	Y	0.0001	+
VS	Y	0.0001	+
PR	Y	<0.0001	+
SC	Y	<0.0001	+
AB	Y	0.0001	+
WC	Y	<0.0001	+
TC	Y	<0.0001	+





Mainstem Sites 2007 vs. 2018

Parameter	HT	VR	AC	VS	PR
Discharge	+	+	+	+	+
pH			+	+	+
water T					
DO	-	-			
<i>E. coli</i> conc.	-	-	-	-	-
<i>E. coli</i> loads					
TSS conc.	+	+	+	+	+
TSS loads	+	+	+	+	+
TP conc.	-	-	-	-	-
TP loads					
NO ₃			-	-	-

PR 2007 to 2018

1. Elevated discharge and TSS, both concentration and loads
2. Lower *E. coli* and nutrient concentrations, but not loads.

2018 MST-Human

Log copy/mL-Sample	HT	SO	VR	SC	AA	AC	AB	VS	WC	BP	TC	PR
5/8/2018	2.872	NA	3.041	1.301	NA	2.267	2.086	2.952	1.663	2.049	<1	2.828
5/22/2018	2.743	NA	2.818	2.513	NA	2.796	2.765	2.646	2.879	2.371	3.006	2.747
6/5/2018	2.999	NA	3.092	1.114	NA	2.854	2.576	3.066	1.556	<1	1.342	2.884
6/19/2018	3.161	NA	3.169	1.146	NA	3.099	2.207	2.778	3.465	2.301	3.009	2.890
7/3/2018	3.111	NA	3.683	2.534	NA	3.322	2.534	3.012	3.552	2.188	3.044	3.217
7/24/2018	2.611	NA	2.680	2.215	NA	2.676	2.616	2.825	2.600	2.243	3.237	2.754
8/14/2018	2.529	NA	2.663	1.886	NA	3.086	2.648	2.942	2.318	1.996	3.080	2.896
8/28/2018	3.017	NA	3.002	2.061	NA	2.524	2.441	3.040	4.304	1.940	3.393	2.498
9/4/2018	3.052	NA	2.688	2.152	NA	2.473	3.041	2.837	3.267	1.204	1.544	2.696
9/18/2018	3.104	3.716	3.351	5.072	5.281	3.597	3.080	3.570	3.415	2.916	3.563	3.553
10/2/2018	2.822	2.755	2.822	1.491	NA	2.605	2.258	2.696	2.369	1.991	2.316	2.505
10/16/2018	2.516	2.093	2.565	1.672	NA	2.877	2.017	2.609	2.297	1.833	1.431	2.739

	Criteria
NA	Not sampled
ND	Log Copy Number less than 1
Very LOW	Log Copy Number in between 1 and 2
LOW	Log Copy Number in between 2 and 3
HIGH	Log Copy Number in between 3 and 4
Very HIGH	Log Copy Number greater than 4

2018 MST-Horse

Log copy/mL-Sample	HT	SO	VR	SC	AA	AC	AB	VS	WC	BP	TC	PR
5/8/2018	<1	NA	1.114	1.380	NA	1.398	1.204	1.000	1.322	1.431	1.398	1.079
5/22/2018	1.041	NA	1.000	1.000	NA	1.176	1.204	1.301	1.079	1.230	<1	1.230
6/5/2018	1.146	NA	1.362	1.255	NA	1.415	1.613	1.114	1.230	1.505	1.322	1.204
6/19/2018	1.146	NA	1.230	1.079	NA	1.301	1.724	1.000	1.079	<1	1.398	1.176
7/3/2018	<1	NA	<1	1.146	NA	1.114	<1	1.079	1.041	<1	1.000	<1
7/24/2018	<1	NA	<1	1.204	NA	<1	1.041	<1	1.000	<1	<1	<1
8/14/2018	1.079	NA	<1	<1	NA	1.114	1.114	<1	1.176	1.114	1.079	1.230
8/28/2018	<1	NA	1.146	<1	NA	1.204	1.146	<1	1.279	1.146	<1	1.000
9/4/2018	1.176	NA	1.301	<1	NA	1.398	1.447	1.591	1.255	1.663	1.580	1.362
9/18/2018	1.079	1.431	1.556	1.447	1.255	1.491	1.230	1.255	1.079	1.447	1.380	1.477
10/2/2018	1.380	1.415	1.380	1.362	NA	1.447	1.519	1.415	1.491	1.491	1.415	1.519
10/16/2018	1.415	1.362	1.398	1.580	NA	1.041	1.653	1.568	1.415	1.732	1.462	1.380

Criteria	
NA	Not sampled
ND	Log Copy Number less than 1
Very LOW	Log Copy Number in between 1 and 2
LOW	Log Copy Number in between 2 and 3
HIGH	Log Copy Number in between 3 and 4
Very HIGH	Log Copy Number greater than 4

2018 MST-Cow

Log copy/mL-Sample	HT	SO	VR	SC	AA	AC	AB	VS	WC	BP	TC	PR
5/8/2018	<1	NA	<1	<1	NA	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1
5/22/2018	<1	NA	<1	<1	NA	<1	<1	<1	2.013	<1	2.033	<1
6/5/2018	<1	NA	<1	<1	NA	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1
6/19/2018	1.041	NA	1.041	<1	NA	<1	<1	<1	2.624	<1	2.053	<1
7/3/2018	1.079	NA	1.398	<1	NA	<1	<1	1.633	2.865	<1	1.857	<1
7/24/2018	<1	NA	<1	1.342	NA	<1	<1	<1	1.591	<1	2.493	<1
8/14/2018	<1	NA	<1	<1	NA	<1	<1	1.342	1.000	<1	2.332	<1
8/28/2018	<1	NA	<1	<1	NA	<1	<1	2.104	3.706	<1	2.859	<1
9/4/2018	<1	NA	<1	<1	NA	<1	<1	<1	2.292	<1	<1	<1
9/18/2018	1.146	<1	1.519	3.415	3.075	2.420	<1	2.243	2.217	<1	2.480	2.371
10/2/2018	<1	<1	<1	<1	NA	<1	<1	<1	1.079	<1	1.613	<1
10/16/2018	<1	<1	<1	<1	NA	<1	<1	<1	1.505	<1	<1	<1

Criteria	
NA	Not sampled
ND	Log Copy Number less than 1
Very LOW	Log Copy Number in between 1 and 2
LOW	Log Copy Number in between 2 and 3
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Very HIGH	Log Copy Number greater than 4

2018 MST-Geese

Log copy/mL-Sample	HT	SO	VR	SC	AA	AC	AB	VS	WC	BP	TC	PR
5/8/2018	<1	NA	1.380	<1	NA	1.740	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1
5/22/2018	<1	NA	1.301	<1	NA	<1	1.602	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1
6/5/2018	<1	NA	<1	<1	NA	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1
6/19/2018	1.740	NA	1.716	<1	NA	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1
7/3/2018	1.826	NA	1.633	<1	NA	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1
7/24/2018	<1	NA	1.079	<1	NA	1.204	<1	<1	<1	<1	1.505	<1
8/14/2018	<1	NA	1.415	1.740	NA	1.415	<1	1.398	2.037	<1	<1	<1
8/28/2018	1.699	NA	1.556	<1	NA	1.322	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1
9/4/2018	1.255	NA	<1	<1	NA	<1	<1	1.491	<1	<1	<1	<1
9/18/2018	<1	<1	1.301	<1	<1	1.000	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1
10/2/2018	1.146	<1	1.301	<1	NA	1.146	<1	1.255	<1	<1	<1	<1
10/16/2018	1.301	<1	1.716	<1	NA	<1	<1	1.255	<1	<1	<1	<1

	Criteria
NA	Not sampled
ND	Log Copy Number less than 1
Very LOW	Log Copy Number in between 1 and 2
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Very HIGH	Log Copy Number greater than 4

2018 MST-Chicken

Log copy/mL-Sample	HT	SO	VR	SC	AA	AC	AB	VS	WC	BP	TC	PR
5/8/2018	<1	NA	<1	<1	NA	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1
5/22/2018	<1	NA	<1	<1	NA	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1
6/5/2018	<1	NA	<1	<1	NA	1.041	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1
6/19/2018	<1	NA	<1	<1	NA	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1
7/3/2018	<1	NA	<1	<1	NA	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1
7/24/2018	<1	NA	<1	<1	NA	<1	<1	<1	1.041	<1	<1	<1
8/14/2018	<1	NA	<1	<1	NA	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	1.279	<1
8/28/2018	<1	NA	1.342	<1	NA	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1
9/4/2018	<1	NA	<1	<1	NA	1.000	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1
9/18/2018	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1
10/2/2018	<1	<1	<1	<1	NA	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1
10/16/2018	1.114	<1	<1	<1	NA	<1	1.114	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1

Criteria	
NA	Not sampled
ND	Log Copy Number less than 1
Very LOW	Log Copy Number in between 1 and 2
LOW	Log Copy Number in between 2 and 3
HIGH	Log Copy Number in between 3 and 4
Very HIGH	Log Copy Number greater than 4

2018 MST-Deer

Log copy/mL-Sample	HT	SO	VR	SC	AA	AC	AB	VS	WC	BP	TC	PR
5/8/2018	<1	NA	<1	<1	NA	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1
5/22/2018	<1	NA	<1	<1	NA	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1
6/5/2018	<1	NA	<1	<1	NA	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1
6/19/2018	<1	NA	<1	<1	NA	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1
7/3/2018	<1	NA	<1	<1	NA	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1
7/24/2018	<1	NA	<1	<1	NA	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1
8/14/2018	<1	NA	<1	<1	NA	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1
8/28/2018	<1	NA	<1	<1	NA	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1
9/4/2018	<1	NA	<1	<1	NA	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1
9/18/2018	<1	1.591	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1
10/2/2018	<1	1.146	<1	<1	NA	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1
10/16/2018	<1	1.114	<1	2.481	NA	<1	<1	1.079	2.751	<1	<1	<1

Criteria	
NA	Not sampled
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Very HIGH	Log Copy Number greater than 4

2018 MST

Mainstem Sites	HT	VR	AC	VS	PR		
Fecal Contributions	Human, Horse, Geese	Human, Horse, Geese	Human, Cow, Horse, Geese	Human, Cow, Horse	Human, Cow, Horse		
Tributary Sites	SO	SC	AA	AB	BP	WC	TC
Fecal Contributions	Human, Deer, Horse	Human, Cow, Deer, Horse	Human, Cow, Horse	Human, Horse	Human, Horse	Human, Cow, Deer, Geese, Horse	Human, Cow, Horse

Listed criteria: > 50% detected or high copy number found ; > 50% high copy number (**bold**)

Land Use Land Cover Change (%)

Site	AGRICULTURE	BARREN LAND	FOREST	URBAN	WATER	WETLANDS
AA	-0.01	0.13	-0.84	0.76	0.00	-0.04
AB	-1.33	NA	1.18	0.16	0.00	-0.01
AC	-0.48	-0.09	-0.20	0.77	0.03	-0.05
BP	-0.61	NA	-0.15	0.75	0.00	0.00
HT	-0.44	-0.10	-0.24	0.78	0.03	-0.05
PR	-0.48	-0.10	-0.16	0.75	0.03	-0.04
SC	0.18	0.11	-0.97	0.70	0.01	-0.03
SO	-4.18	NA	5.46	-0.82	0.00	0.00
TC	-0.43	NA	0.01	0.42	0.00	0.00
VR	-0.45	-0.10	-0.22	0.78	0.03	-0.05
VS	-0.48	-0.09	-0.16	0.76	0.03	-0.04
WC	-0.71	NA	0.05	0.66	-0.01	0.00

Restoration Activity by Watersheds

SITE	Agricultural Storage Facility	Chemical Storage Facility	Conservation Cover Crop	Forest Stewardship	Forested Riparian Buffer	Grassed Waterway and Diversion	Heavy Use Area Protection	Other	Prescribed Grazing	Rain Garden	Sinkhole Repair	Stream Crossing	Streambed Restoration	Warm Season Grass	Wetland Conversion	Total Restoration	Total Watersheds	Water Restoration Area	%
AA	NA	NA	83.8	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	83.8	1003.4	8.4	
AB	NA	NA	225.7	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.1	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	225.8	1276.7	17.7	
AC	NA	4.0	1479.1	54.5	13.2	5.8	2.3	NA	15.6	0.3	NA	NA	10.3	122.2	8.1	1715.5	82677.7	2.1	
HT	NA	4.0	1018.1	42.1	10.1	3.9	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	6.7	86.1	7.6	1178.7	77879.8	1.5	
PR	2.1	64.5	2470.2	186.2	33.3	17.1	2.3	0.1	129.0	0.4	2.1	0.1	12.0	172.0	8.5	3099.8	90344.4	3.4	
SC	NA	NA	181.6	NA	NA	NA	2.3	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	183.9	1182.6	15.6	
TC	NA	NA	13.4	NA	NA	1.4	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	14.8	911.6	1.6	
VR	NA	4.0	1228.6	42.1	12.9	5.8	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	10.3	86.1	7.6	1397.5	79590.3	1.8	
VS	2.1	4.0	2285.9	98.0	25.6	12.5	2.3	0.1	129.0	0.4	NA	0.1	12.0	168.9	8.1	2748.8	87953.9	3.1	
WC	NA	NA	112.0	NA	6.6	NA	NA	NA	0.1	NA	0.1	0.9	NA	NA	119.7	1776.9	6.7		

(Unit in acres unless otherwise noted)

Revisiting the Musconetcong after 10 Years

3. Evaluate the effectiveness of various BMPs
4. Conduct interviews to understand the motivations and limitations for focus groups to take part in BMPs
5. Stakeholder Engagement: involve stakeholders to develop restoration/management plans & elicit feedback for TMDL revision



Opportunities & Considerations: Nonprofit View

OPPORTUNITY...they have

- Grant officer to help file complicated grant
- University has experts in diverse fields
- Own laboratory facilities
- Opportunity to publish papers
- Graduates students!
- Undergraduate students!
- Diversity—introduce new people to your “world”!

CONSIDERATIONS...Will they

- Anticipate your resource limitations?
- Know your locale?
- Play well with other partners?
- Understand your jargon?
- Be culturally different?

Opportunities & Considerations: Academic Institution View

OPPORTUNITY...They have

- Deep understanding of the study area
- Memory of area conservation history
- Better sense of project feasibility
- Connection to the local residents and offices
- Access to study sites
- Convenience of being nearby (i.e. sample holding time, rapid response, etc.)

CONSIDERATIONS...Will they

- Align project goals
- Have the same expectations
- Follow the same SOPs
- Tolerate the “system”
- Move at different paces
- Work with inexperienced students

To build a successful collaboration

- Communication. Communication. Communication.....
- ***We are a team!***
- ***It Takes Time!***
- Understand each other's priorities and limitations
- Utilize technology (i.e. Dropbox, Google Drive, Zoom)
- Schedule side meetings

