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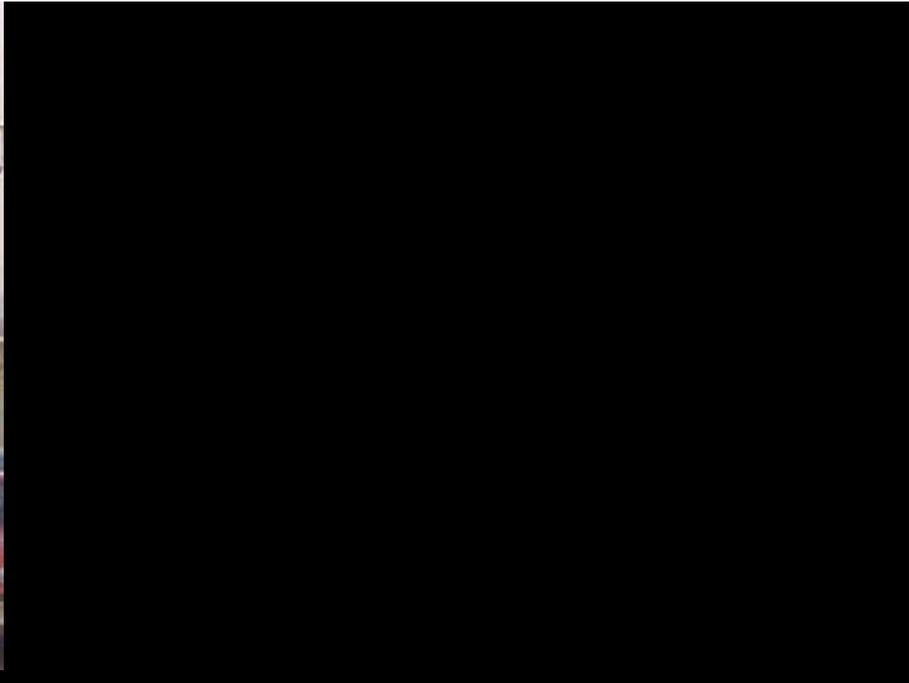


Overview

- NJ Volunteer Monitoring Program
 - Resources
 - Training
- NJ Watershed Ambassador Program
 - Term of Service agreement
 - Training
 - Volunteer Assistance
- Symbiotic Relationship
- Data Mgt & Data Uses

April, 2010, Denver, CO





What Exit are You From?





Great Bay, Tuckerton, NJ





Oswego River, Pine Barrens, N J





Great Falls, Paterson, NJ

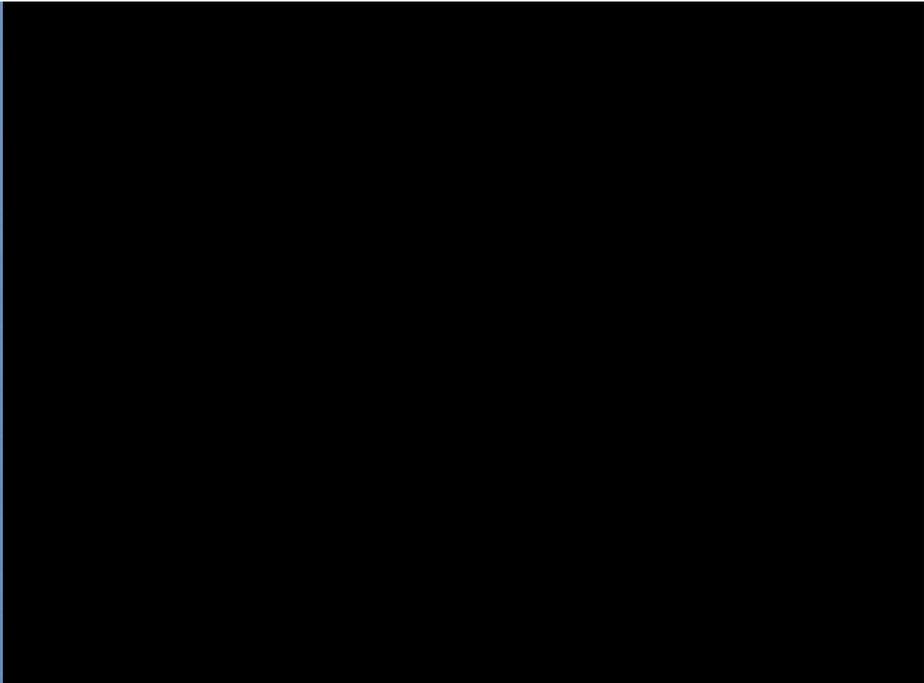
The Great Falls are the second-highest on the east coast (second only to Niagara).





Scott's Landing Creek, Leeds Point, NJ





- Population NJ 8.7 million people
- 7,505 square miles

18,126 miles of rivers & streams
DEP's latest evaluation *18% of the
State's Waters are fully assessed*

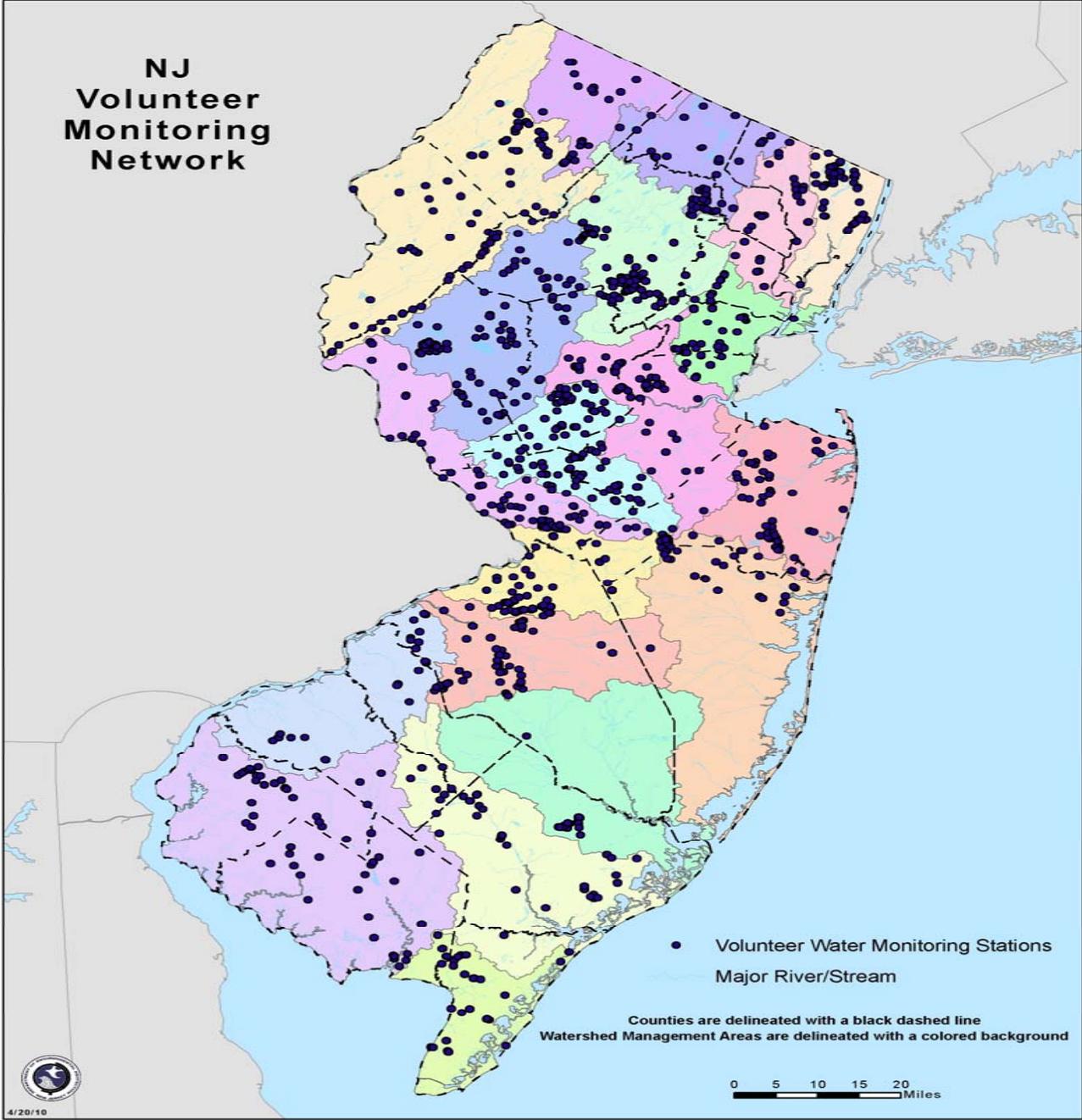


NJ Watershed Watch Network

- The “Network”
 - Volunteers, watershed associations
 - Schools, environmental organizations
 - Parks, aquariums, nature centers
 - Universities, government agencies
- Community Based Programs
 - In class room, after school programs, weekends, evenings, spring and fall events



NJ Volunteer Monitoring Network



4/20/10



NJ Watershed Ambassador AmeriCorps Program

- Community Orientated Program
 - Hosted in local watershed partner offices
- Term of Service
 - 50 river assessments
 - 5 watershed monitoring training events
 - 1 partnership project
 - 30 watershed education programs
 - 400 volunteer hours



Recruiting Ambassadors

- 400+ applicants per year (hire 20)
 - Must have college degree
 - Must agree to term of service
- Term of Service
 - Approximately \$12,500
 - Education award approximately \$5000
 - Health benefits
 - Travel and expense reimbursement



Planning for Members

- 12 months of planning for logistical planning like overnight facilities, host agencies
- 4-6 months of planning for assessment assignments
 - TMDL, Water Monitoring and Assessment
- 5-6 months of planning for 3 week training
- Equipment maintenance, ordering, calibration
- Paperwork, paperwork, paperwork



Training for AmeriCorps

- 3 week orientation training
 - 40 trainers, 8am-9pm, 2 eco-regions
 - Adult learning, interested based negotiation, gis, gps, habitat & bio training, invasive species, stormwater, groundwater, elementary education, septic and sewer management, map reading, volunteer recruitment, press writing & more



Training for AmeriCorps



Training for AmeriCorps



MORE w/ LESS

- Assign members a HUC14 or segment associated w/:
 - 319 h or 604 b grant
 - TMDL
 - Segment of concern
 - As needed assignments
- Clear QA requirements, scopes of work, methodologies



1000 assessments

Per year



Quality Assurance

- QA plan, scope of works and methodologies approved annually
 - Trainers
 - Water resource managers
 - Program coordinators
- Water Monitoring, Assessments & Standards coordinates functions and servers as QA officer



What are the benefits?

- In 9 years
 - roughly 23,000 volunteers have been trained
 - 20 trainers per year instead of just 1
 - An estimated 6750 watershed presentations
 - 20 presenters per year instead of 0
 - 80,000 volunteer hours have be donated by the public
 - 20 volunteer assistants instead of 0



AmeriCorps Training for Public

For every 10 people trained, 1 will become an active volunteer

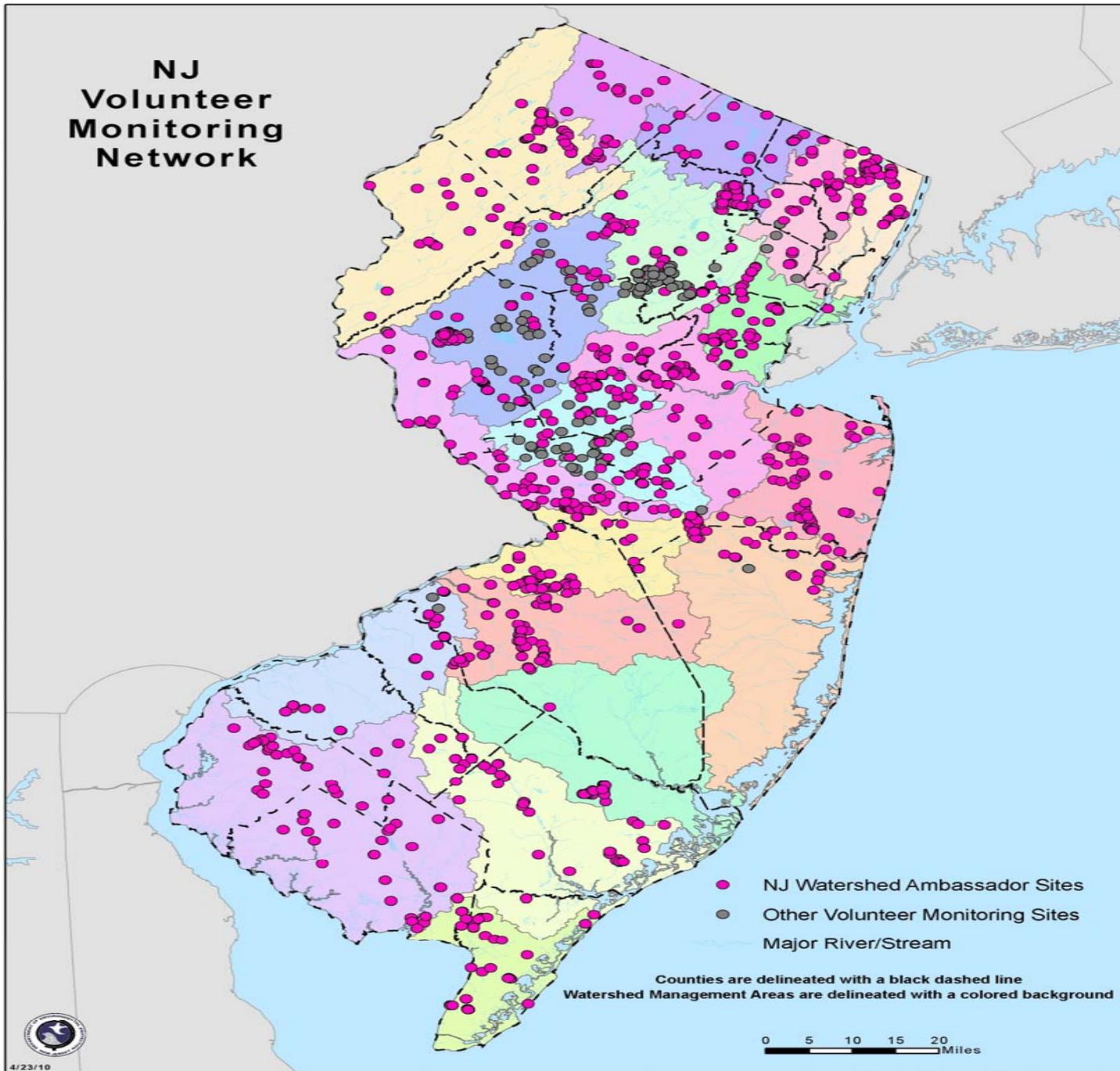


Annually

- 50 assessment per member = 1000 per year
 - According to EPA on average it costs an agency \$3000 per assessment. ***AmeriCorps is providing \$3 million in assessment data.***



NJ Volunteer Monitoring Network



Data Management

- Online data entry forms, or batch upload
- Defines quality of the data
- Geo-spatial data
- Data flows to DEP to EPA through Water Quality Data Exchange



Considerations for hosting an AmeriCorps Program



Lessons Learned

- Expect the unexpected
- Not the easiest program to administer
 - Federal grant program
 - Thru Federal & State Dept of Treasury
 - Thru the NJ Dept of Education
 - Thru NJDEP Budget & Management
- Paperwork



Lessons Learned

- Recruit early & often
- Double your program staff & resources
- Review evaluations of public's view on program, member evaluations of program staff
- Be the example
 - Explain guidelines
 - Expect professionalism



Lessons Learned

- Constant job coaching
- Check in with your members
 - Don't let them burn out
 - Audit their presentations & attend their events
- Publicize events & good press
 - Use social media outlets



