

A Tale of Two Watersheds:

The Delaware River Basin Overview

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The Delaware River Basin



The Delaware River Basin Commission



Water Demand and Agriculture



Water Quality and Agriculture



The Delaware River Basin



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Water Demand and Agriculture



Water Quality and Agriculture

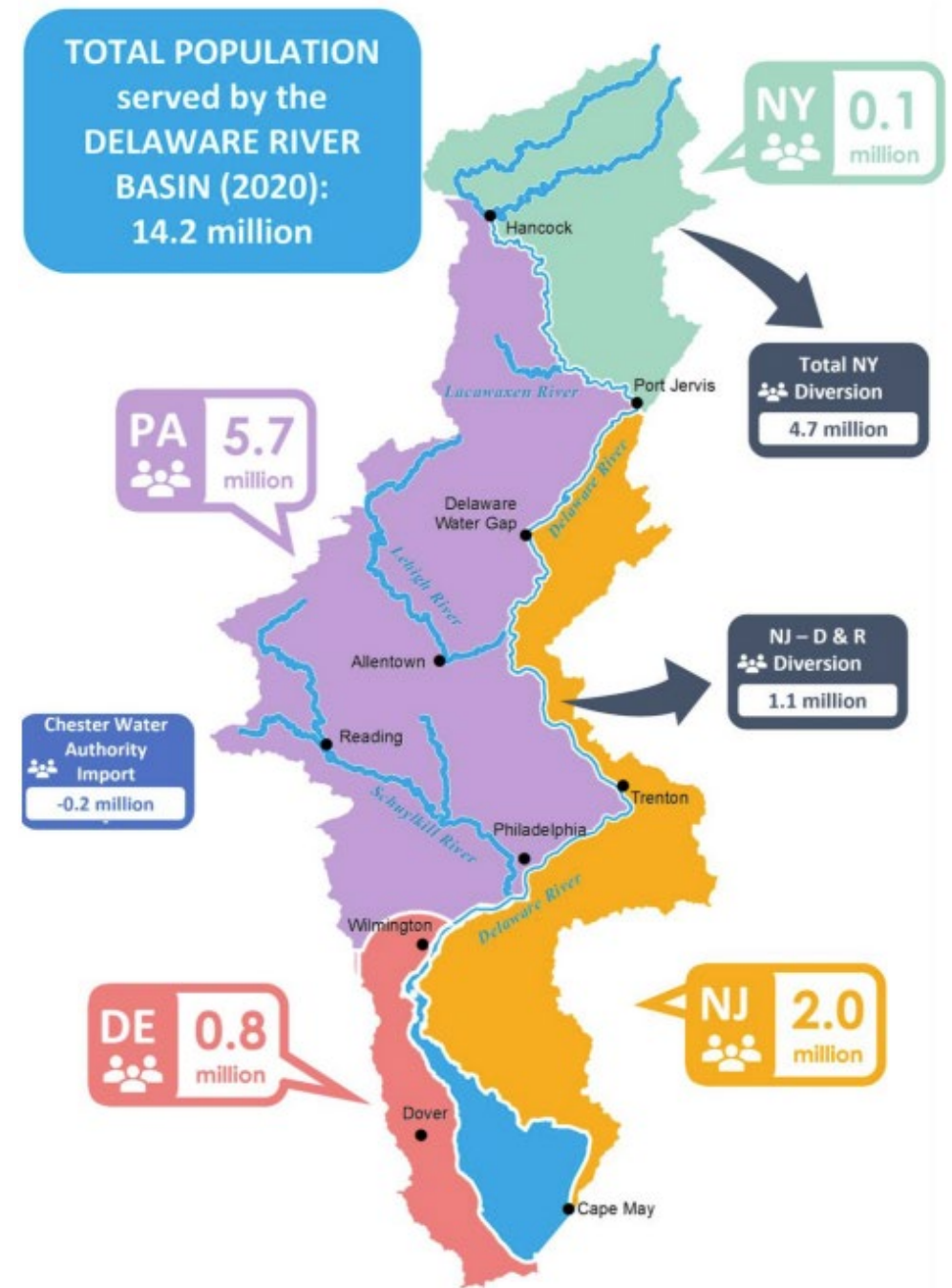
The Delaware River

- 330 miles
- 13,500 sq. mi. watershed
- Free-flowing mainstem
- Tidal from ocean to Trenton
- Unique habitats & communities

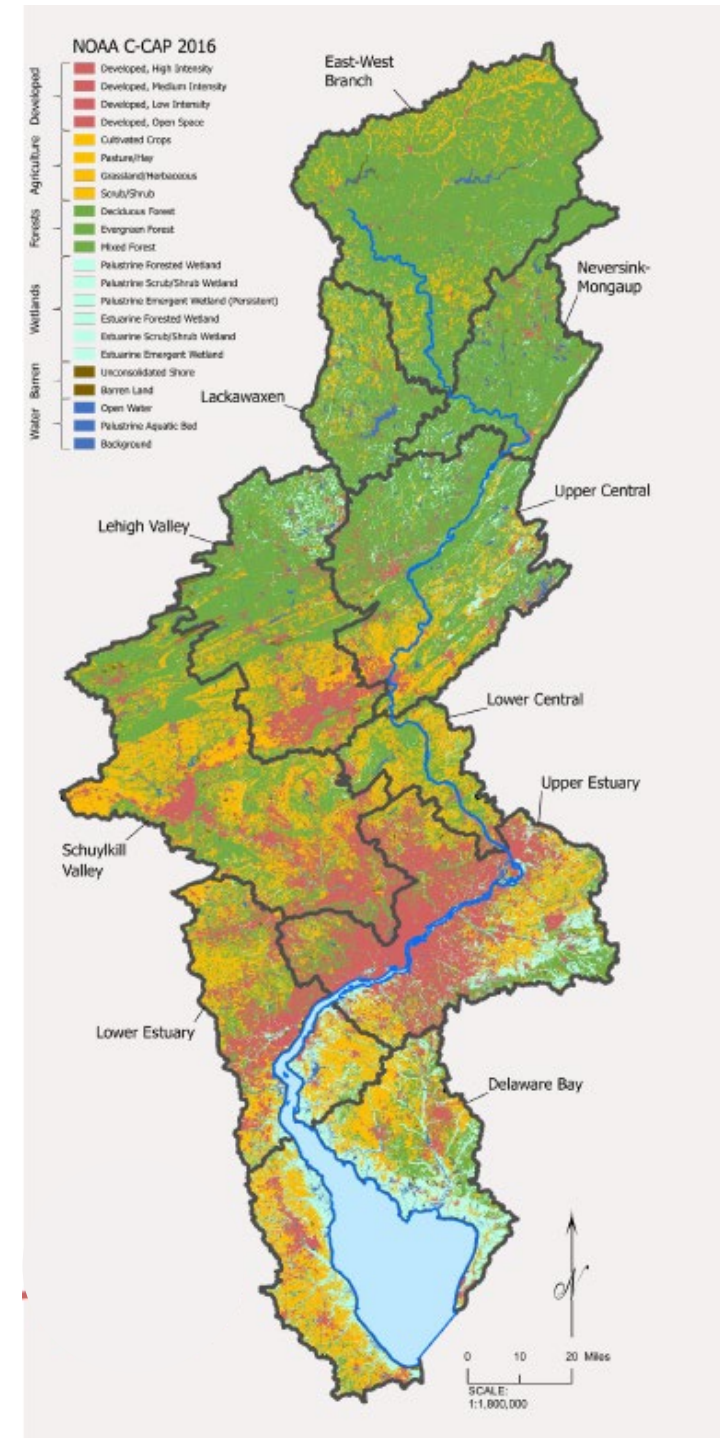


The Delaware River meets our needs.

- >14 million people in four states
- Half of NYC drinking water
- Four states
- 6.1 billion gallons withdrawn daily
- >\$21 billion in economic value
- Interstate boundary



Roughly 20% of the Delaware River Basin's land cover is agricultural.



Public funding for the
Delaware River Basin trails
other “great waters.”





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The Delaware River Basin Commission is a federal-interstate Compact agency established in 1961.



Our Mission

Manage, protect, and improve the water resources of the Delaware River Basin.

Our Vision

Provide trusted, effective, and coordinated management of the Basin's shared water resources.



The DRBC's authority and jurisdiction are defined by the Delaware River Basin Compact.

- U.S. Constitution, Compact Clause, Article 1, Section 10, Clause 3.
- Pub. L. 87-328, 75 Stat. Ann. 688 (1961).
- Recognized as a regional asset with local, state and national interests.



Commissioners of the DRBC



New York Governor Kathy Hochul,
DRBC Chair



Delaware Governor Matt Meyer,
DRBC Vice Chair



North Atlantic Division Commander
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers BG John Lloyd



Pennsylvania Governor Josh Shapiro



New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy



The DRB Compact includes broad authority for planning and regulation.

- Abatement and control of pollution
- Development of ground and surface water supply
- Development of recreational facilities
- Protection and aid to fisheries
- Promotion of watershed projects
- Development of hydroelectric power
- Control of movement salt water
- Flood damage reduction



DRBC's programs fall into two main categories.

FLOW

1

**An adequate
and sustainable
supply of water**

WATER QUALITY

2

**Clean and
healthy water
resources**



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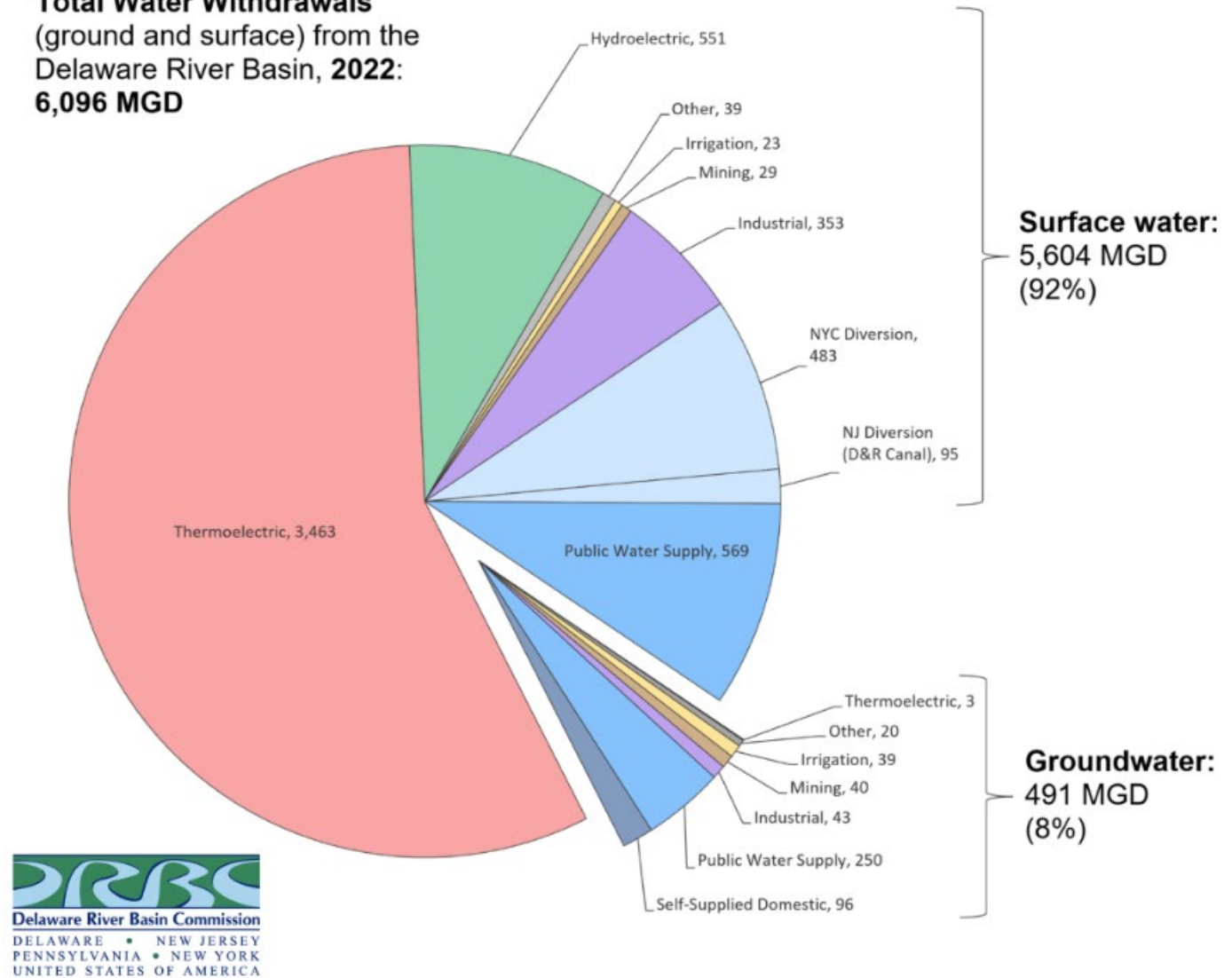
Water Demand and Agriculture



Water Quality and Agriculture

The Delaware River Basin's water supports uses across a wide range of sectors.

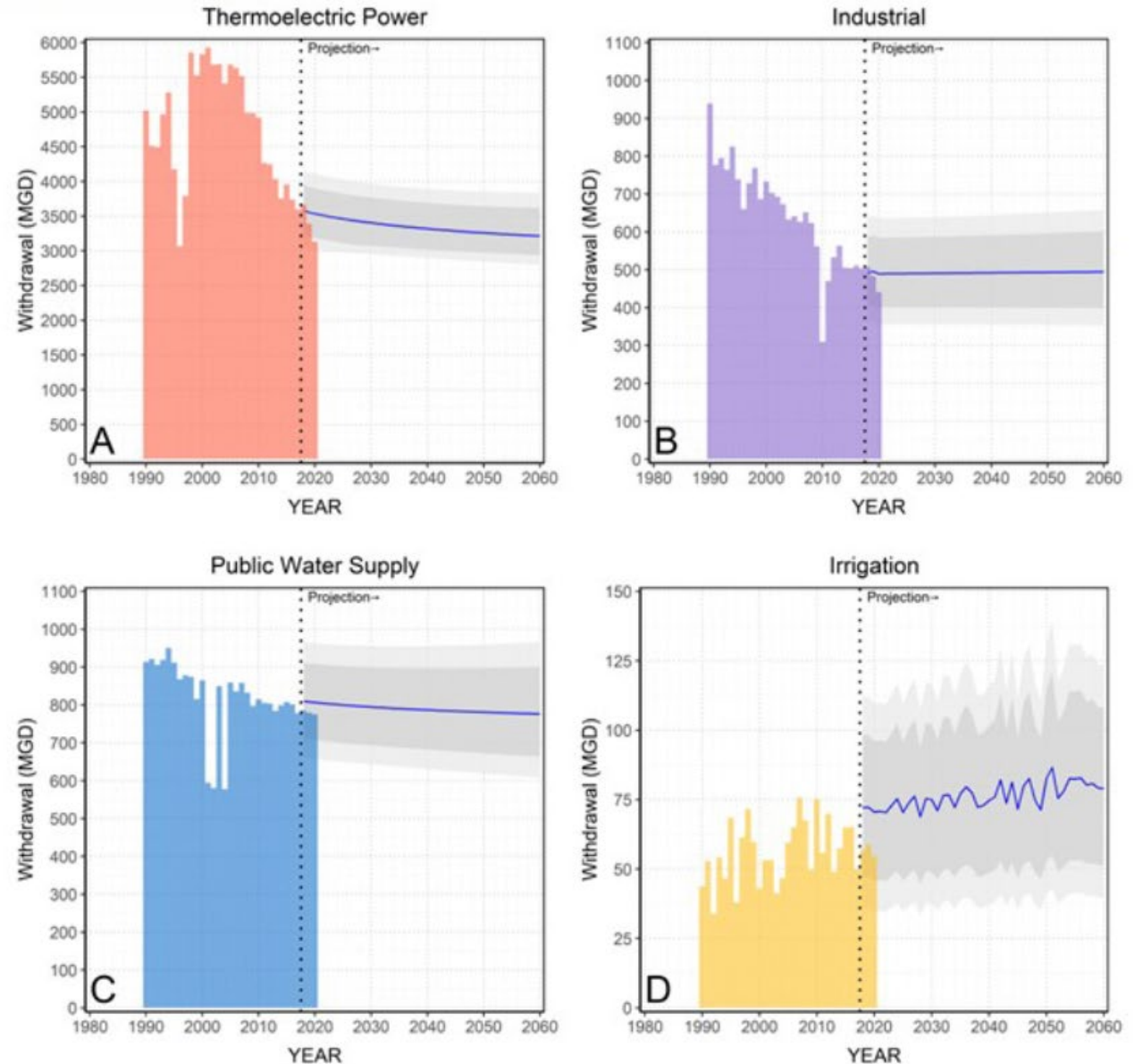
Total Water Withdrawals
(ground and surface) from the
Delaware River Basin, **2022:**
6,096 MGD



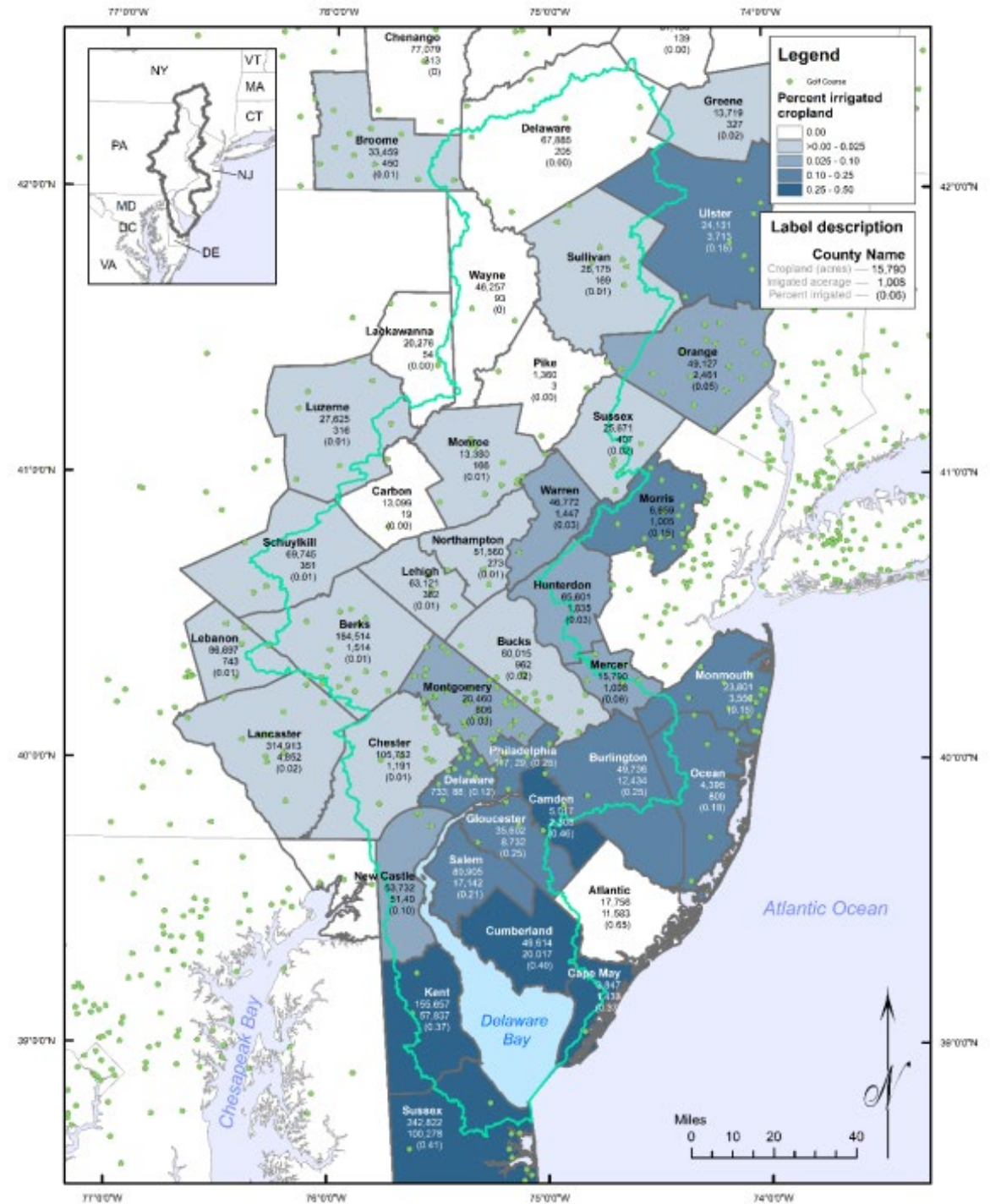
Water demand
for irrigation is
projected to
increase
through 2060.



Historical & Projected Water Withdrawals in the Delaware River Basin: Major Sectors



Agricultural
irrigation varies
throughout the
Basin.



Drivers of increased demand are varied.



Credit: USDA



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Water Demand and Agriculture



Water Quality and Agriculture

Water Quality & Agriculture: Freshwater salinization

- Agricultural runoff, de-icing salt application & more contribute to increasing salinity levels.
- Salinity is a key water quality indicator.



Water Quality & Agriculture: Harmful Algal Blooms



Credit: Andrii Shablovskyi, Dreamstime

- Agricultural runoff can contain high nutrient levels
- Cyanobacteria cause freshwater HABs
- Warmer temperatures a trigger

Water Quality & Agriculture: PFAS

- DRBC is tracking down sources
- Land application of biosolids is a concern



(c) Dreamstime

The Delaware River Basin Commission ensures an adequate supply of high-quality water for varied uses, including agriculture.





Delaware River Basin Commission

DELAWARE • NEW JERSEY
PENNSYLVANIA • NEW YORK
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Stay in touch!

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