

ANJEC

52nd Environmental Congress

October 10, 2025

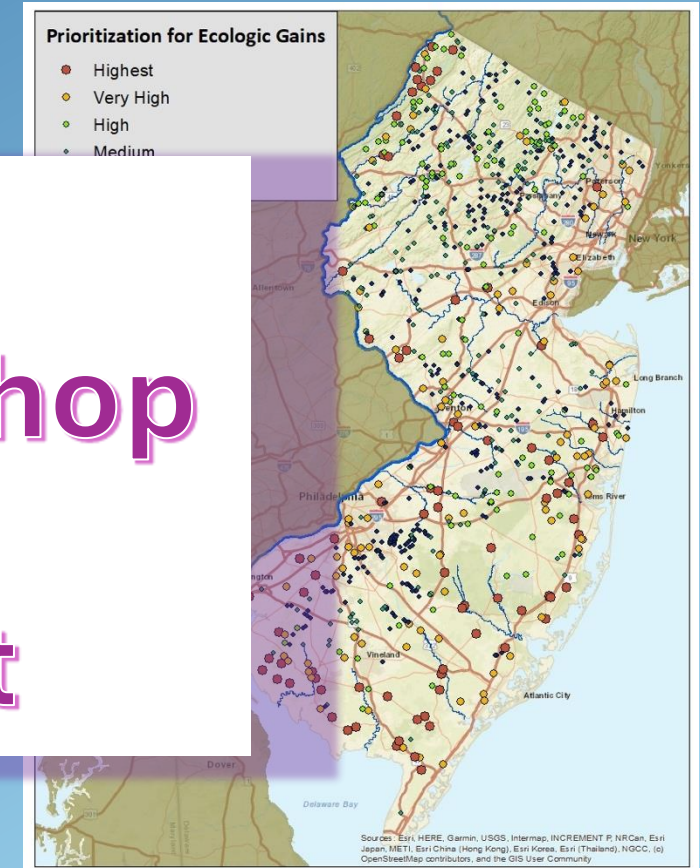
NJ Statewide Dam Removal Partnership

Local Governments and Dam Ownership:
The Case for Considering Dam Removal

The New Jersey Statewide Dam Removal Partnership

The SDRP is a collaboration of nonprofits and government agencies working to remove dams that are detrimental to the environment. The partnership aims to discuss benefits, exchange information, address funding issues, fund dam removal projects, and provide information to the public. Dam removal may affect their communities and their lives.

Coming Soon!
Dam Removal Workshop
for
Local Government



Njdams.org

	Dams
Atlantic County	2
Bergen County	12
Burlington County	3
Camden County	12
Cape May County	3
Cumberland County	4
Essex County	4
Gloucester County	12
Hudson County	0
Hunterdon County	1
Mercer County	8
Middlesex County	7
Monmouth County	20
Morris County	22
Ocean County	15
Passaic County	7
Salem County	8
Somerset County	25
Sussex County	5
Union County	18
Warren County	0
County-owned dams	188

Local Government Ownership

About 25% of New Jersey’s 1700 dams are owned by municipalities or counties.

237 Municipally-Owned Dams



Responsibilities of Ownership

- Costs of **Required Inspections**
- Costs of continuing **Maintenance and Repairs**
- Liability for **Injury or Death** at the dam site. (Is your town or county-owned dam marked with Warning signs and have you controlled access?)
- Damages due to **Accidental Breach**
- **Increased cost of Insurance**

Potential Co-benefits of Removal

In addition to ecological benefits, owners may experience

- **Relief from costs** of inspection, maintenance and repair
- **Reduction in local flooding**
- **Increased community resilience** against increasingly intense storms
- Removal of a **public safety hazard**
- Increased opportunities for safe **angling and paddling**
- **Decrease in Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs)**

Dam Removal in the Upper Raritan Watershed



**Raritan
Headwaters**

Your water is our mission.

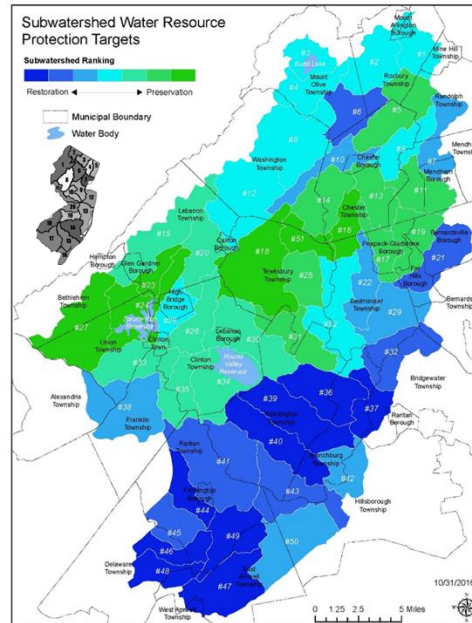




Working to Protect and Restore Natural Resources in the Upper Raritan Watershed Region of New Jersey

Monitoring & Research

- 72 long-term sites
- Biological, habitat & chemical
- 5 Mayfly Enviro-DIY stations
- Annual, more frequent and continuous
- Groundwater via well test program
- NAACC assessments
- Share data via our online report card, climate dashboard, and EPA WQX
- Data at highest tier for use by regulatory decision-makers (NJDEP Tier 3.3)



Restoration & Stewardship

- In stream restoration
- Dam removal
- Culvert retrofitting
- Riparian forest buffer & wetland restoration
- Invasive control
- Deer management



Best Management Practices (BMPs)

- River Friendly practices (non-point source pollution)
- Stormwater management with green infrastructure
- Local ordinances
- Regulations
- Well testing
- Wastewater management



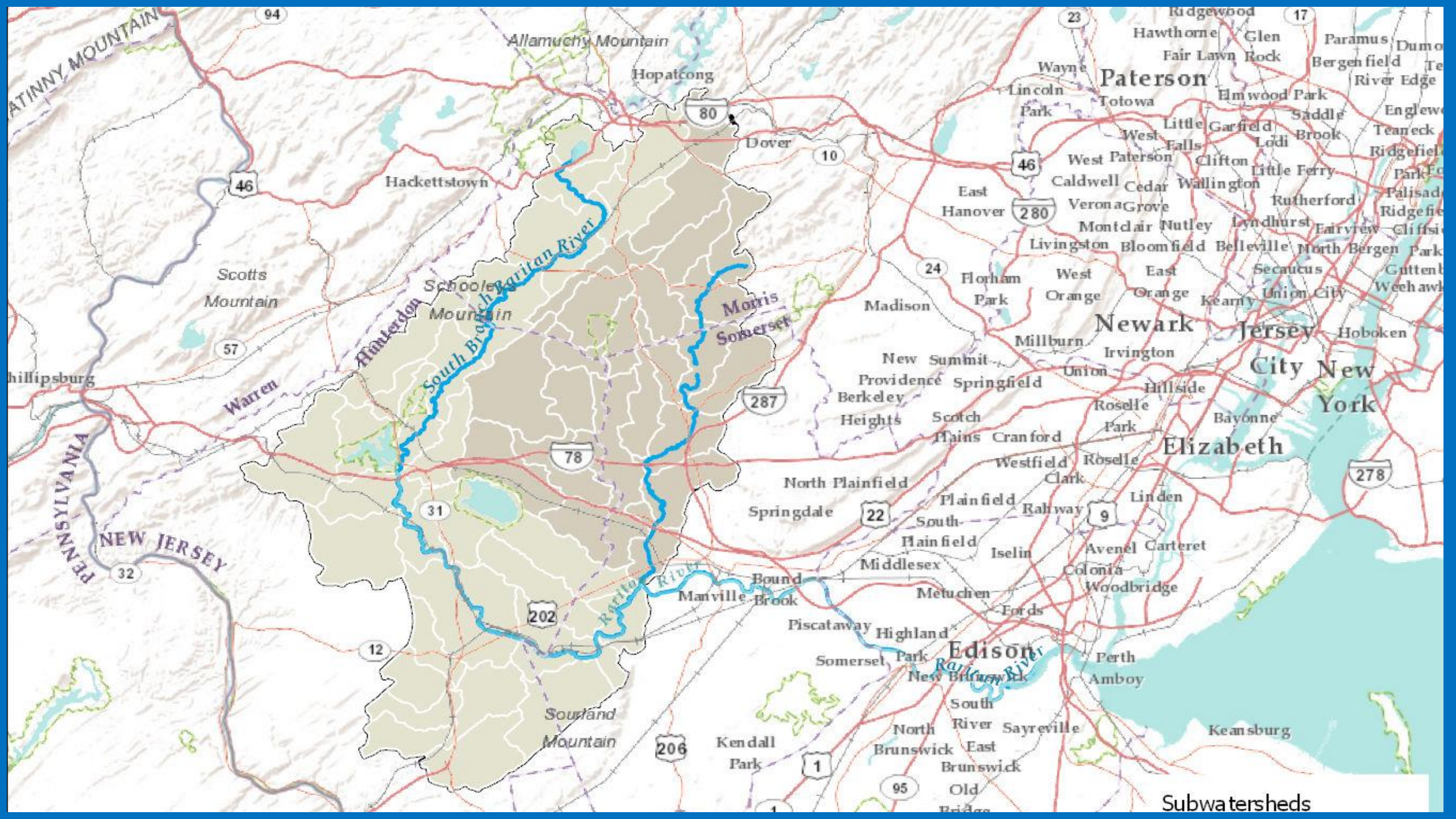
Outreach & Education

- Watershed Tools for Local Leaders workshops
- Watershed Restoration & Protection Planning
- RHA Resource Hub
- Programs for children and families



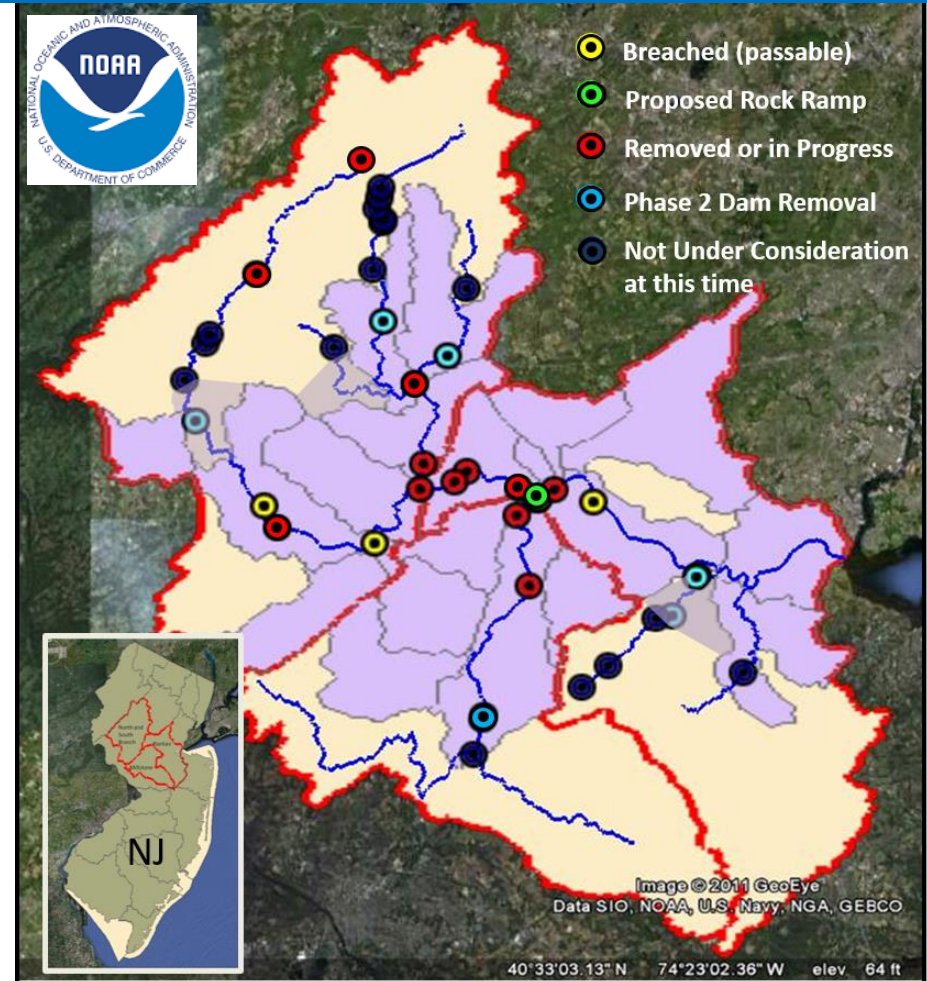
Land Preservation

- Accredited Land Trust
- Acquisition
- Easements
- Land Use Rules and Regs
- Land use planning



Subwatersheds

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

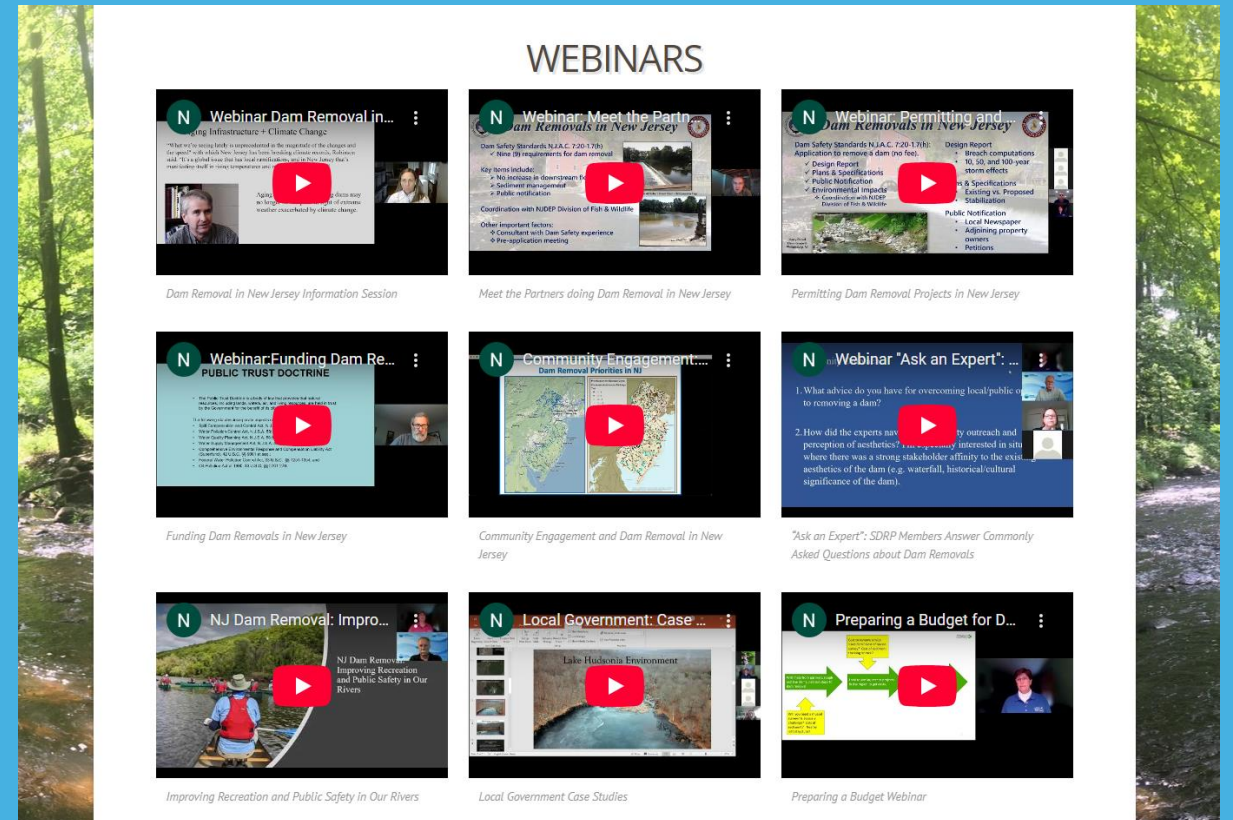
The 1000 square mile
Raritan Watershed

Historic Range of
Anadromous Species



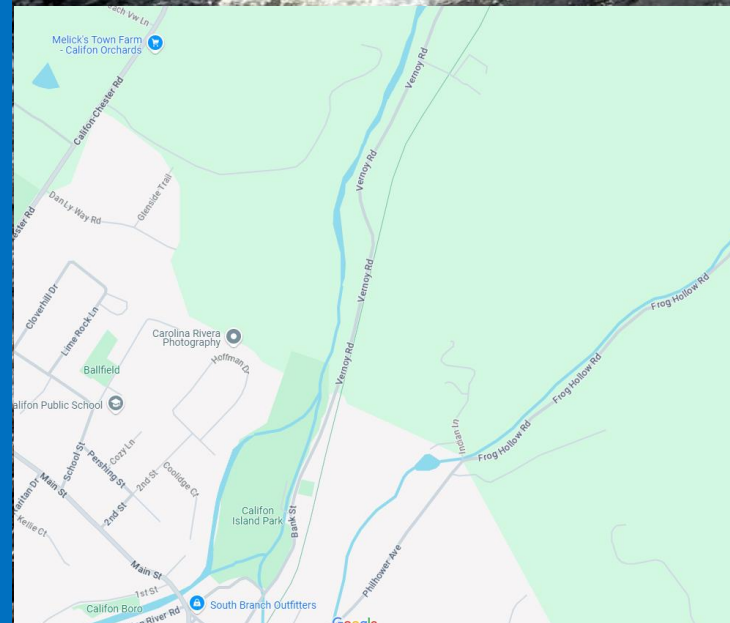
NJ Statewide Dam Removal Partnership (SDRP)

- 2 day Project Manager Training
- 1 day Fish Passage Training
- Quarterly Stakeholder Meetings
- Technical Webinars & Trainings
- Funding
- Community of Practice



Weiss Mill Dam

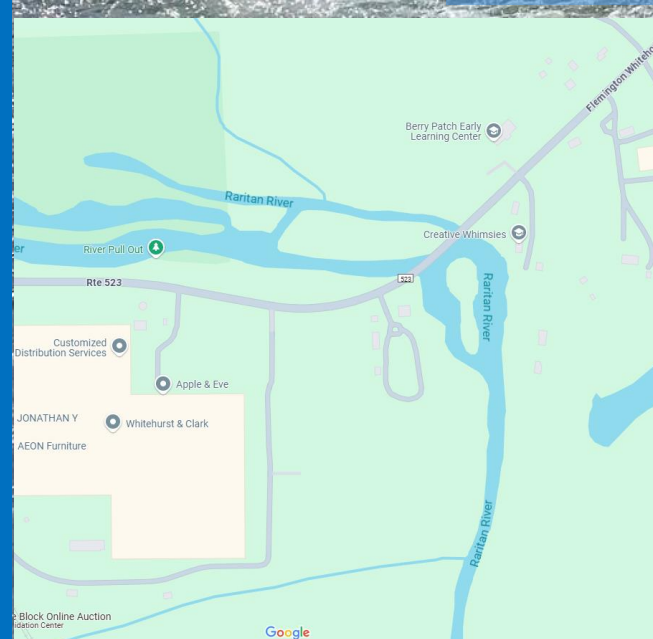
- Public Park & Open Space
- Public Safety
- Recreation: anglers & kayakers



Califon
NEW JERSEY

Dart's Mill Dam

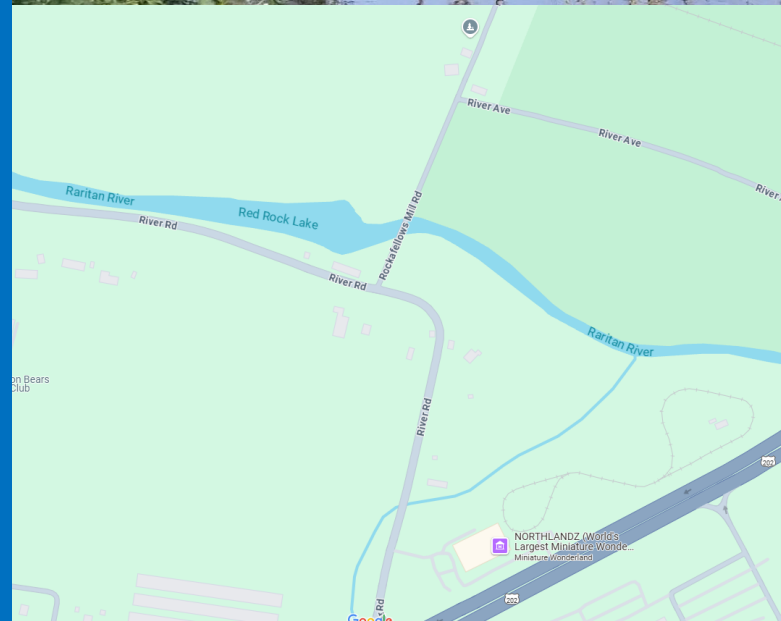
- Improved Water quality
- Improved Public Safety
- Historic Preservation



Township of
Readington
New Jersey

Rockafellow's Mills Dam

- 18+ acres Open Space Preservation
- Improved Water Quality
- Improved Public Safety

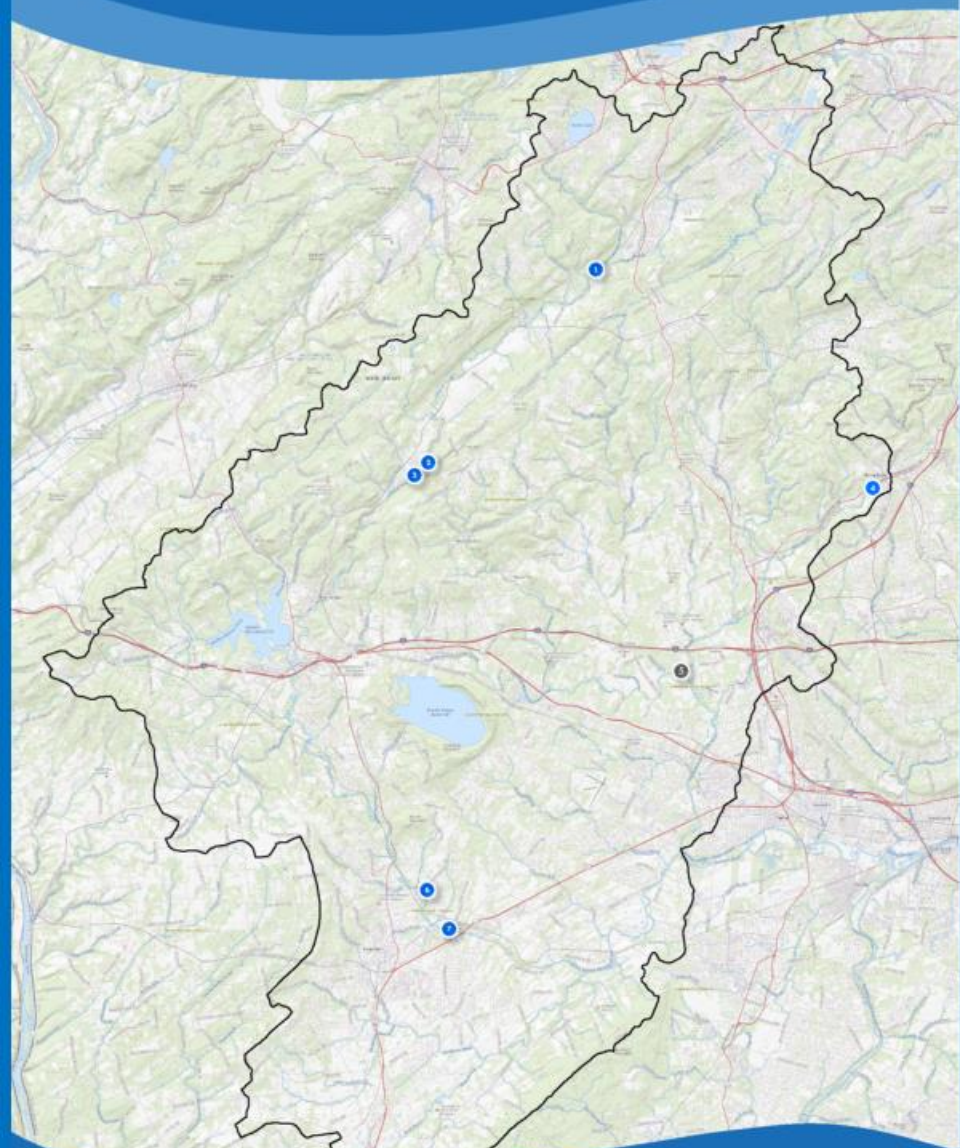


Township of
Readington
New Jersey



Dam Removal Projects In the Upper Raritan

- 7-8 active projects
- 1 completed project
- 201+ upstream miles
- Improved Public Safety,
Water Quality & Recreation



LEGEND

- Active Dam Projects
- Completed Dam Projects

Dam Projects

1. Nunn's Mill Dam, Washington Twp, Morris County
2. Weiss Mill Dam, Calhoun Boro, Hunterdon County

3. Cole's Mill Dam, Calhoun Boro, Hunterdon County
4. Memorial Park Pond Dam, Bernardsville Boro, Somerset County
5. Burnt Mills Dam, Bedminster Twp, Somerset County (Completed)
6. Dart's Mill Dam, Readington Twp, Hunterdon County
7. Rockafellows Mill Dam, Readington & Raritan Twp, Hunterdon County



NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION

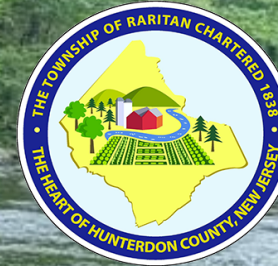


The Nature
Conservancy 



Township of
Readington
New Jersey

Califon
NEW JERSEY



RARITAN
TOWNSHIP
New Jersey



HUNTERDON
COUNTY *NJ*



Hunterdon Land Trust



Raritan
Headwaters

Robert Lucas
Restoration Coordinator
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Voices of Dam Removal Video Series



A photograph of a concrete dam with water cascading over it. In the background, a bridge with concrete piers spans the river. The foreground shows a rocky bank with some grass. The text "Do You Own a Dam?" is overlaid in large white font, and "Let's Find Out!" is overlaid in smaller white font below it.

Do You Own a Dam?
Let's Find Out!

Dam Locator Map

FILTERING

State

Search

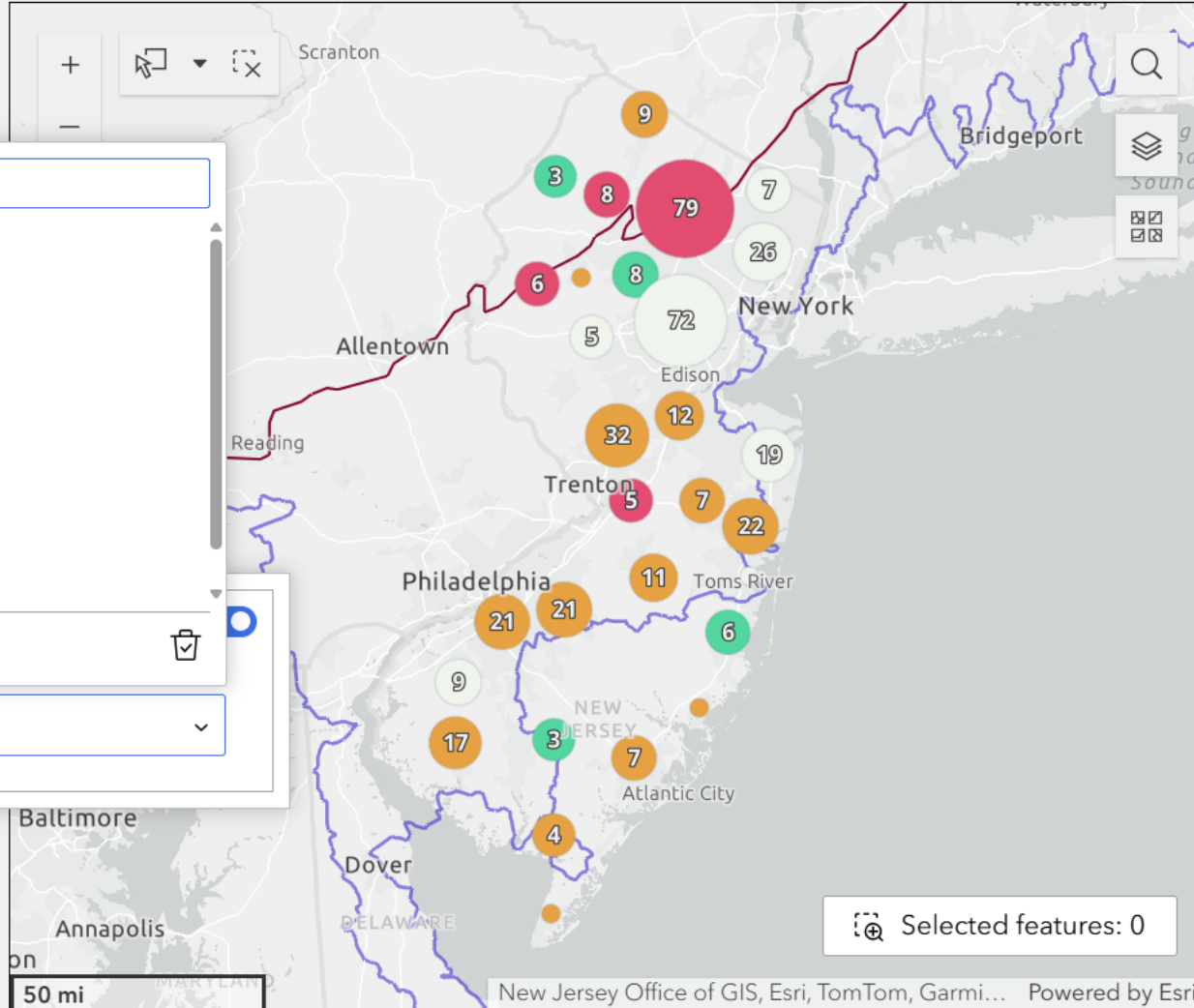
- ☐ Federal
- ☒ Local government
- ☐ Private
- ☐ Public utility
- ☐ State
- ☐ Tribal
- ☐ Unknown

1 Selected

HUC12s

Cold water Upstream ☐

Alewife Habitat Down Stream ☐



423
dams

State Count

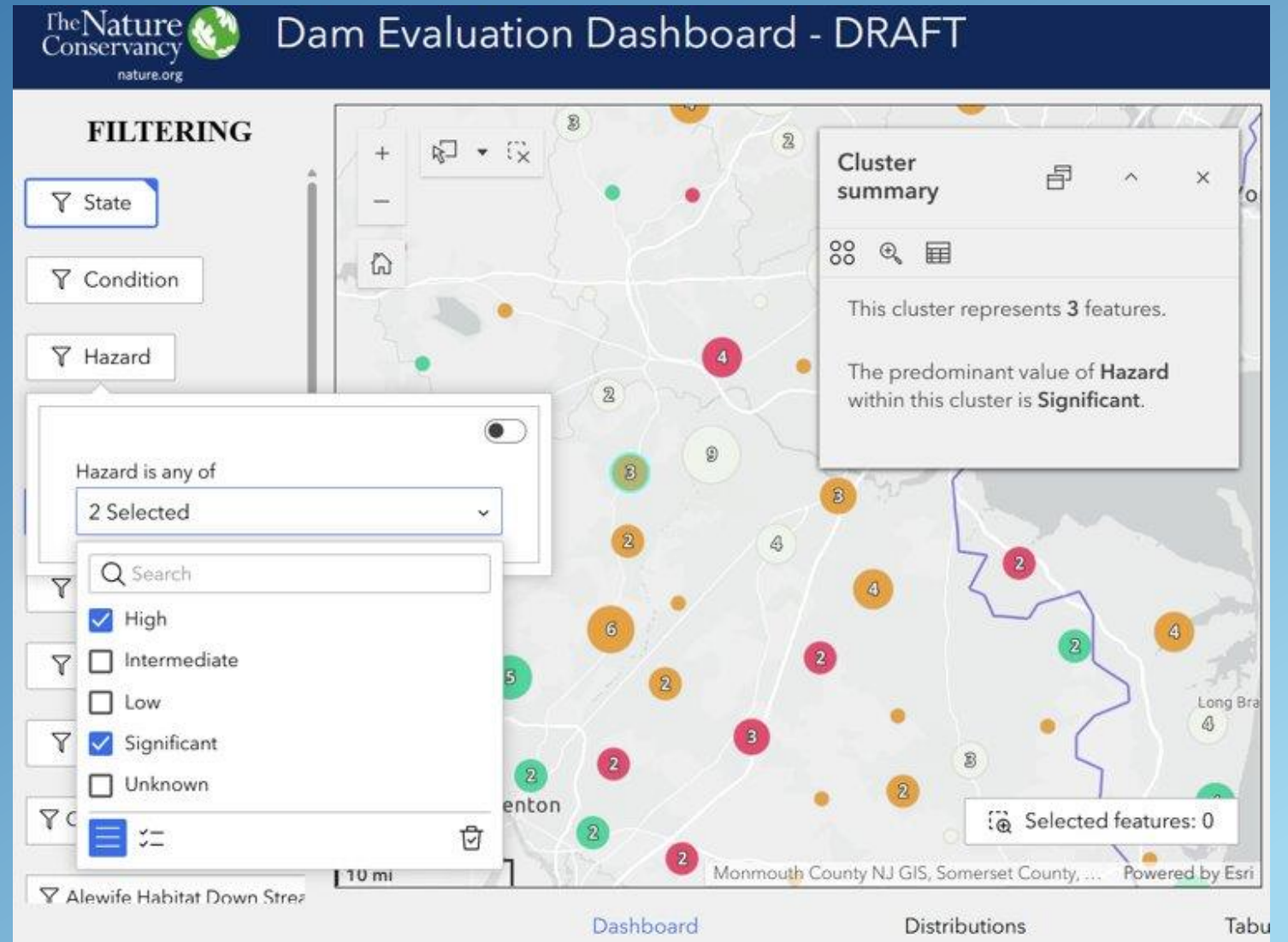
New Jersey

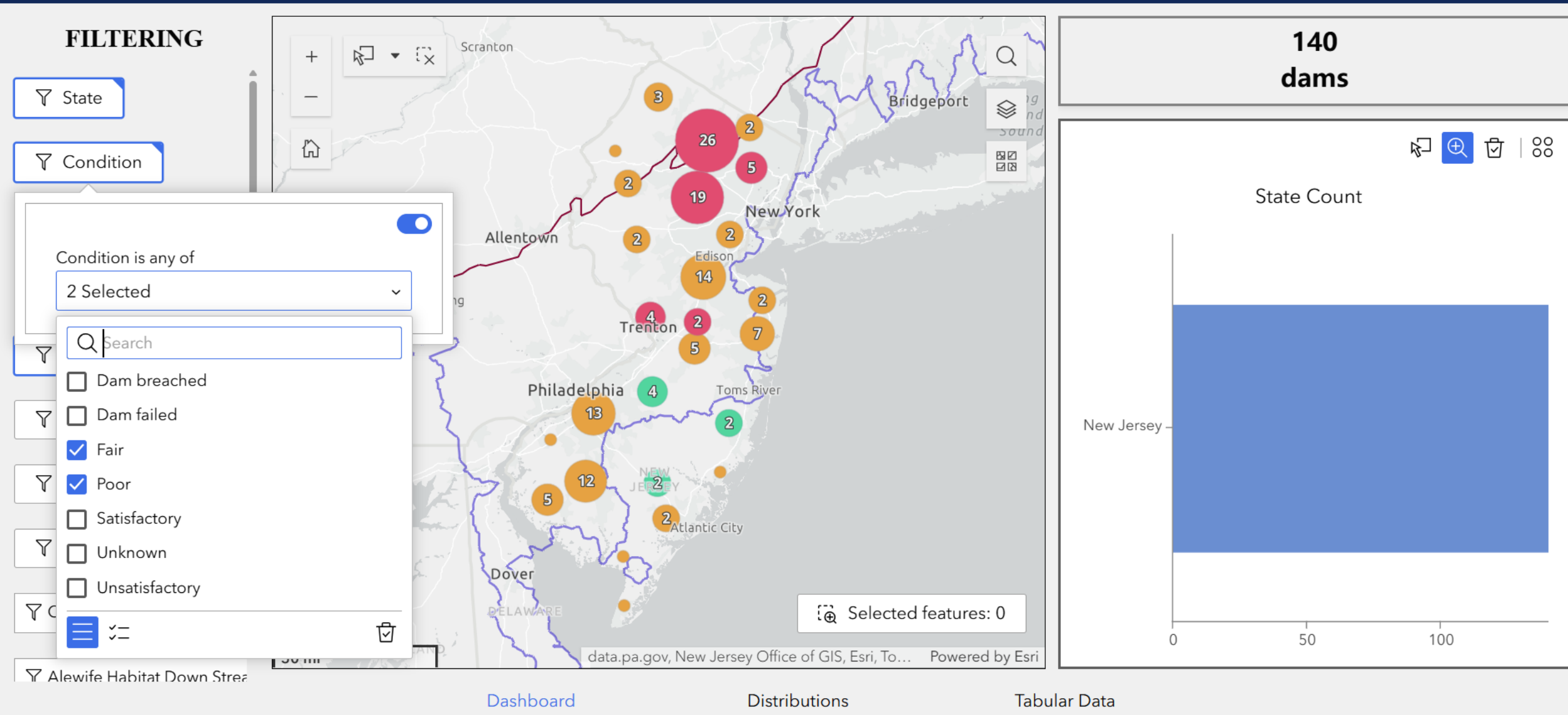
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Selected features: 0

NJDEP Dam Safety Standards

Hazard Classification &
Condition Rating





140 dam that are classified as significant or high hazard AND are in poor or fair condition

Questions?

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