



Updates from Shippensburg

"Mapping, modeling, and monitoring land cover in the Delaware River Basin" – supported by the William Penn Foundation

Thank you for your interest in the DRB Project!

SUMMER 2015 UPDATE

Here at Shippensburg, we are a small and dedicated group of scientists concerned about water and land use dynamics. Thanks to the William Penn Foundation, we have an opportunity to help stakeholders in the Delaware River Basin tackle some land use and land cover (LULC) issues. We are collaborating with scientists at the University of Vermont Spatial Analysis Lab and the US Geological Survey to build a very high-resolution map of LULC for the watershed; to develop a LULC forecast model; and to assess the viability of long-term monitoring. Together, we have more than 50 years of experience mapping, modeling, and monitoring land use and land cover change in the United States, Europe, and South America.



About the Delaware River Basin (DRB)

The Delaware River Basin, a watershed 13,500 square miles large, provides water resources to more than 15 million people – more than 5% of the US population. The DRB is an important resource that provides many ecosystem services that support commercial, industrial, recreational and residential uses. Maintaining and restoring water quality requires the balancing of stakeholder interests and considering alternate short- and long-term futures. Through this project, we aim to provide useful tools to decision makers across the 43 counties that intersect the DRB in Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, Delaware and Maryland.



Project Steering Committee

We are in the process of building our steering committee, which is to be composed of individuals and agencies with vested interests in the DRB, our project, and our project outcomes. Organizations currently represented in our committee include:

- Delaware River Watershed Initiative
- Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
- National Park Service
- Natural Lands Trust
- Open Space Institute
- Stroud Water Research Center
- The Nature Conservancy
- Water Resources Association of the Delaware River Basin
- William Penn Foundation

We Need Your Help!

The first component of our project involves developing a high-resolution land cover dataset for all the counties that intersect the Delaware River Basin, either in whole or in part. When complete, the dataset will be the most detailed land cover data ever developed for the Basin, which will be made available to the public at no charge.

Land cover will be derived primarily from a combination of high-resolution aerial imagery and LiDAR data. We are reaching out to communities who may be interested in providing supplemental GIS datasets that could improve the accuracy and consistency of the final land cover product. ***So, Let us know if you have data to contribute!***

“Fun facts” about the DRB

We used the US Census Bureau’s OnTheMap application to run a “Work Area Profile Report” for the entire DRB. The report tells us something about jobs, important industry sectors, workers, and commuting patterns. According to the data for 2012 (the latest available):

- The largest industry sector (by employment) in the DRB is the Health Care and Social Assistance sector (17.6%).
- Of the 3,320,798 workers working in the DRB, 2,835,547 (85.4%) worked and lived in the region and 485,251 (14.6%) lived outside the region (in-commuters). Meanwhile, another set of 573,711 workers lived in the region but commuted to workplaces outside the DRB.

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