Exceptional:
The Upper & Middle Delaware River
The Upper and Middle Delaware River is a treasure for Pennsylvanians who live, work and recreate in the region as well as for the many Northeast residents who enjoy the outdoors.

- The Upper and Middle Delaware River provides $22 billion in economic benefits to the region from activities like hiking, hunting, fishing, boating and farming.

- The annual economic value of recreational fishing alone to the Upper Delaware area has been estimated at nearly $5,000,000.

- Fisheries biologists from Pennsylvania and New York recognize the Upper and Middle Delaware River as one of the foremost trophy trout streams in the Northeast.

- The headwaters of the Upper and Middle Delaware River are home to threatened and endangered species, including diverse populations of native freshwater mussels that live in the main stem and tributary streams.

- The Delaware River Water Gap draws over five million visitors annually, making the park one of the top 25 most visited tourist destinations in the country.

- The Delaware River supplies drinking water to 15 million people, or about 5% of this country’s total human population. Residents of Philadelphia and New York City, as well as many others in Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey and Delaware depend on the Delaware River for their drinking water.
Every type of river recreation is diminished if the health of the Delaware River diminishes.
The Delaware River is a National Wild and Scenic River, designated by Congress for its outstanding attributes and resources. The water quality of the Delaware River is so high that the entire 197-mile nontidal river is protected by a special regulatory program, enacted by the Delaware River Basin Commission over the past two decades, to prevent water quality degradation.

However, ongoing development pressures and the current push to drill for shale gas in the Upper and Middle Delaware River region demand more protection for this national treasure. Stronger protection is available through an upgrade in the designation of Upper and Middle Delaware River in Pennsylvania to Exceptional Value.

Exceptional Value designation is reserved for the cleanest rivers in the country. In Pennsylvania, only about 4% of rivers have this designation. The Delaware River’s headwaters deserve this high standing.

Community groups, landowners, and citizens throughout the region, state and nation have come together to petition the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection to designate the Upper and Middle Delaware River and the clean tributaries that feed into the River above the Delaware Water Gap as Exceptional Value. This designation will provide the Upper and Middle Delaware River its proper designation.

An Exceptional Value designation will not stop residential development or natural gas development; however, the upgrade will provide stronger mechanisms to ensure the Watershed is protected as these changes take place. The Exceptional Value designation brings with it protections to ensure our families, our livelihoods and our water will be preserved.

Please add your support to the petition to give the Upper and Middle Delaware River the protection it deserves.
Upper and Middle Delaware River Drainage Area
The Upper Delaware was named this country’s most endangered river in 2010.
The Upper Delaware provides the region with $22 billion in economic benefits from activities like hiking, hunting, fishing, boating and farming.
List of Co-Petitioners and Supporters of Exceptional Value Designation for the Upper & Middle Delaware River

Maya K. van Rossum, Delaware Riverkeeper Network
William Robert Irvin, American Rivers
Ken Undercoffer, PA Council of Trout Unlimited
Myron Arnowitt, Clean Water Action
Dan Plummer, Friends of the Upper Delaware
Barbara Benson & Thomas Au, Sierra Club, Pennsylvania Chapter
Stanley Cooper Trout Unlimited Chapter
Brodhead Watershed Association
Delaware River Greenway Partnership
Lackawaxen River Conservancy
Pike County Conservation District
Jim Monroe, Delaware River Shad Fisherman's Association
Steven Schwartz, Delaware Valley Ramps
Michael Riska, Delaware Nature Society
Kate Hudson, Riverkeeper, Inc.
Barbara Arindell, Damascus Citizens for Sustainability
Mark Zakutansky, Appalachian Mountain Club
Maria Payan, Peach Bottom Concerned Citizens Group
Rev. Sandra L. Strauss, Pennsylvania Council of Churches
Robert E. Hughes, Eastern Pennsylvania Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation (EPCAMR)
Dan Smith, Friends of Lower Beaverdam Creek
Iris Marie Bloom, Protecting Our Waters
Paulette Hammond, Maryland Conservation Council
Cinda M. Waldbuesser, National Parks Conservation Association
Joy Bergey, Citizens for Pennsylvania's Future (PennFuture)
James Vogt, Aquashicola/Pohopoco Watershed Conservancy
Frank O'Donnell, Blue Mountain Preservation Assoc., Inc.
Susan Alper, Bluestone Grill
Jim Costolnick, Border Water Outfitters
Wes Gillingham, Catskill Mountainkeeper
Charles Wood, Charles G. Woods Architects
Ray Costello, Circle E Diner
Bart Lortmouth, Delaware River Club
Ben Rinker, East Branch Outfitters
Karl Wasner, FrackAlert
Josh Fox, GasLand
Theresa Allen, Hancock Liquor Store
Lloyd Hornbeck, Hornbeck's Sport Shop
Julie Edgar, Lehigh Valley Gas Truth
John Marino, Marino's Outdoor World
Valerie Panicucci, Midatlantic Realty
Beverly Braverman, Mountain Watershed Association
Sean Strub, Muir House
Al Benner, Old School Farm
Jackie Park-Albaum, Park & Albaum - A Community Market
Dawn Gorham, Pocono Heritage Land Trust
Leah Zerbe & Greg Hoak, Potters Farm
John Winkler, Red House Properties
Sean Strub, Strubco, Inc.
Sam Batschelet, West Branch Angler & Resort
Greg Swartz, Willow Wisp Farm
Krissy Kasserman, Youghiogheny Riverkeeper
Katrina Gergely
Linda Schepise
Eileen Doherty
Jill Greenwood
Leslie Byers
Kathleen Reside
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Katie Covello
Susan Kelley
Katie Covello
Leigh Ann Adams
Robert Foster
George Scott Cimochowski
Amy Miller
Josh Sapan
Susan Mancino
Carrie Hahn
L.O. Gabriel
Please support Exceptional Value Designation for the Upper & Middle Delaware River today.

Join with the Co-Petitioners and Supporters of Exceptional Value Designation for the Upper & Middle Delaware River to protect and upgrade these clean streams by writing your letter in support of the upgrade petition today. Your letter to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection supporting Exceptional Value Designation for the Upper and Middle Delaware River will strengthen the power of the upgrade petition and increase the likelihood that Exceptional Value designation will be granted.

Let the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection know that you value the Upper and Middle Delaware River and the clean tributaries that feed into the River above the Delaware Water Gap. You value clean drinking water and the recreational opportunities, diverse ecology and local jobs that these waters support. Tell the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection that you want to see the special streams of the Upper and Middle Delaware River given the protection they deserve and as required under the Clean Water Act.

Tell the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection to fulfill its promise and its legal obligation to give our cleanest streams the strong and effective regulatory protection they deserve – securing proper designation for our Exceptional Value streams is an important first step.

Send your letters of support to letters:

Michael Krancer
Secretary of Department of Environmental Protection
P.O. Box 2063
Harrisburg, PA 17105-2063
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