

# HOUSEKEEPING

- Notes
- Recent/upcoming meetings related to connectivity:
  - ✓ **DEP Commissioner update** - - March
  - ✓ **Division of Fish and Wildlife regional meetings** - - March
  - ✓ **NJ Land Conservation Rally** - - March
  - ✓ **Resiliency Initiative** (based on TNC Terrestrial Resilience) – Open Space Institute - - March; webinar
  - ✓ **Habitat Connectivity Full Working Group update** - - April; webinar
  - ✓ **New Jersey Chapter of The Wildlife Society** - - April
  - **NJ Open Space and Farmland Preservation Coordinators' Roundtable Discussion** (DVRPC; NJCF)
    - April 19, 2013
  - **ICOET**: [http://www.icoet.net/ICOET\\_2013/](http://www.icoet.net/ICOET_2013/)
    - June 23-27, 2013 in Scottsdale, Arizona, USA.
  - **ICCB**: <http://www.conbio.org/mini-sites/iccb-2013>
    - Connecting Systems, Disciplines and Stakeholders
    - July 21-25, 2013 in Baltimore, MD, USA
- File sharing site – DEP has possibilities with Microsoft Office 365
- Zotero

# AGENDA

- Review related projects
- Recap core team meetings
- Review habitat connectivity public presentation – Andrea
- Public website options
- Review working group website and discuss improvements like facilitate research collaboration
- Review newly categorized task list and start prioritizing
- Review annotated bibliography and discuss utility of Zotero
- Next steps:
  - TBD

# RELATED PROJECTS

## Crossing Structure Database



## NJ Pilot Road/Stream Crossing Assessment

Ellen Creveling, TNC

1. Characterize existing culverts
2. Identify ways to improve connectivity for aquatic wildlife passage and stream health

The Nature  
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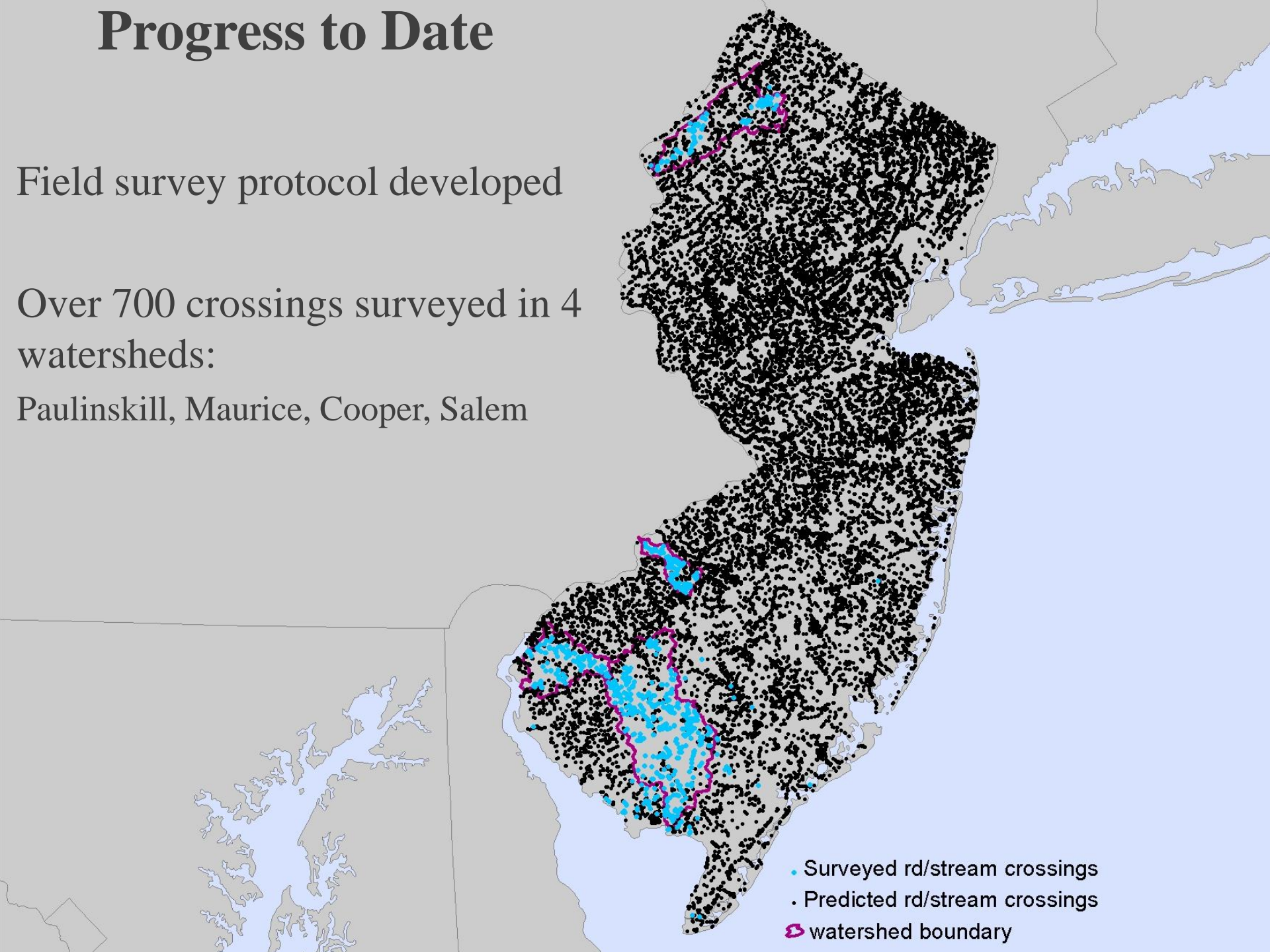
River and Stream Continuity Project

# Progress to Date

Field survey protocol developed

Over 700 crossings surveyed in 4 watersheds:

Paulinskill, Maurice, Cooper, Salem



# RELATED PROJECTS

## Wildlife Guardian Project

MONTCLAIR STATE UNIVERSITY

PASSAIC RIVER  
INSTITUTE

The College of Science and Mathematics

### Goals/objectives:

1. Identify wildlife crossing hot spots in NJ
2. Gain insight into landscape characteristics associated with hotspots

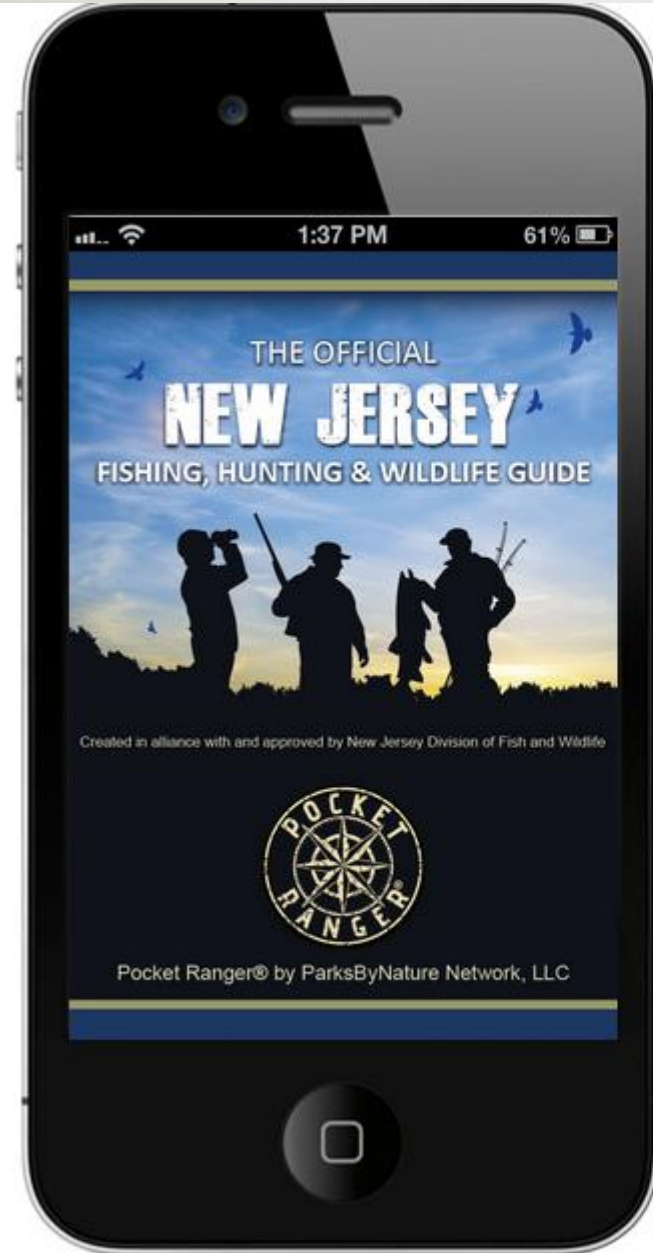
### Volunteers Will:

- Adopt road transect
- Survey for road kill and wildlife crossing
- 3x per week
- March through May



# RELATED PROJECTS

## Roadkill Data



# RELATED PROJECTS

- **Pre-Monitoring**

- Mortality hotspot
- Movement corridor
- Planned roadwork

Rte. 78 overpasses



HC500 HYPERFIRE

Bobcat using existing structure under Rte. 23

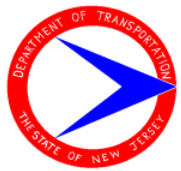
- **Post Monitoring**

- Retrofits
- New construction





# RELATED PROJECTS



## Transportation Enhancement Program

- One of 12 eligible activities: **reduce vehicle-caused wildlife mortality while maintaining habitat connectivity**
- Applied for funding for **3** wildlife mitigation projects in northern NJ



# RELATED PROJECTS



## Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering

- Land survey and design
- Conceptual drawings for Road/Wildlife BMPs

# RELATED PROJECTS

## CONSERVE WILDLIFE MATCHING GRANT PROGRAM

<http://www.njfishandwildlife.com/ensp/cwgrants.htm>

**One of the priorities project areas in 2013 is “Projects addressing human-wildlife conflicts and habitat connectivity”**

- \$3,500 is the maximum amount available per proposal request (\$1,000 is the minimum amount).
- The Conserve Wildlife matching grant is a 50:50 cost share grant - therefore, grant funds cannot exceed 50% of the total project cost.
- Must be a non-profit that applies
- **Deadline 4/11/13**

## Mapping Core Team Meeting Three

February 22nd, 10 am - noon

Assunpink Wildlife Management Area, Main Office

**Meeting attendees:** Bob Allen, Rick Brown, Patrick Carr, Margaret Conroy, Gretchen Fowles, Dave Golden, Heidi Hanlon, Dave Jenkins, Amy Miller, Tanya Nolte, Lisa Stern, Nellie Tsipoura, Dane Ward, Pete Winkler, Patrick Woerner, Brian Zarate

- Reviewed and finalized goals/objectives of NJ Connectivity Mapping
- Reviewed set of GIS layers that will likely be relevant to mapping (lulc, riparian, hydrology, topography, roads)
- Hands-on mapping exercise in 2 regions
- Reviewed attributes needed for availability of species data

### Tasks:

- Subteam to work on core area definition (what to connect)

## Guidance Document Core Team Meeting Three

February 22, 1-3 pm

Assunpink Wildlife Management Area, Main Building

**Meeting attendees:** Joe Bilinski, Gretchen Fowles, Heidi Hanlon, Dave Jenkins, Paula Scelsi, Lisa Stern, Joe Sweger, Nellie Tsipoura, Dane Ward, Brian Zarate

- A quick review of the previous GD meeting and Mapping and Communications team meetings. Each group did outreach to other states in support of their respective needs.
- We did a brief review of some additional projects ongoing that complement the work of the overall habitat connectivity initiative: The TNC culvert inventory, the Wildlife Guardian project by Montclair State University, and the road mitigation BMPs.
- At the end of the previous meeting, members volunteered to contact states to gather information on the development of other connectivity project guidance documents. We heard back from Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Massachusetts, Maine, New York, and Washington.
- We reviewed draft language of core team goals and objectives and made suggestions and edits.

## Communication Core Team Meeting Three

February 26th, 10 am – noon

Assunpink Wildlife Management Area, Main Office

**Meeting attendees:** Gretchen Fowles, Andrea Kornbluh, Bill Pitts, Brian Zarate

- Reviewed potential options for document storage (e.g. Zotero, Dropbox)
- Discussed the idea of having all 3 core meetings on a standing day each month
- Finalized team goals/objectives
- Drafted Habitat Connectivity Plan Goals
- Reviewed revamped task list
- Distributed annotated bibliography template for outreach materials from other states

Tasks:

- Review working group website and consider improvements
- Review annotated bibliography and consider utility of Zotero
- Team member revamping Habitat Connectivity Project presentation for the public
- Review newly categorized task list and start prioritizing

## Habitat Connectivity Plan Goals:

A strategic plan promoting the long-term viability of terrestrial wildlife populations in New Jersey through a science-based, collaborative approach. The plan will consist of two tools that identify and recommend opportunities and priorities to conserve and restore habitat connectivity.

- A GIS-based map that identifies and characterizes critical habitat core and corridors.
- A guidance document that recommends conservation actions in areas identified by associated mapping of habitat cores and corridors.