

# Montour Falls Climate Projections and Vulnerable Assets

Ingrid Zabel

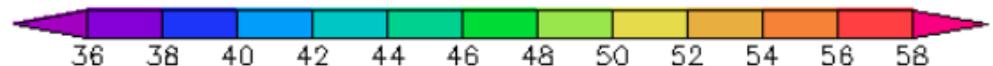
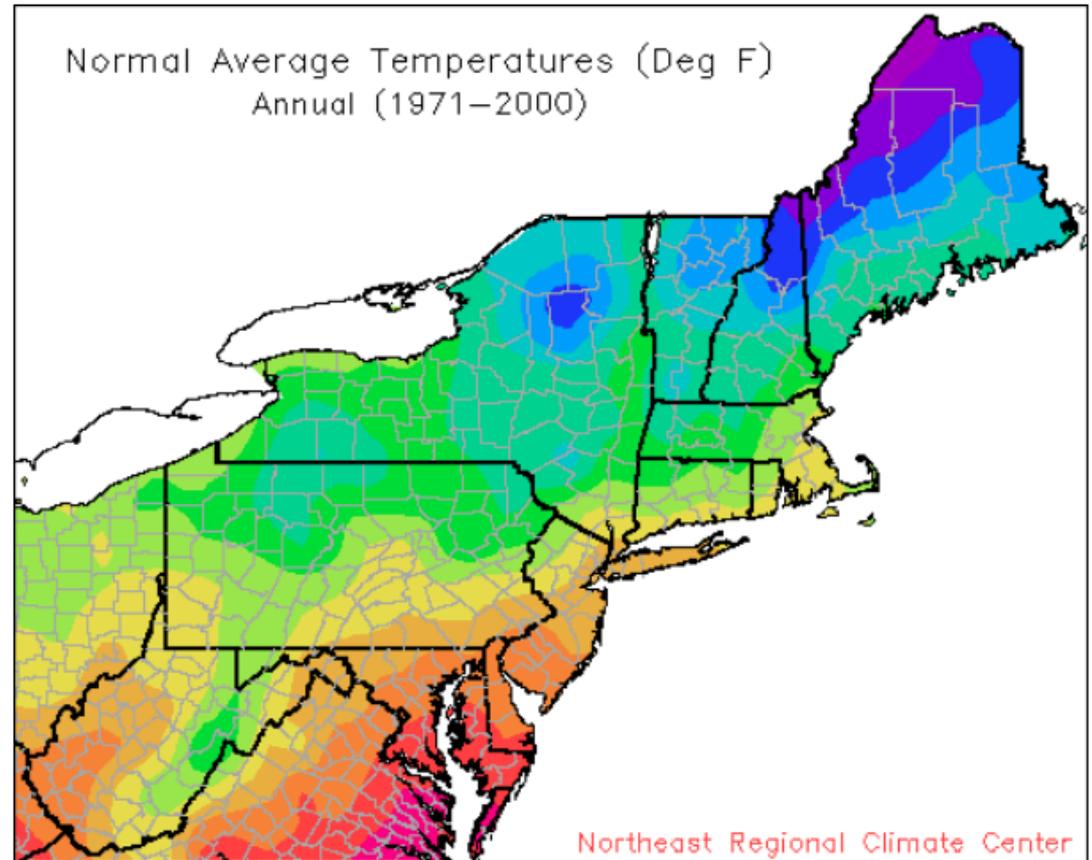
Curator, New York Climate Change Science Clearinghouse  
Paleontological Research Institution, Ithaca, NY

# Outline

- Background information
- Projections
  - Extreme rainfall
  - Temperature and precipitation variables
  - Future stream discharge for different storms
- Vulnerable assets
  - Population
  - Built infrastructure
  - Natural resources

# How will the local climate change in the future?

- Temperature
- Rain
- Snow
- Storms & flooding
- Extremes
  - Heat
  - Cold
  - Rain



# Future climate change depends on our choices

- Representative Concentration Pathways (RCPs) for carbon dioxide emissions
- Projections presented for two different RCPs

## RCP 4.5

Low to medium emissions

Stabilization scenario:  
emissions peak around  
mid-21<sup>st</sup> century, then  
decline

## RCP 8.5

High emissions

No reduction in emissions  
over time

# Storm recurrence

Examples:

- 2, 5, 10, 50, 100, 500 year recurrences
- “100-year storm”

100-year storm

=

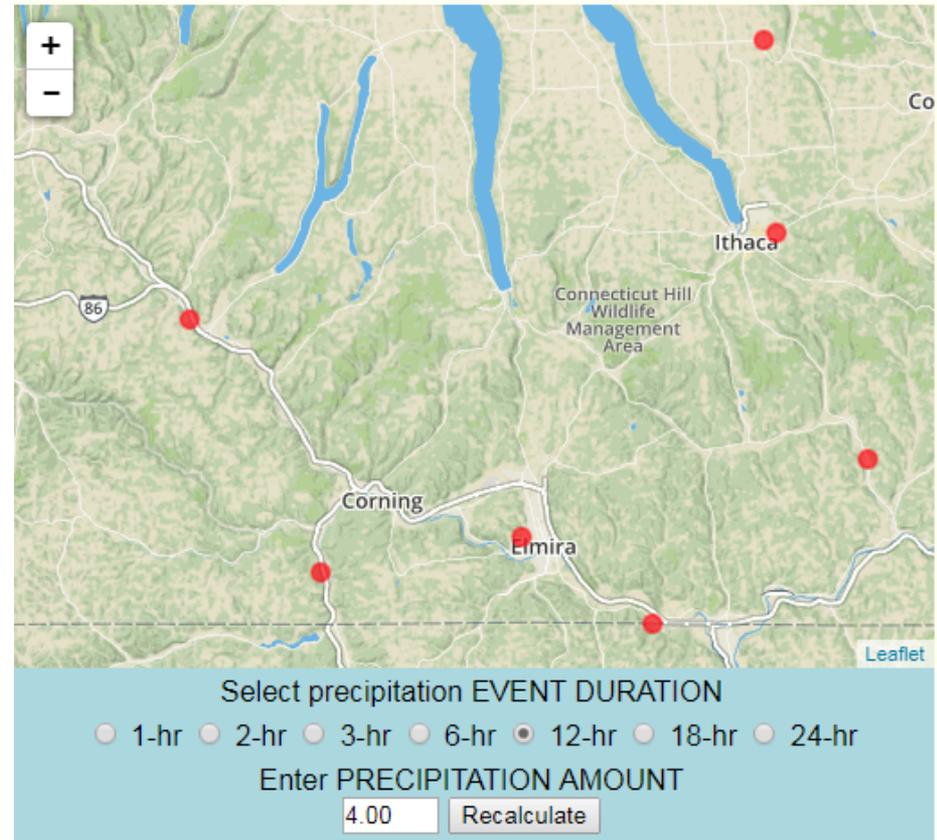
A storm with a  
1 in a 100 (1%)  
chance of occurring  
within in a year

# Extreme Rainfall Projections

Source: Intensity Duration Frequency Curves for New York State, Future Projections for a Changing Climate  
Northeast Regional Climate Center,  
Cornell University

[http://ny-idf-projections.nrcc.cornell.edu/idf\\_prob\\_finder.html](http://ny-idf-projections.nrcc.cornell.edu/idf_prob_finder.html)

Nearest location for  
projections: Elmira, NY



# Changes in storm recurrences

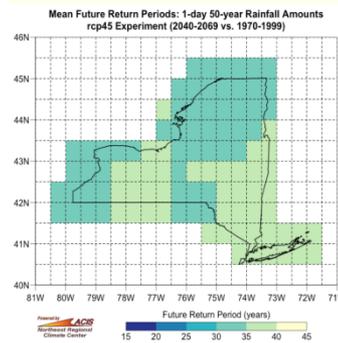
## RCP 4.5

(low to med emissions)

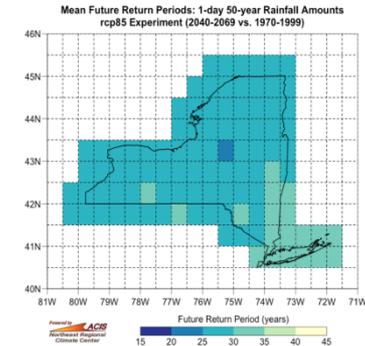
## RCP 8.5

(high emissions)

Time period:  
2040-2069

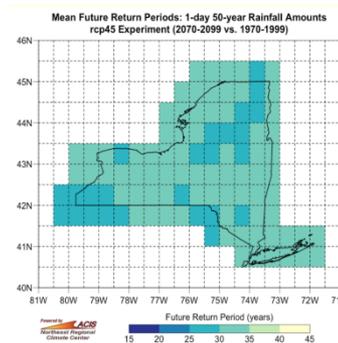


50-year storm becomes  
35 to 40-year storm

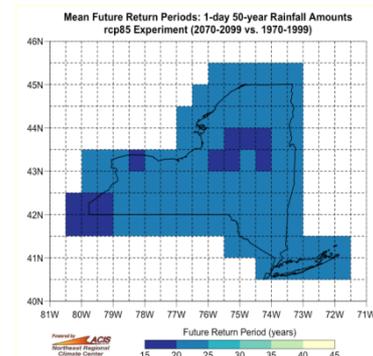


50-year storm becomes  
25 to 30-year storm

Time period:  
2070-2099

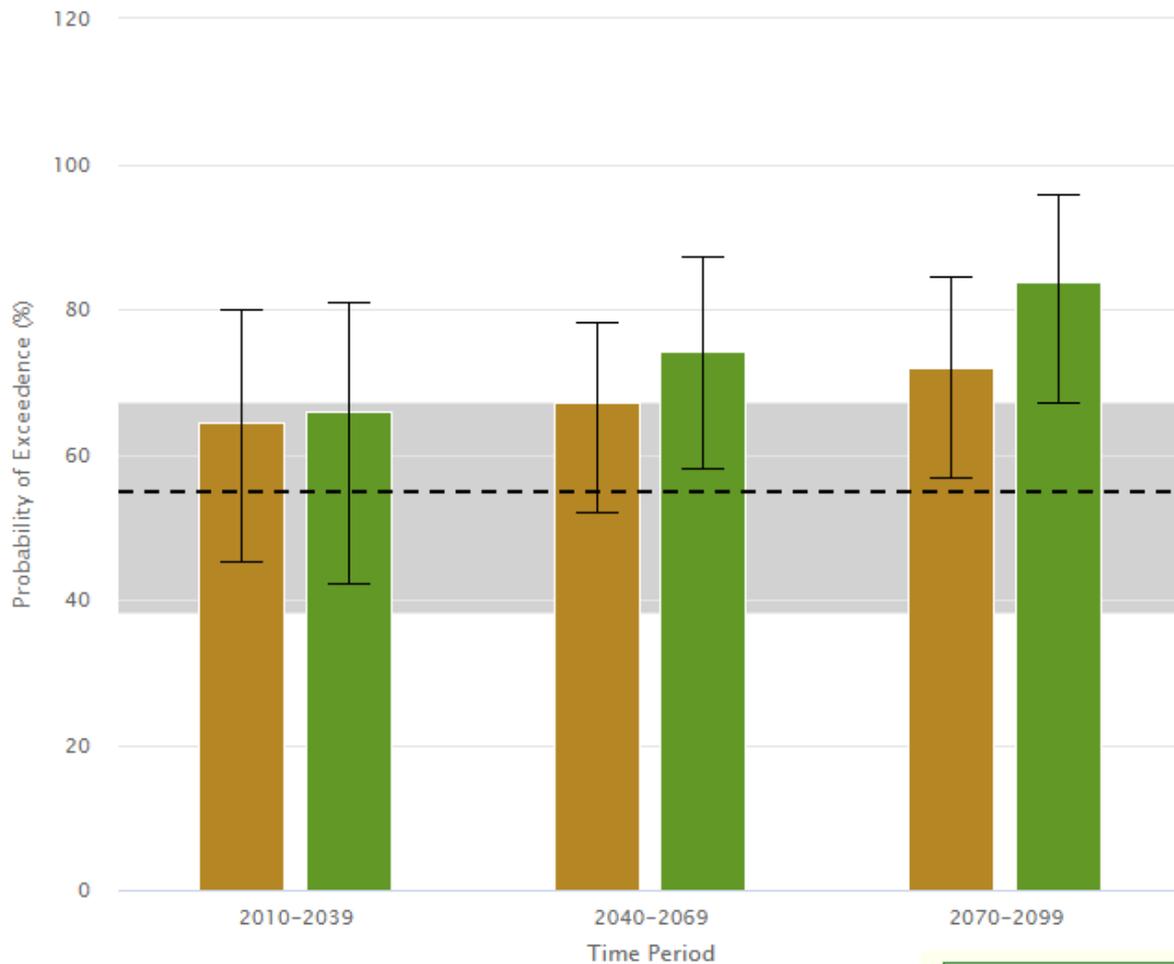


50-year storm becomes  
30 to 35-year storm



50-year storm becomes  
20 to 25-year storm

Probability of Exceeding 4.00 Inches of Precipitation in 12 Hours at ELMIRA During Specified 30-Year Periods (%)



Future probability of extreme rainfalls

This example: 4 inches of rain in 12 hours



Mean probability For 1970-1999

- Low Emissions RCP4.5
- High Emissions RCP8.5
- Observed
- Observed Confidence Interval

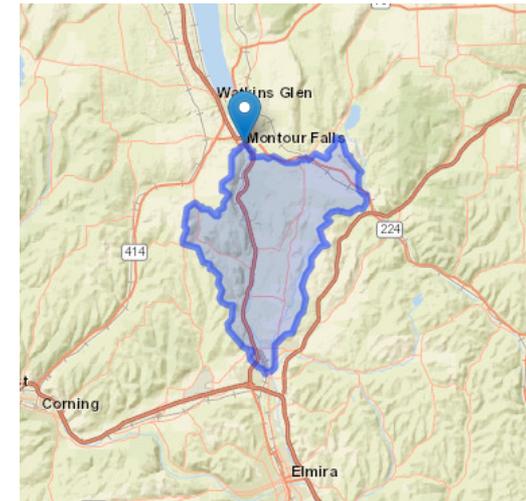
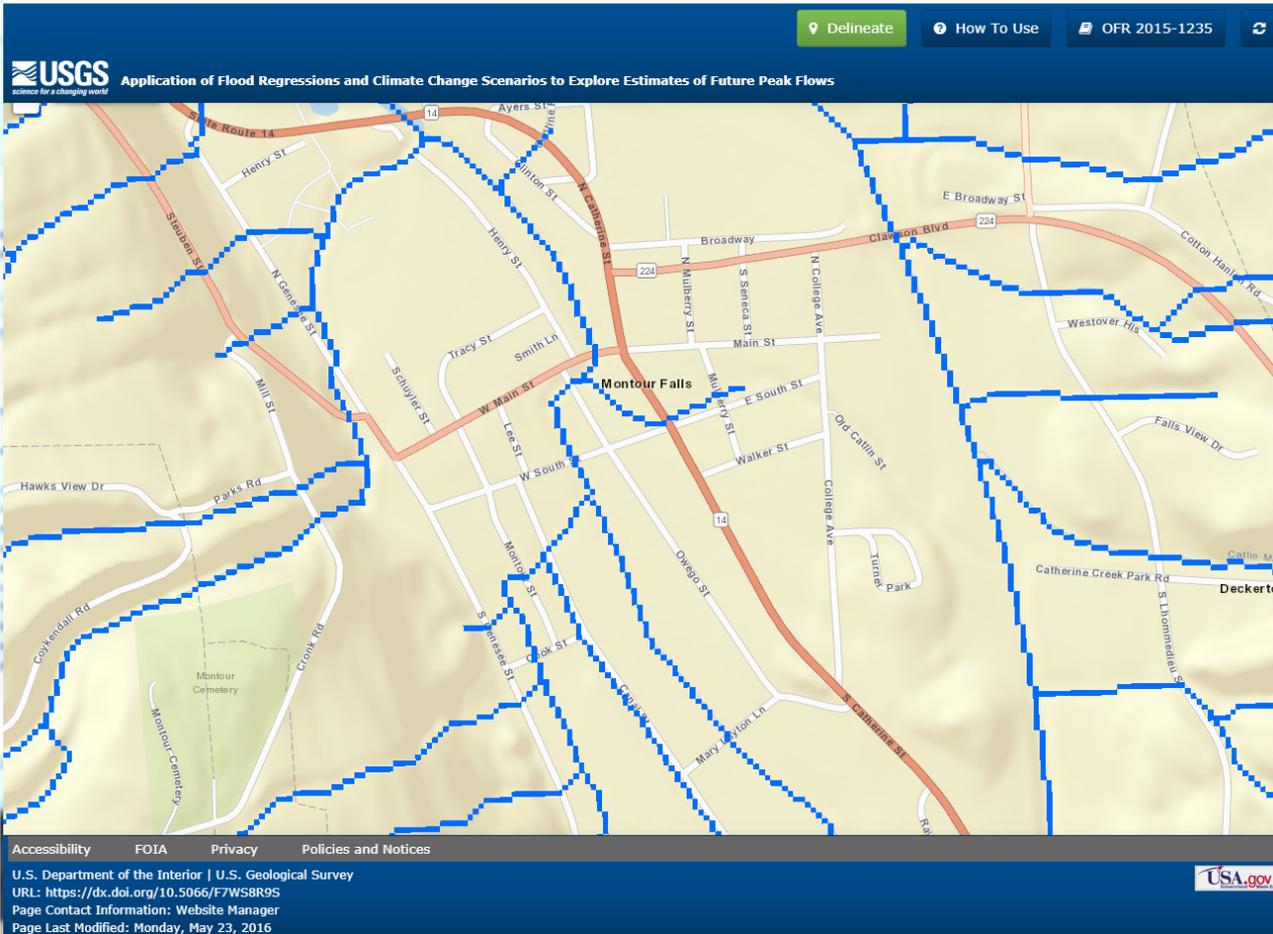
Northeast Regional Climate

Probability of Exceeding 4.00 Inches of Precipitation in 12 Hours at ELMIRA During Specified 30-Year Periods (%)

	Observed (1970-1999) <sup>①</sup>	Projected (2010-2039) <sup>②</sup>		Projected (2040-2069) <sup>③</sup>		Projected (2070-2099) <sup>④</sup>	
		RCP 4.5	RCP 8.5	RCP 4.5	RCP 8.5	RCP 4.5	RCP 8.5
Mean	55	64	66	67	74	72	84
Lower Bound	38	45	42	52	58	57	67
Upper Bound	67	80	81	78	87	84	96



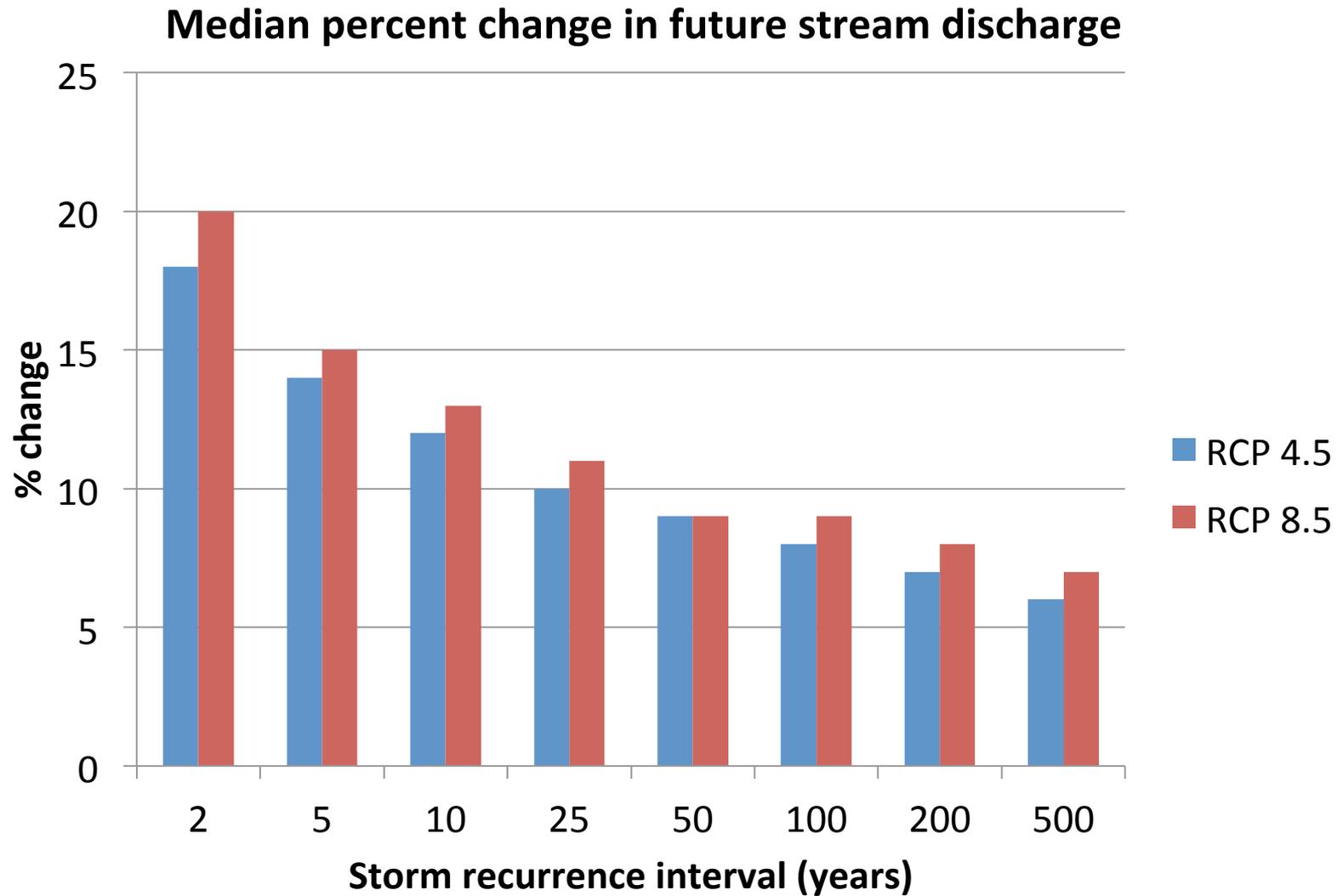
# Future Flow Explorer



Source: U.S. Geological Survey

<https://ny.water.usgs.gov/maps/floodfreq-climate/>

# Future time period: 2050-2074



# Temperature and Precipitation Projections

- Average temperature
- No. of days with maximum temperature above 95°F
- No. of days with minimum temperature below 32°F
- Total precipitation
- No. of days with precipitation > 1 inch

Source: New York Climate Change Science Clearinghouse

- <https://nyclimatescience.org/>
- Data for Schuyler County
- From Climate Data Grapher developed by the Northeast Regional Climate Center, Cornell University
- Observations: based on US National Weather Service Cooperative Observer Network
- Projections: General Circulation Model (GCM) projections from 32 Climate Model Intercomparison Project Phase 5 (CMIP5) models

# Average temperature

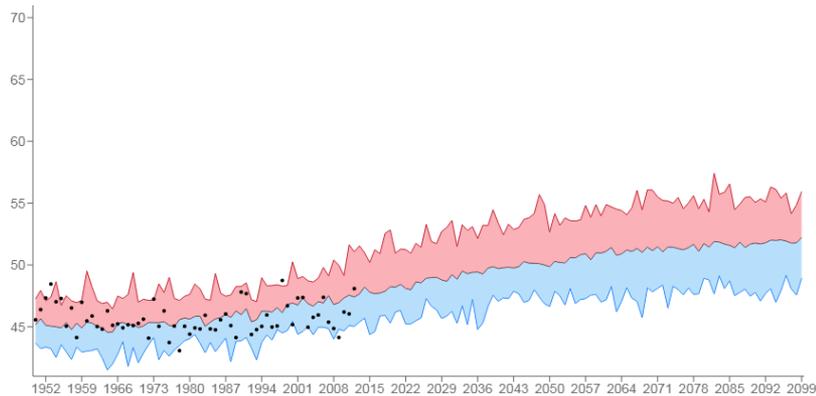
## RCP 4.5

(low to med emissions)

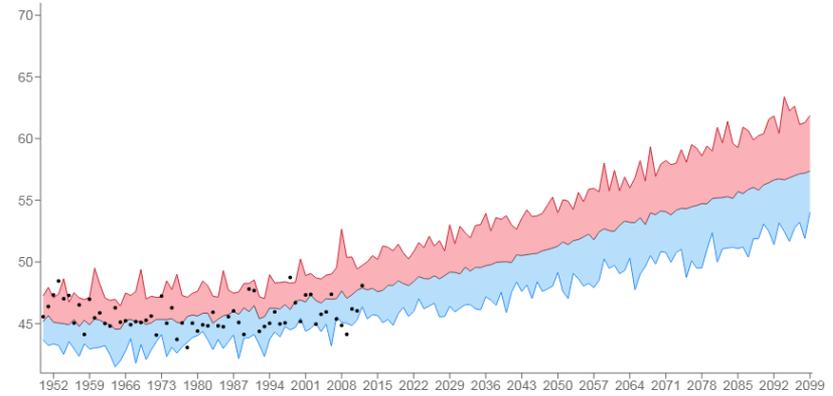
## RCP 8.5

(high emissions)

Annual Average Temperature - Schuyler County



Annual Average Temperature - Schuyler County



Modeled

YEAR	MIN	MEAN	MAX	Δ min	Δ mean	Δ max
1983-2012	44.2	46.5	48.7	0.0	0.0	0.0
2009-2039	45.8	48.5	52	1.6	2.0	3.3
2039-2069	47.3	50.5	54.1	3.1	4.0	5.4
2069-2099	48	51.6	55.4	3.8	5.1	6.7

Modeled

YEAR	MIN	MEAN	MAX	Δ min	Δ mean	Δ max
1983-2012	44.2	46.5	48.7	0.0	0.0	0.0
2009-2039	46.1	48.7	51.6	1.9	2.2	2.9
2039-2069	48.5	51.9	55.4	4.3	5.4	6.7
2069-2099	51.4	55.6	60.1	7.2	9.1	11.4

# Number of days with maximum temperature > 95°F

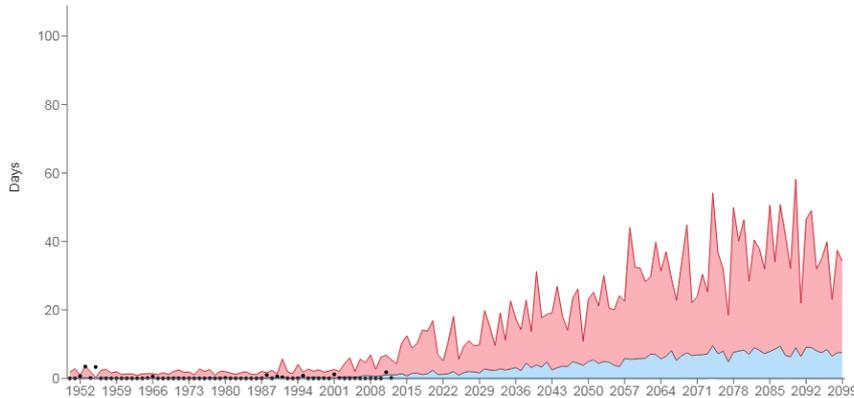
## RCP 4.5

(low to med emissions)

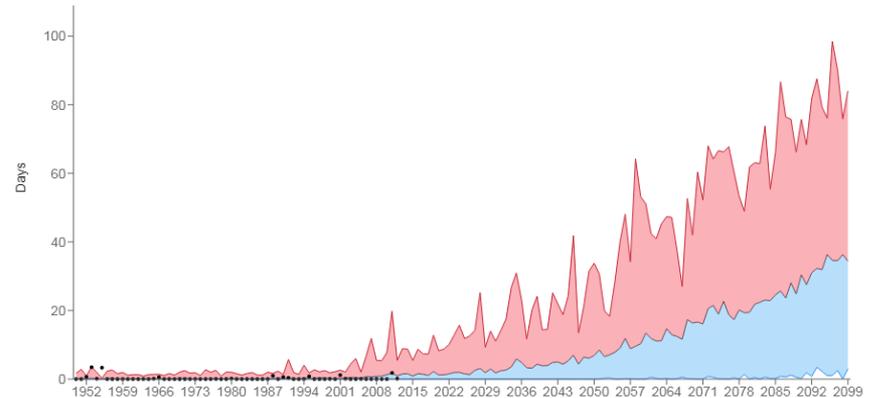
## RCP 8.5

(high emissions)

Annual Days with Maximum Temperature Above 95°F - Schuyler County



Annual Days with Maximum Temperature Above 95°F - Schuyler County



Modeled

YEAR	MIN	MEAN	MAX	Δ min	Δ mean	Δ max
1983-2012	0	0.4	3.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
2009-2039	0	1.9	12	0.0	1.5	8.8
2039-2069	0	5.1	26.6	0.0	4.7	23.4
2069-2099	0	7.7	36.8	0.0	7.3	33.6

Modeled

YEAR	MIN	MEAN	MAX	Δ min	Δ mean	Δ max
1983-2012	0	0.4	4	0.0	0.0	0.0
2009-2039	0	2.3	13.8	0.0	1.9	9.8
2039-2069	0.1	9	34.4	0.1	8.6	30.4
2069-2099	0.8	25.3	70.5	0.8	24.9	66.5

Number of days with minimum  
temperature  $< 32^{\circ}\text{F}$

# Total precipitation

Number of days with precipitation  $> 1''$

# Vulnerable Assets

# Populations: statistics from US Census American Community Survey

## 2017 data

Households with one or more people under 18	24.1%	±6.1%
Households with one or more people over 65	38.2%	±7.1%
Population with a disability (civilian, noninstitutionalized)	23.0%	±4.7%
Language other than English spoken at home	2.6%	±1.8%
Households with broadband internet subscription	61.1%	±7.3%

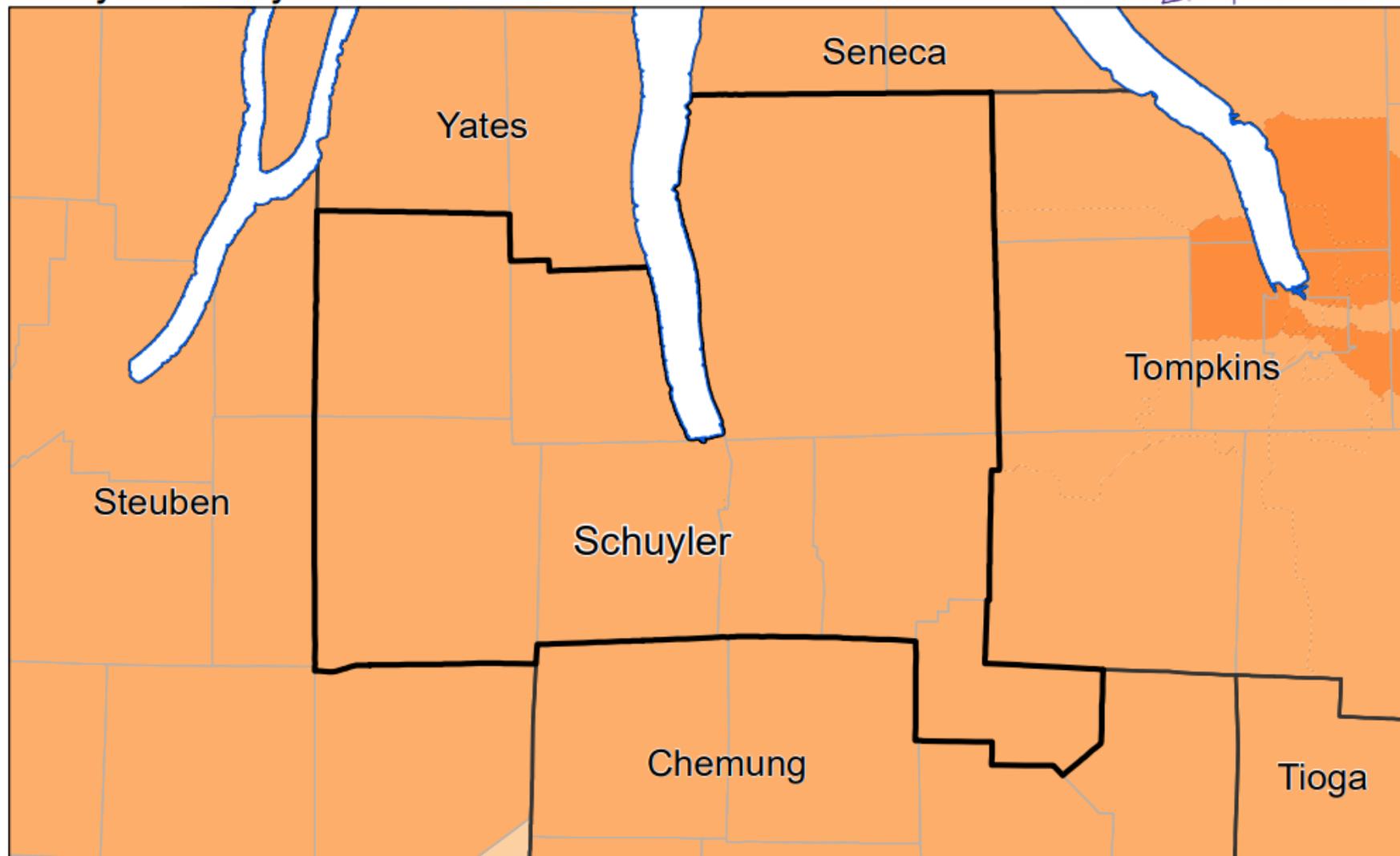
# Populations

- Maps from NYS Department of Health
- Developed in context of heat vulnerability
- Vulnerabilities:
  - Low English-language fluency
  - Socioeconomic status
  - Elderly
  - Urban heat island effect

# Language Vulnerability Schuyler County



Department  
of Health

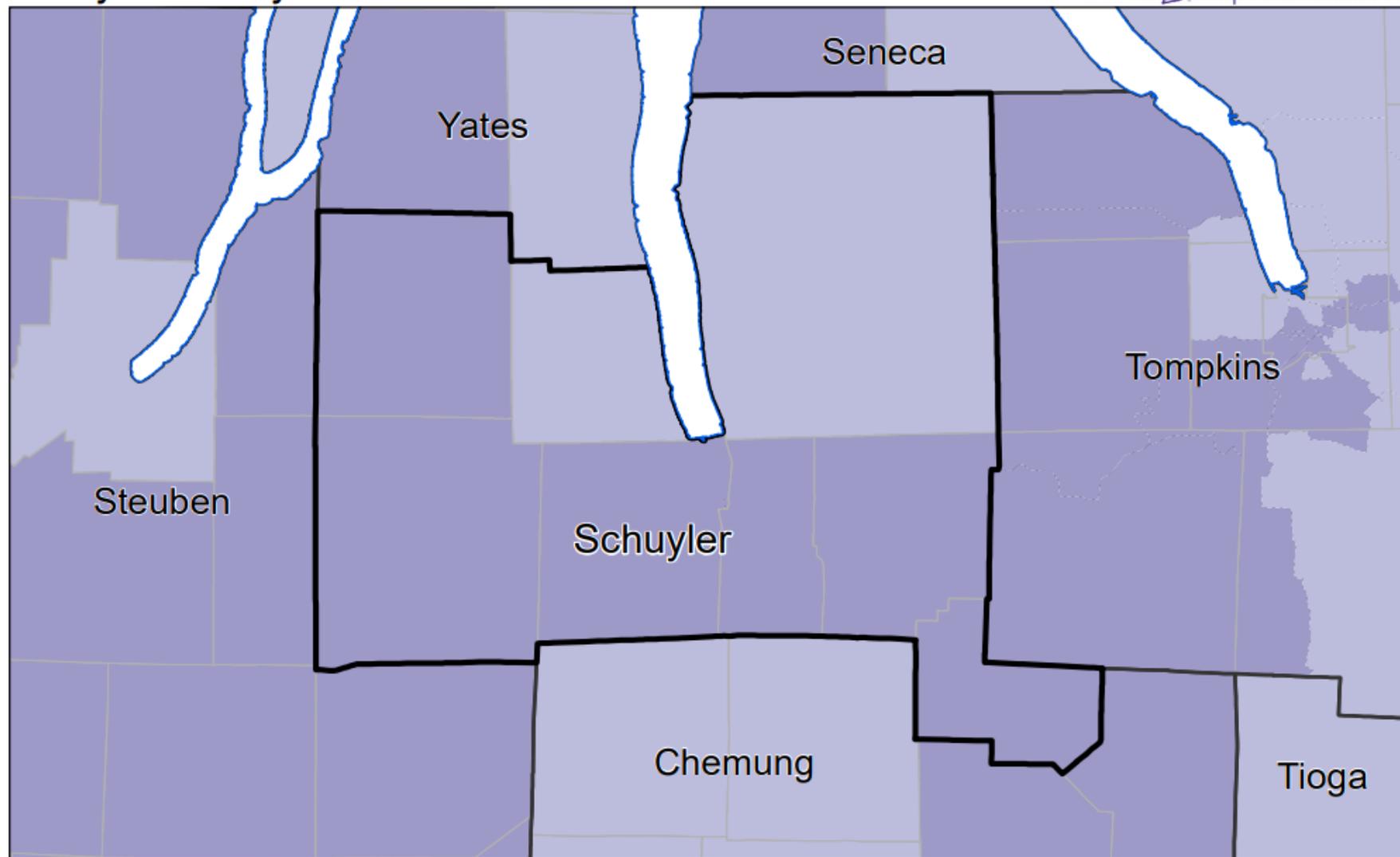


Data: 2010 US Census Bureau, 2011 National Land Cover Database

# Socio-economic Vulnerability Schuyler County



Department  
of Health



Low Vulnerability

High Vulnerability

County boundaries Water boundaries

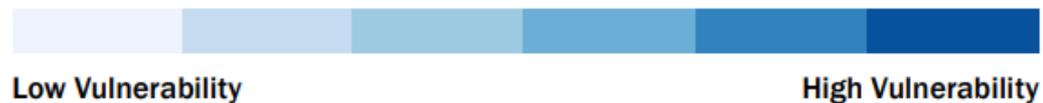
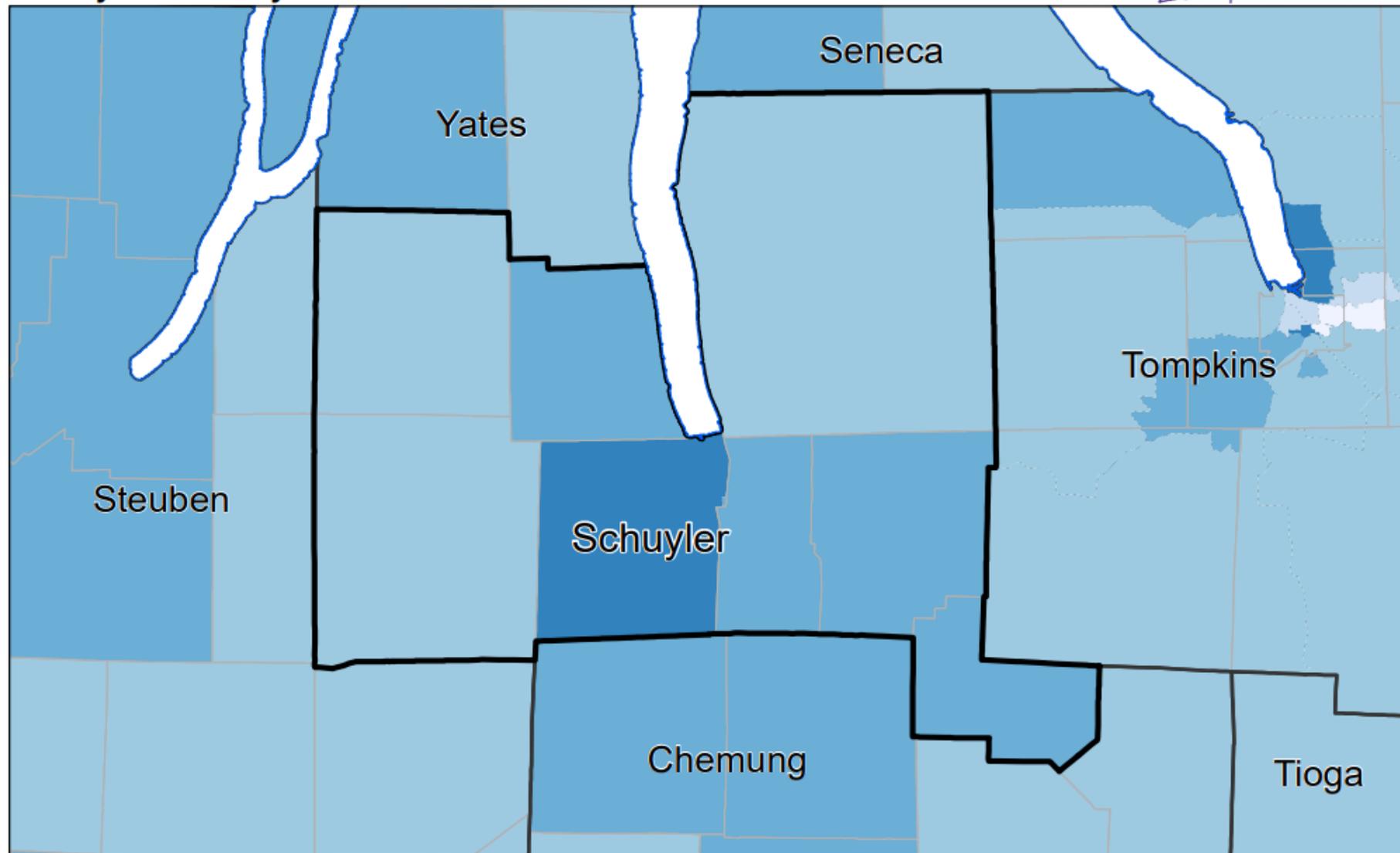
City/Town boundaries Missing data

Data: 2010 US Census Bureau, 2011 National Land Cover Database

# Elderly Isolation/Elderly Vulnerability Schuyler County



Department  
of Health

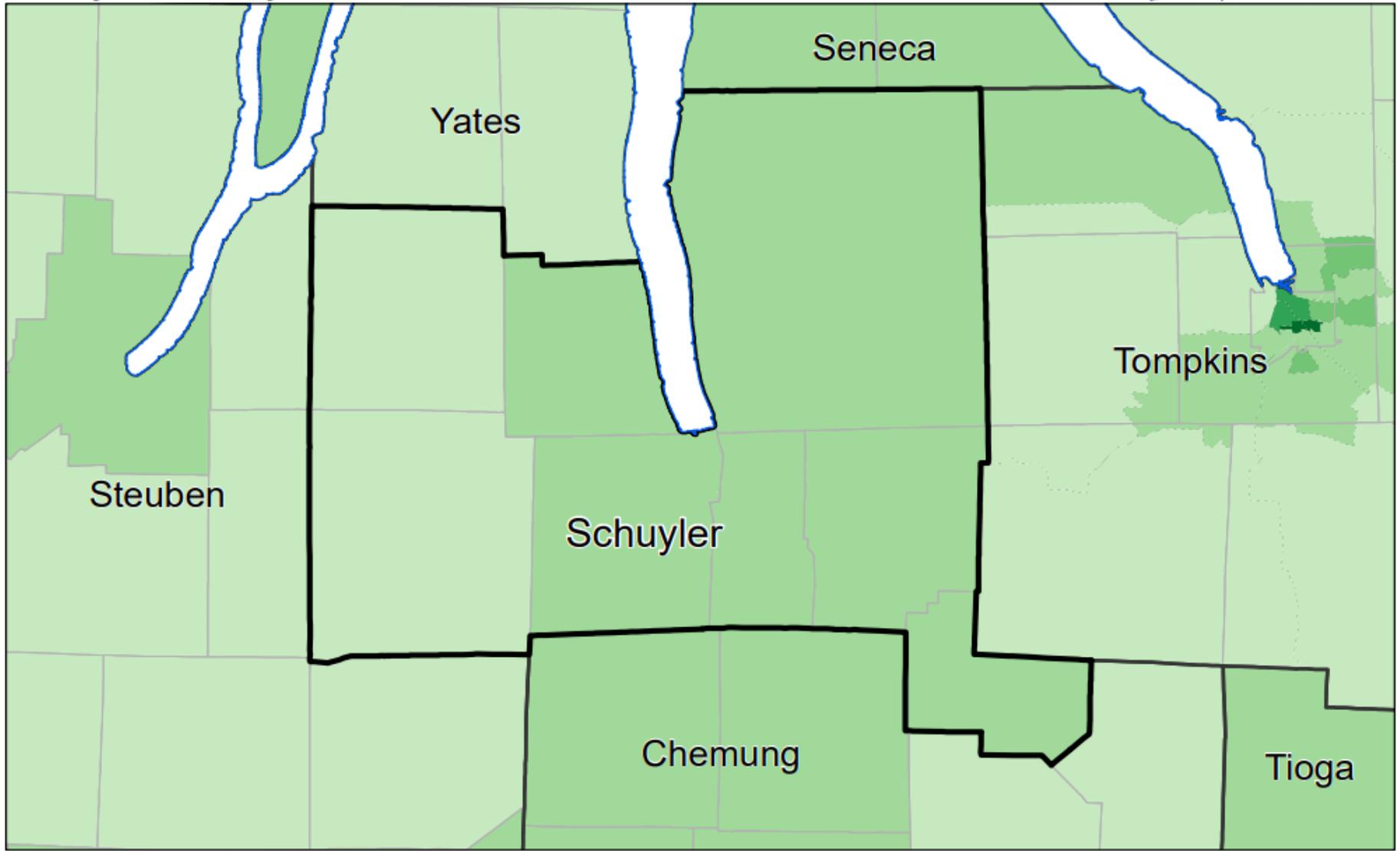


Data: 2010 US Census Bureau, 2011 National Land Cover Database

# Environmental/Urban Vulnerability Schuyler County



Department of Health



Low Vulnerability

High Vulnerability

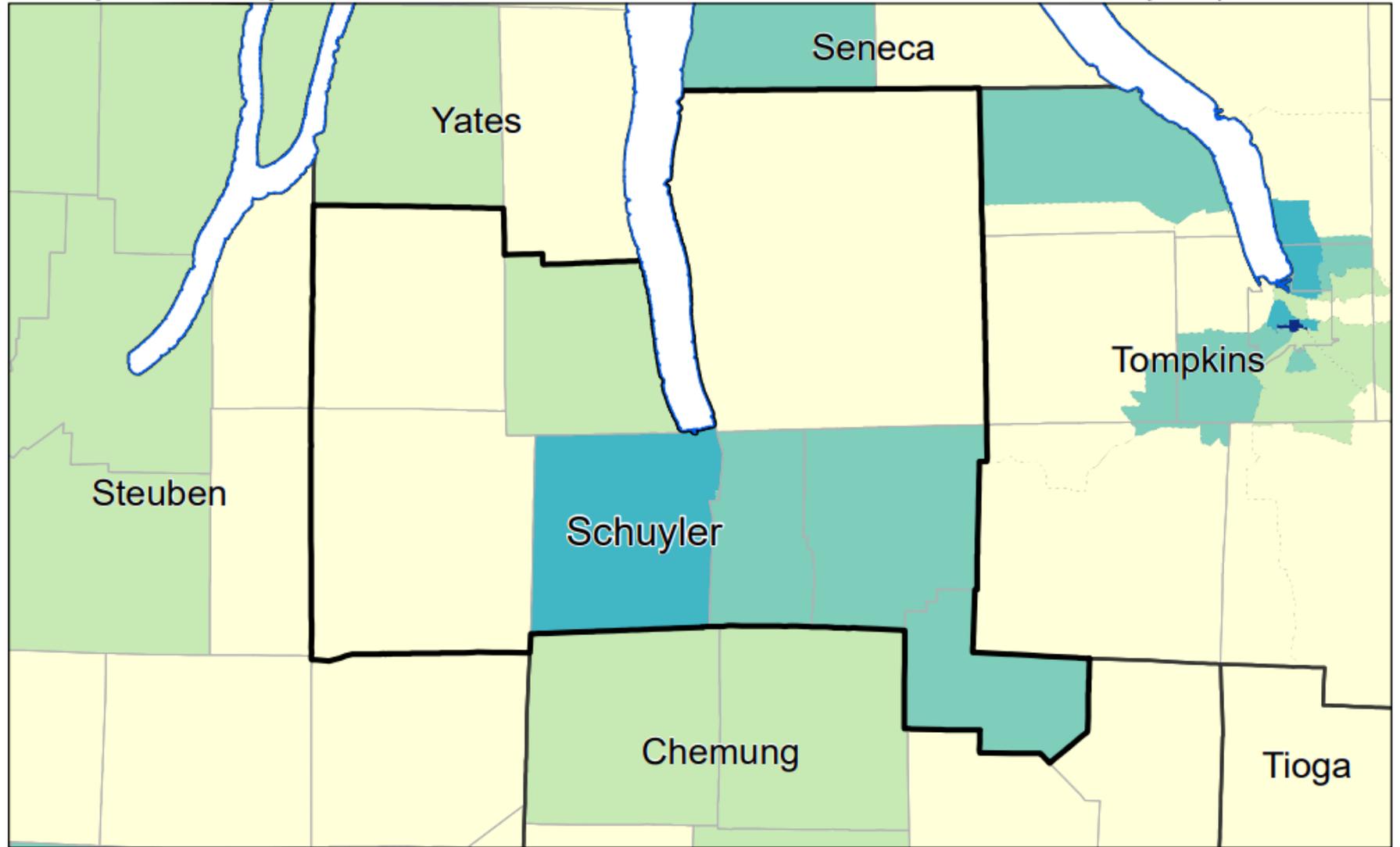
- County boundaries
- Water boundaries
- City/Town boundaries
- Missing data

Data: 2010 US Census Bureau, 2011 National Land Cover Database

# Heat Vulnerability Index Schuyler County



Department  
of Health



Data: 2010 US Census Bureau, 2011 National Land Cover Database

# Built infrastructure

- Maps from US Army Corps of Engineers, New York Climate Change Science Clearinghouse

## Levee Filter List

Find levees matching these criteria

ADD FILTERS UPDATE RESULTS

### Location

Applied

By Geography  By Proximity

Find levees that fall within predefined geographical boundaries

Geography Type

County State

Schuyler, New York

ADD GEOGRAPHY

CLEAR ALL

### System Name

Find levees with a System Name like

### Authorization Category

Find levees with a Authorization Category like

- USACE Federally Constructed and USACE Federally Operated
- USACE Federally constructed, turned over to public sponsor operations and maintenance
- Locally Constructed, Locally Operated and Maintained
- Other Federal Agency

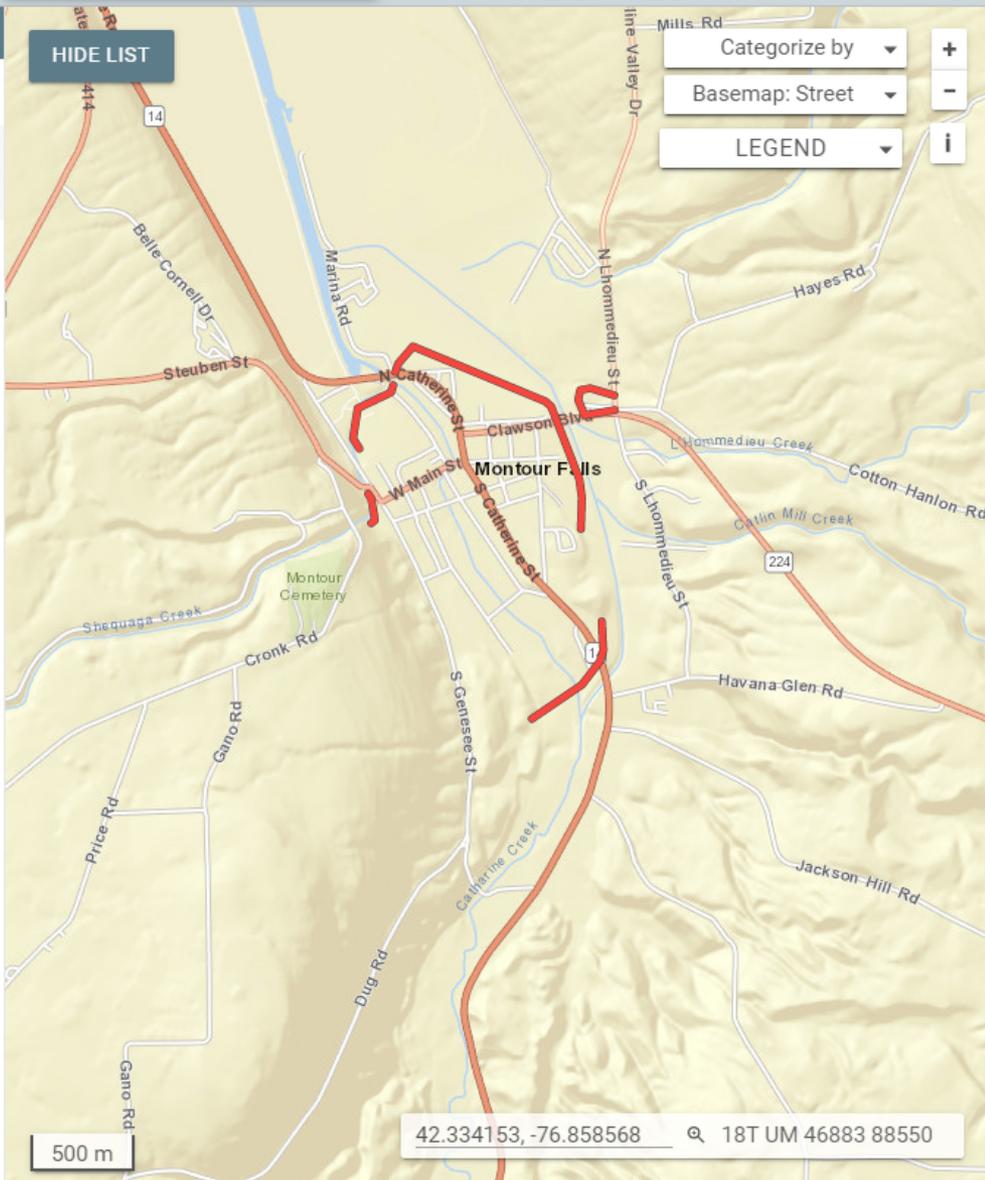
SYSTEMS DETAILS

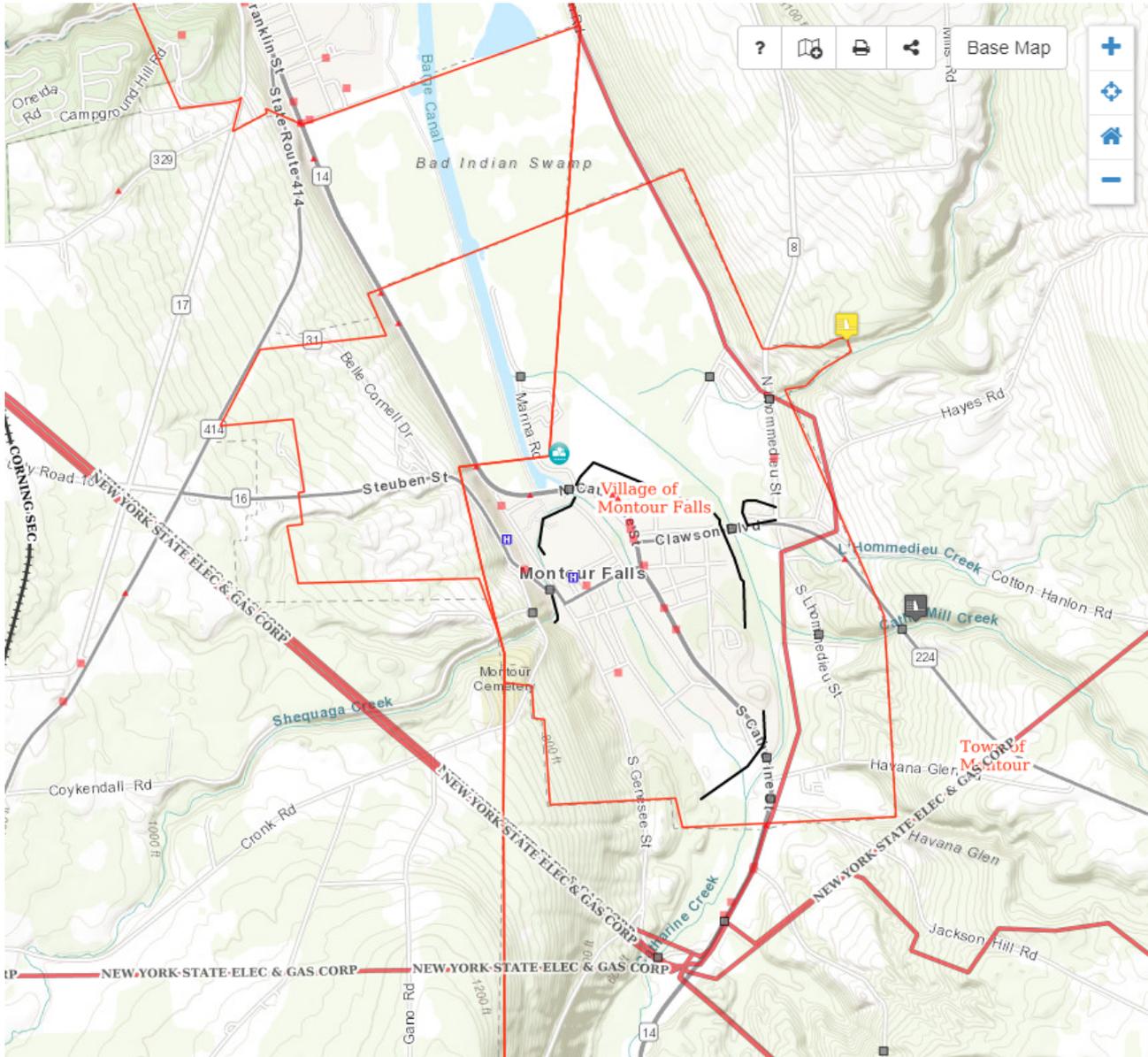
Start a new search

DOWNLOAD DATA ?

## 2 System(s) Found

- Montour Falls, Catharine Creek, Left Bank**  
Location: Schuyler, New York
- Montour Falls, Catharine Creek, Right Bank (Ring)**  
Location: Schuyler, New York





**Dams**

**Legend**

- Low Hazard
- Intermediate Hazard
- High Hazard
- Unknown Hazard

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**Hospitals**

**Legend**

- H**  
Click map icons for more info

---

**Waste Treatment Plants**

**Legend**

- 1940** Number of water treatment facilities shown

---

**Railroads**

Opacity:  100%

- Zoomed in, w/labels
- Zoomed out, no labels

---

**Large Culverts**

Opacity:  90%

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**Bridges**

Opacity:  90%

---

**Electric Transmission Lines**

Opacity:  100%

Electric Transmission Lines

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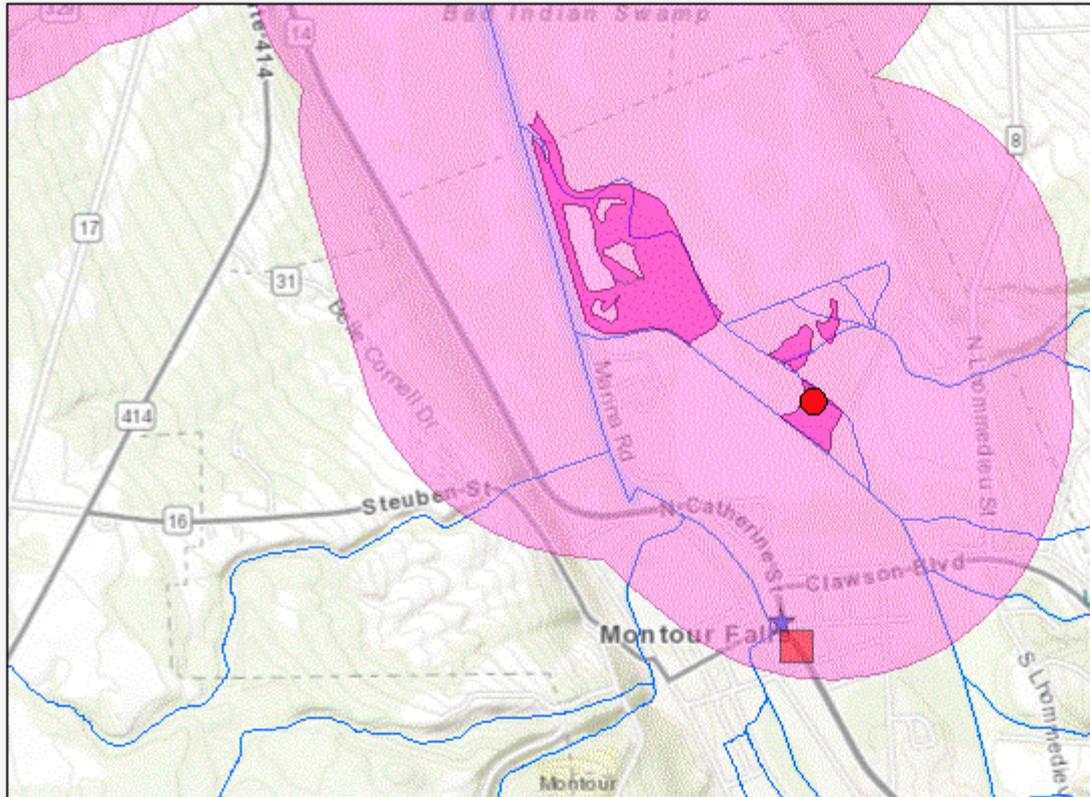
**Bulk Storage Sites**

Opacity:  70%

# Natural resources

- Maps from New York Climate Change Science Clearinghouse and NYS DEC Environmental Resource Mapper

# Environmental Resource Mapper



## Waterbody Classifications for Rivers/Streams

**Regulation:** 898-421.1

**Standard:** C(TS)

**Classification:** C

## State Regulated Freshwater Wetlands

**ID:** MF-1

**Class:** 1

**Size (Acres):** 754.8000000000001

## Freshwater Wetlands Checkzone

This location is in the vicinity of one or more Regulated Freshwater Wetlands.

## Significant Natural Communities

**Natural Community Name:** Silver maple-ash swamp

**Location:** Catharine Creek Wetlands

**Ecological System:** Freshwater Nontidal Wetlands

## Natural Communities in the Vicinity

**Natural Community Name:** Silver maple-ash swamp

**Location:** Catharine Creek Wetlands

**Ecological System:** Freshwater Nontidal Wetlands

**Natural Community Name:** Floodplain forest

**Location:** Catharine Creek Wetlands

**Ecological System:** Freshwater Nontidal Wetlands

## Old or Potential Records (Not displayed on the map)

**Common Name:** Leiberg's Panic Grass

**Scientific Name:** *Dichanthelium leibergii*

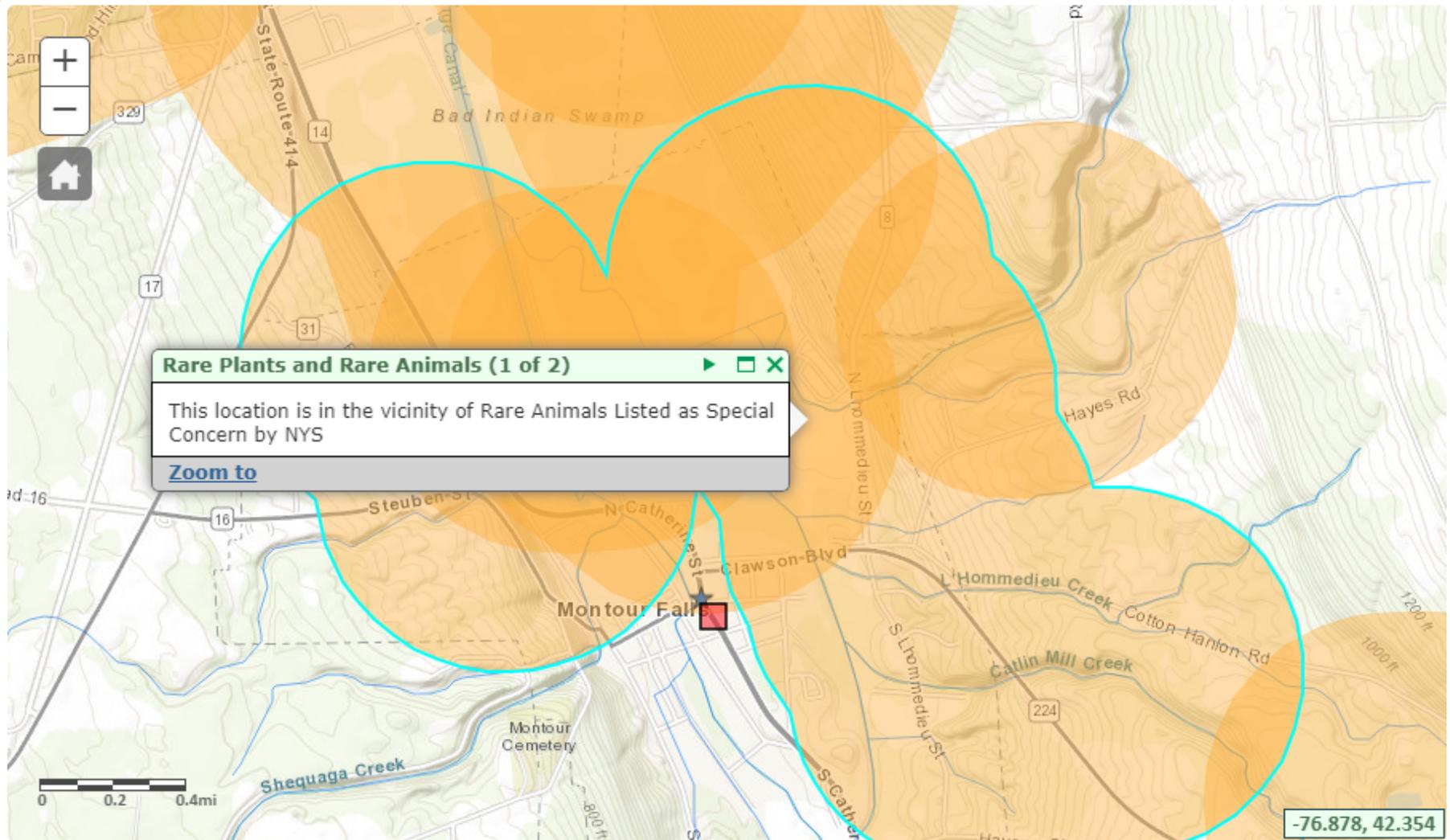
**Date Last Documented:** 1832

**Location:** Seneca Lake Head

**NYS Protected:** Endangered

# Mapper

Base Map: Topographical Using this map



# Designated Trout Streams

