

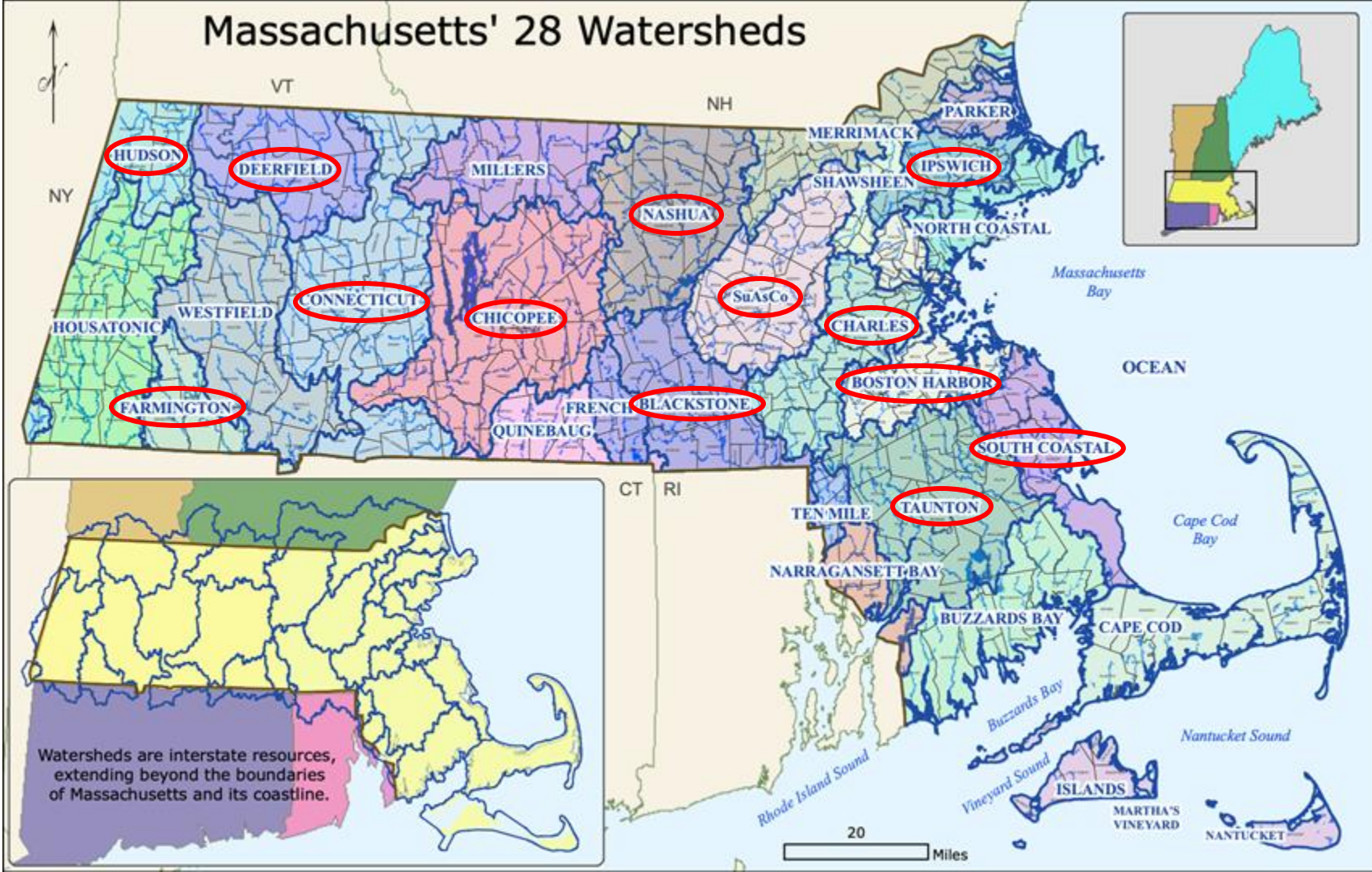


MASSACHUSETTS  
Rivers Alliance

# Drought Management Task Force Updates

November 18, 2024

# Massachusetts' 28 Watersheds



Watersheds are interstate resources, extending beyond the boundaries of Massachusetts and its coastline.

# Hudson River Watershed (Hoosic)



Visual report courtesy of:  
Ryan O'Donnell, Connecticut River Conservancy

# North Branch Hoosic River Reservoir, North Adams



“this is the smallest amount of water I've seen coming over this dam”

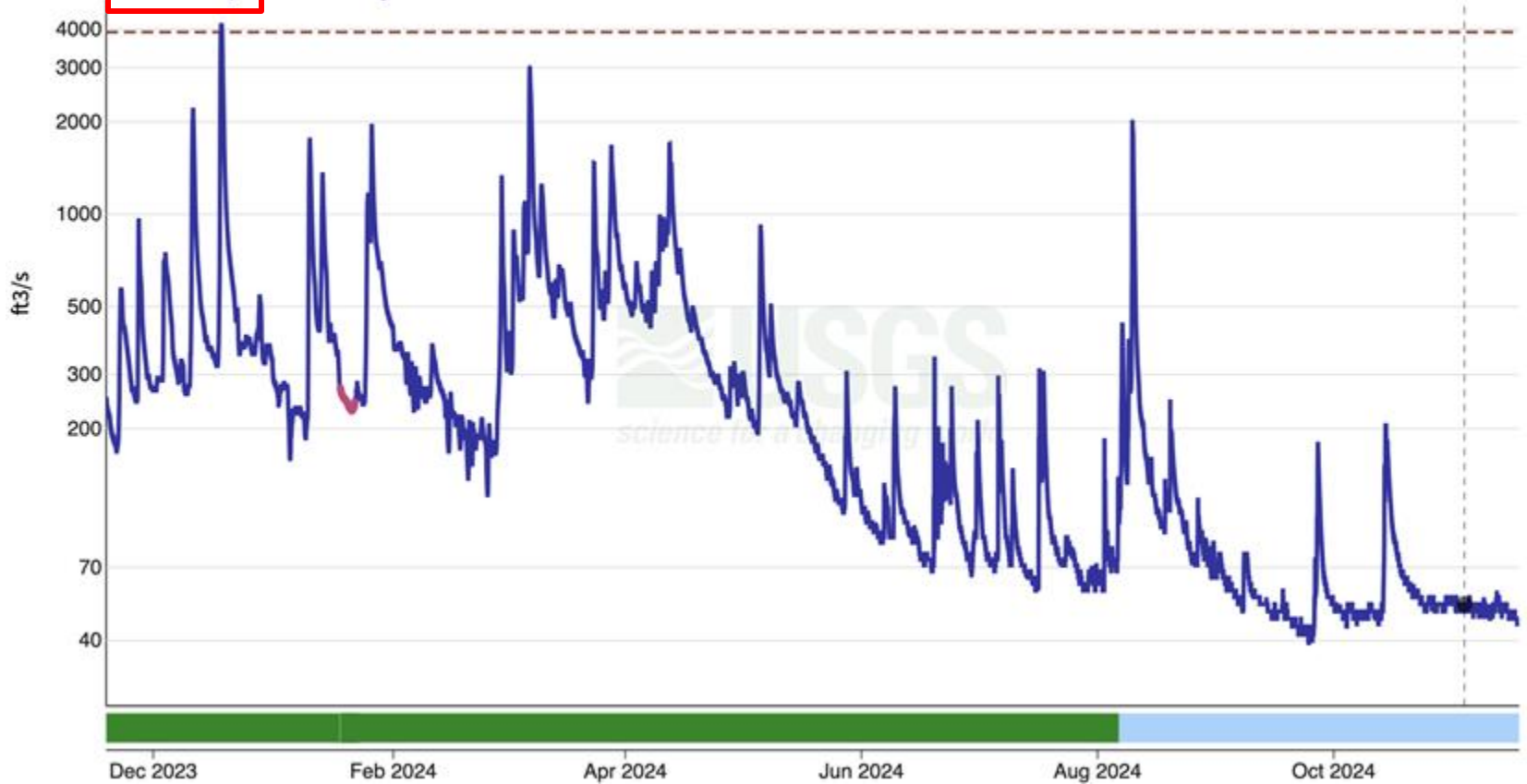
November 3, 2024

# Hoosic River Near Williamstown, MA - 01332500

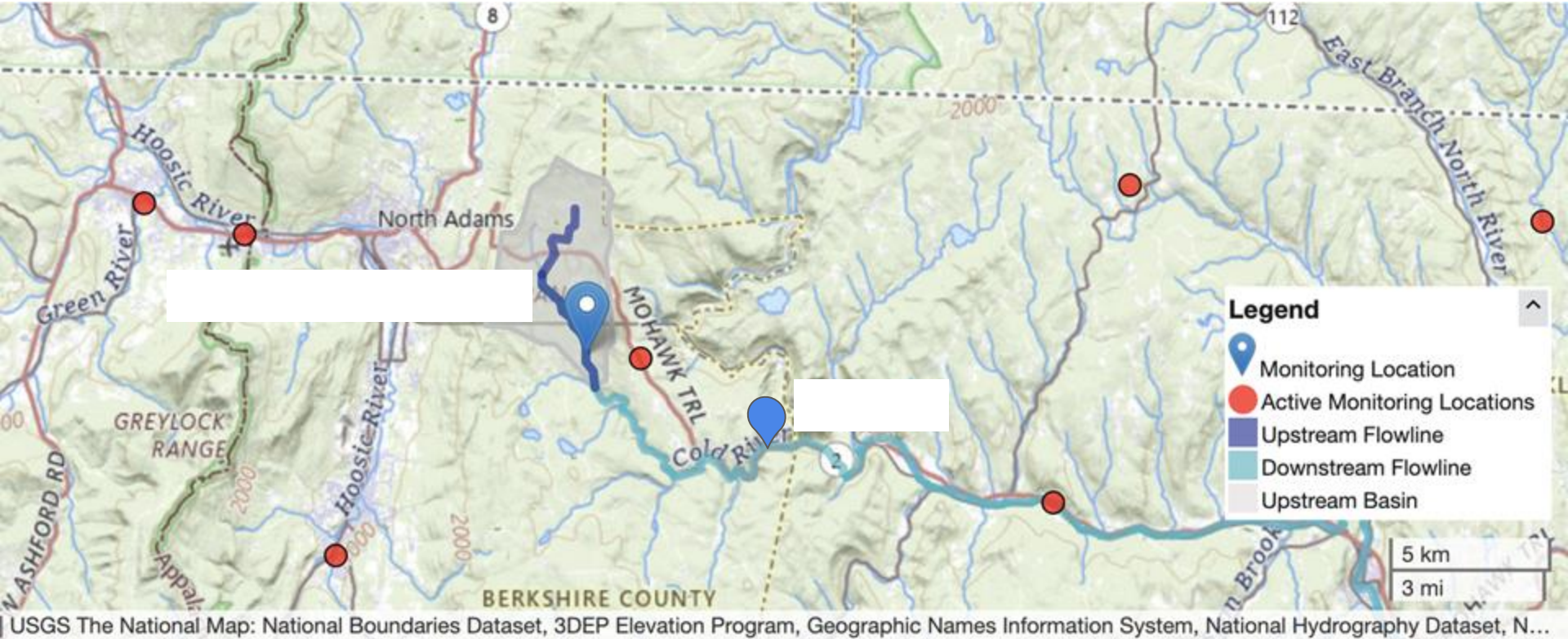
November 18, 2023 - November 17, 2024

Discharge, cubic feet per second

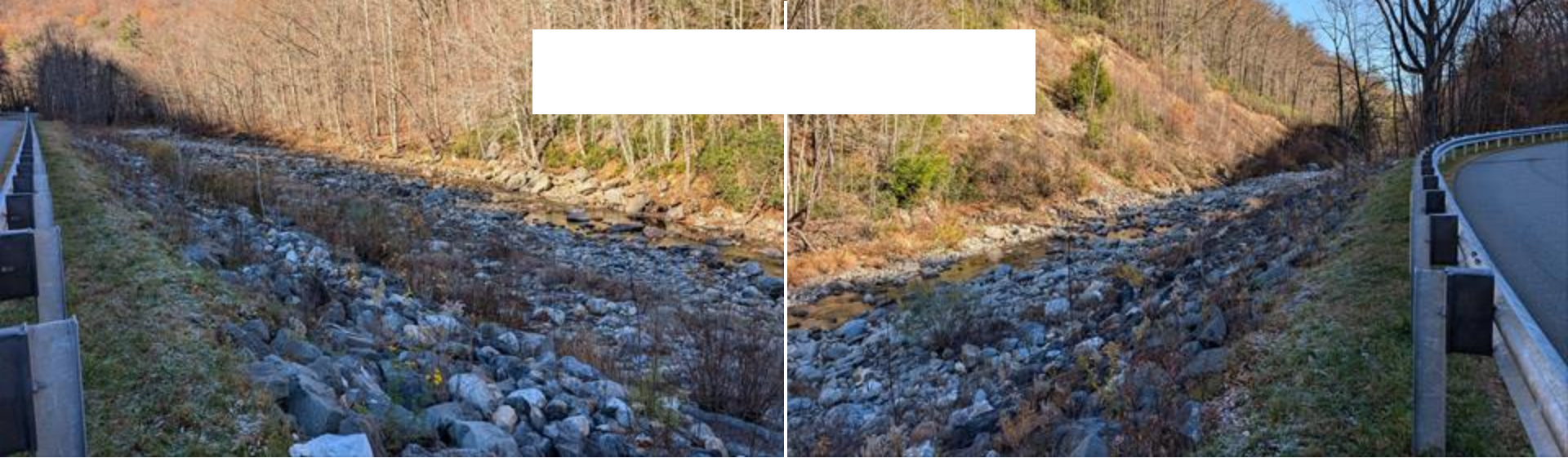
52.9 ft<sup>3</sup>/s - Nov 03, 2024 05:15:00 PM EST



# Deerfield River Watershed



Visual report courtesy of:  
Ryan O'Donnell, Connecticut River Conservancy



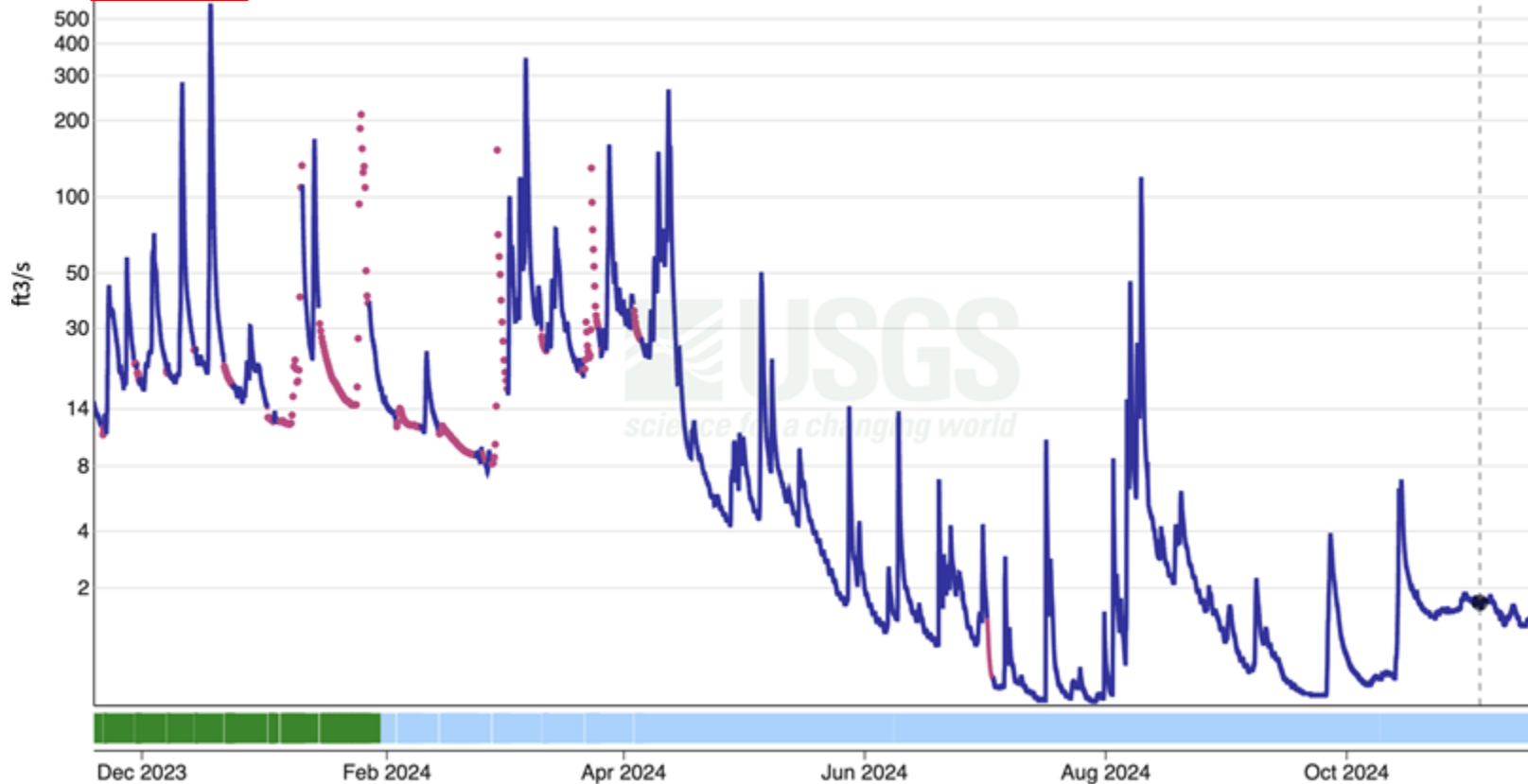
“I drive this way weekly and this is the lowest I've ever seen it”



November  
3, 2024

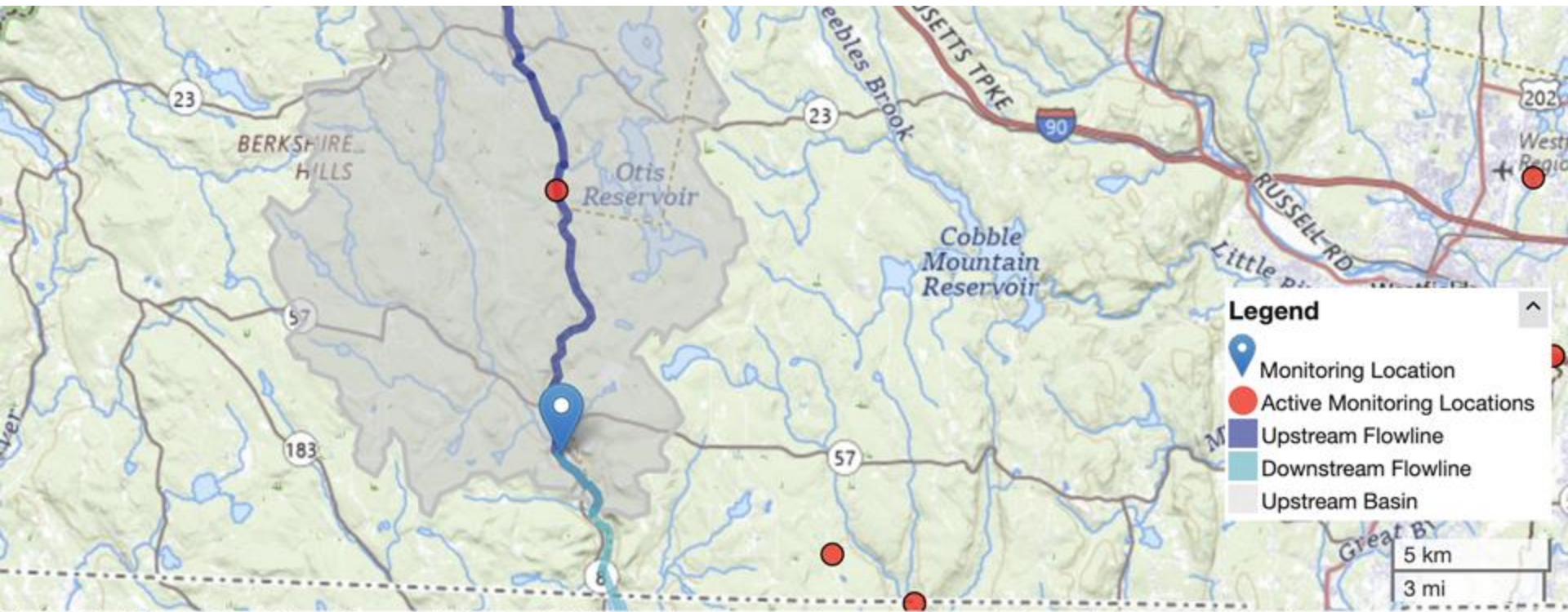
November 18, 2023 - November 17, 2024  
**Discharge, cubic feet per second**

**1.63 ft<sup>3</sup>/s - Nov 03, 2024 03:30:00 PM EST**





# Farmington River Watershed



USGS The National Map: National Boundaries Dataset, 3DEP Elevation Program, Geographic Names Information System, National Hydrography Dataset, N...

# Verbal Report

Paige Vichiola- Water Quality Manager,  
Farmington River Watershed Association

Mass Rivers Connects: Scientists and Monitors Meeting  
November 13th 2024

- Massachusetts' tributaries were already drying up in September

# West Branch Farmington River Near New Boston, MA - 01185500

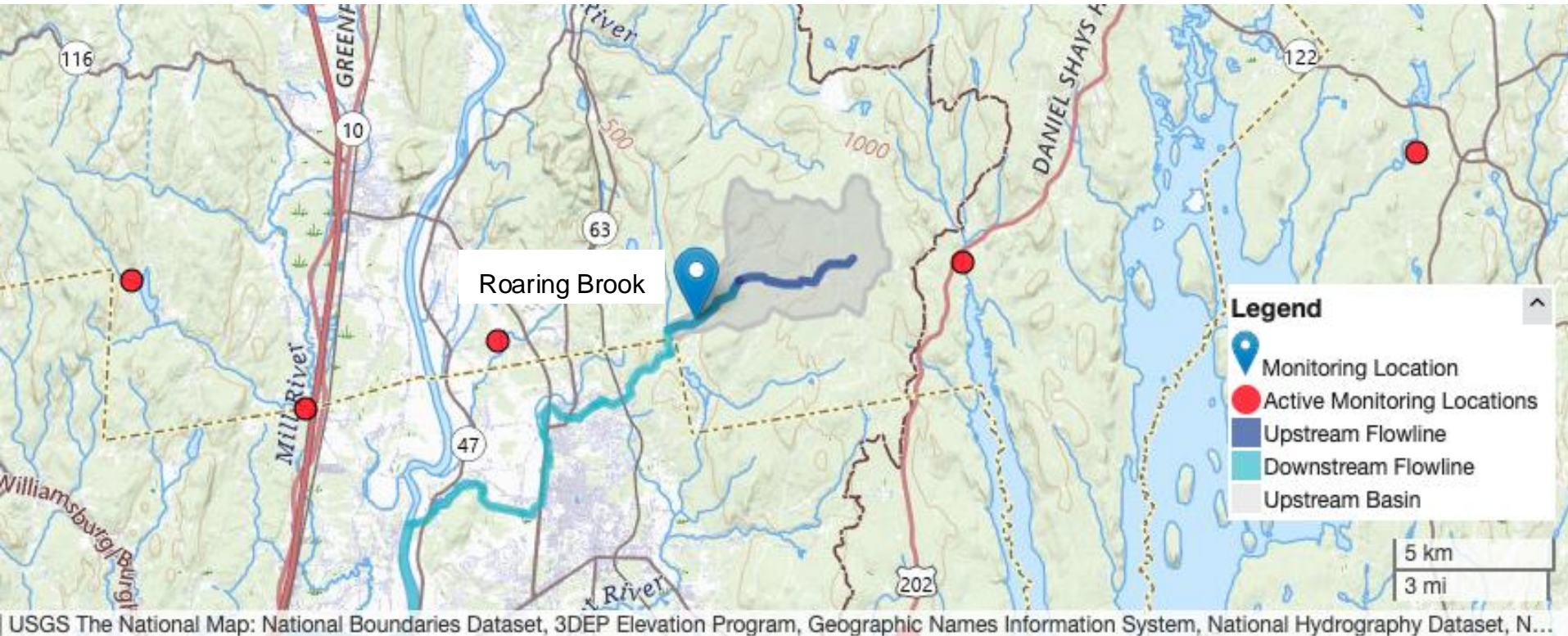
November 18, 2023 - November 17, 2024

Discharge, cubic feet per second

77.5 ft<sup>3</sup>/s - Nov 17, 2024 08:30:00 PM EST



# Connecticut River Watershed



Photos courtesy of:

Paul Beaulieu, Massachusetts Rivers Alliance and Trout Unlimited

# Roaring Brook, Shutesbury



October 30, 2024

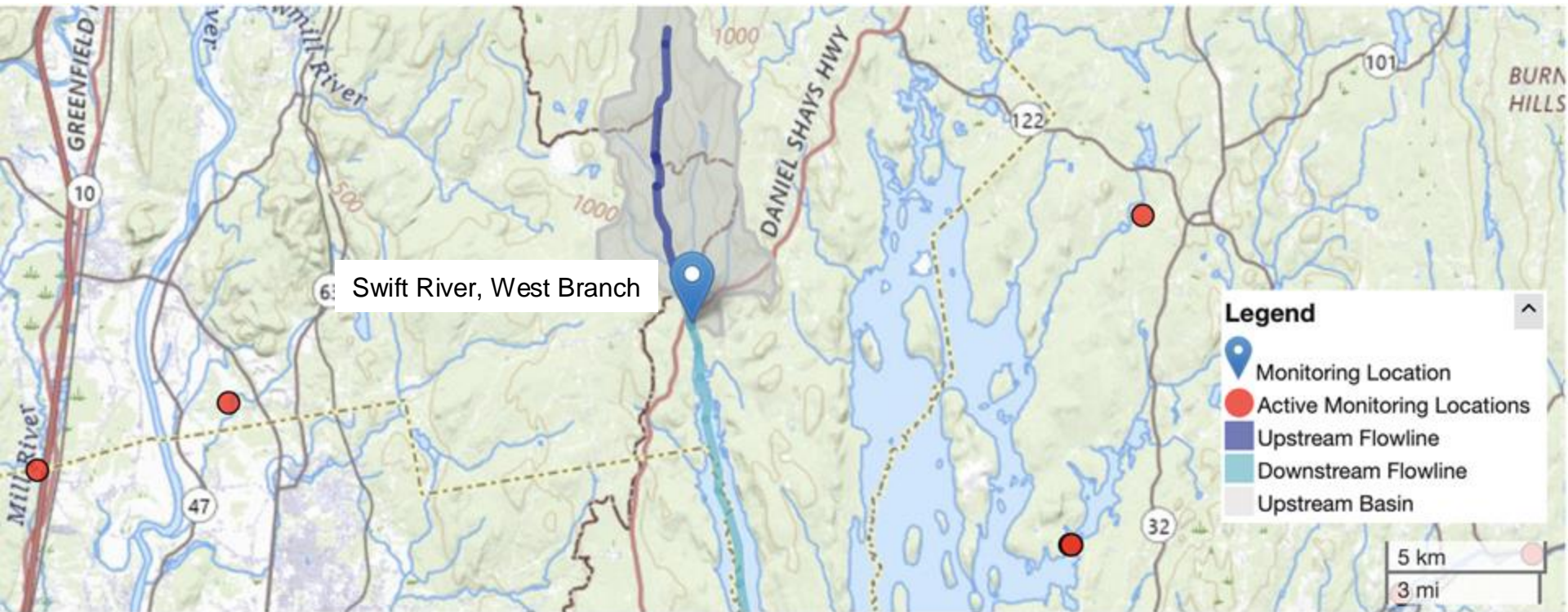
# Verbal Report

Ryan O'Donnell- Monitoring Program Manager,  
Connecticut River Conservancy

Mass Rivers Connects: Scientists and Monitors Meeting  
November 13th 2024

- Majority of tributaries in MA are very low, including many Coldwater Fisheries Resources (CFRs)
- Headwaters (not in MA) and mainstem of Connecticut River are flowing well

# Chicopee River Watershed



USGS The National Map: National Boundaries Dataset, 3DEP Elevation Program, Geographic Names Information System, National Hydrography Dataset, N...

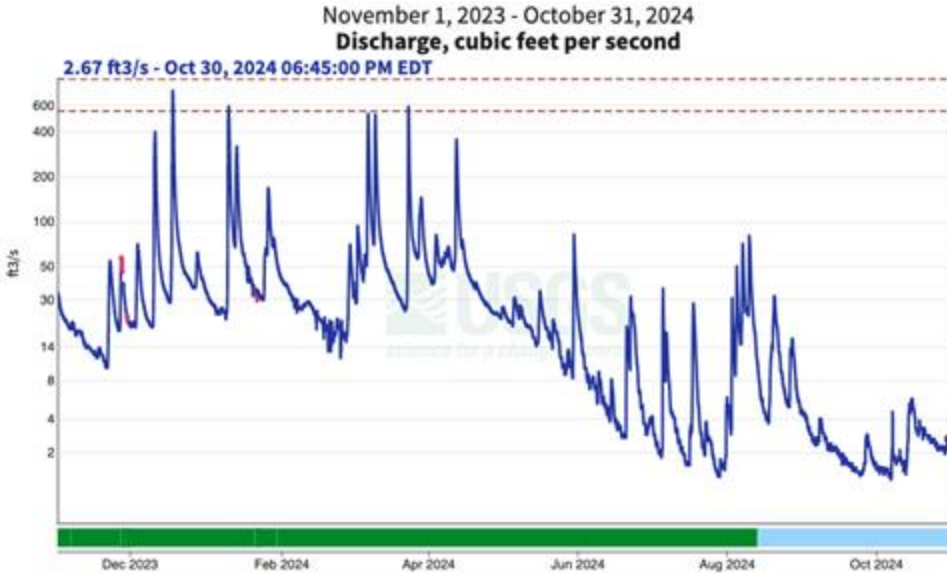
Photo courtesy of:

Paul Beaulieu, Massachusetts Rivers Alliance and Trout Unlimited

# Swift River, Shutesbury



October 30, 2024

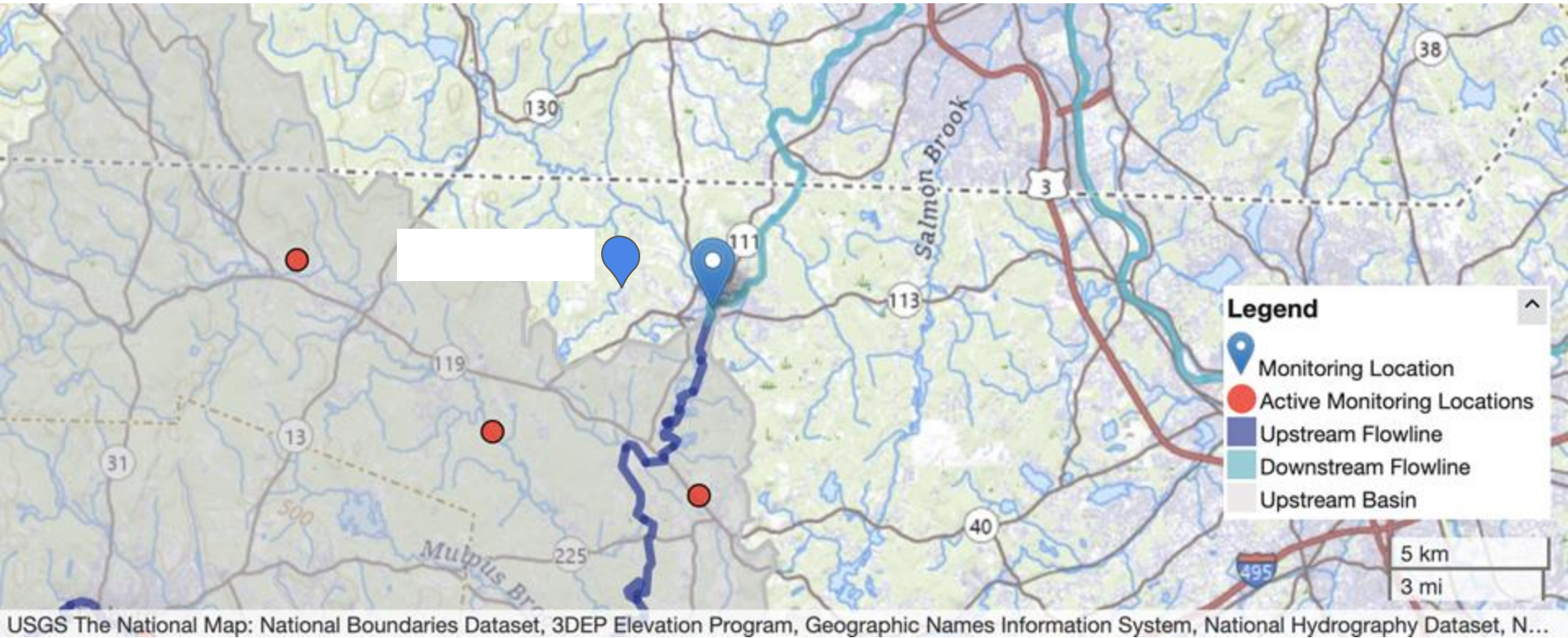


<https://waterdata.usgs.gov/monitoring-location/01174565/#parameterCode=00060&period=P:365D&showMedian=false>

Discharge on Oct. 30, 2024 - 2.67 ft<sup>3</sup>/s



# Nashua River Watershed



Photos courtesy of:  
Utkir Adkhamov, Nashua River Watershed Association

# Sucker Brook, Pepperell

CFR with state-listed mussels downstream

Upstream



November 14, 2024

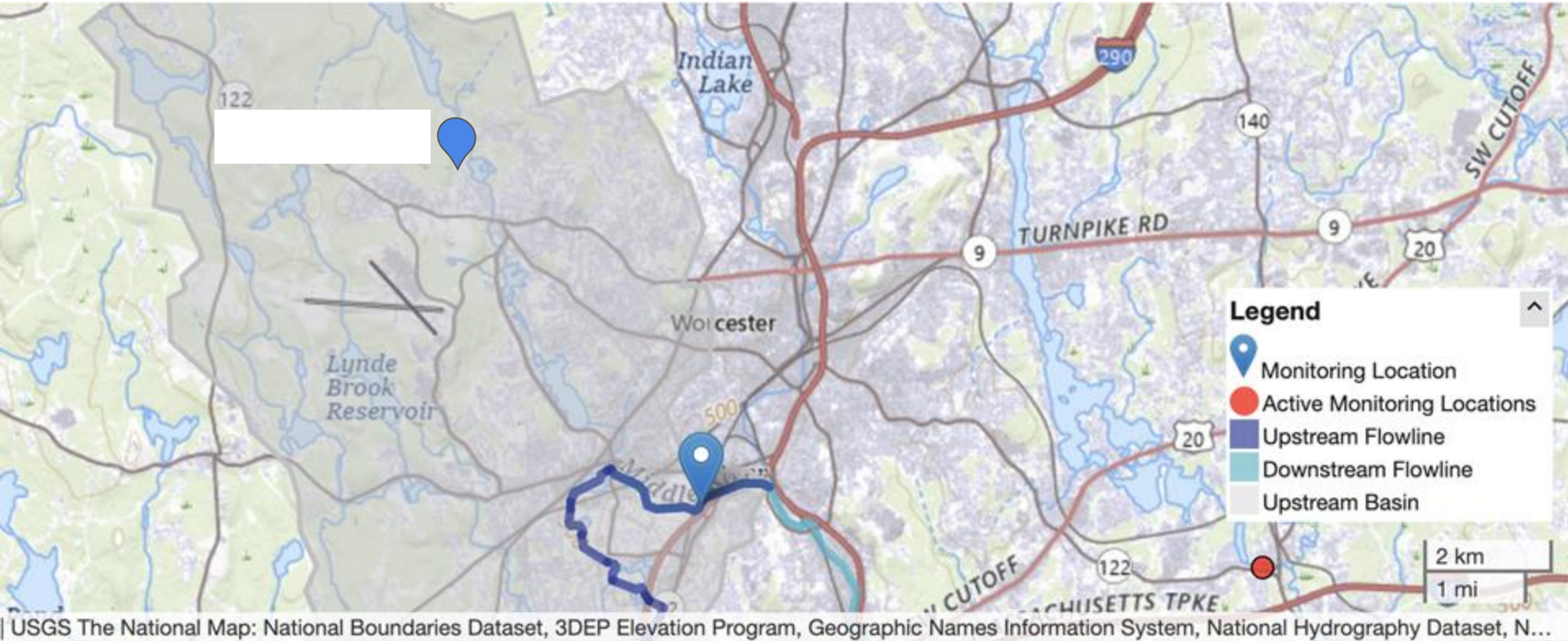
# Verbal Report

Jessica Veysey Powell– Water Programs Director,  
Nashua River Watershed Association

Mass Rivers Connects: Scientists and Monitors Meeting  
November 13th 2024

- Majority of tributaries are dry, including many CFRs
- Mainstem of Nashua River is flowing okay

# Blackstone River Watershed



Photos courtesy of:  
Elsie Uffelman, Blackstone River Coalition



Cascade  
Brook,  
Worcester

November  
15, 2024



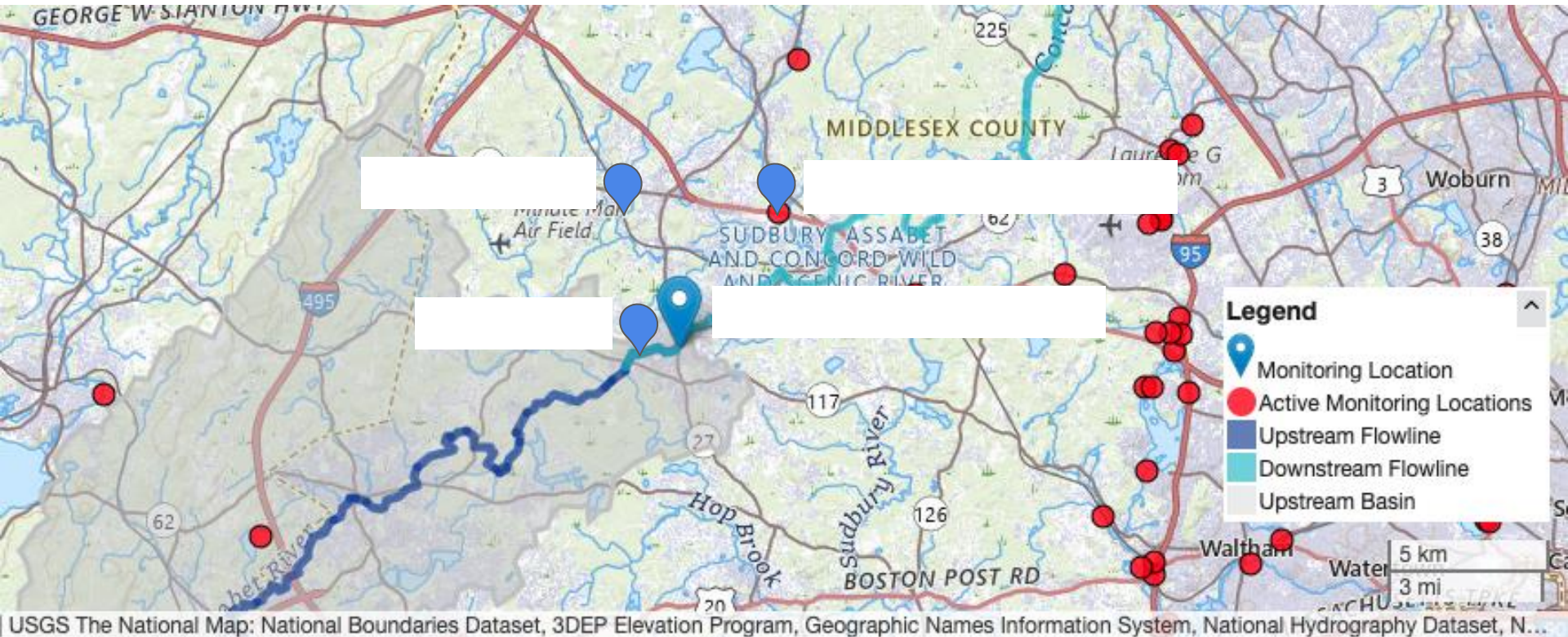
# Verbal Report

Heather Parry- Water Quality Program Coordinator,  
Blackstone River Coalition

Mass Rivers Connects: Scientists and Monitors Meeting  
November 13th 2024

- Six tributary monitoring sites are dry
- Mainstem of Blackstone River is still flowing

# Concord River Watershed (SuAsCo)



Visual reports courtesy of: Steve Long, The Nature Conservancy  
Laura Mattei, Sudbury Valley Trustees

# Assabet River, Maynard

“the mud behind  
[the people] ... is  
usually  
inundated”

- Laura Mattei,  
Sudbury Valley  
Trustees

October 26, 2024





# Assabet River at Maynard, MA - 01097000

November 18, 2023 - November 17, 2024

Discharge, cubic feet per second

27.7 ft<sup>3</sup>/s - Oct 26, 2024 11:45:00 AM EDT



# Fort Pond Brook, Acton

“The brook is normally flowing with a much higher water level”

-Steve Long, The Nature Conservancy

October 27, 2024



# Ma-acw 158 Acton, MA - 422812071244401

Depth to water level, ft below land surface, ft

Mean 20.06 ft - 2024-11-14

Visit 19.44 - 2024-10-03



Groundwater levels are as low as 2020 drought, almost as low as 2022

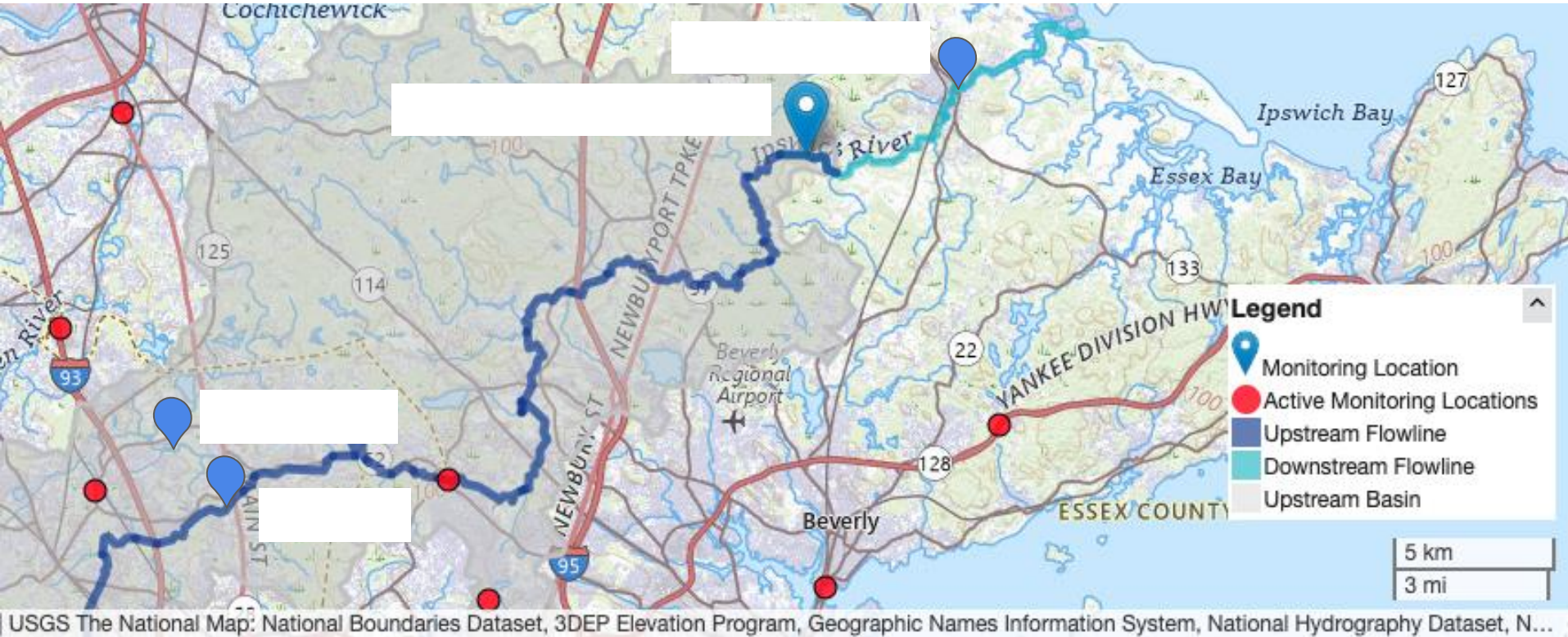
# Verbal Report

Ben Wetherill- Water Quality Scientist, OARS

Mass Rivers Connects: Scientists and Monitors Meeting  
November 13th 2024

- Majority of tributaries are dry
- Sudbury and Assabet still flowing decently well- have recovered gradually since September (low was in mid-september)
- Lowest amount of precipitation in Bedford since 1955

# Ipswich River Watershed

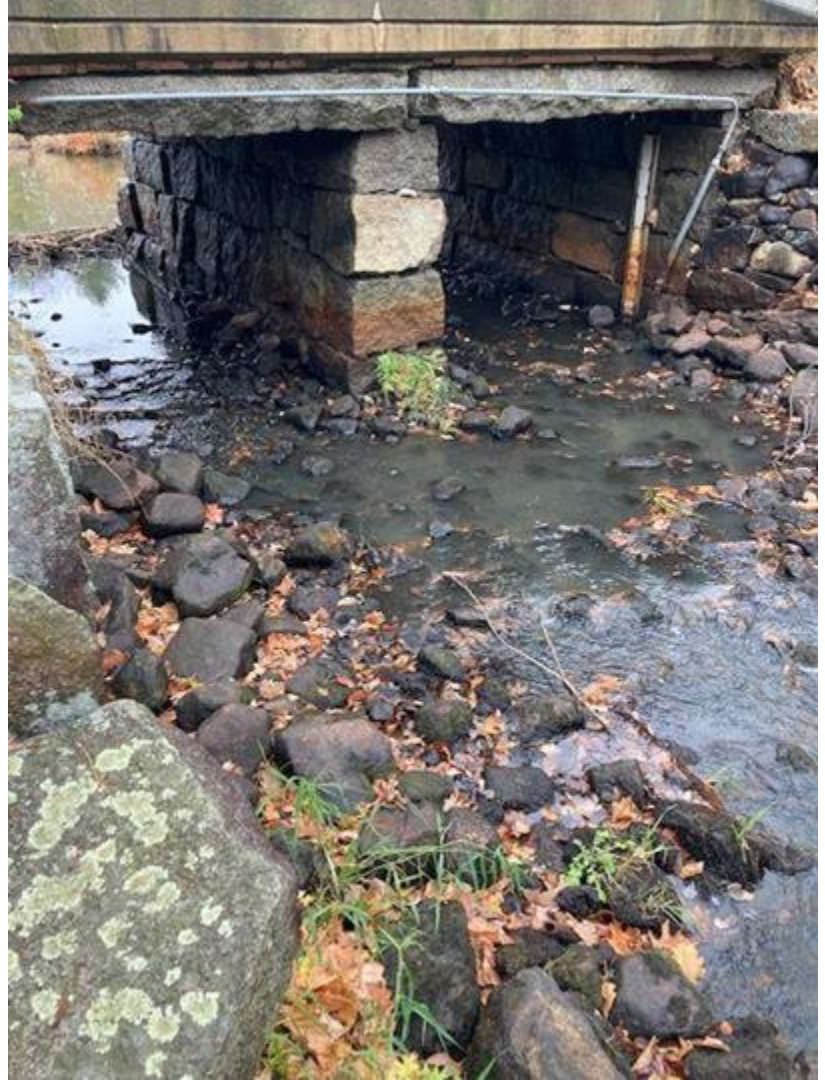


Reports provided by:  
Ipswich River Watershed Association

# Ipswich River at Mill Street, North Reading

Viewpoint is looking upstream  
from downstream side

October 27, 2024



# Martin's Brook, North Reading





USGS  
Stream  
Gage at  
Ipswich  
River  
near  
Ipswich

October  
27, 2024



Downstream looking upstream



# Ipswich River Near Ipswich, MA - 01102000

November 18, 2023 - November 17, 2024

Discharge, cubic feet per second

0.53 ft<sup>3</sup>/s Oct 27, 2024 08:30:00 AM EDT



<https://waterdata.usgs.gov/monitoring/location/01102000/#parameterCode=00065&period=P7D&showMeqJan=false>  
ft<sup>3</sup>/s

# Ipswich River, Ipswich

October 30, 2024



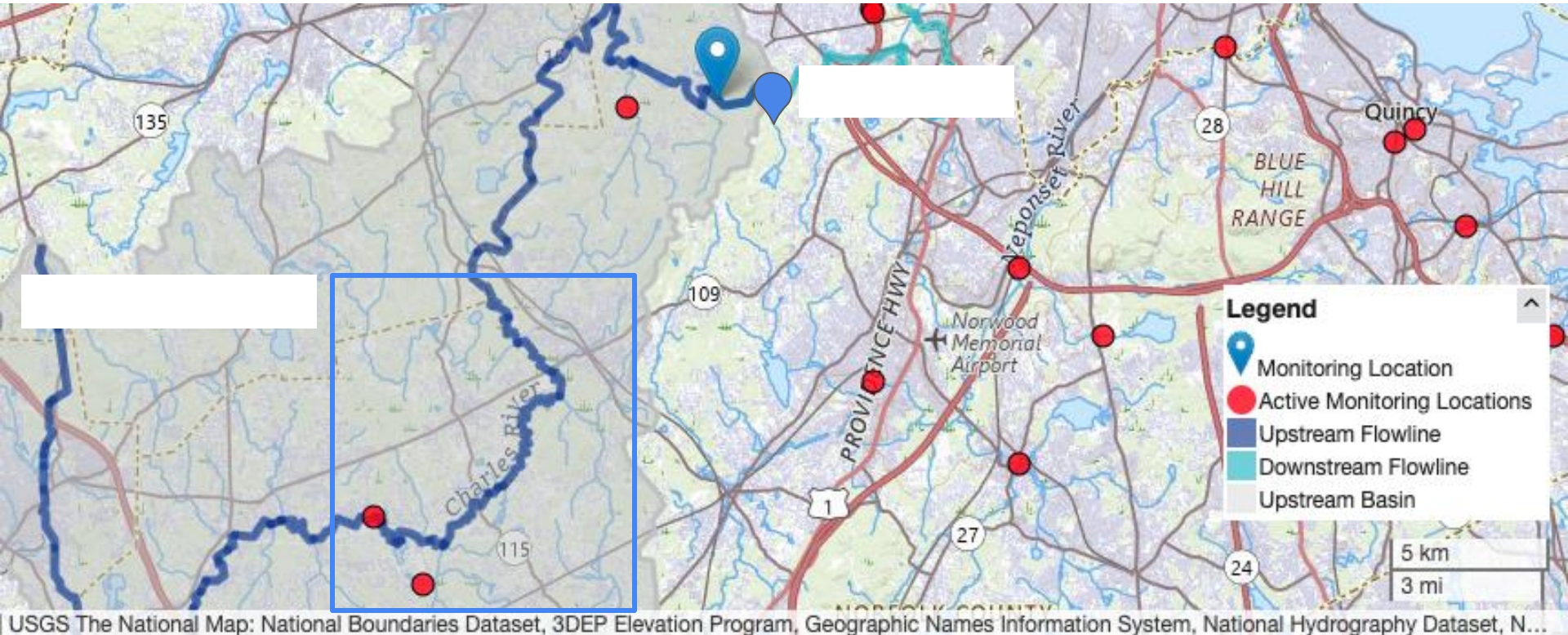
# Verbal Report

Ryan O'Donnell- Programs Coordinator,  
Ipswich River Watershed Association

Mass Rivers Connects: Scientists and Monitors Meeting  
November 13th 2024

- Most sites don't have flow
  - Flows are becoming unmeasurable
- Some sites don't have depth
- Tributaries are starting to become disconnected
- Signs of fish kills

# Charles River Watershed



Reports provided by:  
Charles River Watershed Association

# Powisett Brook, Dover

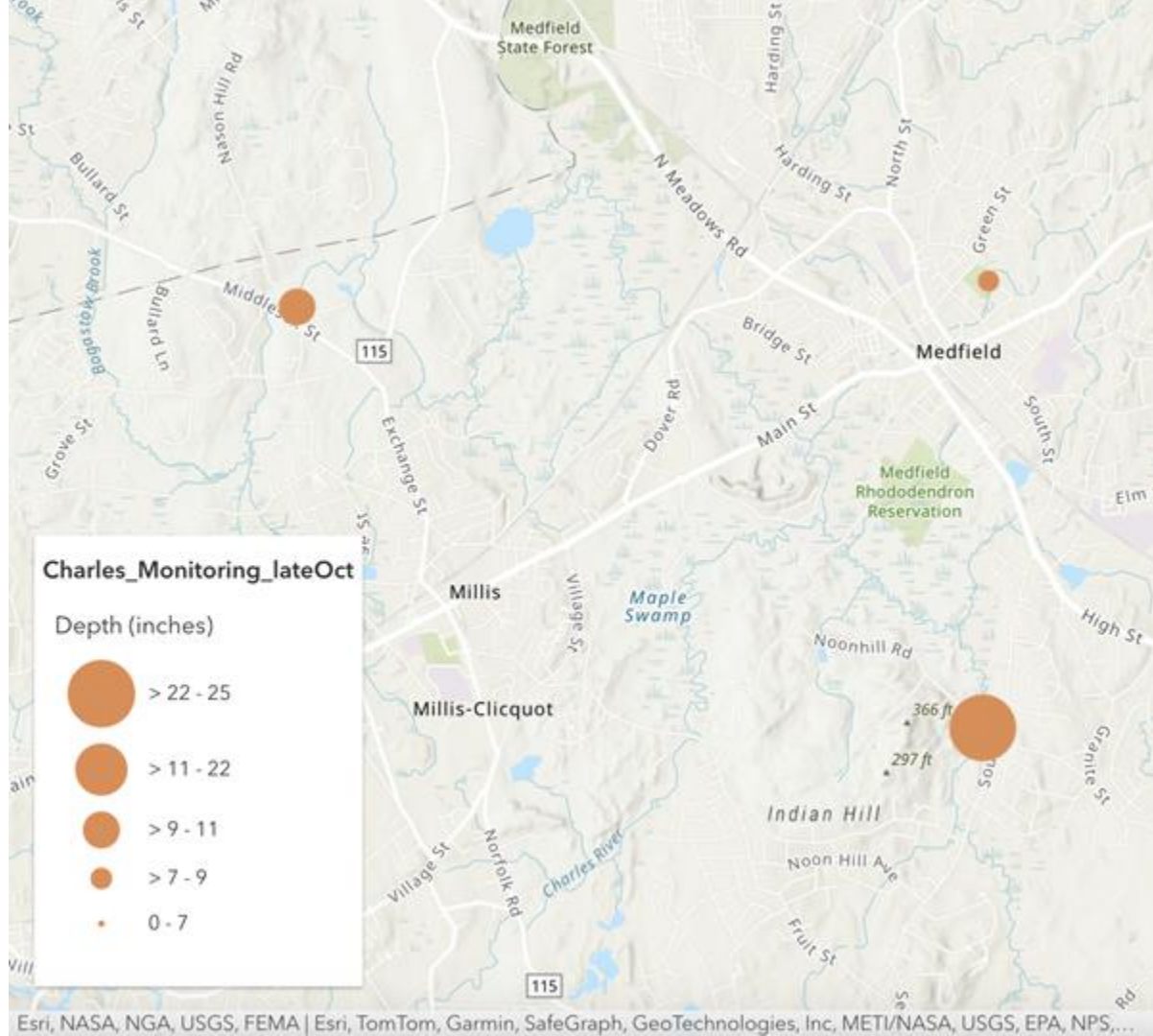


October 22, 2024

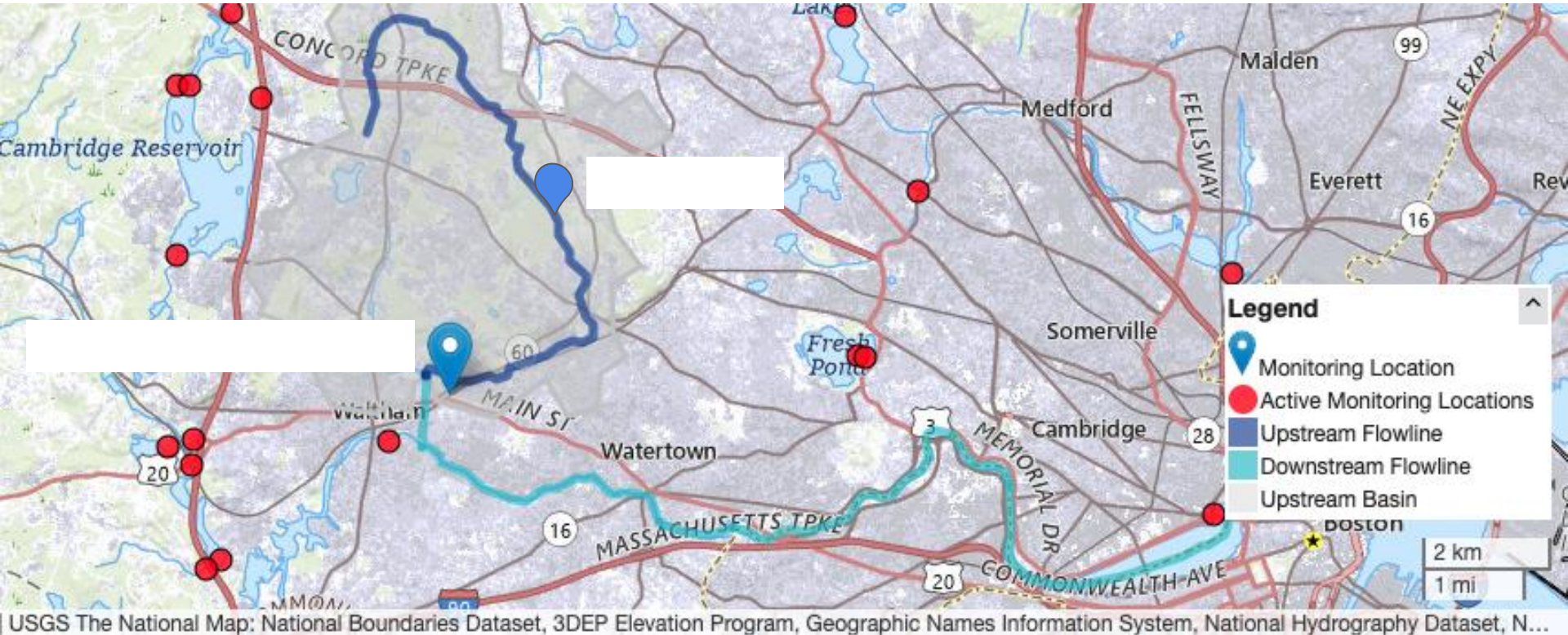
# Low flow reports in the Charles Watershed

Bogastow Brook and Stop  
River- October 23

Vine Brook- October 26



# Charles River Watershed



Visual report courtesy of:  
Rui Coelho, Greater Boston Chapter of Trout Unlimited

# Beaver Brook, Waltham

“Normally fully submerged ... recently a mud flat shoreline extending out 75 ft.

This is an important habitat for many migratory birds, and lots of other local animals.”

October 20, 2024



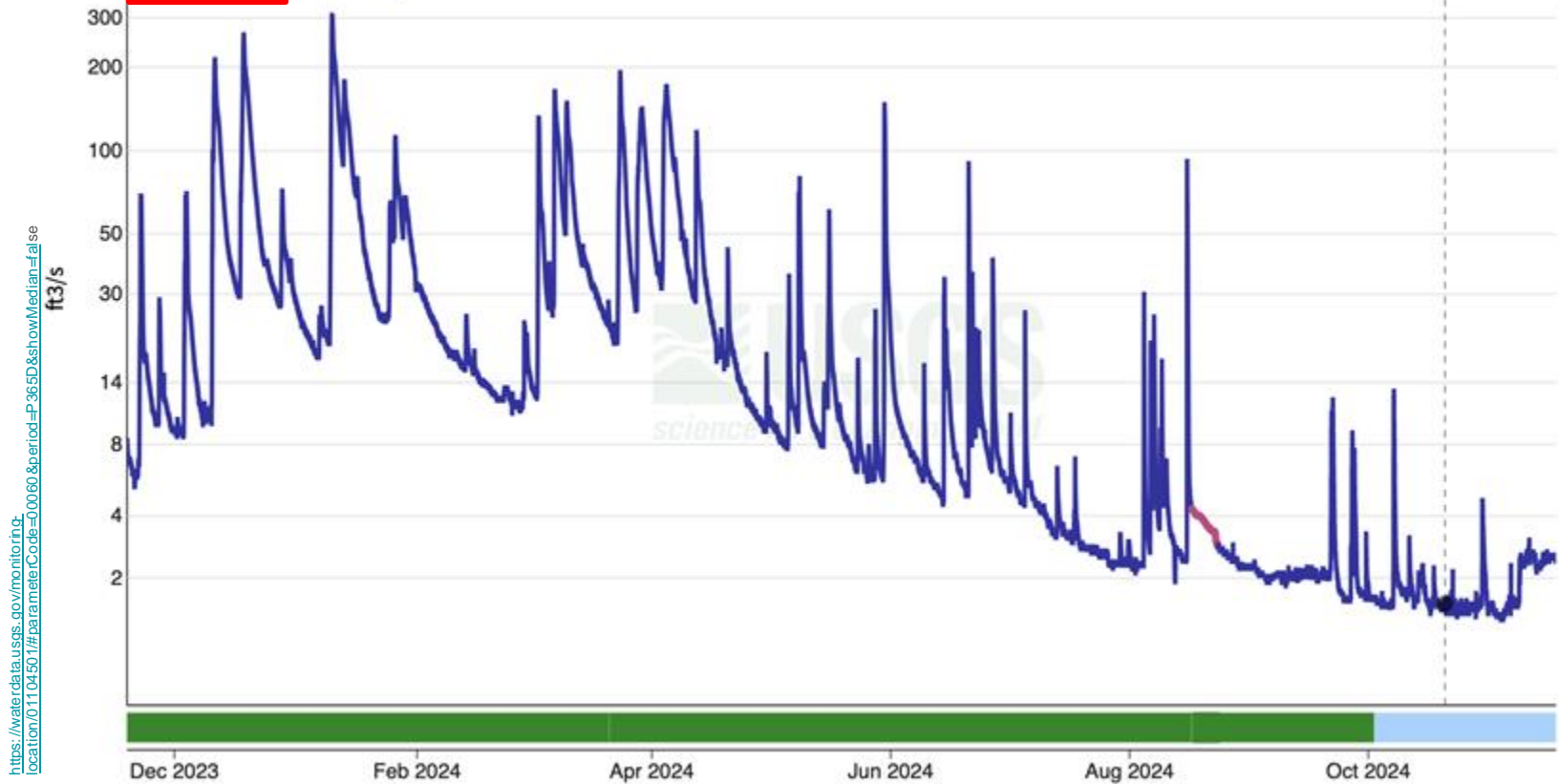


# Beaver Brook, Linden Street, at Waltham, MA - 01104501

November 18, 2023 - November 17, 2024

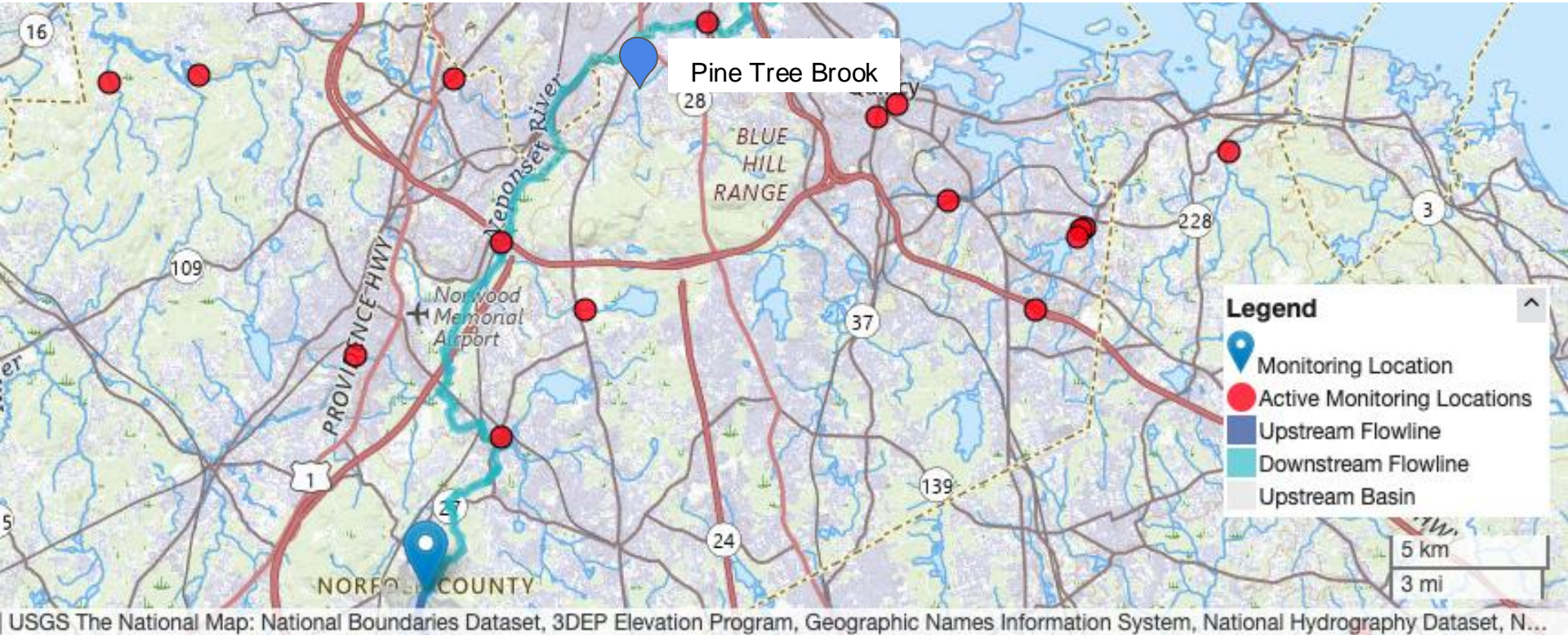
Discharge, cubic feet per second

1.43 ft<sup>3</sup>/s Oct 20, 2024 02:50:00 PM EDT



<https://waterdata.usgs.gov/monitoring/location/01104501/#parameterCode=00060&period=P365D&showMedian=false>

# Boston Harbor Watershed (Neponset)



Reports provided by:  
Neponset River Watershed Association

Pine Tree  
Brook,  
Milton

October 24,  
2024

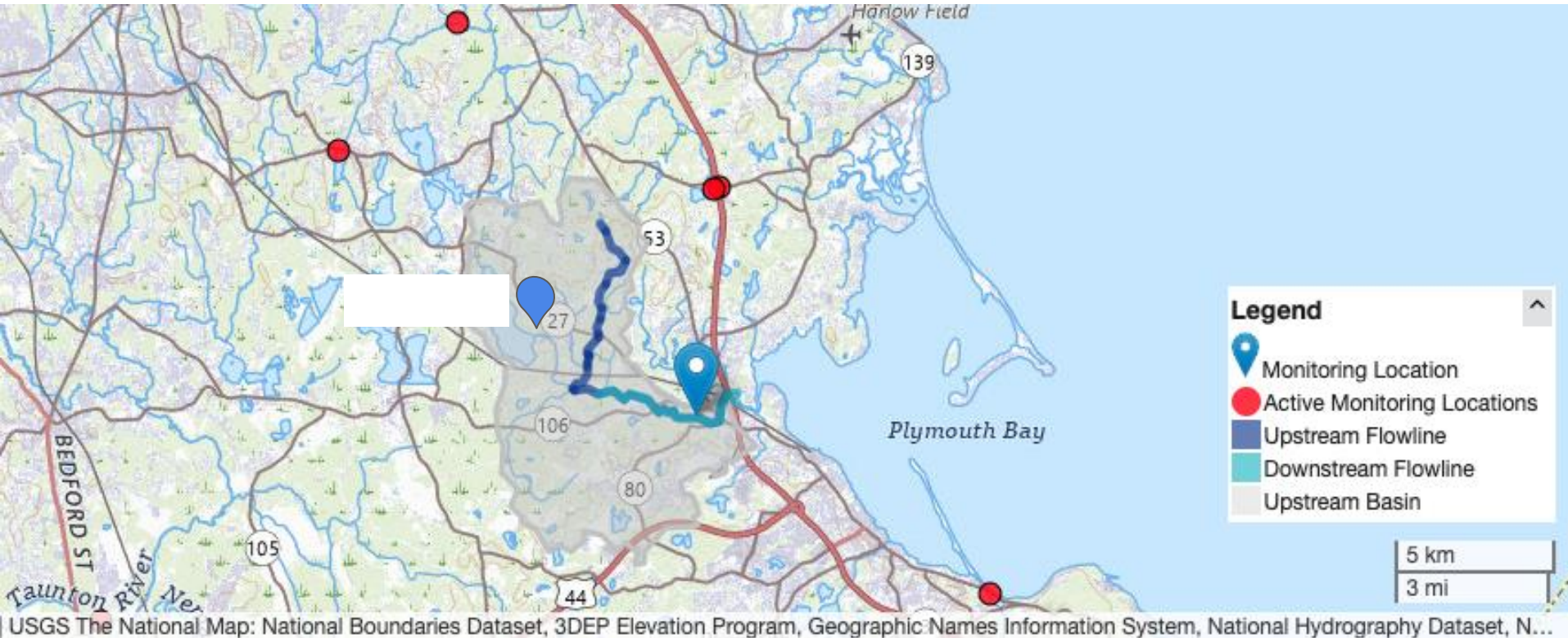
# Verbal Report

Sean McCanty- River Restoration Director,  
Neponset River Watershed Association

Mass Rivers Connects: Scientists and Monitors Meeting  
November 13th 2024

- Lots of reports from members that rivers are lowest they've ever seen
- Leaves are clogging the streams

# South Coastal Watershed (Jones)



Visual report provided by:  
Pine duBois, Jones River Watershed Association

# Silver Lake, Kingston

“Lake... below  
Jones River  
Outlet.

[This] makes ...  
migration of  
juvenile [river  
herring out of the  
lake] impossible”

October 30, 2024



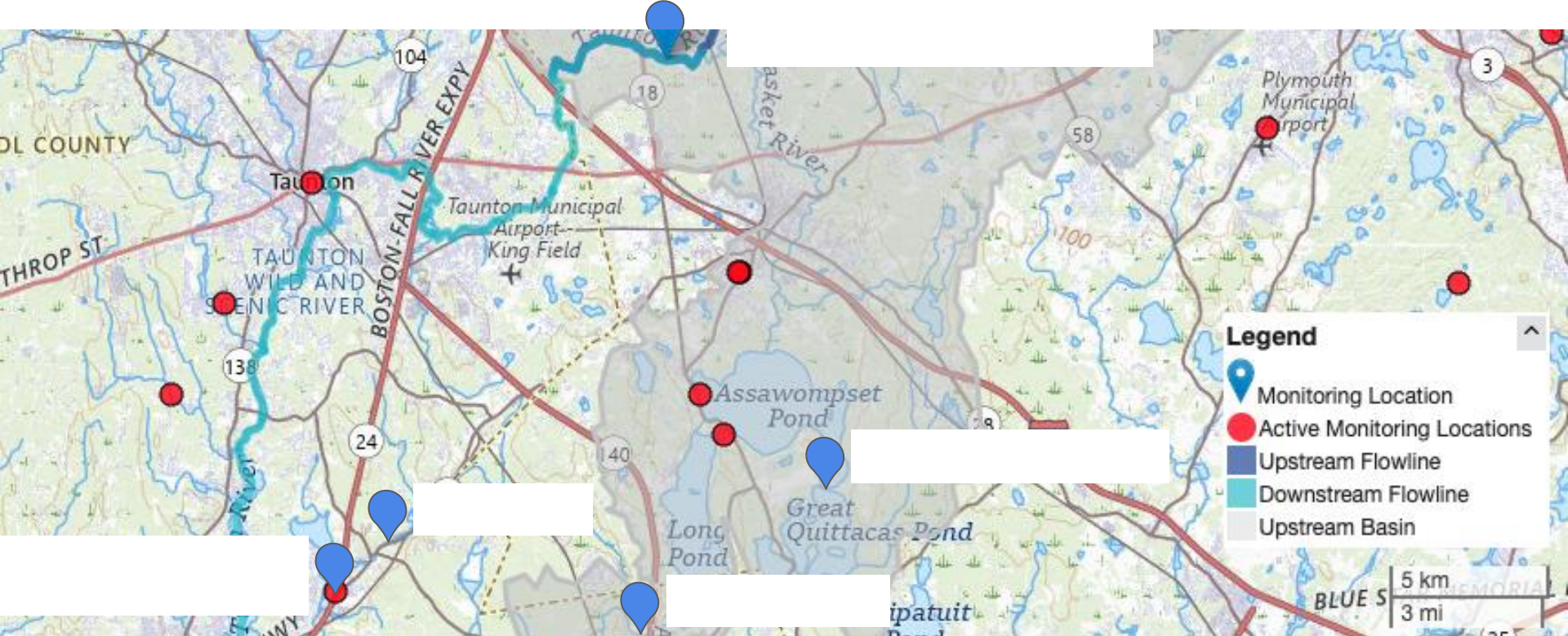
# Verbal Report

Alex Mansfield- Watershed Ecologist,  
North and South Rivers Watershed Association

Mass Rivers Connects: Scientists and Monitors Meeting  
November 13th 2024

- Small rebound in flow from summer population leaving
- Herring can't make it down Weymouth River because leaves are clogging the river
- Jones River is 4 feet down, thousands of juveniles stuck

# Taunton River Watershed



USGS The National Map: National Boundaries Dataset, 3DEP Elevation Program, Geographic Names Information System, National Hydrography Dataset, N...

Reports provided by: Sally Spoon and Stephen Silva,  
Taunton River Watershed Alliance



# Taunton River Near Bridgewater, MA - 01108000

November 18, 2023 - November 17, 2024

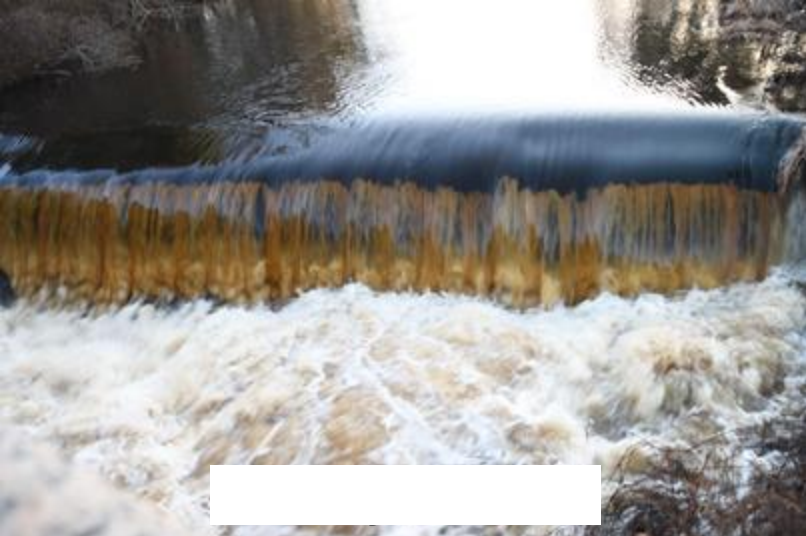
Discharge, cubic feet per second



“The Taunton River USGS Bridgewater flow gauge was over **2,750 cfs** this winter and spring.

Today (10/29) it is **80 cfs** and was as low as **50 cfs** a few weeks ago.”

# Washburne Road, East Freetown



Falls on Washburn Road  
November 15, 2024

“the waterflow... is down when it should be recovering from summer lows”

# Lakeville Pond Complex



November 15, 2024

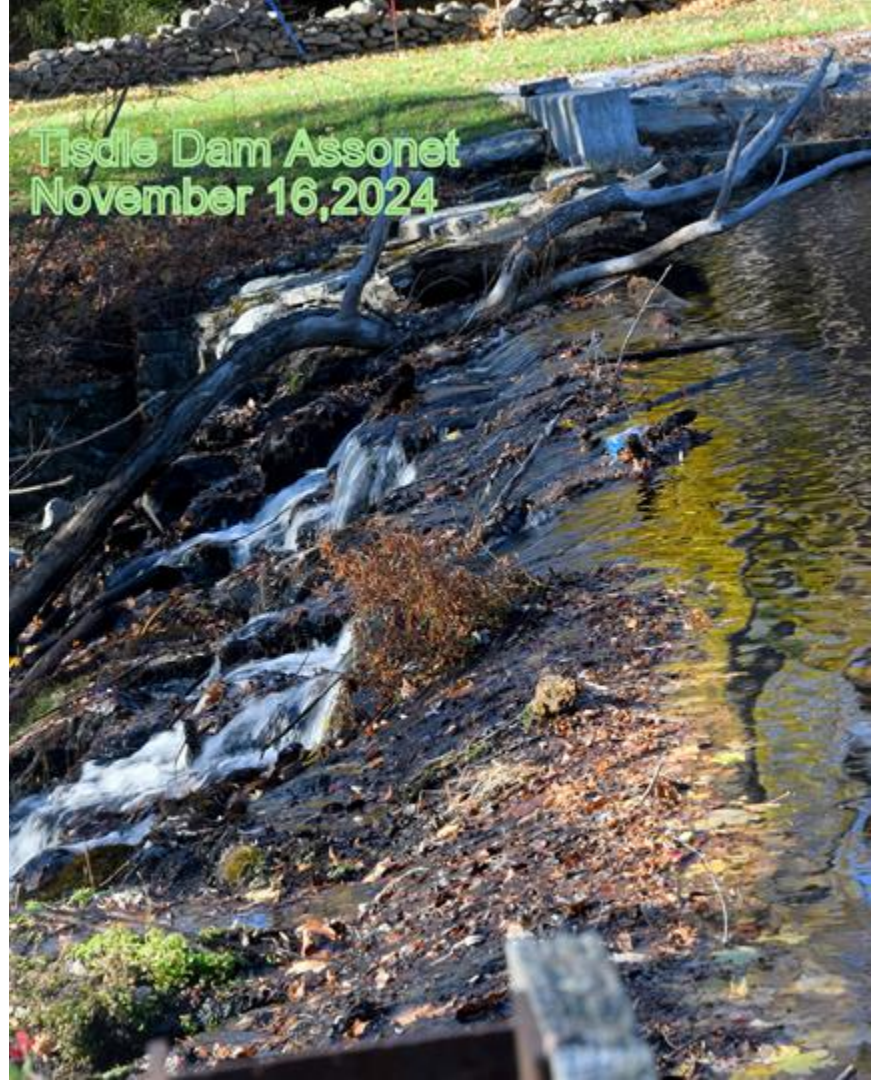
Tisdale/Assonet River Dam  
Elm Street, Assonet Dam  
November 1, 2024



# Tisdale Dam, Assonet

November  
2024

Tisdale Dam Assonet  
November 16, 2024

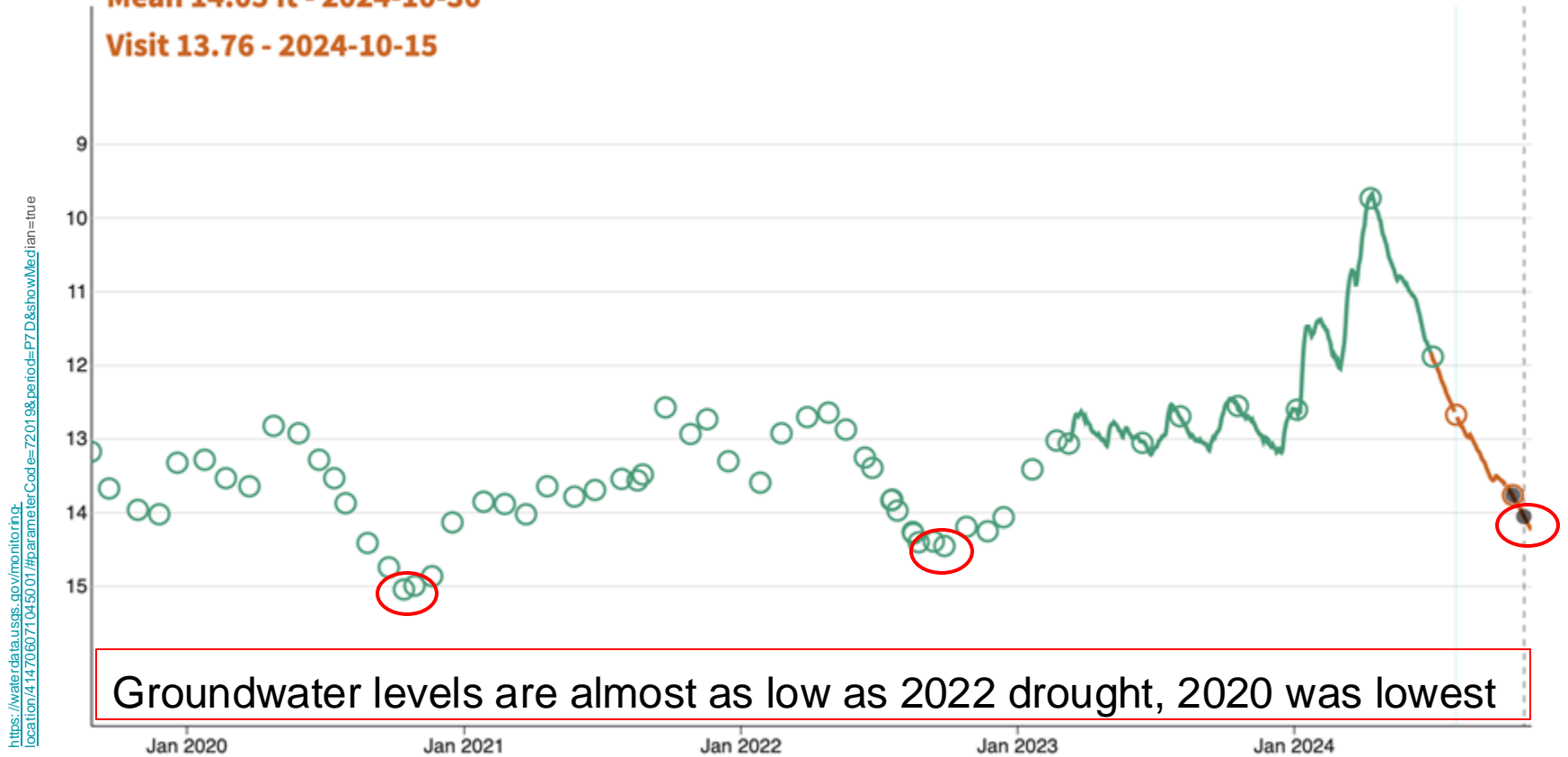


# MA-F3W 23R Freetown, MA - 414706071045001

Depth to water level, ft below land surface, ft

Mean 14.05 ft - 2024-10-30

Visit 13.76 ft - 2024-10-15



# Organization Credits

## **Charles River Watershed Association:**

Pictures - Emilia Dick Fiora del Fabro,  
Restoration and Engagement  
Associate

Low flow reports - Ryan Smith,  
Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator  
John Woodhull and Damon Carter,  
Volunteer Water Monitors

## **Ipswich River Watershed Association:**

Photos - Nishan Bilizarian and D.  
Merrill, Volunteer Water Monitors  
Ryan O'Donnell, Programs  
Coordinator  
Carla Villa, Engagement Manager

## **Neponset River Watershed Association:**

Video - Kate Burak, Pine Tree Brook  
Neighbors  
Ian Cooke, Executive Director