

Hazen



Central Ohio Regional Water Study

Kathleen Smith, Hazen and Sawyer
June 16, 2025





COLUMBUS HOUSING MARKET

Columbus named the second-fastest growing U.S. city in 2024, highlighting housing needs

by: [Katie Millard](#)

Posted: Mar 14, 2025 / 07:00 AM EDT

Updated: Mar 13, 2025 / 09:32 PM EDT

Forbes

FORBES > LIFESTYLE > TRAVEL

Columbus Is America's Fastest Growing City And A Wonderful Place To Visit

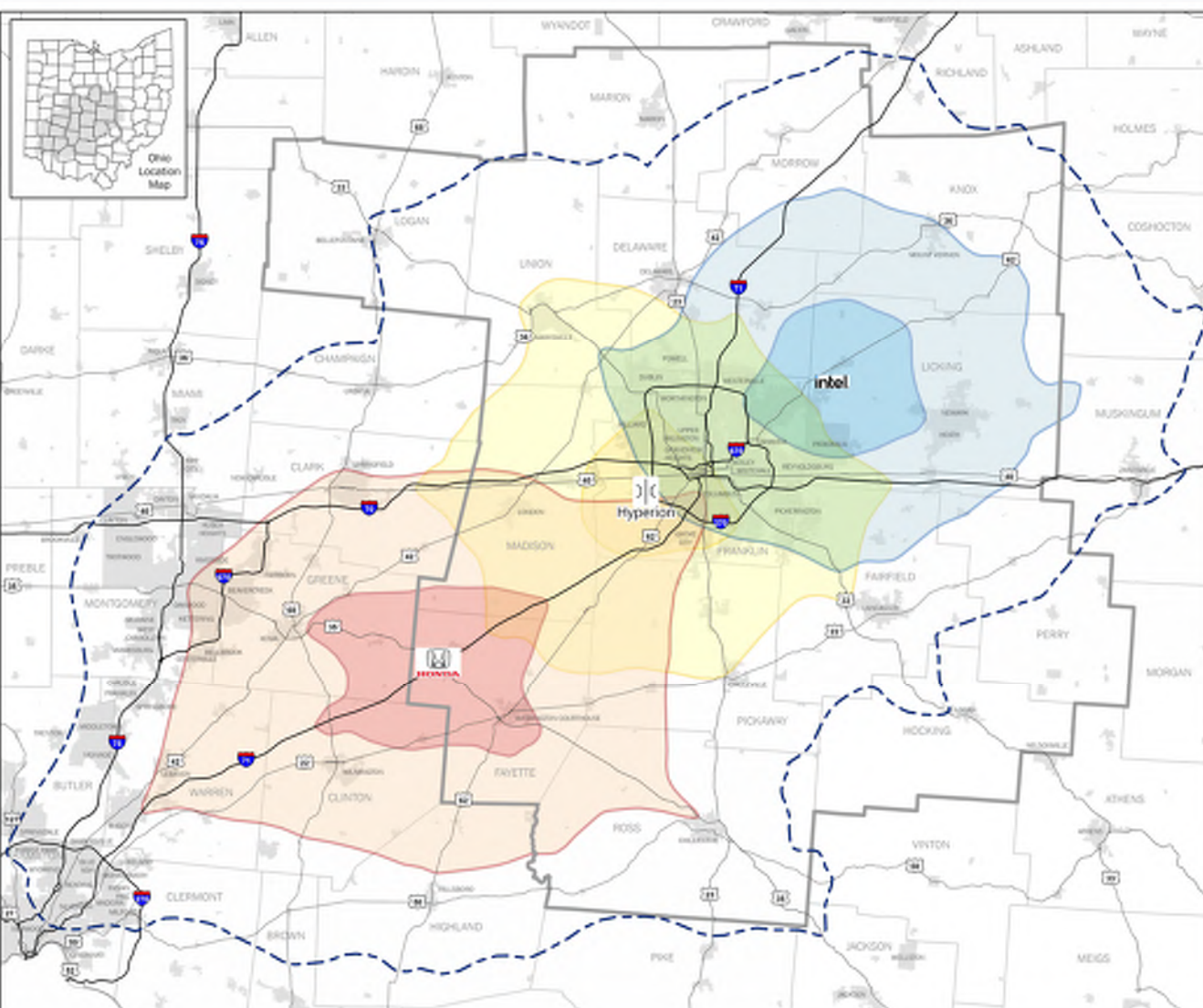
Katie Chang Contributor

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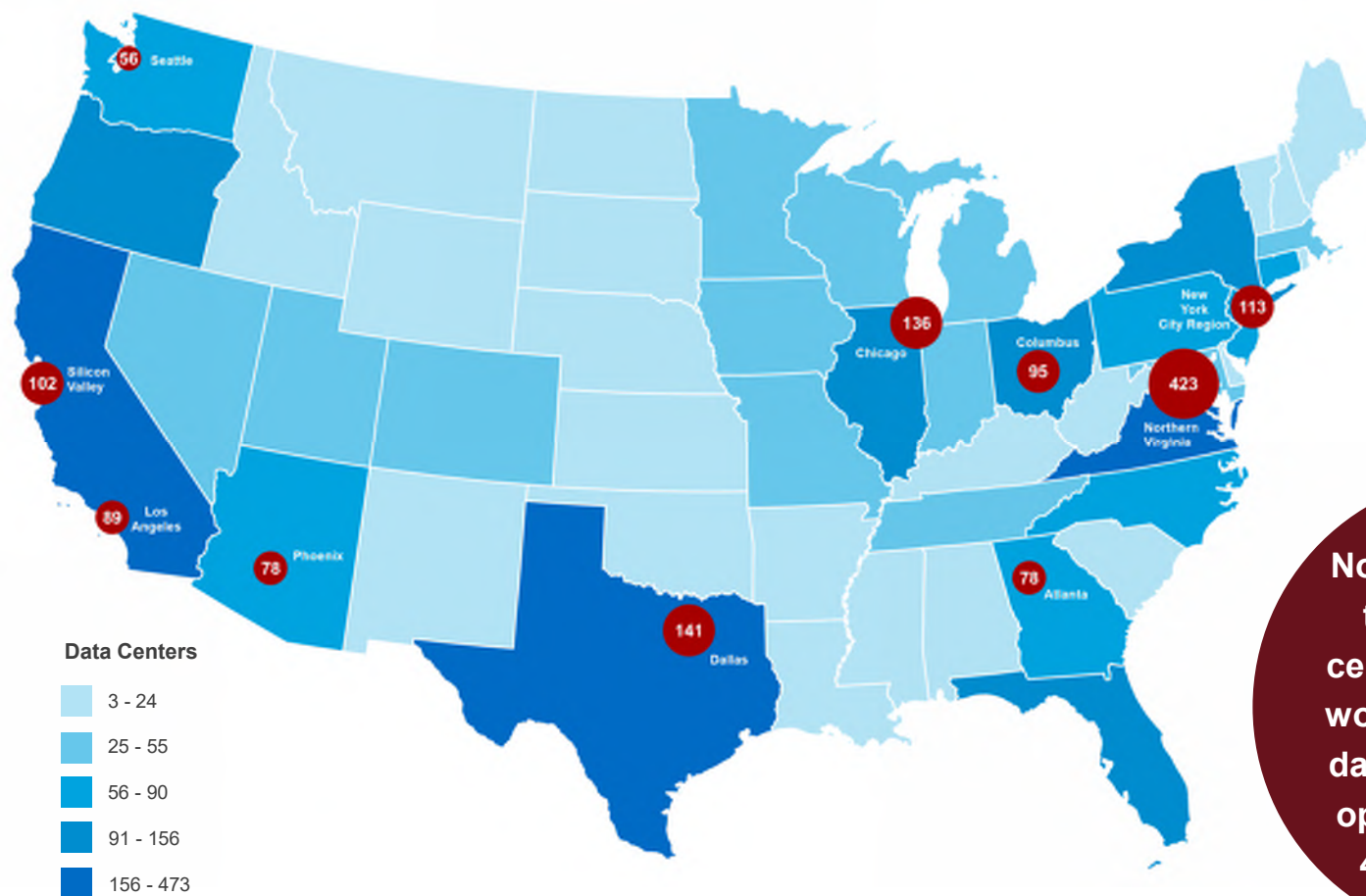
Apr 14, 2024, 08:00am EDT





**Environmental
Protection
Agency**

Ohio Ranks #4 in Data Centers Nationally



Columbus is a top 10 data center market on par with tech hubs such as Silicon Valley and New York City

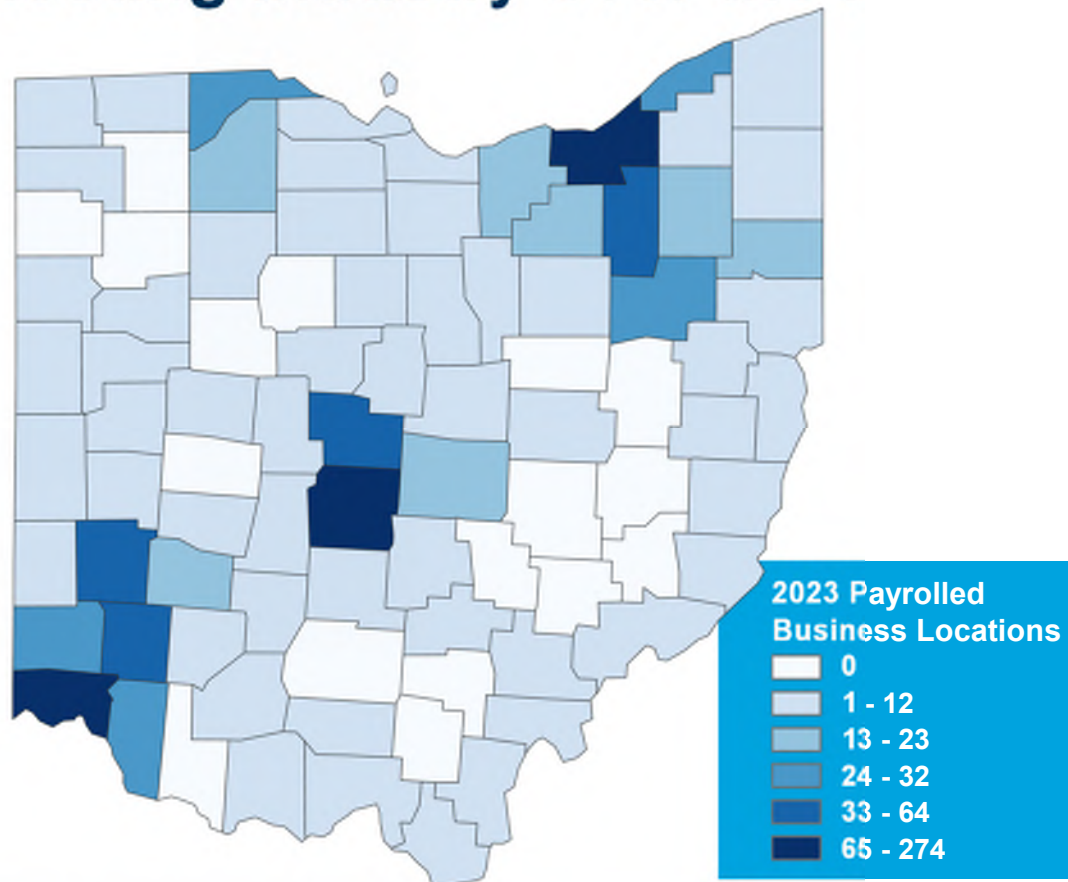
Northern Virginia is the largest data center market in the world, with over 400 data centers and an operational load of 4.7GW of power

Sources: <https://www.datacentermap.com/usa/>, <https://www.cushmanwakefield.com/en/insights/global-data-center-market-comparison>



This document is not a public record and its content should not be reprinted in any other document. Ohio Revised Code 149.43(A)(1)(bb) and 187.04(C)(1) and (2)

Dramatic Growth in the Data Processing and Hosting Industry over the Past Decade



Source: Lightcast 2024.3, 2023 Payrolled Business Locations in NAICS 51821: Data Processing, Hosting, and Related Services
Note: NAICS 51821 includes all manner of data hosting activities, including web hosting, application service provisioning, and data storage and management.

Data Processing and Hosting Growth

Since 2011, Ohio has had over a 384% growth to now over 1,800.

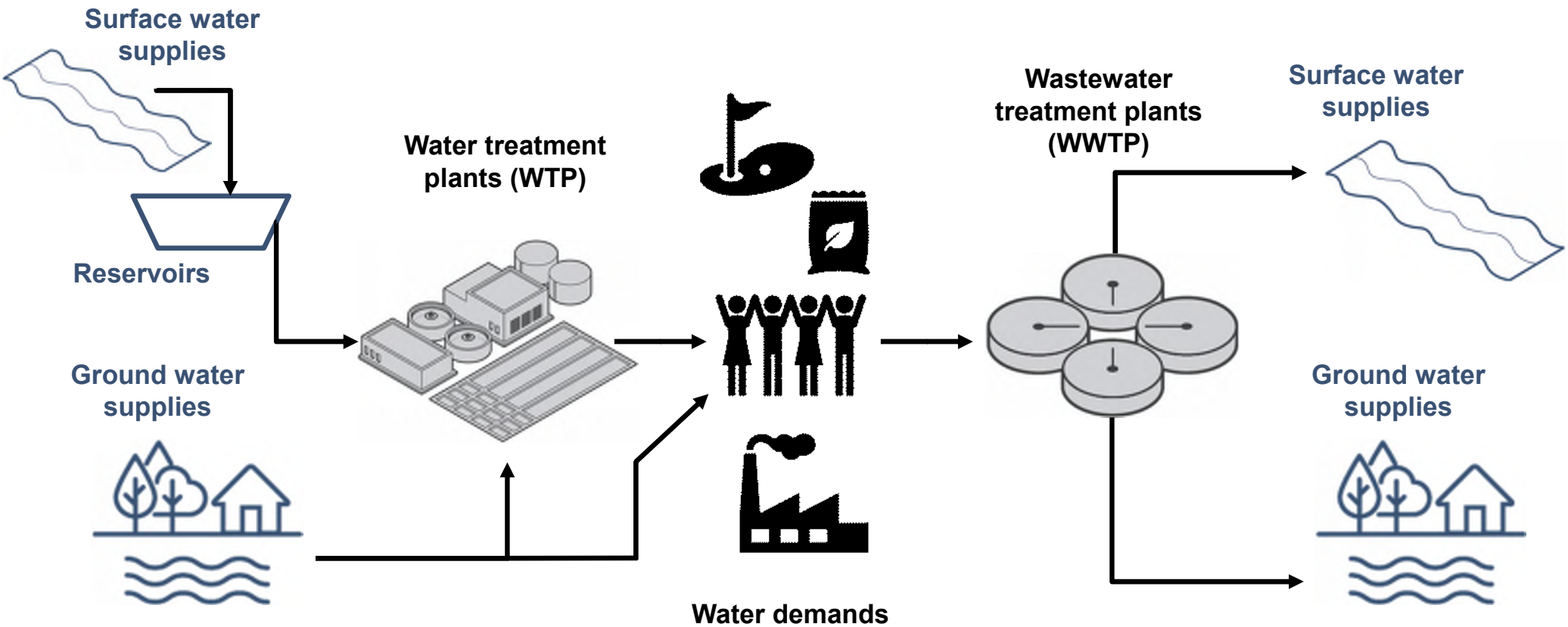




- Comprehensive Water Study:
 - Current availability
 - Current demand
 - Projected future demand 2030, 2040, & 2050
 - Gap analysis
 - Regionalization recommendations
 - Water reuse opportunities
 - Siting locations for new mega water users

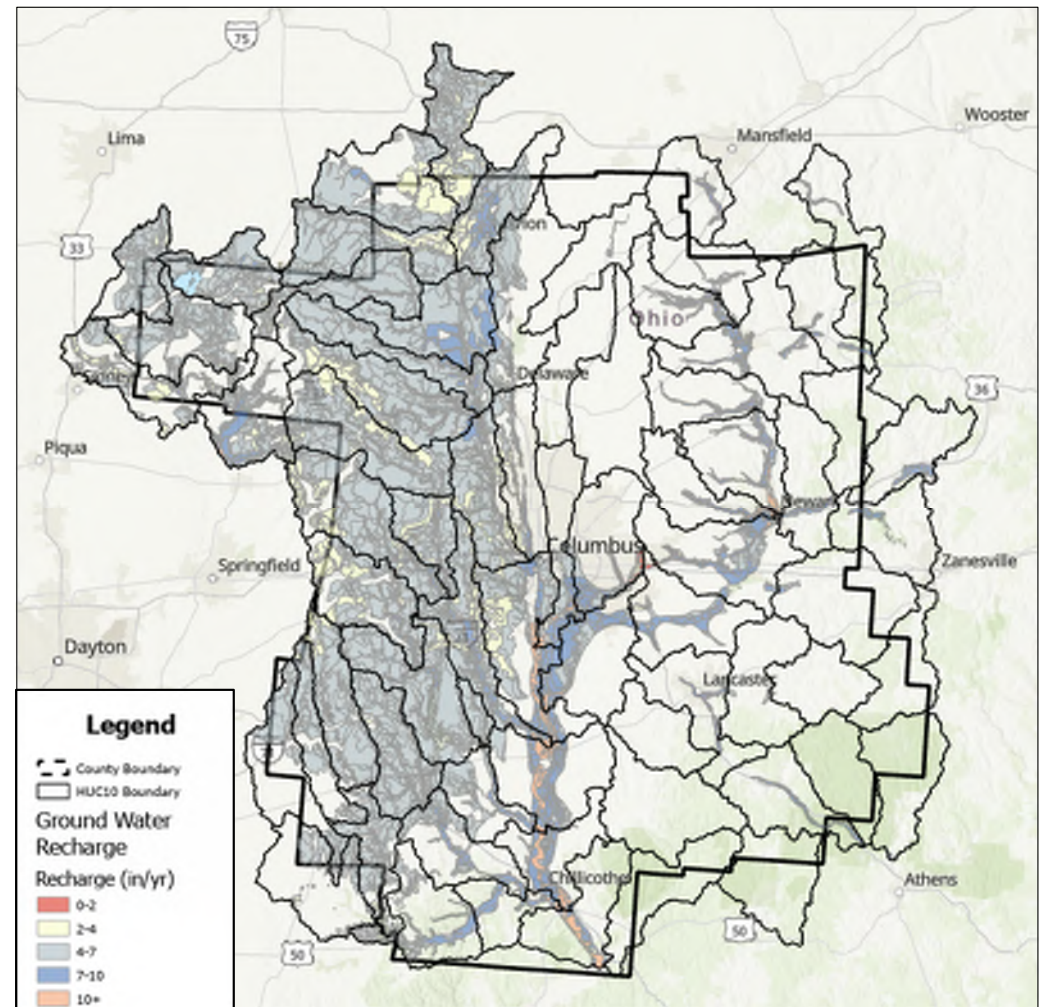
Central Ohio Regional Water Study

Model Components



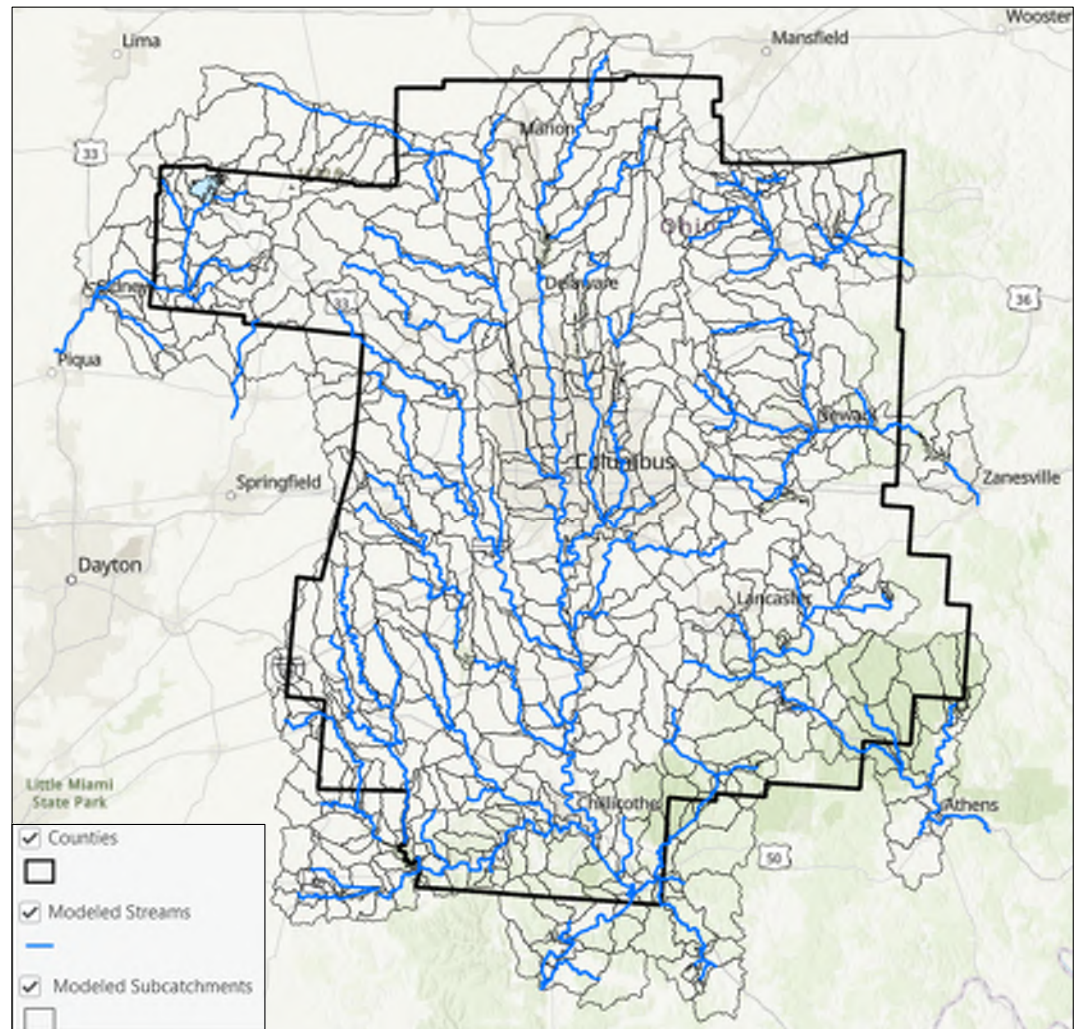
Raw Ground Water Availability

- Ground water availability was estimated at the HUC10 level
- Estimated ground water availability is a function of both yield and recharge
- Shaded areas of the map show the recharge values within the high yielding aquifers
- There is roughly 520 MGD of available ground water across the 15-County region

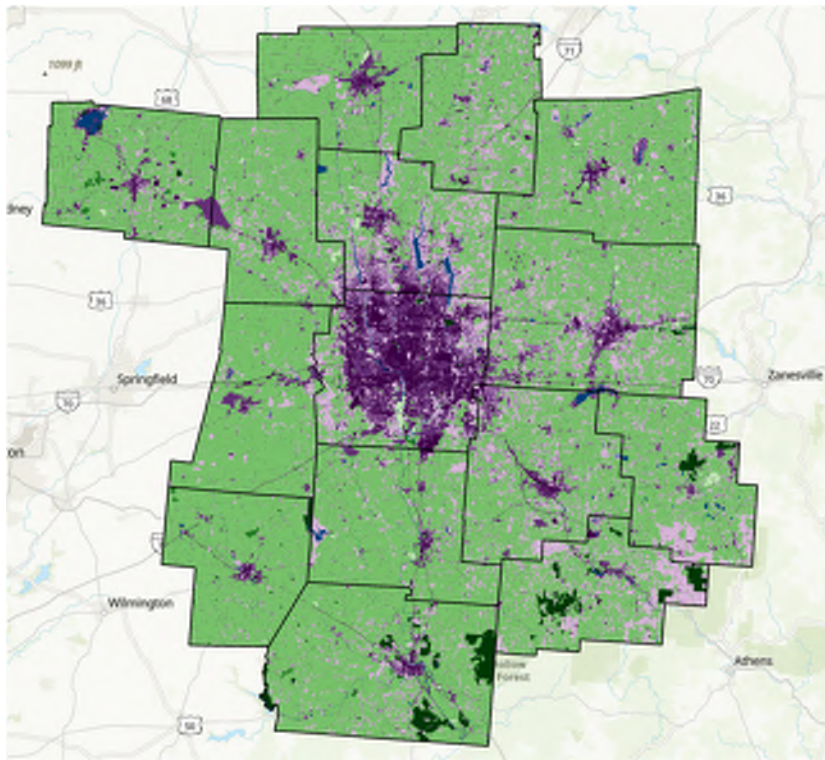


Raw Surface Water Availability

- Surface water inflows into streams were estimated at the sub-catchment level using US EPA Storm Water Management Model (SWMM)



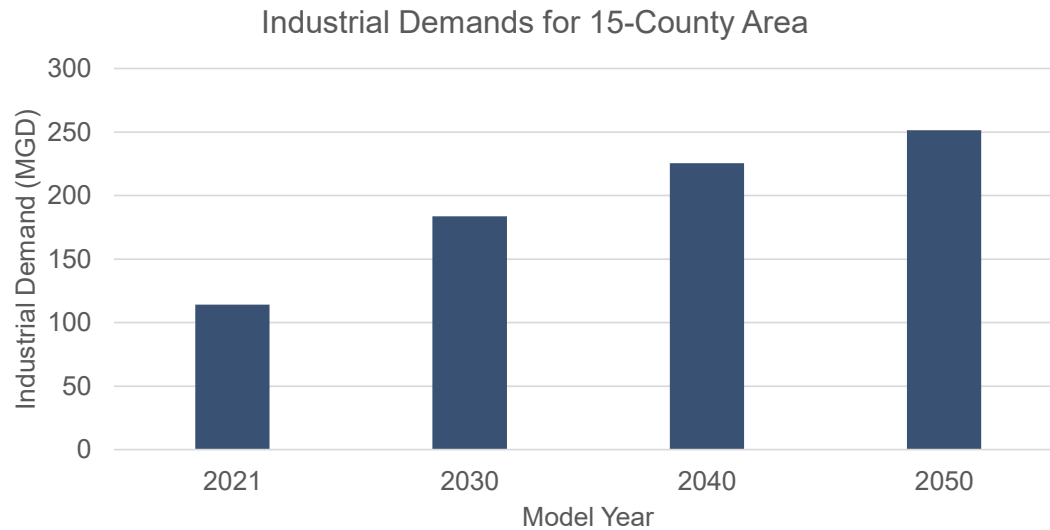
Current and Future Land Use



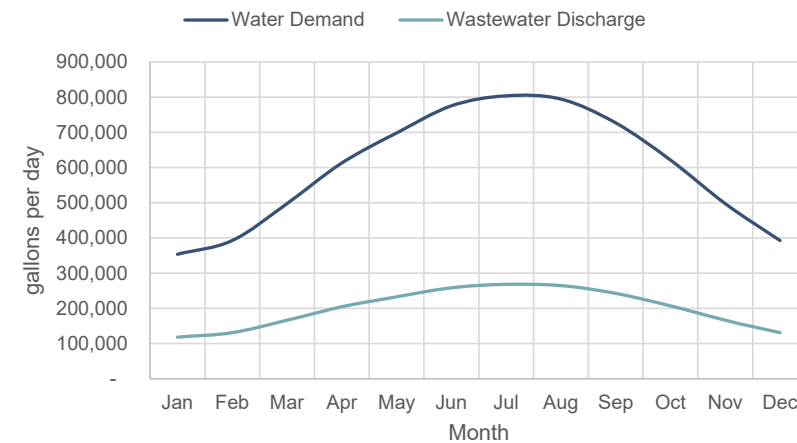
Industrial Cooling Demands

- Demand for data storage and processing and artificial intelligence is driving the need for additional cooling water
- Industrial demands are estimated to increase by approximately 120% across the region from 2021 to 2050
- Industrial cooling demands were assigned to specific utility providers based on approximate locations and any known agreements

Max Monthly Demands (MGD) per Site			
	2030 (50 Acre Site)	2040 (80 Acre Site)	2050 (100 Acre Site)
Water Demand	0.80	1.29	1.61
Wastewater Demand	0.27	0.43	0.54

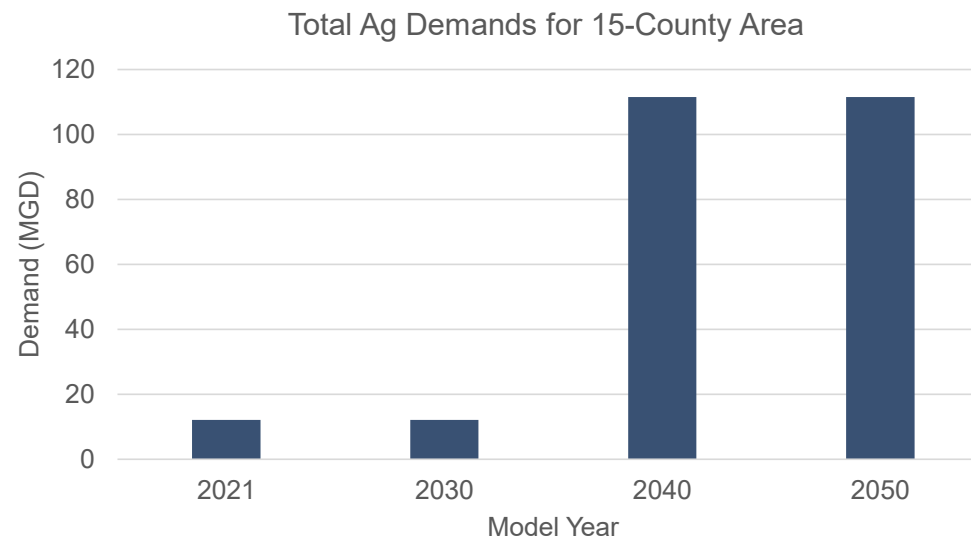


Typical Max Day Water Usage at Single Site

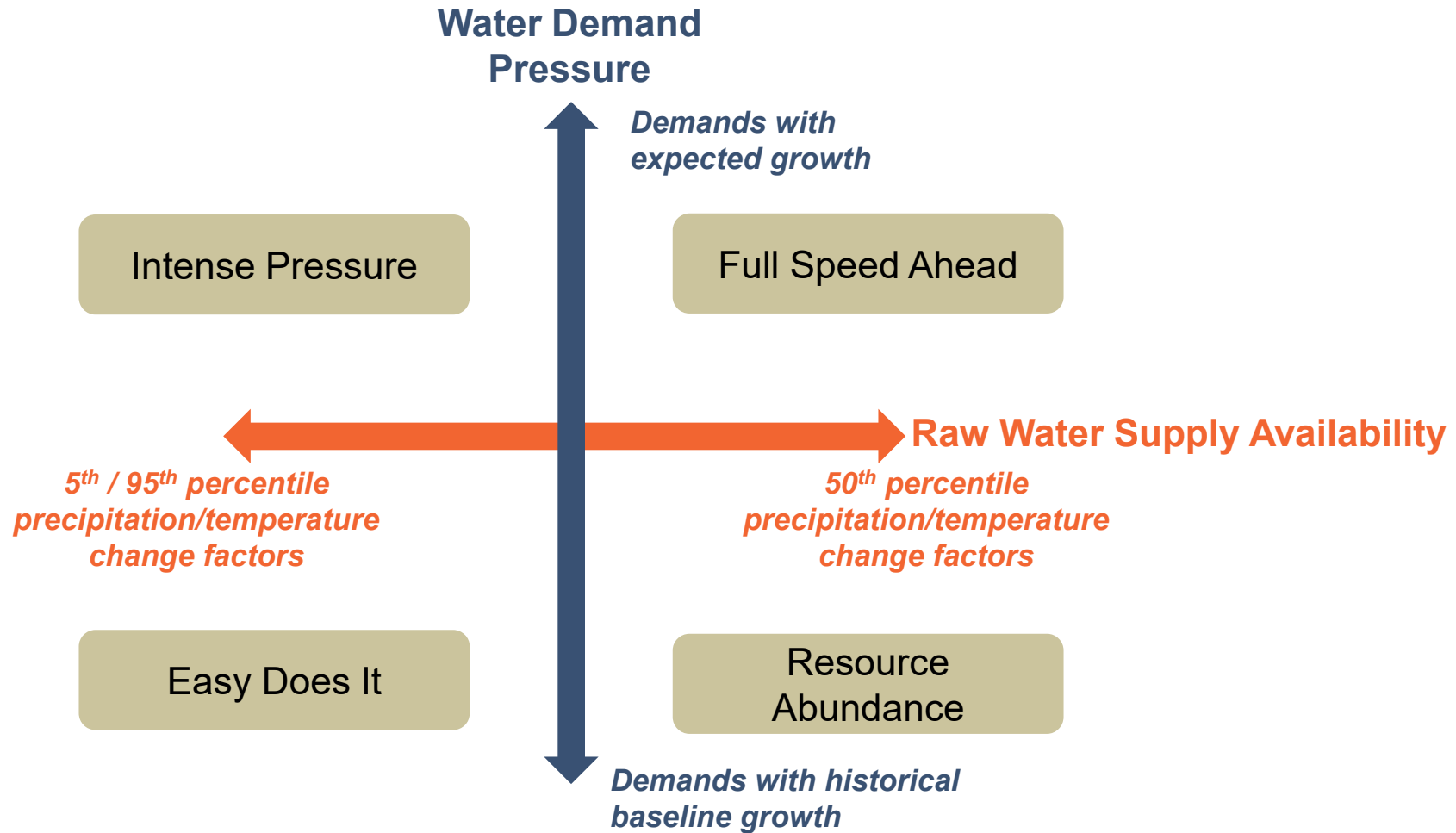


Agricultural Irrigation Demands

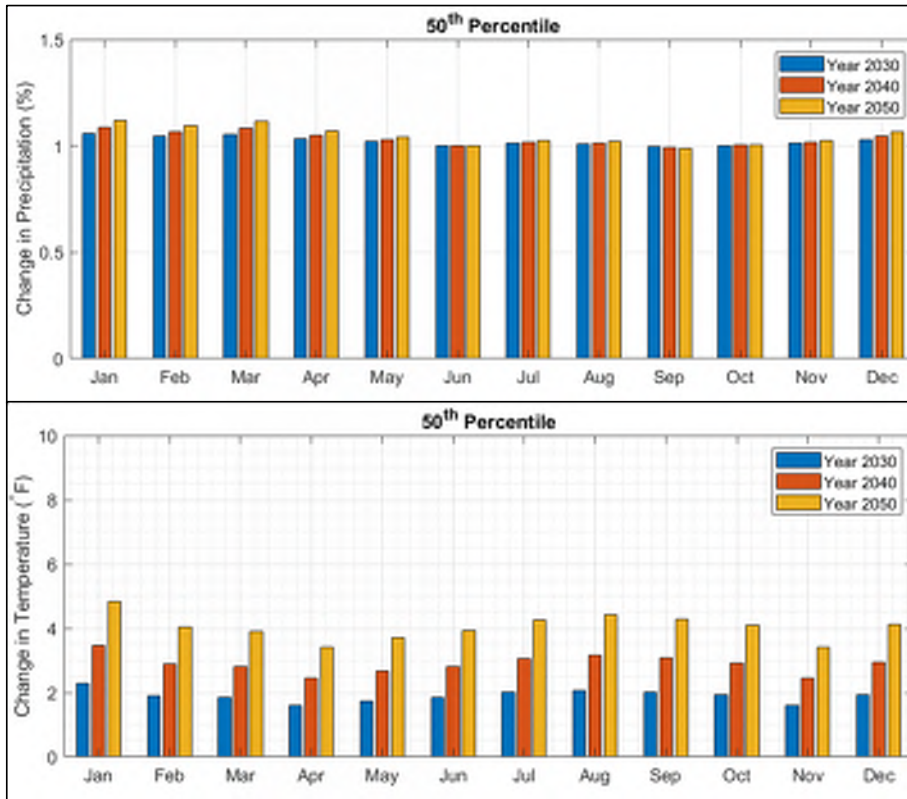
- By 2040 irrigation will be more widespread, driven by increasing temperatures
- Supplied by groundwater, during the critical growing season (July / August / September)
- Agricultural demands increase from approximately 12 MGD in the base year and 2030 to 110 MGD for 2040 and 2050 across the region during the July through September growing season



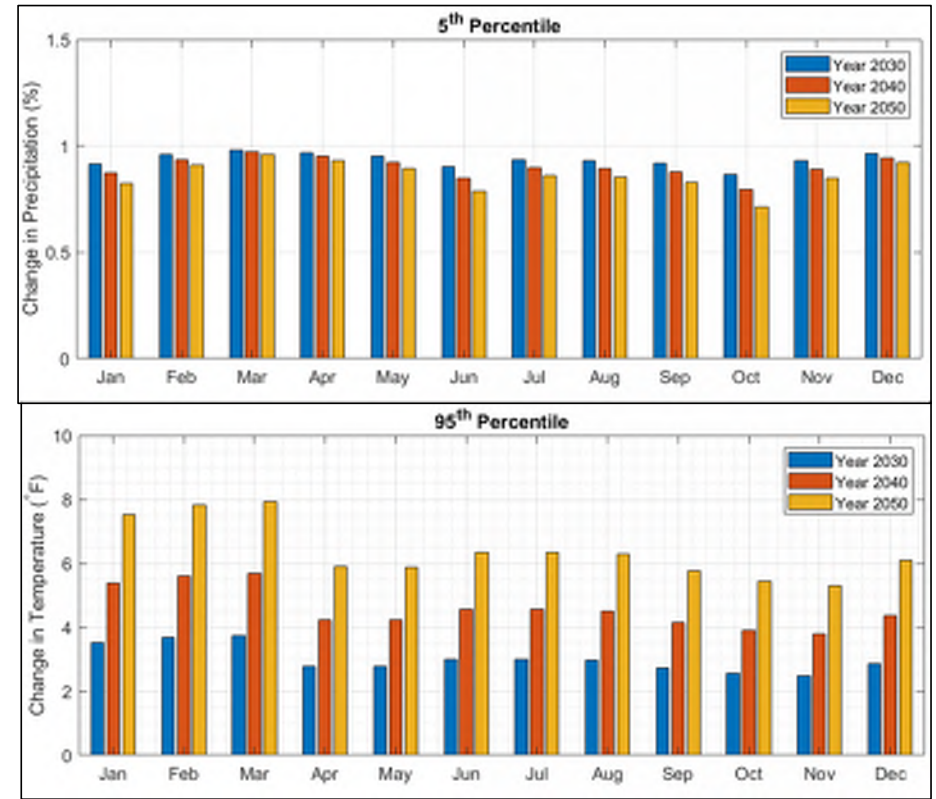
Model Scenarios



Raw Water Supply Availability Informed by Two Temperature/Precipitation Projections

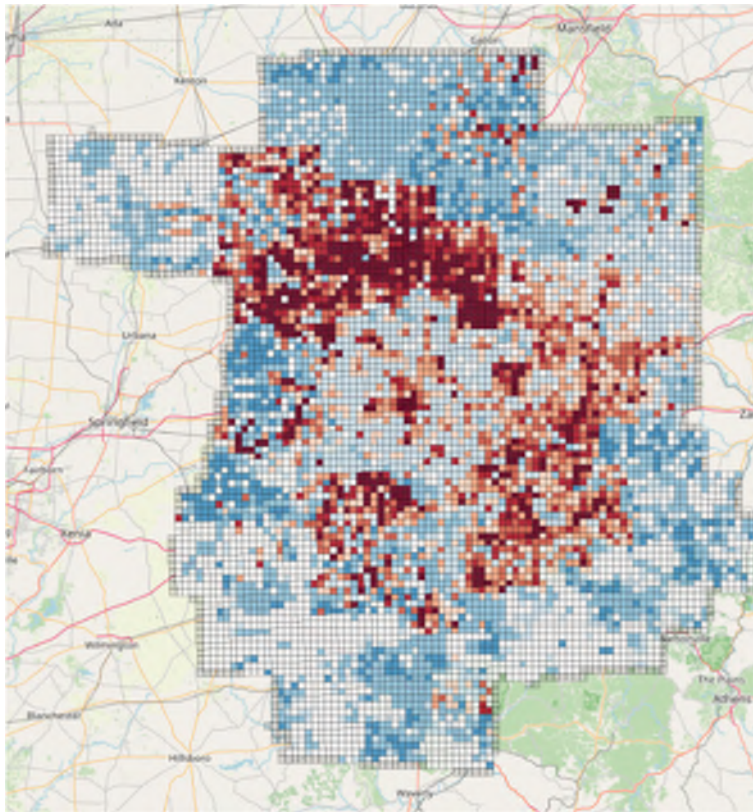


Moderate Change (50th Percentile Temperature and Precipitation)

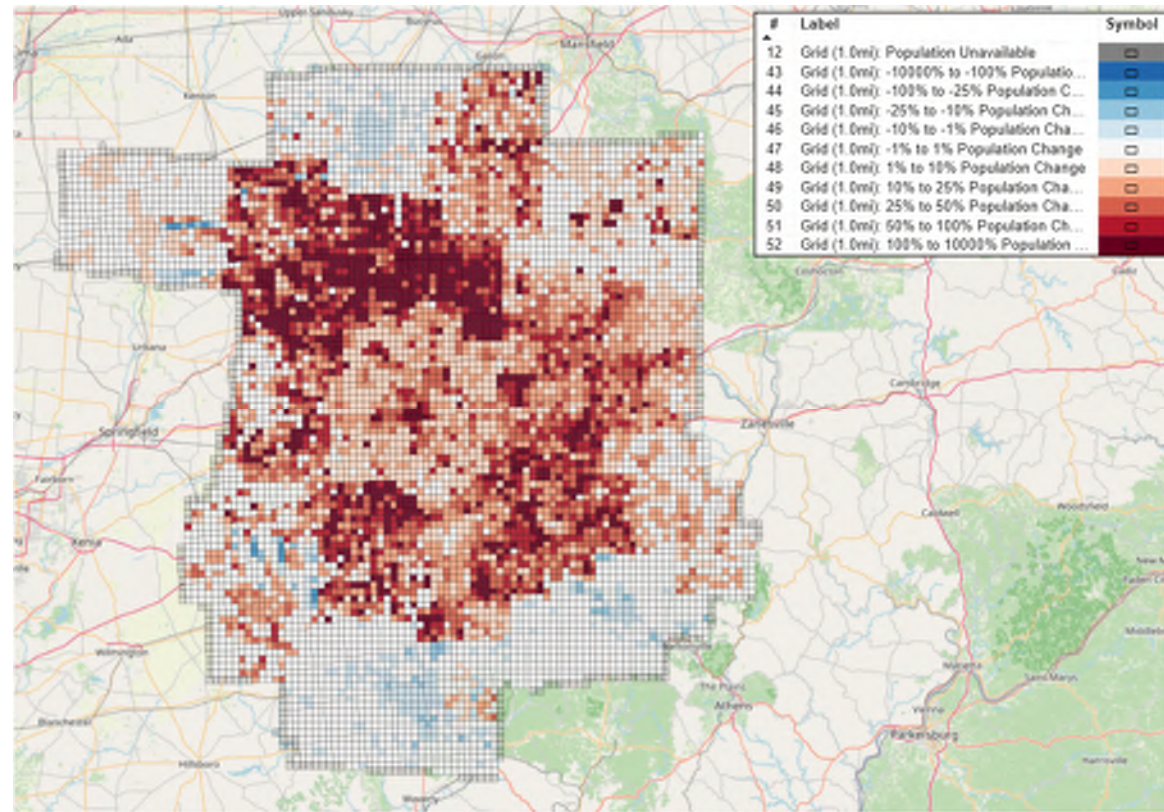


Extreme Change (5th Percentile Precipitation and 95th Percentile Temperature)

Percent Population Growth (2021 to 2050)



Historical Growth Trend (ODOD)



Expected Growth Trend (MORPC)



Home

Population Data

Demand Data

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The drop-down menus on the left-hand side of the screen control the presentation of population information on the map. Use the "Clear Selections" button in each drop-down box or the "Reset" button at the bottom of the page to clear selections.

[More Info...](#)

Layer Visibility ①

Multiple selections

County ①

All

Grid - Data Category ①

Population

Grid - Growth Trend ①

Historical Baseline Growth Tr...

Grid - Data Type ①

Value

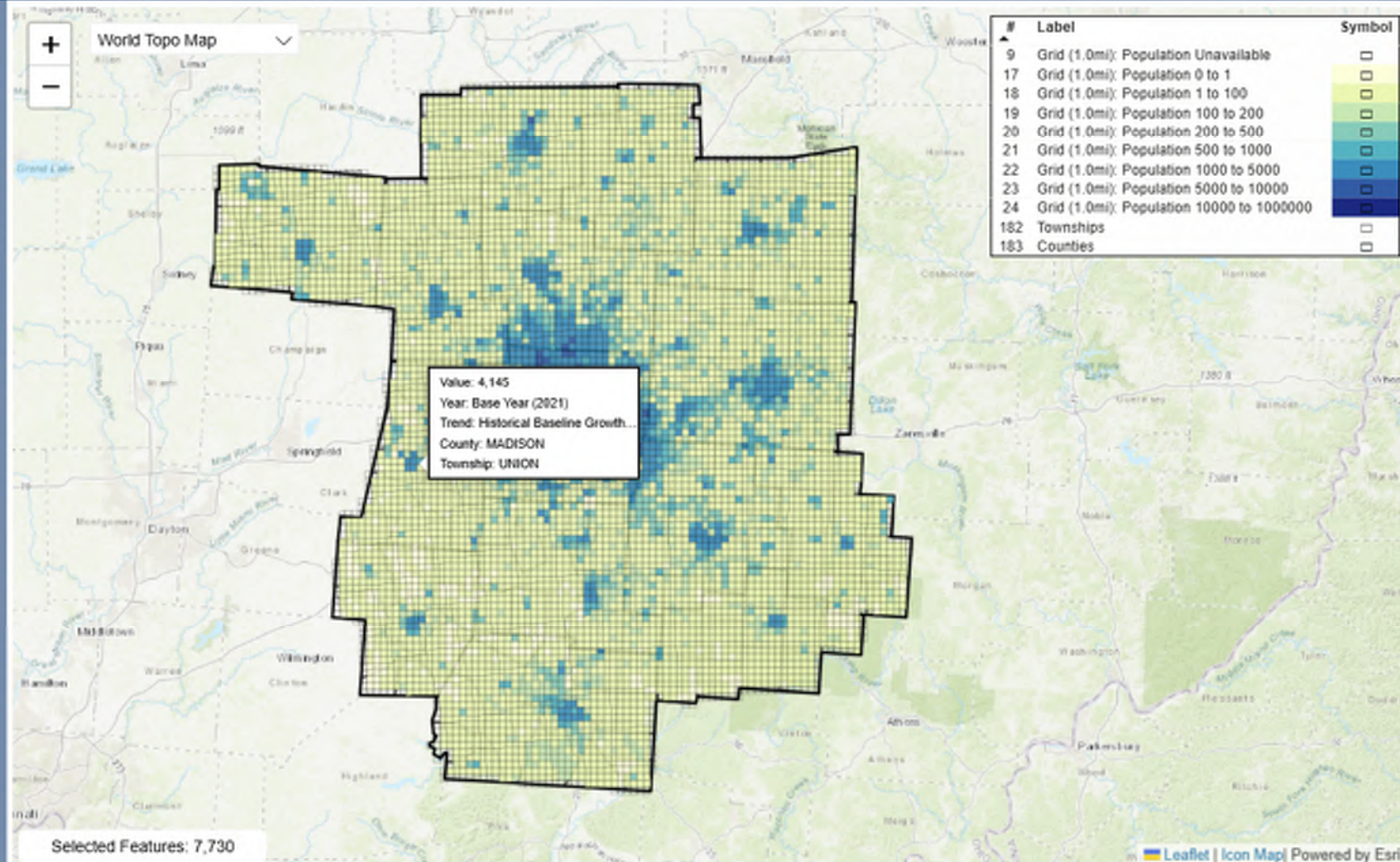
Grid - Data Year ①

Base Year (2021)

Land Use - Data Category ①

Future Land Use (2050)

Reset





Central Ohio Regional Water Study

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The drop-down menus on the left-hand side of the screen control the presentation of water demand data on the map. Use the "Clear Selections" button in each drop-down box or the "Reset" button at the bottom of the page to clear selections.

[More Info...](#)

Layer Visibility ①

Multiple selections

Demand Node Visibility ①

All

County ①

All

Nodes - Population Trend ①

Historical Baseline Growth Tr...

Nodes - Value Type ①

Total Demand

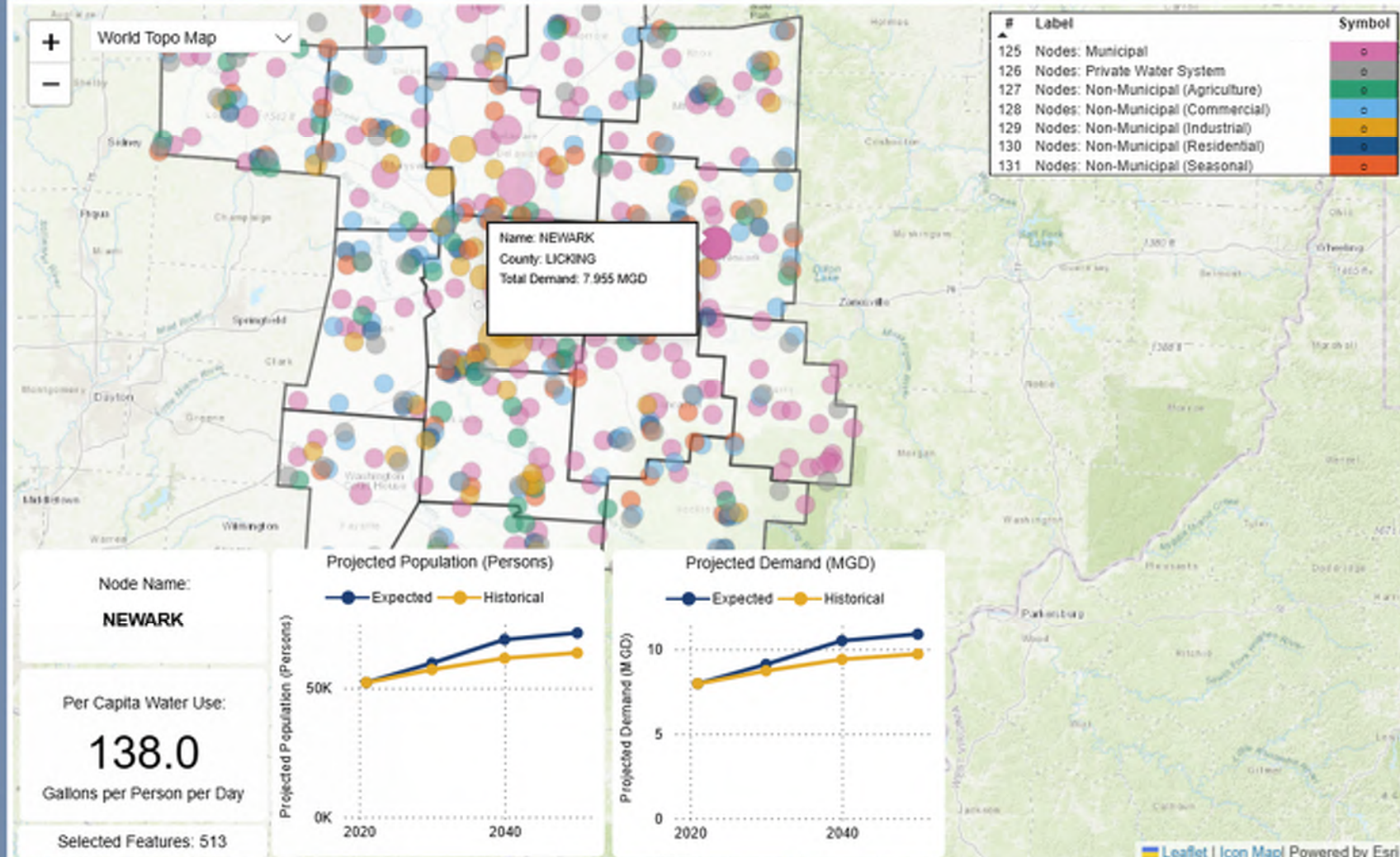
Nodes - Value Year ①

Base Year (2021)

Nodes - Scale Per Capita Use ①

0.00%

Reset





Central Ohio Regional Water Study

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X



The drop-down menus on the left-hand side of the screen control the presentation of watershed information on the map. Use the "Clear Selections" button in each drop-down box or the "Reset" button at the bottom of the page to clear selections. [More Info...](#)

Layer Visibility ①

Multiple selections



County ①

All

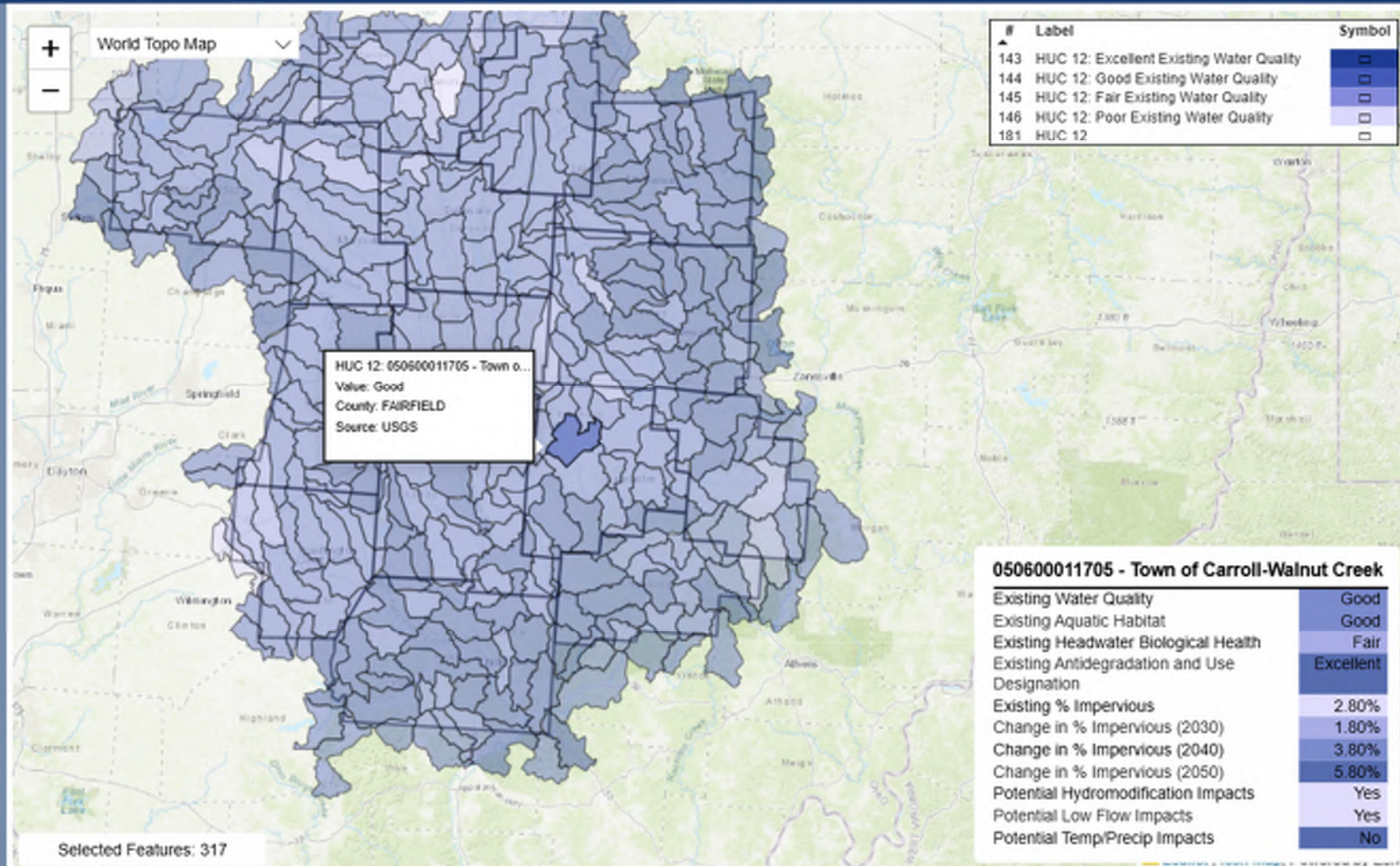


HUC 12 - Data Type ①

Existing Water Quality

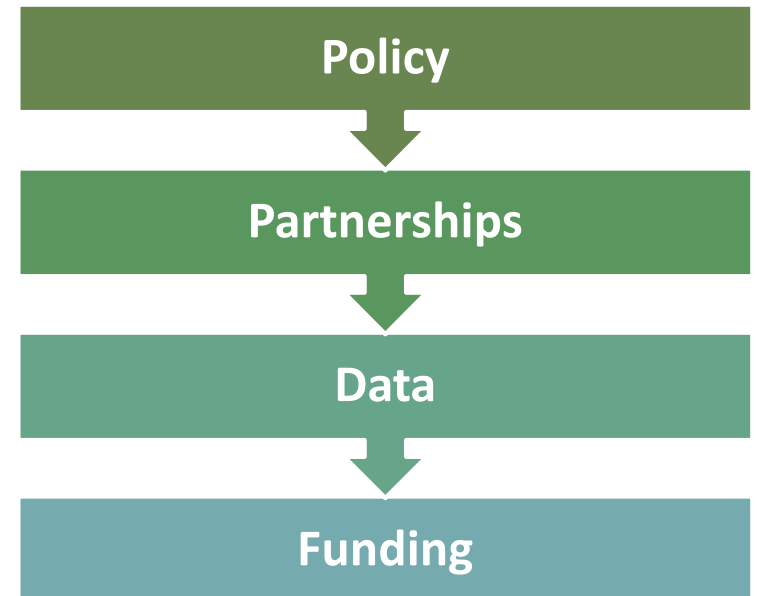
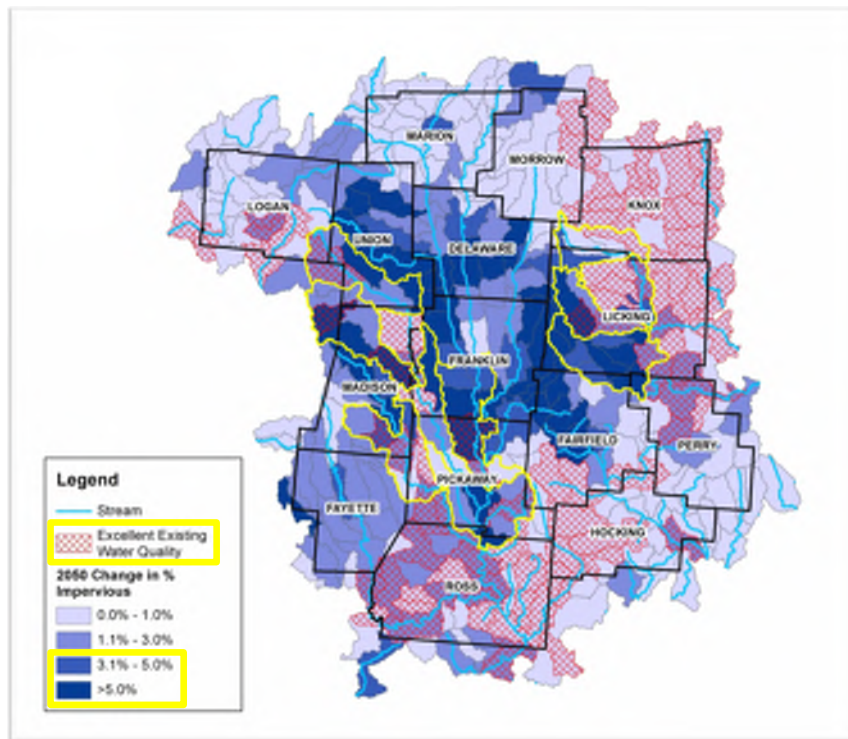


Reset



Water Quality Protection

Watersheds containing excellent existing water quality AND a relatively high change in impervious area in 2050 are:





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[More Info](#)

Layer Visibility ①

Multiple selections



Node Visibility ①

All



Only Show Gaps ①

Off



County ①

All



Gaps - Growth Trend ①

Expected Growth Trend



Gaps - Temp/Precip Change ①

Moderate Change

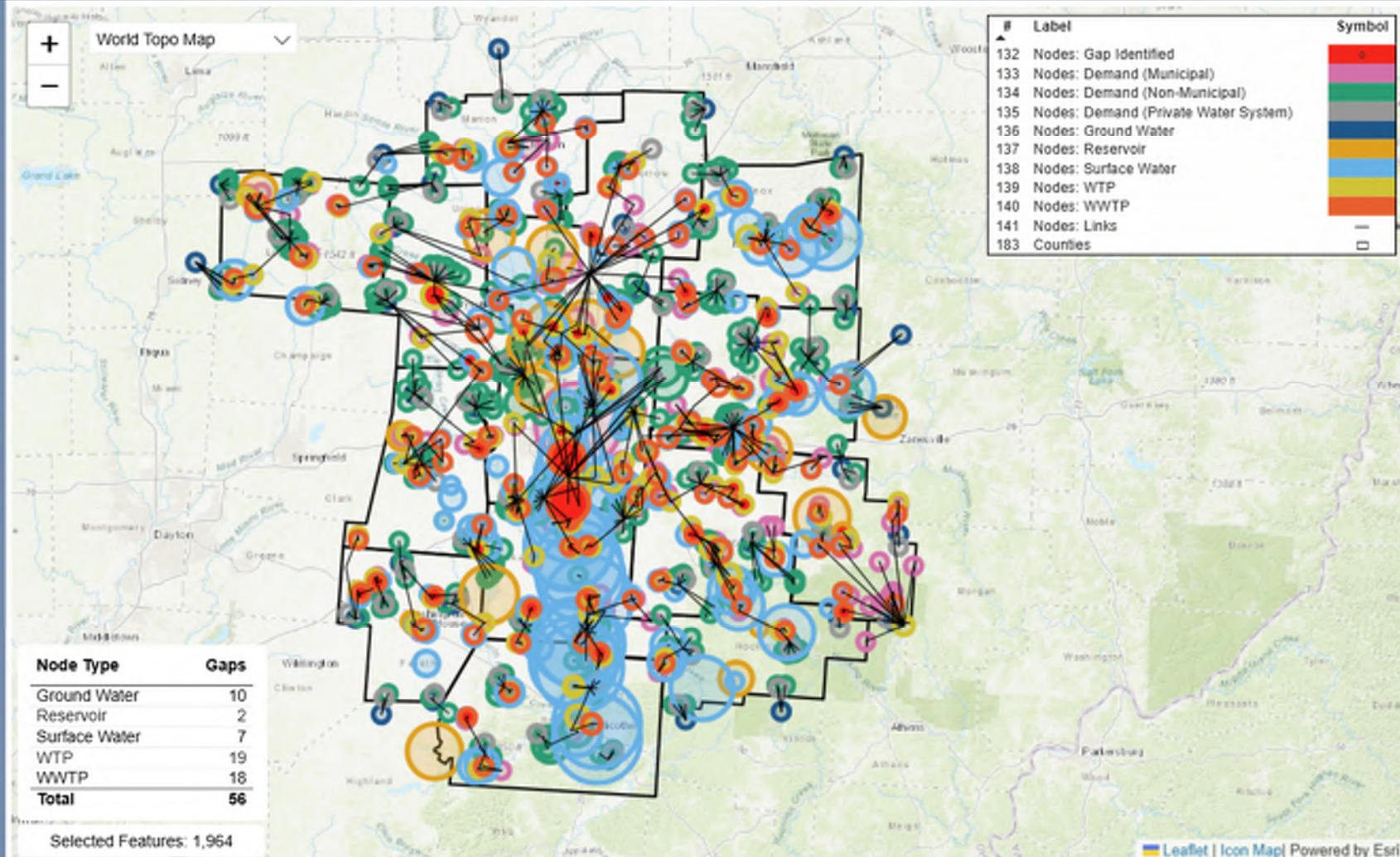


Gaps - Demand Year ①

2040



Reset



Resource Gaps - Definitions

Gaps are defined based on the node type:

Surface water – if any shortage is observed throughout the simulation period

Reservoir – if usable storage ever reaches 20% or lower

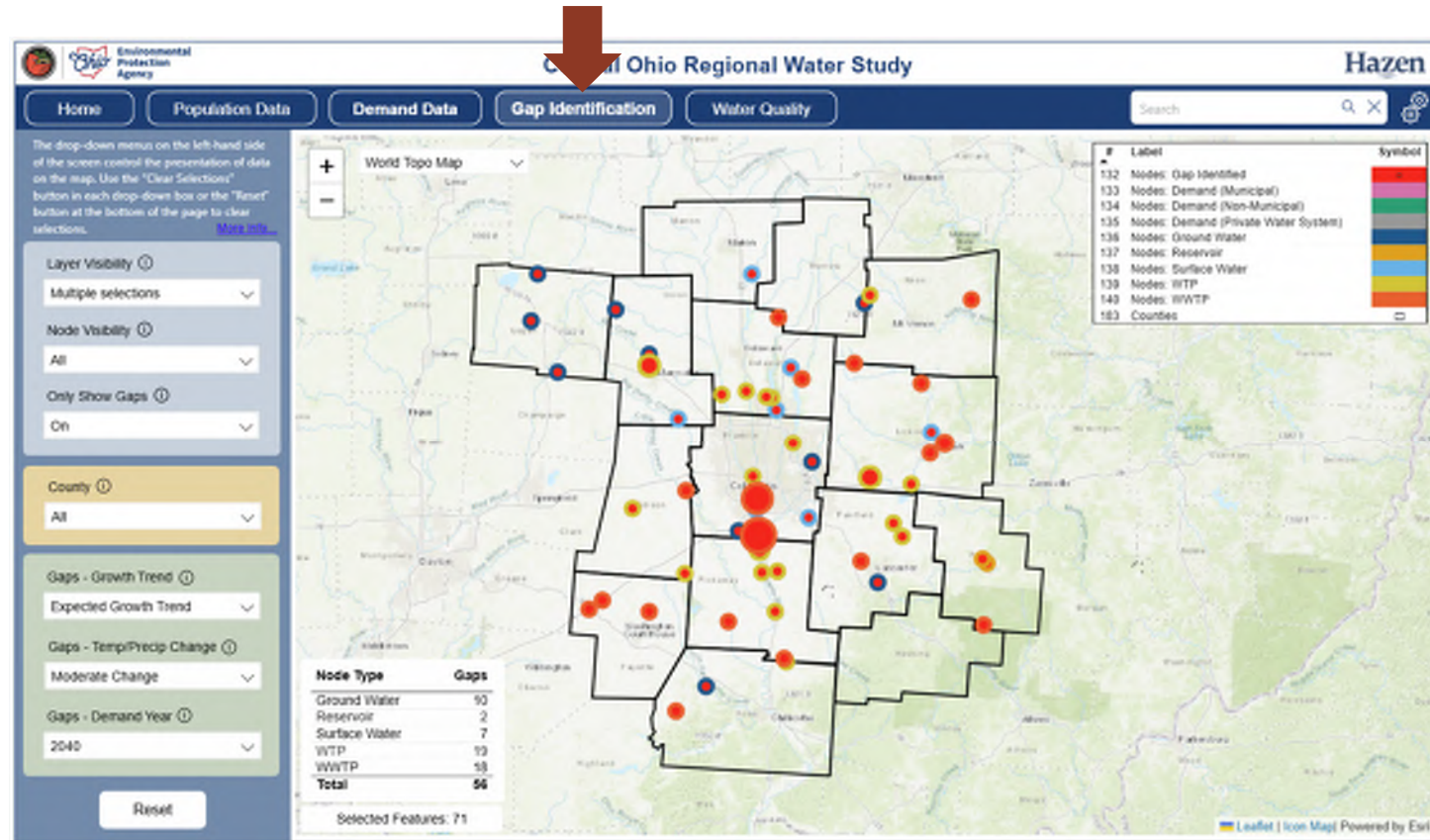
Ground water – if remaining ground water ever reaches zero

Water treatment plant – if the max month average flow reaches 80% or more of the permitted capacity

Wastewater treatment plant – if the max annual average flow reaches 100% or more of the permitted capacity

In the dashboard, red-filled nodes represent gaps for the selected conditions on the left

Node sizing reflects the magnitude of the identified gap



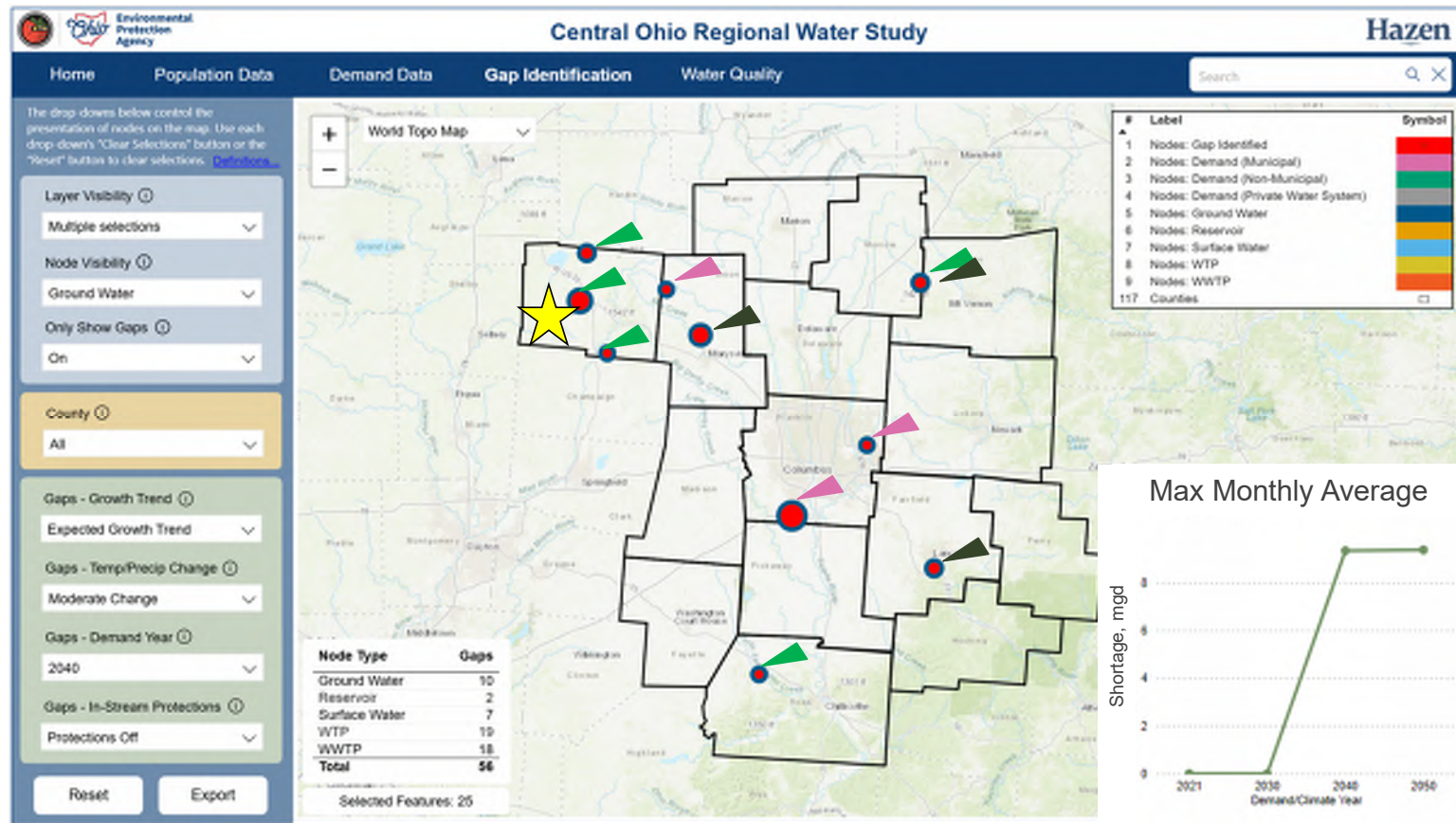
Resource Gaps - Summary

Full Summary of Gaps – 15 Counties

Scenario		GW	Reservoir	SW	WTP	WWTP	Total
Base Year		2	2	7	7	13	31
Intense Pressure <i>(expected growth + high temperature/precipitation stress)</i>	2030	4	2	7	10	16	39
	2040	10	3	7	19	17	56
	2050	10	5	7	22	20	64
Full Speed Ahead <i>(expected growth + moderate temperature/precipitation stress)</i>	2030	4	2	7	10	16	39
	2040	10	2	7	19	18	56
	2050	10	2	7	22	21	62
Easy Does It <i>(historical growth + high temperature/precipitation stress)</i>	2030	4	2	7	10	14	37
	2040	9	2	7	14	15	47
	2050	9	4	6	16	14	49
Resource Abundance <i>(historical growth + moderate temperature/precipitation stress)</i>	2030	4	2	7	10	14	37
	2040	9	1	7	14	15	46
	2050	9	1	7	16	16	49

Resource Gaps – Ground Water Supplies

- Gap = Ground water supplies that reach zero in the simulation period
- 10 gaps in total
 - Agricultural driver – 5
 - Industrial driver – 3
 - Municipal driver – 3
 - One gap overlaps agriculture and industry
- Drivers are presented in the overall 15-County Report Out





Central Ohio Regional Water Study

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Gap Identification

Water Quality

Data Updated 5/20/25

Search Node Name or ID

Q

X

?

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[More Info...](#)

Layer Visibility ①

Multiple selections

Node Visibility ①

All

Only Show Gaps ①

Off

County ①

LICKING

Gaps - Growth Trend ①

Expected Growth Trend

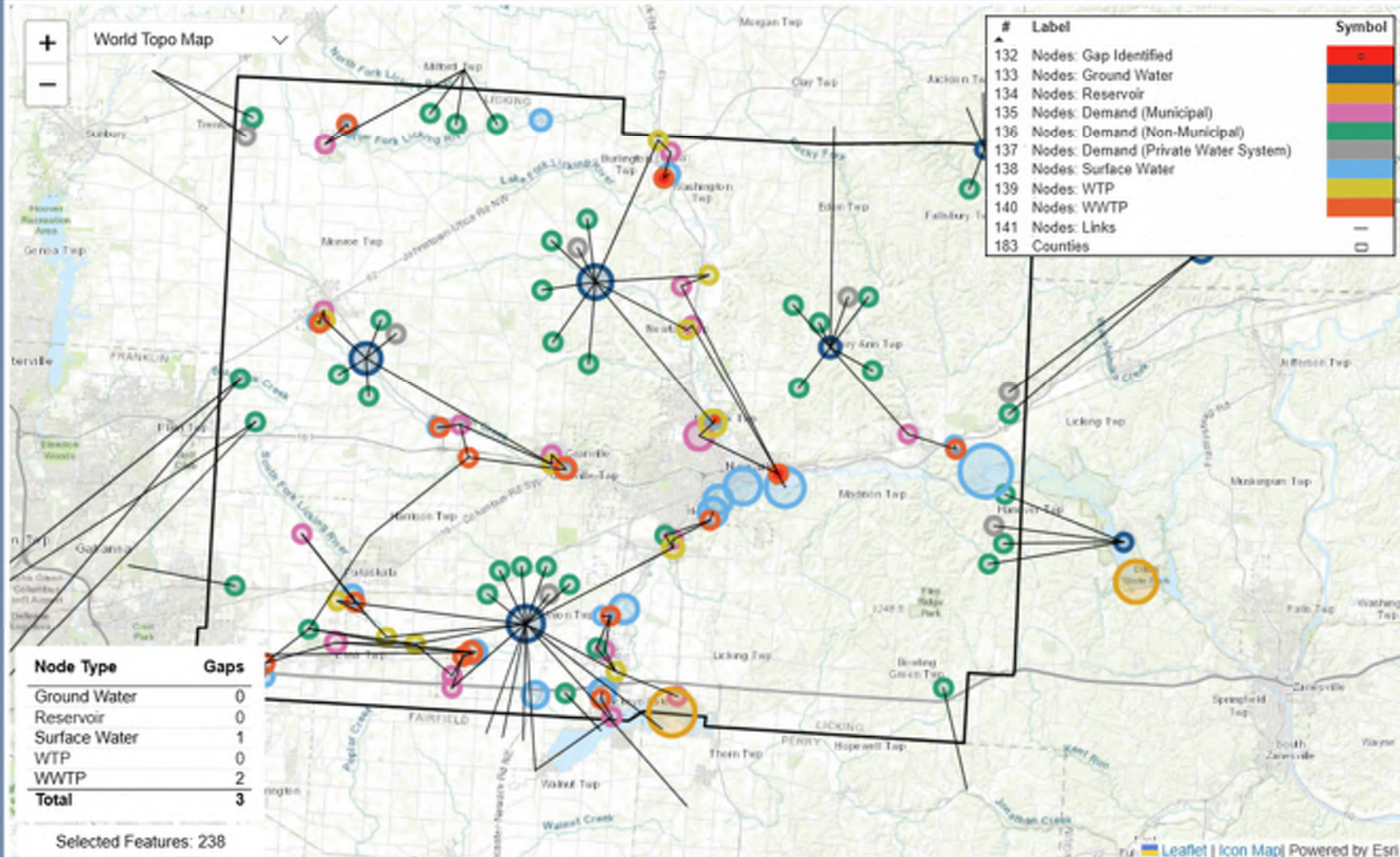
Gaps - Temp/Precip Change ①

Moderate Change

Gaps - Demand Year ①

Base Year (2021)

Reset





Home

Population Data

Demand Data

Gap Identification

Water Quality

Data Updated 5/20/25

Search Node Name or ID

Q

X

?

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[More Info](#)

Layer Visibility

Multiple selections



Node Visibility

All



Only Show Gaps

Off



County

LICKING



Gaps - Growth Trend

Expected Growth Trend



Gaps - Temp/Precip Change

Moderate Change

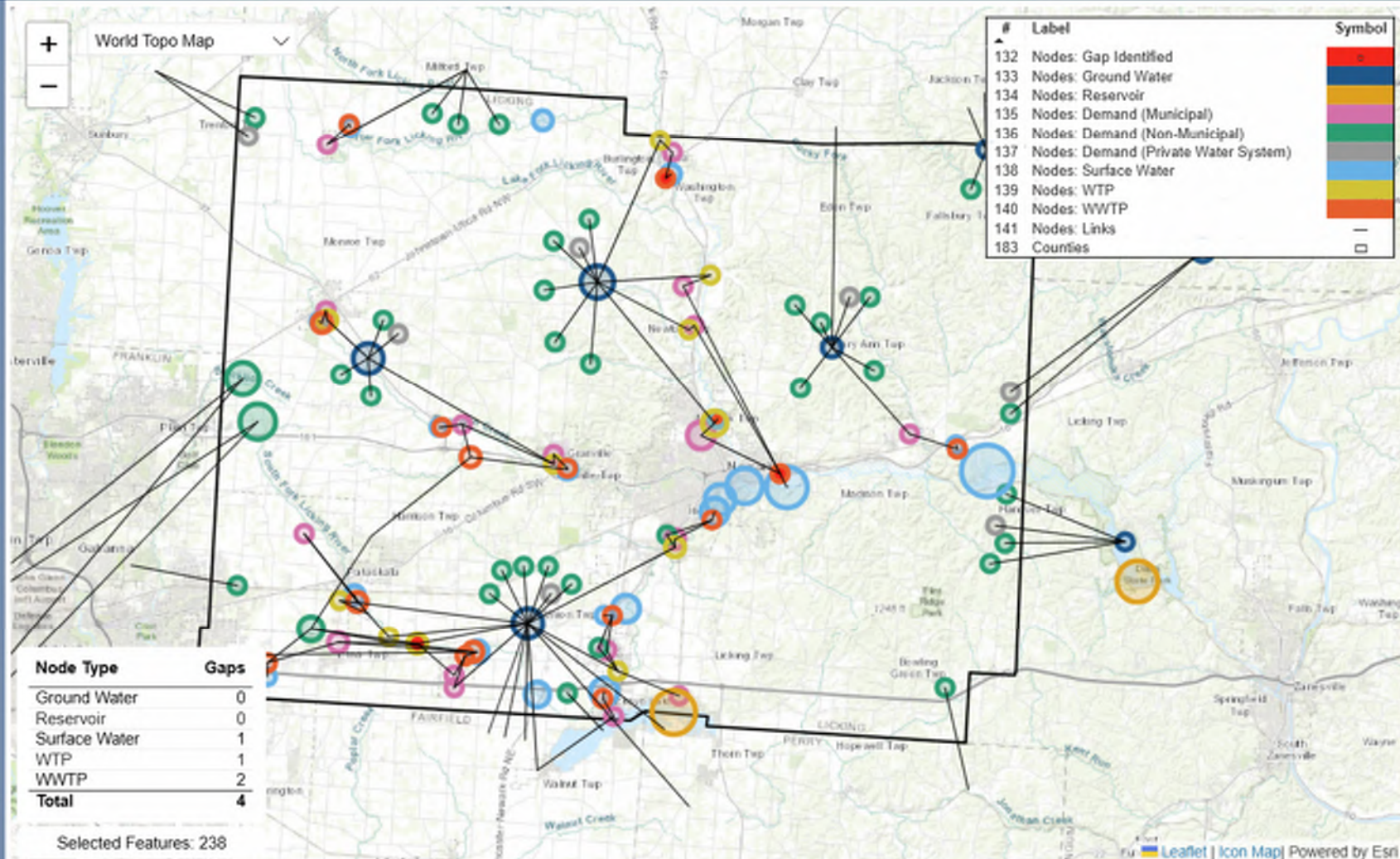


Gaps - Demand Year

2030



Reset





Home

Population Data

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Search

X



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[More Info](#)

Layer Visibility

Multiple selections

Node Visibility

All

Only Show Gaps

Off

County

LICKING

Gaps - Growth Trend

Expected Growth Trend

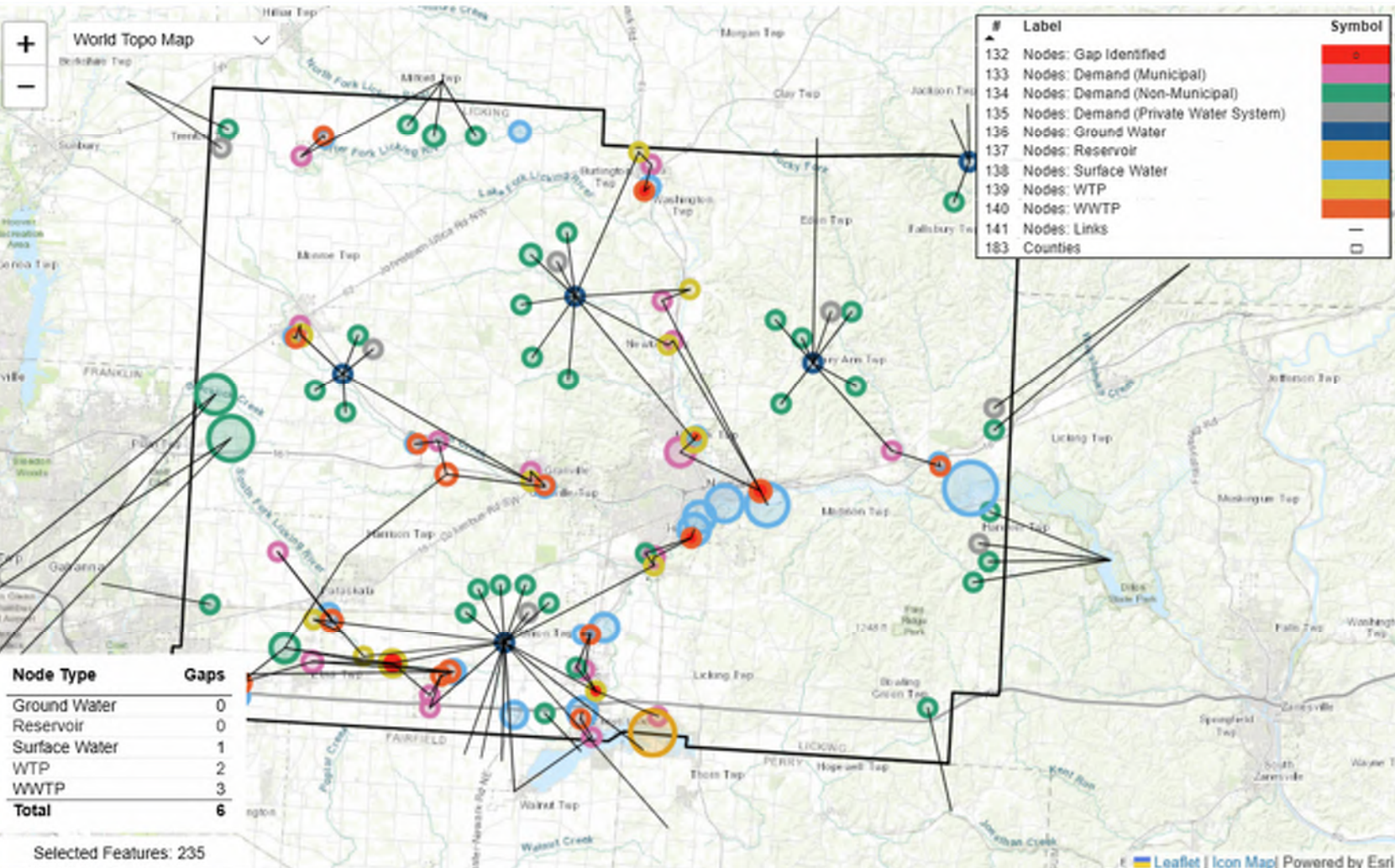
Gaps - Temp/Precip Change

Moderate Change

Gaps - Demand Year

2040

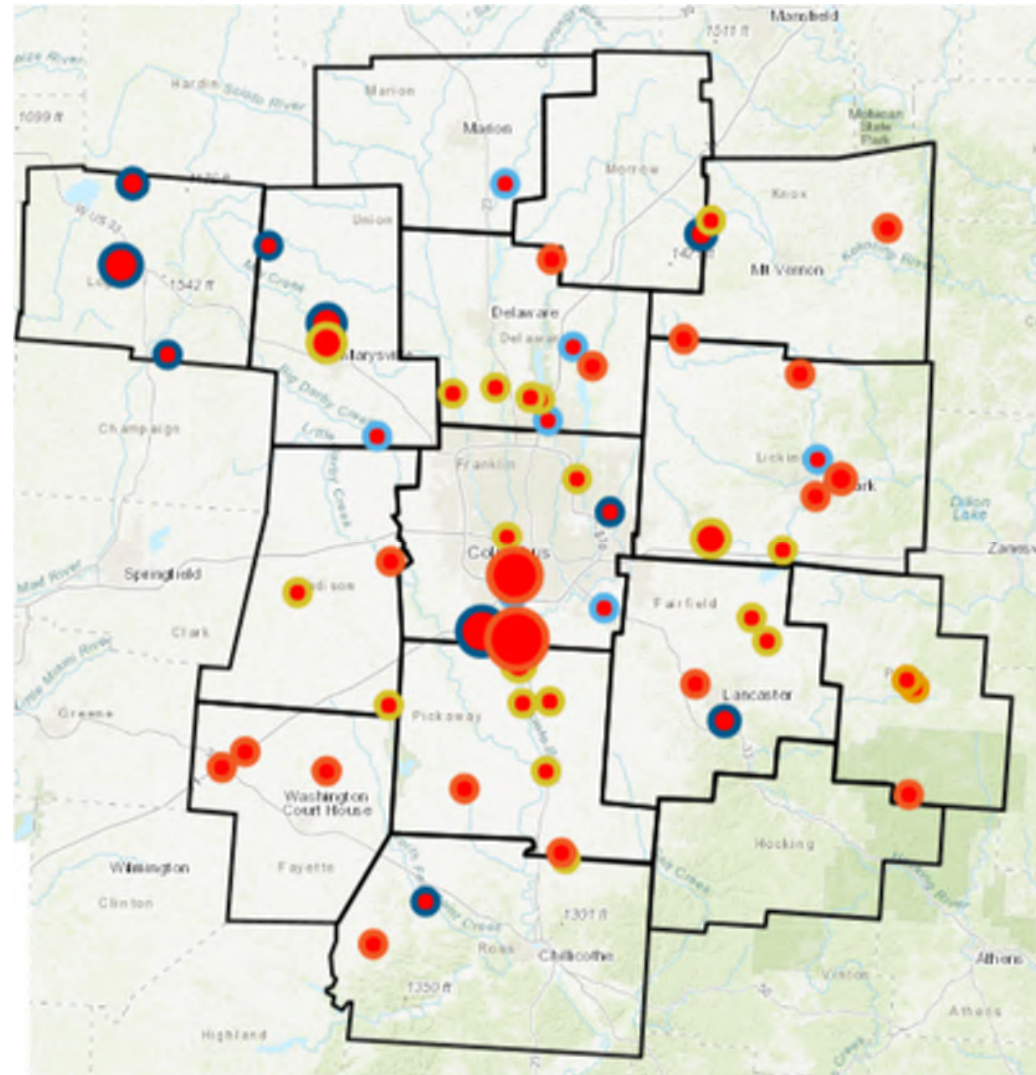
Reset



Each County Report Out Includes

2040 Full Speed Ahead Scenario

- County data analysis including model demands
- Discussion of gaps identified
- Identification of areas of opportunity
- Detailed project options – **LOCAL**, **REGIONAL**, **REUSE**
 - **Local** – Utility largely uses its own assets to fill gap or industrial provides its own onsite solutions
 - **Regional** – Utility collaborates with other utilities
 - **Reuse** – Utility leverages reuse water to provide non-potable water to an industrial user to reduce potable water demand
 - Cost models for comparative purposes and are in 2024 costs
- Water quality analysis



Resource Gaps - Summary

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Central Ohio Regional Water Study

- Home
- Population Data
- Demand Data
- Gap Identification
- Water Quality

Search

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[More Info...](#)

Layer Visibility ⓘ

Multiple selections ▾

Node Visibility ⓘ

All ▾

Only Show Gaps ⓘ

Off ▾

County ⓘ

LICKING ▾

Gaps - Growth Trend ⓘ

Expected Growth Trend ▾

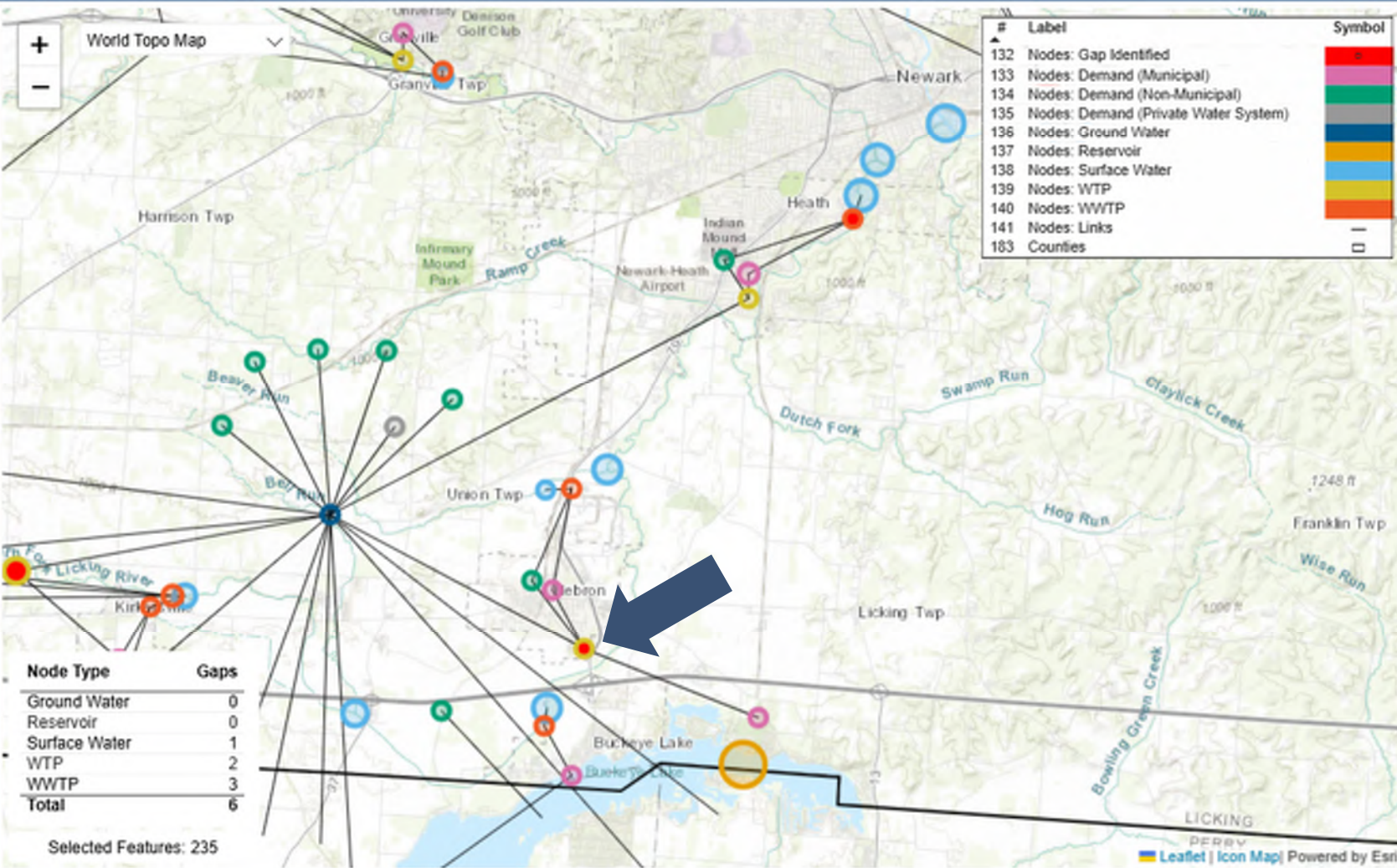
Gaps - Temp/Precip Change ⓘ

Moderate Change ▾

Gaps - Demand Year ⓘ

2040 ▾

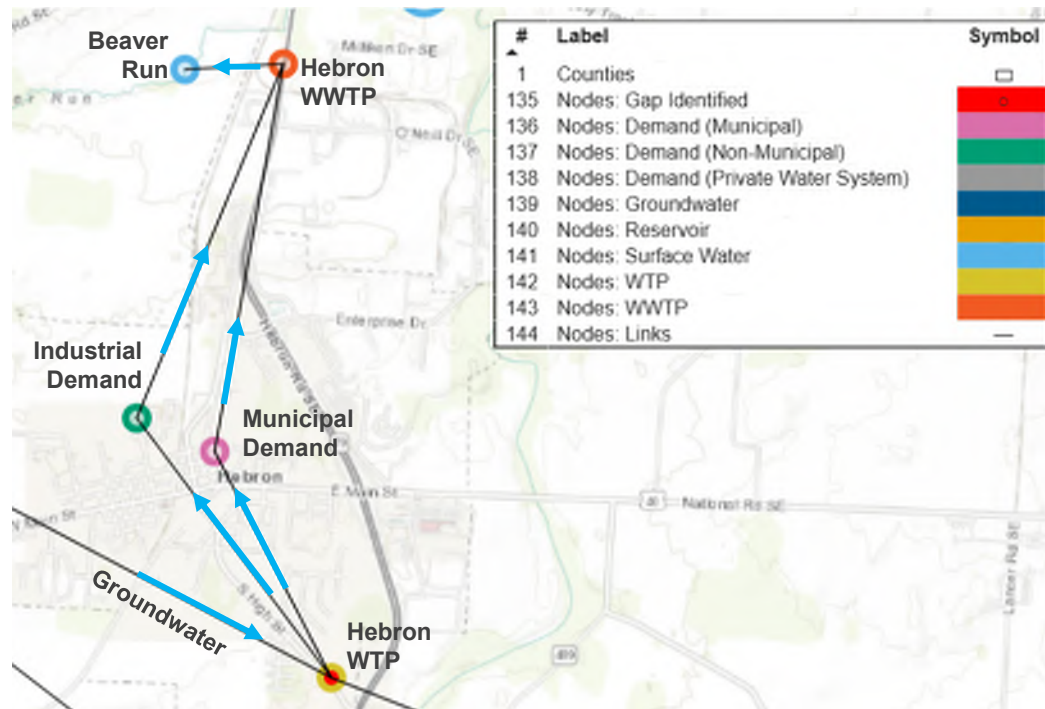
Reset



Hebron Village WTP

Overview (2040 Full Speed Ahead Scenario)

- Industry and population growth WTP driven gap. The estimated demand and capacity are the same. Ohio EPA recommends an expansion at or near 80% of a treatment plant's capacity.
- Local upgrade, reuse, and regional connections are potential solutions





Central Ohio Regional Water Study

- Home
- Population Data
- Demand Data
- Gap Identification
- Water Quality

Search

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[More Info...](#)

Layer Visibility ⓘ

Multiple selections ▾

Node Visibility ⓘ

All ▾

Only Show Gaps ⓘ

Off ▾

County ⓘ

LICKING ▾

Gaps - Growth Trend ⓘ

Expected Growth Trend ▾

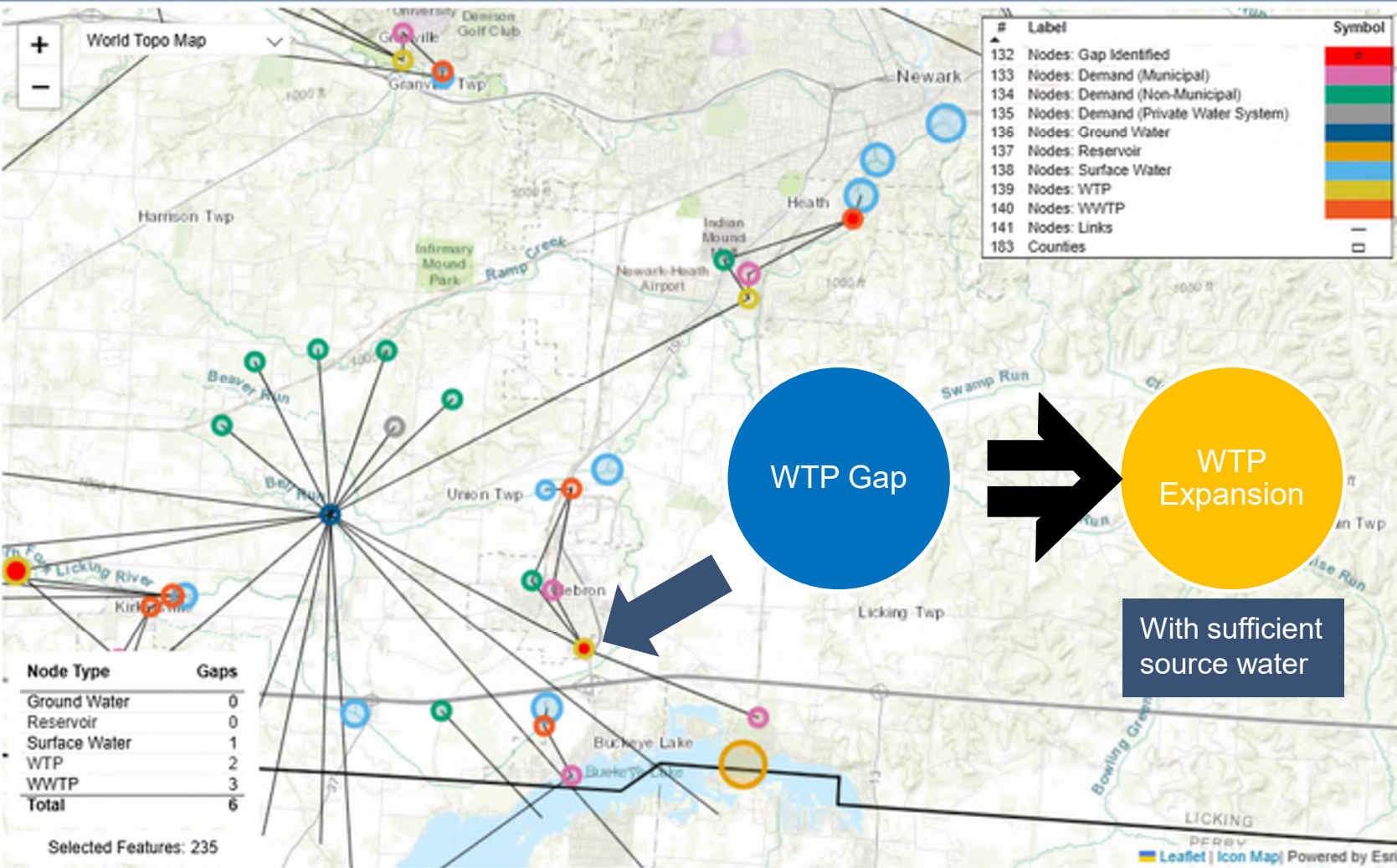
Gaps - Temp/Precip Change ⓘ

Moderate Change ▾

Gaps - Demand Year ⓘ

2040 ▾

Reset



With sufficient source water



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Layer Visibility ①

Multiple selections

Node Visibility ①

All

Only Show Gaps ①

Off

County ①

LICKING

Gaps - Growth Trend ①

Expected Growth Trend

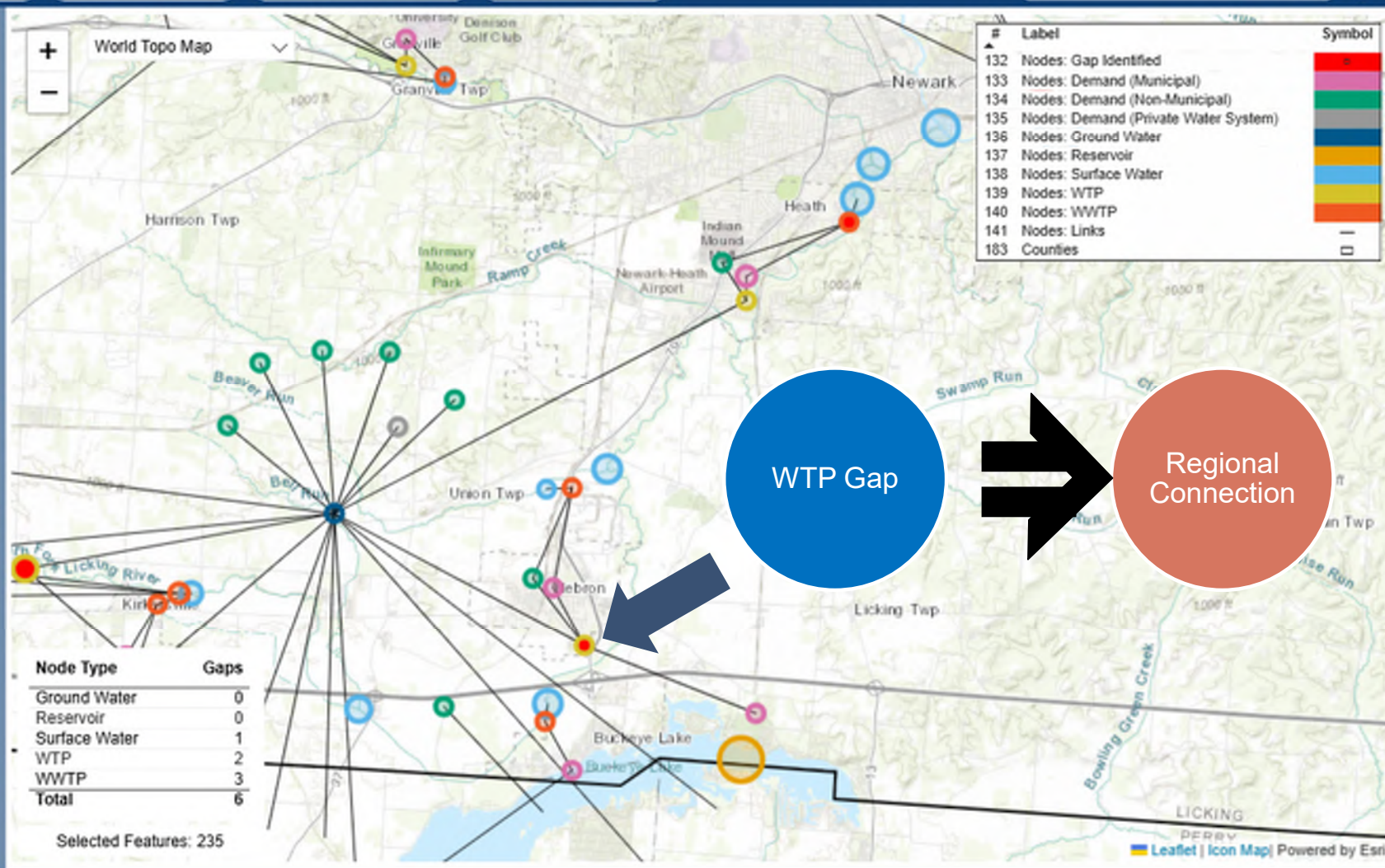
Gaps - Temp/Precip Change ①

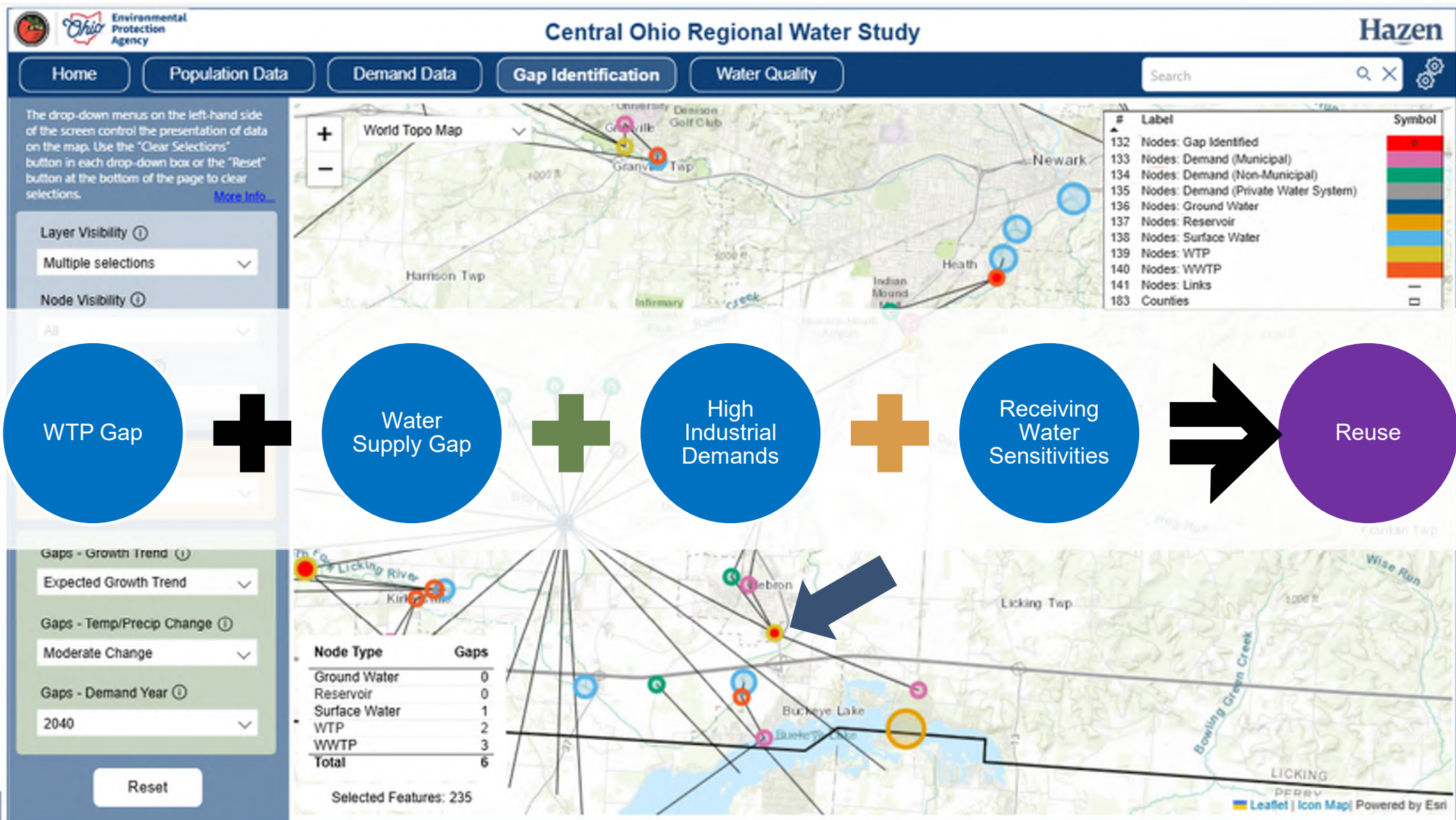
Moderate Change

Gaps - Demand Year ①

2040

Reset





Hebron Village WTP

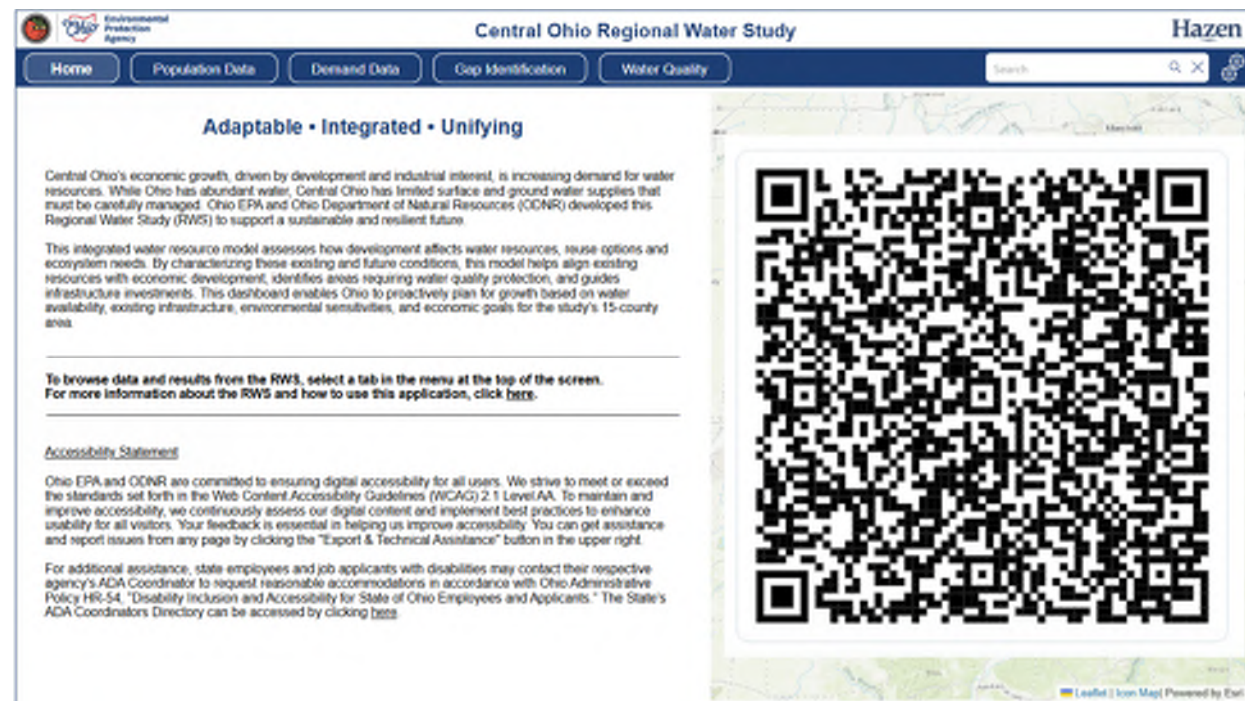
Overview (2040 Full Speed Ahead Scenario)

Project	WTP Need(s)	WWTP Need(s)	Outside Fence Need(s)	Total	O&M Relative Requirements
Expand WTP	0.5 MGD (Total Capacity, 2.66 MGD) \$23,900,000	N/A	+ Distribution	\$23,900,000	Low
Regional Interconnection (LRWD)	0.5 MGD Booster Pump Station \$4,500,000	N/A	\$6,600,000	\$11,100,000	Medium
Upgrade WWTP for Reuse	N/A	Expand and add reuse to supply industrial demand. 2.66 MGD reuse \$11,300,000	+ Conveyance	\$11,300,000	Low

	Project Cost	Favorability Across Scenarios	Favorability Across Gaps	Life Cycle Cost	Water Quality Impact	Implementation Timeline
Option A – Expand Hebron WTP	\$\$	Green	Green	Green	Green	Yellow
Option B – Regional Interconnection(s)	\$	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
Option C – Expand and add reuse	\$\$	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green

Project Resources

- Dashboard Tutorial Videos
- 15-County Overall Presentation, with Recording
- County-Level Presentations, Including Recordings
- Technical Presentations
 - Cost Curve
 - Water Quality
 - OASIS Modeling
 - SWMM Modeling



Future Water Studies

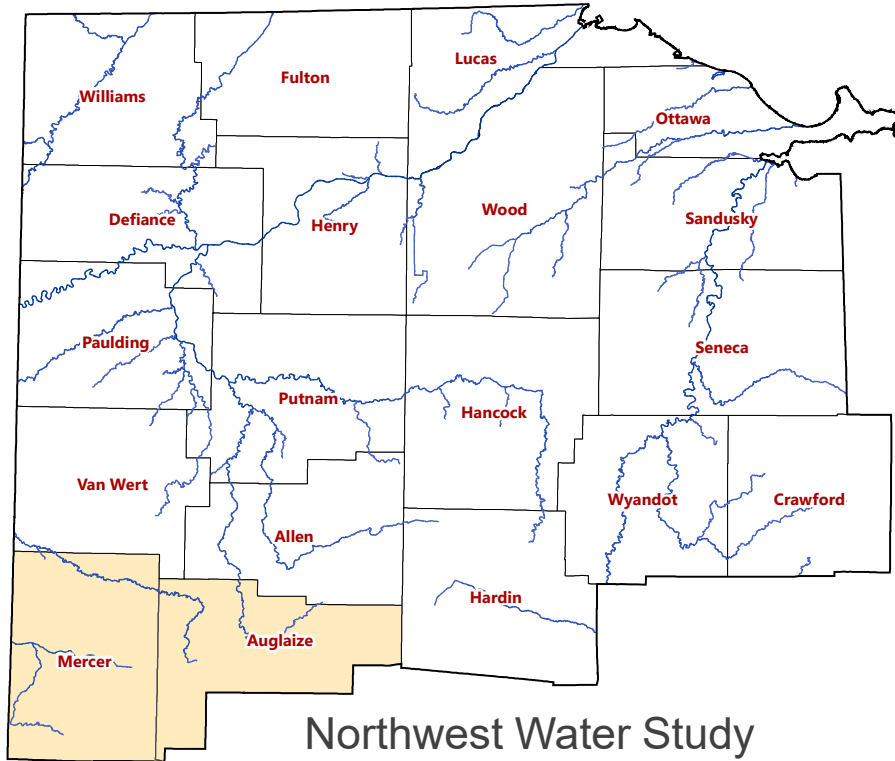


Southwest Water Study

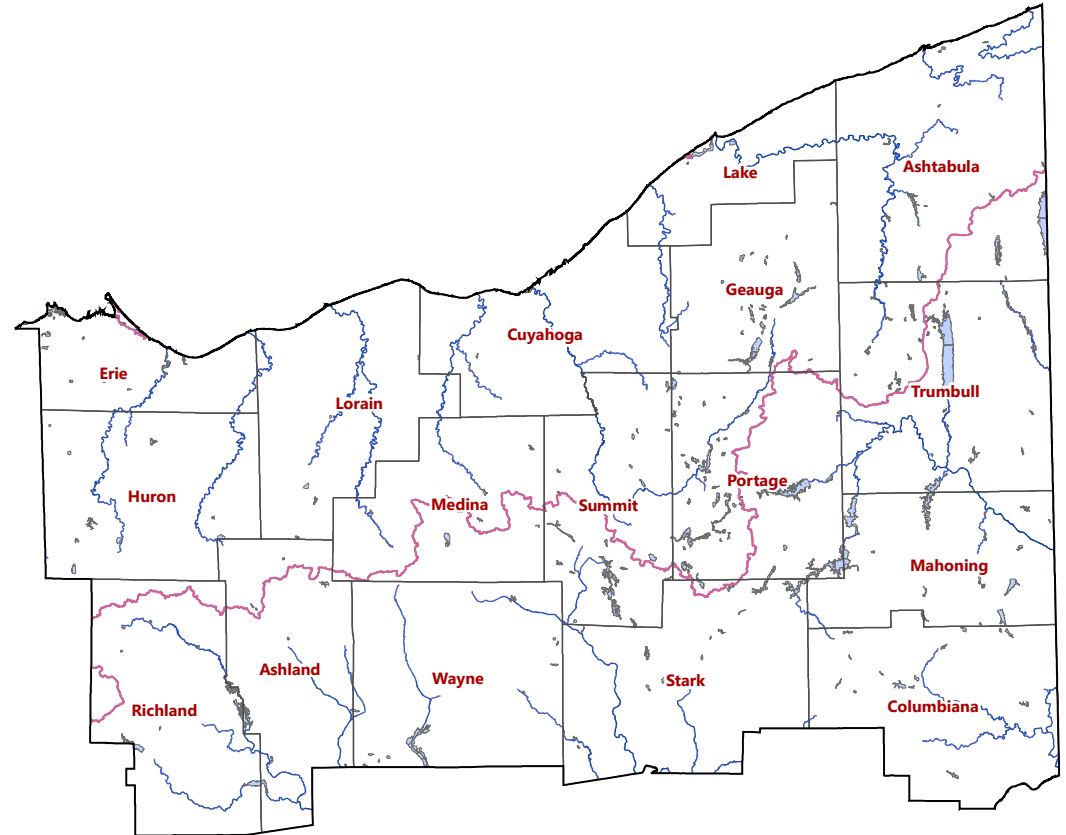


Southeast Water Study

Future Water Studies



Northwest Water Study



Northeast Water Study

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