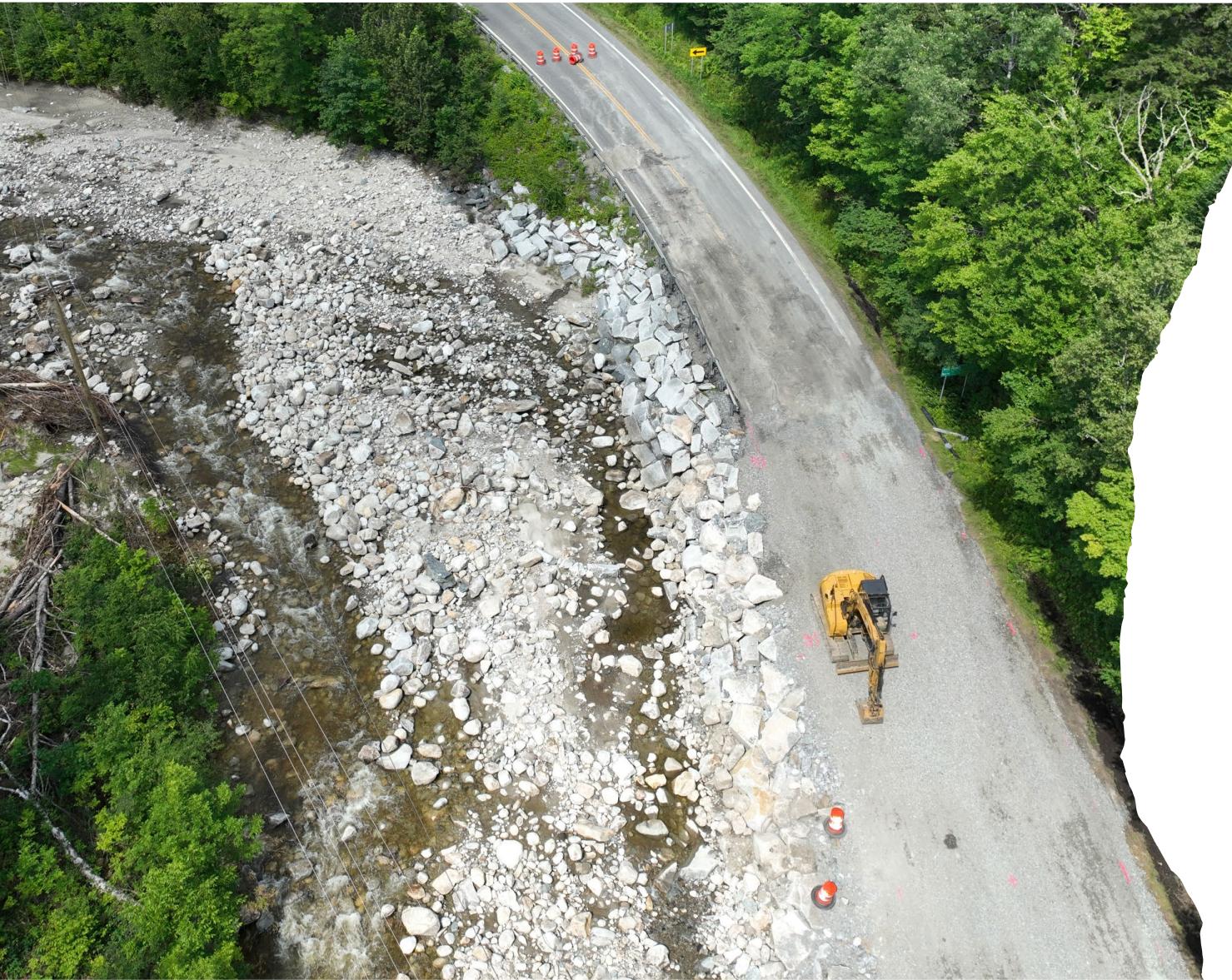


# Stream Alteration Regulation



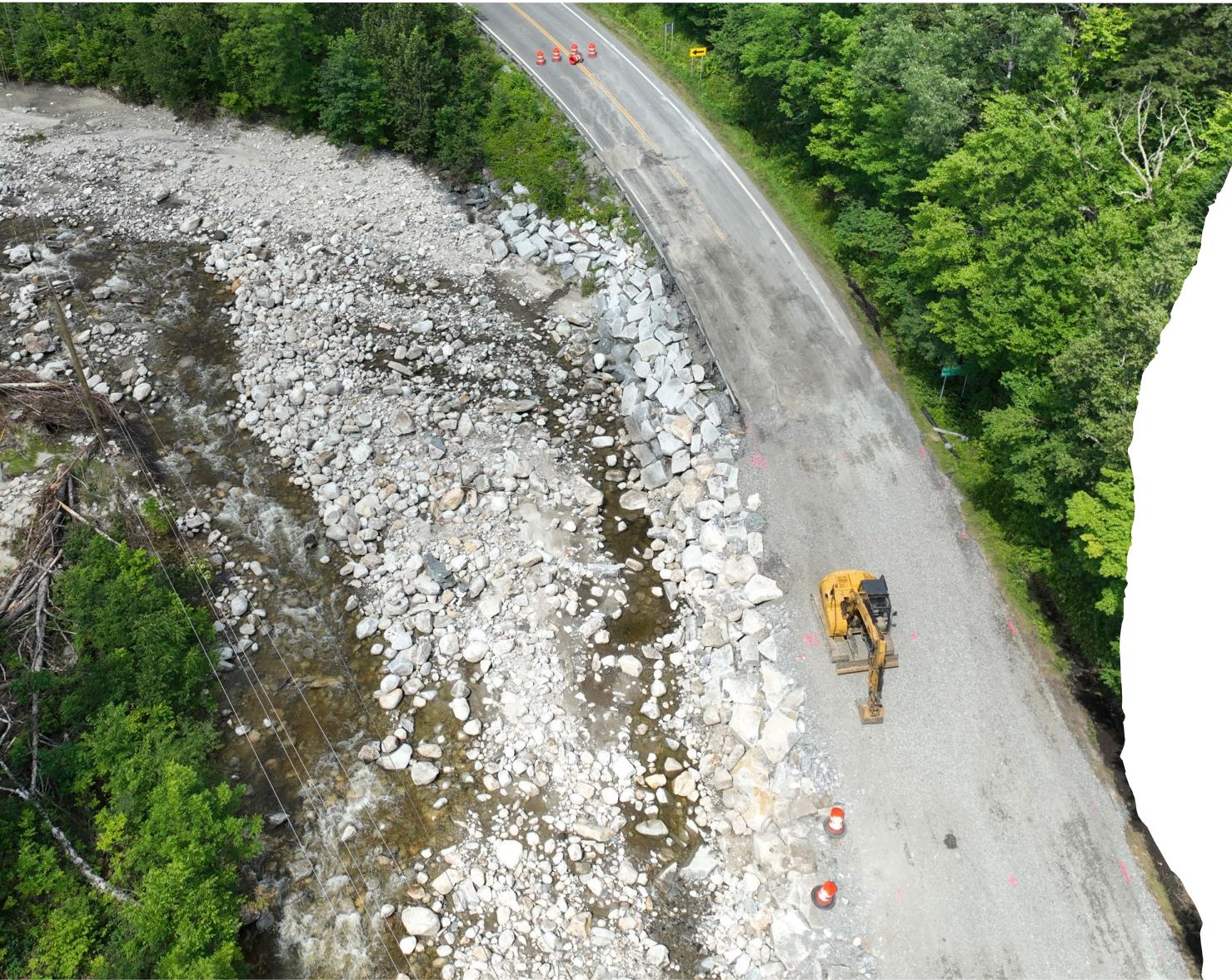
[Rob.Evans@vermont.gov](mailto:Rob.Evans@vermont.gov)  
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Division



# Stream Alteration Regulation

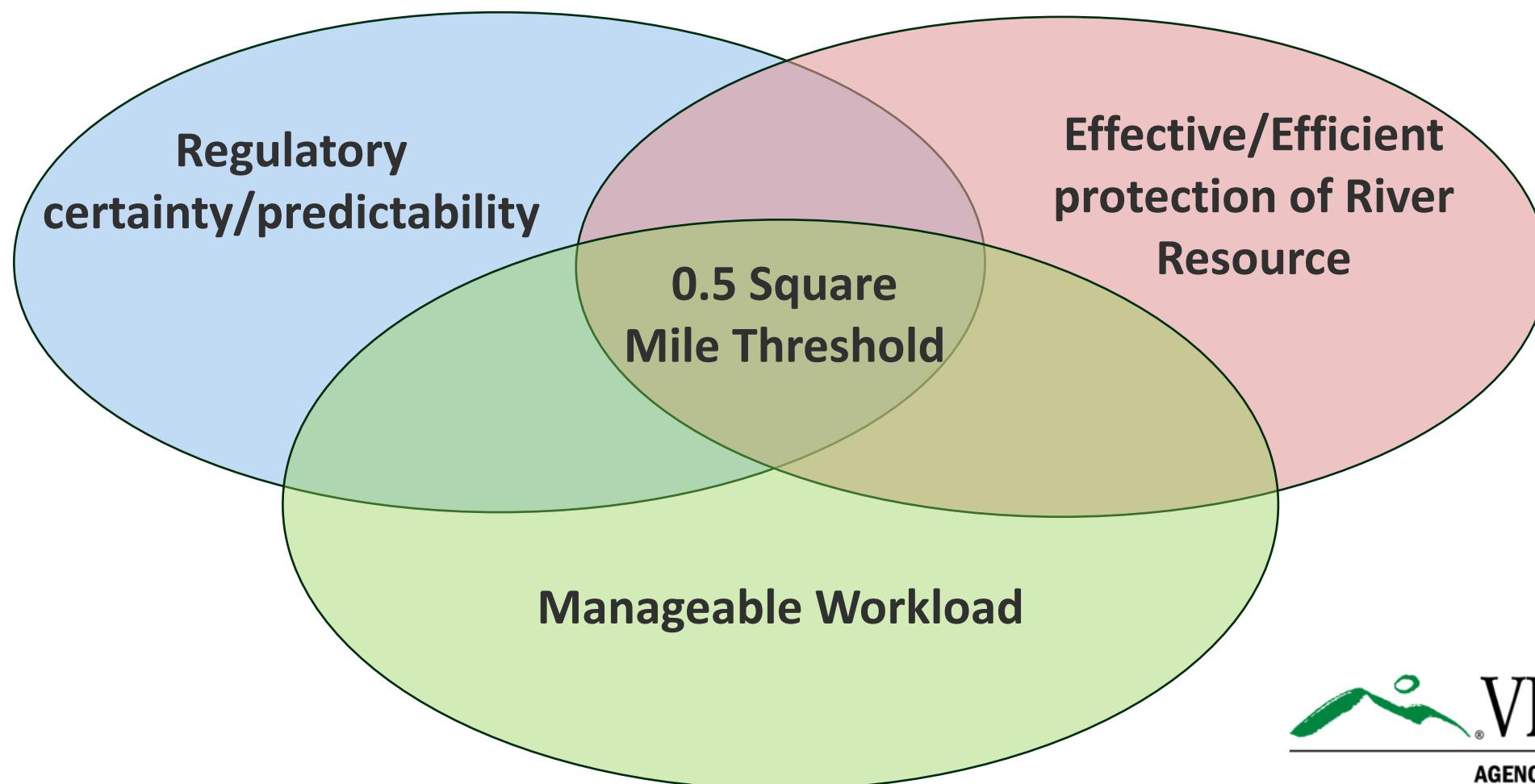


10 V.S.A. § 1021

**Excavation or fill of 10 or more cubic yards instream material in a watercourse requires a permit....**

# Stream Alteration Regulation

## H.632: Why Change Jurisdiction back to a drainage area threshold?





# Stream Alteration

## Original Jurisdiction:

watercourses with  
watershed areas greater  
than 10 square miles

2000+ stream miles

667+ miles/engineer  
(3 Engineers)

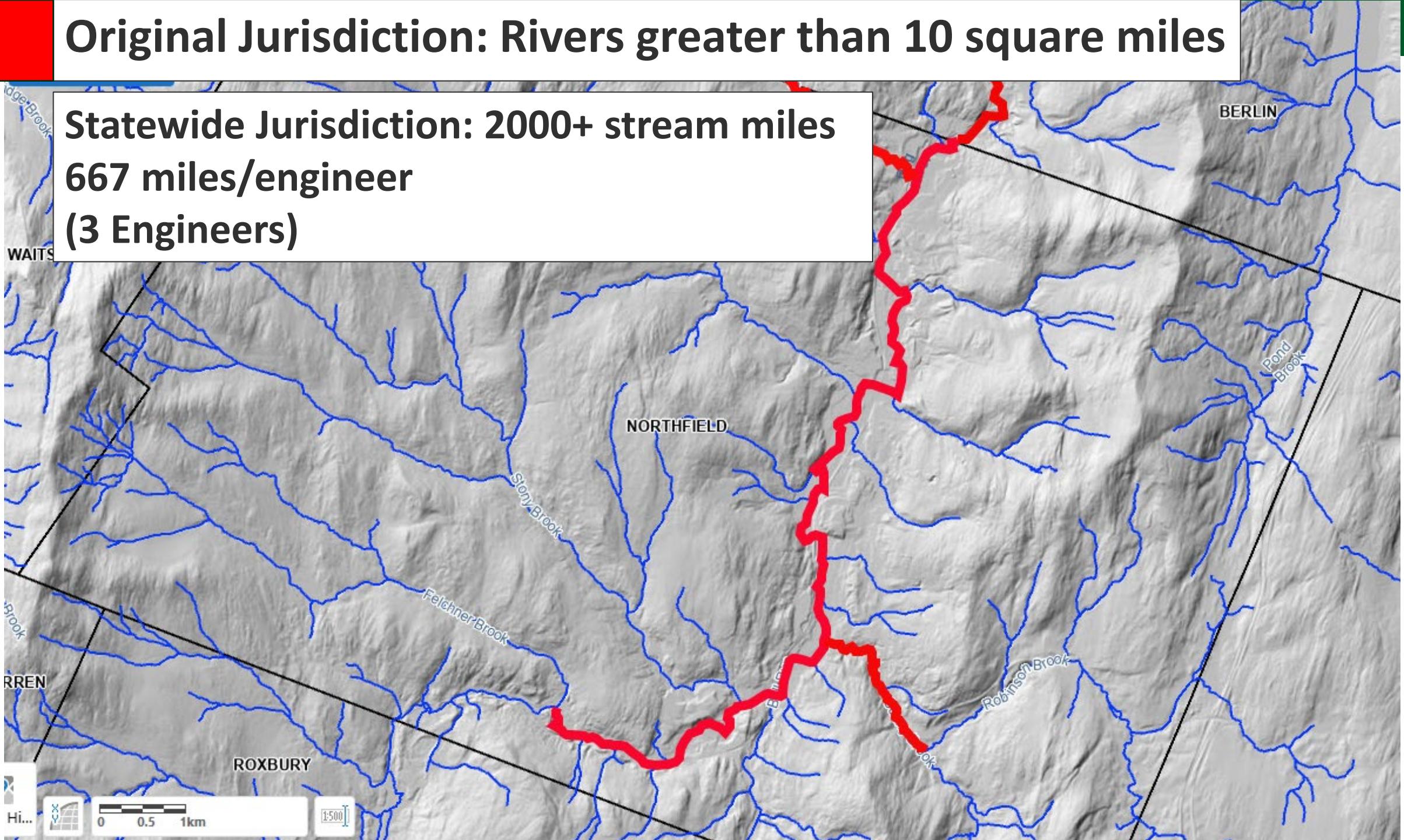




# Original Jurisdiction: Rivers greater than 10 square miles

**Statewide Jurisdiction: 2000+ stream miles**

**667 miles/engineer  
(3 Engineers)**





# Stream Alteration

## Original Jurisdiction:

watercourses with watershed areas greater than 10 square miles

## Act 110 (2010)

All "Watercourses" i.e.,  
Perennial Streams  
23000 mapped stream miles.

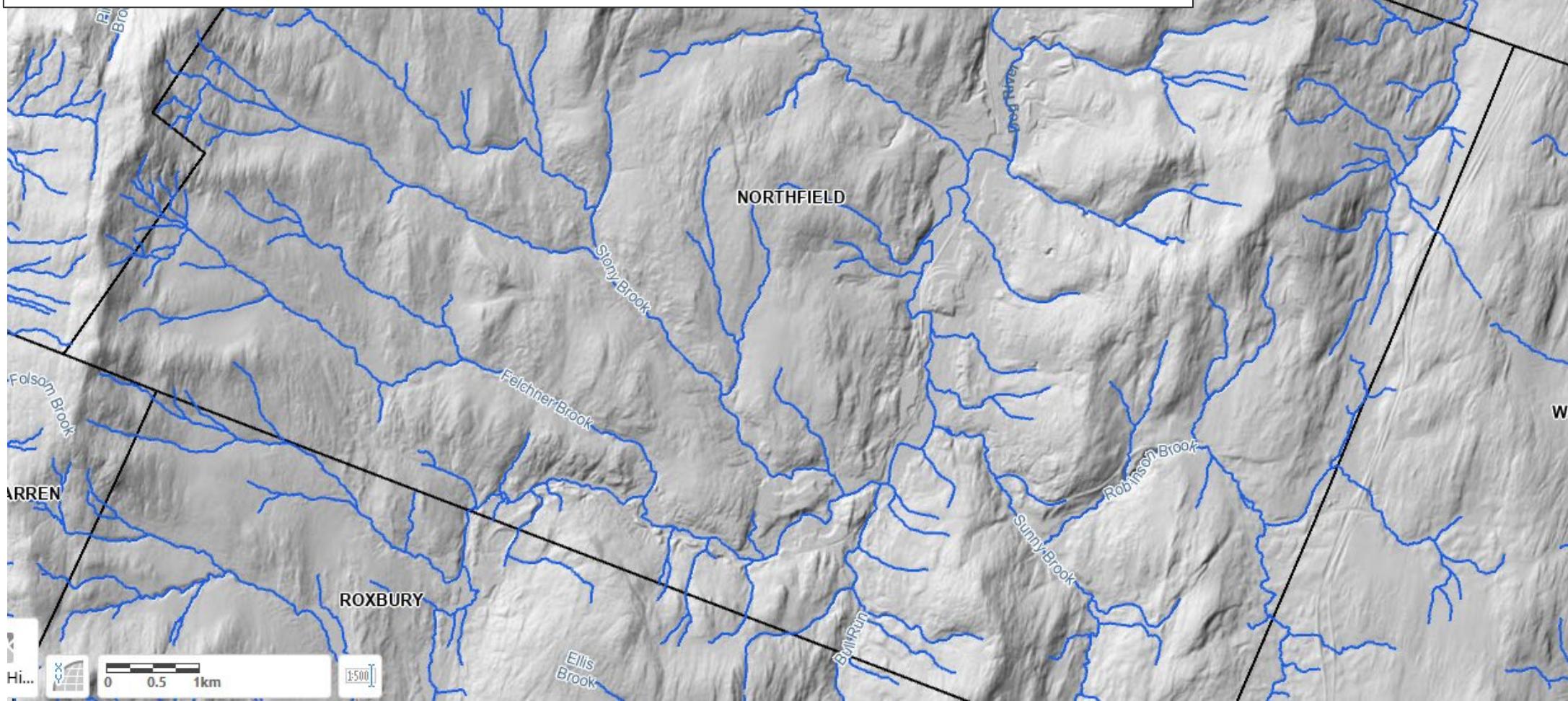
7667+ miles/engineer  
(3 Engineers)





# Act 110 (2010): All Perennial Rivers and Streams

Jurisdictional determinations: 23000+ stream miles  
Engineers  
7667 miles/engineer





# Stream Alteration

## Act 138 (2012)

**Authority expanded to  
flood response activities on  
all perennial rivers and  
streams.**

**Additional 2 staff with a  
jurisdictional territory of  
4600+ miles/engineer.**



# Act 138 (2012): All Perennial Rivers and Streams

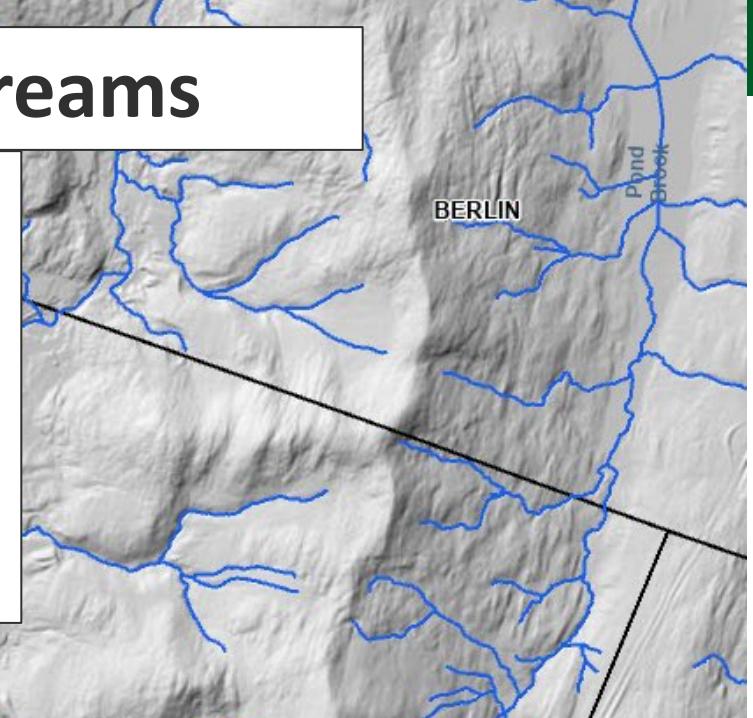
## Current

Jurisdictional determinations: 23000+ stream miles

Expanded post flood permitting authority

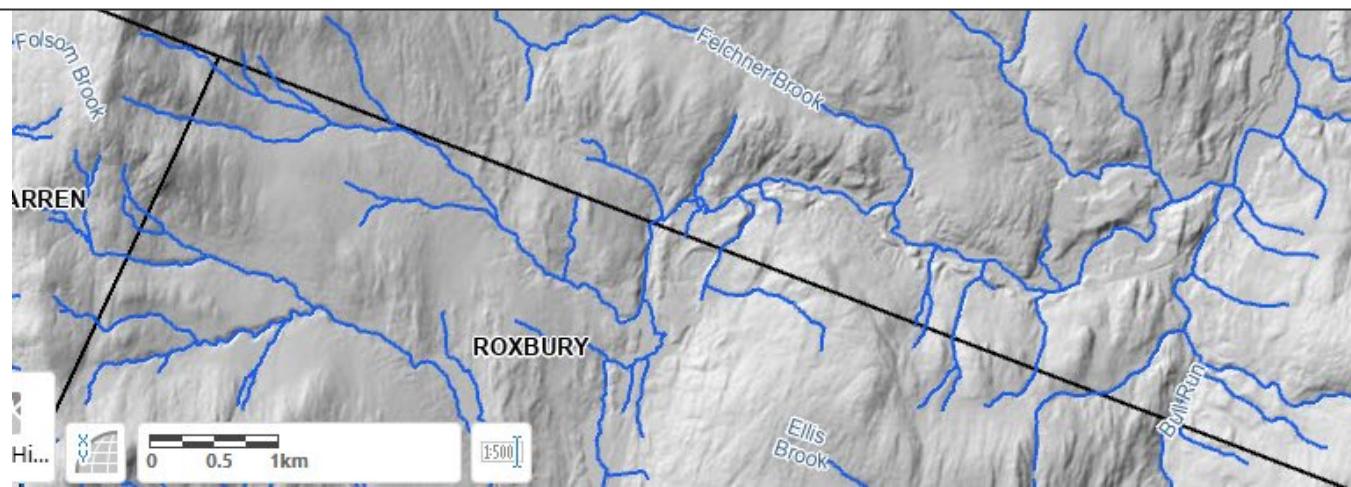
5 Engineers

4600 miles/engineer



## 2017

FEMA Approves Stream Alteration Rule as eligible standards for flood recovery funding





# Stream Alteration

**Original Jurisdiction:** watercourses with watershed areas greater than 10 square miles

**2010: Act 110 – All Perennial Rivers and Streams**

**2012: Act 138 – All Perennial Rivers and Streams + expanded permitting authority**

**2017: FEMA Standards Approval**  
Increases flood recovery coordination workload

**2026: H.632 Proposal**  
Watercourses with watershed areas greater than 0.5 square mile.





Rivers greater than 10 square miles

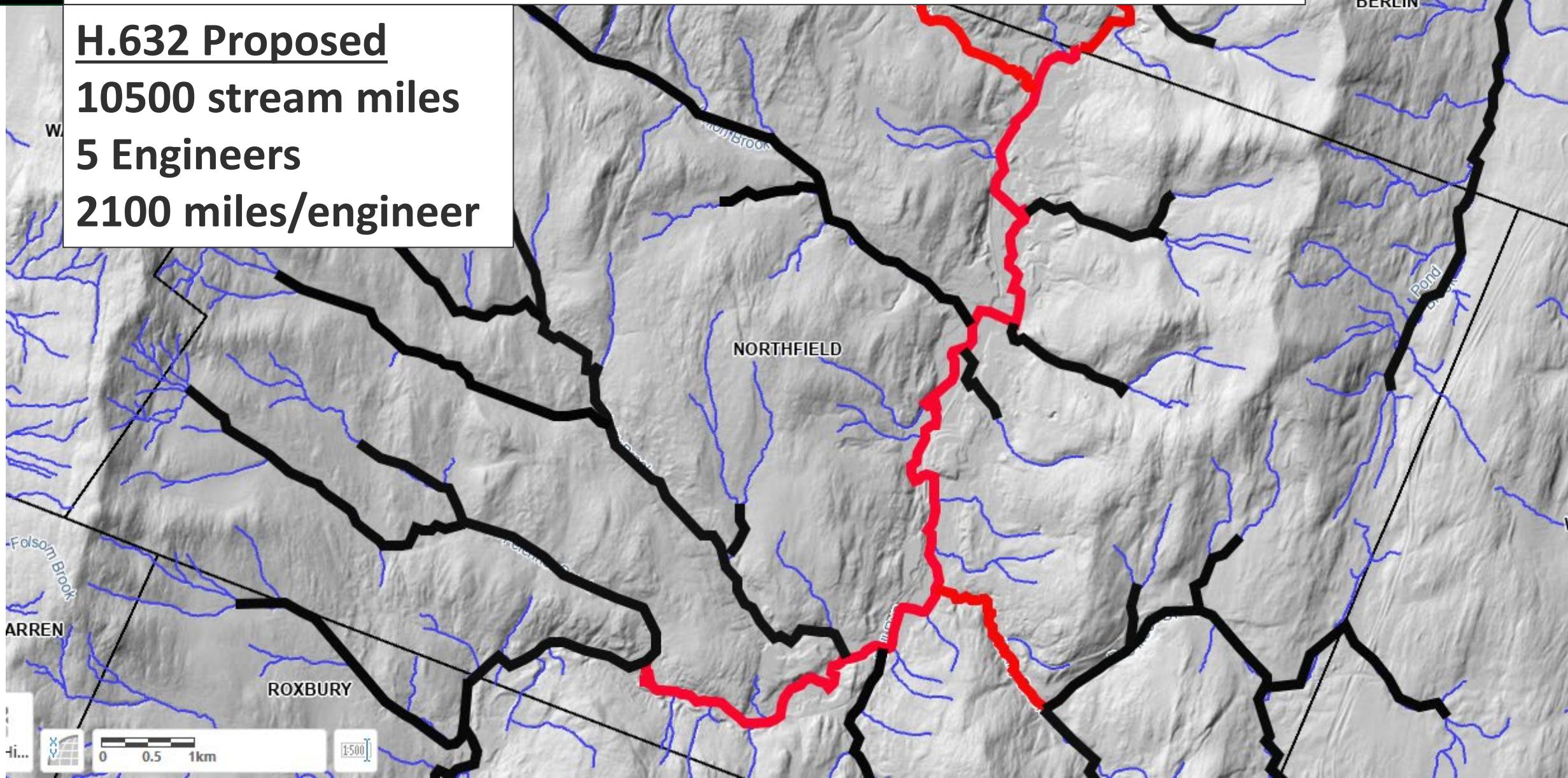
Rivers between 0.5 and 10 square miles

H.632 Proposed

10500 stream miles

5 Engineers

2100 miles/engineer

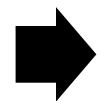


# Stream Alteration Regulation



## Original Jurisdiction:

10 sq.mile  
2000+ stream miles  
3 Engineers



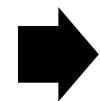
**2010**

Act 110  
All perennial Streams  
23000+ stream miles  
3 Engineers



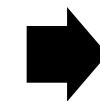
**2012**

Act 138  
Emergency Work Permitting Authority  
23000+ stream miles  
5 Engineers



**2017**

FEMA Approves Stream Alteration standards flood recovery funding  
23000+ stream miles  
5 Engineers



**2026:**

H632  
0.5 square mile threshold  
10400 stream miles  
5 Engineers

2011-2025



**20 Flooding related Major Disaster Declarations**

	Original Jurisdiction	2010 Act 110	2012 Act 138	2026: H632 Proposal
Stream miles	2000+	23,000+	23,000+	10,500
Miles/engineer	667	7667	4600	2100



# Stream Alteration Regulation



**Flood Recovery by the numbers:**

**1662 permits issued since July 2023 floods**

**Est. 7,500 site visits**

**Est. 35,000 instances of tech assistance (calls, emails, text exchanges, in-person meetings) regarding jurisdictional or technical questions/inquiries.**

# Stream Alteration Regulation



H.632 goal is to provide jurisdictional clarity decrease while reducing staffing burden to make to make jurisdictional determinations.

Jurisdictional clarity will aid local officials in advance projects appropriately for federal reimbursement, reducing delays, turnback and RFIs through the PA process.

Jurisdictional determination can reliably be made with available mapping information with technical ability at the town or RPC level.

Clear jurisdictional determinations can be made immediately for use in project development.



# Stream Alteration Regulation

**Simplifying jurisdictional determinations will free up time and reduce travel.**

**30% of engineer time spent on site visits, with an estimated 20% of these for jurisdictional determinations.**

**Reducing jurisdictional determination time will increase time staff can dedicate to large, complex, and/or restoration projects.**



# Stream Alteration Regulation

**Provide opportunities for staff to stay current with best engineering practices.**

**Increases opportunities for education and outreach re. post-flood notification/permitting requirements**

**Clarity will benefit our enforcement colleagues in making informed decisions regarding Stream Alteration Jurisdiction**

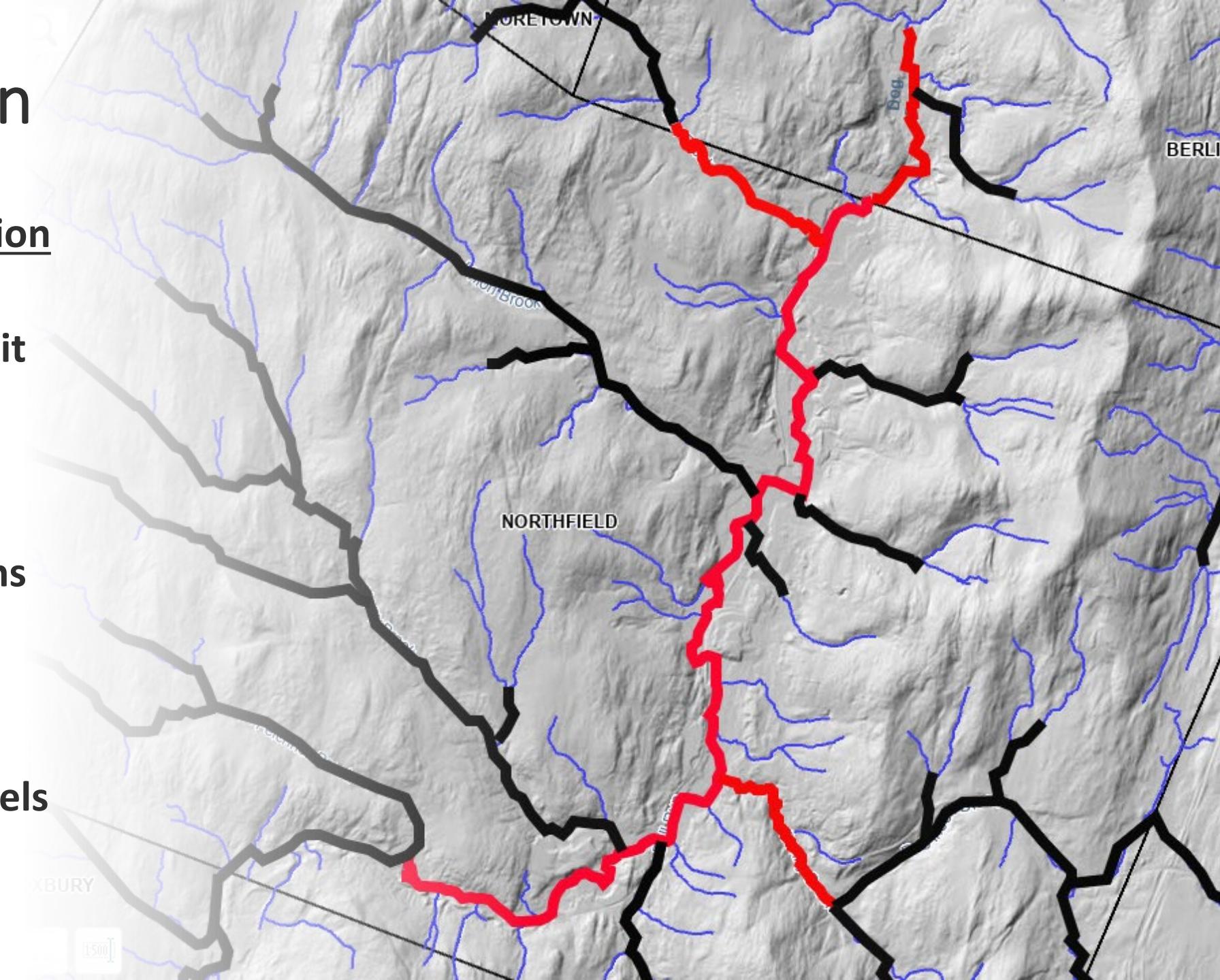
# Stream Alteration

H.632 0.5 sq mile jurisdiction

Provide certainty on permit requirements

Improve efficiency and delivery of service to towns and landowners

Aligns jurisdiction and workload with staffing levels



# Questions?

[Rob.Evans@vermont.gov](mailto:Rob.Evans@vermont.gov)  
Program Manager

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Supervising River Management  
Engineer

Town specific maps are available at:

<https://dec.vermont.gov/watershed/rivers/river-management>

**Stream Watershed Sizes mapped for each Vermont town as Guidance for Stream Alteration Regulations.**

Select your town from the list below to view the PDF map for that town. PDF file sizes range from about 300KB to about 2.8MB.

Select Your Town



Get Town Watershed Map