

Facilitating Bobcat Movement and Dispersal in New Jersey via Highway Crossing Structures

Grace Dougan

Discussion Overview

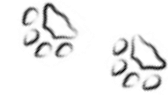
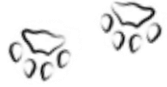
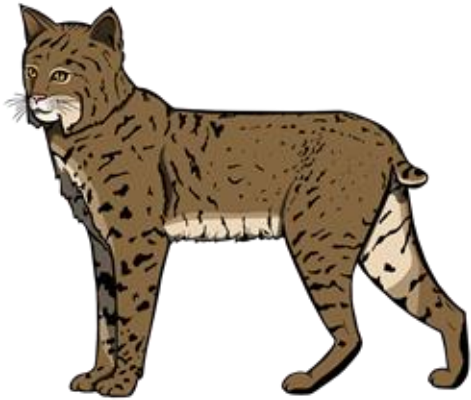
Introduction to Bobcats

Research Motivation

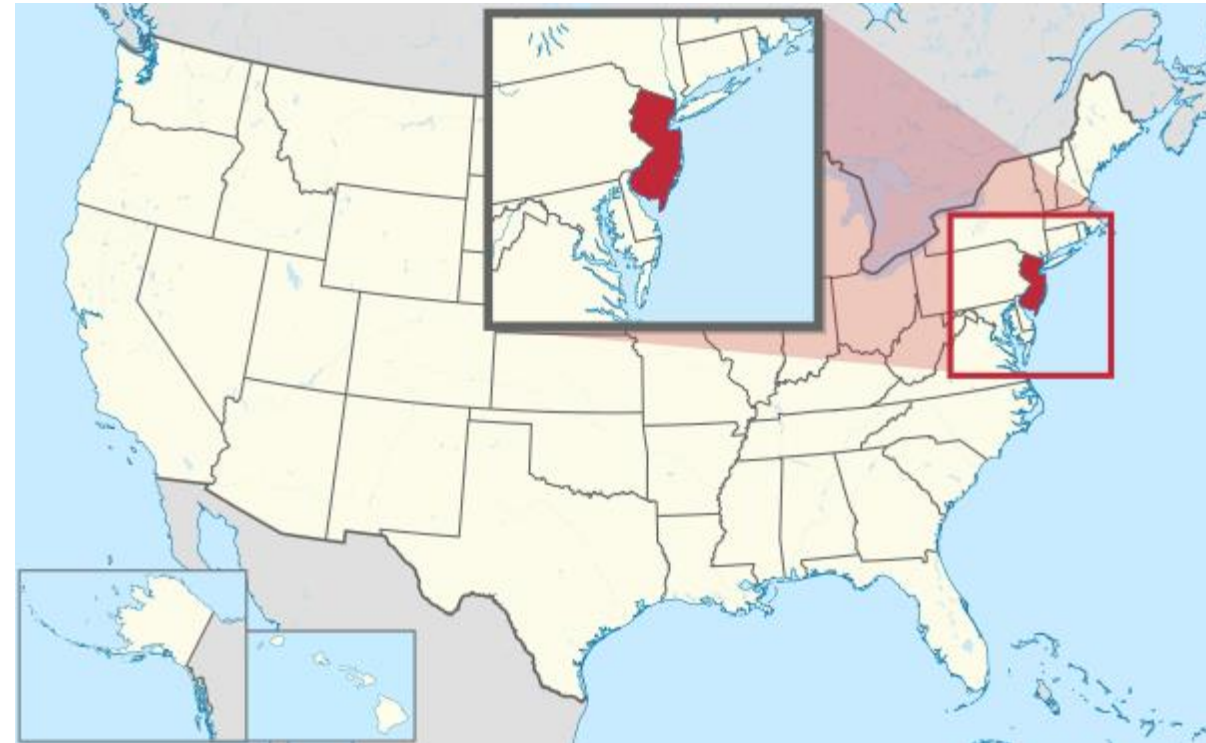
Project Design

Current Status

Anticipated Results



Bobcat Range



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Challenges for Bobcats in New Jersey



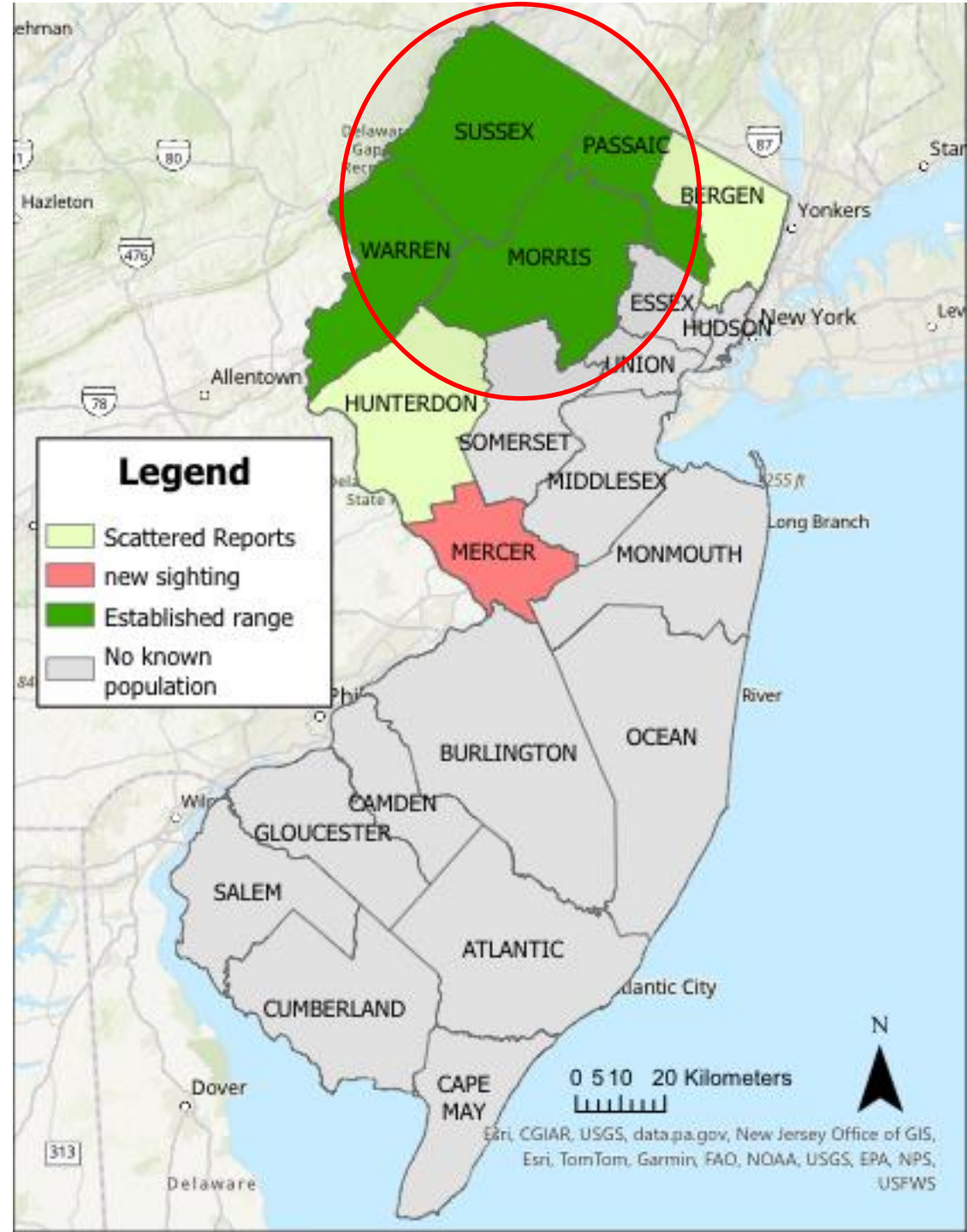
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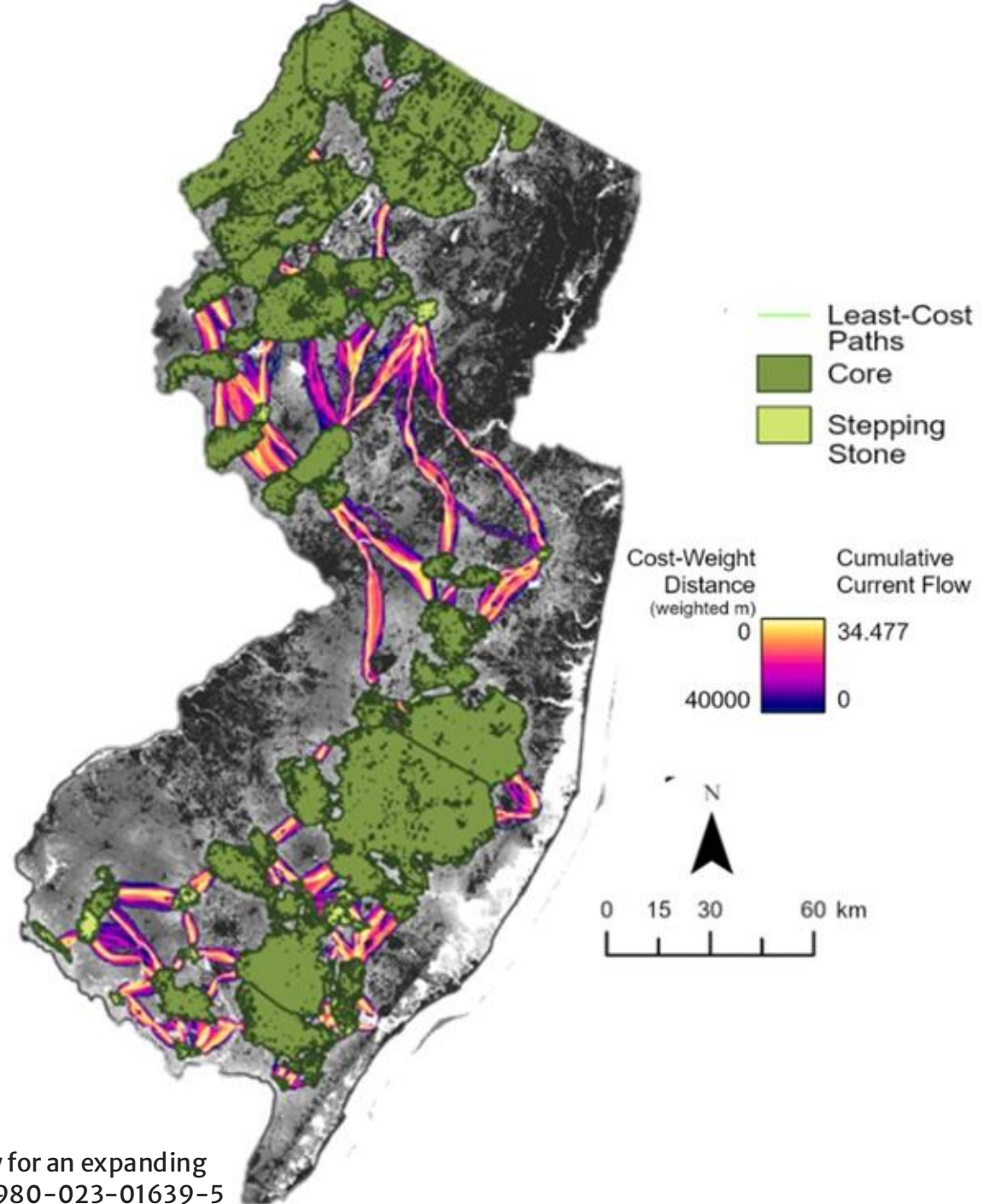
Current Status

Why aren't bobcats in central and southern New Jersey?

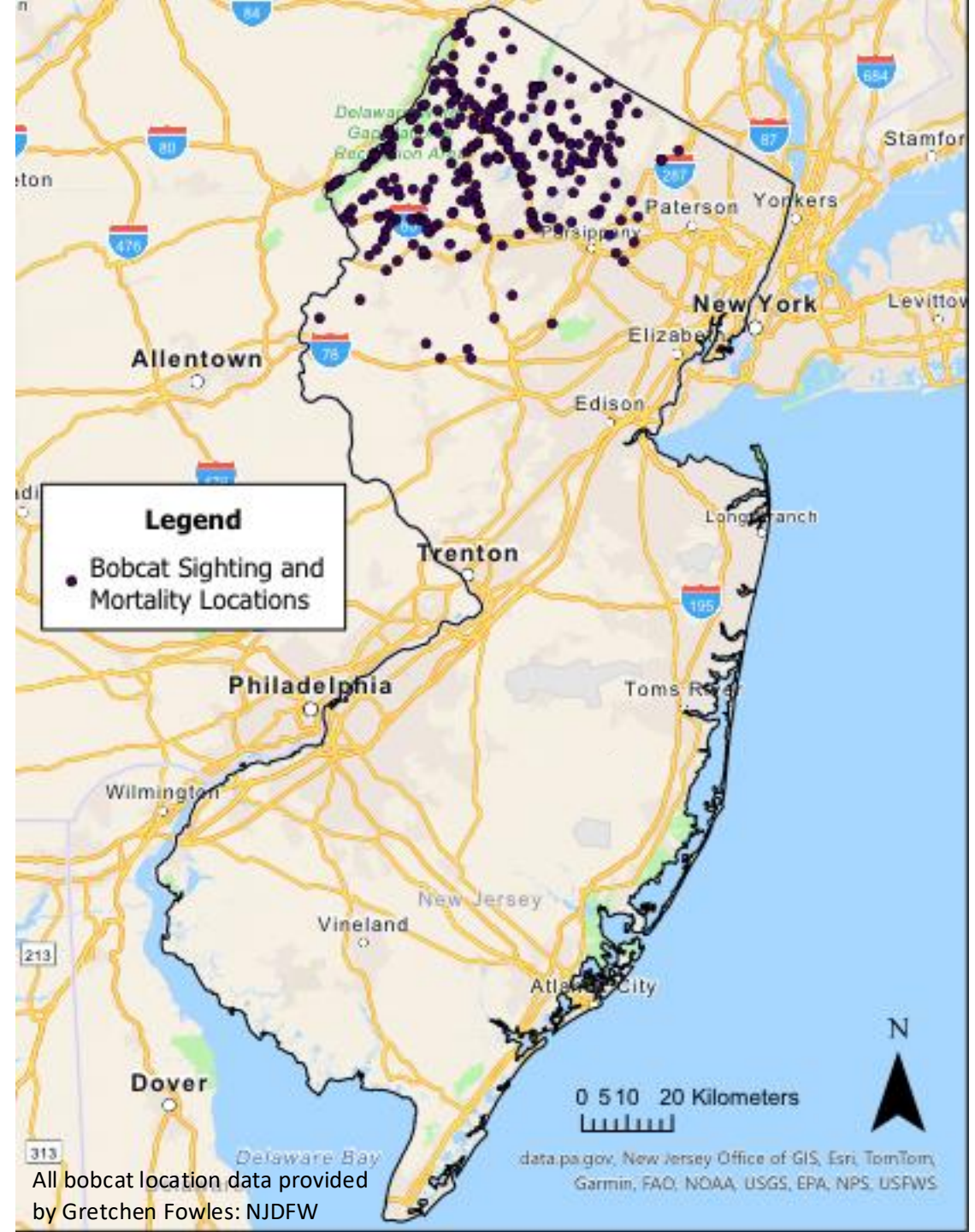


Current Status

Why aren't bobcats in central and southern New Jersey?



Roads are barriers to bobcat movement



So what's next?

Assessing crossing structures as a mode of safe passage



Project Objectives

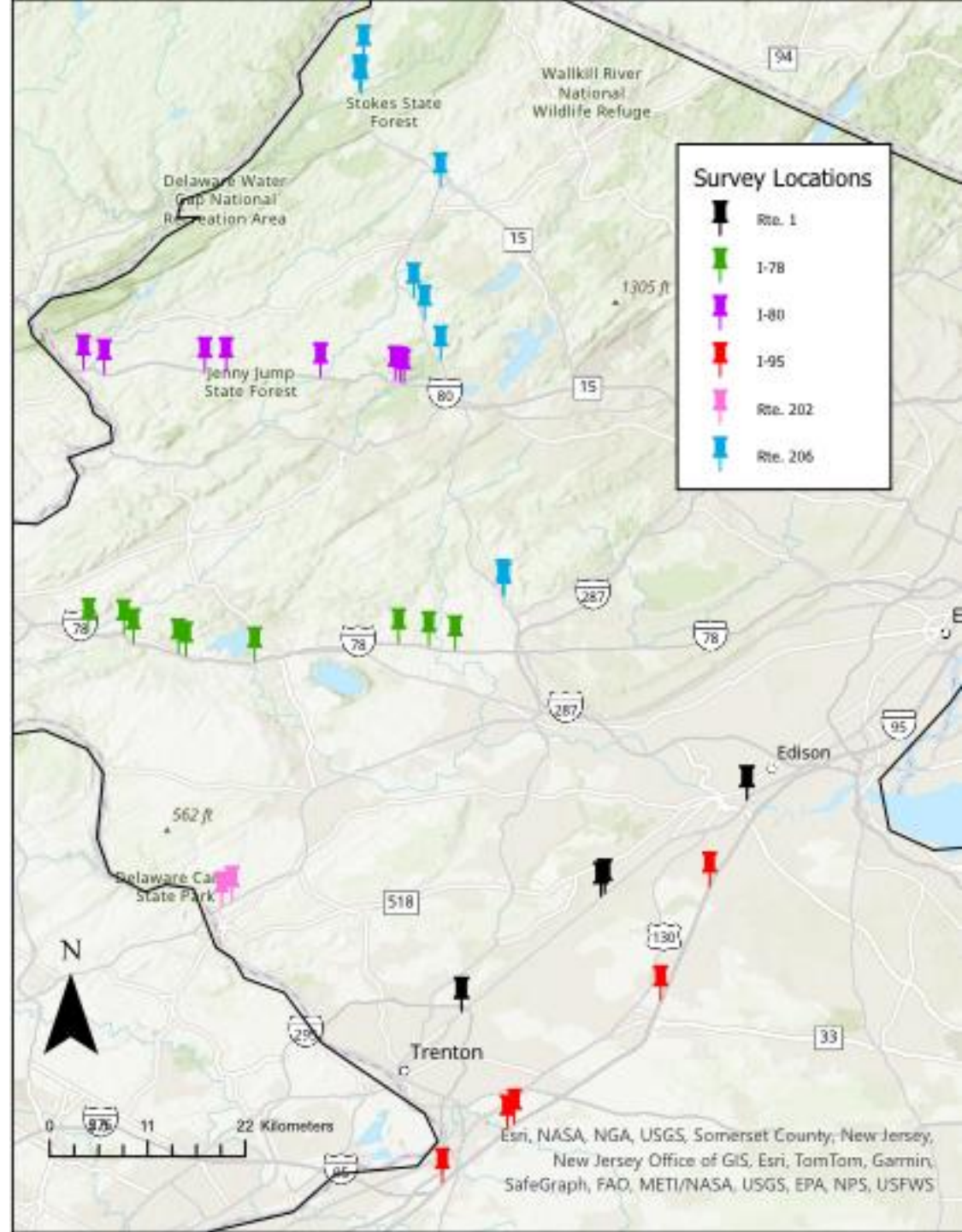
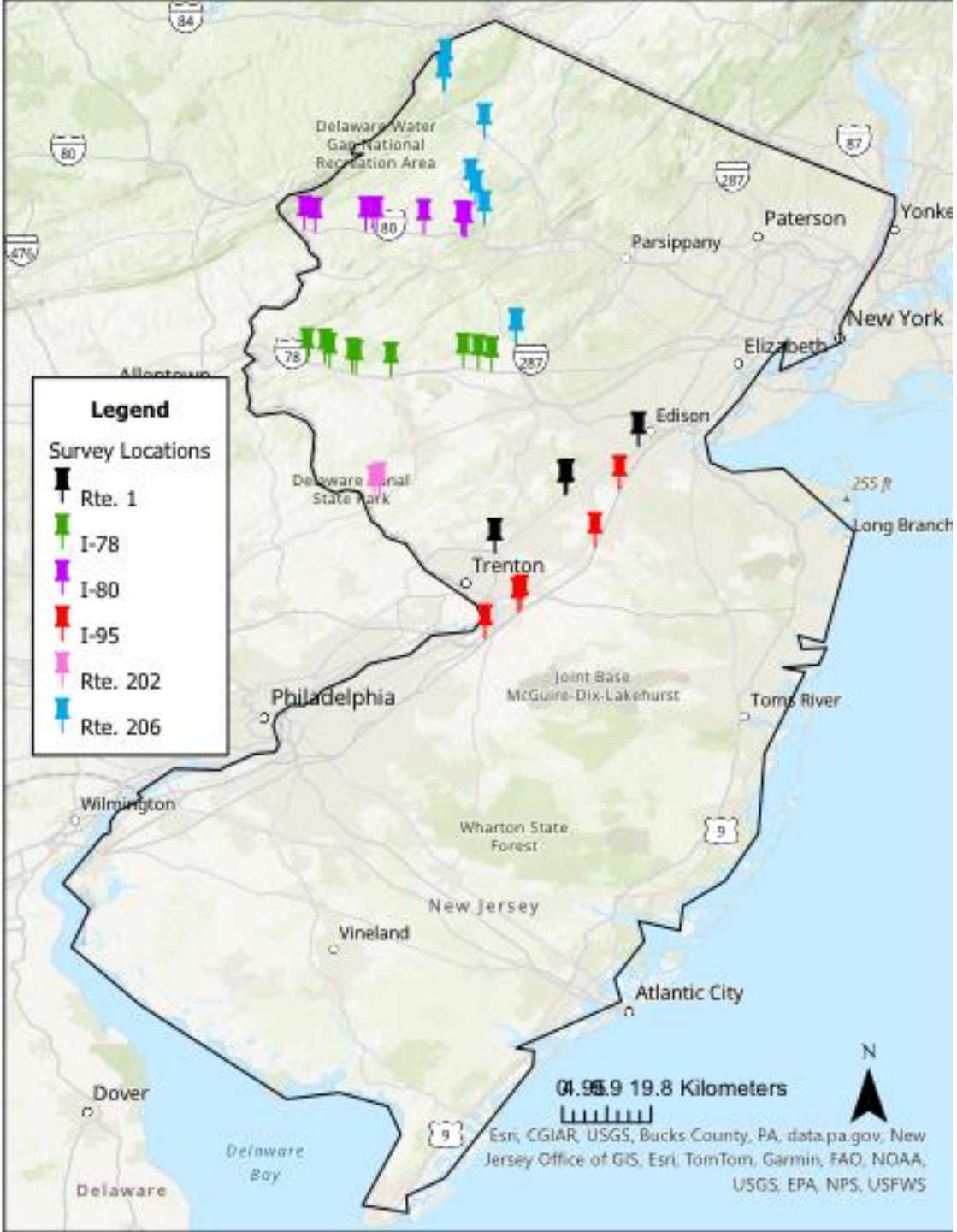
- 1) Identify which structural characteristics and physical elements are important for encouraging bobcat use of crossing structures
- 1) Identify which crossing structures in New Jersey are currently suitable for bobcat use

Project Design: Camera trapping

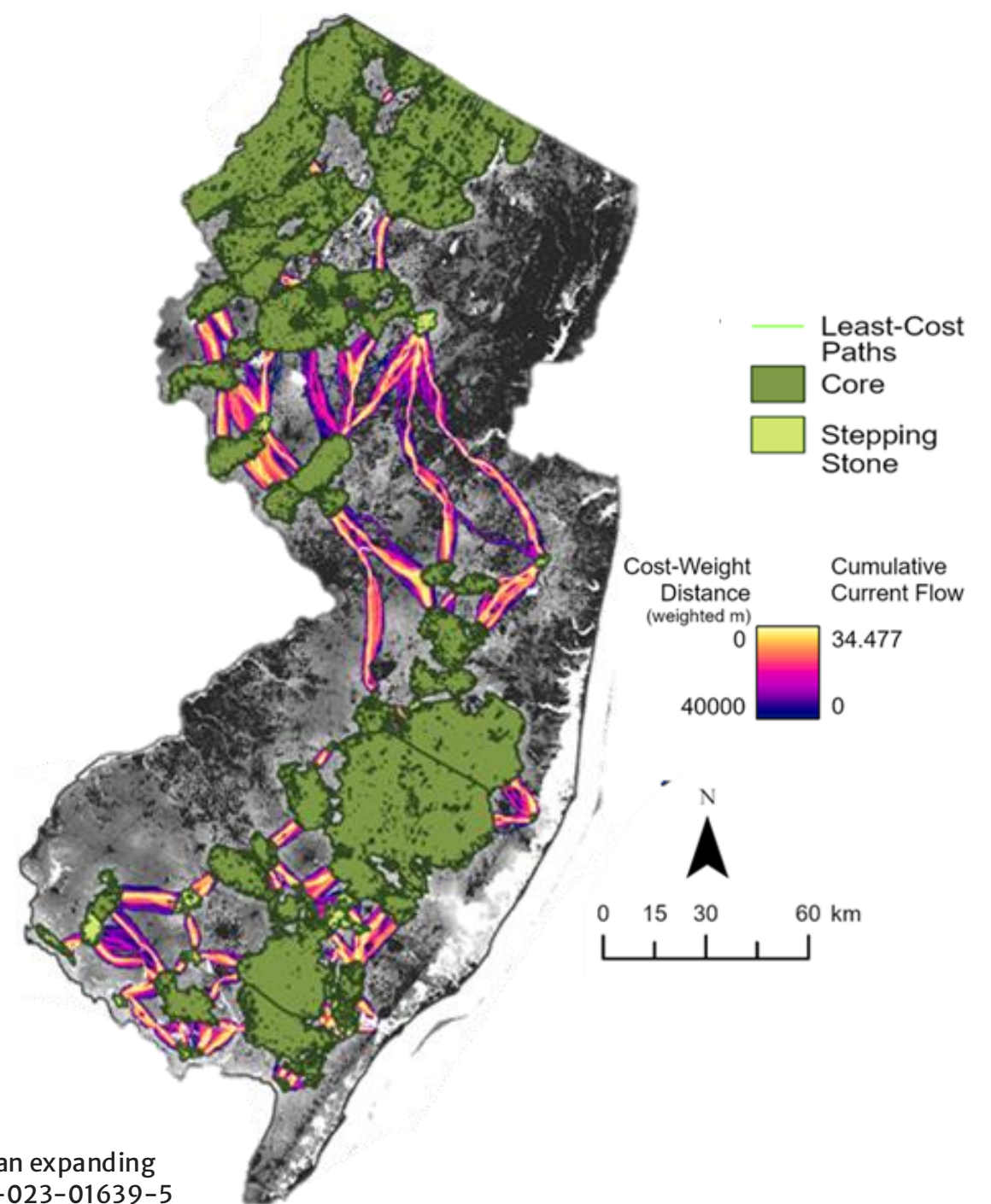
- Reconyx game cameras mounted to trees or t-posts
 - Aimed to capture entrances of crossing structures/movement pathways
- Motion triggered, photos taken 24/7, year round
- 80 Cameras, 38 sites



Survey Sites



Selected structures in habitat corridors



Current Project Status

- Started surveying end of June 2024
 - Cameras deployed for almost five months
- Thousands of photos of wildlife using crossing structures
- Bobcats observed at five crossing structures, using at least 4, along I-80 and Rte. 206

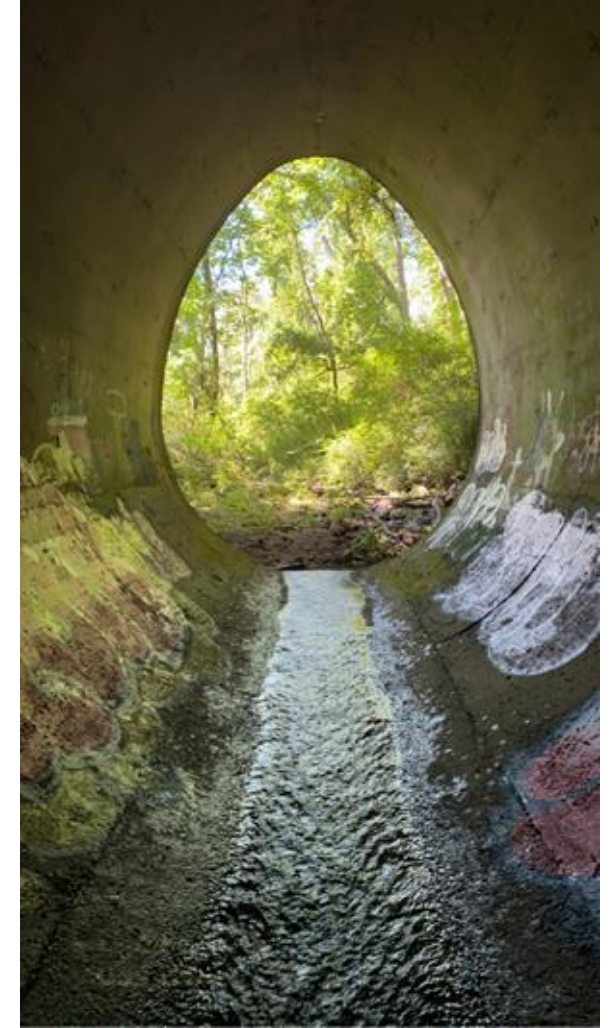




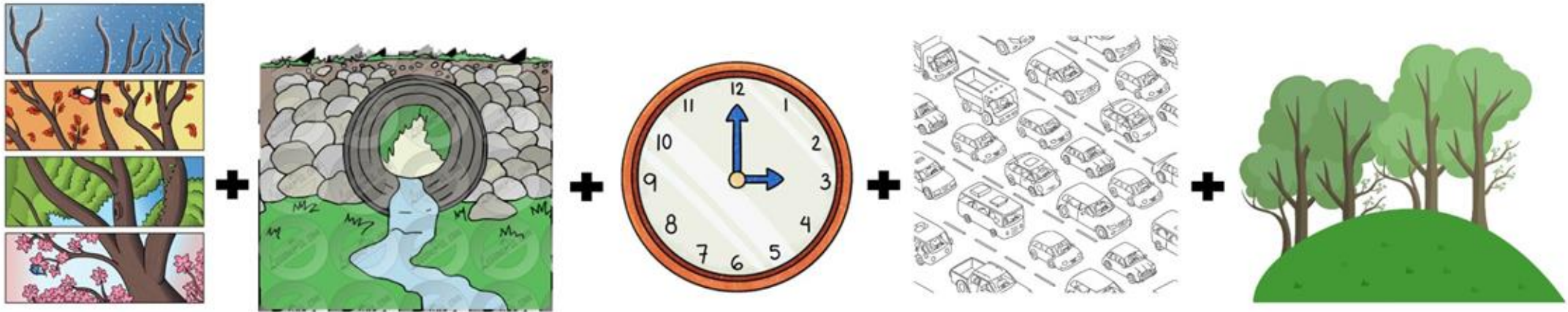
Anticipated Analysis: Objective 1

Identify which structural characteristics and physical elements are important for encouraging bobcat use of crossing structures

Crossing structure types



Anticipated Analysis



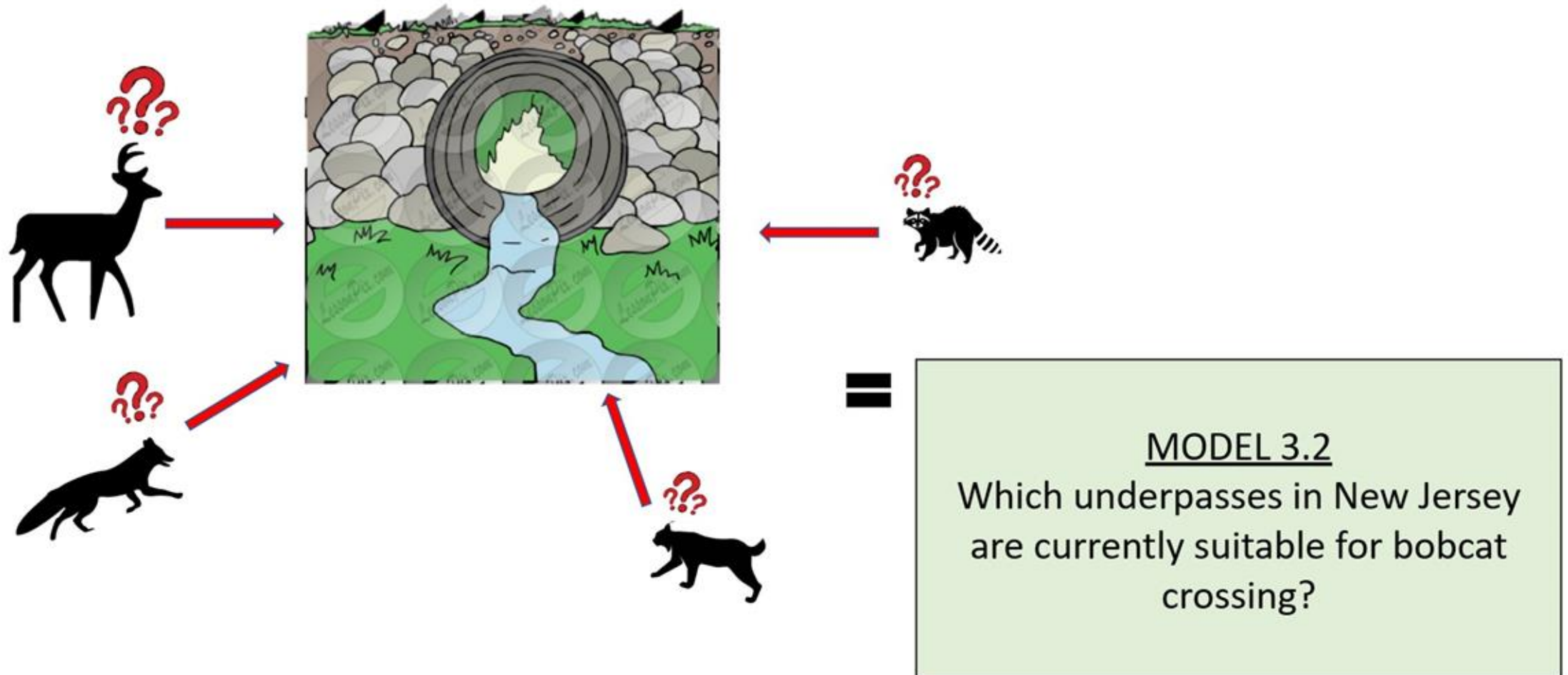
MODEL 3.1

What features are important for
bobcat crossing use?

Anticipated Analysis: Objective 2

Identify which crossing structures in New Jersey are currently suitable for bobcat use

Anticipated Analysis



Looking to the future





Acknowledgements

- New Jersey Department of Transportation
- New Jersey Bureau of Research
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Citations

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