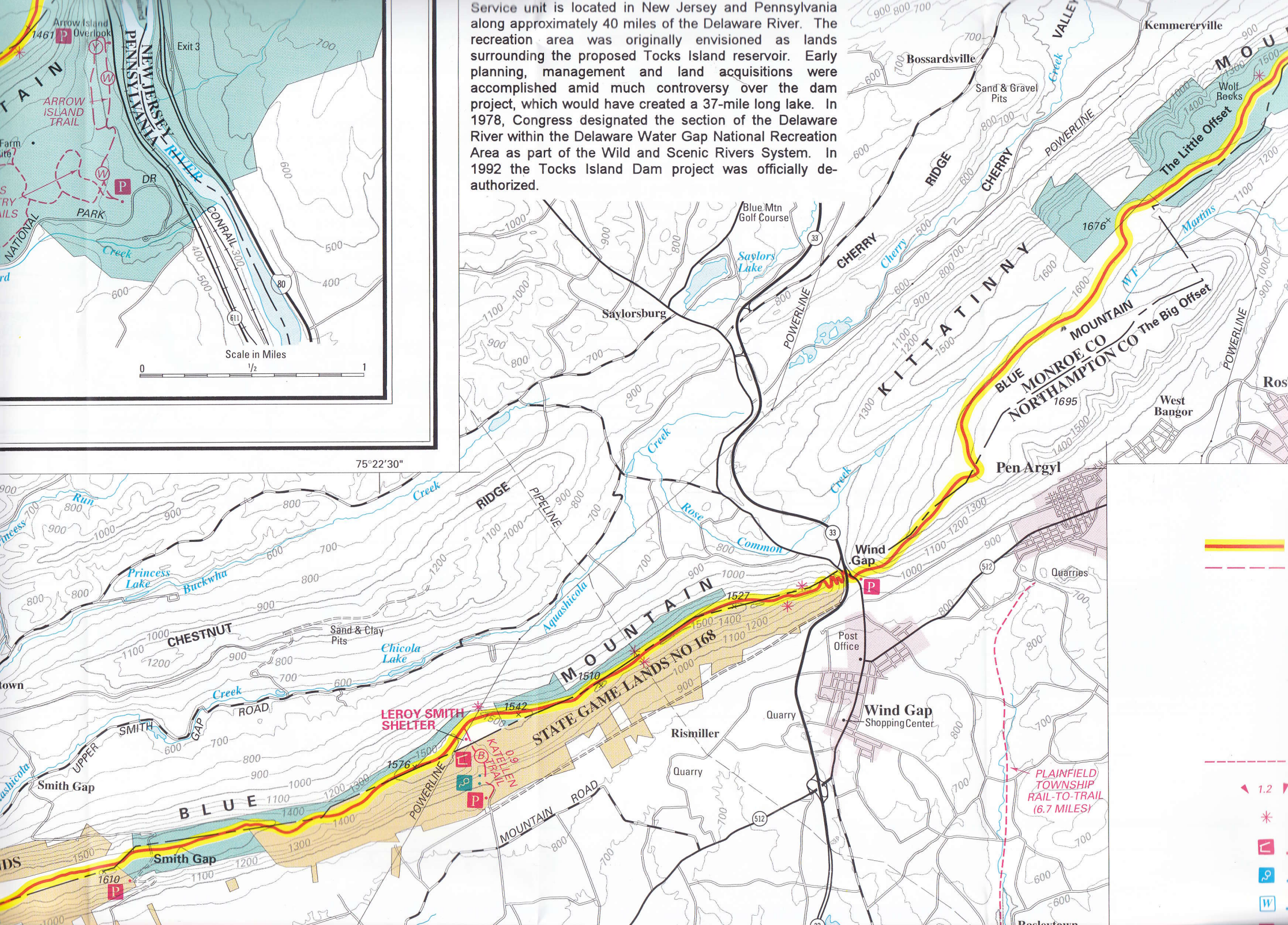Service unit is located in New Jersey and Pennsylvania along approximately 40 miles of the Delaware River. The recreation area was originally envisioned as lands surrounding the proposed Tocks Island reservoir. Early planning, management and land acquisitions were accomplished amid much controversy over the dam project, which would have created a 37-mile long lake. In 1978, Congress designated the section of the Delaware River within the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area as part of the Wild and Scenic Rivers System. In 1992 the Tocks Island Dam project was officially de-authorized.