



Off The Lake Shore

Lydia Brinkley

Upper Susquehanna Coalition

August 19, 2022

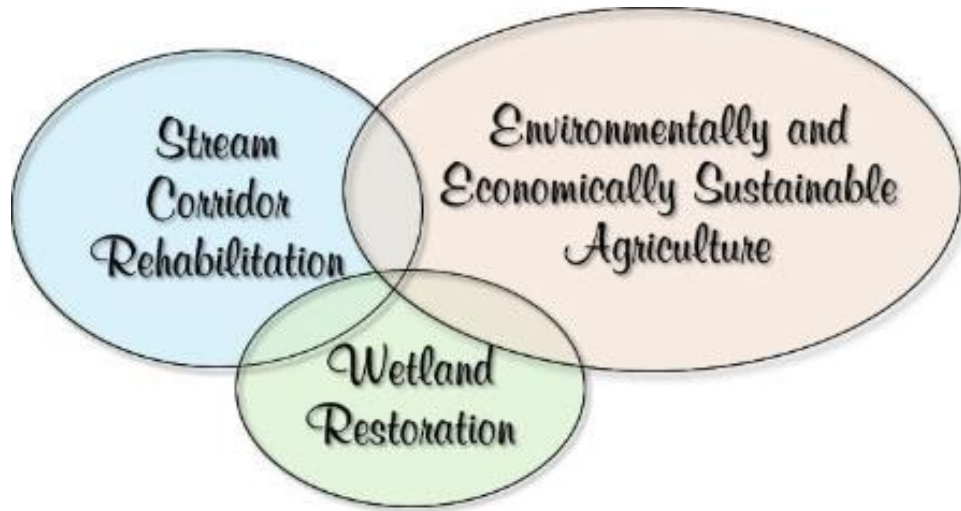
Upper Susquehanna Coalition Mission

- To protect and **improve water quality** and **natural resources** in the Upper Susquehanna River Basin through collaboration to **meet local needs** which ultimately translates into improved water quality at the regional level.

- 7,500 sq. mile watershed
- 13,000 mi of roads, 17,000 mi of stream
- ~69% forest, 23% ag



Practices we promote



Focus Areas:

Protect and build wetlands and riparian buffers for **habitat** and **water storage capacity**.

Corridor rehabilitation, focusing on “soft” practices to promote **streambank protection** and **habitat development** within both the **aquatic** and **riparian** areas. Working with landowners and municipalities.

Focus is **nutrient reduction in our waterways**; we promote riparian buffers, cover cropping, nutrient management, and prescribed grazing.



How the USC works



- Focus on implementation of soft practices
 - Grazing, nutrient management planning, buffers, streams, precision feed management, cover cropping, wetland restoration, etc.
 - Ag and non-ag lands
- Look for opportunities to fund local needs
 - Example: road ditch practices, hellbender habitat restoration
- Fill gaps (technically and financially) with many federal and state programs.
- **Work directed at meeting Chesapeake Bay WIP goals.**





Associated Practices

Berm Removal

- 32,989 Linear Feet 2013-2020
 - 581,117 Cubic feet of berm material removed.





DEC's Trees for Tributaries Program

- Allocated money each year through existing agreement to coordinate the program throughout the watershed.
- **7,000 + plants/year** with protective material.
 - District led projects, a lot of diversity.
 - Outreach program! ****Volunteers****



Natural Filter Restoration Program: water quality and habitat priorities

- Natural filter practices:
 - Riparian Forest Buffer (streamside revegetation)
 - Wetland Restoration (ditch plugs, vernal pools, shallow water habitat)
 - Stream Corridor Restoration (stream bank or in stream work)
 - Floodplain reconnection (remove those berms!)
 - Upland afforestation (historical ag tree planting)
- Accompany these BMPs with permanent protection through ownership or conservation easement
- Looking for substantial floodplain work, flood storage, reducing peak flows



Figure 1 - Sequence of Historic Aerial Photos

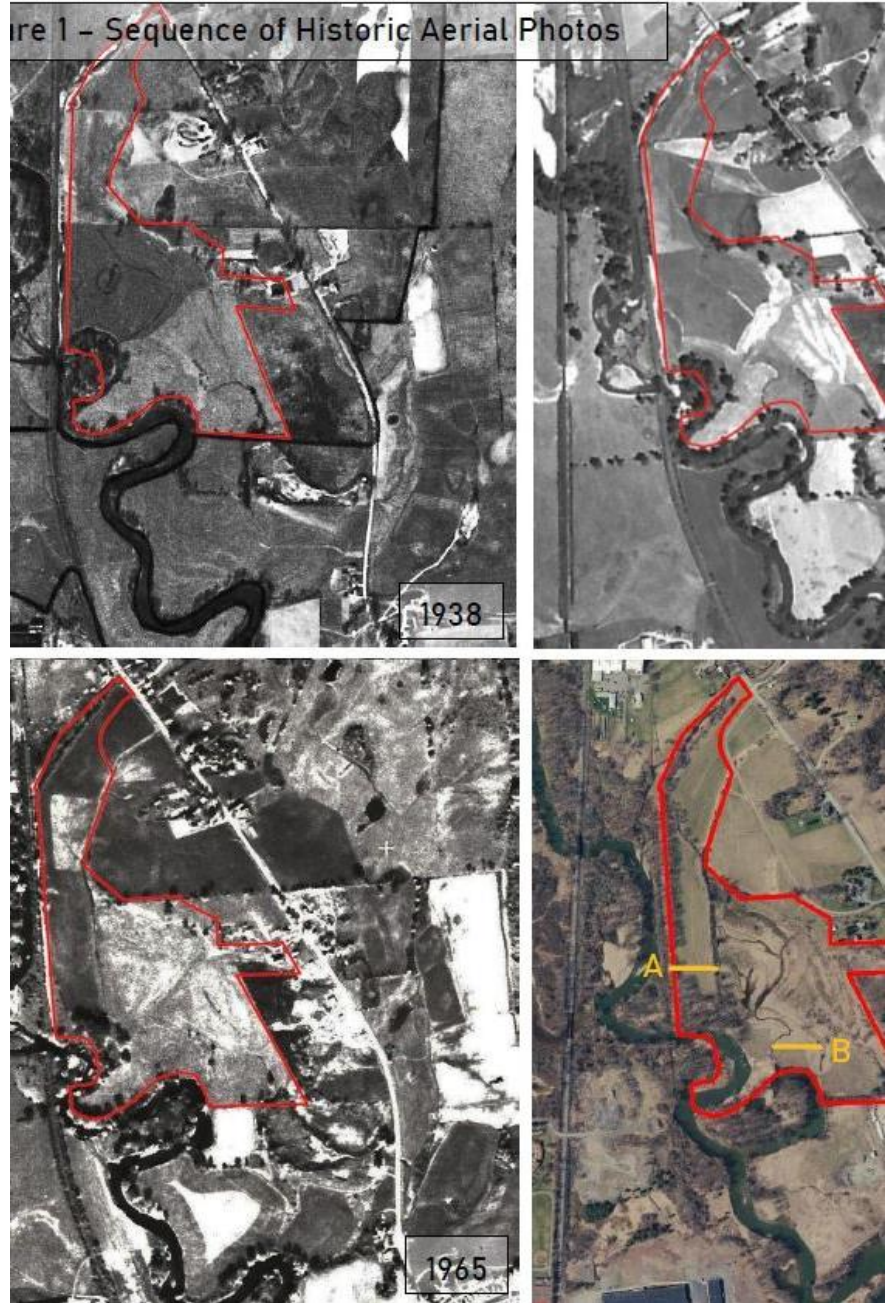
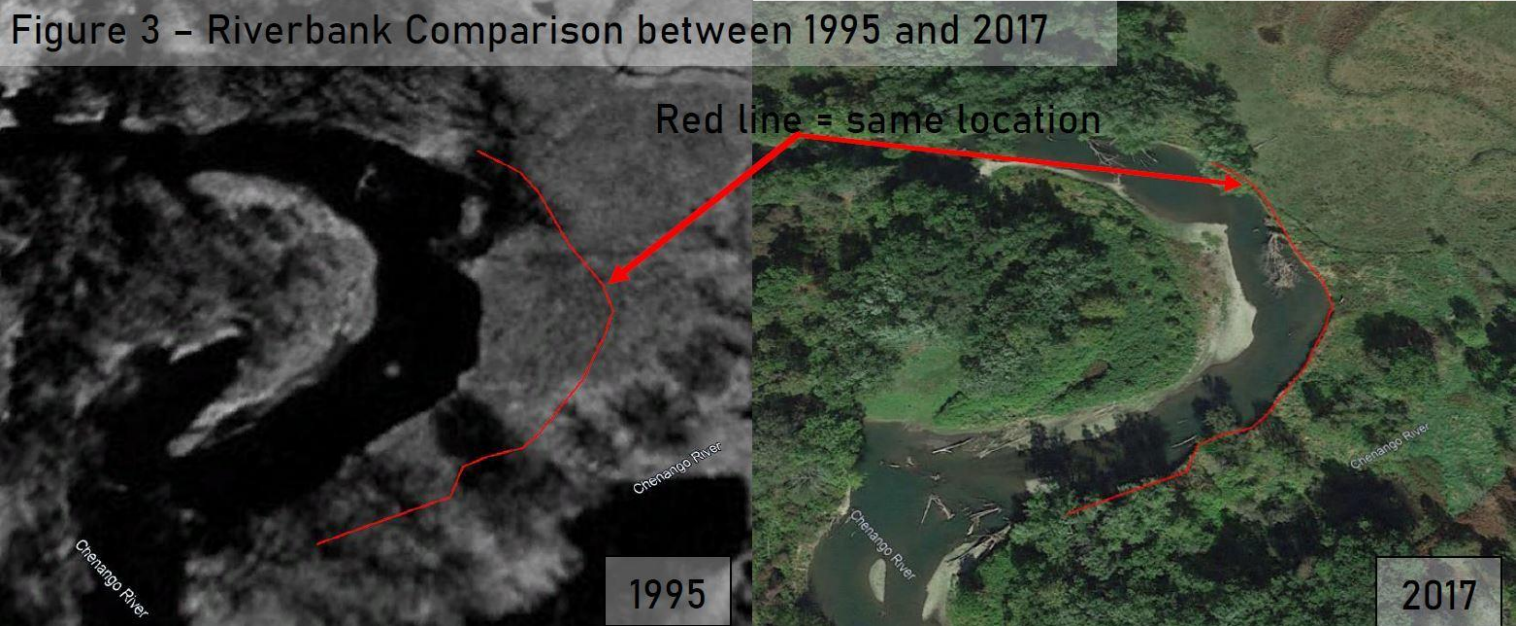


Figure 3 - Riverbank Comparison between 1995 and 2017

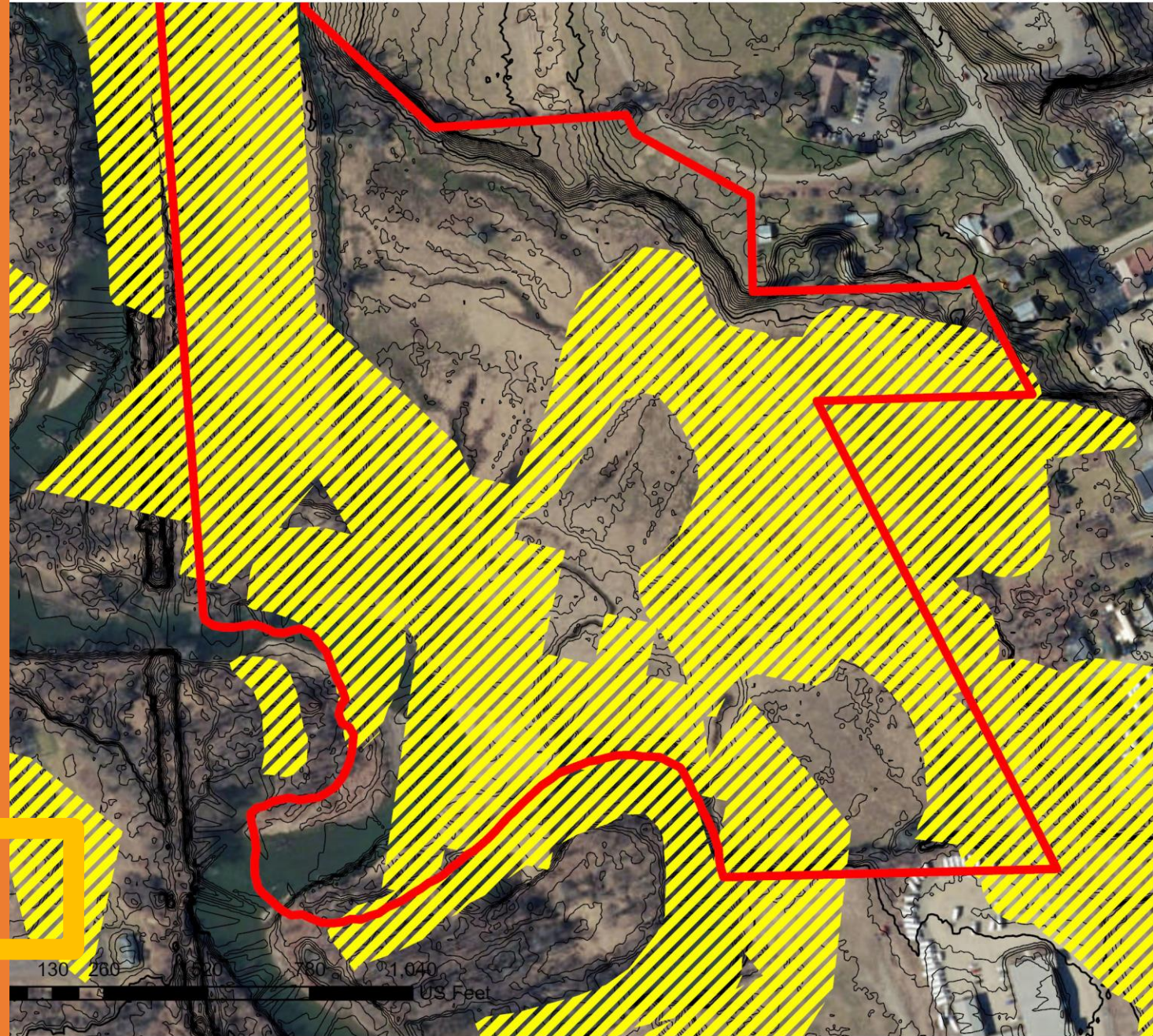


Historical context



Current conditions

Climate resiliency hot spots



USC Climate Change Resiliency Modeling Output

 Climate Resiliency
Hot Spots

Birdseye Hollow State Forest: Overview

Site Summary

- 26.4 acres of Wetland and Buffer Restoration
- 65.2 acres Riparian Area Preservation
- 5.6 acres Upland Preservation
- 98.2 acres Property Protection



Partners and specifics

- USC will purchase property, complete restoration, then transferring ownership to Department of Environmental Conservation because of adjacent BHSF continuation.
- Finger Lakes Trail Conference to relocate a half mile portion of the Finger Lakes Trail off of the road and through state property.



Department of
Environmental
Conservation



Mud Creek Historic Modifications: West of Aulls Rd

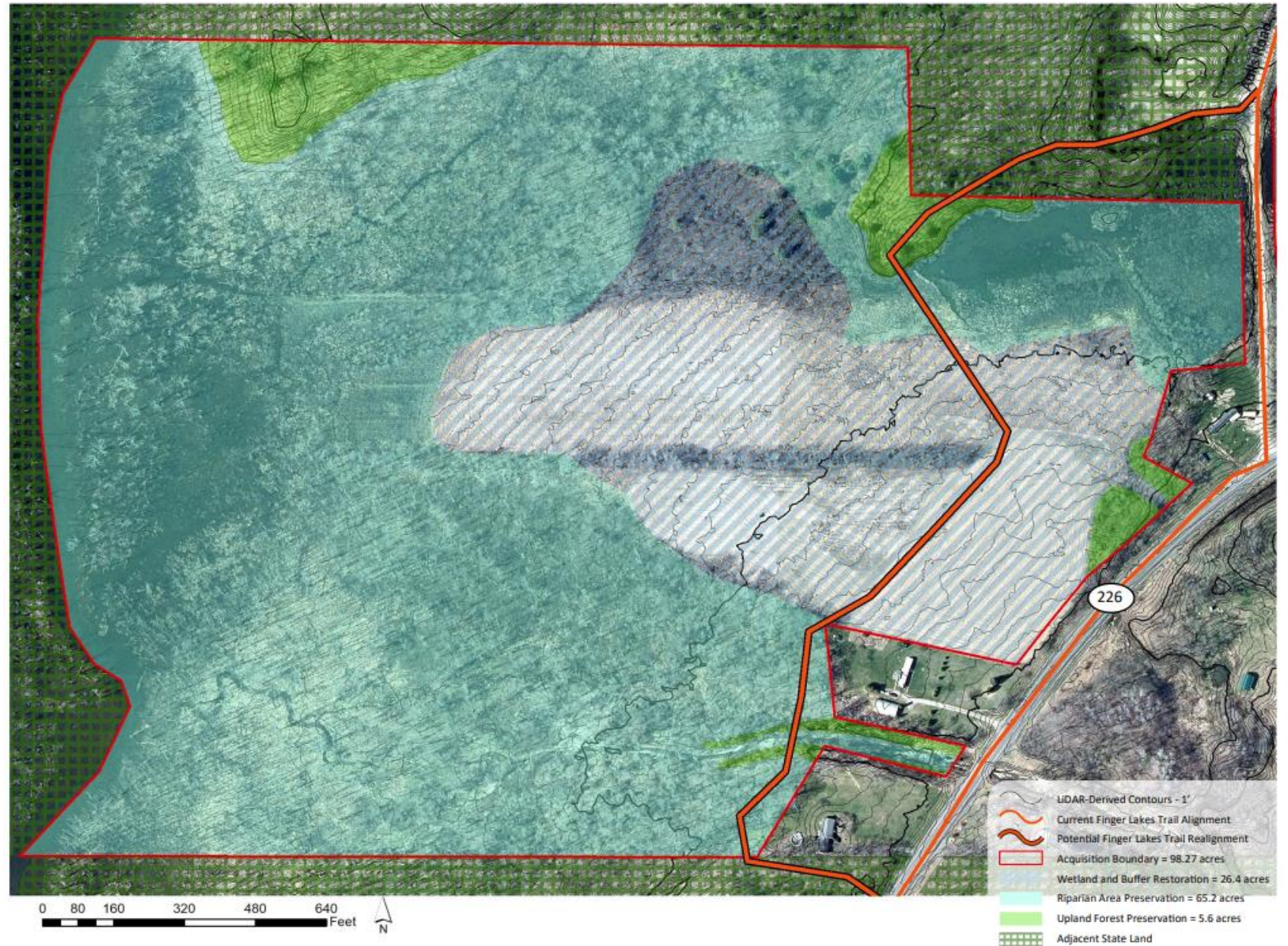




Mud Creek Current Conditions



Overall
restoration
plan- West side
of road





Mud Creek Historic Modifications
and Current Conditions: West of
Aulls Rd

Restoration Details



Collaborator Roles

- Local organizations geared towards land protection to purchase property and hold easements
 - Finger Lakes Land Trust
 - Otsego Land Trust
 - Chenango Greenways
- Implementor of restoration practices
 - Local Soil and Water Conservation Districts
 - Upper Susquehanna Coalition
 - Building local contractor capacity
- Who else is needed?
 - Local groups to identify properties and opportunity areas
 - Other groups to bring match funding- \$, staff time, equipment.
 - Local stewardship of projects

What are we looking for?

- Larger parcels
- Big restoration component, multiple types of restoration
- Protection of restored components
- Multiple partners or interested groups
- Public access is a plus!





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