

FY07 HIGHLANDS CONSERVATION ACT

Project Details

Project Name: Wyanokie Highlands

Location: Ringwood Borough, West Milford Township, Bloomingdale Borough in Passaic Co.

Acreage: 1,288

HCA Request: \$2,500,000



Photo: Wilma Frey/New Jersey Conservation Foundation

New Jersey's Wyanokie Highlands in Passaic County hold critical watersheds that protect New Jersey's most significant and most threatened water supply—the Wanaque Reservoir—on which nearly two million people rely. The Wyanokies contain the headwaters of Burnt Meadow and West Brooks, waterways of exceptional ecological significance, which flow directly into the Wanaque Reservoir. Acquisition will provide essential protection for this critical water supply.

In addition, preservation will complete a missing greenway link between Norvin Green State Forest and Long Pond Ironworks State Park. This greenway directly connects to New York's Sterling Forest State Park along the route of the Highlands Trail, a Millennium Legacy Trail (one of only 50 in the US). The Highlands Trail, nearly completed, extends 150 miles between the Hudson and Delaware Rivers. The Wyanokie Highlands boast a network of historic hiking trails and dramatic scenic overlooks, as well as significant ecological and forest values.

The Wyanokie Highlands project is comprised of four parcels in Passaic County totaling 1,288 acres. Included are 400 acres on Saddle Mountain and 155 acres on Westbrook Mountain, both in Ringwood Borough; 433-acre Camp Vacamas in Bloomingdale Borough; and 300 acres on Buck Mountain in West Milford.

The Highlands region is 3.5 million acres of forest, farmland, and rugged hills extending from south-central PA, through NJ and NY into northwestern CT. These eastern-most ridges of the Appalachian Mountains form a greenbelt for the Philadelphia-New York City-Hartford metropolitan area. The Highlands provide clean drinking water to over 15 million people and are home to over 250 endangered, threatened, and rare species.

For more information:

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Project Highlights

- Protect drinking water supply for almost 2 million people
- Link Norvin Green State Forest to Long Pond Ironworks State Park (NJ) in a greenway that extends to Sterling Forest State Park (NY)
- Exceptional scenic vistas and trails, including the Highlands Trail
- Biodiversity and forest values