

FY07 HIGHLANDS CONSERVATION ACT

Project Details

Project Name: Great Swamp

Location: Harlem Valley in eastern Putnam and Dutchess Cos.

Acreage: 950

HCA Request: \$2,300,000



Photo: Norman McGrath

New York State requests Highlands Conservation Act funds to assist in the acquisition of properties that will further protect the Great Swamp, one of New York's most important wetland complexes and the largest and highest quality red maple hardwood swamp in the State. This project consists of multiple parcels totaling 950 acres in the Harlem Valley of eastern Putnam and Dutchess Counties.

The Great Swamp, a 63,000-acre watershed, is breeding habitat for more than 80 bird species and migratory habitat for more than 150 species of waterfowl and other birds. Great blue heron, red-tailed hawk, marsh wren, osprey, wood duck, thrushes, vireos, warblers, and scarlet tanager make their home here. Located less than 70 miles from New York City, this vast and fragile wetland provides numerous benefits to residents of New York and Connecticut, including drinking water, flood control, recreation, open space, and wildlife habitat. The Great Swamp contains a south flowing section based on the East Branch Croton River, a critical part of New York City's water supply

system; and a north flow section based on the Swamp River which flows into the Housatonic and, ultimately, to Long Island Sound.

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

- One of NY's most important wetland complexes
- NY's largest and highest quality red maple hardwood swamp
- Breeding habitat for over 90 bird species
- Migratory habitat for over 150 waterfowl and other bird species
- Protection of critical drinking water supplies