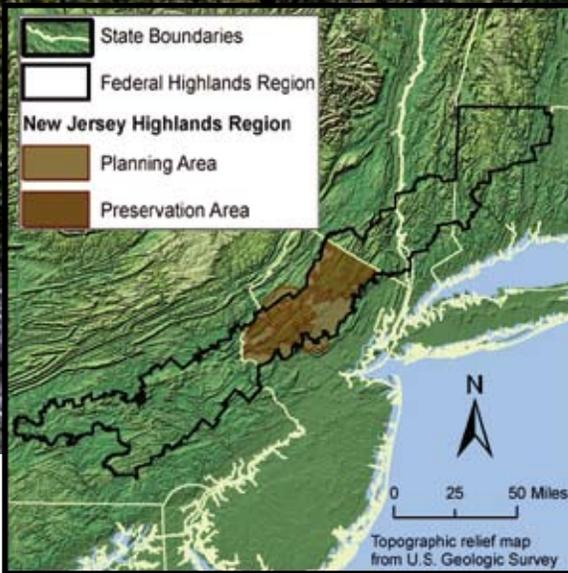


The Highlands Region

*A Vital Resource for
People and Wildlife*



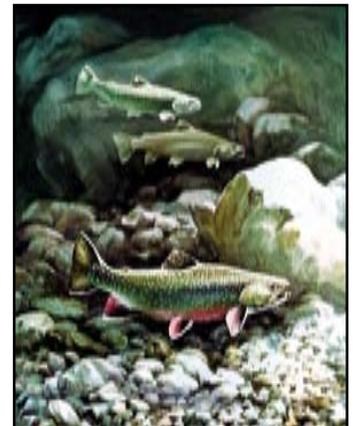
Panoramic view looking south from Wildcat Ridge, Rockaway Township, Morris County, New Jersey. Photo: Clifford G. Day / USFWS

Did you know . . . the New Jersey Highlands:

- are part of a rugged corridor of ridges and valleys spanning four States, and contain the oldest rocks in New Jersey—1.3 billion years old?
- supply drinking water for over half of the State's population from only 13 percent of its land area?
- include over 110,000 acres of productive farmland?
- provide outdoor recreation at over 150 square miles of State land and two National Wildlife Refuges?
- contain rare natural communities such as peat bogs, cedar swamps, and hemlock ravines?
- support mammals and birds that require vast unbroken tracts of forest and wetland habitat, including 19 breeding bird species of conservation concern?
- are home to six federally listed threatened and endangered species?
- harbor regional strongholds for rare reptiles and amphibians and the endangered Indiana bat?

Did you know . . . New Jersey's Highlands are threatened by:

- loss of natural areas and farmlands to development at a rate of 3,000 acres per year?
- impacts to clean water supplies from changing land uses?
- invasions of non-native plant and animal species?



Brook trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis*)

Robert W. Hines / USFWS



Bog turtle (*Clemmys muhlenbergii*)

USFWS



Photo: Clifford G. Day / USFWS

Wild columbine (*Aquilegia canadensis*)

The Highlands are being conserved through:

- federal and State programs to acquire the most sensitive lands, with over 100,000 acres protected to date;
- new State regulations to minimize the impacts of development;
- preparation of a regional master plan to manage growth and guide development under the New Jersey Highlands Water Protection and Planning Act;
- public programs to support good stewardship of lands and waters on private property; and
- partnerships among government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and Highlands residents to protect and restore habitat.

In New Jersey's Highlands, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service works with other government agencies and private citizens to:

- restore habitats including 575 acres of uplands, 215 acres of wetlands, and 16 miles of streams to date under the Partners for Fish and Wildlife program;
- oversee the recovery of threatened and endangered species; and
- implement the federal Highlands Conservation Act.



The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's mission is, working with others, to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.

Indiana Bat Protection in New Jersey's Highlands

In 1993, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the New Jersey Endangered and Nongame Species Program documented the endangered Indiana bat in the Highlands, the first confirmed sighting of this species in New Jersey. Subsequently, the Service and our partners have installed a conservation gate at one of the bat's winter hibernation sites, and are working to identify breeding habitat. To date at least seven maternity colonies have been documented, all located at least partially in the Highlands.



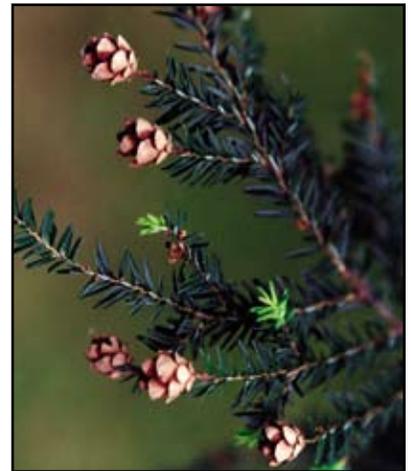
Photo: Dr. J. Scott Altenbach

Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*)



Photo: Hollingsworth / USFWS

Prothonotary warbler (*Protonotaria citrea*)



Bill Cook, Michigan State University, www.forestryimages.org

Eastern hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*)

Federally Listed Species in New Jersey's Highlands

Endangered

- Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*)
- dwarf wedgemussel (*Alasmidonta heterodon*)

Threatened

- bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*)
- bog turtle (*Clemmys mühlenbergii*)
- swamp pink (*Helonias bullata*)
- small-whorled pogonia (*Isotria medeoloides*)



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