

Pennsylvania's **Tree Farm #1** in Adams County is 2,500 forested acres adjacent to Michaux State Forest (SF) and close to the Appalachian National Scenic Trail. Tree Farm #1 is located within the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources' "South Mountain Conservation Landscape Initiative" (CLI), and is this CLI's largest private forest block. The project lies within the PA Highlands Greenway, one of five state-wide recognized Mega-Greenways.

Tree Farm #1 offers high quality habitat with the potential to support threatened and endangered plants and animals including the federally endangered Indiana bat and the state threatened timber rattlesnake. The project area is within a PA Natural Diversity Index occurrence, so its development could harm threatened and endangered species as well as other natural resources. Tree Farm #1 is within a National Audubon Society Important Bird Area and an important hawk migratory flyway. It contains the headwaters of Middle Creek, a PA high quality cold water fishery, and is located within the nationally significant Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

Tree Farm #1 hosts historical resources, such as a Civil War Confederate Army cannon bunker and an 18th century cemetery. It is also within the viewshed of Gettysburg National Park. Tree Farm #1 is the first registered tree farm property in PA. Protecting this property will preserve scenic views and increase recreational opportunities in the Michaux SF area.

Tree Farm #1's close proximity to Washington DC and Baltimore, combined with Adams County's affordable cost of living, make the property especially vulnerable to development. If preserved, Tree Farm #1 would become part of Michaux SF, connecting it with Strawberry Hill Nature Preserve and creating almost 87,000 acres of contiguous protected forest land.

For more information: Todd McNew, GIS Planning & Real Estate Rep. The Conservation Fund, tmcnew@conservationfund.org/717-230-8166



View of PA's Tree Farm #1 from Fairfield
By Sidney Kuhn

PROJECT DETAILS

Project Name: Tree Farm #1
Location: Hamiltonban Twp., Adams County
Acreage: 2,500
FL Request: \$3.5 million
Sponsor: The Conservation Fund

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- Addition to Michaux SF and link to Strawberry Hill Nature Preserve
- PA high quality cold water fishery creek; within Chesapeake Bay Watershed
- Historic, scenic and recreational resources
- Biodiversity and forest value
- Part of PA's South Mountain Conservation Landscape Initiative
- Catalyst for \$10 million Adams County land/water conservation ballot initiative passed with 75% approval on 11/4/08

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 for more than 15 million people and are home to more than 250 endangered, threatened, and rare species.

