

FY10 FOREST LEGACY PROGRAM

Wolf Hill

Connecticut's **Wolf Hill** in Litchfield County consists of 200 acres in one of western New England's most important forested landscapes. The property lies within the 36,000-acre Mt. Washington/Mt. Riga forest block, a top conservation priority for The Nature Conservancy in its Lower New England/Northern Piedmont Conservation Plan, and covering the Taconic Plateau where Connecticut, New York and Massachusetts meet. More than 20,000 acres of land are protected within this vital natural resource area, including federal lands along the Appalachian National Scenic Trail, state parks and land trust holdings in all three states. The Karner Ridge and Hi Rock Forest Legacy projects have protected land on the MA side of the forest.

Wolf Hill is one of the few large, unprotected parcels in the CT section of the forest, and is one of the most visible, as it overlooks the Lakeville Reservoir and the villages of Lakeville and Salisbury in the valley below. Preservation of this property would help protect the Lakeville Reservoir watershed, which supplies Salisbury's drinking water. A study by the US Forest Service study determined that this property lies within an area of "high conservation value" due to its water, forest, agriculture, recreation and biodiversity resources. Wolf Hill is contiguous with 424 acres of protected land at the Lakeville Reservoir on the west. The property offers recreation opportunities such as hiking, cross-country skiing, mountain biking, nature study and hunting.

Wolf Hill lies within the federally designated Highlands region and the Upper Housatonic National Heritage Area. The larger forest of which Wolf Hill is part, is recognized for its regional significance by The Litchfield Hills Greenprint Program, a regional partnership of conservation organizations working to increase the pace and quality of land protection across northwest Connecticut.

For more information: Tim Abbott, Director, Litchfield Hills Greenprint Program, tim.abbott@hvatoday.org/860.672.6678



Forest at Wolf Hill in Salisbury, CT
By Alden Warner

PROJECT DETAILS

- Project Name:* Wolf Hill
- Location:* Salisbury, Litchfield County
- Acreage:* 200
- FL Request:* \$600,000
- Sponsor:* The Litchfield Hills Greenprint Program

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- In close proximity to 20,000 acres of conserved land within the 36,000-acre Mt. Washington/Mt. Riga forest block of CT, NY and MA
- Protects drinking water for Salisbury
- Historic, scenic and recreational resources
- Working forest supporting local mills
- Headwaters for two waterways with wild populations of native brook trout
- Bargain sale at 75% of the appraised fair market value of the easement

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.



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

