

FY10 HIGHLANDS CONSERVATION ACT Naugatuck/Mad River Headwaters CT

Naugatuck/Mad River Headwaters, Connecticut

Project Details

Location:

Towns of Norfolk, Winchester, Torrington and Goshen, Litchfield County

Acreage:

12 parcels totaling 300+ acres

HCA Request:

\$2.5 million

*Total request for CT projects, including Ethel Walker and Scoville.

Project Highlights

- Headwaters host some of the highest conservation values in CT's Highlands
- Drinking water supply for more than 50,000 customers
- Eastern Brook Trout habitat
- 12 parcels identified as top conservation priorities



The Mad River near Grantville, CT
By Alden Warner

The State of Connecticut requests Highlands Conservation Act funds to protect the 37,359-acre **Naugatuck/Mad River Headwaters** project area, in the towns of Norfolk, Winchester, Torrington and Goshen. This area hosts some of the CT Highlands' highest conservation value waters, along with two watersheds providing public drinking water. One watershed serves 12,500 customer and the other serves

50,000. Water Company holdings within these two watersheds total 5,901 acres. The Mad River has been identified by Trout Unlimited and the Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture as one of only 18 intact or moderately reduced subwatersheds within the entire four-state Highlands region for the Eastern Brook Trout.

The State of Connecticut, The Nature Conservancy, The Connecticut River Watershed Council, The Norfolk Land Trust and the National Audubon Society have preserved 7,067 acres (19%) of the project area. Other than the 5,901 acres of public water utility holdings, 11,654 acres (31%) of the project area is comprised of unprotected parcels that are 50 acres or greater. Current negotiations are underway on twelve high priority parcels with extremely high conservation values. A major goal of the long-term preservation of this area is that the larger tracts connect to protected lands or lands that contain high value resources.

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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.

