

FY10 HIGHLANDS CONSERVATION ACT Greater Sterling Forest NY

Greater Sterling Forest, New York

Project Details

Location:

Towns of Tuxedo, Monroe and Warwick, Orange County; Sloatsburg, Rockland County

Acreage:

2,347

HCA Request:

\$2.5 million

Project Highlights

- Scenic lakes, wetlands, and forests
- Near Appalachian National Scenic Trail
- Adjacent to Sterling Forest State Park
- *NY State Open Space Conservation Plan* priority site
- Southeastern NY's largest contiguous forest



Waterfall on a tributary of the Ramapo River in NY's Sterling Forest

By Geoff Welch, Ramapo River Committee

New York State requests Highlands Conservation Act funds to assist in the acquisition of additions to **Sterling Forest** State Park. The Sterling Forest Fairgrounds, the Sterling Forest Ski Center, the Torsoe property, the former Kings College property, Tuxedo Reserve, Loterdan/Sterling Mine and the Shirazi property are inholdings and adjacent to Sterling Forest. These lands buffer the state park, which

citizens worked tirelessly to preserve. In close proximity to the Appalachian National Scenic Trail, these 2,347 acres contain scenic lakes, woodlands, and wetlands, as well as frontage on Orange Turnpike.

The properties may be developed if not protected. Sterling Forest State Park is a great accomplishment of public-private land conservation between the federal government, the states of New York and New Jersey, and private organizations. Preservation of private inholdings and adjacent properties, such as these, will safeguard this \$78-million investment while protecting drinking water, wildlife habitat, and recreational, historic, cultural, and scenic resources. This project is a *New York State Open Space Conservation Plan* (2006) priority site and would protect southeastern NY's largest contiguous forest.

For more information: Erik Kulleseid, Dep. Commissioner for Open Space Protection
 NY State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation,
 Erik.Kulleseid@oprhp.state.ny.us/518.474.0430

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.

