

FY10 HIGHLANDS CONSERVATION ACT **Texter Mountain** PA

Texter Mountain/Furnace Hills/Middle Creek Protection Area, Pennsylvania

Project Details

Location:

East Cocalico, West Cocalico and Clay townships in Lancaster County

Acreage:

1,000 out of 3,500 acres

HCA Request:

\$2.5 million

Project Highlights

- Habitat for rare and threatened species
- Rich in Revolutionary War history
- The Horse-Shoe Trail and State Game Lands in the area provide hiking, boating, fishing and hunting



Farmland and forests in the Furnace Hills of PA
By Tom Gettings, Wildlands Conservancy

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania requests Highlands Conservation Act funds to assist in the acquisition of properties that will protect **Texter Mountain**. More than 3,500 acres in this area of northern Lancaster County and parts of Lebanon and Berks counties should be protected. Large-lot zoning and

increasing demand for housing here is converting natural lands, fragmenting important habitat and impacting recreation.

This area provides habitat for more than 280 birds and mammals, including bald eagles, osprey, hawks, spring warblers, American bittern, owls, red bat and endangered bog turtles. The iron ore, water, timber and limestone of the Furnace Hills fueled a thriving economy here dating back to the Revolutionary War. Additionally, recreational resources include the Horse-Shoe Trail, Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area and State Game Lands which people use for hiking, boating, fishing and hunting.

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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.

