



Hudson River Estuary Program

A Program of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

Habitats and Wildlife in the Town of Gallatin



Photo: Bil Schaefer

Christine Vanderlan, *Conservation & Land Use Specialist*
Hudson River Estuary Program/Cornell University



Cornell University

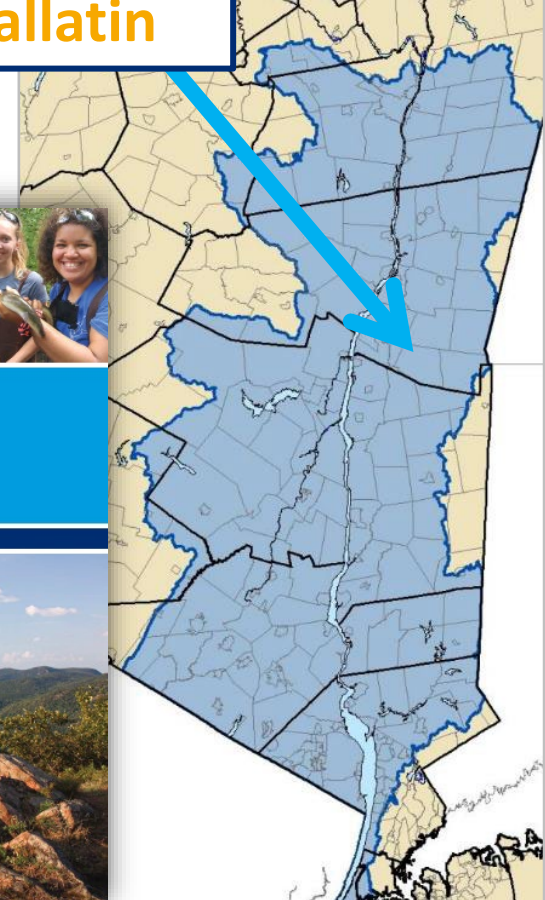
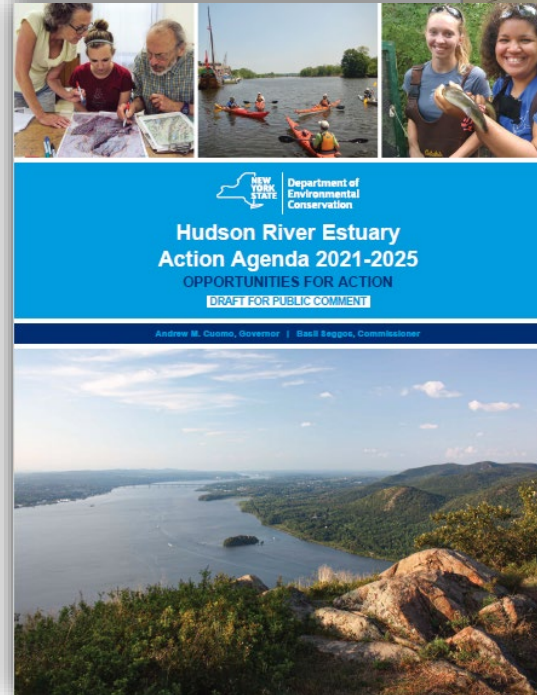
August 18, 2022

Hudson River Estuary Program

Gallatin

Working to achieve key benefits:

- clean water
- community resilience
- vital estuary ecosystem
- fish, wildlife, and habitat
- natural scenery
- education, access, recreation, and inspiration



Municipal training, technical assistance & grants: ³

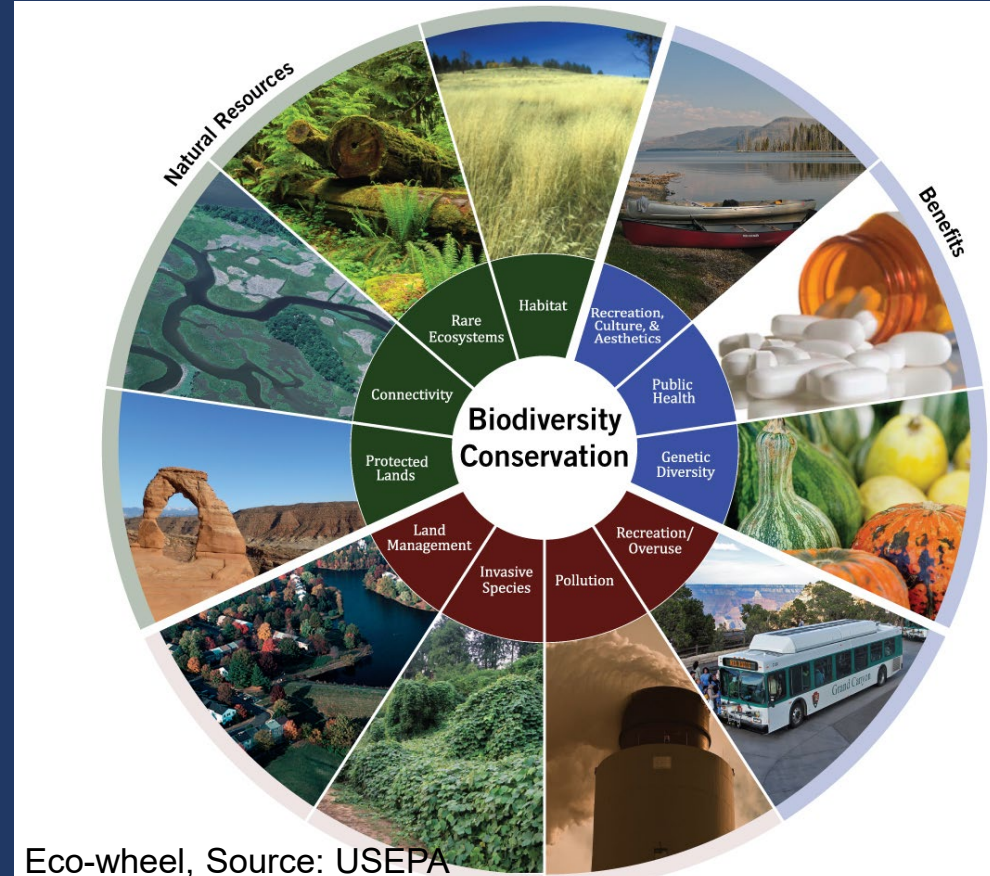
- natural resource inventories
- open space plans
- watershed plans
- climate adaptation planning

- streamside tree plantings
- dam removal
- culvert replacement
- Hudson River access
- sustainable shorelines



Why conservation and land use?

- water quality and quantity
- flood control
- temperature moderation
- carbon storage
- clean air
- human health
- recreation and education
- scenery
- fisheries and forest products
- pollinators



Recommended Planning Approach:

identify what
you have



prioritize



plan, protect,
manage

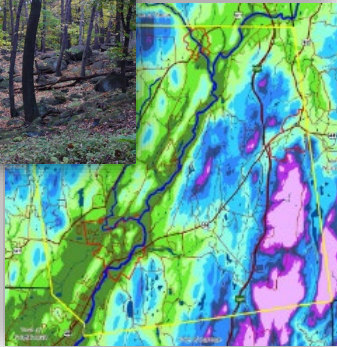
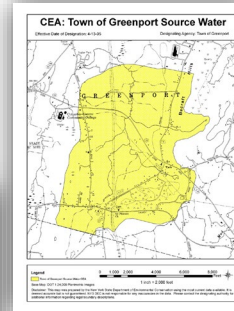


Photo by Laura Heady



What's in the Habitat Summary?

Existing data about important natural areas and wildlife with interpretation:

- Land Cover and Land Use
- Important Biodiversity Areas
- Watersheds, Streams, Flood Zones
- Wetlands and Large Forests
- Grasslands and Shrublands

NATURAL AREAS AND WILDLIFE IN YOUR COMMUNITY



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The Estuary Program works toward achieving key benefits:

- Clean water
- Resilient communities
- Vital estuary ecosystem
- Fish, wildlife & habitats
- Natural scenery
- Education, access, recreation, and inspiration

This document was created by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's Hudson River Estuary Program and Cornell University's Department of Natural Resources. The Estuary Program (<http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/4920.html>) protects and improves the natural and scenic Hudson River watershed for all its residents. The program was created in 1967 and extends from the Troy dam to upper New York Harbor.

The Estuary Program is funded by the NYS Environmental Protection Fund. The Conservation and Land Use Program was created in partnership with Cornell University to help Hudson Valley communities learn what plants, animals, and habitats are found locally; understand the value of these resources; and increase their capacity to identify, prioritize, and conserve important natural areas through informed decision-making. Additional information about Hudson Valley habitats can be found on DEC's webpages, starting with www.dec.ny.gov/lands/5094.html.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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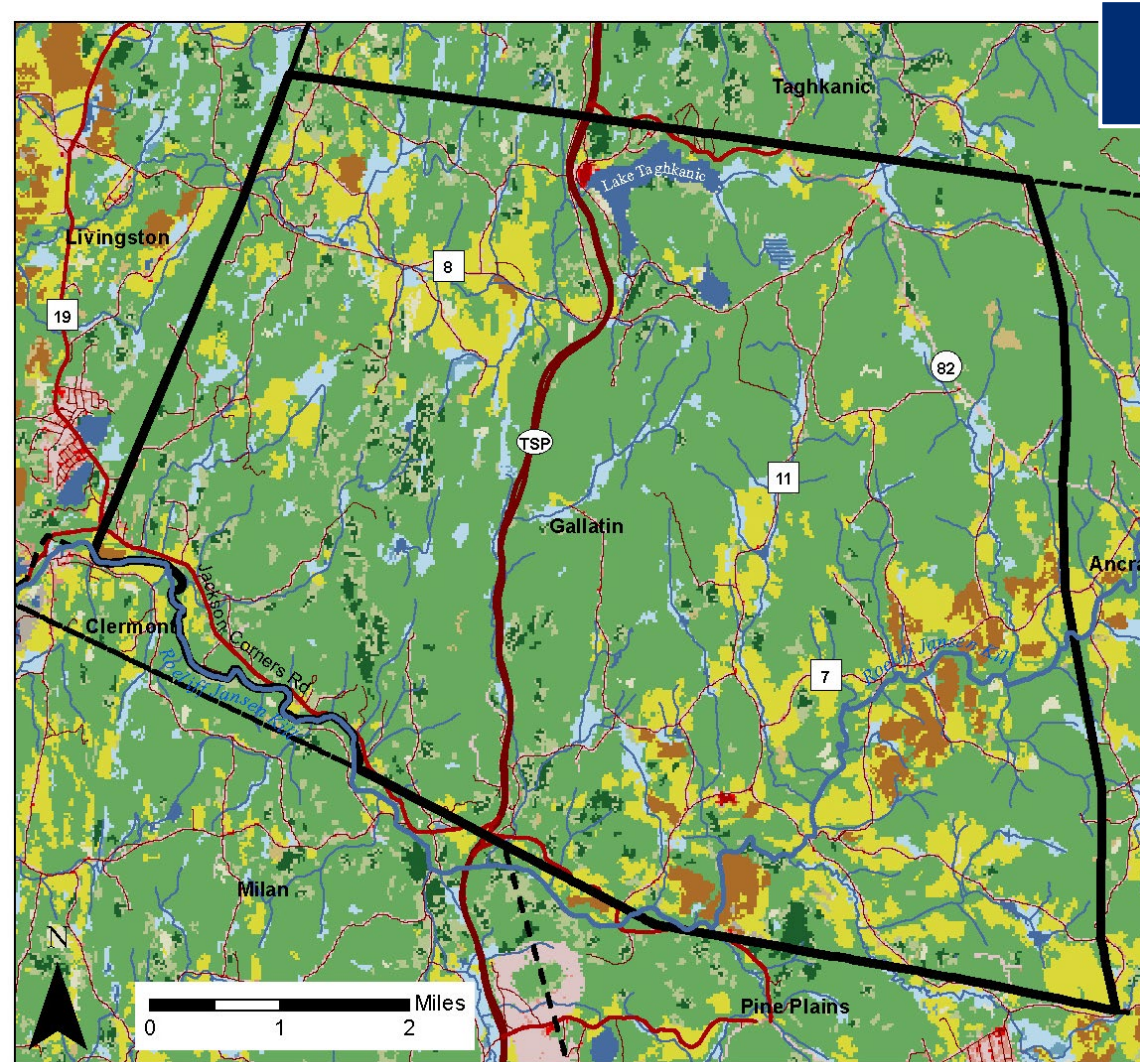


Land Cover

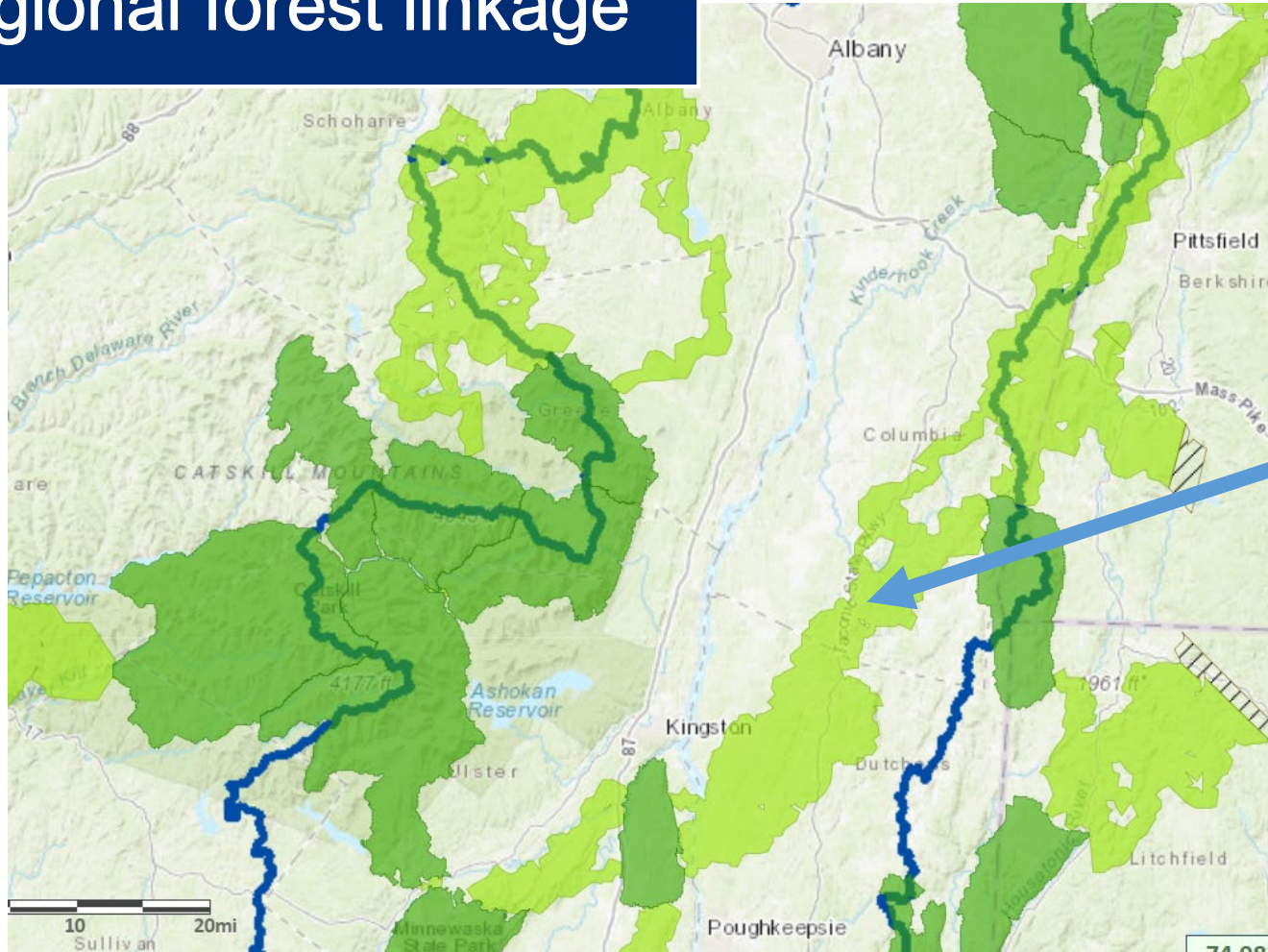
Gallatin

39.6 square miles total area

- 72.4% forest
- 16% agricultural/
open



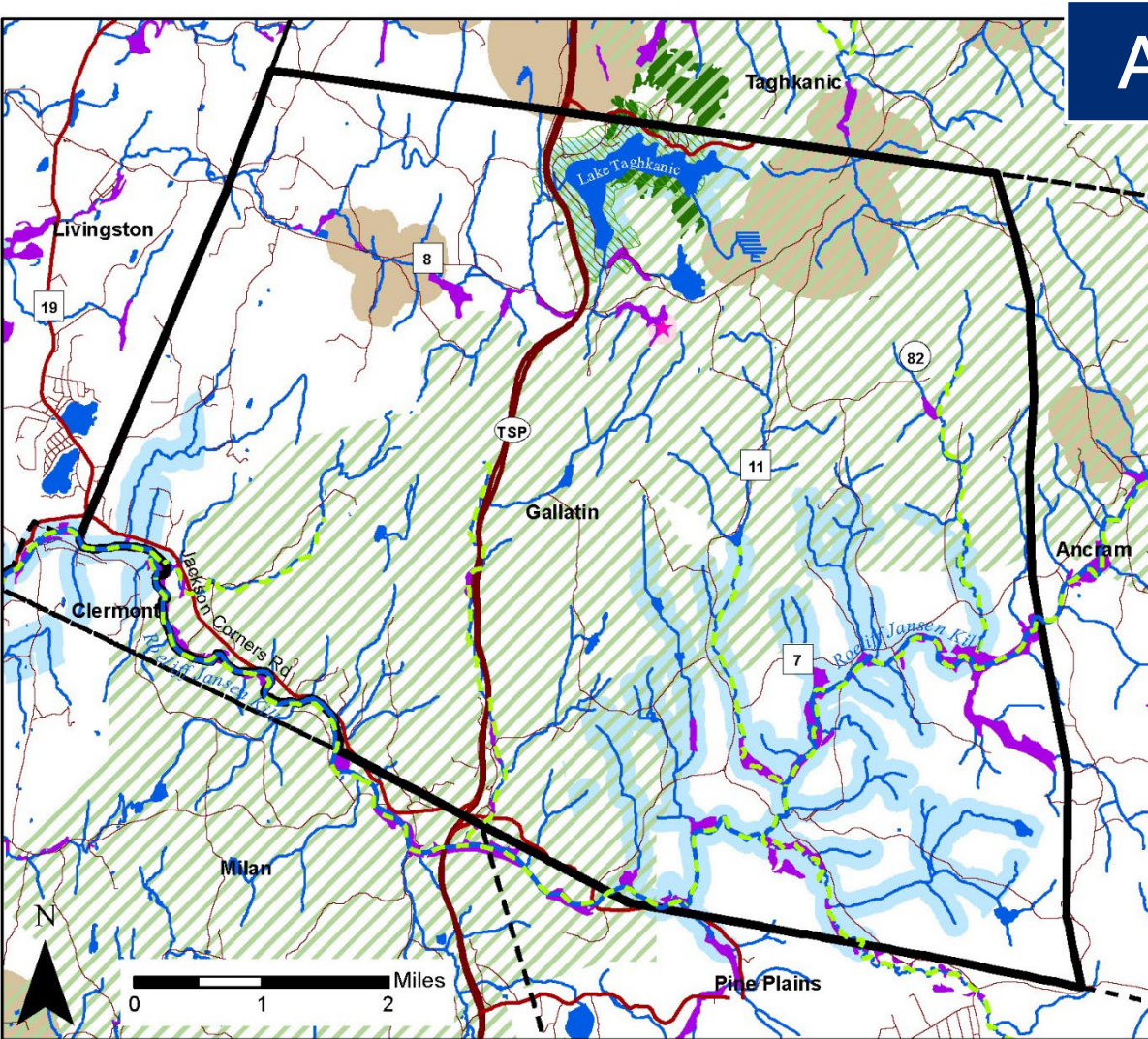
Regional forest linkage



Gallatin

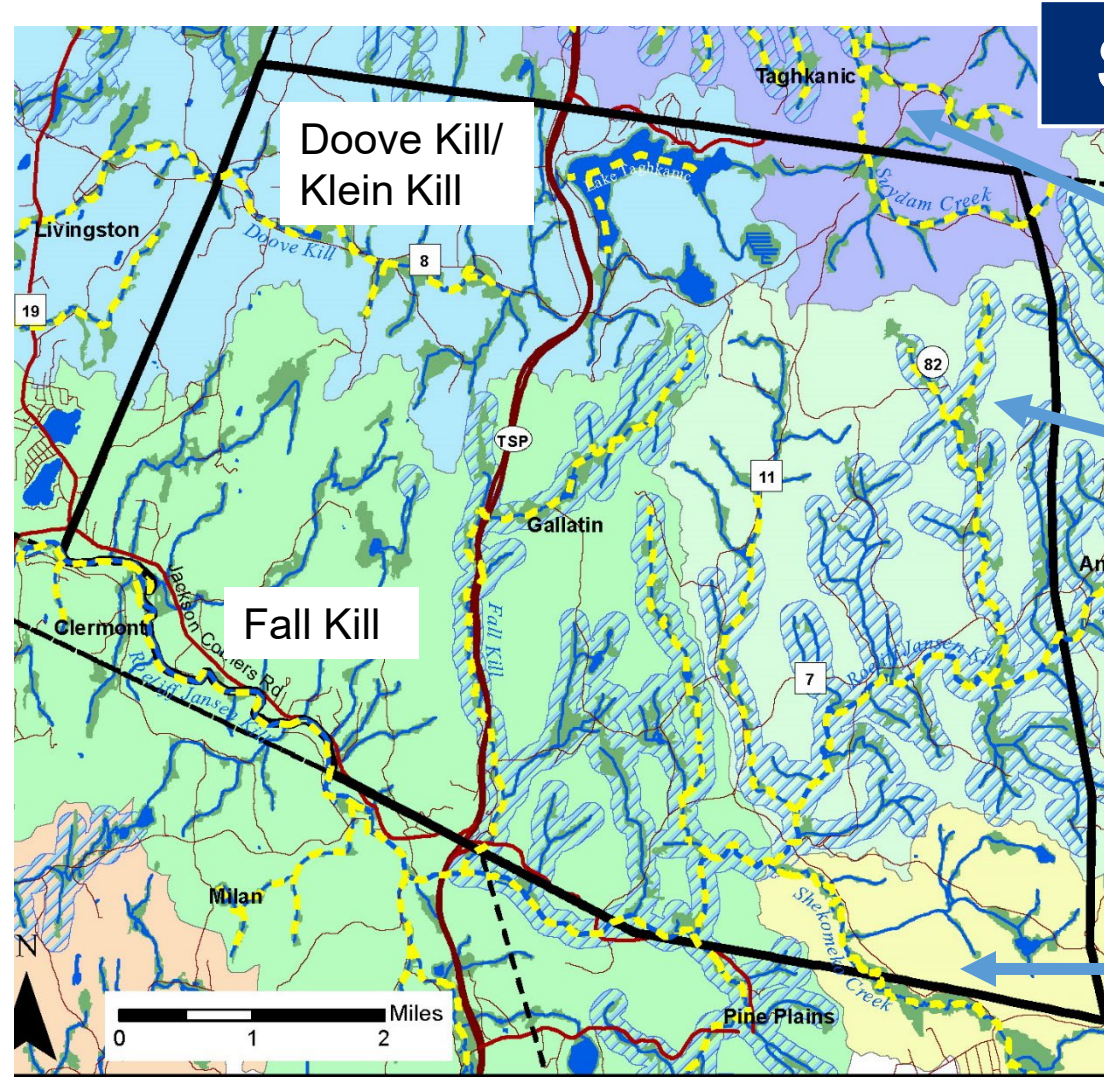
Map source:
[Hudson Valley
Natural Resource
Mapper](#)

Areas for Biodiversity



- *Forest corridor*
- Significant forest community, Lake Taghkanic State Park
- Floodplain forests
- Coldwater stream habitats
- Gallatin bog
- Eel habitat
- Rare plants, animals

Streams & Watersheds



Doove Kill/
Klein Kill

Fall Kill

Taghkanic Creek

Punch Brook

Shekomeko Creek



Photo: Ingrid Haeckel

Wood turtle



Brook trout

High quality wetlands



Spotted turtle,
species of
special
concern



Pied billed grebe, threatened in NYS

Vernal pools?



Photos: New York Natural Heritage Program



Department of
Environmental
Conservation

Open habitats



Photo source: Gallatin town website

Eastern
meadowlark
Bobolink

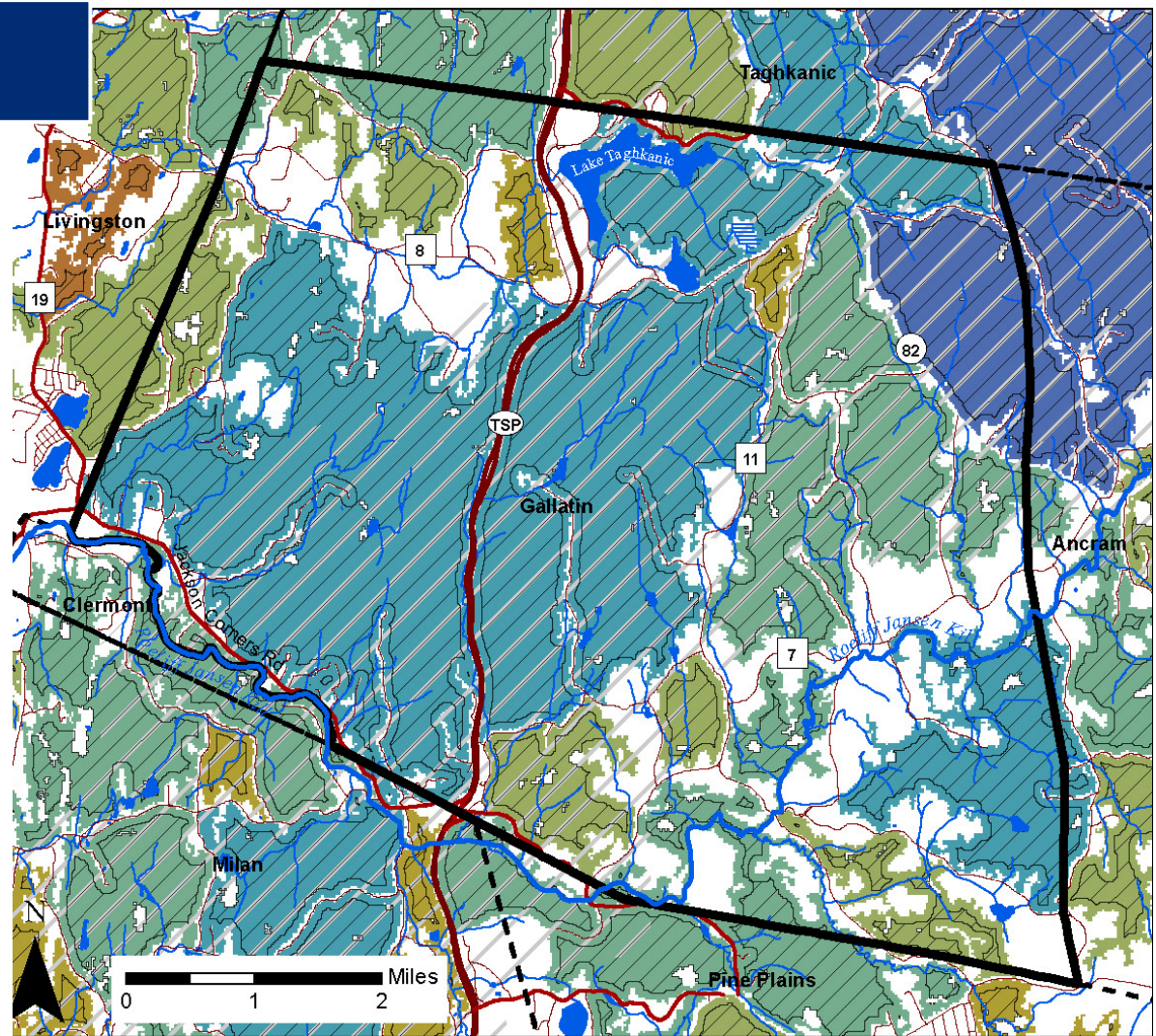
Savannah sparrow
American kestrel



Department of
Environmental
Conservation

Large Forests

Gallatin supports some of the **highest quality forests** in the Hudson River Valley Estuary watershed.



Scarlet Tanager • *Piranga olivacea* • male • 15May03 Queens Co. NY • © Ed Lam
Photo: Ed Lam



Scarlet tanager


Many hyperlinks throughout text and tables

Common Name	Scientific Name	General Habitat
Mammals		
New England cottontail	<i>Sylvilagus transitionalis</i>	young forest, shrubland

Birds		
American redstart	<i>Setophaga ruticilla</i>	forest
Baltimore oriole	<i>Icterus galbula</i>	forest
Black-and-white warbler	<i>Mniotilta varia</i>	forest
Broad-winged hawk	<i>Buteo platypterus</i>	forest
Cerulean warbler	<i>Dendroica cerulea</i>	forest
Cooper's hawk	<i>Accipiter cooperii</i>	forest

New York Natural Heritage Program Search... Guides

New England Cottontail *Sylvilagus transitionalis* (Bangs, 1895)



New England cottontail
Michael N. Marchand

Class
Mammalia (Mammals)

Family
Leporidae (Rabbits and Hares)

State Protection
Special Concern ⓘ

Federal Protection
Not Listed

State Conservation Status Rank
S1S2 ⓘ

Global Conservation Status Rank
G3 ⓘ

Contents

1. Summary
2. Conservation and Management
3. Habitat
4. Range
5. Identification Comments
6. Taxonomy
7. Additional Resources
8. About This Guide

Summary

Did you know?

The New England Cottontail is difficult to tell apart from the more common Eastern Cottontail, unless the rabbit is captured. Scientists typically perform genetic testing on rabbit scat (droppings) to determine which species are present.

11 species of conservation concern in Gallatin rely on young forest and shrubland.

Species designations

NYS Regulations

Threatened - Any native species likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future in New York State.

Endangered - Any native species in imminent danger of extirpation or extinction in New York State.

Special concern - Any native species for which a welfare concern or risk of endangerment has been documented in New York State.

Non-Regulatory

Species of Greatest Conservation Need – New York State, to comply with federal program

Webinar Recording:
“Plants and Animals of
Conservation Concern”



Conservation Principles

- Maintain large intact natural areas
- Preserve *broad* natural corridors
- Maintain or restore broad buffer zones of natural vegetation around sensitive resources
- Minimize impervious surfaces
- Encourage new development near existing centers or in least sensitive areas.



Using a Habitat Summary

Incorporate into planning

identify what
you have

prioritize

plan, protect,
manage

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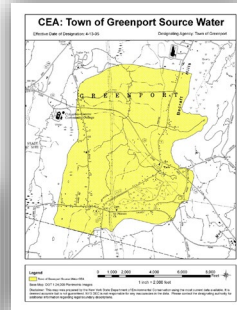
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Reference for local project reviews

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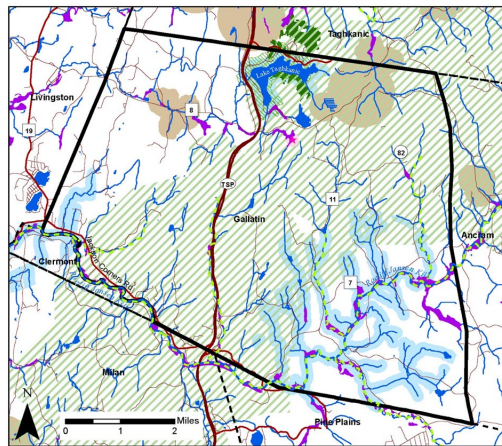


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The Estuary Plan works toward key benefits:

- Clean wa
- Resilient
- Vital eco
- Fish, wild
- Natural s
- Educatio
- recreation



State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR):

“all agencies conduct their affairs with an awareness that they are stewards of the air, water, land and living resources, and that they have an obligation to protect the environment for the use and enjoyment of this and all future generations.”





College of Agriculture and Life Sciences | Department of Natural Resources and the Environment

Contact Us



Conservation Planning in the Hudson River Estuary Watershed

Home

Natural Areas & Biodiversity ▾

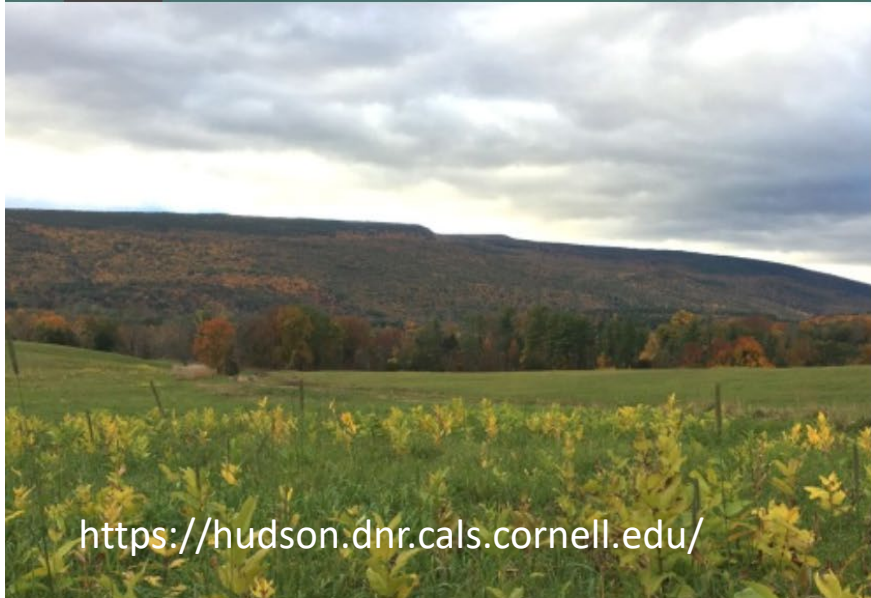
Conservation Planning ▾

Maps & Data ▾

Opportunities

Library

About Us ▾



<https://hudson.dnr.cals.cornell.edu/>

“The Town Board’s approval of the 2018 Open Space Plan and its recommendation to designate critical environmental areas supports our Comprehensive Plan vision ‘to protect important environmental resources that can contribute to Wawarsing’s quality of life and economic vitality.’”

– Jack Grifo, Co-Chair, Town of Wawarsing
Environmental Conservation Commission

Where can I get more information?

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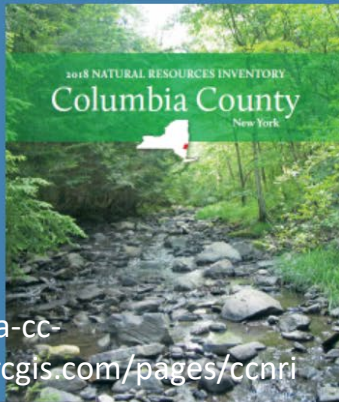
Columbia County, NY

[GIS Home Page](#)

[Geo-Data page](#)

[NRI data page](#)

[Planning Department website](#)



<https://geodata-cc-ny.opendata.arcgis.com/pages/ccnri>

About the EMC and NRI

The Columbia County Environmental Management Council (EMC), under New York State law, is charged with creating a Natural Resources Inventory (NRI) as an information resource. The purpose is to inform planning for the future in ways that support the County's natural assets and the benefits they provide. The NRI summarizes and analyzes existing data about the physical, biological, and cultural aspects of the natural environment that shape Columbia County's landscape. It identifies lands supporting community resilience in a changing climate and resources that are sensitive to changes

Thank you!

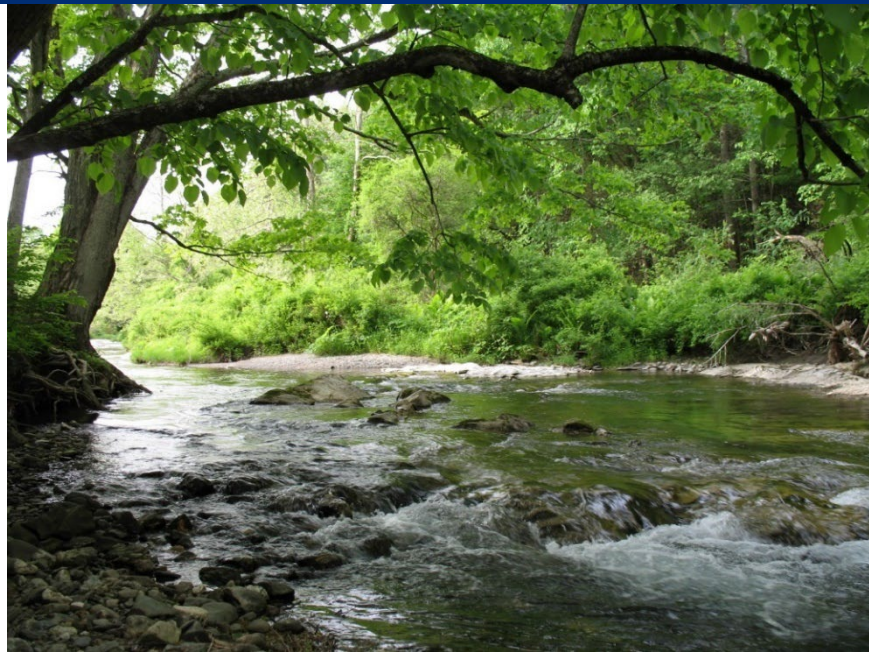
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Webinar series:

<https://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/120539.html>



Cornell University



Department of
Environmental
Conservation