



# Greene Frog

## Forest Legacy Tract, New York

August 2000

**O**n August 17, 2000, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation protected the 70-acre Greene Frog tract from development through a full fee purchase. The Frog Pond Corporation was paid \$66,400 for forest land that is a key piece in rounding out State ownership of the high-ridge

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forests between Pine Island and Pack Saddle Mountain. The president of the Frog Pond Corporation, George Mason, lives in the area and was concerned about good management of high elevation forests. He decided to sell to the State because his travel schedule kept him away from his property. The State of New York, which has a more consistent presence, will manage the land, which adjoins the 10,000-acre Hunter Mountain Wild Forest.

For 10 years, the State of New York had been working on a deal for the Greene Frog parcel. Just as the deal was being finalized, the State ran out of acquisition money. At the same time, Department of Environmental Conservation was completing an amendment to their Assessment of Need to add the Catskills Forest Legacy Area to their Forest Legacy Program.

The Catskills Forest Legacy Area's main objectives are to protect environmentally important privately owned forest lands threatened with conversion to nonforest use and to provide watershed and water supply protection. The U.S. Geological Survey has identified forests as one of the best land uses to maintain clean water.

The Catskill watershed reliably provides an average of 1.34 billion gallons of high quality drinking water each day to the over 8 million residents of New York City, as well as serving another 1 million residents in the counties of Westchester, Putnam, Orange, and Ulster.

The Forest Legacy Program protects important

forests from conversion to nonforest uses. These forests provide essential wildlife habitat, protect water quality, offer outstanding recreation opportunities, afford outstanding scenic views, are home to historic sites, and/or provide the opportunity to continue traditional forest uses. A Federal-State partnership allows landowners to keep their land private while ensuring it remains forest forever through the use of conservation easements.



*The forests of the Greene Frog tract will continue to offer traditional forest uses as well as providing wildlife habitat and drinking water protection.*

*New York State Photo*