



Back Roads

Sourland Planning Council

www.sourland.org

Spring 2005

Meeting information

The Sourland Planning Council trustees will meet during 2005 on the dates listed below. All meetings will be at the historic Hopewell Railroad Station on Railroad Avenue, just off North Greenwood Avenue in Hopewell Borough, at 7:30 p.m. They are the first Thursday of every other month. You are cordially invited to attend.

June 2 Aug. 4
Oct. 6 (Annual meeting & elections)
Dec. 1

Officers and trustees of the Sourland Planning Council

Oct. 1, 2004 – Sept. 30, 2005

The following officers and trustees were elected at the annual meeting on Oct. 7, 2004:

President: Jennifer Bryson,
Hillsborough Twp.
Vice President: Steven Sacks-Wilner,
Montgomery Twp.
Treasurer: Andrea Bonette,
East Amwell Twp.
Secretary: Kathleen Bird,
Hopewell Twp.

Tracy Carluccio, East Amwell Twp.
Joel Coyne, West Amwell Twp.
Steven Davison, Hopewell Twp.
Tim Dillingham, Hopewell Borough
Dick Greene, Hopewell Borough
Jerry Haimowitz, Raritan Twp.
Robert Harris, Hopewell Twp.
Judy Jengo, Hopewell Borough
Tom Kilbourne, Hopewell Twp.
Leonard Lance, Flemington
Patricia Sziber, Hopewell Twp.
Cliff Wilson, Montgomery Twp.

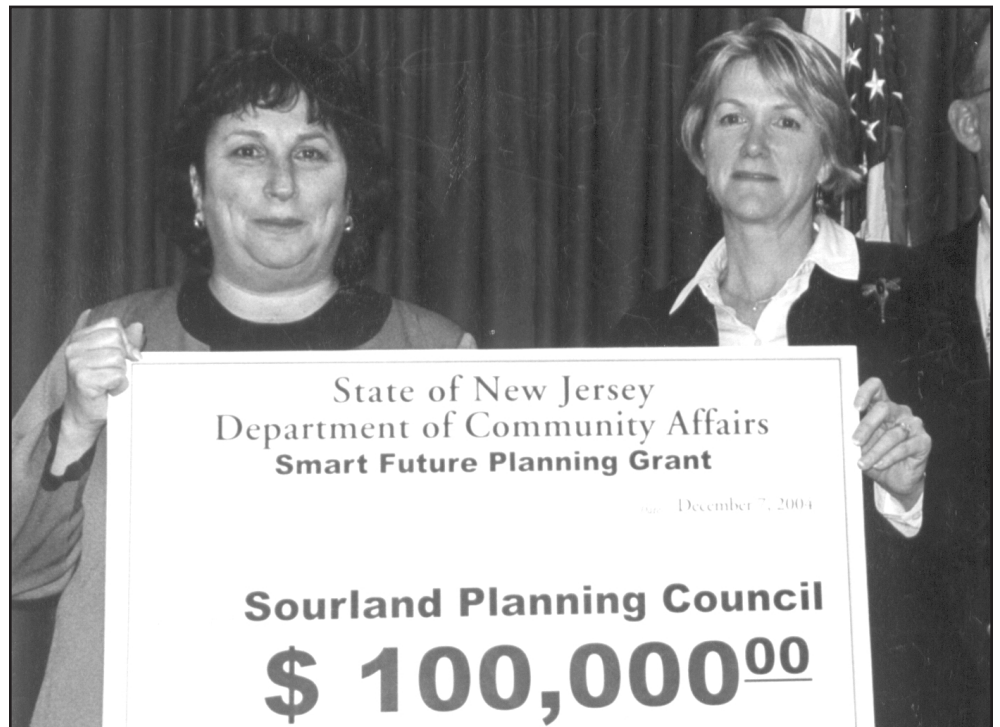
Sourland Planning Council Gets \$100,000 Smart Future Grant

The Sourland Planning Council has been awarded a \$100,000 smart future planning grant by the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs.

DCA Commissioner Susan Bass Levin made the announcement at a news conference in Trenton on Dec. 7. The grant will support the development of a plan to guide land use in the Sourland Mountain Region, which stretches across nearly 90 square miles in central New Jersey.

The Sourlands region includes portions of the following municipalities: Hopewell Borough and Hopewell Township in Mercer County; East Amwell and West Amwell townships and the city of Lambertville in Hunterdon County; and Hillsborough and Montgomery townships in Somerset County.

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DCA Commissioner (left) Susan Bass Levin & Jennifer Bryson

The Sourlands Planning Council is a non-profit volunteer organization formed to promote and encourage a comprehensive approach to planning, conservation, preservation of open space, protection of natural resources, and protection of places of historical interest for Sourland Mountain and its environs.

President's Message

Could it be that 2004 was the Sourland Planning Council's most exciting year ever? We think so! Only a year ago, who could have imagined the events of the past year, the outpouring of support from our allies, and the amount of attention paid to the Sourlands as never before?

Several years ago, we established a simple goal – to get the word out that the Sourlands is a very special place, in great danger, but worthy of protecting for future generations to enjoy. I'm happy to report that on many fronts, we've achieved that goal.

The Sourland Planning Council was selected in November to receive a New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Award for Environmental Excellence. We were chosen from among many outstanding nominees doing equally important work throughout the state. The state highlighted our efforts to protect our precious drinking water.

Many of you know already that everyone in the Sourlands and many of our neighbors are completely reliant on the fickle Sourlands aquifer as our only water supply.

A large part of our work has been to focus attention on the just how

precious our groundwater is, and on how our current practices could irreparably harm the aquifer. As a result of several recent studies completed as part of the regional planning effort led by the Sourland Planning Council, we now know that the current pace and nature of development in the Sourlands could render the aquifer undrinkable.

In many parts of the mountain, we may be approaching the point where groundwater is being removed faster than it is replenished. While hard to believe that a phenomena we associate more with the dry West could occur right here in central New Jersey, it can, and it is. Doing nothing about it leaves little choice but to watch it happen.

In December, the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs announced a \$100,000 smart future grant to continue our efforts to promote regional planning in the Sourlands. This grant will enable us to hire paid professional staff for the first time.

This initiative lays the ground work for what we hope will be a continued focus on planning and preservation of the region. Our thanks – and hats off – for the hard work of officials in East Amwell, Hillsborough, Hopewell Borough, Hopewell Township, Lambertville, Montgomery Township, Pennington, and West Amwell; the three counties; and nonprofit organizations.

Now, 2005 looks to be as exciting and productive as 2004.

This year, we hope to see the Sourlands identified on the State Map map as a Special Resource Area. We look forward to having our stafferd.

And with funding generously provided by The Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, our busy volunteers are putting together a large glossy map of the Sourlands, complete with information about the region's precious resources and the importance of being good stewards of them.

We are making our voice heard in urging the state to enact regulations to protect the habitat of threatened and endangered species. This is protection that is long overdue. And we will continue our work in promoting sound planning for the Sourlands.

Of course, none of our efforts would be possible without the continued support of our large, diverse and committed membership. You are, quite simply, the folks that make our existence possible, our voices heard, and our efforts worthwhile. Thank you!

SAVE THE SOURLANDS!
Jennifer Bryson, PE, DEE



SPC Recognized for Efforts To Protect Water

The Sourland Planning Council has been honored by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection for its comprehensive efforts to ensure clean and plentiful water for residents of the Sourland Mountain Region and central New Jersey.

President Jennifer Bryson accepted the 2004 Environmental Excellence Award from DEP Commissioner Bradley M. Campbell in November.

“We are deeply honored and grateful to Commissioner Brad Campbell for his recognition of our important work to ensure there is clean and plentiful water – now and in the future – for residents of the Sourland Mountain Region and central New Jersey, who drink the water formed in the fragile forest and perched wetlands,” said Bryson.



Brad Campbell & Jennifer Bryson

“We hope this award will boost our efforts to educate and foster better stewardship of the Sourlands, which is a critical treasure that is at risk,” she added.

The Sourland Planning Council’s leaders said they were deeply honored by the organization’s work being chosen over so many other excellent efforts as the winner in the

DEP Environmental Excellence Awards for the category of clean and plentiful water.

The award application was written on behalf of the organization by Kathy Bird.

The Sourland Planning Council leaders are also pleased that the Delaware & Raritan Greenway, Inc., a land-preservation nonprofit organization, was singled out for its work to preserve thousands of acres in the Sourlands. Delaware & Raritan Greenway, which recently changed its name to D&R Greenway Land Trust – along with other nonprofit organizations including the Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association – are working with the Sourland Planning Council in many efforts to further important natural resource protection in the Sourlands. ■

Sourlands: A Threatened Treasure *Bus Tour of the Sourland Mountain Region*

Saturday, April 23

10 a.m. – approx. noon • (check-in starts at 9:30 a.m.)

Experience the magic and rich history of the Sourlands, an unspoiled landscape of forested ridges, pastoral farms, and a special refuge for heroes, patriots, artists and, yes, even ghosts!

Learn the legends and lore of your own backyard paradise, home to numerous unique animals and plants.

Celebrate Earth Week by learning about the Sourlands’ unique environment and heritage – and how to keep this special place special for future generations.

The tour, sponsored by Hopewell Borough and moderated by the Sourland Planning Council, will depart from and end at the Hopewell Railroad Station, 2 Railroad Place, Hopewell Borough.

The cost per person is \$15. For more information or to register, please contact Judy Jengo at (609) 466-1777 or e-mail to judyjengo@aol.com.

SPC Leads Efforts To Identify Sourlands as Special Resource Area

The counties and municipalities in the Sourland Mountain Region support the state's identification of the Sourland Mountain Region as a "Special Resource Area."

The governing bodies in the townships of East Amwell, West Amwell, Hopewell, Montgomery and Hillsborough, as well as Hopewell Borough and the City of Lambertville, have all passed resolutions supporting the identification.

In addition, the counties of Hunterdon, Mercer and Somerset recently have all filed reports with the New Jersey State Planning Commission that includes identification of the Sourlands region as a Special Resource Area in the *New Jersey State Development and Redevelopment Plan*. The State Plan is New Jersey's blueprint for smart growth.

The Highlands is the only Special Resource Area currently identified on the State Plan map.

According to the 2001 State Plan, "A Special Resource Area is an area or region with unique characteristics or resources of statewide importance which are essential to

the sustained well being and function of its own region and other regions or systems – environmental, economic, and social – and to the quality of life for future generations."

Under the State Plan, a place identified as a Special Resource Area would be appropriate for regional and coordinated planning, an effort that the Sourland Planning Council is spearheading.

The Sourlands is important for many reasons, including its role in supplying drinking water for more than a million central New Jersey residents. It is internationally important as an essential stopover for neotropical migratory birds that travel along the Atlantic Flyway.

The Sourlands region includes the largest unbroken forest in central New Jersey and its deep woods provide critical habitat for numerous species of birds, reptiles, amphibians and plants, including threatened and endangered species including the bobolink, bobcat and barred owl.

"The State Plan seeks to foster increased communication and cooperation among state agencies,

counties and municipal governments and to establish a receptive environment for regional planning efforts," according to the State Plan.

The State Planning Commission and its administrative arm, the Office of Smart Growth, currently are engaged in a process known as "cross-acceptance," through which municipalities, counties and the state compare their land-use plans. At the end of the process, the commission will adopt a new State Plan and a revised State Plan Policy Map.

"This identification will help call attention to the fact that the area is special and appropriate for comprehensive, coordinated, regional land-use planning," said Jennifer Bryson, president of the Sourland Planning Council. "We are pleased and grateful that the counties and municipalities are supporting our efforts to Save the Sourlands."

Steven Sacks-Wilner, vice president of the Sourland Planning Council, is coordinating the organization's efforts. He is also chairman of the Montgomery Township planning board.



Sourland Planning Council Gets \$100,000 Smart Future Grant

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A sliver of Delaware Township in Hunterdon County also lies in the Sourlands.

“We must work to save this incredible resource in the hopes that our children and grandchildren will enjoy it as we have,” said President Jennifer Bryson.

The Office of Smart Growth had previously awarded an \$80,000 grant to complete the first phase of the Sourland Resource Management Plan, which examines the region’s current conditions and implications of future growth. The grant, administered through East Amwell Township as the lead agency, has been used over the past year to conduct a detailed hydrogeology study and a natural resources inventory.

Other items – a build-out analysis, a comparison of state, county and municipal plans and ordinances and open space and conservation plans – are in the works. (See related story on page 8).

“We used the first grant awarded by DCA to document just how important and vulnerable the forests, grasslands, habitat and water are,” Bryson said. “Now, we begin the very important work of creating a shared vision of the Sourlands, developing a plan to achieve it, and carrying it out.”

She noted that the Sourland Planning Council hopes to hire a paid Sourlands advocate with part of the state funds.

The largest unbroken forest in central New Jersey, which is the third-largest forest in the state, lies within the Sourland Mountain Region. The region boasts a unique ecosystem of forested wetlands and grasslands that provide a home to numerous threatened and endangered species and other plants and animals. In fact, about 95 percent of the region is critical habitat.

The unique conditions in the Sourlands create the headwaters for much of central New Jersey’s water supply.

Their notoriously fickle aquifer is the only source of drinking water for all of the mountain region’s more than 22,000 residents and many neighboring communities. The Sourlands provide an essential refuge for numerous species of deep woods plants and animals and are a vital stopover for migratory birds including neo-tropical migratory songbirds like the scarlet tanager that traverse the Atlantic Flyway, the north-south migratory bird route that lies between the Appalachian Mountains and the Atlantic Ocean.

The region’s many forested wetlands and vernal pools provide a unique breeding ground and habitat for an array of reptiles and amphibians such as the rare blue-spotted salamander.

The Sourlands have a rich and colorful past and they provide central New Jersey’s only wilderness for a variety of recreational activities

including hiking, biking, riding, birding and hunting.

The Sourlands are at crossroads – literally and figuratively. Located roughly halfway between the Highlands and the Pinelands and halfway between New York and Philadelphia, this natural treasure is smack in the middle of an area that experienced extraordinary growth and suburban development in the 1990s. This special place where artists, moonshiners and aviation hero Charles A. Lindbergh sought privacy and solace is now threatened by the growth pressure and sprawl all around it.

Development in the Sourlands, however, has been historically buffered for centuries by the presence of hard rock and poor soil.

“Recent changes in technology and an unprecedented level of pressure now has left the region more vulnerable than ever. Despite their local, regional, statewide and international natural resource importance, hundreds of acres are lost to development each year. One new house in the Sourlands has the impact of many elsewhere. A one-acre clearing the Sourlands reduces critical deep woods habitat by 20 acres to 30 acres,” said Bryson.

Moreover, additional houses bring more wells and more septic systems.

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Join to support the Sourland Planning Council – or renew now

(Our year runs from Jan. 1 through Dec. 31).

Join a grassroots community of individuals interested in preserving and protecting the precious natural resources of the Sourland Mountain Region. Our goals? Save the Sourlands!

Fill out and mail to: Sourland Planning Council, P.O. Box 72, Hopewell NJ 08525-0072.



- Support Levels: Renewal or New Family: \$25
 Individual: \$15 Senior (62 and older): \$10
 Patron: \$50 Other _____
 Matching grant available through employer.

Name: _____

Address: _____ Zip: _____

Please do not publish my name.

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(SPC promises to never sell, rent, distribute or lend your name or e-mail address without your permission)

- I want to receive your newsletter electronically *(thereby conserving precious resources)*
- I want to receive periodic electronic bulletins about news, events, regulations, projects or policies affecting the Sourlands.

Want to know more? Visit our Web site at www.sourland.org or contact President Jennifer Bryson at (908) 369-1751 or j.bryson@patmedia.net.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Do we sound busy? You bet we are! And all of our efforts are conducted entirely by volunteers! But to continue our efforts, we need your help. Positions are now available to attend meetings, help with our newsletter, increase membership, research issues, direct events, give tours, etc. Please contact President Jennifer Bryson at j.bryson@patmedia.net for ideas and to find out how you can be a part of our efforts to **SAVE THE SOURLANDS.**

Regional Stormwater Management Planning for Sourlands Is Under Way

Sourland Mountain Region residents know how important water is in their lives – whether it is ground water extracted from homeowners' wells or flash flooding on the mountain.

Since all of our water comes from rain and snow melt, it is critically important to our quality of life that this precious natural resource is managed properly. And that is the thinking behind the development of a regional stormwater management plan for the Sourland Mountain Watershed in Hunterdon, Mercer and Somerset counties.

The study area includes parts of East Amwell, West Amwell, Hillsborough, Hopewell and Montgomery townships and Hopewell Borough. The project goal is to more effectively protect the headwaters – or beginnings of streams – of the Sourland Mountain Watershed.

What does this mean? Simply put, a watershed is the total land area that drains into a particular water body—in this case, the Neshanic and Millstone Rivers and the Rock Brook, Back Brook, Stony Brook and Bedens Brook.

When it rains or snows, the water – called stormwater – that flows over the land picks up a variety of pollutants from different places. These may include motor oil from parking lots and driveways, soil particles from eroding areas, goose and pet waste and just about anything else on the ground.

Because these pollutants come from varied sources, they are often referred to as “nonpoint source pollution” (as opposed to pollution that comes from a single “point,” like a

Since all of our water comes from rain and snow melt, it is critically important to our quality of life that this precious natural resource is managed properly.

discharge pipe). This stormwater eventually flows into local streams, rivers and lakes, carrying the pollutants along and concentrating them in these water bodies.

Stormwater management is a way to reduce the amount of nonpoint source pollution being transported to our lakes and rivers. It's not just a good idea, but it's required by federal and state environmental protection agencies. One key benefit is an increase in recharge of water into underground aquifers.

The Sourland Mountain Watershed contains many small headwater streams that feed into the area's larger streams and rivers. Despite their potential for degradation and importance as the sources for larger water bodies, many of these headwater streams are unmapped, lack regulatory protection (such as “Category One” anti-degradation status or stream corridor buffers) and are often not associated with protected wetlands or floodplains.

To protect these streams, the regional stormwater management plan – which is being funded by a grant to East Amwell Township from the state Department of Environmental Protection – will identify existing and potential stormwater-based stream impacts (including alteration

of base flow, scour and sedimentation, impaired water quality, endangerments to biota and ecosystem degradation) and develop solutions and protective measures that can be implemented on both local and regional levels.

East Amwell, the lead agency for this project, is working with Princeton Hydro, an environmental consulting firm based in Ringoes, to coordinate the regional stormwater planning process, conduct the technical work and complete the requirements of the grant.

A project committee has been formed, comprised of municipalities, government agencies, environmental and business groups and other organizations and individuals with an interest in this watershed. This group, working with East Amwell officials, is responsible for preparing the plan and providing public outreach, technical support and other related assistance.

Municipal representatives, environmental groups and members of the public are invited to participate in the project either by committing to be a part of the committee or by attending meetings and helping with educational programs and other activities to be planned in the future.

If you have any questions or would like to be a part of the committee, please contact Teresa Stahl, East Amwell Township Municipal Clerk, at (908) 782-8536 ext. 19 (e-mail: tstahl@eastamwelltownship.org), or Steve Souza and Chris Krupka at Princeton Hydro at (908) 237-5660 (e-mail: ssouza@princetonhydro.com and ckrupka@princetonhydro.com).

Sourlands' Survival Depends on Curbing Development, Protecting Habitat

Studies Document Unique Natural Resources, Fragile Water Supply

The Sourland Mountain Region's natural resources, especially the fragile drinking water supply and its unique ecosystem, need to be properly managed and protected or else they will be destroyed.

That's the message easily derived from reports recently completed as part of the Sourlands smart growth project. The reports characterize this biological unique and precious place.

A natural resources inventory that characterizes the region, and a hydrogeology report that assesses groundwater resources, were prepared and several other studies are well under way. All area residents and businesses depend on our underground water supply, also called the aquifer.

Since the first step in protecting and preserving significant environmental resources is identifying them, the inventory provides an authoritative research study that will serve the Sourland Planning Council and the region's counties and municipalities and nonprofit partners as a foundation for further protection and preservation of the Sourlands.

The natural resources inventory was prepared by Banisch Associates Inc., a professional planning firm.

"The Sourland Mountain region possesses a number of unique natural features and resources that form what can only be characterized as a fragile ecosystem. While situated between New York and Philadelphia

*Read the full text of
the Sourland
Mountain Region
natural resource
inventory and the
hydrogeology report
at
www.sourland.org*

in a corridor that has experienced tremendous population growth in the last 30 years, the core of its fragile resources has remained relatively intact and continues to thrive," says the natural resources inventory. "But careful management of development and protection of habitat are the only measures that will ensure the long-term survival of the region."

The hydrogeology report, prepared by Matthew J. Mulhall and Peter Demicco, will be detailed in the next edition of this newsletter.

Both reports were funded with a smart growth grant from the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, Office of Smart Growth. The grant is administered by East Amwell Township. The Sourland

Planning Council serves as a facilitator of the project, with participation by officials from three counties (Hunterdon, Mercer and Somerset) and municipalities in the Sourlands.

Here are some key highlights from the natural resource inventory:

"The Sourland Mountain region is an ecological island in Central New Jersey, essential to the survival of populations of breeding and migrating birds. The geology, soils, wetlands, forest and grasslands combine to create an environment uniquely suited to sustain an incredibly diverse array of plants and animals that call the region home.

"Loss of, or impact to, any of these resources, particularly the understory of the contiguous forest canopy, will have a direct effect on these species and the biodiversity of the area. Although anthropogenic (or man-made) activities have the most impact, natural forces can prolong and often enhance the effect that humans initiate through development."

The Sourlands' "valuable natural resources, including the limited water supply, are threatened by random and piecemeal development."

While the inhospitable environment of hard rock discouraged significant settlement for centuries, recent technological changes have "aided human settlement of areas previously deemed too harsh.

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Sourlands' Survival Depends on Curbing Development, Protecting Habitat

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These new or improved technologies, which provided techniques for disposal of human waste and devices to extract the limited available water, now pose a significant threat to the overall ecological health of the mountain.”

“... (I)t is important to recognized that unbridled human activity will provoke exploitation of sensitive and limited resources beyond their limits. A sustainable future for the Sourland Mountain and the fragile ecosystem that it encompasses will depend on limiting residential and commercial expansion and shaping new development to maintain and reinforce the ecological balance and prevent forest fragmentation and competition for limited water supplies.

“Sensitive environmental features, like the vernal pools that support rare species, are highly susceptible to being lost or compromised. Increasing consumer demands for potable (clean enough for drinking) water can also have the effect of robbing the base flow from streams whose biota are indicative of high environmental quality. Limiting the demands we place on these resources will be essential to the long-term health of the region.”

The “Natural Resource Inventory provides data that will help to coordinate the resource protection efforts and concerns of the municipalities and three counties that together will shape the fate of this fragile landscape. It recognizes that geography, not political boundaries, defines the Sourlands.”

“Protective stewardship of New Jersey’s cherished natural heritage presents extraordinary challenges. Habitat – the place where a species finds shelter, sustenance and a place to reproduce and perpetuate its kind – continues to be lost to development despite aggressive public and private efforts to preserve it. Over the last few decades, there has been an astonishingly rapid consumption of habitat in central New Jersey; Land Use/Land Cover maps spanning nearly 30 years reveal that the habitat of the Sourlands region is in jeopardy.”

There are just some of the reasons why available biological information and pertinent scientific literature highlight attributes that make the Sourland Mountain Region biologically unique and precious.

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Become a member of the Sourland Planning Council now!

Join or renew your membership in a grassroots community of individuals interested in preserving and protecting the precious natural resources of the Sourland Mountain region. Our goal? Save the Sourlands!

Membership and dues information (real cheap!) enclosed on envelope. What do you get? *Back Roads* newsletter and other mailings to keep you informed and interested in efforts to Save the Sourlands. A good feeling, too!

Want to know more? See our Web site at www.sourland.org or call Jennifer Bryson at (908) 369-1751.

Sourlands' Survival Depends on Curbing Development, Protecting Habitat

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The region “is one of only three major areas of unbroken habitat in New Jersey and is a critical location mid-way between the Highlands and the Pinelands.”

The region “contains a variety of habitat types of high quality and substantial size, ranging from grassland to mature woodland and including a continuum of successional stages which support a rich diversity of biotic communities.”

The region “includes the largest contiguous forest in central New Jersey.”

“Nearby land use patterns, combined with the size, shape and composition of the forest contribute to the high quality of Sourlands woodlands habitat, especially for forest interior nesting birds.”

“The Sourland Mountain region is a critical stopover point for migrating birds using the Atlantic Flyway (north-south migration route between the Appalachian Mountains and the Atlantic Ocean) and is one of New Jersey’s top fall migration stopover sites. Protection of high-quality stopover sites is as necessary for long-distance migrants as their breeding and over-wintering habitats.”

The “region supports a great diversity of bird species, many of which are listed as either threatened or endangered, or are being tracked as species of special concern.”

“Vernal pools – isolated wetland depressions that are seasonally filled with water – are common in parts of the Sourlands. Some of these are known breeding sites for a number of

The Sourland Mountain Region’s natural resources, especially the fragile drinking water supply and its unique ecosystem, need to be properly managed and protected or else they will be destroyed.

herptiles who require these pools for egg laying and early life stages.”

The “region may be the last refuge of some of the complex plant communities that once flourished in central New Jersey. Sixteen plant species that are endangered or of special

concern in New Jersey have been documented in the Sourlands to date.”

“Unique geological and hydrological features of the Sourlands have presented challenges to human encroachment and opportunities for animals and plants.”

“... the largely intact mature deciduous forest that resides in the Sourlands is arguably its most unique ecological treasure.”

“New Jersey is rapidly losing its rich botanical heritage to development, inappropriate management or misuse or preserved lands, and to browsing by deer, which are crowded into ever-diminishing habitat. The importance of preserving what remains of central New Jersey’s native flora in the Sourlands cannot be overstated.” ■

All members are cordially invited to attend the meeting on Thursday, June 2, at 7:30 p.m. at the Hopewell Railroad Station.

Regular business will be conducted including ratification of the election of trustees and officers. The trustees may vote on amendments to the Articles of Incorporation (last updated in 1999) and the Bylaws (last updated in 2000).

Please visit our Web site, www.sourlands.org 10 days prior to the meeting for details or call Steve Sacks-Wilner at (908) 359-8884.

Sourland Planning Council Gets \$100,000 Smart Future Grant

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Recent studies indicate that the current pace of development likely will render large swaths of the aquifer undrinkable since there are no protections currently in place for the sole-source aquifer. More and wider roads, more and larger houses, and changes to the landscape threatens to destroy this critical recreational resource, the scenic vistas, the viable farming community, and the historic value of the Sourlands.

"The Sourlands are central New Jersey's most fragile and imperiled area," said Patricia Sziber, a member of the Hopewell Township Environmental Commission and the Sourlands smart growth project

Steering Committee. "As Sourlands municipalities, we are its stewards and we have to go beyond our own borders and work together as regional partners to protect the natural resources of this very special area.

"The aquifer, the forest, the birds and wildlife know nothing of municipal boundaries or lines on a map. We have to understand this fundamental concept and accept the Sourlands as an entity whose boundaries are defined by the natural features of the land," Sziber said. "All of the Sourlands municipalities tap into its resources, but we do not do so without affecting all the others." ■

Dear Member,

The success of the Sourland Planning Council depends on its volunteers.

If you're willing to contribute time to any of these suggested tasks or for any other purpose, please contact Dick Greene, another volunteer, through e-mail at dickgreenespc@verizon.net or by phone at (609) 466-9625. Thank you!

Jennifer Bryson, President

Here are a few examples:

Stuffing envelopes; distributing newsletters; handling mailings; attending and reporting on local government meetings; writing; helping with Web site; recruiting new members; preparing project budgets

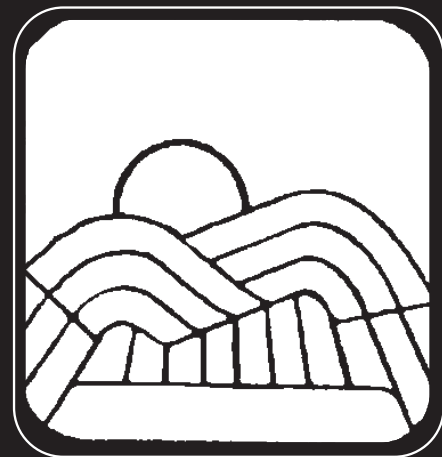
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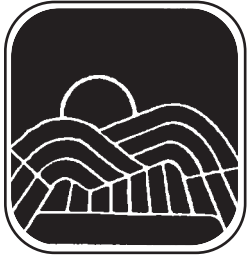
To order, call Andrea Bonette at (609) 466-0641
or e-mail her at abonette@snip.net.



Thanks to our supporters who have joined a growing community who support the Sourlands and the work of the Sourland Planning Council. The following people have pledged or renewed their support in 2005 and 2004.

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Sourland Planning Council



PO Box 72
Hopewell, NJ 08525-0072

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