

New Jersey's Sustainable Future:

PROTECTING NATURAL ASSETS THAT MITIGATE
CLIMATE IMPACTS

Elliott Ruga, Policy & Communications Director

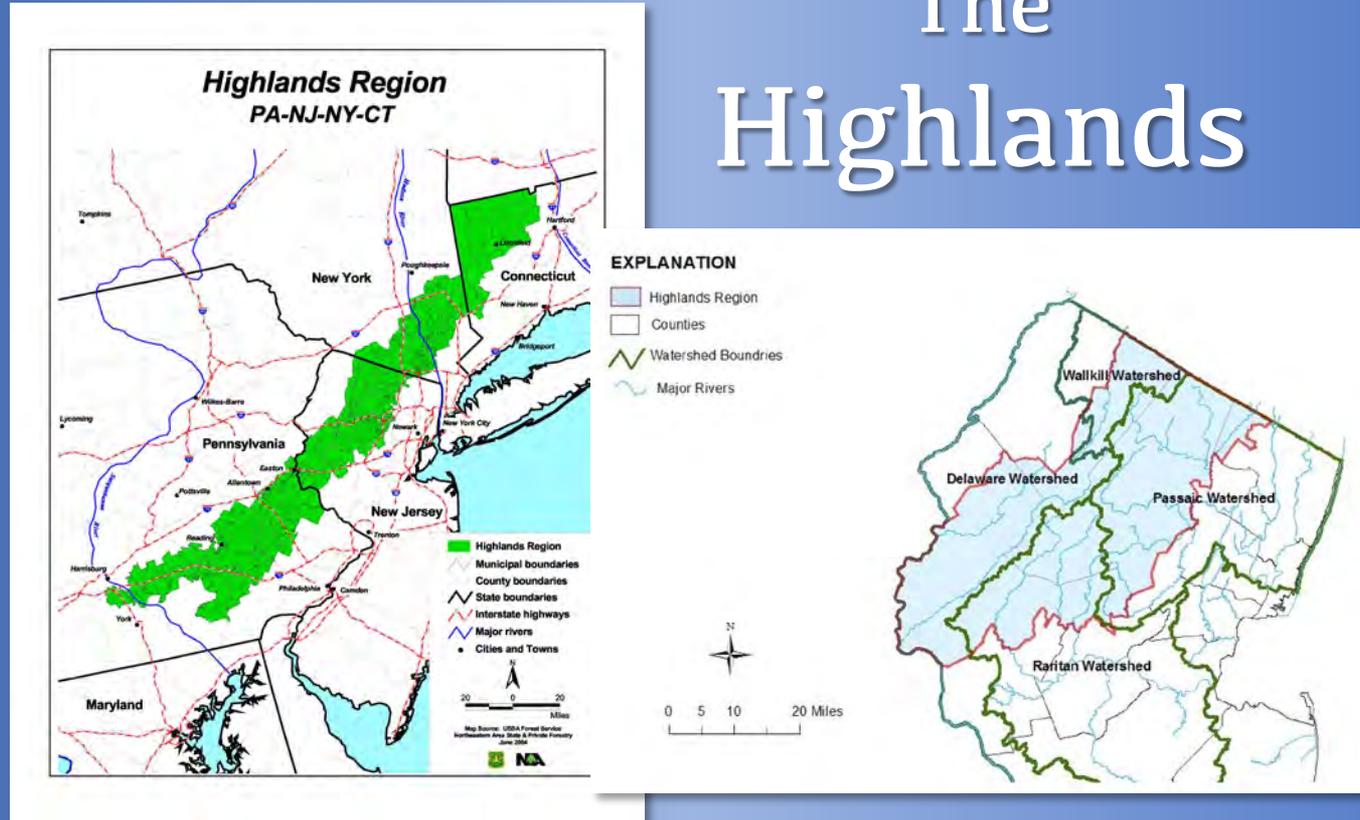


**NEW JERSEY
HIGHLANDS
COALITION**



A 250sq mile forest improbably located in the more densely populated northern half of the most densely populated state

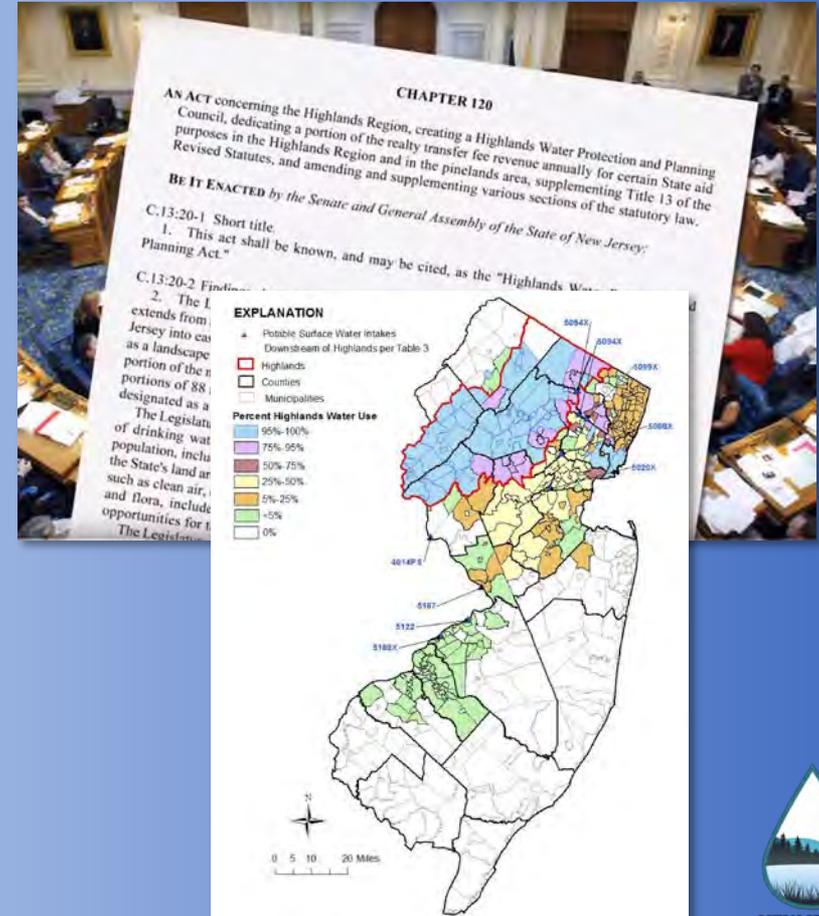
The Highlands



2004 NJ Highlands Water Protection and Planning Act

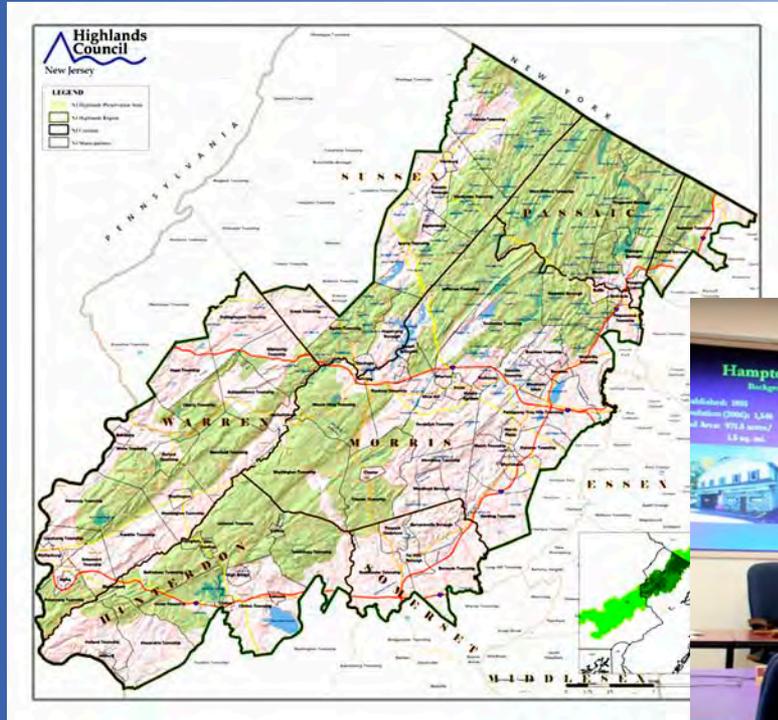
Legislative findings:

“... that the New Jersey Highlands, because of its proximity to rapidly expanding suburban areas, is at serious risk of being fragmented and consumed by unplanned development; and that the existing land use and environmental regulation system cannot protect the water and natural resources of the New Jersey Highlands against the environmental impacts of sprawl development...”



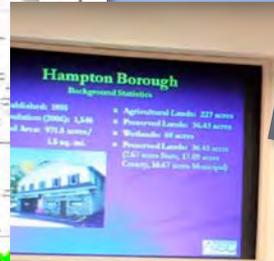


2004 NJ Highlands Water Protection and Planning Act



Highlands Preservation and Planning Areas

Highlands Regional Master Plan



Highlands Council



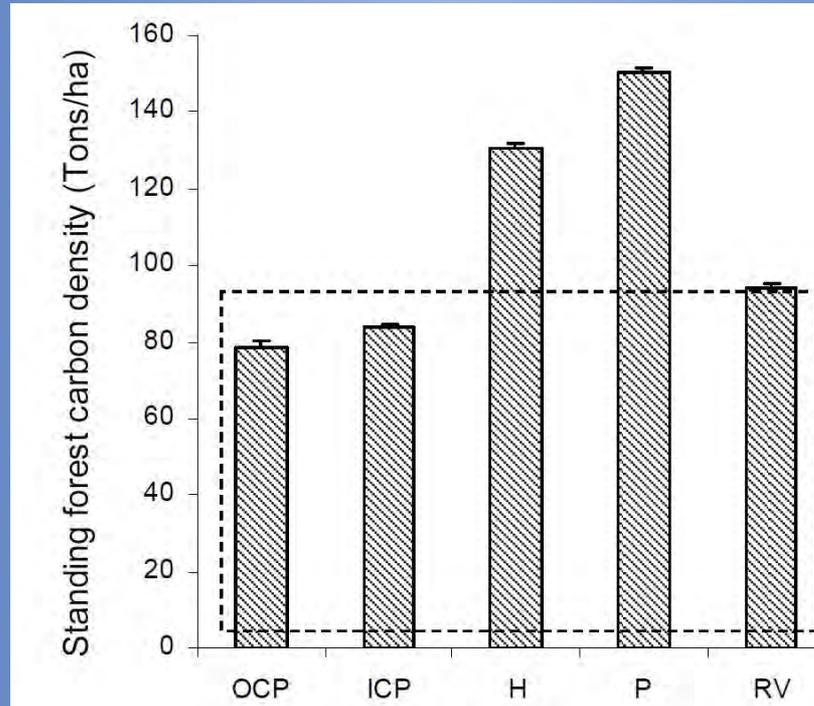
There isn't a single reference to climate change, or global warming, in the Highlands Act.



172,846,595 tons of carbon
stored in NJ's forests:
standing trees: 44%
soil: 42%
deadwood: 9%
roots: 4%
shrubs: 0.1%

Lathrop 2011

Carbon density per physiographic region



Carbon sequestration in forests isn't just about trees



One salamander sequesters 178lbs of carbon per rainy season.
12,500 salamanders/acre = 1,112.5 tons carbon/acre.

Welsh, Best/Semlitsch, O'Donnell 2014



Are our remaining forests protected enough?

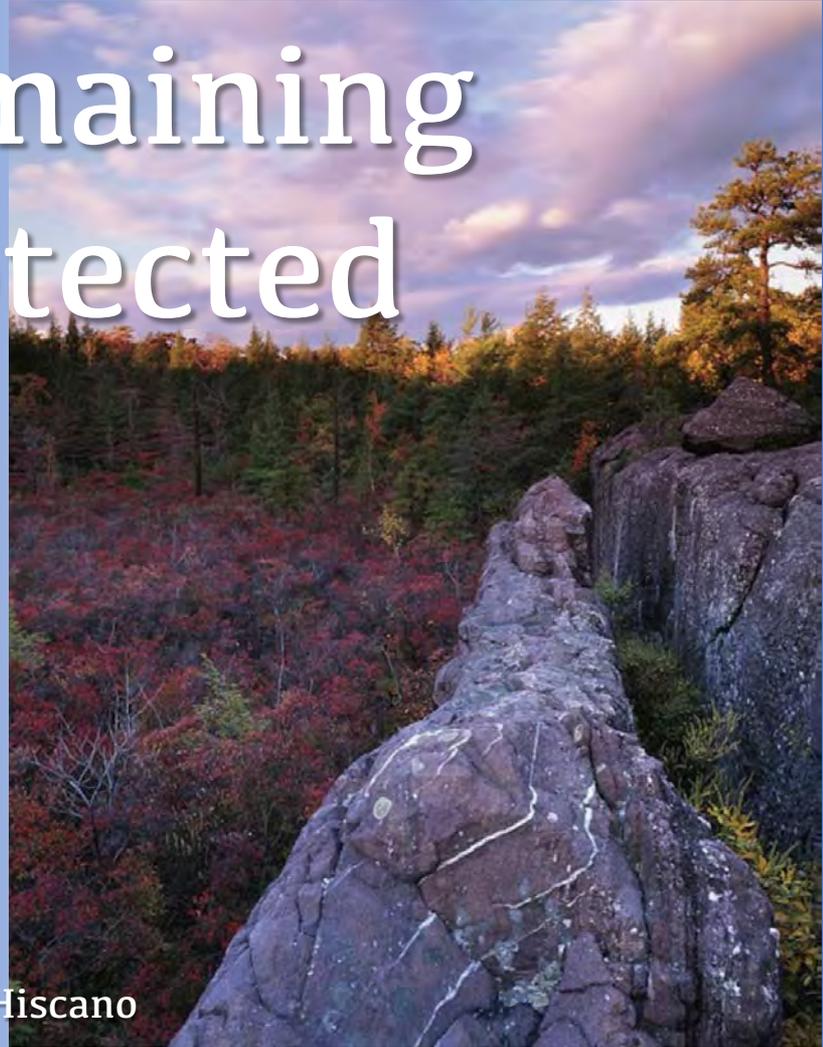


photo: Dwight Hiscano



Potential carbon offset credit
values in
Highlands Preservation Area:

$\$237/\text{hectare}/\text{year} =$
 $\$39,802,870$



Current regulatory challenges statewide:



**NO PROTECTION FOR UPLAND
FORESTS**

photo: Dwight Hiscano



Current regulatory challenges in the Highlands:

1. Forest Stewardship practices and Highlands Forestry Exemption.
2. Single Family Exemption.



THE LEAVENS FOUNDATION, INC.



The Nature Conservancy



NORTHWEST NEW JERSEY

Rivers Conference

Connecting Community, Ecotourism, & Environment

professional development credits available



SAVE THE DATE
March 30th, 2019

Centenary University
Hackettstown, New Jersey

northwestnewjerseyrivers.org



NEW JERSEY
HIGHLANDS
COALITION