

# Kittatinny Ridge Conservation Landscape



## Fast Facts



### Counties

Berks, Carbon, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Fulton, Lebanon, Lehigh, Monroe, Northampton, Perry, and Schuylkill.

### National and International Significance

- Critical habitat linkage in the Appalachian Forest
- Global Important Bird Area for the Cerulean Warbler
- Hawk Mountain Sanctuary
- Waggoner's Gap
- 160 miles of the Appalachian National Scenic Trail
- Susquehanna and Delaware rivers
- Cherry Valley National Refuge
- Delaware Gap National Recreation Area
- St. Anthony's Wilderness
- Three military facilities:
  - Fort Indiantown Gap
  - Letterkenny Army Depot
  - Carlisle Army War College

## What is a Conservation Landscape?

A Conservation Landscape is a place-based strategy for natural resource stewardship and advocacy in key landscapes across our state where there are strong natural assets and local readiness and support for land conservation, locally-driven planning, and community-based economic revitalization efforts.

## Vision

Working as a synergistic whole, partners draw on collective strengths and broad knowledge to protect the 185-mile long Conservation Landscape that is the Kittatinny Ridge. We advocate for unbroken forest to provide:

- protected headwater sources for clean and plentiful water for surrounding communities;
- a scenic Appalachian Trail system experience;
- outdoor recreational opportunities that are welcoming, safe and available to all;
- safe passage for resident and migratory wildlife; and
- natural areas and open spaces which enrich the human mind and spirit.

## Our Goals

- Identify and protect biologically important land and open space to advance wildlife and water conservation along the Ridge.
- Build community identification with, and ownership in, the Kittatinny Ridge as a critical/valued natural asset.
- Collaborate with counties and municipalities to contribute to their collective understanding of the ecological, economic, recreational, and social values of protecting the Ridge and advance the adoption of land-use, sustainability and climate resiliency plans, and programs and policies that foster its natural health.
- Promote science as a basis for actions by enlisting support from academicians and scientists who generate research that is relevant to the Ridge as a Conservation Landscape.



## Region

The Kittatinny Ridge is the first major landform along the Appalachian Mountains and spans approximately 250 miles from northern Maryland to New York's Catskill Mountains. Encompassing 185 miles of Pennsylvania, it is the most climate resilient landscape in Pennsylvania. The Kittatinny bridges the Central and Northern Appalachian Mountains, is home to the Appalachian National Scenic Trail, and serves as a globally significant migratory pathway for thousands of birds annually as they make the arduous journey between nesting and wintering grounds. These were the lands of the Lenni Lenape tribe in the Delaware River Watershed and Susquehannock of the Susquehanna River and Chesapeake Bay.

This heavily forested landscape is a boost to the local economy, saving municipalities and taxpayers money and generating revenue. On average, natural resources contribute \$1 billion dollars to each county, per year, because "mother nature" provides stormwater management, pollination, erosion control and other services for free. This information helps officials understand and appreciate the true economic value of land use trade-offs.

## Key Initiatives

- Working with willing landowners to conserve this landscape for generations to come.
- Providing forest management assistance to landowners.
- Helping communities protect forests, water, scenic beauty, and other local features.
- Supporting and disseminating the results of scientific research.
- Coordinating and convening stakeholders and supporting their efforts.

## Major Conservation Challenges

Forest and agriculture conversion  
Forest health  
Fragmentation of hunting and recreational experience  
Loss of scenic views

## Key Accomplishments with Partners

- Protected the watersheds that supply the drinking water for the residents of Harrisburg and Duncannon.
- Designated as a Global Important Bird Area for the Cerulean Warbler.
- Sponsored and witnessed the annual migration of three hawks as part of Hawk Mountain Sanctuary's Broad-winged Hawk project.
- Worked with counties to produce Return on Environment Reports, providing government officials with the economic value of their natural resources, recreation, air filtration, and real estate premiums due to proximity to open space.
- Designated three A.T. Communities: Duncannon, Delaware Water Gap, and Wind Gap
- Conserved over 20,000 acres of private forest land



## Partnership

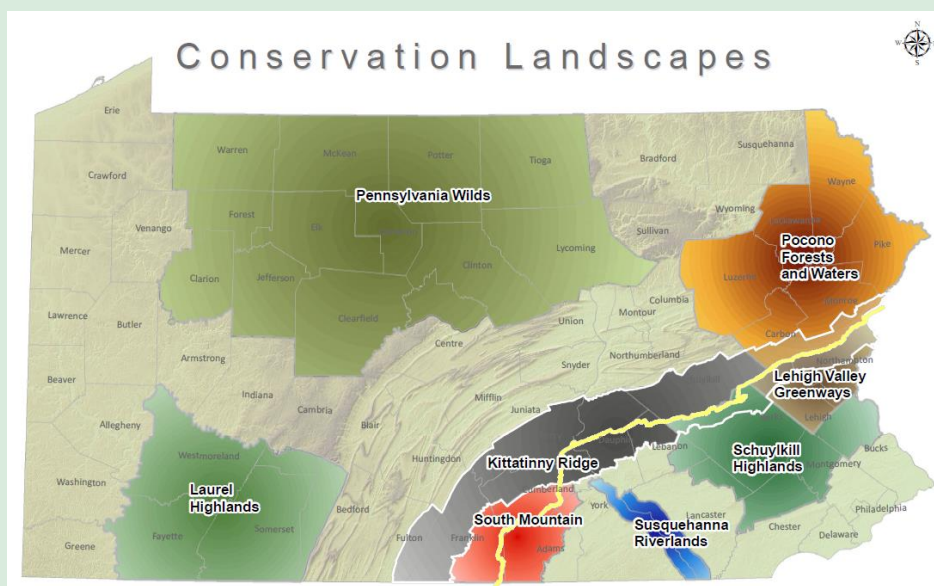
The Kittatinny Ridge Conservation Landscape is a diverse alliance of organizations, businesses, agencies, academic institutions, and municipalities working together with one voice and one goal, to protect the globally important and locally cherished Kittatinny Ridge.

## More Information

For more information on the Kittatinny Ridge Conservation Landscape, contact:

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