



US Army Corps  
of Engineers

Baltimore District

Public Affairs Office

P.O. Box 1715

Baltimore, MD 21203

(410) 962-2809

Fax: (410) 962-3660

# News Release

Release No. 01-30

Contact: Doug Garman

For Release: November 21, 2001

Phone: (410) 962-2809

---

## **Corps of Engineers and New York partner to restore hundreds of acres of wetlands in the Upper Susquehanna River Basin**

**Baltimore** – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District, and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation will partner an effort that could result in several hundred acres of wetlands being restored in the Otsego Lake watershed and along the downstream Susquehanna River mainstem to approximately Colliersville, N.Y.

As part of a feasibility cost-sharing agreement that is scheduled to be endorsed by both agencies early next year, a study will be performed to identify areas within the Susquehanna River basin upstream of the Chemung River that would be suitable for wetland restoration. During the study phase, a data collection effort with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will likely result in approximately 200 acres of wetland restoration in 2002.

Once restored, the wetlands will provide the valuable functions of capturing harmful sediments, reducing nutrient pollution, enhancing water quality, reducing nuisance flood damages, enhancing recreational and educational opportunities, and providing important nesting habitats for a variety of aquatic and wildlife resources native to the headwaters of the Susquehanna River.

“We are initially looking at about 500 acres total of restored wetland and related grassland habitat, but there could be more,” said Amy Guise, Corps of Engineers’ project manager. “During the study we will identify those areas within the watershed that are most suitable for restoration.”

This study, the Upper Susquehanna River Basin-Cooperstown Area Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study, is the first phase of a larger effort to restore wetland habitats and improve soil and water conservation practices within the river basin. The Corps and state are sharing the feasibility phase costs, which total approximately \$1.6 million. With the support of U.S. Rep. Sherwood L. Boehlert of New York, \$1 million in federal funds was appropriated in fiscal year 2001 to begin the feasibility study. An additional \$250,000 in federal funds has been appropriated in the fiscal year 2002 budget. Corps officials estimate the study will be completed in December 2004.

In addition to Rep. Boehlert’s strong support, other project supporters include the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ducks Unlimited, Inc., the State University of New York (SUNY)-Oneonta Biological Field Station, SUNY-Binghamton, the Upper Susquehanna Coalition, the Otsego County Water Quality Coordinating Committee, the Otsego Lake Watershed Council, the Otsego County Conservation Association, the Clark Foundation, Inc., and many citizens.