Section 2.8
Agency Contacts and Program Resources

Wide ranging technical assistance for watershed protection is available to local municipalities, landowners, and businesses in the Catskill/ Delaware through a variety of programs. Although funding and grant opportunities change each year, the organizations listed below offer solutions for water quality, infrastructure, and property protection.

Soil & Water Conservation Districts (SWCD)

These local entities provide a variety of services in each county of New York State. Most districts offer agricultural assistance with best management practices (BMPs) through design, installation, and oversight. These BMPs include water management such as diversions, barnyard management systems, manure storages, grazing systems, and animal water systems. Other services include riverfront revitalization, plant materials supply, environmental education, permit assistance, flood mitigation, and stream restoration. The SWCDs are a good starting place for information, assistance, and referrals to other agencies.

Sullivan County Soil and Water Conservation District
64 Ferndale-Loomis Road
Liberty, NY 12754
(845) 292-6552

Rondout & Neversink Stream Program Field Office
A contract with Sullivan County Soil & Water Conservation District funds the Rondout Neversink Stream Program Field Office in the Towns of Denning and Neversink. Activities of the Field Office include working with town officials, highway superintendents, landowners, educators and community stakeholders to assess stream conditions on the main stem rivers: Rondout Creek, Chestnut Creek and Neversink River; implementing Stream Management Plans and recommendations for healthy stream practices; assisting landowners increase streamside vegetation; and educating about good stream stewardship practices.

P.O. Box 256 273 Main Street (Neversink Town Hall 2nd Floor)
Grahamsville, NY 12740
Tel. 845-985-2581
Fax 845-985-7950
info@rondoutneversink.org
www.catskillstreams.org

Karen Rauter, Stream Program Coordinator
Bob Taylor, Catskill Streams Buffer Initiative Coordinator

The Rondout Neversink Stream Program operates in Ulster County through a cooperative agreement with Ulster County Soil & Water Conservation District, Times Square Office Park
652 Route 299, Highland, NY 12528 (845) 883-7162 ext. 202 http://www.ucswcd.org/

New York City Department of Environmental Protection (NYC DEP)

NYC DEP programs assist landowners with the management of their property and streams. Please see below for a brief description of the various programs.

Land Acquisition: In 1997, the DEC issued a permit for DEP to acquire land for the purpose of watershed protection for the purpose of preventing future water quality pollutions as a result of adverse development close to critical natural features and reservoir intakes. Purchase of land at fair market value or placement in an easement is negotiated only from willing sellers. 1-800-575-LAND or (845) 340-7837.

Stream Management: DEP's Stream Management Program was established after the 1996-snowmelt flood to address the systemic challenges to overall water quality in the Catskill/Delaware watershed. Its mission is to establish long-term stewardship of the streams through a watershed-scale, community-based, geomorphic approach. Essential to achieving this goal is the provision of technical assistance to local municipalities, landowners, and businesses within the watershed. The stream management staff is available for consultation on property and infrastructure protection through natural channel design. Staff members also offer training and educational programs regarding these topics. Concerns or requests for service should be made to the Stream Management Program at (845) 340-7852.

Land Management: The Land Management Program develops land resource management plans for DEP properties, conducts a recreational review, and develops basin plans, incorporating specific property-specific uses and stewardship plans. The DEP makes 50% of acquired lands available for recreational purposes like hiking, hunting, and fishing. For additional information call (845) 340-7862.

See also NYC DEP-funded organizations: CWC and WAC below.

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC)

The agency has various divisions, which handle watershed assessment and management, environmental education, fisheries, and flood protection. Information about the DEC stocking schedule, fishing licensing, and access points is available at http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/7917.html and http://www.dec.ny.gov/permits/6091.html.
To receive information regarding any flooding issues and the National Flood Insurance Program, see http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/24267.html or call (518) 402-8185.

In addition to the above services, the DEC is also the regulatory agency for the state of New York's waterways. Having classified Catskill streams, the DEC requires a Protection of Waters Permit for disturbing the bed or banks of a stream. For more information:

NYSDEC Region 3 (Ulster/Sullivan/Orange/Dutchess/Westchester/Putnam/Rockland Counties)
21 South Putt Corners Road
New Paltz, NY 12561-1696
(845) 256-3000
www.dec.state.ny.us

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

The Army Corps of Engineers oversees stream management if a municipality or landowner wishes to install a water-related structure, dredge or fill a stream, or affect a wetland area. ACOE assigns a field technician to visit the site in order to evaluate the need for a federal permit and offers engineering designs and other technical expertise. In addition, they are available for planning, designing, and constructing flood control projects.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Jacob K. Javits Federal Building
26 Federal Plaza, Room 2109
New York, NY 10278-0090
(917) 790-8799 or (917) 790-8799

Catskill Watershed Corporation (CWC)

The CWC is a not-for-profit corporation with a dual goal: to protect the water resources of the New York City Watershed west of the Hudson River, while preserving and strengthening communities located in the region. Pertinent programs for Catskill/Delaware stream stakeholders include the Stormwater Controls for New Construction, Stormwater Retrofit, Septic System Rehabilitation and Replacement, and Alternate Design Septic Program. CWC also administers educational grants for watershed projects. For more information call (845) 586-1400.

Catskill Watershed Corporation
PO Box 569, Main Street
Margaretville, NY 12455
www.cwconline.org

Watershed Agricultural Council (WAC)

WAC offers the Watershed Agricultural Program and the Watershed Forestry Program.

Watershed Agricultural Council (WAC)
33195 State Highway 10
Walton, NY 13856
(607)-865-7790
info@nycwatershed.org
www.nycwatershed.org

Watershed Agricultural Program (WAP)
WAP protects water from agricultural nonpoint source pollution through the planning and implementation of Best Management Practices (BMPs) on farms. Using traditional and non-traditional BMPs, WAP offers alternatives to farmers that promote the health of their land and the stream. Some specific programs are Whole Farm Planning, the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program, Nutrient Management Planning, and Small Farm Program.

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)
CREP is a program for promoting the health of streamside vegetation by providing rental payments for buffer lands that are taken out of production, as well as 100% funding for tree/shrub planting. This program also helps landowners implement stream fencing and livestock watering facilities and other BMPs. Available to

current agricultural landowners or landowners who may not currently farm land, but whose property has a history of agricultural use.

Sullivan County Farm Service Agency
64 Ferndale-Loomis Road
Liberty, NY 12754-2902
(845) 292-6471

New York State Office:
New York State Farm Service Agency
441 S. Salina Street, Room 536
Syracuse, NY 13202-2450
http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/stateoffapp?mystate=ny&area=home&subject=landing&topic=landing

Watershed Forestry Program (WFP)

The Watershed Forestry Program is a voluntary partnership between New York City and the upstate forestry community that maintains well-managed forests as a preferred land use for watershed protection. Forests cover more than 75% of the total watershed land area, and a similar majority of this forestland is privately owned and managed by thousands of individual landowners. To promote forest stewardship and encourage long-term investment in private forestry, the Forestry Program offers cost-sharing to landowners for developing 10-year forest management plans written by qualified professional foresters. Participating landowners must own at least 10 acres of forest land in the watershed. The Forestry Program also offers a variety of cost-sharing, technical assistance and other incentive programs to both loggers and landowners for implementing certain forestry practices that protect water quality, such as properly installing new timber harvest roads and stream crossings or remediating existing forest roads that have documented erosion problems that are periodically sponsored throughout the watershed. For more information on educational workshops and other training events, visit their www.nycwatershed.org

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

FEMA is the federal government agency responsible for administering emergency and disaster relief, recovery, and planning and preparedness programs across the United States and territories. While FEMA's most apparent role is emergency response and recovery, its role in risk reduction through the establishment of building codes and administration of insurance programs like the national flood insurance program provide protection against losses of life and property in the case of an emergency or natural disaster. Based in Washington, FEMA operates regional offices across the United States including the Region II office in New

York City, covering New York State. FEMA works in cooperation with other federal agencies and State and local emergency response entities such as the State Emergency Management Office (NYS SEMO) and county Emergency Management officials (please see below). FEMA provides training to state and local officials on most aspects of their work including emergency response, disaster response planning, hazard mitigation planning, code interpretation and enforcement. Following a declared federal disaster, FEMA's assistance is available to state and local government, private individuals, and businesses.
Floods are the most common disaster that would require FEMA involvement with Catskill watershed communities. To protect against flood damages and the loss of life associated with flood events, FEMA provides the following types of assistance:

• Administration of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Through this program FEMA prepares flood insurance rate maps (FIRMs) that define where floodwaters are likely to cause damage to property. These maps provide communities with a tool to prevent losses through the limitation of building and flood plain modification within these flood zones.

• Management of hazard mitigation programs that help communities identify and modify situations and places at risk during flood events. This would include the development of hazard mitigation plans prepared by communities to help the community reduce or avoid threats to life or property during flood events.

• Following flood events that are declared by the President to be a disaster for a specific county, FEMA typically provides assistance for temporary housing, clean-up, repairs to private structures and repairs to public infrastructure. The availability of this assistance depends on the magnitude of the disaster and the types of losses incurred by the county and its residents. The Small Business

Administration also can provide assistance with low interest loans to private business. FEMA programs are modified frequently and therefore the type and level of assistance will vary from event to event.

• FEMA plays its most important role as a coordinator of response and information in times of a disaster.

To contact the FEMA Region II office, please call (212) 680-3600.

FEMA National Office:
500 C Street S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20472

Region II Office (New York, New Jersey, Puerto Rico, US Virgin Islands):
FEMA
26 Federal Plaza, Suite 1337
New York, NY 10278-0002
(212) 680-3612

It has been suggested that FEMA in collaboration with local municipalities establish a flood damage prevention library. This library would be a "one-stop-shop" for public distribution of National Flood Insurance Program publications. Also, it is recommended that the Towns of Neversink and Denning participate in the development of an All Hazards Mitigation Plan which is now a requirement by the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000. Towns have the opportunity to review the Ulster County Hazard Mitigation Plan and adopt it or offer amendments. FEMA offers Mitigation planning guidance documents at it website:
http://www.fema.gov/fima/planning.shtm

New York State Emergency Management Office (NYS SEMO)

As stated above, the New York State Emergency Management Office is the state entity for pre- and post disaster assistance. Like FEMA, the state office provides planning and resources through cooperation with local governments, volunteer organizations like Red Cross, and the private sector. Where FEMA is primarily involved immediately after a disaster event, SEMO provides long-term recovery solutions. The state agency is more involved in the day to day planning and preparation for disaster response.

Below are summaries of some of SEMO's major programs.

Mitigation: This may be one of SEMO's most influential programs by providing preventative assistance to communities within the Catskills. Mitigation efforts intend to reduce negative impacts of floods and other major disasters by preparing pre-disaster planning. This program also aims to identify potential threats and repeatedly damaged structures and to offer positive solutions to reduce future losses and protect against the loss of life and property. It is the intention that preventative efforts will greatly reduce the cost of recovery and will also reduce the loss of property. SEMO manages a Hazard Mitigation Grant program available to communities that prepare hazard mitigation plans. Communities preparing the plan are eligible for grant program funds to implement hazard mitigation projects following Presidentially declared disasters within New York State. Individuals living in communities with plans may benefit from the program through the reduction in flood insurance rates.

Disaster Recovery Assistance: Recognizing that not all disasters can be prevented, this program aims to provide local assistance for faster recovery by coordinating public assistance funds, disaster housing assistance, individual family grants, and small business administration assistance.

Other Emergency Assistance: SEMO also provides a variety of services during times of emergency. These services include state of the art communications, information dissemination, and emergency operation coordination.

Call the Emergency Coordination Center at (518) 292-2200 with questions or requests.

SEMO Headquarters:

State Emergency Management Office
1220 Washington Avenue
Suite 101, Building 22
Albany, NY 12226-2251

SEMO Region II (Columbia, Delaware, Dutchess, Greene, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Sullivan, Ulster, Westchester):
(845) 454-4620
SEMORegion2@semo.state.ny.us

County Emergency Management Offices

For assistance with flood damage and all related emergencies within Sullivan County contact the Sullivan County Office of Emergency Management/Homeland Security.

Sullivan County Emergency Management
Sullivan County Government Center
100 North Street, PO Box 5012
Monticello, NY 12701-5012
(845) 807-0508
http://www.co.sullivan.ny.us/Departments/EmergencyManagementHomelandSecurity/tabid/3204/Default.aspx

For assistance flood damage and all related emergencies within Ulster County contact the Ulster County Department of Emergency Services/Emergency Management.

Ulster County Department of Emergency Services/Emergency Management
238 Golden Hill Lane
Kingston, NY 12401
(845) 331-7000
asny@co.ulster.ny.us
http://www.ulstercountyny.gov/emergencyservices/management/index.html

Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE)

http://www.cce.cornell.edu/
Cooperative Extension builds partnerships and coalitions with individuals, communities, organizations, government agencies, and businesses around issues of mutual concern; develops local leaders who use CCE knowledge to inform decisions; promotes youth development through 4-H clubs and other experiences; strives to help participants make informed choices using the best knowledge available; connects learners with educational resources found in locations throughout the world; consults with individuals and groups on multiple topics; provides resources via technologies such as the World Wide Web, satellite, and compressed video.

Ulster County:
Cornell Cooperative Extension
10 Westbrook Lane
Extension Education Center
Kingston, NY 12401
(845) 340-3990
ulster@cornell.edu

Sullivan County:
64 Ferndale-Loomis Road
Gerald J. Skoda Extension Education Center
Liberty, NY 12754
(845) 292-6180
Sullivan@cornell.edu

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

www.nrcs.usda.gov/
NRCS delivers technical assistance based on sound science and suited to landowner's specific needs in partnership with local conservation districts serves almost every county in the nation, and the Caribbean and Pacific Basin. Cost shares and financial incentives for these voluntary program are available in some areas.

National Headquarters
Mailing Address:
Natural Resources Conservation Service
ATTN: Public Affairs Division
PO Box 2890

Washington, D.C. 20013

Physical Address:
Natural Resources Conservation Service
14th and Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250

Ulster County:
NRCS Service Center Office
Highland Service Center
652 State Route 299
Highland, NY 12528-2926
(845) 883-7162

Sullivan County (No local office. Closest service center is Walton, NY):
NRCS Service Center Office
Walton Service Center
44 West Street
Walton, NY 13856-1041
(607) 865-7161

United States Geological Survey (USGS)

The USGS provides the Nation with reliable information about the Earth to minimize the loss of lives and property from natural disasters, to manage biological, water, mineral, and energy resources, to enhance and protect the quality of life, and to contribute to wise economic and physical development. The USGS provides a variety of assistance related to the four main categories of biology, geography, geology, and water. The water division is broken down into ground water, surface water, and water quality. Data and maps at their site.

New York Water Science Center
425 Jordan Road
Troy, NY 12180-8349
(518) 285-5600
http://www.usgs.gov/
http://ny.water.usgs.gov/index.html

Catskill Forest Association (CFA)

The Catskill Forest Association is a nonprofit organization dedicated to enhancing all aspects of the forest in New York's Catskill region. CFA offers educational programs at all levels, from one-on-one on-site visits at landowner properties to group woods-walks, workshops and seminars. School-based activities include classroom visits and teacher training such as the Watershed Forestry Institute. CFA is also active in advocating for proper forest management, as well as promoting the economic development of viable markets for a variety of forest products. For more information, email cfa@catskill.net or call (845) 586-3054.

Catskill Forest Association
PO Box 336
Arkville, NY 12406
(845) 586-3054
www.catskillforest.org

Catskill Center for Conservation and Development (CCCD)

The Catskill Center is a non-profit organization working to protect the cultural, historic, and natural resources of the Catskill Mountains through integrated programs such as, *Land Conservation & Natural Resource Protection*: CCCD identifies, monitors, and engages in effective actions to protect and preserve sensitive, ecologically significant, aesthetically, or recreationally critical lands and waters; *Community Outreach and Planning Assistance*: CCCD provides technical support to rural communities in the Catskills on grants-writing, planning, land use, zoning, subdivision, community empowerment, main street revitalization, regional forums, conferences and workshops, producing reports and publications, and public policy development; and *Education*: The Catskills: A Sense of Place curriculum, designed to give children a better awareness, understanding, and appreciation of the distinctive features of our area; and a hike, lecture, and recreation for the general public throughout the year.

The Catskill Center for Conservation and Development
PO Box 504, Route 28
Arkville, NY 12406
(845) 586-2611
www.catskillcenter.org

Trout Unlimited (TU)

www.tu.org

Trout Unlimited's mission is to conserve, protect and restore North America's trout and salmon fisheries and their watersheds. TU accomplishes this mission on local, state and national levels with an extensive and dedicated volunteer network. Local TU members have been active in many aspects of stream management planning throughout the Catskill/ Delaware watershed including legislative activities and volunteer events and funded research projects such as the "Economic Impact Assessment of the Beaverkill-Willowemoc Trout Fishery" to promote improved trout habitats and stream health. Please contact the local chapters for further information: www.tu.org.