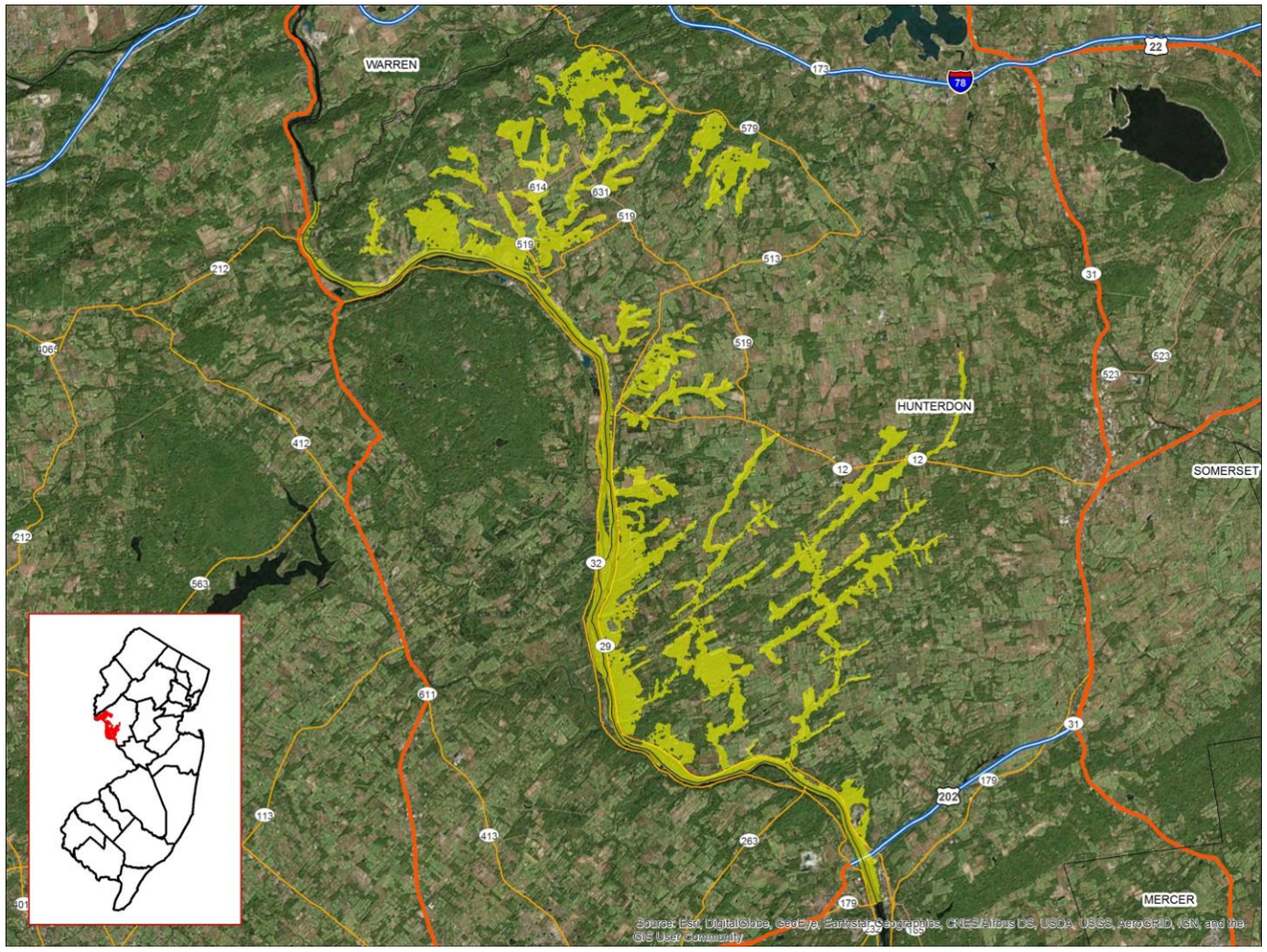
Hunterdon Plateau Delaware Valley Streams CFA - Skylands Region



Description of Conservation Focal Area

The Hunterdon Plateau Delaware Valley Streams CFA is focused on aquatic areas that largely consist of small drainages and moderate gradient streams that drain directly to the Delaware River. In otherwise highly developed areas, these riparian corridors often represent the best dispersal pathways for local wildlife. Longtail salamanders inhabit stretches of streams while breeding bobolinks, eastern meadowlarks, and grasshopper sparrows are present in adjacent grasslands. The habitat conditions within this CFA vary by area and watershed. Much of the area is designated Category 1, indicating that these waterways are of high quality. Changing land use practices, the loss of stream buffers, and the addition of impervious surfaces continue to impact natural habitats and wildlife by increasing the likelihood of point and nonpoint source pollution into waterways. Also, flooding from extreme storms could erode banks and scour stream bottoms. The spread of the highly invasive Chinese pond mussels remains a serious threat to native freshwater mussels in Wickecheoke Creek and tributaries, and possibly the Delaware River. This CFA encompasses 1% of the Skylands Landscape Region at 7,633 hectares including 6,480 hectares of terrestrial habitats and 1,152 hectares of aquatic habitats.

Habitat Composition

Hunterdon Plateau Delaware Valley Streams CFA

Habitat Categories:	Deciduous Upland Forest	Water	Grassland	Deciduous Wetland Forest	Shrub Upland	Upland Forest Mixture	Coniferous Upland Forest	Shrub Wetland	Urban Habitat	Emergent Wetland	Non-Habitat	Wetland Forest Mixture	Barren	Coniferous Wetland Forest	Disturbed Wetland	Coastal Wetland
% of CFA	44.61	15.07	12.54	12.19	6.55	4.07	1.55	1.07	1.01	0.57	0.43	0.17	0.07	0.03	0.02	0.02
Ha of CFA	3,405	1,150	957	931	500	310	119	82	77	43	33	13	5	3	2	1