



## **ABOUT DEHART WATERSHED**

Capital Region Water is responsible for maintaining and protecting the DeHart Watershed Property, the primary drinking water source for 67,000 people. The 8,200 acre property includes over 7,500 acres of forestland (an area larger than the City of Harrisburg) and a 5 mile long reservoir in northern Dauphin County. This property is the source of Capital Region Water's drinking water and the foundation to its award winning drinking water. Capital Region Water is responsible for monitoring and protecting this land to maintain and enhance water quality.

## **IMPROVED MANAGEMENT**

Recognizing the importance of this property for Harrisburg residents and the larger region, Capital Region Water's Board of Directors is considering permanent protection and comprehensive management options for the property to maximize environmental and economic returns to the benefit of customers and stakeholders. Currently, Capital Region Water is considering partnership with the Ward Burton Wildlife Foundation and The Nature Conservancy to grant a conservation easement on the property restricting land development.

## **CONSERVATION PROPOSAL**

Using Army Compatible Use Buffer (ACUB) funds available through the nearby Fort Indiantown Gap National Guard Training Center, Capital Region Water would be compensated for its conservation easement and retain all rights to manage the drinking water system.

The Nature Conservancy would hold the easement and associated rights. The Nature Conservancy would also assist Capital Region Water with sustainable forest management. Because of the use of ACUB funds, the US Army would step in to enforce the easement terms only if The Nature Conservancy failed to carry out its commitment to enforce the easement terms.

## **WHAT IS A CONSERVATION EASEMENT?**

A voluntary, legally binding agreement that limits the specific types of property uses, most commonly land development. The landowner agrees to sell or donate specific rights, typically for the conservation value of the property. Another organization, most commonly a land trust, agrees to hold the rights to enforce the extinguishment or retirement of property rights.

Conservation value includes ecological, scientific, educational and aesthetic value in addition to utilization for potable water and certified forest management derived forest products. In this case, there is also a desire to protect the military mission of Fort Indiantown Gap.

It's the purpose of this Conservation Easement to:

- Maintain excellent water quality in streams and wetlands; and
- Ensure that the DeHart property will be retained predominantly in its natural, scenic, forested, and open space condition, free of additional forest fragmentation or additional development;
- Protect any rare plants, animals, or plant communities on the property.