

Fact Sheet

Ecosystem Restoration Measures

- Option:** **Protect Buffer Areas Known to Contain Protected Species**
- Description:** Protection of buffer areas along streams or wetlands that are known to contain protected species can also afford flood risk management by maintaining these areas in a natural state and precluding development. Protection can be accomplished through land use regulation, land acquisition or conservation easement.
- Example(s):** New Jersey Flood Hazard Area Control Act Rules assign a 300-foot riparian buffer to streams that provide habitat for protected species. Likewise, the NJ Freshwater Wetlands Protection Act Rules assign a 150-foot buffer to wetlands that provide habitat to protected species. Several conservation groups in New Jersey have targeted riparian buffers for land preservation. For example, the NJ Conservation Foundation, the Heritage Conservancy, Trout Unlimited and the Musconetcong Watershed Association are just some of the groups with plans to protect the Musconetcong River and adjoining lands.
- Benefits:** Permanent protection of habitat for threatened or endangered species; restriction on development in areas subject to flood risk; water quality is maintained through presence of vegetated buffers; can incorporate opportunities for passive recreation; public education and outreach regarding species protection and good land stewardship practices.
- Challenges:** Existing development limits opportunities; may involve land acquisition costs; funding sources are limited; can be a long-term process; cooperation of multiple organizations and partners is often required.

