



New Jersey Audubon Welcomes Feedback from 5th Successful Independent Forest Stewardship Audit

For the 5th year in a row New Jersey Audubon has successfully completed an independent third party certification through the Rainforest Alliance

Bernardsville NJ, September 1st 2016: New Jersey Audubon, one of the oldest and largest independent Audubon's in the country, announces it has successfully completed its 5th independent audit by the Rainforest Alliance based on a set of globally accepted standards and policies.

Since the 1990s New Jersey Audubon has been proactively working to help protect New Jersey's forests. With numerous active Forest Stewardship projects around the State, from the Cape May to Sussex County, New Jersey Audubon follows internationally accepted standardized guidelines and conducts independent third party audits, which the organization pays for.

Forest stewardship certification is a widely recognized way of demonstrating responsible forest management. Certification is based on a forest landowner's ability to comply with 10 overriding principles for responsible and sustainable forest management. These principles require adherence to existing law, respect for worker rights and community input; as well as reduction of environmental impact, maintenance of the ecological function and integrity of the forest, monitoring and assessment of forest condition, and social and environmental impact. They also require the continuous updating and use of a management plan. Compliance with the 10 principles is evaluated in comparison to 190 indicators.

"Our commitment to create a healthier forest habitat for wildlife has never wavered. We do this all while abiding by the strict guidelines provided by third-party certification along with all state statutes and regulations. Additionally, New Jersey Audubon pays for, on its own and voluntarily, an annual independent audit conducted by the Rainforest Alliance." said John Cecil, Vice President of Stewardship for New Jersey Audubon

Of the 190 indicators evaluated in this most recent independent audit, only 3 indicators were found to be in need of improvement. Those 3 indicators were not specifically related to the physical work we are conducting with the forest, but rather related to suggested improvements on how we update and engage the public in review of the project. New Jersey Audubon will address those outstanding issues and considers them an opportunity for increased communication with the public about our forest management work throughout the State of New Jersey.

About New Jersey Audubon:

New Jersey Audubon is a privately supported, not-for profit, statewide membership organization. Founded in 1897, and one of the oldest independent Audubon's, New Jersey Audubon is working to make New Jersey a better place for people and wildlife. New Jersey Audubon fosters environmental awareness and a conservation ethic among New Jersey's citizens; protects New Jersey's birds, mammals, other animals, and plants, especially endangered and threatened species; and promotes preservation of New Jersey's valuable natural habitats. For more information, visit

www.njaudubon.org

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