



**NEW JERSEY HIGHLANDS COALITION**

508 Main Street, Boonton, New Jersey 07005

973-588-7190 (office)/973-588-7193 (fax)

[www.njhighlandscoalition.org](http://www.njhighlandscoalition.org)

For Immediate Release:  
February 8, 2010

Contact:  
Julia Somers  
973-588-7190 (work)  
973-525-2768 (cell)

**Grassroots Organizations Working in New Jersey Highlands  
Eligible for Grants from New Jersey Highlands Coalition**

BOONTON, N. J. – Grassroots organizations working on projects within the New Jersey Highlands or working to protect Highlands resources can apply for grants up to \$5000 through the New Jersey Highlands Coalition’s 2010 Small Grants Program. Applications must be received by March 31, and grants will be awarded in June.

“Our region-wide coalition wants to fund local projects or provide seed money to get things started,” said Julia Somers, Executive Director of the New Jersey Highlands Coalition. “For example, last year we gave a grant to Stop the Lines that helped them organize local opposition to the massive PSE&G power line project through the Highlands. We helped get them off the ground, but it was concerned local citizens who carried the ball from there. And that’s the essence of this program.”

Grassroots organizations are defined as non-governmental organizations with a total annual operating budget of less than \$200,000. It is not necessary that the organization be incorporated. Grant awards will range from \$1,000 to \$5,000.

Priority will be given to projects that: focus on implementation of the Highlands Regional Master Plan; establish a precedent advancing strong environmental protection in the Highlands; assist an organization to fight against a environmentally damaging development in the Highlands; support capacity building of Highlands Region grassroots organizations; or educate the public about Highlands water and resources.

In addition to the grant to Stop the Lines, another 2009 Small Grants Program recipient was the Skylands Tourism Council, to fund a brochure promoting Ecotourism

opportunities in the Highlands. A grant also went to the Alliance for Historic Hamlets, based in Tewksbury, to develop a model Master Plan element on preserving historic bridges that could be adopted by municipalities across the Highlands and elsewhere.

The Musconetcong Mountain Conservancy received a grant to help fund a daily email news clip service of articles about the Highlands to keep environmental activists informed. Sustainable Highlands NJ, based in Warren County, received a grant to provide seed money for creating an organization that will promote a sustainable, local and regional economically viable agricultural sector within the Highlands Region. Recently, the Skylands Preservation Alliance received an emergency grant to support their work in opposition to a proposed massive truck transfer station on an active corn and hay farm in Franklin Township (Warren County).

“This is the fourth year for our Small Grants Program, and we are proud to have supported a wide variety of projects and to have helped so many local citizens groups take wing and realize their potential. I look forward to the creativity and commitment we’ll see in the 2010 applications” said the Coalition’s Julia Somers.

Grassroots organizations wishing to be considered for a grant in June should submit applications by March 31, 2010. For more information, contact Julia Somers at 973-588-7190 or [julia@njhighlandscoalition.org](mailto:julia@njhighlandscoalition.org), or visit [www.njhighlandscoalition.org](http://www.njhighlandscoalition.org).

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