PENNSYLVANIA IMPORTANT MAMMAL AREA #42 Cherry Valley Watershed

COUNTY(IES) Monroe

APPROX. SIZE 13,314 acres

OWNERSHIP Public (Federal), Local, Private

REASON FOR SELECTION

- Contains a rare, threatened, or unique habitat type important to mammals
- Sustains a confirmed viable local population of a Species of Greatest Conservation Need and the species or subspecies regularly occurs at the site during one or more seasons

DESCRIPTION

This is a largely undeveloped valley nestled between Blue Mountain and Cherry Ridge (north of the Kittatinny Ridge). It is near I-80 in a rapidly developing area. The upland topography exhibits steep mountainsides with ravines. Habitats are varied, consisting of mostly deciduous forests, cultivated fields, swamps, marshes, and urban areas, but also including streams, open water, mixed woods, grasslands, and fallow fields.

MAMMAL NOTES

This IMA is home to northern river otter, northern myotis, small-footed myotis, snowshoe hare, black bear, and bobcat.

CONSERVATION NOTES

As of December 2008 — A National Wildlife Refuge was established to protect Pennsylvania's rare and beautiful Cherry Valley. The refuge boundary encompasses 20,466 acres in Monroe and Northampton counties. Within this boundary, the US Fish and Wildlife Service may acquire, from willing sellers, lands to be included in the National Wildlife Refuge System.

The Cherry Valley National Wildlife Refuge will benefit not only rare plants and animals, but also a landscape of working farms and private homes woven throughout a beautiful valley only

75 miles from Philadelphia and Manhattan. It is the first wildlife refuge to be established in the Northeast in nearly a decade, and only the third national refuge in Pennsylvania.