



## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

### NEWS RELEASE

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### **PRESERVATION OF STERLING FOREST TO BECOME REALITY GOV. WHITMAN TO TAKE PART IN CLOSING ON PURCHASE OF 14,000 ACRES**

Gov. Christie Whitman tomorrow will join New York Gov. George Pataki and environmental and recreational enthusiasts from throughout the area for the final closing on the purchase and permanent preservation of 14,000 acres of open space in Sterling Forest.

The ceremony will take place tomorrow at 11:00 a.m. at the Bear Mountain Inn in Bear Mountain, New York.

Sterling Forest, which straddles the New York/New Jersey border in Sussex and Passaic County, serves as a major watershed for Northern New Jersey. The permanent preservation of the land will protect the natural habitat and ensure the quality of the water source that serves many New Jersey residents.

The purchase of the property was made possible through funding from the States of New Jersey and New York, the federal government and private and non-profit groups.

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