FY 2011 PROGRAM WORK TEAM ANNUAL REPORT

1. Full name of your Program Work Team (PWT):

Community-based Biodiversity and Habitat Conservation
http://www2.dnr.cornell.edu/ext/pwt/bio/

2. Please list names, affiliations and e-mail addresses of the PWT Co-Chairs: (With an asterisk [*], please indicate the co-chair responsible for finalizing this report.)

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3. Please identify your PWT’s activities, accomplishments, and, most importantly, outcomes and impacts over the past year.

In the spring and fall of 2011, the PWT collaborated to conduct two “place-based” workshops for woodland owners in two biodiversity unique areas notable for contiguous forest and habitat corridors in the Hudson River Valley Region. Un-fragmented forest blocks are important for a number of species sensitive to disturbance and dependent on large areas to meet their habitat requirements. Those workshops were in cooperation with our primary funding source, NYS DEC’s Hudson River Estuary Program and involve several local agencies and organizations. We marketed the programs through a direct mailing to landowners of 40 acres or more in the towns contained within the target region.

The first workshop, entitled “Your Woods and Wildlife: More Information and Tools for Landowners”, was held in the Rensselaer Plateau Region in spring 2011. This workshop was targeted at attendees of previous workshops in the series. Seventy-two forest owners attended the day-long event and collectively owned 5,900 acres (ave. of 125 ac per parcel). They rated the overall usefulness of the program a 4.1 out of 5.0. Most indicated that they would be taking specific steps to better manage their land in consideration of what was learned.

The second workshop was held in the Western Hudson Highlands Region (Orange Co.) in the fall, with 15 attending (a pending storm reduced attendance). The attendees collectively owned 970
acres and rated usefulness of the program a 4.5 out of 5.0. Most indicated that they would be taking specific steps to better manage their land in consideration of what was learned.

In addition to the standard focus with HREP, we also organized and participated in landowner workshops in Lewis and Cattaraugus Counties, partnering with County CCE Associations, Audubon New York, and the NYS DEC State Wildlife Grant Program jointly conducted by NY Forest Owners Assoc. and CCE of Chenango Co.. These workshops reached over 100 landowners.

**Status:** On-going. We will be conducting 2 workshops with HREP in 2012 and will be conducting a program evaluation survey of workshop attendees from the past 3 years to document program impact. We also likely will be expanding our workshops to other NYS regions with an emphasis on working with owners of small woodlands.