

New York City Catskills watershed protection

PES & Nature-Based Solutions · Good practice · United States of America

Quality score: 60/100

Evidence strength: Observational / pre–post

Summary

Rather than build an \$8–10bn filtration plant, New York City invests in protecting its Catskill/Delaware watershed — ~\$2.5bn since 1997 — keeping its drinking water clean at source under an EPA filtration-avoidance waiver.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Carbon — sequestration / storage, evidenced	1/3
Biodiversity — conservation / improvement, evidenced	2/3
Water & soil — retention, infiltration, erosion control	3/3
Fire resilience — risk reduction, evidenced	0/3
Governance, certification & transferability	3/3

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

[C-NAPSE evaluation](#) — accessed 2026-06-19

[NYSDEC — NYC water supply](#) — accessed 2026-06-19

[NYC DEP — filtration waiver](#) — accessed 2026-06-19

Cite this — Evidoria. *New York City Catskills watershed protection*. Persistent ID: 89115d78-e895-4d7d-add3-f093ec9cb682.