

## LYME PA HEADWATERS/STERLING RUN CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION

**STATE PROGRAM:** Pennsylvania Infrastructure  
Investment Authority

**ASSISTANCE RECIPIENT:** Lyme Emporium Highlands II  
LLC

**ASSISTANCE AMOUNT:** \$50 million



### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Lyme Timber Company LP (Lyme) is a private timberland investment management organization that specializes in structuring working forest conservation easements that restrict or eliminate property subdivision and allow for public recreation. In 2018, Lyme applied to PENNVEST for funding to assist in the purchase of 63,500 acres of forestland. The funding consisted of a \$50 million loan at a 1% interest rate and a 20-year term with an interest-only payment for up to five years and 15 years of repayment. With this loan, Lyme put a working forest conservation easement on 9,500 acres which will later be granted to the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources with an approximate value of \$8 million. By following a sustainable timber management plan, revenues from timber harvests will finance the repayments for this loan. The agreement also grants the Commonwealth the right to purchase conservation easements on an additional 50,700 acres for a period of seven years. This project protects a drinking water supply for 12,500 nearby residents and has created over 100 quality jobs in the forest industry. Additionally, \$750,000 will go towards acid mine drainage remediation work on three sites. This innovative project provides for enhanced stream protection, public recreation and access, and ensures that the property remains forested and sustainably managed in perpetuity.

To read more about this case study, please visit [https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2019-11/documents/pisces\\_2019\\_compendium.pdf](https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2019-11/documents/pisces_2019_compendium.pdf).