



# Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail

Fence lizard populations are found in Putnam County in open areas of oak-hickory-ash forest with blueberry, laurel, scrub oak and pine and open rock faces or talus. Work on Upper Overlook was the only portion of the Fjord Trail project that came near to known Fence Lizard habitat (and even so, dens and nests are outside of the project area), and DEC guidelines were closely followed to ensure minimal disturbance. Care to protect these animals and their habitat included:

- An OPRHP/DEC-approved plan was in place for potential encounters
- Barriers were placed to prevent interaction between animals and trail workers
- A licensed snake and lizard monitor was on site for the duration of work
- Social trails were closed, allowing habitats to be restored

Please refer to Linda Cooper's remarks beginning at minute [1:39:32](#) and [1:50:50](#) for more information about how species are inventoried and risks assessed and mitigated.