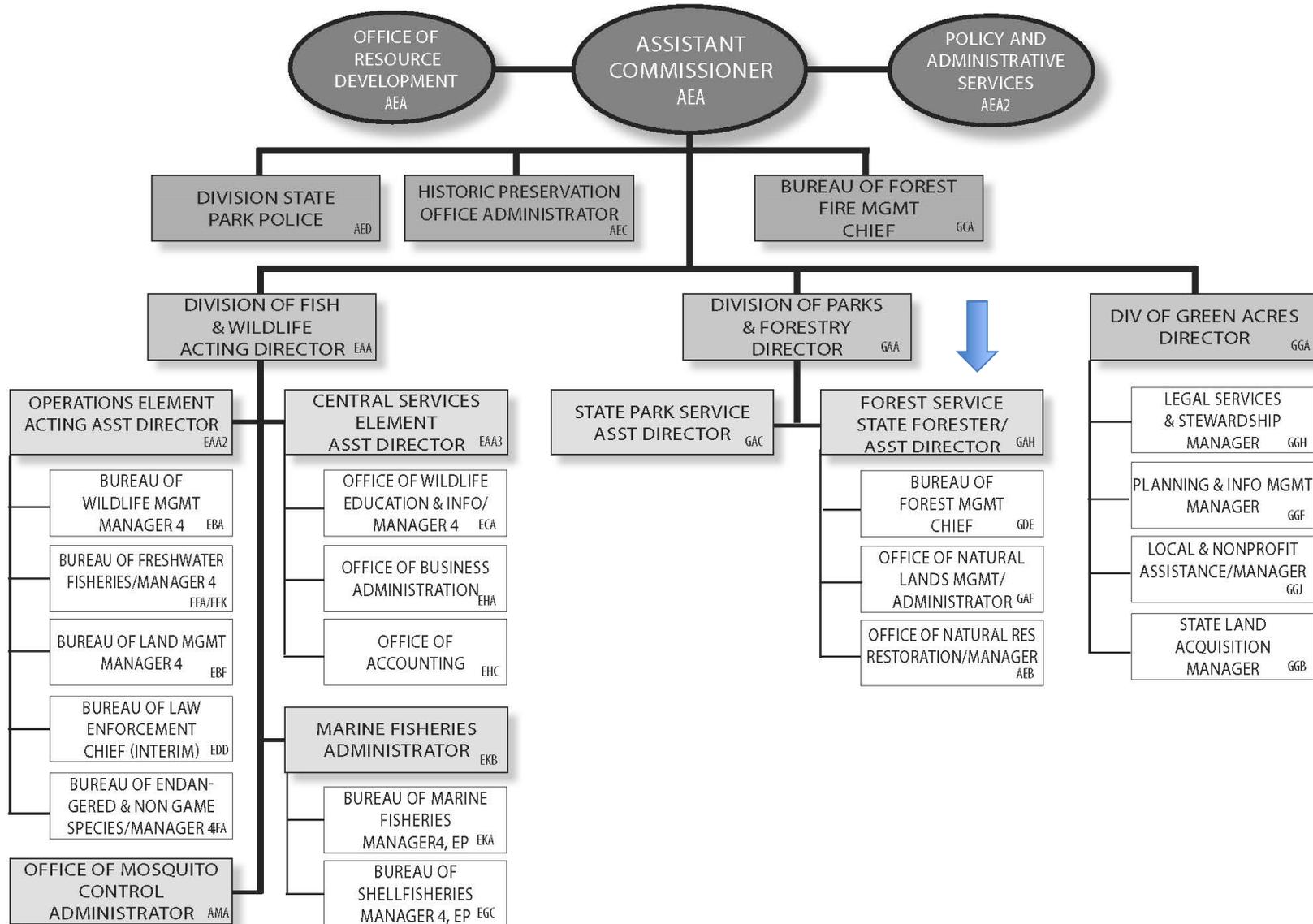


New Jersey Forest Service: Winter 2018 Private Lands Management Update



Jon Klischies, Forester
New Jersey (*The Garden State*) Forest Service

NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
NATURAL AND HISTORIC RESOURCES



Forest Stewardship / Private Lands:

Capacity

- Three regional offices and Trenton:
 - Two foresters in the north
 - Central – vacant (as of December 1, 2017)
 - South - vacant (as of January 1, 2017) Pending entry level forester hire
- Budget:
 - USFS Core funding is critical to delivering FSP (WMP / FHM indirectly benefit)
 - Approx. \$130,000 / year
 - Salary
 - Cost-share
 - Travel
 - Infrastructure (vehicles, computers, data collectors, software)
 - I&E (newsletters, pamphlets, meetings, snacks, etc.)

Forest Stewardship / Private Lands:

Priorities

- Keep Forests as Forests and Keep Working Forests Working:
 - Encourage retention of participants
 - Landowners on their 3rd 10-year plan
 - Strive for and keep stakeholder buy-in for practical regulation
- Timely Review of Management Plans:
 - Inform landowners / consultants of opportunities
 - Inform landowners what a plan is, its criteria and to take ownership
 - Coordinate and communicate w/ consultant foresters
- Work on:
 - How to get landowners to do more than the minimum
 - How to get them over the bureaucracy of state / federal paperwork
 - Streamline metrics: collection and reporting
 - Everything above

Forest Stewardship / Private Lands: Priorities

- Roll fed / State FSP and 'new' FSP into:
 - 1 program
 - 1 set of criteria
 - 1 set of metrics
 - 1 Advisory Committee
- Spatially represent Farmland Assessment plans that become FSPs (SAP and SMART), greater connectivity and landscape level planning
- Prepare bidding process for any future pass-through Core funding

Private Lands:

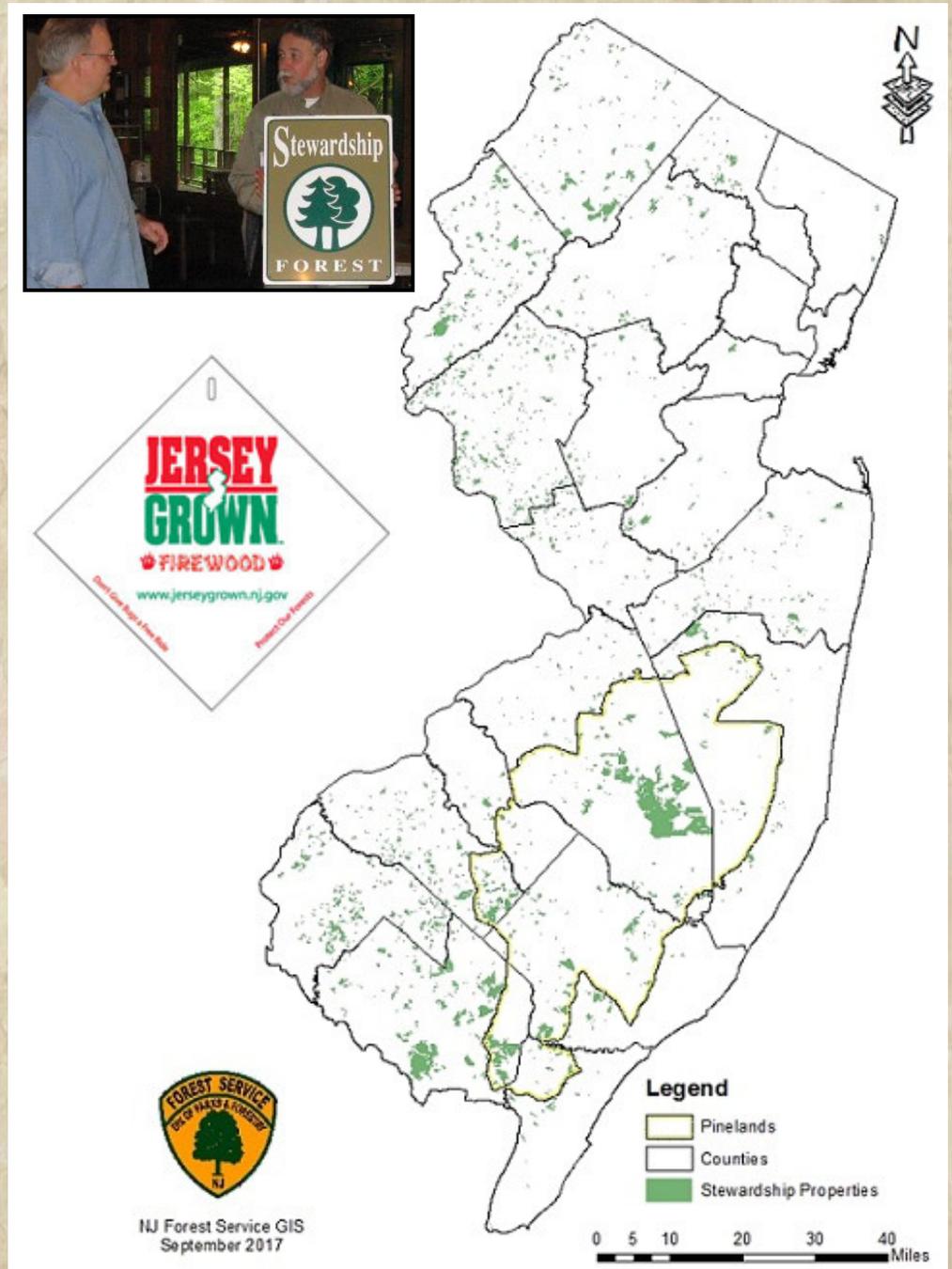
Spatially represented-

- 2,452 woodland owners participate in the Forest Stewardship Program covering over 155,000 plan acres

Not fully spatially represented

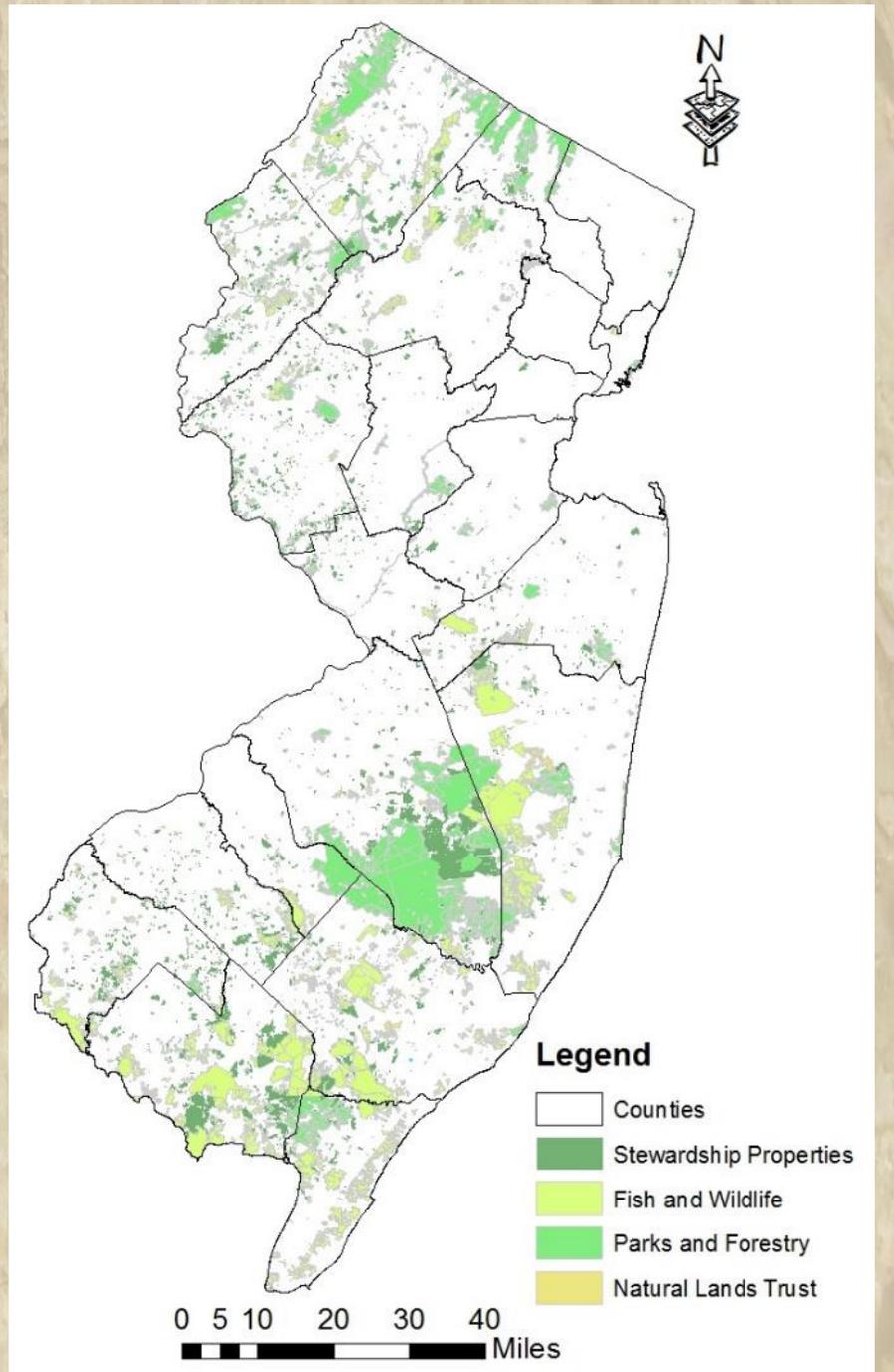
- Over 5,800 woodland owners participate in the Farmland Assessment Program covering over 250,000 acres statewide
- Over 3,300 are not spatially represented

Migrate to a geodatabase



Landscape Level Stewardship

- Foster multi-parcel ownership planning forming landscape level stewardship activities
- State & Private Lands, Forest Health, Forest Fire, U&CF, Fish & Wildlife, NGOS, private woodland owners, consultant foresters, and NRCS
- Funding opportunities



Forest Stewardship / Private Lands:

Key Issues

- NJFS capacity
- Funding for admin, plans and activities (Global Warming Solutions Fund / Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative)?
 - Legislative support
 - Personnel
- Willingness to participate in something new
- Infrastructure
- Integration w/ other S&P, State and federal agencies, and States

Farmland Assessment TY2018:

- NJFS received over 5,800 applications totaling 275,900 acres of non-appurt woodland
 - A lot of good activity is occurring
 - Thank you for using the April 2016 WD-1 Form
 - Positive feedback from landowners
 - Tax Assessor training is going well, North – South – North – South (more scheduled)
 - Plan reviews not as fast as we would like in central and southern offices
 - Please, do not attest a WD-1 for a plan that does not exist (know what you are signing)
 - Non-compliance letters. For the amount of inspections performed the ratio (< 1%) is good but we all want it even lower. Landowners need to follow their plan.
 - Thank you for all your effort!

**Modified Template for SMARTar / PMAS Supplemental Reporting
New Jersey Forest Service**

This report is intended to capture all Stewardship related landowner accomplishments.

**Supplemental SMARTar / PMAS Report
Fiscal Year 2017**

1. Stand Establishment		
Regeneration – Natural or Artificial	<u>1,419</u>	acres
Reforestation/Afforestation	<u>1,042</u>	acres
2. Forest Stand Improvement		
Wood Fiber Production	<u>7,156</u>	acres
Wildlife Enhancement	<u>3,161</u>	acres
Watershed/Fishery Protection	<u>195</u>	acres
Fire	<u>484</u>	acres
Insects/Disease	<u>1,018</u>	acres
Prevention from Destructive Grazing	<u>1,044</u>	acres
Invasive Species Control	<u>2,315</u>	acres
Storm Damage	<u>1,044</u>	acres
Total Forest Stand Improvement	<u>16,417</u>	acres
3. Recreation and Archeological Enhancement		acres
Trails Constructed	<u>0</u>	feet
4. Wood Harvested		
Sawtimber Harvested	<u>5.62</u>	MMBF
Round Wood Harvested (cords/pulp)	<u>24,266</u>	Cords
Round Wood Harvested	<u>N/A</u>	Tons
Sawtimber Returns	<u>\$1,775,608.01</u>	
Roundwood Returns	<u>\$2,034,503.00</u>	
Total Harvest Returns	<u>\$3,810,111.01</u>	
5. Landowners Assisted	<u>6,003</u>	
6. NRCS CAP106 Plans	<u>0</u>	
FSI	<u>0</u>	Acres
Forest Trails and Landings	<u>0</u>	LF

**FSP Regional Reporting
Metrics for Private Lands**

**SMART – Stewardship Mapping
and Reporting Tool**

**PMAS – Performance
Measurement Accountability
System**

Distribution of shortleaf pine (2014 FIA):



- Southern ½ of State
- Occurs on S&P and Federal Lands
- 6,679 acres SLP
- 6,000 acres SLP – OAK

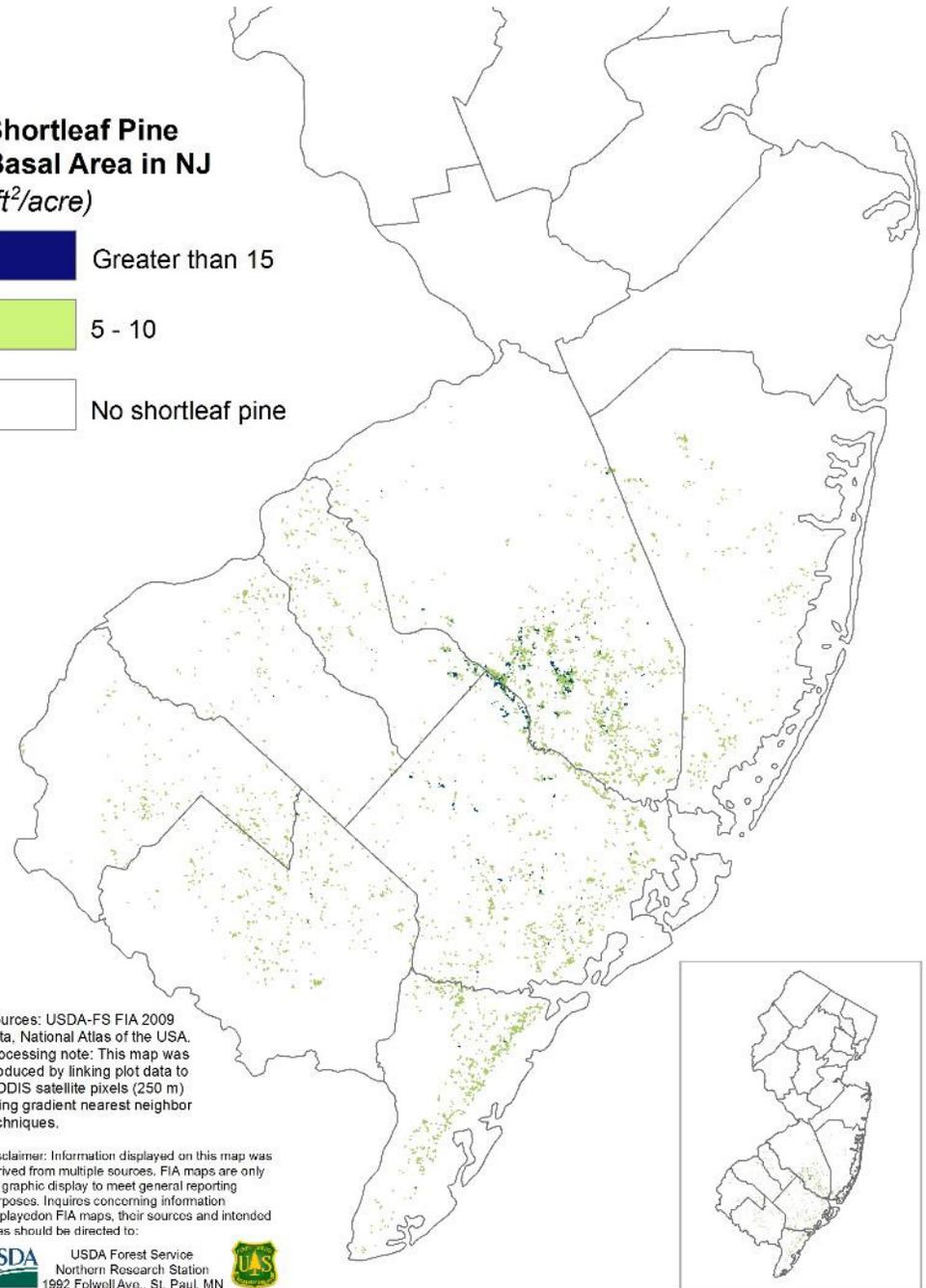
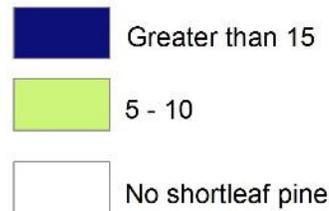
- Over 440,000 acres of pine
- SLP Represents 2% of all pine in NJ

- **Target:** Increase SLP by 30,000 acres (10% of pine) in 10 years on state and private property

- Promote shortleaf in prescriptions for thinning, planting and restoration. Continue to do what is currently being done...just tweak or ramp it up

- Coordinate efforts with state lands planning, private lands management and Forest Fire.

Shortleaf Pine Basal Area in NJ (ft²/acre)



Sources: USDA-FS FIA 2009 data, National Atlas of the USA. Processing note: This map was produced by linking plot data to MODIS satellite pixels (250 m) using gradient nearest neighbor techniques.

Disclaimer: Information displayed on this map was derived from multiple sources. FIA maps are only for graphic display to meet general reporting purposes. Inquiries concerning information displayed on FIA maps, their sources and intended uses should be directed to:



USDA Forest Service
Northern Research Station
1992 Folwell Ave., St. Paul, MN



Wildland-Urban Interface / High stand densities / SPI / SPB:



700,000 people live in the Pinelands w/ densities of 10 – 4,000 people per square mile

Coordinate plan prep & review for wildfire mitigation / fuel reduction / DCAS
with NJFFS and consultants

Private Lands: SPB Mitigation / SPI



Thinned – Non-thinned (yet) line.

- end -

1,500 ac property on their second FSP in the Pinelands



New Forest Stewardship Program

Forest Stewardship Program:

**New Jersey Forest Stewardship law
enacted January 17, 2010**

- Non-appurtenant woodland to qualify for FLA with a Forest Stewardship Plan – **where no income from forest products is required to be reported**
- Requires monitoring of progress toward plan's goals & objectives; to ensure active devotion
- Four stakeholder meetings and sub meetings
- Rule posted in NJ Register April 17, 2017
- **Rule adopted and posted December 18, 2017**

http://www.state.nj.us/dep/parksandforests/forest/stw_inc_prog.html

Forest Stewardship Program:

Still promotes:

Sustainable management of private woodlands

- ✓ Eliminates excessive and unnecessary cutting
- ✓ Provides sustainable forest products
- ✓ Provides wildlife habitat
- ✓ Promotes forest health and mitigates damage causing agents
- ✓ Addresses
 - carbon sequestration
 - fire
 - aesthetics
 - cultural resources
 - wetlands / riparian zones
 - T&E
- ✓ Improves air and water quality
- ✓ Helps with peace and solitude
- ✓ Adds to economy
- ✓ Well-managed forest for heir(s)

FSP:

- One page guidelines with certifications and pledge on back page
- This and a clean version currently posted to Forest Stewardship Program web page

MINIMUM GUIDELINES FOR NJ STATE FOREST STEWARDSHIP PLANS 1/18/2018

1. Title Page

- 1a. Title for the plan e.g. *Forest Stewardship Plan for Jetson Farm*
- 1b. Owners legal name, mailing address, and phone number.
- 1c. Name of the Approved Forester with whom the owner prepared the plan.
- 1d. The property's address, total and forest land acreage, **whether the owner intends to submit for farmland assessment**, county(s) and municipality(s), and for each municipality, each block and lot numbers.
- 1e. Two certifications and signatures, one for the landowner and **one for the Approved forester**. See page 2.
- 1f. For properties under NJ Pineland's jurisdiction add the Stewardship pledge signed by landowner. See page 2.
- 1g. **Space for the NJFS to record received date, date of notice of approval, start and end dates of the plan, and ID number.**

2. Background and Goals

- 2a. **Directions provided for ease of locating property for inspections** (e. g. house number, distance from intersection etc.) and a statement to indicate if property is within the **Highlands** or Pinelands.
- 2b. History of the property including present condition, past ownership, change in land use, past forest management activities, and **if applicable past plan type, reason past plan ended, past plan stand objectives/monitoring data/trends.**
- 2c. Whether the property includes wetlands and/or associated transition areas, flood hazard areas or riparian zones, **easements** that could constrain forest management, and any other relevant factors.
- 2d. Long term goals of the property including **ensuring the sustainability of the land and whether the property will be managed in coordination with other properties.**
- 2e. **Statement acknowledging owners obligation of monitoring and record keeping as well as a statement indicating proposed management will ensure sustainability and eliminate excessive and unnecessary cutting.**

3. Property Overview

- 3a. Including, how the boundaries are marked, forest use (current and/or proposed), acreage, location of the forest on the property, topography, soil characterization, hydrology (resource value, TA and RZ widths etc.), **infrastructure to cross a regulated area, ecology and biodiversity** (including fire), state and federally listed threatened and endangered species*, **threats to sustainability including pests, diseases, storms etc.**
- 3b. Stewardship principles including carbon sequestration, cultural resources, recreation, fish and wildlife habitat, timber, forest products, aesthetics. **Agroforestry**, and **estate planning.**

4. Forest Stands

- 4a. For each stand: A unique identifier, acreage, and a forest inventory including; species of the overstory and understory, forest type, stand structure (age class, DBH class, crown class), stocking level, volume, growth, **site index.**
- 4b. For stands prescribed treatment during the plan period: A stand and stock table, size class, **vigor, density (in BA), status of biodiversity**, status of regeneration, invasive species, **damage causing agents, and litter cover.**
- 4c. **Desired future condition of each stand and relationship to the goals, set measurable objective(s) to achieve such goals.**
- 4d. For each objective, parameters to be measured, how the parameters will be measured (including constraints or **conditions to be observed**), units to be recorded and a baseline value for each parameter.
- 4e. State if the stand will not receive management and if the stand will receive management: rationale (silviculture) and extent of prescription, whether the treatment could adversely impact or potentially impact a regulated area, State or Federally listed threatened or endangered species, or any cultural resource. Include any mitigation measures used to avoid impact.

FSP:

- Sample FSP is posted on Forest Stewardship Program web page
- NJFS is committed to providing our services to consultant foresters, woodland owners, tax assessors and other state and federal agencies to make the FSP as successful as the previous program
- Submit plans for review to the respective NJFS regional office
- If necessary, call office for assistance prior to submitting a plan

http://www.state.nj.us/dep/parksandforests/forest/stw_inc_prog.html

Forest Stewardship Plan for
George, Jane, Judy, and Elroy Jetson
Astro LLC
A division of:
Spacely Space Sprockets

George Jetson
Venus 1234
Sky Pad Apts.
Orbit City
(123)555-1234

Prepared By: Gomez Addams
1313 Mockingbird Lane
NY, NY 10025

240 Main Street
Andover, NJ 07821
Andover Township, Sussex County
Block 1, Lot 1

Total Acreage: 21.27
Forestland Acreage: 18.25

This plan will also be considered a Woodland Management Plan, submitted as part of an application for farmland assessment.

I certify that I am the owner of the property or am authorized by the owner to make this certification. I have read the within Forest Stewardship Plan and the information contained in the plan is true. To the best of my knowledge, the plan meets the requirements of the Forest Stewardship Program rules at N.J.A.C. 7:3-5 and applicable Federal and State law. The owner agrees to implement the plan, as approved or subsequently amended.

Owners Signature: _____ Date: _____

I prepared the within Forest Stewardship Plan in conjunction with the owner of the property. I certify that, to the best of my knowledge, the plan meets the requirements of the Forest Stewardship Program rules at N.J.A.C. 7:3-5 and applicable Federal and State law.

Foresters Signature: _____ Date: _____

Prepared: 12/18/2017

Forest Service only:

Date Received: _____ Date of Approval: _____

Start Date of plan: _____ End date of plan: _____

NJFS ID#: _____ Owner requested start date : January 1, 2018

Forest Stewardship Program:

Forest Stewardship Advisory Committee (N.J.A.C. 7:3-6)

State Forester: Chair

- 1) US Forest Service
- 2) USDA, NRCS
- 3) USDA, FSA
- 4) Rutgers Cooperative
- 5) Division of Taxation
- 6) Department of Agriculture
- 7) NJ Forestry Association
- 8) NJ Division of SAF
- 9) Association of Municipal Assessors
- 10) US Fish & Wildlife Service
- 11) NJ Tree Farm
- 12) NJ Division of Fish & Wildlife

Commissioner's Appointments:

- 1) Forester from NJ Approved List
- 2) Member of a NJ land trust who is actively engaged in natural resource management
- 3) Operator of private forest products business
- 4) Forest landowner who is eligible to have a plan
- 5) Nonprofit organization other than a land trust
- 6) Nonprofit environmental advocacy organization that is not a land trust or conservation organization

In addition, the NJ DEP Commissioner can appoint 3 additional members deemed appropriate

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 = on previous Committee

- Call letter to go out soon -

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In addition, the Commissioner can appoint up to 3 additional members deemed appropriate

Forest Stewardship Program:

Forest Stewardship Incentive Fund within the General Fund?

- Funding for:
 - Grants to persons for the purpose of developing and implementing a plan
 - Administration of the FSP
 - Grants up to \$1,500 for NGO, local governments and private owners of forest land
 - If over \$1,500; 80% up to \$2,500
 - Maximum State fund for any fiscal year is \$150,000



Forest Stewardship Program:

Frequently Asked Questions

Forest Stewardship Program: FAQs

Question:

A Conservation Activity Plan (106-Forestry) is typically required by USDA NRCS for cost-sharing forestry activities through EQIP and other conservation programs. Conservation Activity Plans (106-Forestry) are typically titled "Forest Stewardship Plans". Will DEP Forest Service continue to review Conservation Activity Plans (106-Forestry) that are titled "Forest Stewardship Plan" under the rules for woodland management plans if that is requested?

Answer:

No. Plans received with a title of Forest Stewardship Plan or Woodland Management Plan will be reviewed under the respective guidelines / criteria. The NJFS will not specifically review CAP 106 criteria and / or plans but if the CAP 106 criteria is in either plan, that is fine.

Forest Stewardship Program: FAQs

Question:

It is clear in the rules that landowners seeking FLA must monitor progress and maintain records of the monitoring to qualify for preferential tax treatment. Title Page requirements listed at 7:3-5.3(a)6 include a need to declare if the plan will be used as part of an application for FLA, so the rules seem to recognize that forest stewardship plans may be written for reasons other than property tax abatement. Since those landowners would not have a need to document their activities for FLA, and the plan criteria at 7:3-5.2 does not include that a monitoring requirement must be written into the plan (see below), is it accurate to assume that stewardship plans will be approved by the NJFS without a written monitoring component if the landowner is not seeking FLA?

Answer:

That is not accurate. If a property is not seeking preferential tax treatment the monitoring component is still required. The landowner is still documenting that the activity results are in accordance with the plan. N.J.A.C. 7:3-5.11

Forest Stewardship Program: FAQs

Question:

What is the proper avenue for gaining DEP Forest Service approval for woodland management plan or forest stewardship plan for a municipal or county-owned forest, given that it is property tax-exempt?

Answer:

The proper avenue for approval remains the same, just the FSP criteria has changed. A municipality or county can contact the U&CF program to see if they are eligible for a Community Forestry Plan.

Forest Stewardship Program: FAQs

Question:

We have an open contract with a municipality or a county to do a Forest Stewardship Plan to the 6/16/2016 standards. The draft of the plan had not been approved by the client to be released to the DEP Forest Service for review before the new standards were released yesterday. Stakeholders and/or the client's staff will likely object to titling the document anything other than a "Forest Stewardship Plan." Bringing the draft to the current standards will cost additional funds, which the client will not pay. Can such a plan be reviewed as a woodland management plan, even if it is titled a "Forest Stewardship Plan"?

Answer:

No. A plan is reviewed under the criteria as titled. Forest Stewardship plans received on or after December 18, 2017 need to meet the new criteria, N.J.A.C. 7:3-5.

The NJFS is committed to assisting consultants and woodland owners meet the new standards. If applicable, this could be done as an conversion. Community Forestry Plans are not the same as a new the FSP but can be an option for a local government.

And we need your help!

Forest Stewardship Program: FAQs

Question:

What is an example of a monitoring program for commonly-reviewed goals and objectives that would pass DEP Forest Service review?

Answer:

Objective – In order to regenerate a stand of trees, the objective is to establish 800 seedlings per acre over the course of 3-5 years on all 5 acres of a stand.

Monitoring Procedure – Every 3 years the number of viable seedlings (the regeneration) would be estimated, based on a sampling method given in the plan, and the estimated number of seedlings per acre over each of the 5 acres would be recorded.

Monitoring Result – If there are at least 800 viable seedlings, or more you are on the right track to achieve the objective. If there are less, you and your forester will determine if the amount of regeneration is still within an acceptable level or if additional effort is needed for a higher count of seedlings. Prepare an amendment to the plan if necessary.

Forest Stewardship / Private Lands:

Key Actions over the next 5-years

- Implementation of Fed / State FSP and separate WMP
- Database entry for WD-1 activity information (new private lands database is set)
- Continue / increase training and cross training
 - landowners, consultants, NGOs
 - tax assessors, Land Use Regulation Program
- Getting out the message: Forestry is not a land use change
- Encourage new participants in forestry programs
- Deeper integration w/ other programs e.g., FHM and Fire
- Apply for more USFS, Landscape Scape Restoration (LSR) grants (competitive) that help accentuate what we are already doing...and then some.

Forest Stewardship Program:

Buy-in

- Web-based reporting for accomplishments (all or nothing). Capacity issue
- Reporting to county-level for possible integration with FIA. Database entry could assist but won't account for 'anticipated' that doesn't get accomplished. Your data is accomplished on CF reports
- Tighter reporting of species removal
- We want to have a NJ specific marketing bulletin and will need assistance
- Forest Stewardship Program



Shortleaf pine: Brendan T. Byrne State Forest

<http://www.facebook.com/newjerseyforests>