



The Fourth Progress Report on Plan Implementation

NJ Pinelands Commission

October 10, 2014

Plan Review Report: At a glance

New Jersey Pinelands Commission

Comprehensive Management Plan



The Fourth Progress Report on Plan Implementation

September 2014

Nancy Wittenberg, Executive Director

- Describes the Commission's actions from July 1, 2001 to June 30, 2012, the period since the last report was issued.
- Features chapters on Land Use and Planning, Regulatory Programs, Permanent Land Protection, Memorandums of Agreement, Public Information and Outreach, Economic Monitoring, Science and Recommendations.

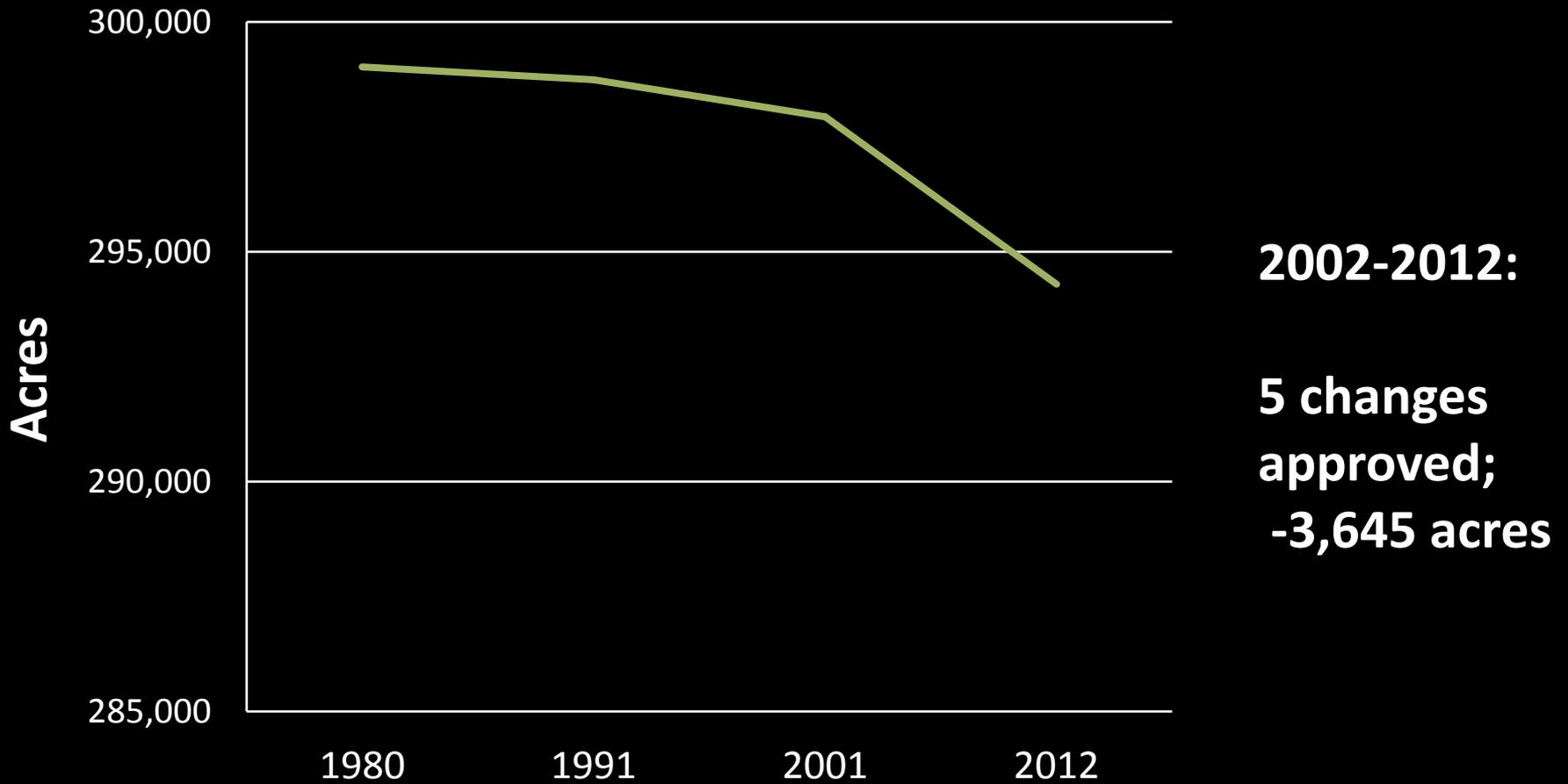
Land Use & Planning Highlights

Pinelands Management Areas (2001-2012)

- 21 municipalities adopted boundary changes
- 32 changes in boundaries were approved
- 53% affected less than 100 acres
- Largest increase: Forest Area (+8,000 acres)
- Largest decrease: Rural Development Area (-7,000 acres)

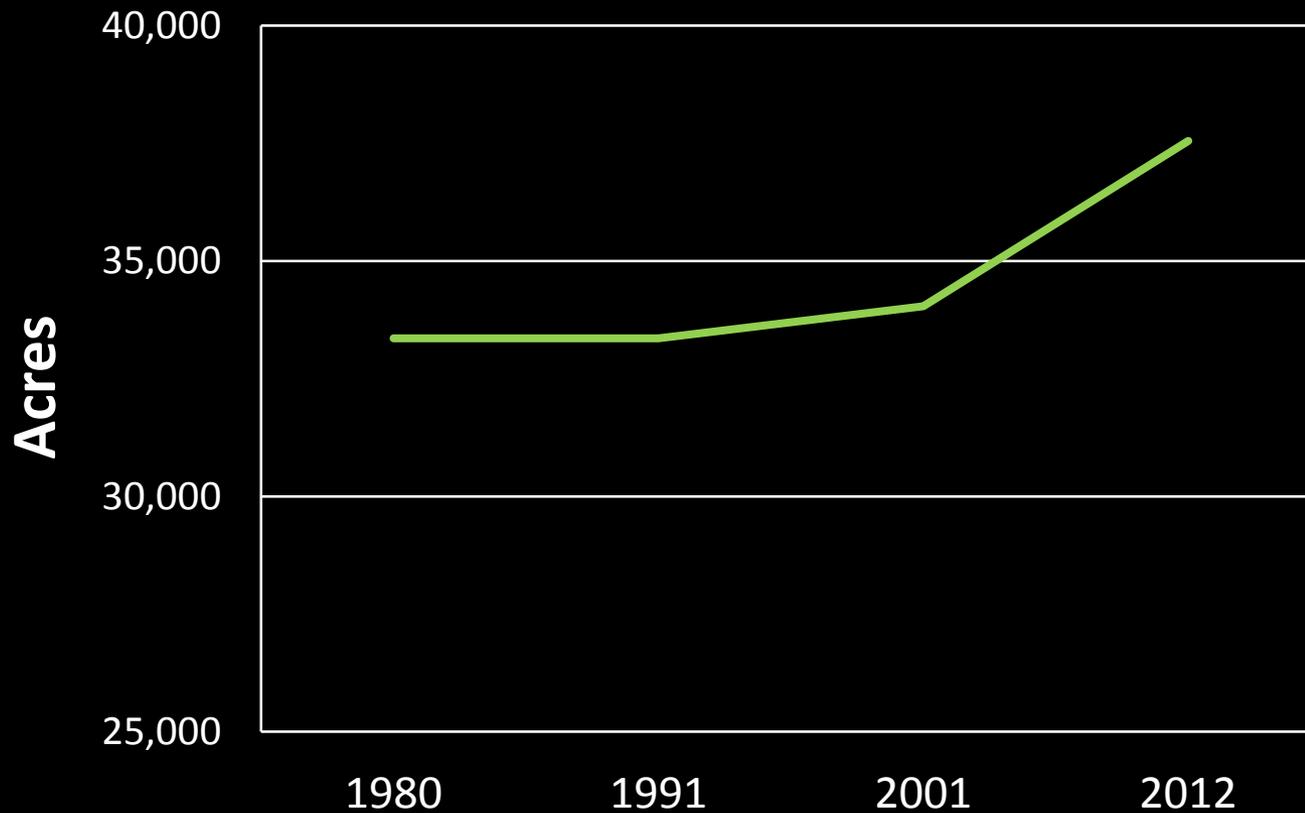
Preservation Area District

Change in Acreage 1980-2012



Special Agricultural Production Area

Change in Acreage 1980-2012

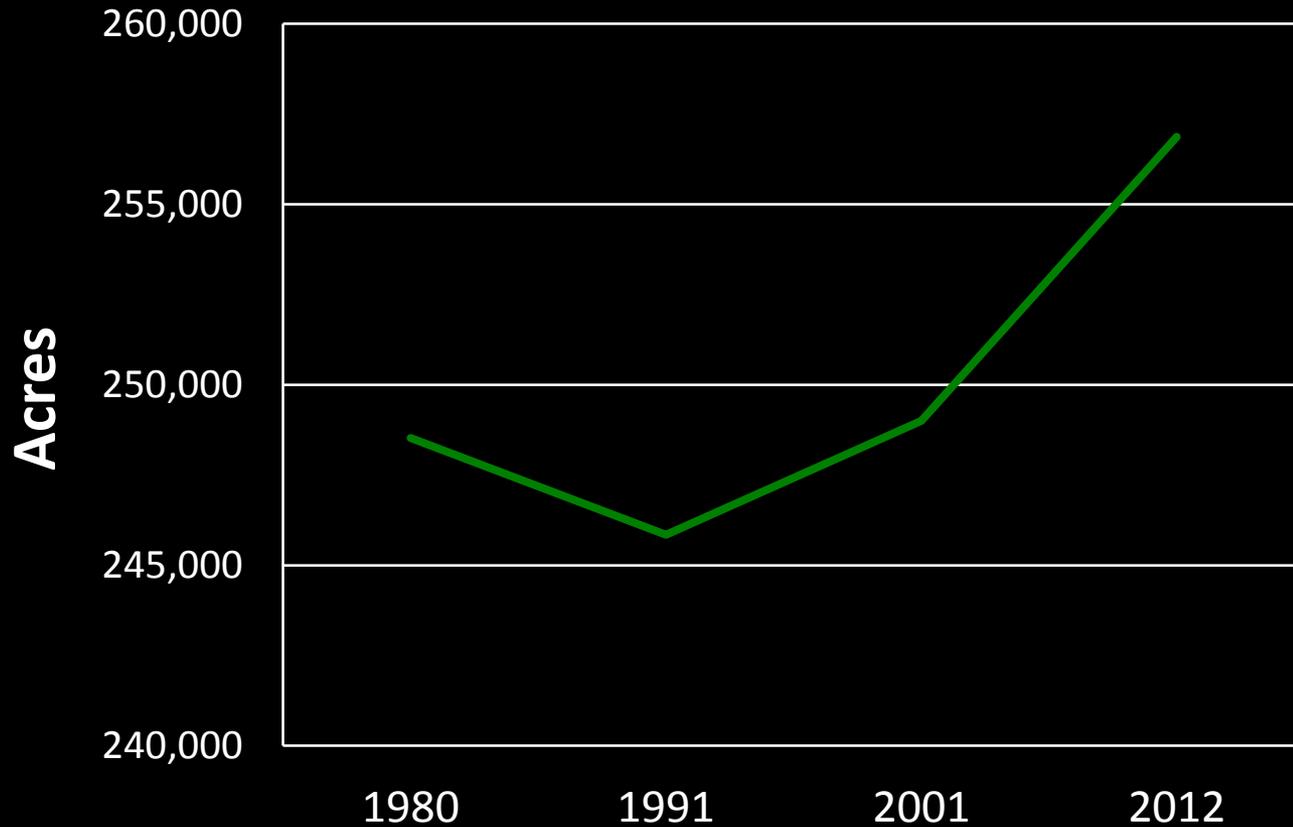


2002-2012:

**1 change
approved;
+3,510 acres**

Forest Area

Change in Acreage 1980-2012

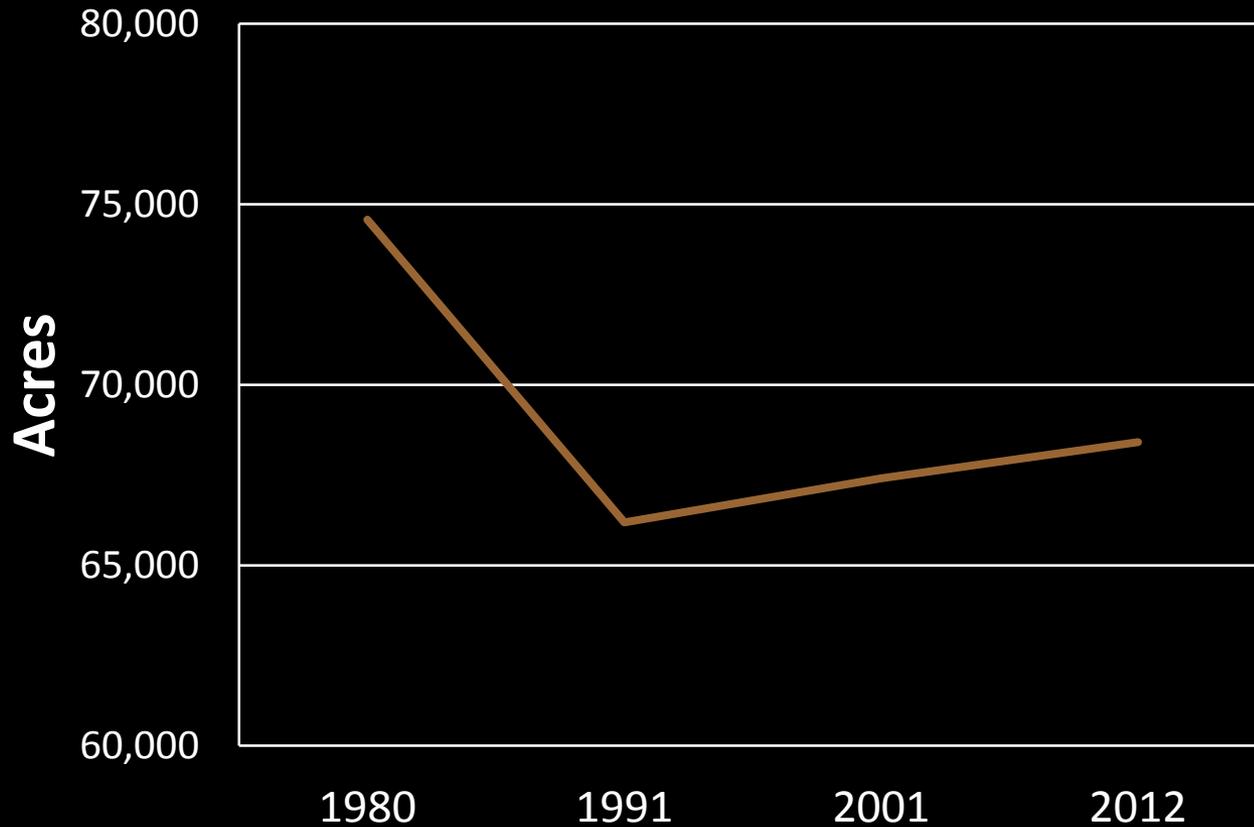


2002-2012:

**13 changes
approved;
+8,000 acres**

Agricultural Production Area

Change in Acreage 1980-2012

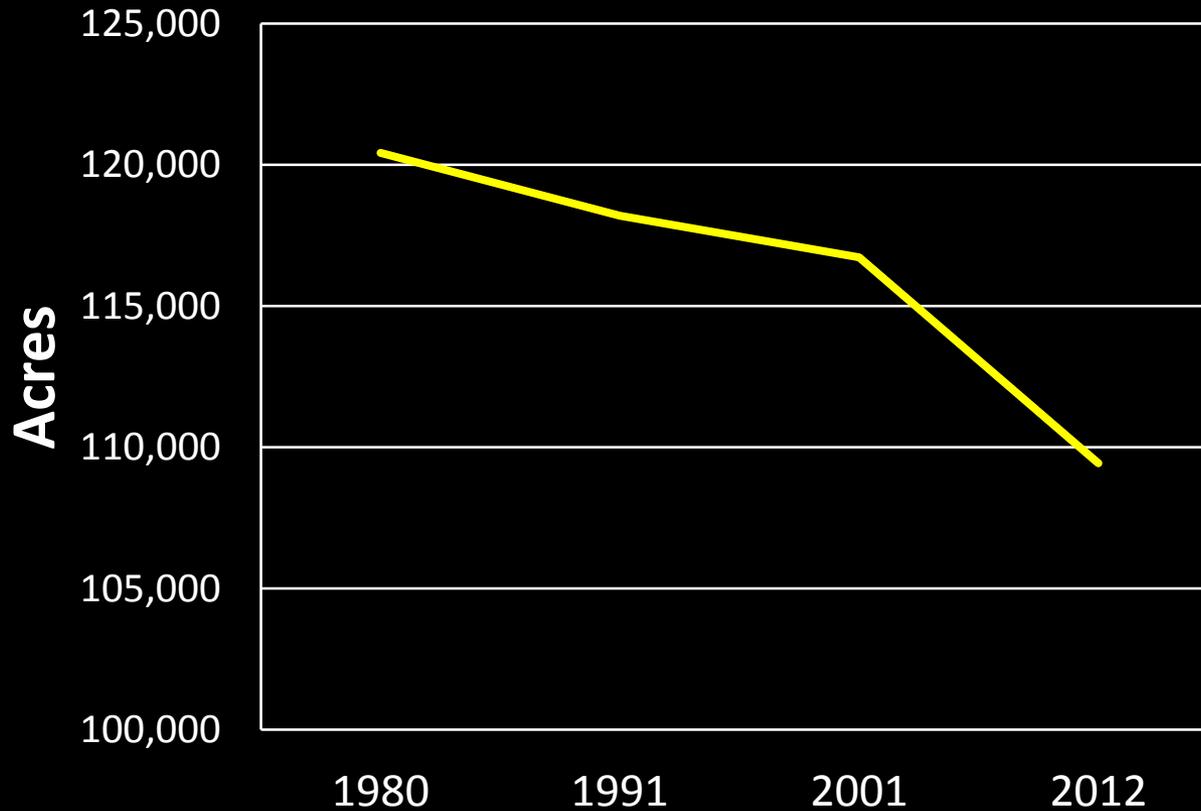


2002-2012:

**11 approved
changes;
+1,000 acres**

Rural Development Area

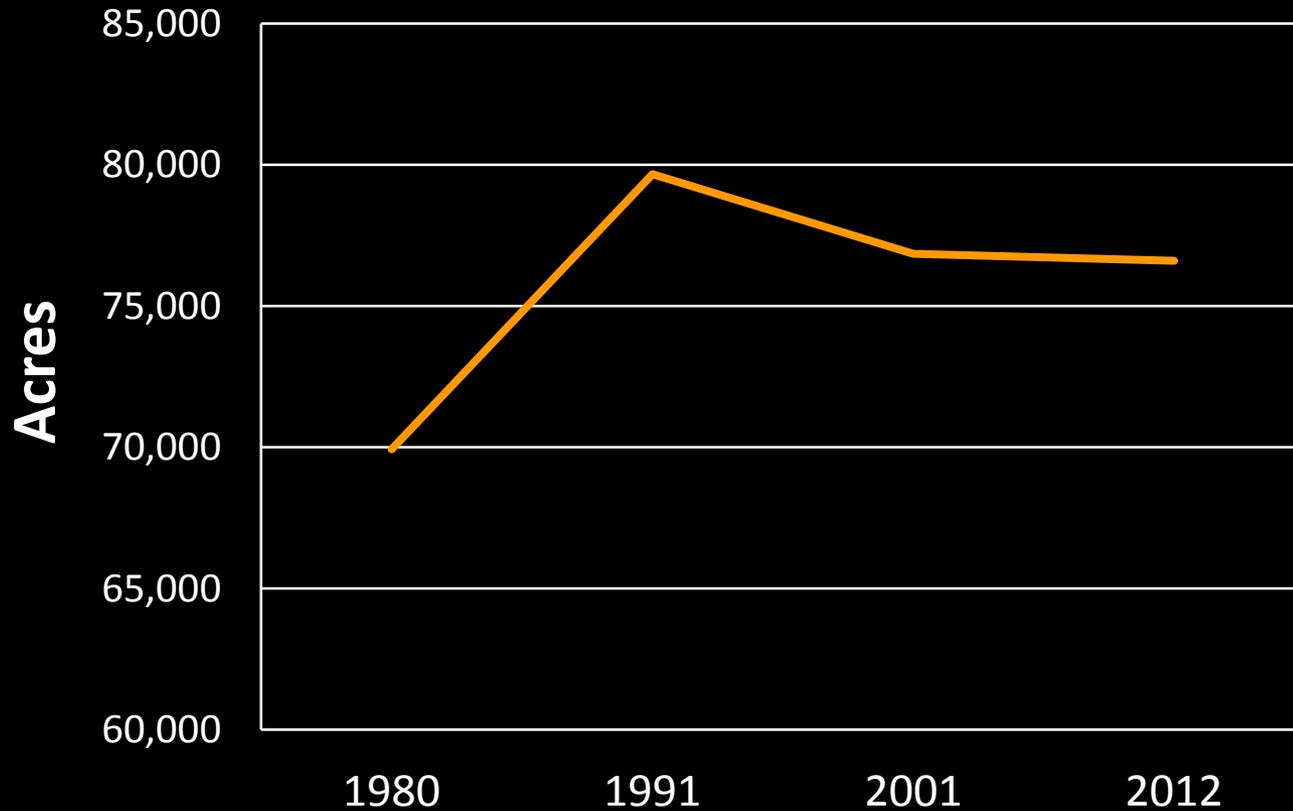
Change in Acreage 1980-2012



2002-2012:
14 towns;
-7,300 acres

Regional Growth Area

Change in Acreage 1980-2012

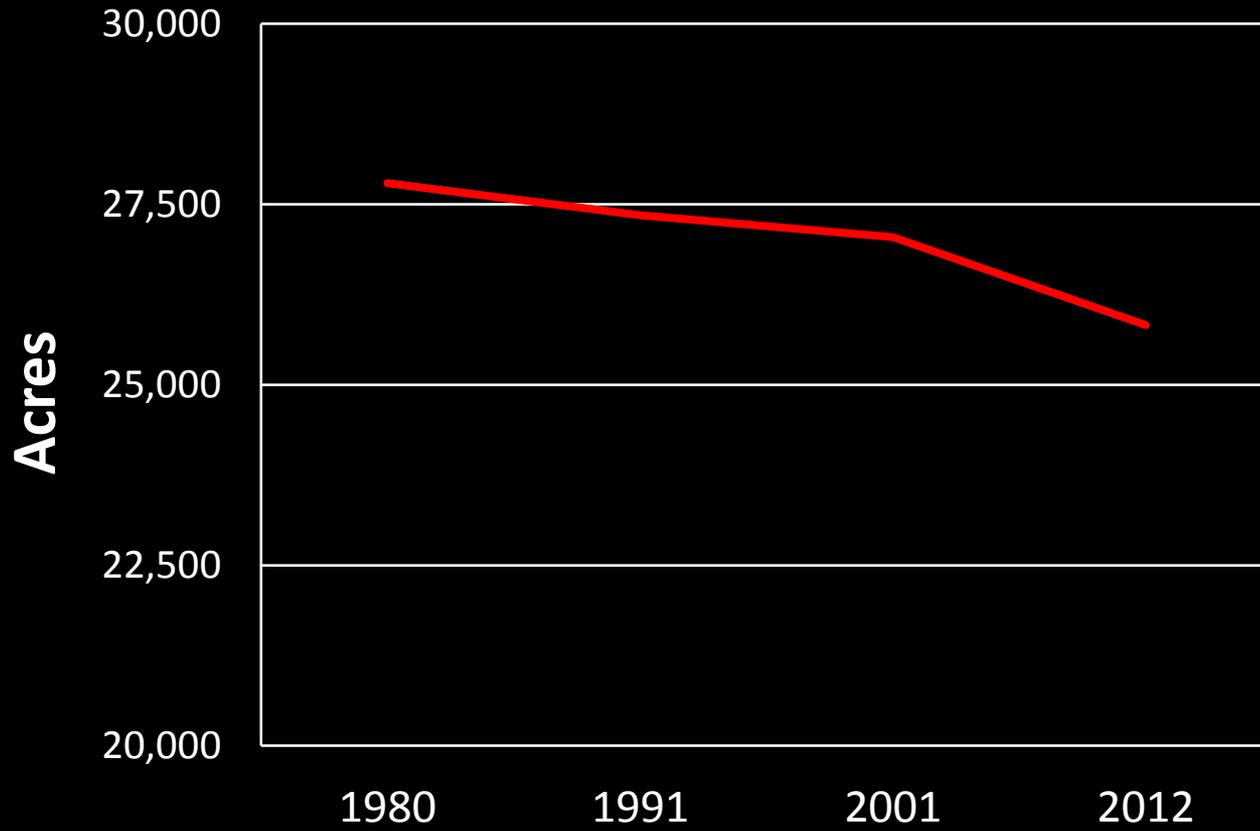


2002-2012:

**6 approved
changes;
-242 acres**

Pinelands Villages

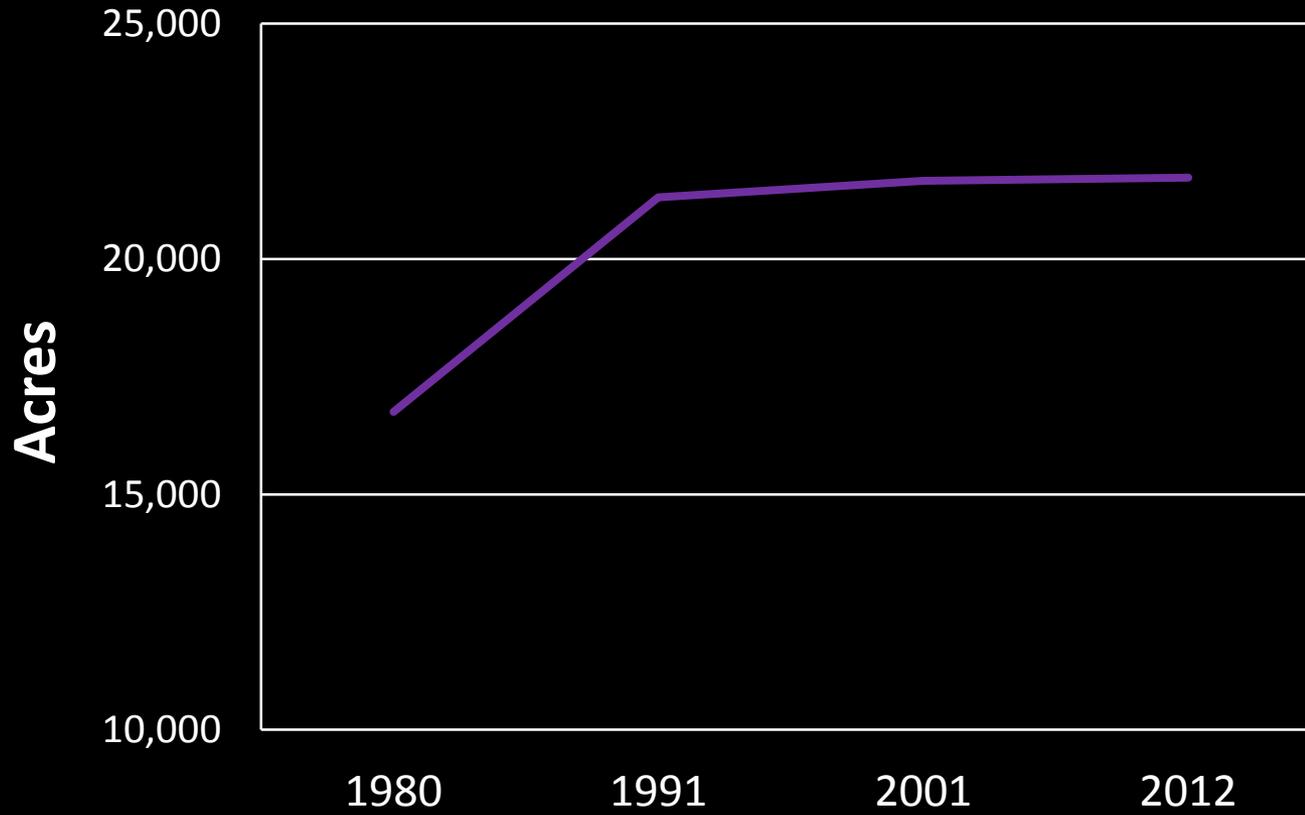
Change in Acreage 1980-2012



2002-2012:
10 villages;
-1,218 acres

Pinelands Towns

Change in Acreage 1980-2012

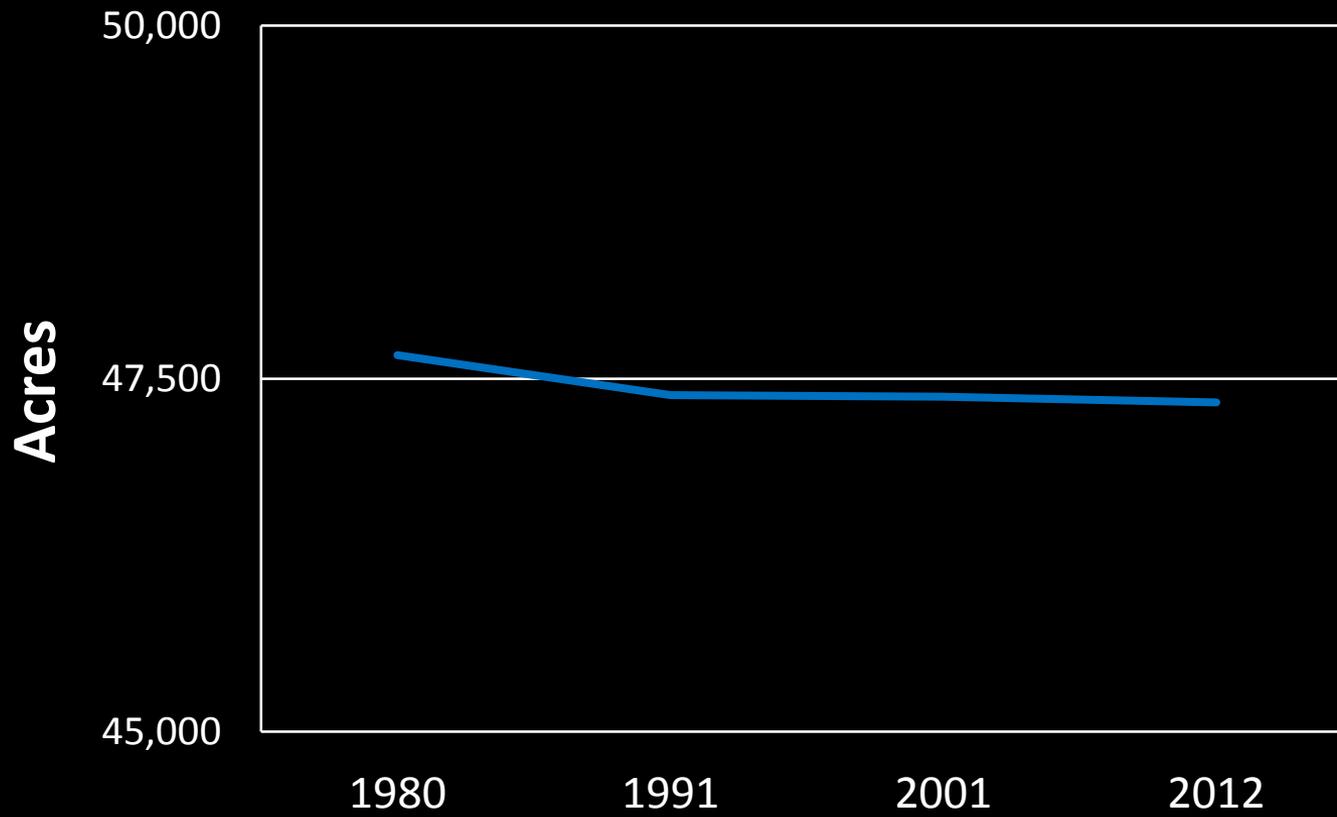


2002-2012:

**5 approved
changes;
+70 acres**

Military/Federal Installation Area

Change in Acreage 1980-2012



2002-2012:

**1 change
approved;
+40 acres**

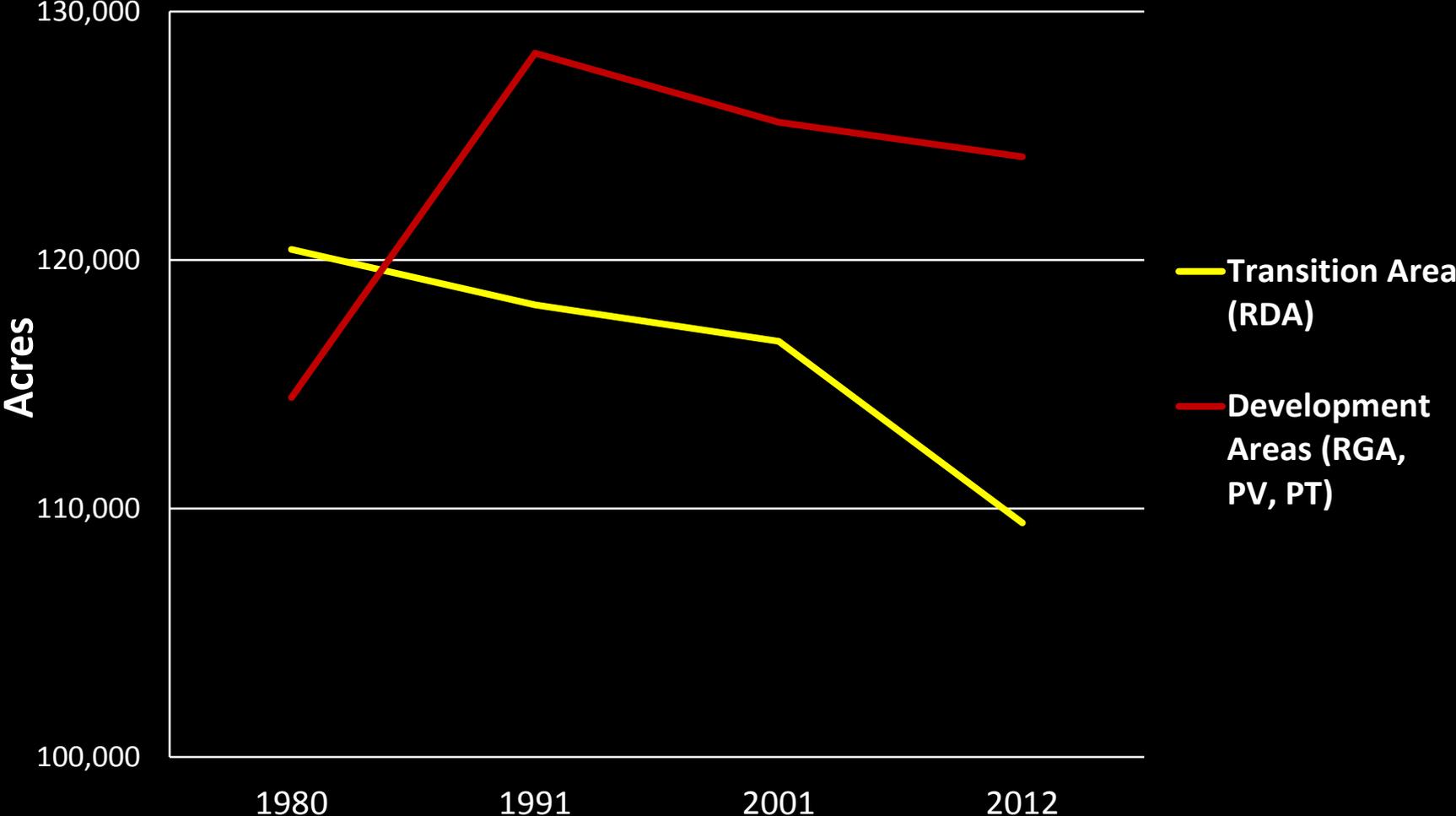
Summary of Conservation-Oriented Management Areas (PAD, SAPA, FA, APA)

Change in Acreage 1980-2012



Summary of Transition and Development-Oriented Management Areas

Change in Acreage 1980-2012



CMP Amendments (2002-2012)

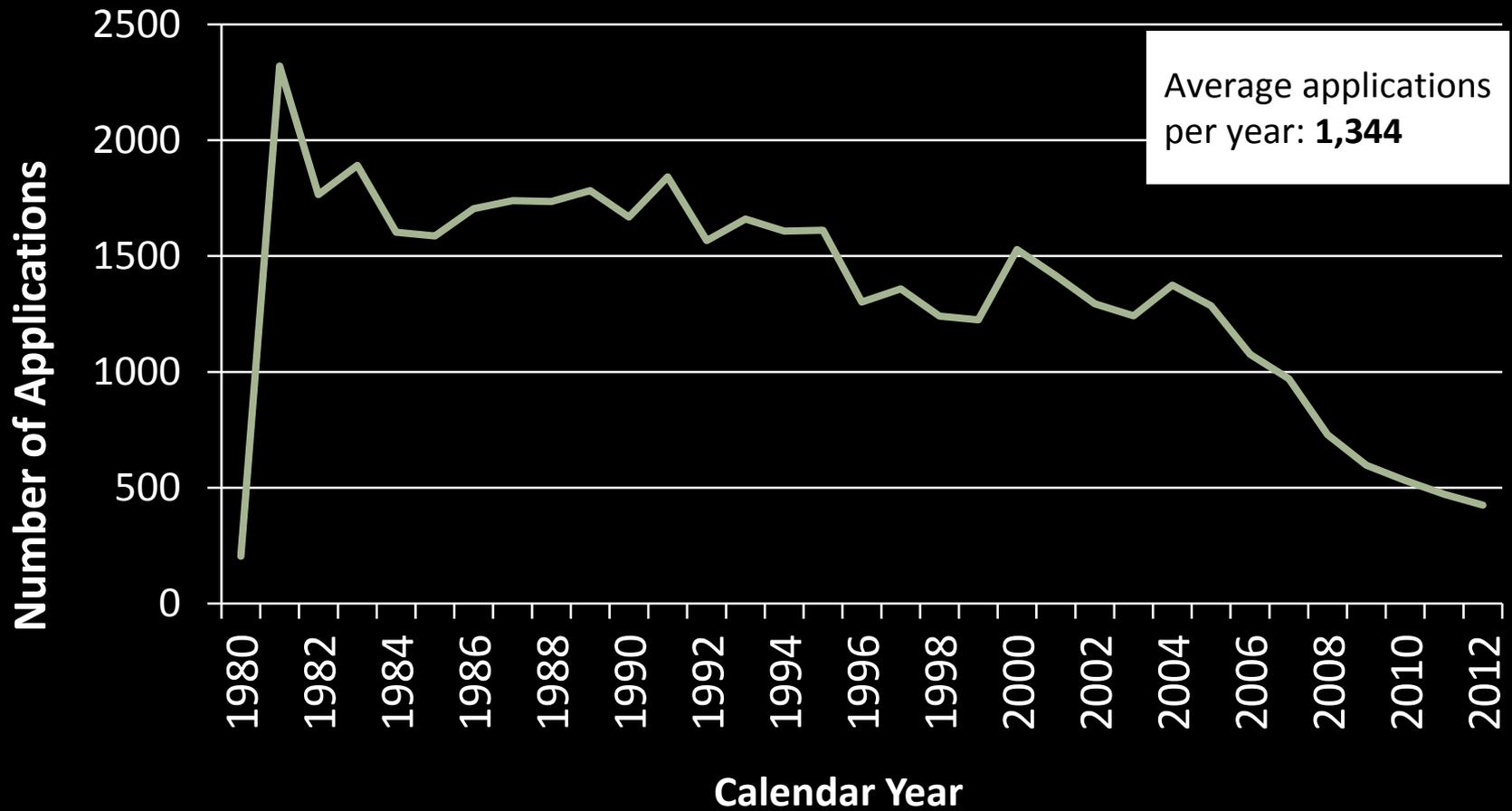
- Application fees and escrows
- Garden State Parkway Overlay District
- Nonconforming uses
- Cluster development
- Solar energy facilities
- Stormwater management
- Forestry
- Cape May Landfill expansion



Total CMP amendments during the
Plan Review Period: **19**

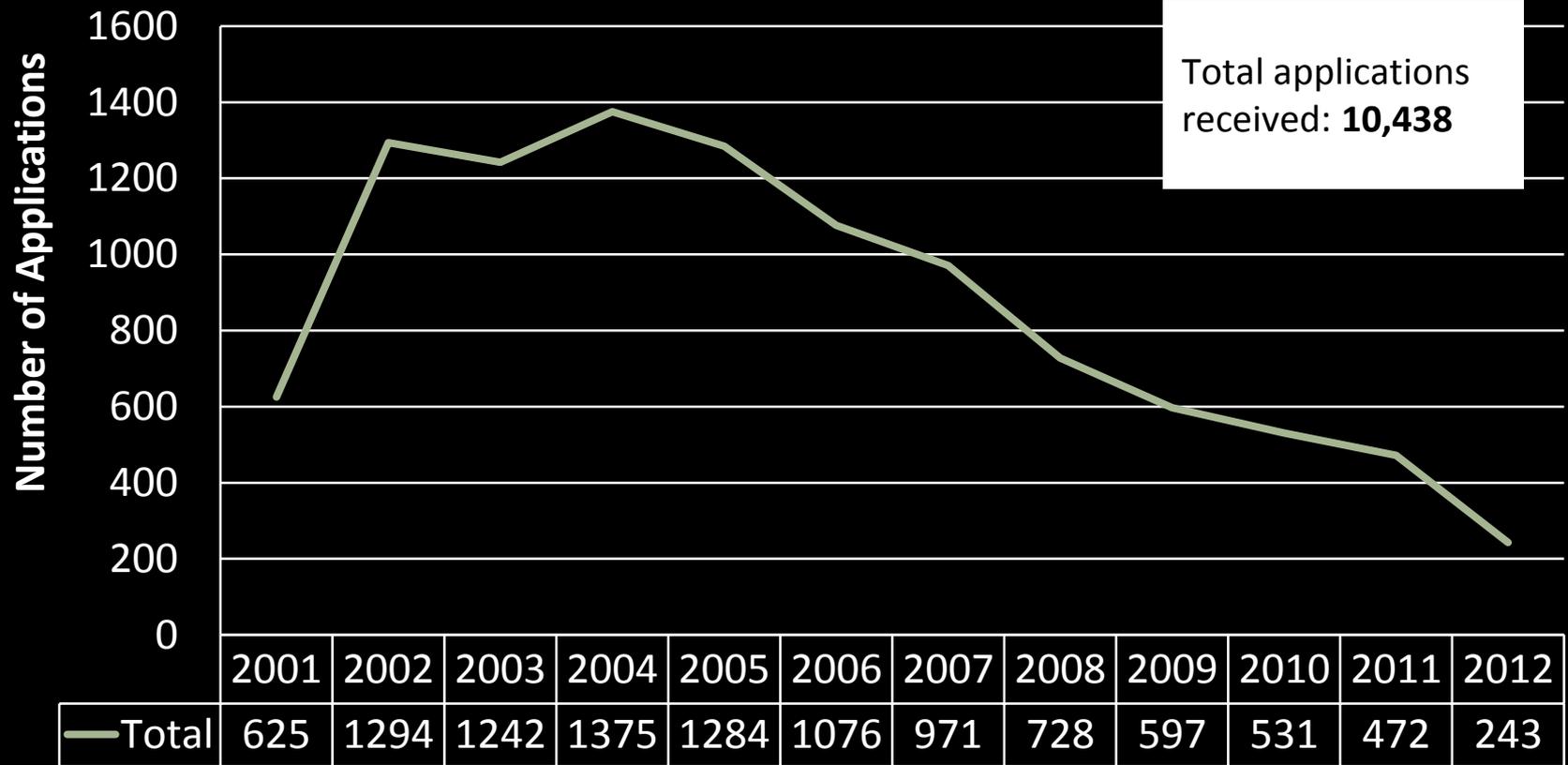
Regulatory Programs Highlights: Applications Received

January 1, 1980 – December 31, 2012



Regulatory Programs Highlights: Applications Received

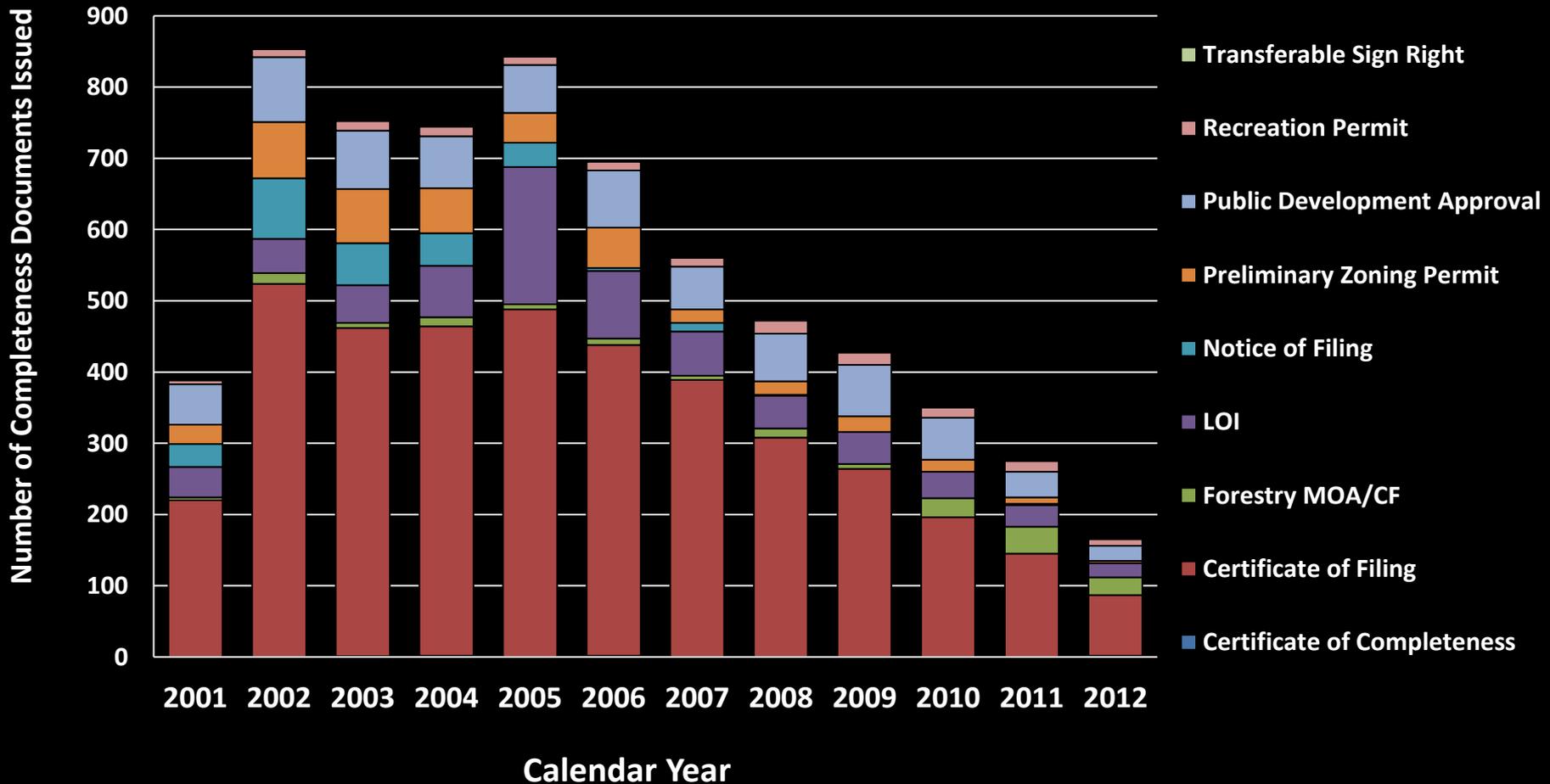
July 1, 2001 – June 30, 2012



Calendar Year and Total of Received Applications

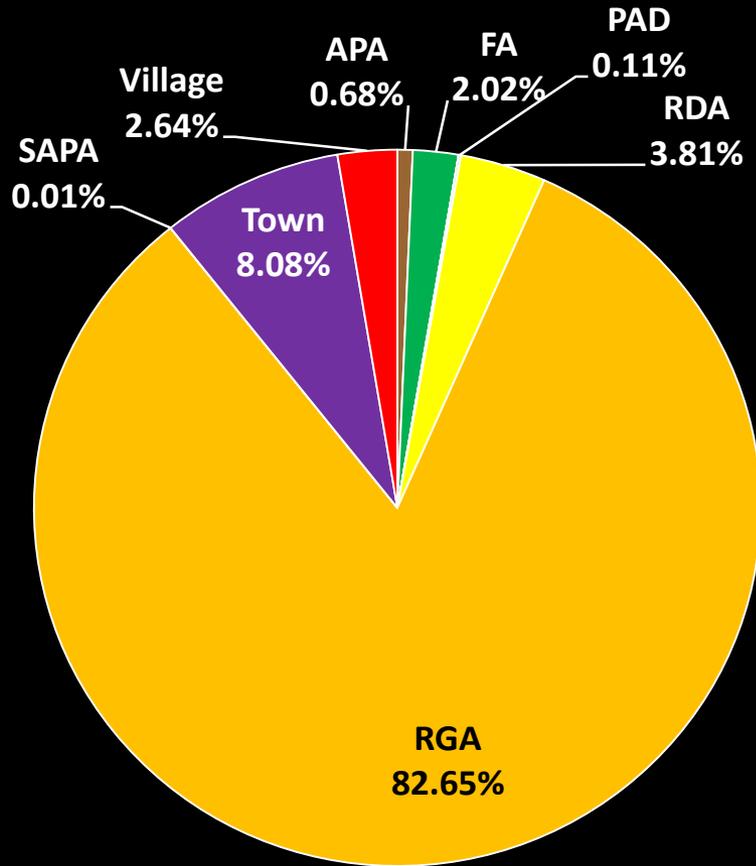
Regulatory Programs Highlights: Applications Completed

July 1, 2001 – June 30, 2012



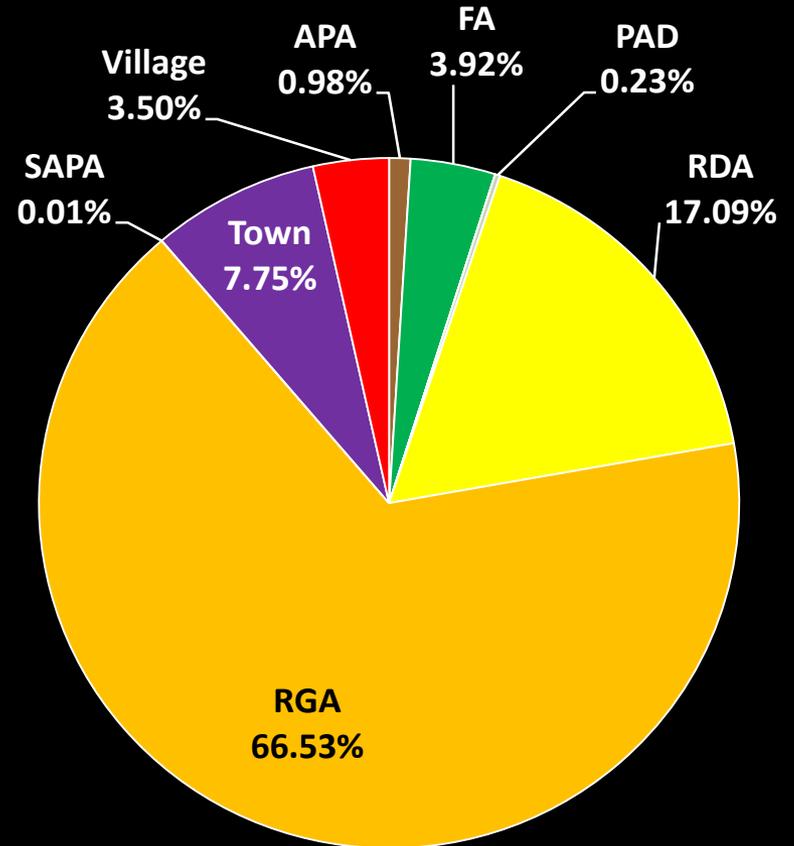
Approved Residential Units

July 1, 2001 – June 30, 2012



Total approved residential units: **16,522**

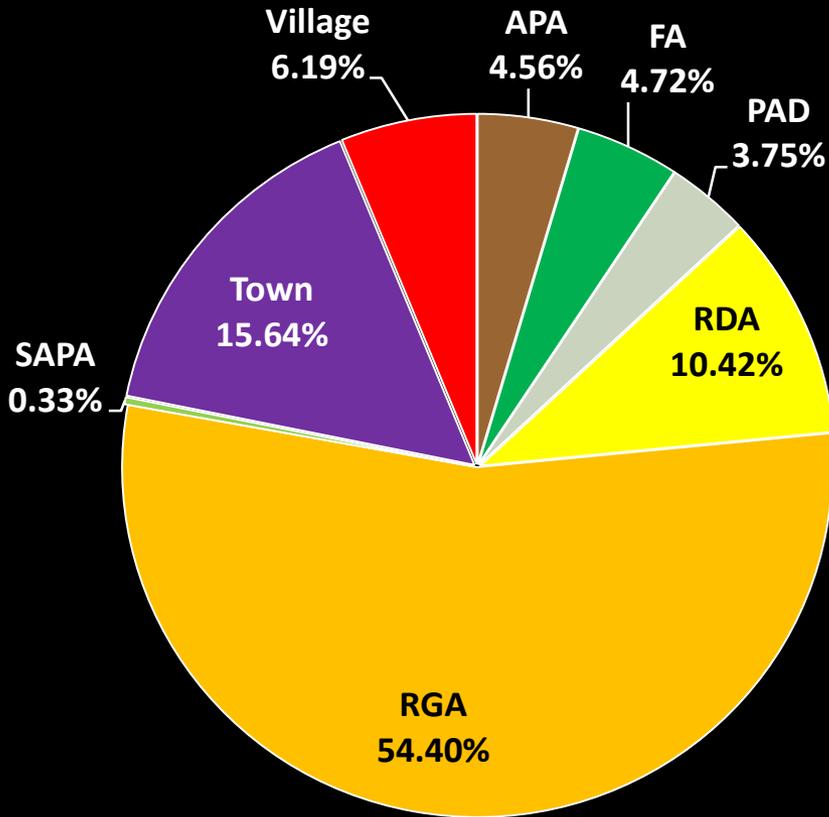
Sept. 23, 1980 – June 30, 2012



Total approved residential units: **56,016**

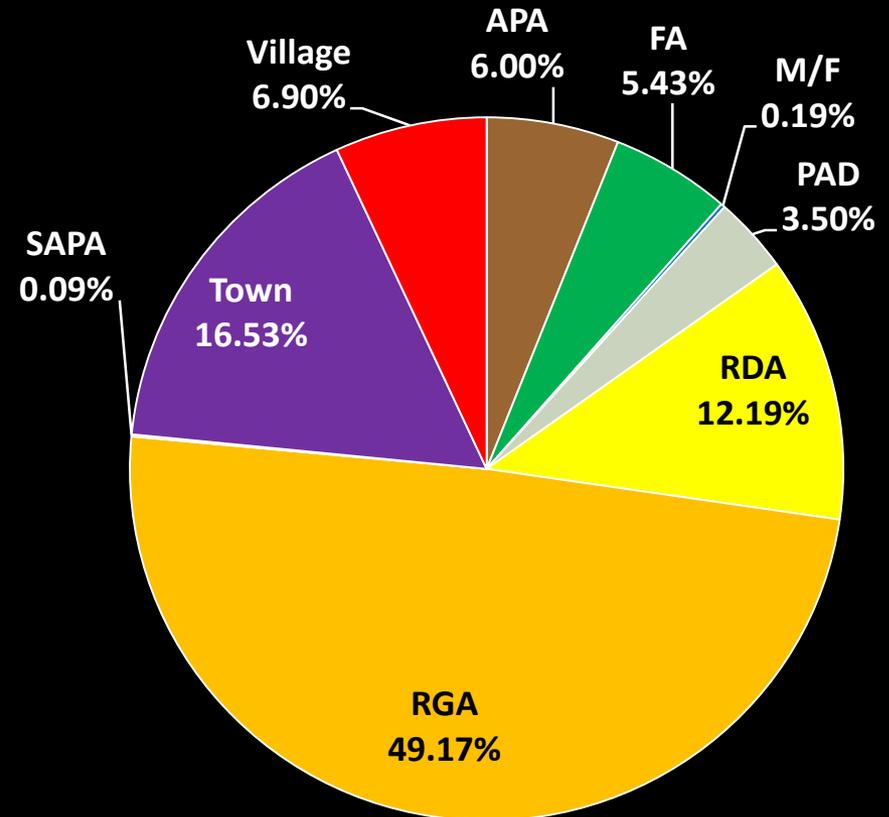
Approved Commercial Development

July 1, 2001 – June 30, 2012



Total commercial approvals: **614**

Sept. 23, 1980 – June 30, 2012

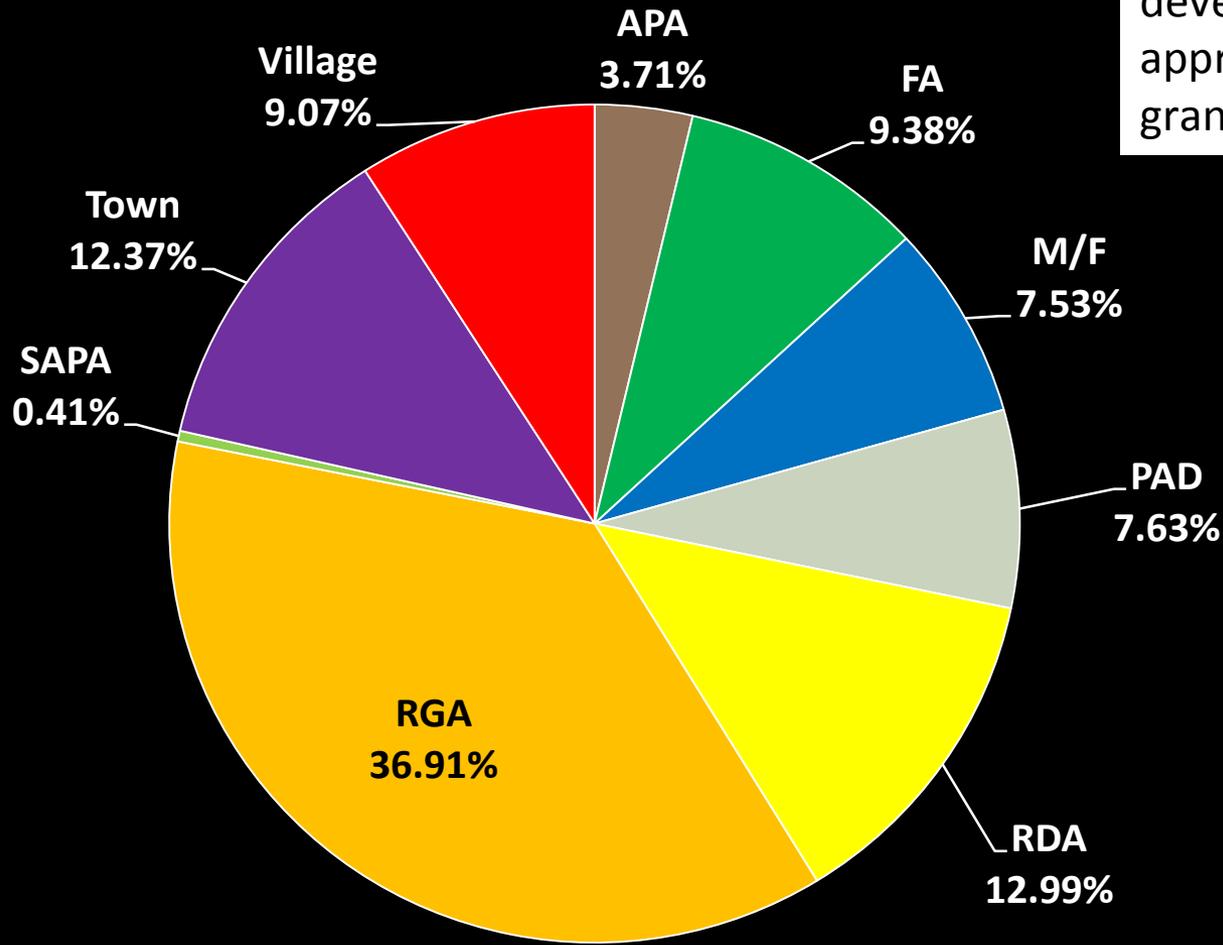


Total commercial approvals: **2,117**

Public Development Approvals

July 1, 2001 – June 30, 2012

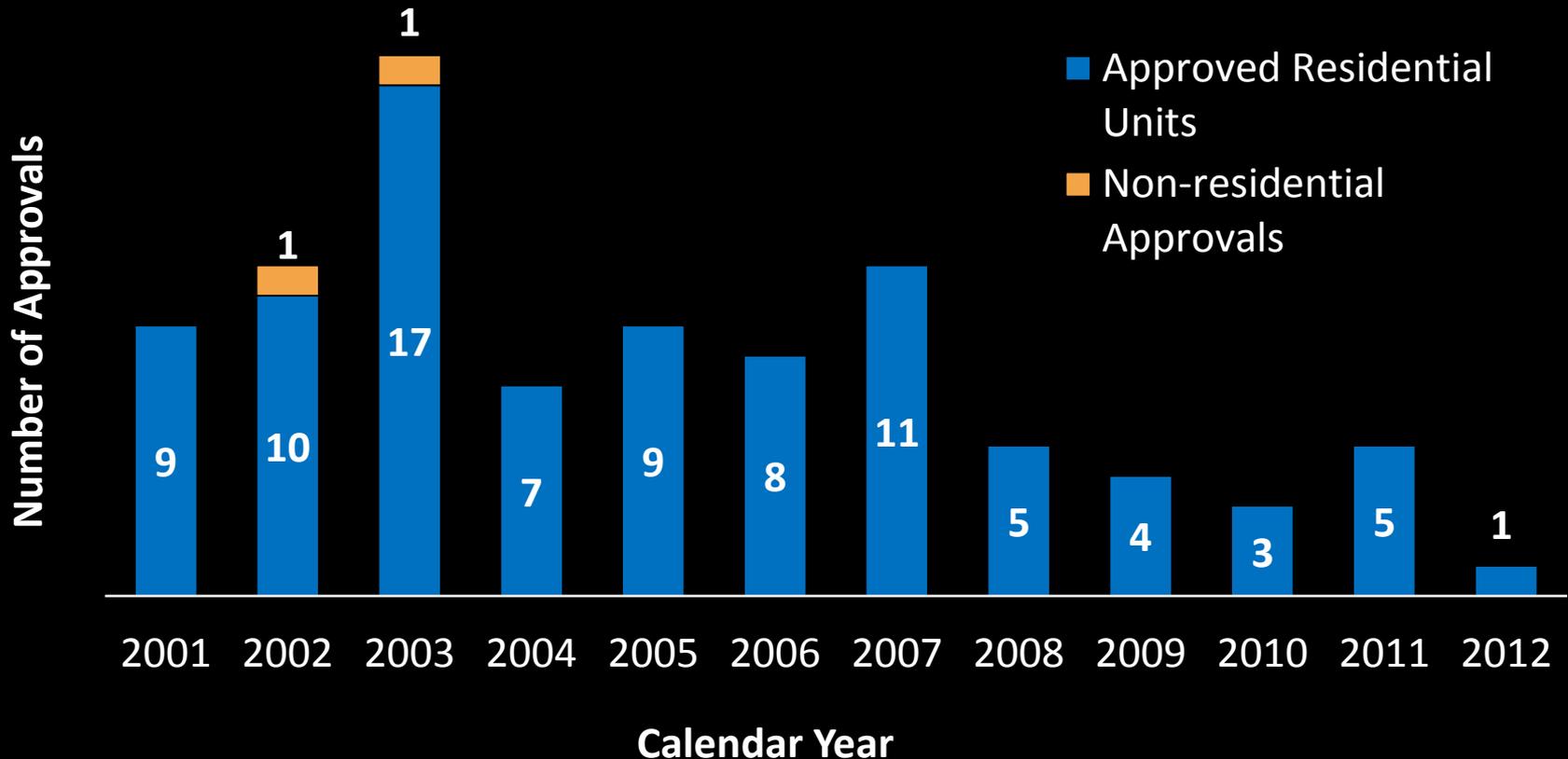
Total Public development approvals granted: **725**



Waivers of Strict Compliance

July 1, 2001 – June 30, 2012

Total waivers approved: **91**



Permanent Land Protection Highlights



Above: Land preserved with PCF funds

- Between 2007 and June 30, 2013, the Commission approved the allocation of \$9.6 million from the Pinelands Conservation Fund (PCF) to 34 projects in the Pinelands Area.
- Of the 34, 31 have proceeded to closing within the Plan Review time period, resulting in the permanent protection of 6,763 acres.

Permanent Land Protection Highlights

- Nearly 24,000 acres in the Preservation Area District, Agricultural Production Area and Special Agricultural Production Area were permanently protected through the PDC program between July 2001 and June 2013.
- As of June 30, 2013, nearly half of the Pinelands Area (446,000 acres) has been permanently protected.
- Programs administered or funded by the Pinelands Commission have protected approximately 84,000 acres through June 2013.

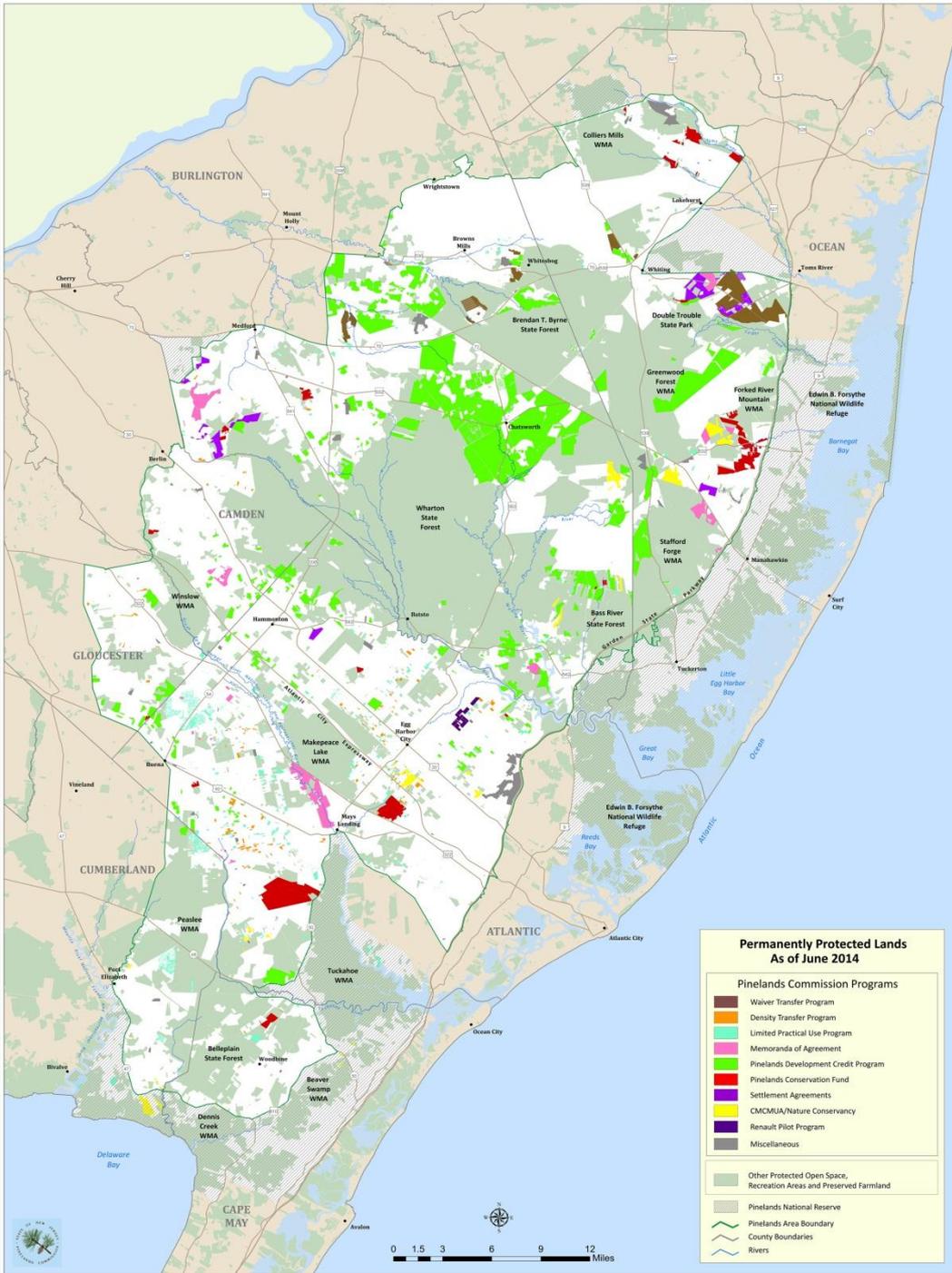


Above: Land preserved by severing PDCs

Permanently Protected Lands

Update (as of June 2014):

- 450,000 acres protected
- 48% of Pinelands Area
- 94% of the protected land is located in the conservation-oriented management areas (PAD, SAPA, FA, APA)



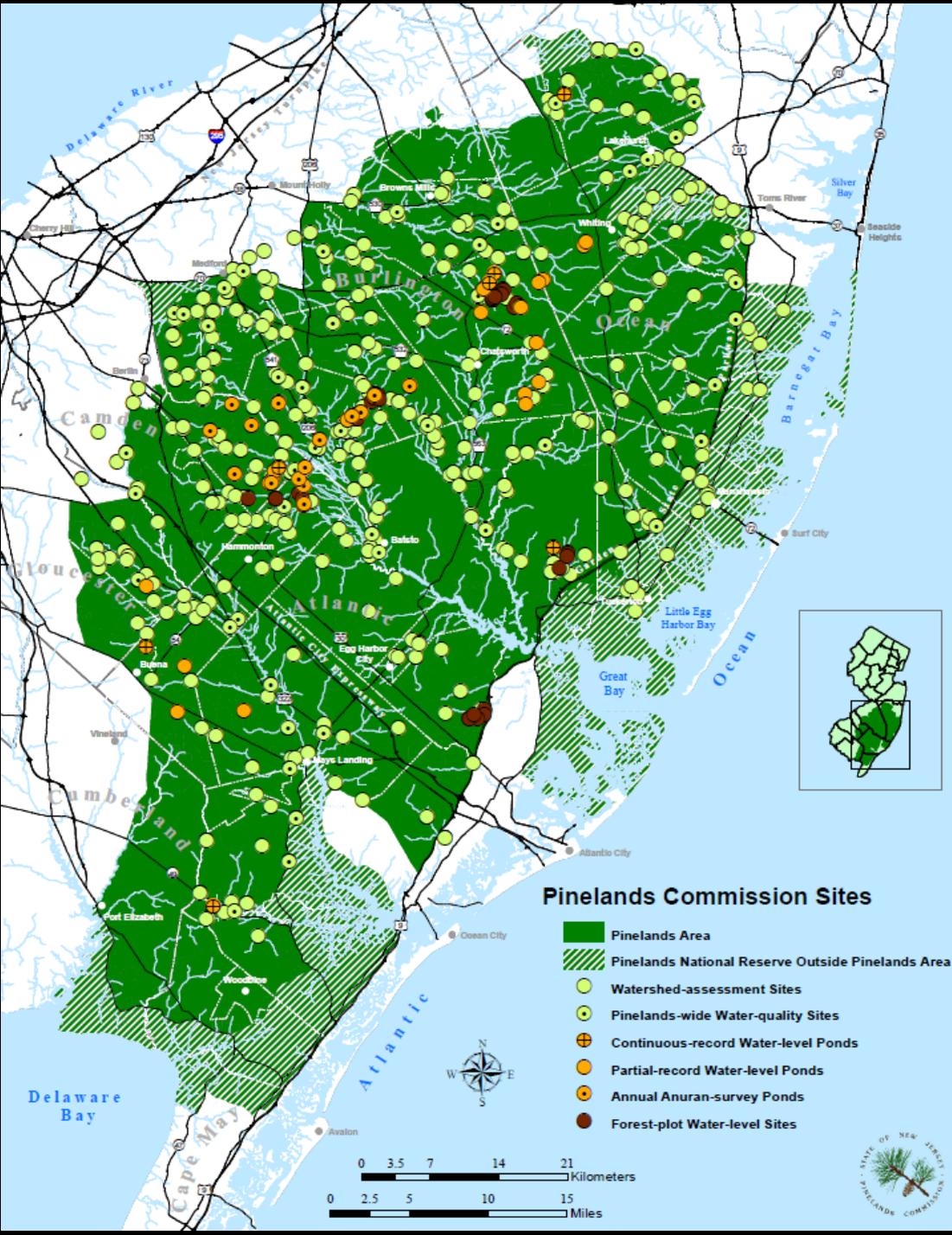
Science Program Highlights



- Long-term Environmental-monitoring Program
- Kirkwood-Cohansey Project
- Ecological Integrity Assessment

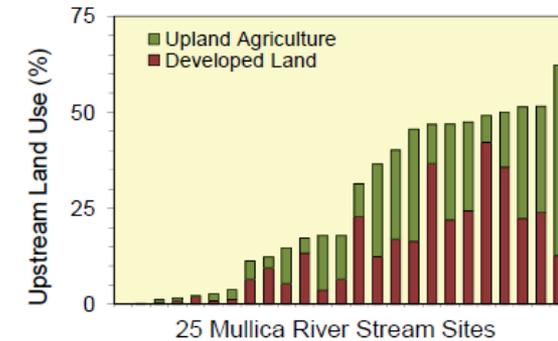
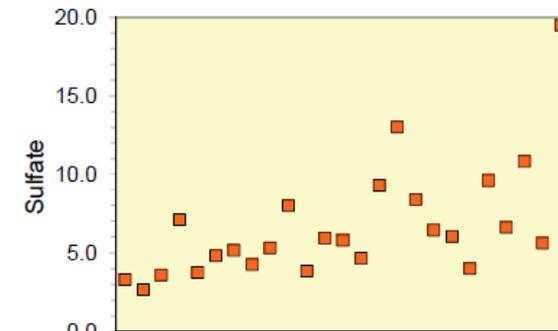
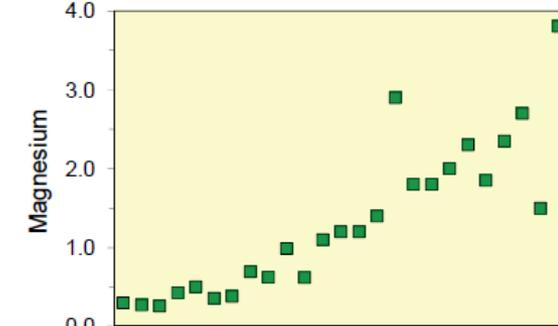
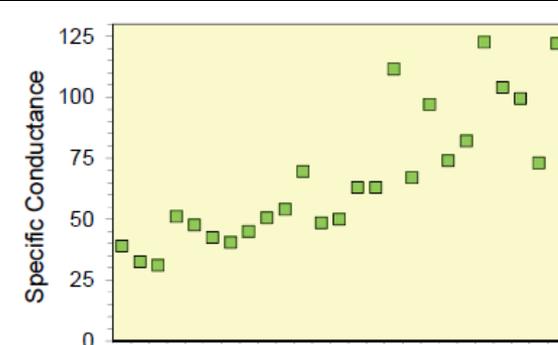
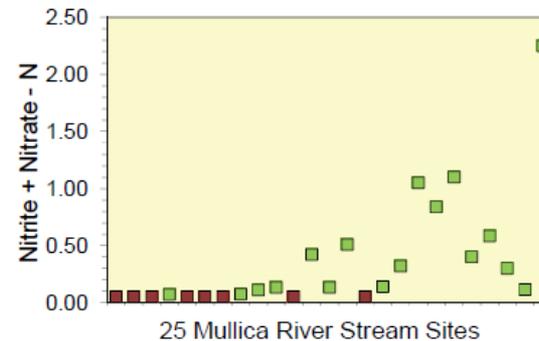
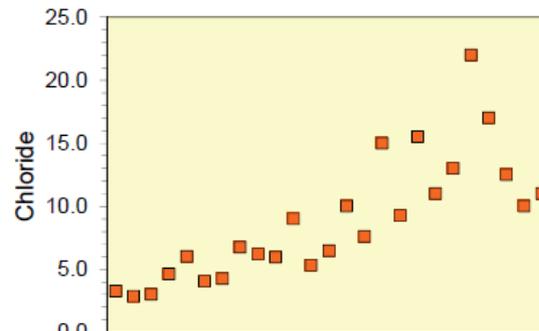
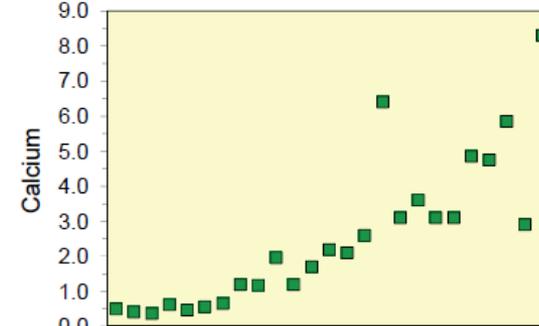
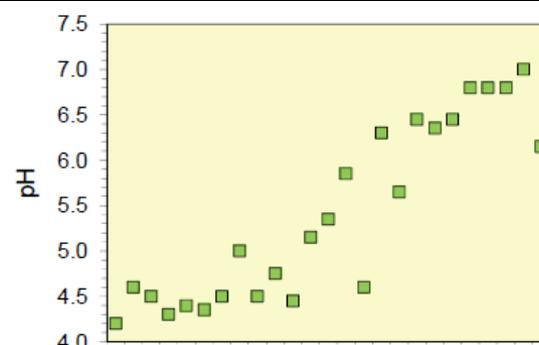
LTEnM Program

- **Watershed Assessments**
 - Mullica River
 - Rancocas Creek
 - Great Egg Harbor River
 - Barnegat Bay
- **Pinelands-wide WQ**
 - Bimonthly pH and SC
- **Pinelands Ponds**
 - Monthly water levels
 - Continuous monitoring
- **Forest Plots**
 - Monthly water levels
- **Frogs and Toads**
 - Annual calling surveys

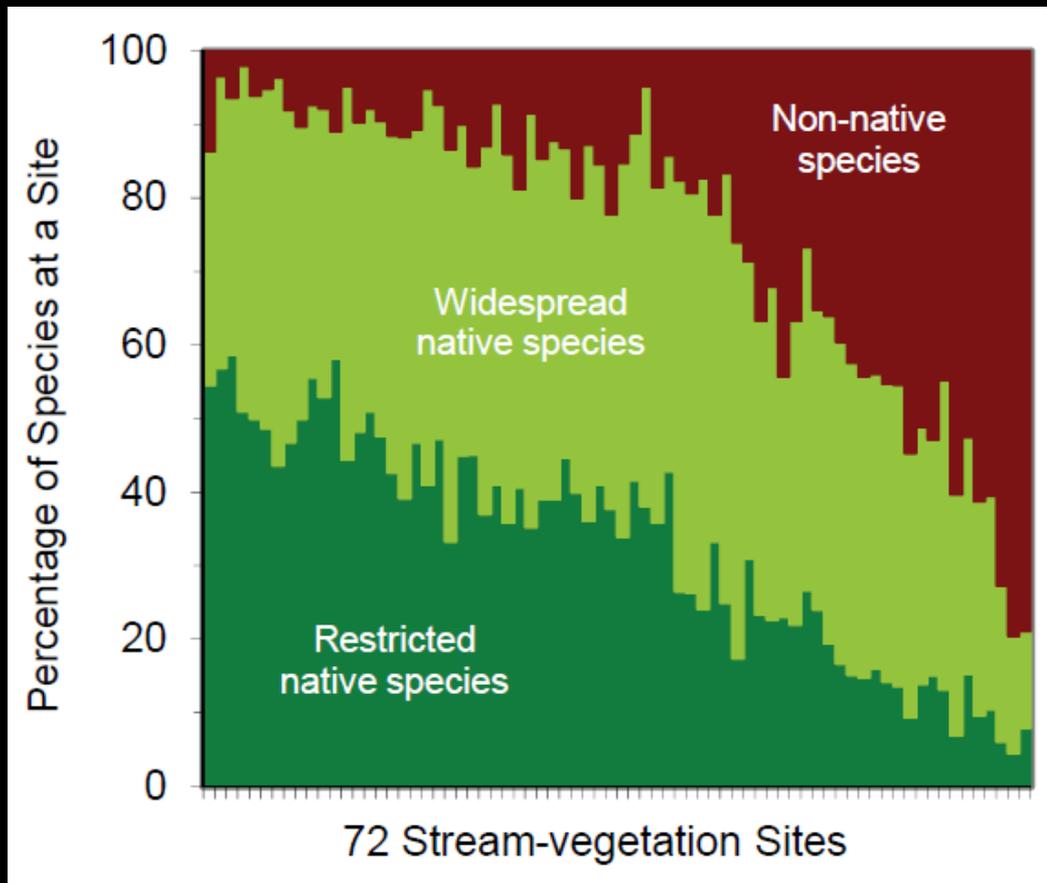


Land Use and Water Quality

- Example of disturbance gradient
- Upstream developed land and upland agriculture
- Elevated pH and SC
- Increased ion concentrations
- Nutrient enrichment
- 10% threshold used in Medford-Evesham Plan



Water Quality Influences Plant and Animal Assemblages



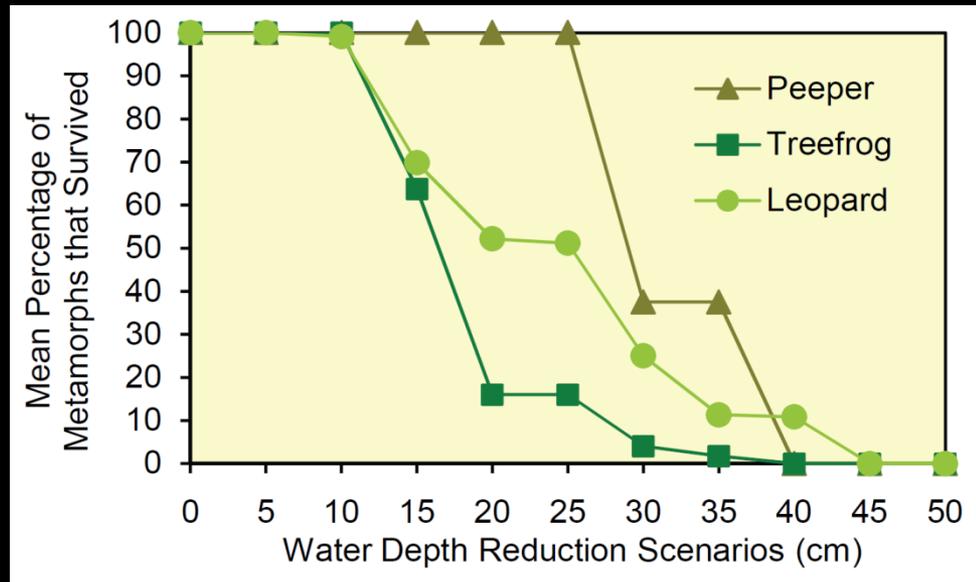
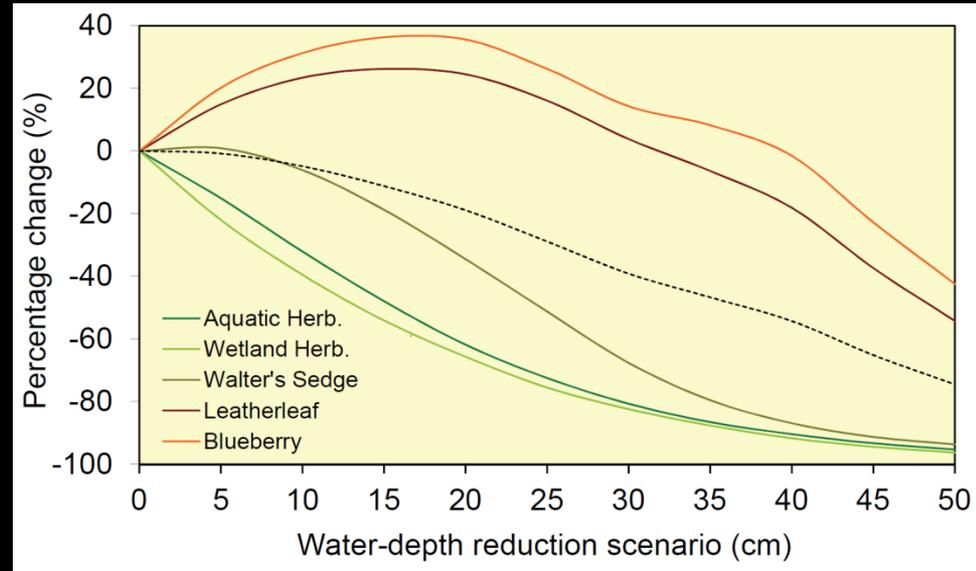
- 72 Mullica River sites
- Ordered by plants present
- Native species at high-quality sites
- Non-native species dominate at degraded sites
- Similar results for fish and frogs and toads
- Using multiple indicators is best

Kirkwood-Cohansey Project

Five Commission studies

- Stream habitat
- Swamp pink
- Forest Vegetation
- Pond vegetation
- Frog development

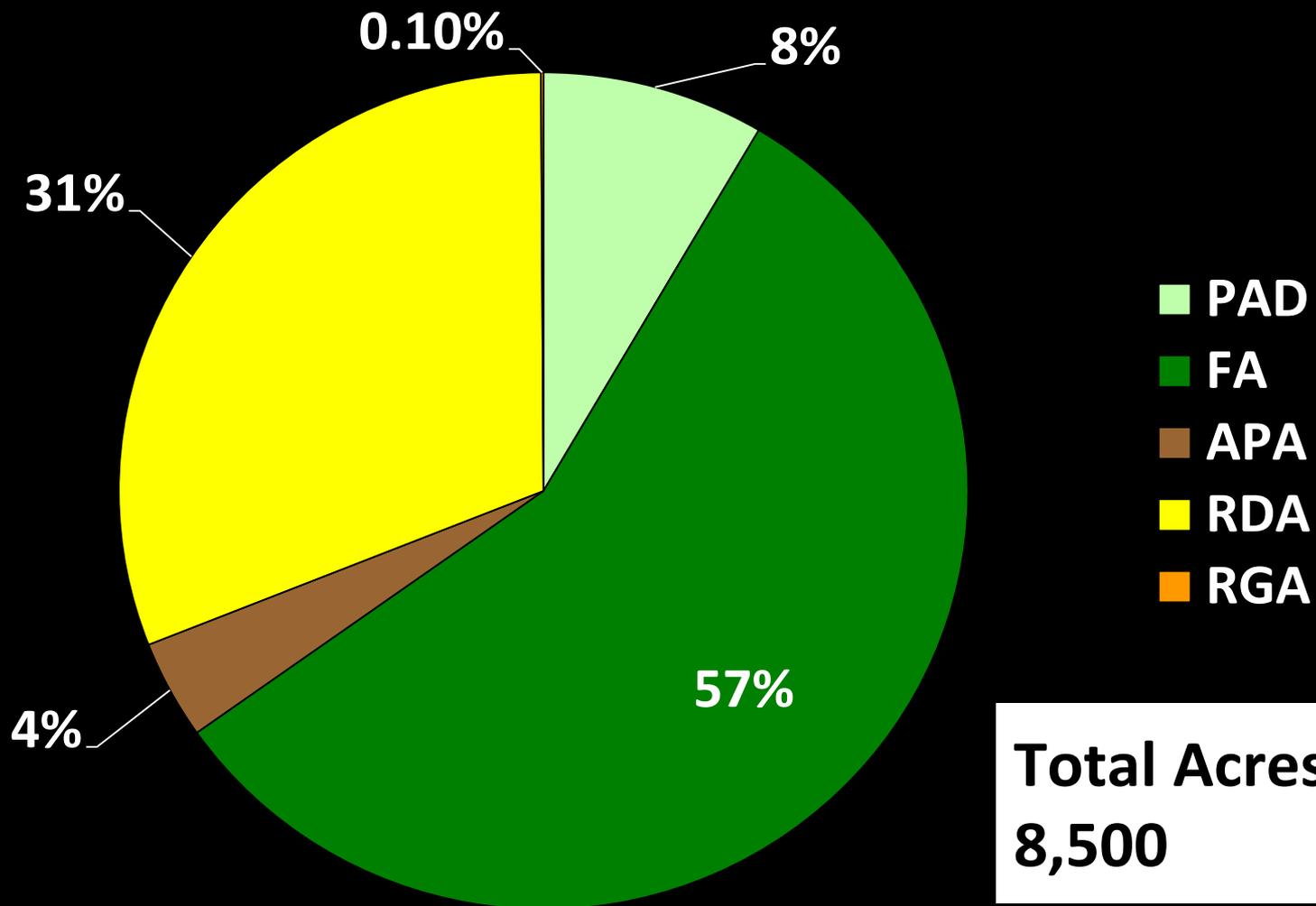
Results can be used to
inform water-supply policy



Memorandums of Agreement and Understanding

- The Commission was a signatory to 20 Memorandums of Agreement (MOAs) during the Plan Review period.
- 12 were Permit Streamlining MOAs:
 - There were 245 streamlined public development approvals
- 8 were “deviation” MOAs:
 - Seven of the eight dealt with **existing public facilities** that helped ensure their long-term viability;
 - The eighth was for a new electrical power line to serve South Jersey; and
 - Offsetting measures were required, resulting in the permanent protection of 8,500 acres in the Pinelands Area.

MOAs: Lands Preserved by Management Area 2002-2012



Economic Monitoring

New Jersey Pinelands Commission

Long-Term Economic Monitoring Program

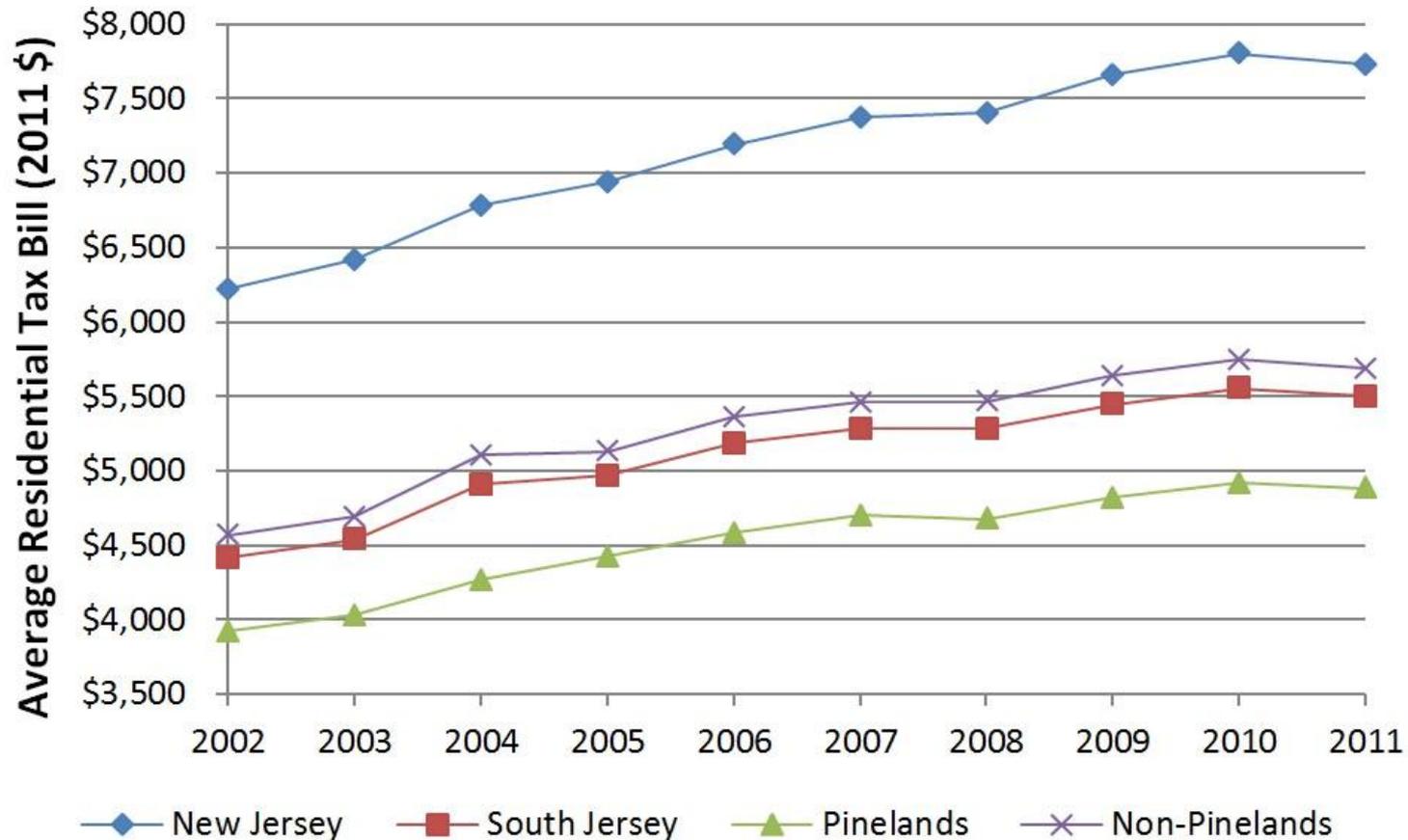


Annual Report

- The Commission continued to monitor the economy in the Pinelands through its annual Long-Term Economic Monitoring Program.
- Overall, the Pinelands economy either mirrored, or in some cases outperformed, the non-Pinelands portions of southern New Jersey in several economic indicators.

Annual Report

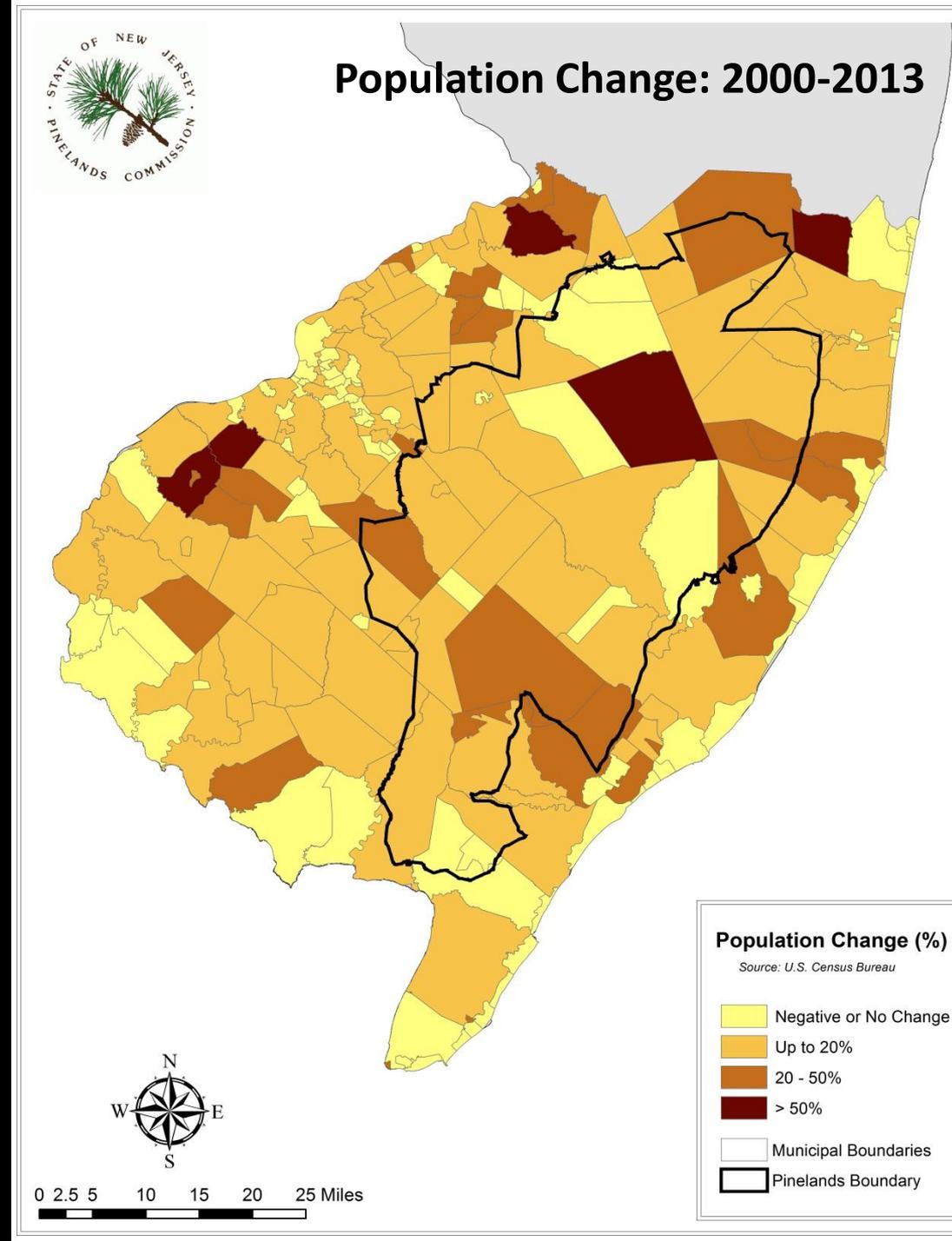
Economic Monitoring



The average residential property tax bill in the Pinelands continued to be lower than the state and the non-Pinelands portions of southern NJ.

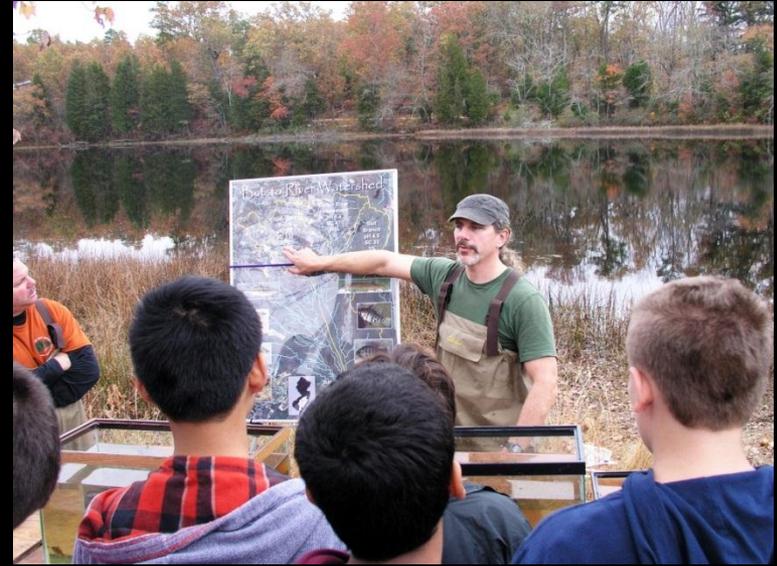
Economic Monitoring

- The population in the Pinelands is growing faster than the non-Pinelands portions of southern NJ.



Public Information & Outreach

- The Commission educated thousands during in-class programs and other events.
- Attendance at the Pinelands Short Course soared to more than 800 as the Commission expanded presentations and field trips.
- The Commission redesigned its website to make it more user-friendly, while adding new content such as the online CMP.
- The Commission completed projects that resulted in the creation of a new Pinelands National Reserve brochure and the installation of Pinelands road signs in 22 locations.



Above: Pinelands-themed World Water Monitoring Day

Public Process

- The Commission formed a Plan Review Committee that met regularly and provided a forum to discuss ways to improve the CMP.
- The Commission gathered comments from 109 groups and individuals during two public hearings and a 2½-month public comment period.
- Commission staff delivered numerous presentations to highlight and expand on the report's findings.

Recommendations

- Dozens of action items are listed in the recommendations chapter.
- Commission staff will use the list of recommendations to guide its work program for the next five years.
- Eight recommendations are described in greater detail. They are as follows

Recommendations

- Implement additional efficiency measures.
- Improve water management standards as a result of the Kirkwood-Cohansey Aquifer study.
- Enhance the Pinelands Development Credit Program.
- Bolster the protection of native Pinelands vegetation.

Recommendations

- Improve the process for Memorandums of Agreement.
- Codify application standards for organized off-road vehicle events and discuss ways to address deviations from approved routes.
- Increase protection for the Black Run headwaters area of southern Evesham.
- Develop standards to address digital sign technology.

Questions?

