

# New Jersey Forest Task Force



CMP Policy &  
Implementation Committee

July 29, 2022

# The Pinelands Protection Act

The Pinelands Protection Act (13:18A-9.) provides that the goals of the Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan (CMP) with respect to the entire Pinelands Area shall be to **protect, preserve and enhance** the significant values of the resources thereof...

The Pinelands Protection Act delineates the approximately one million-acre Pinelands Area. The Pinelands Protection Act geographically divides the Pinelands Area into the Pinelands Protection Area and the Pinelands Preservation Area.

The goals of the Pinelands Protection Act with respect to the Pinelands Protection Area are:

**(1) Preserve and maintain the essential character of the existing pinelands environment, including the plant and animal species indigenous thereto and the habitat therefor;**

**(2) Protect and maintain the quality of surface and ground waters;**

**(3) Promote the continuation and expansion of agricultural and horticultural uses;**

**(4) Discourage piecemeal and scattered development;  
and**

**(5) Encourage appropriate patterns of compatible residential, commercial and industrial development, in or adjacent to areas already utilized for such purposes, in order to accommodate regional growth influences in an orderly way while protecting the pinelands environment from the individual and cumulative adverse impacts thereof.**

The goals of the Pinelands Protection Act with respect to the Pinelands Preservation Area are:

**(1) Preserve an extensive and contiguous area of land in its natural state, thereby ensuring the continuation of a pinelands environment which contains the unique and significant ecological and other resources representative of the Pinelands Area;**

(2) Promote compatible agricultural, horticultural and recreational uses, including hunting, fishing and trapping, within the framework of maintaining a Pinelands environment;

(3) Prohibit any construction or development which is incompatible with the preservation of this unique area;

**(4) Provide a sufficient amount of undeveloped land to accommodate specific wilderness management practices, such as selective burning, which are necessary to maintain the special ecology of the preservation area; and**

(5) Protect and preserve the quantity and quality of existing surface and ground waters.

# **Forest Policy Discussion Points for State Owned Land in the Pinelands Area**

The Commission's current forestry policies for both public and private lands in the Pinelands Area are reflected in the forestry regulations contained in the Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan.

Based upon the goals of the Pinelands Protection Act, the Pinelands Commission recommends the following forestry policies for State owned lands in the Pinelands Area provided native Pinelands forest types are maintained:

1. Allow forestry that eliminates invasive tree and plant species.
2. Allow forestry that restores Atlantic white cedar.
3. Allow forestry that improves threatened and endangered plant and animal habitat.
4. Unless proposed to accomplish 1, 2 or 3 above, prohibit clear cutting as a forestry practice.



5. Allow tree removal necessary to protect public safety from wildfire.
6. Allow prescribed burning based upon environmentally based guidelines.
7. Prohibit of the use of herbicides for forestry.
8. Prohibit all other types of forestry