

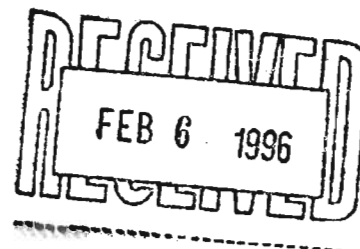


IN REPLY REFER TO:

# United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

New Jersey Coastal Heritage Trail Route  
P.O. Box 118  
Mauricetown, New Jersey 08329



February 5, 1996

A44 (NEJE)

Memorandum

TO: Executive Director, The Pinelands Commission  
Assistant Commissioner for Natural Resources, DEP

FROM: Project Director, NJ Coastal Heritage Trail Route

SUBJECT: Cooperative Agreement for Pinelands Interpretation

Many thanks for your patience while we processed this agreement. It has finally been signed and sealed. I get the pleasure of delivering it to you. Let's hope this is the beginning of an exciting venture into front line interpretation of the Pinelands. I will continue to work with Betsy Carpenter to get the funding and agreements in place for this year's ISTEAA Enhancement Grant for Pinelands Interpretation. Based on my past experience with NJDOT, I anticipate it will take most of the year before we receive the start work order. Regardless, I have identified a number of contractors already under federal contract, so we can begin work once we have received the permission from NJ DOT.

I look forward to working with you to make the interpretive program a reality.

  
Janet C. Wolf

Enclosures

cc: Bob McIntosh, NPS Pinelands Commissioner  
Joe DiBello, DPRP, CHSSO

*Cooperative Agreement  
1443 CA 1845-96-002  
and*

*Memorandum of Agreement  
1443 MOA 1845-96-003*

*among*

***THE PINELANDS COMMISSION  
THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION***

*and*

***THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE***

**Article I. Background and Objectives**

Whereas, Public Law 95-825, Section 502, of the National Parks and Recreation Act of 1978, as amended by Public Law 100-486, Section 1, created the Pinelands National Reserve and requires the National Park Service to "study and recommend appropriate initiatives to provide an educational and interpretive program in the Reserve," and

Whereas, Public Law 100-486, Section 1, directed the National Park Service to produce a plan which considers, "among other things, the improvements of existing facilities and interpretive programs in the reserve, including the use of existing facilities..." and to recommend "appropriate roles for departments and agencies of the State of New Jersey and the Federal Government in implementing the program;" and

Whereas, the Pinelands Commission, the State of New Jersey, Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the National Park Service (NPS) have completed and approved the Pinelands Interpretive Plan, and

Whereas, it is to the mutual benefit of all parties concerned to assure the implementation of the Interpretive Plan.

## Article II. Statements of Work

The agencies and organizations listed above hereby enter into an agreement to work cooperatively to implement the Pinelands Interpretive Concept Plan for the interpretation and visitor use of the Pinelands National Reserve (PNR). The purpose of this agreement is to ensure the coordination of the efforts of these separate organization in the implementation of the Interpretive Plan. The purpose of the Plan and Interpretive Program is to enhance public understanding, awareness, and appreciation of the natural and cultural resources of the Pinelands National Reserve of New Jersey.

### Key Elements of the Plan:

The Plan proposes:

A regional approach to interpretation that incorporates local municipalities, counties, state parks, non-profit organizations, educators and educational institutions, businesses, and individual citizens.

- A. **Interpretive facilities** to deliver concentrated interpretive experiences using
  - \***visitor contact stations** to mark the eastern and western entries in the region
  - \*an **interpretive center** to concentrate interpretation and coordinate regional interpretive and educational programs
  - \* a network of **interpretive resource sites** utilizing existing state park and forest facilities to provide hands-on experiences which complement those at the main center
  
- B. **Interpretive exhibits and signage** to define a regional identity using
  - \*free-standing, strategically-place **orientation kiosks** to provide general introductory information about the region
  - \***wayside exhibits** to mark and explain resources of regional importance
  - \*a comprehensive **sign system** to orient travelers to the region and its communities
  
- C. **Printed materials and publications** to disseminate information about regional facilities and programs for interested users.
  
- D. **Project management** for the short-term action goals and coordination of long term planning will be the office of the New Jersey Coastal Heritage Trail Route (NJCHTR or its successor) with each partner sharing in the action responsibilities.

The interpretive actions described in the **approved Plan** are pieces of the long-term vision for an interpretive program for the Pinelands National Reserve. While they provide guidelines for primary actions, they do not preclude other projects and programs which further the interpretive goals or spirit of the concept plan. Some of these interpretive actions are readily accomplished while others require additional planning and design; therefore, a **short-term and long-term phasing strategy** has been planned to organize the implementation of projects.

## Project and Program Phasing

### Short-Term Goals (Yrs 1-5)

Visitor Contact Station at Double Trouble State Park  
Orientation Kiosks  
Wayside Exhibits & Signage: Design & Install  
Interpretive Material: Design & Distribute  
Technical Assistance & Coordination  
Management: Implement Short-Term Structure (New Jersey Coastal Heritage Trail)  
Advance Planning (long-term actions): Interpretive Action Plan

### Long-Term Goals (years 5-10)

Interpretive Action Plan (complete)  
Visitor Contact Station (western side of region)  
Full-service Interpretive Center: Planning, Design  
Development  
Enhance Satellite Resource Sites: Planning, Design,  
Development  
State Park Sites  
County Facilities  
Wayside Exhibits: Finish Installations  
Continued Technical Assistance & Coordinations  
Management: Establish Permanent Structure

The Steering Committee will prepare and adopt a work agenda for the implementation of the approved concept plan.

### The Steering Committee

Interagency coordination will be carried out primarily through a Steering Committee, members of which will be appointed by the three cooperators. The Steering Committee will seek funding and other forms of public and private assistance to accomplish current planning efforts, or organize future planning needs and implementation costs of the Plan, and assist in developing a work agenda. The Committee will meet semi-annually (or at other intervals to be established by the Steering Committee) for the duration of the implementation and future planning phases of the Plan.

Under the auspices of the Steering Committee, a Project Team will be formed to accomplish the work, consisting of staff from each of the cooperating organizations and other invited representatives of public agencies, business, and the private sector. The role of the Project Team will be to accomplish the necessary research, inventory, and analysis; assist in development of interpretive materials; determine criteria for sign and exhibit location; assist in setting priorities, contacting cooperators, and seeking support of other organizations; etc.

Upon the vote of all members, other organizations may be included as members of the Steering Committee.

The signatories that are party to this agreement may designate another staff member to act on the Steering Committee, in the event that their agency's appointee is unable to attend a meeting.

Decisions of the Steering Committee shall be made by majority vote.

### **Role of the New Jersey Pinelands Commission**

The Pinelands Commission will:

- a. Appoint the Executive Director of the Pinelands Commission, or his designee, as its representative to the Steering Committee;
- b. Assign staff to work on the Project Team;
- c. As a member of the Steering Committee, oversee policy and program alternatives;
- d. Provide detailed site inventory and mapping; work with the steering committee to inventory interpretive programs and media;
- e. Inventory New Jersey Pinelands educational resources;
- f. Provide a preliminary environmental evaluation for suggested alternatives;
- g. Provide information and support for public involvement;
- h. In addition, the Pinelands Commission will cooperate with other Steering Committee members to seek additional public and private project funding, both to support current planning efforts, future planning needs and implementation costs of the Plan;
- i. Assist in development of interpretive materials;
- j. Be responsible for handling contacts with local governments within the Pinelands; and.
- k. Determine criteria for sign and exhibit locations and assist in setting priorities, contacting cooperators, and seeking support of other organizations.

### **Role of the State of New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection**

The Department of Environmental Protection will:

- a. Appoint the Assistant Commissioner for Natural Resources, or his designee, as its representative to the Steering Committee;
- b. Assign staff to work on the Project Team;
- c. As a member of the Steering Committee, oversee policy and program alternatives;
- d. Conduct an inventory of all state owned recreation and open space land holdings within the Pinelands Reserve vicinity;
- e. Identify all existing state owned DEP recreation facilities and interpretive opportunities within the Pinelands Reserve vicinity, and their current condition;
- f. Identify potential sites and facilities which can be developed in conjunction with the Pinelands Interpretive Project and work with the Pinelands Commission to list concerns and limitations on any proposed expansion;
- g. Prepare an inventory of current visitor patterns at state facilities and general options for increasing visitor accessibility;
- h. Assist in development of interpretive materials;
- i. Identify capital budget requirements and seek funds for development and/or expansion of state owned facilities and work with the Steering Committee to list concerns and limitations on proposed expansions;

- j. Determine criteria for sign and exhibit locations, and assist in setting priorities, contacting cooperators, seeking support of other organizations, and identifying local opportunities (municipal and county) that have been assisted through the Green Acres Program;
- k. Coordinate the work and involvement of other state agencies, including the Department of Agriculture, Rutgers University, Stockton State College, NJ DOT, the Division of Travel and Tourism, etc.;
- l. Provide information and support for Committee members to seek additional public and private project funding, to support current planning efforts, future planning needs, and implementation costs of the Plan.

### **Role of the National Park Service**

The National Park Service will:

- a. Appoint the Field Director, Northeast Field Area, or designee, to the Steering Committee;
- b. Assign staff to work on the Project Team;
- c. As a member of the Steering Committee, oversee policy and program alternatives;
- d. Act as primary manager of the project team;
- e. Draft and negotiate the MOU between the partners;
- f. Work jointly with all cooperators to form the project team;
- g. Develop alternatives jointly with the cooperators;
- h. Complete any written reports;
- i. Work with the Denver Service Center/Harpers Ferry Center to secure services and disciplines unavailable elsewhere among the cooperators;
- j. Provide such NEPA compliance as may be required by the work;
- k. Cooperate with other Steering Committee members to seek additional public and private project funding, to support current planning efforts, future planning needs, and implementation costs of the Plan.
- l. Coordinate the planning, design, and construction of orientation kiosks, wayside exhibits, regional road sign system, and community welcome signs.
- m. Coordinate the design, editing, and printing of an orientation brochure and guide to public facilities.

### **Article III. Term of Agreement**

This agreement shall extend for a period of five years from the date of signing.

### **Article IV. Key Officials**

Key officials for the purpose of this document are:

Terrence D. Moore  
Executive Director  
The Pinelands Commission

James Hall  
Assistant Commissioner for Natural Resources  
New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection

Marie Rust  
Field Director  
Northeast Field Area  
National Park Service

## **Article V. Property Management**

Any tools, equipment, exhibits, or signs made available will be assigned in writing and shall be accounted for, returned, or replaced upon expiration of this agreement (reasonable wear and tear excepted).

## **Article V. Termination**

Any party to this agreement may terminate the agreement by providing sixty days written notice to the other parties.

## **Article VI. Required Clauses**

During the performance of this agreement, the participants agree to abide by the terms of Executive Order 11246 on nondiscrimination and will not discriminate against any person because of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin. The participants will take affirmative action to ensure that applicants are employed without regard to their race, color, religion, sex, or national origin.

No member or delegate to Congress, or resident federal Commissioner, shall be admitted to any share or part of this agreement, or to any benefit that may arise therefrom, but this provision shall not be construed to extend to this agreement if made with a corporation for its general benefit.

The signatories shall not publicize, or otherwise circulate, promotional material (such as advertisements, sales brochures, press releases, speeches, still and motion pictures, articles, manuscripts, or other publications) which states or implies governmental, departmental, bureau, or government employee endorsement of a product, service, or position which the signatories represents. No release of information relating to this agreement may state or imply that the government approves of the signatories work product, or considers the signatories work product to be superior to other products or services.

The signatories must obtain prior government approval from the Project Director, NJCHTR, for any public information releases which refer to the Department of the Interior; any bureau, park unit, or employee (by name or title); or this agreement. The specific text, layout, photographs, etc., of the proposed release must be submitted with the request for approval.

## **Article VII. Contractual Obligations**

This agreement and all of the obligations of the Federal Government hereunder are subject to the availability of federal funds. Nothing herein contained shall be construed as binding the NPS to expend in any one fiscal year any sum in excess of the appropriations made by Congress or administratively allocated for the purpose of this agreement for the fiscal year, or to involve the NPS in any contract or other obligation for the further expenditure of money in excess of such appropriations or allocations.

**Article VIII. Signatures**

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties to this agreement have caused this agreement to be signed by their respective duly authorized officers the day and year below written.

**THE PINELANDS COMMISSION**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Executive Director

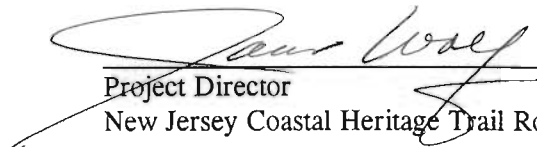
*12/11/95*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date:

**NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Assistant Commissioner for Natural Resources

*11/12/95*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Project Director  
New Jersey Coastal Heritage Trail Route

*12/14/95*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Contracting Officer, Chesapeake System Support Office

JAN 22 1996  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

/agrees/pinesca