



New Jersey Pinelands Commission PRESS RELEASE

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Robert W. McIntosh, Jr., steps down after 15 years of service as the federal appointee on the New Jersey Pinelands Commission

NEW LISBON, N.J. – Robert W. McIntosh, Jr. has stepped down from the New Jersey Pinelands Commission, ending 15 years of service as the U.S Secretary of the Interior's appointee on the panel.

"Participating in the creation and administration of the Pinelands National Reserve and the Comprehensive Management Plan has been one of the most rewarding aspects of my career," McIntosh said. "Nowhere in this country and maybe the world is there a 1.1-million-acre protected area involving governments at the local, state, and Federal level, private property owners and non-profit organizations.

"For 30 years, the Pinelands Commission has sought the appropriate mix of resource protection and wise development," McIntosh added. "Its ongoing success is a lasting tribute to the citizens of the Pinelands. The New Jersey Pinelands serves as model for others to follow."

A resident of Beverly, Massachusetts, McIntosh is retiring from the United States Department of the Interior on January 1, 2011 after 43 years of service with the Department. He attended his last meeting as a member of the Pinelands Commission today.

"Bob McIntosh has always been there for the Pinelands, from the early stages of the federal planning entity to today," said Candace Ashmun, the Commission's Acting Chair. "He understood from the beginning that the New Jersey Pinelands Area is a national treasure. He put his beliefs into action by making himself available and never shirking the hard work of serving as an active Pinelands Commissioner. We will miss him, and we wish him well in his retirement."

U.S. Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt first appointed McIntosh to the Commission in July 1995. However, McIntosh's involvement with the Pinelands protection effort stretches back to the 1970s.

In 1981, as the Regional Director of the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service, McIntosh participated in the development and approval of the Federal Environmental Impact Statement and the Pinelands Comprehensive Management Plan, the rules that govern land-use, development and natural resource protection in the Pinelands Area.

McIntosh has served as an Associate Regional Director for the National Park Service's Northeast

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Region since 1990. Prior to that, he served as the General Superintendent of the Gateway National Recreation Area from 1982-1990 and was the Regional Director, Northeast Region, of the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service from 1979-1981. From 1967-1978, he served in progressively responsible positions in the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation in Philadelphia, Albuquerque, San Francisco and Washington.

Richard L. Harris, the Associate Regional Director of Natural Resources and Science for the Northeast Region of the National Parks Service (NPS), has been appointed as McIntosh's successor on the Commission.

"Having been with the National Park Service for almost 30 years, I know the dedication to service that Bob McIntosh has provided, both as a representative to the Commission and to the Pinelands during his career," Harris said. "I look forward to carrying on the tradition of excellence that Bob has established during his tenure. Although I served most of my career with the National Park Service in the West, I am in awe of what the Pinelands Commission has accomplished in working to preserve the biological diversity and cultural significance of this Atlantic Coastal Pine Barrens Ecoregion. I look forward to working with the Commission and partners to help ensure its protection, while continuing to educate the public about its significance as the nation's first National Reserve and as an International Biosphere Reserve."

A resident of Philadelphia, Harris holds undergraduate and graduate degrees in Natural Resources Management and Public Policy from Oregon State University. He began his federal career in Wilderness Management with the U.S. Forest Service in 1976, and he joined the NPS in 1983 as a vegetation restoration team leader at Mount Rainier National Park. He has held resource management positions at numerous national parks in the western U.S. and was the recipient of the U.S. Department of the Interior's Superior Service Award in 2006. Harris joined the NPS' Northeast Region in 2008, and he manages a staff of 150 natural resource and recreation professionals.

The Pinelands Commission consists of 15 members: seven appointed by the Governor of New Jersey, one appointed by each of the seven Pinelands counties and one appointed by the U.S. Secretary of the Interior. Members of the Commission serve staggered, three-year terms and do not receive compensation for their service.

The Commission oversees land-use, development and natural resource protection programs in the million-acre Pinelands Area, which covers portions of Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester and Ocean counties.

***** ATTENTION EDITORS/REPORTERS:** A high-resolution jpeg of the photo of Mr. McIntosh and Mr. Harris, which was taken during the Commission's meeting today and as seen on the following page, can be obtained by contacting Paul Leakan at (609) 894-7300.

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Richard L. Harris, (left), shakes the hand of Robert W. McIntosh Jr. during the Pinelands Commission's meeting today.

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