

SENATOR BOB SMITH

• The NJ Forest Stewardship Task Force was formed by NJ Senator Smith to study and identify ways in which the State can best manage its forests in order to fight climate change, prevent forest fires, improve ecosystems and protect soil and water quality.



WHAT SHOULD STATE FORESTS LOOK LIKE?

TASK FORCE TO DEBATE AND COME TO CONSENSUS OR NON-CONSENSUS ON MAJOR TOPICS

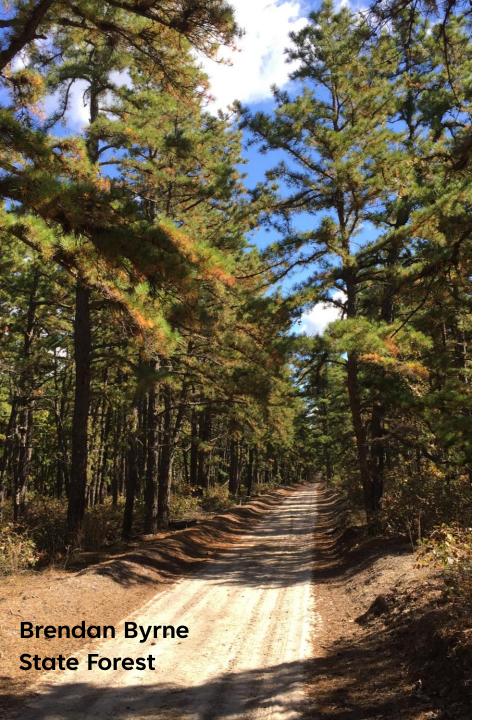
Topics include passive vs. active management, herbicides, invasive species, carbon sequestration, climate change, landscape diversity to support wildlife populations

PARTICIPANTS

Private forestry Consultants, private citizens, Nongovernmental organizations, County and State representatives

FEASIBILITY

Cost to implement proposals on State owned land and how to fund them.



THE TASK FORCE

KICK OFF MEETING

April 28, 2022, via Zoom.

There were over 200

participants on the call

SUBGROUPS FORMED

Climate Workgroup

Ecological Health Workgroup

Forestry Legislation Workgroup

TASK FORCE CO-CHAIRS

Andy Bennett, Board Member, NJ Forestry Association Anjuli Ramos, Chapter Director, NJ Sierra Club Eileen Murphy, PhD, Vice-President, Government relations, NJ Audubon

Tom Gilbert, Co-Executive Director, NJ Conservation Foundation



ZOOM WORKGROUP MEETINGS HELD

June 6 & 7, 2022

June 20 & 21, 2022

July 11 & 12, 2022

July 25 & 26, 2022



CLIMATE WORKGROUP

Proposals include raising money to increase carbon sequestration, forest conservation for water purification

ECOLOGICAL HEALTH WORKGROUP

Proposals include allocating funds for monitoring/analysis of forestry management techniques on NJ's water supply and quality, reducing the deer population and establishing regional group to coordinate Invasive species management.

NJ TASK FORCE GOALS

To provide clear, concise proposals on how the State can best manage publicly owned forests across the Garden State.

