



NJ FOREST STEWARDSHIP TASK FORCE

**Branwen Ellis,
Environmental Specialist
July 29, 2022**

Belleplains State Forest

A photograph of a forest floor. In the foreground, several bright green ferns are in focus. The background shows several dark tree trunks and a forest floor covered in brown pine needles and fallen leaves. The lighting is natural, suggesting a sunny day in a wooded area.

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, Non-governmental 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

Brendan Byrne
State Forest

**ZOOM WORKGROUP
MEETINGS HELD**

June 6 & 7, 2022

June 20 & 21, 2022

July 11 & 12, 2022

July 25 & 26, 2022



PROPOSALS

**Atsion Lake in
Wharton State Forest**

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.

Double Trouble State Park

