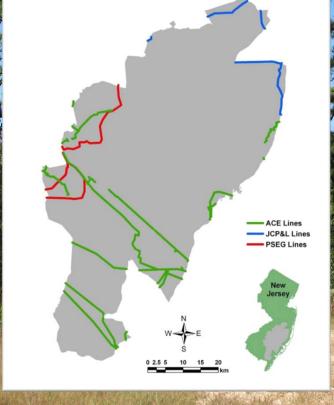
An Overview of the New Jersey Pinelands Electric-Transmission Right-of-Way Vegetation Management Plan and CMP Pilot Program



Jean Montgomerie Environmental Specialist Pinelands Commission

#### Approval:

The Commission approves the New Jersey Pinelands Electric Transmission Right-of-Way Vegetation Plan (ROW Plan) in 2009.

#### **Purpose**:

- Maintain early successional habitats
- Preserve wetlands integrity
- Maintain utility transmission line safety

#### Extent:

Manage 233 miles of high voltage ROW in the Pinelands Area.

New Jersey Pinelands Electric-transmission Right-of-way Vegetation-management Plan



MARCH 2009



- 2009: ROW Plan approved as a 10-year Pilot Program in the CMP.
- 2010: Companies begin annual reporting on which spans were managed.
- 2014: Staff provided the First Progress Report on years 2010-2012 to Commission.
- 2017: Staff provided the Second Progress Report on years 2013-2015 to Commission.
- 2019: "Commission Executive Director must review Pilot Program and determine whether or not the Program has been successful and may be incorporated into CMP."
- "Or two-year extension"

### **The Vegetation Management Prescriptions**



- Developed by Rutgers University and Pinelands Commission
   Science staff to maintain Pinelands successional habitats
- Are on a span-by-span basis for all 3,041 spans in the Pinelands
- Prescriptions reflect local
  Pinelands habitats such as scrubshrub vegetation, emergent
   wetlands, ponds and grasslands
- 59 prescriptions were developed, the basic prescriptions are "mow" and "cut trees manually, do not mow," with various additional restrictions added, such as a timing restriction

ACE 1417 38				
Mow from December 1 through April 30.	O BJECTICU	JNIQUE_ID	METHOD	UTILITY
	748A	ACE_1417_39	visited	ACE
	731A	ACE_1417_43	visited	ACE
ACE_1417_39		ACE_1417_46	visited	ACE
Mow from December 1 through April 30.	Record 6004	ACE_1417_48	visited	ACE
a state was a state state of the state of th		ACE_1417_38	visited	ACE
	739A	ACE_1417_41	visited	ACE
ACE 1417 40	735A	ACE_1417_42	visited	ACE
Mow from December 1 through April 30.	728A	ACE_1417_44	visite d	ACE
	604A	ACE_1417_47	visite d	ACE
	Span 744	ACE_1417_40	visite d	ACE
ACE 1417	723A	ACE_1417_45	visite d	ACE
Mow from December 1 th	rough March 31.	eatened/Endangere	ed Species Rep	orted
Self Strate 2 . Let	ACE_1417_42 trees manually. Do not mow.			

ACE\_1417\_43 Cut trees manually\_Do not mow

#### Note: Sightings are not actual data

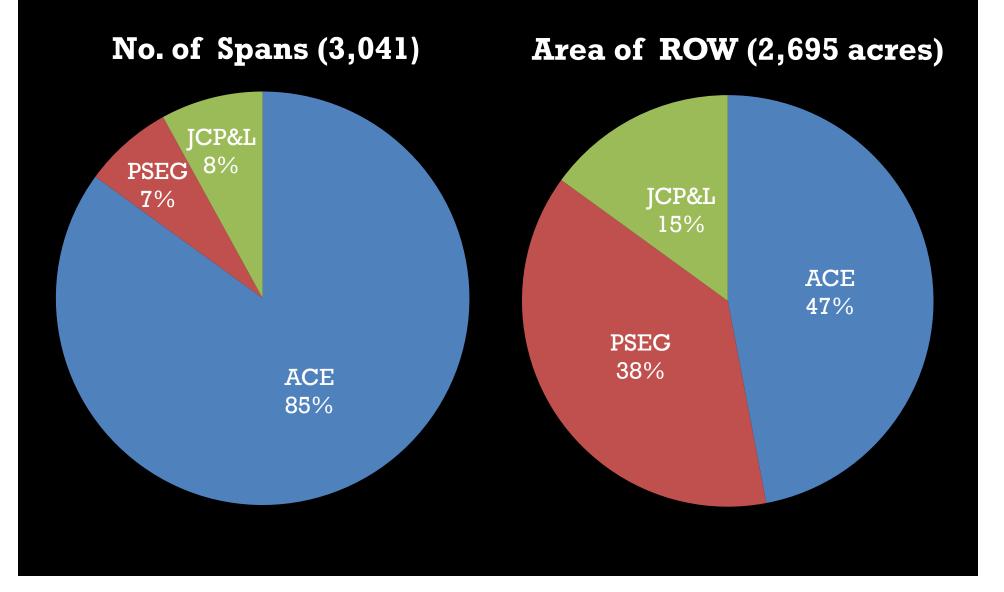
ACE\_1417\_44 Cut trees manually. Do not mow.

Mow from December 1 thro

ACE\_1417\_45 Mow in uplands and cut trees manually in wetlands from December 1 through April

Spreadsheet integration with Arcview mapping

## The Three Utility Companies





Wetlands spans on a JCP&L line in Berkeley Township

## **Administered by Two Offices**

#### **Regulatory Programs Office**



Site inspects ROWs to see if prescriptions are being carried out correctly. **Science Office** 



Reports on vegetation study plots to assess the effects of the prescription. The Pilot Program was generally successful in meeting its goals ...

... but we need more time to adopt an Amended ROW Plan that addresses issues encountered over the past ten years.

A two-year extension will allow the development of the Plan.





Since 2012, all three utilities have been requesting the use of IVM (Integrated Vegetation Management), including limited herbicide use, to better manage tree regrowth.

# Questions?