

(j) The Commissioner shall review the recommendation of the Council and shall take one of the following actions on the proposal:

1. Approve the boundary change, effective upon publication of notice of the boundary change in the New Jersey Register, upon a finding that the boundary change:
 - i. Conforms with physical features identifiable in the field or the limits of State ownership; and
 - ii. Serves to protect the natural area or further its management objective; or
2. Request that the Council reconsider its recommendation and resubmit the proposal for the Commissioner's review; or
3. Deny the proposal, effective upon publication of notice of the denial in the New Jersey Register, upon a finding that the proposed boundary change:
 - i. Does not conform with physical features identifiable in the field or the limits of State ownership; or
 - ii. Does not serve to protect the natural area or further its management objective.

New Rule: R.1992 d.77, effective February 18, 1992.
 See: 23 N.J.R. 1985(b), 24 N.J.R. 581(b).
 Amended by R.1993 d.350, effective July 19, 1993.
 See: 25 N.J.R. 1350(a), 25 N.J.R. 3150(a).

7:5A-1.13 Natural Areas System

(a) The following are designated as components of the Natural Areas System:

1. Absegami Natural Area:
 - i. Location: Bass River State Forest, Bass River Township, Burlington County;
 - ii. Management Objective: preservation of Atlantic white cedar and pine/oak communities, southern swamp habitat, and rare species habitat;
 - iii. Interim Classification: conservation preserve;
 - iv. Administering Agency: Division of Parks and Forestry, through Bass River State Forest;
2. Allamuchy Natural Area:
 - i. Location: Allamuchy State Park, Allamuchy Township, Warren County, and Byram Township, Sussex County;
 - ii. Management Objective: preservation of a hardwood forest of significant size and successional fields and protection of a rare plant community;
 - iii. Interim Classification: conservation preserve;
 - iv. Administering Agency: Division of Parks and Forestry, through Hopatcong State Park;

3. Batsto Natural Area:

- i. Location: Wharton State Forest, Mullica Township and Hammonton Town, Atlantic County, and Washington and Shamong Townships, Burlington County;
- ii. Management Objective: preservation of pitch pine lowland, Atlantic white cedar swamp, Pine Barrens bog, savanna and other wetland habitats, and rare species habitat;
- iii. Interim Classification: conservation preserve;
- iv. Administering Agency: Division of Parks and Forestry, through Wharton State Forest;

4. Bearfort Mountain Natural Area:

- i. Location: Wawayanda State Park, West Milford Township, Passaic County;
- ii. Management Objective: preservation of scrub oak and hardwood swamp forests, and rare species habitat;
- iii. Interim Classification: conservation preserve;
- iv. Administering Agency: Division of Parks and Forestry, through Wawayanda State Park;

5. Bear Swamp East Natural Area:

- i. Location: Downe Township, Cumberland County;
- ii. Management Objective: preservation of ecological communities and relationships, management of bald eagle nesting site and other known and potential endangered species habitat;
- iii. Interim Classification: ecological reserve;
- iv. Administering Agency: Division of Parks and Forestry, through Belleplain State Forest;

6. Black River Natural Area:

- i. Location: Black River Wildlife Management Area, Chester and Washington Townships, Morris County;
- ii. Management Objective: preservation of mesic, marsh, floodplain habitat, and rare species habitat;
- iii. Interim Classification: conservation preserve;
- iv. Administering Agency: Division of Fish, Game and Wildlife, through Whittingham Wildlife Management Area;

7. Bull's Island Natural Area:

- i. Location: Bull's Island Recreation Area, Delaware Township, Hunterdon County;
- ii. Management Objective: preservation of a northern floodplain habitat, and rare species habitat;

- iii. Interim Classification: conservation preserve;
 - iv. Administering Agency: Division of Parks and Forestry, through Delaware and Raritan Canal State Park;
8. Bursch Sugar Maple Natural Area:
- i. Location: Hope and Knowlton Townships, Warren County;
 - ii. Management Objective: preservation of a north-eastern hardwoods forest, and sugar maple/mixed hardwood community;
 - iii. Interim Classification: conservation preserve;
 - iv. Administering Agency: Division of Parks and Forestry, through Jenny Jump State Forest;
9. Cape May Point Natural Area:
- i. Location: Cape May Point State Park, Cape May Point Borough and Lower Township, Cape May County;
 - ii. Management Objective: preservation of freshwater marsh behind a coastal dune, habitat diversity for migratory birds, and rare species habitat;
 - iii. Interim Classification: conservation preserve;
 - iv. Administering Agency: Division of Parks and Forestry, through Cape May Point State Park;
10. Cape May Wetlands Natural Area:
- i. Location: Avalon Borough, Dennis and Middle Townships, Cape May County;
 - ii. Management Objective: preservation of tidal salt marsh ecosystem and rare species habitat;
 - iii. Interim Classification: ecological reserve;
 - iv. Administering Agency: Division of Parks and Forestry, through Cape May Point State Park;
11. Cedar Swamp Natural Area:
- i. Location: Lebanon State Forest, Woodland Township, Burlington County;
 - ii. Management Objective: preservation of southern swamp and floodplain habitat, Atlantic white cedar, red maple and pine/oak forest communities, and rare species habitat;
 - iii. Interim Classification: conservation preserve;
 - iv. Administering Agency: Division of Parks and Forestry, through Lebanon State Forest;
12. Cheesequake Natural Area:
- i. Location: Cheesequake State Park, Old Bridge Township, Middlesex County;
 - ii. Management Objective: preservation of habitat diversity including hardwood forest, cedar swamp, mature white pine stand, freshwater swamp, Pine Barren outlier and salt marsh, and rare species habitat;
 - iii. Interim Classification: conservation preserve;
 - iv. Administering Agency: Division of Parks and Forestry, through Cheesequake State Park;
13. Cook Natural Area:
- i. Location: South Brunswick Township, Middlesex County;
 - ii. Management Objective: preservation of freshwater nontidal flood plain forest habitat;
 - iii. Interim Classification: conservation preserve;
 - iv. Administering Agency: Division of Parks and Forestry, through Delaware and Raritan Canal State Park;
14. Dryden Kuser Natural Area:
- i. Location: High Point State Park, Montague and Wantage Townships, Sussex County;
 - ii. Management Objective: preservation of an inland high elevation Atlantic white cedar swamp, chestnut oak forest and associated forest communities, and rare species habitat;
 - iii. Interim Classification: conservation preserve;
 - iv. Administering Agency: Division of Parks and Forestry, through High Point State Park;
15. Dunnfield Creek Natural Area:
- i. Location: Worthington State Forest, Pahaquarry Township, Warren County;
 - ii. Management Objective: preservation of a hemlock ravine, chestnut oak forest, and rare species habitat;
 - iii. Interim Classification: conservation preserve;
 - iv. Administering Agency: Division of Parks and Forestry, through Worthington State Forest;
16. Farny Natural Area:
- i. Location: Farny State Park, Rockaway Township, Morris County;
 - ii. Management Objective: preservation of northern mixed oak-hardwood forest, hardwood swamp forest, and rare species habitat;
 - iii. Interim Classification: conservation preserve;
 - iv. Administering Agency: Division of Parks and Forestry, through Ringwood State Park;
17. Great Bay Natural Area:

- i. Location: Little Egg Harbor Township, Ocean County;
 - ii. Management Objective: preservation of tidal salt marsh ecosystem and rare species habitat;
 - iii. Interim Classification: ecological reserve;
 - iv. Administering Agency: Division of Fish, Game and Wildlife, through Assunpink Wildlife Management Area;
18. Hacklebarney Natural Area:

- i. Location: Hacklebarney State Park, Chester and Washington Townships, Morris County, Tewksbury Township, Hunterdon County and Bedminster Township, Somerset County;
- ii. Management Objective: preservation of a river ravine and northern hemlock/mixed hardwood forest, and rare species habitat;
- iii. Interim Classification: conservation preserve;
- iv. Administering Agency: Division of Parks and Forestry, through Hacklebarney State Park;

19. Island Beach Northern Natural Area:

- i. Location: Island Beach State Park, Berkeley Township, Ocean County;
- ii. Management Objective: preservation of barrier island dune system, plant community associations, and rare species habitat;
- iii. Interim Classification: ecological reserve;
- iv. Administering Agency: Division of Parks and Forestry, through Island Beach State Park;

20. Island Beach Southern Natural Area:

- i. Location: Island Beach State Park, Ocean and Berkeley Townships, Ocean County;
- ii. Management Objective: preservation of barrier island dune system, saltwater marsh, freshwater bogs, and rare species habitat;
- iii. Interim Classification: conservation preserve;
- iv. Administering Agency: Division of Parks and Forestry, through Island Beach State Park;

21. Johnsonburg Natural Area:

- i. Location: Frelinghuysen Township, Warren County;
- ii. Management Objective: preservation of a mixed hardwood forest;
- iii. Interim Classification: ecological reserve;
- iv. Administering Agency: Division of Parks and Forestry, through Jenny Jump State Forest;

22. Ken Lockwood Gorge Natural Area:

- i. Location: Ken Lockwood Gorge Wildlife Management Area, Lebanon Township, Hunterdon County;
- ii. Management Objective: preservation of hemlock/mixed hardwood forest with highly varied understory, and rare species habitat;
- iii. Interim Classification: conservation preserve;
- iv. Administering Agency: Division of Fish, Game and Wildlife, through Whittingham Wildlife Management Area;

23. Liberty Park Natural Area:

- i. Location: Liberty State Park, Jersey City, Hudson County;
- ii. Management Objective: preservation of a salt marsh in Upper New York Bay;
- iii. Interim Classification: conservation preserve;
- iv. Administering Agency: Division of Parks and Forestry, through Liberty State Park;

24. Manahawkin Natural Area:

- i. Location: Manahawkin Wildlife Management Area, Stafford Township, Ocean County;
- ii. Management Objective: preservation of a mature bottomland hardwood forest, and rare species habitat;
- iii. Interim Classification: ecological reserve;
- iv. Administering Agency: Division of Fish, Game and Wildlife, through Assunpink Wildlife Management Area;

25. North Brigantine Natural Area:

- i. Location: City of Brigantine, Atlantic County;
- ii. Management Objective: preservation of salt marsh habitat, coastal dune, and rare species habitat;
- iii. Interim Classification: conservation preserve;
- iv. Administering Agency: Division of Parks and Forestry, through Bass River State Forest;

26. Osmun Forest Natural Area:

- i. Location: Knowlton Township, Warren County;
- ii. Management Objective: preservation of a north-eastern mixed hardwood forest;
- iii. Interim Classification: ecological reserve;
- iv. Administering Agency: Division of Parks and Forestry, through Jenny Jump State Forest;

27. Oswego River Natural Area:

- i. Location: Wharton State Forest, Washington and Bass River Townships, Burlington County;

ii. Management Objective: preservation of hardwood swamp, pitch pine lowland, pine-oak, Atlantic white cedar, and bog communities, which serve as rare species habitat;

iii. Interim Classification: ecological reserve;

iv. Administering Agency: Division of Parks and Forestry, through Wharton State Forest;

28. Parvin Natural Area:

i. Location: Parvin State Park, Pittsgrove Township, Salem County;

ii. Management Objective: preservation of mixed oak and pine forest on the Pine Barrens fringe with a diversity of plant and animal species, and rare species habitat;

iii. Interim Classification: conservation preserve;

iv. Administering Agency: Division of Parks and Forestry, through Parvin State Park;

29. Ramapo Lake Natural Area:

i. Location: Ramapo Mountain State Forest, Wanaque and Ringwood Boroughs, Passaic County, and Oakland Borough, Bergen County;

ii. Management Objective: preservation of northern upland habitats and rare species habitat;

iii. Interim Classification: conservation preserve;

iv. Administering Agency: Division of Parks and Forestry, through Ringwood State Park;

30. Rancocas Natural Area:

i. Location: Rancocas State Park, Westampton Township, Burlington County;

ii. Management Objective: preservation of freshwater marsh and southern floodplain habitat, including one of the largest stands of wild rice in the State;

iii. Interim Classification: conservation preserve;

iv. Administering Agency: Division of Parks and Forestry, through Lebanon State Forest;

31. Readington Natural Area:

i. Location: Readington Township, Hunterdon County;

ii. Management Objective: preservation of mixed hardwood forest, floodplain habitat and early stages of secondary field succession;

iii. Interim Classification: conservation preserve;

iv. Administering Agency: New Jersey Natural Lands Trust;

32. Strathmere Natural Area:

i. Location: Corson's Inlet State Park, Upper Township, Cape May County;

ii. Management Objective: preservation of a dune habitat, plant community associations, and rare species habitat;

iii. Interim Classification: conservation preserve;

iv. Administering Agency: Division of Parks and Forestry, through Belleplain State Forest;

33. Sunfish Pond Natural Area:

i. Location: Worthington State Forest, Pahaquarry Township, Warren County;

ii. Management Objective: preservation of a lake of glacial origin surrounded by a hardwood forest, and rare species habitat;

iii. Interim Classification: ecological reserve;

iv. Administering Agency: Division of Parks and Forestry, through Worthington State Forest;

34. Swan Point Natural Area:

i. Location: Brick Township, Ocean County;

ii. Management Objective: preservation of tidal salt marsh ecosystem and Atlantic white cedar swamp;

iii. Interim Classification: ecological reserve;

iv. Administering Agency: Division of Parks and Forestry, through Island Beach State Park;

35. Swimming River Natural Area:

i. Location: Borough of Tinton Falls, Monmouth County;

ii. Management Objective: preservation of habitat diversity including freshwater marsh, saltwater marsh, woodlands, fields and estuary;

iii. Interim Classification: conservation preserve;

iv. Administering Agency: Division of Parks and Forestry, through Allaire State Park;

36. Tillman Ravine Natural Area:

i. Location: Stokes State Forest, Walpack and Sandyston Townships, Sussex County;

ii. Management Objective: preservation of a hemlock ravine and associated geologic forms, and rare species habitat;

iii. Interim Classification: conservation preserve;

iv. Administering Agency: Division of Parks and Forestry, through Stokes State Forest;

37. Troy Meadows Natural Area:

i. Location: East Hanover and Parsippany-Troy Hills Townships, Morris County;

ii. Management Objective: preservation of freshwater marsh habitat northern swamp and floodplain habitat, and rare species habitat;

iii. Interim Classification: conservation preserve;

iv. Administering Agency: Division of Parks and Forestry, through Ringwood State Park;

38. Washington Crossing Natural Area:

i. Location: Washington Crossing State Park, Hopewell Township, Mercer County;

ii. Management Objective: preservation of natural succession and mixed hardwood forests, and rare species habitat;

iii. Interim Classification: conservation preserve;

iv. Administering Agency: Division of Parks and Forestry, through Washington Crossing State Park;

39. Wawayanda Hemlock Ravine Natural Area:

i. Location: Wawayanda State Park, Vernon Township, Sussex County;

ii. Management Objective: preservation of hemlock/mixed hardwood forest and rare species habitat;

iii. Interim Classification: conservation preserve;

iv. Administering Agency: Division of Parks and Forestry, through Wawayanda State Park;

40. Wawayanda Swamp Natural Area:

i. Location: Wawayanda State Park, Vernon Township, Sussex County, and West Milford Township, Passaic County;

ii. Management Objective: preservation of extensive northern swamp and forest habitats, glacially formed, spring-fed pond, and rare species habitat;

iii. Interim Classification: conservation preserve;

iv. Administering Agency: Division of Parks and Forestry, through Wawayanda State Park;

41. West Pine Plains Natural Area:

i. Location: Bass River State Forest, Woodland Township, Burlington County;

ii. Management Objective: preservation of a significant portion of the globally rare Pine Plains community, including rare plant and invertebrate species habitat;

iii. Interim Classification: conservation preserve;

iv. Administering Agency: Division of Parks and Forestry, through Bass River State Forest; and

42. Whittingham Natural Area:

i. Location: Whittingham Wildlife Management Area, Fredon Township, Sussex County;

ii. Management Objective: preservation of a northern swamp and floodplain forest on a limestone cliff, rare and exemplary natural communities, and rare species habitat;

iii. Interim Classification: conservation preserve;

iv. Administering Agency: Division of Fish, Game and Wildlife, through Whittingham Wildlife Management Area.

Amended by R.1989 d.566, effective November 6, 1989.

See: 21 N.J.R. 1480(b), 21 N.J.R. 3482(b).

New (c)41, West Pine Plains Natural Area, added; old (c)41 renumbered as 42 with no change in text.

Amended by R.1992 d.77, effective February 18, 1992.

See: 23 N.J.R. 1985(b), 24 N.J.R. 581(b).

Recodified from N.J.A.C. 7:5A-1.12; deleted (a) and (b), recodified (c) as (a); certain designations changed.

Public Notice: Management Plan and Boundary Revision for Cedar Swamp Natural Area.

See: 25 N.J.R. 601(b).

Amended by R.1993 d.350, effective July 19, 1993.

See: 25 N.J.R. 1350(a), 25 N.J.R. 3150(a).

Public Notice: Oswego River Natural Area boundary change.

See: 26 N.J.R. 1540(b).

Public Notice: Fanny Natural Area management plan and boundary revision.

See: 26 N.J.R. 2480(a).

Public Notice: Washington Crossing Natural Area management plan and boundary revision.

See: 26 N.J.R. 2481(a).

Public Notice: Dryden Kuser Natural Area management plan and boundary revision.

See: 27 N.J.R. 388(c).

Public Notice: Oswego River Natural Area management plan.

See: 27 N.J.R. 2488(b).

Public Notice: Amendment to Dryden Kuser Natural Area Management Plan.

See: 27 N.J.R. 4014(a).

Public Notice: Parvin Natural Area management plan.

See: 27 N.J.R. 4917(a).

Public Notice: Batsto Natural Area boundary revision.

See: 28 N.J.R. 5500(a).

Public Notice: Cape May Point Natural Area Management plan revision.

See: 29 N.J.R. 1402(c).

Public Notice: Wawayanda Hemlock Ravine Natural Area Management plan and boundary revision.

See: 29 N.J.R. 1404(a).

Amended by R.1998 d.308, effective June 15, 1998.

See: 30 N.J.R. 897(a), 30 N.J.R. 2207(a).

In (a), changed management objectives and administering agencies throughout, and inserted references to Hammonton Town and Shamong Township in 3i.

Public Notice: Ranococas Natural Area management plan.

See: 30 N.J.R. 3335(a).

Public Notice: Allamuchy Natural Area management plan.

See: 33 N.J.R. 3692(b).

7:5A-1.14 Public information

Interested persons may obtain information on the Natural Area System or inspect location maps of natural areas by contacting:

Office of Natural Lands Management
Division of Parks and Forestry
Department of Environmental Protection
PO Box 404
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0404
(609) 984-1339

New Rule: R.1992 d.77, effective February 18, 1992.
See: 23 N.J.R. 1985(b), 24 N.J.R. 581(b).

Amended by R.1998 d.308, effective June 15, 1998.
See: 30 N.J.R. 897(a), 30 N.J.R. 2207(a).