Pinelands Infrastructure Trust Fund
Master Plan Amendment
January 2019 Exhibit #4

MANCHESTER TOWNSHIP

1 COLONIAL DRIVE • MANCHESTER, NJ 08759 • (732)657-8121

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

ALBERT YODAKIS, PE, PP, CPWM
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

KENNETH T. PALMER
MAYOR

January 4, 2018

Nancy Wittenberg, Executive Director
The Pinelands Commission
15 Springfield Road
PO Box 359
New Lisbon, NJ 08064

Re: Pinelands Infrastructure Trust Master Plan Amendment
Letter of Support

Dear Director Wittenberg:

I have received and reviewed a copy of the draft amendment to the funding allocation and ranking criteria for the Pinelands Infrastructure Trust Master Plan. Please accept this letter as our support of the proposed amendment and financing structure.

The Township is of the opinion that the outlined financing structure will allow municipalities to utilize the proposed funds to complete meaningful projects which will have a positive impact on the Pinelands.

If you have any questions regarding this matter or require any additional specifics to support the township's position, please to not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,

Albert Yodakis, PE, PP, CME, CPWM
Director of Public Works

Berg, Gina

From: Berg, Gina
Sent: Monday, January 07, 2019 4:03 PM
To: Grogan, Susan; Piner, Betsy; Liggett, Larry
Cc: Wengrowski, Ed
Subject: FW: Pinelands Infrastructure Trust Fund

From: David Harpell [mailto:dharpell@jacksonmua.com]
Sent: Monday, January 07, 2019 3:58 PM
To: Berg, Gina
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: Pinelands Infrastructure Trust Fund

Gina,

I apologize that we did not testify or provide comments earlier on the Pinelands Infrastructure Trust Master Plan Amendment. As we have previously relayed, Jackson MUA is fully supportive of any infrastructure financing that will support the Pinelands Infrastructure Master Plan and the timing of this program is very fortuitous as the NJ I-Bank has limited resources and water and sewer utilities are dealing with many new regulatory mandates including the Water Quality Accountability Act. In short, these funding issues will very likely prevent extending utilities in the Pinelands Regional Growth Areas without a program such as the Pinelands Infrastructure Trust Fund. I personally think the ranking criteria seems reasonable and would like to keep the local match in the 10% range with more points provided for a higher local match.

In short, I think a program such as this is both reasonable and necessary to meet your infrastructure goals.

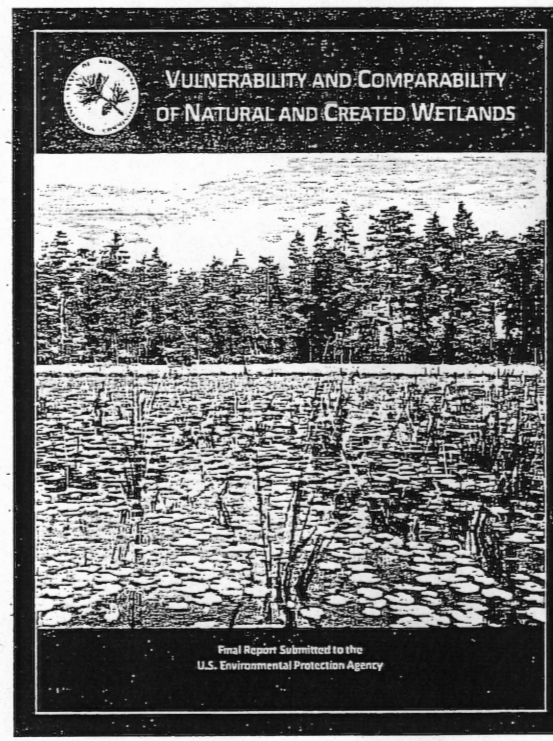
Respectfully,
David Harpell
Executive Director
Jackson Township MUA
(732)928-2222 x240

From: Berg, Gina [mailto:Gina.Berg@pinelands.nj.gov]
Sent: Thursday, August 30, 2018 9:29 AM
To: David Harpell
Subject: Pinelands Infrastructure Trust Fund

Good Morning,

The Pinelands Commission is seeking input regarding potential projects that might qualify for funding through the Pinelands Infrastructure Trust Fund. Attached is a copy of our letter that requests input about infrastructure needs and gives a brief description of the funding to be made available for projects that support any Pinelands Regional Growth management area. If you have any questions or if you would like to schedule a meeting to discuss potential infrastructure projects and the Pinelands Infrastructure Trust Fund, please contact me via e-mail or through the phone number below.

Gina Berg
Resource Planner



EPA Funded Studies

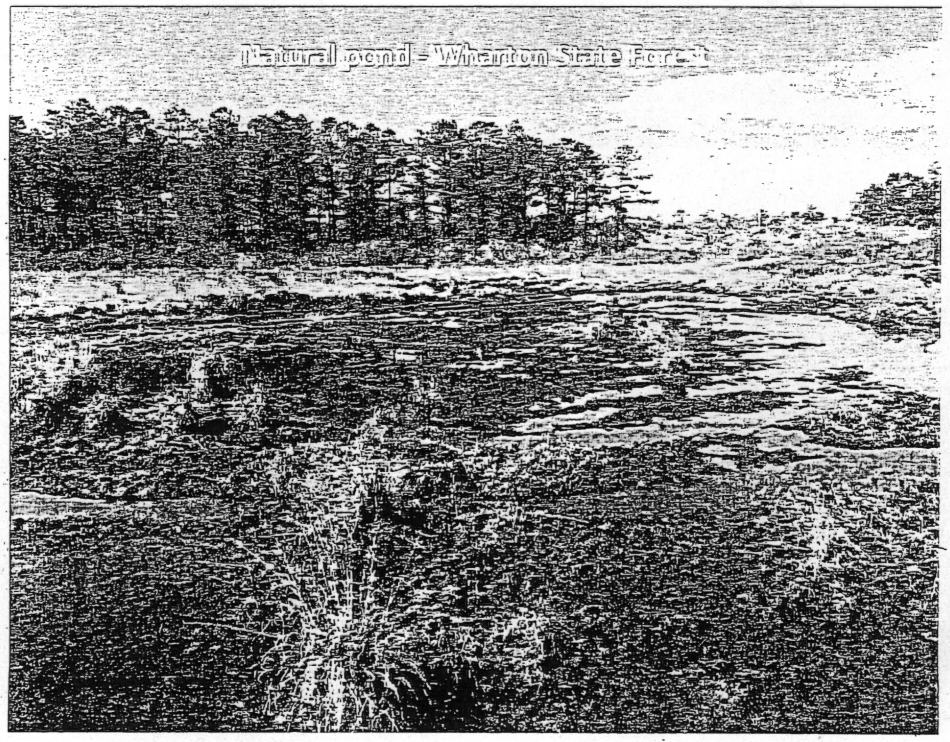
2011 & 2012
Completed July 2018

5 Goals

1. Wetland inventory
   Mapped 5,580 wetlands
   2,742 natural ponds
   1,690 excavated ponds
   1,418 stormwater basins
2. Vulnerability to buildout
3. Vulnerability to ORV damage
4. Dragonflies and damselflies
5. Compared three types
   99 natural, 52 excavated, 46 basins

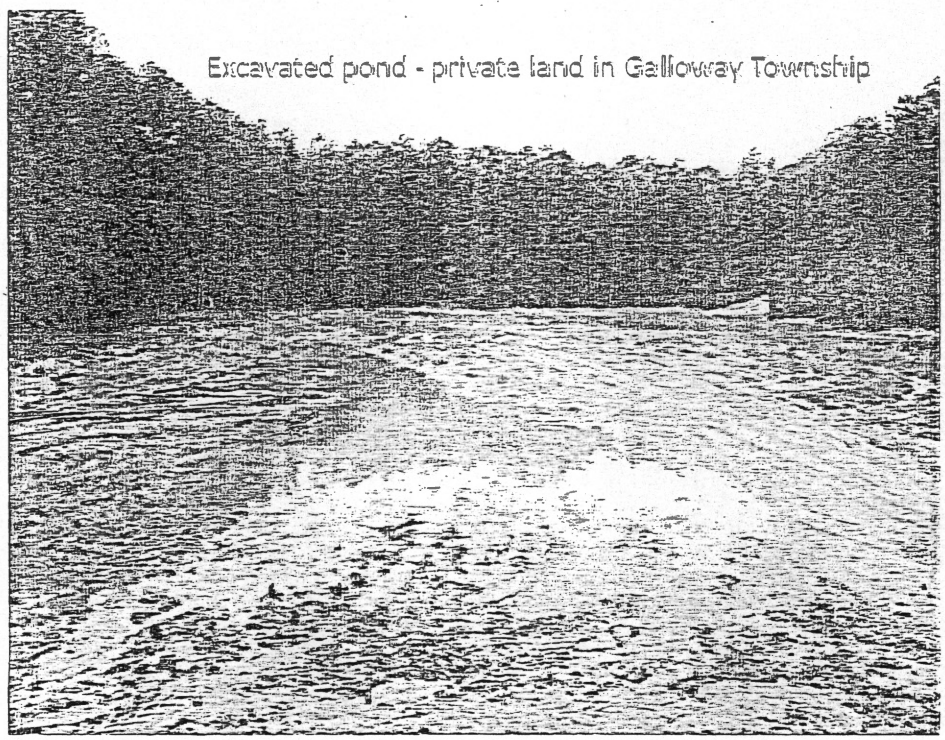
Natural pond - Brendan T. Byrne State Forest

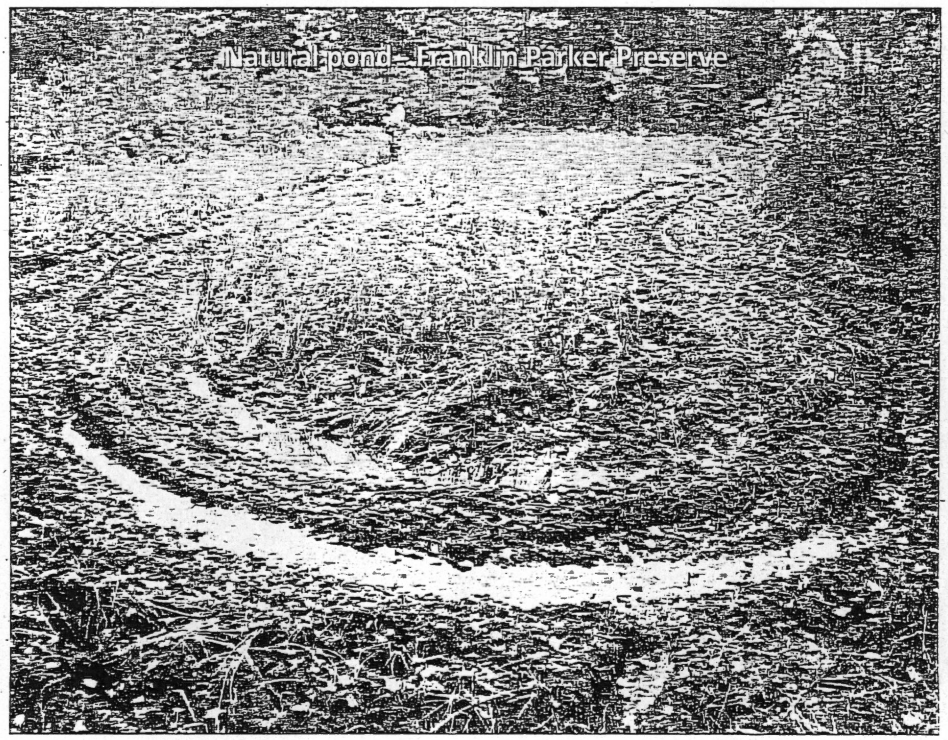
Natural pond - Wharton State Forest

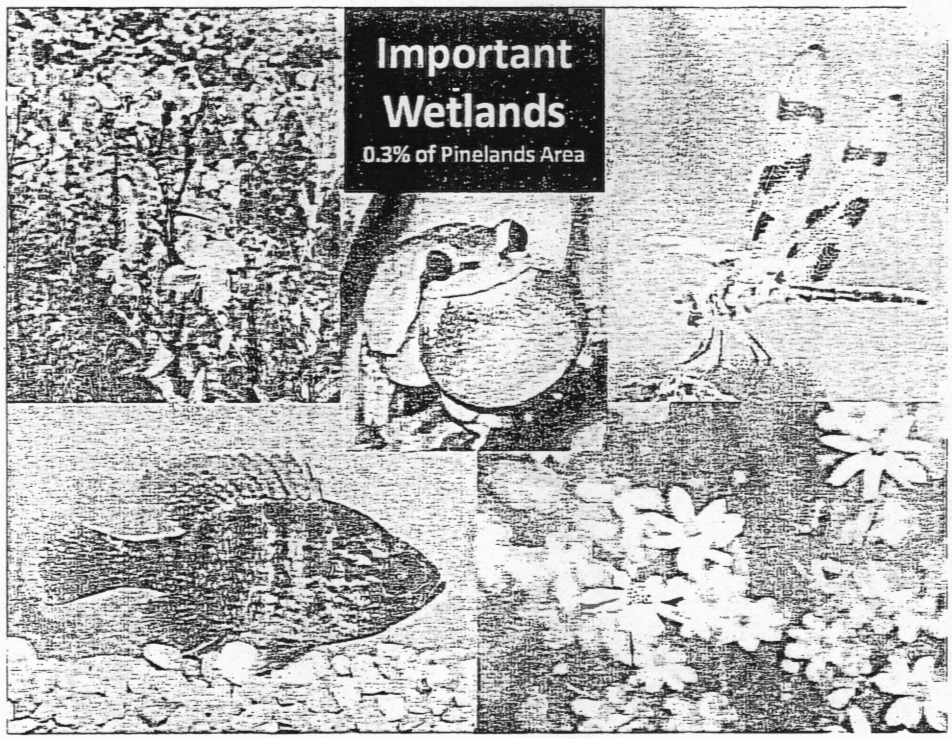


Natural pond - Peasiee Wildlife Management Area

Natural pond - Greenwood Wildlife Management Area

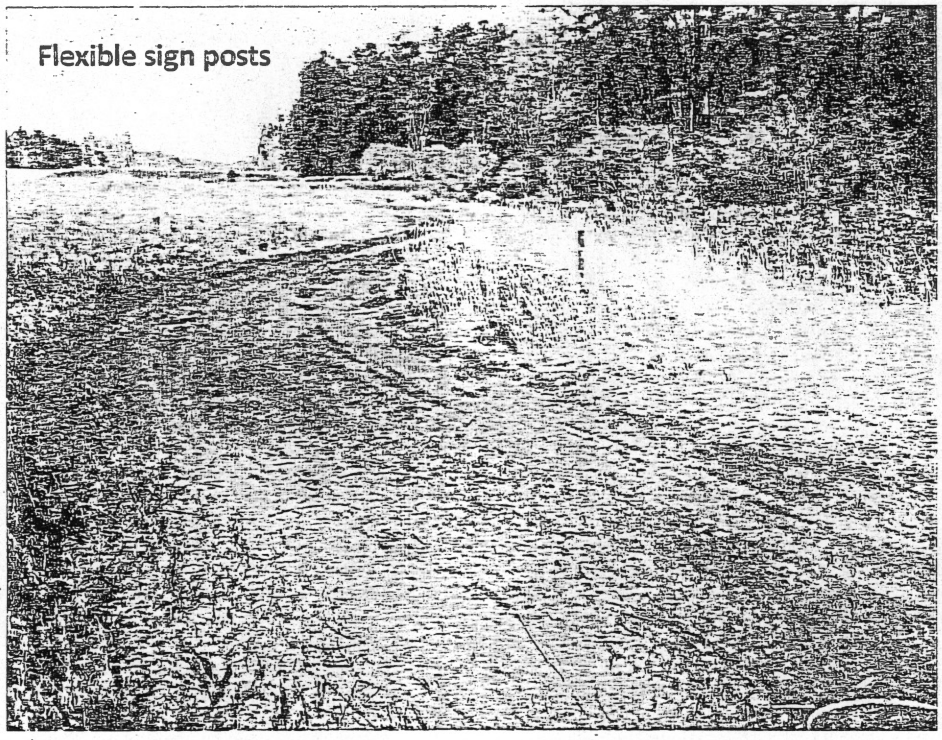

Excavated pond - private land in Galloway Township

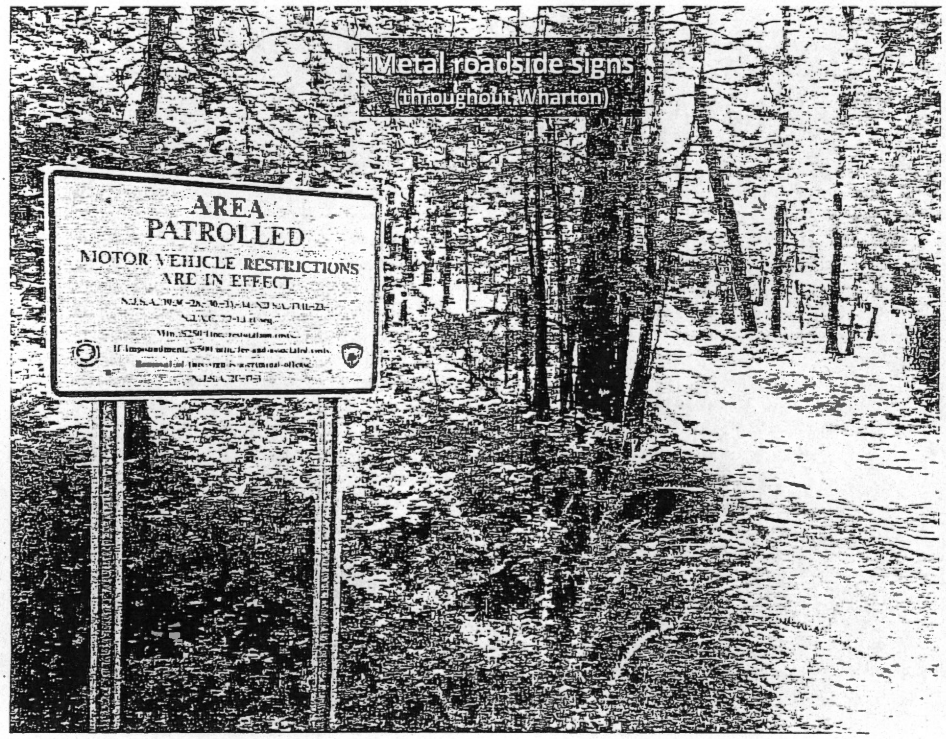

Natural pond - Franklin Parker Preserve

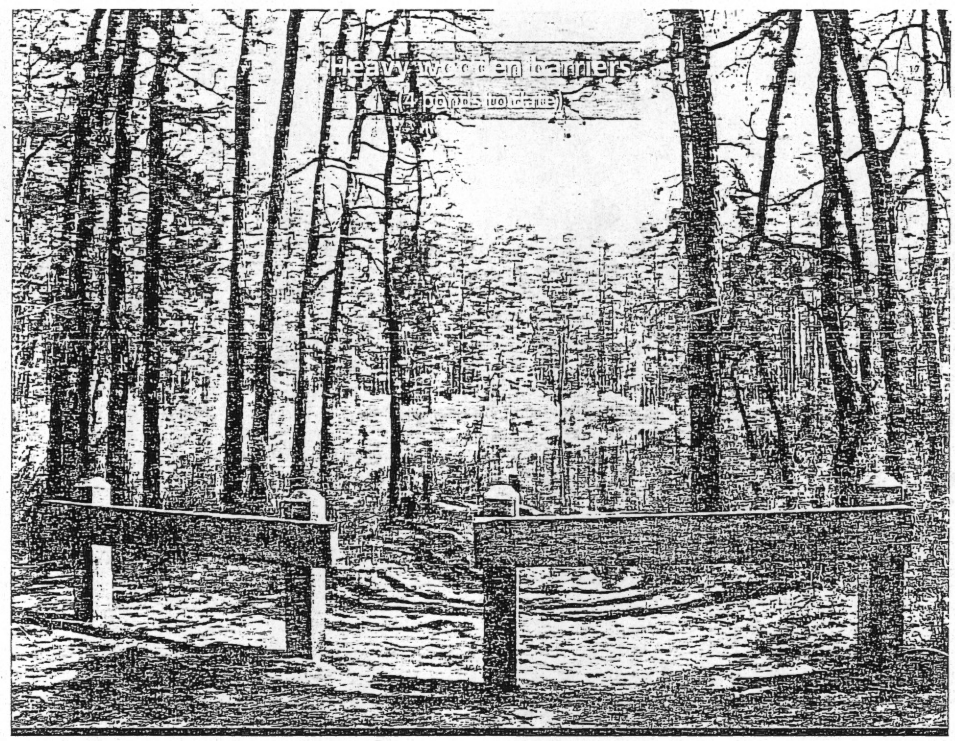


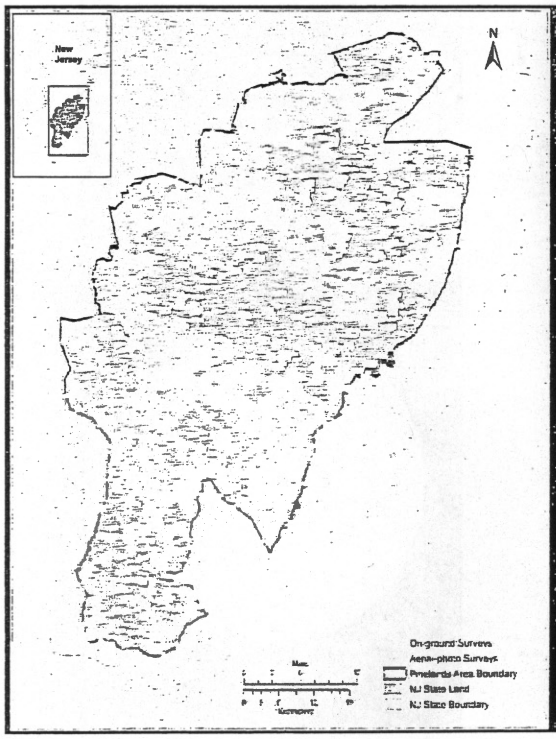
EPA Study

Group of Organisms	Total # Species	# Protected
99 Natural Ponds		
Plants	148	13
Dragonflies/Damselflies	59	3
Frogs/toads	11	1
Fish	3	1
52 Excavated Ponds		
Plants	181	12
Frogs/toads	12	1
Fish	8	3


Flexible sign posts


Metal roadside signs
(throughout Wharton)
AREA
PATROLLED
MOTOR VEHICLE RESTRICTIONS
ARE IN EFFECT





ORV Damage Surveys

Mapped 4,432 ponds
2,742 natural
1,690 excavated

3,585 on screen
2007 aerials most recent when mapped wetlands

847 in person
Joint Venture between PC, NJDEP, and PPA

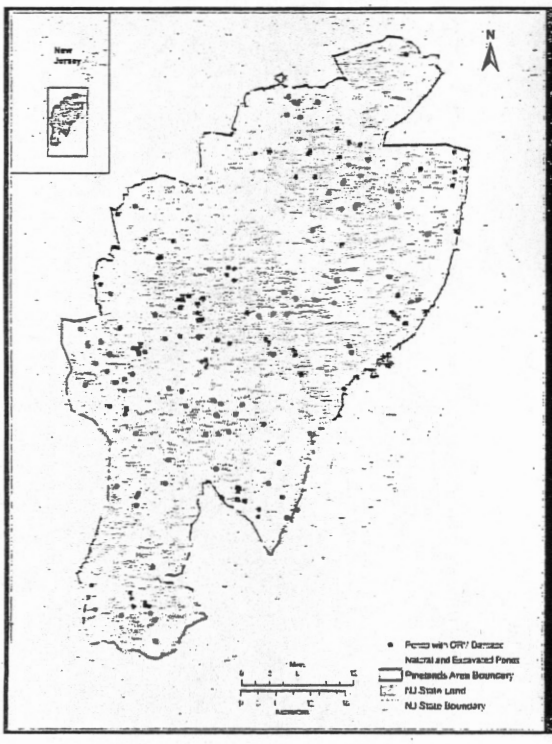
Focused on state land for on-ground survey access

Results

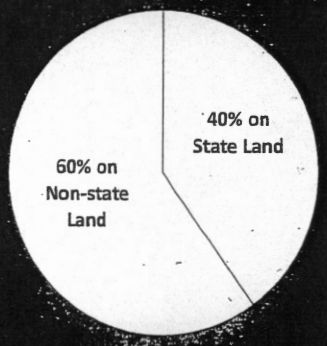
195 (4.4%) of the 4,432 ponds damaged by ORVs

(84 natural ponds, 111 excavated ponds)

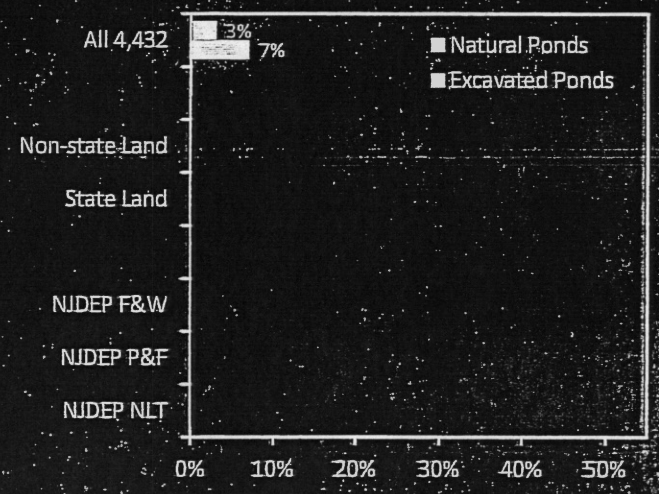
46 ponds with extensive damage
Motorcycles, quads, and trucks
1 to 6 access points
18 of the 847 ponds had access, but no visible damage
Yard waste at 7 ponds
Debris piles at 14 ponds
Trash dumped at 60 ponds
Ditches/firebreaks at 20 ponds
Stormwater pipes at 10 ponds
Party spots at 8 ponds
49 ponds recommended for immediate protection (32 already damaged)



195 Damaged Ponds



Percentage Damaged



Predicting ORV Damage

10 variables for all ponds

Pond size
% water, herb, shrub, and tree cover
Surrounding % developed land
Surrounding % agriculture

Distance to nearest sand or paved road
Distance to nearest Commission approved enduro route
Distance to nearest damaged pond

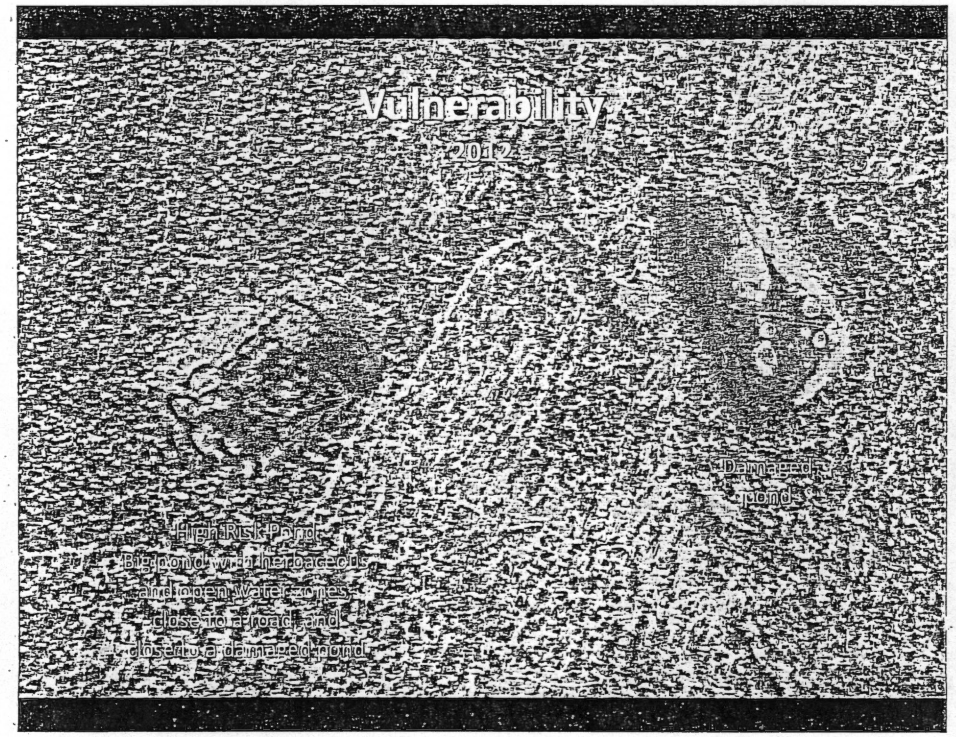
Statistical model

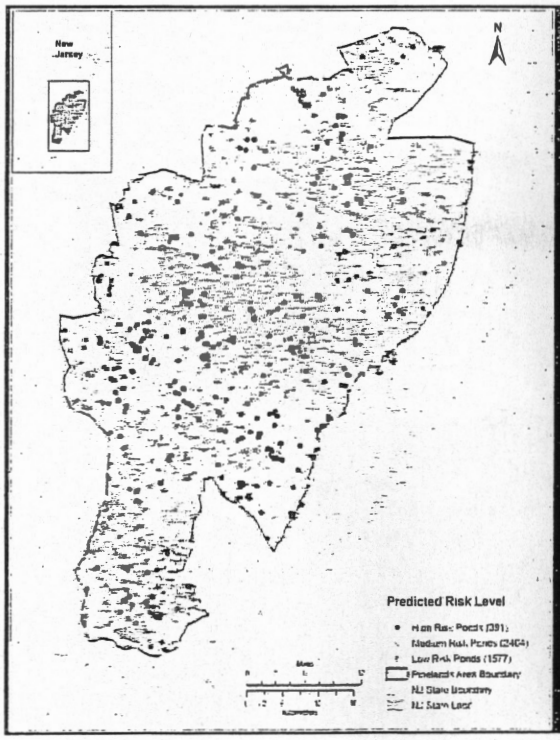
Logistic regression
Used the 195 damaged ponds and chose 195 undamaged ponds
Determined the probability of ORV damage

Five Important Variables

Pond size
% water, herb, ~~shrub, and tree cover~~
~~Surrounding % developed land~~
~~Surrounding % agriculture~~

Distance to nearest sand or paved road
~~Distance to nearest enduro route~~
Distance to nearest damaged pond



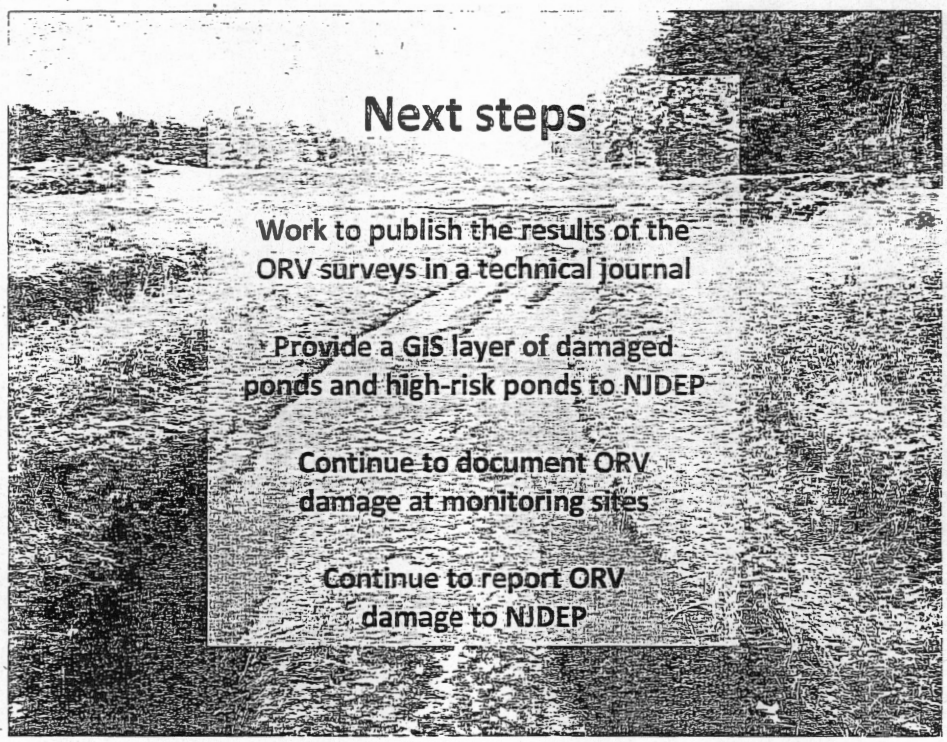


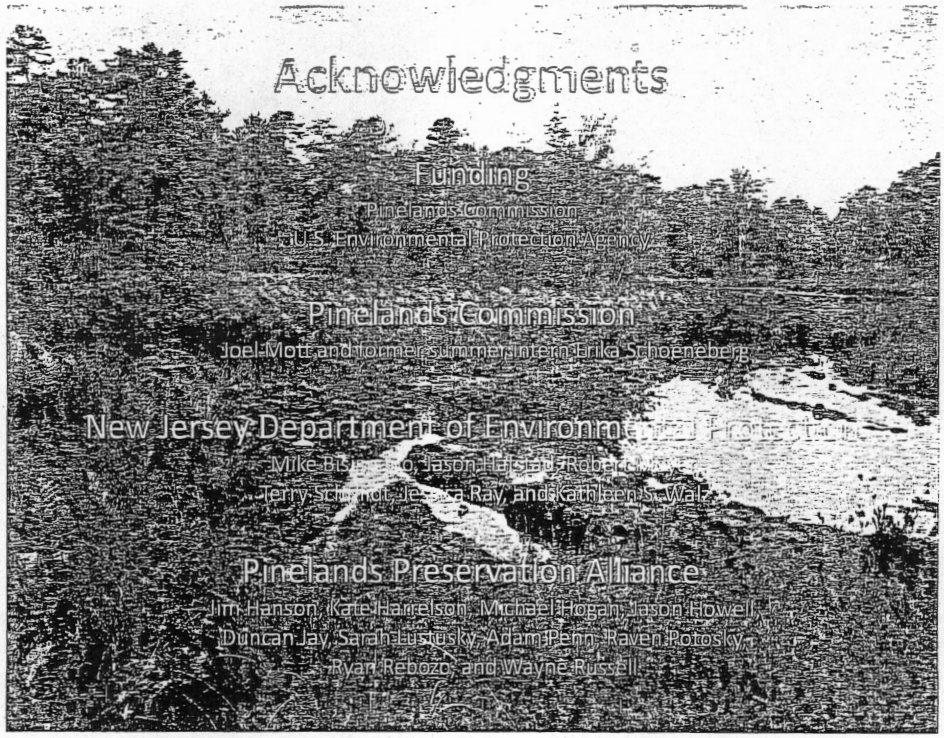
Risk Map

391 High Risk (>75%)
2,464 Medium Risk (25-75%)
1,577 Low Risk (<25%)

Model determined vulnerability so some ponds with actual damage are not red or in the high risk category

Risk can be categorized in ways other than this map


Next steps
Work to publish the results of the ORV surveys in a technical journal
Provide a GIS layer of damaged ponds and high-risk ponds to NJDEP
Continue to document ORV damage at monitoring sites
Continue to report ORV damage to NJDEP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Pinelands Commission
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Jerry Schmidt, Jessica Ray, and Kathleen S. Walz
Pinelands Preservation Alliance
Jim Hanson, Kate Harrelson, Michael Hogan, Jason Howell, Duncan Jay, Sarah Lustusky, Adam Penn, Raven Pottosky, Ryan Rebozo, and Wayne Russell

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
PINELANDS COMMISSION

Good morning Pinelands Commissioners, Executive staff and members of the public.

My name is Jennifer Curley, and I am the staff representative for Local 1040 of the **Communications Workers of America, AFL-CIO**. Local 1040 represents over 70% of the Pinelands Commission staff. We represent your dedicated employees that are members of 3 collective bargaining units at the Commission. Those units are the Non-Professional Unit, the Professional Unit and the Supervisory Unit.

I am here before you this morning because your staff has been working for 43 months without a contract. Although we are currently in contract negotiations, we are gravely concerned that we may be reaching a deadlock in our effort to achieve salary parity between our member's salaries and their counterparts at NJDEP.

I'd like to thank you for providing me with the opportunity to address you this morning. I'd also like to thank your Executive Staff for the time they have spent in bargaining with CWA. We want to emphasize that our principal goal has always

been to achieve salary and benefits parity with your staff's counterparts at the NJ Department of Environmental Protection. We compare your staff's salaries and benefits to their NJDEP counterparts because of the identical skill sets and job titles that are common to the staff at both agencies.

You know well that many on your staff have devoted their professional careers to preserving the Pinelands. These are scientists, planners, educators, regulatory reviewers, cultural resource experts, IT professionals and support staff that work collaboratively and with outside parties to protect the region's natural resources.

Since Fiscal Year 2007, unfilled vacancies at the Commission have increased steadily resulting in a total of 23 unfilled, full-time equivalent positions. This means that thirty-five percent of once-filled Commission positions are now vacant. As a result, many on your staff are doing double or triple duty, performing complex tasks.

In seeking salary parity, we've been told that our goal is unrealistic. We've heard at the bargaining table that our comparison to our DEP counterparts is false; that our members are not State employees. We note, however that the title: **State of New Jersey** is proudly displayed on all official Pinelands Commission documents. And the highest ranking official whose name appears on official Commission

documents is none other than the honorable Governor Phil Murphy. We are not persuaded by this semantic argument. Let it be clear that our members will never be dissuaded from taking pride in working with you, as New Jersey State Employees, protecting the New Jersey Pinelands.

We have been told that we are not Civil Service Employees; an irrelevant comparison as none of the salary disparity issues are due to Civil Service protections but have rather been awarded to DEP counterparts through the same process of collective bargaining process that we are engaged in with the Commission's Executive Staff.

Before I go on, CWA Local 1040 would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Pinelands Commission on its 40th birthday, and to say thank you for 40 years of landmark land use planning and natural resource protection of the Pinelands of New Jersey.

CWA Local 1040 also wises to express our gratitude for the Commission's adoption of Resolution PC-4-17-43 which awarded a 5% salary increase to your staff in December 2017. That action represents an important step in bridging the salary disparity between your staff and their NJDEP counterparts.

But we must take this opportunity to put that 2017 5% salary increase in perspective. It came after your staff and their families received no merit-based increases - (as called for in the Commission's personnel policies) in the preceding 10 years and no cost of living increases in 2011, 2012, 2015, and 2018. Including that 5% increase, your staff has seen their salaries rise by an average of 1.1% in the 10 years since 2009.

By contrast, NJDEP employee salaries have risen at an average annual rate of 4.9 % over this same time period.

To recap: 1.1% annual rise in Commission staff salaries verses 4.9 % rise in NJDEP salaries over the same 10 year period .

The reason for this disparity is due largely to salary give-backs forced upon your staff at the threat and execution of layoffs, and the loss of merit-based raises by your staff while their DEP counterparts continued to receive their merit-based raises in every year during this period.

We have faith that the Commission's Executive Staff will work with CWA in shrinking this salary disparity and will continue to work toward achieving salary parity with your staff's DEP counterparts.

We respectfully request that the Pinelands Commissioners insist that your staff be valued equally to the value placed on their counterparts at NJDEP.

We have tried to negotiate a contract that would prevent Commission employees from losing further ground to their DEP counterparts and would restore merit-based increases. However, because of management resistance, we agreed to drop most of our proposals, including merit-based increases, for a contract ending on 6/30/2019 with across-the-board raises that are the same as state employee received. In return we asked that the Commission grant two additional things that the State granted to its employees in their most recent contract--a modest, one-time bonus payment for employees who do not receive step increases and a waiver of health care deductions from back pay. There is no reason to believe that these payments would be unaffordable, yet management has rejected our proposals on both items.

We [redacted] ask the Commission to reconsider as a matter of fairness to its employees.

I would be happy to provide Commission members with a detailed comparison of your staff and NJDEP staff salary increases beginning in July 2007, the first year that CWA Local 1040 began representing the 3 bargaining units here at the Commission.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to address you this morning.