



**The Pine Barrens Connection: Living Compatibly
With a Common Fire-Adapted Ecosystem**

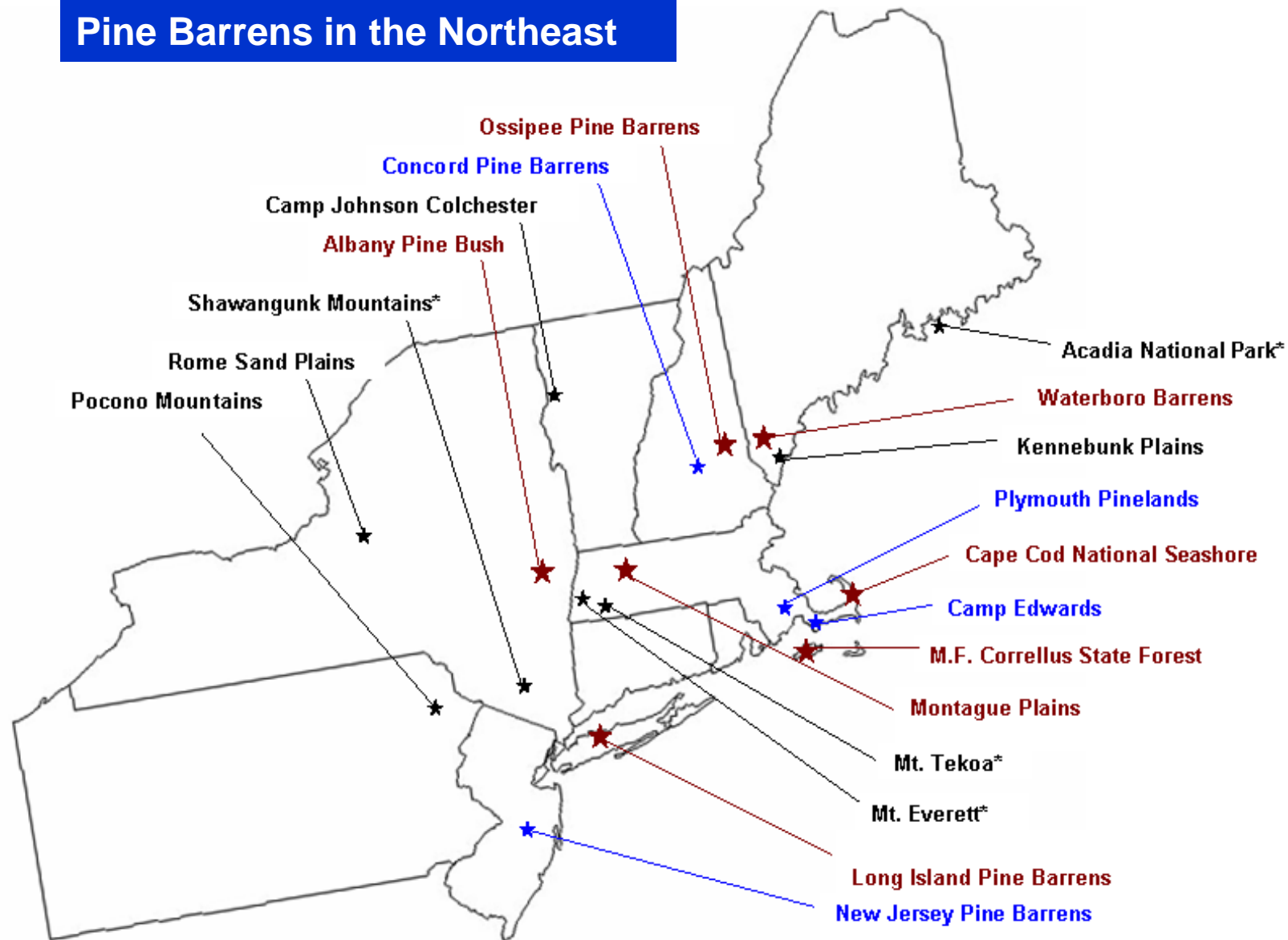
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National Fire Protection Association

Wildland Fire Operations Division

Pine Barrens in the Northeast



* denotes Rock Outcrop Barrens; all other sites are Sand Plain Barrens

Pitch Pine (*Pinus rigida*)



- Native to eastern North America
- Present in the Northeast for 10,000 years
- Has high “pitch” or resin content as compared to other pines

Pine Barrens



- Occur on dry, acidic, nutrient-poor soils
- Occupies a variety of habitats from rock outcroppings at higher elevations to sandy soils at sea level
- Due to the lack of fire in these natural areas, high fuel loads exist

A rare natural community



- Pine barrens support a number of rare species, including the Karner blue butterfly, the barrens buckmoth and plants such as the Sand-plain Gerardia.
- Researchers, land managers and conservation organizations are working together to promote, maintain and restore these unique ecosystems.
- Techniques include mechanical treatments, herbicides and prescribed fire

A Fire Dependent Ecosystem



serotinous cones

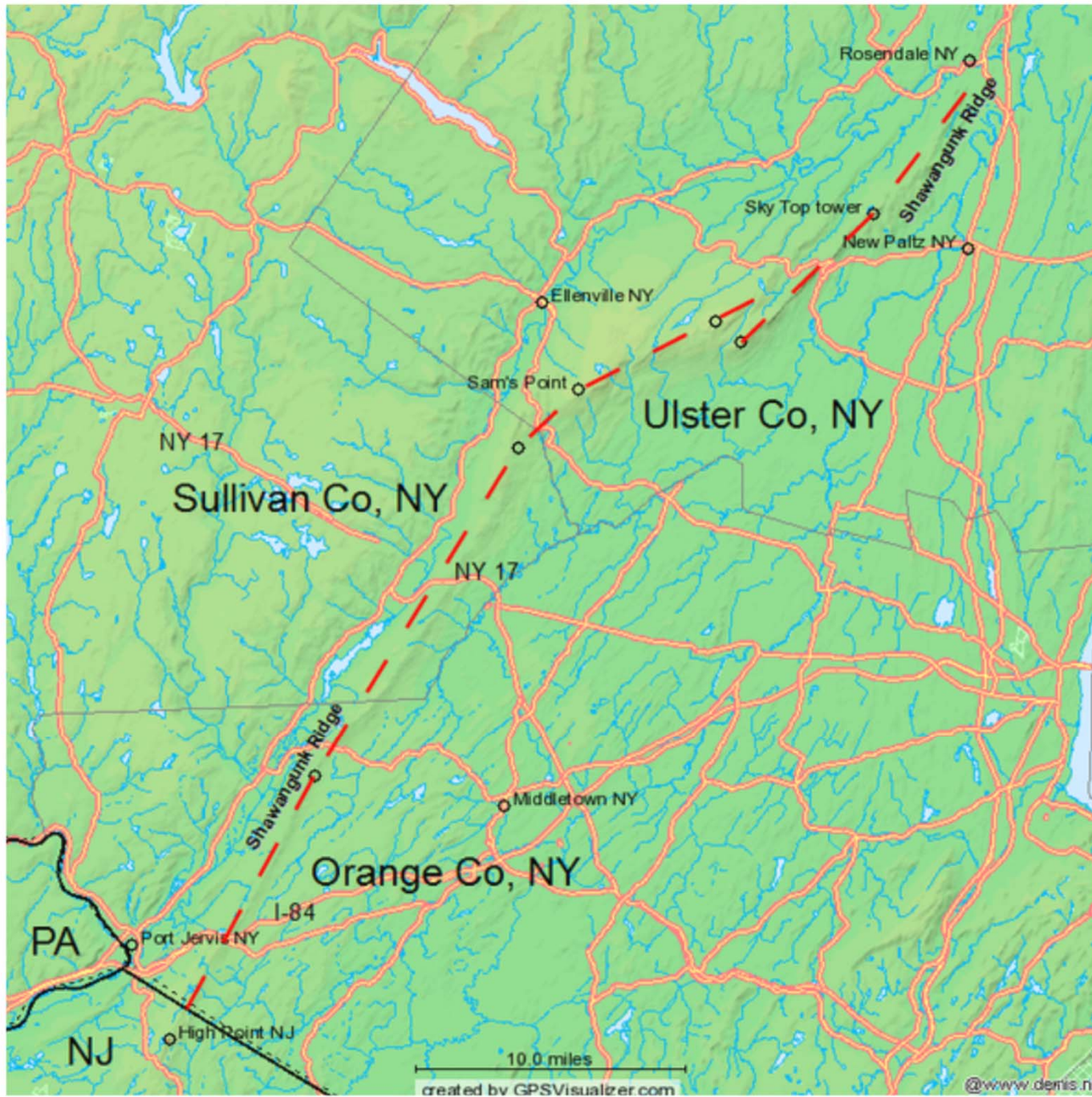


epicormic sprouts

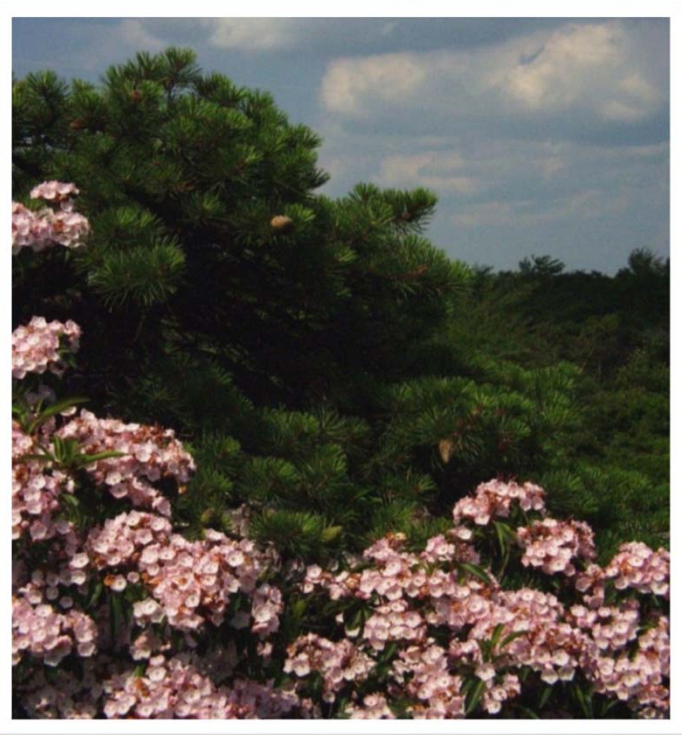
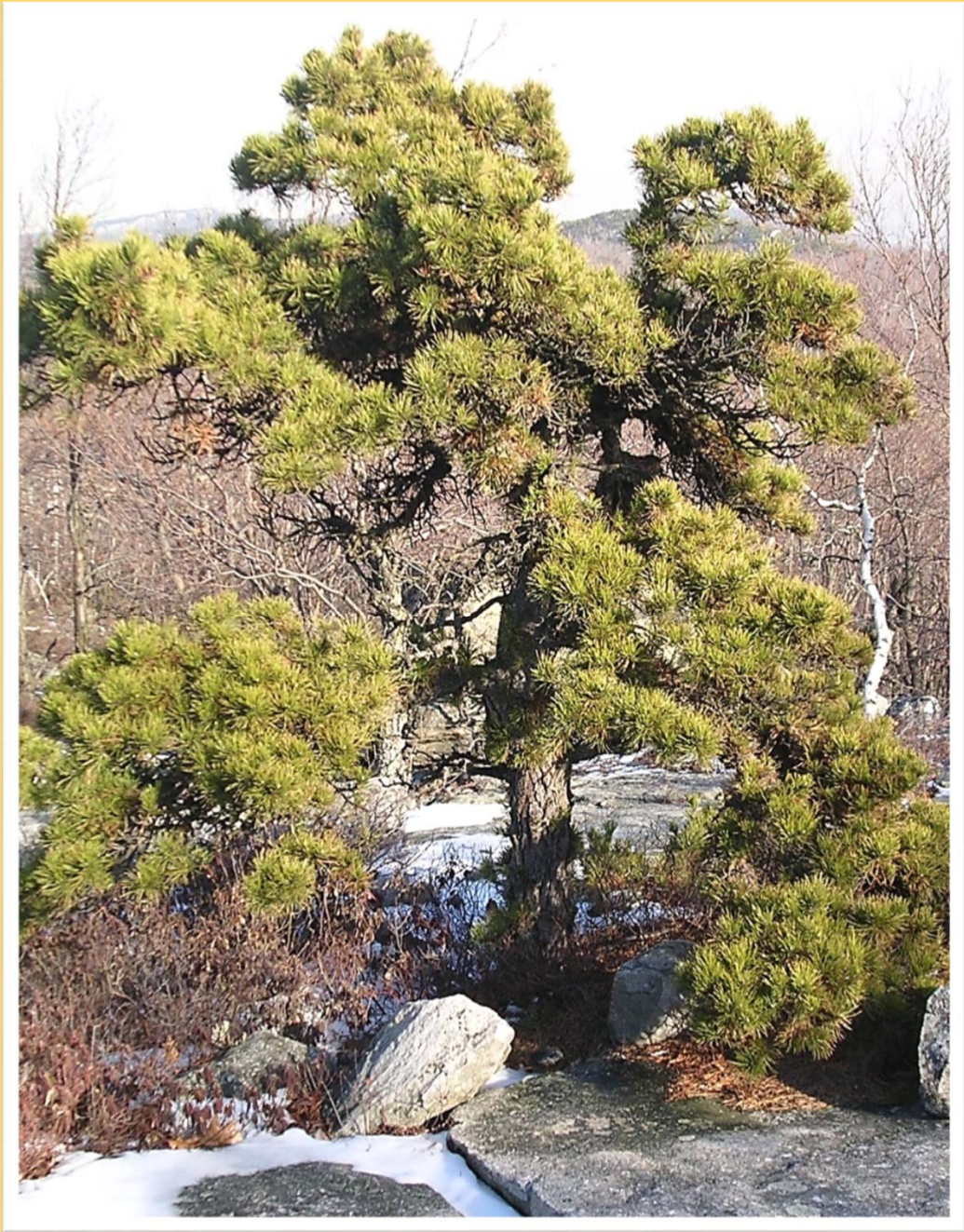


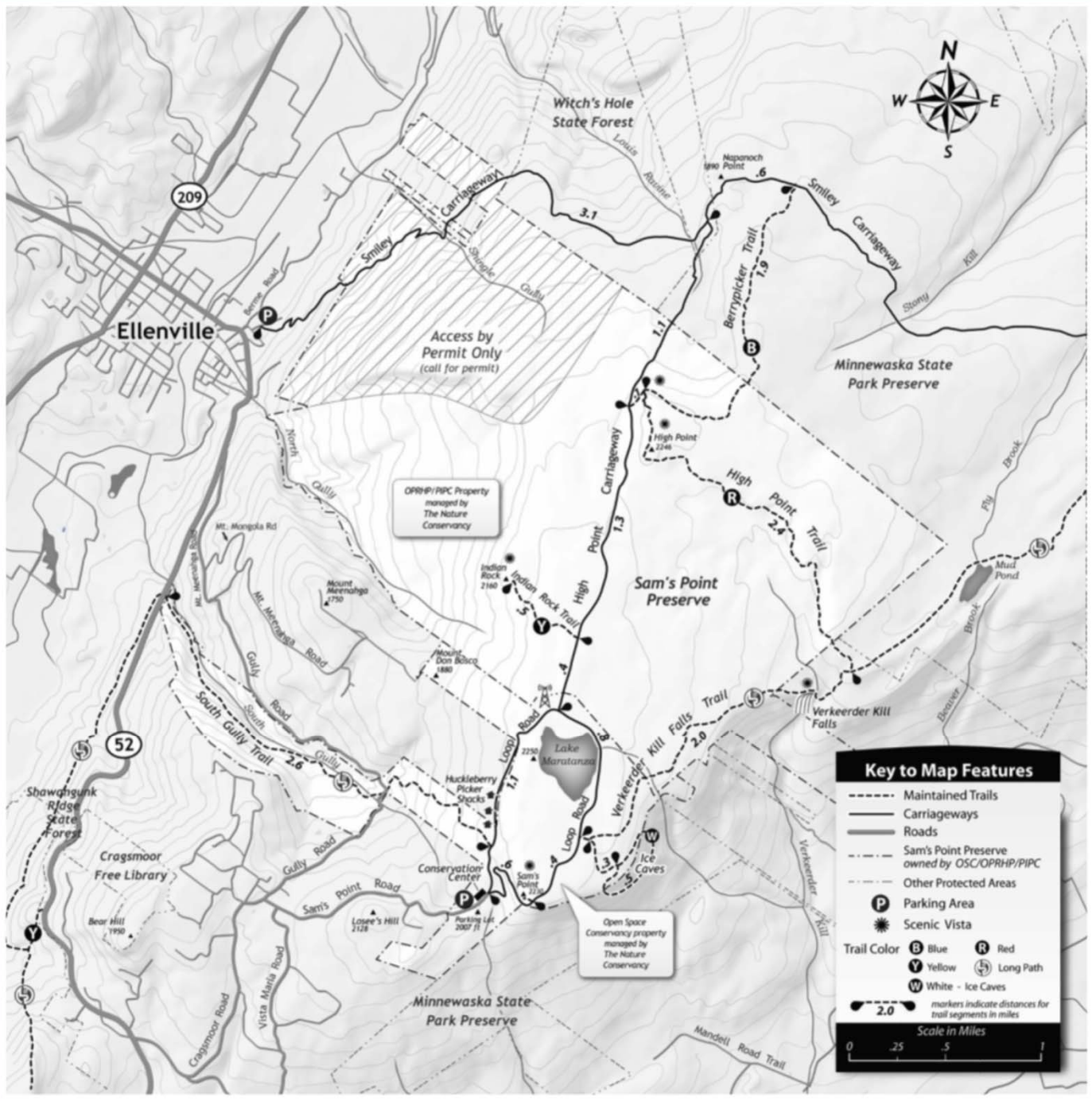


The Shawangunk Ridge









Ellenville

Witch's Hole State Forest

Minnewaska State Park Preserve

Sam's Point Preserve

OPRH/PIPC Property managed by The Nature Conservancy

Open Space Conservancy property managed by The Nature Conservancy

209

52



Key to Map Features

- Maintained Trails
- Carriageways
- Roads
- Sam's Point Preserve owned by OSC/OPRH/PIPC
- Other Protected Areas
- Parking Area (P)
- Scenic Vista (Sun icon)
- Trail Color:
 - B Blue
 - Y Yellow
 - W White - Ice Caves
 - R Red
 - Long Path (S)
- 2.0 markers indicate distances for trail segments in miles

Scale in Miles

0 .25 .5 1

Cragmoor Free Library

Minnewaska State Park Preserve

3.1

1.9

2.4

1.3

2.0

2.6

1.1

1.1

2.0

1.9

1.2

1.1

1.1

1.1

1.1

1.1

1.1

1.1

1.1

1.1

1.1

1.1

1.1

The Huckleberry Pickers





2008

www.firewise.org/usa

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Be Firewise!

By Autumn Morris

A firewise home is a safe home!

Tips to being firewise

1 Landscaping - Prune large trees, so that the lowest branches are at least 6 to 8 feet tall.

Key
Prune
Cut, trim

2 Attachments - If you have any attachments like porches or fences, make sure they are firewise.

What your house will look like if you don't use firewise tips!

What your house will look like if you use firewise tips!

3 ROOFS - Firewise roofs are made of non-combustible materials like class A asphalt shingles.



Don't Make the Elves Happy!



**SAM'S
POINT
PRESERVE**



 The
Nature
Conservancy



BE FIREWISE









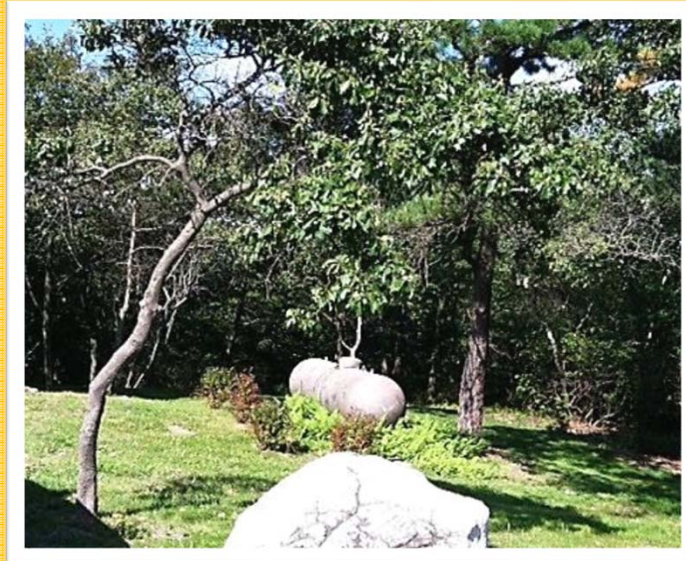




How to turn an at-risk house into a



Firewise Demonstration Home









Long Island Central Pine Barrens

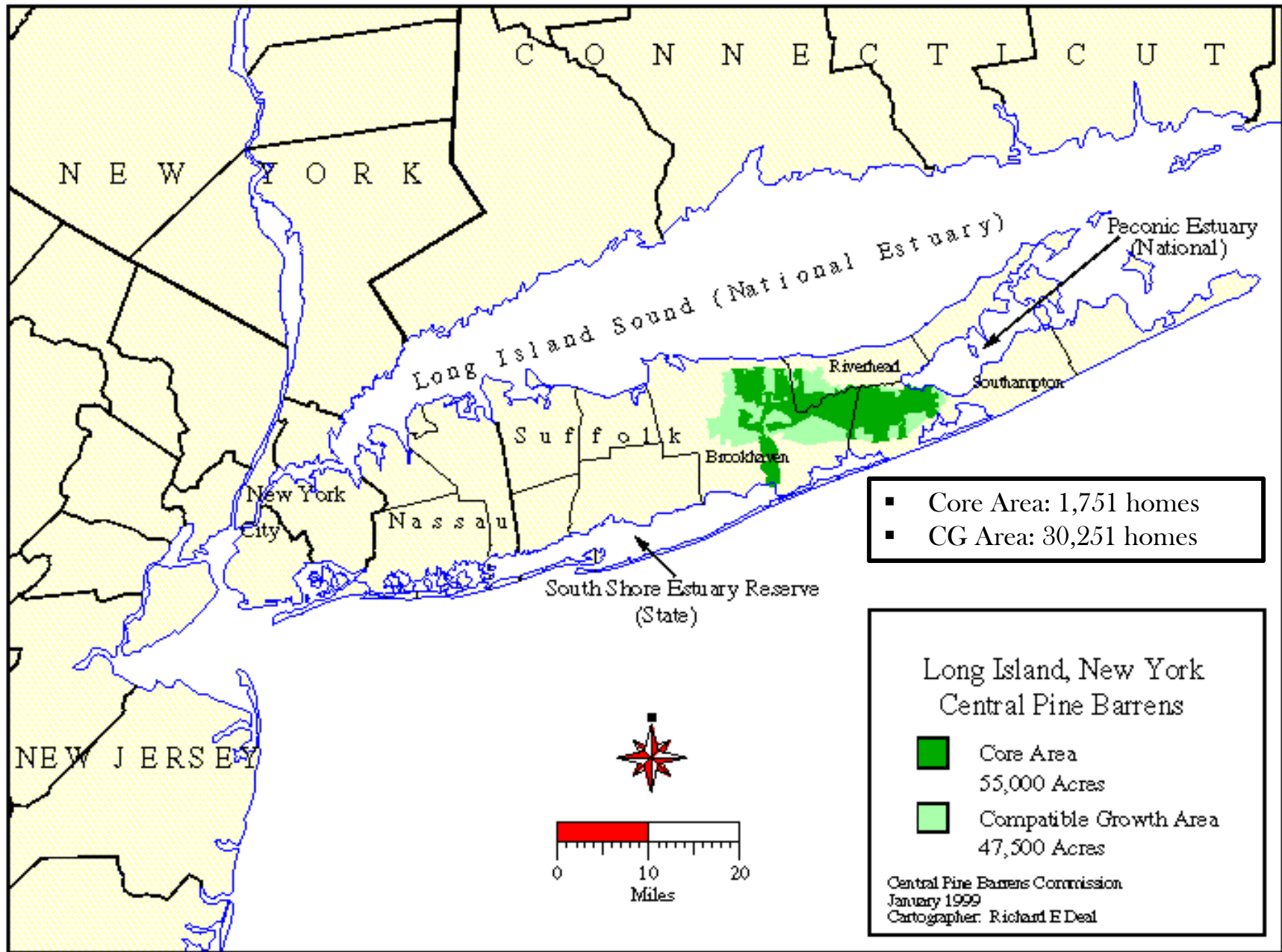


Central Pine Barrens, Long Island, NY

(c) 1997 Central Pine Barrens Commission



- Long Island's largest, publicly protected natural area and last remaining wilderness, consisting of more than 100,000 acres
- Contains a remnant of the Atlantic coastal pine barrens ecoregion, which may have covered a quarter million acres on LI
- Overlays one of the largest sources of pure groundwater in NYS
- LI residents are entirely dependent on groundwater for their drinking water, not reservoirs.
- Contains the greatest concentration of rare, threatened and endangered plants and animal species in the State
- Managed by a mix of federal, state, county and local public land managers







The 1995 Sunrise Fire Complex



- From August 21st to September 4th, four wildfires burned more than 7,000 acres in the pine barrens.
- Numerous homes burned, 400 people evacuated and Sunrise Highway shut down
- First major fire in the Wildland Urban Interface in NYS



Central Pine Barrens Planning and Policy Commission

- Established by the Long Island Pine Barrens Protection Act of 1993
- To protect, preserve and enhance significant natural and cultural resources, including groundwater, surface waters, and natural ecosystems in the Central Pine Barrens region
- Oversees three stewardship councils consisting of Federal, State, County and local agencies and volunteers to help the Commission to fulfill its mission



Wildfire Task Force

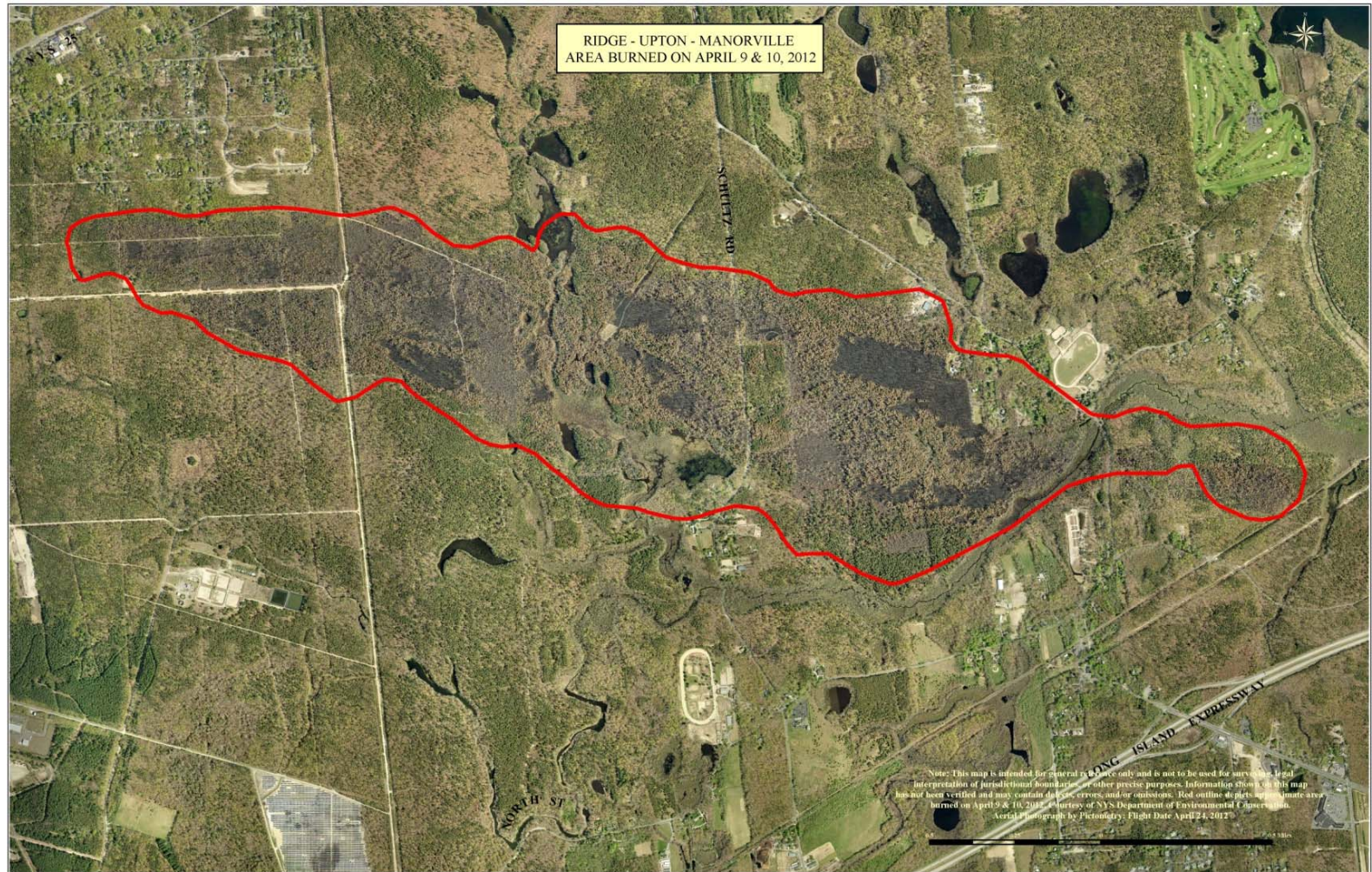


- Created a Fire Management Plan for the Central Pine Barrens
- Provides wildfire prevention and awareness information to residents
- Provides daily fire danger ratings to emergency services
- Supports the use of prescribed burns
- Offers training at the NY Wildfire & Incident Management Academy

Crescent Bow Fire

April 24, 2012

1,100 acres burned in the Core Area







*Photo Date 4/20/12
Central Pine Barrens Commission*

Suffolk County CERT



Suffolk County CERT members are delivering the Firewise message to their neighbors.



Community Emergency Response Team

CERT members:

- Volunteers trained in basic disaster response skills – 2,411 active CERT programs in the US
- Can assist others in their community when professional responders are not immediately available
- Support responding agencies during emergencies
- Inform their community about emergency preparedness





1995 Wildfires
General Area

NYS DEC
Rocky Point Preserve

Wading River Hollow Road

Ridge Road

Leisure Glen

Leisure Village

TOB

Whiskey Road

Leisure Knoll

Tallgrass Golf Course

Brookhaven State Park

William Floyd Pkwy

Firemans Park Museum

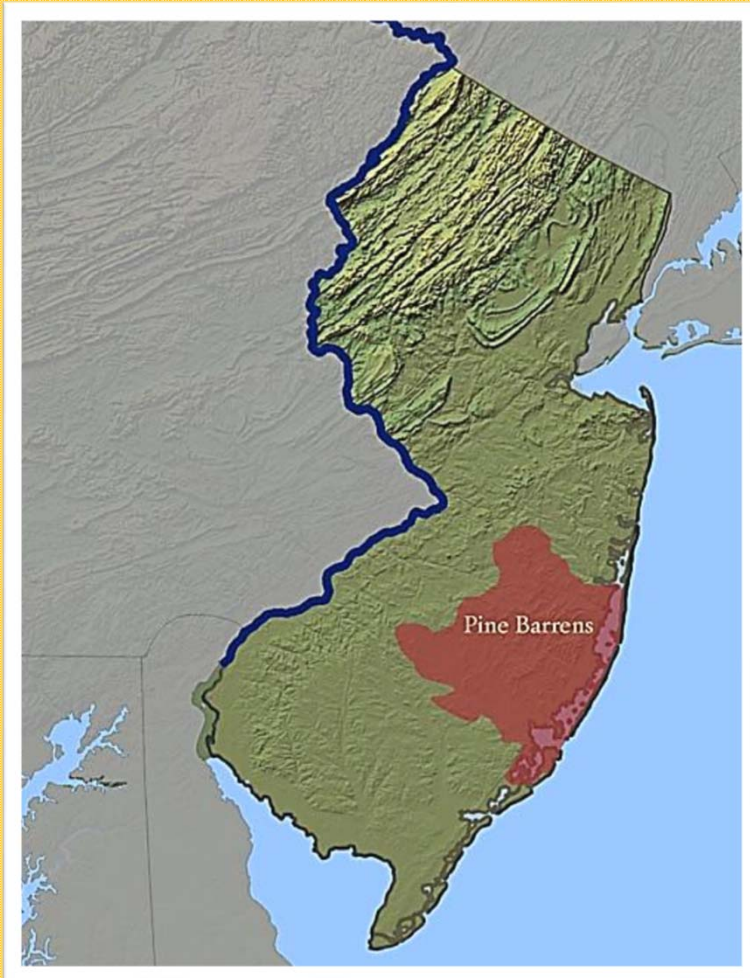
Town of Brookhaven

Shooting range

Plans are underway to introduce the Firewise program to three sister retirement communities: Leisure Glen, Leisure Village and Leisure Knoll

April 2012
General area of
Crescent Bow
Wildfires

The New Jersey Pine Barrens



- Heavily forested area of the coastal plain in southern New Jersey covering 1.1 million acres
- Contains 17 trillion gallons of the purest drinking water in the US
- Development in the pine barrens is strictly controlled
- Residential communities still continue to spread into previously undisturbed natural areas
- Estimated that 46% of homes in New Jersey are located in the wildland urban interface

Black Saturday

April 20, 1963



- 37 major wildfires destroyed 183,000 acres of land
- Consumed 186 homes and 197 outbuildings
- Thousands forced to flee
- Responsible for 7 deaths.

Southern Pine Beetle



- One of the most destructive forest insects in the southeastern United States
- Burrows into cambium layer under bark, creating S-shaped tunnels or “galleries”
- Cuts off flow of water and nutrients to the tree, resulting in death within a few weeks
- Since 2010, 27,000 acres of NJ pine barrens have been impacted
- Estimated 80% of pine barrens could be affected in 10 years



- To reduce risk of SPB infestations, trees should be thinned so they are spaced 20 feet apart
- Foresters must remove infested trees. Harvested trees should be sold to a saw mill.
- NJ Forest Fire Service has been hand-cutting small infected stands on state land.
- Contractors with mechanized equipment hired for larger stands

Prescribed Burns



1500 acres burned annually by the New Jersey Forest Fire Service

Firewise and Ready, Set, Go!



- 11 recognized Firewise Communities in New Jersey
- Several more will be recognized by the end of the year
- New Jersey ranks in the top 5 in the Firewise Challenge!



- In 2010-11 Barnegat Volunteer Fire Company was selected as an initial pilot fire company for the Ready, Set, Go! program
- Plans are underway to introduce Ready, Set, Go! to other fire departments in the WUI.



Most Firewise projects focus on creating wide fuel breaks at least 100 feet around the perimeter of the communities, often along existing roads. Dead trees are removed and ladder fuels removed. Trees are pruned to 15 feet.

Horizons at Barnegat Birthday Bash



Dedicated NJ Spark Plugs



Nancy Reid from Horizons at Barnegat spreading the word on the Firewise program and Ready, Set, Go! to other retirement communities.

CIVIC LEADERS

Require defensible space around structures

- Don't allow development in high risk areas

- Follow safety codes to regulate building materials & locations

DEVELOPERS AND BUSINESS OWNERS

Don't build in high risk areas

- Make sure developments have adequate defensible space

- Use non-combustible building materials

FIRST RESPONDERS

Use the Ready, Set, Go! program

- Educate your jurisdiction about fire adapted communities

- Create a fire plan with other emergency responders

LAND MANAGERS

Treat hazardous fuels to reduce risk from wildfire

- Identify & assess wildfire risk on the land you manage

- Work collaboratively to reduce risk on the land you manage

HOMEOWNERS

Become a Firewise Community

- Create 100 feet of defensible space

- Keep roof & gutters clean



Fire Adapted Communities® approach to reducing wildfire risk will soon be introduced to municipalities located in the Wildland Urban Interface throughout New Jersey.



www.fireadapted.org

Fire Adapted Communities

- Coordinated by the NFPA and the US Forest Service
- A Fire Adapted Community acknowledges and takes responsibility for its wildfire risk, and implements appropriate actions at all levels. The more actions the community takes, the more fire adapted it becomes.
- Benefits residents, local and state government, firefighters, businesses, planners, developers, insurers, landscape architects, and emergency management

Questions?

