

# New Jersey Pine Barrens

## Joint Chiefs' Landscape Restoration Partnership



The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) are collaborating on 14 new initiatives across the nation, but there are a total of 124 different projects across the country from 2014 through 2023. The purpose of this initiative is to bring together agricultural producers, forest landowners, and National Forest System lands to improve forest health using available Farm Bill conservation programs and other authorities under the Joint Chiefs' Landscape Restoration Partnership (JCLRP).

This partnership enables NRCS and the Forest Service to collaborate with agricultural producers and forest landowners to invest in conservation and restoration at a large enough scale to make a difference. Working at this scale helps reduce wildfire threats, protect water quality and supply, and improve wildlife habitat for at-risk species.

Through the new three-year projects, landowners will work with local USDA experts and partners to apply targeted forestry management practices on their land to meet unique forestry challenges in their area.



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### Partnership Highlights

The New Jersey Pine Barrens Partnership Project has been developed through the JCLRP to address wildfire threats, water quality, forest health and wildlife habitat.

Desired landscape-level outcomes are to reduce and mitigate wildfire threats to communities and landowners; improve habitat conditions for at-risk species; increase forest health by addressing stands that have been damaged by southern pine beetle. Forests devastated by southern pine beetle become fire-prone from many standing dead trees as well as accumulated leaf litter. Also, the decreased canopy cover causes the floor and vegetation to dry out quickly, increasing wildfire risk. These stands need improvement in appropriate stand stocking, and shifts composition to resilient tree species.

The project area is centered in the Pinelands region, which covers portions of Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, and Ocean counties.

### Project Priorities

- Forest management plans
- Improve habitat for at-risk species
- Reduce and mitigate wildfire threat
- Fire breaks
- Forest stand improvement
- Implementing carbon defense activities
- Southern pine beetle mitigation

Landowners interested in applying for funding should visit their local USDA Service Center or visit the New Jersey NRCS website at: [www.nrcs.usda.gov/nj](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/nj).

### Application Process

- 1) Establish eligibility for USDA Programs by working with your local NRCS office.
- 2) Apply for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). Funding for this project will be allocated through EQIP signups.
- 3) Work with NRCS to create a Conservation Plan by selecting and designing the conservation practice(s) that will advance resource management on your property based on the identified challenges and opportunities.
- 4) NRCS will rank your application based on local resource concerns and, if selected, work with you to complete a contract that will provide financial assistance for the selected conservation practices.
- 5) NRCS will assist with resources to implement the Conservation Practices in the contract on your property.

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FOR MORE INFO ABOUT THE JCLRP

New Jersey  
Natural  
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[nrcs.usda.gov/nj](http://nrcs.usda.gov/nj)