

2018/19 Stand 33 Sparta Mountain Wildlife Management Area Report

January 2025

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Activities proposed for this year were one year behind the schedule in the [2017 Sparta Mountain WMA Forest Stewardship Plan](#) and included a modified seed tree treatment on 5-10 acres and a shelterwood treatment on 5-10 acres in Stand 18 and a single tree selection on 5-20 acres in Stand 33.

NJ DEP Fish & Wildlife incorporated site-specific feedback provided during months of stakeholder engagement and planning. Changes based on this feedback included changing the boundaries to the single tree selection to provide larger buffers to wetlands and rare plants.

The intent of a single tree selection was to accelerate old growth attributes within a forest type that is better suited to developing a climax forest. This is accomplished through a process known as “gap-phase replacement”, which mimics the natural processes of an old-growth forest. Through the creation of small canopy gaps and growth of younger cohorts of shade-tolerant trees, this stand will contain three or more age classes at any given time. Out of the 20 acres prescribed in the plan, approximately 17 acres were treated in the winter of 2018/19.

[Stand 33 Single Tree Selection Treatment Description and Treatment Maps](#) – Updated 11/13/18
[Location Map](#) – Revised 9/28/18