

Minutes from the SAB Ecological Processes Subcommittee (October 18th Meeting)

- 1.) Concentrate resources on Issue No. 1.: Examine CWH documents and critique
 - Define CWH and develop using existing definition, in addition to all NJDEP available resources (e.g. Landscape Project Mapping, NHP maps of plants and unique ecological communities – Natural Heritage Priority Sites, Other). Dave Golden to provide 1.) Landscape Project Map, 2.) NHP Maps (Bob Cartica or Kathleen Walz – DEP-ONLM), 3.) Natural Heritage Priority Sites, 4.) Supporting Documents (?)
 - Need to prioritize areas that should be included statewide, such as look at areas that, if developed/disturbed, would not result in negative impacts to species populations, or no net losses in habitat value.
 - Need State's definitions of "endangered", "threatened", and "special concern"
 - Should examine broad approach to protect animal and plant communities; rules are heavily weighted to bird and vertebrate protection
 - Examine how Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) is delineated; find case law where definitions are challenged
- 2.) Mitigation: When the above issue is resolved, this issue can be examined.
 - Bring in NJDEP Land Use Mitigation Unit to discuss how state operates with respect to the above
- 3.) ORV (Issue No. 2):
 - Examine technical criteria on how sites should be selected, on State Lands, for legal ORV use
 - Need position statement that supports/does NOT support legal ORV activity on State Lands
- 4.) Meeting Dates: Early December for discussion of preliminary findings; Dr. DeVito to coordinate with SAB and NJDEP

SAB Members in Attendance:

- Emile DeVito, Chair
- Carolyn Bentivegna
- Paul Bologna
- Paul Bovitz
- Robert Hoke
- Jonathan Kennen
- Nai-chia Luke
- Peter Morin
- Zeyuan Qui
- Michael Weinstein