



Double Trouble State Park Natural Resource Stewardship Plan – Summary

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Location

Berkeley & Lacey Township,
Ocean County

Manager

New Jersey State Forestry Services

Size

8,677 Acres

2,906 Acres: *Managed this planning cycle*

Timeline

2015 – 2024

Plan Goals

1. Manage forest stands to conserve biological diversity, critical habitats, and the diversity of native species associated with these various habitats.
2. Maintain the productive capacity of the landscape of Double Trouble State Park to perpetuate self-sustaining forested ecosystems available for future generations.
3. Improve the distribution of age classes and densities to provide resilience to damage causing agents and ensure forest function in the face of unplanned events.
4. Conserve soil and water resources through detailed activity planning to ensure sustained future ecosystem services.
5. Provide social and economic benefits to surrounding communities to strengthen the constituencies for active management and conservation of the forest.

Background

Straddling Lacey and Berkeley Townships, Double Trouble State Park is an 8,677 acre forested area which comprises a wide array of forest types and ecological communities, such as upland pine stands to the steadily declining Atlantic white-cedar swamps, with a rich historic presence found in Double Trouble Village. Using the approved plan development process, the Double Trouble State Park Natural Resource Stewardship Plan was developed under NJ State Forestry Services by a committee of representatives from several agencies within the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Natural and Historic Resources Group (NJ State Forestry Services: Bureau of Forestry, Forest Fire Service, NJ Office of Natural Lands Management; NJ State Parks Service; NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife) with external stakeholders' input.

Each recommended activity conveys all goals and objectives set forth by the NHR working group and guided by the internationally recognized Montreal Process. Such goals include, but not limited to, conserving ecologically important habitat, maintaining productive capacity of the landscape, and providing social and economic benefits through harvesting and fire management. The established objectives are achieved through the use of Best Management Practices for forestry, fire, and habitat management, with the overall result of a healthier forested ecosystem. Best management practices for forestry are trusted as guidelines for techniques that are most effective operationally yet minimize negative environmental impacts.

Overview of treatments

Management Recommendation	Activity	Acres Planned	Purpose of Management
AWC Restoration and Sandy Cedar Salvage	Removal of non-AWC species, selective herbicide, fence, planting	189	To restore the statewide presence of Atlantic white-cedar, provide beneficial spatial arrangements on the landscape, aiding in AWC restoration initiative congruent with Eastern Seaboard states.
Patch Cuts	Half-acre Shelterwood cuts	15	To provide habitat for rare species that require open areas within a diverse habitat by randomly scattered ½ acre shelterwood cuts.
Restoration Thinning	Variable-Density thinning	113	To establish rare species habitat, hazardous fuel reduction, and the prevention of overstocked conditions from prevailing.
Variable-Density Thinning	Variable-Density thinning	309	To provide uneven-aged forests for wildlife and rare plant habitat throughout DTSP. Encourages increased forest resiliency.
Pine Grassland	Mowing	30	To encourage this scarce open-canopy habitat in an area recently disturbed by wildfire through mowing.
Shortleaf Pine Restoration	Modified Shelterwood cut, prescribed burning, plant	106	To aid the re-establishment of native shortleaf pine and associated habitats into DTSP and the landscape, as part of the multi-state Shortleaf Pine Initiative.
Fuelbreak Maintenance and Installation	Prescribed burning, plowline maintenance, plowline installation	1,691	To reduce the risk of spreading wildfire, fuel build-up, and the risk of fire reaching the canopy by disturbing ladder fuels. Create critical habitat for rare plants.
Firebreak Maintenance and Installation	Mowing and Tree Removal	14	To provide a control line in order to conduct prescribed burns and control wildfires. Create an added layer of protection to conserve lowlands, decrease risk for nearby homes, and habitat for disturbance-loving species.

Management Recommendation	Activity	Acres Planned	Purpose of Management
Safety Strip	Low Thinning, Prescribed Burning, Plowline Installation	45	To reduce ladder-fuels and strengthen a strategic fuelbreak. Maintain a canopy cover to slow regeneration/fine fuels, allows for easier maintenance with longer time intervals between prescribed burns.
Forest Stand Improvement	Thin from Below	360	To promote an overall healthier forest by allowing for better growing conditions for residual trees and advanced regeneration. Reduces risk of damaging wildfire and potential mortality from SPB.
Plantation Maintenance	Thin from Below, Prescribed Burning	34	To reduce the high risk fuel conditions, and advance the stand from the current stagnation state within the areas planted by the Global ReLeaf program.

Double Trouble State Park - Treatment Map

