

**RESOLUTION OF THE PLANNING BOARD
OF THE TOWNSHIP OF SPARTA COMMENTING UPON
THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION'S (NJDEP'S)
PROPOSED FOREST STEWARDSHIP PLAN
REGARDING THE
SPARTA MOUNTAIN WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA PLAN**

DECIDED AND ADOPTED: FEBRUARY 3, 2016

WHEREAS, The Township of Sparta Environmental Commission submitted the attached Report dated January 29, 2016 regarding the proposed Forest Stewardship Plan (hereinafter "Report") regarding the Sparta Mountain Wildlife Management Area (WMA) to the Township Planning Board (hereinafter "Board"); and

WHEREAS, the matter was discussed at a public meeting of the Board on February 3, 2016, and the Board has authority pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:55D-31 to review and comment on all Capital Improvement Plans of all State and Federal Agencies; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Board of the Township of Sparta has reviewed the Report of the Sparta Township Environmental Commission dated January 29, 2016, endorses the Report and recommends the Report to the Township Council and Township Manager for their consideration together with this Board Resolution for possible comments by the Township to NJDEP; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Planning Board of the Township of Sparta, County of Sussex, State of New Jersey, that the County of Sussex, State of New Jersey confirms that the Board has reviewed the Sparta Environmental Commission Report dated January 29, 2016, which is attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference, and the Board endorses the Report and adds the following additional recommendations;

1. NJDEP should hold public meetings or hearings to discuss the Forest Stewardship Plan with the Township and its residents. NJDEP should explain the economic costs and benefits to the Township, Sussex County and the State and the residents of Sparta Township.
2. NJDEP should verify compliance with the Sparta Township Municipal Storm Water Management Plan and Ordinances including any updated storm water related ordinances, NJDEP stormwater management regulations, NJDEP flood hazard area regulations, riparian buffers, wetlands and wetlands transition area statutes and regulations.
3. The Plan and all reports should be reviewed and approved by the Highlands Council and the proponents of the Plan should affirmatively demonstrate consistency with the intent, purposes and standards of the Highlands Act, the Highlands Council's Regional Master Plan (RMP) and the requirements for the Preservation Area of the Highlands Act, in which the Sparta Wildlife Management Area is located.
4. A full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) should be prepared, submitted and followed pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act, because Federal funds are being spent on this project.
5. NJDEP should explain to Sparta Township the economic costs and benefits of this forestry and logging program, particularly how those costs and benefits will relate to Sparta Township, the County and the State. For example, NJDEP should explain if it will maintain and repair Edison Road and similar older municipal and county roads which will be used for truck access for the substantial logging and trucking operations.

6. The NJDEP Forest Stewardship Plan should be revised to include the name of the specific NJDEP contact person who will be available to address potential concerns with the local municipality and community resident organizations throughout the project execution and before project completion.
7. This resolution should be submitted to the Township Council and the Manager for their consideration, and the Board recommends that the Township provide these and any other comments to the NJDEP.

SPARTA TOWNSHIP PLANNING BOARD

MAUREEN DONNELLY, SECRETARY

ERNEST HOFER, CHAIRMAN

I hereby certify that the within is a true copy of a resolution passed by the Sparta Township Planning Board at a meeting held on February 3, 2016.

MAUREEN DONNELLY, SECRETARY

ERNEST HOFER, CHAIRMAN