Title: Rare Plant Propagation and Reintroduction: Questions and Considerations for Natural and Historic Resources Lands in New Jersey

Presentation Abstract: New Jersey is home to many rare and endangered plant species. Although practitioners of rare species management agree that the *in situ* conservation of rare species and their habitats is the priority for conservation, reintroducing plants is an important tool for the recovery of rare, threatened, and endangered plants in certain circumstances. This report provides a detailed overview of the latest research concerning the risks and benefits of propagation and reintroduction of rare plant species. There are many potential pitfalls associated with plant reintroductions, requiring due diligence of researchers both before and after reintroductions are conducted in order to avoid them. Given the significant potential for negative consequences involved in rare species reintroductions, this report attempts to summarize some of the major concerns and considerations identified in the current scientific literature in order to avoid the potential for harm that may result from such activities. Successful reintroduction projects are characterized by extensive prior research on the biology of the species, community analysis between known occurrences and potential recipient sites, use of experimental design and adaptive management, collaboration among multidisciplinary experts, and long-term monitoring and documentation of each stage of the project. Rare plant reintroductions have a low long-term success rate and are often not the appropriate first course of action, but for some species on the brink of extinction, it may be the only option left.

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