



Compliance and Enforcement Division Report June-September 2026

Prepared by CAED Enforcement Officer John Callagy

- As of September 7th, we have 151 complaints for 2026. Twenty-three of them are currently open and being investigated by various law enforcement and town agencies, such as BEAST, DEC, Southampton and Brookhaven.
- Our dumping cases have dramatically increased this summer, particularly around North Street in Manorville, so we've increased our daily patrol time to cover more ground and stay on top of documenting cases. We've also installed additional surveillance cameras throughout new hot-spot areas of the Pine Barrens.
- We've been working on a clean-up initiative and have been in contact with multiple town, county and state agencies to clean up abandoned materials left in the woods, on hiking, hunting and powerline trails throughout the Pine Barrens. We've also removed 11 truckloads of abandoned materials ourselves during daily patrols.
- We've received multiple dumping, clearing and encroachment tips from residents calling to report their neighbors. DEC and townships have been working closely together to resolve these issues.

Ryan P. McGarry
Chairman

Jerome Halpin
Member

Maria Z. Moore
Member

Daniel J. Panico
Member

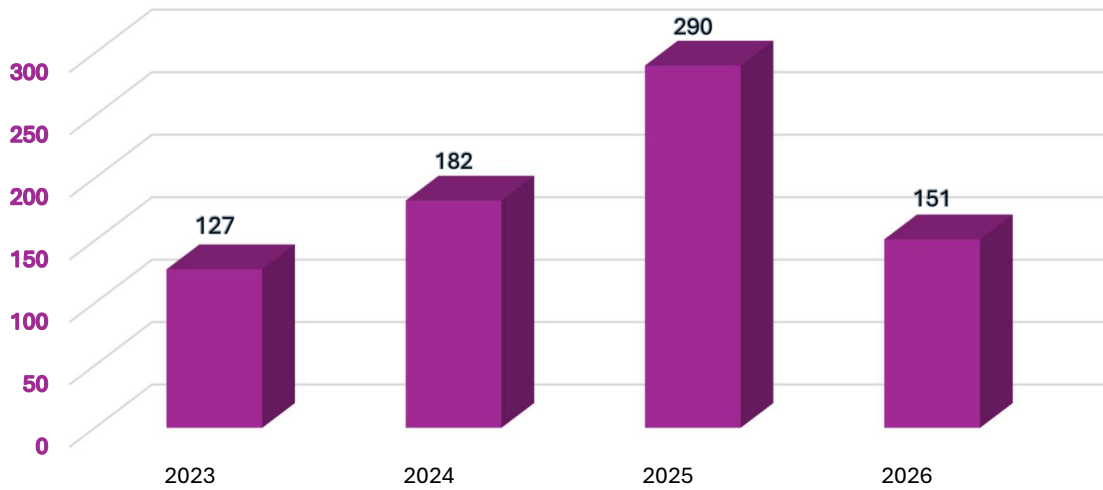
Edward P. Romaine
Member

624 Old Riverhead Road
Westhampton Beach, NY
11978

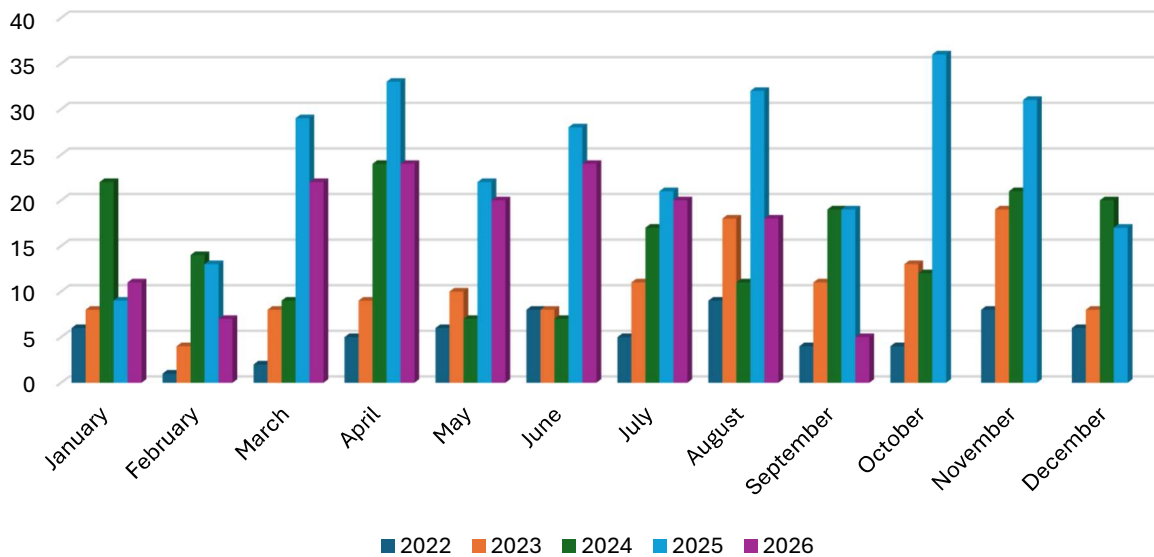
Phone (631) 288-1079
www.pb.state.ny.us

Incident Statistics - Reporting Period 2023 - 2026				
Year	2023	2024	2025	2026
Intake				
Sent by Agency to Commission	17	9	4	3
Discovered by Commission Staff	104	163	280	143
Called in by Individual to Commission	6	10	6	5
Total Incidents Reported	127	182	290	151
Location of Incident				
Brookhaven	69	102	187	111
Southampton	50	75	93	36
Riverhead	8	5	10	4
Occurring on Public Land	79	158	268	101
Occurring on Private Land	23	22	22	50
Occurring on Public & Private Land	25	0	1	
Core	78	140	213	112
Compatible Growth Area (CGA)	39	30	62	37
Core & CGA	1	0	1	1
Outside CPBA	9	10	14	1
Nature of Incident*				
Clearing/Encroachment	20	21	32	12
Structures	2	1	0	
Dumping	103	153	254	137
Mining	0	1	0	
Hunting	1	0	0	
ATV	0	0	0	
Other	1	2	4	2
Referrals*				
Sent to Town	6	4	22	7
Sent to County	36	31	32	28
Sent to State	33	17	18	10
Commission	8	1	0	106
Sent to AG	0	0	0	
Other	37	16	14	
Status				
Founded	125	179	288	151
Unfounded	2	1	2	
Open	52	51	77	48
Closed	75	131	213	103
Inspections				
Conservation Easement Inspections	0	0	6	5
Development Project Inspections	0	0	5	9

Complaints by Year
as of September 2026



Complaints Month/Year





**Office furniture dumped off
North Street in Manorville**



**Refrigerator dumped off
Whiskey Road in Rocky Point**



**Livingroom furniture set dumped off
Weeks Avenue in Manorville**



**Furniture and garbage dumped off
North Street in Manorville**



**Carpets and construction debris dumped off
Mill Road in Manorville**



**Couch and CO2 tanks dumped off
North Street in Manorville**



**RV abandoned on
Lane Road in Manorville**



**Mattresses dumped off
Mill Road in Manorville**

Educational Outreach and Communications Division Update

September 2026

Submitted by Tim Motz, Educational Outreach and Communications Coordinator

Barrens to Bay Summer Camp

- **The 2026 camp was a big success, with 120 campers (full capacity) attending six sessions between June 30 and August 14.**
- **This year, we added a number of new activities in keeping with our goal of making the camp as fun and educational as possible. We are constantly seeking new ways to engage our campers about the wonders of the Central Pine Barrens. New activities this summer included:**
 1. **Creation of Educational Videos.** We engaged all campers in each session in a short video focusing on the opossum, giving campers roles in talking about various attributes of the marsupial. The video will be distributed via social media this fall.
 2. **Plant Karaoke.** Animals tend to take center stage at camp, so this activity, in which campers create lyrics to a popular song with words devoted to the attributes their favorite Central Pine Barrens flora, helps to focus attention on plant life. The students, in small groups, then performed their work for the full group.
 3. **Recycle Lottery.** Campers picked ping pong balls with the names of various art forms—poem, song, one-act play, etc.—from a drum and then created and performed a routine in their chosen medium focusing on the importance of reduce, reuse and recycle.
 4. **Nature Scrapbooking.** One of several new crafts added had the campers artistically create a scrapbook page out of patterned construction paper and then collect plant life samples at the refuge and arrange them artfully on their paper.

Central Pine Barrens Discovery Day

- **We're thrilled this year to be bringing back to the calendar a former Central Pine Barrens Commission institution, Pine Barrens Discovery Day (now called Central Pine Barrens Discovery Day), which stopped during the Covid years. The event will be held on September 12 at Wertheim National Wildlife Refuge and already has well over 200 RSVPs as of this writing and will feature many of the exciting, nature-oriented activities of the past (birds of prey, fish from the aquarium, nature walks,**

creating your own bonsai pitch pine tree, etc.) We hope this edition will be better than ever and serve as a building block for putting this event back on the annual schedule.

A Day in the Life Program

- **A Day in the Life will begin on Friday, September 25 and the division is hard at work on setting up all logistics, including assisting the dozens of participating schools with their sites, lining up their experts, seeking permit waivers from municipalities, arranging to loan them equipment and other tasks.**
- **The program in late August held an in-person training event at Wertheim National Wildlife Refuge at which teachers and assisting experts learned hands-on all tasks in the ADITL workout and junior workbook.**
- **Additionally, we will host on Thursday, September 17 our third annual online forum to go over with teachers this year's schedule and logistics; go over the workbook and data collection procedures; have some of our more seasoned teachers discuss how they incorporate ADITL work and data into their curricula; and answer any questions teachers may have.**
- **This year's ADITL program will be held at 14 sites over seven fall Fridays. More than three dozen schools are participating along with approximately 100 teachers and 2,000 students. We are pleased to welcome Girl Scouts Troop 2411 to our Nissequogue River event and have tentatively scheduled the Elwood school district for that event as well, pending administration approval.**

A few Barrens to Bay Summer Camp photos...





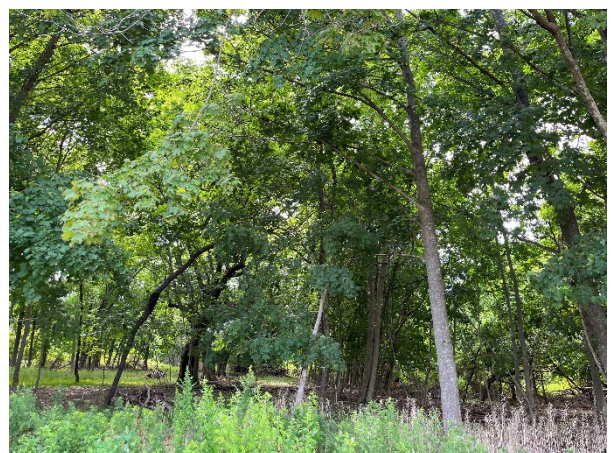


Central Pine Barrens Joint Planning and Policy Commission
Land Use Division Bi-Monthly Update for the Meeting of Wednesday, September 16, 2026

Action	Central Pine Barrens Location		
Municipality	Brookhaven Town	Riverhead Town	Southampton Town
Pending Applications, Requests for Determination of Jurisdiction, SEQRA Coordination, inquiries, proposals, items and other activities	• CGA Hardship: Oakcrest, Middle Island. Expansion of nursing facility and parking. Decision deadline 10/1/26. • Determination: Hegeman's Farm, Manorville, CGA. • Inquiry: Dairy Queen, Coram, CGA. • Inquiry: Clancy Street Food Corp soil borings, CR 111, Manorville, Core.	None	The Hills at Southampton Mixed Use Planned Development District Local Law and Southern Pine Beetle monitoring report
Commission, Boards, Councils and Committees, Coordination Division Activity, Regional Projects	• Review and analysis of land use development project applications for Core Preservation Area and Compatible Growth Area Hardship waivers, SEQRA Coordination, interagency referrals, information requests, property inquiries, requests for determination of jurisdiction and conformance reviews. Development projects include residential and commercial, industrial, mixed uses, zone changes, site plans, subdivisions, Developments of Regional Significance, Assertions of Jurisdiction, Critical Resource Areas and other development activities. • Monitor sites for compliance with decisions and conditions of approval. • Perform site inspections and land use surveys for applications. • Provide technical support on FOIL requests, compliance and enforcement violations, consent orders, Credit Program items, communications on land use matters, unauthorized development, clearing activities and protected land encroachments. • Renew USGS-Commission water resources monitoring contract for period of 2027 to 2029. • Distribute outreach materials to partners at the Pine Barrens Information Center at Southaven County Park, Yaphank and the Raymond P. Corwin Trail Center, Manorville. • Commission website updates including land use and planning items and seasonal changes.		



Oakcrest, Middle Island



Hegeman's Farm, Manorville



New York Wildfire & Incident Management Academy (NYWIMA)

2026 Academy Update

Planning for the 2026 New York Wildfire & Incident Management Academy (NYWIMA) is underway, with two training sessions scheduled for November and December.

Fall Academy – November 14–20, 2026

The Fall Academy will be held at Suffolk County Community College's Eastern Campus in Riverhead. This new partnership provides NYWIMA with classroom, meeting, and field-training space to support a variety of wildfire, emergency management, and incident management courses.

The 2026 Fall Academy is scheduled to offer the following courses:

- **FI-210_Wildland Fire Origin & Cause Determination**
 - **RX-310_Introduction to Fire Effects**
 - **S-130/190_Introduction to Wildland Fire Behavior (Field Day Only)**
 - **S-131_Firefighter Type 1**
 - **S-200_Initial Attack Incident Commander**
 - **S-215_Fire Operations in the Wildland/Urban Interface**
 - **S-219_Firing Operations**
 - **S-230_Crew Boss (Blended)**
 - **S-290_Intermediate Wildland Fire Behavior (Blended)**
 - **S-359_Medical Unit Leader**
 - **RX-410_Smoke Management Techniques**
- Additional incident management and specialized training opportunities as scheduling and instructor availability are finalized.

NYWIMA is continuing to work with federal, state, county, local, and other partner organizations to finalize instructors and course logistics.

December Academy – December 5–11, 2026

A second Academy session is scheduled for **December 5–11, 2026, at Brookhaven National Laboratory (BNL).**

The December session will focus on courses that are particularly well suited to BNL's facilities and field-training opportunities. Current plans include:

- **S-112_Wildland Fire Chainsaws**
- **S-244_Field Observer**
- **S-130/190_Introduction to Wildland Fire Behavior (Field Day Only)**
- **S-236_Heavy Equipment Boss (Single Resource)**
- Additional courses may be added based on instructor availability and partner-agency needs.

Program Update

NYWIMA continues to expand training opportunities for firefighters, emergency responders, incident management personnel, and natural resource professionals throughout New York State and beyond. The Academy remains focused on providing nationally recognized wildfire and incident management training while strengthening partnerships among the agencies and organizations responsible for emergency preparedness and wildfire response.

Planning for both 2026 sessions is ongoing, and course offerings remain subject to final instructor and facility availability. Registration information and the final course schedule will be distributed as they become available.

NYWIMA Financial Update

As part of the Academy update, the current balances of the NYWIMA banking accounts are as follows:

Checking Account: \$42,066.96

Savings Account: \$12,870.83

These funds support Academy operations, including instructor expenses (travel, per diem), course materials, equipment, and other expenses associated with delivering NYWIMA training programs.

Wildfire Task Force

The Central Pine Barrens Wildfire Task Force held its quarterly meeting on June 24, 2026, at the Hampton Bays Fire Department. The meeting provided an opportunity for representatives from local, county, state, and federal agencies and the fire service to discuss current wildfire preparedness and ongoing initiatives within the Central Pine Barrens.

Updates and discussion included the current fire weather and seasonal wildfire outlook, as well as ongoing coordination among Task Force agencies regarding wildfire preparedness and response.

The Task Force also received updates on the Southampton Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP). Work continues on the development of the plan, which is intended to identify wildfire risks, community priorities, and mitigation strategies within the project area.

Additional discussion included an update on wildfire detection camera technology and its potential role in providing earlier identification and monitoring of wildfire incidents. Members also discussed ongoing air-to-ground wildfire training and coordination, with an emphasis on strengthening communication and operational readiness among responding agencies.

The meeting continued the Task Force's focus on interagency coordination, training, preparedness, and improving wildfire response capabilities throughout the Central Pine Barrens.

The next Wildfire Task Force meeting is scheduled for September 23, 2026.

Item 2.e. Pine Barrens Credit Program Report for September 16, 2026:

Activities in the Credit Program for 2026 included review of applications for Letters of Interpretation, Conservation Easements, Credit Program and FOIL requests management. Some specific work items include:

- Letters of Interpretation: Seven LOIs were issued and two parcels were inspected. Staff is following up on past LOIs for interest in the Program.
- Conservation Easements: Review and Monitoring
 - Four easements have been recorded, which generated 5.6 credits.
 - Eight easements are currently in progress.
 - 51 easement properties with road access were inspected.



- Pine Barrens Credits
 - Redeemed: 19.3 Credits have been redeemed for commercial and residential projects.
 - Conveyed: 16.71 Credits have been sold in the Town of Brookhaven, Riverhead and Southampton.
 - The average price is \$125,575 per credit.
- Credit Clearinghouse Program Fund Account
 - Balance: \$3,286,312.
 - The Clearinghouse owns 2.29 Credits.

- The Pine Barrens Credit Program is administered by a five-member Credit Clearinghouse Board of Advisors. Currently there are three active members:
 - James T.B. Tripp, Esq., Chairman
 - Mitchell H. Pally, Esq., Member
 - Robert Anrig, Member

The last Credit Clearinghouse Board of Advisors meeting took place on March 1, 2023.

Pine Barrens Credit Program Statistics Table: represents figures for the total and annual summary of 2026.

Easement Protected Lands and Pine Barrens Credits As of September 9, 2026								
	Brookhaven	2026	Riverhead	2026	Southampton	2026	Total	2026
Parcels	535	3	37	1	471	-	1043	4
Acreage	841.04	7.37	516.78	0.14	889.51	-	2247.33	7.51
Average parcel size	1.57	2.46	13.97	0.14	1.89	-	2.15	2.60
Credits generated	554.89	4.63	174.39	1	340.26	-	1069.54	5.63
Credits redeemed	435.41	6.64	147.53	2.40	204.12	10.26	787.06	19.3
Credits not redeemed	119.48	-2.01	26.86	-1.4	136.14	-	282.48	-13.67
Credits sold		9.75		1.90		5.06		16.71
Total value of PBC transactions		\$1,390,150		\$187,000		\$521,200		\$2,098,350
Average Credits value		\$142,579		\$98,421		\$103,004		\$125,575
Credits owned by the Clearinghouse	2.29		-		-		2.29	
# of Inspected CE Parcels		37		1.00		14	-	52
# of Installed CE Signs	144	3	15	-	91	-	250	3



CENTRAL PINE BARRENS COMMISSION

Science And Stewardship Program

Bimonthly Report

September 16, 2026

SUNY ESF Interns: Air Curtain Burner Research

The SUNY ESF interns ended their season at the end of July. It was a successful partnership with staff from ESF, the CPBC, DEC, and BNL working together to accomplish their research goals for the year. In total, 135 plots were surveyed for basal area, percent canopy, fuel loading, herbaceous cover, and seedling and sapling counts. Surveys were conducted at Rocky Point, Sarnoff, and at BNL. The interns also assisted the DEC in marking trees for future management actions that will occur during the winter months, in keeping with the Northern Long-eared Bat cutting restrictions in Suffolk County.

Southampton CWPP

The Southampton CWPP has continued to progress. SWCA staff and I reviewed all the recommendations that had been made throughout the various public, core, and internal discussions and have addressed all comments on said recommendations. The recommendations are arguably one of the most important aspects of the CWPP. SWCA is currently reformatting this section and will be sharing it with the core team by the end of September 2026.

Additionally, SWCA provided the Commission with the first draft of Chapter 4 of the CWPP, which describes the methodology and modeling of the environmental variables that are informing the CWPP analysis of the Southampton area of the Central Pine Barrens. Comments were provided to SWCA on this chapter which should be revised also by the end of September 2026.

A second public meeting has been scheduled for October 29, 2026, from 6-8PM at the Westhampton Beach Fire Department. Representatives from SWCA will be joining Commission staff in hosting the event. Go-bags will be provided to all attendees and efforts are underway to get the word out to improve upon the attendance from the first public session.

Conservation Management Action Plan

The Conservation Management Action Plan has continued to be developed, and the initial draft narrative is nearing completion. The narrative is currently 70 pages in length, without pictures, diagrams, or graphs. The last sections to be written are the environmental recommendations for estuarine habitats that interact at the edge of the Pine Barrens which will discuss issues like diadromous fish and barrier mitigation, Diamondback Terrapin nesting, and



CENTRAL PINE BARRENS COMMISSION

Science And Stewardship Program

Bimonthly Report

September 16, 2026

tidal wetland migration as it relates to sea level rise. These recommendations will be followed up by brief discussions and recommendations on land use and policy, such as land acquisition for conservation and bird-friendly glass techniques, and education and outreach efforts that can supplement environmental conservation efforts. The last section focuses on funding and the benefits of working in partnerships.

Draft versions of the initial plan's narrative should be ready to begin the review, comment, and editing phase by the end of the year. During this time visual references (ex. pictures, graphs, tables, etc.) will be identified, appendix sections will be developed, and the initial formatting of the entire document will begin.

Remote Sensing Equipment

All equipment purchases of the remote sensing equipment have been completed. The initial cost estimate was \$125,000. The final total was under budget at \$121,973.41.

The bioacoustic equipment has already been deployed (see below) and the first LiDAR scans are coming soon. UAS equipment use is awaiting approval of the insurance for operational safety. UAS sensor training and initial data collection flights will begin shortly thereafter and continue into the fall as time and the weather allows.

Bioacoustic Deployment

On August 17, 2026, bioacoustic recorders and trail cameras were placed at four locations around the Dwarf Pine Plains. Placement locations include areas impacted by the 1995, 2014, and 2025 wildfires. Sound recordings start one hour before sunrise and end one hour after, then begin again during the one hour before and after sunset. Recorder locations are identified in GPS and sync to satellites to maintain accurate timing of the recording periods. The recorders will be deployed until October 19, 2026, with data collected for the majority of the fall migration.

After the first week, memory cards were swapped out so the first recordings could be used in conjunction with the analysis software while the rest of the survey continued. Initial results have been very positive with species of interest (i.e. Eastern Whip-poor-will) already identified in the recordings (see Figures 1 and 2). Songs and calls found in the initial recordings can be used to find similar calls from future recordings thereby expediting analysis of the entire data set.



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September 16, 2026

Currently, all recording stations are operational and collecting both audible and ultrasonic data. Field checks of each deployment location are being conducted weekly. Ultrasonic recordings will be used to document seasonal bat activity while the audible recordings are being analyzed for bird occurrence during the migration.

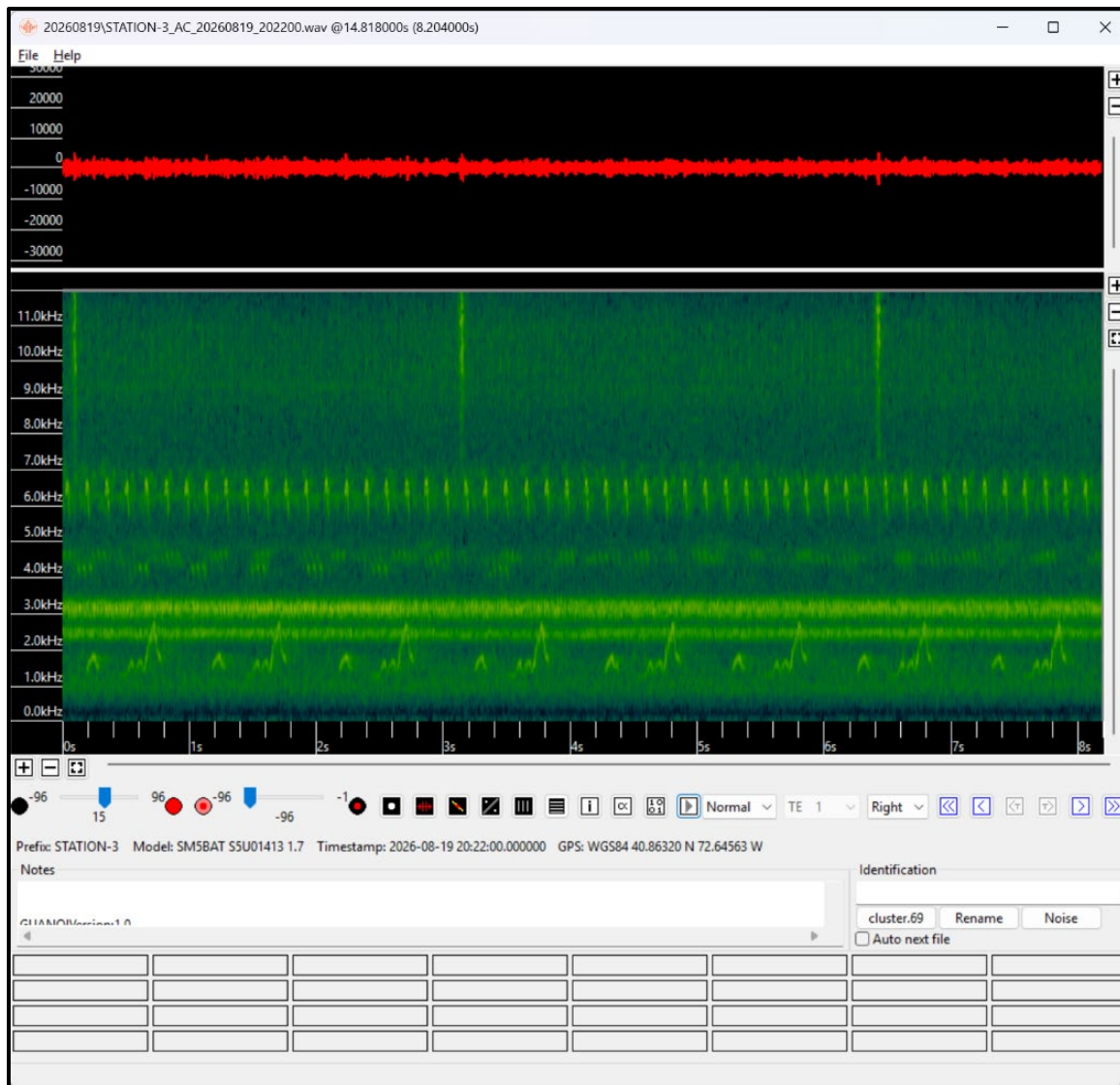


Figure 1: Spectrograph (green section) and audio wavelength (red section) of a bioacoustic recording of Eastern Whip-poor-will and various other auditory features.



CENTRAL PINE BARRENS COMMISSION

Science And Stewardship Program

Bimonthly Report

September 16, 2026

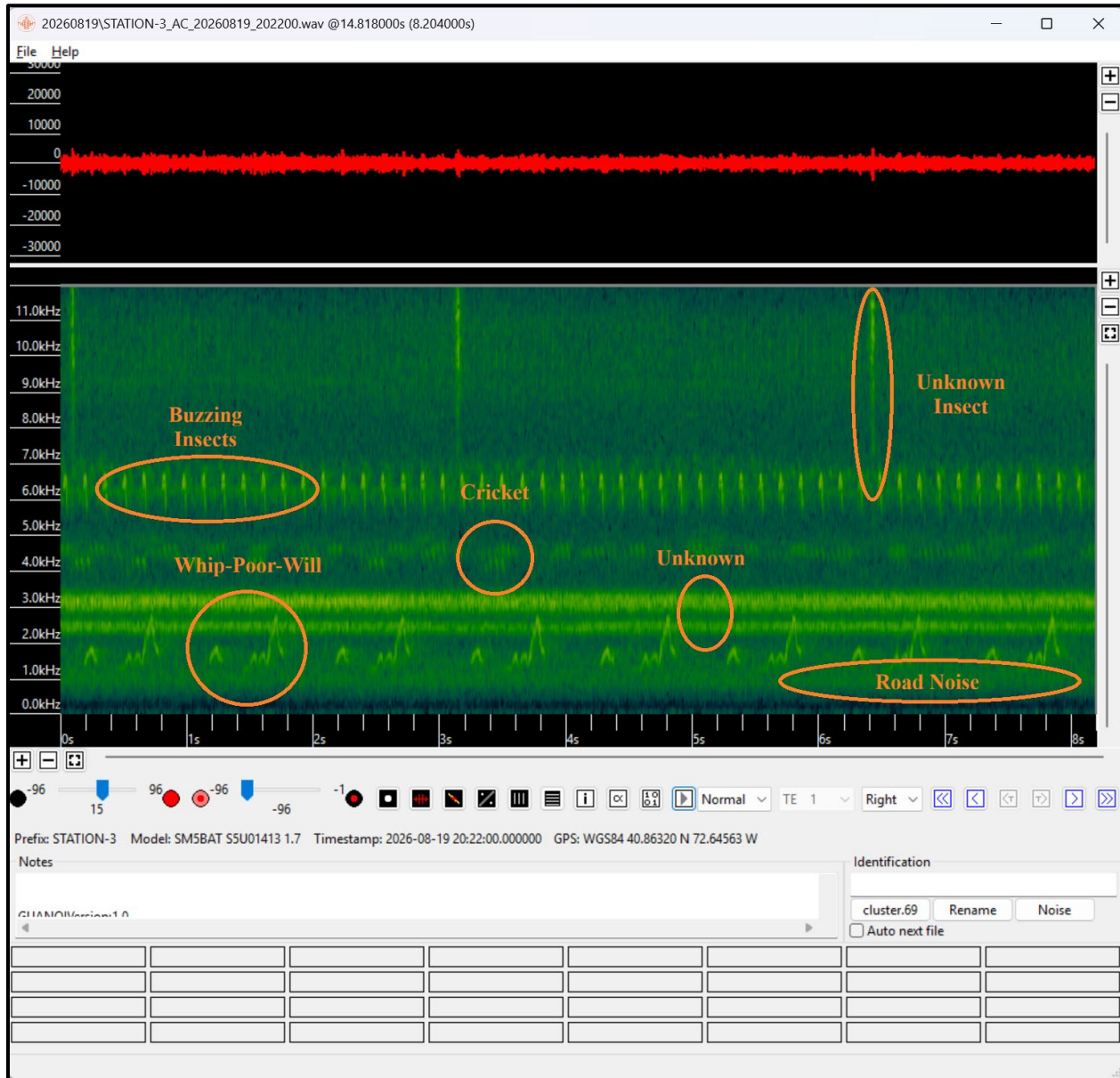


Figure 2: The same image as Figure 1 with the auditory features of the spectrograph labeled. The pattern for the Eastern Whip-poor-will can be used to search for more occurrences of the same auditory features to find similar calls in future recordings.