Division of Lands & Forests

Bog River Complex

Unit Management Plan Amendment

Including Horseshoe Lake Wild Forest

Franklin County

July 2014

Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor

Joseph J. Martens, Commissioner

Lead Agency: (in consultation with the Adirondack Park Agency)
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
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ANDREW M. CUOMO
GOVERNOR

JOE MARTENS
COMMISSIONER

STATE OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12233-1010

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: The Record

SUBJECT: Bog River Complex (Horseshoe Lake Wild Forest)

DATE: JUL 22 2014

The Amendment to the Bog River Complex Unit Management Plan has been completed and the Adirondack Park Agency found it to be in conformance with the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan.

The UMP Amendment is consistent with the State Constitution, Environmental Conservation Law, and Department Rules, Regulations and Policies and is hereby approved and adopted.

Joseph J. Martens

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RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY
THE ADIRONDACK PARK AGENCY
WITH RESPECT TO BOG RIVER COMPLEX, HORSESHOE LAKE WILD FOREST
UNIT MANAGEMENT PLAN AMENDMENT 2

JUNE 13, 2014

WHEREAS, Section 816 of the Adirondack Park Agency Act directs the Department of Environmental Conservation to develop, in consultation with the Adirondack Park Agency, individual management plans for units of land classified in the Master Plan for Management of State Lands and requires such management plans to conform to the general guidelines and criteria of the Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, in addition to such guidelines and criteria, the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan (Master Plan) prescribes the contents of unit management plans and provides that the Adirondack Park Agency will determine whether a proposed individual unit management plan conforms with such general guidelines and criteria; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Environmental Conservation has prepared a unit management plan amendment for the Bog River Complex, Horseshoe Lake Wild Forest in the Towns of Colton and Piercefield, St. Lawrence County, and the Village of Tupper Lake, Town of Altamont, Franklin County, and includes proposed management actions for the Bog River Complex, Horseshoe Lake Wild Forest dated May, 2014; and

WHEREAS, the Department has filed a SEQR Negative Declaration and published a notice in the Environmental Notice Bulletin on May 28, 2014; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Environmental Conservation is the lead agency, and the Adirondack Park Agency is an involved agency whose staff have been consulted in the preparation of the proposed plan; and

WHEREAS, the Agency is requested to determine whether the final Bog River Complex, Horseshoe Lake Wild Forest Unit Management Plan Amendment 2, (the Plan) dated May, 2014, conforms with the standards and guidelines of the Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Adirondack Park Agency has reviewed the proposed Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Plan recognizes the need to improve public use and enjoyment of the area, avoid user conflicts and prevent overuse of the area according to the guidelines and criteria of the Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Plan's objectives include providing reasonable public access where appropriate in order to provide visitors with recreational opportunities while minimizing resource impacts; and

WHEREAS, the Plan proposes the formal adoption and rerouting of a trail up Goodman Mountain; and

WHEREAS, the Plan proposes the development of a six car parking area at Lumberjack Springs for access to the Goodman Mountain Trail; and

WHEREAS, the Plan proposes the development of a kiosk and trail register to be installed at the Goodman Mountain Trail Parking area; and

WHEREAS, the Plan recognizes that there is the potential to link several existing trails with herd paths and old hauling roads to develop a system of loop trails ranging from five (5) to eight (8)miles; and

WHEREAS, the Plan proposes the formal adoption and rerouting of a trail system referred to here as the Otter Point Trail System; and

WHEREAS, the Plan proposes the modification of the proposed parking area identified in the 2002 Bog River Complex UMP from a nine car parking area to a smaller four car parking area along State Route 421 for access to the trail for Twin Mountain; and

WHEREAS, the Plan proposes the development of a second four car parking area along State Route 421 for access to another section of the Otter Point trail system, referred to as the Goodman Bridge Parking Area; and

WHEREAS, the Plan proposes the placement of Register boxes at both of the new State Route 421 Parking Areas; and

WHERAS, the Plan recognizes that the Department will work in cooperation with the Agency to determine if the use of Mountain Bikes on the Otter Point trail system is appropriate.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that pursuant to Section 816 of the Adirondack Park Agency Act, the Adirondack Park Agency finds the Bog River Complex Unit Management Plan Amendment 2, dated May, 2014, conforms with the general guidelines and criteria of the Master Plan; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Adirondack Park Agency authorizes its Executive Director to advise the Commissioner of Environmental Conservation of the Agency's determination in this matter.

AYES: Chairwoman Lani Ulrich, Richard Booth, Sherman Craig, Karen Feldman, Arthur Lussi, William Thomas, William Valentino, Dan Wilt, Brad Austin (DED), Dierdre Scozzafava (DOS), Robert Stegemann, (DEC)

NAYS: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

ABSENT: None

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UMP AMENDMENT 2

INTRODUCTION

The Horseshoe Lake Wild Forest (HLWF) is located in the Towns of Colton and Piercefield in St. Lawrence County and the Village of Tupper Lake, Town of Altamont, Franklin County. It is approximately 21,336 acres in size. A Unit Management Plan (UMP) encompassing this area was completed in 2002 (the Bog River Complex, UMP.) An earlier amendment to the Bog River Complex UMP addressing floatplane use on Lows Lake was approved in 2009.

This proposed UMP Amendment contains two components. The first formally designates a parking area and trail to the summit of Goodman Mountain and recognizes the U.S. Geological Survey's naming of Goodman Mountain. The second officially designates a parking area and popular unmarked ski and hiking trail along the Bog River, known locally as Otter Point Trail.

IV. PROJECTED USE AND MANAGEMENT PROPOSED

A. FACILITIES DEVELOPMENT

Foot Trail Development

Goodman Mountain Trail Project

Background: Supported by information from local historian William Frenette of the Village of Tupper Lake, The U.S. Geological Survey named Goodman Mountain in memory of Charles Goodman and his grandson, Andrew Goodman in 2002. The Goodman family lived in the stone house near where the Bog River flows into south end of Tupper Lake. His grandson Andrew was murdered in 1964 while helping African-American citizens in the State of Mississippi to register to vote during the Freedom Summer of 1964. Andrew was 20 years old at the time.

Trail Project: The proposed Goodman Mountain Trail will start at an area known as Lumberjack Spring located on the east side of N.Y.S. Route 30, between Tupper Lake and Long Lake. Charles Goodman constructed the original spring house at this site, which still stands today. There is an area behind Lumberjack Spring that is currently being used for vehicle parking. There is also an informal trail which follows an old road, is fairly flat and smooth and where vegetation is starting to cover patches of the remaining asphalt.

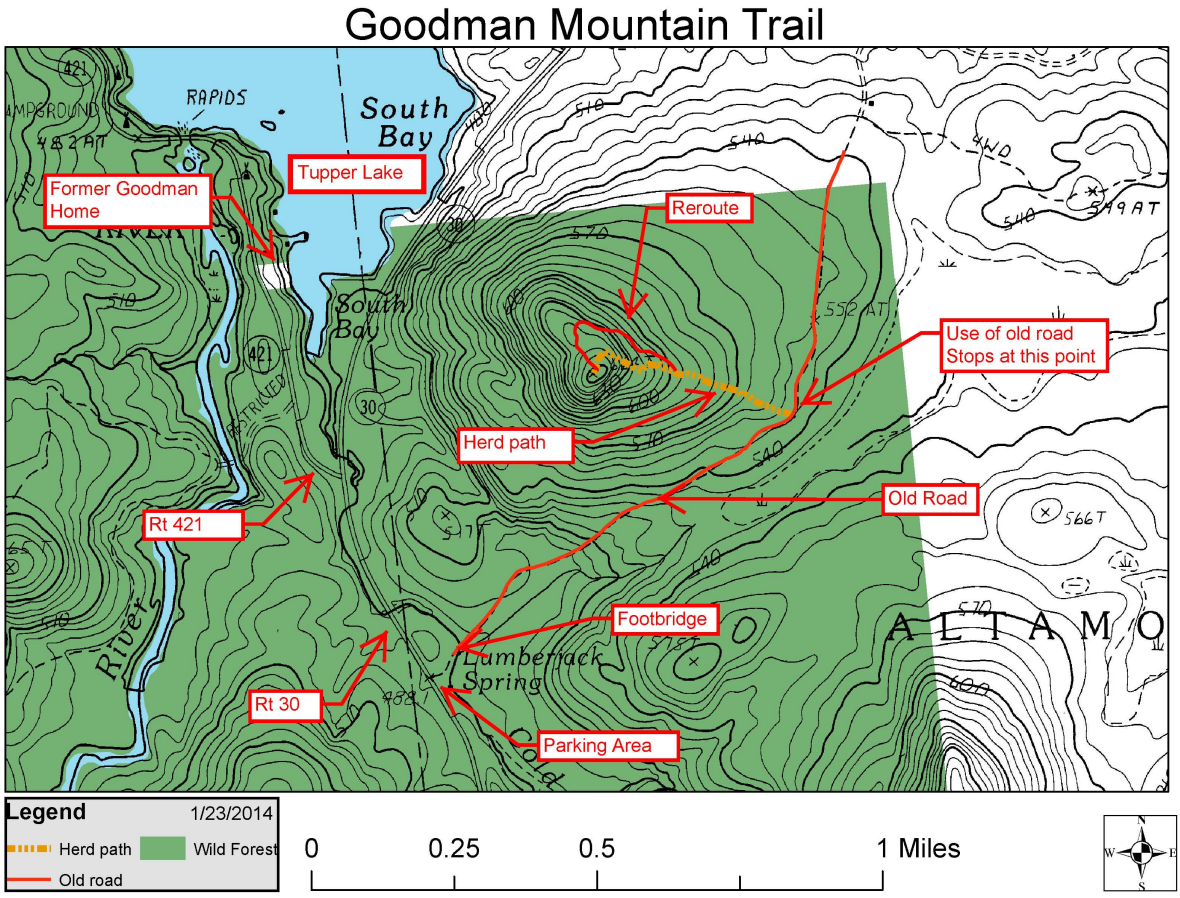
This old road is washed out just past the parking area where it crosses Cold Brook. A foot bridge will need to be constructed at this location. The trail continues for approximately 1 mile along this old road, until it reaches the top of the grade, where use of the old road ends.

There is an existing "herd path" that heads north-west off the old road to Goodman Mountain that is currently marked with flagging and small paint blazes. The trail climbs gradually and

reaches a steep cliff area before reaching the summit.

The Department will work in consultation with APA staff to determine the need for and obtain the necessary permits for working near wetlands and for the placement of the bridge over Cold Brook. The Department will also work in consultation with the Agency to determine the best location for the trail from the parking area to the summit.

Typical condition of herd path to the summit



Parking

Currently, there is an unofficial parking area at Lumberjack Spring. This location is a flat, open area and can be made into a formal parking area with minimal grading. A six car parking area with one Accessible Parking space will be developed.

Kiosk and Register

A kiosk with a trail register will be installed at the parking area. The kiosk will be 4x8 with provisions for displays on each side and a visitor register box. Information regarding the local history of the Goodman family will be displayed, as well as additional appropriate trail use information. The kiosk will be built to accessible standards.

View from the Summit

The summit of Goodman Mountain provides a 360 degree view of the surrounding region. According to local history records, this was Andrew Goodman's favorite short hike.

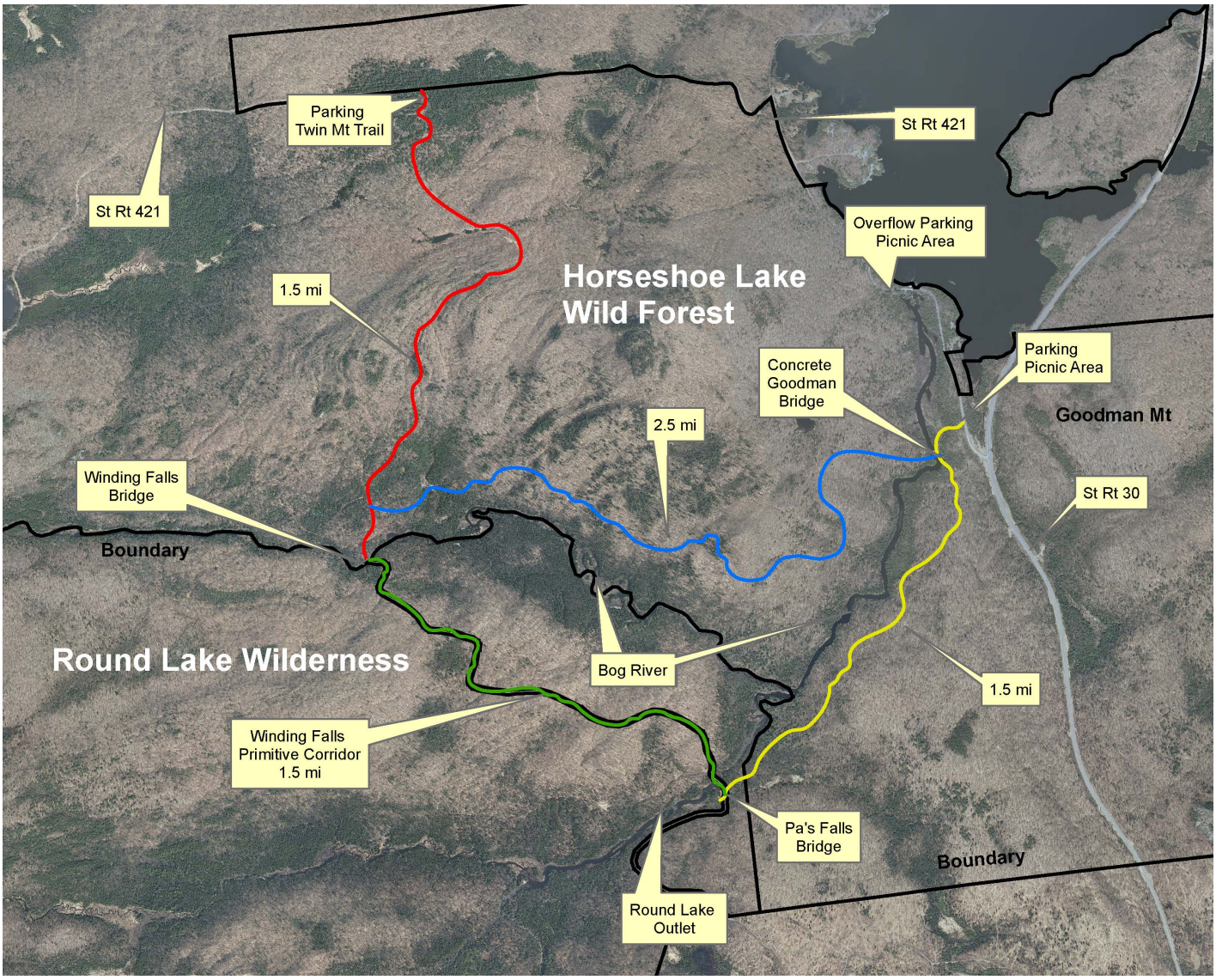
View of Coney Mt, center, looking south from the summit of Goodman Mt

Otter Point Trail Project

This project involves the official designation of an existing herd path being used by skiers and hikers within the Bog River Complex. Trail improvements will involve very little construction given that the trail primarily follows old logging haul roads.[1] The loops will be attractive to hikers and skiers.

[1] A portion of the proposed route is within the Round Lake Wilderness and the Winding Falls Primitive Corridor, neither of which have completed Unit Management Plans. The portion of Otter Point Trail which is within these two units will follow existing trails and are allowed to be maintained as existing trails per the Memorandum of Understanding between the Adirondack Park Agency and the Department of Environmental Conservation Concerning Implementation of the State Land Master Plan for the Adirondack Park (March 2010).

There is an old haul road that starts at the gate on the south side of NYS Route 421 near the picnic area and intersection with State Route 30. This trail, depicted in yellow on the map below, follows the Bog River in a southwest direction for approximately 1.5 miles, to an intersection with another haul road, which is the Winding Falls Primitive Corridor. Here the trail, shown in green, turns west, crosses the Round Lake outlet and stays on an old road for 1.5 miles, to the bridge at Winding Falls. Both bridges are cited as existing facilities in the Bog River Complex UMP (p. 49) and both roads were proposed for consideration as alternative snowmobile routes. At this point the trail diverges. One fork, shown in red on the map, continues northward 1.75 miles on an old haul road to State Route 421. This trail uses a section of the Twin Mountain Trail (p. 48). The other path, depicted in blue on the map, turns back eastward on old haul roads along the Bog River and crosses the Bog River on the concrete Goodman Bridge, a distance of roughly 2.5 miles. A portion of this route is outlined in the Bog River Complex UMP in the discussion of potential snowmobile routes.



The trail will need very little work. It follows former logging haul roads that are currently being used as informal trails. Depending on the combination of routes used, loops ranging from 5 to 8 miles will be available.

Parking

Parking will be provided at two locations on State Route 421, each with a barrior to restrict public use of administrative roads. One is mentioned in the Bog River UMP (p. 48) as a potential parking area for the trail to Twin Mountain. The UMP calls for a 9 car area but this proposal recommends a 4 car parking area with one Accessible Parking space. The existing gate will be removed and boulders placed beyond the parking area to prevent public motor vehicle use. The second parking area, referred to as the Goodman Bridge parking area, is located on State Route 421 near the first picnic area and will be constructed to accommodate 4 cars with one Accessible Parking space. An existing gate will be relocated back to where the trail widens to separate the parking from the trailhead. Additional parking is available at the Stone Bridge over the Bog River a short distance to the west of this trail head, on State Route 421. Register boxes will be installed at both State Route 421 parking areas.

Bridges on the Trail

Goodman Bridge/ Concrete Bridge

Winding Falls

Typical Trail Condition on One of the Old Haul Roads

Appendix 1 – Response to Public Comments

The Department held a public comment period on the Draft UMP amendment from April 9 to April 25, 2014. During that time, one e-mail comment was received. A summary of that comment is below, followed by DEC's response.

Comment:

For several reasons, mountain bike use should not be permitted on the trails at this time. First, the proposals in this amendment connect to areas that are classified primitive and wilderness. Mountain bike users might not understand or necessarily adhere to changes in the land classification, and DEC does not have the authority to allow mountain bikes in these areas. Secondly, if there were a need for a snowmobile trail in the wild forest area it would have already been built. As such, the wilderness area should be expanded northward and mountain bikes should not be allowed there.

Response:

Classification of state lands within the park is initiated by the Adirondack Park Agency (APA). The Department will work with the APA to determine if any of the routes designated in this amendment are suitable for mountain bike use.

Snowmobile planning for this area has not been completed, and the Winding Falls Primitive Area, as well as the Horseshoe Lake Wild Forest, may yet be used for a community connector trail in the future. For this reason, the classification of these areas should not be modified at this time.