



Department of
Environmental
Conservation

East Branch of Fish Creek Conservation Easement

Amendment to the 2013 Recreation Management Plan

East Branch Fish Creek Conservation Easements

On land owned by The Nature Conservancy & Corrigan TLP LLC

East Branch of Fish Creek and East Osceola State Forests

Detached Forest Preserve Parcels – Lewis 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 13, and 15

**Towns of Lewis, Martinsburg, Montague,
Osceola, and West Turin
Lewis County**

ANDREW M. CUOMO
Governor

BASIL SEGGOS
Commissioner

September 2016

Approvals

The NYS Department of Environmental Conservation has responsibility for managing public access and recreation on the East Branch of Fish Creek Conservation Easements, in accordance with the content of the conservation easement. The Parties agree that this Recreation Management Plan Amendment is consistent with the terms, conditions, and purposes of the conservation easement and reviewed/approved for implementing the public recreation program on the East Branch Fish Creek as outlined in this RMP Amendment.



Robert K. Davies, Director
Division of Lands & Forests

10/5/16
Date

This amendment has been reviewed/approved by the Property Owners or designees:

The Nature Conservancy, Inc.

By: Brian Roat

Title: NY Conservation Lands Manager

Date: 8/8/2016

Corrigan TLP LLC

By: 

Title: Chief Operating Officer of The Nature Conservancy Group, LLC

Date: September 15, 2016

*Its Authorized Agent
and Property Manager*

I. Introduction

This document serves to amend the 2013 Recreation Management Plan (RMP) for the East Branch of Fish Creek Conservation Easement and Adjoining State Lands, in the Towns of Lewis, Martinsburg, Montague, Osceola, and West Turin, Lewis County. The East Branch of Fish Creek Conservation Easement Parcels are encumbered by conservation easements granted to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (“NYSDEC”) by The Nature Conservancy, Inc. and Corrigan TLP LLC. Under the conservation easement, NYSDEC has the responsibility of managing public access and recreation on the Property.

The amendment is for the East Branch of Fish Creek State Forest (EBFCSF) parcel, Detached Forest Preserve Lots and The East Branch of Fish Creek Conservation Easement Parcels. It would allow for the establishment of a trail that would be located in the Towns of Lewis, Montague, Osceola, and West Turin.

The RMP serves as a guide in the establishment of public recreational access to lands encumbered by the conservation easement and adjoining state owned lands managed by NYS DEC.

Five modifications to the 2013 RMP are included in this amendment, allowing for the establishment of a foot/ski trail between the parking lot on Osceola Road (County Route 46) on Detached Forest Preserve Lot #15 and the northern boundary of the East Branch of Fish Creek North Easement, Mad River Headwaters Compartment. The trail will be constructed in phases. The completion of future phases will be based upon completion of prior phases and available resources.

The first phase will be between the Michigan Mills Road and the G&W Road along the east side of Fish Creek on the EBFCSF parcel. A route for the trail has been identified and assessed for feasibility. The remaining phases are conceptual and the exact location of the proposed trail will be determined based upon field assessment and consultation with landowner.

Consistent with ADA requirements, the Department incorporates accessibility for people with disabilities into the planning, construction, and alteration of recreational facilities and assets supporting them. A preliminary assessment has been performed to determine the accessibility for each projected phase of the project, and is included in the description of each section. The preliminary assessment may change when final locations are determined.

The State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) requires the consideration of environmental factors early in the planning stages of any proposed action(s) that are undertaken, funded or approved by a local, regional or state agency. A Full

Environmental Assessment Form is used to identify and analyze relevant areas of environmental concern based upon the management actions in the draft unit management plan. For this amendment, SEQRA review has been initiated with the preparation of both the FEAFF and Negative Declaration. Upon review of the information contained in the FEAFF, there will not be a significant impact on the environment.

II. Recreation Management Plan Amendment

A. Creation and Establishment of Trail

1. In Section IV; Proposed Management Actions: East Branch of Fish Creek State Forest (RA Lewis 45) (1,406 acres); (A); (1); (b):

Existing Language:

“b. Facilities:

Public Motor Vehicle Access

- *G. & W. Road* - It will be open to the Hydrant Road intersection, which will allow for access to the East Branch of Fish Creek, EBFC State Forest and to TNC lands north of the G. & W. Road for all allowable recreational uses.
- *Michigan Mills Road/Michigan Mills Road Extension* - It is expected that only limited work will be needed to maintain it for public use. This road will be open through the State Forest, including use of the bridge over the East Branch of Fish Creek.
- *Wee Road* and the *Sixmile Creek Road* - these share the boundary with the EBFC - West Compartment, and will be open as well.

Snowmobile Corridors

The *G. & W. Road* east from the North-South Road and *Michigan Mills Road/Michigan Mills Road Extension* will be open for public snowmobiling use and maintained under NYS DEC Adopt-a-Natural Resource Agreements with local snowmobile clubs. The *G & W Road* is currently maintained by the Valley Snow Traveler's Snowmobile Club and the *Michigan Mills Road/Michigan Mills Road Extension* is maintained by the Southern Tug Hill Sno-Riders, Inc.

Kiosk/Parking

There will be an informational kiosk on the north side of the *Michigan Mills Road Extension* between the East Branch of Fish Creek and the eastern property line (High Ridge Road) of the East Branch of Fish Creek State Forest. Parking will be provided for up to five cars, including one space designated for persons with mobility impairment.

Cross-Country Skiing, Hiking, Horseback Riding, Snowshoeing, and Trail (Mountain) Bicycling

The *G. & W. Road*, *Michigan Mills Road/Michigan Mills Road Extension*, *Wee Road*, *Lamplight Road*, *Sixmile Creek Road*, *High Ridge Road*, and *Direen Aden Road* will be open for these types of travel by the public.

A trail from the Heron Brook Access Road parking area that heads east toward and across Fee Parcel 2 of this S. F. to the East Branch of Fish Creek, will be constructed (to be named the *Trail to the East Branch of Fish Creek*) and will be open for hiking and snowshoeing.

Other Recreational Activities

All other recreational activities allowed on State Forest lands are allowed on this tract, subject to all applicable laws and regulations. This includes, but is not limited to, camping, fishing, hunting, trapping, etc.”

Will be replaced with (underlined text):

“b. Facilities:

Public Motor Vehicle Access

- *G. & W. Road* - It will be open to the Hydrant Road intersection, which will allow for access to the East Branch of Fish Creek, EBFC State Forest and to TNC lands north of the *G. & W. Road* for all allowable recreational uses.
- *Michigan Mills Road/Michigan Mills Road Extension* - It is expected that only limited work will be needed to maintain it for public use. This road will be open through the State Forest, including use of the bridge over the East Branch of Fish Creek.
- *Wee Road* and the *Sixmile Creek Road* - these share the boundary with the EBFC - West Compartment, and will be open as well.

Snowmobile Corridors

The *G. & W. Road* east from the North-South Road and *Michigan Mills Road/Michigan Mills Road Extension* will be open for public snowmobiling use and

maintained under NYS DEC Adopt-a-Natural Resource Agreements with local snowmobile clubs. The *G & W Road* is currently maintained by the Valley Snow Traveler's Snowmobile Club and the *Michigan Mills Road/Michigan Mills Road Extension* is maintained by the Southern Tug Hill Sno-Riders, Inc.

Kiosk/Parking

There will be an informational kiosk on the north side of the *Michigan Mills Road Extension* between the East Branch of Fish Creek and the eastern property line (High Ridge Road) of the East Branch of Fish Creek State Forest. Parking will be provided for up to five cars, including one space designated for persons with mobility impairment.

Cross-Country Skiing, Hiking, Horseback Riding, Snowshoeing, and Trail (Mountain) Bicycling

The *G. & W. Road, Michigan Mills Road/Michigan Mills Road Extension, Wee Road, Lamplight Road, Sixmile Creek Road, High Ridge Road, and Direen Aden Road* will be open for these types of travel by the public.

A trail from the Heron Brook Access Road parking area that heads east toward and across Fee Parcel 2 of this S. F. to the East Branch of Fish Creek, will be constructed (to be named the *Trail to the East Branch of Fish Creek*) and will be open for hiking and snowshoeing.

A foot/ski trail will be constructed which would traverse along the East Branch of Fish Creek (EBFC) from near the southwest corner of the E. Br. Fish Creek State Forest to the G&W Road. The trail would be constructed in two phases. Phase one would be from the location of the bridge on Michigan Mills Road Extension to the bridge which crosses EBFC on the G&W Road and would also include a connector trail coming from the existing parking area on Michigan Mills Road Extension. Phase two would be from Michigan Mills Road south to the Southwest corner of the State Forest. The phase one section would be located along the eastern side of the EBFC, and phase two would be located along the western side of the EBFC. The existing motor vehicle bridge on Michigan Mills Road will be used to connect the two sections of the trail. The trail would provide additional access to the stream and interior sections of the State Forest. Due to topography of the area, it is not feasible to complete these trail sections to meet accessibility guidelines for recreational trails.

Other Recreational Activities

All other recreational activities allowed on State Forest lands are allowed on this tract, subject to all applicable laws and regulations. This includes, but is not limited to, camping, fishing, hunting, trapping, etc.”

2. In Section IV; Proposed Management Actions: Adjacent Detached Forest Preserve Parcels; (A); (3); (b):

Existing Language:

“b. Facilities:

Public Motor Vehicle Access

The only DFPs with public motor vehicle access are those adjacent to roads; none of them have roads into them. DFP Lewis-15, Lot 57, has a RSPAC (Rifle Season Primary Access Corridor) thru a very narrow strip of easement between the *Osceola Road* and the parcel. The RSPAC is approximately 30 yards in length, though only the first dozen or so yards is driveable. Additionally, DFP Lewis-8 is immediately adjacent to the *Driscoll Road*. The *Driscoll Road* is a town road that is not plowed in the winter, however it is open in the warmer months of the year.

Snowmobile Corridor

No snowmobile corridors exist and none are planned on the DFPs. A snowmobile corridor is adjacent to DFP Lewis-8 as the *Driscoll Road*, a town road, is utilized as part of main corridor trail *C4*. Intersection *29C*, where *C4* and *C4J* meet, is on the *Driscoll Road* in this vicinity.

Parking

No parking areas exist and none are planned on the DFPs. Roadside parking is available on the turnoff on the *Osceola Road* that is adjacent to DFP Lewis-15, Lot 57 and roadside adjacent to DFP Lewis-8 on the *Driscoll Road*.

Cross-Country Skiing, Hiking, Horseback Riding, Snowshoeing, and Trail (Mountain) Bicycling

Several trails, open year-round, are planned to cross EBFCS lands to connect previously inaccessible DFPs for the public. Upon the completion of these trails, they will be open to the public for all of the above listed uses. These planned trails are:

- A loop from the Camp Five Road to the back side (northwest corner) of DFP Lewis-15: Constable's Five Towns Township 1, Lot 44 (To be named the *Middle Brook Trail*);
- A corridor from the northeastern most corner of the East Osceola State Forest to and through DFP Lewis-6: N.E. Corner, Boylston Tract Township 13, Lot 98, across GMO land to DFP Lewis-5: Boylston Tract Township 13, Lot 74 (To be named *East Osceola-Salmon River Trail*);
- A short existing trail from a pull off on the *Osceola Road* into DFP Lewis-15, Lot 57.

Other Recreational Activities

The following other recreational activities are allowed subject to all applicable laws and regulations: camping, fishing, hunting, launching of canoes and other non-motorized vessels, and trapping.”

Will be replaced with (Underlined text):

“b. Facilities:

Public Motor Vehicle Access

The only DFPs with public motor vehicle access are those adjacent to roads; none of them have roads into them. DFP Lewis-15, Lot 57, has a RSPAC (Rifle Season Primary Access Corridor) thru a very narrow strip of easement between the *Osceola Road* and the parcel. The RSPAC is approximately 30 yards in length, though only the first dozen or so yards is driveable. Additionally, DFP Lewis-8 is immediately adjacent to the *Driscoll Road*. The *Driscoll Road* is a town road that is not plowed in the winter, however it is open in the warmer months of the year.

Snowmobile Corridor

No snowmobile corridors exist and none are planned on the DFPs. A snowmobile corridor is adjacent to DFP Lewis-8 as the *Driscoll Road*, a town road, is utilized as part of main corridor trail *C4*. Intersection *29C*, where *C4* and *C4J* meet, is on the *Driscoll Road* in this vicinity.

Parking

No parking areas exist and none are planned on the DFPs. Roadside parking is available on the turnoff on the *Osceola Road* that is adjacent to DFP Lewis-15, Lot 57 and roadside adjacent to DFP Lewis-8 on the *Driscoll Road*.

Cross-Country Skiing, Hiking, Horseback Riding, Snowshoeing, and Trail (Mountain) Bicycling

Several trails, open year-round, are planned to cross EBFCS lands to connect previously inaccessible DFPs for the public. Upon the completion of these trails, they will be open to the public for all of the above listed uses. These planned trails are:

- A loop from the Camp Five Road to the back side (northwest corner) of DFP Lewis-15: Constable's Five Towns Township 1, Lot 44 (To be named the *Middle Brook Trail*);
- A corridor from the northeastern most corner of the East Osceola State Forest to and through DFP Lewis-6: N.E. Corner, Boylston Tract Township 13, Lot 98, across GMO land to DFP Lewis-5: Boylston Tract Township 13, Lot 74 (To be named *East Osceola-Salmon River Trail*);
- A short existing trail from a pull off on the *Osceola Road* into DFP Lewis-15, Lot 57. An accessible ADA path will be constructed from the existing trail to the junction with the proposed Middle Brook Trail, if determined feasible based on a

complete assessment when the final location is determined.

A foot/ski trail will be constructed through DFP Lewis-5, between approximately the southeast corner and the northern boundary line. The trail segment will connect with the proposed trails across the East Branch Fish Creek South Easement, West Compartment. Due to the location of the trail and no planned accessible trail connections, it is not feasible to complete these trail sections to meet accessibility guidelines for recreational trails.

Other Recreational Activities

The following other recreational activities are allowed subject to all applicable laws and regulations: camping, fishing, hunting, launching of canoes and other non-motorized vessels, and trapping.”

3. In Section IV; Proposed Management Actions: East Branch Fish Creek North (TNC) Easement Lands; (B); (1); (a) Mad River Headwaters (8,022 acres):

Existing Language:

“**Facilities:**

Public Motor Vehicle Access

Motor vehicle access will be provided to these compartments primarily by way of the *G. & W. Road* to the Hydrant Road, which will also be opened to public motor vehicle use to a location near the Mad River Swamp (about the middle of the Mad River Headwaters compartment) to allow access for canoeing/boating and fishing opportunities. Public motor vehicle access on the Hydrant Road is only allowed outside of the Big Game Season.

Access for People with Impaired Mobility

The *International Road* will be open for public motor vehicle use only for people with qualifying mobility impairment under a permit from DEC (CP-3 permit).

Snowmobile Corridors

The G. & W. Road will be open for snowmobiling use and maintained under a NYS DEC Adopt-a-Natural Resource Agreement with the Valley Snow Travelers Snowmobile Club or successor.

Parking

Parking will be provided for up to five cars near the location of the Mad River Swamp off of the *Hydrant Road* to facilitate access for canoeing/boating and fishing opportunities, including one designated space for persons with mobility impairment. This will occur once the G. & W. Road and Hydrant roads are rehabilitated.

Cross-Country Skiing, Hiking, Snowshoeing, and Trail (Mountain) Bicycling

These uses are allowed on this compartment, outside of Big Game (Rifle) Season. Consequently, all existing roads in this compartment are open to trail bicycling, outside of Big Game (Rifle) Season, for travel by the public. DEC will monitor any off road trail bicycling natural resource damage. DEC is committed to working with TNC to explore the potential for establishing additional trails in these compartments in the future.

Other Recreational Activities

All other recreational activities generally allowed on State lands are allowed on this tract, subject to all applicable laws and regulations. This includes, but is not limited to, camping, fishing, birdwatching, use of non-motorized watercraft, etc.”

Will be replaced with (Underlined text):

“Facilities:

Public Motor Vehicle Access

Motor vehicle access will be provided to these compartments primarily by way of the *G. & W. Road* to the Hydrant Road. The Hydrant Road will also be opened to public motor vehicle use to a location near the Mad River Swamp (about the middle of the Mad River Headwaters compartment) to allow access for canoeing/boating and fishing opportunities. Public motor vehicle access on the Hydrant Road is only allowed outside of the Big Game Season.

Access for People with Impaired Mobility

The *International Road* will be open for public motor vehicle use only for people with qualifying mobility impairment under a permit from DEC (CP-3 permit).

Snowmobile Corridors

The G. & W. Road will be open for snowmobiling use and maintained under a NYS DEC Volunteer Stewardship Agreement with the Valley Snow Travelers Snowmobile Club or successor.

Parking

Parking will be provided for up to five cars near the location of the Mad River Swamp off of the *Hydrant Road* to facilitate access for canoeing/boating and fishing opportunities, including one designated space for persons with mobility impairment. This will occur once the G. & W. Road and Hydrant roads are rehabilitated.

Cross-Country Skiing, Hiking, Snowshoeing, and Trail (Mountain) Bicycling

These uses are allowed on this compartment, outside of Big Game (Rifle) Season. Consequently, all existing roads in this compartment are open to trail bicycling, outside of Big Game (Rifle) Season, for travel by the public. DEC will monitor any off road trail bicycling natural resource damage. DEC is committed to working with TNC to explore the potential for establishing additional trails in these compartments in the future.

A foot/ski trail will be constructed between the northern property line near Sevenmile Creek and the eastern compartment boundary. Use of the trail will be allowed outside of the Big Game Hunting Season. The new trail will be built in conjunction with the proposed trail on East Branch of Fish Creek Headwater Flow Grounds Compartment providing access from the G&W Road. Due to the topography of the trail location it is not feasible to complete this section to accessibility guidelines.

Other Recreational Activities

All other recreational activities generally allowed on State lands are allowed on this tract, subject to all applicable laws and regulations. This includes, but is not limited to, camping, fishing, birdwatching, use of non-motorized watercraft, etc.”

4. In Section IV; Proposed Management Actions: East Branch Fish Creek North (TNC) Easement Lands; (b); (1); (b) East Branch of Fish Creek Headwaters Flow Grounds Compartment (4,471 acres):

Existing Language:

“Facilities:

Public Motor Vehicle Access

As noted previously, the *G. & W. Road* will initially be open to public motor vehicle use to the Hydrant Road.

Access for People with Impaired Mobility

The *International Road* is the boundary between the Page Pond and EBFC Headwaters compartments and, as noted previously, will be open for public motor vehicle use only for persons with mobility impairment under DEC’s CP-3 program.

Snowmobile Corridors

G. & W. Road will be open for snowmobiling use and maintained under NYS DEC Adopt-a-Natural Resource Agreements with the Valley Snow Travelers Snowmobile Club or successor.

Kiosk/Parking

There will be an informational kiosk on the north side of the *G. & W. Road* near the intersection with the *International Road*. Parking will be provided for up to five cars, including one designated space for persons with mobility impairment.

Cross-Country Skiing, Hiking, Snowshoeing, and Trail (Mountain) Bicycling

These uses are allowed on this compartment. Consequently, all existing roads in this compartment are open to trail bicycling, for travel by the public. DEC is committed to working with TNC to explore the potential for establishing additional trails in this compartment in the future.

Other Recreational Activities

All other recreational activities generally allowed on State lands are allowed on this tract, subject to all applicable laws and regulations. This includes, but is not limited to, camping, fishing, birdwatching, use of non-motorized watercraft, etc.”

Will be replaced with (Underlined text):

“Facilities:

Public Motor Vehicle Access

As noted previously, the *G. & W. Road* will initially be open to public motor vehicle use to the Hydrant Road.

Access for People with Impaired Mobility

The *International Road* is the boundary between the Page Pond and EBFC Headwaters compartments and, as noted previously, will be open for public motor vehicle use only for persons with mobility impairment under DEC’s CP-3 program.

Snowmobile Corridors

G. & W. Road will be open for snowmobiling use and maintained under NYS DEC Volunteer Stewardship Agreement with the Valley Snow Travelers Snowmobile Club or successor.

Kiosk/Parking

There will be an informational kiosk on the north side of the *G. & W. Road* near the intersection with the *International Road*. Parking will be provided for up to five cars, including one designated space for persons with mobility impairment.

Cross-Country Skiing, Hiking, Snowshoeing, and Trail (Mountain) Bicycling

These uses are allowed on this compartment. Consequently, all existing roads in this compartment are open to trail bicycling, for travel by the public. DEC is committed to working with TNC to explore the potential for establishing additional trails in this compartment in the future.

A foot/ski trail will be constructed along the western side of the East Branch of Fish of Creek from the G&W Road to the EBFCN Mad Rivers Headwaters Compartment (MRHC) boundary, where the proposed trail crosses into that compartment. A portion of the trail may be completed to the accessibility guidelines, if determined feasible. The remainder of the trail will not be to meet accessibility guidelines for recreational trails.

Other Recreational Activities

All other recreational activities generally allowed on State lands are allowed on this tract, subject to all applicable laws and regulations. This includes, but is not limited to, camping, fishing, birdwatching, use of non-motorized watercraft, etc.”

5. In Section IV; Proposed Management Actions: East Branch of Fish Creek (EBFCS) South Easement Lands; (B); (2); (a):

Existing Language:

“2. East Branch Fish Creek South (EBFCS) Easement Lands (30,036 acres)

The easement acquired on these lands divides the property into five areas, referred to as compartments; EBFC West, EBFC East, East Fork Salmon River Headwaters, Beaver Meadow Brook, and Heron Brook. There are three types of public use conditions among these five compartments, which will be explained below. Terms and conditions of public use are defined in the easement document for these compartments. In addition to these terms and conditions, many of the same rules and regulations that apply to other State lands apply to this easement. Specifically, Sections 190.0 - 190.4, 190.8, and 190.12 apply to easements lands.

Facilities:

Public Motor Vehicle Access

The following roads will be open for public motor vehicle access:

- *Michigan Mills Road and the Michigan Mills Road Extension* - open from the easement property line with the East Branch of Fish Creek State Forest, to Rake Corners, the intersection with Joe’s Road. This is a Rifle Season

Primary Access Corridor (RSPAC), so it will be open year round except for mud season and winter.

- *Wee Road* and the *Sixmile Creek Road* that share the boundary with the EBFC (East Branch of Fish Creek) State Forest (RSPACs).
- *Joe's Road* - open from Rake Corners south to the Tri-Corners intersection. This will be open year-round except for mud season and winter (RSPAC).
- *Tin Shanty Road* - open from the Tri-Corners intersection to the New Mountain Road. This will be open year-round (RSPAC) except for mud season and winter.
- *New Mountain Road* - open from the intersection with the Tin Shanty Road to the end of the road (or a reported washout on the East Fork of the Salmon River), within the East Fork Salmon Rivers Headwaters Compartment. This will be open year- round except for mud season and winter (RSPAC).
- *Camp Four Road* - open from the Camp Four Road Gate to Camp Five Road. This will be open year round except for mud season and winter (RSPAC).

There are additional roads and sections of these roads that could be opened as they are either RSPACs or Primary Access Corridors (PACs), but they are not proposed to be open at this time.

Snowmobile Corridors

The following routes will be open for public snowmobile use: *Michigan Mills Road*, *Michigan Mills Road Extension*, *Hogansville Road*, *Joe's Road*, *Tin Shanty Road*, portions of the *Camp Two Road*, *Camp Four Road*, and the road/trail between North Osceola and the Camp Two Road (To be called the *North Osceola Connector*). These are all Primary Snowmobile Corridors (PSCs). There are additional PSCs that could be open for snowmobile use (though some will need to be built) but they will not be opened at this time. The snowmobile route from Camp Four through Michigan Mills will be maintained by the Southern Tug Hill Sno-Riders and the route from the Tri-corners intersection to North Osceola will be maintained by the Osceola Snowmobile Club under Adopt-a-Natural Resource Agreements.

Kiosk/Parking

There will be an informational kiosk at the south end of the *Camp Four Road*. Parking will be provided for up to five cars, including one space designated for persons with mobility impairment. Another parking area will be in the vicinity of the *Camp Two Road* gate, to facilitate access to a proposed trail to DFPs located within this compartment.

Cross-Country Skiing, Hiking, Horseback Riding, Snowshoeing, and Trail (Mountain) Bicycling

All roads previously mentioned for motorized access will be open for these types of travel by the public. In addition, all roads that share this compartment's boundary with East Branch of Fish Creek State Forest (*Wee Road* and *Sixmile Creek Road*) and *Joe's Road* between the Tri-Corners intersection to the Camp Five Road intersection will be open for these types of travel. The *Camp Two Road* from the Tin Shanty Road intersection to the Camp Two Road gate will be open for these types of recreation, outside of Big Game (Rifle) Season. Finally, the following trails, upon their completion, will be open to the public for all of the above listed uses:

- A loop from the Camp Five Road to the back side (northwest corner) of DFP Lewis-15: Constable's Five Towns Township 1, Lot 44 (To be named the *Middle Brook Trail*);
- A corridor from the northeastern most corner of the East Osceola State Forest to and through DFP Lewis-6: N.E. Corner, Boylston Tract Township 13, Lot 98, across GMO land to DFP Lewis-5: Boylston Tract Township 13, Lot 74 (To be named *East Osceola – Salmon River Trail*);
- A short existing trail from a pull off on the Osceola Road into DFP Lewis-15, Lot 57.

Other Recreational Activities

All other recreational activities generally allowed on State lands are allowed on this tract, subject to all applicable laws and regulations. This includes, but is not limited to, camping, fishing, birdwatching, use of non-motorized watercraft, etc. Hunting is limited as noted above.”

Will be replaced with (Underlined text):

“2. East Branch Fish Creek South (EBFCS) Easement Lands (30,036 acres)

The easement acquired on these lands divides the property into five areas, referred to as compartments; EBFC West, EBFC East, East Fork Salmon River Headwaters, Beaver Meadow Brook, and Heron Brook. There are three types of public use conditions among these five compartments, which will be explained below. The Department has the right to construct and maintain new non-motorized access corridors in addition to those which may already exist on the Protected Property, provided such trails, parking lots, lean-tos do not interfere with the Grantor's reserved right to conduct forest management activities. The Grantor may prohibit or otherwise restrict public access to limited areas of the Protected Property that are being actively logged by designating the active logging areas a “Logging Operation Closure Zone.” Full terms and conditions of public use are defined in the easement document for these compartments. In addition to these terms and conditions, many of

the same rules and regulations that apply to other State lands apply to this easement. Specifically, Sections - 190.4, 190.8, and 190.12 apply to easements lands.

Facilities:

Public Motor Vehicle Access

The following roads will be open for public motor vehicle access:

- *Michigan Mills Road and the Michigan Mills Road Extension* - open from the easement property line with the East Branch of Fish Creek State Forest, to Rake Corners, the intersection with Joe's Road. This is a Rifle Season Primary Access Corridor (RSPAC), so it will be open year round except for mud season and winter.
- *Wee Road and the Sixmile Creek Road* that share the boundary with the EBFC (East Branch of Fish Creek) State Forest (RSPACs).
- *Joe's Road* - open from Rake Corners south to the Tri-Corners intersection. This will be open year-round except for mud season and winter (RSPAC).
- *Tin Shanty Road* - open from the Tri-Corners intersection to the New Mountain Road. This will be open year-round (RSPAC) except for mud season and winter.
- *New Mountain Road* - open from the intersection with the Tin Shanty Road to the end of the road (or a reported washout on the East Fork of the Salmon River), within the East Fork Salmon Rivers Headwaters Compartment. This will be open year- round except for mud season and winter (RSPAC).
- *Camp Four Road* - open from the Camp Four Road Gate to Camp Five Road. This will be open year round except for mud season and winter (RSPAC).

There are additional roads and sections of these roads that could be opened as they are either RSPACs or Primary Access Corridors (PACs), but they are not proposed to be open at this time.

Snowmobile Corridors

The following routes will be open for public snowmobile use: *Michigan Mills Road, Michigan Mills Road Extension, Hogansville Road, Joe's Road, Tin Shanty Road, portions of the Camp Two Road, Camp Four Road, and the road/trail between North Osceola and the Camp Two Road (To be called the North Osceola Connector)*. These are all Primary Snowmobile Corridors (PSCs). There are additional PSCs that could be open for snowmobile use (though some will need to be built) but they will not be opened at this time. The snowmobile route from Camp Four through Michigan Mills will be maintained by the Southern Tug Hill Sno-Riders and the route from the Tri-corners intersection to North Osceola will be

maintained by the Osceola Snowmobile Club under Adopt-a-Natural Resource Agreements.

Kiosk/Parking

There will be an informational kiosk at the south end of the *Camp Four Road*. Parking will be provided for up to five cars, including one space designated for persons with mobility impairment. Another parking area will be in the vicinity of the *Camp Two Road* gate, to facilitate access to a proposed trail to DFPs located within this compartment.

Cross-Country Skiing, Hiking, Horseback Riding, Snowshoeing, and Trail (Mountain) Bicycling

All roads previously mentioned for motorized access will be open for these types of travel by the public. In addition, all roads that share this compartment's boundary with East Branch of Fish Creek State Forest (*Wee Road* and *Sixmile Creek Road*) and *Joe's Road* between the Tri-Corners intersection to the Camp Five Road intersection will be open for these types of travel. The *Camp Two Road* from the Tin Shanty Road intersection to the Camp Two Road gate will be open for these types of recreation; during the Big Game (Rifle) Season until January 2017 (when reserve hunting rights expire), the trail will be closed to public use. Finally, the following trails, upon their completion, will be open to the public for all of the above listed uses:

- A loop from the Camp Five Road to the back side (northwest corner) of DFP Lewis-15: Constable's Five Towns Township 1, Lot 44 (To be named the *Middle Brook Trail*);
- A corridor from the northeastern most corner of the East Osceola State Forest to and through DFP Lewis-6: N.E. Corner, Boylston Tract Township 13, Lot 98, across GMO land to DFP Lewis-5: Boylston Tract Township 13, Lot 74 (To be named *East Osceola – Salmon River Trail*);
- A short existing trail from a pull off on the Osceola Road into DFP Lewis-15, Lot 57.

Two sections of foot/ski trail which will connect with the proposed trail on Detached Forest Parcel Lewis – 5 and EBFC State Forest. The southern section will begin from a location on the proposed Middle Brook Trail, described above, to the southeast corner of DFP Lewis-5. The second section will begin where the proposed trail on DFP Lewis-5 crosses the northern boundary of the parcel and connect to the proposed trail near the southwest corner of the northern EBFC State Forest parcel. During the Big Game Rifle season until January 2017, these trails would be closed. Due to location and topography it is not feasible to complete these trail sections to meet accessibility guidelines for recreational trails.

Other Recreational Activities

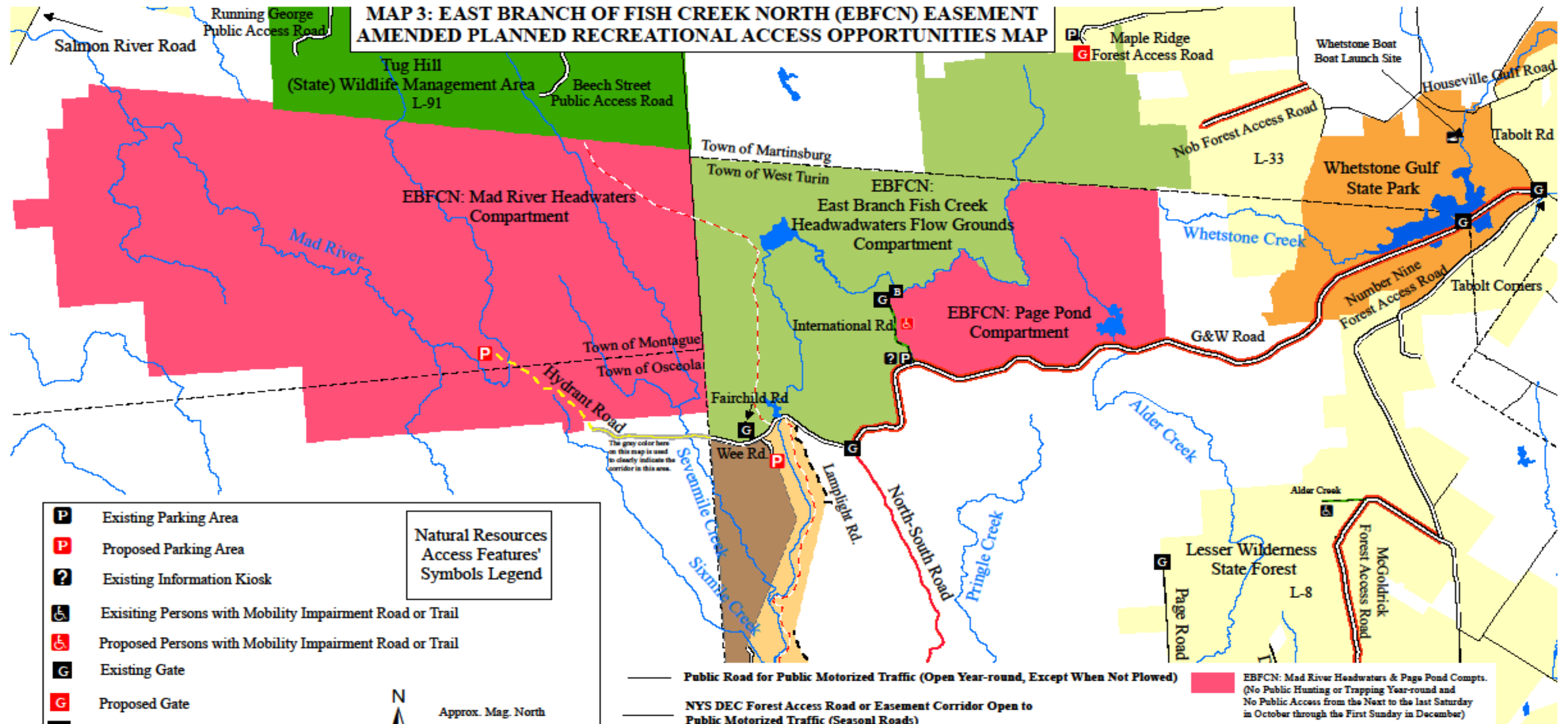
All other recreational activities generally allowed on State lands are allowed on this tract, subject to all applicable laws and regulations. This includes, but is not limited to, camping, fishing, birdwatching, use of non-motorized watercraft, etc. Hunting is limited as noted above.”

III. Appendices

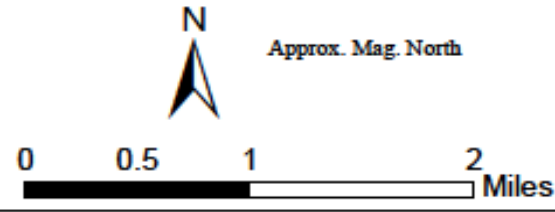
A. Maps (Map #3 and Map #4 of the 2013 RMP)

B. RMP Draft Responsiveness Summary

MAP 3: EAST BRANCH OF FISH CREEK NORTH (EBFCN) EASEMENT AMENDED PLANNED RECREATIONAL ACCESS OPPORTUNITIES MAP



P	Existing Parking Area	Natural Resources Access Features' Symbols Legend
P	Proposed Parking Area	
?	Existing Information Kiosk	
♿	Existing Persons with Mobility Impairment Road or Trail	
♿	Proposed Persons with Mobility Impairment Road or Trail	
G	Existing Gate	
G	Proposed Gate	
B	Existing Barrier	
⚓	Existing Angler Parking Area	



Revised M. Giocondo NYS DEC 04/2016

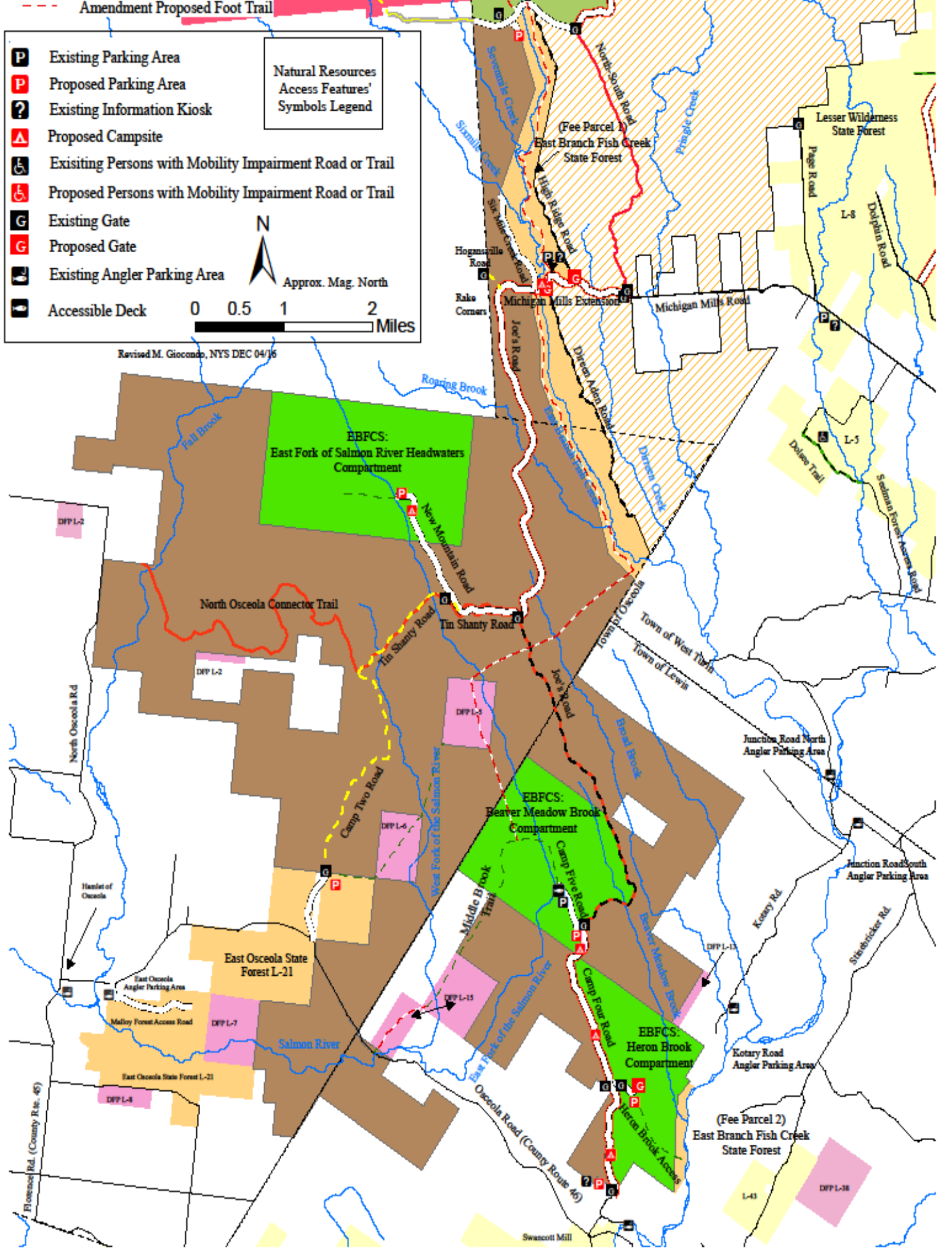
- Public Road for Public Motorized Traffic (Open Year-round, Except When Not Plowed)
- NYS DEC Forest Access Road or Easement Corridor Open to Public Motorized Traffic (Seasonal Roads)
- Easement Corridor Road Closed to Public Motorized Traffic and Closed to All Public Use During Big Game (Rifle) Season (Next to Last Saturday in October through the First Sunday in December)
- NYS DEC CP-3 Route Closed to Public Motorized Traffic, Except by Permit for Persons with a Mobility Impairment
- NYS DEC or Easement Corridor, Road, or Trail Open to Snowmobile Traffic
- Amendment Proposed Foot Trail
- NYSDEC State Forests
- NYSDEC Wildlife Management Area
- EBFCN: Mad River Headwaters & Page Pond Compts. (No Public Hunting or Trapping Year-round and No Public Access from the Next to the last Saturday in October through the First Sunday in December)
- EBFCN: EBFC Headwaters Flow Grounds Compartment (Public Hunting Allowed, No Public Trapping Year-round)
- EBFCN: EBFC West Compartment (No Public Hunting September 1 through December 31 and No Public Access from the Next to the Last Saturday in October through the First Sunday in December) until 2017
- Whetstone Gulf State Park (Managed by NYS Office of Parks, Recreation, & Historic Preservation)
- NYSDEC East Branch Fish Creek State Forest

Map #4: East Branch of Fish Creek South (EBFCS) Easement Amended Planned Recreational Access Opportunities Map

Map Legend

- Public Road for Public Motorized Traffic
- NYS DEC Forest Access Road or Easement Corridor Open to Public Motorized Traffic
- - - Original Proposed Undeveloped Easement Corridor Trail (Planned to be Open Year-round for Non-motorized Traffic)
- NYS DEC CP-3 Route Closed to Public Motorized Traffic, Except by Permit for Persons with a Mobility Impairment
- - - Easement Corridor Road Closed to Public Motorized Traffic
- - - Easement Corridor Road Closed to Public Motorized Traffic and Closed to All Public Use During Big Game (Rifle) Season (Next to Last Saturday in October through the First Sunday in December) until 2017
- NYS DEC or Easement Corridor, Road, or Trail Open to Snowmobile Traffic
- - - Amendment Proposed Foot Trail
- EBFC: Public Hunting & Year-Round Recreation Lands
- EBFC West Compartment (No Public Hunting September 1 through December 31 and No Public Access from the Next to Last Saturday in October through the First Sunday in December until 2017)
- EBFC East Compartment
- NYSDEC State Forests
- NYSDEC State Forests Adjacent to EBFC Compartments
- NYSDEC Detached Forest Preserve Parcels

- P** Existing Parking Area
 - P** Proposed Parking Area
 - ?** Existing Information Kiosk
 - A** Proposed Campsite
 - ♿** Existing Persons with Mobility Impairment Road or Trail
 - ♿** Proposed Persons with Mobility Impairment Road or Trail
 - G** Existing Gate
 - G** Proposed Gate
 - 🚰** Existing Angler Parking Area
 - 🚰** Accessible Deck
- Natural Resources Access Features' Symbols Legend
- 0 0.5 1 2 Miles
- Approx. Mag. North



Revised M. Giocando, NYS DEC 04/16

B. RMP Draft Amendment Responsiveness Summary

Comment: The proposed amendment fails to address and/or consider All Terrain Vehicle (ATV) access for corridor connectors.

Response: On the Conservation Easement parcels, the Department did not purchase the recreational right for public all-terrain vehicle use, therefore the Department cannot designate public ATV trails on these lands.

Comment: The foot trail entrance should be relocated to the existing Camp Four Road. This would eliminate the foot trails unnecessarily close proximity to private lands, structures, property; minimize pedestrian traffic crossing the areas delicate streams; greatly minimize if not entirely eliminate the costs associate with constructing and policing the Foot Trail and maintaining a parking area which to a large extent, already exists at the Camp Four Road; minimize potential trespassing and property damage conflicts/ lawsuits.

Response: Camp Four Road is open as a snowmobile trail during the winter months, which limits motor vehicle access to the road, and thus access to the existing parking area. The proposed trailhead location on Osceola Road is off of a year-round maintained town road. To avoid potential conflicts between user groups and provide access for both, it was determined that the location on the Osceola Road is the better option for a trailhead parking area. The trail will be located, where possible, away from private property to avoid conflicts. The Department recognizes the importance of the streams and wetlands located on the property. During the layout of the trail location, when and where possible, the trail will be located away from these areas. If a crossing is required than an assessment, and if needed a permit, will be completed to ensure the crossing has minimal impact on the resource.

Comment: Are there any plans to incorporate a trail from the detached forest preserve lot along the East Fork of the Salmon River to connect with the New Mountain Road?

Response: There are no plans to include a trail in that location in the existing Recreation Management Plan or the proposed amended plan.

Comment: Is the plan for phase 1 to connect the High Ridge road to the G&W Road on the east side of Fish Creek via the Lamplight road?

Response: The proposed trail location is not located along any of the existing roads and will not connect the roads. Since these roads are the shared boundary between the Conservation Easement and State Forest, there is the possibility that they will be used for forest management activities. To avoid potential conflicts with forest management

activities and recreational users, and to avoid the need for trail closures, it was decided not to locate the trail on the roads.

Comment: How was the accessibility of the trail determined? Could part of the trail be made accessible from the trailhead?

Response: An assessment was completed of the proposed trail location utilizing topographic maps, knowledge of the general property condition, along with the terms of the Easement. Once the final location has been determined and agreed upon by the landowner, a reassessment will be completed to determine if an accessible section can be built, without impacting the nature and scope of the trail.

Comment: In support of the current and proposed two additional snowmobile trails in the plan.

Response: The proposed amendment does not include any additional snowmobile trails or changes to the existing snowmobile trails.

Comment: It is a good idea as long as the trail is kept closed to any motorized vehicles.

Response: The proposed amendment does not include motorized use on the trail.

Comment: The addition of a foot trail to the property is a great addition to the Tug Hill Area.