New York State
Department of Environmental Conservation

Division of Lands & Forests

East Branch of Fish Creek Conservation Easement

RECREATION MANAGEMENT PLAN

Including State Conservation Easement Lands held by;
Corrigan, TLP LLC and The Nature Conservancy, Inc

East Branch of Fish Creek State Forest and East Osceola State Forest
Detached Forest Preserve Parcels Lewis-4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 13, and15
County of Lewis
Towns of Lewis, Martinsburg, Montague, Osceola, and West Turin

May 31, 2013

Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor **Joe Martens**, Commissioner

Robert K. Davies, State Forester

For further information contact:
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This plan has been reviewed and approved.

5/31/13

Robert Davies, Director, Division of Lands and Forests — Date

This plan has been reviewed and approved by the Molpus Timberlands Management , LLC.

10-23-2012

Ken Sewell, Chief Operating Officer — Date

This plan has been reviewed and approved by The Nature Conservancy, Inc.

Lorna Wright 11/26/2012

Lorna Wright, Tug Hill Project Director — Date

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Joe Martens
Commissioner

MEMORANDUM

TO: Kathy Moser

FROM: Robert K. Davies RKD

DATE: May 29, 2013

RE: Proposed Final East Branch of Fish Creek Recreation Management Plan

Please see attached for your review and approval. I intend to approve this Recreation Management plan in the next few weeks. Please let us know if you have any issues moving forward or need any additional information

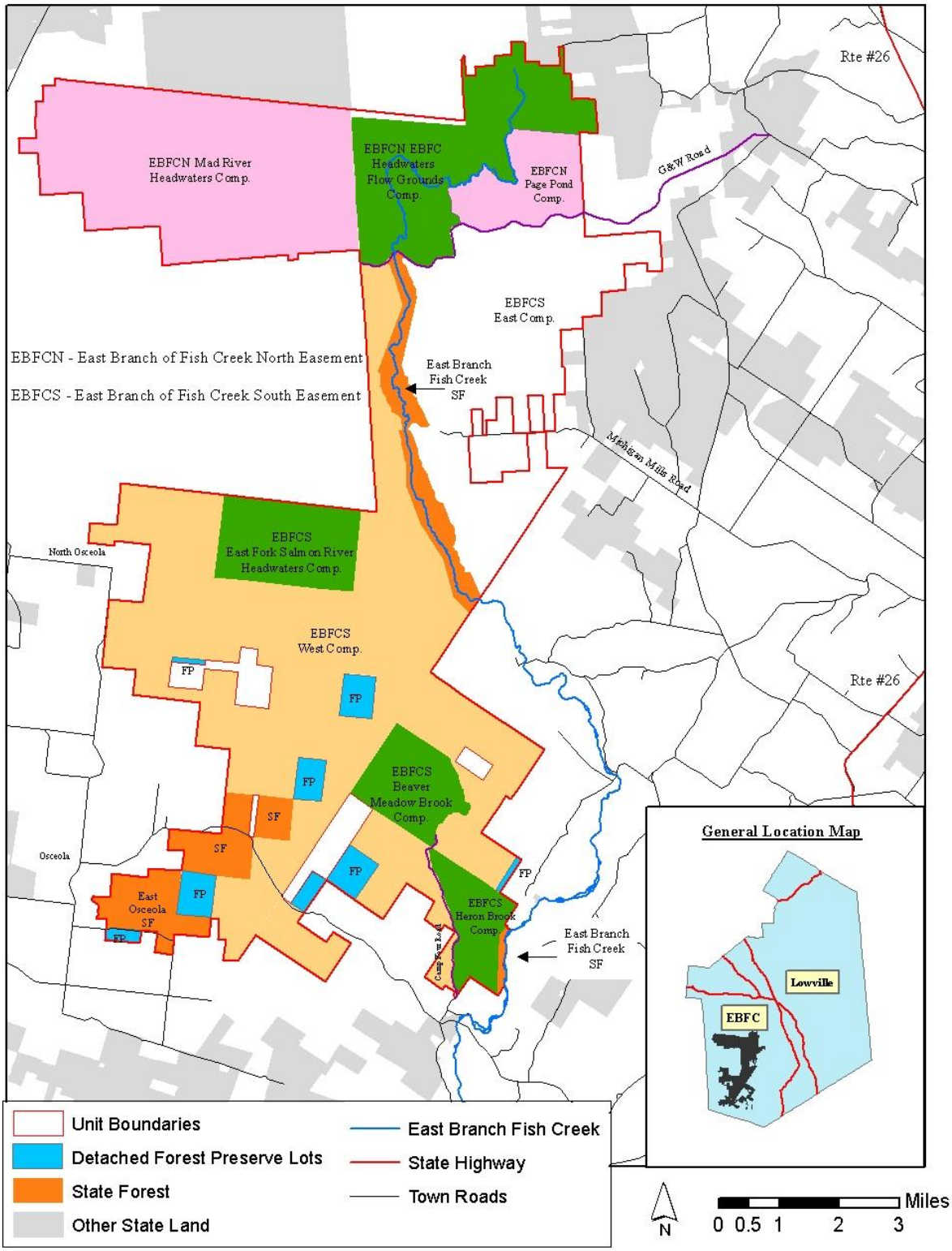
Attachment

Approved: Kathy Moser
Kathy Moser
Assistant Commissioner
Natural Resources

c: J. Sessions
D. Smith

LOCATION MAP

Map #1: East Branch of Fish Creek (EBFC) Plan Area General Location Map



"Friend Bill.—
I am here in this country at work with my spade,
And I think it is the last place that God ever made.
There is nothing in sight but hills and the trees,
And the swamps where you sink in mud to your knees; ..."

Taken from an untitled poem, Osceola, Lewis County, New York; June 5th 1914.

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PREFACE

This Recreation Management Plan (RMP) has been developed pursuant to, and is consistent with, relevant provisions of the New York State Constitution, Environmental Conservation Law (ECL), the Executive Law, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) rules and regulations, DEC policies and procedures, the State Environmental Quality Review Act, as well as the conditions of the easements which cover a large portion of the lands that are included in it

The acquisition project, whose lands make up the majority of the State holdings that are the subject of this plan, was accomplished in response to local and state communities' concerns. An excerpt from an article in the March 1997 issue of National Geographic magazine by Jon R. Luoma reveals many of the concerns that initiated this project.

"One fine spring day I was driving through a forest of maple, beech, and cherry on the Tug Hill plateau east of Lake Ontario with Bruce Carpenter, who heads an environmental group called New York Rivers United. Green buds were just breaking open in the woods that looked so wild they might have been protected parkland. But this was 50,000 acres of commercial forest, owned by the Lyons Falls Pulp and Paper Company. Like much paper-company land in northern New York, it had been selectively logged.

Carpenter was worried that this virtually unbroken expanse of forest wouldn't remain that way much longer. Lyons Falls was faced with declining profits and rising property taxes and was tempted to sell off its forests. To keep that from happening, Carpenter and other environmentalists - along with several industry representatives - had been lobbying state politicians to purchase conservation easements that would protect the land and help the company stay in business.

"Here we have a chance to sustain an industry and the forest at the same time, and we're blowing it," Dan McGough, former vice president of Lyons Falls, told me after the New York State Legislature failed to pass the conservation easement bill in 1994.

Early in 1996 the company announced that it had sold its land to the Hancock Timber Resources Group. Although Hancock has a solid reputation for good long-term forest management of woodlands it owns elsewhere in the U.S., Carpenter worries that without formal conservation easements in place the demand for vacation property in the region will continue to put pressure on landowners to fragment their holdings.

"Hancock could end up selling off places like this in 20-acre parcels for homes and condominiums," he said, his arm sweeping the surrounding woods. "We'll end up with more roads, more sediment in wild rivers, and clearings around every building. We feel that this is the

place to prove that the paper and lumber industries could be one of the environment's best friends."

- From "The Magic of Paper," National Geographic, *pp.102 & 103. Vol. 191, # 3. March 1997.*

Eventually, through the efforts of many, including a grassroots citizens group, watershed/supply interests, hunting and fishing clubs, recreationists, DEC, The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and the NYS Tug Hill Commission, 1,406.14 acres in fee and two "working" forest conservation easements of approximately 44,000 acres across two ownerships were acquired by the State of New York (NYS) from GMO Forestry Fund 3, L.P. (GMO) and TNC. These lands, along with some previously existing State lands, comprise the East Branch of Fish Creek area that is the subject of this Recreation Management Plan (RMP).

While the easement and fee lands are now protected in perpetuity by way of the State purchase, the guaranteed wise management of these natural resources for future generations is not. The managers of these lands must continually renew their commitment to sustainable management and the public must continue to be involved in managing these lands by learning, caring, and being involved in the decisions made about how to manage the natural resources of these lands in a sustainable way.

The impetus for developing this RMP has come as a result of the major acquisitions by DEC of easement and fee lands in the core of Tug Hill, the relatively undeveloped forested area east of Lake Ontario and west of the Adirondacks and the Black River Valley. The DEC completed this, its largest project ever in the Tug Hill region, in February of 2006. Known originally as the East Branch of Fish Creek (EBFC) Project in the New York State Open Space Plan (1998), the People of the State of New York acting through DEC protected approximately 45,000 acres of lands through conservation easements and fee title acquisition on the Tug Hill Plateau.

The goals for this project were originally formulated by a group of individuals, organizations and landowners that came together to form the EBFC Working Group, and are as follows (EBFC Working Group 10):

1. To maintain a high-quality, sustainable environment for the health, safety and enjoyment of our children, our children's children, and successive generations.

2. To provide for the protection of the core forest's long-term timber productivity, water quality, and overall natural resource and habitat health, as well as traditional hunting, trapping, fishing and recreational uses.

3. To provide for resource protection in a way that avoids a shift in the property tax burden to local taxpayers, prevents a negative impact on local job availability, and sustains the economic viability of area communities.

4. To help spread the costs of protection over the many beneficiaries at the local, regional and state level.

5. To maintain mixed ownership of most of the eastern core forest, and find ways to provide for recreational access in a way that does not threaten natural resource quality or adversely affect private property rights.

6. To encourage continued private land stewardship through voluntary compliance with environmental standards and methods, such as timber harvesting guidelines.

These goals guided the effort to develop legislation providing for State payment of taxes in the Tug Hill region on State purchased conservation easements, as well as guided the DEC and TNC in the negotiations to acquire these lands.

The purchase involved two conservation easements and one fee purchase by the State of New York. TNC acted as a financial intermediary in purchasing these rights before they were transferred to the State. The easement lands are split into two ownerships; East Branch Fish Creek South, currently owned by Corrigan TLP, LLC, and the East Branch Fish Creek North, currently owned by The Nature Conservancy – Central and Western New York Chapter.

This Recreation Management Plan (RMP) is a requirement of both conservation easements. However, within the conservation easements it is referred to as the Public Recreation Plan. For the purposes of this plan, the Recreation Management Plan (RMP) and the Public Recreation Plan are synonymous.

This RMP is intended to guide the designation of recreational facilities for public use on the easement and fee lands acquired as described above, as well as on DEC lands immediately adjacent to or encompassed by, and therefore integral to the use of, the easement and fee lands acquired. These DEC lands include the East Osceola State Forest and several Detached Forest Preserve (DFP) parcels that have been inaccessible to the public prior to the purchase of the East Branch of Fish Creek easement and fee lands: Lewis-4 Keese Brook, Lewis-5 Isolated, Lewis-6 N.E. Corner, Lewis-7 Salmon River, Lewis-8 Driscoll Road, Lewis-13 Kotary Road, and Lewis-15 Route 46.

The process to develop this RMP was officially initiated on April 28, 2004 with public meetings in Lowville and Camden where the public was introduced to the easements and the East Branch of Fish Creek State Forest. During these meetings the public was invited to offer their ideas and give feedback to the DEC for the formulation of a draft RMP. To meet internal DEC requirements, an interim RMP was prepared in late 2005. This interim RMP was created to guide DEC actions from the period of receiving the easement rights and the East Branch of Fish Creek State Forest to the creation of the final RMP. Through the entire process of creating this plan, the East Branch of Fish Creek Working Group was consulted at various times to ensure that the goals for this project were being met.

Consultation with TNC and Molpus Timberlands, managers for Corrigan TLP, LLC, about this RMP has occurred. In addition consultation was held with the previous owners of the property, during the respective times when they held the property. The RMP is subject to approval by the landowners before it can be implemented. Public access and use may be limited until necessary improvements and rehabilitation of transportation corridors occurs, and facilities have been designated and developed.

This RMP will be reviewed and revised in the future using a process similar to that used to initially develop it.

Purpose and Need

An RMP stabilizes management despite changes in personnel, and integrates related legislation, legal codes, rules and regulations, policies, easement conditions or requirements and area specific information, into a single document. It further provides a means to discuss and clarify pertinent issues, clearly state management mechanisms, and provides a protocol to resolve concerns. It is not a static document, but will be reviewed and amended periodically. TNC, Molpus and DEC will meet at least annually to review activities completed in the previous year, and to review proposed annual work plans for the upcoming year.

This RMP is a public document. As a public document, the RMP introduces the public, local governments, and other interested parties to DEC's planning process and provides opportunities for all stakeholders to voice their opinions about how this area should be managed. Public participation is important in that it gives interested parties the opportunity to learn, evaluate, provide advice, and influence decisions about how the subject lands should be managed.

Major elements of this RMP include the following:

- Section I describes and identifies the lands the RMP will encompass, describes access to these lands and gives a brief history of the area.

- Section II provides an inventory of the natural and cultural/archeological resources of the planning area, the existing facilities, past use and opportunities for use, and the relationship between public and private land in the RMP's area.

- Section III presents past management, management guidelines, management principles and management issues.

- Section IV identifies proposed management actions.

- Section V identifies an implementation schedule and budget for the proposed management actions.

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Planning Area Overview

The lands covered by the East Branch of Fish Creek Recreation Management Plan (RMP), located within the Tug Hill region, contain headwaters for several watercourses of regional and statewide importance. The namesake of this RMP, the East Branch of Fish Creek, originates from this area of the Tug Hill, as does the Mad River and the Salmon River. Portions of the planning area drain to the Black River. The Tug Hill region itself is at the extreme western edge of the Northern Forest Lands area that extends from Maine through New Hampshire and Vermont, ending in New York (Northern Forest Lands Council). The Northern Forest Lands area has been recognized by the states, as well as at the federal level, as an area of extensive forest lands that should be conserved.

This RMP covers properties originally owned by the former Lyons Falls Pulp and Paper and subsequent owners, as well as the East Osceola State Forest and the following Detached Forest Preserve (DFP) parcels:

DFP Lewis-4: Keese Brook, Boylston Tract Township 13, Lot 69;
DFP Lewis-5: Isolated, Boylston Tract Township 13, Lot 74;
DFP Lewis-6: N.E.Corner, Boylston Tract Township 13, Lot 98;
DFP Lewis-7: Salmon River, Boylston Tract Township 13, Lot 127;
DFP Lewis-8: Driscoll Road, Boylston Tract Township 13, Lot 134;
DFP Lewis-13: Kotary Road, Constable's Five Towns Township 1, Lot 20; and
DFP Lewis-15: Route 46, Constable's Five Towns Township 1, Lots 57 & 44.

The lands covered by this RMP are owned and managed by three different entities (acres given throughout this RMP are approximate and are for planning purposes only); the State of New York (1,406 acres, East Branch of Fish Creek State Forest; 1,975 acres East Osceola State Forest; and 1,186 acres of the aforementioned DFP Parcels, and owner and manager of the public recreation rights on the easements tracts); the East Branch of Fish Creek North tract owned by TNC (14,110 acres); and the East Branch of Fish Creek South tract owned by Corrigan (30,036 acres). Across the three different ownerships, there are six different sets of public recreation rights, varying by location on the tracts. All of the lands are located in Lewis County in portions of five towns; Lewis, Martinsburg, Montague, Osceola, and West Turin. The easements provide connections between East Osceola State Forest, Lesser Wilderness State Forest, the Tug Hill Wildlife Management Area, Whetstone Gulf State Park, and several Detached Forest Preserve Parcels. Public access corridors (roads and trails) have been established across existing woods roads and trails on the easement lands with the right to construct others to reach State lands at various locations.

As mentioned above, the planning area is in the core of the Tug Hill region. This core is described in the Tug Hill Forest Owner's Handbook (McNamara et al. 8 & 9), published in 2004:

> *"Most people think of snow and forests when they think of the "Tug Hill" or the "North Country," and rightly so. The region receives heavy snowfalls and approximately 62,000 acres of the upland core area is considered commercial forest land that is held by timberland investment and forest product companies. These private companies -- along with many smaller non-industrial private landowners --are the predominant forest landholders in the Tug Hill's four counties. Public land is a small percentage at 12%.*
>
> *.....The core area of the Tug Hill has been cut over several times. It is classified as a working forest, on poor to medium soils, with moderate to poor drainage, dominated by five or six principal tree species: red maple, sugar maple, beech, yellow birch, balsam fir, and red spruce. White ash, black cherry, hemlock, white pine, black spruce, tamarack, and black ash are also found in some areas. In pre-settlement times, red spruce was found in larger quantities and sizes. The American chestnut that once existed throughout the eastern United States was never a Tug Hill tree, although, some specimens of this tree once existed in the lower reaches of the area.*
>
> *.....Extensive wetlands are also common on Tug Hill. This can be attributed to poor drainage, high levels of precipitation, and the increase in a once decimated beaver population. Well-established swamps filled with alders and other shrubs are frequent sights."*

B. Planning Area Geographic Information

The planning area is located in Lewis County in the towns of Lewis, Martinsburg, Montague, Osceola, and West Turin. It is made up of a number of great lots in townships 1 and 2 of Constable's Five Towns, as well as a number of great lots in townships 8, 9, and 13 of the Boylston Tract. Both Constable's Five Towns, and the Boylston Tract, are contained within Great Tract 6 of Macomb's Purchase.

C. Acreage (Ownerships and Compartment Definitions)

The lands that make up this planning area are comprised of easement and fee lands with a variety of public recreation rights. The various parcels and compartments and the public recreation rights associated with them are described below.

1. DEC Fee Lands (4,567 acres)

East Branch of Fish Creek State Forest (1,406.14 acres):
These lands along the East Branch of the Fish Creek were recently acquired in fee by DEC (orange/gold area adjacent to the East Branch of Fish Creek on the attached maps). The same rules, regulations and management policies as apply to other State Forest land managed by DEC apply here. The timber in this area is able to be harvested periodically, as on other State Forests, though protection of riparian areas and the East Branch of Fish Creek will be the predominant objective. Public recreational use will be allowed as on other State Forests. This State Forest is also known as Lewis-45.

The only interests retained in this State Forest by Corrigan and/or TNC will be some rights-of-way, such as the right to use the Michigan Mills Road Extension through the property (TNC and GMO 2), the G. & W. Road, and 25' from the centerline of any shared boundary roads (GMO and TNC Combined Boundary Line and Reciprocal Road Easement and Management Agreement 4-5).

East Osceola State Forest (1,975 acres):
Also known as Lewis Reforestation Area 21 (orange/gold area adjacent to the Hamlet of Osceola on the attached maps), DEC has held title to the lands now known as the East Osceola State Forest since the 1930s. Parcels of land have been added to it throughout the years. It has sustained many harvests of timber and other products throughout the years under DEC forest management. Additionally, this area has served as a forest classroom for a forest soils course, safety training for loggers, and for woods-walks. Hunting and recreational cross-country skiing are associated uses of this forest, with a parking area for anglers adjacent to it.

Adjacent Detached Forest Preserve Parcels (1,186 acres):
Detached Forest Preserve (DFP) parcels (pink areas on the attached maps), in most cases, are lands acquired by the State of New York in legislatively defined Forest Preserve counties prior to the creation of the Adirondack Park and its "Blue Line" boundary in 1892, as well as prior to the legislation creating Reforestation Areas (State Forests). Because they are classified as Forest Preserve, harvesting of forest products is not allowed due to Constitutional protections, just like the rest of the Forest Preserve lands in the Adirondacks and Catskills. Therefore, these parcels include stands more than 100 years old, so some have the appearance of old growth forests. At the least, they are much more mature stands than are found in most of the Tug Hill region, and therefore are unique islands for public enjoyment, observation and research. As with other Forest Preserve lands, fishing, hunting, and trapping are allowed in these parcels. Many of these parcels have been inaccessible to the public due to their locations surrounded by the Corrigan lands. They are:

DFP Lewis-4: Keese Brook (24 acres),
DFP Lewis-5: Isolated (236 acres),
DFP Lewis-6: N.E.Corner (182 acres),
DFP Lewis-7: Salmon River (265 acres),

DFP Lewis-8: Driscoll Road (74 acres),
DFP Lewis-13: Kotary Road (45 acres), and
DFP Lewis-15: Route 46 (one lot at 100 acres and one lot at 260 acres).
Total of all DFPs in the planning area: (1,186 acres).

2. DEC Conservation Easement Lands (44,146 acres)

The majority of the land area of this Plan is encumbered by the conservation easements acquired in 2005(EBFCS) and 2006(EBFCN) . The easements provide for the protection of the forest's long-term timber productivity, water quality, and overall natural resource and habitat health. Many public recreation rights were acquired including hunting, trapping, fishing, and motor vehicle access, though some recreational rights were reserved by the landowners including certain hunting rights and the right to maintain hunting, fishing, and outdoor recreation camps in some locations. Public recreation rights are outlined in more detail below by landowner and compartment.

a. East Branch of Fish Creek North –
The Nature Conservancy, Owner (14,110 acres):

The easement acquired on these lands divides the property into three compartments with regard to public use: East Branch Fish Creek (EBFC) Headwaters Flow Grounds, Mad River Headwaters, and Page Pond. There are two groupings of public use opportunities across the three compartments.

Mad River Headwaters (8,022 acres) and Page Pond (1,617 acres)Compartments :
Limited public recreation rights have been acquired on TNC lands in the Mad River Headwaters and Page Pond areas (solid red areas on the attached maps). Public fishing, hiking, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, trail biking, and other non-motorized recreation are permitted on these compartments. However, public hunting, trapping, snowmobiling, ATV use, and use of horses and related animals are not allowed. In addition, public recreational use during the big game season (specifically, the next to the last Saturday in October through the first Sunday in December of each year) is prohibited. TNC retained the hunting rights so it could continue to lease these compartments to hunting clubs. The only other public use restriction will be permanent, 5-acre, year-round, public exclusion zones around each privately leased hunting, fishing, and outdoor recreation camp. All of the public use restrictions are permanent.

East Branch of Fish Creek (EBFC) Headwaters Flow Grounds Compartment (4,471 acres):
Public recreation allowed on this compartment (the bright green area on the attached maps) will be the same as allowed on the Page Pond and Mad River Headwaters compartments, but in addition will allow full public hunting rights. As on the Page Pond and Mad River Headwaters compartments, trapping, snowmobiling, ATV use, and use of horses and related animals are prohibited within the compartment itself. The G. & W. Road runs along the southern edge of most of this easement but is a shared right of way for DEC, TNC and Corrigan. In many sections, the centerline of this road is a property boundary. The G. & W. Road is not subject to the same

limitations on snowmobiling and use of horses and related animals. The only other public use restriction will be permanent, 5-acre, year-round, public exclusion zones around each privately leased hunting, fishing, and outdoor recreation camp. All of the public use restrictions are permanent.

b. East Branch of Fish Creek South - Corrigan, TLP LLC, Owner (30,036 acres):

The easement acquired on these lands divides the property into five compartments with three types of public use conditions:

East Branch of Fish Creek South (EBFCS) - West Compartment (17,580 acres):
This large area (brown area on the attached maps), also known as the Corrigan Limited Public Recreation Area and EBFC West, is west of the East Branch of Fish Creek State Forest. All public recreation rights were acquired on these lands except for all-terrain vehicle (ATV)* use and some limitations on hunting and public use during the hunting season. No public hunting is allowed September 1 through December 31, and no public use at all is allowed during Big Game Rifle Season (specifically, the next to the last Saturday in October through the first Sunday in December of each year). These restrictions last through 2016, whereupon they will terminate and the public will be able to recreate year round on this compartment (on the same terms as the Corrigan Public Hunting and Recreation Compartments, see below). The only other public use restriction will be a permanent, 5-acre, year-round, public exclusion zone around each privately leased hunting, fishing, and outdoor recreation camp.

East Fork Salmon Rivers Headwaters, Beaver Meadow Brook, and Heron Brook (Public Hunting and Recreation) Compartments (2,015 acres, 1,397 acres, and 1,082 acres):
There are three Corrigan Public Hunting and Recreation Compartments (dark green areas on the attached maps), west and south of the East Branch of Fish Creek State Forest, where all public recreation rights were acquired. Year round access is available from existing roads. The compartments and their approximate locations are as follows:

- East Fork Salmon River Headwaters; at the end of the New Mountain Road in the Town of Osceola, northwest of the Tri-Corners intersection;

- Beaver Meadow Brook; on the west side of the Camp Four Road in the Town of Lewis south of the Tri-Corners intersection;

- Heron Brook; on the east side of the Camp Four Road in the Town of Lewis, just north of Swancott Mills.

At the time of the negotiations, these parcels were not being leased to any clubs and the owner did not wish to reserve this right, so all public recreation rights were able to be purchased.

East Branch of Fish Creek South (EBFCS) - East Compartment (7,962 acres):
The lands east of the East Branch of Fish Creek and south of the G. & W. Road owned by Corrigan are subject to the same terms of the easement as the other compartments(e.g. no public ATV* use, limits on the number of buildings, forestry requirements, etc.) except for public recreational use. This area has also been referred to, or known as, the Corrigan No Public Access Area or the Corrigan Private Recreational Leasing Area. No rights for public recreation use were acquired except for two snowmobile trails that could be open for public use. Corrigan retained all other recreational rights and can lease them for private use. Corrigan has continued the camp and land leasing program that occurred before the easement was put in place.

* ATV use for lessees is as follows: Corrigan lessees on the EBFC West compartment may use ATVs only to access their hunting, fishing, and outdoor recreation camps by the most practical and direct route (excluding off-road use through State land, adjacent leases, or private parcels), and they may use ATVs associated only with hunting activities on their leased parcels during the period of September 1 through and including December 31 of each year through 2016, subject to all applicable laws and regulations. TNC lessees may use ATVs and snowmobiles to access their hunting, fishing, and outdoor recreation camps by the most practical and direct route (excluding off-road use through State land, adjacent leases, or private parcels) and they may use ATVs associated with hunting activities on their leased parcels during the period from the last Saturday in October through the first Sunday in December of each year.

D. General Access

The lands included in the East Branch of Fish Creek RMP are accessible in some locations by town or county roads, and by State Forest access roads on adjacent State Forest lands as well. The closest State highways are NYS Routes 12, 12D, and 26, though none of these intersect the planning area. Southern portions of the area are accessible by a town road, the North Osceola Road, and a county road, the Osceola Road (a.k.a. the Osceola - West Leyden Road and County Highway 46). The central portion of the planning area is accessible from the east by the Michigan Mills Road, a town road. The major access to the northern portions of the planning area is the G. & W. Road, the former Glenfield and Western Railroad bed. This road has shared ownership between TNC and Corrigan as well as access easements for private landowners, DEC and the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. In many sections, the centerline of this road is a property boundary. Access to the northern edges of these lands had historically existed from the French Road. However, the French Road has fallen into disuse and disrepair. Presently, the best access is from the Maple Ridge Road where it is on State Forest land. It has recently been repaired by DEC and ends at a parking area and turn around near the EBFCN Headwaters Flow Grounds Compartment on the TNC easement. The Toole Road (a.k.a. O'Toole Road) south from its intersection with Graves Road, is impassable and is a qualified abandoned town road. The Tabolt Road (in the town of Martinsburg, but also called the Carpenter Road in the Town of Turin) is a town road that intersects at Tabolt Corners with the G. & W. Road. The G. & W. Road runs east to west through the easement and fee lands as well as adjacent private lands. As previously mentioned, the G. & W. Road is the major access to the northern portions of the planning area and is owned in fee by Corrigan except where it is a shared boundary line between EBFCS and EFCSN. Other public roads that might help to provide access adjacent to the easements are the North Osceola Road, Gallo Road, Schiedleman Road, Kotary Road, and the Page Road.

Motor vehicle access on these properties is provided by more than 35 miles of improved or partially improved gravel roads developed for logging and to access lease-holder camps. They range in character from single lane dirt or gravel roads established solely for occasional logging traffic, to better developed gravel haul roads. There are also many unmarked trails and paths that could be used to access the forest lands, wetlands, ponds, and streams, where the public has been granted recreational rights, per the easements. Significant road work has been done by Corrigan/Molpus and the NYSDEC since 2007, but there is still a great need for brushing, ditching, turn-outs for safe vehicle passage, culvert and/or bridge repair, rehabilitation and gravel top-dressing.

E. Corridors and Access Rights (Trails, Roads) on Easement Lands

Access on easements, as opposed to fee purchase, is often negotiated for specific routes. There are specific corridors within the easements which are part of this plan over which DEC has acquired the right to establish and maintain trails or roads for public access and recreation. There are four relevant categories of corridors; Primary Snowmobile Trail Corridors, Rifle Season Primary Access Corridors, Primary Access Corridors, and Secondary Access Corridors.

Corridor roads and trails are open to public motor vehicle or snowmobile use if they are signed for specific uses and periods of use with official DEC signs. ATV use by the public is prohibited on all of these corridors as well as the rest of the easement lands, since no public ATV rights were acquired on any of these easement lands. Horses and related animals are not allowed on the TNC easement.

Regarding waterways, the public has the right to access waterways from portions of the property open to public use. This use is limited to canoes and other non-motorized vessels.

The specific corridors, grouped by type, are identified below.

1. Primary Snowmobile Trail Corridors

Primary Snowmobile Trail Corridors are snowmobile routes the DEC can allow the public to use throughout the winter season that cannot be closed by the landowner without provision of an alternate route acceptable to DEC. The following existing roads could be open to public snowmobiling from the first Monday after the first Sunday in December through April 30th of each year, when the route to be traveled is completely covered in snow and ice (see Map 2):

- G. & W. Road (Glenfield and Western RR Road)
- North-South Road
- Page Road Connector
- Michigan Mills Road
- Michigan Mills Road Extension
- Hogansville Road

- Joe's Road
- Tin Shanty Road
- Camp Four Road
- Camp Two Road
- Existing road sections of the North Osceola Connector Trail
- Salmon River Drop-off Road
- A jeep trail that connects to the Driscoll Road

The following undeveloped snowmobile corridors *could* be constructed for snowmobile travel:

- A connector between the North-South Road and the Page Road - this would complete the Page Road Connector corridor that is now a dead end.

- New section of the North Osceola Connector Trail - the route now follows an existing road, the west portion of which is on other private lands. There is no documented ROW on the private land segment, so the route is not currently considered continuous. Either a ROW agreement with the private landowner must be maintained or the route could be relocated onto easement lands with the construction of approximately ½ mile of additional trail and some bridge work.

- From the East Osceola State Forest across the Osceola -West Leyden Road, bridging the Salmon River and connecting to a jeep trail that connects to the Driscoll Road (this would create a link to the Oneida County snowmobile trail system.).

DEC may allow these to be closed for timber harvesting if the underlying fee owner (Corrigan through Molpus Timberlands or TNC respectively) provides an alternative route that is acceptable to DEC. The option also exists of identifying additional routes with the consent of the owner.

2. Rifle Season Primary Access Corridors

Rifle Season Primary Access Corridors are routes that DEC can allow public motor vehicle use on even when areas of the property are otherwise closed to public use during the "rifle" part of the deer season. These routes cannot be closed by the landowner without provision of an alternate route acceptable to DEC. The primary purpose for these routes is to provide access to state forest lands, detached forest preserve lots and to the portions of the easement that are open to public recreational use during the "Rifle Season".

The following existing roads may be opened by DEC for motorized and non-motorized traffic, not including ATVs. As noted previously, the State did not purchase the public right to use ATVs anywhere on the easement lands acquired. Which roads are actually proposed to be opened will be discussed later in this plan.

- G. & W. Road, from Tabolt Corners to the West Turin Town Line;
- International Road - west of the EBFC beginning at the G. & W. Road and continuing north for a distance of 3200' into TNC property and terminating near the East Branch of Fish Creek;
- Fairchild Road, beginning at the G. & W. Road between the EBFC and Sevenmile Creek, and continuing north for a distance of approximately 1000' into TNC property;
- Wee Road and Lamplight Road, which both extend south from the G. & W. Road on the west and east sides respectively of the EBFC to where they dead end; they both form part of the boundary of EBFC State Forest;
- Sixmile Creek Road and High Ridge Road, which both extend north from the Michigan Mills Road on the west and east sides respectively of the EBFC; they both form part of the boundary of EBFC State Forest;
- Michigan Mills Road;
- Michigan Mills Road Extension;
- Direen Aden Road south from the Michigan Mills Road east of the EBFC to where it terminates; it forms part of the eastern boundary of the EBFC State Forest;
- Joe's Road;
- Tin Shanty Road (from the Tri-Corners to the New Mountain Road);
- New Mountain Road;
- Camp Four Road;
- Camp Five Road;
- Heron Brook Access Road.

DEC also has the right to develop or construct, for motorized and/or non-motorized traffic, the following Rifle Season Primary Access Corridors (see Map 2: TNC & Corrigan Easements Corridor Access Rights Map):

- A loop from the Camp Five Road to the northwest corner of DFP Lewis-15;

- A continuation of the Heron Brook Access Road that heads east toward the Fee Parcel 2 of the East Branch of Fish Creek State Forest;

- A corridor from the northeastern most corner of the East Osceola State Forest to and through DFP Lewis-6, and a corridor from DFP Lewis-6 across Corrigan land to DFP Lewis-5.

- A short existing trail from a pull off on the Osceola Road into DFP Lewis-15.

3. Primary Access Corridors

Primary Access Corridors are routes that DEC can allow the public to use year-round. On the EBFCS tract these routes can be closed to the public during Big Game Rifle Season by the owner thru 2016 (when the reserved hunting rights end). On the EBFCN tract these routes may be closed by the owner during Big Game Rifle Season as the State did not acquire public hunting rights on the Mad River Headwaters and Page Pond compartments.

The primary access corridors are as follows:

- Hydrant Road, which begins at the G. & W. Road west of the West Turin/Osceola town line and east of the Mad River Swamp and continues northerly for a distance of approximately 5800' (TNC and SNY);

- Hogansville Road from Michigan Mills Extension at Rake Corners to where it exits EBFCS property towards the Old Campbellwood Wye;

- Tin Shanty Road from the intersection with the New Mountain Road to the Camp Two Road intersection;

- Camp Two Road from the intersection with Tin Shanty Road to where the road becomes the Camp Two Truck Road on the East Osceola State Forest;

- North Osceola Connector Road, the western part of which is a potential replacement for a section of the same road that is on adjacent private land and that previous owner GMO did not have any legal access rights to transfer to DEC (this is also a primary snowmobile route): The new portion would extend east off the North Osceola Road towards a section of the North Osceola Connector Road that is on the EBFCS easement.

- There is one additional Primary Access Corridor described in the easement, that begins at the Salmon River Road and crosses other private lands easterly for a distance of approximately 1000', but that will only become an access corridor if TNC ever acquires such legal access across it.

After December 31st 2016, the designation of Rifle Season Primary Access Corridors and Primary Access Corridors on EBFCS lands will essentially become one, called Primary Access Corridors. These will provide year-round access to these lands, which could only be closed by the grantor with the agreement of DEC. As noted previously, Primary Access Corridors wholly located on EBFCN property may not provide for public access during the rifle portion of the big game season.

4. Secondary Access Corridors

Secondary Access Corridors are additional roads or trails that the DEC can open for public use with the agreement of the landowner, but they can be closed by the landowner for forest management purposes without provision of an alternative, if an alternative is impracticable. No Secondary Access Corridors have yet been identified.

F. Area Identification

Central to administration and proper use of the State Conservation Easements and the State lands within the East Branch of Fish Creek planning area, is to have all boundaries identified and surveyed. This is necessary for administration and management of the easements' forest management and recreation components. The easements encompass approximately 70 square miles, and border private as well as State fee lands. Approximately 90 miles of control and boundary lines were completed in two separate surveys over three years on the lands south of the G. & W. Road, including the EBFCS tract and the EBFC State Forest. These contract surveys, one by GYMO, P.C. and the other by McIntosh and McIntosh, P.C., have been completed at the present time. The surveyed lines have been brushed, blazed, and marked with yellow paint by NYS licensed surveyors. Surveyed exterior lines are also marked with signs (see Figure 2, page 67) per DEC policy NR-95-1, Standards and Procedures for Boundary Line Maintenance. A survey of the EBFCN easement is not scheduled at the present time. These lands include almost 30 miles of additional boundary, with significant sections that are in need of a survey.

Large area identification signs have been placed along main travel routes to identify the State Conservation Easements and State Forests. Interior lines between compartments with different public recreational rights will be marked in their approximate location with a painted line and the appropriate easement signs for the specific compartment, except where the boundaries can't be determined on the ground.

Lessees (hunt clubs) may post club boundary lines and five acre camp areas against trespass, so long as they do not conflict or interfere with legal property lines or adversely affect public

access under the terms of the easements. Wording of club posted signs will be reviewed by the landowner and DEC to be sure they adhere to the terms of the easements.

G. General History (Prior Ownership)

1. Conservation Easements & East Branch of Fish Creek State Forest

The EBFC lands subject to the conservation easements held by DEC, as well as the EBFC State Forest, have a long history of corporate, forest industry ownership. Corporate ownership goes back to the Gould Paper Co. of Lyons Falls, which ran a pulp and paper mill supplied by timber from the Tug Hill lands as well as lands in the western Adirondacks. The mill was located in the village of Lyons Falls at the confluence of the Moose and Black Rivers, and was most recently named Lyons Falls Pulp and Paper Company (LFP&P). Owners of the mill and Tug Hill lands that succeeded Gould Paper include Puget Sound Pulp and Timber Company, International Basic Economy Corporation, Continental Can Company, Georgia-Pacific Corp., and finally Lyons Falls Pulp and Paper Company. Lyons Falls Pulp and Paper struggled to survive in the 1980s and '90s, and sold off easements on some of its Adirondack lands in 1990. Subsequently, LFP&P sold off all of its lands in 1996 to Hancock Timber Resources Group (HTRG), a subsidiary of John Hancock Mutual Life Insurance Company. HTRG invested in timberlands primarily for pension plans, and was the first non-forest products company to own the lands since the late 1800s. At the time that HTRG bought these lands they were aware that there was interest at the state and local level in protecting these lands from development and maintaining them in timber production, possibly through a conservation easement with the State.

Ownership of these lands over the many years of corporate ownership was primarily for timber production purposes to supply the mill in Lyons Falls, but it was also managed for hunting and fishing. Exclusive hunting and fishing rights to portions of the planning area were leased out to private clubs or individuals. Lessees were allowed to erect camp buildings. Currently there are about 20 clubs which maintain about 33 main camp buildings with associated structures such as outhouses, garages and storage sheds.

Negotiations between NYS and HTRG, in partnership with TNC, began in 1998. An agreement on terms of an easement and fee acquisition along the East Branch was reached in early 2001, but in spring of that year HTRG declined to move ahead with the sale, possibly due to a change in investment direction by the primary investor. Subsequently, GMO Renewable Resources (Grantham, Mayo, Van Otterloo and Company LLC), a timber investment management organization (TIMO) became interested in the property and agreed to the terms of essentially the same easement as agreed to with HTRG. GMO purchased approximately 30,000 acres from Great Eastern Timber Company LLC, a subsidiary of HTRG in whose name the property was held, in June of 2002 (Great Eastern Timber Company LLC and GMO 1) initiating a chain of planned easement and fee purchases culminating in the agreements outlined in this document. On the same day in June of 2002 that GMO purchased the property from Great Eastern Timber, GMO transferred the agreed upon conservation easement across its 30,000 acres to TNC (GMO and TNC Deed of Conservation Easement 29), and Great Eastern Timber sold approximately

14,000 acres in fee to TNC (Great Eastern Timber Company LLC and TNC 319). Approximately 1,400 acres of that 14,000 acres comprise what is now the East Branch of Fish Creek State Forest.

All of this was done with the understanding that the State of New York would acquire the conservation easement on the GMO lands and purchase in fee the 1,400 acres directly adjacent to the East Branch of Fish Creek from TNC. It was also understood that TNC would grant a conservation easement across the remaining 12,500+ acres to the State of New York at some point in the future. This second easement was also to include an additional 1,300+ acre parcel that TNC purchased in August 2002, referred to as the "Technopulp" property that abuts the planning area (Howe et al.). The second easement across the entire TNC parcel would then amount to approximately 14,110 acres.

TNC negotiated an easement with DEC on its lands similar to the easement between GMO and DEC. The 30,300 acre GMO Conservation Easement and the 1,400 acres directly adjacent to the East Branch of the Fish Creek were then purchased by DEC from TNC in October of 2005. The easement on the TNC lands was transferred to DEC in February of 2006.

In 2007 Corrigan TLP LLC, a timber investment fund, purchased the 30,036 acres that GMO owned in fee. The fund is managed by Molpus Woodlands Group, which is a Timberland Investment Management Organization, and Molpus Timberlands Management, LLC manages the property.

2. Previously Held DEC Fee Lands

The East Osceola State Forest, also known as Lewis Reforestation Area 21 (orange/gold area adjacent to the hamlet of Osceola on the attached maps), was initially acquired by the State from Lewis County in the 1930s. These are lands that were abandoned with unpaid taxes and were therefore subsequently taken by the county. NYS agreed to pay the taxes owed the county on these (and thousands of other acres statewide) and in exchange make them productive again as Reforestation Areas. Additionally, these lands pay town and school taxes, but not county taxes. This 1,975 acre State Forest is located just east of the hamlet of Osceola, thus its name. Early settlers to the area named the bustling crossroads community after the famous Seminole Chieftain Osceola. Some additional parcels of land have been added over the years to the original acquisitions from the '30s. It has sustained many harvests of timber and other products throughout the years under DEC forest management. Additionally, this forest has been used by the public for fishing, hunting, trapping, nature appreciation, and recreational pursuits.

The several Detached Forest Preserve Parcels adjacent to the easement and fee lands that are part of this plan amount to about 1,186 acres. As noted previously, they are remnants of the original Forest Preserve lands established in 1885 that ended up outside of the Adirondack Park. Individual histories of these lands are yet to be compiled, but most are probably parcels that became available to the State due to failure to pay taxes. The long period since most were

harvested provides a unique forest resource that may resemble the original virgin forests of the Tug Hill region. The highest value to manage these areas for may be as examples of the potential forest character and productivity of the natural forests of the Tug Hill region.

II. INFORMATION ON THE TRACT(S)

Much of the lands that are part of this RMP have had a reasonable level of natural resource information collected, in large part because of the ongoing forest management that has occurred on these lands. Other assessments that have been done include electrofishing surveys the NYSDEC Bureau of Fisheries has conducted, and assessments of natural resources conducted by TNC preliminary to the process of acquisition. Theses assessments helped highlight some of the resources that needed extra protection (e.g. Mad River Headwaters Swamp) and contributed to the structure of the easements acquired. In addition, the NYSDEC Natural Heritage Database has been referenced for historical records of rare, threatened and endangered species in the area to help define areas of potential significant habitats for these species, and the DEC Master Habitat Database for information on wetlands and other natural features. DEC stewardship funding has been requested to conduct more comprehensive natural resource and cultural inventories on both the easement and fee lands within the planning area, though the request remains unfulfilled. As additional information may be collected it will eventually be added to an update of this RMP.

GMO, via it's on the ground manager LandVest, had completed a revised forest management plan to manage the timber resources of their tract. This forest management plan includes data from a recent forest inventory prepared by Wagner Forest Management, Ltd. for Great Eastern Timber Company LLC (as mentioned previously, Great Eastern Timber Company was part of Hancock Timber Resources Group). TNC has recently finalized a management plan for their property as required by the easement, so they have a fairly comprehensive summary of the natural resources on their lands. TNC in 2003 established permanent sample plots throughout its entire ownership in the planning area, as a long term commitment to monitoring the natural resources under its management.

A. Natural Resources

1. Physical

a. Geology

The Temporary State Commission on Tug Hill's interim report of March 31, 1974 (B-3) notes, *"The Tug Hill Region is characterized by relatively simple bedrock geology features, with nearly all of the area being underlain by sedimentary rocks composed of sandstones, siltstones, shales, and limestone."* These were created by the accumulation of sediment from a sea that covered much of central New York hundreds of millions of years ago. The Tug Hill Region was later slowly uplifted by geological forces (8 and McNamara 1999, 13). With the arrival of the repetitive advances and retreats by glaciers, the landscape was scoured. Material from the core of Tug Hill was redistributed and in addition material from many miles to the north was deposited throughout the area. It is thought that the last glacier retreated north 10,000 years ago (McNamara Tug Hill: A Four Season Guide to the Natural Side 14).

b. Soils

Soils in the area of the plan are generally glacial till of a stony nature, with a fragipan (a compacted subsoil). This covers the shale and sandstone bedrock. Glacial activity also left deposits of sand and gravel, though they are very limited in the core areas of Tug Hill. Organically derived soils such as mucks and peats are much less common and occur only within large wetland areas.

The vast majority of the soils across the area of this plan were not included in the Soil Survey of Lewis County, New York issued in March of 1960 by the then Soil Conservation Service of the US Department of Agriculture (USDA). The present USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service is resurveying the county. It is estimated that the new survey including the previous unsurveyed areas will be completed in approximately 5-10 years with the unmapped Tug Hill areas being available before then, since never mapped areas are being surveyed first.

c. Terrain/Topography

The terrain in the planning area is moderate, consisting of low hills and swales, interspersed by wetlands. The area is covered by the following United States Geological Survey 7.5' minute series quadrangle sheets; Sears Pond, Page, Glenfield, North Osceola, High Market, Florence, and Point Rock. Generally the terrain rises from the southwest to the northeast. The lowest elevation (approx. 1050 feet) within the planning area is believed to be on the East Osceola State Forest where the Salmon River leaves the west side of the State Forest. The highest elevation (approx. 2000 feet) is believed to be in the area of the EBFCN Page Pond Compartment along the northern boundary with private land. The sharpest relief is along the East Branch of Fish Creek, south of the Michigan Mills Road bridge.

d. Water

Water is a plentiful resource on Tug Hill due to its location downwind of Lake Ontario as well as an elevation generally above 1500'. Lake effect snow and rain supplement the region's precipitation significantly, especially in the winter.

Ponded Water

There are many small ponds or flows that have been created by beavers along many of the watercourses (i.e. Mad River, Roaring Brook, and East Branch of Fish Creek) as well as some that might have been made or enhanced years ago for logging purposes but have been reverting to a natural appearance. Many of these ponds are not named and are not navigable via their connecting watercourses, as the streams are too shallow for waterborne travel. They range in size from less than 1 acre to Page Pond (EBFCN tract) at 20 acres. Often the line between a watercourse, pond, and wetland is very blurred in the Tug Hill region, and their status is transient in nature. For example, a wash out of a multi-culvert road crossing on the Camp 4 Road on the EBFCS tract is believed to have resulted from the failure of a complex of

beaver dams, including at least one 40 acre pond, that were part of a watercourse appropriately named Beaver Meadow Brook.

Watercourses
The tract contains many miles of small, cold-water streams and warm-water beaver flows and streams including East Branch of Fish Creek, Mad River, West and East Forks of the Salmon River, and numerous others.

Wild, Scenic, and Recreational River
No NYS or federal Wild, Scenic, or Recreational Rivers run through the tracts.

e. Wetlands

Numerous wetlands cover the tracts. According to the Master Habitat Database's NYS Regulatory Freshwater Wetlands layer there are at least 45 distinctly labeled wetlands that are contained within or extend into the EBFCN easement lands. On EBFCS lands there are more than 100 distinctly labeled wetlands.

f. Air Resources

Air quality in the region is good to excellent, rated Class II (moderately well controlled) by federal and state standards. The region receives weather flowing south from the Arctic Circle that tends to be cleaner than weather emanating from the west and southwest. Visibility is often obscured by haze caused by air pollutants when a large number of small diameter particles exist in the air. Air quality is likely more affected by particulate matter blown in from pollution sources outside the area than from local activities.

Acid rain is a factor of concern in the Tug Hill region, though the better buffered sedimentary-rock derived soil seems to neutralize its impacts on area waters. One area of concern though is impacts on the native red spruce. At present, the mortality and decline of red spruce at high elevations in the northeast and observed reductions in red spruce growth rates in the southern Appalachians are the only cases of significant forest damage in the United States for which there is strong scientific evidence that acid deposition is a primary cause (National Science and Technology Council Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, 1998). Studies have not been done in the Tug Hill region to determine what impact may be occurring to area red spruce. The following findings of the National Acid Precipitation Assessment Program (1998) provide a broad overview of the effects of acidic deposition on the forests of the nearby Adirondacks.

The interaction of acid deposition with natural stress factors has adverse effects on certain forest ecosystems. These effects include:

- Increased mortality of red spruce in the mountains of the northeast. This mortality is due in part to exposure to acid cloud water, which has reduced the cold tolerance of the red spruce, resulting in frequent winter injury and loss of foliage.

- Reduced growth and/or vitality of red spruce across the high-elevation portion of its range.

- Decreased supplies of certain nutrients in soils to levels at or below those required for healthy growth.

Nitrogen deposition, in addition to sulfur deposition, is now recognized as an important contributor to declining forest ecosystem health both at low and at higher elevations. Adverse effects occur through direct impacts via increased foliar susceptibility to winter damage, foliar leaching, leaching of soil nutrients, elevation of soil aluminum levels, and/or creation of nutrient imbalances. Excessive amounts of nitrogen caused negative impacts on soil chemistry similar to those caused by sulfur deposition exist in certain sensitive high-elevation ecosystems.

A lack of studies on the impact of acid rain on Tug Hill leave open to question how much the above knowledge applies to the area.

Heavy snowmobile use could result in significant emissions on busy winter days on Tug Hill. Little is known about the impacts of these emissions, as no monitoring studies have been undertaken. The frequent changes in weather and associated winds likely result in such emissions being dispersed quickly. Work would need to be done on a regional basis to determine overall impacts of snowmobile emissions but, relative to overall air pollution in the area, it is not a high priority.

g. Climate

The region's climate, in general terms, is best described as cool and moist. Climatic conditions vary some throughout the unit and are influenced by such factors as slope, aspect, elevation, seasonal temperatures, precipitation, prevailing winds, and the location of natural barriers.

Summers tend to be warm, in the upper 70s to mid 80s, with cool nights. Frost can occur any month of the year. Occasional winter temperatures of -40 degrees F occur. The period of June through September receives approximately 60 to 70 percent of the possible sunshine available (New York State Climate Office, The Climate of New York).

The most distinguishing feature of the planning area is the amount of precipitation received. According to the New York State Climate Office, precipitation annually averages in excess of 50 inches a year in the Tug Hill region. This includes the water equivalent of the region's snowfall that usually begins to accumulate in late November and the remnants of which remain until mid to late April. Many have heard the famous claim to fame of the Tug Hill region, *"Heaviest snowfall east of the Mississippi."* While the Climate Office reports on its website that the area

directly east of Lake Erie receives more snow than the area directly east of Lake Ontario, their own data refutes this. The period of 1961-1990 lists a station in Boonville as reporting a seasonal average of 228.2 inches of snow. The closest stations in competition to this were Little Valley in Cattaraugus County with 143.6 inches and Oswego in Oswego County with 144.5 inches. In a discussion with the Regional Climatologist, the Boonville station still comes out ahead with 214 inches of snow as a seasonal average for the period of 1971-2000. Little Valley comes in third with 123 inches and Oswego a distant second with 152 inches. Compared to the Boonville station, it is almost certain that the planning area has a higher average snowfall since it is at a higher elevation.

As the Climate Office states, and as has been observed by many, the prevailing westerly wind can cause squalls that may persist as long as a week, obscuring the landscape with several feet of snow. The now famous "record" of the most snowfall in the United States in a 24 hour period was measured in Montague in January, 1997, just outside of the planning area. The observer measured 77 inches of snow in 24 hours, but it is not considered an official record due to a procedural violation. According to standards, snowfall was to be measured only once in a 6 hour period. The observer measured it more frequently (closer to every 4 hours) so the record is unofficial.

Outside of the winters of Tug Hill, a moderate climate is observed with a mild level of humidity persisting throughout the year.

2. Biological

a. Vegetation

A mixture of forest types can be found, including northern hardwoods, mixed woods, and softwoods of various size classes. Forest management plans created by the underlying fee owners of the easements are required, with DEC review and approval. Such plans will augment existing data (timber cruise data and cover typing). A more detailed cover survey and stand map will be produced for the newly acquired East Branch of Fish Creek State Forest, as has been produced for the East Osceola State Forest. Several of the Detached Forest Preserve (DFP) parcels have received cursory reviews. The last recorded review occurred in the early 1990s by DEC forestry staff from Lowville, when specific DFP parcels were identified for consideration for a classification change to be managed as State Forest lands. This classification change did not occur.

A review of the Master Habitat Database conducted for the area encompassed by these tracts found several plants and natural communities of significance. The natural communities are mentioned below under Critical Habitats. Wiegand's sedge (*Carex wiegandii*) was noted in 1993 on Corrigan land in West Turin and it is possible that broad-lipped twayblade (*Listera convallarioides)* once existed, and may still exist, on Corrigan property in Osceola, as it was noted in the vicinity in 1927. Both of these plants are listed as New York State Endangered species, though none of the plants are federally listed as Endangered or Threatened species.

There are a few areas of known exotic invasive plants. These small populations include purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria* L.) and common reed (*Phragmites australis* (Cav.) Trin. ex Steudel (Poaceae)).

b. Wildlife

These tracts are located within the Central Tug Hill Ecological Zone of New York State. Wildlife present are typical of the northern forest. A comprehensive list of wildlife species of the region is contained within Appendix 3 of this document. A review of the Master Habitat Database for the area encompassed by these tracts found no records of federally or State designated Rare, Endangered or Threatened species present.

Of note, however, is the three-toed woodpecker (*Picoides dorsalis*). This bird was observed in 1999 on TNC land in Montague and is listed as protected by New York State. Other avian resources are typical of the northern forest and include some of the more charismatic species such as the hooded merganser, great blue heron, and pileated woodpecker. The Tug Hill region is listed as an Important Bird Area by Audubon New York (Farquhar).

The larger mammals commonly found in the area include beaver, bobcat, coyote, fisher, porcupine, fox, otter, and whitetail deer. Whitetail deer numbers are limited here due to the harsh winters with deep snow. Deer tend to move to lower elevations in the winter or herd up in deer yards. Black bears are not common in the Tug Hill region but are known to exist. Black bears appear to have established a resident population on Tug Hill fairly recently and are slowly expanding their numbers. In 2002 an injured bear that had been rehabilitated was released with a partner by the DEC within TNC's property. Tug Hill is considered excellent moose habitat, but to date only the occasional passerby is found; there do not seem to be resident moose at this time. Other smaller mammals are common, such as the red squirrel.

Amphibians and reptiles common in northern forests and wetlands are present here, such as the common snapping turtle, northern bullfrog, spotted salamander, red eft and numerous other species.

Finally, insects abound on land, in the water, and in the air with the more noticeable types such as dragonflies and damselflies buzzing about along access roads in the summer. No published work has yet been done on insects on Tug Hill.

Additional study and sampling would be needed for most of the wildlife species on these tracts to be able to fully characterize the species present and their abundance.

c. Fisheries

Regional DEC Bureau of Fisheries staff conducted initial surveys and inventories of several of the watercourses in the planning area. Staff may survey and inventory all lakes, streams,

ponds, and other water bodies on the easement. Field efforts will define the physical characteristics, chemistry, and biological inventories of area waters. Results will be used to evaluate the status of aquatic habitats and fish populations, and direct future management decisions regarding stocking and/or habitat management.

The initial population sampling by the DEC Bureau of Fisheries indicates that wild trout resources exist throughout the planning area. Species present include brook, brown, and rainbow trout. Additional sampling is needed to define the full range of fish species present in the planning area.

One unique mussel, the eastern pearlshell mussel (*Margaritifera margaritifera)* is present in the East Branch of Fish Creek and perhaps in other waterways. NY Natural Heritage Program ranks this species at the S2 (typically 6-20 population locations) level in New York (NYSDEC eacarbon/ecs).

A comprehensive listing of fish in the Tug Hill region is available in Appendix 2 in this document.

d. Visual/Scenic Resources/Land Protection

The planning area lands provide a diverse visual resource consisting of unbroken forested lands, streams, ponds, and wetlands. The stream areas and open wetlands can be quite picturesque. Good forestry practices required by the easement will assure that timber harvests will not degrade the tract's scenic character. The relatively deep valley of the East Branch of Fish Creek provides potential scenic vistas from both the bottom of the valley across wetlands adjacent to the Creek, as well as from the top of the slope above the Creek, in limited locations. The winter beauty of the area, blanketed by the heavy snowfalls this area is known for, is also worthy of particular note. The East Branch of Fish Creek in several areas has steep undercut cliff banks and a braided channel of scenic interest.

e. Critical Habitats

A review of the Master Habitat Database conducted for the area encompassed by these tracts found several plants and natural communities of significance. Communities of significance include Beech-Maple Mesic forest, and the Mad River Shrub Swamp and Sedge Meadow. As previously mentioned, Wiegand's sedge (*Carex wiegandii*) was noted in 1993 on EBFCS land in West Turin and the broad-lipped twayblade (*Listera convallarioides*) once existed, and may still exist, on EBFCS in Osceola.

B. Infrastructure

1. Easements and East Branch of Fish Creek State Forest

As previously mentioned, trails and roads crisscross the planning area (see section I., subsection E. Corridors and Access Rights (Trails, Roads) on Easement Lands for a more detailed discussion

of existing roads). Motor vehicle access is provided by more than 35 miles of improved or partially improved gravel roads developed for logging and to access lease-holder camps. They range in character from single lane dirt or gravel roads established solely for occasional logging traffic, to better developed gravel haul roads. There are also, however, many unmarked trails and paths that could be used to access the forest lands, wetlands, ponds, and streams, where the public has been granted recreational rights by the easements. Significant road work has been done by Corrigan/Molpus and the NYSDEC since 2007, but there is still a great need for brushing, ditching, turn-outs for safe vehicle passage, culvert and/or bridge repair, rehabilitation and gravel top-dressing. Camps utilized primarily as bases of operation for hunting activities exist throughout the planning area and are listed in the reports of physical inspection for the recent acquisitions.

2. East Osceola State Forest and Detached Forest Preserve Parcels

The number of facilities on these state lands is limited, and all are on E. Osceola SF. There are two State Forest access roads, Malloy and Camp Two. There is one parking area associated with the Malloy Public Forest Access Road(PFAR) for fishing access to the Salmon River. Additionally there is a short stretch of NYS Snowmobile Corridor Trail C4 that cuts through the far southwest corner of the State Forest; it intersects with the Driscoll Road and forms NYS Snowmobile Trail Intersection 29C.

C. Past Influences

Cultural/historic resource identification and inventory provides an important link with the past, supplementing the more traditional resource inventory efforts of the DEC.

As mentioned in section I. A. Planning Area Overview, this area is described in the Tug Hill Forest Owner's Handbook (McNamara 8 & 9), published in 2004. The story of the Tug Hill region is also the story of this planning area:

"It is thought that the Tug Hill area was occasionally visited, but never permanently settled by Native Americans. After the American Revolution, settlement of the Tug Hill lands was slow and the area was not truly settled until the 1800s. Irish, German, Polish, Welsh, and Hungarian immigrants settled on better lands first, gradually moving towards the core or center of the Tug Hill where poorer agricultural conditions prevailed. Farms were abandoned fairly quickly due to harsh winters and unproductive soils. The core was never truly settled and abandonment occurred in a reverse pattern of settlement, giving the Tug Hill the "donut" land use pattern that now exists. This pattern is one of private timberlands and hunting camps in the center, state forests encircling this, and a progression of more heavily used agricultural lands and populated areas towards the waterways on the periphery of Tug Hill.

....After the Civil War, industrialization caused lumber production in the United States to soar from 8 billion board feet per year to 45 billion board feet per year at the turn of the

century. The northern hardwoods and conifer region from New England to Minnesota, was the major source of lumber production in the United States during that time of increased harvesting. It arguably experienced the most rapid and destructive exploitation of any forest region on the continent. The changes resulting from this forest removal dramatically altered regional ecosystems at all levels.

It is said that the large pines, hemlocks, and some spruce were cut on Tug Hill for piers and houses in New York City. Canal and railroad developments, such as the Black River Canal, helped to promote this. With the arrival of the paper companies in the late 1800s and the early 1900s, spruce was cut for pulpwood. A large wood chemical company (Keystone), now long gone, also contributed to very heavy cutting over the eastern half of the core of Tug Hill. The Glenfield and Western Railroad, with its many short spurs leading into the core, allowed material of all sizes to be removed."

The core of Tug Hill was the last resource exploited in the region as noted above, in the late 1800s long after most of the rest of New York was already cleared and settled. Spruce was the predominant timber harvested initially, followed by hardwoods used by the Keystone chemical plant. Hardwoods were also harvested for lumber for furniture and other finished products, and in 1956 the paper mill in Lyons Falls, then owned by Georgia Pacific, began using hardwood for pulp due to inadequate supplies of softwoods (Georgia-Pacific Corporation 2).

Associated with the 20th century farming and logging activities are a few remains scattered throughout the planning area. These range from old foundations and small dumps, associated with the farmsteads and logging camps (contractor and company camps), to works associated with the Glenfield and Western Railroad. A more in-depth historical assessment will await an archeological/cultural assessment of the planning area.

See Appendix 12 for Historic Photo of the Glenfield and Western Railroad Log Train.

D. Public Use

The lands comprising the EBFC easements as well as the East Branch of Fish Creek State Forest were privately owned until the recent State purchases, so general public use did not occur. Previous landowners did allow public snowmobiling to occur, through agreements with local snowmobile clubs for maintenance of the routes used, including grooming and signing the routes. On a busy weekend thousands of snowmobiles may travel on the main routes primarily through the EBFCS portion of these lands. Acquisition of the right to continue to use these routes was one of the top priorities in the State's negotiations with the landowners.

East Osceola State Forest and some of the Detached Forest Preserve parcels are the only portions of the planning area where general public recreational use has occurred.

1. Land Resources

The East Osceola State Forest has been used for public activities such as hunting, fishing, trapping and cross country skiing. Of note is the Malloy Brook Public Forest Access Road that is open to public motor vehicle use for 1.1 miles from the Osceola Road to the Malloy Brook, recently improved as part of the ADA Consent Decree regarding access for persons with disabilities to State lands. In the winter it has been groomed in the past by the adjacent, private Osceola Tug Hill Cross-Country Ski Center. There is a fishing access parking area here as well.

Prior to the acquisition of the EBFCS easement, use of most of the Detached Forest Preserve Parcels was functionally non-existent for the majority of the public as the best access to most of these parcels was through Corrigan lands. Use of these lands was thought to be primarily by the Corrigan lessees for hunting, fishing, and trapping.

2. Wildlife

As noted above in Land Resources, consumptive use of the wildlife resources in the East Osceola State Forest and the Detached Forest Preserve Parcels is thought to have been primarily for big game hunting by the public and the adjacent Corrigan lessees. The majority of the EBFCN, EBFCS and EBFC State Forest are assumed to have been used for big game hunting & trapping by private lessees.

3. Fisheries

Consumptive use of the fish resources (wild trout, especially brook trout) in watercourses passing though the East Osceola State Forest and the Detached Forest Preserve Parcels is thought to have occurred for sport fishing by the public and the adjacent Corrigan lessees. Additionally, such use has occurred on the State Public Fishing Rights adjacent to the planning area and in the East Branch of Fish Creek itself, when navigable.

4. Water Resources

The watercourses originating in the planning area are utilized downstream for a variety of water supply purposes. The East Branch of Fish Creek is very important as the source of the City of Rome water supply. In addition, the east and west forks of the Salmon River are the headwaters to the Salmon River, which is impounded as the Salmon River Reservoir for electrical power generation. The Salmon River is the famous home of the Salmon River Hatchery which produces most of the salmon released in Lake Ontario, and is well known for its salmon fishing between the hatchery in Altmar and the mouth of the river on Lake Ontario.

E. Recreational Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities

The Federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) along with the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 (ABA) and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, have important implications for the management of all public lands, including the East Branch of Fish Creek planning area. An explanation of the ADA and its influence on management actions is provided under Section III. B. Management Guidelines.

In 1997, DEC adopted Commissioner Policy 3 (CP-3), Motor Vehicle Access to State Lands under Jurisdiction of the Department of Environmental Conservation for People with Disabilities. This policy establishes guidelines for issuing Temporary Revocable Permits allowing qualified people with disabilities to use motor vehicles to gain access to designated routes on certain state lands. No CP-3 routes presently exist in the planning area.
One route has been identified as an appropriate CP-3 opportunity. This will be discussed in Section IV, Proposed Management Actions.

F. Relationship Between Public and Private Land

This unit is adjacent to the Lesser Wilderness State Forest (13,793 acres (ELS), the Tug Hill Wildlife Management Area (5,100 acres (DML)), Whetstone Gulf State Park (2,100+ acres (Whetstone)), and several Detached Forest Preserve Parcels (1,186 acres). A few of the Detached Forest Preserve Parcels are completely encompassed within the planning area. Some of these areas have been previously mentioned in I. C. Acreage (Ownerships and Compartment Definitions).

In addition to these State lands, several State angler and waterway access sites with parking and streams with public fishing rights (PFRs) are in the vicinity of the planning area. Public access corridors (roads and trails) have been reserved in the planning area's easements, generally located on existing roads and trails, to reach State lands at various locations. Currently, road and snowmobile connections exist between some of these State Forests and the easement lands. Future trail connections will be provided where appropriate and feasible, as well as where they are permissible per the terms of the conservation easements.

The EBFCS Conservation Easement will be taxable property for both Corrigan and NYS. The percentage of taxes will be apportioned between the two entities based upon the value of rights to the land that each now owns. On the lands where Corrigan is the underlying fee owner, the State's portion is taxable for all purposes. On the lands owned by TNC, the State will pay its portion of all local property taxes on the TNC easement; however TNC, as a not-for-profit with tax exempt status, is not legally required to pay any property taxes. However, TNC currently has a Payment-in-lieu-of-taxes (PILOT) agreement with the Towns of Martinsburg, Montague, Osceola, and West Turin, Lowville Academy and Central School District, South Lewis Central School District, Camden Central School District, and Lewis County where they have

pledged to make supplemental payments to the towns, school districts, and county in lieu of property taxes.

All State Forests in the planning area are taxable property for all purposes except county taxes, as are all detached Forest Preserve parcels. The Tug Hill Wildlife Management Area is a taxable property for all purposes. The Whetstone Gulf State Park is not taxable.

The acquisition of the easements and the East Branch of Fish Creek State Forest will likely result in a small increase in the number of visitors coming and using the planning area.

G. Capacity to Withstand Use

An important consideration in managing public recreation on any land, is how much use an area can support without being degraded or changed by use such that it is no longer as appealing to users or as environmentally healthy as it was prior to public use (or when use levels were much lower). Much of the East Branch of Fish Creek planning area is land that has not previously been opened for public use, though it has been used for private recreation purposes. Most of these lands are conservation easement lands, a unique category of lands where the management goals of the fee landowner and those of the easement holder may conflict with one another at any one location and point in time. On the other hand, active forest management and public recreation can be quite compatible as has been demonstrated on state forest lands for decades. The most signicant differences is that there are two entities managing activities and use on the easement lands, and without good communication, conflicts between public recreation activities and private forest management and recreation uses are more apt to occur. Regardless of these possible conflicts, the sound stewardship of the public use of these lands requires that any real or potential impacts associated with that use be minimized or mitigated. Therefore, a manager's most important and challenging responsibility is to work to ensure a natural area's carrying capacity is not exceeded while concurrently providing for visitor use and benefit.

Portions of these lands have only been heavily used by public recreationists in the past during the winter season, when previous owners allowed roads to be used as snowmobile trails. Use levels can be very heavy at times, though physical and biological impacts to the site have been minimal since snowmobiles primarily used hardened roads covered by snow. Hunting and fishing were the other primary activities undertaken when most of these lands were privately owned, and while these uses certainly impacted the resource, they have not caused significant or notable impacts except at the more intensively used locations of the hunting and fishing camps. Impacts at these sites generally do not extend beyond an acre.

Now that most of these lands have opened to the public, consideration of potential impacts must be included in the management plan. It is expected that snowmobiling will continue at levels very similar to what has occurred in the last several years. Some public use will occur during the hunting season on the State Forest lands, Detached Forest Preserve parcels, and the portions of the easement lands open to public hunting, though pressure is not expected to be

significant due to the remote location of these lands and the generally low deer population. There will be some interest in accessing the EBFC for fishing and boating, and the East Fork of Salmon River for fishing, though both uses will fluctuate depending on water levels. Overall, use will be either similar to what it has been or only slightly increased, so there is not yet much concern about overuse of the resource. Nonetheless, consideration must be given to the potential for such overuse, and thus plans for managing these lands must include a process for considering what appropriate use levels are and when they have been exceeded.

The following sections describe the framework that is used to monitor and set standards for maintaining a healthy resource and recreation opportunities that meet expectations of the user. This framework is the culmination of years of research done on outdoor recreation management and has been adopted by DEC in the most recent Unit Management Plans developed for Forest Preserve lands. However, it is quite adaptable to public recreation management on any “wild” lands, including easements and State Forests.

1. Carrying Capacity Concepts

The term "*carrying capacity*" has its roots in range and wildlife sciences. As defined in the range sciences, carrying capacity means *"the maximum number of animals that can be grazed on a land unit for a specific period of time without inducing damage to the vegetation of related resources"* (Arthur Carhart National Wilderness Training Center 1994). This concept, in decades past, was modified to address recreational uses as well, although in its application to recreational use it has been shown to be significantly flawed when the outcome sought has been the "maximum number" of people who should visit and recreate in an area such as the East Branch of Fish Creek. Much research has shown that the derivation of such a number is not useful because the relationship between the amount of use and the resultant amount of impact is not linear (Krumpe and Stokes 1993). For many types of activities, for instance, most of the impact occurs with only low levels of use. In the case of trail erosion, once soil starts to wash away, additional foot travel does not cause the impact upon the trail to increase proportionately. It has been documented that visitor behavior, site resistance/resiliency, type of use, and other measures may actually be more important in determining the amount of impact than the amount of use, although the total amount of use is certainly still a factor (Hammit and Cole 1987).

The shortcomings of a simple carrying capacity approach have become so apparent that the basic question has changed from the old one, *"How many is too many?"* to the new, more realistic one: *"How much change is acceptable?"* DEC embraces this change in approach while recognizing the tasks it calls for in developing the best foundation for management actions. Professionally-informed judgments must be made such that carrying capacity is given definition in terms of resource and social conditions that are deemed acceptable. These conditions must be compared with the real, on-the-ground conditions, projections of use and use impacts must be made, and management policies and actions must be drafted and enacted with an aim toward maintaining or restoring the conditions desired.

This shift in managers' central focus - away from trying to determine how many visitors an area can accommodate to trying to determine what changes are occurring in the area and whether or not they are acceptable - is as critical in a working forest like the East Branch of Fish Creek as it is in a wilderness.

A central objective of this plan is to lay out a strategy for achieving such a balance of use and acceptable impacts. This strategy reflects important guidelines and principles, and it has directed, along with the guidelines and principles, the development of the management proposals which are detailed in Section IV.

2. The Goal-Achievement Framework

The goal-achievement framework will be used to organize this RMP to direct the process of determining appropriate management actions through the careful development of goals and objectives. Goals are general descriptions of management direction reflecting legal mandates and general conditions to be achieved or maintained in the planning area. Once articulated, the goals for the management of the EBFC unit will shape management objectives, which are statements of more specific conditions whose achievement will be necessary to assure progress toward the attainment of the established goals. Objectives in turn will serve as criteria for deciding what management actions are needed. These goals and objectives can be found in Section III. E.

The goal-achievement framework provides an organized approach to planning that is effective in addressing the full range of issues affecting a planning area. However, the objectives developed in this approach usually do not identify specific thresholds of unacceptable impact on particular resources, or give managers, or the public, clear guidance as to whether a restrictive management action is warranted in a particular situation. For significant management issues that require the resolution of conflicting goals, that involve activities that have the potential to lead to unacceptable change, and lend themselves to the development of measurable and attainable standards, the Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC) process can be used.

3. Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC) Process

The LAC process employs carrying capacity concepts to prescribe the desired resource and social conditions that should be maintained regardless of use. It does not prescribe the total number of people who can visit an area. Establishing and maintaining acceptable conditions depends on explicit management objectives which draw on managerial experience, research, inventory data, assessments, projections, and public input. When devised in this manner, objectives founded in the LAC process dictate how much change will be allowed, as well as how management will respond to change. Indicators (measurable variables that reflect conditions) are chosen and standards (representing the bounds of acceptable conditions) are set, so management efforts can address unacceptable change. A particular standard may be chosen to act as a boundary which allows for management action before conditions deteriorate to the

point of unacceptability. The monitoring of resource and social conditions is critical. The LAC process relies on monitoring to provide systematic and periodic feedback to managers concerning specific conditions related to a range of impact sources, from visitor use to the atmospheric deposition of pollutants. It should be noted that the application of the LAC process requires a substantial commitment of staff time and public involvement, so it will only be instituted on significant issues that do not have an obvious or simple and acceptable solution.

The LAC process is ideally suited to solving many management problems, but it does not work in every situation. LAC is designed to help managers decide how best to address competing goals where there are concerns about the potential for unacceptable change, for instance, trying to provide cross country skiing opportunities as well as maintaining current snowmobiling opportunities. The LAC process could be used to determine the thresholds of acceptable noise impacts and what management actions would be taken meet those thresholds. Issues that do not involve potential trade-offs do not lend themselves to LAC treatment. For example, managers do not need a process to help them determine if ATV use is acceptable on the easement lands since the right for public ATV use was not acquired by DEC.

With the limited public use this area has seen it is not anticipated that any issues suitable for the application of the LAC process will be selected in the foreseeable future. However should issues arise suited for using LAC, DEC will implement the LAC process.

Impacts of Public Use

A systematic assessment of the impacts of public use within the EBFC planning area has not been conducted. While additional information is needed about overall public use of the EBFC and the impacts of use on the areas physical and biological resources, as well as its social impacts, the planning team considered the best available information. For ease of organization, the capacity of the EBFC to withstand use is divided into three broad categories: physical, biological and social. For each category, the definition of capacity will be followed by the known current situation within the EBFC planning area. The management objectives and proposed management actions to deal with existing or potential future problems are presented in Section IV of this plan.

<u>Physical capacity</u>- May include indicators that measure visitor impacts to physical resources (e.g. soil erosion on trails, campsites and access sites) and changes to environmental conditions (e.g. air and water quality).

<u>Biological capacity</u>- May include indicators that measure visitor impacts to biological resources (e.g. vegetation loss at campsites or waterfront access sites) and changes in the ecosystem (e.g. diversity and distribution of plant and animal species).

<u>Social capacity</u>- May include indicators that measure visitor impacts on other visitors (e.g. conflicts between user groups), the effectiveness of managerial conditions (e.g. noncompliant

visitor behavior) and interactions with the area's physical or biological capacity (e.g. noise on trails, campsites and access sites).

1. Physical

The physical capacity of a land area to withstand recreational use is the level of use beyond which the characteristics of the areas soils, water and wetland resources and topography undergo substantial unnatural changes. The capacity of a particular site is related to slope, soil type, ground and surface water characteristics, the type of vegetation that occupies the site and the types or amount of recreational activity to which the site is subjected. In some cases physical impacts observed within the area are due to erosion brought on by inadequate or infrequent maintenance or poor layout and design, rather than actual use. In other instances impacts may be caused by illegal uses of the area.

Air quality in the region including the EBFC is largely a product of forces and activities originating outside the unit. The air quality impacts resulting from the building of campfires by visitors are limited and localized. Smoke from campfires is not known to have significant ecological effects. The effects of exhaust emissions from snowmobile use within this unit have not been comprehensively studied or documented.

Impacted Areas

Snowmobiling is likely the greatest public use of the entire EBFC planning area. The lack of registers prevents an accurate estimate of actual snowmobile use within the unit. A cushion of ice and snow tends to prevent soil impacts when the trail/road is covered, with land resource impacts generally minor. Minor trail/road surface disturbance occurs during the early and late portions of the season when the ground is not completely covered with ice and snow. Some new maintenance problems have developed in other areas in recent years that may arise here. The decking on snowmobile bridges receives excessive wear from the increasing use of carbide studs and runners on some snowmobiles. This new problem along with the increase in size and weight of snowmobiles and groomers has led to a modified bridge design. Although not specific to the EBFC, research concerning the environmental effects of snowmobiles was reviewed by DEC staff with results and conclusions compiled in the DEC/OPRHP Snowmobile Plan for the Adirondack Park /FEIS of 2006 (2006 Snowmobile Plan). See: http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/27707.html.

2. Biological

The biological capacity of a land area to withstand recreational use is the level of use beyond which the characteristics of the areas plant and animal communities and ecological processes sustain substantial unnatural change. A review of available information indicates that the level of use within the unit does not appear to be exceeding the capacity of the biological resources to withstand use.

Plant life

Impacts from public use to area vegetation include illegal tree cutting, removal of brush and loss of vegetation due to expansion of campsites. Additional impacts to this resource involve tree cutting allowed by easement or road maintenance or tree removal associated with trail maintenance, rehabilitation and development. Another potential impact is the introduction of invasive species into the unit.

Wildlife

The impact of public use on most wildlife species within the EBFC is unknown, but there is likely minimal impact with the possible exception of the most heavily used areas. These heavily used areas represent only a small portion of the EBFC so the overall impact is expected to be minimal.

Impacts appear to be minimal for the handful of game species monitored. The Bureau of Wildlife monitors populations of game species partly by compiling and analyzing harvest statistics, thereby quantifying the effects of consumptive wildlife use. Harvest statistics are compiled by town, county and wildlife management unit. The narrow range of variation in annual harvest numbers, along with regular season regulations of bucks only, demonstrate little impact on the reproductive capacity of a deer population. Overall, deer populations within the unit are capable of withstanding current and anticipated levels of consumptive use.

While detrimental impacts to game populations over a large area are unlikely, Wildlife Biologists continually monitor harvests with special attention to otter, bobcat, fisher and marten. These species can be susceptible to over-harvest to a degree directly related to market demand for their pelts and ease of access. The Bureau of Wildlife monitors furbearer harvest by requiring trappers to tag the pelts of beaver, bobcat, fisher, marten and otter. Specific regulations are changed when necessary to protect furbearer populations.

Fisheries

DEC angling regulations are designed to conserve fish populations in individual waters by preventing over-exploitation. Angling regulations effectively control impacts of angler use. DEC fisheries staff monitors the effectiveness of angling regulations, stocking policies and other management activities by conducting periodic biological and chemical surveys. Based on analysis of biological survey results, angling regulations may be changed as necessary to protect the fish population. Statewide angling and special angling regulations provide the protection necessary to sustain or enhance natural reproduction where it occurs.

In addition to angling regulations, factors at work in the unit which serve to limit use include the relative remoteness of some streams from roads, the seasonal nature of angling and seasonal road closures. Because angler use of back country streams in the unit is believed to be light, the brook trout populations which they support can sustain anticipated harvest levels without damaging their capacity to maintain themselves naturally.

3. Social

The social capacity of a land area to withstand recreational use is the level of use beyond which the likelihood that a visitor will achieve his or her expectations for a recreational experience is significantly hampered. Social capacity is strongly influenced by an area's land classification, which in turn determines the management objectives for the area and the degree of recreational development possible. Social conflicts mainly occur due to recreationists seeking different experiences. A source of tension can derive from different ideas of what constitutes a camping experience; some visitors anticipate spending a quiet evening observing their natural surroundings, while others look forward to a party atmosphere.

User satisfaction from recreating is a function of both perception and expectation with the presence; number and behavior of others encountered having a direct influence on the quality of the experience. Compatibility between uses usually involves how quiet or noisy an activity is, whether it is consumptive or non-consumptive, whether it involves individuals or groups and whether it is a traditional or newly introduced activity. A few recreationists feel that other users degrade the quality of their own experiences. Particularly controversial in this respect are motorized recreational activities to which people involved in non-motorized activities often object. Sound related impacts can cover a large area but are generally temporary in nature with little or no physical effect on the environment. Loud noise could impact area wildlife or alter the experience of a person seeking to escape the sounds of civilization. For other users, particularly those using motor vehicles such as snowmobiles, the sound is an expected normal part of the overall recreational experience. At the time of the largest amount of snowmobile use on the EBFC Planning Area, the presence of other users and lessees is minimal.

According to available information and the low level of reports of user conflict, the current level of public use within the EBFC planning area is not believed to be exceeding the social capacity of the area to withstand use.

H. Education, Interpretation and Research

No formal education, interpretation and research programs have been established within the planning area. Some research has occurred in the area, primarily in conjunction with larger landowners, including DEC. There has been a research project on nitrogen deposition throughout Tug Hill with many of the research plots located in the planning area. Occasionally, regional citizen groups have used a portion of the area for educational programs, such as woodswalks. Loggers and foresters have utilized East Osceola State Forest as an outdoor classroom. Most programs have occurred with assistance from DEC's Division of Lands and Forests.

There has been much information provided to the public about this area throughout the process of negotiations and acquisition. The NYS Tug Hill Commission provided much of this information in the form of maps and explanations in newsletters and handouts at the EBFC Working Group meetings. Since December of 2005 information on public access and use has

been available to the public on the DEC website, or via paper copies of the web pages from the Lowville office. A formal public brochure has been developed through a cooperative effort between the NYSDEC and the Tug Hill Commission. Informational kiosks have been installed in three locations to facilitate education, interpretation, and public recreation.

III. MANAGEMENT AND POLICY

A. Past Management

The administration of State Forests, Detached Forest Preserve parcels, and State Conservation Easements is the responsibility of the Division of Lands and Forests. The responsibility for the enforcement of DEC rules and regulations lies with the Office of Public Protection. The Division of Operations conducts construction, maintenance and rehabilitation projects. The Division of Fish, Wildlife and Marine Resources manages the State's fish and wildlife resources.

1. Land Management

The majority of the planning area was private, prior to the acquisition of the conservation easements and the East Branch of Fish Creek State Forest. The forestland had been managed for many decades primarily to supply raw material for the pulp and paper mill formerly in operation in the Village of Lyons Falls. Forestry staff from the mill supervised all activities. In the 1990s, with the sale of the land to HTRG, forest management was contracted out to Wagner Forest Management, a consulting forestry company. The land continued to be managed primarily for timber.

All State Forest land and Detached Forest Preserve parcels in the planning area have been under the management of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation or DEC's predecessor, the New York State Conservation Department, since the lands were acquired by the State. State Forests have been managed for multiple uses, including public recreation, timber production and some fish and wildlife specific management actions. More recently, all State Forests in NYS were Green Certified by both the Forestry Stewardship Council (FSC) and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI), independent third party certifying organizations, which recognizes that State Forest lands are being managed in a sustainable manner. The Detached Forest Preserve parcels that are within the planning area have seen little management attention other than boundary line maintenance, primarily because most have not been easily accessible for public use and NYS constitutional provisions prohibit the removal of timber.

The HTRG and previous owners of the lands that belonged to the pulp and paper mill in Lyon's Falls allowed public use of existing roads for snowmobiling. Public snowmobile use precedes the ownership of these lands by Lyons Falls Pulp and Paper, and most likely first began in the 1960's with the improvements in snowmobile design and rising popularity of the sport. As noted previously, snowmobiling was allowed through agreements with local snowmobile clubs for maintenance/grooming of the routes.

2. Wildlife Management

Management of the wildlife resources throughout the planning area has been the responsibility of the Division of Fish, Wildlife and Marine Resources headquartered in Watertown. The

foundation for wildlife management in New York is embodied in Article 11 of the Environmental Conservation Law. Article 11 authorizes DEC to insure the perpetuation of wildlife species and their habitats and to regulate hunting and trapping through the issuance of licenses, the establishment of hunting and trapping seasons and manner of taking, and the setting of bag limits. That is the limit of what DEC has done on these lands. Some of the hunting and fishing clubs that have had leases on the lands now subject to the conservation easements, as well as the EBFC State Forest, have apparently tried some quality deer management, but there is no documentation of what has been done. Historically, deer have been fed at locations on the perimeter of the planning unit, such as near Osceola and the Michigan Mills Road, however, that activity is no longer legal because of concerns about Chronic Wasting Disease and other diseases.

3. Fisheries Management

Management of the fisheries throughout the property has also been the responsibility of the Division of Fish, Wildlife and Marine Resources headquartered out of Watertown. More specifically, management of the trout resource will be guided by CROTS (Catch Rate Oriented Trout Stocking Policy). Limited stocking efforts may have occurred surrounding or adjacent to the planning area. (The extent of such efforts was not researched for this plan.)

B. Management Guidelines

1. Guiding Documents

This RMP has been developed within the guidelines set forth by Article XIV, Section 1 of the New York State Constitution; Article 9 of the Environmental Conservation Law, Parts 190-199 of Title 6 NYCRR of the State of New York; established DEC policy; and the terms of the easements acquired. More specifically, all actions undertaken pursuant to this RMP are subject to the following laws, rules, regulations, policies and acquisition/easement documents:

Environmental Conservation Law (ECL):

Article 9:	Lands and Forests
Article 11:	Fish and Wildlife
Article 15:	Water Resources
Article 23:	Mineral Resources
Article 24:	Wetlands
Article 33:	Pesticides
Article 71:	Enforcement

New York Code of Rules and Regulations (NYCRR) - Title 6:

Chapter I:	Fish and Wildlife
Chapter II:	Lands and Forests

Chapter III: Air Resources
Chapter IV: Quality Services
Chapter V: Resource Management Services
Chapter X: Division of Water Resources
Chapter XI: Part 617; State Environmental Quality Review

Department Policies:

- Standards and Procedures for Boundary Line Maintenance (NR-95-1)
- Motor Vehicle Access to State Lands Under the Jurisdiction of DEC for People with Disabilities (CP-3)
- Cutting and Removal of Trees in the Forest Preserve (LF-91-2)
- The Administration of Conservation Easements (NR-90-1)
- Acquisition of Conservation Easements (NR-86-3)
- Division Regulatory Policy (LF-90-2)
- Adopt-A-Natural Resource (ONR-1)
- Policies and Procedures Manual Title 8400 - Public Land Management
- Temporary Revocable Permits for State Lands and Conservation Easements (ONR-3)

DEC also maintains policies to provide guidelines for the design, location, setting, size, classification, construction, maintenance, reconstruction and/or rehabilitation of dams, fireplaces, fire rings, foot bridges, foot trails, primitive camping sites, road barriers, sanitary facilities and trailheads. Other guidelines used in the administration of DEC lands are provided through Attorney General Opinions, DEC policy memos, and regional operating procedures.

The recommendations presented in this RMP are subject to the requirements of the State Environmental Quality and Review Act of 1975. All proposed management activities will be reviewed and significant environmental impacts and alternatives will be assessed.

Easement/Acquisition Agreements:

-Corrigan TLP, LLC and GMO Forestry Fund 3, LP. Bargain and Sale Deed. Lewis County Clerk's Office. Instrument # 2007-04250. GMO Tract. 26 December 2007.

- The Nature Conservancy, Inc. and The People of the State of New York. Deed of Conservation Easement: The Nature Conservancy's East Branch of Fish Creek Conservation Area. Lewis County Clerk's Office. Instrument # 2006-00698. TNC Tract. 28 February 2006.

- The Nature Conservancy, Inc. and The People of the State of New York. Assignment of Conservation Easement. Lewis County Clerk's Office. Instrument # 2005-03655. GMO Tract. 24 October 2005.

- GMO Renewable Resources LLC and The Nature Conservancy, Inc. Combined Boundary Line and Reciprocal Road Easement and Management Agreement. Lewis County Clerk's Office. Instrument 2004-03678. 2 November 2004.

- The Nature Conservancy, Inc. and GMO Forestry Fund 3, L.P. Michigan Mills Road and East Branch Fish Creek Bridge Easement Agreement. Easement to GMO Forestry Fund 3, L.P. Lewis County Clerk's Office. Instrument 2004-03677. 2 November 2004.

- GMO Forestry Fund 3, L.P. and The Nature Conservancy, Inc. Amendment to Deed of Conservation Easement: GMO Forestry Fund 3 L.P. - The Nature Conservancy. Lewis County Clerk's Office. Instrument 2004-03676. 2 November 2004.

- GMO Forestry Fund 3, L.P. and The Nature Conservancy, Inc. Deed of Conservation Easement. Easement to The Nature Conservancy, Inc. Lewis County Clerk's Office. Book 699, Page 29. 18 June 2002.

DEC also maintains policies to provide guidelines for the design, location, setting, size, classification, construction, maintenance, reconstruction and/or rehabilitation of dams, fireplaces, fire rings, foot bridges, foot trails, primitive camping sites, road barriers, sanitary facilities and trailheads. Other guidelines used in the administration of DEC lands are provided through Attorney General Opinions, DEC policy memos, and regional operating procedures.

The recommendations presented in this RMP are subject to the requirements of the State Environmental Quality and Review Act of 1975. All proposed management activities will be reviewed and significant environmental impacts and alternatives will be assessed.

2. Application of Guidelines, Standards and Terms of Acquisition

All management actions will be developed in accordance with the above mentioned laws, rules, regulations and policies. Some more specific guidance derived from the above documents follows.

a. Best Management Practices

All management activities will incorporate the use of Best Management Practices (BMPs), including but not limited to, such considerations as:

Construction Projects:

- Locating improvements to minimize necessary cut and fill;
- Locating improvements away from streams, wetlands, and unstable slopes where possible;

- Use of proper drainage devices such as water bars and broad-based dips;
- Locating trails to minimize grade;
- Using stream crossings with low, stable banks, firm stream bottom and gentle approach slopes;
- Constructing stream crossings at right angles to the stream;
- Limiting stream crossing construction to periods of low or normal flow;
- Avoiding areas where habitats of threatened and endangered species are known to exist;
- Using natural materials, when feasible and cost effective, to blend the structure into the natural surroundings.

Lean-tos:

- Locating lean-tos to minimize necessary cut and fill;
- Locating lean-tos to minimize tree cutting;
- Locating lean-tos away from streams, wetlands, and unstable slopes;
- Use of drainage structures on trails leading to lean-to sites, to prevent water flowing into site;
- Locating lean-tos on flat, stable, well-drained sites;
- Limiting construction to periods of low or normal rainfall.

Parking Lots:

- Locating parking lots to minimize necessary cut and fill;
- Locating parking lots away from streams, wetlands, and unstable slopes wherever possible;
- Locating parking lots on flat, stable, well-drained sites using gravel or other permeable material for surfacing;
- Locating parking lots in areas that require a minimum amount of tree cutting;
- Limiting construction to periods of low or normal rainfall;
- Wherever possible, using wooded buffers to screen parking lots from roads;
- Limiting the size of the parking lot to the minimum necessary to address the intended use.

Trails - General:

- Locating trails to minimize necessary cut and fill;
- Wherever possible, lay out trails on existing old roads or clear or partially cleared areas;
- Trails will be established in new locations if old log/skid roads are not suitable due to current conditions or anticipated future logging activities;
- Locating trails away from streams, wetlands, and unstable slopes wherever possible;
- Use of proper drainage devices such as water bars and broad-based dips;
- Locating trails to minimize grade;
- Using stream crossings with low, stable banks, firm stream bottom and gentle approach slopes;

- Constructing stream crossings at right angles to the stream;
- Limiting stream crossing construction to periods of low or normal flow;
- Using stream bank stabilizing structures made of natural materials when feasible such as rock or wooden timbers;
- Using natural materials when feasible to blend the structure into the natural surroundings.

Bridges:

- Minimizing channel changes and the amount of cut or fill needed;
- Limiting construction activities in the water to periods of low or normal flow;
- Minimizing the use of equipment in the stream;
- Installing bridges at right angles to the stream channel;
- Constructing bridges to blend into the natural surroundings;
- Using stream bank stabilizing structures made of natural materials when feasible such as rock or wooden timbers;
- Stabilizing bridge approaches with aggregate or other suitable material;
- Using soil stabilization practices on exposed soil around bridges immediately after construction;
- Designing, constructing and maintaining bridges to avoid disrupting the migration or movement of fish and other aquatic life;
- Consultation with the appropriate engineering services and/or the NYS Department of Transportation in cases where existing bridge abutments must be replaced.

Mountain Bike Trails:

- Look for and identify control points (i.e. wetlands, rock outcrops, scenic vistas).
- Avoid sensitive areas; wetlands and wherever water collects.
- Use existing roadways where possible that do not exceed grades of 10%.
- Clear new trails to a maximum width of 4 feet to establish a single track route.
- Keep tread width less than 18" along a rolling grade.
- Texture the tread. This is the act of placing natural features, such as small rocks and logs, in the trail to help control speed.
- Remove vegetation at the root level-not at ground level.
- Keep routes close to the contour and avoid fall lines where water is likely to flow downhill.
- On side slopes, following the contour, cut full benches to construct the tread. Out sloping in this manner helps to remove water from the trail. Vegetate back slopes.
- Build flow into the trail with open and flowing designs with broad sweeping turns.
- Streams should be crossed at ninety-degree angles preferably across rock or gravel.
- Bridges may be used where steep banks prevent normal stream crossings. Bridges may require a Permit(s).

- Do not construct skid berms or extensive banked turns that may accelerate erosion.
- Avoid acute, sharp angle turns.
- Plan trails for beginners to intermediate levels of riders. Maintain an overall grade of 10% or less.
- Allow short changes in grade to avoid obstacles.
- Design grade dips to break up long, straight linear sections, and to help divert runoff from the tread.
- Monitor and inspect all trails semi-annually. Address water problems immediately.

Fish Stocking:
All fish stocking projects will be in compliance with the management of the trout resource; as such it will be guided by CROTS (Catch Rate Oriented Trout Stocking Policy).

b. Easement/Acquisition Terms:

All management actions will be conducted in accordance with the terms of the easements, in particular, as stated in the "*Purpose of the Grant*", "*Grantor.... and Grantee acknowledge the Purposes of the Conservation Easement are....To provide opportunities for public recreation in a manner that is consistent with the forest management and resource conservation purposes outlined above.*"

All public use management activities must consider the reserved rights of Corrigan and TNC respectively, their lessees, and the public as defined in the easement, as well as the terms of the additional acquisition agreements noted above. Consistent administration and communication between all of the parties is extremely important to meet all the terms of the easement. Parties will meet at least annually to review activities completed in the previous year, and to review proposed annual work plans for the upcoming year.

3. Summary of Management Guidelines

a. Public Access and Use

State Forest and Detached Forest Preserve Parcels
Access and use of these lands is permitted as per DEC rules and regulations. Generally, access is restricted only for public motor vehicles, which may travel only on routes signed open to public motor vehicle use.

- Trail Designation: Generally, trails are open for any non-motorized use, as well as snowmobile use, unless signed specifically as only a foot trail, ski trail etc. If so signed, the trail is not open to snowmobile or horse use. Horses may not use snowmobile or ski trails, even if also designated as horse trails, when they are covered with snow or ice. Mountain bikes currently have no restrictions on where they may be used.

- Motor Vehicles: Roads open to motor vehicle use will be posted to a maximum speed limit of 25 mph.

Easement Lands

Access to and use of the easement lands is granted to DEC for administrative use and public use subject to special terms and conditions. Generally, access is restricted primarily for motorized vehicles, as explained in more detail below.

- Recreation Plan: DEC must develop a recreation plan to address proposed public use of the property, subject to approval by Corrigan or TNC, with such approval not to be unreasonably withheld.

- Administrative Inspection: DEC has the right to administrative access to inspect and survey the easement property at any time, including access through all gates and/or barriers.

- Reserved Rights: Public recreation on the easement lands shall be consistent with the reserved rights of Corrigan and TNC to lease camps and land for private recreational use.

- Public Motor Vehicle and Snowmobile Use of Designated Corridors: All such use is restricted to those routes that are posted as open by DEC with signs. DEC is not required to open all roads where the motor vehicle and snowmobile use rights have been acquired per the easements. These routes will be opened at the discretion of DEC, though they must meet the standards for public use agreed to with the Grantor. Public motor vehicle use does not include ATV use as the State did not purchase the public right to use ATVs anywhere in the planning area.

- Construction or Designation of Roads and Trails: DEC has the right to construct and/or designate trails for non-motorized uses including universally accessible trails for persons with disabilities, and motorized access trails for the public along routes agreed to by Corrigan and/or TNC, such approvals not to be unreasonably withheld. Motorized and non-motorized uses shall occur on existing roads and trails as much as possible so the need for new roads or trails is minimized;

- Development of Facilities Supporting Public Access: DEC may develop supporting access facilities, such as parking lots and trailheads, in concurrence with Corrigan and/or TNC. Any timber removed as a result of new construction is retained by Corrigan and TNC respectively.

- Motor Vehicle Use: Public users, as well as Corrigan and TNC lessees, are subject to all state motor vehicle and snowmobile regulations except for the portions of the Vehicle and Traffic law that applies to public highways, as a court decision has determined that public motor vehicle rights purchased as an easement on private lands are not considered public highways.

- Closure of Roads and Trails for Safety or Weather: DEC, together with Corrigan or TNC on their respective lands, may decide to close any road and trail to lessee and public use due to unsafe conditions or during periods of adverse weather, such as the spring "mud season," to prevent undue damage until area roads and trails dry out and are capable of sustaining motor vehicle traffic. This action will be coordinated by the parties prior to any closure and will normally be done by closing gates with mud season locks and signage until such time as the frost has come out of the ground and the roads have firmed up enough to sustain the normal traffic by lessees and the public.

- Year Round Public Exclusion from Specific Areas: Public access and use may be totally excluded from five acres surrounding each of the existing hunting, fishing, and outdoor recreation camps as defined in the easement and reserved by Corrigan and TNC respectively. Each five acre parcel shall not be configured in a manner that restricts public access on roads or trails. Additionally, except on specific recreation corridors, the public is excluded from all EBFCS lands east of the East Branch of Fish Creek State Forest at all times of the year.

- Closure of Active Logging Zones: Logging Operation Closure Zones may be established to exclude public use. The easement requires Corrrigan and TNC respectively to give DEC 30 days advance notice of establishing these zones, and they shall not remain closed to public use more than 24 months or include more than 10% of Corrigan's or TNC's property at one time.

- EBFCN Specific Public Use Activity Restrictions: Public use on EBFCN easement lands is restricted for several activities that are allowed on most other categories of state lands, including the other lands which are the subject of this plan. No trapping, use of horses or similar animals, or use of snowmobiles by the public is allowed, with the exception that horses and snowmobiles are allowed on the G & W road.

b. Barriers, Gates, and Locks

State Forest and Detached Forest Preserve Parcels
DEC may establish barriers and gates as necessary to limit public motor vehicle access to the property. DEC has specific standards for all gates on its property.

Easement Lands
DEC, in concurrence with Corrigan and TNC on their respective properties, has the right to install barriers and gates to control public motor vehicle use. All new and replacement gates and barriers will be constructed of materials that will be highly visible and appropriately signed to DEC standards as to safety, color, and design. All gates will have compatible locking mechanisms to accommodate State, Corrigan, and TNC needs. DEC will install wider gates (12+ feet) on roads designed to accommodate tractor trailer log trucks or oversize vehicles and equipment.

c. Boundary Line Maintenance

State Forest and Detached Forest Preserve Parcels
Boundary lines are maintained and signed to common DEC standards. Surveys are done as needed to define or confirm the location of boundaries.

Easement Lands
DEC, Corrigan, and TNC may each choose to mark boundaries, but are not under obligation to the other to do so. Signs may be installed by any party to delineate the boundary and help ensure compliance with the terms of the easement, and the wording of such signs must be approved by both the Grantee and Grantor (Corrigan or TNC and DEC respectively).

Clubs may post and maintain hunting club boundaries on the easement lands so long as these activities do not conflict with actual boundary line surveys. The wording of the signage used must be consistent with the terms of the easements.

d. Camping and Campfires

Camping and campfires are permitted on easement, State Forest and Detached Forest Preserve lands subject to standard DEC rules and regulations for State Lands. Camping will be subject to section (b) Part 190, NYCRR which prohibits camping within 150 feet of any road, trail, spring, stream, pond or other body of water except at sites designated by DEC. Campfires are permitted in safe locations on easement lands subject to Part 190.1 NYCRR. A designated campsite will be provided on each of the compartments open to public hunting on the EBFCS, on the north Section of East Branch Fish Creek State Forest, and EBFCN - Headwaters Flow Grounds Compartment. DEC may designate additional campsites subject to Corrigan or TNC approval, such approval not to be unreasonably withheld.

e. Maintenance and Stewardship

- DEC is obligated to remove trash or debris such as papers, bottles, cans, or other garbage left by the public utilizing the recreational rights.

- Public recreational use shall not interfere with allowing the Grantor (underlying landholder, Corrigan or TNC) to conduct forest management activities provided for in the easement.

- The location and condition of trails, parking areas, and other recreational improvements shall be monitored at least annually.

- The RMP shall provide minimum standards and specifications for roads and trails open to the public(see Appendix 1).

- DEC is obligated to repair and correct roads damaged by public use. Corrigan or TNC, on their respective lands, are obligated to repair and correct roads damaged by their lessees and contractors, particularly where those routes are open to public use.

f. Search, Rescue, Fire, Emergency Response and Law Enforcement

State Forest and Detached FP Parcels
Emergency response for search, fire and rescues on State lands is coordinated by the NYS Forest Rangers, though the response can also include local government emergency responders. The DEC emergency dispatch center has been transitioned to a statewide dispatch located in Albany and Ray Brook?. The telephone number is 1-877-457-5680. Other emergency services in Lewis County are available via 911 service.

- Emergency response to other occurrences, such as natural disasters, may include staff from the divisions of Operations, Lands and Forests, and Fish, Wildlife, and Marine Resources.

- DEC, the New York State Police, and other public law enforcement and safety agencies have full access to these lands.

- The enforcement of the NYS Environmental Conservation Law (ECL), as well as DEC rules and regulations, are primarily the responsibility of the DEC Forest Rangers and the DEC Environmental Conservation Officers (Police). Emergency concerns about violations of the ECL or DEC rules and regulations should be directed to the DEC emergency dispatch center at the number above. Other non-emergency concerns should be directed to the Lowville DEC Lands and Forests Office at (315) 376-3521 or the local DEC Forest Ranger or Environmental Conservation Officer.

Easement Lands
Emergency response for search, fire and rescues on easement lands, as on other state lands, is coordinated by the NYS Forest Rangers, though the response can also include local government emergency responders.

- DEC has the right to undertake any emergency actions necessary to preserve and protect State, or easement lands and protect the public health in response to natural disasters, environmental hazards, or threats to human safety.

- Corrigan and TNC have the right to undertake any emergency actions necessary to preserve and protect their respective lands and protect the public health in response to natural disasters, environmental hazards, or threats to human safety on their lands.

- DEC must notify Corrigan or TNC of all emergency actions and serious violations occurring on their respective easement lands.

- Corrigan or TNC must notify DEC of all emergency actions and serious violations occurring on their respective easement lands.

- DEC, the New York State Police, and other public law enforcement and safety agencies have full access to easement lands.

- The enforcement of the NYS Environmental Conservation Law (ECL), as well as DEC rules and regulations are primarily the responsibility of the DEC Forest Rangers and the DEC Environmental Conservation Officers (Police). Emergency concerns about violations of the ECL or DEC rules and regulations should be directed to the DEC emergency dispatch center at the number indicated above. Other, non-emergency concerns should be directed to the Lowville DEC Lands and Forests Office at (315) 376-3521 or the local DEC Forest Ranger or Environmental Conservation Officer.

4. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Its Influence on Management Actions for Recreation and Related Facilities

a. Application of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), along with the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 (ABA) and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; Title V, Section 504, have had a profound effect on the manner by which people with disabilities are afforded equality in their recreational pursuits. The ADA is a comprehensive law prohibiting discrimination against people with disabilities in employment practices, use of public transportation, use of telecommunication facilities and use of public accommodations. Title II of the ADA requires, in part, that reasonable modifications must be made to the services and programs of public entities, so that when those services and programs are viewed in their entirety, they are readily accessible to and usable by people with disabilities. This must be done unless such modification would result in a fundamental alteration in the nature of the service, program or activity or an undue financial or administrative burden.

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. This RMP incorporates an inventory of all the recreational facilities or assets supporting the programs and services available on the unit, and an assessment of the programs, services and facilities on the unit to determine the level of accessibility provided. In conducting this assessment, DEC employs guidelines which ensure that programs are accessible, including buildings, facilities, and vehicles, in terms of architecture and design, transportation and communication to individuals with disabilities. A federal agency known as the Access Board has issued the ADA Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG) for this purpose.

An assessment was conducted, in the development of this RMP, to determine appropriate accessibility enhancements which may include developing new or upgrading of existing facilities

or assets. The Department is not required to make each of its existing facilities and assets accessible so long as the Department's programs, taken as a whole, are accessible. New facilities, assets and accessibility improvements to existing facilities or assets proposed in this RMP are identified in the Proposed Management Actions section.

For copies of any of the above mentioned laws or guidelines relating to accessibility, contact Carole Fraser, DEC Universal Access Program Coordinator at 518-402-9428 or cafraser@gw.dec.state.ny.us

C. Administration and Management Principles

1. Administration

The Regional Director for Region 6, headquartered in Watertown, has management authority over the East Branch of Fish Creek planning area. The supervision of the activities of the Division of Lands and Forests, as well as the Division of Fish, Wildlife and Marine Resources within the planning area is the responsibility of the Supervisor of Natural Resources. The Regional Supervisor of Operations oversees the construction and maintenance of facilities.

The Division of Lands and Forests has primary responsibility for managing the lands within the planning area, including developing the RMP, developing individual work plans, and coordinating all activities with the landowners, the Division of Operations, and the Forest Rangers. The Regional Forester based in Watertown has overall responsibility for these matters. Reporting to him is a Supervising Forester in the Lowville office who is responsible for all forestry programs in Lewis and Jefferson Counties. Reporting to the Supervising Forester is a Senior Forester assigned to specific tasks within the planning area.

Division of Fish, Wildlife, and Marine Resources activities are the responsibility of the Regional Fisheries Manager and the Regional Wildlife Manager, both based out of Watertown. A Senior Aquatic Biologist and a Senior Wildlife Biologist from the Watertown office have been assigned planning responsibilities for fisheries and wildlife concerns within the area.

The Forest Rangers and the Environmental Conservation Officers whose district or sector encompass part of the area have responsibility for direct on the ground enforcement of DEC rules and regulations throughout the area.

2. Management Principles

The call for a management approach that balances the need for recreational use with the need to conserve the character of the area and the capacity of the resources to withstand use presents a challenging and complex task - one that requires both a long-term and a day-to-day approach to problem solving. There may be no one right answer to a problem - in making decisions, the key is to apply a systematic rationale based on monitoring and evaluation. In

order to accomplish this, the following principles will be used to manage the East Branch of Fish Creek:

- *Protect and Conserve the Natural Resources of the Planning Area:* Management will stress sustaining the existing environmental conditions and restoring those areas and resources that have been or are being degraded. Resource conditions will be monitored and evaluated to assure they are not being degraded. Management actions will respond to specific areas, identified as "hot spots," that are damaged.

- *Conserve the Working Forest Character of the Planning Area:* Management will be directed at uses which do not require a developed setting or otherwise detract from the working forest character of the unit.

- *Provide for a Variety of Outdoor Recreational Uses:* Management will provide for a variety of outdoor recreational uses so long as those uses do not degrade the natural resources or working forest character of the unit, nor interfere with the rights of the landowner to manage the timber resources.

- *Manage the Planning Area as a Composite Resource:* All the resources of the unit - biological, physical and social - are interrelated; the recreation management plan must deal comprehensively with those resources and their interrelationships, including being compatible with the forest management plan and activities of the landowner.

- *Management Will Be Accomplished with the "Minimum Tool":* All management actions will be reviewed to determine first if they are necessary, and then to determine the minimum action or tool (practices, tools, equipment, regulations and infrastructure) that will accomplish the task. Management will seek the approach from available alternatives that will have the least possible impact on the resources of the plan area, the working forest character and the visitor's experience. And whereas such review includes cost analysis, the potential degradation of the working forest character and resources will be considered before, and given more weight than, economic efficiency and convenience. When public use must be controlled to prevent resource degradation, education will be the preferred option followed by the minimum degree of regulation or control necessary to meet management needs.

- *Establish Specific Management Objectives.* Establish specific management objectives, with public involvement, in a comprehensive management plan for this area. Within the constraints of the law, DEC policy, easement conditions and this plan, managers and the concerned public will define management objectives and specific actions for this plan area. Resources and the visitor experience will be monitored and evaluated for consistency with the objectives, and management actions will be adjusted through the planning process, when necessary, to meet stated objectives.

- *Manage the Planning Area with Interdisciplinary Scientific Skills.* Forest management involves acquiring a working knowledge of complex relationships and requires the skills of natural resource professionals and social scientists who work as a team in focusing on preserving the resources, the working forest character and visitor experience within the plan area.

D. Management Issues, Needs and Desires

Several issues are of concern for DEC and the public in the development of this plan. Information has been obtained from the public by way of informational sessions, held on Wednesday, April 28, 2004 at the Lowville Fire Hall, Lowville, NY from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. and on the same day at the Oneida Savings Bank, Camden, NY from 6:00 - 9:00 p.m., as well as by mail, and electronic mail (e-mail). The following list of issues, needs and desires were received from the public and DEC staff. Some of the issues, needs and desires have not resulted in Proposed Management Actions being developed. Where this has occurred, a justification for the exclusion is provided. The issues identified by the public for this plan area were expressed in general terms, for the unit as a whole, rather than a specific use at a specific location. Section IV. addresses specific Proposed Management Actions, some of which are in response to input received through the participation of groups and individuals.

1. Access for All Terrain Vehicles

One of the issues raised at the public sessions was a desire by some for the DEC to acquire the recreation rights for, and therefore allow, the use of ATVs on the easement lands. One suggestion was to allow the use of ATVs on a permit basis. Another proposed that ATV use should be allowed for people with disabilities. Others thought that at least one “loop” into and out of the property could be provided for ATV users. Still others were not interested in public ATV rights. At least one individual expressed that as a lessee on Corrrigan land he does not want public ATVs cutting through the property where he and his club are paying for exclusive hunting season rights.

Acquisition of ATV rights was considered by the easements negotiating team and the easement grantors. The final easements did not include public ATV rights as part of the negotiated easements.

Related to this issue is use of ATVs and other motor vehicles by landowners who may have a right-of-way (ROW) over the easement or fee lands to their own lands. Use of a road for private purposes under a deeded ROW or easement by a landowner, guest, invitees, etc. may be a legitimate exercise of a deeded right, so not subject to DEC control. This would complicate enforcement of vehicle restrictions on some roads.

Both Corrigan through their manager Molpus (EBFCS) and TNC (EBFCN) have instituted sticker programs for their lessees. These stickers are issued on a yearly basis and provide a means by which it can be determined if the ATV has a legal right to be on the property or not.

Enforcement can still be somewhat difficult because of inholders with right of ways –especially on the G&W Road.

ATV use for lessees is as follows: Corrigan lessees on the EBFCS West Compartment may use ATVs only to access their hunting, fishing, and outdoor recreation camps by the most practical and direct route (excluding off-road use through State land, adjacent leases, or private parcels), and they may use ATVs associated only with hunting activities on their leased parcels during the period of September 1 through and including December 31 of each year through 2016, subject to all applicable laws and regulations. TNC lessees (EBFCN) may only use ATVs and snowmobiles associated with hunting activities on their leased parcels during the period from the last Saturday in October through the first Sunday in December of each year and may use ATV's to access their camp through the most direct practical route.

2. General Access (Including Motor Vehicle Access)

Current access to the unit is relatively good; however, for motor vehicle use most of the corridor roads need substantial improvement. From comments received, many individuals have expressed concern regarding road conditions in general across the easement lands. The G. & W. Road is considered in the poorest condition of all the corridor roads. However, the Michigan Mills Road/Michigan Mills Road Extension is the corridor that is anticipated to receive the most traffic as it is the best access point for the East Branch of Fish Creek State Forest, and is roughly the geographic center of the Easement Lands.

Some criticism was received regarding the use of the Michigan Mills Road/Michigan Mills Road Extension as a primary access road to the East Branch of Fish Creek State Forest. Many lessees with camps in the EBFCS East Compartment - this area has also been referred to or known as the EBFCS No Public Access Area felt that the eastern boundary for the EBFC State Forest should be moved to the actual creek and not the Direen Aden Road. They expressed concerns regarding trespassing at their camps and illegal use of their leased lands by the public, especially if the public was allowed on the Direen Aden Road. The GMO easement agreement of 2002 set the boundary in this area using portions of the Direen Aden Road and established most of the Direen Aden Road as a Rifle Season Primary Access Corridor, giving DEC the discretion to open this road to public motor vehicle traffic throughout the year.

Still others requested that they would like as much access to the East Branch of Fish Creek as possible. The sentiment was also expressed that as many corridors as possible should be open to the public for motorized traffic. Others want to make sure that DEC would open as many roads as possible for mountain biking.

Many expressed the desire to see gates installed on many roads to control public motor vehicle traffic and that public motorized access should not be allowed on every road. There was concern that such motor vehicle use would ruin the character of the area. For instance, at least one individual requested that a gate be installed across the G. & W. Road where public motor vehicle access is to be halted. In addition, DEC was told to be careful not to create too many

new roads, trails, or hiking paths because the lack of access defines what Tug Hill is in the first place.

Prior to the purchase of these lands by GMO and TNC, ownership was under one entity. All leases were with the one entity. Use of all the gates and roads by the lessees were controlled by one entity. With the division of the lands between GMO and TNC, some lessees on TNC lands are concerned that they will no longer have the ability to pass through gates or use roads that they have traditionally used on GMO lands. Related to this is a similar concern on GMO lands regarding gate combinations or keys. Lessees would like to see all the gate combinations or keys be the same. Their reasoning for this is supported by a washout on the road that prevented at least two clubs from accessing their camps on the road they would normally use for motor vehicles. They avoided being trapped with motor vehicles by using a different road with another gate.

The largest issue occurs in relation to the North-South road between the Michigan Mills Road and the G & W road. This road does not have public motor vehicle rights and when the project terms were negotiated there was no provision made to provide rights for TNC lessee's to use this route to access their camps on TNC lands. Any such arrangement would have to be between the respective landowners. At this time no such arrangement has been made.

3. Involvement of the Public in the Planning Process

A concern was expressed that the two public informational sessions being held strictly on Tug Hill were limiting the opportunity of citizens from the rest of the state to participate in the planning process. It was noted that Tug Hill is a State, and even a regional (as in Northeastern US Region) resource. It was requested that DEC expand its outreach to other people in the State outside of the Tug Hill Region in this planning effort.

4. Resource Degradation

There was a concern that forest, wildlife, fish, and water resources would be neglected with increased recreational pressure. As an example, a few of the larger clubs in the area are attempting some form of quality deer management and desire not to see their long-term efforts lost. Related to this was the desire to have a DEC forester assigned specifically to this area to provide consistent and constant management, ensuring that the provisions of the easements are adhered to by Corrigan and TNC.

5. Camp Relocations

Lessees expressed a concern regarding the need to reduce the number of leased camp structures on both easements and the removal of structures on the East Branch of Fish Creek State Forest.

6. Access for People with Disabilities

There was concern that the DEC not forget to plan for people with disabilities.

7. Preservation of Cultural and Historical Knowledge and Resources

It was expressed that, within the last ten years, ownership of the easement lands had gone through three different owners. Prior to that, the easement lands had been owned for decades by the pulp and paper mill in Lyons Falls. Many are concerned that much cultural and historical knowledge and resources are being and have been lost without documentation, and that historical structures are continuing to be lost by physical destruction either by natural processes or people.

8. Public Information

A need to undertake an educational effort was identified. Supporters felt that better maps of the area than DEC traditionally produces should be created. Additionally, descriptive and informative signage should be created and installed throughout the easement to direct the public and to enforce provisions of the easements.

E. Goals and Objectives

1. Management Goals for the East Branch of Fish Creek Planning Area

- Provide reasonable public access via motor vehicle and other means to allow the public to enjoy the range of recreational opportunities provided by these lands.
- Minimize the impact of public recreational use on the natural resources of the area.
- Minimize the conflicts between public recreational use and private recreational use by the landowner.
- Minimize the conflicts between public recreational use and the forest management activities carried out by the landowner.
- Develop a better understanding of the natural resources of the planning area in cooperation with the other landowners.
- Involve the full range of public interests in the planning process.
- Maintain the largely undeveloped character of the planning area.

2. Objectives

- Provide a continuation of the snowmobiling opportunities that have been available in the past under private ownership, while investigating new opportunities presented by the easement and fee acquisitions.

- Provide access to the north, middle and south ends of the planning area, specifically the newly acquired easements and fee lands, with the minimum amount of public motor vehicle routes necessary.
- Provide access to the Detached Forest Preserve parcels, which have been inaccessible in the past, by trail or other means.
- Provide information on the planning area via various media; kiosks on site, printed handouts, and the DEC website.
- Provide access to the areas in the Corrigan & TNC lands open for year round public recreational use.
- Provide opportunities for public input into the recreation plan to any interested parties.

IV. PROPOSED MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

This section provides an overview of the current situation and describes the specific management objectives and proposed management actions for the planning area. The management objectives apply the plan's goals to a particular issue as identified by the public or DEC staff. The management actions are the means that will be employed to meet the management objectives. All management proposals are pursuant and subject to all laws, rules, regulations and policies set forth by DEC, the New York State Constitution, and Environmental Conservation Law, as well as the terms of the easements. **All of these activities depend on the necessary funding and staff resources being made available.**

The management actions proposed are grouped by the various subunits or compartments since the public recreation rights vary from one to another. Two charts have been created to aid the public in determining what activities are allowed on the easements and the newly acquired EBFC State Forest. They appear on the following two pages.

East Branch of Fish Creek South(EBFS) Conservation Easement & EBFC State Forest **Public Recreation and Fish & Wildlife Sporting Activities Chart** Activities allowed are subject to all applicable laws, regulations, and established seasons. Dots "●" indicate that specified activities are allowed.	Public Fishing (Open All Year)	Public Hunting (Open All Year)	Public Trapping (Open All Year)	Limited Public Fishing & Trapping (No Public Access from the Next to the Last Saturday in October through the First Sunday in December until 2017)	Limited Public Hunting (No Public Hunting Sept. 1 - Dec. 31. until 2017)	Public Non-Motorized Recreation (Camping, Cross-Country Skiing, Hiking, Horseback Riding, Snowshoeing, Trail (Mountain) Bicycling, Wildlife Observation, etc.)	Limited Public Non-Motorized Recreation: *See Activities in the Column to the Left* (No Public Access from the Next to the Last Saturday in October through the First Sunday in December until 2017)	Designated Motor Vehicle and/or Snowmobile Trails
EBFCS - West Compartment				●	●		●	●
EBFCS - East Fork Salmon River Headwaters Compt.	●	●	●			●		●
EBFCS - Beaver Meadow Brook Compartment	●	●	●			●		●
EBFCS - Heron Brook Compt.	●	●	●			●		●
EBFC State Forest	●	●	●			●		●
East Osceola State Forest	●	●	●			●		●
State Detached Forest Preserve Parcels	●	●	●			●		

NOTE: There are <u>no public</u> ATV rights on any of the EBFC State Conservation Easements, and neither the EBFC State Forest or the Detached Forest Preserve Parcels are open for ATV use.

East Branch of Fish Creek North(EBFCN) State Conservation Easement **Public Recreation and Fish & Wildlife Sporting Activities Chart** Activities allowed are subject to all applicable laws, regulations, and established seasons. Dots "●" indicate that specified activities are allowed.	Public Fishing (Open All Year)	Public Hunting (Open All Year)	Limited Public Fishing (No Public Access from the Next to the Last Saturday in October through the First Sunday in December)	Public Non-Motorized Recreation (Camping, Cross-Country Skiing, Hiking, Snowshoeing, Trail (Mountain) Bicycling, Wildlife Observation, etc.)	Limited Public Non-Motorized Recreation: *See Activities in the Column to the Left* (No Public Access from the Next to the Last Saturday in October through the First Sunday in December)	Designated Motor Vehicle and/or Snowmobile Trails
TNC Mad River Headwaters Compartment			●		●	
TNC Page Pond Compt.			●		●	●
TNC EBFC Headwaters Flow Grounds Compt.	●	●		●		●

NOTE: There are <u>no public</u> ATV rights on any of the EBFC State Conservation Easements, and neither the EBFC State Forest or the Detached Forest Preserve Parcels are open for ATV use.
The use of horses or other similar animals by the public for any purpose on The Nature Conservancy lands is prohibited.
Trapping by the public on The Nature Conservancy lands is prohibited.

A. DEC Fee Lands (4,567 acres)

1. East Branch of Fish Creek State Forest (RA Lewis 45) (1,406.14 acres)

These lands along the East Branch of the Fish Creek were acquired in fee by DEC (orange/gold area adjacent to the East Branch of Fish Creek on the attached maps). The same rules, regulations and management policies as apply to other State Forest land managed by DEC apply here. Public recreational use will be allowed as on other State Forests.

a. Uses:

Initial public recreational use is expected to be predominantly for hunting and snowmobiling, though there will also be significant interest in access to the EBFC for fishing and wildlife observation.

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 EBFCS - 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.

2. East Osceola State Forest (RA Lewis 21) (1,975 acres)

The same rules, regulations and management policies as apply to other State Forest land managed by DEC apply here. The timber in this area has been, and will continue to be, harvested periodically as on other State Forests by sales contracts. Public recreational use will be allowed as on other State Forests.

a. Uses:

Hunting, fishing, and recreational cross-country skiing are currently the predominant uses of this forest. It is expected that these will continue to be the predominant uses.

b. Facilities:

Public Motor Vehicle Access
Malloy Public Forest Access Road - starts at the Osceola Road and follows a right of way across private lands to the State Forest; is open as far as Malloy Brook. *Driscoll Road,* a town road, is not plowed in the winter but is passable in the warmer months.

Snowmobile Corridor
A short stretch of NYS main snowmobile corridor trail *C4* cuts through the southwest corner of this State Forest. It intersects with the *Driscoll Road* and forms NYS snowmobile intersection *29C*. This short stretch will be open for snowmobiling use and maintained under a NYS DEC Adopt-a-Natural Resource Agreement with the Osceola Snowmobile Club.

Parking
A parking area for anglers is located adjacent to this State Forest off of the *Malloy Public Forest Access Road*. Parking is provided for up to five cars, and one space will be designated for persons with mobility impairment.

Cross-Country Skiing, Hiking, Horseback Riding, Snowshoeing, and Trail (Mountain) Bicycling
The *Malloy Public Forest Access Road* is available for all of these uses by the public.

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.

3. Adjacent Detached Forest Preserve Parcels (1,186 acres)

These parcels are scattered primarily around the southern end of this unit. Several, including Detached Forest Preserve (DFP) Lewis-4, 5, 6, 13, and the majority of 15 have been inaccessible to the public due to their locations surrounded by the Corrigan lands. The same rules, regulations and management policies as apply to other State land managed by DEC apply here. Therefore, public recreational use will be allowed in these areas. The DFP parcels adjacent in the plan area are the salmon/pink areas on the attached maps. Timber in the DFPs is not available to be harvested by contract or other means.

Again these areas are:
DFP Lewis-4: Keese Brook, Boylston Tract Township 13, Lot 69 (24 acres);
DFP Lewis-5: Isolated, Boylston Tract Township 13, Lot 74 (236 acres);
DFP Lewis-6: N.E.Corner, Boylston Tract Township 13, Lot 98 (182 acres);
DFP Lewis-7: Salmon River, Boylston Tract Township 13, Lot 127 (265 acres);
DFP Lewis-8: Driscoll Road, Boylston Tract Township 13, Lot 134 (74 acres);
DFP Lewis-13: Kotary Road, Constable's Five Towns Township 1, Lot 20 (45 ac.);
DFP Lewis-15: Route 46, Constable's Five Towns Township 1, Lots 57 (100 ac.) & 44 (260 ac.).

Total acreage for DFPs in the plan area: 1,186 acres.

a. Uses:

Hunting is the predominant activity that has occurred in the past, and it is expected that these parcels will continue to be used for hunting as well as fishing and general nature observation, the latter particularly because of the appeal of the older and more mature forest character of most of these parcels.

b. Facilities:

Public Motor Vehicle Access
The only DFP parcels with public motor vehicle access are those adjacent to roads; none of them have roads into them. DFP Lewis-15, Lot 57, has a Rifle Season Primary Access Corridor (RSPAC) 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 or 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 or 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 is available 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.

B. Conservation Easement Lands (44,146 acres)

1. East Branch Fish Creek North (TNC) Easement Lands (14,110 acres)

The easement acquired on these lands divides the property into three areas, referred to as compartments, with two types of public use conditions: East Branch Fish Creek (EBFC) Headwaters Flow Grounds, Mad River Headwaters, and Page Pond. 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, NYCRR Sections 190.0 - 190.4, 190.8, and 190.12 apply to easement lands.

Uses:

ATV use, trapping, motorized watercraft, or use of horses and related animals by the public are not allowed on the entire EBFCN tract. It is expected that the most common public uses will be hunting on the Headwaters Flow Grounds compartment, fishing on the EBFC and tributaries, and nature observation. Snowmobiling and use of horses and related animals will only be allowed on the adjacent G. & W. Road, which is a shared access road for the DEC, EBFCN and EBFCS ownerships (in many sections, the centerline of this road is a property boundary).

a. Mad River Headwaters(8,022 acres) and Page Pond Compartments (1,617 acres):

In addition to the restricted uses identified above, no public hunting will be allowed at any time of year in these compartments. Public recreational use during the Big Game Season (specifically the next to the last Saturday in October through the first Sunday in December) is prohibited as the landowner retained the right to lease the full recreation rights on these compartments to private clubs. The only other public use restriction will be permanent, 5-acre, year-round public exclusion zones around each privately leased hunting and fishing camp. All of the public use restrictions are permanent.

Uses:

Initial public use is expected to be predominantly for fishing and nature observation outside of the period between the next to last Saturday in October through the first Sunday in December of each year (Big Game (Rifle) Season) and canoeing/kayaking in Mad River Swamp, although only relatively short stretches of uninterrupted paddling exist due to beaver dams, shallow water areas and other obstructions.

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.

Kiosk/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, trail bicycling is permited in these compartments, outside of Big Game (Rifle) Season, on all existing roads. 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.

b. East Branch of Fish Creek (EBFC) Headwaters Flow Grounds Compartment (4,471 acres):

EBFCN lands in the East Branch Fish Creek (EBFC) Headwaters area (bright green area on the attached maps) will allow public hunting. Nearly all public recreation rights have been acquired on this area except for trapping, snowmobiling, ATV use, and use of horses and related animals. The G. & W. Road runs along the southern edge of most of this easement, but as a shared right of way for DEC, TNC and Corrigan, it is not subject to the same limitations on snowmobiling and use of horses and related animals. The only other public use restriction will be permanent, 5-acre, year-round public exclusion zones around each privately leased hunting and fishing camp. All of the public use restrictions are permanent.

Uses:

Initial public use is expected to be predominantly for public hunting, though there will also be interest in access to the EBFC for fishing and wildlife observation.

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 is 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, trail bicycling is permitted in this compartment on all existing roads. 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.

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.

a. East Branch of Fish Creek (EBFC) West Compartment (17,580 acres):

This large area, also known as the Corrigan Limited Public Recreation Area or EBFC West (brown area on the attached maps) is west of the East Branch of Fish Creek State Forest. All public recreation rights were acquired on these lands except for ATV* use, motorized watercraft use and some limitations on hunting and public use during the hunting season. No public hunting is allowed between September 1 through December 31, and no public use at all is allowed during Big Game (Rifle) Season (specifically, the next to the last Saturday in October through the first Sunday in December of each year). These restrictions last through 2016, whereupon they will terminate and the public's use of this area will be on the same terms as the EBFCS Public Hunting and Recreation Areas (see below). The only other public use restriction will be a

permanent, 5-acre, year-round public exclusion zone around each privately leased hunting and fishing camp.

Uses:

Initial public use is expected to be predominantly small game hunting, public nature observation, fishing and some watercraft use of the EBFC.

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.

b. East Fork Salmon Rivers Headwaters(2,015 acres), Beaver Meadow Brook(1,397 acres), and Heron Brook(1,082 acres) (Public Hunting and Recreation) Compartments:

There are three parcels (dark green areas on the attached maps) west and south of the East Branch of Fish Creek State Forest, where all public recreation rights were acquired. Year-round

access is available from existing roads. The parcels (compartments) and their approximate locations are as follows:

- East Fork Salmon River Headwaters; at the end of the New Mountain Road in the Town of Osceola, north of the Tri-Corners intersection;

- Beaver Meadow Brook; on the west side of the Camp Four Road in the Town of Lewis south of the Tri-Corners intersection;

- Heron Brook; on the east side of the Camp Four Road in the Town of Lewis, just north of Swancott Mills.

At the time of the negotiations these parcels were not being leased to any clubs and the owner did not wish to reserve the right to lease these, so all public recreation rights were purchased. Their proposed uses are as follows:

Uses:

Hunting is expected to be the predominant use, along with fishing, trapping, and nature observation.

Facilities:

Public Motor Vehicle Access
The following roads (RSPACs) will be open for public motor vehicle access:

- *New Mountain Road* - primarily in the East Fork of Salmon River Headwaters Compartment, will be 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).

- *Camp Four Road* - this road forms part of the boundary of Heron Brook Compartment and connects with the Camp Five Road which provides access to the Beaver Meadow Brook Compartment.

- *Heron Brook Access Road* will be open from the Camp Four Road to a designated parking area (first old log landing), approximately 1000 feet.

Access for People with Impaired Mobility
The *Camp Five Road* - This is an RSPAC that heads north on the east side of the East Fork of the Salmon River off of the Camp Four Road into the Beaver Meadow Brook Compartment. It will be open to the general public for motor vehicle use to the general vicinity of the East Fork of the Salmon River, with an accessible parking lot, trail, and Observation Deck constructed along the East Fork of the Salmon River.

Snowmobile Corridors
None of the access routes into these compartments will be open for public snowmobile use, although the *Camp Four Road* and *Joe's Road* are adjacent to these compartments and will be open for snowmobiling.

Parking
Two lots for up to five cars (one at the junction of the *Camp Five Road* with the *Camp Four Road* and the other at an old landing on the *Heron Brook Access Road*), will be provided which will each include one designated space for persons with mobility impairment. No other formal parking areas will be provided on these compartments. Public users may park their cars at currently unused landings or on the shoulders of the roads as long as they are completely off of the road surface.

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. A trail from the Heron Brook Access Road parking area that heads east toward and across EBFC State Forest Fee Parcel 2 to the East Branch of Fish Creek will be constructed (to be named the *Trail to the East Branch of Fish Creek*) and open for hiking and snowshoeing. A second trail will be constructed across the Beaver Meadow compartment 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*), and will be open to these uses.

Other Recreational Activities
The following other recreational activities are allowed, subject to all applicable laws and regulations: camping, fishing, hunting, the use of non-motorized watercraft, etc.

c. East Branch of Fish Creek (EBFC) East Compartment (7,962 acres):

This area has also been referred to or known as the EBFCS No Public Access Area. The lands east of the East Branch of Fish Creek and south of the G. & W. Road, which are owned by Corrigan, are subject to all of the terms of the easement except for public recreational use. The owner has retained nearly all recreational rights and they can be leased for private use. Corrigan has continued the camp and land leasing program that occurred before the easement was put in place. Limited public snowmobile use in designated corridors was acquired by DEC, along with public access on the G. & W. Road, and Michigan Mills Road and Extension.

Uses:

The only uses allowed are public motor vehicle and snowmobile use, and non-motorized use on the designated corridors to facilitate access to other easement compartments open to the public and adjacent State lands.

Facilities:

Public Motor Vehicle Access
As noted previously, the *G. & W. Road* and the *Michigan Mills Road* will be open for public motor vehicle use where they run adjacent to and through these tracts to provide access to portions of the easement lands that are open for public use and the East Branch of the Fish Creek State Forest.

Snowmobile Corridors
As noted previously, the *G. & W. Road* and the *Michigan Mills Road* will be open for public snowmobile use. In addition, the *North-South Road,* which connects the G. & W. Road and the Michigan Mills roads just east of the East Branch of Fish Creek, will be open.

Cross-Country Skiing, Hiking, Horseback Riding, Snowshoeing, and Trail (Mountain) Bicycling
The *G. & W. Road* and the *Michigan Mills Road,* where they run adjacent to and through these tracts to provide access to portions of the easement lands that are open for public use and to the East Branch of the Fish Creek State Forest, will be open for these types of travel by the public. In addition, *Lamplight Road* and *Direen Aden Road,* that share this compartment's boundary with East Branch of Fish Creek State Forest, will be open for these types of travel to access the East Branch of Fish Creek State Forest.

V. PROPOSED PROJECTS

The following is a discussion of proposed projects for the planning area that deal with the designation, construction and maintenance of roads, trails, and other amenities considered important to meet public use requirements, and identified as priorities in Section IV. Proposed Management Actions. All roads, regardless of use, need some degree of maintenance to sustain use and prevent environmental damage such as culvert wash-outs and erosion. Most area roads have not had major maintenance, rehabilitation, or improvements since timber harvesting last occurred in individual compartments. These projects, referenced by location, correspond to the locations identified on Maps 3 & 4.

Project costs are based on estimates supplied by the DEC Division of Operations, and trail and road contractors for comparable work. Additional costs will be incurred if other trails are reviewed for designation, rehabilitation, development, and/or closure. Some project costs may be shared by Corrigan, Molpus Timberlands, or TNC.

A. Gate & Barrier Placement

1. Description

Gates and barriers assist in the restriction of motor vehicle, snowmobile, and all-terrain vehicle use. Gates and barriers should be placed across access corridors where DEC has public use rights as per the easements, but chooses not to exercise specified rights. Gates and barriers should also be placed where access needs to be restricted as per the easement agreements.

2. Discussion

Under normal circumstances gates and barriers will be placed on roads or trails where DEC has public rights for motor vehicle and snowmobile use but wishes to restrict use for some or all of the year. Locations chosen will also be where use of such gates and barriers can reasonably be expected to limit use, such as adjacent to a culvert or bridge or at an intersection where trees and terrain prevent easy avoidance of the gate or barrier. The most important gates will be those that restrict public use to roads with bridges considered to be open for public motor vehicle travel by the NYS Department of Transportation and those that restrict use during mud season to prevent severe damage at that time of year. The underlying fee owner of the easement lands or their lessees may also place gates or barriers (as well as signs) along corridors under their control, provided that such gates or barriers comply with the easements and are placed with appropriate signage and safety warning methods in line with DEC standards so as not to present a safety hazard to people traveling on the area. The gates below marked with an asterisk (*) are those for which the NYSDEC has primary responsibility.

3. Proposed Locations

a. Existing Gates on the Planning Area

- *G. & W. Road, Tabolt Corners - shared by EBFCS
- *G. & W. Road, Causeway - On a small peninsula in the Whetstone reservoir with a turn around, EBFCS
- EBFCN Administrative - Currently a chain across a road off of the International Road, on EBFCN
- Page Road - End of the Page Road, on EBFCS
- *North-South Road - South end at intersection with Michigan Mills Road, on EBFCS
- North-South Road - North end at intersection with G. & W. Road, on EBFCS

- *Michigan Mills Road - Before the road becomes the Michigan Mills Road Extension, on EBFCS
- Hogansville - On the Hogansville Road at the easement boundary line, on EBFCS
- Camp Two Road - Where the Camp Two Road enters the easement, on EBFCS
- JC Mill Road - Where the JC Mill Road becomes private, on EBFCS
- Camp Four Road - Where the Camp Four Road is about to become a private road, on EBFCS
- Fairchild Road - Off of the G. & W. Road., on EBFCN
- Hydrant Road – after the bridge over the Mad River,

b. New Gates

- *
- *South End of the High Ridge Road - At the intersection with Michigan Mills Road Extension, on EBFCS & DEC
- *Direen Aden Road - North end at intersection with Michigan Mills Road Extension, on EBFCS & DEC
- *Tri-Corners/Joe's Road - South of the Tri-Corners on Joe's Road, on EBFCS
- *Tin Shanty Road - On the Tin Shanty Road just (west) past the intersection with the New Mountain Road, on EBFCS
- *Camp Four Road - On the Camp Four Road just (north) past the intersection with the Camp Five Road., EBFCS
- *Heron Brook Access Road North - Intersection with Parking Area to the North, on EBFCS
- *Heron Brook Access Road-East of intersection with Camp 4 Road, o EBFCS

c. Existing Semi-Permanent Barriers (Rocks or Concrete Blocks)

- International Road - At the north end of this road to prevent vehicles from entering the EBFC, on EBFCN
- Road to Removed Camp - Adjacent to the G. & W. Road and the EBFC to prevent vehicles from entering a site where TNC removed a camp structure, on EBFCB

B. Parking Area and Kiosk Development

1. Description

Parking areas are necessary to provide off road parking in locations where the public would like to stop to recreate and where roadside parking would pose safety problems due to insufficient shoulders to accommodate parked cars and still allow other traffic to move through. Information kiosks should be provided on the main access corridors into the area to assist the public in understanding recreational opportunities available on the site as well as give background information on the history, and use of the area (such as the forest management activities likely to be encountered on easement and State Forest lands).

2. Discussion

At the present time, recreational motor vehicle traffic that enters the plan area can only park along corridors designated for motor vehicles; in some cases there is also room to park on currently unused log landings adjacent to these roads. A few small, five-car parking areas will provide safe parking at the anticipated more popular access locations. Kiosks associated with these primary parking areas will provide information in map and other forms on recreational opportunities, where public recreation can happen, the history of the planning area, as well as some explanation of the easements and their function and purpose.

3. Proposed Locations

a. Proposed Parking Areas and Kiosks

- International and G. & W. roads, on EBFCN easement; parking with kiosk - completed
- End of Public Access Roadway on Boundary between EBFC State Forest and EBFCS; parking only
- Michigan Mills Road Extension - on former landing (near Kampski Club) on EBFC State Forest; parking with kiosk
- Camp Five Road - At the intersection with the Camp Four Road, on EBFCS; parking only
- Camp Two Road - Where it enters the EBFCS easement, on State Forest; parking only
- Camp Four Road - Where it enters the EBFCS easement, on EBFCS; parking with kiosk

C. Boundary Signing

1. Description

All boundaries of the easements where public recreation opportunities exist, including internal boundaries between compartments where public recreation rights differ, should have signs installed identifying the compartment and the major public recreation available in that compartment. The East Branch of Fish Creek State Forest shall have signs installed along its boundary stating that the area is a State Forest.

2. Discussion

Boundary signs are necessary to inform the public what category of State land is identified by the painted boundaries. Boundaries of all DEC lands are painted yellow, whether easement or fee lands, so discerning between State lands with different public rights requires signage. Easement lands with unique public recreation rights need boundary line signs that, at a minimum, define the basic public use allowed or the most important public use restrictions. The easement signs depicted below in Figure 2 define the special use conditions for the easement lands in this unit.

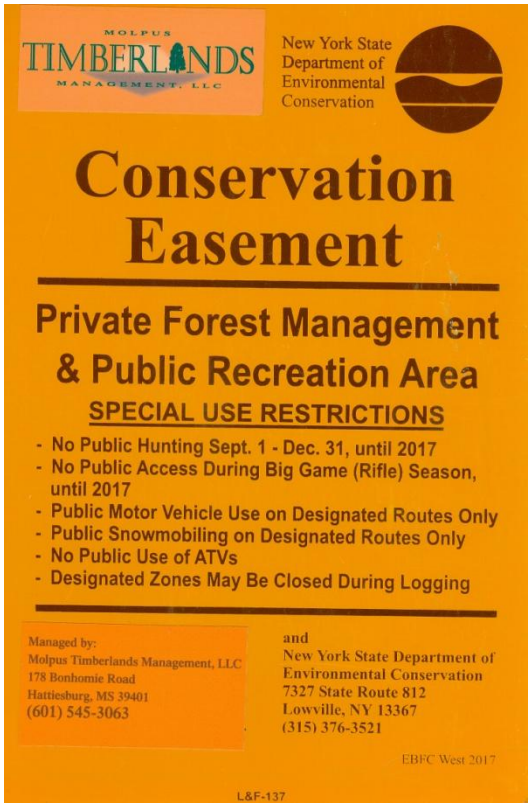
External property line boundaries of the EBFCS easement have been surveyed under the supervision of a licensed land surveyor, but the EBFCN easement boundaries have not yet been surveyed, so signing those lines will be more difficult. Initial sign locations on the unsurveyed lines will be based on existing markings and consultations with the landowners on both sides of the line where the location is questionable. Surveys will have to be conducted before certain exterior boundary line locations can be considered settled, and these lines will likely remain unsigned until a survey is conducted.

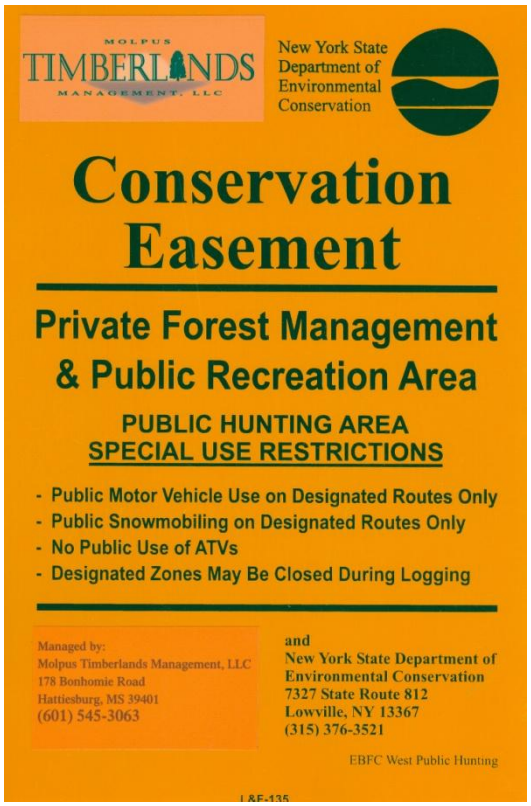
The survey and the cost of surveying the EBFCN property boundaries to state standards will be the joint responsibility of DEC and TNC.

Internal boundaries separating compartments with differing public recreation rights will not be surveyed but will be 'roughed in' by Region 6 Division of Lands and Forests staff, in cooperation with the landowners, since they are not permanent lines. These lines will be painted and signed, but not blazed. The East Fork of Salmon River Compartment may not be painted and signed, since very little evidence of the boundaries on the ground can be found.

Considering the many miles of boundaries on these easements and limited staffing and funding, signing will be prioritized by lines most likely to be accessed by public users.

Figure 2. Boundary Signs: Easements





3. Proposed Boundary Sign Needs for Easements by Compartment and for EBFC State Forest

Compartment Name	**Acreage (Estimated Total Acreage)***	**Perimeter Length***	**Sign Style Needed**	**# of Signs Needed**	**Total Time To Sign w/ 2 Crews**
EBFCN: Page Pond	1617	41,950' (Includes an Estimated 13,571' Stream Boundary)	Mad River Headwaters & Page Pond Areas (L&F 136)	200 *Nails: 600*	3 Days
EBFCN: East Branch of Fish Creek Headwaters Flow Grounds	4470	94,730' (Includes an Estimated13, 571' Stream Boundary)	EBFC Headwaters Flow Grounds (L&F 138)	400 *Nails: 1200*	4 Days
EBFCN: Mad River Headwaters	8022	88,975' Plus a road of: 5,800'	Mad River Headwaters & Page Pond Areas (L&F 136)	400 *Nails: 1200*	4 Days
EBFCS: East Fork Salmon River Headwaters	2015	38,729' Plus a road of: 5,800' - both sides	EBFC West Public Hunting (L&F 135)	190 *Nails: 570*	5 Days

EBFCS: Beaver Meadow Brook	1397	32,555'	EBFC West Public Hunting (L&F 135)	120 *Nails: 360*	2 Days
EBFCS: Heron Brook	1082	36,140' Plus a road of: 1,000' - both sides	EBFC West Public Hunting (L&F 135)	145 *Nails: 435*	2 Days
EBFCS: EBFC West	17,580	418,540' Plus Rds. & Trails: 150,000'	EBFC West 2017 (L&F 1)	3000 *Nails: 9000*	10 Days

East Branch of Fish Creek State Forest	1,400	88,200'	State Forest (L&F 6)	320 *Nails: 640*	2 Days

* All acreage and perimeter length values are subject to change as per the results of accurate field surveys (Effley, Maps No. 11,828 and 11,854))

D. Road Sign Placement

1. Description

Signs are to be placed at all intersections of the roads and trails proposed to be used on TNC and Corrigan properties for public recreational use. The "Conservation Easement Public Recreation Road and Sign Guidance Manual" will provide further guidance for road signage(Appendix 13).

2. Discussion

Traffic control signage across the planning area needs to be established for safety purposes and to direct the public to areas open for public use. Signs should conform to established DEC standards. Every effort should be made to attain a reasonable standard of safety signage in the context of public use of easement roads that are used by hunting, fishing, and outdoor recreation lessees, as well as logging contractors with their equipment. A similar standard must be maintained in the winter for public snowmobile use also, though most signage for snowmobile use will be taken care of on a seasonal basis by snowmobile clubs maintaining the routes per an AANR (NYS DEC Adopt A Natural Resource program).

3. Proposed Signs

a. Area ID Signs

These signs identify the unit name of the area lands, e.g. EBFCS Easement Lands.

EBFCN Easement - on G. & W. Road at EBFCN Eastern Boundary Line
EBFCS Easement - at Osceola Road/Gallo Road Intersection
EBFC State Forest – on Michigan Mills Road, at intersection with High Ridge Ext. Road

b. "Access To State Land" Signs

Tabolt Corners, Camp Four Road Entrance (4), & North-South Road Intersection

c. Road Signs

G. & W. Road (2)
International Road
North-South Road (2)
Lamplight Road
Wee Road
Fairchild Road
Hydrant Road
Michigan Mills Road
High Ridge Road
Sixmile Creek Road
Direen Aden Road
Hogansville Road
Joe's Road (4)
New Mountain Road
Tin Shanty Road (4)
Camp Two Road (4)
Camp Five Road
Camp Four Road (2)
Heron Brook Road

d. Safety Signage

Gate Signage Barrier Ahead Signs (42)
Stop Signs (30)
Bridge Ahead Signs (10)
One Lane Bridge (10)
Caution Road Flooded Ahead (6)
Bridge Hazard Marker Signs (Black & Yellow Stripes)

All of these signs have been installed as of the date of this plan.

VI. SCHEDULE FOR IMPLEMENTATION AND ESTIMATED BUDGET

The recreation components for the easements detailed in previous sections will be implemented as resources become available. Target dates for implementing each management action will be arrived at upon consideration of priorities for resource protection, enhancement of recreational opportunities, and fiscal time frames and constraints which govern DEC's budget process. In many cases, roads and bridges will be given the highest priority because they are the means to provide general public access to most recreational activities and to assure public safety.

The following tables outline a schedule for implementation of the proposed management actions and their estimated costs. The estimated costs of implementing these projects is based on historical costs incurred by DEC for similar projects. These cost estimates do not include capital expenditures for items such as equipment, nor do they include the value of program staff salaries. **All of these activities depend on the necessary funding and staff resources being made available. This schedule may be modified based on available resources and the current state budget.**

A. Annual Maintenance and Other Activities

Annual Maintenance and Other Activities	Estimated Costs
Road Maintenance (grading, raking, and brushing) 12 miles @ $2000/mile Approx. 12 of 26 miles of roads proposed to be open to the public are proposed for upgrading in the plan. Grading and raking will be required as roads are upgraded.	$24,000
Trail Maintenance 8 miles @ $300/mile As proposed non-motorized trails are established annual maintenance will be needed. Approx. 8 miles of trails to be established over the life of the plan.	$2,400
Repair of vandalism to gates and other facilities	$2,500
Maintenance of signs, registers and kiosks	$2,500
Parking Area Maintenance $750/each/year (There are 10 areas)	$7,500
Annual Boundary Line Maintenance 16.25 miles/year @$350/mile Approximately 130 miles/8 year cycle = 16.25 miles a year	$5,688
Annual Easement Inspection	4 days/year
Coordination of activities with the fee owners	5 days/year
Coordination of snowmobile activities and development of AANR agreements with snowmobile clubs	3 days/year
Planning, ordering and work plan development	25 days/year first 3 years then 10 days/year thereafter

B. Year 1, Completed Projects

YEAR 1 (2007-08)	Cost
Install "Access to State Land" signs at Tabolt Corners, Camp Four Rd entrance (4) and North-South Road intersection.	$750
Erect easement signs along all roads open to the public.	4 days
Confirm and sign boundaries of the Beaver Meadow Brook, Heron Brook, and EBFC Headwaters Flow Grounds Compartments.	15 days
Erect easement signs along all roads open to the public.	4 days
Continue boundary signing of remaining EBFCS easement boundaries.	
Sign boundaries of the East Branch of Fish Creek State Forest	13 days
Investigate suitable sites and start permitting process for gravel pits on easement land in G. & W. Road areas.	8 days

C. Year 2, Completed Projects

YEAR 2 (2008-09)	Cost
Complete EBFCS easement boundary signage.	
Completed EBFCN easement boundary signage, where boundaries are adequate.	
Repair 2.9 miles Camp Four Road from gate to Camp Five Road intersection. – Work done by Molpus Timberlands in connection with Timber Harvest	
Repaired three miles of the G &W road to standard from Tabolt Corners west.	$85,000

D. Year 3, Completed Projects

YEAR 3 (2009-10)	Cost
Repaired three additional miles of the G. & W. Road to standard except for final gravel surface.	$70,000
Upgrade & repair bridge on G&W Road that crosses tributary to East Branch Fish Creek	$8,000
Installation of new decking on bridge that crosses Finnegan Creek on Camp Two Road, EBFCS	$3,000

Installation of road name signs	2 days
Begin installation and rehabilitation of gates as listed in V.A.3.	$12,500

E. Year 4, Completed Projects

YEAR 4 (2010-11)	Cost
Repair four miles of Michigan Mills Road Extension to standard. – Work done by Molpus Timberlands in connection with Timber Harvest	
Repair four miles of Joe's Road, between Camp 5 Rd and Tri-Corners -Work done by Molpus Timberlands in connection with Timber Harvest	
Construct and install kiosk at the International Road – done with monetary support from The Nature Conservancy	$2,000
Construct and install kiosk at the Michigan Mills Road on the EBFC State Forest.	$2,000
Construct foot trail from Heron Brook to the East Branch of Fish Creek.	$2,000

F. Year 5, Completed Projects

YEAR 5 (2011-12)	Est. Cost
Clean up and define parking lot at the International Road.	$1,250
Construct and install kiosk at Camp Four Road.	$2,000
Replace damaged culvert on Joe's Road.	$7,000
Upgrade and repair bridge on Tin Shanty Road, Wetland HM-36	$7,500
Install signs along roadways where major streams cross.	$1,000
Install area ID signs at main entrances to the easement.	$1,500
Replace bridge decking on snowmobile bridge on North-South Road	$3,000

G. Year 6, Proposed Projects

YEAR 6 (2012-13)	Est. Cost
Repair an additional two miles of Michigan Mills Road Extension/ Joe's Road to standards.	$60,000
Install new bridge over Roaring Brook on Joe's Road	$75,000
Finish installing and rehabilitating gates as listed in V.A.3.	$3,000
Clean up and define parking lot at the Michigan Mills kiosk location.	$1,250
Repair washout on Camp 5 Road.	$2,500
Investigate suitable sites and start permitting process for gravel pits in the Michigan Mills Road Extension and Joe's Road areas.	4 days
Establish 5 designated campsites.	3 days

H. Year 7, Proposed Projects

YEAR 7 (2013-14)	Est. Cost
Construct five-vehicle parking lot on Camp 2 Road on East Osceola State Forest near property boundary with easement.	$3,000
Establish foot trail to connect DFP Lewis-5 and DFP Lewis-6 with the East Osceola State Forest.	$7,500
Construct three-vehicle parking lot off Osceola Road near Salmon River and establish access trail to Detached Forest Parcel #15.	$2,000
Continue repair of G&W Road to western boundary line.	$40,000
Construct five-vehicle parking lot at the end of the Wee Road	$1,500
Work with TNC to arrange for survey work, delineate responsibilities, and initiate survey.	10 days

I. Year 8, Proposed Projects

YEAR 8 (2014-15)	Est. Cost
Repair an additional two miles of Joe's Road / New Mountain Road to standards.	$60,000
Establish trail around section of washout on New Mountain Road and establish five-vehicle parking lot at end of New Mountain Road.	$6,000

J. Year 9, Proposed Projects

YEAR 9 (2015-16)	Est. Cost
Repair Camp Five Road and construct five-vehicle parking lot at the end of the road.	$15,000
Install accessible fishing platform along the East Fork Salmon River near intersection with Camp Five Road	$10,000
Establish Middle Brook Trail from Camp Five Road to DFP Lewis-15.	$4,000
Create parking lots for five vehicles in the vicinity of the Camp Four gate, Heron Brook Trailhead and Camp Five Road intersection.	$5,500

K. Year 10, Proposed Projects

Year 10 (2016-2017)	Est. Cost
Repair remainder of G&W Road to Hydrant Road and repair Hydrant Road to bridge over the Mad River	$70,000
Construct five-vehicle parking lot on Hydrant Road near Mad River	$1,500

APPENDICES

Appendix 1

Road Specifications

(Based upon: Easement Road - Trail Spec 05-03-16.wpd).

ROAD/TRAIL SPECIFICATION FACTOR	MOTOR VEHICLE ROAD VOLUME CLASS[1]			SNOWMOBILE TRAIL VOLUME CLASS		
	LOW	MED	HIGH	LOW	MED	HIGH
# of TRAFFIC LANES	1	1	1+	1	1	2
MINIMUM CURVE RADIUS w/o signage (feet)	50	50	50	n/a	40	50
MAXIMUM GRADE % (sustained/ short stretch)	10/15	10/15	10/15	10/15	10/15	10/15
SHOULDER WIDTH, EACH SIDE (feet)	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 6	n/a	n/a	n/a
TRAVELED SURFACE WIDTH (feet)	10	12	14	6/8	12	14
MINIMUM TURNOUT SPACING	n/a	½ mi	1/4 mi	n/a	n/a	½ mi
SURFACE SPECIFICATIONS	BMP's [2]	BMP's	BMP's	BMP's	BMP's	BMP's
DITCHING	BMP's	BMP's	BMP's	BMP's	BMP's	BMP's
CULVERT INSTALLATION SPECIFICATIONS [3]	BMP's	BMP's	BMP's	BMP's	BMP's	BMP's
MIN. SIGHTING DISTANCE w/o SIGNAGE (feet)	100	150	250	n/a	150	250
VEGETATION CONTROL	cut/remove	cut/remove	cut/remove	n/a	n/a	cut/remove
PITCH (maximum)	<10%	4" crown	4" crown	n/a	20%	15%
STREAM AND WETLAND X-ING SPECS	BMP'S	BMP'S	BMP'S	BMP'S	BMP'S	BMP's
SENSITIVE AREA SET BACKS	BMP'S	BMP'S	BMP'S	BMP'S	BMP'S	BMP's
SIGNAGE STANDARDS[4]	Minimal	Basic	Moderate	Minimal	Basic	Moderate
GATE LOCATIONS	as agreed	as agreed	as agreed	as agreed	as agreed	as agreed
SEASONAL USE SPECIFICATIONS[5]	surface	surface	surface	winter	winter	winter
MAINTENANCE STANDARDS	minimal	as needed	regular	none	none	groomed
ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS[6]	DEC	DEC	DEC	DEC	DEC	DEC
INSURANCE STANDARDS[7]	NYS REG	NYS REG	NYS REG	NYS REG	NYS REG	NYS REG

ENFORCEMENT[8]	DEC	DEC	DEC	DEC	DEC	DEC

1 VEHICLE VOLUME SPECS:
LOW: <20 ROUND TRIPS/MONTH
MEDIUM: 20 to300 TRIPS/MONTH
HIGH: >300 TRIPS/MONTH

2 BMPS ARE PER THE NYS FORESTRY BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR WATER QUALITY: BMP FIELD GUIDE

3 ALL CULVERTS SHALL BE PROPERLY HEADED WITH STONE, WOOD, OR STEEL/PLASTIC COLLARS

4 SIGNAGE STANDARDS:
MINIMAL- SIGNS FOR IDENTIFYING ROAD NAME WHERE BEGINS AND FOR HAZARDOUS SITUATIONS SUCH AS BARRIERS/KNOWN HAZARD PREVENTING PASSAGE AHEAD, STOP SIGN INDICATING INTERSECTION WITH A MODERATE OR HIGHER VOLUME ROAD
BASIC- SAME AS MINIMAL PLUS BRIDGE APPROACH SIGNAGE, SHARP CURVE SIGNS, OR ADDITIONAL AS OTHERWISE NEEDED AND AGREED UPON BY DEC AND LANDOWNER (EG., SUCH AS SUGGESTED SPEED LIMIT IF IS FIRST ROAD INTO A PROPERTY
MODERATE- SAME AS BASIC PLUS SUGGESTED SPEED LIMIT(UNTIL IT BECOMES A REGULATION), TURNOUT SPACING, OR ADDITIONAL AS OTHERWISE NEEDED AND AGREED UPON BY DEC AND LANDOWNER

5 "SURFACE" MEANS THE CONDITION AND TYPE OF THE SURFACE WILL SET STANDARDS FOR SEASONAL USE. GENERALLY CLOSED DURING MUD SEASON(AS POSTED) TO PUBLIC MOTOR VEHICLE AND LOG TRUCK USE, BY AGREEMENT OF DEC AND LANDOWNER; "WINTER" MEANS WINTER USE ONLY

MAINTENANCE STANDARDS:
MINIMAL - CONDITION CHECKED ANNUALLY, ROUTINE MAINTENANCE SUCH AS GRADING, DITCH CLEANING POTHOLE/WASHOUT REPAIR GENERALLY NEEDED ONLY EVERY THREE OR FOUR YEARS
AS NEEDED- SAME AS MINIMAL BUT DUE TO HIGHER USE LEVELS WILL LIKELY NEED SOME ROUTINE MAINTENANCE ANNUALLY OR EVERY OTHER YEAR
REGULAR- ANNUAL ROUTINE MAINTENANCE LIKELY NEEDED

6 DEC REGULATIONS ON WETLANDS, STREAM CROSSING, ETC.

7 NYS REGULATIONS ON INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS FOR VEHICLES

8 LANDOWNER IS RESPONSIBLE FOR INFORMING LESSEES OF RULES AND REGS FOR USE OF TRAILS AND RELATED RETAINED RECREATION RIGHTS; DEC HAS LEGAL AUTHORITY FOR ENFORCEMENT OF DEC REGS WITH MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC, INCLUDING LANDOWNER LESSEES WHEN THEY ARE RECREATING AS MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

Appendix 2

Fish Species Captured in Each Tug Hill Watershed for Three Periods, before 1940 (1), 1940-1986 (2) and 1987-present (3)

Notations here apply to all parts for the watersheds, not just on Tug Hill. Bold species are introduced species that have not historically been found or noted in specific watersheds. Data provided by NYSDEC Region 6 Bureau of Fisheries (Carlson & Flack)

	Ontario	Oswego	Black	Mohawk	higher or lower elevations
silver lamprey	1,3				lower
sea lamprey	1,2,3	1,2	3mth		lower
American eel (anadr)	1,2,3	1,2,3	1,2,3	1,2,3	lower
coho salmon	2,3				lower
chinook salmon	2,3		3mth		lower
rainbow trout	1,2,3	1,2,3	1,2,3	1,2,3	
Atlantic salmon	1,2,3	1,2,3	1,2,3		
brown trout	1,2,3	1,2,3	1,2,3	1,2,3	
brook trout	1,2,3	1,2,3	1,2,3	1,2,3	
central mudminnow	1,2,3	1,2,3	2,3	1,2	
grass pickerel	1,2,3	1,2	2,3		lower
northern pike	1,2,3	1,2,3	1,2,3	1,2,3	
chain pickerel	1,2,3	1,2,3	1,2,3	1,2,3	lower
tiger muskellunge	3	2,3	3	2,3	
redside dace	1,2,3	1,2,3	1,2,3	1,2,3	
common carp	1,2,3	1,2,3	1,2,3	1,2,3	
cutlips minnow	1,2,3	1,2,3	1,2,3	1,2,3	
brassy minnow	1,2,3	2,3	1,2	3	lower
eastern silvery minnow	1,2,3	1,2,3	2,3	1,2,3	lower
hornyhead chub	1,2,3	1,2,3	3	1,2,3	
golden shiner	1,2,3	1,2,3	1,2,3	1,2,3	
satinfin shiner		1,2,3	1,3	1,2,3	lower
emerald shiner	1,2,3	1,2,3		1,2,3	
bridle shiner	1,2,3	1,2,3		1,2,3	lower
common shiner	1,2,3	1,2,3	1,2,3	1,2,3	
blackchin shiner	1,2,3	1,2,3			lower
blacknose shiner	1,2,3	1,2,3		1,2	
spottail shiner	1,2,3	1,2,3	1,2,3	1,2,3	lower
rosyface shiner	1,2,3	1,2,3		1,2	
spotfin shiner	1,2,3	1,2,3	1,2	1,2,3	

sand shiner	1,2	2,3				
mimic shiner	1,2,3	1,2,3			lower	
northern redbelly dace	1,2,3	1,2,3	1,2,3	1,2		
bluntnose minnow	1,2,3	1,2,3	1,2,3	1,2,3		
fathead minnow	1,2,3	1,2,3	1,2,3	1,2,3		
blacknose dace	1,2,3	1,2,3	1,2,3	1,2,3		
longnose dace	1,2,3	1,2,3	1,2,3	1,2,3		
rudd	3	3		3	lower	
creek chub	1,2,3	1,2,3	1,2,3	1,2,3		
fallfish	1,2,3	1,2,3	2,3	1,2,3		
pearl dace	1,2	1,2,3	1,2,3	1,2,3		
longnose sucker	1,2	1,2,3	1,2,3	1,2,3		
white sucker	1,2,3	1,2,3	1,2,3	1,2,3		
creek chubsucker	1,2,3	1,2,3	2	1,2,3		
northern hog sucker	1,2,3	1,2,3	2,3	1,2,3		
yellow bullhead	1,2,3	1,2,3		1,2,3		
brown bullhead	1,2,3	1,2,3	1,2,3	1,2,3		
stonecat	1,2,3	1,2,3	1,2,3	1,2,3		
tadpole madtom	1,2,3	1,2		1	lower	
margined madtom		1,2,3	2,3	1,2,3	lower	
burbot	1,2	1,2,3	1,2,3		lower	
banded killifish	1,2,3	1,2,3	2,3	1,2		
brook silverside	1,2,3	1,2,3		1,2,3	lower	
brook stickleback	1,2,3	1,2,3	1,2,3	1,2		
rock bass	1,2,3	1,2,3	1,2,3	1,2,3		
green sunfish	3	1,3		3	lower	
pumpkinseed	1,2,3	1,2,3	1,2,3	1,2,3		
bluegill	1,2,3	1,2,3	2,3	1,2,3		
smallmouth bass	1,2,3	1,2,3	1,2,3	1,2,3		
largemouth bass	1,2,3	1,2,3	1,2,3	1,2,3		
black crappie	1,2,3	1,2,3	2,3	1,2,3		
Iowa darter	1,2,3	1,2,3			lower	
fantail dater	1,2,3	1,2,3	1,2,3	1,2,3		
tessellated darter	1,2,3	1,2,3	1,2,3	1,2,3		
yellow perch	1,2,3	1,2,3	1,2,3	1,2,3		
logperch	1,2,3	1,2,3	1,2,3	1,2,3		
blackside darter	1,2,3	1,2,3				
walleye	1,2,3	1,2	1,2,3	1,2,3	lower	
freshwater drum	1,2,3	1,2,3		3	lower	
slimy sculpin	1,2,3	1,2,3	1,2,3	1,2,3		
total no. (70)	68	67	53	58		23

no. native taxa (59)

The number of fish in the lower areas (23) minus the total (70) calculates as 47 species in higher areas

Appendix 3

Wildlife (Including Mammals, Birds, Amphibians, Reptiles, and Insects) Thought to Exist in the Tug Hill Region

(McNamara, Robert. Ed. Tug Hill: A Four Season Guide to the Natural Side. North Country Books, Inc. and Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust, Inc. 1999.)

Mammals

Common Name	Scientific Name
Bear, Black	*Ursus americanus*
Beaver	*Castor canadensis*
Big Brown Bat	*Eptesicus fuscus*
Bobcat	*Felis rufus*
Chipmunk, Eastern	*Tamias striatus*
Cottontail, Eastern	*Sylvilagus floridanus*
Coyote, Eastern	*Canis latrans*
Deer Mouse	*Peromyscus maniculatus*
Deer, White-tailed	*Odocoileus virginianus*
Eastern Pipistrelle	*Pipistrellus subflavus*
Ermine	*Mustela erminea*
Fisher	*Martes pennanti*
Gray Fox	*Urocyon cinereoargenteus*
Gray Squirrel	*Sciurus carolinensis*
Hairy-tailed Mole	*Parascalops breweri*
Hoary Bat	*Lasiurus cinereus*
Indiana Bat	*Myotis sodalis*
Keen's Myotis	*Myotis keenii*
Little Brown Bat	*Myotis lucifugus*
Long-tailed Shrew	*Sorex dispar*
Masked Shrew	*Sorex cinereus*
Meadow Jumping Mouse	*Zapus hudsonicus*
Meadow Vole	*Microtus pennsylvanicus*
Mink	*Mustela vison*
Moose	*Alces alces*
Muskrat	*Ondatra zibethicus*
Northern Bog Lemming	*Synaptomys borealis*
Northern Flying Squirrel	*Glaucomys sabrinus*
Northern Water Shrew	*Sorex palustris*
Opossum, Virginia	*Didelphis virginiana*
Pine Marten	*Martes americana*

Porcupine	*Erethizon dorsatum*
Pygmy Shrew	*Sorex hoyi*
Raccoon	*Procyon lotor*
Red Bat	*Lasiurus borealis*
Red Fox	*Vulpes vulpes*
Red Squirrel	*Tamiasciurus hudsonicus*
Red-backed Vole	*Clethrionomys gapperi*
River Otter	*Lutra canadensis*
Rock Vole	*Microtus chrotorrhinus*
Short-tailed Shrew	*Blarina brevicauda*
Silver-haired Bat	*Lasionycteris noctivagans*
Small-footed Bat	*Myotis leibii*
Smoky Shrew	*Sorex fumeus*
Snowshoe Hare	*Lepus americanus*
Southern Bog Lemming	*Synaptomys cooperi*
Southern Flying Squirrel	*Glaucomys volans*
Star-nosed Mole	*Condylura cristata*
Striped Skunk	*Mephitis mephitis*
Weasel	*Mustela frenata*
White-footed Mouse	*Peromyscus leucopis*
Woodchuck	*Marmota monax*
Woodland Jumping Mouse	*Napaeozapus insignis*
Woodland Vole	*Microtus pinetorum*

Birds

Common Name	Scientific Name
American Bittern	*Botaurus lentiginosus*
American Coot	*Fulica americana*
American Crow	*Corvus brachyrhynchos*
American Goldfinch	*Carduelis tristis*
American Kestrel	*Falco sparverius*
American Redstart	*Setophaga ruticilla*
American Robin	*Turdus migratorius*
American Wigeon	*Anas americana*
American Woodcock	*Scolopax minor*
Bald Eagle	*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*
Baltimore Oriole	*Icterus galbula*
Bank Swallow	*Riparia riparia*
Barn Swallow	*Hirundo rustica*
Barred Owl	*Strix varia*
Belted Kingfisher	*Ceryle alcyon*
Black and White Warbler	*Mniotilta varia*
Black Duck	*Anas rubripes*

Black-backed Woodpecker	*Picoides arcticus*
Black-billed Cuckoo	*Coccyzus erythropthalmus*
Blackburnian Warbler	*Dendroica fusca*
Black-capped Chickadee	*Parus atricapillus*
Black-crowned Night-Heron	*Nycticorax nycticorax*
Black-throated Blue Warbler	*Dendroica caerulescens*
Black-throated Green Warbler	*Dendroica virens*
Blue Jay	*Cyanocitta cristata*
Blue-winged Teal	*Anas discors*
Bobolink	*Dolichonyx Oryzivorus*
Boreal Owl	*Aegolius funereus*
Brant	*Branta bernicla*
Broad-winged Hawk	*Buteo platypterus*
Brown Creeper	*Certhia familiaris*
Brown Thrasher	*Toxostoma rufum*
Brown-headed Cowbird	*Molothrus ater*
Bufflehead	*Bucephala albeola*
Canada Goose	*Branta canadensis*
Canvasback	*Aythya valisineria*
Cardinal	*Cardinalis cardinalis*
Cattle Egret	*Bubulcus ibis*
Cedar Waxwing	*Bombycilla cedrorum*
Chestnut-sided Warbler	*Dendroica pensylvanica*
Chimney Swift	*Chaetura pelagica*
Chipping Sparrow	*Spizella passerina*
Common Eider	*Somateria mollissima*
Common Goldeneye	*Bucephala clangula*
Common Grackle	*Quiscalus quiscula*
Common Loon	*Gavia immer*
Common Moorhen	*Gallinula chloropus*
Common Raven	*Corvus corax*
Common Redpoll	*Carduelis flammea*
Common Tern	*Sterna hirundo*
Common Yellowthroat	*Geothlypis trichas*
Cooper's Hawk	*Accipiter cooperii*
Dark-eyed Junco	*Junco hyemalis*
Double-crestedCormorant	*Phalacrocorax auritus*
Downy Woodpecker	*Picoides pubescens*
Eastern Bluebird	*Sialis sialis*
Eastern Kingbird	*Tyrannus tyrannus*
Eastern Meadowlark	*Sturnella magna*
Eastern Phoebe	*Sayornis phoebe*
Eastern Screech Owl	*Otus asio*

Eastern Towhee	*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*
Eastern Wood Pewee	*Contopus virens*
European Starling	*Sturnus vulgaris*
Evening Grosbeak	*Coccothraustes vespertinus*
Glossy Ibis	*Plegadis falcinellus*
Golden Eagle	*Aquila chrysaetos*
Golden-crowned Kinglet	*Regulus satrapa*
Gray Catbird	*Dumetella carolinensis*
Gray Jay	*Perisoreus canadensis*
Great Blue Heron	*Ardea herodias*
Great Crested Flycatcher	*Myiarchus crinitus*
Great Gray Owl	*Strix nebulosa*
Great Horned Owl	*Bubo virginanus*
Green Heron	*Butorides striatus*
Green-winged Teal	*Anas crecca*
Gyrfalcon	*Falco rusticolus*
Hairy Woodpecker	*Picoides villosus*
Hermit Thrush	*Catharus guttatus*
Hooded Merganser	*Lophodytes cucullatus*
Horned Lark	*Eremophila alpestris*
House Finch	*Carpodacus mexicanus*
House Sparrow	*Passer domesticus*
House Wren	*Troglodytes aedon*
Indigo Bunting	*Passerina Cyanea*
Killdeer	*Charadrius vociferus*
Lapland Longspur	*Calcarius lapponicus*
Long-eared Owl	*Asio otus*
Louisiana Waterthrush	*Seiurus motacilla*
Magnolia Warbler	*Dendroica magnolia*
Mallard	*Anas platyrhynchos*
Mourning Dove	*Zenaida macroura*
Northern Flicker	*Colaptes auratus*
Northern Goshawk	*Accipter gentilis*
Northern Harrier	*Circus cyaneus*
Northern Hawk Owl	*Surnia ulula*
Northern Mockingbird	*Mimus polyglottos*
Northern Pintail	*Anas acuta*
Northern Saw-whet Owl	*Aegolius acadicus*
Northern Shoveler	*Anas clypeata*
Northern Shrike	*Lanius excubitor*
Osprey	*Pandion haliaetus*
Ovenbird	*Seiurus aurocapillus*
Peregrine Falcon	*Falco peregrinus*

Pied-billed Grebe	*Podilymbus podiceps*
Pileated Woodpecker	*Dryocopus pileatus*
Pine Grosbeak	*Pinicola enucleator*
Pine Siskin	*Carduelis pinus*
Purple Finch	*Carpodacus purpureus*
Red Crossbill	*Loxia curvirostra*
Red-breasted Nuthatch	*Sitta canadensis*
Red-eyed Vireo	*Vireo olivaceus*
Redhead	*Aythya americana*
Red-headed Woodpecker	*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*
Red-shouldered Hawk	*Buteo lineatus*
Red-tailed Hawk	*Buteo jamaicensis*
Red-winged Blackbird	*Agelaius phoeniceus*
Ring-billed Gull	*Larus delawarensis*
Ring-necked Duck	*Aythya collaris*
Ring-necked Pheasant	*Phasianus colchicus*
Rock Dove (pigeon)	*Columba livia*
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	*Pheucticus ludovicianus*
Rough-legged Hawk	*Buteo lagopus*
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	*Regulus calendula*
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	*Archilochus colubris*
Ruddy Duck	*Oxyura jamaicensis*
Ruffed Grouse	*Bonasa umbellus*
Scarlet Tanager	*Piranga olivacea*
Sharp-shinned Hawk	*Accipiter striatus*
Short-eared Owl	*Asio flammeus*
Snow Bunting	*Plectrophenax nivalis*
Snow Goose	*Chen caerulescens*
Snowy Owl	*Nyctea scandiaca*
Solitary Sandpiper	*Tringa solitaria*
Song Sparrow	*Melospiza melodia*
Spotted Sandpiper	*Actitis macularia*
Spruce Grouse	*Dendragapus canadensis*
Swainson's Thrush	*Catharus ustulatus*
Tufted Titmouse	*Parus bicolor*
Tundra Swan	*Olor columbianus*
Turkey Vulture	*Cathartes aura*
Veery	*Catharus fuscescens*
Virginia Rail	*Rallus limicola*
Whip-poor-will	*Caprimulgus vociferus*
White-breasted Nuthatch	*Sitta carolinensis*
White-throated Sparrow	*Zonotrichia albicollis*
White-winged Crossbill	*Loxia leucoptera*

Wild Turkey	*Meleagris gallopavo*
Willow Flycatcher	*Empidonax traillii*
Wood Duck	*Aix sponsa*
Wood Thrush	*Hylocichla mustelina*
Yellow Warbler	*Dendroica petechia*
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	*Sphyrapicus varius*

Amphibians and Reptiles

Common Name	Scientific Name
American Toad	*Bufo americanus*
Blanding's Turtle	*Emydoidea blandingi*
Bog Turtle	*Clemmys muhlenbergi*
Brown Snake	*Storeria dekayi dekayi*
Bullfrog	*Rana catesbeiana*
Common Snapping Turtle	*Chelydra serpentina*
Eastern Garter Snake	*Thamnophis sirtalis*
Eastern Milk Snake	*Lampropeltis triangulum triangulum*
Eastern Painted Turtle	*Chrysemys picta picta.*
Eastern Ribbon Snake	*Thamnophis sauritis sauritis*
Four-toed Salamander	*Hemidactylum scutatum*
Gray Treefrog	*Hyla versicolor*
Green Frog	*Rana clamitans melanota*
Jefferson's Salamander	*Ambystoma jeffersonianum*
Maritime Garter Snake	*Thamnophis sirtalis pallidula*
Midland Painted Turtle	*Chrysemys picta marginata*
Mink Frog	*Rana septentrionalis*
Mountain Dusky Salamander	*Desmognathus ochrophaeus*
Mudpuppy	*Necturus maculosis*
Northern Dusky Salamander	*Desmognathus fuscus*
Northern Leopard Frog	*Rana pipiens*
Northern Ringneck Snake	*Diadophis punctatus edwardsi*
Northern Two-lined Salamander	*Eurycea bislineata*
Northern Water Snake	*Nerodia sipedon sipedon*
Pickerel Frog	*Rana palustris*
Red-backed Salamander	*Plethodon cinereus*
Red-bellied Snake	*Storeria occipitomaculata occipitomaculata*
Red-spotted Newt	*Notopthalamus viridescens*
Smooth Green Snake	*Opheodryas vernalis vernalis*
Spotted Salamander	*Ambystoma maculatum*
Spotted Turtle	*Clemmys guttata*
Spring Peeper	*Pseudacris crucifer*
Spring Salamander	*Gyrinophilus porphyriticus*
Wood Frog	*Rana sylvatica*

Wood Turtle	*Clemmys insculpta*

Insects

Common Name	Order
Ambush Bugs	Hemiptera
American Painted Lady	Lepidoptera
Antlions	Neuroptera
Ants	Hymenoptera
Aphids	Homoptera
Assassin Bugs	Hemiptera
Backswimmers	Hemiptera
Banded Purple	Lepidoptera
Bark Beetles	Coleoptera
Bee Flies	Diptera
Black Flies	Diptera
Blow Flies	Diptera
Body Louse	Mallopaga
Booklice	Psocoptera
Borers	Coleoptera
Buckeye	Lepidoptera
Bumble Bees	Hymenoptera
Cabbage and Alfalfa Butterflies	Lepidoptera
Caddisflies	Trichoptera
Carpenter Bees	Hymenoptera
Carrion Beetles	Coleoptera
Cecropia Moth	Lepidoptera
Cicadas	Homoptera
Click Beetles	Coleoptera
Crab Louse	Mallopaga
Crane Flies	Diptera
Crickets	Orthoptera
Damselfly	Odonata
Darkling Beetles	Coleoptera
Dobsonflies	Neuroptera
Earwigs	Dermaptera
Fall Webworm	Lepidoptera
Fireflies	Coleoptera
Fleas	Siphonaptera
Gall Gnats	Diptera
Gall Wasps	Hymenoptera
Giant Water Bug	Hemiptera
Grasshoppers	Orthoptera

Green Darner	Odonata
Ground Beetles	Coleoptera
Gypsy Moth	Lepidoptera
Honey Bees	Hymenoptera
Horse and Deer Flies	Diptera
Hummingbird Moth	Lepidoptera
Ichneumonids	Hymenoptera
Io Moth	Lepidoptera
Isabella Tiger Moth	Lepidoptera
Katydid	Orthoptera
Lacewings	Neuroptera
Ladybird Beetles	Coleoptera
Leaf Beetles	Coleoptera
Leaf Bugs	Hemiptera
Leafhoppers	Homoptera
Luna Moth	Lepidoptera
Mantids	Mantodea
Mayflies	Ephemeroptera
Midges	Diptera
Monarch	Lepidoptera
Mosquitoes	Diptera
Mourning Cloak	Lepidoptera
Mud-dauber	Hymenoptera
Paper Wasps	Hymenoptera
Potter Wasps	Hymenoptera
Predaceous Diving Beetle	Coleoptera
Red Admiral	Lepidoptera
Robber Flies	Diptera
Rove Beetles	Coleoptera
Sawflies	Hymenoptera
Sawyers	Coleoptera
Scarab Beetles	Coleoptera
Scorpionflies & Kin	Mecoptera
Snow Flea	Collembola
Snowy Tree Cricket	Orthoptera
Soldier Beetles	Coleoptera
Spider Wasps	Hymenoptera
Spittlebugs	Homoptera
Spring Azure	Lepidoptera
Stag Beetles	Coleoptera
Stink Bugs	Hemiptera
Stoneflies	Plecoptera
Tent Caterpillars	Lepidoptera

Tiger Beetles	Coleoptera
Tiger Swallowtail	Lepidoptera
Treehoppers	Homoptera
Twisted-wing Parasites	Strepsiptera
Walking Sticks	Mantodea
Water Beetles	Coleoptera
Water Boatmen	Hemiptera
Water Striders	Hemiptera
Weevils	Coleoptera
Whirligig Beetles	Coleoptera
White Admiral	Lepidoptera
White Tail Dragonfly	Odonata
Woolly Aphids	Homoptera
Yellowjackets and Hornets	Hymenoptera

Appendix 4

Comments Received About the Public Draft, with Response

Comment: Primary goal of the plan should be wildlife and habitat conservation, with recreation managed to uphold that goal.

Response: The plan project has multiple goals, including the preservation of bio-diversity and important habitats. These project goals were developed over a period of years through input by the diverse membership of the East Branch of Fish Creek Working Group. This group was facilitated by the Tug Hill Commission and resulted in consensus on a number of important goals besides preserving bio-diversity and important habitats, which include the preservation of the natural character of the core of Tug Hill, maintaining a majority of the hunting camps that were traditionally leased on Forest Industry land, insuring the permanence of the important snowmobile trails that cross the Tug Hill core, preserving water quality, including the main source of drinking water for the City of Rome, preserving tax receipts for the local Towns to the largest extent possible, and maintaining the area as a working forest. The plan tries to balance all these goals to the extent possible.

Comment: The East Branch of Fish Creek watershed is heavily roaded and thus fragmented. The Department should support seasonal or permanent road closures where possible and avoid adding news means of motorized access.

Response: The majority of the roads on the planning area are roads developed to facilitate timber harvesting and are already seasonal in nature, since none of them are plowed during the winter months. The number of roads proposed to be open to public motor vehicle use are those necessary to provide for the maximum amount of public recreational access, using the least amount of road miles possible. When compared to State, County, and many Town highways, the seasonal nature, low speed travel, and relatively narrow gravel surface of most roads on the planning area, the East Branch of Fish Creek watershed is still good habitat for species that require large unbroken expanses of forest for their habitat needs.

Many of the roads not open to public use will be gated, which will reduce the number of vehicle disturbances to wildlife.

Comment: A greater emphasis should be placed on protecting and restoring native species through non-toxic means and avoiding the introduction or augmentation of exotic species.

Response: The Department and landowners have no plans to introduce exotic species to the Planning Area. While there are some small populations of invasive (exotic) species on the planning area, the majority of the planning area is relatively free of exotic/invasive species

when compared to other areas more impacted by human activities. There are some forest plantations on adjacent State Forests, but the majority of the species used are native to NYS.

Both The Nature Conservancy and the Department are partnering with other organizations to combat invasive/exotic species through the establishment of PRISMS that cover all areas of the state. Efforts have begun to target certain species of invasive/exotic species for eradication such as Giant Hogweed, which can be a threat to human health. These efforts will continue as time and resources allow.

In the case of certain species, and/or small populations, hand digging and other non-chemical means of control can be used. For larger populations, or difficult to control species, the appropriate registered pesticide must be used, according to the label directions, in order to achieve economically significant control.

Comment: Wildlife management should take into consideration the regional need for habitat connectivity between the Tug Hill Plateau and Adirondack Park.

Response: The Department has participated in the Adirondack-Tug Hill Connectivity Project, lead by the Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust, since the effort started in earnest in 2007. The Study Phase is completed and the two most important areas to establish/maintain connectivity were determined to be the Northern Linkage south of Carthage and Fort Drum and the Southern Linkage, which is in the Northern Oneida County area. Since the majority of the planning area is undeveloped (and will remain so) it is included in the area that the planning effort is trying to maintain a wildlife linkage with to the Adirondacks. The areas important to maintaining the Tug Hill-Adirondack connection are outside the planning area. The Department plans to continue to assist with the Connectivity project where it has an appropriate role.

Comment: Wildlife management goals should address the issue of the population of white tail deer, and the increased hunting pressure that results from the plan.

Response: Although there will be additional hunters due to the portions of the property that are newly open to public hunting, it is not anticipated that this will result in a significant increase in the area deer take. Experience from other easements show that after an initial burst of public interest in a new acquisition subsides, public use is generally light and a good share of the hunting pressure comes from remaining leased camps, or from local hunters and other camp owners that are in the vicinity of the easement properties. Also, on the majority of the EBFC project area leased hunting camps still have exclusive hunting rights, which limits the effects of increased hunting by the public. Other than some incidences of trespass on leased land, experience to date does not show a significant increase in hunting pressure.

Comment: Clarify and identify the enforcement guidelines offered in the plan.

Response: These have been clarified and summarized on III. B. 3. Summary of Management Guidelines, Section F. Search, Rescue, Fire, Emergency Response, and Law Enforcement (Page 53).

Comment: On CP-3 routes proper controls including locked gates, be installed and maintained to prevent illegal motorized trespass along the proposed routes.

Response: Initially, any CP-3 routes will be signed as Motorized Use by CP-3 permit holders only. If monitoring shows that the signage and Law Enforcement Patrols are inadequate to prevent illegal motorized access, then the installation of a gate will be considered.

Comment: Ban the use of studs on snowmobiles on groomed trails.

Response: Though logistically it may be possible to ban the use of studs on the trails within the unit, it is not feasible since the trails are part of a larger system. This issue is beyond the scope of the plan. Studs are a problem on roads that are also snowmobile trails, since they are very prone to cause flat tires. The Department will be working with the Snowmobile Clubs that maintain trails on the project area through Adopt a Natural Resource Agreements, so that an effort is made by them to pick up studs using magnetic sweepers, which are available for this purpose.

Comment: Much of the $993,000 estimated cost, specified in this plan, provides roads, bridges, parking areas, and directions signs for safe vehicle traffic by the general public. Funding for these efforts should be provided by NY State General Funds and not be dependent upon the constraints governing DEC's budget process, as the plan states.

Response: Only about 25% of the Department's funding is from General Funds (tax revenue's). The Department of Environmental Conservation doesn't have the ability to withdraw funding directly from the New York State General Funds and the budget is ultimately set by the Legislature. The majority of any funds used for construction and maintenance on the project area would be from the Environmental Protection Fund (EPF).

Comment: Public access roadways need to be opened as soon as possible to ensure that there is adequate access for recreational opportunities.

Response: Most of the public access roadways have been opened. Some roadways are in need of repairs before they can be opened for public access, these roads will remain closed until needed repair work is completed.

Comment: If any of the bridges are closed to vehicular traffic they should remain open for foot traffic.

Response: If a bridge is closed to vehicular traffic it will remain open for foot traffic as long as keeping the bridge open for foot traffic is feasible and there are no safety concerns with such use.

Comment: Reducing the number of leased camp structures is creating anxiety for many existing Hunting Club members. There is a need to identify which leased structures will be affected.

Response: Reduction of the number of leased camp structures is the responsibility of the Landowners (Corrigan and TNC respectively). The DEC's responsibility in terms of leased camp structures includes ensuring the placement of structures and sizes of the structure are consistent with the Conservation Easement Requirements.

Comment: Why is there no mention of boundary marking of the East Branch of Fish Creek State Forest in the proposed projects?

Response: The boundary marking of the East Branch of Fish Creek State Forest was completed prior to the development of the Recreation Plan so it was not included. It is included in the Annual Boundary Line Maintenance, which can be found on page #85.

Comment: Limit the CP-3 access roads to use by only trucks or cars, exclude the use of all-terrain vehicles.

Response: As stated in the Recreation Plan, the state did not acquire public rights for ATV use on the property. Therefore public use of ATV's will not be allowed on CP-3 access roads.

Comment: Allow the use of all-terrain vehicle on trails, and roads located within suitable portions of the easement.

Response: On the conservation easement parcels, the Department did not purchase the recreational right for all- terrain vehicle use, therefore cannot establish or create such trails on the easement, (pg #57).

Comment: Why is there no vehicular public access to the EBFCNMad River Headwaters compartment and specifically to the canoe and fishing opportunities that are available in the Mad River Swamp?

Response: On page 69, the access route for the EBFCN Mad River Headwaters is discussed. It will include opening of Hydrant Road, after the initial repairs listed in the five year work schedule are completed. Since significant repairs have been made to the G & W road in 2008 and 2009, the Hydrant Road was opened to public use.

Comment: A gate should be installed on the Heron Brook Road, instead of a barrier, to allow lessees access to their leased properties.

Response: The proposed barrier has been changed to a gate to allow lessees access to their leased properties.

Comment: Allow public access on Camp 5 Road and create a handicap parking at the end of the road.

Response: Due to the support for this type of approach, the plan has been modified to repair the road, create parking and construct an accessible deck close to the East Fork of the Salmon River. The project has been included in the current work schedule, although funding will be needed in order to complete this project.

Comment: The Michigan Mills Bridge should be repaired first, because it provides critical sportsmen's access within the first 10 years.

Response: All the bridges that are open to public motorized traffic have been inspected by NYS DOT. Based upon the inspection reports the bridge repairs will be prioritized, taking into consideration recreational activities and access needed. The Michigan Mills Bridge is in relatively good shape, being an engineered design and of fairly recent construction.

Comment: The language dealing with the Detached Forest Preserve parcels should be clarified so as not to indicate that there is potential for timber harvesting. Language used on pg. 14, "harvesting of forest products is not allowed due to Constitutional protections" to avoid ambiguity.

Response: The sections on Detached Forest Preserve Parcels have been revised to avoid any ambiguity.

Comment: The two public informational sessions being held only in the Tug Hill region are limiting to the rest of the state. Commenter believes Tug Hill is a state, and maybe even a regional (believed to be regional as in the Northeastern US Region) resource. He also believes that community involvement was a driving force behind the easements in order to get new people up here for small businesses and things of that nature. He would like to expand outreach to other people in the state. He believes there are a lot of groups that would be interested in hiking, biking, all kinds of different activities in the project area.

Response: At the present time, the state will not hold additional informational sessions outside of the Tug Hill Region. It has been traditional to hold public informational sessions on plans in the general area of the Unit the plan covers. Additionally, issues identified at the two Tug Hill Region public meetings would be similar in nature if broadened to additional public meetings in other areas of the state.

Comment: There should be a gate installed on the Direen Aden Road at the intersection with the Michigan Mills Road.

Response: A gate or barrier is planned for this location. The public has motorized rights along this road that the DEC is choosing not to exercise at this time in an effort to keep part of the project area more natural. Additionally, by keeping the motorized public out of this area it is hoped that road damage, dumping, conflicts between lessee's and public users, and maintenance costs can be reduced.

Comment: The east side of the East Branch of Fish Creek high water line should be the eastern boundary line instead of Direen Aden Road.

Response: The main purpose for the establishing the State Forest boundary here was to maintain a permanent buffer to protect the water quality of the East Branch of Fish Creek. The acquisition agreement was already negotiated between the parties in 2002 and boundary lines were agreed on and surveyed. No changes can be made to the location of this boundary.

Comment: A gate is needed where North-South Rd. leaves the G&W Rd. to help prevent trespass.

Response: A gate has been installed at this location and included in the gate plan. The only public access to the North-South Road included in the easement agreement is use as a snowmobile trail.

Comment: Would like as much access as possible to East Branch of Fish Creek for the public.

Response: The state has acquired in fee, surveyed, blazed, and signed all of the East Branch of Fish Creek State Forest. Presently Michigan Mills Road is open to public motor vehicles to the bridge over the East Branch of Fish Creek with a parking area planned on the East Branch of Fish Creek State Forest. There is also access to Fish Creek from the G & W road and via a foot trail from the Camp Four Road/Heron Brook Road across the Heron Brook Compartment at the southern end of the Easement.

Comment: Would not like to see Michigan Mills Road as main entrance point, to avoid problems of trespass on clubs east of Fish Creek.

Response: The Michigan Mills Road is logically the primary access to the center of the East Branch of Fish Creek State Forest and a good share of the EBFCS easement lands. This route is shorter and more direct than providing public access from the Camp Four Road corridor to get to the East Branch of Fish Creek State Forest. Public access the Michigan Mills Road is part of the purchased rights to the area. Problems of trespass should be minimized due to the signage posted along the roads, informational kiosks and enforcement.

Comment: Requestor would like as many roads open for mountain biking as possible.

Response: All roads have been recommended to be open to public mountain biking. Mountain biking has been determined to be sustainable along most of the roads in the easement.

Comment: Requestor wanted to know if parking areas or pull offs were going to be designated along long stretches of road.

Response: Parking areas have been designated in this plan. Future pull offs will be worked into road rehabilitation, details can found in Appendix 1 - Road Specifications. These pull offs should be self-evident and will not be formally designated.

Comment: Requesters were concerned that the cultural and historical knowledge associated with the Glenfield and Western Railroad, as well as the logging camps, would get lost or destroyed.

Response: An archaeological survey of the project area was planned, however it was cancelled when funding for it was withdrawn to use for other planning efforts. Some time has been spent gathering maps of significant cultural and historical areas. Some educational material informing the public about the Glenfield and Western Railroad, as well as the logging camps (without identifying specific locations of the camps) will be included in the planned kiosks and literature.

Comment: Requestor felt that access shouldn't be allowed on every road since it would ruin the character of the area. Additionally, that we should be careful not to create too many new roads, trails, or hiking paths, that the lack of access is part of what defines the character of Tug Hill is in the first place.

Response: DEC has attempted to strike a balance certain roads have been recommended to be open to public motorized use after the planning process to allow for reasonable public use of the area, and other roads are to remain closed at the present time to prevent resource degradation, reduce user conflicts, control maintenance costs, and provide non-motorized use opportunities. The plan for what roads would be open went through a public process with a number of opportunities for public comment throughout the process.

Comment: Requestor felt that the DEC needed to post signs explaining what could and could not be done along the boundaries immediately upon ownership.

Response: Signs have been created and been placed along the boundaries, and also along the roadways. These signs identify which public activities are allowed/not allowed on the parcel. See information under Section V. Proposed Projects, C. Boundary Signing.

Comment: Requestor felt that a well-made map and brochure similar to those produced by National Geographic Maps should be made of the project area. The requestor felt that previous DEC brochures and maps were always too cluttered with advertisements and too small to be of any use in the field.

Response: A high quality color brochure has been developed with the assistance of the Tug Hill Commission, which does not contain advertisements. Additionally, Jonathan Hinrichs, Product Manager for Trails Illustrated of National Geographic Maps was contacted to see if any maps of the Tug Hill Region are planned. None are at the present time, but he is aware of the interest.

Comment: Requestor felt that a forester should be assigned full-time to the project.

Response: No full-time forester will be assigned to the project. Present staffing levels and fiscal restraints do not allow for this and it is not anticipated that this will change in the foreseeable future. It has been difficult to refill existing positions when they are vacant, and it is even more difficult to establish new positions.

Comment: Requestor felt that "gatehouses" staffed by volunteers (snowmobilers, lessees, interior landholders...) and paid DEC staff should be established and maintained by the Department at the G&W Road at Tabolts Corners, Michigan Mills and North-South Road intersection, and Camp Four Road Gate to act as visitor centers. These gatehouse-centers would be similar to those used by the North Maine Woods organization as checkpoints.

Response: While potentially a worthy idea, especially for visitor education and fund raising, no "gatehouses" staffed by volunteers and paid DEC staff will be established and maintained by the Department at the present time. The North Main Woods organization's executive director, Alan Cowperthwarte was contacted and questioned in regards to the operation of his organization, problems encountered, and usage of checkpoints. This would be a large project with significant investment by the DEC that the DEC cannot presently afford.

Appendix 5

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Appendix 6

State Environmental Quality Review Act Documents

State Environmental Quality Review
NEGATIVE DECLARATION
Notice of Determination of Non-Significance

Identifying# 2013-FPM-6-78

Date April 10, 2013

This notice is issued pursuant to part 617 of the implementing regulations pertaining to Article 8 (State Environmental Quality Review Act) of the Environmental Conservation Law.

The NYS Department of Environmental Conservation as lead agency has determined that the proposed action described below will not have a significant environmental impact and a Draft Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared.

Name of Action: Adoption of the East Branch of Fish Creek Conservation Easement Recreation Management Plan

SEQR Status: **Type 1** X

Unlisted _____

Conditioned Negative Declaration: **Yes** ☐ **No** ☒

Description of Action: The East Branch of Fish Creek Recreation Management Plan (RMP) addresses public access and recreational use. It sets forth the proposed goals, objectives, management actions and costs for the recreational management of 44,147 acres of Conservation Easement lands, 1,401 acres of East Branch of Fish Creek State Forest, and adjacent/interspersed State Forest and Detached Forest Preserve parcels totaling 3,165 acres. The plan will detail proposed management activities for a five year period, dating from the time of approval and adoption. A review and update will occur every five years. All measures will be taken to ensure management actions proposed in this plan will not degrade the character of the area. Management issues that come up will be discussed between the Department and the landowner, as necessary.

The primary goals of management of these lands will be to:

a) Provide reasonable public access via motor vehicle and other means to allow the public to enjoy the range of recreational opportunities provided by these lands;
b) Minimize the impact of public recreational use on the natural resources of the area;
c) Minimize the conflicts between public recreation use and private recreational use by the landowners and lessees;
d) Minimize the conflicts between public recreational use and the forest management activities carried on by the landowner;

e) Encourage continued private land stewardship as a working forest through voluntary compliance with Best Management Practices (BMP's), and the Forest Management Plan(s);
f) Develop a better understanding of the natural resources of the planning area in cooperation with the other landowners;
g) Involve the full range of public interests in the planning process;
h) Maintain the largely undeveloped character of the planning area;
i) Maintain a high quality sustainable environment for future generations.

Public recreational activities must be consistent with the New York State Environmental Conservation Law and Department rules, regulations and policies. In addition, they must not degrade the character of the area.

Management actions proposed in the plan include:

a) Maintenance of existing facilities (including brushing, raking grading and rehabilitation of roads and bridge replacement);
b) Designation of one motor vehicle road as open for disabled access under a CP-3 permit;
c) Installation of informational, safety and boundary line signage
d) Construction of four foot trails;
e) Construction of ten parking lots;
f) Repair of nine miles of access roads;
g) Installation of a fishing platform, to provide for an accessible fishing opportunity on the East Fork of the Salmon River;
h) Designation of five campsites.

Location: (Include street address and the name of the municipality/county. A location map of appropriate scale is also recommended.) Lands included in this RMP are located in the Towns of Lewis, Martinsburg, Montague, Osceola and West Turin in Lewis County.

Reasons Supporting This Determination:
(See 617.7(a)-(c) for requirements of this determination; see 617.7(d) for Conditioned Negative Declaration) A Full Environmental Assessment Form has been completed. There are no proposed actions that will result in an adverse environmental impact. All management activities will comply with New York State Environmental Conservation Law, Department rules and regulations, policies and guidelines and are consistent with the Easement Agreements.

All construction projects will incorporate the use of Best Management Practices, including but not limited to the following:
Locating improvements to minimize necessary cut and fill;
Location improvements (where possible) away from streams, wetlands, and unstable slopes;
Use of proper drainage devices such as water bars, culverts and broad-based dips;
Locating trails to minimize grade;
Using stream crossings with low, stable banks, firm stream bottom and gentle approach

slopes;
Constructing stream crossings at right angles to the stream;
Limiting stream crossing construction to periods of low or normal flow;
Avoiding areas where habitats of threatened and endangered species are known to exist;
Using natural materials (where possible and economical) to blend the structure into the natural surroundings;
Locating parking areas on flat, stable, well-drained sites;
Whenever possible, utilizing wood buffers to screen parking areas from roads;
Limiting the size of the parking lot to the minimum necessary to address the intended use;
Limiting construction to periods of low or normal rainfall;
Ditches, culverts, road fabric, and surfacing with gravel or other appropriate natural material will be utilized when necessary;
Wherever possible, lay out trails on existing old roads or cleared or partially cleared areas;
Using stream bank stabilizing structures made of natural materials such as rock or wooden timbers.

The Department's planning for and implementation of public recreational uses on the portions of the property designated for such uses are consistent with the purposes of the easement. Management activities in this plan will ensure natural resource protection and biological diversity, recognizing that the capacity of the property to accommodate public recreation is limited. The Department will periodically inspect recreational facilities and their use to ensure natural resource protection, compliance with the easement and non-interference with the landowner's management activities. If necessary, management changes will be made in order to resolve conflicts or mitigate resource degradation. Any enforcement violations will result in Department actions necessary to remedy these non-compliance issues.

The majority of the projects proposed in this RMP are minor. Areas where construction is proposed are generally in already cleared areas or previously disturbed ones. Projects that involve new construction or improvements will employ Best Management Practices to minimize any potential impacts. Because the scale of the proposed projects are relatively small, and Best Management Practices will be followed, there is not expected to any adverse environmental impacts. If necessary, facilities will be closed to protect natural resources if seasonal conditions are not suitable for the established use, or if damage persists, facilities will be permanently closed. In addition, promulgating specific regulations for these lands is also possible, if conditions are warranted. The following are specific projects proposed in the plan.

A total of ten parking lots will be constructed. All of the proposed sites are already cleared areas. A minimum number of trees and shrubs may have to be removed.

There are four trails that will be constructed that may require the removal of approximately 30-40 trees. In addition, some brushing and pruning of branches may be necessary. Seasonal restrictions for construction will be followed. Three small footbridges will be required to be built over these trails. These may require Stream

Crossing Permits from the Department. Erosion control devices such as silt fencing may be required as part of the permit conditions.

Five already cleared areas will be designated as campsites for public use. Each will include a fire ring. They have to be delineated.

An existing bridge needs to be replaced. This will require authorization under an Army Corps. of Engineers Nationwide General Permit as well as Department Stream Crossing and Wetland Permits. Conditions of these permit requirements will be followed. This will include stabilization of the stream banks as well as erosion control measures. Some trees may have to be removed.

When the two existing gravel sites are closed they will be reclaimed by re-seeding to restore them to natural conditions. Another gravel site may be located and established for rehabilitating onsite project facilities such as roads, parking lots and trails and will also be reclaimed when appropriate.

In addition the following conditions will be implemented to minimize impacts:

1. Any new construction or modification of existing infrastructure conducted within wetlands will be done under appropriate wetland permits from the DEC and Army Corps of Engineers.
2. Any areas disturbed outside of the road bed or parking areas will be re-seeded and mulched.
3. Sensitive construction projects (bridge work, etc.) will be limited to periods of dry weather and lower water flow.
4. On site gravel will be used according to the terms of the easement whenever possible, in order to rehabilitate roads, and construct parking areas economically.
5. Any tree cutting required for the construction will be coordinated with the appropriate landowner.

Facilities will be periodically checked to ensure there is no degradation of natural resources. Any activities that were undertaken or started prior to finalization of the plan, if necessary had a site specific SEQR review.

If Conditioned Negative Declaration, provide on attachment the specific mitigation measures imposed, and identify comment period (not less than 30 days from date of publication in the ENB)

For Further Information:

Contact Person: David Smith

Address: NYS DEC
317 Washington Street
Watertown, NY 13601

Telephone Number: (315) 785-2263

For Type 1 Actions and conditioned Negative Declarations, a Copy of this Notice is sent to:

Appropriate Regional Office of the Department of Environmental Conservation
Chief Executive Officer, Town/City/Village of Other involved agencies (if any)Environmental Notice Bulletin – NYS DEC – 625 Broadway – Albany, NY 12233-1750 (Type One Actions Only)

617.2
Appendix A
State Environmental Quality Review
FULL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FORM

Purpose: The full EAF is designed to help applicants and agencies determine, in an orderly manner, whether a project or action may be significant. The question of whether an action may be significant is not always easy to answer. Frequently, there are aspects of a project that are subjective or immeasurable. It is also understood that those who determine significance may have little or no formal knowledge of the environment or may not be technically expert in environmental analysis. In addition, many who have knowledge in one particular area may not be aware of the broader concerns affecting the question of significance.

The full EAF is intended to provide a method whereby applicants and agencies can be assured that the determination process has been orderly, comprehensive in nature, yet flexible enough to allow introduction of information to fit a project or action.

Full EAF Components: The full EAF is comprised of three parts:

Part 1: Provides objective data and information about a given project and its site. By identifying basic project data, it assists a reviewer in the analysis that takes place in Parts 2 and 3.

Part 2: Focuses on identifying the range of possible impacts that may occur from a project or action. It provides guidance as to whether an impact is likely to be considered small to moderate or whether it is a potentially-large impact. The form also identifies whether an impact can be mitigated or reduced.

Part 3: If any impact in Part 2 is identified as potentially-large then Part 3 is used to evaluate whether or not the impact is actually important.

DETERMINATION OF SIGNIFICANCE – Type 1 and Unlisted Actions

Identify the Portions of EAF completed for this project: ☒ **Part 1** ☒ **Part 2** ☐ **Part 3**

Upon review of the information recorded on the EAF (Parts 1 and 2, and 3 if appropriate), and any other supporting information, and considering both the magnitude and importance of each impact, it is reasonable determined by the lead agency that:

☒ A. The project will not result in any large and important impact(s) and, therefore, is one which **will not** have a significant impact on the environment, therefore **a negative declaration will be prepared**.

☐ B. Although the project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect for this Unlisted Action because the mitigation measures described in PART 3 have been Required, therefore **a CONDITIONED negative declaration will be prepared.***

☐ C. The project may result in one or more large and important impacts that may have a significant impact on the environment, therefore **a positive declaration will be prepared.**

*A Conditioned Negative Declaration is only valid for Unlisted Actions

Adoption and Implementation of the East Branch Fish Creek Public Recreation Plan

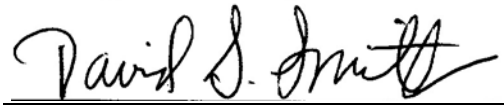
Name of Action

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

Name of Lead Agency

David S. Smith — Print or Type Name of Responsible Officer in Lead Agency

Regional Forester — Title of Responsible Officer



Signature of Responsible Officer in Lead Agency

Signature of Preparer (if different from responsible officer)

March 24, 2013
Date

Part 1 – PROJECT INFORMATION
Prepared by Project Sponsor

NOTICE: This document is designed to assist in determining whether the action proposed may have a significant effect on the environment. Please complete the entire form, Parts A through E. Answers to these questions will be considered as part of the application for approval and may be subject to further verification and public review. Provide any additional information you believe will be needed to complete Parts 2 and 3.

It is expected that completion of the full EAF will be dependent on information currently available and will not involve new studies, research or investigation. If information requiring such additional work is unavailable, so indicate and specify each instance.

Name of Action **Adoption and Implementation of East Branch of Fish Creek Public Recreation Plan**		
Location of Action (include Street Address, Municipality and County) **Lewis County Towns of Lewis, Martinsburg, Montague, Osceola and West Turin**		
Name of Applicant/Sponsor **NYS DEC**	Business Telephone **(315) 376-3521**	
Address **7327 State Route 812**		
City/PO **Lowville**	State **NY**	Zip Code **13367**
Name of Owner (if different)	Business Telephone ( )	
Address		
City/PO	State	Zip Code
Description of Action **Management actions proposed in the plan include: maintenance and rehabilitation of existing facilities, (including brushing, raking, grading and rehabilitation of roads and bridges), construction of foot trails, parking lots and a fishing platform, designation of a motor vehicle road opened for disabled access under a CP-3 permit and designation of campsite**		

Please Complete Each Question – Indicate N/A if not applicable

A. SITE DESCRIPTION

Physical setting of overall project, both developed and undeveloped areas.

1. Present land use: ☐ Urban ☐ Industrial ☐ Commercial ☐ Residential (suburban) ☐ Rural (non-farm)
   ☒ Forest ☐ Agriculture ☐ Other : _____

2. Total acreage of project area: **48,713** acres.

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE	PRESENTLY	AFTER COMPLETION
Meadow or Brushland (Non-agricultural)	51 acres	46 acres
Forested	41,405 acres	41,403 acres
Agricultural (Includes orchards, cropland, pasture, etc.)	0 acres	0 acres
Wetland (Freshwater or tidal as per Articles 24, 25 or ECL)	6,684 acres	6,684 acres
Water Surface Area	268 acres	268 acres
Unvegetated (Rock, earth or fill)	0 acres	0 acres
Roads, buildings and other paved surfaces	31 acres	31 acres
Other (Indicate type) Gravel Roads	274 acres	281 acres

3. What is predominant soil type(s) on project site? Empeyville
   a. Soil drainage: ☒ Well drained 20% of site ☒ Moderately well drained 55% of site
      ☒ Poorly drained 25% of site
   b. If any agricultural land is involved, how many acres of soil are classified within soil group 1 through 4 of the NYS Land Classification System? **N/A** acres (See NYCRR 370)
4. Are there bedrock outcroppings on project site? ☒ Yes ☐ No

a. What is depth to bedrock? ___**varies**____ (in feet)

5. Approximate percentage of proposed project site with slopes: ☒ 0 – 10% 60% of site ☒ 10 – 15% 30% of site ☒ 15% or greater 10% of site
6. Is project substantially contiguous to, or contain a building, site or district, listed on the State or the National Registers of Historic Places? ☐ Yes ☒ No
7. Is project substantially contiguous to a site listed on the Register of National natural landmarks? ☐ Yes ☒ No
8. What is the depth of the water table? ____**varies**_____ (in feet)
9. Is site located over a primary, principal or sole source aquifer? ☒ Yes ☐ No
10. Do hunting, fishing or shell fishing opportunities presently exist in the project area? ☒ Yes ☐ No
11. Does project site contain any species of plant or animal life that is identified as threatened or endangered?

    ☒ Yes ☐ No

    Identify each species: _ **Wiegand's sedge (Carex wiegandii) was noted in 1993 on East Branch of Fish Creek South Easement land in West Turin and it is possible that broad-lipped twayblade (Listera convallarioides) once existed, and may still exist, on the property in Osceola, as it was noted in the vicinity in 1927. Both of these plants are listed as New York State Endangered species, though neither of the plants are federally listed as Endangered or Threatened species.**
12. Are there any unique or unusual land forms on the project site? (i.e., cliffs, dunes, other geological formations)

    ☒ Yes ☐ No Describe: Project is located on Tug Hill Plateau
13. Is the project site presently used by the community or neighborhood as an open space or recreation area?

    ☒ Yes ☐ No If yes, explain: *Much of the area is leased to hunting clubs, major snowmobile trails cross the area, and much of the area is open to the public during certain times of the year.*
14. Does the present site include scenic views known to be important to the community?

    ☐ Yes ☒ No
15. Streams within or contiguous to project area: **East Branch Fish Creek, Mad River, East Fork of the Salmon River, West Fork of the Salmon River, Fall Brook and Alder Creek**
    a. Name of Stream and name of River to which it is tributary: **East Branch of Fish Creek and the Salmon River**
16. Lakes, ponds, wetland areas within or contiguous to project area:
    a. Name: **One man-made pond on the planning area, Page Pond, which flows into Alder Brook – the majority of the open water areas are beaver ponds** b. Size (in acres) __**1 to 790 acres**____
17. Is the site served by existing public utilities? ☐ Yes ☒ No
    a. If yes, does sufficient capacity exist to allow connection? ☐ Yes ☐ No
    b. If yes, will improvements be necessary to allow connection? ☐ Yes ☐ No
18. Is the site located in an agricultural district certified pursuant to Agriculture and markets law, Article 25-AA, Section 303 and 304?

    ☐ Yes ☒ No
19. Is the site located in or substantially contiguous to a Critical Environmental Area designated pursuant to Article 8 of the ECL, and 6 NYCRR 617? ☐ Yes ☒ No
20. Has the site ever been used for the disposal of solid or hazardous wastes? ☐ Yes ☒ No

B. Project Description

1. Physical dimensions and scale of project (fill in dimensions as appropriate)
    a. Total contiguous acreage owned or controlled by project sponsor: _**Approximately 66,148 (this number includes the state forest)** acres.
    b. Project acreage to be developed: __**<7**__ acres initially; _**<7**__ acres ultimately.
    c. Project acreage to remain undeveloped: __**48,706**___acres.
    d. Length of project, in miles: ___**N/A**___ (if appropriate).
    e. If the project is an expansion, indicate percent of expansion proposed: __**N/A**____%
    f. Number of off-street parking spaces existing: __**N/A**_____; proposed__**30**_.
    g. Maximum vehicular trips generated per house __**N/A**_____ (upon completion of project).

h. If residential, Number and type of housing units:

	One Family	Two Family	Multiple Family	Condominium
Initially	_____	_____	_____	_____
Ultimately	_____	_____	_____	_____

i. Dimensions (in feet) of largest proposed structure **N/A** height; **N/A** width; **N/A** length.

j. Linear feet of frontage along a public thoroughfare project will occupy is? **N/A** ft.

2. How much natural material (i.e., rock, earth, etc.) will be removed from the site? **0** tons/cubic yards.
3. Will disturbed areas be reclaimed? ☒ Yes ☐ No
   a. If yes, for what intended purpose is the site being reclaimed? **restore to natural conditions**
   b. Will topsoil be stockpiled for reclamation? ☒ Yes ☐ No
   c. Will upper subsoil be stockpiled for reclamation? ☒ Yes ☐ No
4. How many acres of vegetation (trees, shrubs, ground covers) will b removed from site? **5** acres
5. Will any mature forest (over 100 years old) or other locally-important vegetation be removed by this project?
   ☐ Yes ☒ No
6. If single phase project: Anticipated period of construction _____ months (including demolition).
7. If multi-phased:
   a. Total number of phases anticipated: **5** (number).
   b. Anticipated date of commencement, phase 1: **April 2013** year, (including demolition).
   c. Approximate completion date of final phase: **April 2018** year.
   d. Is phase 1 functionally dependent on subsequent phases? ☒ Yes ☐ No
8. Will blasting occur during construction? ☐ Yes ☒ No
9. Number of jobs generated: during harvesting? **0**; after project is complete? _____.
10. Number of jobs eliminated by this project? **0**.
11. Will project require relocation of any projects or facilities? ☐ Yes ☒ No
12. Is surface liquid waste disposal involved? ☐ Yes ☒ No
    a. If yes, indicate type of waste (sewage, industrial, etc.) and amount _____.
    b. Name of water body into which effluent will be discharged _____.
13. Is subsurface liquid waste disposal involved? ☐ Yes ☒ No Type_____.
14. Will surface area of existing water body increase or decrease by proposal? ☐ Yes ☒ No
    Explain
    _____.
15. Is project, or any portion of project, located in a 100 year flood plain? ☒ Yes ☐ No
16. Will the project generate solid waste? ☐ Yes ☒ No
    a. If yes, what is the amount per month? _____ tons.
    b. If yes, will an existing solid waste facility be used? ☐ Yes ☐ No
    c. If yes, give name _____; location _____.
    d. Will any wastes **not** go into a sewage disposal system or into a sanitary landfill? ☐ Yes ☐ No
    e. If yes, explain
    _____.
17. Will the project involve the disposal of solid waste? ☐ Yes ☒ No
    a. If yes, what is the anticipated rate of disposal? _____ ton/month.
    b. If yes, what is the anticipated site life? _____ years.
18. Will project use herbicides or pesticides? ☐ Yes ☒ No
19. Will project routinely produce odors (more than one hour per day)? ☐ Yes ☒ No
20. Will project produce operating noise exceeding the local ambient noise levels? ☐ Yes ☒ No
21. Will project result in an increase in energy use? ☐ Yes ☒ No
22. If water supply is from wells, indicate pumping capacity **N/A** gallons/minute.
23. Total anticipated water usage per day **N/A** gallons/day.

24. Does project involve Local, State or Federal funding? ☒ Yes ☐ No

25. Approvals Required:

			Type	Submittal Date
City, Town, Village Board	☐ Yes	☒ No	_____	_____
City, Town, Village Planning Board	☐ Yes	☒ No	_____	_____
City, Town Zoning Board	☐ Yes	☒ No	_____	_____
City, County Health Department	☐ Yes	☒ No	_____	_____
Other Local Agencies	☐ Yes	☒ No	_____	_____
Other Regional Agencies	☐ Yes	☒ No	_____	_____
State Agencies	☐ Yes	☒ No	_____	_____
Federal Agencies	☐ Yes	☒ No	_____	_____

C. ZONING and PLANNING INFORMATION

1. Does proposed action involve a planning or zoning decision? ☒ Yes ☐ No

   If yes, indicate decision required:

   ☐ zoning amendment ☐ zoning variance ☐ special use permit ☐ subdivision ☐ site plan

   ☐ new/revision of master plan ☐ resource management plan ☒ other:**Recreation Management Plan**

   What is the zoning classification(s) of the site? **_Determined by provisions of the easement document.**

2. What is the maximum potential development of the site if developed as permitted by the present zoning?

   No development on Detached Forest Preserve Lands or State Forests lands, except for recreational trails, roads and related structures. Development on Conservation Easements lands limited to 22 Recreational camps and 3 residential/administrative structures after December 31, 2016, along with related roads, trails, and related structures.

3. What is the proposed zoning of the site? **Same, there is town zoning in the area also.**

4. What is the maximum potential development of the site if developed as permitted by the proposed zoning?

   Same as item #3.

5. Is the proposed action consistent with the recommended uses in adopted local land use plans? ☒ Yes ☐ No

6. What are the predominant land use(s) and zoning classifications within a ¼ mile radius of proposed action?

   Private forest land – recreational activities and forest management

7. Is the proposed action compatible with adjoining/surrounding land uses within a ¼ mile? ☒ Yes ☐ No

8. If the proposed action is the subdivision of land, how many lots are proposed? _____.

   a. What is the minimum lot size proposed? _____

9. If the proposed action require any authorization(s) for the formation of sewer or water districts? ☐ Yes ☒ No

10. Will the proposed action create a demand for any community provided services (recreation, education, police, fire protection?

    ☒ Yes ☐ No

    a. If yes, is existing capacity sufficient to handle projected demand? ☒ Yes ☐ No

11. Will the proposed action result in the generation of traffic significantly above present levels? ☐ Yes ☒ No

    a. If yes, is existing capacity sufficient to handle projected demand? ☐ Yes ☐ No

D. Informational Details

Attach any additional information as may be needed to clarity your project. If there are, or may be, any adverse impacts associated with your proposal, please discuss such impacts and the measures which you propose to mitigate or avoid them.

E. Informational Details

I certify that the information provided above is true to the best of my knowledge.

Applicant/Sponsor Name:

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Date March 24, 2013

Signature David S. Smith Title: Regional Forester

If the action is in the coastal Area, and you are a state agency, complete the Coastal Assessment Form before proceeding with this assessment.

Part 2 – PROJECT IMPACTS AND THEIR MAGNITUDE

Responsibility of Lead Agency

General Information (Read Carefully)

- In completing the form, the reviewer should be guided by the question: Have my responses and determinations been **reasonable**? The reviewer is not expected to be an expert environmental analyst.
- The **Examples** provided are to assist the reviewer by showing types of impacts and, wherever possible, the threshold of magnitude that would trigger a response in column 2. The examples are generally applicable throughout the State and for most situations. But, for any specific project or site other examples and/or lower thresholds may be appropriate for a Potential large Impact response, thus requiring evaluation in part 3.
- The impacts of each project, on each site, in each locality, will vary. Therefore, the examples are illustrative and have been offered as guidance. They do not constitute an exhaustive list of impacts and thresholds to answer each question.
- The number of examples per question does not indicate the importance of each question.
- The identifying impacts, consider long term, short term and cumulative effects.

Instructions (Read Carefully)

a. Answer each of the 20 questions in PART 2. Answer **Yes** if there will be **any** impact.
b. **Maybe** answers should be considered as **Yes** answers.
c. If answering **Yes** to a question, check the appropriate box (column 1 or 2) to indicate the potential size of the impact. If impact threshold equals or exceeds any example provided, check column 2. If impact will occur, but threshold is lower than example, check column 1.
d. Identifying that an Impact will be potentially large (column 2) does not mean that it is also necessarily significant. Any large impact must be evaluated in part 3 to determine significance. Identifying an impact in column 2 simply asks that it be looked at further.
e. If reviewer has doubt about size of the impact, then consider the impact as potentially large and proceed to PART 3.
f. If potentially large impact checked in column 2 can be mitigated by change(s) in the project to a small to moderate impact, also check the **Yes** box in c column 3. A **No** response indicates that such a reduction is not possible. This must be explained in PART 3.

IMPACT ON LAND	1 Small to Moderate Impact	2 Potential Large Impact	3 Can Impact be Mitigated by Project Change
1. Will the Proposed Action result in a physical change to the project site? ☒ Yes ☐ No			
Examples that would apply to column 2:			
• Harvesting on slopes of 15% or greater, (15 foot rise per 100 foot of length), or where the general slopes in the project area exceed 10%?	☐	☐	☐ Yes ☐ No
• Construction on land where the depth to the water table is less than 3 feet?	☒	☐	☐ Yes ☐ No
• Construction of paved parking area for 1,000 or more vehicles?	☐	☐	☐ Yes ☐ No
• Construction on land where bedrock is exposed or generally within 3 feet of existing ground surface?	☒	☐	☐ Yes ☐ No
• Construction that will continue for more than 1 year or involve more than one phase or stage?	☒	☐	☐ Yes ☐ No
• Excavation for mining purposes that would remove more than 1,000 tons of natural material (i.e., rock or soil) per year?	☐	☐	☐ Yes ☐ No
• Construction or expansion of a sanitary landfill?	☐	☐	☐ Yes ☐ No
• Construction in a designated floodway?	☐	☐	☐ Yes ☐ No
• Other impacts: Construction of foot trails, parking lots, a fishing platform and designation of campsites and an accessible trail.			☐ Yes ☐ No
2. Will there be an effect to any unique or unusual land forms found on the site? (i.e., cliffs, dunes, geological formations, etc.) ☐ Yes ☒ No	☐	☐	
• Specific land forms: _____			☐ Yes ☐ No

IMPACT ON WATER	1 Small to Moderate Impact	2 Potential Large Impact	3 Can Impact be Mitigated by Project Change
3. Will the Proposed Action affect any water body designated as protected? (Under Articles 15, 24, 25 of the Environmental conservation Law, ECL) ☒ Yes ☐ No			
Examples that would apply to column 2:			
• Developable area of site contains a protected water body?	☐	☐	☐ Yes ☐ No
• Dredging more than 100 cubic yards of material from channel of a protected stream?	☐	☐	☐ Yes ☐ No
• Extension of utility distribution facilities through a protected water body?	☐	☐	☐ Yes ☐ No
• Construction in a designated freshwater or tidal wetland?	☒	☐	☐ Yes ☐ No
• Other impacts: Impacts involve rehabilitation of existing roads that pass through wetland areas	☐	☐	☐ Yes ☐ No
4. Will the Proposed Action affect any non-protected or existing or new body of water? ☐ Yes ☒ No			
Examples that would apply to column 2:			
• A 10% increase or decrease in the surface area of any body of water or more than a 10 acre increase or decrease?	☐	☐	☐ Yes ☐ No
• Construction on a body of water that exceeds 10 acres of surface area?	☐	☐	☐ Yes ☐ No
• Other impacts: _____			
5. Will the Proposed Action affect surface or groundwater quality or quantity? ☐ Yes ☒ No	☐	☐	☐ Yes ☐ No
Examples that would apply to column 2:			
• The Proposed Action will require a discharge permit?	☐	☐	☐ Yes ☐ No
• The Proposed Action requires use of a source of water that does not have approval to serve proposed (project) action?	☐	☐	☐ Yes ☐ No
• The Proposed Action required water supply from wells with greater than 45 gallons per minute pumping capacity?	☐	☐	☐ Yes ☐ No
• Construction or operation causing any contamination of a water supply system?	☐	☐	☐ Yes ☐ No
• The Proposed Action will adversely affect groundwater?	☐	☐	☐ Yes ☐ No
• Liquid effluent will be conveyed off the site to facilities which presently do not exist or have inadequate capacity?	☐	☐	☐ Yes ☐ No
• The Proposed Action would use water in excess of 20,000 gallons per day?	☐	☐	☐ Yes ☐ No
• The Proposed Action may cause siltation or other discharge into an existing body of water to the extent that there will be an obvious visual contrast to natural conditions?	☐	☐	☐ Yes ☐ No
• The Proposed Action will allow residential uses in areas without water and/or sewer services?	☐	☐	☐ Yes ☐ No
• The Proposed Action locates commercial and/or industrial uses which may require new or expansion of existing waste treatment and/or storage facilities?	☐	☐	☐ Yes ☐ No

IMPACT ON WATER (continued)	1 Small to Moderate Impact	2 Potential Large Impact	3 Can Impact be Mitigated by Project Change
• Other impacts: _____	☐	☐	☐ Yes ☐ No
6. Will the Proposed Action alter drainage flow or patterns, or surface water runoff? ☒ Yes ☐ No			
Examples that would apply to column 2:			
• The Proposed Action would change flood water flows?	☐	☐	☐ Yes ☐ No
• The Proposed Action may cause erosion?			
• The Proposed Action is incompatible with existing drainage patterns?	☐	☐	☐ Yes ☐ No
• The Proposed Action will allow development in a designated floodway?	☐	☐	☐ Yes ☐ No
• Other impacts: Rehabilitation of roads will involve installation of water control structures (culverts) to properly control drainage_____	☒	☐	☐ Yes ☐ No
IMPACT ON AIR			
7. Will Proposed Action affect air quality? ☒ Yes ☐ No			
Examples that would apply to column 2:			
• The Proposed Action will induce 1,000 or more vehicle trips in any given hour?	☐	☐	☐ Yes ☐ No
• The Proposed Action will result in the incineration of more than 1 ton of refuse per hour?	☐	☐	☐ Yes ☐ No
• Emission rate of total contaminants will exceed 5 lbs. per hour or a heat source producing more than 10 million BTU's per hour?	☐	☐	☐ Yes ☐ No
• The Proposed Action will allow an increase in the amount of land committed to industrial use?	☐	☐	☐ Yes ☐ No
• The Proposed Action will allow an increase in the density of industrial development within existing industrial areas?	☐	☐	☐ Yes ☐ No
• Other impacts: Temporary minor increase in dust from possible crushing and hauling of gravel	☒	☐	☐ Yes ☐ No

IMPACT ON PLANTS AND ANIMALS	1 Small to Moderate Impact	2 Potential Large Impact	3 Can Impact be Mitigated by Project Change
8. Will the Proposed Action affect any threatened or endangered species? ☐ Yes ☒ No			
Examples that would apply to column 2:			
• Reduction of one or more species listed on the New York or Federal list, using the site, over or near site, or found on the site?	☐	☐	☐ Yes ☐ No
• Removal of any portion of a critical or significant wildlife habitat?	☐	☐	☐ Yes ☐ No
• Application of pesticide or herbicide more than twice a year, other than for agricultural purposes?	☐	☐	☐ Yes ☐ No
• Other impacts: _____	☐	☐	☐ Yes ☐ No
9. Will Proposed Action substantially affect non-threatened or non-endangered species? ☐ Yes ☒ No			
Examples that would apply to column 2:			
• The Proposed Action would substantially interfere with any resident or migratory fish, shellfish or wildlife species?	☐	☐	☐ Yes ☐ No
• The Proposed Action may require harvest of timber on more than 10 acres of forest or other locally important vegetation?	☐	☐	☐ Yes ☐ No
IMPACT ON AGRICULTURAL LAND RESOURSES			
10. Will proposed action affect agricultural land resources? ☐ Yes ☒ No			
Examples that would apply to column 2:			
• The Proposed Action would sever, cross or limit access to agricultural land (includes cropland, hayfields, pasture, vineyard, orchard, etc.)?	☐	☐	☐ Yes ☐ No
• Construction activity would excavate or compact the soil profile of agricultural land?	☐	☐	☐ Yes ☐ No
• The proposed action would irreversibly convert more than 10 acres of agricultural land or if located in an Agricultural District, more than 2.5 acres of agricultural land?	☐	☐	☐ Yes ☐ No
• The proposed action would disrupt or prevent installation of agricultural land management systems (e.g., subsurface drain lines, outlet ditches, strip cropping); or create a need for such measures (e.g., cause a farm field to drain poorly due to increased runoff)?	☐	☐	☐ Yes ☐ No
• Other impacts: _____	☐	☐	☐ Yes ☐ No

IMPACT ON AESTHETIC RESOURCES	1 Small to Moderate Impact	2 Potential Large Impact	3 Can Impact be Mitigated by Project Change
11. Will the Proposed Action affect aesthetic resources? ☐ Yes ☒ No (if necessary, use the Visual EAF Addendum in Section 617.2, Addendix B.)			
Examples that would apply to column 2:			
• Proposed land uses, or project components obviously different from, or in sharp contrast to current surrounding land use patterns, whether man-made or natural?	☐	☐	☐ Yes ☐ No
• Proposed land uses, or project components visible to users of aesthetic resources which will eliminate, or significantly reduce their enjoyment of the aesthetic qualities of that resource?	☐	☐	☐ Yes ☐ No
• Project components that will result in the elimination, or significant screening, of scenic views known to be important to the area?	☐	☐	☐ Yes ☐ No
• Other impacts: _____	☐	☐	☐ Yes ☐ No
IMPACT ON HISTORIC AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES			
12. Will Proposed Action impact any site or structure of historic, pre-historic or paleontological importance? ☐ Yes ☒ No			
Examples that would apply to column 2:			
• The Proposed Action occurring wholly or partially within or substantially contiguous to any facility or site listed on the State or national Register of historic places?	☐	☐	☐ Yes ☐ No
• Any impact to an archaeological site or fossil bed located within the project site?	☐	☐	☐ Yes ☐ No
• The Proposed Action will occur in an area designated as sensitive or archaeological sites on the NYS Site Inventory?	☐	☐	☐ Yes ☐ No
• **STANDARD ACTIVITY PERMITS DO NOT APPLY IN THESE SITUATIONS**			
IMPACT ON OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION			
13. Will Proposed Action affect the quantity or quality of existing or future open spaces or recreational opportunities? ☒ Yes ☐ No			
Examples that would apply to column 2:			
• The permanent foreclosure of a future recreational opportunity?	☐	☐	☐ Yes ☐ No
• A major reduction of an open space important to the community?	☐	☐	☐ Yes ☐ No
• Other impacts: Small increase in recreational opportunities due to increased accessibility and increased facilities.	☒	☐	☐ Yes ☐ No

IMPACT ON CRITICAL ENVIRONMENT AREAS	1 Small to Moderate Impact	2 Potential Large Impact	3 Can Impact be Mitigated by Project Change
14. Will Proposed Action impact the exceptional or unique characteristics of a critical environmental area (CEA) established pursuant to subdivision 6 NYCRR 617.14(g)? ☐ Yes ☒ No List the environmental characteristics that caused the designation of the CEA: **Examples** that would apply to column 2: • Proposed Action to locate within the CEA? • The Proposed Action will result in a reduction in the quantity of the resource? • The Proposed Action will result in a reduction in the quality of the resource? • The Proposed Action will impact the use, function or enjoyment of the resource? • Other impacts: _____ _____	☐ ☐ ☐	☐ ☐ ☐	☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Yes ☐ No
IMPACT ON TRANSPORTION			
15. Will there be an effect to existing transportation systems ☐ Yes ☒ No **Examples** that would apply to column 2: • Alteration of present patterns of movement of people and/or goods. • Proposed action will result in major traffic problems • Other impacts: _____ _____	☐ ☐ ☐	☐ ☐ ☐	☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Yes ☐ No

IMPACT ON ENERGY	1 Small to Moderate Impact	2 Potential Large Impact	3 Can Impact be Mitigated by Project Change
16. Will the Proposed Action affect the community's sources of fuel or energy supply? ☐ Yes ☒ No			
Examples that would apply to column 2:			
• The Proposed action will cause a greater than 5% increase in the use of any form of energy in the municipality?	☐	☐	☐ Yes ☐ No
• The Proposed Action will require the creation or extension of an energy transmission or supply system to serve more than 50 single or two family residences or to serve a major commercial or industrial use.	☐	☐	☐ Yes ☐ No
• Other impacts: _____	☐	☐	☐ Yes ☐ No
IMPACT ON NOISE AND ODORS			
17. Will there be objectionable odors, noise or vibration as a result of the Proposed Action? ☒ Yes ☐ No			
Examples that would apply to column 2:			
• Blasting within 1,500 feet of a hospital, school or other sensitive facility?	☐	☐	☐ Yes ☐ No
• Odors will occur routinely (more than one hour per day)?	☐	☐	☐ Yes ☐ No
• The Proposed Action will produce operating noise exceeding the local ambient noise levels for noise outside of structures?	☒	☐	☐ Yes ☐ No
• The Proposed Action may remove natural barriers that would act as a noise screen?	☐	☐	☐ Yes ☐ No
• Other impacts: **Potential impact associated with crushing gravel, operation of heavy equipment and trucking for road rehabilitation.**			
IMPACT ON PUBLIC HEALTH			
18. Will Proposed Action affect public health and safety? ☐ Yes ☒ No			
Examples that would apply to column 2:			
• Proposed Action may cause a risk of explosion or release of hazardous substances (e.g., oil, pesticides, chemicals, radiation, etc.) in the event of accident or upset conditions, or there may be a chronic low level discharge or emission?	☐	☐	☐ Yes ☐ No
• The Proposed Action may result in the burial of "hazardous wastes" in any form (e.g., toxic, poisonous, highly reactive, radioactive, irritating, infectious, etc.)?	☐	☐	☐ Yes ☐ No
• Storage facilities for one million or more gallons of liquefied natural gas or other flammable liquids?	☐	☐	☐ Yes ☐ No
• The Proposed Action may result in the excavation or other disturbance within 2,000 feet of a site used for the disposal of solid or hazardous waste.	☐	☐	☐ Yes ☐ No
• Other impacts: _____			

IMPACT ON GROWTH AND CHARACTER OF COMMUNITY OR NEIGHBORHOOD	1 Small to Moderate Impact	2 Potential Large Impact	3 Can Impact be Mitigated by Project Change
19. Will Proposed Action affect the character of the existing community? ☐ Yes ☒ No			
Examples that would apply to column 2:			
• The permanent population of the city, town or village in which the project is located is likely to grow by more than 5%?	☐	☐	☐ Yes ☐ No
• The municipal budget for capital expenditures or operating services will increase by more than 5% per year as a result of this project?	☐	☐	☐ Yes ☐ No
• The Proposed Action will conflict with officially adopted plans or goals?	☐	☐	☐ Yes ☐ No
• The Proposed Action will cause a change in the density of land use?	☐	☐	☐ Yes ☐ No
• The Proposed Action will replace or eliminate existing facilities, structures or areas of historic importance to the community?	☐	☐	☐ Yes ☐ No
• Development will create a demand for additional community services (e.g., schools, police and fire, etc.)?	☐	☐	☐ Yes ☐ No
• The Proposed Action will set an important precedent for future projects?	☐	☐	☐ Yes ☐ No
• The Proposed Action will create or eliminate employment?	☐	☐	☐ Yes ☐ No
• Other impacts: _____	☐	☐	☐ Yes ☐ No
_____			

20. Is there, or is there likely to be, public controversy related to potential adverse environmental impacts? ☐ Yes ☒ No

If any action in Part 2 is identified as a potential large impact, or if you cannot determine the magnitude of impact, proceed to Part 3

Part 3 – EVALUATION OF THE IMPORTANCE OF IMPACTS

Responsibility of Lead Agency

Part 3 must be prepared if one or more impact(s) is considered to be potentially large, even if the impact(s) may be mitigated.

Instructions
Discuss the following for each impact identified in column 2 of Part 2.
1. **Briefly describe the impact.**
2. **Describe (if applicable) how the impact could be mitigated or reduced to a small to moderate impact by project change(s).**
3. **Based on the information available, decide if it is reasonable to conclude that this impact is important.**

To answer the questions of importance, consider:
- **The probability of the impact occurring**
- **The duration of the impact**
- **Its irreversibility, including permanently lost resources of value**
- **Whether the impact can or will be controlled**
- **The regional consequence of the impact**
- **Its potential divergence from local needs and goals**
- **Whether known objections to the project relate to this impact.**

(Continue on attachments)

Appendix 7

Acquired Rights and Mileage of Roadways

Acquired Rights and Mileage of Roadways – Total Miles 42

Road Name	Ownership	Classification*	Mileage
Camp Two Road	Corrigan	EPAC	3.4
Camp Four Road	Corrigan	RSPAC	4.0
Camp Five Road	Corrigan	RSPAC	0.6
Direen Aden Road	Corrigan/State of New York	RSPAC	2.8
Fairchild Road	The Nature Conservancy	RSPAC	0.2
G&W Road	Corrigan/The Nature Conservancy	RSPAC	9.4
High Ridge Road	Corrigan/State of New York	RSPAC	1.2
Hoganville Road	Corrigan	EPAC	0.2
Hydrant Road	The Nature Conservancy	EPAC	1.1
International Road	The Nature Conservancy	RSPAC	0.6
Joe's Road	Corrigan	RSPAC	7.1
Lamplight Road	Corrigan/State of New York	RSPAC	0.6
Michigan Mills Extension	Corrigan/State of New York	RSPAC	1.7
New Mountain Road	Corrigan	RSPAC	2.2
North Osceola Access Road	Corrigan	EPAC	1.6
Six Mile Creek Road	Corrigan/State of New York	RSPAC	2.8
Tin Shanty Road East	Corrigan	EPAC	1.6
Tin Shanty Road West	Corrigan	RSPAC	0.7
Wee Road	Corrigan/State of New York	RSPAC	0.2

* EPAC – Easement Primary Access Corridor: Closed to the public during big game (rifle) season until 12/31/2016, otherwise open for public motorized/non-motorized access. If on TNC property closed permanently during big game (rifle) season even after 2016. (Big Game (Rifle) Season: Next to last Saturday in Oct. through the First Sunday in December.)

RSPAC – Rifle Season Primary Access Corridor: Open year round for public motorized/non-motorized access.

Appendix 8

Roadways Planned to be Opened

Roadways Planned to be Opened for Motor Vehicle Access during Planning Period- Total 27 Miles

Road Name	Ownership	Classification*	Mileage
Camp Four Road	Corrigan	RSPAC	3.0
Camp Five Road	Corrigan	RSPAC	0.6
G&W Road	Corrigan/The Nature Conservancy	RSPAC	9.4
Hydrant Road	The Nature Conservancy	EPAC	1.1
Joe's Road	Corrigan	RSPAC	4.7
International Road	The Nature Conservancy	MAPPWD	0.6
Michigan Mills Extension	Corrigan/State of New York	RSPAC	1.7
New Mountain Road	Corrigan	RSPAC	2.2
Six Mile Creek Road	Corrigan/State of New York	RSPAC	2.8
Tin Shanty Road East	Corrigan	RSPAC	0.7
Wee Road	Corrigan/State of New York	RSPAC	0.2

* EPAC – Easement Primary Access Corridor: Closed to the public during Big Game (rifle) season until 12/31/2016, otherwise open for public motorized/non-motorized access. If on TNC property closed permanently during Big Game (rifle) season even after 2016. (Big Game (Rifle) Season: Next to last Saturday in Oct. through the First Sunday in December.)

RSPAC – Rifle Season Primary Access Corridor: Open year round for public motorized/non-motorized access.

MAPPWD – Open for motorized vehicle access for people with disabilities by permit under DEC Commissioner Policy 3

Appendix 9

Snowmobile Trail Information

Potential Snowmobile Trails – 38.8 miles

Name	Status	Mileage
Camp Two Road	Developed Road	3.4
Camp Four Road	Developed Road	4.0
G&W Road	Developed Road	7.0
Joe's Road	Developed Road	7.1
Michigan Mills Road Extension	Developed Road	1.7
North-South Road	Developed Road	3.3
North Osceola Connecter	Developed Trail	4.8
Page Road Connecter	Undeveloped Trail	2.7
Salmon River Connecter	Undeveloped Trail	2.5
Tin Shanty Road	Developed Road	2.3

Trails Planned to be Opened During the Planning Period - 29.8 miles

Name	Status	Mileage	Snowmobile Club
Camp Four Road	Developed Road	4.0	Southern Tug Hill
G&W Road	Developed Road	7.0	Valley Snow Travelers
Joe's Road	Developed Road	7.1	Southern Tug Hill
Michigan Mills Road Extension	Developed Road	1.7	Southern Tug Hill
North-South Road	Developed Road	3.3	Valley Snow Travelers
North Osceola Connecter	Developed Trail	4.4	Osceola Snowmobile Club
Tin Shanty Road	Developed Road	2.3	Osceola Snowmobile Club

Appendix 10

Acreage Summary

East Branch Fish Creek South(Corrigan TLP, LLC) – 30,246 acres

Beaver Meadow Brook Public Hunting and Recreation Compartment	1,397 acres
East Branch Fish Creek West Compartment	17,710 acres
East Branch Fish Creek East Compartment	8,015 acres
East Fork Salmon Rivers Headwaters Public Hunting and Recreation Compartment	2,042 acres
Heron Brook Public Hunting and Recreation Compartment	1,082 acres

East Branch Fish Creek North(The Nature Conservancy) – 14,110 acres

East Branch Fish Creek Headwaters Flow Grounds Compartment	4,471 acres
Mad River Headwaters Compartment	8,022 acres
Page Pond Compartment	1,617 acres

NYS Department of Environmental Conservation – 4,567 acres

State Forests – 3,381 acres

East Branch of Fish Creek State Forest, RA Lewis 45 Parcel 1	1,330 acres
East Branch of Fish Creek State Forest, RA Lewis 45 Parcel 2	76 acres
East Osceola State Forest, RA Lewis 21	1,975 acres

Detached Forest Preserve (DFP) – 1,186 acres

DFP Lewis-4	24 acres
DFP Lewis-5	236 acres
DFP Lewis-6	182 acres
DFP Lewis-7	265 acres
DFP Lewis-8	74 acres
DFP Lewis-13	45 acres
DFP Lewis-15	360 acres

Appendix 11

Bridge Summary

Summary of Bridges on Open Roads

Bridge #	Feature Crossed	Road	Width	Length	Weight Limit	Type	Traffic Classification	Maintenance Activity
1	Tributary East Branch of Fish Creek	G&W Road	14’	25’	10 Ton	Wood Deck/Steel Stringers	Motor Vehicle	Upgraded/New Deck/Steel August 2009
2	East Branch of Fish Creek	G&W Road	13.5’	42.7’	Unposted	Wood Deck/Steel Stringers	Motor Vehicle	
3	Tributary East Branch of Fish Creek	North-South Road	14’	22.5’	Not Rated	Wood Deck/Steel Stringers	Snowmobile	New Deck November 2011
5	East Branch of Fish Creek	Michigan Mills Extension	14’	49.5’	Unposted	Dirt Over wood Deck/Steel Stringers	Motor Vehicle/ Snowmobile	
6	Roaring Brook	Joe’s Road	14’	20.2’	7 Ton	Wood Deck/Steel Stringers	Motor Vehicle/ Snowmobile	Straightened Abutment November 2009/New Deck June 2010
7	Wetland HM #36	Tin Shanty Road	13.5’	21.6’	18 Ton	Wood Deck/Steel Stringers	Motor Vehicle/ Snowmobile	Upgraded/New Deck/Steel August 2009
8	East Fork Salmon River	Tin Shanty Road	14’	33’	Not Rated	Wood Deck/Steel Stringers	Snowmobile	
9	Finnegan Brook	Camp Two Road	14’	28.6’	10 Ton	Wood Deck/Steel Stringers	Motor Vehicle	New Deck October 2008

Appendix 12

Conservation Easement Public Recreation Road and Trail Sign Guidance Manual

Department of Environmental Conservation
State of New York

Conservation Easement
Public Recreation
Road and Trail Sign Guidance Manual

Division of Lands & Forests | Conservation Easements Program

Introduction

The following manual provides standardized signs[1] proposed for management of public recreation use on conservation easement properties. It is intended for the landowner and DEC to agree that the uniform type, design and content of the signs in this manual are for common placement at locations on these properties with public recreation use and are consistent with provisions of the Conservation Easement and with DEC Regulations for Conservation Easements, applicable sections for posting listed below.

The approved signs in this manual are meant to assist field foresters representing both parties in streamlining the implementation processes: for meeting provisions of the conservation easement; when a demonstrated need for signs is determined through recreation planning; or when the need for signs become evident based on situations that arise in the field. It is intended that the placement of these signs at property locations will be determined at the local level by the respective land managers for the properties.

Other uncommonly used signs necessary to address property-specific management issues and concerns are not presented in this plan. Sign needs commensurate with these particular circumstances will be addressed on a case-by-case basis by the respective land managers, with sign content and location to be mutually agreed upon at that time.

This manual is designed to provide guidance on universal signs and signing for public recreation management of conservation easement properties. It may be amended or modified, consistent with provisions for a specific conservation easement property, location in the State or as determined by the parties to that conservation easement. However, roads and trails open to motor vehicle and snowmobile use for public recreation on all Conservation Easements must be posted for such use, section I provides uniform signs for meeting that regulation.

§190.0 Introduction

"a. Except as otherwise provided, the provisions of this Part shall apply to all persons entering upon or using State lands under the department's jurisdiction that are administered by the Division of Lands and Forests, the Division of Operations, or both, including but not limited to such lands as … and *to those rights owned and managed by the State as conservation easements as defined in §190.12 of this title. …"*

k. *No person shall operate a vehicle on any State truck trail or road maintained by the Department of Environmental Conservation on State reforestation areas at a speed in excess of 25 miles per hour."*

m. *Use of motor vehicles on State land under the jurisdiction of the Department of Environmental Conservation outside the forest preserve is prohibited, except where specifically permitted by posted notice or by permit issued by the department. …"*

[1] Signs featured in this manual have been developed through the past collaborative efforts of representatives of both DEC and the Lyme Timber Company (a CE Landowner) in 2010. It reflects sign usage for Conservation Easements in the Adirondack Park. Other CE property locations throughout the State may require appropriate color, content and style adjustments to signs used for public recreation in those areas. Revisions to signs were made to adjust recommended sign size to DEC sign shop standard sizes.

§190.12 Conservation Easements

"a. *Applicability.* This section applies only to conservation easement lands to which the public has a right of access. Unless specified otherwise in this section, the **following sections of this Part apply to persons using conservation easement lands** under the jurisdiction of the department's Division of Lands and Forests: §190.0, §190.1, §190.2, §190.3, §190.4 and §190.8.

b. General. Unless specified otherwise in this section, the following regulations also apply to persons using conservation easement lands.

1. No person shall deface, mutilate, remove or destroy any sign or structure of the landowner, lessee or the department.

2. No person shall erect any sign, structure, gate, barrier or other improvement unless specifically authorized in the conservation easement.

3. No person other than the landowner, its invitees, or lessees, or the department shall operate a motor vehicle or snowmobile on any roads or trails except those roads and trails posted for such use. ..."

DEC Sign Shop Stock Material		
SIGN SIZE	**WOOD TYPE**	**METAL OR PLASTIC SIGNS**
6"x16" - board	3/4" pine	11.25" x 11.25"
8"x24" - board	3/4" pine	7.5" x 11.25"
9"x30" - board	3/4" pine	can cut down stock to 5.625" x 5.625"
8"x12"	1/2" MDO	
16"x24"	1/2" MDO	
30"x48"	1 3/4" pine or 3/4" MDO	
48"x72"	1 3/4" pine or 3/4'' MDO	
48"x96"	3/4" MDO	

Roads & Trails–Elements and Protocols for Broad Category Signs

I. The following public recreation management signs are proposed for use on all conservation easement properties that allow for public recreation. *These broad category signs are intended for widespread "generic" use across the greatest practicable extent of easement properties."*

- **Signs to be used uniformly on all entrances, roads, parking areas and trails open to public recreation use.**

A. Public Use Signs

1. Public Use Conditions & Rules Informational Kiosks or large signs located at critical public access points, parking lots and/or staging areas, determined in the Recreation Plan; large signs depicting public use conditions (rules & regulations) for the property and a public use map.

2, 2a. Permitted Public Motorized Use- at trail heads, parking lots, main intersections or the beginning of public use routes; intended to inform the public of what recreation uses and what types of vehicles are allowed on a specific road, trail or use corridor.

3. Trail Marker- Along the route at points where the public could go off the route (side roads, etc); intended to keep public motorized use and traffic on the route that has been designated as open for that use.

4. Camp Site- at designated camping sites.

5. Parking Area- where parking is allowed.

6. Boat Launch- where access to water is allowed.

7. Other (allowed activity)- where the activity is specifically allowed in the Recreation Management Plan;

1. Public Use Conditions and Rules:

Public Access Point Informational Kiosk

Fabricated Using DEC In-House Sign Services

Dimensions: 4' x 8'
Color Scheme: Brown Background/ Yellow Lettering
Reflective: Not Required
Construction: Wood

Kushaqua Tract Conservation Easement Lands
Privately Owned Working Forest Lands - Public Outdoor Recreation Opportunities

Public Recreation on the Property is Subject to the Following Conditions

- Be prepared to encounter logging trucks and equipment at any time
- Speed limit on all property roads is 25 MPH– use of your headlights for visibility purposes is recommended.
- Roads and trails open to the public may be temporarily closed or rerouted due to road conditions or logging operations.
- Parking is permitted in designated parking areas, pull-offs and on road shoulders- Please do not block gates or obstruct the travel of other vehicles.
- Use of motorized vehicles, including cars, trucks, ATVs and snowmobiles, is limited to roads and trails specifically marked and designated for those uses (see map)
- Camping and campfires are permitted only at designated campsites
- Please respect the rights of the landowner, their lessees, employees and contractors.
- Don't Litter- If you carry it in....carry it out
- Camps and a 1 acre area surrounding them are private property- trespass by the public in these areas will not be tolerated.
- Private camp lessees are permitted to travel to and from their camp lots by any motorized means, regardless of the road's designated public use.
- For more information on public recreation management of the property, contact:

  NYS DEC Lands and Forests: (518) 897-1200

- To report an emergency, contact:

  NYS DEC Forest Ranger Dispatch: (518) 408-5850

LEAVE THIS SPACE

(APPROX 2 FEET WIDE x 3-1/2 FEET TALL)

BLANK FOR THE ADDITION OF A CUSTOM DESIGNED MAP AND/OR TRACT SPECIFIC PRACTICES/REGS POSTER CREATED BY REGIONAL OFFICE STAFF

4'

8' ***(FLIP PAGE OVER FOR TEXT AND GRAPHICS DIMENSIONS)***

EXAMPLE

TEXT AND GRAPHICS SIZES

- *DEC LOGO---- 4 INCH DIAMETER LOGO WITH "NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION" WORDING AROUND THE LOGO.*
- *TITLE TEXT (TOP OF SIGN)---- 3" HIGH, "BOLD FACE" ARIAL FONT TEXT*
- *"Public Recreation on the Property is Subject to the Following Conditions"---- 2" HIGH ,"BOLD FACE" , UNDERLINED, ARIAL FONT TEXT*
- *BULLETED TEXT---- 1" HIGH, ARIAL FONT TEXT*
- *TEXT SPACING---- 1/4" To ½" Maximum*

2. Permitted Public Motorized Use – Primary Sign

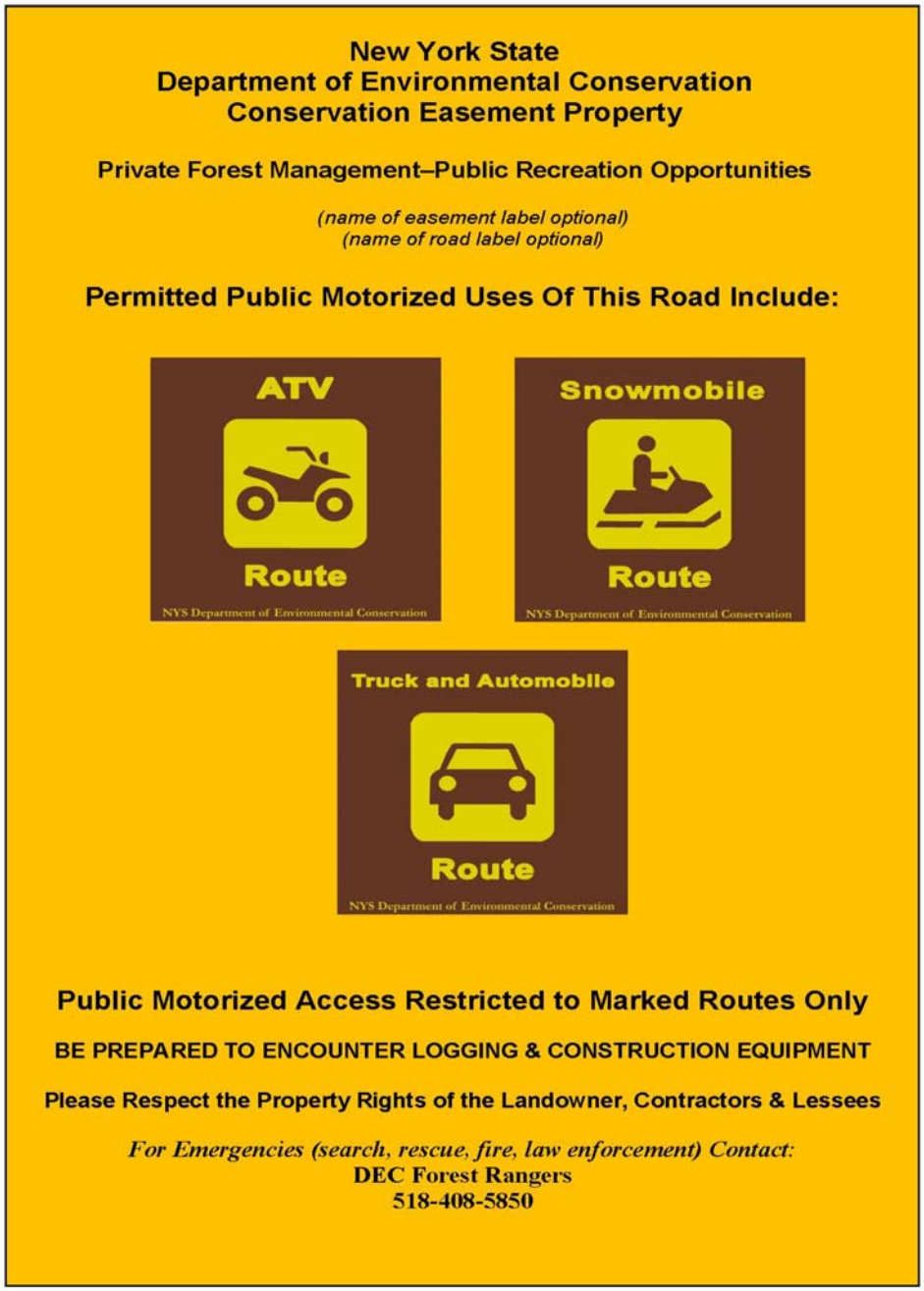
For Easement Roads and Trails

Dimensions:	11.25" x 11.25" or size enlarged at regional discretion
Color Scheme:	Yellow Background/Brown Lettering
Reflective:	Not Required
Construction:	Preferably Metal
Other:	The # of symbols on the sign will vary from one to three with the road/trail. There could be a need for up to three; ATV, Car or Truck, and Snowmobile.

2a. Permitted Public Motorized Use - Alternative Sign Option

For Easement Roads and Trails

Dimensions: 7.5" x 11.25" or size enlarged at regional discretion
Color Scheme: Yellow Background/Brown Lettering
Reflective: No
Construction: Metal or Vinyl
Font &size: Lines (L) 1-3, Aerial (A) 14 bold (b); L 4, A 12 b; L 5&6, A 14b; L 7&8, A 11 b; L 9, Times New Roman (TNR) 12 b Italicized; L 10&11, TNR 12 b.

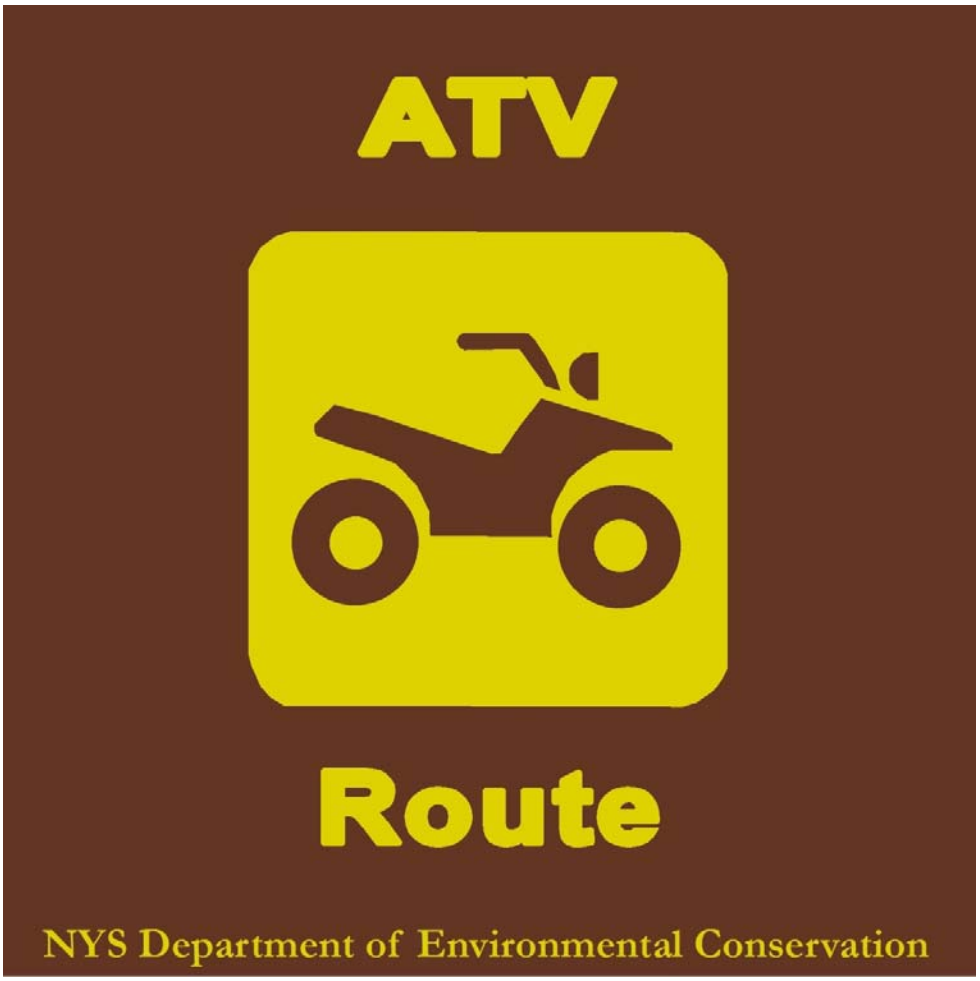


- Image shown is Not to Scale
- Public Motorized Use Activity Icons:
    - Will be applied to signs by DEC sign shop as needed on route-specific basis
    - DEC Foresters will submit individual requests to the sign shop for these signs based on their needs
    - DEC will use the above standard icons across all easement properties.
    - Icons illustrate permitted public means of motorized access and recreational use allowed on a specific route.
- Regions must supply sign shop with appropriate Ranger emergency telephone number.
- Tract Names and Road Names are optional but should be applied with adhesive label by regional office.
- Regions may choose to enlarge this sign's dimensions (customize) to meet specific needs.
- Regions may choose either the primary sign (2 above) or the alternative sign (2a above) design.

3. Trail Marker: Trail Marking Blazer

Dimensions: 5.625" x 5.625"
Color Scheme: DEC Standard Colors-Brown Background/ Yellow Lettering
Reflective: Required - Lettering
Construction: Metal or Vinyl

Snowmobile
Route
NYS Department of Environmental Conservation



- Images shown approximately to scale.
- Mark both sides of designated travel corridor in an effort to keep public motorized traffic funneled onto the corridor and away from intersecting side roads

4. **Camp Site** (standard sign) (7.5 x 11.25)

5. **Parking Area** (standard sign) (7.5 x 11.25)

6. **Boat Launch** (standard sign) (7.5 x 11.25)

7. **Other (allowed activity)** (other universal signs)

II. Broad category signs *necessary to address similar tract-specific management issues and concerns are presented below in this plan. Sign needs commensurate with these particular circumstances will be addressed on a case-by-case basis at the appropriate local management level." These signs are also intended for widespread generic use across the greatest practicable extent of the easement properties when needed.*

- **Signs to be used on Roads Open to the Public when there are specific management issues or concerns**

A. Regulatory, Prohibition and Caution Signs

1. Stop Signs- Dangerous situations where conflicting uses of the property could converge; where active timber haul roads intersect with recreational use routes; not to be employed in a general way or as a matter of routine placement on public recreation roads.

2a, 2b- **Speed Limit Signs**- Special situations along roads or trails; speed limits or recommended speeds should be included in the **Information Kiosk Sign** under conditions of use and on the **Permitted Public Use Signs**. If appropriate.

3. Stop Ahead- Snowmobile trails and other special situations at intersections.

4. One Lane Bridge Ahead- Special situations

5. Right Curve/Left Curve- Special situations

6. Hazard Markers- Special situations

7. Barrier 100 feet- Special situations

8. Do Not Block Gate- DEC recreation management need or reason.

9. Do Not Enter- Should be used only when there is a specific DEC need to prohibit the public from entering, not because it is a private road and the landowner wants added protection from intrusion.

10. No Parking- DEC recreation management need or reason.

1. Stop Sign

Dimensions: 18” x 18”
Color Scheme: USDOT Standard- Red and White
Reflective: Required
Construction: Metal or Vinyl

- Image shown is Not To Scale
- Stop signs will be posted at the specific location where the desired action is intended to take place (i.e. intersection)

2a. Recommended Speed Limit 15 MPH

Dimensions:	12” x 18”
Color Scheme:	Yellow Background/ Brown or Black Lettering
Reflective:	Required
Construction:	Metal or Vinyl

- Image shown is Not To Scale
- These signs may be posted at critical public access points to each easement property as well as intermittently along specific roads/trails that have been designated as open to public motorized use.
- Tract-specific circumstances that necessitate a recommended speed limit that is less than 25 mph will be addressed locally on a case-by-case basis with joint consultation and agreement between the landowner and DEC.

2b. Speed Limit 25 MPH

Dimensions: 12” x 18”
Color Scheme: USDOT Standard -- White Background/ Black Lettering
Reflective: Required
Construction: Metal or Vinyl

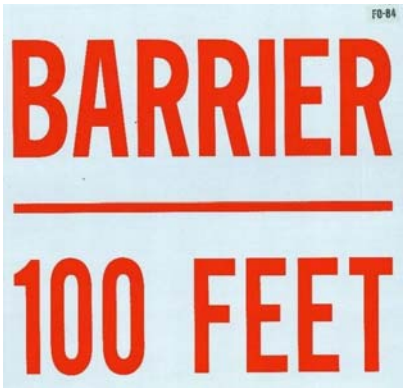
- Image shown is Not To Scale
- Same posting criteria as “Recommended Speed Limit” signs
- Part 190: Use of State lands including conservation easements as defined in section 190.12; 190.8 (k): 25 mile an hour speed limit.
- Tract-specific circumstances that necessitate a recommended speed limit that is less than 25 mph will be addressed locally on a case-by-case basis with joint consultation and agreement between the landowner and DEC.

3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8: As Shown Below

Dimensions:	*Hazard Markers*- 6" x 12" *All Others Shown*- 18" x 18"
Color Scheme:	As Shown Below
Reflective:	Required
Construction:	Metal or Vinyl

#3

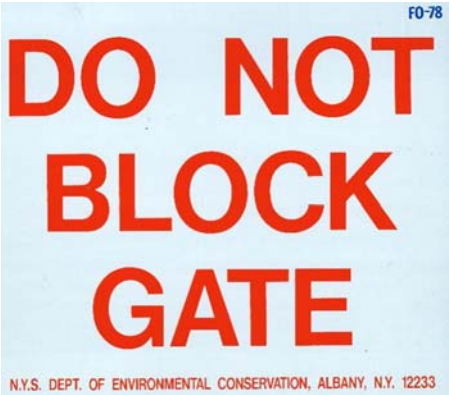
#5: Left Curve or Right Curve
(As operational needs dictate)



#7

#4

#6: Hazard Marker



#8

- Images shown are Not To Scale
- Hazard marker signs will be posted on both sides of the public use road corridor immediately adjacent to the identified hazard condition (bridge railings, culverts, etc.)
- In consideration of research conducted, and a recommended easement tract maximum speed limit of 25 mph in place, caution signs *other than hazard marker signs* will be posted no less than 100 feet in advance of the identified hazard. In circumstances where the road approaching an identified hazard is windy or steep, caution signs will be posted no less than 150 feet in advance of the identified hazard.

9. Do Not Enter- Road Closed to Public Motorized Vehicles and Snowmobiles

Dimensions: 18" x 18"
Color Scheme: USDOT Standard- Red and White
Reflective: Required
Construction: Metal or Vinyl

EXAMPLE

- Image shown is Not To Scale
- Sign has universal applicability for road closures—may be posted in response to either temporary or permanent management needs and goals.
- These signs will be posted at the specific location where the desired action is intended to take place (i.e. intersection)

III. ***Broad category informational and directional signs*** *should be deployed on conservation easement properties with public recreation use as program resources are available to do so. The following recreation management signs are designed to enhance the public's use of the recreational resource and are intended for widespread generic use across the greatest practicable extent of the easement properties*

1. **Easement Road Identification Sign**- All shared use roads
2. **Directional Signs**- Appropriate trail and road intersections and other locations.
3. **Mileage Marker Signs**- All roads and possibly trails
4. **All other Directional or information signs**

1. Sign: Easement Road Identification Sign

Dimensions:	6" x16" or other standard wood size
Color Scheme:	DEC standard colors- Brown Background/ Yellow Lettering
Reflective:	Not Required
Construction:	Wood or Vinyl

EXAMPLE

- Images shown are Not To Scale
- Easement Road ID sign content will be cross referenced to ensure consistency with road ID language found in DEC Rec Plans.
- Road ID names/numbers will be tract-specific and are at the discretion of the DEC planner, subject to consultation with the landowner as need dictates.

2. Easement Directional Signs

Dimensions: 9” x 30” or other standard wood sizes
Color Scheme: DEC standard colors- Brown Background/ Yellow Lettering
Reflective: Not Required
Construction: Wood

EXAMPLE

EXAMPLE

3. Mileage Markers

Dimensions: 5.625" x 5.625"
Color Scheme: Brown Background/ Yellow Lettering
Reflective: Not Required
Construction: Metal or Vinyl

EXAMPLE

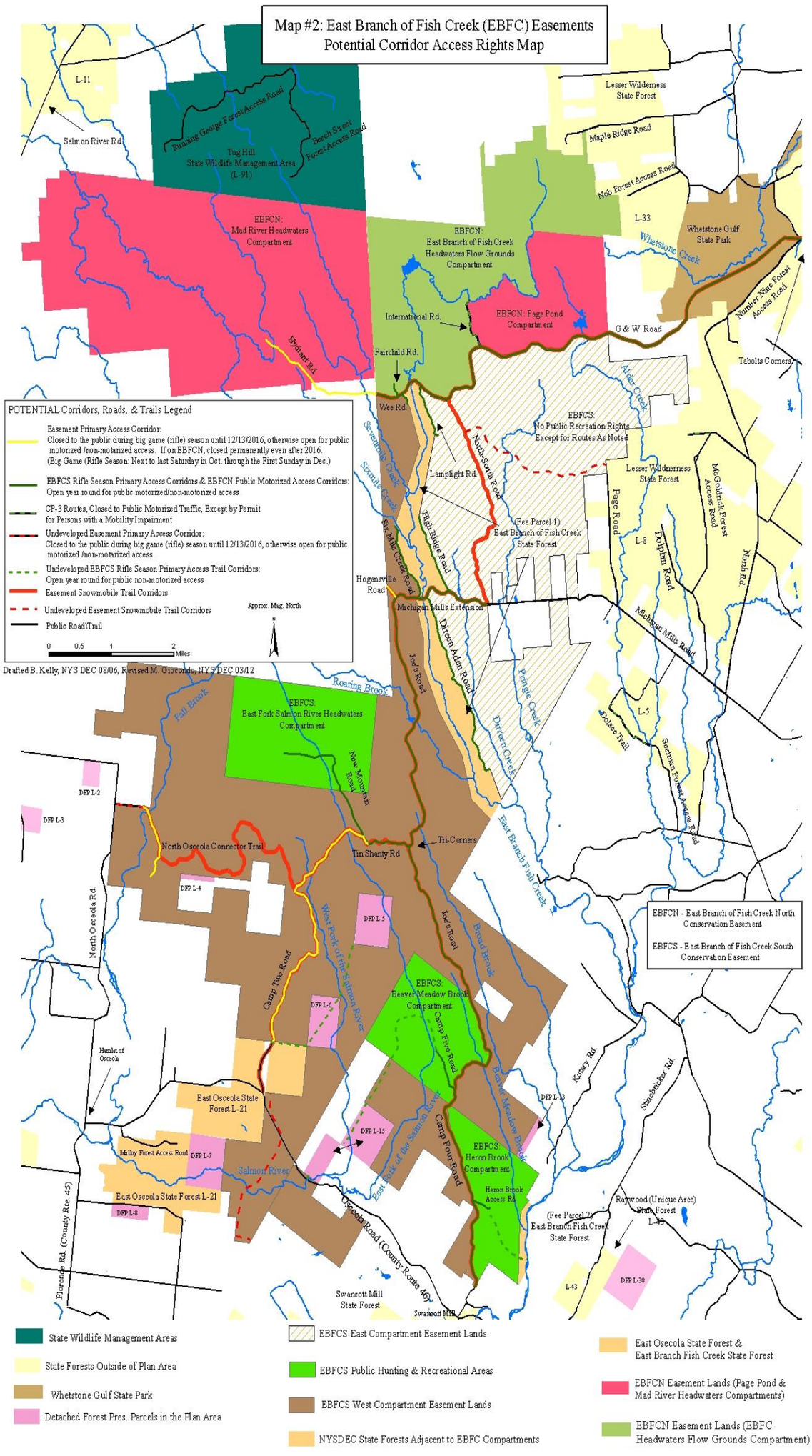
- Image shown is Not To Scale
- Mileage markers should be cross-referenced to descriptions on kiosk maps and/or brochures whenever possible
- Wide number range from 1mile to 15 miles
- Layout on road networks is subject to road ID system established by DEC recreation management plan

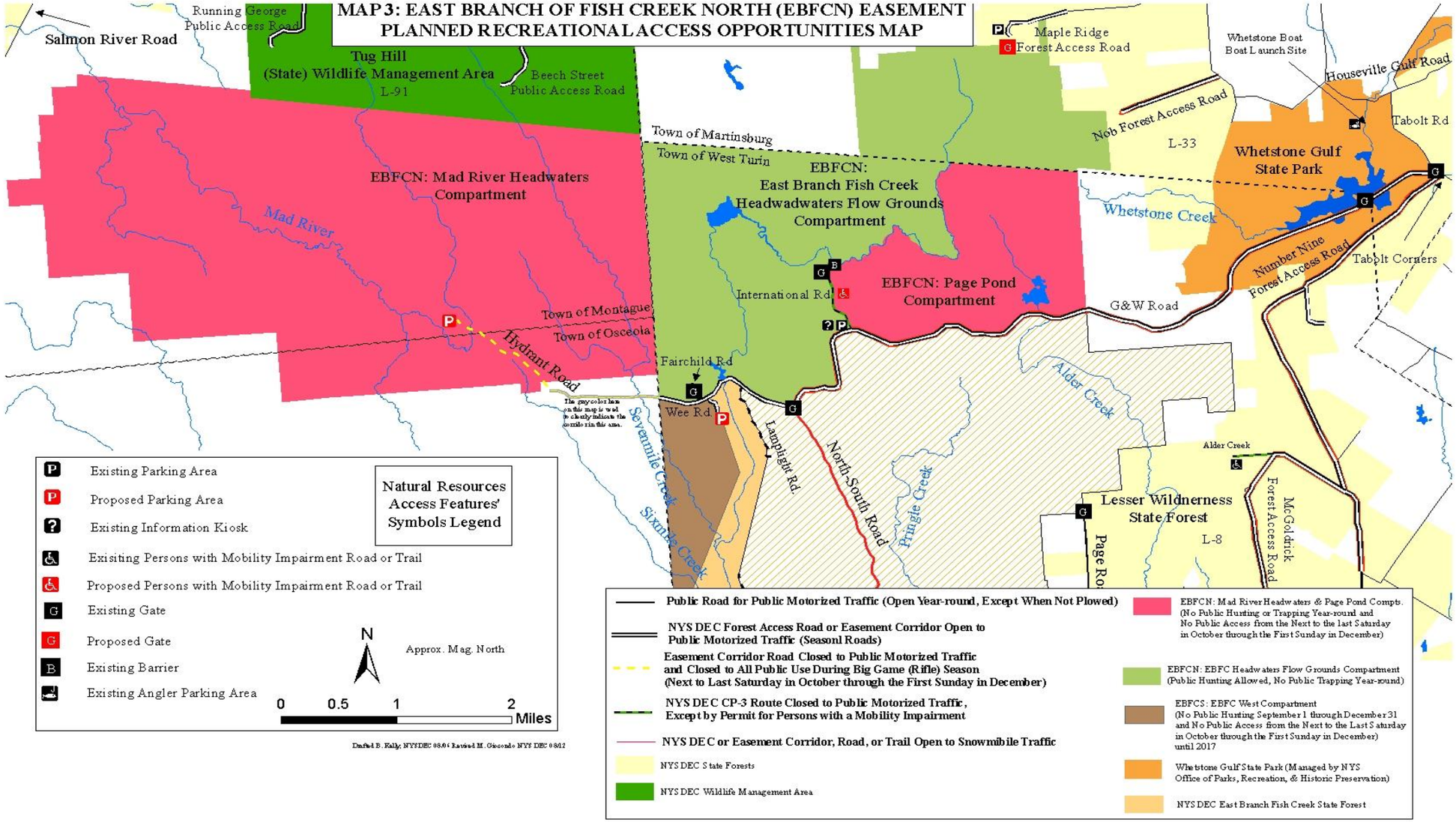
4. All other directional or informational signs

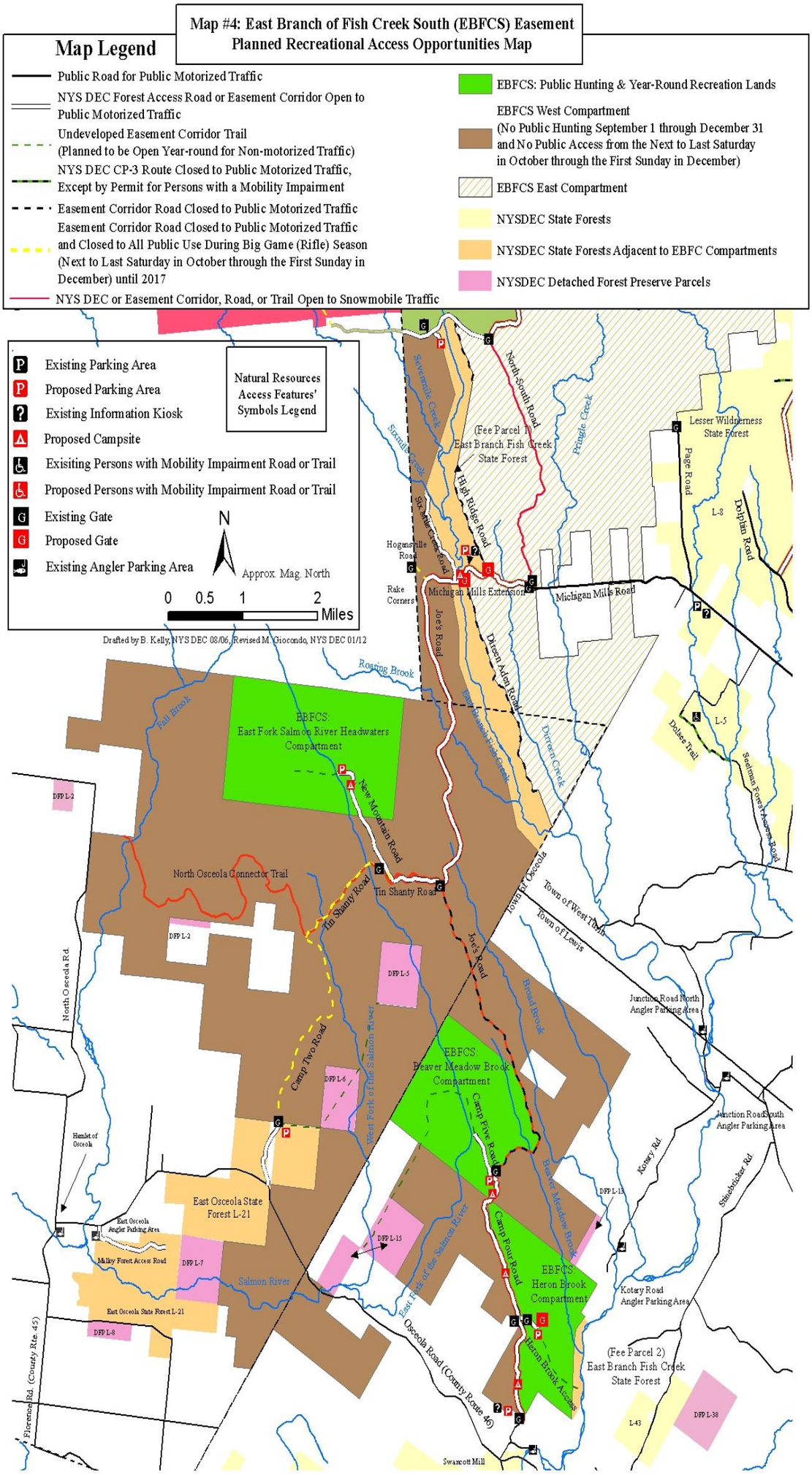
Will be developed as need dictates on a tract-by-tract basis. Signs will be custom-ordered by local DEC staff using in-house sign fabrication services. Generally speaking, directional signs will be constructed of wood and labeled with yellow lettering set on a brown background.

Appendix 13

Maps and Images


Map #2: East Branch of Fish Creek (EBFC) Easements
Potential Corridor Access Rights Map
POTENTIAL Corridors, Roads, & Trails Legend
Easement Primary Access Corridor: Closed to the public during big game (rifle) season until 12/13/2016, otherwise open for public motorized /non-motorized access. If on EBFCN, closed permanently even after 2016. (Big Game (Rifle Season: Next to last Saturday in Oct. through the First Sunday in Dec.)
EBFCS Rifle Season Primary Access Corridors & EBFCN Public Motorized Access Corridors: Open year round for public motorized/non-motorized access
CP-3 Routes, Closed to Public Motorized Traffic, Except by Permit for Persons with a Mobility Impairment
Undeveloped Easement Primary Access Corridor: Closed to the public during big game (rifle) season until 12/13/2016, otherwise open for public motorized /non-motorized access.
Undeveloped EBFCS Rifle Season Primary Access Trail Corridors: Open year round for public non-motorized access
Easement Snowmobile Trail Corridors
Undeveloped Easement Snowmobile Trail Corridors
Public Road\Trail
0 0.5 1 2 Miles
Approx. Mag. North
Drafted B. Kelly, NYS DEC 08/06, Revised M. Giocondo, NYS DEC 03/12
EBFCN - East Branch of Fish Creek North Conservation Easement
EBFCS - East Branch of Fish Creek South Conservation Easement
State Wildlife Management Areas
State Forests Outside of Plan Area
Whetstone Gulf State Park
Detached Forest Pres. Parcels in the Plan Area
EBFCS East Compartment Easement Lands
EBFCS Public Hunting & Recreational Areas
EBFCS West Compartment Easement Lands
NYSDEC State Forests Adjacent to EBFC Compartments
East Osecola State Forest & East Branch Fish Creek State Forest
EBFCN Easement Lands (Page Pond & Mad River Headwaters Compartments)
EBFCN Easement Lands (EBFC Headwaters Flow Grounds Compartment)
L-11
Salmon River Rd.
Running George Forest Access Road
Tug Hill State Wildlife Management Area (L-91)
Beech Street Forest Access Road
EBFCN: Mad River Headwaters Compartment
Lesser Wilderness State Forest
Maple Ridge Road
Nob Forest Access Road
L-33
Whetstone Gulf State Park
Whetstone Creek
EBFCN: East Branch of Fish Creek Headwaters Flow Grounds Compartment
EBFCN: Page Pond Compartment
International Rd.
G & W Road
Number Nine Forest Access Road
Tabolts Corners
Hydrant Rd.
Fairchild Rd.
Wee Rd.
Alder Creek
EBFCS: No Public Recreation Rights Except for Routes As Noted
Seventeen Creek
Sixmile Creek
Lamplight Rd.
North-South Road
Lesser Wildnerness State Forest
McGoldrick Forest Access Road
Page Road
L-8
Dolphin Road
Norton Rd.
(Fee Parcel 1) East Branch of Fish Creek State Forest
Six Mile Creek Road
High Ridge Road
Hogansville Road
Michigan Mills Extension
Michigan Mills Road
Dirren Allen Road
Joe's Road
Roaring Brook
Fall Brook
EBFCS: East Fork Salmon River Headwaters Compartment
Pringle Creek
Dirrent Creek
Dolsee Trail
L-5
Seelman Forest Access Road
New Mountain Road
DFP L-2
DFP L-3
North Osecola Connector Trail
Tri-Corners
Tin Shanty Rd
East Branch Fish Creek
DFP L-4
North Osecola Rd.
West Fork of the Salmon River
DFP L-5
Joe's Road
Broul Brook
Camp Two Road
DFP L-6
EBFCS: Beaver Meadow Brook Compartment
Camp Five Road
Beaver Meadow Brook
Hamlet of Osecola
Kenney Rd
Stinebricker Rd
East Osecola State Forest L-21
DFP L-13
DFP L-15
Mailby Forest Access Road
DFP L-7
Salmon River
East Fork of the Salmon River
Camp Four Road
EBFCS: Heron Brook Compartment
Heron Brook Access Rd.
East Osecola State Forest L-21
DFP L-8
Osecola Road (County Route 46)
(Fee Parcel 2) East Branch Fish Creek State Forest
Ratwood (Unique Area) State Forest L-43
Florence Rd. (County Rte. 45)
Swancott Mill State Forest
Swancott Mill
L-43
DFP L-38


MAP 3: EAST BRANCH OF FISH CREEK NORTH (EBFCN) EASEMENT
PLANNED RECREATIONAL ACCESS OPPORTUNITIES MAP
Salmon River Road
Running George Public Access Road
Tug Hill (State) Wildlife Management Area
L-91
Beech Street Public Access Road
Maple Ridge Forest Access Road
Whetstone Boat Boat Launch Site
Houseville Gulf Road
Tabolt Rd
Nob Forest Access Road
L-33
Whetstone Gulf State Park
Town of Martinsburg
Town of West Turin
EBFCN: Mad River Headwaters Compartment
Mad River
EBFCN: East Branch Fish Creek Headwadwaters Flow Grounds Compartment
Whetstone Creek
Number Nine Forest Access Road
Tabolt Corners
International Rd
EBFCN: Page Pond Compartment
G&W Road
Town of Montague
Town of Osceola
Hydrant Road
Fairchild Rd
Wee Rd
Alder Creek
Lamplight Rd.
North South Road
Pringle Creek
Sevenmile Creek
Sixmile Creek
Lesser Wildnerness State Forest
L-8
Page Rd
McGoldrick Forest Access Road
Existing Parking Area
Proposed Parking Area
Existing Information Kiosk
Exisiting Persons with Mobility Impairment Road or Trail
Proposed Persons with Mobility Impairment Road or Trail
Existing Gate
Proposed Gate
Existing Barrier
Existing Angler Parking Area
Natural Resources Access Features' Symbols Legend
N
Approx. Mag. North
0 0.5 1 2 Miles
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 (Seasonl 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 Snowmibile Traffic
NYS DEC State Forests
NYS DEC 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)
EBFCS: 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)
NYS DEC East Branch Fish Creek State Forest
Drafted B. Kelly, NYSDEC 08/06 Revised M. Giacondo NYS DEC 08/12


Map #4: East Branch of Fish Creek South (EBFCS) Easement
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
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
EBFCS: Public Hunting & Year-Round Recreation Lands
EBFCS 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)
EBFCS East Compartment
NYSDEC State Forests
NYSDEC State Forests Adjacent to EBFC Compartments
NYSDEC Detached Forest Preserve Parcels
Existing Parking Area
Proposed Parking Area
Existing Information Kiosk
Proposed Campsite
Exisiting Persons with Mobility Impairment Road or Trail
Proposed Persons with Mobility Impairment Road or Trail
Existing Gate
Proposed Gate
Existing Angler Parking Area
Natural Resources Access Features' Symbols Legend
N
Approx. Mag. North
0 0.5 1 2 Miles
Drafted by B. Kelly, NYS DEC 08/06, Revised M. Giocondo, NYS DEC 01/12
(Fee Parcel 1) East Branch Fish Creek State Forest
Lesser Wilderness State Forest
Severmile Creek
Six Mile Creek
Sixmile Creek
Pringle Creek
North South Road
High Ridge Road
Hogansville Road
Rake Corners
Michigan Mills Extension
Michigan Mills Road
Page Road
Dolphin Road
L-8
L-5
Joe's Road
Dixon Allen Road
East Branch Fish Creek
Dixon Creek
Roaring Brook
Fall Brook
EBFCS: East Fork Salmon River Headwaters Compartment
New Mountain Road
Tin Shanty Road
North Osceola Connector Trail
DFP L-2
DFP L-5
DFP L-6
DFP L-7
DFP L-8
DFP L-15
DFP L-13
DFP L-38
L-43
Town of Osceola
Town of West Turin
Town of Lewis
Junction Road North Angler Parking Area
Junction Road South Angler Parking Area
Kotary Road Angler Parking Area
Kotary Rd
Shuebrucker Rd
Broad Brook
Beaver Meadow Brook
EBFCS: Beaver Meadow Brook Compartment
Camp Five Road
Camp Four Road
Camp Two Road
West Fork of the Salmon River
East Fork of the Salmon River
Salmon River
EBFCS: Heron Brook Compartment
Heron Brook Access
Osceola Road (County Route 46)
(Fee Parcel 2) East Branch Fish Creek State Forest
Swancott Mill
Dolace Trail
Seelman Forest Access Road
North Osceola Rd.
Hamlet of Osceola
East Osceola State Forest L-21
East Osceola Angler Parking Area
Milley Forest Access Road
Florence Rd. (County Rte. 45)

Glenfield and Western Log Train.

Left to Right (As identified by Frank Kelly for George Cataldo, 1970): Charlie Graves, Frank Bates, Amos Levins (Engineer), Jess Rikenberg and Earl Rennie.