New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
Office of the Commissioner, 14th Floor
625 Broadway, Albany, New York 12233-1010
Phone: (518) 402-8540 • **FAX:** (518) 402-8541 ***Website:*** *www.dec.state.ny.us*

Erin M. Crotty
Commissioner

MEMORANDUM

DEC 1 8 2003

TO: The Record

FROM: Erin M. Crotty

SUBJECT: Five Ponds Wilderness Area Unit Management Plan Amendment, Inclusion of the Management Plan for the Alice Brook Primitive Corridor.

The Unit Management Plan Amendment for the Five Ponds Wilderness Area to recognize the Alice Brook Primitive Corridor has been completed and approved by the Adirondack Park Agency. The Plan is consistent with guidelines and criteria for the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan, the State Constitution, Environmental Conservation Law, and Department Rules, Regulations and Policies. The Plan includes an Environmental Impact Statement accepted as Final on September 12, 2003 and is hereby approved.

NEW YORK STATE
Adirondack
parkagency

RESOLUTION AND SEQRA FINDINGS
ADOPTED BY THE ADIRONDACK PARK AGENCY
WITH RESPECT TO THE
FIVE PONDS WILDERNESS AREA
UNIT MANAGEMENT PLAN AMENDMENT
SEPTEMBER 12, 2003

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

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

WHEREAS, the Department of Environmental Conservation has prepared an amendment to the unit management plan for the Five Ponds Wilderness Area, which includes the Alice Brook Primitive Area, dated September 3, 2003; and

WHEREAS, this action is a Type I action pursuant to 6 NYCRR Part 617 for which the Department of Environmental Conservation is the lead Agency and the Adirondack Park Agency is an involved Agency; and

WHEREAS, a draft environmental impact statement was prepared, dated July 23, 2003, and a notice of acceptance as Complete for Public Review of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement was published in the Environmental News Bulletin on August 13, 2003; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Environmental Conservation accepted a Final Environmental Impact Statement on September 12, 2003; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Environmental Conservation has consulted with the Adirondack Park Agency staff in the preparation of the proposed plan amendment; and

P.O. Box 99 • NYS Route 86 • Ray Brook, NY 12977 • 518 891-4050 • 518 891-3938 fax • www.state.ny.us

WHEREAS, the Agency is requested to determine whether the proposed September 3, 2003 Five Ponds Unit Management Plan Amendment and Alice Brook Primitive Area Unit Management Plan is consistent with the Standards and Guidelines of the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Adirondack Park Agency has reviewed the proposed Five Ponds Unit Management Plan Amendment for the inclusion of, and management plan for, the Alice Brook Primitive Area; and

WHEREAS the State Land Master Plan states the Alice Brook Primitive Area shall include the fifty-foot wide corridor of the snowmobile trail which cuts across the top of the Five Ponds Wilderness Area; and

WHEREAS the State Land Master Plan states that efforts should be made to relocate this important trail in the St. Lawrence County snowmobile trail system so this area can become part of the Wilderness Area.

WHEREAS, the Department will conduct the trail rehabilitation and maintenance practices in a manner consistent with the State Land Master Plan and the DEC ONR-2 Policy on Snowmobile Trails in the Forest Preserve; and

WHEREAS, the Department has specifically removed reference to the use of the Interim Guidelines for Snowmobile Construction and Maintenance in the Adirondack Forest Preserve; and

WHEREAS, the Department has committed to prohibit using earth moving equipment of a dimension no greater than necessary and in no case greater than eight feet in width during the rehabilitation of the proposed Alice Brook snowmobile trail and that the work will be conducted with proper oversight and direction in order to ensure the resulting trail maintains essentially the character of a foot trail as required by the State Land Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Department and the Agency agree to jointly monitor, photograph and carefully document the existing conditions, conditions during trail rehabilitation and the final work, to assure it conforms to the State Land Master Plan guideline regarding trail character; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Adirondack Park Agency finds pursuant to 6 NYCRR Part 617.11 that the management actions addressed by the FEIS and the Plan Amendment will be:

1. Intended to amend the Five Ponds Wilderness Unit Management Plan to include the Alice Brook Primitive Area.

2. Intended to provide for implementation of management actions in the Alice Brook Primitive Area as a result of the area's reclassification in January 2000.

3. Intended to provide for the implementation of management actions involving the reestablishment of the snowmobile trail within the fifty-foot wide Primitive Corridor

4. Intended to minimize or avoid potential environmental impacts to the maximum extent practicable.

5. Intended to permit the use of snowmobiles at the discretion of the Department, pending eventual wilderness classification so long as their continued use will not adversely affect the character or resources of the primitive area or impinge upon the proper management of the adjoining wilderness.

6. Intended to actively seek an alternative route to the Alice Brook Primitive Area so that the Area may be reclassified as Wilderness and thereby included in the Five Ponds Wilderness Area.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that consistent with the social, economic and other essential considerations, from among the reasonable alternatives, the action approved is one which minimizes or avoids adverse environmental effects to the maximum extent practicable, including the effects disclosed in the environmental impact statement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that upon completion of relevant SEQR timeclock on September 22, 2003, and pursuant to Section 816 of the Adirondack Park Agency Act, the Adirondack Park Agency delegates to the Executive Director the authority to finalize Agency determination under 6 NYCRR Part 617 and to find that the Five Ponds Wilderness Area Unit Management Plan Amendment and Alice Brook Primitive Area Unit Management Plan,

September 3, 2003, conforms with the general guidelines and criteria of the Adirondack State Land Master Plan; and

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

Ayes: J. Townsend, Chair; F. Mezzano, D. Rehm, C. Wray, C. R. Beach (DED), R. Hoffman (DOS), S. Buchanan (DEC)

Nays: None

Abstentions: None

Absent: W. Kissel, K. Roberts

FINAL ALICE BROOK PRIMITIVE CORRIDOR UMP AMENDMENT/EIS

September 12, 2003

INTRODUCTION

This document is a proposed amendment to the Five Ponds Unit Management Plan (UMP). This amendment will be included as an appendix when the Five Ponds UMP is revised.

The amendment is necessary to recognize that the Alice Brook Primitive Corridor exists within the Five Ponds Wilderness management unit and, therefore, to provide for implementation of management actions anticipated as a result of reclassification of a portion of the Five Ponds Wilderness. This reclassification was originally envisioned in the Unit Management Plan for the Five Ponds Wilderness Area, approved in April 1994, which states on page 66, item number 7 the following:

> "The reclassification of the Oswegatchie Primitive Area to wilderness in 1976 resulted in the loss of the Alice Brook Snowmobile Trail which followed the route of the former Sternberg Road and linked the Youngs Road with Inlet Road. As this trail provided a vital link in a major snowmobile route, there has been recent user interest in obtaining an amendment to the State Land Master Plan to allow the restoration of this use. Should this effort succeed, $20,000 will be budgeted for the restoration of this trail."

In January 2000, the APA adopted a resolution with respect to the reclassification of Alice Brook. It recommended that the 50 foot wide corridor, which contains sections of the former Sternberg and Post Henderson Roads, be classified Primitive, authorizing the reopening of the Alice Brook snowmobile trail.

The State Land Master Plan (SLMP) defines a primitive area as an area of land or water that is either:

> 1. Essentially wilderness in character but, (a) contains structures, improvements or uses that are inconsistent with wilderness, as defined, and whose removal, though a long term objective, cannot be provided for by a fixed dead line and/or (b) contains, or is contiguous to, private lands that are of a size and influence to prevent wilderness designation; or,
>
> 2. Of a size and character not meeting wilderness standards, but where the fragility of the resource or other factors require wilderness management.

The Alice Brook Primitive Area, as described in the June 2001 version of the SLMP, on page 72, and quoted below, qualifies as a primitive area under definition 1)a, above.

> "**ALICE BROOK**
> This area in the town of Fine includes the fifty-foot wide corridor of the snowmobile trail which cuts across the top of the Five Ponds Wilderness Area between the Youngs Road in Star Lake and the Inlet Road adjacent to Wanakena on the former Sternberg and Post Henderson Roads. Efforts should be made to relocate this important trail in the St. Lawrence County snowmobile trail system so that this area can become part of the wilderness area.

Alice Brook area statistics:
Non-conforming Uses: Snowmobile Trail, Indeterminate Mileage."

Note that the description for this unit requires efforts should be made to establish alternatives that would lead to relocation of the trail outside of the Five Pond Wilderness area, therefore allowing the Alice Brook Primitive Corridor to be reclassified as wilderness. The 2002 New York State Open Space Plan, in fact, includes a new priority project for acquisition of trail corridors that will provide access to EPF monies to acquire trail easements or fee corridors that could help establish a future alternative to the Alice Brook Primitive Corridor.

AREA AND PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Alice Brook Primitive Corridor is approximately 23 acres in size and 3.5 miles long. It is bounded along both sides by the Five Ponds Wilderness Area.

The attached map (Appendix I) shows the location of the Alice Brook Primitive Corridor. The route needs to be cleared of brush, woody debris and rocks to bring it back to a safe and useable condition. It will also need to have some bridges built and rebuilt to cross wetlands and streams. A more detailed description of the trail can be found below in the discussion of alternatives.

This route will be open to snowmobile use by the public and for hiking, but not for other public motor vehicle or mountain bike use.

LEGAL/ POLICY MANDATES

Wetlands Protection
All wetlands should be avoided to the greatest extent possible. Proposed snowmobile trails located in a designated wetland or substantially impairing the functions or benefits of a designated wetland will require a Freshwater Wetlands Act permit from the Adirondack Park Agency. Wetlands will be impacted for this proposed project at stream/wetland crossings, and proper sediment/erosion control procedures will be followed .

Regulated activities in Wetlands under Article 24 that may require a permit from the APA will include:

a. any form of draining, excavation, and removal of soil
b. any form of filling, depositing soil or stones
c. erecting structures such as bridges or building roads

Wetland boundaries: Jurisdictional wetland boundaries were flagged at appropriate stream/wetland crossings where bridge crossings are proposed.

Adirondack Park Agency wetland permits will be obtained before any work commences.

Stream Protection
The Protection of Waters Program regulates categories of activities under the following permit

designations:

a. disturbance of the bed or banks of a protected stream
b. construction of dams and other impoundment structures
c. Excavation or fill in Navigable waters

All state agencies, including the DEC, are exempt from applying for a stream disturbance permit

An erosion/ sediment control program is set forth in the Work Plan section which will minimize adverse impacts to streams and wetlands when the trail and bridges are under construction.

Tree Cutting
Any tree cutting will follow Policy LF-91-2 Cutting, Removal or Destruction of Trees on Forest Preserve lands.

This policy states that construction of new or major rehabilitation of existing facilities will involve preparation of a work plan including a count by species and size class, of all trees 3" DBH and over to be cut, removed or destroyed. A request for tree cutting approval will be submitted to the L&F Division Director. An approximate tree count for the project is provided in Appendix II, but because it has been one or two years since the count was done, a new tree tally will be done before the request is submitted to the Division.

Trail Specifications
All Construction activities will be carried out in a manner consistent with existing guidlines.

Critical Habitats
The New York Natural Heritage Program (NYNHP) did not have any record of threatened or endangered species in this corridor.

SEQR review
A positive declaration has been prepared and a dated copy of the project notice will appear in the Environmental Notice Bulletin. This document is a combined UMP/EIS.

ALTERNATIVES STATEMENT

Reconstruction of this trail presents some potential environmental challenges, primarily due to necessary wetland crossings that bisect the original route. This lead to a determination that this amendment should be an EIS (see Appendix VII for Positive Declaration). Beaver activity significantly influences the size of some of these wetlands and therefore influences the need to construct bridges. An increase in size of one particular wetland since the original trail was used for snowmobiling presents the most significant environmental challenge. APA and DEC staff decided it would be worthwhile to examine additional alternatives that could avoid this wetland and so reduce the potential environmental impacts.

Alternatives 1 and 2
The site map in Appendix I shows the location of the original snowmobile trail(Alt. 1) and an alternative that includes a relocated segment of trail identified by staff(Alt. 2). Alternative 2 turns off the original trail just north of a large wetland that spans the old trail. A comparison of these alternatives follows in

the table below.

COMPARISON OF TWO ALTERNATIVES FOR THE ALICE BROOK SNOWMOBILE TRAIL FROM THEIR POINT OF DIVERGENCE

	Alt. 1 -original trail	Alt. 2 -portion of relocated trail
Distance from point of divergence to Inlet Road	4183'	3115'
Bridges	1	2
Total Length	164'	20'
# of cribs (8'x4')	4	none
Wetlands crossed	1	2
Square feet wetland impacted	144 sq ft	0
# trees cut - see Appendix II	live - 23 dead - 25 Total - 48	Live - 130 Dead - 52 Total - 182

Alternative 2 is clearly superior to the original in every category indicated above except for the number of trees cut. APA staff have also endorsed Alternative 2 with regards to wetland impacts (See Appendix V). Additional advantages of Alternative 2 include:

- No wetland permit will be needed for the relocated section of trail since the small bridges that cross two small jurisdictional wetlands will not have any cribs or abutments in the wetland, while the bridging on the original section of trail would need a wetland permit
- The relocated segment will be farther north than the original, so resulting in more of the Five Ponds Wilderness area south of the snowmobile trail;
- A need for only relatively small bridges, therefore reducing the impact of manmade infrastructure on the primitive area;
- Avoiding the potential future impact of additional beaver problems (flooding, dam collapse) on the original route;
- Much less potential impacts from bridge construction since the only bridges constructed on the relocated route will be relatively small and will span the existing narrow wetlands, so have little impact on them;
- There will be less need for use of motor vehicles during construction and for future maintenance due to the small bridges.
- Much less expensive to re-establish and maintain, primarily because the bridges are much smaller and the route is shorter.

Alternative 2 does require quite a few more trees to be cut, but most are trees 6" or less in diameter: of the approximately 130 live trees to be cut on the relocated trail, more than 100 are 6" or less. The '95 blowdown struck this area, so most of the large trees were eliminated leaving the smaller trees to fill the

space. Therefore, it is likely few of the trees to be cut on the relocated section of trail are old growth or even much older than 30 to 40 years. In addition, because Alternative 2 is shorter than the original there should be less trees cut over time for maintenance purposes.

No Action Alternative
Not re-establishing this snowmobile trail will result in a continuation of a very poor and unsafe connection between snowmobile trails which currently end in Aldrich Pond WF and Cranberry Lake WF. These trails are part of a main snowmobile trail corridor labeled as Corridor 8 in the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation's snowmobile trail corridor designation system. Currently snowmobilers must find their way between the two trails along plowed roads, across wetlands and streams without designated crossings, across private lands and along railroad tracks. The Alice Brook Primitive Corridor was reclassified from wilderness in 2000 in recognition of the hazards posed by the lack of a trail, as well as recognition that there are no other feasible alternatives to make this connection at this time. In light of this situation, including the previous efforts that lead to reclassification of this trail, it would not be reasonable to not re-establish this trail.

Preferred Alternative
For the reasons identified above, Alternative 2 is the preferred route for the snowmobile trail. A detailed work plan is described below.

WORK PLAN

The following is the work plan for rehabilitation of the snowmobile trail.

1. Map - Appendix I:

a. Alice Brook SnowmobileTrail Site Map - including wetlands and stream/wetland crossings

2. Specifications of Bridges

Specifications for bridges will follow the "Standard Timber Bridge" design of the U.S. Forest Service (see Engineering Plan, Appendix IV.).

General notes and specifications for all bridges in this plan:

a. Railings will not be placed on bridges except for the Alice Brook bridge
b. Spans between cribs will vary but will not be longer than 30 feet
c. Cribs will be 8' by 4' and constructed from 8" by 8" pressure treated wood filled with stone
d. "Deck Live Load" will be constructed for an 8900 pound groomer
e. Decking on the bridges will be 8 feet wide

3. Stream/Wetland Crossings

The following site locations correspond to the sites on the map provided in Appendix I..

Site 1	1 Bridge	1 Span 10'	2 Sill	
Site 2	1 Bridge	1 Span 10'	2 Sill	
Site 3	1 Bridge	1 Span 10'	2 Sill	
Site 4	1 Bridge	2 Span 32'	2 Sill	1 Crib

Site 1	1 Bridge	1 Span 10'	2 Sill	
Site 5	1 Bridge	3 Span 83'	2 Sill	2 Crib
Site 6	1 Bridge	2 Span 34'	2 Sill	1 Crib
Site 7	Culvert			

Sites 1 through 5 cross jurisdictional wetlands. Crossings #'s 3, 4 and 5 require APA wetland permits, which will be secured before work commences. Sites 1 and 2 cross wetlands but do not require permits because there are no cribs or abutments placed in the wetlands. Site 6 and 7 are non-jurisdictional because there are no jurisdictional wetlands at these sites. See Appendix VI for a more detailed description of these sites.

4. Boulder and Stump Removal

For some sections of the proposed trail, rocks, uprooted trees(from the '95 blowdown) and stumps will need to be removed from the trail. The holes created by those removals will be filled flush with the grade.

The proposed relocated section of trail has 18 large rocks to be moved. The following lists shows the number of each size. The dimensions are approximations of maximum height and maximum width.

1 - 1' x 1'	2 - 3' x 3'
1 - 1' x 2'	3 - 3' x 4'
4 - 2' x 2'	3 - 4' x 4'
3 - 3' x 2'	1 - 5' x 6'

5. Special equipment needs

It is anticipated a small excavator (with hydroaxe, grapple and bucket attachments), skid steer, and possibly a small bulldozer, all less than 8' wide, will be required for trail development and construction of bridges. ATV's will be used for transporting in people, materials and supplies. All use of motor vehicles for the re-establishment of the snowmobile trail will be carried out in a manner as provided for in DEC policy CP-17, "Recordkeeping and Reporting of Administrative Use of Motor Vehicles and Aircraft in the Forest Preserve", dated 3-29-00 and the DEC "Clarification of Practice Regarding Motor Vehicle Use for Snowmobile Trail Grooming, Maintenance and Construction", dated 11-15-00.

6. Erosion/ sediment control and debris disposal

The following erosion/sediment control program will be strictly adhered to while performing work within streams and wetlands.

- Use of timbers (wood) treated with pentachlorophenol or creosote is strictly prohibited in the wetland or 100 foot adjacent area. Standard pressure treated lumber is treated with CCA and its use is permitted.

- Any debris or excess materials from construction of this project shall immediately and completely be removed from the wetland and 100 foot adjacent area to an upland area for disposal.

- All dredged or excavated materials shall be disposed of outside the wetland boundary and be suitably stabilized so that it cannot re-enter any water body or wetland area.

- Staked hay bales or other DEC approved erosion control measures are to be used on the downslope edge of any disturbed areas. This barrier to sediments is to be put in place before any disturbance of the ground occurs and is to be maintained in good condition until all disturbed land is heavily vegetated.

- All areas of soil disturbance resulting from this project will be seeded with an appropriate perennial grass seed and mulched with straw within one week of project completion. If the project will be completed in phases over the life of the permit, then the above measures will be carried out within one week of completion of each phase. All measures will be maintained until a suitable vegetative cover is established.

- A filter fabric curtain (pore size of fabric shall be equivalent to U.S. #200 sieve) weighted across the bottom and suspended on floats shall be positioned to surround the work site before commencing work. The curtain shall remain in place for 12 hours after dredging termination.

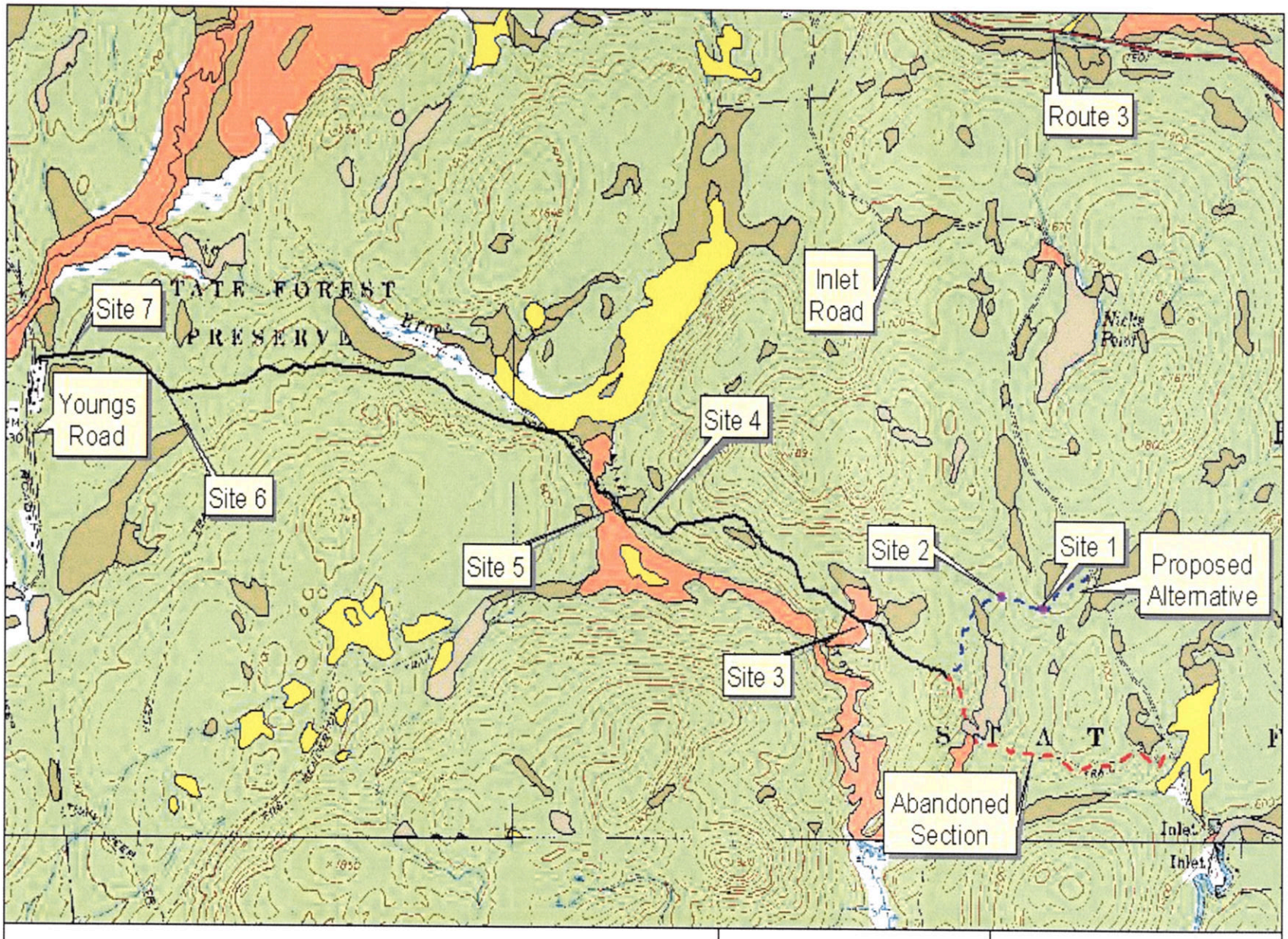
- Disturbance to ground cover and vegetation will be strictly limited to the areas identified in the project plan.

- All work below mean high water shall be preformed prior to October 1 or after May 15 to protect spawning coldwater fishes.

APPENDIX I

Site Map

-including wetland designations from USFWS inventory



APPENDIX 1

ALICE BROOK TRAIL

WETLAND/ STREAM CROSSINGS

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

Alice Brook Snowmobile Trail

D21nwwtl	D20newtl
B	A
C	B
E	E
F	F
H	H

0 1000 2000 Feet

1:24000

Map printed 3/17/2003

N

APPENDIX II

Tree Count

Tree Cutting Summary

This is an approximate tally of trees to be cut for the Alice Brook Trail. The tally for different sections of the trail was done between fall 2001 and spring 2003 , so with growth, death, and falling of trees these numbers will change. A final tree tally will be done prior to the beginning of trail construction and, per L&F 91-2, approval for tree cutting will be obtained from the L&F Division Director.

Total Trees Proposed to be Cut on the Original Alice Brook Trail

Live 230
Dead 195
Total 425

This trail is composed of two sections with the following approximate tree count:

Alice Brook Snowmobile Trail(including the Buck Pond Corridor) to point of alternatives

Live 207
Dead 170
Total 377

Original trail (section to be abandoned)

Live 23
Dead 25
Total 48

Total Trees Proposed to be Cut on the Preferred Alternative Alice Brook Trail

Live 314
Dead 197
Total 511

This trail is composed of two sections with the following approximate tree count:

Alice Brook Snowmobile Trail(including the Buck Pond Corridor) to point of alternatives

Live 207
Dead 170
Total 377

New alternative trail

Live 130
Dead 52
Total 182

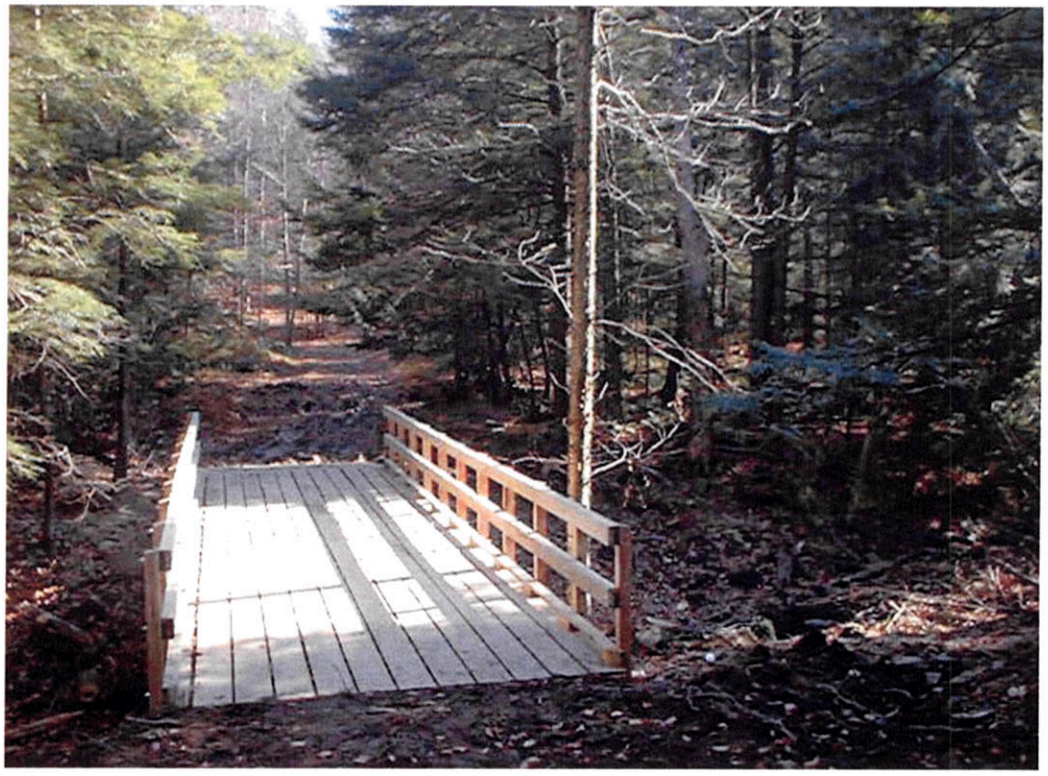
APPENDIX III

Bridge Design

USDA Forest Service
White Mountain National Forest
Standard Snowmobile Bridge

H. Edmund Bergeron
Civil Engineers, P.A.
North Conway, NH

File No. 92075S1.DWG
Project No. 92075



Two views of USFS Standard Snowmobile Design

APPENDIX V

APA Letter on Wetland Impacts of Alternatives

STATE OF NEW YORK
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
ADIRONDACK PARK AGENCY
P.O. Box 99, Route 86
RAY BROOK, NEW YORK 12977
(518) 891-4050
FAX: (518) 891-3938

MEMORANDUM

TO: John Gibbs, DEC

FROM: Mark Rooks

DATE: June 28, 2002

RE: W2002-0141, A2001-0037, Alice Brook Snowmobile Trail

On June 25, we walked a possible alternative route to the Alice Brook Trail. This alternative was laid out to avoid wetland impacts. From the standpoint of wetlands impacts, this alternative is vastly preferable to the original route.

We crossed one wet area and there was some question as to whether or not it was a jurisdictional wetland. It was too thick to tell the extent of this drainage, but now that I have located it on our wetlands map I see that it is a linear wetland connecting two larger wetlands. Although this is a jurisdictional wetland, it is narrow enough that you should be able to bridge it without any loss of wetland function or area.

I am attaching two maps showing the area of concern, labeled AB002.

cc: Daniel M. Spada
John Banta
Mark Sengenberger

APPENDIX VI

Detailed Wetland and Stream Crossings Descriptions

Site Descriptions

Site 1

Wetland Description: This is a narrow linear wetland which connects two larger wetlands. Wetland plants include sedges (*Carex spp.*), sensitive fern (*Onclea sensibilis*) and balsam fir (*Abies balsamia*).

Work Plan Description: A bridge is recommended. Total distance between sills is ten feet. Sills will not be placed in wetlands.

Alternatives: Due to site factors such as grade, boulders, soil conditions, and trail alignment it was determined this is the best crossing location and structure type.

Total wetland habitat impacted at Site 1; 0 sq. feet.

Site 2

Wetland Description: This is a narrow linear wetland which connects two larger wetlands. Wetland plants include sedges, sensitive fern and balsam fir.

Work Plan Description: A bridge is recommended. Total distance between sills is ten feet. Sills will not be placed in wetlands.

Alternatives: Due to site factors such as grade, boulders, soil conditions, and trail alignment it was determined this is the best crossing location and structure type.

Total wetland habitat impacted at Site 2; 0 sq. feet.

Site 3

Wetland Description: This wetland would be of the Palustrine system; more characteristic of a wet meadow situation with a permanent flowing stream. Remnants of the former beaver dam exist in this area that once flooded most of the adjacent "meadow". Wetland plants primarily include several wetland sedge species.

Work Plan Description: During non- flood stages, stream width at this location is approximately 4 ft. An extensive wetland sedge meadow area exists on both sides of the stream. The Department is recommending a 10 foot bridge here to span the stream. The two sills will be located within the sedge meadow wetland and no cribs will be suggested for this location.

Alternatives: Downstream, approximately 100 yards, the wetland corridor narrows but much steeper terrain on the west side would prevent a trail here outside the primitive corridor. Further upstream (north), an alternative route was considered heading north and around the wetland complex and reconnecting to the proposed route further west. The terrain around the wetland is rocky, hilly, and a proposed route here would require a substantial additional tree count.

Total wetland habitat impacted at Site 3; 2 sills, 32 sq. feet.

A wetland permit will be required.

Site 4

Wetland Description: A relatively narrow stream/ wetland corridor extending to a larger wetland

complex along Alice Brook. Wetland species found in this corridor include sensitive fern, balsam fir and wetland sedge.

Work Plan Description: This site is a small stream with a 21 foot wide stream/wetland corridor. The two sills will be located approximately 32 feet apart and the Department is recommending placement of one crib just outside the deeper channel of the stream. The sills will be outside the wetland corridor.

Alternatives: Downstream toward Alice Brook, the wetland widens and more negative impacts are likely. Upstream the wetland extends at about the same width for some distance along the stream corridor, therefore no advantage would result from crossing upstream of the preferred location.

Total wetland habitat impacted at Site 4; 1 crib, 32 sq. feet.

A wetland permit will be needed for this site.

Site 5

Wetland Description: This wetland is characteristic of the Palustrine system with wetlands permanently saturated. A beaver dam at this location provides for a larger open water association with emergent and submergent vegetation. Dominant wetland plants include primarily sedges.

Work Plan Description: This location is at Alice Brook. Total distance between sills is approximately 83 feet. The sills will be located outside the wetland corridor. The DEC is recommending 2 cribs to be placed in open water sections, approximately 24 feet apart, to span the open water area.

Alternatives: This wetland complex is a Class I and several options were looked at to minimize wetland and stream adverse impacts that would result from placement of the bridge crossing here. Immediately upstream (south) the wetland corridor narrows. But topography (steepness) on the west side would not allow placement of the trail crossing here. Further downstream (north) from the preferred alternative, the wetland is wider and larger. This large wetland complex divides just north of the proposed bridge crossing. One section follows drainage northeast to the Inlet Road. The other portion of the wetland complex follows Alice Brook northwest. Any proposed crossing on the entire length of this wetland corridor would require a substantial bridge several hundred feet in length. More wetland impacts would result from placement of the trail downstream of the present location and therefore no route was recommended here.

Special note: A permit to temporarily breach the lower beaver dam during bridge construction is required for this bridge construction. The dam is downstream of the bridge and high water impounded behind that dam impacts the bridge footings.

Total wetland habitat impacted at Site 5; 3 cribs, 96 sq. feet.

A wetland permit will be needed for this site.

Site 6

Wetland Description: Non Jurisdictional

Work Plan Description: A bridge is recommended here. Total distance between proposed sills is

approximately 34 feet. One crib is recommended here to be placed just outside the main corridor of the stream.

Total regulated wetland impacted at Site 6; 0 sq. ft.

Site 7

Work Plan Description: no bridge proposed here. The Department will be placing fill and a culvert within the limits of the present trail corridor only.

Summary

The total wetland habitat impacted from placement of the proposed bridges is about 160 square feet.

APPENDIX VII

SEQR

Positive Declaration

State Environmental Quality Review
POSITIVE DECLARATION
Notice of Intent to Prepare a Draft EIS
Determination of Significance

ID # EIS-2003-FPM-6-7

Date July 23, 2003

This notice 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 DEC as lead agency, has determined that the proposed action described below may have significant impact on the environment and that a Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be prepared.

Name of Action: Alice Brook Primitive Corridor Unit Management Plan Amendment/DEIS

SEQR Status: Type 1 ☒
Unlisted ☐

Scoping: No ☒
Yes ☐ If yes, indicate how scoping will be conducted:

Description of Action:
The NYS DEC, as lead agency, proposes to amend the Five Ponds Wilderness Area Unit Management Plan. The amendment is necessary to recognize that the Alice Brook Primitive Corridor exists within the Five Ponds Unit and, therefore, provide for implementation of management actions in this Unit that were anticipated as a result of the January 2000 reclassification of the Alice Brook Primitive Corridor within the Five Ponds Wilderness. These management actions will involve the reestablishment of the snowmobile trail within the fifty- foot wide Primitive Corridor. The Department has determined that the actions recognized by this amendment may have a significant effect on the environment and a Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be prepared.

Location: (Include street address and the name of the municipality/county. A location map of appropriate scale is also recommended.)

St. Lawrence County, Town of Fine

see attached map for detailed location

Reasons Supporting This Determination:
Possible impacts from implementation of management actions necessary to reestablish the snowmobile trail may include impacts to regulatory wetlands and streams.

For Further Information:

Contact Person:	David Smith, Regional Forester
Address:	NYS DEC 317 Washington St. Watertown, NY 13601
Telephone Number:	(315) 785-2610

A copy of this notice must be sent to:
Department of Environmental Conservation, 625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233-1750

Chief Executive Officer, Town of Fine

Any person requesting a copy

All involved agencies

Applicant (if any)

Environmental Notice Bulletin, 625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233-1750

Public Comment Responsiveness Summary

The following information represents answers to specific comments from all forms of public communication pertaining to this draft plan that need further clarification beyond that which can be incorporated into the text.

Alternative Locations

Comment: The plan does not discuss alternatives to locating the trail outside the Alice Brook Primitive Corridor.

Reply: Alternatives to locating the trail within the Alice Brook Primitive Corridor were previously considered during the Primitive Corridor reclassification process in 2000. During that process, a total of three alternatives were identified and considered, including the no action alternative, and it was then determined that locating the trail in the Alice Brook Primitive Corridor was the preferred alternative.

Interim Guidelines for Snowmobile Construction and Maintenance

Comment: The plan references the use of "Interim Guidelines for Snowmobile Construction and Maintenance in the Adirondack Forest Preserve," these guidelines have not been officially adopted by the DEC or approved by the APA.

Reply: All references to the "Interim Guidelines" have been removed form the Final Plan/EIS.

Maintaining character of a foot trail

Comment: Concern was expressed that the use of an excavator and a bulldozer for trail construction will result in a trail that does not have essentially the same character as a foot trail, as required by the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan.

Reply: All rehabilitation work will be done accordance with DEC Policy, ONR-2 and the Master Plan requirement that a snowmobile trail have "essentially the same character as a foot trail." Equipment used on the rehabilitation will be less than eight feet in width and will be operated under the oversight and direction of the DEC. The canopy will be maintained and tree cutting will be minimized. The trail will be rehabilitated so as to blend with the wild forest environment through which it passes. To ensure that Master Plan requirements are satisfied, DEC and APA staff will work cooperatively to jointly monitor work on the trail as it occurs, and conditions of the trail before, during and after rehabilitation will be documented by the two agencies.

Other uses of the snowmobile trail

Comment: The plan does not address securing against All Terrain Vehicle (ATV) trespass and abuse.

Reply: This is an action to reestablish the Alice Brook Primitive Corridor within the Five Ponds Wilderness Area, and ATV use of the trail is not allowed by this amendment. Motor vehicle use is prohibited by the Master Plan within Primitive Corridors except in certain limited situations which are not applicable to the Alice Brook Primitive Corridor. The DEC will post the trail against illegal ATV use and use education and enforcement action to protect the trail from motor vehicle trespass.

Comment: The Plan does not address how the corridor will be used and managed during non-snowmobiling months.

Reply: This is an action to reestablish the Alice Brook Primitive Corridor within the Five Ponds Wilderness Area, and management of the trail is beyond the scope of this amendment. However, the trail cannot be managed in a manner which is inconsistent with Master Plan guidelines for Primitive Areas. Thus, during non-snowmobiling months only non-mechanized passive recreation will be allowed, and the trail will be posted against illegal motorized access.