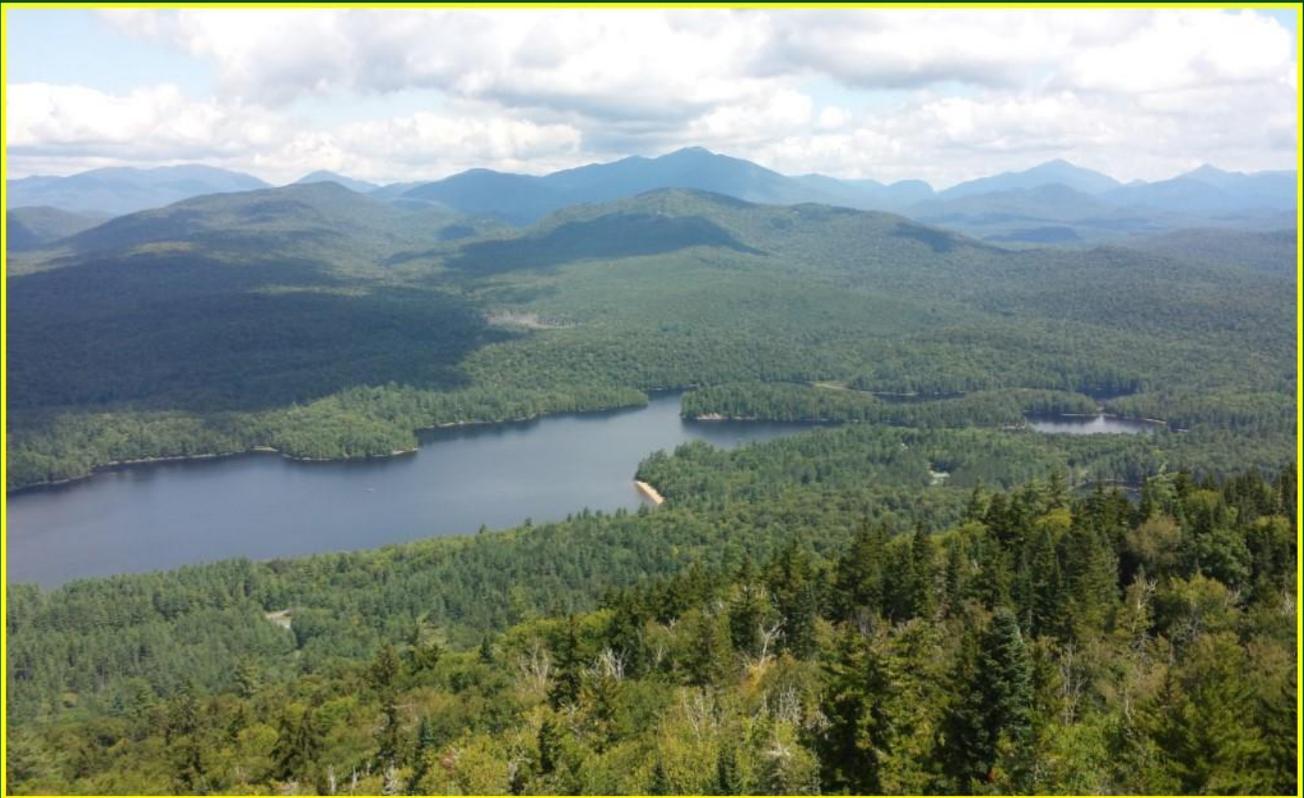


**Conceptual Plan for a Hut-to-Hut
Destination-based Trail System
for the Five Towns of
Long Lake, Newcomb, Indian Lake, Minerva, and North Hudson**

December 2015



**Prepared For the
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation**

BY:

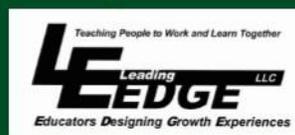
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Preface

Although this project has the complexity of a long-term project, our work has been conducted over a relatively short four-month time frame. Attempts were made to reach out to as many stakeholders as possible. In spite of the fact that we traveled many existing trails in the process of exploring potential routes, it was impossible to explore all of these to our desired level of detail.

Our task was to propose routes in the Five Towns region of the central Adirondack Park that will comprise part of a parkwide hut-to-hut destination-trail system. It is important to keep in mind two things: the proposed routes are conceptual in nature, with proposed strategic locations for lodging and suggestions for new sections of trail; and, our directive was to “think out of the box” regarding what might be required to make the destination trails and lodging system a reality. While we think exploring the use of temporary lodging on Forest Preserve lands is a legitimate exercise given the current permitted use of temporary hunting camps, we recognize the need to ensure that all the concepts shared in this report are consistent with Article XIV. In addition, we must ensure that these concepts adhere to pertinent rules and regulations or recognize that, perhaps in some cases, existing regulations may need to be modified.

Lodging proposed on private land as an integral component of any of the proposed routes will only be implemented based on the interest and cooperation of willing landowners. Again, it is essential to keep in mind the conceptual nature of the routes, including proposed locations for lodging. For a multi-day route that connects communities, with each day’s itinerary a comfortable distance of 8 to 12 miles for an average hiker, strategic general locations for lodging – usually not specific parcels – were identified along each destination trail. The identification and availability of specific parcels is only the first step in a long process of determining the suitability of a site as a lodging location.

This report would not have been possible without the support of town supervisors Clark Seaman of Long Lake, Brian Wells of Indian Lake, George Canon and Wester Miga of Newcomb, Steve McNally of Minerva, Ron Moore of North Hudson, and especially Bill Farber, chairman of the Hamilton County Board of Supervisors.

We are extremely grateful to the many private landowners and business owners who talked with us, allowed us to visit their property, and showed interest in this project. We would like to thank Walt Linck of the Adirondack Park Agency for his support and insights, and we also appreciate the support of the following NYSDEC staff: Marc Gerstman, Rob Davies, Karyn Richards, Bob Stegemann, Jim Sessions, Josh Clague, Tom Martin, Kris Alberga, Rob Daley, Tate Connor, Corrie O’Dea, Allison Buckley, Ben Thomas, and Tracy Prawdzik.

We appreciate the opportunity to work with Brian Houseal, Colin Beier, Abbie Larkin, and Dan Rockefeller of SUNY-ESF and are grateful for their help and support.

Finally, we are indebted to Steve Ovitt of Wilderness Property Management in Johnsbury for his expertise, and to Stacey Allott and Polly Kelting of Geomatics Land Surveying in Saranac Lake for producing our maps.

Introduction

Our task was to design a conceptual destination-trail system that will provide a four-season, hut-to-hut recreation experience and link communities in the Five Towns of Long Lake, North Hudson, Newcomb, Indian Lake, and Minerva.

This project grew out of the Adirondack Community-based Trails and Lodging System initiative, an ongoing project funded by the NYS Department of State (DOS). The Five Towns project, funded through the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), seeks to build on the ACTLS initiative by providing “fast track” recommendations for destination trails in the Five Towns.

Our methodology included meeting with all five town supervisors, both as a group and individually, to solicit their ideas and thoughts as well as tap into their knowledge of existing trails and lodgings in their communities.

Our work included:

- Talking with over forty various stakeholders, including lodging owners/managers, private landowners, DEC field personnel, local and regional government officials, representatives of environmental organizations, and others, to gain their knowledge and perspectives
- Conducting approximately twenty reconnaissance trips, some with NYSDEC staff, private landowners, and other interested parties
- Creating a GIS inventory of existing lodging by utilizing information available on town websites, the Regional Office of Sustainable Tourism’s (ROOST) database, and other sources
- Identifying, based on our research, more than twenty conceptual routes that connect communities, and over thirty strategic locations for lodging along those routes

The Adirondack Community-based Trails and Lodging Concept

A lodging and trails system that improves and diversifies the outdoor recreation experience of Adirondack Park visitors by implementing regional networks throughout the Park, eventually linked together in a parkwide system, will:

- Create regional tourism destinations and more sustainable communities by expanding the tourist-based economy and increasing multiple overnight stays
- Provide physical fitness and other wellness opportunities for tourists and residents alike

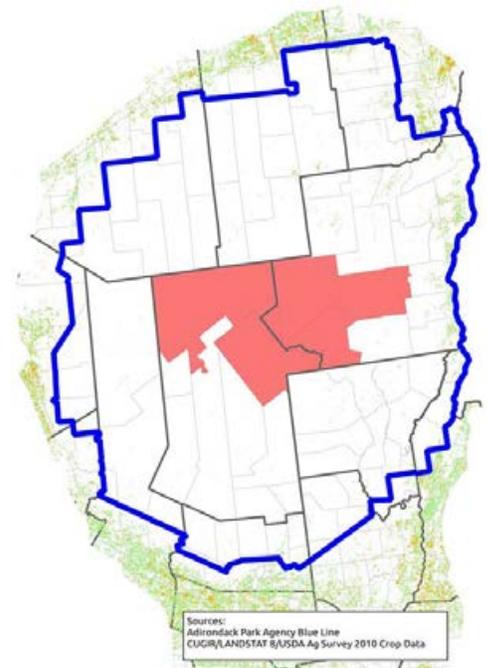


Figure 1. Five Towns
(Map adapted from A. Arthur)

- Promote conservation by broadening the demographic constituency for protecting the Adirondacks, focusing backcountry camper impact and modeling green building practices
- Increase international awareness of the Adirondack Park
- Utilize existing and new lodging about 8-12 miles apart that is connected by trails

Hut Systems Worldwide

Many valuable lessons can be learned from existing destination-trail (hut to hut) systems around the world, such as Europe’s E-paths, Scotland’s Great Trails, the UK’s National Trails, and New Zealand’s Great Walks. The evidence is clear that hut-to-hut trails internationally are economic game changers with a tremendous positive impact.

Hut Systems in the United States

Much also can be learned from other hut-to-hut trails in the United States. The 10th Mountain Division Hut Association manages a system of 34 backcountry huts in Colorado for skiers, snowboarders, snowshoers, cyclists and hikers. The Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC) has operated its hut system in New Hampshire’s White Mountains for over 125 years. The following results from a June 2014 to May 2015 economic study by the AMC showed spending by out-of-state overnight guests at their huts and lodges supported \$17.9 million in economic activity throughout the state of New Hampshire, and 73 percent of that impact benefited businesses other than AMC. AMC guest spending supported 191 jobs in the state, and, according to the study, 64 percent benefitted businesses other than AMC. In February 2008, the Maine Huts & Trails Association officially began operating a huts and trails system in Western Maine. Among its goals, first imagined in the 1970s, were creating a world-class destination, stimulating nature-based tourism, and promoting healthy outdoor recreation. In just seven years, the organization has built 80 miles of multi-use trails and four eco-lodges, hosted over 35,000 overnight guests, and spurred 25 million dollars of economic growth (mainly in two counties).

An Adirondack Hut System

Building on the unique characteristics and values of New York State’s Forest Preserve, the “hut to hut” concept in the Adirondack Park will be a hybridization of various hut-to-hut systems throughout the world. For some, the term hut invokes images of backcountry skiing trips to quaint log cabins in the wilderness; for others, hut implies a “primitive” type of lodging. Although some huts around the world are remote rustic cabins with room for as little as six people, others are 300-bed upscale lodges with restaurants, bars, and other amenities.

Three important observations about an Adirondack Park hut-to-hut, destination-trail system can be made from the outset:

- 1) Owing to the wilderness preservation movement’s roots and unique history in the Adirondacks, and to the Forest Preserve’s significant qualities and legal safeguards, the Adirondack Community-based Trails and Lodging System likely will be, in design and implementation, unlike other existing hut-to-hut, destination-trail systems.

2) While we have endeavored to provide a clear vision of what this system *could* look like, it is virtually impossible at this stage to say with any certainty what it finally *will* look like upon implementation.

3) Taking into account the economic impact of other systems, the economic impact to communities in the Adirondack Park clearly will be transformative. The AMC, operating only eight huts on fifty-six miles of trail, and Maine Huts, currently operating only four huts on a portion of a 120-mile route, have an established track record of benefitting outdoor recreation tourism, as described above. The Maine “huts” are million-dollar eco-friendly lodges with corporate support from companies such as L. L. Bean and New Balance shoes. The vast, six-million acre Adirondack Park – with its peaks and valleys, summits and fire towers, lakes and ponds, trails and forest tracts, rivers and streams, bustling villages and quiet hamlets, all spread throughout its patchwork quilt of public and private land – could have scores of lodgings linked to hundreds of miles of community-based trails. Imagine the possibilities!

The system will utilize existing lodging whenever possible to create a spectrum of lodging, from primitive, yet upscale, platform tents and yurts, to existing rental cabins and bed & breakfast accommodations, to eco-lodges and five-star hotels. It will range from low-cost, hostel-type lodging to expensive, amenity-rich, upscale lodging. Some lodgings will be self service, where visitors prepare their own meals, while other lodgings will be full service and provide meals.

An Adirondack Hut system will be designed to accommodate visitors year round. The winter season frequently is cited as the season with the biggest tourism growth potential in the Adirondacks. Lodging that provides a warm, comfortable place to stay and accommodates skiers and snowshoers will attract people from around the world.

Destination Trails: Circuits, Traverses, and Spur Trails

The destination trails or routes making up a successful Adirondack hut-to-hut system will be a network of *traverse*, *circuit*, and *spur* trails, with strategically located quality lodging, that intersect with communities.

- A *traverse* is a destination trail or route through the backcountry that begins in one community and ends in another community.

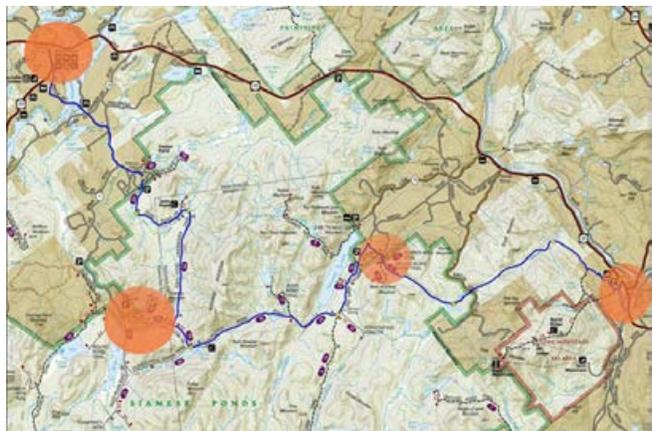


Figure 2. Traverse - North Creek/Indian Lake



Figure 3. Circuit - North Creek

- A *circuit* is a destination trail or route through the backcountry that begins and ends in the same community.

- A *spur trail* (sometimes called a linking or access trail) is a side trail of a circuit or traverse that connects a long-distance route to a community, or to a cultural, historic, or scenic destination (campsite, fire tower, historic building or site, overlook, summit, waterfall, etc.).



Figure 4. Spur - Long Lake

Lodging

What is the ideal lodge for a hut-to-hut system?

Around the world, huts vary greatly in terms of size (mostly in terms of sleeping capacity), physical structure and environmental impact, and means of access.

Huts in the United States range from six beds to ninety in sleeping capacity, while some in Europe have a sleeping capacity of over 300. We believe an ideal lodging capacity in the Adirondack Park to be 24-36 beds. It provides for a reasonable return on investment and sustainability, yet does not have too large a footprint.

The ideal Adirondack lodge on private land will be “energy plus” (it produces more energy from renewable energy sources, over the course of a year, than it uses) and/or LEED certified. As much as possible, it will have a small physical footprint and an aesthetically appealing look that is visually screened. Any lodging on state land, should it be permitted, will meet similar criteria, except that it will be temporary in nature, off the grid, and removed for portions of the year.

Around the world, some huts are truly backcountry; you can only hike to them, and supplies or waste must be transported in or out by helicopter. Others can be reached by motor vehicle for supply and maintenance. In the Adirondack Park, we envision vehicle access for most, if not all, backcountry lodges.

Where will lodging facilities be located?

Due to the unique nature of the Adirondack Park and its mix of private and public land, coupled with the protections granted to the NYS Forest Preserve, we will prioritize the siting of *permanent* lodging on private land and explore the possibilities for siting *temporary* lodging on state land. We have identified and prioritized five different types of strategic locations for lodging. The highest preference is utilizing existing, or creating new, lodging on private land. Second is creating new lodging on conservation easement parcels when such development is consistent with the terms of the conservation easement. Third is using existing buildings or temporary lodging (platform tents, yurts, or something similar) on state land classified as Intensive Use. Fourth is using existing buildings or temporary lodging (platform tents, yurts, or something similar) on state land classified as Historic. Fifth, and least desirable, will be temporary lodging (platform tents, yurts, or something similar) on other parcels of state land.

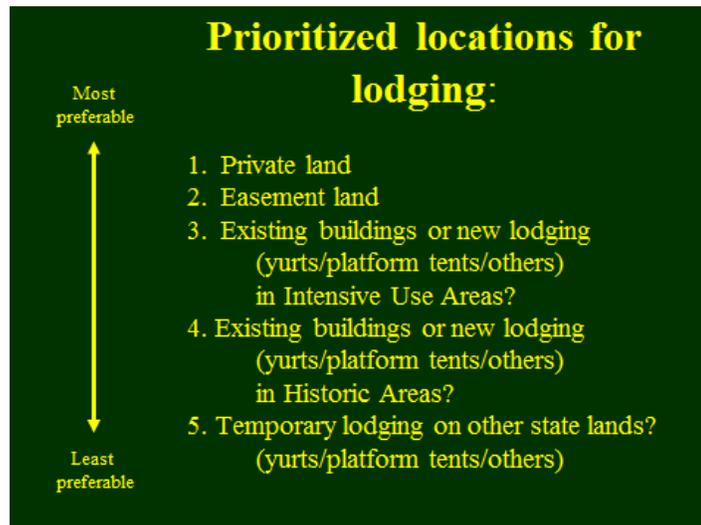


Figure 5. Lodging Prioritization

Lodging Criteria

No matter where the lodging is located, a number of criteria are critical for the success of this system. The following considerations will contribute to successful lodging:

- Sleeping space (at minimum, a bunk with mattress)
- Either a self-service kitchen with stoves and fuel, full-service meals, or nearby restaurants
- Well maintained
- Staffed at all times
- Toilets
- Insect free
- Dry
- Clean
- Warm in winter
- Single-night room availability
- Willingness to be part of a parkwide reservation system
- High-quality customer service
- Eco-friendly (zero-energy or energy-plus buildings, LEED certified, etc.)
- Luggage transfer and pick-up transfer options
- Drying rooms
- Public/private transportation and shuttle services

Keys to Success

Lodging

Newly constructed lodging facilities will be built to conform to the criteria listed above. Efforts will be made to assist lodging owners with improvements and upgrades to existing facilities, possibly through grants and other programs.

Trails

Trails that are part of the Adirondack Community-based Trails and Lodging System will be appealing destination trails, user friendly, and sustainable. Destination trails incorporate natural and cultural features, as well as opportunities for quiet and solitude. A user-friendly trail, while perhaps physically challenging, is a well-designed route that: minimizes boulder-strewn pathways; provides dry, well-drained, well-marked routes with moderate grades; and uses switchbacks where appropriate. A sustainable trail is durable and designed for high levels of use with minimal maintenance.

Public and Private Collaboration

For success, a coordinated, cooperative effort by business owners, nonprofits, and government agencies will be needed that models best practices with respect to: development, implementation, and marketing of routes; trail design, construction, and maintenance; and lodging design, construction, operation, and management.

Transportation Infrastructure and Services

An improved and expanded public transportation infrastructure is a good example of a cooperative effort by state, county, and local governments – and the business community – that will contribute to the success of an Adirondack destination-trail system.

Ideally, destination-trail users that are overseas visitors, or traveling by air, bus, or rail from other parts of the United States and Canada, will be able to reach Adirondack Park communities using public transportation, without needing to rent a car. A shuttle service, transporting travelers (if necessary) back to the community in which their trek started, will take advantage of both private and public transportation options.

Other services, such as luggage transfer and pick-up transfer, are more specific to successful destination trails. Although travelers can make their own arrangements for these services as well as their overnight accommodations, it is often more convenient and cost effective for all arrangements to be made by a business (or nonprofit organization) that operates a reservation (booking) service.

- **Luggage (Baggage) Transfer Service:** One of the most appealing aspects of destination trails is the opportunity for people to travel light, carrying only a day pack. A luggage transfer service ensures the safe and timely arrival of a traveler’s other clothing and gear – usually one simple duffel bag, limited to a certain weight – at a place of lodging at the end of each of the route’s daily stages. Sometimes the luggage is transported by local taxis, although successful businesses have been started to perform this service along popular routes. On occasion, though rarely, this service is provided by a public transportation service, such as a train or bus.
- **“Pick-up Transfer” Service:** Another service that could be provided by entrepreneurial lodging owners is a pick-up transfer service, enabling those interested in completing some routes to stay at one accommodation on successive nights where there is a gap in lodging along a route. At least four of Scotland’s Great Trails depend for their feasibility on a pick-up transfer service.

Proposed Conceptual Routes

1. The Process

The following routes (see 2. below) have been created, mapped, and described in detail. “Natural Features & Attractions” have been cataloged, with many links provided to more information on the Internet. “Highlights & Attributes” are noted and briefly discussed, as are “Challenges” that might affect implementation. For each route, other issues related to implementation have been noted in an “Observations & Questions” section. Finally, “Desirability” and “Feasibility” ratings are provided for each route.

We believe that each proposed conceptual route has merit for implementation and is ultimately feasible, based on our criteria and professional judgment.

It is important to keep in mind that the destination trails described and illustrated below are conceptual in nature; although we provide as much detail as possible, each description best represents, as a starting point, our idea or vision of the proposed route. These ideas will need further refinement and development before implementation; we don’t necessarily expect the routes to be implemented exactly as proposed.

To emphasize one of our prime directives - to create community-based trails - and to encourage and reinforce the concept of destination-trail users spending their first and last nights in an Adirondack village or hamlet, routes are described as having more nights than days (for example, a 5-night, 4-day trip). We have conceptualized these routes to encourage trekkers to celebrate the successful completion of a circuit or traverse with dinner and an overnight stay in the community where their Adirondack adventure reaches its successful and memorable conclusion.

As an evaluation tool, a matrix with a weighted list of criteria (below) was developed and each route was scored, resulting in the prioritized list of proposed routes. Further evaluation is suggested to determine which routes to implement first. It is important to note that, in some cases, the implementation of one route completes another; for example, Route #07 is simply one part of Route #01.

Prioritization Criteria:

- Comprehensive route & lodging experience
- Highlights & attributes
- Lodging in place
- Trails in place
- Legal hurdles
- Range of types of users (difficulty)
- Range of types of uses (multi-use)
- Perceived economic impact
- Perceived government & public support

2. Prioritized List of Routes

- 01 Indian Lake / North Creek Circuit w/Rafting Trip
- 02 Newcomb / Keene or Lake Placid Traverse
- 03 Long Lake NPT (Northville-Placid Trail) Spurs
- 04 Blue Mountain Lake NPT (Northville-Placid Trail) Spurs
- 05 Blue Mountain Lake / Long Lake Hiking & Paddling Circuit
- 06 Blue Mountain Lake / Long Lake Water Trail
- 07 Indian Lake / North Creek (South Traverse)
- 08 Blue Mountain Lake / Long Lake Hiking Circuit
- 09 Minerva / North Creek Traverse
- 10 Newcomb / Long Lake Traverse
- 11 Dix Mountain Wilderness Circuit
- 12 Historic Great Camp Circuit
- 13 Newcomb / North Hudson Traverse
- 14 Indian Lake / Newcomb Traverse
- 15 Grand Siamese Ponds Circuit
- 16 Indian Lake / Blue Mountain Lake Traverse
- 17 Newcomb / Long Lake Circuit
- 18 Newcomb / Tahawus to Boreas Circuit
- 19 Newcomb / Minerva Traverse
- 20 Minerva / North Hudson Traverse via North Country National Scenic Trail
- 21 Grand Central Adirondack Circuit
- 22 Grand High Peaks Circuit
- 23 Indian Lake / North Creek Hudson Gorge Traverse (North Traverse)
- 24 Indian Lake / North Creek Circuit
- 25 Newcomb / Long Lake Traverse Via Fishing Brook Range
- 26 Snowy Mountain Circuit

3. Route Descriptions & Maps:

Route #01: North Creek / Indian Lake Circuit with Hudson Gorge Rafting Trip

Description:

This 5-night, 4-day Indian Lake / North Creek Circuit combines a traverse from North Creek to Indian Lake (Route #07) with a world-class whitewater rafting trip in the scenic Hudson River Gorge. The route begins in the village of North Creek as hikers trek westward to lodging near Thirteenth Lake and the Siamese Ponds Wilderness Area. On the second day, the route traverses the Siamese Ponds Wilderness Area to the Chimney Mountain trailhead with a possible side trip to the cave near the mountain's summit. On the third day, hikers reach the quiet village of Indian Lake and enjoy a good night's rest and relaxation before the fourth and final day's rafting adventure and the circuit's completion in North Creek.

Natural Features & Attractions:

- Village of North Creek/[Town of Johnsburg](#)
- [North Creek Depot Museum](#)
- Optional hike: [Gore Mountain](#)
- Optional hike: [Balm of Gilead Mountain](#)
- [Barton Mines](#)
- [Thirteenth Lake](#)
- [Siamese Ponds Wilderness Area](#)
- Optional hike: [Peaked Mountain](#)
- [Chimney Mountain](#) & cave
- [King's Flow](#)
- [Lake Abanakee](#)
- [Village of Indian Lake](#)
- [Movie theater in Indian Lake](#)
- [Town of Indian Lake Museum](#)

Highlights & Attributes:

1. The combined experience of three days of hiking plus a rafting trip makes this route unique.
2. Travelers will spend one night in a community along the route in addition to the first and last nights.
3. Options exist for hikes to several summits with views: Gore, Peaked, and Balm of Gilead mountains.
4. Users will experience backcountry travel in the Siamese Ponds Wilderness Area.
5. Chimney Mountain's summit and cave are an inviting destination along this route.
6. The route is family friendly.
7. Lodging currently exists at all the strategic locations.

Challenges:

1. Some owners of existing lodges currently don't offer by-the-night lodging.
2. Completion of a hiking route is necessary from the Chimney Mountain trailhead into the Village of Indian Lake to avoid approximately 3.2 miles of road walking.

Observations & Questions:

1. Lodging owners in the communities need to be approached and presented with the benefits of being part of the destination-trail system.
2. Rafting trip reservations will have to be incorporated into a reservation system, or made by the individuals or groups planning to complete this circuit well in advance of their trip.
3. For the ambitious and fit, a round-trip hike of 6 miles up Gore Mountain from the Raymond Brook will be an option; construction of a connector trail will be necessary.
4. Peaked Mountain is an optional day hike; however, to incorporate this summit into the route, a trail connecting the Peaked Mountain trail to the Hour Pond trail west of Thirteenth Lake will allow hikers to summit Peaked Mountain. This alternate route will make the second day's travel longer, as well as increase the day's elevation gain by nearly 1,000 feet.
5. A licensed guide could provide trekkers with a guided trip to explore the cave near the summit of Chimney Mountain.

6. For hikers “exercising” the options to climb Gore and Peaked mountains, the route’s total mileage will increase from about 28 to over 38 miles, with a daily average of almost 13 miles.
7. Peaked Mountain and/or Balm of Gilead Mountain could be hiked on a layover day at Thirteenth Lake.
8. Based on our knowledge of the area, some portions of this route may need to be brought up to world-class standards.

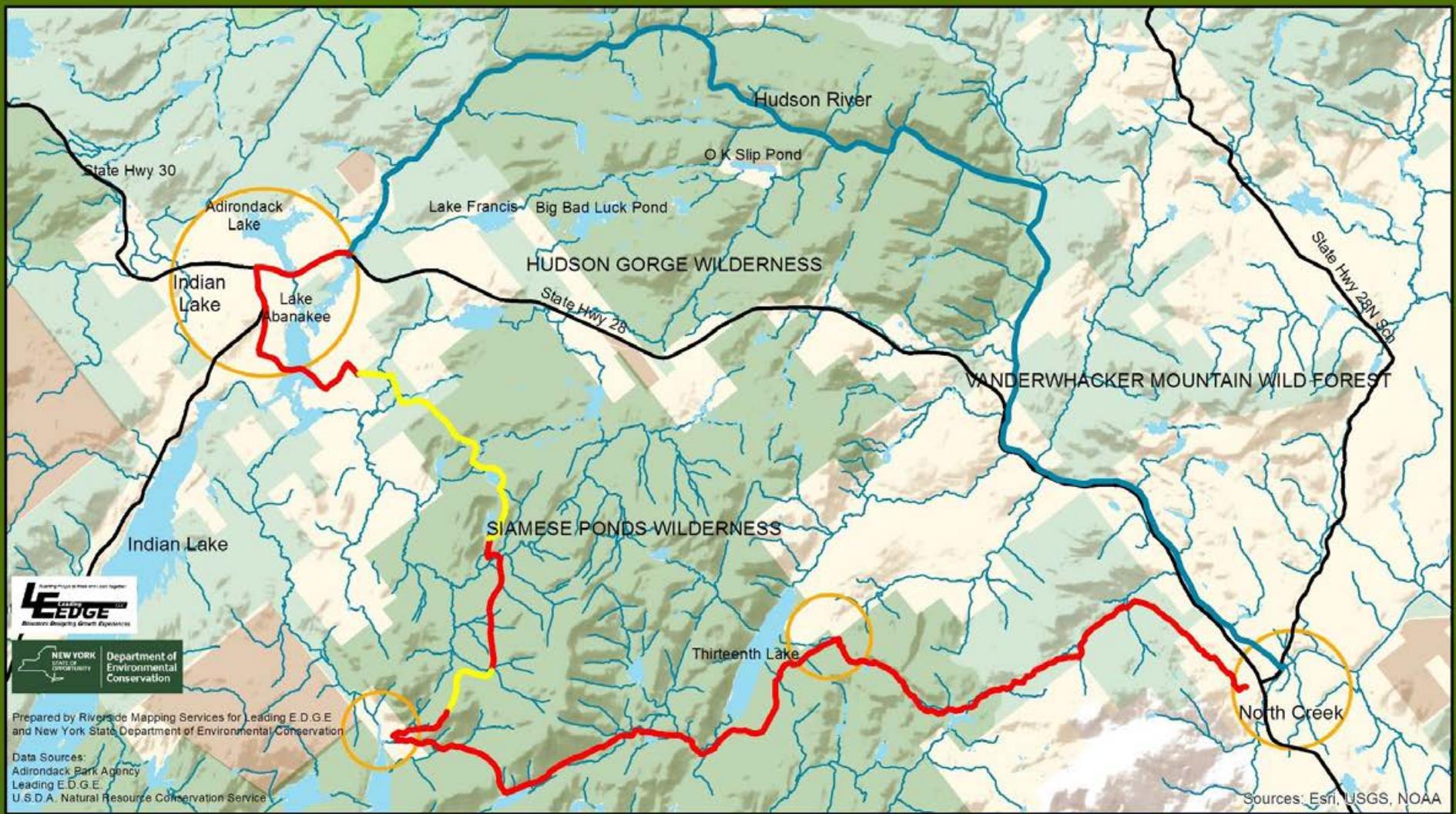
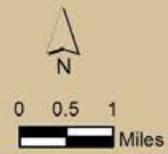
Desirability & Feasibility (1 = Low, 5 = High):

Desirability: 5

Feasibility: 4

- Existing Trail
- Proposed Trail
- Water Trail
- Road
- Strategic Lodging Location
- Private
- Wilderness
- Primitive
- Wild Forest
- DEC Easements 2015

**Route #01: Indian Lake/North Creek Circuit with Rafting Trip
November 2015**
**Concept Plan for a Destination-Based Hut to Hut Trail System
 for the Five Towns of
 Long Lake, Newcomb, Indian Lake, Minerva, and North Hudson**



Prepared by Riverside Mapping Services for Leading EDGE and New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

Data Sources:
 Adirondack Park Agency
 Leading EDGE
 U.S.D.A. Natural Resource Conservation Service

Sources: Esri, USGS, NOAA

Daily Stages - Route #01: North Creek / Indian Lake Circuit with Hudson Gorge Rafting Trip

| | Daily Stage Destination | Lodging in Place (1 = yes, 0 = no) | New Trail Needed, Approx. # of Miles | Difficulty Rating by Daily Stage | # of Miles | Elev. change (feet): Up Down Net |
|--------------------|--|---|---|---|-------------------|---|
| First Night | North Creek | 1 | | | | |
| Day 1 | Thirteenth Lake | 1 | 0 | 3 | 8 | +2002 -1148 +845 |
| Day 2 | King's Flow | 1 | 0 | 2 | 8 | +1084 -1280 -196 |
| Day 3 | Indian Lake | 1 | 4.5 | 3 | 11 | +1939 -1950 -11 |
| Day 4 | North Creek - rafting | 1 | 0 | 1 | 23 | -450 |
| | Lodging Facilities in Place | 5 | | | | |
| | Lodging Facilities Needed | 0 | | | | |
| | Total New Trail, Approx. # of Miles | | 4.5 | | | |
| | Overall Difficulty Rating | | | 2.25 | | |
| | Total Miles | | | | 27/23 | |
| | Ave. Miles Per Day | | | | 9/23 | |
| | Total Elevation Change - Feet | | | | | +5025 -4828 -638 |

Route #02: Newcomb / Keene, or Lake Placid, Traverse

Description:

The Newcomb / Keene, or Lake Placid, Traverse is a 6-night, 5-day trip that begins in Newcomb, utilizing the carriage road to reach a place of lodging near Camp Santanoni. On day two, hikers reach a place of lodging near Henderson Lake in Tahawus; an afternoon paddle awaits with spectacular views of the High Peaks Wilderness Area. On day three, the longest at 11.5 miles, hikers travel through the heart of the Adirondack High Peaks with views of some of New York's highest peaks en route to a lodging facility near Heart Lake. The next day, hikers traverse Mount Van Hoevenberg, site of the Olympic bobsled and luge tracks as well as the Olympic cross-country ski trails, to one of several nearby places of lodging. The final day's trek on the Jackrabbit Ski Trail leads north of Pitchoff Mountain to a place of lodging near or in the Village of Keene, or in a northwesterly direction to the Village of Lake Placid. This traverse has it all: history, spectacular views, Olympic venues, and a range of lodgings that aim to please.

Natural Features & Attractions:

- [Village of Newcomb](#)
- [Adirondack Interpretive Center \(AIC\)](#)
- [Camp Santanoni Historic Area](#)
- [Henderson Lake](#)
- [Tahawus Blast Furnace](#)
- [Lake Colden & Flowed Lands](#)
- [High Peaks Wilderness Area](#)
- [Village of Lake Placid](#)
- [Avalanche Pass](#)
- [Henderson Monument](#)

Highlights & Attributes:

1. This route is a "low hanging fruit." It needs minimal amount of work to bring it to reality.
2. It travels through and utilizes the Camp Santanoni Historic Area.
3. A place of lodging near Henderson Lake in Tahawus will provide an opportunity to paddle on Henderson Lake with outstanding views of the High Peaks.
4. The route traverses the spectacular High Peaks Wilderness Area.

Challenges:

1. It requires the following:
 - a. A community trail along the south side of Newcomb to the Camp Santanoni Historic Area's parking lot
 - b. The development of lodging in the vicinity of Camp Santanoni
 - c. A new trail from Camp Santanoni to Henderson Lake
2. It will probably contribute to increased use of the High Peaks.
3. Some sections of trail probably need to be brought up to world-class standards.
4. The lodging facility at the eastern terminus of the Jackrabbit Ski Trail is not in a community, but is 3.5 miles from the center of the hamlet of Keene.

Observations & Questions:

1. Lodging owners in the communities need to be approached and presented with the benefits of being part of the destination-trail system.
2. Is the Jackrabbit Ski Trail open for public use year round?
3. There are numerous potential routes to Lake Placid from Heart Lake.
4. The Jackrabbit Ski Trail is an existing route from Mount Van Hoevenberg to Lake Placid.
5. Is there a possible trail route from the (easternmost) summit of Pitchoff Mountain to the eastern terminus of the Jackrabbit Ski Trail? It would be much more interesting than walking the Old Mountain Road.

6. Would it be feasible to build a trail, or does one exist, from the west end of the Old Mountain Road to the trail that goes from North Country School to the boulders at the west end of Pitchoff?
7. What is the possibility of connecting places of lodging near the Lake Placid Olympic Sports Complex at Mount Van Hoevenberg to the Cascade trailhead and the western Pitchoff trailhead utilizing the Olympic cross-country trails?
8. Is there merit to having the route continue from the eastern terminus of the Jackrabbit Ski Trail into the village of Keene?
9. The route from Camp Santanoni Historic Area to Henderson Lake is based on DEC Forester recommendations.

Desirability & Feasibility (1 = Low, 5 = High):

Desirability: 5

Feasibility: 5

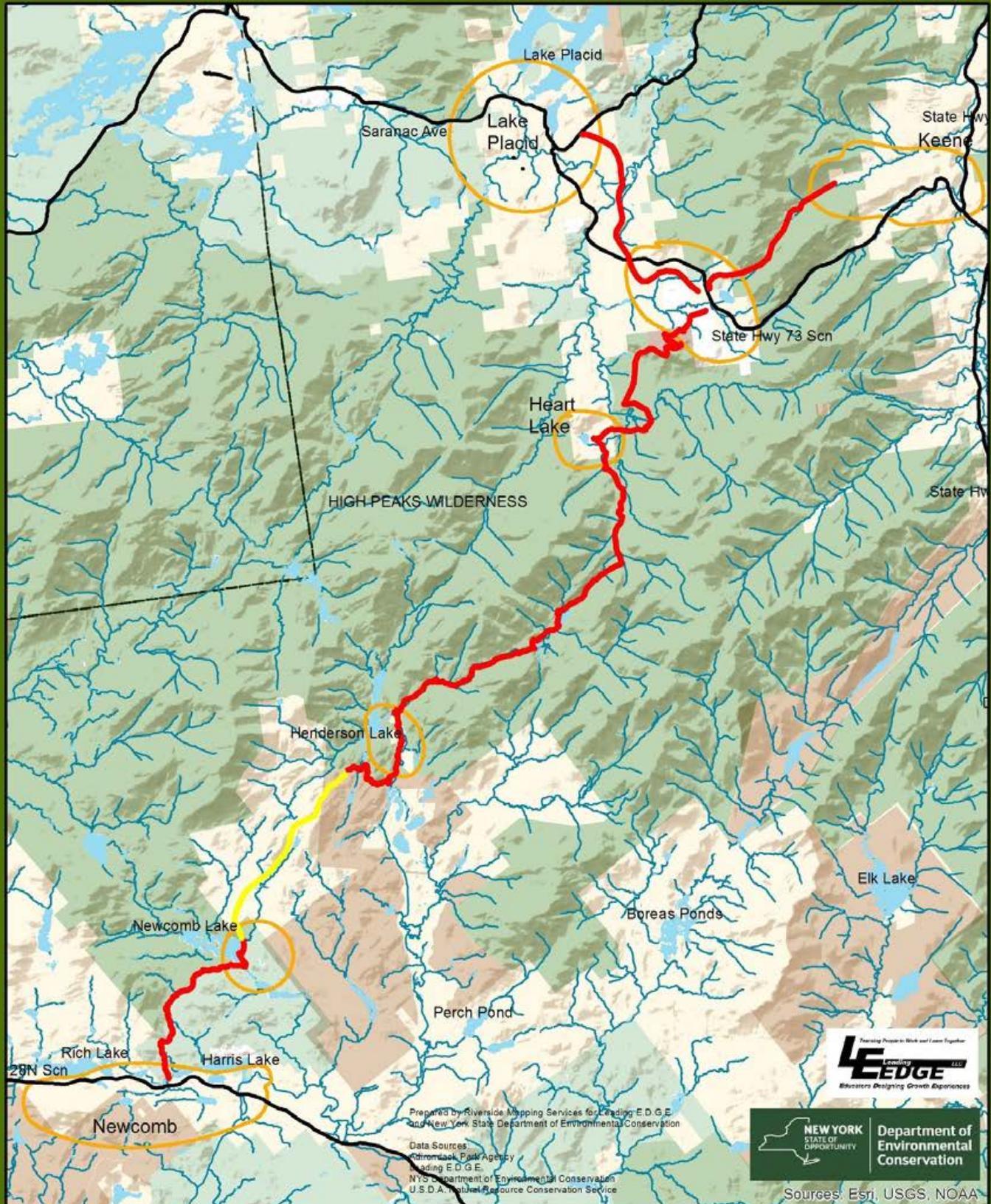
- Existing Trail
- Proposed Trail
- Road
- Strategic Lodging Location
- Private
- Wilderness
- Primitive
- Wild Forest
- DEC Easements 2015

Route #02: Newcomb/Keene or Lake Placid Traverse
November 2015

Concept Plan for a Destination-Based Hut to Hut Trail System
for the Five Towns of
Long Lake, Newcomb, Indian Lake, Minerva, and North Hudson



0 0.5 1 2 3 Miles



Prepared by Riverside Mapping Services for LEEDGE, E.D.G.E. and New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
 Data Sources:
 Adirondack Park Agency
 LEEDGE
 NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
 U.S.D.A. Natural Resource Conservation Service



Sources: Esri, USGS, NOAA

Daily Stages - Route #02: Newcomb / Keene, or Lake Placid, Traverse

| | Daily Stage Destination | Lodging in Place (1 = yes, 0 = no) | New Trail Needed, Approx. # of Miles | Difficulty Rating by Daily Stage | # of Miles | Elev. change (feet): Up Down Net |
|------------------------|--|---|---|---|-------------------|---|
| First Night | Newcomb | 1 | | | | |
| Day 1 | Near Camp Santanoni | 0 | 0 | 1 | 6 | +670 -520 +150 |
| Day 2 | Near Henderson Lake, Tahawus | 1 | 6 | 2 | 7 | +1335 -1397 -62 |
| Day 3 | Near Heart Lake | 1 | 0 | 4 | 12 | +1924 -2340 -416 |
| Day 4 | Olympic Sports Complex at Mount Van Hoevenberg | 1 | 0 | 3 | 7 | +1314 -1213 +101 |
| Day 5 Alt 1 | Eastern Terminus of Jackrabbit Ski Trail, Keene | 1 | 0 | 2 | 5 | +958 -506 +452 |
| Day 5 Alt 2 | Lake Placid | 1 | 0 | 1 | 6 | +940 -782 +158 |
| | Lodging Facilities in Place | 5 | | | | |
| | Lodging Facilities Needed | 1 | | | | |
| | Total New Trail, Approx. # of Miles | | 6 | | | |
| | Overall Difficulty Rating | | | 2.3 | | |
| | Total Miles | | | | 37/38 | |
| | Ave. Miles Per Day | | | | 7.5/7.5 | |
| | Total Elevation Change - Feet | | | | | +7141 -6758 +383 |

Route #03: Long Lake Northville-Placid Trail Spurs

Description:

The Long Lake - Northville-Placid Trail (NPT) Spurs provide three alternatives for leaving and returning to the NPT, thus providing easier access to the overnight accommodations and other amenities in the Village of Long Lake.

- Alternative 1 provides a route that allows people to leave and return to the trail at the same point (for those dedicated thru-hikers that may want to hike every foot of the trail).
- Alternative 2 provides the shortest route from the NPT to the village for those coming from the south.
- Alternative 3 provides the shortest route from the village back to the trail for those heading north.

Highlights & Attributes:

1. These trails provide an option for hikers to hike into Long Lake to:
 - a. get provisions
 - b. get a hot meal
 - c. get mail
 - d. spend a night and get a hot shower
 - e. enjoy a scenic float plane ride
2. Two of the alternatives are either on state or town land.
3. The third alternative, from the Dock Road to the Jim Bird Road, already exists as a snowmobile trail.

Challenges:

1. Two of the three spur trails need to be constructed.

Observations & Questions:

1. It is important for the NPT to be maintained as a wilderness trail with an option to hike into the community rather than to relocate it through the community. Some people we talked with were very passionate about their desire to preserve the original design of the NPT as a wilderness trail that bypasses communities.
2. An option to leave and return to the NPT from the same point is important for some end-to-end hikers who want to say they hiked the trail's entire length.
3. Additional field checking should be done to catalog any Natural Features & Attractions, such as the views from Mt. Sabattis, along all three routes.
4. Development of all three trails will provide residents, as well as day and overnight visitors to Long Lake, with some valuable new options for local hikes, thus contributing to the wellness goals of the destination-trail system.
5. It is likely that two, if not all three, of the spur trails will be utilized as integral components of the destination-trail system to connect communities.

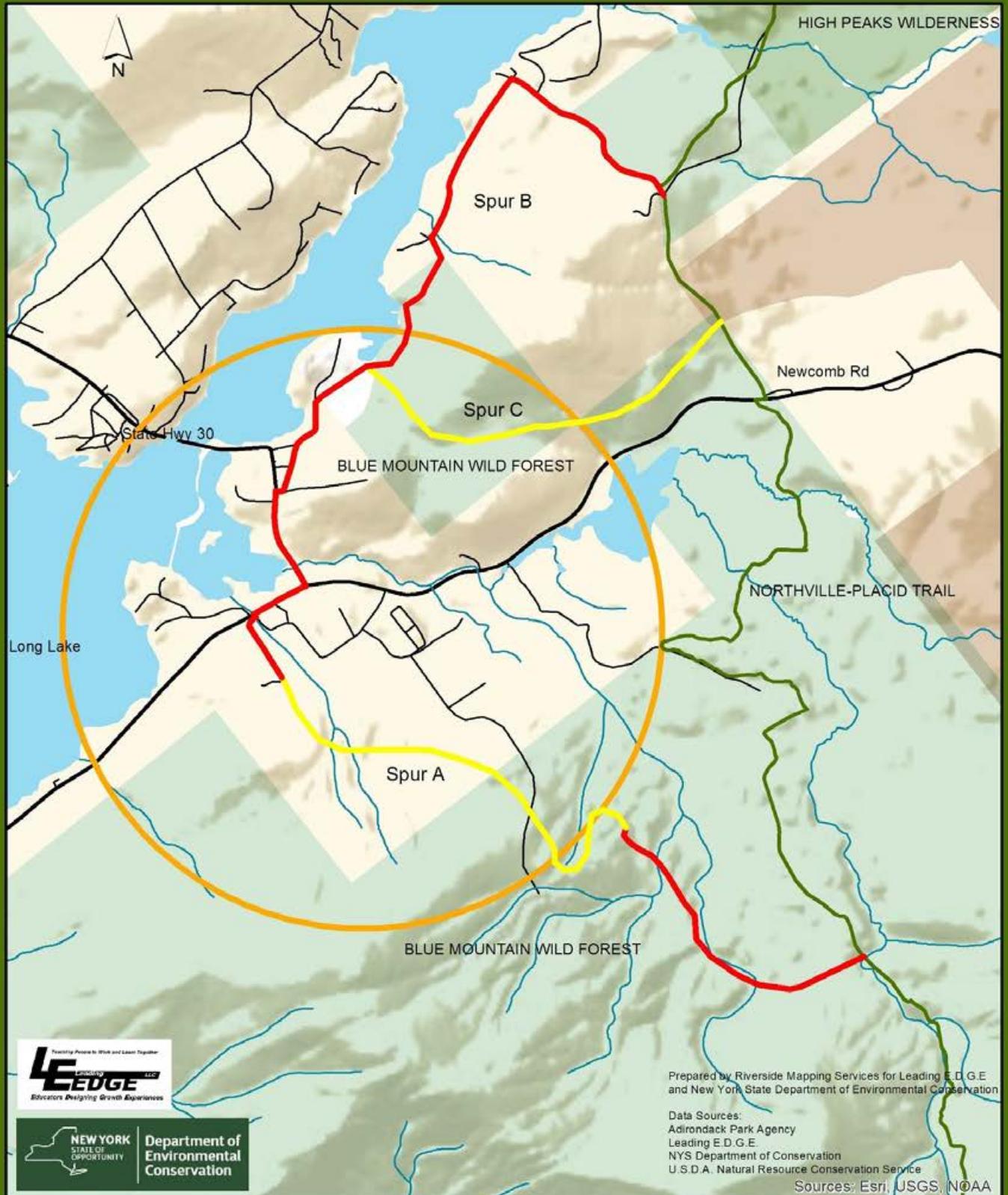
Desirability & Feasibility (1 = Low, 5 = High):

Desirability: 5

Feasibility: 5

**Route #03: Long Lake/Northville Placid Trail Spur
November 2015**

**Concept Plan for a Destination-Based Hut to Hut Trail System
for the Five Towns of
Long Lake, Newcomb, Indian Lake, Minerva, and North Hudson**



Prepared by Riverside Mapping Services for Leading E.D.G.E. and New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

Data Sources:
Adirondack Park Agency
Leading E.D.G.E.
NYS Department of Conservation
U.S.D.A. Natural Resource Conservation Service
Sources: Esri, USGS, NOAA

Route #04: Blue Mountain Lake Northville-Placid Trail Spurs

Description:

The Blue Mountain Lake Northville-Placid Trail (NPT) Spurs provide three alternatives for leaving and returning to the NPT, thus providing easier access to the overnight accommodations and other amenities in the Village of Blue Mountain Lake.

- Alternative 1 (Spur C) provides a route that allows people to leave and return to the NPT at the same point (for those dedicated thru-hikers that may want to hike every foot of the trail).
- Alternative 2 (Spur A) provides the shortest route from the NPT to the village for those coming from the south.
- Alternative 3 (Spur B) provides the shortest route from the village to the NPT for those heading north.

Highlights & Attributes:

1. These trails provide an option for hikers to hike into Blue Mountain Lake to:
 - a. get provisions
 - b. get a hot meal
 - c. get mail
 - d. spend a night and get a hot shower
2. Two of the alternatives already exist; alternative 1 follows the existing snowmobile route and Alternative 2 is the trail from Cascade Pond.

Challenges:

1. One of the three spurs needs to be constructed (Alternative 3).
2. Alternative 3 crosses private land and will require permission.

Observations & Questions:

1. It is important that the NPT not be relocated through the community but to provide thru-hikers with the option to hike into the community. Some people we talked with were very passionate about their desire to preserve the original design of the NPT as a wilderness trail that bypasses communities.
2. An option to leave and return to the trail from the same point is important for some end-to-end hikers who want to say they hiked the trail's entire length.
3. Alternative 1 utilizes the existing snowmobile trail. It has not been field checked. There are alternative routes should the snowmobile trail not be suitable for a hiking trail.
4. Some research (field checking) should be done to catalog any Natural Features & Attractions along all three routes, such as the optional hike over Blue Mountain.
5. Development of all three trails also will provide residents, as well as day and overnight visitors to Blue Mountain Lake, with some valuable new options for local hikes, thus making a great contribution to the wellness goals of the destination-trail system.
6. It is likely that two, if not all three, of the spur trails will be utilized as integral components of the destination-trail system to connect communities.

Desirability & Feasibility (1 = Low, 5 = High):

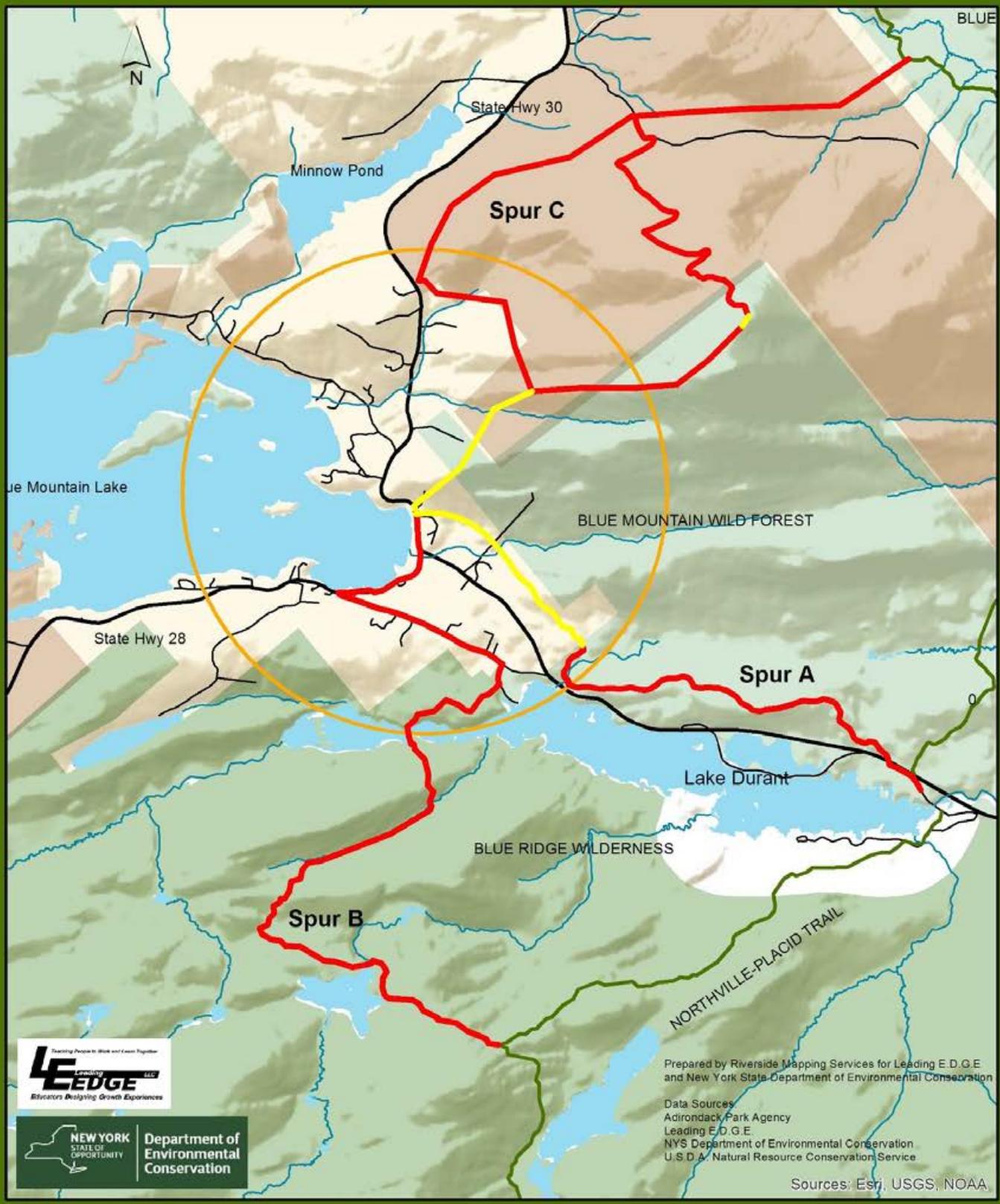
Desirability: 5

Feasibility: 4



**Route #04: Blue Mountain Lake/Northville Lake Placid Trail
November 2015**

**Concept Plan for a Destination-Based Hut to Hut Trail System
for the Five Towns of
Long Lake, Newcomb, Indian Lake, Minerva, and North Hudson**



Prepared by Riverside Mapping Services for Leading E.D.G.E. and New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

Data Sources:
Adirondack Park Agency
Leading E.D.G.E.
NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
U.S.D.A. Natural Resource Conservation Service

Sources: Esri, USGS, NOAA

Route #05: Long Lake / Blue Mountain Lake Hiking & Paddling Circuit

Description: The Long Lake via Blue Mountain Lake Hiking & Paddling Circuit, 6 nights and 5 days, begins with a hike along part of the almost 100-year-old Northville-Placid Trail (NPT). After leaving the Village of Long Lake and traveling east to join the NPT, hikers will turn south to reach a backcountry lodge (proposed) near Salmon Pond. The second day's travel leads south with the option of taking the Tirrell Pond trail and an old road to reach the summit of Blue Mountain, or staying on the NPT and reaching the Village of Blue Mountain Lake via a spur trail (the snowmobile trail) parallel to Route 28 near Lake Durant. Whichever route is chosen, travelers will enjoy a night in the lovely Village of Blue Mountain Lake, the first place electric lights were used in a hotel in the United States.

The next part of the journey is a "water trail" (see Route #06) that provides a three-day paddling excursion back to Long Lake via Raquette and Forked lakes and the Marion and Raquette rivers. In addition to paddling a section of the historic "90-Miler" route, paddlers may enjoy a sunset or dinner cruise on Raquette Lake, a hike up Castle Rock or West Mountain, and a visit to Buttermilk Falls on the Raquette River.

Natural Features & Attractions:

- [Village of Long Lake](#)
- [Mount Sabattis Park and Pavilion](#)
- [Northville-Placid Trail](#)
- Optional hike: [Blue Mountain](#)
- Village of Blue Mountain Lake
- [Adirondack Museum](#)
- Optional hike: [Castle Rock](#)
- Railroad & [Adirondack Great Camp](#) history
- [Marion River](#)
- Raquette Lake cruises on [WW Durant](#)
- Historic 90-miler paddling route
- Optional hike: [West Mountain](#)
- Optional hike: [Buttermilk Falls](#)
- Optional hike: [Owl's Head](#)
- [Village of Long Lake](#)

Highlights & Attributes:

1. Hikers will experience traveling on the Adirondack Park's almost 100-year-old long-distance route, the Northville-Placid Trail.
2. A hike up Blue Mountain is an option for the second day's travel.
3. About midway on the trip, travelers can enjoy a visit to the Adirondack Museum, a hike up Castle Rock, and an extra night in the Village of Blue Mountain Lake.
4. Paddlers can choose a canoe or kayak for the paddling section of this trip, from Blue Mountain Lake to Raquette Lake via the Marion River, then across Raquette and Forked lakes, with a portage in between, to the Forked Lake Campground.
5. The final leg of the trip is on the Raquette River past Buttermilk Falls and north to Long Lake.
6. Near the Village of Long Lake, hikers can hike to a summit with a fire tower, Owl's Head.

Challenges:

1. A spur trail will be needed from the NPT to Long Lake Village through Mount Sabattis Park.
2. Lodging will need to be built along the Northville-Placid Trail (NPT) near Salmon Pond that is consistent with the terms of the conservation easement.
3. A spur trail from the center of Blue Mountain Lake (intersection of routes 28 and 30) to the Blue Mountain trail will need to be built.
4. Lodging will be necessary at the Forked Lake Campground, or somewhere close by on private land.

Observations & Questions:

1. Lodging owners in the communities need to be approached and presented with the benefits of being part of the destination-trail system.

Desirability & Feasibility (1 = Low, 5 = High):

Desirability: 4

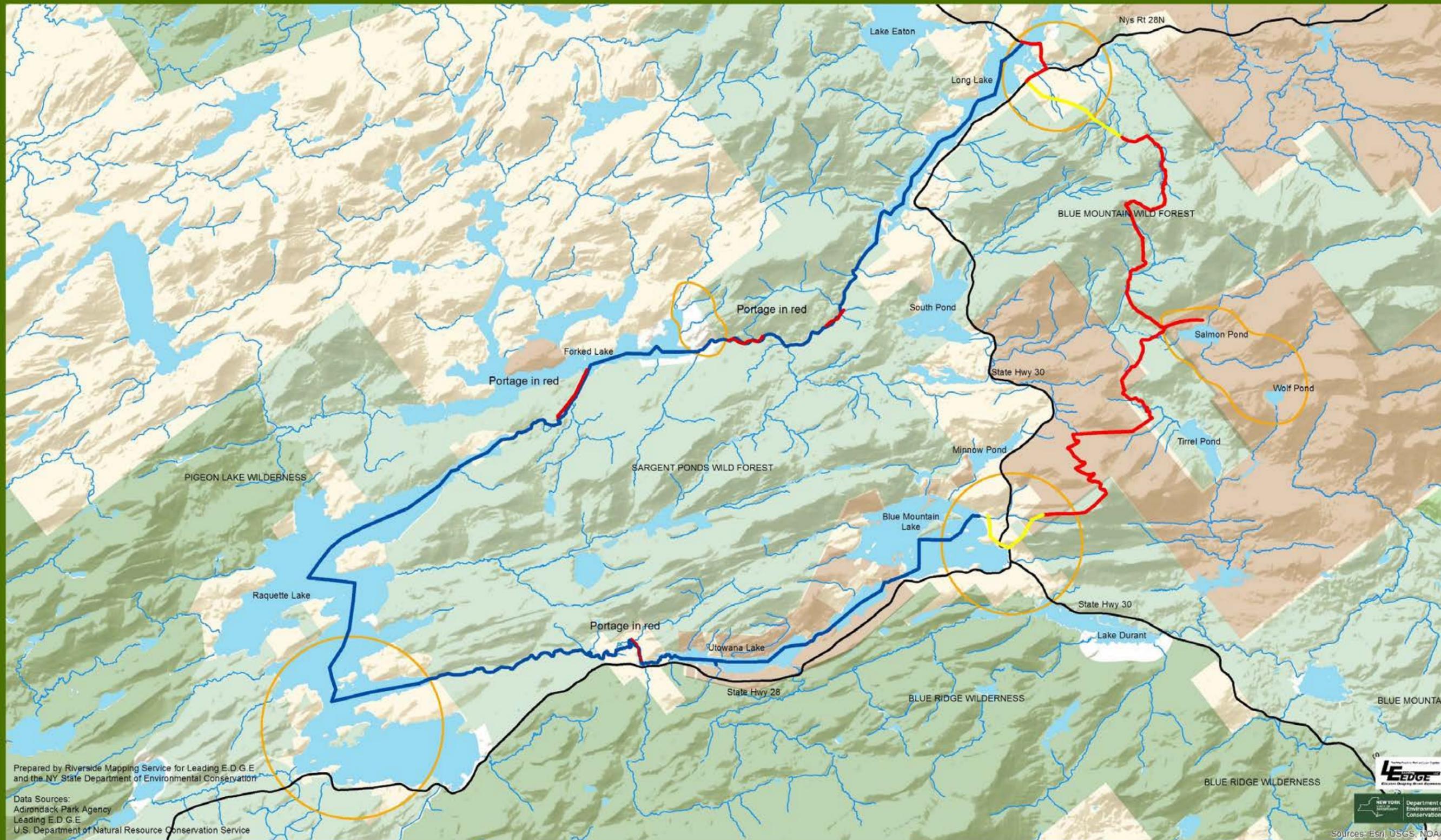
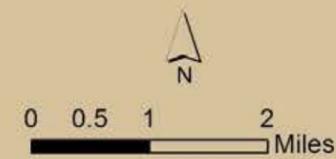
Feasibility: 5

Concept Plan for a Hut-to-hut Destination-based Trail System
for the Five Towns of Long Lake, Newcomb, Indian Lake, Minerva, and North Hudson
Prepared by Leading E.D.G.E. for the NYSDEC

- Existing Trail
- Proposed Trail
- Water Trail
- Strategic Lodging Locations
- Private
- Wilderness
- Primitive
- Wild Forest
- DEC Easements 2015

Route #05: Blue Mountain Lake/Long Lake Hiking and Paddling Circuit
November 2015

Concept Plan for a Destination-Based Hut to Hut Trail System
for the Five Towns of
Long Lake, Newcomb, Indian Lake, Minerva, and North Hudson



Prepared by Riverside Mapping Service for Leading E.D.G.E. and the NY State Department of Environmental Conservation
 Data Sources:
 Adirondack Park Agency
 Leading E.D.G.E.
 U.S. Department of Natural Resource Conservation Service

LEEDGE
 LEADERSHIP IN ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND GUIDANCE
 NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
 Sources: Esri, USGS, NOAA

Daily Stages - Route #05: Long Lake / Blue Mountain Lake Hiking & Paddling Circuit

| | Daily Stage Destination | Lodging in Place (1 = yes, 0 = no) | New Trail Needed, Approx. # of Miles | Difficulty Rating by Daily Stage | # of Miles | Elev. change (feet): Up Down Net |
|--------------------|--|--|---|----------------------------------|------------|---|
| First Night | Long Lake | 1 | | | | |
| Day 1 | Near Salmon Pond & the NPT | 0 | 2.5 | 3 | 7 | +1158 -1153 +405 |
| Day 2 | Blue Mountain Lake | 1 | 1.5 | 2 | 6 | +701 -988 -287 |
| Day 3 | Raquette Lake | 1 | 0 | 2 | 13 | +237 -204 +33 |
| Day 4 | Forked Lake Campground | 0 | 0 | 2 | 9 | +162 -255 -93 |
| Day 5 | Long Lake | 1 | 0 | 3 | 12 | +50 -72 -22 |
| | Lodging Facilities in Place | 4 | | | | |
| | Lodging Facilities Needed | 2 | | | | |
| | Total New Trail, Approx. # of Miles | | 4.0 | | | |
| | Overall Difficulty Rating | | | 2.4 | | |
| | Total Miles | | | | 13/34 | |
| | Ave. Miles Per Day | | | | 6.5/11 | |
| | Total Elevation Change - Feet | | | | | +2308 -2672 +36 |

Route #06: Blue Mountain Lake / Long Lake Water Trail

Description:

The Blue Mountain Lake to Long Lake Water Trail region provides paddling enthusiasts the opportunity to start a 4-night, 3-day trip in the picturesque and historic village of Blue Mountain Lake, where electric lights were first used in a hotel in the U.S., and continue to Long Lake via Raquette and Forked lakes and the Marion and Raquette rivers. In addition to paddling a section of the historic "90-Miler" route, paddlers may enjoy a sunset or dinner cruise on Raquette Lake, a hike up Castle Rock or West Mountain, and a visit to Buttermilk Falls on the Raquette River. Before the trip starts, travelers could hike up Blue Mountain or spend a day at the Adirondack Museum in Blue Mountain Lake.

Natural Features & Attractions:

- Village of Blue Mountain Lake
- [Adirondack Museum](#)
- History of Blue Mountain Lake
- Railroad & [Adirondack Great Camp](#) history
- Raquette Lake cruises on [WW Durant](#)
- 90-miler paddling route
- Optional hike: [Blue Mountain](#)
- Optional hike: [Castle Rock](#)
- Optional hike: [West Mountain](#)
- Optional hike: [Buttermilk Falls](#)
- [Marion River](#)
- [Village of Long Lake](#)

Highlights & Attributes:

1. Blue Mountain Lake and Raquette Lake are rich in history, from Great Camps to train and steamboat travel.
2. Paddlers will enjoy part of the historic "90-miler" route through the Adirondacks.
3. Opportunities for swimming abound along the way.
4. Scenic cruises are offered in Blue Mountain Lake.
5. The W.W. Durant offers various cruises on Raquette Lake.
6. Tioga Point on Raquette Lake is an excellent spot for lunch and another swim.
7. Optional hikes along the way include Blue Mountain, Castle Rock, West Mountain, and Owl's Head.
8. This trip takes you by Buttermilk Falls on the Raquette River.

Challenges:

1. The length and condition of carry trails will affect the route's difficulty rating. Some portages may need to be brought up to world-class standards.
2. Paddling on large lakes will affect the route's difficulty rating and may be challenging for novices.

Observations & Questions:

1. Lodging owners in the communities need to be approached and presented with the benefits of being part of the destination-trail system.
2. Although some form of lodging, perhaps temporary or removable, will need to be approved and implemented at or near the Forked Lake Campground, this route will be very quick to put in place.

Desirability & Feasibility (1 = Low, 5 = High):

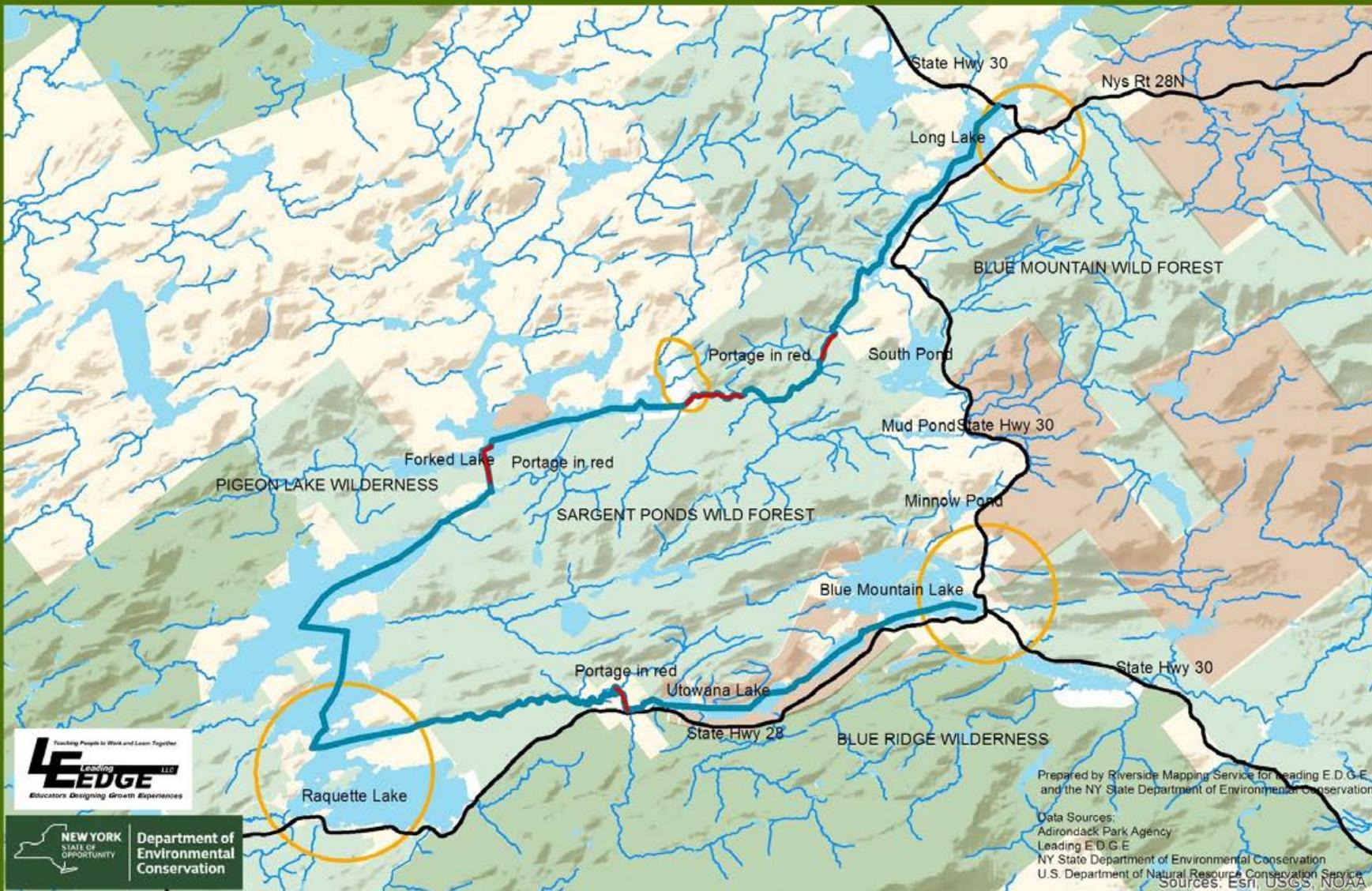
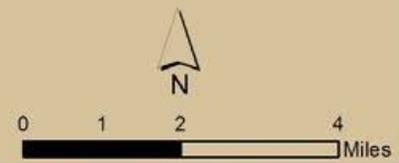
Desirability: 5

Feasibility: 5

**Route #06: Blue Mountain/Long Lake Paddling Water Trail
November 2015**

**Concept Plan for a Destination-Based Hut to Hut Trail System
for the Five Towns of
Long Lake, Newcomb, Indian Lake, Minerva, and North Hudson**

-  Water Trail
-  Road
-  Strategic Lodging Location
-  Private
-  Wilderness
-  Primitive
-  Wild Forest
-  DEC Easements 2015



Prepared by Riverside Mapping Service for Leading E.D.G.E. and the NY State Department of Environmental Conservation
 Data Sources:
 Adirondack Park Agency
 Leading E.D.G.E.
 NY State Department of Environmental Conservation
 U.S. Department of Natural Resource Conservation Service
 Sources: Esri, USGS, NOAA

Daily Stages - Route #06: Blue Mountain Lake / Long Lake Water Trail

| | Daily Stage Destination | Lodging in Place (1 = yes, 0 = no) | New Trail Needed, Approx. # of Miles | Difficulty Rating by Daily Stage | # of Miles | Elev. change (feet): Up Down Net |
|--------------------|--|---|---|---|-------------------|---|
| First Night | Blue Mountain Lake | 1 | | | | |
| Day 1 | Raquette Lake | 1 | 0 | 2 | 13 | +237 -204 +33 |
| Day 2 | Forked Lake Campground | 0 | 0 | 2 | 9 | +162 -255 -93 |
| Day 3 | Long Lake | 1 | 0 | 3 | 12 | +50 -72 -22 |
| | Lodging Facilities in Place | 3 | | | | |
| | Lodging Facilities Needed | 1 | | | | |
| | Total New Trail, Approx. # of Miles | | 0 | | | |
| | Overall Difficulty Rating | | | 2.3 | | |
| | Total Miles | | | | 34 | |
| | Ave. Miles Per Day | | | | 11.0 | |
| | Total Elevation Change - Feet | | | | | +449 -531 -82 |

Route #07: North Creek / Indian Lake Traverse

Description:

The North Creek to Indian Lake Traverse is a 4-night, 3-day trip begins in North Creek and leads westward to the first night's lodging near Thirteenth Lake. On the second day, the route traverses the northern portion of the Siamese Ponds Wilderness area to the Chimney Mountain trailhead and King's Flow. On the third and final day, travelers go up and over Chimney Mountain (utilizing a newly proposed trail on the northeast side of the mountain), around John and Clear ponds, and into Indian Lake via existing and proposed trail and the Lake Abanakee Causeway. This route provides optional side trips to the summits of Gore, Balm of Gilead, and Peaked mountains, and to the cave near the Chimney Mountain summit.

Natural Features & Attractions:

- Village of North Creek/[Town of Johnsburg](#)
- [North Creek Depot Museum](#)
- Optional hike: [Gore Mountain](#)
- Optional hike: [Balm of Gilead Mountain](#)
- [Barton Mines](#)
- [Thirteenth Lake](#)
- [Siamese Ponds Wilderness Area](#)
- Optional hike: [Peaked Mountain](#)
- [Chimney Mountain](#) & cave
- [King's Flow](#)
- [Lake Abanakee](#)
- [Village of Indian Lake](#)
- [Movie theater in Indian Lake](#)
- [Town of Indian Lake Museum](#)
- Rafting trip in [Hudson River Gorge](#)

Highlights & Attributes:

1. Options exist for hikes to several summits with views: Gore, Peaked, and Balm of Gilead mountains.
2. Users will experience backcountry travel (skiing, snowshoeing, or hiking) in the Siamese Ponds Wilderness Area.
3. Chimney Mountain's summit and cave are an inviting destination along this route.
4. This is potentially a good cross-country ski route (particularly from west to east).
5. The route is family friendly.
6. Lodging exists at all the strategic locations.

Challenges:

1. Some owners of existing lodges currently don't offer by-the-night lodging.
2. Completion of a hiking route is necessary from the Chimney Mountain trailhead into the Village of Indian Lake, avoiding approximately 3.2 miles of road walking.

Observations & Questions:

1. Lodging owners in the communities need to be approached and presented with the benefits of being part of the destination-trail system.
2. For the ambitious and fit, a round-trip hike of 6 miles up Gore Mountain from the Raymond Brook Trail will be an option; construction of a connector trail will be necessary.
3. Peaked Mountain is an optional day hike; however, to incorporate this summit into the route, a trail connecting the Peaked Mountain trail to the Hour Pond trail west of Thirteenth Lake will allow hikers to summit Peaked Mountain. This alternate route will make the second day's travel longer, as well as increase the day's elevation gain by nearly 1,000 feet.
4. A licensed guide could provide trekkers with a guided trip to explore the cave near the summit of Chimney Mountain.
5. For hikers "exercising" the options to climb Gore and Peaked mountains, the route's total mileage will increase from approximately 28 to over 38 miles, with a daily average of almost 13 miles.

6. Peaked Mountain and/or Balm of Gilead Mountain could be hiked on a layover day at Thirteenth Lake.
7. Based on our knowledge of the area, some portions of this route may need to be brought up to world-class standards.

Desirability & Feasibility (1 = Low, 5 = High):

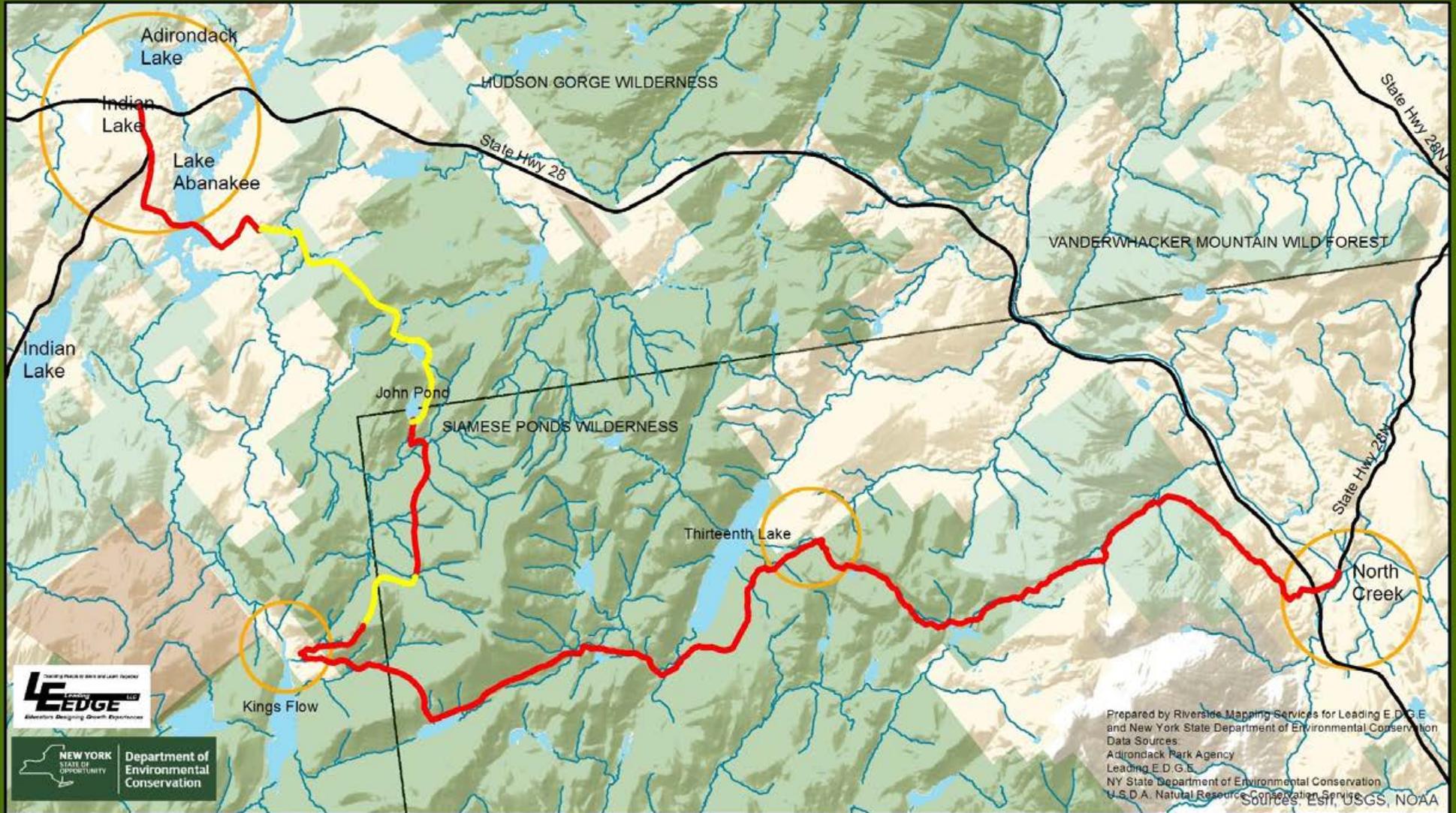
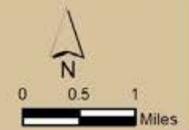
Desirability: 4

Feasibility: 4

- Existing
- Proposed
- Major Road
- Strategic Lodging Locations
- Private
- Wilderness
- Primitive
- Wild Forest
- DEC Easements 2015
- World Terrain Base

Route #07: North Creek/Indian Lake Traverse
November 2015

Concept Plan for a Destination-Based Hut to Hut Trail System
for the Five Towns of Long Lake, Newcomb, Indian Lake, Minerva, and North Hudson



Prepared by Riverside Mapping Services for Leading E.D.G.E. and New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
 Data Sources:
 Adirondack Park Agency
 Leading E.D.G.E.
 NY State Department of Environmental Conservation
 U.S.D.A. Natural Resources Conservation Service
 Sources: ESRI, USGS, NOAA

Daily Stages - Route #07: North Creek / Indian Lake Traverse

| | Daily Stage Destination | Lodging in Place (1 = yes, 0 = no) | New Trail Needed, Approx. # of Miles | Difficulty Rating by Daily Stage | # of Miles | Elev. change (feet): Up Down Net |
|--------------------|--|---|---|---|-------------------|---|
| First Night | North Creek | 1 | | | | |
| Day 1 | Thirteenth Lake | 1 | 0 | 3 | 8 | +2002 -1148 +845 |
| Day 2 | King's Flow | 1 | 0 | 2 | 8 | +1084 -1280 -196 |
| Day 3 | Indian Lake | 1 | 4.5 | 3 | 11 | +1939 -1950 -11 |
| | Lodging Facilities in Place | 4 | | | | |
| | Lodging Facilities Needed | 0 | | | | |
| | Total New Trail, Approx. # of Miles | | 4.5 | | | |
| | Overall Difficulty Rating | | | 2.7 | | |
| | Total Miles | | | | 27 | |
| | Ave. Miles Per Day | | | | 9 | |
| | Total Elevation Change - Feet | | | | | +5025 -4378 +638 |

Route #08: Blue Mountain Lake / Long Lake Hiking Circuit

Description:

The Blue Mountain Lake to Long Lake Hiking Circuit, 5 nights and 4 days, starts in Blue Mountain Lake near the intersection of routes 28 and 30 on a proposed spur trail that connects to the trail up Blue Mountain. Trekkers will have the option of reaching the Northville-Placid Trail near Tirrell Pond by going to the mountain's summit and descending the north side on an old road, or by using the Tirrell Pond trail from Route 30. After a night's lodging in the backcountry near Salmon Pond (proposed location), hikers will continue north until reaching a spur trail (proposed) leading west into the Village of Long Lake via Mount Sabattis Park, with some nice views on the descent into town. After spending a night in Long Lake, the route will continue on the west side of the lake to the Owl's Head trailhead, where hiking to the summit and fire tower will be an option. The main route continues south on a route to the Forked Lake Campground with an optional side trip (proposed) to Buttermilk Falls on the Raquette River. After a night at the campground, the final day's trek leads south to the shores of Upper Sargent Pond, then east to Castle Rock (great views) and the Village of Blue Mountain Lake.

Natural Features & Attractions:

- Village of Blue Mountain Lake
- Optional hike: [Blue Mountain](#) & fire tower
- [Northville-Placid Trail](#)
- [Mount Sabattis Park & Pavilion](#)
- [Village of Long Lake](#)
- Optional hike: [Owl's Head](#) & fire tower
- Optional hike: [Buttermilk Falls](#)
- [Forked Lake State Campground](#)
- [Sargent Ponds Wild Forest](#)
- [Castle Rock](#)

Highlights & Attributes:

1. Travelers can enjoy a visit to the Adirondack Museum before or after their hiking trip.
2. A hike up Blue Mountain is an option for the first day's travel.
3. Hikers will experience traveling on the Adirondack Park's almost 100-year-old long-distance route, the Northville-Placid Trail.
4. About midway on the trip, hikers will have a night in town, in the Village of Long Lake.
5. Hikers can take advantage of another hike to a summit, Owl's Head, this one with a fire tower.
6. An optional spur trail could go to Buttermilk Falls on the Raquette River, and return hikers to their route without need of backtracking.
7. The route from Forked Lake Campground will take hikers along Upper Sargent Pond and over Castle Rock, with lovely views of Blue Mountain Lake, before returning to the circuit's starting point and another night in the village.

Challenges:

1. A spur trail from the center of Blue Mountain Lake (intersection of routes 28 and 30) to the Blue Mountain trail will need to be built.
2. Lodging will need to be built along the Northville-Placid Trail (NPT) near Salmon Pond that is consistent with the terms of the conservation easement.
3. A spur trail will be needed from the NPT to Long Lake Village through Mount Sabattis Park.
4. A route will need to be established from Long Lake Village to the Owl's Head Mountain trailhead.
5. A trail will need to be built from the col between the north and south summits of Owl's Head in a southeasterly direction to intersect with existing trails, including the trail that leads south to the Forked Lake Campground. We have not scouted this trail and there are conflicting reports as to what portions of this trail exist.
6. To provide access to Buttermilk Falls as a destination, a spur trail leading to the river then back to the

main trail by another route will have to be built.

7. Lodging will be necessary at the Forked Lake Campground, or somewhere close by on private land.
8. New trail will have to be built from Forked Lake Campground to the existing trail just east of Upper Sargent Pond.

Observations & Questions:

1. Lodging owners in the communities need to be approached and presented with the benefits of being part of the destination-trail system.
2. Spur trails between the Northville-Placid Trail and the villages of Blue Mountain Lake and Long Lake need to be routed and built.
3. Some maps show a trail from just east of Owl's Head going south to the Forked Lake Campground, but the condition of the route is unknown at this time.
4. A trail will be needed from the Forked Lake Campground to the trail just east of Upper Sargent Pond.
5. Feasibility is lower due to the need for lodging facilities (2) and new sections of trail.

Desirability & Feasibility (1 = Low, 5 = High):

Desirability: 4

Feasibility: 3

- Existing Trail
- Proposed Trail
- Road
- Strategic Lodging Locations
- DEC Easements 2015
- Private
- Wilderness
- Primitive
- Wild Forest

Route #08: Blue Mountain Lake to Long Lake Circuit
November 2015



Concept Plan for a Destination-Based Hut to Hut Trail System
for the Five Towns of
Long Lake, Newcomb, Indian Lake, Minerva, and North Hudson



Prepared by Riverside Mapping Service for Leading E.D.G.E. and the NY State Department of Environmental Conservation

Data Sources:
 Adirondack Park Agency
 Leading E.D.G.E.
 U.S. Department of Natural Resource Conservation Service

NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
 Sources: Esri, USGS, NOAA

Daily Stages - Route #08: Blue Mountain Lake / Long Lake Hiking Circuit

| | Daily Stage Destination | Lodging in Place (1 = yes, 0 = no) | New Trail Needed, Approx. # of Miles | Difficulty Rating by Daily Stage | # of Miles | Elev. change (feet): Up Down Net |
|--------------------|--|---|---|---|-------------------|---|
| First Night | Blue Mountain Lake | 1 | | | | |
| Day 1 | Near Salmon Pond & the NPT | 0 | 1.5 | 3 | 8 | +976 -708 +268 |
| Day 2 | Long Lake | 1 | 2.5 | 3 | 7 | +1130 -1582 -452 |
| Day 3 | Forked Lake Campground | 0 | 3.0 | 4 | 11 | +2108 -2021 +87 |
| +Day 4 | Blue Mountain Lake | 1 | 3.0 | 3 | 11 | +1194 -1096 +98 |
| | Lodging Facilities in Place | 3 | | | | |
| | Lodging Facilities Needed | 2 | | | | |
| | Total New Trail, Approx. # of Miles | | 10.0 | | | |
| | Overall Difficulty Rating | | | 3.3 | | |
| | Total Miles | | | | 37 | |
| | Ave. Miles Per Day | | | | 9 | |
| | Total Elevation Change - Feet | | | | | +5408 -5407 +1 |

Route #09: North Creek / Minerva Traverse

Description:

The North Creek to Minerva Traverse, a 3-night, 2-day trip, takes hikers from the quaint village of North Creek upriver on the Hudson's east side, utilizing a ferry service to reach a place of lodging on the opposite shore in North River. A ferry trip back across the river begins this short route's final day's journey to Minerva; however, a highlight of this route, and not to be missed, is an optional 5.4-mile round-trip hike up 2464-foot Moxham Mountain, which affords great views of the region.

From Minerva, hikers can get a shuttle or retrace their route back to North Creek; or, hikers can extend their journey by continuing toward Newcomb, or traveling east on the proposed North Country Scenic Trail to North Hudson.

Features & Amenities:

- Village of North Creek/[Town of Johnsburg](#)
- [North Creek Depot Museum](#)
- [Tannery Pond Community Center](#)
- [Hudson River](#)
- [Moxham Mountain](#)
- [Village of Minerva](#)

Highlights & Attributes:

1. Most of the pieces for this route are in place. It is our understanding that discussions are ongoing regarding public use of River Road and accessing the state land across the river from North River.
2. The hike along the river with a ferry across to a place of lodging will be unique.
3. Moxham Mountain has a splendid, gradually ascending trail with great views.
4. This route will be a natural connection from North Creek to Minerva.

Challenges:

1. There may be an existing trail from 14th Road to Sporty's Iron Duke Saloon in Minerva, but this needs to be confirmed. This trail will connect near the general store to nearby places of lodging. Permission needs to be acquired to cross Sporty's property.
2. Arrangements need to be made for a ferry service across the Hudson River at North River.

Observations & Questions:

1. Lodging owners in the communities need to be approached and presented with the benefits of being part of the destination-trail system.
2. A spur trail from the south or southwest that intersects the Moxham Mountain trail will minimize backtracking and make it easier for travelers on this route to reach this summit and enjoy the spectacular views.
3. A number of alternative routes could be explored from North Creek over Moxham Mountain to Minerva.
4. This route requires a ferry service, perhaps operated by one or more of the rafting companies or a lodging owner, to transport hikers across the Hudson River and back to lodging in the hamlet of North River.

Desirability & Feasibility (1 = Low, 5 = High):

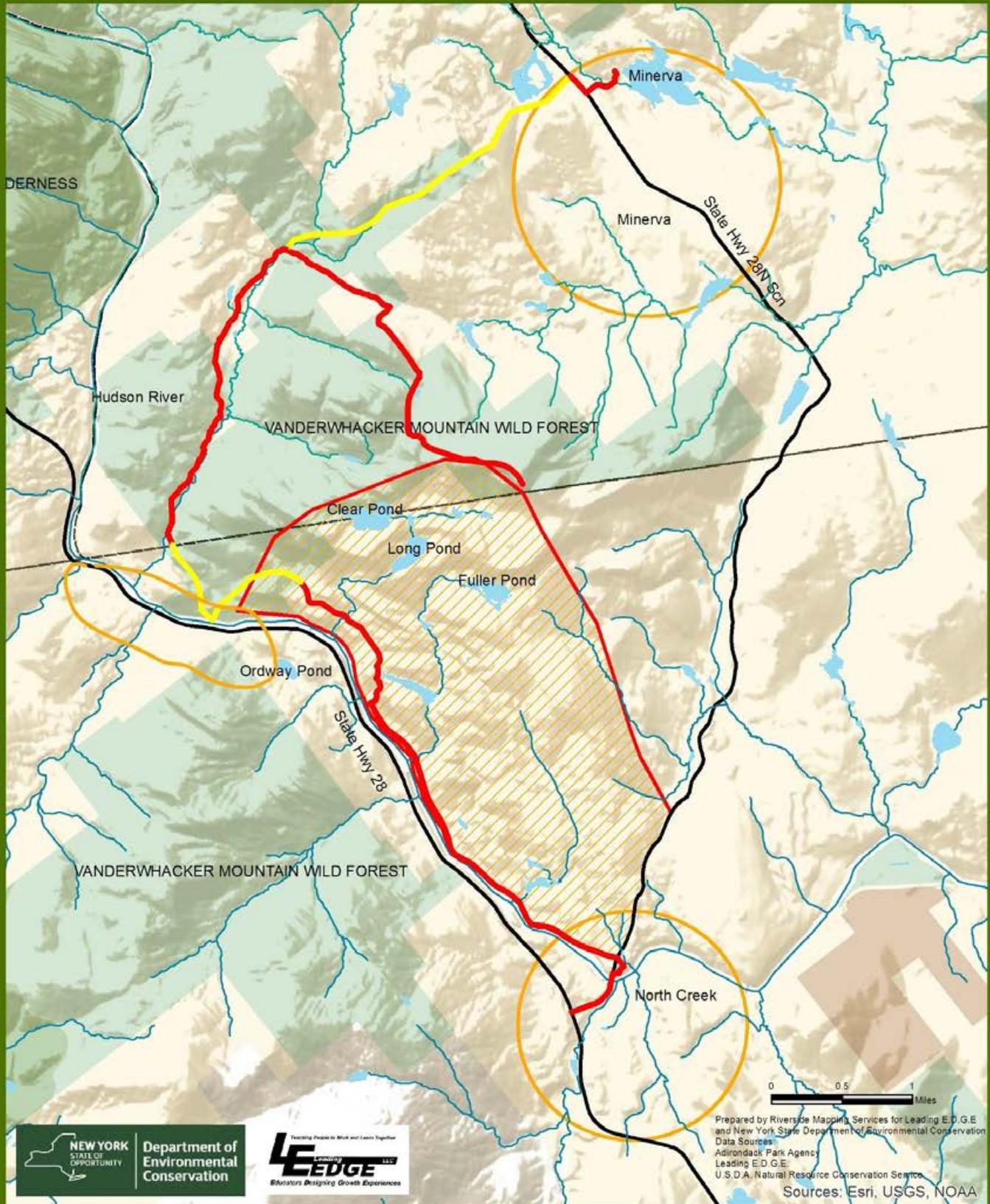
Desirability: 4

Feasibility: 5

- Existing Trail
- Proposed Trail
- Road
- Lodging_Area
- Opportunity_of_Trail
- Private
- Wilderness
- Primitive
- Wild Forest
- DEC Easements 2015

Route #9: North Creek/Minerva
November 2015

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 Data Sources:
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 Leading E.D.G.E.
 U.S.D.A. Natural Resource Conservation Service
 Sources: Esri, USGS, NOAA

Daily Stages - Route #09: North Creek / Minerva Traverse

| | Daily Stage Destination | Lodging in Place (1 = yes, 0 = no) | New Trail Needed, Approx. # of Miles | Difficulty Rating by Daily Stage | # of Miles | Elev. change (feet): Up Down Net |
|--------------------|--|---|---|---|-------------------|---|
| First Night | North Creek | 1 | | | | |
| Day 1 | North River | 1 | 1.5 | 1 | 5 | +614 -605 +9 |
| Day 2 | Minerva | 1 | 0.5 | 4 | 12 | +2673 -2489 +184 |
| | Lodging Facilities in Place | 3 | | | | |
| | Lodging Facilities Needed | 0 | | | | |
| | Total New Trail, Approx. # of Miles | | 2.0 | | | |
| | Overall Difficulty Rating | | | 2.5 | | |
| | Total Miles | | | | 17 | |
| | Ave. Miles Per Day | | | | 8.5 | |
| | Total Elevation Change - Feet | | | | | +3287 -3094 +193 |

Route #10: Newcomb / Long Lake Traverse

Description:

The five-night, four-day Newcomb / Long Lake Traverse starts in the village of Newcomb and takes travelers to historic Camp Santanoni and a nearby place of lodging. On day two, hikers travel to Shattuck Clearing and the site of a former DEC Ranger Station, then down to a potential lodging location northwest of Deer Pond on the edge of SUNY-ESF property. Day three takes hikers up to the Northville-Placid Trail (NPT) and a potential lodging location on private land south of Plumley Point on Long Lake. The final day takes you into Long Lake, where a variety of lodging options exist, on a section of the NPT.

Natural Features & Attractions:

- [Village of Newcomb](#)
- [Adirondack Interpretive Center \(AIC\)](#)
- [Camp Santanoni Historic Area](#)
- [Shattuck Clearing](#) on the [Cold River](#)
- Eastern shore of Long Lake
- [Northville-Placid Trail](#)
- [Village of Long Lake](#)

Highlights & Attributes:

1. It travels through classic areas of the western High Peaks Wilderness Area, including:
 - a. Shattuck Clearing
 - b. Calahan Brook
 - c. Long Lake
2. No new trails need to be developed for this traverse.

Challenges:

1. Hiking from the Santanoni Lodge to a potential lodging location on SUNY-ESF land is nearly 14 miles.
2. Lodging needs to be located near:
 - a. Camp Santanoni
 - b. Deer Pond (SUNY-ESF)
 - c. The northeast shore of Long Lake

Observations & Questions:

1. Lodging owners in the communities need to be approached and presented with the benefits of being part of the destination-trail system.
2. These routes have not been field checked.
3. New lodging options on private lands have not been discussed with landowners.
4. Some sections of these trails may need to be brought up to world-class standards.
5. This traverse is part of Route #17: Newcomb / Long Lake Circuit, which includes this leg of the circuit as a hiking route and the other leg as a possible mountain biking route.
6. This route requires more research and field checking.

Desirability & Feasibility (1 = Low, 5 = High):

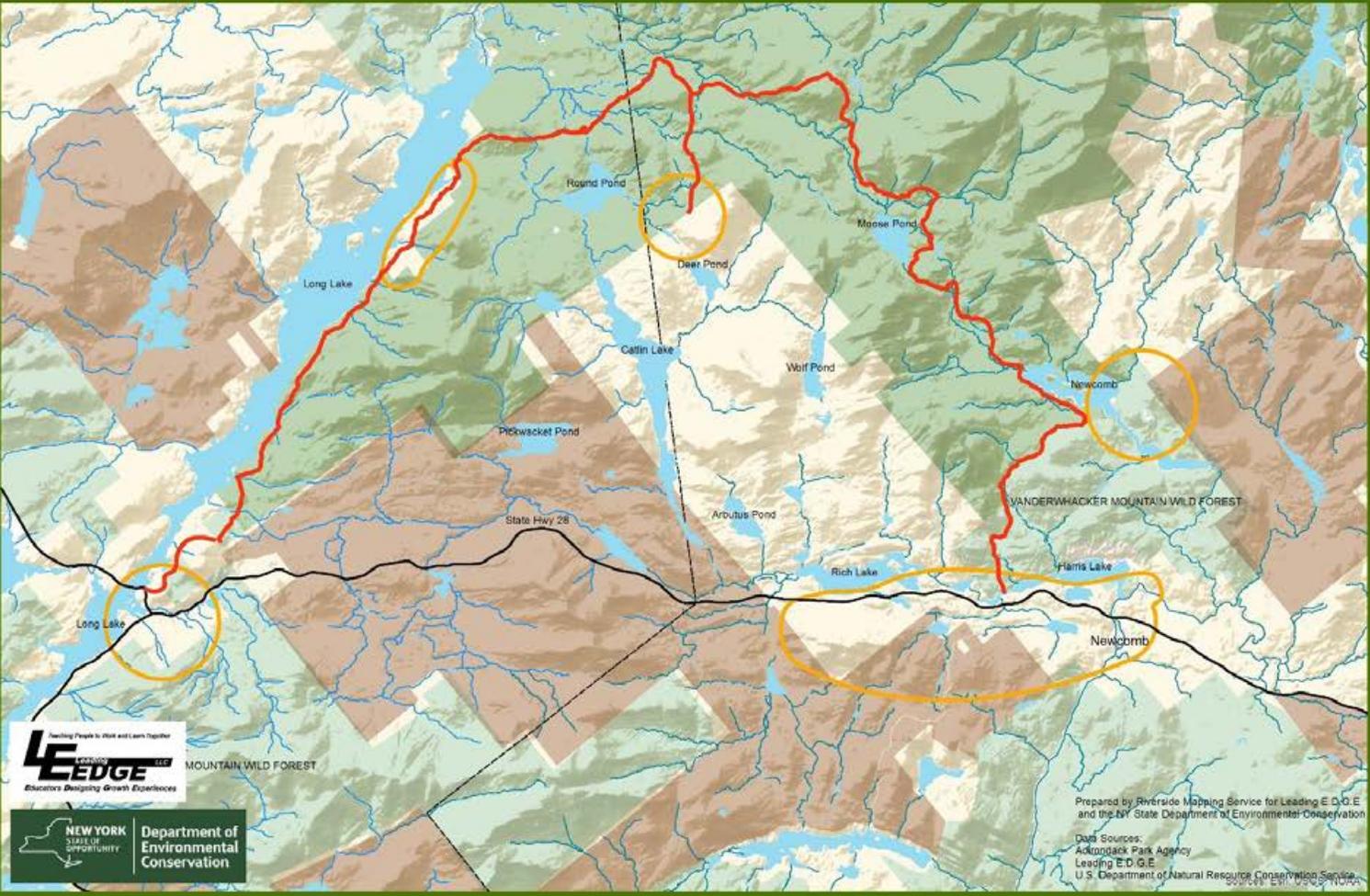
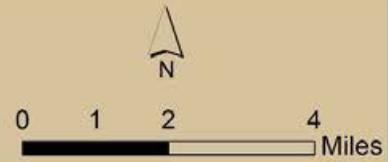
Desirability: 3

Feasibility: 3

- Existing Trail
- Road
- Strategic Lodging Locations
- Private
- Wilderness
- Primitive
- Wild Forest
- DEC Easements 2015

Route #10: Newcomb to Long Lake Traverse
November 2015

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 Data Sources:
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 SOURCE: EMT, USGS, NOAA