NEW YORK STATE
Department of Environmental Conservation
DIVISION OF OPERATIONS

Second Pond Boat Launch

Unit Management Plan
Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement

Town of Harrietstown
Franklin County

ANDREW CUOMO
Governor

JOE MARTENS
Commissioner

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May 2013

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Joe Martens
Commissioner

M E M O R A N D U M

APR 15 2014

TO: The Record

SUBJECT: Second Pond Boat Launch Intensive Use Area

The Final Unit Management Plan for the Second Pond Boat Launch Intensive Use Area has been completed and the Adirondack Park Agency found it to be in conformance with the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan.

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

Marc S. Gerstman
Executive Deputy Commissioner

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RESOLUTION
ADOPTED BY ADIRONDACK PARK AGENCY
WITH RESPECT TO
SECOND POND BOAT LAUNCH INTENSIVE USE AREA
RECLASSIFICATION AND UNIT MANAGEMENT PLAN REVIEW
DECEMBER 13, 2012

WHEREAS, the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan adopted pursuant to Section 816 of the Adirondack Park Agency Act (Executive Law, Article 27) provides guidelines for the classification of lands within the Adirondack Park; and

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 and requires such management plans to conform to the general guidelines and criteria of the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Adirondack Park Agency and the Department of Environmental Conservation have acted as co-lead agencies for the integrated series of reclassification and management actions contained in the Second Pond Intensive Use Area Unit Management Plan and associated SEQR documents; and

WHEREAS, the Adirondack Park Agency and the Department of Environmental Conservation have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding providing procedures for Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan amendments related to classification and map boundary delineation; and

WHEREAS, the Department, in consultation with Agency staff, has requested reclassification of 5.6 acres from Wilderness to Intensive Use in order to address the fact that the Intensive Use Area cannot be adequately developed due to presence of wetlands and has also requested reclassification of 6.8 acres of the existing Intensive Use Area to Wilderness; and

WHEREAS, the proposed reclassification action results in a net increase of 1.2 acres of lands classified as Wilderness as shown in the maps accompanying this resolution; and

WHEREAS, the Agency finds that the proposed reclassification results in the minimum acreage of Intensive Use Area land necessary to address the exceptional circumstances examined in the Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (FSEIS); and

WHEREAS, the FSEIS proposing the reclassification of Wilderness to Intensive Use is accompanied by a proposed Intensive Use Area Unit Management Plan, as required by the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, improvements to the Second Pond Boat Launch Intensive Use Area as outlined in the Unit Management Plan will provide: improved traffic flow and better use of existing space; improved and expanded accessible parking; visual enhancements through plantings of native vegetation and removal of the old cabin along State Route 3; improved safety by eliminating parking along State Route 3; enhanced visitor experience through rehabilitation of the vault toilet; improved control of invasive species and education concerning them; and reduced storm water runoff; and

WHEREAS, the proposed final Unit Management Plan recognizes that management of the Second Pond Intensive Use Area has impacts on the Saranac Lakes Wild Forest and management actions in response to the required carrying capacity assessments for the Saranac Lakes Wild Forest may include changes to the management of the Second Pond Intensive Use Area; and

WHEREAS, the Agency and Department held two public hearings regarding the proposed reclassifications and Unit Management Plan on July 17 and July 18, 2012 in Ray Brook and Albany, New York; and

WHEREAS, an FSEIS, including an evaluation of alternatives and potential adverse impacts, has been prepared, and notice of acceptance of the FSEIS was published in the Environmental Notice Bulletin on November 28, 2012; and

WHEREAS, the Second Pond Boat Launch provides boat access to approximately 6,000 acres of water and camping opportunities on Lower and Middle Saranac Lakes, Weller Pond, Oseetah Lake, Lake Flower, Kiwassa Lake and the Saranac River; and

WHEREAS, public access by water to DEC campsites in the adjacent Saranac Lakes Wild Forest offers recreational opportunities that attract visitors and support local economies in the neighboring communities while also providing recreational benefits to local residents;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Adirondack Park Agency recommends that the areas shown on the attached maps be classified as Wilderness and Intensive Use, respectively; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Adirondack Park Agency finds the proposed Final Second Pond Boat Launch Unit Management Plan, dated December, 2012, conforms with the general guidelines and criteria of the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that consistent with social, economic and other essential considerations, from among the reasonable alternatives, the proposed Final Unit Management Plan seeks to minimize or avoid adverse environmental effects to the maximum extent practicable, including the effects disclosed in the environmental impact statement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Agency authorizes its Executive Director to advise the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Conservation of the Agency's determination in the matter of conformance of the Second Pond Boat Launch Unit Management Plans with the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Chair transmits the Agency's reclassification recommendation to the Governor for his review in accordance with Section 816 of the Adirondack Park Agency Act.

Ayes:	R. Booth, S. Craig, P. Hooker (DED), A. Lussi, F. Mezzano, D. Scozzafava (DOS), R. Stegemann (DEC), W. Thomas, L. Ulrich, W. Valentino
Nays:	None
Abstentions:	None
Absent:	C. Wray

/lhb
Attachments

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Introduction

The Second Pond Boat Launch (also known as State Bridge Boat Launch) is located on State Route 3 approximately 3½ miles SW of the Village of Saranac Lake. This launch is the primary water access point for Lower Saranac Lake and the Saranac Lake Islands Campground. It was developed by the Conservation Department prior to the creation of the Adirondack Park Agency and the adoption of the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan (APSLMP). Federal monies are used to maintain this boat launch site, but were not used to construct it.

The existing parking area for the launch is rated for 75 vehicles. However, the current configuration of parking spaces is not efficiently designed, spaces in unpaved areas are unmarked, and traffic flow can be confusing. As a consequence parking can be difficult – even when there are as few as 40 vehicles and boat trailers using the parking area. When adequate space is not available in the lot, vehicles and trailers are often parked along Route 3. This creates a hazard for visitors as well as for passing traffic. There are accidents related to parking on the highway shoulder every year. The proposed reconstruction of the boat launch and parking area will make it possible to efficiently accommodate existing levels of use without patrons parking along the state highway.

A reclassification[1] and map amendment to the APSLMP is also sought to more accurately reflect the location and management of the existing facilities at the site. Accordingly, this Unit Management Plan (UMP) proposes the reclassification of 6.8 acres of intensive use land west of the boat launch to wilderness and 5.6 acres south of the launch from wilderness to intensive use. This proposed map change will result in a net increase of 1.2 acres of wilderness.

The objectives of this UMP are to protect the Forest Preserve, to accommodate existing levels of use, to improve the safety of recreational users, to maintain angler access, and to comply with the requirements of the APSLMP.

Description of the Facility

The Second Pond boat launch provides access for recreational users of the Forest Preserve, including fishermen/women, day users, and campers. The facility is open approximately 270 days annually, from April 1st through December 15th. The site also serves as a registration and embarkation point for campers using one of the 87 designated campsites of the Saranac Lake Islands campground. The facilities at the boat launch include an entrance sign, a two lane launch ramp, two docks (one of which is ADA accessible), a canoe launching area, a registration booth, a vault toilet facility, invasive species drop box, an unused cabin close to the

1 The APSLMP requires that a proposed reclassification to intensive use be accompanied by a draft UMP.

state highway, two paved parking areas, three gravel parking areas, and a dock for administrative use which is not open to the public.

Docks and Ramp at Second Pond Boat Launch

The actual capacity of the parking area varies depending on how efficiently vehicles and trailers use the available space. The parking area is rated to accommodate up to 75 vehicles. However, cars, trucks and boat trailers must often be parked along route 3 - even when there are less than 75 vehicles in the designated parking area. The following table illustrates how parking is currently used:

Vehicles & Boat Trailers Parked at Second Pond
(Top Six Most Popular Days)

Date	Parked at Boat Launch	Parked Along Route 3	Total Vehicles
July 5, 2010	92	10	102
July 4, 2010	68	33	101
September 11, 2011	65	23	88
August 21, 2011	71	9	80
August 6, 2011	71	5	76
June 27, 2011	70	6	76

The parking area is inefficiently used because of poor layout and confusing traffic flow. Consequently, during times of heavy use, as many as 33 vehicles and boat trailers have been parked along the state highway (Route 3) after launching boats. This “unofficial” parking impairs

the scenic quality of the highway and creates a safety hazard for visitors as well as for thru traffic.

The boat docks at Second Pond have been in place for a number of years and are beginning to deteriorate from weathering and recreational use. These docks also rest on the lake bottom (not floating) which makes them more difficult to use when water levels fluctuate. These docks will be replaced with a floating dock system.

The State Land map currently shows an intensive use area at this location. However the boundaries do not totally conform to the parking area as it actually exists. Part of the facility extends into an area classified as wilderness.

Setting of Surrounding Area

The Second Pond boat launch is bordered by Second Pond on the east State Route 3 to the north and west, and the High Peaks Wilderness area which is on the south. Except for the access road, boat launch, and parking area, the site is wooded with a mixture of northern hardwood species and occasional hemlock, spruce and white pine.

The Saranac River is designated as a recreational river under the Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers Act. Second Pond is an 81 acre "widewater" of the Saranac River located a few miles west of the Village of Saranac Lake on the east side of Route 3. Second Pond averages only 3.3 feet in depth with a maximum depth of nine feet. Muck and sand comprise most of the bottom. Second Pond is contiguous with First Pond. The Route 3 highway bridge serves as the only distinguishing feature between the waters.

Unfortunately, Second Pond contains numerous invasive species. These invasives include Eurasian water milfoil, curly leaf pondweed and variable leaf milfoil. Since milfoil accumulates near the shores in sandy areas, boats coming in and out of the launch are easily contaminated. Since milfoil and other aquatics spread by fragmentation, broken pieces of these plants can be easily transported to other lakes where they can become established. Paul Smiths College has assigned stewards to help control the spread of invasive aquatic vegetation at the boat launch through their Watershed Stewardship Program. There is also a nuisance invasive species disposal station at the site which provides guidance on preventing the spread of invasives and is a dedicated location for the disposal.

A 1984 ALSC[2] survey and more recently a 2006 DEC fisheries survey caught the following fish species in order of abundance: yellow perch, brown bullhead, pumpkinseed, golden shiner, northern pike, white sucker, central mudminnow, longnose sucker, largemouth

[2] Adirondack Lake Survey Corporation

bass, walleye, smallmouth bass, rock bass, fallfish, and rainbow smelt. Thick beds of submerged aquatic vegetation are common outside of the buoyed boating lanes in Second pond.

Recreational Use and Demand

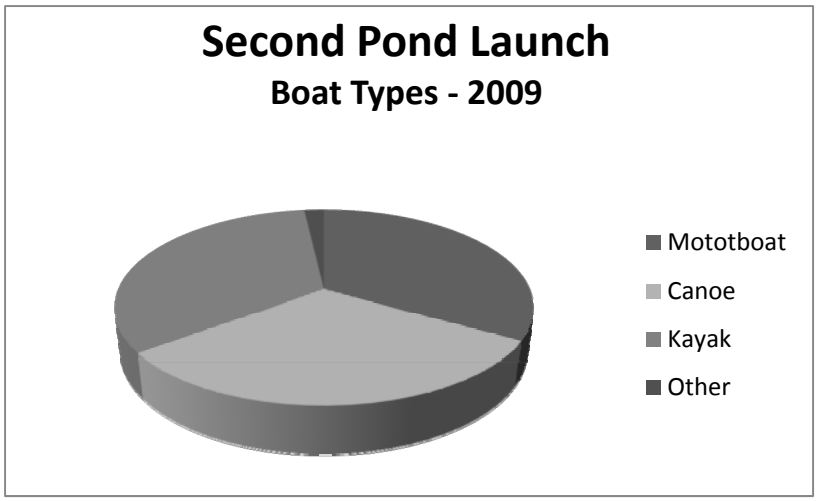
The Second Pond boat launch is one of the most popular access points to Lower Saranac Lake and to the Saranac Lake chain. On any given summer day, it is not uncommon for paddlers to be unloading cars dockside, while families register for camping stays and anglers, day users and campers share the launch. The use of the boat launch has been documented by various surveys in recent years. One of the most comprehensive was conducted on 15 weekends in 2005, 2008 and 2009 as part of Paul Smiths Watershed Stewardship Program. The following statistics were collected showing the total number of boats and the total number of recreational users:

Weekend Use of Second Pond Boat Launch

	2005	**2008**[3]	**2009**
Number of Boats	1,676	1,765	1,771
Number of People	3,691	3,223	3,405

It should be noted that between 2005 and 2009 there was a slight increase in the number of boats using the site while the number of users actually declined. The appendix includes a table showing the use trends at several other boat launches in the Adirondacks between 2000 and 2009. Generally, boat launch use appears to be gradually trending higher over time.

Statistics on the types of boats were also collected through the Watershed Stewardship Program. Canoes and kayaks make up the largest number (65%) of boat types using the launch. The following pie chart shows the types of watercraft that used the launch in 2009.



[3] Survey results from Saturday, Sunday & Monday

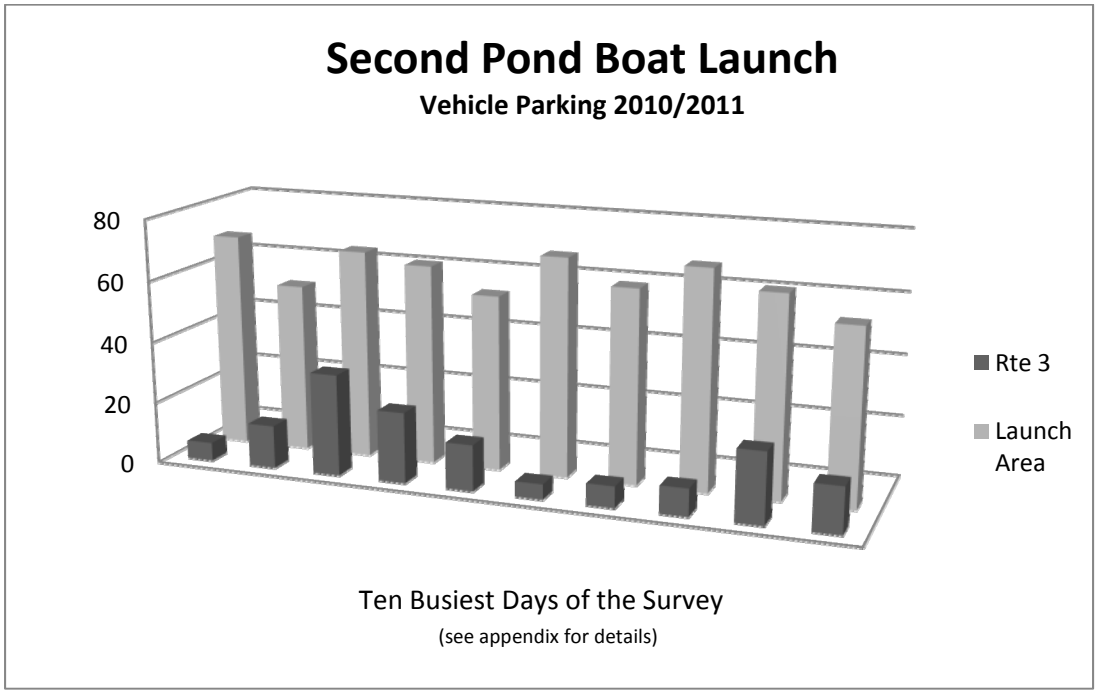
The boat launch is the primary access point for the camping area on Lower and Middle Saranac Lakes. DEC surveys show that 79% of campers on Lower Saranac Lake and 45% campers on Middle Saranac Lake and Weller Pond put in at this location. This boat launch also provides access for day use to the Saranac River, Lower and Middle Saranac Lake, Weller Pond, Kiwassa Lake, Oseetah Lake, and Lake Flower.

During the summer of 2010 and 2011, the Department initiated user surveys to determine the type and level of use and access at the boat launch. Data was collected at various times on 26 different days during the camping seasons. The goal was to randomly survey two days during the week and one day every weekend when time was available. Statistics were collected on a variety of use patterns, including the number of vehicles and trailers at the Second Pond parking lot and along State Route 3.

A select summary of the data shows the following;

There was an average of 53 vehicles per day parked in the designated parking area at the boat launch or along route 3 on the days that surveys were conducted. The highest use of the area was recorded on July 5, 2010 with 92 vehicles in the parking area and ten on the shoulder of the state highway.

The following chart shows the top ten days of use that were recorded on the survey days. It should be noted that vehicles were parked along route 3 on each of these high use days.



Carrying Capacity

The ASLMP requires an assessment of the physical, biological and social carrying capacity of the area with particular attention to threats of overuse. The term carrying capacity has its roots in range and wildlife sciences and defines carrying capacity as *"the maximum number of animals that can be grazed on a land unit for a specific period of time without inducing damage to the vegetation or related resources"* (Arthur Carhart National Wilderness Training Center, 1994). In decades past, this concept was used to address recreational use impacts. This added human component broadened the concept of carrying capacity to include both ecological and social components. However, the relationship between the amount of recreational use and recreational impacts are not linear (Krumpe and Stokes, 1993). That is, for many recreational activities most impacts occur with only low levels of use. In addition, recreation managers now know that understanding impacts is complicated, as numerous impacts need to be included in the assessment including visitor behavior, site resistance and resiliency, and type of use.

As part of the Unit management planning process, the APSLMP requires UMPs to include an assessment of carrying capacity. In addition, the APSLMP requires an assessment of the capacity of Adirondack lakes and ponds to withstand use, particularly those that have existing intensive use facilities. These required assessments can be completed using a Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC) process.

The amount of recreational impacts within the Intensive use area at Second Pond Boat launch will be minimal as much of the area has durable surfaces, such as pavement or gravel. However, the Second Pond Boat Launch is a key access point to the waters and lands of the Saranac Lakes Wild Forest, and this area also has many large private parcels and access points with significant development which will further complicate the assessment.

Carrying capacity can be thought of as a threshold that, if exceeded, would lead to an undesirable set of conditions or problems. Carrying capacity can pertain to everything from pollutant loading, to habitat loss, to crowding. In August of 2011, SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry published a report, Adirondack Park Forest Preserve Carrying Capacity of Water Bodies Study: Phase I – Selecting Indicators for Monitoring Recreational Impacts (http://www.esf.edu/nywild/publications/docs/carrying-capacity.pdf). The study recommends measurement of eight types of ecological indicators, nine types of social impact indicators, three types of recreation use estimation indicators, and five types of recreation use and development indicators. Measurement of these indicators can form the basis to assist in determining Limits of Acceptable Change. The study proposes three more phases to fully develop a systematic approach to monitoring impacts.

In the case of Second Pond Boat Launch, the threshold of concern relates to how the parking area impacts the carrying capacity of the water body where the recreation takes place.

The carrying capacity of a water body is very difficult to determine. There are many variables to consider, such as: the shoreline configuration of the lake, the level of development on the surrounding lands, the sizes and types of water craft operated, and type of recreation enjoyed. The number of all the boats in operation at one time on the water body would be the critical factor determining if the carrying capacity is being exceeded. The changes proposed in this UMP are not expected to materially change that number of boats that are being operated at any given time over all the water bodies that can be accessed from the Second Pond Boat Launch. This site's (Second Pond Boat Launch Site) carrying capacity will therefore be developed as a part of the Saranac Wild Forest UMP. Although they have different land classifications (Intensive use and Wild Forest), the Saranac Lake Wild Forest and Second Pond BLS are integral, and if conditions on the waters and lands of the Saranac Lakes Wild Forest are found to be outside acceptable limits, changes to the management of the Second Pond Intensive Use Area may be required.

Surveys were randomly conducted on 26 days in 2010 and 2011 during the summer season. The parking area adequately accommodated use about half of the time. However, on high use days vehicles were often parked along Route 3. Redesign and reconstruction of the parking area will enable the facility to safely accommodate existing levels of use.

Management Objectives:

The management objectives for the Second Pond Boat Launch are the following:

1. Protect the site and surrounding lands & waters of the Forest Preserve.

2. Provide for the safety of recreational users and vehicular traffic on Route 3.

3. Improve access for visitors with disabilities (see appendix VII)

4. Inventory and control of aquatic and terrestrial invasive species.

5. Provide more efficient use of the developed parking area.

6. Make the facility compliant with the APSLMP.

Scope of Project Plan

The Second Pond Boat is one of the most heavily used access points to the Saranac Chain of Lakes. It has been decades since any major repair or rehabilitation has been done. Accordingly, the following improvements are proposed.

The concrete launch ramp at Second Pond was installed many years ago and does not meet current design standards. The existing ramp does not extend far enough into deep water and trailer wheels tend to drop off at the end of the ramp. Consequently, a scour hole has developed which can damage boat trailers in the launching process. One of the objectives in this reconstruction is to replace the ramp in order to provide a safer and more usable launch. A double-ramped boat launch with a turnaround for vehicles is proposed along with approximately 100 parking spaces.

The fixed wooden docks which are used for boats, canoes, kayaks and other watercraft require extensive repairs. The project plan calls for the replacement of the existing structure with ADA compliant floating docks that will more easily accommodate boaters as water levels rise or fall during the season. The docks will be covered with wood and use brown and earth tone color combinations in keeping with the rustic appearance of other structures in the Forest Preserve. In addition the canoe and kayak launching site adjacent to the floating docks will be restored to natural conditions. The cribbing that is currently at the launch site will be removed. The overall footprint of the existing dock and launching area will be decreased by these actions.

The log cabin on Route 3 south of the entrance is dilapidated and no longer needed for administrative purposes. This structure will be taken down and removed. The site will be graded and re-vegetated.

A new booth will be constructed near the launch area. This will be used by DEC staff to register campers and to monitor the boat launch. The building will be approximately 8’ by 12’ including a small office and equipment storage area. No overnight accommodations will be included. The building will be constructed of wood and be designed and painted/stained to be esthetically compatible with similar structures on the Forest Preserve (see appendix VI). The booth building will meet the 150’ set back requirements from the mean high water mark.

A firewood storage building, approximately 20' x 30', will be constructed near the registration booth, and will comply with the 150’ set back from the mean high water mark. Campfires are an important part of the Forest Preserve recreational experience, and providing either local or treated firewood at this site will serve campers who stay at one of the developed campsites or elsewhere in the Forest Preserve. The sale of firewood will lessen the burden on the legal use of dead and downed wood in the area, and reduces the likelihood of campers

transporting damaging forest pests in untreated wood brought in from elsewhere. The building will be constructed of wood and be designed and painted/stained to be esthetically compatible with similar structures on the Forest Preserve.

The parking area will be reconfigured, resurfaced and striped to provide spaces for 100 cars and trailers. This will require the removal of 1.1 acres of vegetation. The parking spaces will be 40' x 10' as is standard, in order to accommodate both the boat trailer and vehicle. The total parking area will be 98,224 square feet or 2.26 acres.

The redesigned parking spaces will make it easier to enter and exit the facility. In addition, parking spaces will be provided for people with disabilities. All vegetation along the expanded parking spaces will be cleared. However, character trees will be identified and the final design will save as many as possible. An inventory of all trees over 3" diameter to be removed will be completed once this draft plan has been approved.

The following table is a summary of the number and type of parking spaces that will be designated at the Second Pond boat launch.

Parking Area Reconstruction
Proposed Parking Spaces

	Day Use	Overnight	Combined
Boat Trailer	14	49	63
Boat Trailer ADA[4]	1	1	2
Car Only	22	11	33
Car ADA	1	1	2
Total Parking	38	62	100

The project will also include a new entrance sign on Route 3. There will also be an information kiosk at the launch area for the primary purpose of providing information related to controlling the spread of invasive aquatic species to boaters.

[4] Accessible in compliance with the Americans With Disabilities Act

Reconstruct the existing vault comfort station which is located at the south end of the parking area to improve its operation. The scope of the reconstruction will be determined later, depending on budget considerations. The comfort station will be accessible and no barriers will be located between the parking spaces and the boat ramp so that visitors with disabilities will have access to the boat 1aunch. The building will have a rustic wood exterior and be designed and painted/stained to be esthetically compatible with similar structures on the Forest Preserve. Rehabilitation to this structure will maintain the same or lesser footprint of the current structure and meet ADA standards. Options being considered are composting toilets or above ground pumpable vault units. The main factor in the rehab of this facility is controlling odor and sanitation issues that have caused users to utilize the surrounding forest and wetlands.

Soils at Second Pond BLS are Searsport-Pillsbury-Naumberg-Croghan-Beseman. Soil types where taken from the Digital soils map of New York and visual inspection by Department staff. Seven soil test pits where dug at this location based on proposed uses, and four percolation tests were done (see appendix VIII for data and results).

A storm water control plan will be implemented so as to prevent erosion. Ditches, culverts and the seeding of grass will be used as needed. The storm water design will meet current DEC storm water regulations.

A wetland will be constructed at the south end of the parking lot to mitigate the loss of several small wet areas which will be necessary as part of the reconstruction of the parking area. Wetland mitigation(s) will be designed and approved in consultation with APA staff prior to construction. The Division of Operations will obtain all necessary Federal and State permits where necessary to accomplish the tasks and objectives outlined in this plan. Any regulated activity which may involve a freshwater wetland will not be undertaken prior to consultation and agreement with the Agency, and if required a permit by the Agency.

Department staff will work with DOT to prohibit parking along State Route 3 near the boat launch. Onsite parking will be enforced by DEC staff.

Invasive species control signage and informational handouts will be implemented at this site, through the control booth and kiosk(s) points. As well as an invasive species disposal box provided at the launch. The Department plans on continuing to provide space for the Lake Stewards Program administered by Paul Smiths College at this site. Staff whom works at the launch for administration of the Campground will continue to be trained in the identification and control of invasives to further educate the public and actively prevent further spreading. Use of a boat wash station was also considered for this site. The Department may consider the option of a boat wash station, in the future should resources become available at this site and it is determined that it will be more effective in controlling the spread of invasives than the current disposal

stations that are provided. In addition terrestrial invasives have been identified at the site behind the old DOT cabin (Japanese Knotweed). This patch will be removed during construction and replaced with native vegetation from the areas being cleared for construction. Future monitoring of the site will be conducted by Department staff to assure eradication and prevention of other species moving in.

The Department will maintain and improve vegetative screenings and buffers along the highway and Second Pond as necessary. All planting species used on this project will come from the APA native plant list. Exceptions may occur in cases where some may be unavailable, in which case, any alternate species will be agreed on ahead of time with APA. Protective screening will consist of new plantings to both frame desired views and block undesired views as well as to enhance certain areas (i.e. entrance area from Rt. 3). When and where possible plants removed from the site due to construction will be saved and replanted in the screening and re-vegetation areas.

Construction for the site is expected to start after Labor Day 2012 assuming there is an approved UMP and design specification for the project, but could be delayed to fall 2013 depending on other Agency/Executive approvals. The launch will be fully closed to the public during construction and displaced users will be directed to; Lake Flower, South Creek, Ampersand Bay, or one of the private marinas for lake access. Due to lower use levels in the fall this is not expected to have a major impact on public access. Construction is expected to be completed by outside contract.

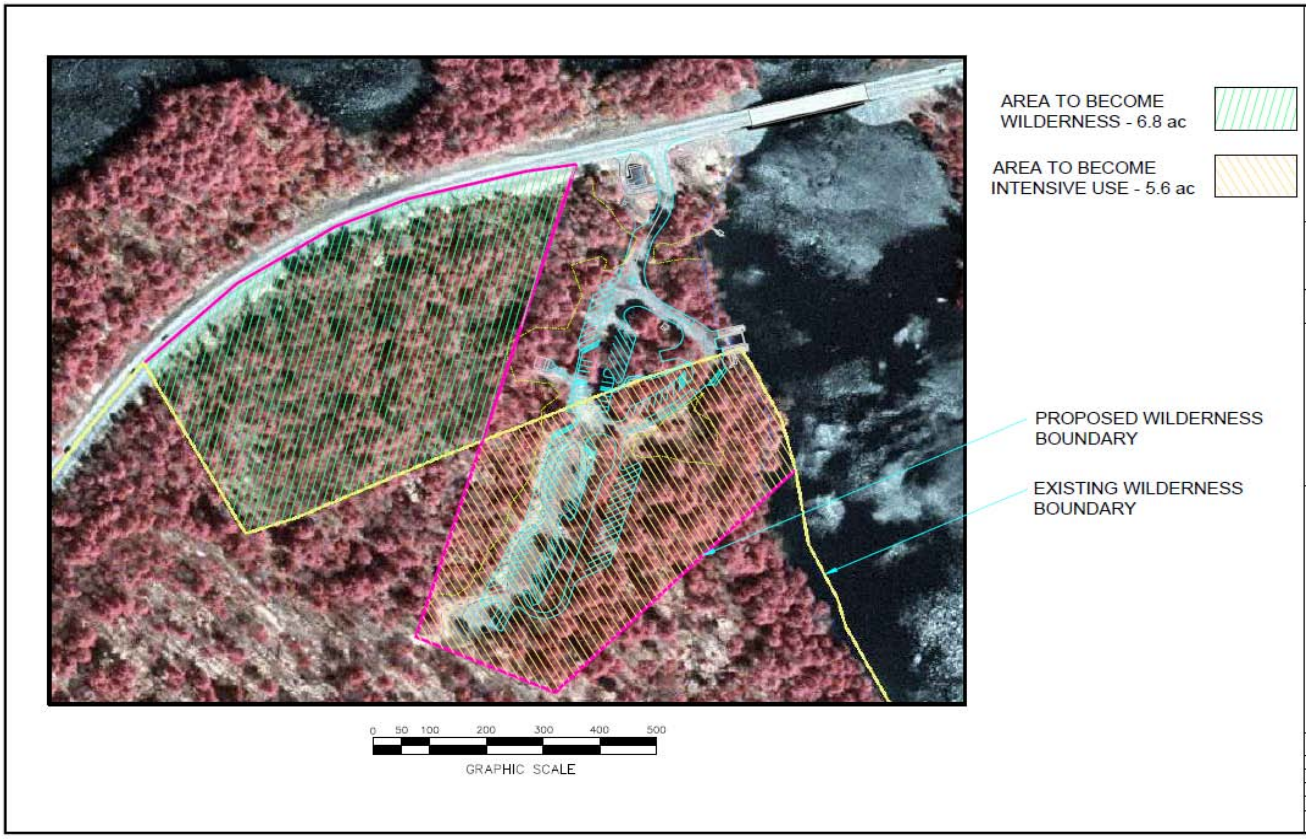
Benefits of the proposed improvements include;

- Improved traffic flow and better use of existing space
- Improve/expand accessible parking
- Planting native vegetation to improve visual screening of the facility from both the water and State Route 3. Visual improvement will also be provided by removing the old cabin along State Route 3 and by the use of floating docks that can be seasonally removed.
- Improving safety by reducing and/or eliminating parking along State Route 3[5] by vehicles, trailers and combinations thereof.
- Visitor experience will be greatly improved by rehabilitating the vault toilet and enhancing facilities for hand launching.
- Improved education and control and or removal of invasive species.
- Reducing storm water runoff through the use of pervious pavement is being evaluated as a design alternative.

[5] NYSDOT has been consulted and is willing to work with the Department to develop infrastructure improvements (guardrails, etc.) that will prohibit roadside parking where desired.

Proposed APSLMP Map Changes

The boat launch at Second Pond is in the intensive use classification and adjacent to the High Peaks Wilderness Area. However, the current APSLMP classification map essentially has part of the intensive use area mapped in the wrong location. At the time of mapping, the facility did not occupy the area mapped as Intensive Use, but rather occupied an area resembling its current footprint. The map shows about half of the parking area is currently located in wilderness classification. If the map is redrawn as described in this plan it would reclassify 5.6 acres from wilderness to intensive use and 6.8 acres from intensive use to wilderness for a net increase of 1.2 acres in the wilderness classification. The following map indicates areas that are proposed to become Wilderness, and areas proposed to become Intensive Use.



Conformity with the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan

Following is a review of the Second pond Boat Launch UMP and a description of how it meets the guidelines set forth in the APSLMP.

Location in an Intensive Use Area.

The existing boat launch parking area is partially located in Wilderness. The map correction proposed in this plan will resolve this conflict with the APSLMP, reclassifying that portion of the parking area that is located in Wilderness as Intensive Use.

Location on a lake or waterway exceeding 1000 acres in area.

According to the APSLMP, boat launch sites should be located on large lakes, or smaller lakes connected by navigable waterways where the aggregate acreage of the lake chain exceeds 1,000 acres. Second Pond is part of the Saranac Chain which is one of the interconnected waterways listed in the APSLMP which exceeds 1,000 acres.

The physical, biological and social carrying capacity will not be exceeded.

The physical and social carrying capacity of Second pond for boating was discussed earlier in this plan. Biological thresholds should not be exceeded since this plan does not propose to increase the level of current use. With respect to social carrying capacity, boats of all types are generally accepted on Second Pond and the Saranac Chain. The Second Pond Boat Launch is an integral part of the local social infrastructure and provides a recreational asset to the community.

The boat launching site or attendant water uses will be compatible with the state or private land use classifications and attendant management guidelines as land use controls surrounding the water body.

The Second Pond Boat Launch is classified as Intensive Use. The surrounding area includes both Wilderness and Wild Forest and State Route 3 is classified as a Travel Corridor. Private land classifications on the waterway include rural use along the southern shore of Second pond and low intensity and moderate intensity use around the Village of Saranac Lake.

The boat launching site is located in a manner to avoid adverse impact on adjacent or nearby state and private lands.

The Second pond Boat Launch is ideally located to reduce adverse impacts on adjacent lands. It is located on a sheltered pond, removed from private lands and within easy sight of State Route 3. Its location with easy access from the highway facilitates enforcement and administration of the facility. The parking area as proposed will minimize the impact of vehicular traffic on the site and eliminate the adverse impacts associated with parking along Route 3.

Motor size limitations appropriate to the carrying capacity of the lake are provided.

Currently, there is no motor size limitation on Second pond. The launch is adequate for launching most boats. Although Second Pond is a small lake, it provides access to much larger lakes that are suitable for motorboats.

There will be no material adverse impacts on physical, biological or scenic resources of the water body and surrounding land.

Second Pond has a long history of boat use and a boat launch has been at this location for several decades. The reconstruction of the facility will have minimal adverse impact on the physical and biological resources of the site. The scenic quality of the boat launch should be enhanced with the removal of the cabin on Route 3 and a better organized parking area for vehicles and boat trailers.

Alternatives

The following alternatives were considered to the reconstruction of the Second Pond boat launch as described in this UMP:

No Action

The boat launch and related infrastructure could be maintained as it exists. However, this alternative would not meet the objectives of improving protection of the Forest Preserve, addressing public safety, and complying with the APSLMP.

Reconstruct The Boat Launch Within The Intensive Use Area

The option of reconstructing the boat launch parking area to conform to the intensive use area as currently mapped was considered. However this option would result in a more adverse environmental impact than reconstructing the existing parking area. The appendix includes a map of the proposed boundary line adjustment and also shows the wetlands boundary surrounding the existing facility. Most of the area currently mapped as Intensive Use is a forested wetland. If the parking area were relocated within the Intensive Use Area, it would result in more tree cutting and would adversely impact a larger wetland area than reconstruction in the existing location. A relocated parking area would also be more visible from Route 3 which would have an adverse esthetic impact on the highway corridor.

Expand the facility

The boat launch could be expanded to meet future increases in demand for recreational use of the Forest Preserve and of the Saranac Chain of Lakes. However, an expansion would result in additional tree cutting and wetland impacts. It would also increase construction costs and future maintenance expenses because the facility would be larger. Finally there is no strong evidence which indicates that the boat launch cannot meet existing levels of use if it is redesigned to more efficiently accommodate the current number of vehicles and trailers parking at the launch and along Route 3.

Reduce the facility

The boat launch could be reduced in size, which may result in the parking problem being pushed to other areas, such as the Village of Saranac Lake. It is not certain that this option will result in even a slight decrease in the number of boats being operated on the water complex at one time, since people could use another access location and any reduction in access from a public facility could be made up for by an increase in access from private facilities.

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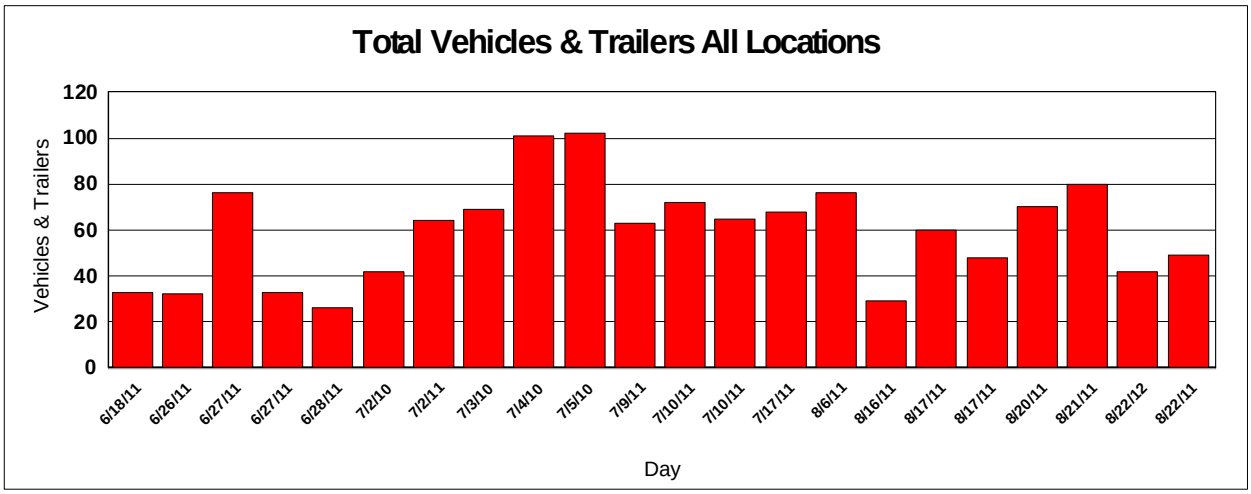
Appendix



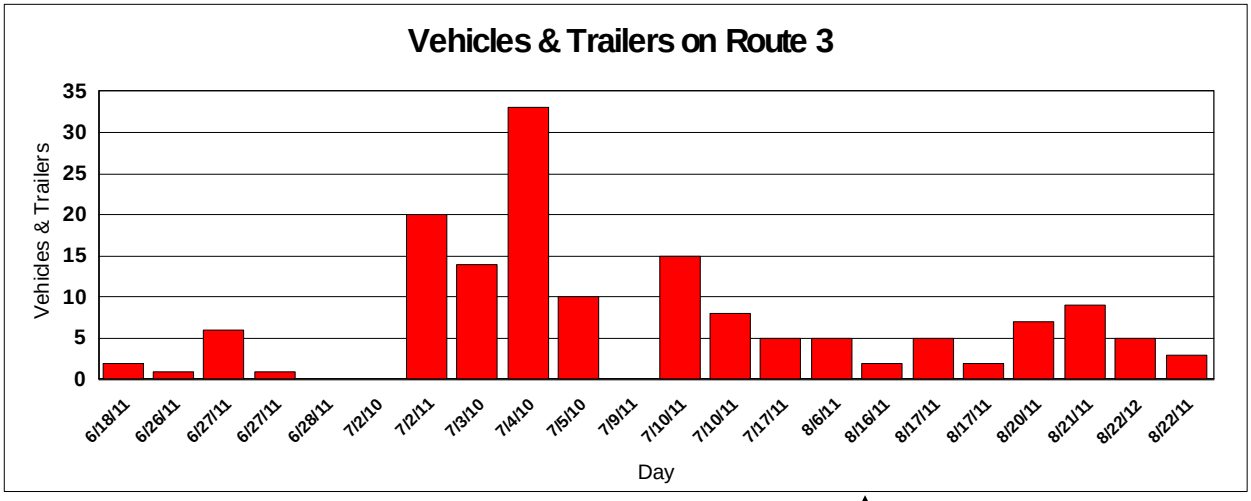
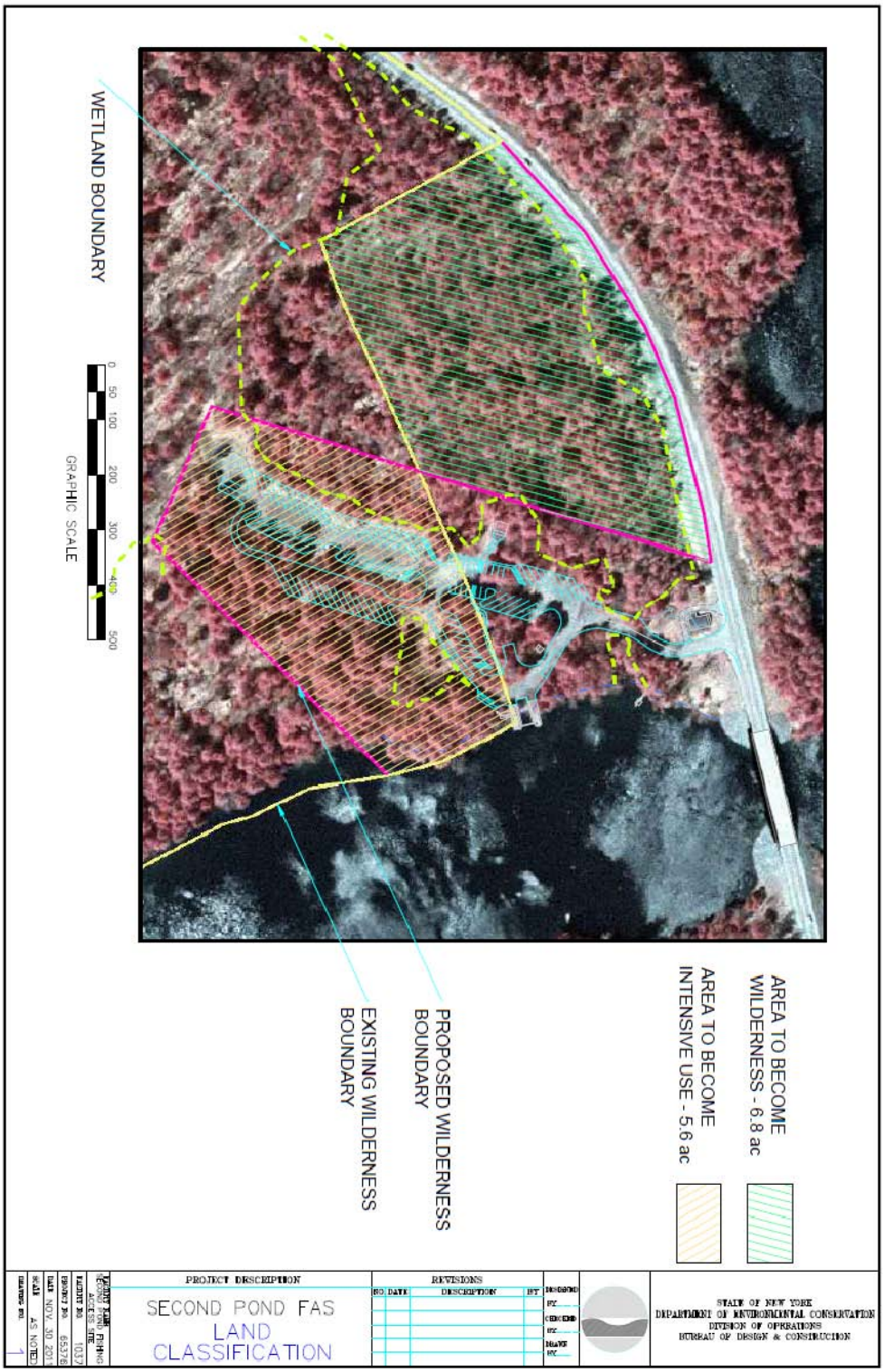


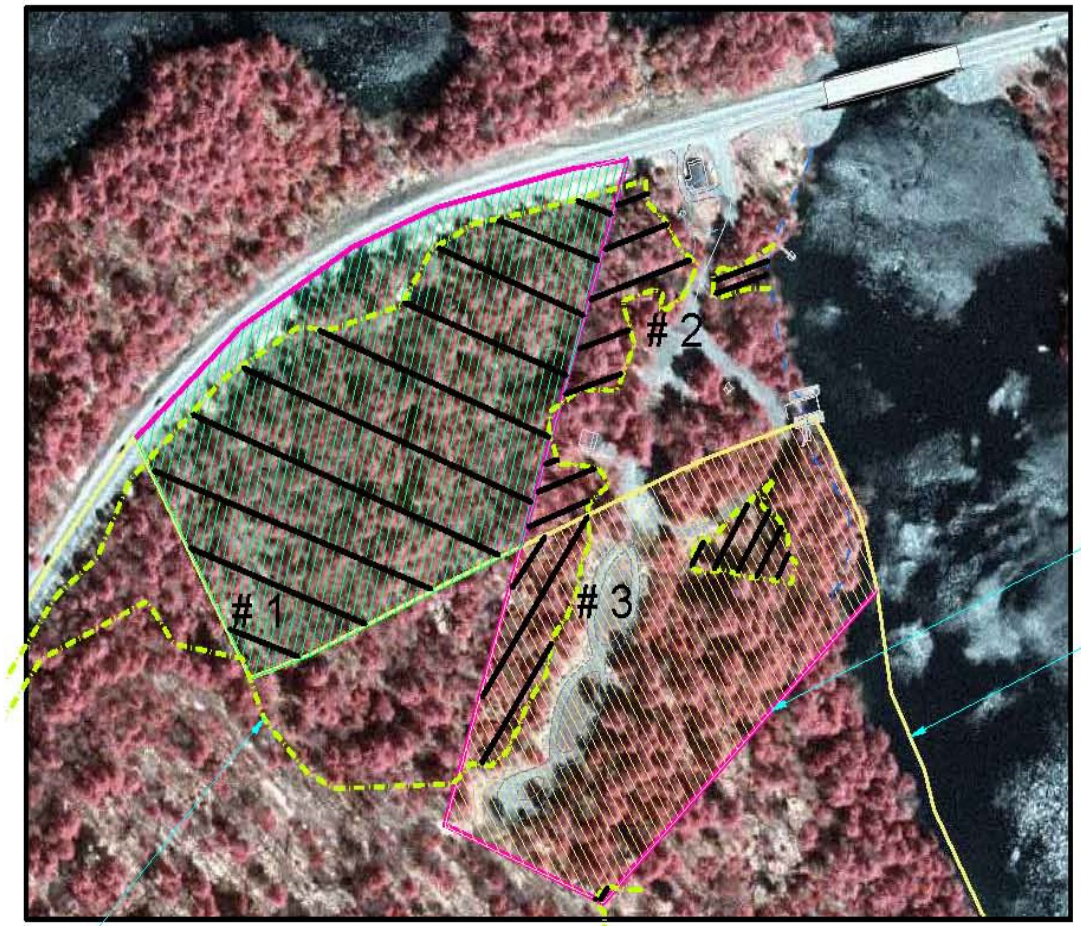
Chart: DEC random survey of parking area

Figure 1: Multi-year trends in boat launch usage

Proposed Boundary Adjustments



Wetlands Impact & Mitigation Map



AREA TO BECOME WILDERNESS - 6.8 ac

AREA TO BECOME INTENSIVE USE - 5.6 ac

AREA #1 WETLAND ACREAGE- 5.8 ac

AREA #2 WETLAND ACREAGE - .88 ac

AREA #3 WETLAND ACREAGE- .93 ac

PROPOSED WILDERNESS BOUNDARY

EXISTING WILDERNESS BOUNDARY

WETLAND BOUNDARY

0 50 100 200 300 400 500

GRAPHIC SCALE

STATE OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
DIVISION OF OPERATIONS
BUREAU OF DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION

REVISIONS

NO.	DATE	DESCRIPTION	BY

DESIGNED BY
CHECKED BY
DRAWN BY

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

SECOND POND FAS
LAND
CLASSIFICATION

FACILITY NAME SECOND POND FISHING ACCESS SITE
FACILITY NO. 1037
PROJECT NO. 65376
DATE AUG 13, 2012
SCALE AS NOTED
DRAWING NO. 1

Second Pond Intensive Use Area-Wetland

Legend

- Wetland
- Wetland Inside Intensive Use Border
- Existing Intensive Use Area

1 inch = 208 feet

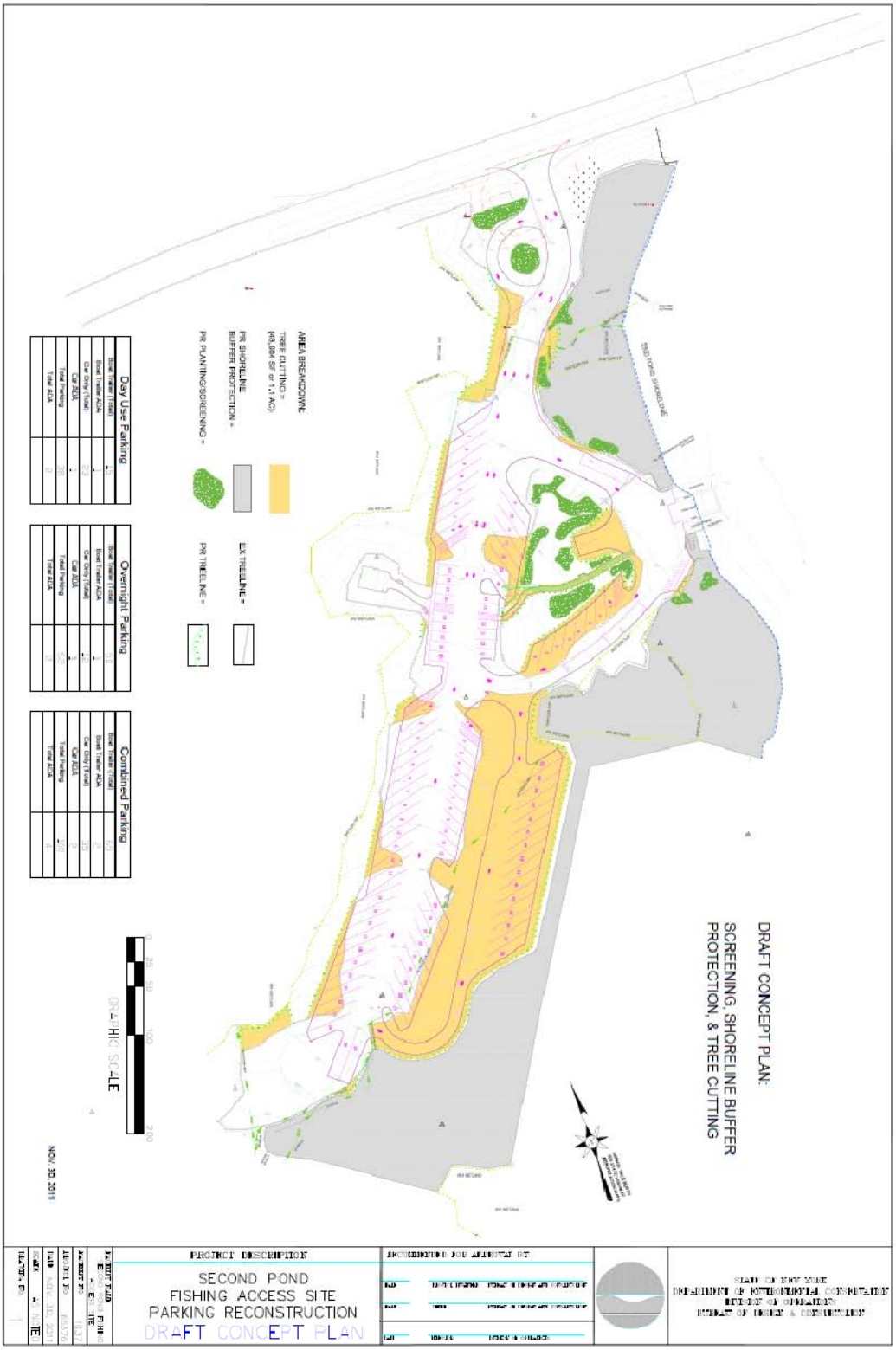
0 0.025 0.05 Miles

Adirondack Park Agency

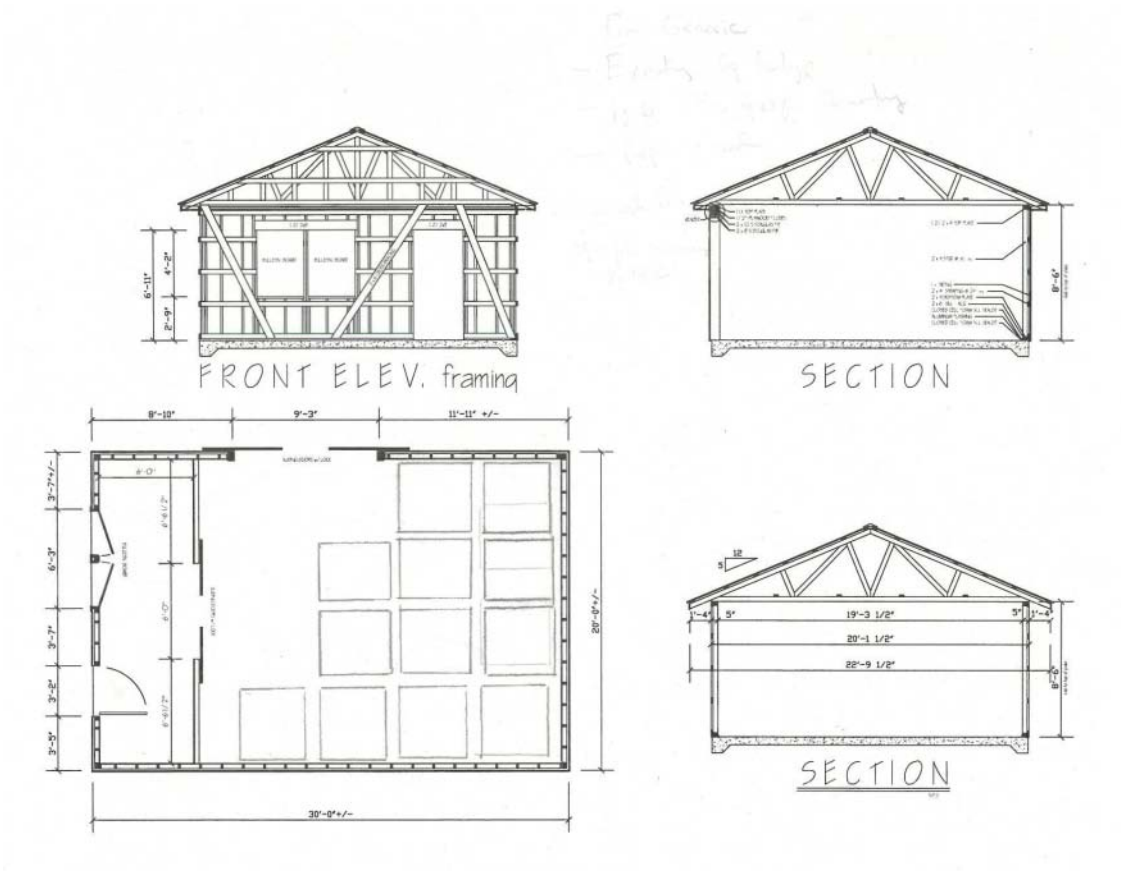
Date Saved: 7/27/2012

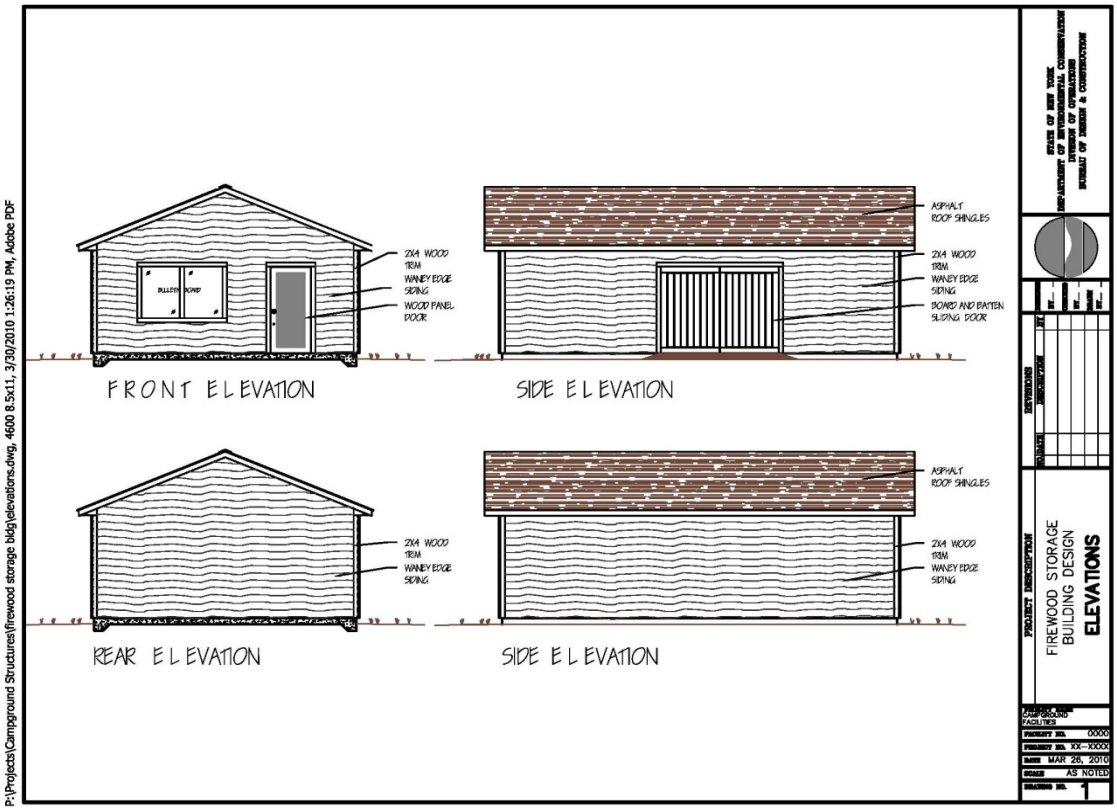
This map should not be used for legal jurisdictional determinations. Contact the APA at 518-891-4050

Screening, Shoreline Buffer & Tree Cutting Plan

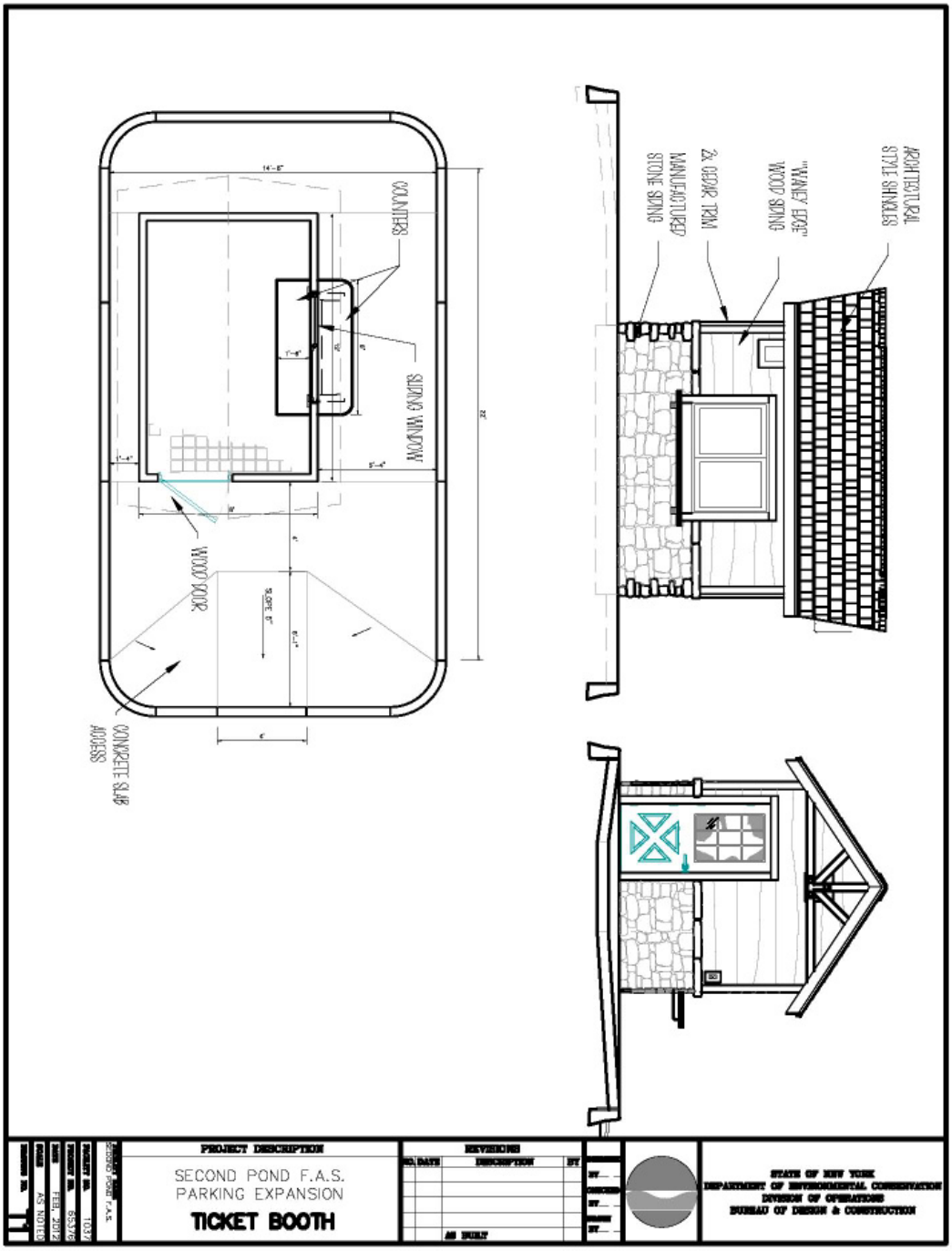


Design of Typical Firewood Storage Building





Design of Typical Registration Booth



Application of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

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

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

An assessment was conducted, in the development of this UMP, to determine appropriate accessibility enhancements which may include developing new or upgrading of existing facilities or assets. The Department is not required to make each of its existing facilities and assets accessible so long as the Department's programs, taken as a whole, are accessible. Any new facilities, assets and accessibility improvements to existing facilities or assets proposed in this UMP are identified in the proposed management actions section.

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

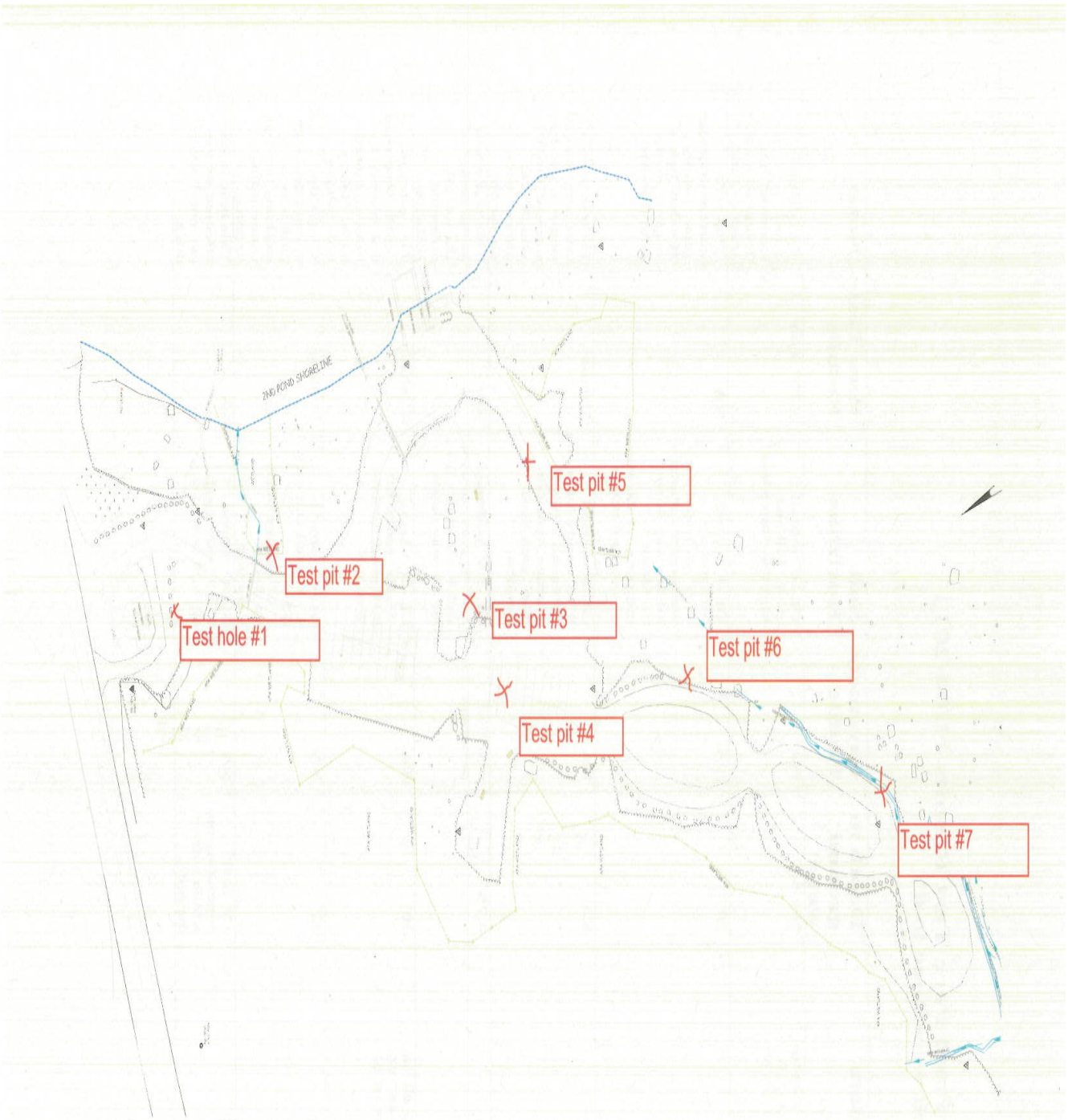
Second Pond Boat Launch site: Soils Report

Data from the digital Soils Map of New York for this location indicate **Searsport-Pillsbury-Naumberg-Croghan-Beseman** as the general soils type. General descriptions of these soils are as follows:
Searsport soils are formed in thick sandy deposits in pockets and depressions on outwash plains. Slopes are 0-3% and poorly drained in hydrologic group D.
Pillsbury soils are very deep coarse, loamy mixed soils found on loamy till on glacial uplands. Slopes are 0-15% and are poorly to somewhat poorly drained in hydrologic group C.
Naumberg soils are sandy, very deep and found in sandy deltaic and glaciofluvial deposits on low sand plains and terraces. Slopes are 0-8% and are poorly to somewhat poorly drained in hydrologic group C.
Croghan soils are sandy, very deep and mixed found on terraces and sand plains. Slopes range from 0-15% and are moderately well drained in hydrologic group B.
Beseman soils are very deep, loamy and mixed, very poorly drained with permeability medium slow to moderately rapid indicative of shallow depressions in bogs, glacial moraines and lake and outwash plains. Slopes are less than 1% in hydrologic group A.

Seven (7) soil test pits were dug within the project limits in locations based on proposed uses (roads, stormwater management, etc.). Four (4) perc tests were done. **The map showing test pit locations follows the Results Chart below.** Results done on Nov. 4, 2011 are as follows (all test pits dug to a 6' depth):

Second Pond Soil Test Results 11/04/2011

Test Pit	GPS data	Depth to ground water	Pavement Profile	Soil Horizons	Perc Test Results	Notes
#1	Altitude = 444m 74*11'7.11" W 44*17'17.11"N	Not hit	Na	GL-.5' topsoil .5'-6' Fill and highway dump site	1.75" /hour	Old dump for road construction, found all sorts of trash (~1960)
#2	To come	27"	NA	GL-1' topsoil wetland 1'-6' 80%sand very wet organic matter all the way down till about 5' mottling all the way down from below 10"	NA	This is the current drainage pipe. Totally flooded heavy organic matter with the sand
#3	To come	5.5'	NA	GL-8" topsoil 8"-5' sandy loam 80%sand 20%silt average moisture 5'-6' grey sand flooded	3"/hour	Hole in woods I was surprised at depth to gw due to results in #5 which is at almost same elevation.
#4	To come	4.75'	~ 5.5" of pavement	GL-5.5" pavement 5.5"-6' grey sandy and #1s and #2s fill all the way down	NA	This is the hole in the center of the lot, all amended soils/fill
#5	Altitude= 441m 74*11'6.46" W 44*17'13.16"N	30"	NA	GL-.5' topsoil .5'-30" sandy fill 80%sand 20%silt Wet soil	4"/hour	This pit is just off the loop road and seemed to have amended soils, closest hole to lake
#6	To come	32"	NA	GL-4" topsoil 4"-1' sand and rock fill 1'-3' orange sandy 85%sand Very wet	1.5/hour	This is the current drainage path which explains the high water at this location.
#7	To come	12" to 0" depending on which side of the hole	NA	GL-4" topsoil 4"-12" 60%sand 40%silt very wet	NA	This hole is also affected by the current drainage ditch


2145 POND SHORELINE
Test pit #5
Test pit #2
Test pit #3
Test hole #1
Test pit #6
Test pit #4
Test pit #7

Appendix (IX) – Public Comments

Comments on the 2012 Draft UMP

The following is a summary of public comments received between June 27th 2012 and July 31st 2012, following the release of the Draft SPBLS UMP and SEIS. The Department received only 3 comment letters, and 6 oral comments from the public meetings. Comments have been grouped according and addressed as general comments. All comments are attached for review at the end of this appendix.

Comment: Would like to see accommodations for fishermen and day-users to park.

Response: Parking during the camping season will be monitored and enforced by DEC personnel, with some spaces being designated for day-users and others for campers (see appendix IV for breakup of spaces).

Comment: Can you expand the parking area to fit more vehicles than the proposed design in the UMP.

Response: The Department recognizes the possibility of needs for expansion at this location and will not rule this out as an option if resources and conditions permit it. The Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan requires each unit management plan include an assessment of the carrying capacity. The Saranac Lakes Wild Forest Unit Management Plan has not been completed, nor has the required carrying capacity assessment to assess current use levels. Before additional parking can be considered beyond the existing levels, a carrying capacity assessment is needed to assist in managing social and biological resources of the Saranac Lakes Wild Forest. The level of parking proposed in this plan will accommodate the existing levels of public use, based on DEC surveys conducted during the summers of 2010 and 2011.

Comments: Accessible parking should be closer to launch area.

Response: In the new design accessible parking is closer to the launch area and spaces have been increased to meet ADA standards.

Comments: Provide a launch area for car-top and paddlers.

Response: The natural sand area to the south of the launch ramp will be stabilized and marked for car top launching, with a loading and unloading area.

Comments: Provide details of the boat launch, perhaps engineer's drawings.

Response: The design standards for the boat launch ramp and docks are from the Design Handbook for Recreational Boating and Fishing Facilities STATES ORGANIZATION FOR BOATING ACCESS (SOBA) SECOND EDITION May 2006, and 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design, Department of Justice September 15, 2010.

Comment: Remove the old DOT or Ranger cabin that is at the entrance just off route 3.

Response: The DOT has transferred this cabin to DEC, and it is schedule for demolition in this project.

Comment: DEC needs to allow parking on the road sides still.

Response: DEC will work cooperatively with DOT to identify areas that are acceptable for roadside parking. One of the objectives of this UMP is to improve safety at the site, and get parking off of State Route 3.

Comment: DEC should not be selling firewood.

Response: DEC only offers firewood for sale when doing so is necessary to supplement the existing supply offered by private vendors. The goal is to ensure reliable firewood at this destination to reduce the likelihood of visitors moving firewood that can potentially harm the natural resources in the area.

Comment: The DEC should be installing a boat wash station for control of invasives at this location.

Response: The Department will consider the option for a boat wash station at this location should resources become available, and advancements in the technology to make it a more feasible method of control. Boat wash stations for the intended use of controlling the spread of invasive species are not an effective means of control for the Saranac Lakes Chain. Due to several logistical issues such as multiple public and private access points, wash of motor and well systems. Connective waters which are also not controllable. Boat washes also require a vast amount of resources which are not present at the site including; electrical power, water source, manned staff operation, containment and disposal system. None of the above needs are easily added to this site and under current conditions wouldn't be economical. The DEC will work with the watershed stewardship program and internal resources to increase outreach and education at this location. A more aggressive management plan has been added to the UMP to address this issue.

Comment: The DEC should be putting electric at this site.

Response: Utilities are not currently available at this location.

Comment: What is the DEC going to do about the toilet at this location which has sanitation issues?

Response: The current vault toilet will be redesigned to a pumpable unit and a routine maintenance schedule set up which will alleviate these problems.

Comment: The site needs to have some nighttime lighting.

Response: DEC plans to install solar lights for safety at select locations.

Comment: DEC should not be converting intensive use lands to other more restrictive designations.

Response: The lands at SPBL currently classified as Intensive use are mostly unusable because they are forested wetlands.

Comment: A carrying capacity study needs to be done for this site.

Response: The carrying capacity for this site will be addressed in the Saranac Lake Wild Forest UMP. If the study indicates a need to change the level of access and use at this site, management changes will be proposed at that time.

Comment: There needs to be more information on the no action alternative and its impacts on the wetland at the site.

Response: Potential Impacts of not undertaking the proposed improvements are

Existing parking facilities not currently located on lands classified as Intensive Use would be removed

- Number of parking spaces available at Second Pond would decrease
- Public pressure to expand parking on lands currently classified as Intensive Use, including wetlands adjacent to current parking area, would increase
- Much of the land classified as Intensive Use at Second Pond is wooded wetlands (5.7 acres of the existing 10.5 acres). Any significant expansion of parking on lands currently classified as Intensive Use at Second Pond would result in negative impacts to the adjoining wetland.

Appendix F of the FSEIS illustrates the extent of the wetland (delineated by APA staff through aerial photo interpretation) that abuts the existing parking. Although much of the land is classified as Intensive Use, construction of an Intensive Use facility, such as a parking facility, on these lands would require the draining, excavation, or filling of the wetland.

Comment: The reasons for reclassification for this site need to be further documented.

Response: Currently, a portion of the vehicle parking at Second Pond is located within lands classified as Intensive Use. Additional parking extends beyond lands classified as Intensive Use and into lands classified as Wilderness (see aerial photo and map in appendix E of FSEIS). This conflicts with Wilderness guidelines in the APSLMP.

To address the conflict at Second Pond, the Second Pond FSEIS proposes two alternatives. The preferred alternative is the reclassification of 5.6 acres of Wilderness to Intensive Use and 6.8 acres of Intensive Use as Wilderness. As guidance regarding the reclassification of Wilderness to Intensive Use, the APSLMP states that additions to the Intensive Use category should generally come from new acquisitions or from the reclassification of existing Wild Forest areas, and "…only in exceptional circumstances from Wilderness, Primitive, or Canoe areas." The preferred alternative is an exceptional circumstance as much of the land classified as Intensive Use at Second Pond is wooded wetlands (5.7 acres of the existing 10.5 acres) and not suitable for intensive uses such as parking (see map in appendix F of FSEIS). In addition, a .10 mile setback (a regional boundary used for various land use areas on the Official Adirondack Park Land Use and Development Map) was applied to map the Intensive Use area. This resulted in an apparent mapping error because the boundary did not reflect the existing conditions in 1972. Prior to 1999, the APA displayed maps in paper format. The first printed facsimile map showing state lands in the Adirondack Park, dated June 1972, was created at a scale of 1:273,989. At this scale, 1/32 of an inch (about the thickness of a fingernail) on the map is 713 feet on the ground (the length of two football fields is 720 feet). Without regional boundaries, such as a road or water body, the precise location of the boundary is difficult to ascertain. Today's GIS provides an opportunity to develop more accurate maps. The current display (see appendix E) represents the current land classification boundary for this area.

The preferred alternative outlines mitigation steps to address the exceptional circumstances, including: reclassifying adjacent lands to utilize lands that are suitable for uses associated with intensive uses; providing a net benefit to Wilderness through the addition of 1.2 acres through the reclassification of Intensive Use lands to Wilderness; protecting wetlands and visual resources, and developing new facilities on lands capable of withstanding such improvements.

Public Comments As Received

ADIRONDACK COUNCIL

The mission of the ADIRONDACK COUNCIL is to ensure the ecological integrity and wild character of the ADIRONDACK PARK for current and future generations.

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CHARITY NAVIGATOR ★★★★ Four Star Charity

July 23, 2012

James Connolly
Adirondack Park Agency
PO Box 99
Ray Brook, NY 12977

Douglas Bernhard
NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
625 Broadway
Albany, NY 12233

Dear Mr. Connolly and Mr. Bernhard,

Thank you for accepting and considering the Adirondack Council's comments regarding the Second Pond Boat Launch Draft Unit Management Plan (UMP) and Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (DSEIS). We strongly agree that the inconsistencies of land use and classification should be addressed. The solution provided is adequate to bring the unit into compliance with the State Land Master Plan. However, the Adirondack Council, a member supported advocacy organization dedicated to ensuring the ecological integrity of the Adirondack Park, believes there are several ways to improve the current version of the UMP and the DSEIS

Land use reclassification should be used only when all alternatives, including reducing the amount of use, are deemed infeasible. The DSEIS recognizes that the State Land Master Plan states that additions to Intensive Use are permitted "... only in exceptional circumstances from Wilderness, Primitive or Canoe areas (p. 39)." We are also concerned about this action setting the precedent of using reclassification as the solution to non-conforming uses. While the Council considers this land use reclassification to be an extenuating circumstance due to the history of the boat launch and in fact, an addition of Intensive Use, the reasons for this change must be further documented.

In addition, the DSEIS should further describe impacts to wetlands if the no-action alternative is chosen (page 9-10) which would inherently create a new parking area in the currently un-used portion of the existing intensive use area. It is difficult to assess the differences in wetland impacts between the two alternatives.

DEFENDING THE EAST'S GREATEST WILDERNESS

103 Hand Avenue, Suite 3 P.O. Box D-2 Elizabethtown, New York 12932-0640 tel 518.873.2240 fax 518.873.6675
342 Hamilton Street Albany, New York 12210 tel 518.432.1770 fax 518.449.4839 info@adirondackcouncil.org

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Protecting our waterways from invasive species is more urgent now than ever before. Due to the high levels of use this boat launch receives and the numerous invasive species located in the surrounding waters, the DEC should provide a boat wash station at this location. This plan should include steps and information on how to secure funding. A boat wash station would further reduce introductions of new invasive species, reduce the spread of existing invasive species and assist in educating the public when stewards are not at the launch.

The Adirondack Council has been advocating for the DEC and the APA to further consider Wild Land Complexes as a management scheme in the Adirondacks. This is especially important when evaluating the carrying capacity of an area. The Second Pond Boat Launch allows intense use of the Saranac Lake Wild Forest, demonstrating the importance of the carrying capacity section of this UMP (pages 6-7). If the two units were reviewed and considered as one, a further understanding of how the units function together would be achieved. This concept is timely with the Saranac Lakes Wild Forest UMP being created. In the future, the need for complex management will increase as the scientific understanding of carrying capacity increases along and increase in use of the Adirondack Park's recreational resources.

In conclusion, with the Council's suggestions incorporated, reclassifying a portion of the Second Pond Boat Launch and the High Peaks Wilderness Unit is the most logical and environmentally appropriate way to address environmental and public safety issues while continuing to allow an acceptable amount of use of the Saranac Islands camping area.

Sincerely,

Allison Buckley

Allison Buckley
Conservation Director

James Connolly
Adirondack Park Agency
P.O. Box 99
Ray Brook, NY 12977
(518) 891-4050
jcconnol@gw.dec.state.ny.us

Douglas Bernhard
NYS DEC
625 Broadway, 3rd Floor
Albany, NY 12233-5253
(518) 402-9055
debernha@gw.dec.state.ny.us

Dear Mr. Connolly and Mr. Bernhard:

The Adirondack Mountain Club (ADK) thanks the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), and the Adirondack Park Agency (APA) for the opportunity to submit comments. Our organization believes the Second Pond Boat Launch is important to our members because invasive species from Saranac Lake pose an immediate threat to unaffected lakes in the region if a boat washing station is not addressed in this plan.

The Adirondack Mountain Club is dedicated to conservation, education, outdoor recreation and protection of New York's Forest Preserve, parks, wild lands and waters. ADK represents over 30,000 hikers, paddlers, skiers and backpackers.

One of ADK's core values is our commitment to a leave no trace experiences in the Adirondack and Catskill Parks. Every year ADK works not only to restore summit ecosystems, and trails. We also have staff dedicated to educating the public on leave no tract hiking and camping, and would contend that the APA and DEC should show the same commitment to preserving water bodies by developing a policy to combat aquatic invasive species in the Second Pond Boat Launch UMP.

Since the first management objective of this plan is to; protect the site and surrounding lands & waters of the Forest Preserve, the UMP should reflect that sentiment by including a comprehensive aquatic invasive species plan. The Second Pond Boat Launch UMP is a perfect opportunity for the APA, and DEC to take a necessary step in preventing the spread of aquatic invasive species from Saranac Lake to other water bodies throughout the Adirondacks. The draft UMP outlines:

> *"Since milfoil accumulates near the shores in sandy areas, boats coming in and out of the launch are easily contaminated. Since milfoil and other aquatics spread by fragmentation, broken pieces of these plants can be easily transported to other lakes where they can become established. Paul Smiths College has*

assigned stewards to help control the spread of invasive aquatic vegetation at the boat launch through their Watershed Stewardship Program."

Knowing how easily contaminated boats are likely to become, it is of the utmost importance that state agencies take the lead in combating the spread of invasive species throughout the park. We would expect the final UMP include specific actions that the agencies will be taking to prevent the spread of invasive species, and more specifically the assistance Paul Smith College's watershed stewardship program will be able to offer.

Our membership that attended the public hearings also suggested that having electricity at the launch may help with a number of concerns brought up by people representing a wide spectrum of users. First having low voltage mercury vapor lights at a few strategic locations in the parking area could help prevent vandalism and improve safety for boaters. Having electricity at the launch would also allow for a proper boat washing station to be installed.

ADK does support the classification change from Wilderness to Intensive Use because it'll make the facility more compliant with the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan. In the future there should be an increased effort by the APA and DEC to prevent Wilderness areas from becoming so heavily degraded that a similar change is necessary. We support the overall gain of 1.2 acres of Wilderness.

In closing we would like reiterate our hope that the final plan includes a comprehensive analysis of specific actions the APA and DEC will be taking to combat the spread of aquatic invasive species from Saranac Lake. We believe that the potentially irreversible damage that could easily be spread by this popular launch will require every precaution to prevent further spread from occurring. We appreciate your attention on this important issue, and look forward to working with the APA and DEC to make the necessary improvements.

Respectfully submitted,

Joelle Foskett

Public Lands Advocate

Adirondack Mountain Club

301 Hamilton St.
Albany, NY 12210
(518) 449-3870

Wade Florance
5515 Strathmore Dr.
Raleigh, NC, 27613
(919-625-4214)

To Whom it may concern,

I would like to submit my comments on the second pond boat launch. My wife and I have camped on lower saranac many times.

1. Parking spaces: There doesn't seem to be enough parking for cars with-out trailers. Your boat types in 2009 say 65% were canoes and kayaks. I understand that a large amount of these canoes come by van and are dropped off. Still it doesn't seem there's enough parking for individual cars it seems to be all geared towards cars with trailers. So I'm hoping that you provide more car parking to help prevent people parking on the road. You also don't have enough overnight parking for 87 campsites. Even if you use your percentages if 2 extra cars showed up and no one had handicap plates you would have 5 carloads with no parking. If you have enough parking, people won't park on the highway. Do it right the first time. Or maybe close some camp sites.
2. Floating Docks: While I am disappointed that the size of the docks are going to be reduced. I was surprised there was no mention of the DEC boats taking up a third of the docks space. During busy times there's barely enough room for people and gear on the dock. I'm hoping that while you're working on the launch area you can bring that administrative dock up to good enough standards so the campground employees can use that dock.
3. Vault comfort station: What can I say; I'ts one of the most disgusting & dirty places I've ever been in. The health Dept. should shut that thing down. We would be better off with porta pottys that are properly maintained. Please don't put the same system in

again. No matter what your going to have to keep rest rooms clean if you expect people to use them. I'm certain the DEC can come up with something better than what we have now.

4. APSLMP Map Changes: I am strongly against donating 1.2 acres of intensive use to wilderness. Why would we do this? Because of a mapping mistake? To entice The APA to approve the plan? Aren't we all on the same team? Maybe if you ever do your carrying capacity survey you could find the lakes could handle even more people. Do we think we can get this land back at a later date, if we needed to further expand this site? With intensive use land at less than 1/2 per cent of the park land do we need to further restrict furture generations access to this part of the park?

Second Pond Boat Launch Unit Management Plan
And Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement
Summary of Public Hearing held in Ray Brook, NY
July 17, 2012

Ed Dyer - In terms of this benefitting people in the local area, the proposal will provide minimal benefit. The parking will only provide parking for existing usage. Would like to see additional parking (20-30). With 87 campsites on the lake and only 100 parking spots at the boat launch site does not make sense. The limited parking will cause problems for parking at Lake Flower. There needs to be enforcement for parking at Second Pond.

David Whitson - I have worked in the campgrounds as a Park Ranger and spent life camping on the lakes. There isn't enough room for boat trailers and fisherman. Have been displaced because of this situation and putting in at Lake Flower. Fishermen contribute more to the economy than the campers. The State created the parking problem, not the boaters or fisherman. At the upper lots that you were showing – if you look at the picture you are showing – that road was widened by the State and it went all the way around and comes back out above on Route 3. The road is the original source of the parking area. The parking problem came when the campground was built. The boat launch was paid for by fisherman registration fees. Visitors using the campground have pushed out the fisherman and who have found it necessary to park along Rt. 3. Two parking permits are issued for each campsite. There are 87 campsites – there is not enough room and the fishermen are being pushed out. Parking should be provide at an angle. I would like to see 15 – 20 sites at least reserved for boat trailers for fisherman. I am speaking for a large portion of the fishing membership of the Fish and Game Club – however I am not officially representing the Fish and Game Club. When you build the new booth, the handicap parking should be placed where the booth currently is. This should also provide opportunity for DEC and Environmental Conservation officer. There is a sandy area near the ramp for car top launching. At the end of the day when everyone is coming off the lake, it is a problem. If there is an area for canoes and kayaks, that would help the congestion. The building by the road belongs to the DOT – it is unsafe and is a liability. The area behind that building should be left for the lock tenders; there should be a turn-around area for the State police to access; it is important to have the police presence due to vandalism that occurs in the parking area. Don't block off the opportunity to park along the road. Many people park there to hunt in the area. People would have to walk across the bridge. If you are doing this to protect the public, it should be done for other areas such as the Ampersand Mt. trail as the parking situation is similar. I don't believe a woodshed is necessary as I feel the local businesses have been advised to sell treated wood and the State should not be competing with the local business. I would like to see the handicap parking areas moved to the center. Right now there is not an area for a handicap person with a boat trailer.

Marilyn Gillespie – I think that a boat washing station should be included in this plan.

Allison Buckley – It is a very busy area, good that these issues are being addressed. I think that because of the trailers and that the area receives higher use, addressing use is an important issue. Boat washing station is very important due to the threat of invasive species such as the spiny water flea. I think it is very important that the carrying capacity is addressed as the boat launch is closely tied to the campground. We understand more about the science behind the carrying capacity and it will become more necessary to utilize carrying capacity as we look at the units as a complex. We think that using the reclassification process to address a non-conforming use can be a dangerous precedent as there are many non-conforming uses present on the Forest Preserve. The reclassification should be further justified in the EIS or UMP.

Roger Gocking – Would like details of the boat launch, perhaps engineer's drawings. The crusher boat launch was a disaster and should not be repeated. Would like more detail regarding the plans for the boat launch. Would like more information regarding the floating docks.

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Kevin Chlad – Mr. Chlad works for the Adirondack Council (Council). The Council is fearful of the dangerous precedent set by reclassifying an area of Wilderness as Intensive Use. While the Council understands the predicament posed to DEC by the history of high-use at this boat launch, the Council agrees with Member Booth's comments that the UMP should contain a justification as to why the change in land use classification is necessary. Although the Council feels that this is an extenuating circumstance, they do not want to see the DEC's reclassification of land to solve a non-conforming use become an acceptable form of resolving such conflicts on a regular basis. The Council has heard that the proposed reclassification is intended to correct a mapping error which occurred when the map was converted. The Council would like to review the original map and it should be made available to the public. This demonstration would certainly justify reclassification without setting a dangerous precedent.

The Council also provided comment on the DSEIS. The Council feels that a more detailed description of wetlands impacts should be provided if the no-action alternative is chosen as this would inherently create a new parking area in a currently unused portion of the site.

Mr. Chlad also noted that the Council believes that a boat washing station would help to prevent the potential of the spread of invasive species and would serve to educate the public on the threats of invasive species.

In conclusion, Mr. Chlad stated that the Council acknowledges the DEC's current efforts to move from management of individual Forest Preserve units to management on a larger scale with Wild Land Complexes. He added that the resources required to manage Forest Preserve on this level pale in comparison to what is required for the alternative. With the Governor's efforts to make government more efficient, there is no denying that this should be a top priority for DEC. The Council thanked the Department for the opportunity to comment and encouraged the Department to contact them if further input is needed.

End of public comments