



# **Region 7 Recreation Master Plan For State Forests/ Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement (Draft GEIS Completed on \_\_\_\_\_)**

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## **Preface**

This Recreation Master Plan/ draft GEIS has been developed in response to increased recreation pressure on State Forests in Region 7. The Recreation Master Plan assesses present facilities and resources, analyzes present demands for recreational activities and considers expansion of recreational opportunities while incorporating fiscal and resource constraints. Through proper planning, design and implementation, the Department will be able to provide a quality experience for recreational users.

New York's State Forests offer a multitude of recreational opportunities for the people of the State. Recreational use consists of the traditional activities of hiking, hunting and horseback riding to the relatively newer ones such as mountain biking and hang gliding. In recent years, many State Forests have experienced tremendous growth in recreational uses and demands. With this growth has come the challenge to protect the resource and reduce conflicts between users while continuing to provide a multitude of recreational opportunities.

In the past, many recreation trails were established by volunteers based on their interests and individual desires. Comprehensive recreation planning was not a high management priority in Region 7. Some of these early trails were poorly located, caused environmental damage, or conflicted with other activities on the State Forests.

More recently, management priorities have shifted to correct these problems and to provide more recreational opportunities on State Forests. However, recreation must be compatible with the other uses and benefits of State Forests.

Region 7 consists of Broome, Cayuga, Chenango, Cortland, Madison, Onondaga, Oswego, Tioga and Tompkins Counties. The Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) is the agency responsible for the management and protection of State Forests. Foresters of the Division of Lands and Forests, Bureau of Public Lands, are charged with the management of these forests.

This plan was prepared by staff in the Cortland, Sherburne and Central offices.

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# Region 7 Recreation Master Plan/GEIS

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A large print version of this report is available upon request.

## I. The Goal of the Plan

The goal of this plan is to provide the opportunity for a variety of well distributed, quality recreational experiences compatible with State Forests while protecting natural resources. The plan will determine the location and extent of development for future recreational opportunities or facilities, address concerns of recreational impacts on the natural resources, and provide guidance to improve the future management of recreation on Region 7 State Forests.

## II. What Are State Forests?

**In this plan, all lands under administration of the Division of Lands and Forests will be referred to by the generic term of *State Forests*\***. State Forests include reforestation areas, multiple use areas, and unique areas.

Today's State Forests owe their present character, in large part, to the impact of pioneer settlement. After the Revolutionary War, increased pressure for land encouraged westward expansion. Up to 91% of New York's woodlands were cleared for cultivation and pasture by settlers. These farming efforts had limited success. As the less fertile soils proved unproductive, they were abandoned and settlement was attempted elsewhere. The stage of succession was set and new forests of young saplings reclaimed the once cleared ground.

The State Reforestation Law of 1929 and the Hewitt Amendment of 1931 set forth the legislation which authorized the former Conservation Department to acquire land by gift or purchase for reforestation areas. These State Forests, consisting of not less than 500 acres of contiguous land, were to be forever devoted to "reforestation and the establishment and maintenance thereon of forests for watershed protection, the production of timber, and for recreation and kindred purposes." This broad program is presently authorized under Article 9, Title 5, of the Environmental Conservation Law (ECL).

In 1930, Forest Districts were established and the tasks of land acquisition and reforestation were started. In 1933, the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) was created. Thousands of young men were assigned to plant millions of trees on the newly acquired State Forests. In addition to tree planting, these men were engaged in road and trail building, erosion control, watershed restoration, forest protection and other projects.

During the war years of 1941-1945, there were few accomplishments on the State Forests. Plans for further planting, construction, facility maintenance and similar tasks had to be curtailed. However, through the postwar funding, conservation projects once again received needed attention.

**\* Words in bold italics that are asterisked are defined in the glossary.**

The Park and Recreation Land Acquisition Act of 1960, the Environmental Quality Bond

Acts of 1972 and 1986, and the 1996 Clean Water/Clean Air Bond Act contained provisions for the acquisition of State Forest lands. These lands would serve multiple purposes involving the conservation and development of natural resources, including the preservation of scenic areas, watershed protection, forest management and recreation. Today, there are nearly 720,000 acres of State Forests throughout the State.

There are 117 reforestation and multiple-use areas totaling **195,111** acres in Region 7 (**Appendix 6, Existing and Proposed Recreational Facilities on State Forests**). These lands are generally found on hilltops and in other areas that were once farmed but proved unsuitable because of thin soils. Today, these areas contain a mix of conifer plantations on areas that were previously farmlands and other areas consisting of natural hardwoods, conifers, wetlands and ponds.

There are also seven designated unique areas totaling **3,027** acres in Region 7. The name, size, location and unusual features of the unique areas are listed below.

1. Camillus Forest Unique Area - 350 acres in Onondaga County, includes historic farmland, area of large hardwood trees and access to Nine Mile Creek.
2. Labrador Hollow Unique Area - 1,483 acres in Cortland and Onondaga Counties, includes dramatic topography, a 120-acre pond, a 50-foot waterfall, several rare plants and uncommon bird species.
3. Nelson Swamp Unique Area - 831 acres in Madison County, contains striped coral root (an endangered species), other threatened plant species and white pine trees more than 350 years old.
4. Salmon River Falls Unique Area - 129 acres in Oswego County, contains a portion of the Salmon River corridor including a 110-foot high waterfall.
5. Sandy Island Beach Unique Area - 126 acres in Oswego County, contains fragile sand dunes and several endangered species.
6. Sandy Pond Beach Unique Area - 76 acres in Oswego County, contains fragile sand dunes, one mile of beach on the eastern shore of Lake Ontario, several endangered plants and a bird sanctuary.
7. Split Rock Unique Area - 32 acres in Onondaga County, contains an endangered plant species and a historic rock quarry.

Unique areas were acquired in order to protect the unusual ecosystems that occur on each. These lands are classified as unique areas because they were acquired with funds from the Environmental Quality Bond Act specifically for lands containing unique characteristics, such as rare plants or unusual landscape features. Unique areas are regulated in the same manner as State Forests. Management of unique areas emphasizes the protection of their unique features. Unique areas are not managed to

produce timber products; however, some trees may be cut to improve the habitat for certain plant and wildlife species.

In addition, there are **287** acres of lands in other legal land classification categories in Region 7 under Division of Lands and Forests administration. There are also **1,165** acres of land not owned in fee by New York State but administered under Conservation Easements.

The total land area in the nine-county Region 7 that is owned or administered by New York State and is under the Division of Lands and Forests management is **199,590** acres.

State Forests are sometimes confused with other public lands such as the Forest Preserve or State parks. The Forest Preserve includes “forever wild” State-owned lands (NYS Constitution Article XIV, §1), within the “blue line” which is the defining boundary of the public and private lands that comprise the Catskill and Adirondack Parks (see ECL Section 9-0101 (6)). State parks were created to preserve natural or historic features and provide for the recreational needs of the people of New York State. One of the many important differences between State Forests and the Forest Preserve or State parks is that State Forests are actively managed, through the practice of sustainable forestry, to provide wood products and wildlife habitat.

Wildlife management areas (WMAs) are managed by the Division of Fish, Wildlife and Marine Resources and are not addressed in this plan.

State Forest maps for Region 7 can be found in **Appendix 7**.

### **III. What State Forests Provide**

Citizens of New York State place a high value on clean air and water, open space, healthy forests, wildlife, and outdoor recreational opportunities. Today, State Forests provide more for New York’s citizens than ever before.

#### **A. Clean Air and Water**

Clean air and water are essential components of our quality of life. State Forests contribute toward clean air and protect the water quality of countless ponds, wetlands, aquifers, streams, and rivers. The lands which are now State Forests were formerly abandoned farmlands that were often the source of soil erosion into streams. When the State Forests were established, trees were planted to halt soil erosion. Since then, the water quality on State Forests has improved significantly. Many streams on State Forests that were once degraded through poor agricultural practices can now, once again, support wild trout populations. The protection of water quality continues to be a primary concern today.

#### **B. Open Space**

Open space for public use and enjoyment is increasingly valued as opportunities for use

of private lands decline due to posting, subdivision and development. The current trend of subdivision and development in rural areas is causing long-term changes in the landscape. State Forests preserve open space and the character of undeveloped areas.

The conservation and protection of open space is an important function of State Forests. The New York State Open Space Conservation Plan guides all land conservation acquisition activities by the Department. Protecting open space can be accomplished through land acquisition or by conservation easements. Easements allow the land to remain in private ownership while certain rights (such as development or trail corridors) are acquired by the State. Easements are often most suitable for large properties such as farms or commercial forests because they allow the original owner to continue using the land for profitable purposes.

Fee title acquisition is the most common and generally preferred method used to protect open space on State Forests. Acquisitions of select parcels can enhance State Forests in a variety of ways, such as protecting open space, consolidating boundary lines, and providing improved public and administrative access. Acquisitions to enhance State Forests are generally small parcels offered to the State by willing sellers. These include in-holdings that are surrounded by State Forests. Fee title acquisition allows the parcel to have the full protection and recognition of State ownership. The acquired parcel can then be easily integrated into the surrounding State Forest management. All fee title acquisitions are conducted with willing sellers.

### **C. Forest Products**

Forests continue to provide the products that society needs and demands. The United States uses more forest products than any other country in the world. This country was built with and continues to depend upon forests for the production of paper, lumber, paneling, flooring, furniture, pallets, utility poles and numerous other products.

State Forests in Region 7 have been protected and tended through the application of forest management by Department staff for the past 70 years. Today, New York State Forests are an important and valuable resource of high quality forest products. The native hardwoods on State Forests are highly valued for the manufacture of furniture, flooring, lumber, baseball bats and a wide variety of other products in both domestic and international markets. One of the unique features which distinguish State Forests from private lands is the extensive area of conifer plantations on the former farm fields and pastures. These plantations contain a variety of tree species, however, Norway spruce and red pine are the most common. The plantations on State Forests are an important or primary source of raw materials for many local industries. For example, Norway spruce is highly desired for the production of quality paper products. State Forests are the largest source of red pine in New York. Uses include the production of landscaping timbers, utility poles, pressure treated lumber, and log cabins.

While these plantations are a valuable softwood resource, many of the species originally planted are not native to the area. These species are not well adapted to the region's soil types, are vulnerable to blowing over in strong winds, and are often unable to regenerate naturally. Because of these factors, as the plantations mature, they are harvested for the products they provide and are often converted to areas of native

hardwoods comprised of seedlings and saplings.

The continuous, long-term management of State Forests has resulted in a forest resource of very high quality. New York recently became the first State in the nation to receive certification by the National Wildlife Federation/Smartwood program for all its State Forest lands. The State Forests were certified as being managed using sustainable forestry practices which have met the policies and principles of the Forest Stewardship Council. Receiving this certification for practicing sustainable forestry indicates that New York State Forests are managed for long-term ecological, social and economic health.

#### **D. Wildlife Habitat**

The management of State Forests provides a wide variety of habitat conditions that are not often found on private lands. On a landscape scale, State Forests offer large, relatively undisturbed areas that are required by many wildlife species for habitat. Open grassy areas are often maintained to provide habitat for grassland bird species. Large areas of early successional stage forest containing seedling/sapling size trees can be found in other areas. These areas can be important habitat for many birds ranging from grouse and woodcock to warblers and sparrows. At the other end of the spectrum of forest conditions, large areas of mature hardwoods and conifers having minimum disturbance offer habitat for birds such as pileated woodpeckers, goshawks, barred owls and red-shouldered hawks.

#### **E. Outdoor Recreational Opportunities**

Historically, State Forests have provided recreational opportunities for those activities requiring minimal facilities. Such activities included hunting, fishing, trapping, hiking, nature observation, snowmobiling and cross-country skiing. In the past, the intensity of recreational use was relatively low. This resulted in low environmental impacts and few conflicts. However, during the 1990's recreational use, demands and conflicts increased while budgets and staffing did not. At the same time, other demands on department staff also increased. This situation has resulted in the need for developing this plan.

### **IV. Why a Region 7 State Forest Recreation Master Plan is Needed**

The recreational use of State Forests has gradually evolved as society's interest in outdoor recreation has grown. In the early years of the State Forests, from the 1930's through the 1960's, there was little interest in outdoor recreation on State Forests other than the traditional activities of hunting, fishing and trapping. During the late 1960's and into the 1970s, the interest in outdoor recreation bloomed as the environmental movement began and Americans discovered the enjoyment of activities such as hiking, camping, horseback riding and cross-country skiing. It was during this period of time that the first recreational trails became established on State Forests. Trails were often located on historic access routes such as abandoned roads, old farm lanes, cow paths, etc., since they were the most convenient location. Unfortunately these routes were not always in the best location from the perspective of resource protection.

America's interest in outdoor recreation continued to grow through the 1980's and 1990's. The Department sought to accommodate new recreational demands that were compatible with State Forests by improving or developing recreational trails or facilities. Trails were often developed in response to local demand without proper planning or consideration of long-term consequences. Volunteers were authorized to locate and construct trails. This was done without adequate understanding of proper trail location, design and construction requirements. Trails were constructed to minimum standards that were intended to accommodate a low level of use. Years later, these trails are receiving a greater amount of use than originally was anticipated. Trails were also designed for single uses without regard for future multiple uses of the same trail. For example, portions of cross-country ski trails were originally located on areas of poor soil drainage because they were intended to be used during frozen conditions. However, years later those same trails are being used by horse riders or mountain bikers. Poorly planned trails have become eroded, muddy paths, resulting in unsafe and unpleasant conditions for trail users and unhealthy conditions for the environment. In the 1990's, mountain biking became a significant activity on many State Forests resulting in increased use of existing trail systems. In some areas, trail users have constructed their own trails often in unsuitable locations. In other areas, long-distance trails established across State Forests and private lands sometimes cause problems on the property of adjacent landowners or in nearby communities. These issues must be addressed to ensure healthy State Forests with quality recreational opportunities for future generations.

The Department is also in the process of developing ***Unit Management Plans (UMPs)\**** to guide all activities on State Forests in the future. Each UMP is a comprehensive document which addresses the future management needs for a group (unit) of State Forests. As UMPs have been developed for different areas of the region, Department planning staff have become increasingly aware of the need for a regional recreation master plan that would address recreation concerns from a regional perspective rather than only examining the needs of an individual unit. Without a regional plan to guide recreational development in individual UMPs, recreational trails and facilities would evolve on a unit-by-unit basis without an overall vision and plan for the region.

Outdoor recreation opportunities are an important factor in our quality of life. We often learn to appreciate and understand nature by participating in outdoor recreational activities. Outdoor activities on State Forests are now more diverse than ever before. People are increasingly going to State Forests to enjoy mountain biking, hiking, hunting, horseback riding, nature observation, hang gliding, snowmobiling, cross-country skiing and other activities. With limited staff and financial resources to address recreational concerns, the Department needs a regional plan to ensure that adequate recreational opportunities, compatible with State Forest management objectives, are available while protecting the environment from recreational impacts. Achieving this goal will ensure that future generations will have the opportunity to enjoy their outdoor recreation activities and appreciate the natural resources found on New York State Forests.

## **V. Our Responsibility**

The Department of Environmental Conservation, Division of Lands and Forests, is responsible for managing State Forests pursuant to Article 9, Title 5, of the Environmental Conservation Law (ECL). The mission of the Division of Lands and Forests is “[to care for and enhance the lands, forests and natural resources in the State of New York for the benefit of all through the care, custody, and control of State- owned lands, and promotion of the use and protection of all natural resources.”

The Department has been certified by the National Wildlife Federation as practicing sustainable forestry. As part of that certification, the Department is committed to improve forest management practices, conserve forests and protect natural resources. With our mission to care for and protect State Forests, it is responsible for the Department to develop and implement this Recreation Master Plan.

### **A. The Role of State Forests in Providing Recreational Opportunities**

In New York State, outdoor recreational opportunities are primarily provided by the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP), the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), municipal parks and the private sector. Each of these entities fulfills a role in providing a broad spectrum of recreational opportunities in New York State.

State parks offer recreation opportunities for activities requiring greater levels of site development. The *1994 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan* states that “the Mission of the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation is to provide safe and enjoyable recreational opportunities for all New York State residents and visitors and to be responsible stewards of our valuable natural, historic and cultural resources.” In addition to natural, undeveloped areas, State parks provide paved parking areas and paths, electricity, running tap water, buildings, and developed swimming or other recreation areas. Visitors to State parks also pay an admission fee to support the maintenance and development of these types of facilities.

The two primary land classifications within DEC are Forest Preserve, and those lands which are generically referred to as State Forests. State Forests have a unique role in providing recreational opportunities to the citizens of New York State. The authorizing legislation for the creation of State Forests states that they were to be forever devoted to “reforestation and the establishment and maintenance thereon of forests for watershed protection, the production of timber, and for recreation and kindred purposes.” In keeping with this stated purpose of multiple uses, State Forests offer opportunities for recreational activities that are best enjoyed in remote, relatively undisturbed natural areas. Such activities typically require a minimum of facility development or site disturbance. Activities meeting these criteria are compatible with maintaining and protecting the natural character and features of State Forests. Visitors to State Forests do not pay admission fees and limited facility development and associated construction and maintenance costs are consistent with this principle.

Municipal parks are often similar to State parks with developed facilities and varieties of recreational opportunities for local communities.

The private sector also has an important role in providing recreational opportunities including some which are not found on public lands. A multitude of opportunities are available on private lands. These range from camping and cross-country skiing to riding personal water craft or racing motorcycle dirt bikes. In general, private lands are capable of offering a wider variety of recreational opportunities than public lands since they do not have as many laws and regulations governing their use.

## **B. Our Approach: How this Plan was Developed**

The procedure used to develop this plan is described below.

1. Background information and public input relating to recreation on State Forests was collected.
2. The constraints, restrictions, or limitations on recreation use or facility development on State Forests were determined. These include:
  - Physical and environmental constraints;
  - Administrative constraints;
  - Societal influences; and
  - Department policy, rules, regulations and laws.
3. Recreation activities were reviewed to determine their compatibility with the mission, goals and purpose of State Forests.
4. For those activities which are compatible with State Forests, the public comments, ideas or requests gathered from our public input process were reviewed, including the results of the public meetings and responses to the recreation survey questionnaire.
5. We then determined if expressed demands for an activity were currently being satisfied. At this stage, a demand analysis including all known current opportunities on public and private lands for each activity was completed. If it was determined that additional facilities for an activity were needed, then:
  - a. Minimum standards were established describing acceptable trail construction or maintenance requirements (see section IX, H(7)).
  - b. Geographical distribution of recreational opportunities were determined.
  - c. State Forests were evaluated to determine their suitability for accommodating the recreational demands (**Appendix 4, *Evaluation of Forests for Recreational Trail Development***).
    - Forests were placed in the category of “Forests Without Designated Trails” because they were not suitable for recreational development or to accommodate other recreational needs or interests.
    - If a forest was determined to be suitable, then using the best available information, answers to the following questions were developed:

Where on the forest will the facility be developed or improved?  
How much facility development will occur?  
When will it be developed or improved?  
How much will it cost?

6. Conflicts, concerns, or problems (such as potential adverse environmental impacts) relating to each activity were reviewed. Decisions were made about what reasonable, sensible and responsible actions could be taken to avoid, correct or minimize the conflicts, concerns, or problems.

7. Department policies and procedures relating to the general management of recreational activities on State Forests were then reviewed. Also included in this evaluation was available information or educational material relating to recreation. Decisions were then made on ways to improve the effectiveness of the Department in managing and providing for recreation activities on State Forests.

### **C. Public Input**

During the spring of 1999, four public meetings were held in Region 7 at Syracuse, Homer, Johnson City and Sherburne. The purpose of these meetings was to gather input from the public on recreation on State Forests in the Region. A total of 223 people attended the meetings. At these sessions, DEC staff asked questions and the participants shared their feelings and ideas. This information was recorded, compiled and has been used to make this plan (see **Appendix 1**, *Summary of Region 7 Recreation Public Meetings*).

Questionnaires were also distributed which asked for information about recreation on State Forests. Respondents provided answers to many questions including:

- How many locations for a certain type of recreation are enough?
- Which recreational uses are compatible with each other and the lands?
- Should certain activities be restricted to trails only?
- Should some areas have no trails?

The responses were analyzed by the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs of Syracuse University. Information from the questionnaires and the Maxwell School study was used in the formation of this plan.

Three hundred forty-one responses were received. There were 29 reasons given for visiting State Forests including hunting, hiking, camping, horseback riding, fishing, snowmobiling, all-terrain vehicle riding, cross-country skiing, mountain biking, nature study, birding, snowshoeing, canoeing, contemplation, dog training and walking, motorcycle dirt biking, trapping, picnicking, kayaking, boating, hang gliding, trail running, firewood cutting, rock and ice climbing, food gathering, tubing, informational walks, target shooting, and dog sledding. It should be noted that **all-terrain vehicle\*** (ATV) riding, motorcycle dirt biking, and food gathering are illegal on State Forests, unless permitted by sign or Department issued permit (6 NYCRR 190.8 [m] and [g], and Vehicle and Traffic Law 2405).

Other uses known to occur on State Forests but not mentioned at the meetings or in the survey responses are paint ball games, orienteering, and **four-wheeling\***. Four-wheeling is also illegal on State Forests except on designated motor vehicle trails.

## **1. Recreation Questionnaire Results: The Maxwell Report**

In June of 1999, at the request of the Region 7 recreation committee, an analysis of the 341 returned questionnaires was conducted by the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University. Due to the structure of the questionnaire, some conclusions have high certainty, while others may only be inferred. The analysis contained the following three parts: overall user satisfaction, importance of providing various activities, and determining the needs of specific activities.

### **a. Overall User Satisfaction**

Most respondents did not find fault with the existing forest conditions. For trail users, important concerns are erosion control, well-marked trails, and brochures. ATV users said trail riding opportunities are insufficient. Shared trails are acceptable to horseback riders, mountain bikers and ATV riders. Single-use trails are desired by cross-country skiers, hikers, and wildlife viewers. Most conflicts are strongly inferred to be between motorized and non-motorized users.

### **b. Importance of Providing Various Activities**

The questionnaire asked about the importance of providing opportunities for various activities on State Forests. Responses for activities given high importance were: wildlife viewing, hiking, camping, skiing, and picnicking; of moderate importance were: canoeing, fishing, mountain biking, hunting, and horseback riding; of low importance were snowmobiling, ATV riding, trapping, target shooting, and hang gliding. The report noted a discrepancy between the importance of providing certain activities and actual participation in those activities.

### **c. Determining The Needs of Special Activities**

- Insufficient parking was cited as a problem by those requiring trailer space.
- ATV riders want access to existing trails or to have trails constructed. They feel that the benefits they receive are not proportional to the registration fees paid. At present there are no trails open to ATV use on State Forests in Region 7.
- Cross-country skiers prefer well-marked, single-use loop trails, and desire restrictions on pets, snowmobiles, and motorized vehicles.
- Hikers and wildlife viewers prefer single use trails and feel that motorized vehicles, pets, horses, and hunters present potential problems.
- Horseback riders prefer looped trails and feel that seasonal use restrictions are reasonable. Issues they are concerned about include unleashed dogs and conflicts with other user groups.

- Hunters don't need formal trails; however, they noted problems with pets and damage to State Forests by motorized vehicles and horses. Since they pay for hunting licenses, they feel other groups should also pay fees to use State Forests. (License fees from fishing and hunting do not support management activities on the State Forests.)
- Mountain bikers desire technically challenging trails and will accept shared trails. Conflicts exist between mountain bikers, hikers, and horseback riders. However, mountain bikers are generally interested in solving conflicts with other groups.
- Snowmobilers pay fees, but have problems accessing State lands. They feel other recreation user groups should pay fees as well. They expressed a need for additional trail grooming, speed enforcement, and trail signs. (Fees paid are for registration, not for access.)
- Campers would like to limit motorized activities on the trails and would like to have trails open year round. Requests for a camping area for ATV riders and improved camping facilities for horse riders were received at the public meetings but not mentioned in the questionnaires.
- Hang gliders need only a few access trails, but are willing to help preserve existing trails.
- Canoeing and picnicking showed moderate to high importance for provision on State Forests. However, like target shooting, these activities were not discussed as individual activities by questionnaire respondents.

## **2. Public Meetings**

Participants of the four public meetings provided a broad spectrum of suggestions, requests, and ideas. Detailed results may be found in **Appendix 1**. General comments included: more parking, more multipurpose trails, more single-use trails, more motorized trails, more non-motorized trails, more trail markers, more maps, increased management for wildlife habitat, better access, more facilities, more enforcement, better maintenance, and better information and education about State Forests. Conversely, requests were received to keep State Forests primitive, prohibit motor vehicles, and maintain existing trails rather than creating new ones.

## **VI. The Decision-Making Process**

Public input provided valuable information to guide the decision-making process used in developing this plan. While all suggestions were considered, the degree to which they could be satisfied varies. It is also important to understand that decisions guiding future recreation opportunities on State Forests will not be made using a voting process. Decisions must be based on an assessment of potential adverse environmental impacts, alternatives and mitigation pursuant to ECL Article 8, the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA). Decisions must also consider physical, administrative or economic constraints, existing laws, and natural resource protection while providing opportunities for public recreation and use. Any decision on an issue cannot satisfy all user groups. However, to ignore issues that need to be addressed would be irresponsible. Ultimately, many decisions regarding recreation on public lands are decisions of judgement based upon the decisions cited above and what is a reasonable, sensible and responsible course of action.

The decisions made in this plan will guide recreation management and facility development on State Forests for the future. This master plan will also be used to guide decisions on recreation issues in the development of future unit management plans. The decisions in this plan were developed to provide the opportunity for quality recreational experiences while protecting our natural resources, so that State Forests can provide future generations with the same benefits as we enjoy today.

Upon completion of the Draft Recreation Master Plan for State Forests, five additional public meetings were held at different locations throughout Region 7 during the month of January 2002. Each meeting offered a brief overview of the draft plan as presented by the Department, followed by a session to receive public comments. All formal comments received at these meetings were recorded, along with hundreds of mail-in comments submitted to DEC following the meetings.

A very thorough and sizable response effort was made by several major user groups concerning the initial proposals presented in the draft plan. The majority of comments had voiced concerns over the tighter regulations that were being proposed for most recreational uses.

After taking into account all recorded public comments regarding the recreational uses of State Forests and the Department's duty to manage and regulate these lands, several notable changes have been made to this final plan and outlined in the preceding sections.

## **VII. Function of the Region 7 State Forest Recreation Master Plan**

### **A. Relationship with Unit Management Plans**

The Region 7 Recreation Master Plan is a ten-year plan that details what, when, how and where recreational activities and facilities will be allowed and developed in the Region. The plan will be integrated with present unit management plans (UMPs) and may specify recreation development or alterations in those approved UMP areas. This plan will provide guidance to those drafting future UMPs, so that each UMP's recreation component fits into the overall plan for recreation in the Region. At the end of the ten-year period, the plan will be reviewed for its continued appropriateness.

### **B. Amendments to the Recreation Master Plan**

This plan may also be amended within any ten-year period when one or more of the following occurs:

1. A new type of recreational pursuit becomes evident, either by demand from the users or from impact on the resource;
2. A change occurs in the availability or suitability of recreational facilities;
3. A change occurs in statute or regulation which would impact the decisions included in the plan;
4. The preparation of a unit management plan provides information unknown at the time the plan was adopted and the new information affects the recreational decisions of this plan;
5. A catastrophic event fundamentally and permanently alters the ability to accomplish the recreational objectives included in the plan or removes a recreational facility already in place.

### **C. Process for Amendment**

The following format will be used to amend or change any section of the plan:

- **Minor Amendments**  
Small scale recreational improvements including the development of parking areas, signs, access sites/trails, picnic sites, camp sites, lean-tos, foot/ski trails less than one mile in length, or reroutes of designated long-distance trails may be done as needed upon written submission to and final approval of the Regional Forester. Further SEQRA compliance will be required if any such minor amendments result in impacts that were not adequately addressed in this plan or exceed conditions or thresholds established in this plan (see 6 NYCRR 617.10 (d)).
- **Major Amendments**

Large scale amendments include those proposals for the development of new trail systems greater than one mile in length, developed camping areas, or other large scale improvements. These will be considered if the proposal has been identified as a need within an approved UMP or through the scheduled UMP update and public participation process. UMP updates are scheduled at ten-year intervals, allowing for review or changes at that time. Pursuant to 6 NYCRR 617.10 (d), any major amendment to the plan will require either a negative declaration or supplement to the final generic EIS.

## **VIII. Regional Recreation Guidelines**

### **A. Permission, Permits and Partnerships**

There are occasions when it is in the best interest of the State of New York to manage the temporary use of a State Forest by individuals or organizations. The Department is responsible for the health and safety of all forest users, the protection of forest resources, the coordination of management activities on the forest, and for providing quality recreational opportunities.

Organizations must request permission to hold events on State Forests. An event is any gathering that has been advertised by the organization in flyers, newsletters, newspapers or on websites or through other media. **To hold any event, sponsoring organizations must request permission in writing at least 30 days in advance of the proposed activity.** Each event or activity will be reviewed for its impact and a decision will be made to allow the event or activity.

In cases where the activity causes minimal impact or user conflict, permission will generally be granted without a permit.

Events and activities which have a greater potential impact to the forest may need to be managed by the Department. In these cases, the organization or activity sponsor will be required to apply for a temporary revocable permit.

#### **1. Temporary Revocable Permits**

Temporary revocable permits provide a mechanism for permitting the temporary use of State lands within stated guidelines and legal constraints. A temporary revocable permit (TRP) may be issued if the use is appropriate to the State Forest, temporary in duration, and will not result in an unreasonable or permanent degradation of the natural value and characteristics of the State Forest. A TRP may be issued for both recreational and non-recreational activities on State Forests.

A TRP is required for any competitive event on State Forests. Examples of competitive events include horseback and snowmobile poker runs, mountain bike races, dog trials, orienteering events, competitive horse rides, and dog sled races. To avoid or mitigate impacts that may result from use by such groups, TRP's will contain conditions and thresholds such as limitations on group size and use duration. A separate liability insurance policy is required for any competitive event. The insurance certificates shall

name the People of the State of New York, the Department and its officers and employees as additional insured. All liability policies shall provide minimum limitations of \$1,000,000 for one person and \$2,000,000 for more than one person killed or injured in any one accident, and \$50,000 for damage to property. Additionally, the County Health Department may need to give approval for the event because of water and sanitary considerations.

A TRP may also be required for many noncompetitive recreational activities on State Forests. Organized events which will require a TRP include events which may involve 20 or more people, or events which will be advertised to the public and extend an open invitation to participate. Examples of events requiring a TRP include: a scout camporee; a cross-country skiing clinic sponsored by a local business; a club sponsored activity which is advertised in the newspaper and extends a general invitation to participate. These events could possibly result in conflicts with other uses of the forest, have an environmental impact, or present safety concerns. It is the land manager's responsibility to know what is happening on the State Forests, to work with users to ensure their safety, and to reduce conflicts. Organizers of group activities must obtain a TRP prior to arranging an activity on State Forests. These types of activities may require a liability insurance policy. Again, because of water and sanitary considerations, the County Health Department may also need to give approval.

Individuals and organizations may request permission to construct certain types of recreational facilities on a State Forest. These projects must benefit the People of the State of New York, be appropriate to the State Forest, and be compatible with the existing management objectives for the State Forest and with the Recreation Master Plan. A TRP and liability insurance policy are required for any project involving a construction activity. In some circumstances these activities may be authorized through the Adopt-A-Natural Resource Program (ECL § 9-0113). The installation of a new trail, bridge, or lean-to, and the removal of trees are examples of construction activities.

All requests for a TRP must be made by submitting an *Application for Revocable Permit for the Temporary Use of State Land* to the Regional Forester at least 30 days prior to the anticipated use. This form is available from the Regional office in Syracuse or from the sub-offices in Cortland, Kirkwood or Sherburne. A TRP may be issued for a period of up to one year. A minimum fee of \$25, to partially cover administration and inspection, must accompany the application for a TRP. A performance bond may be required for certain activities. The refund of the bond will be contingent upon compliance with the terms of the permit.

Temporary revocable permits are also issued by the Department to allow some types of exclusive uses such as group or competitive events or military activities, and for research projects and other activities.

## **2. Volunteers, Partnerships, and the Adopt-A-Natural Resource Program**

Volunteers and partnerships will be encouraged through the Department's Adopt-A-Natural Resource Program. This program allows the Department to enter into

stewardship agreements with individuals and organizations for activities which improve recreational opportunities or enhance natural resource values on State Forests. The program was established in 1995, with the intent of improving the environmental quality of natural resources on State Forests. Volunteer assistance is instrumental in stretching the limited resources of the Department.

Individuals and groups interested in providing volunteer services are afforded a formal opportunity to propose activities that meet management needs of state-owned natural resources. Such activities may involve repairing vandalism, picking up litter and trash, establishing or maintaining access on nature trails, providing interpretive services for school groups and other citizens, managing fish and wildlife habitats, and otherwise providing positive benefits to the natural resource. Activities must be approved by the Department. In most cases, heavy construction or hazardous work will be done by the Department.

The Department invites and encourages individuals and groups to become active supporters of natural resource management through participation in this program. They will be informed about the purpose of the program, the procedures for entering into stewardship agreements and the responsibilities of undertaking a stewardship agreement when contacting the Department.

The agreement may be renewed, subject to approval by the Department and the continuation of the program. Agreements may be terminated if the Department determines that conditions of the agreements are not being met or that there is no need for the agreement to continue. Likewise, volunteers can terminate the agreement by providing 30 days written notice to Department. As volunteers, participants in the program are accorded the same liability and workers' compensation protection as salaried state employees, provided they are acting within the scope of the agreement.

### **3. Establishing New Trails and Trail Structures**

Recreational trails cannot be established by any group or individual without the written permission of the Department. This written permission can be obtained through a TRP or the Adopt-A-Natural Resource Program. The official signing and designation of existing trails will only be done by the Department, or with written permission from the Department.

The construction of any trail structure or trail enhancement will require written permission from the Department. Examples of structures that may be permitted could include benches, lean-tos, signs and sign posts, and bridges.

Trail structures designed for advanced users, such as jumps, expert ramps, trick bridges, etc., will not be permitted. The recreational trails on State Forest in Region 7 are for beginner-intermediate use and are designed to be compatible with the natural setting of the State Forest and safety of the users. Man-made structures would negatively impact the aesthetics of the State Forests. In addition, trail structures described above would present safety concerns and hazards for users.

## **B. Commercial Activity**

### **1. Sponsorship**

Commercial business depends heavily on advertising to sell products and services. Advertising creates name recognition and influences the public to buy or use certain products and services. One of the most successful types of advertising is through corporate sponsorship. A company pays for the right to link its name to a sport, stadium, sports field, equipment, event or facility. In this way, the public might be influenced to buy from the sponsoring company.

#### **●Decisions and Actions**

• **Region 7 Lands and Forests will not enter into any sponsorship agreements.** A commercial sponsorship may be a way to raise needed funding, but corporate sponsorship is not appropriate for State land. Accepting sponsorship obligates the recipient to please the sponsor and to at least tacitly support and promote the sponsor's products and policies or risk losing the sponsorship money. A management decision may be very difficult to make if the decision adversely affects the sponsor. This could result in loss of the sponsor and eventually in the deterioration of the sponsored facility.

• **Commercially sponsored events may be permitted through a TRP.** In order to hold events, some clubs get money from companies in exchange for using the companies' name and logo on signs, literature, clothing, and other items. This sponsorship is for the event and not for the State Forest, so it can be allowed through the conditions of a TRP.

### **2. Commercial Use of State Forests**

Commercial enterprises occasionally approach the Department requesting the use of State Forests for developing new trails or accessing existing recreational trails or other facilities. The development of trails on State Forests connecting to a commercial facility may be beneficial to the activities or facilities on the State Forest. For example, commercial enterprises can complement trails on State Forests because they can provide amenities such as electricity, flush bathrooms, food and supplies or other desired services not available on State Forests. However, there can also be negative consequences to such development, including trail construction and maintenance costs and impacts to other uses or features on State Forests. Furthermore, when such trails originate from commercial recreation facilities, they give the impression that the commercial entity in some way controls that portion of the State Forest.

#### **●Decisions and Actions**

The decision on whether to allow commercial use of State Forests depends upon numerous factors and the following procedures will guide the decision-making process.

• **Commercial Enterprises Desiring Access to an Existing Recreational Trail on State Forests**

**1. The representative of the commercial enterprise desiring access to the existing trail on State Forests must submit a request to the Regional Forester.**

**2. The Department will meet with the representative requesting access to determine the suitability of trail development on the proposed site.**

Evaluation of the proposal will also consider the additional potential adverse environmental impacts to the existing trail and other uses of the State Forest, and the need for further SEQRA compliance pursuant to 6 NYCRR 617.10 (d).

**3. If the proposed site is suitable for trail development, the request must be submitted to the Department under the Adopt-A-Natural Resource Program (see page 16).** The following requirements will be included in the Adopt-A-Natural Resource Agreement:

**a.** The trail will be located and designed by the Department.

**b.** The applicant will bear the responsibility for constructing the trail to specifications provided by the Department.

**c.** The applicant will bear all costs and must provide any materials necessary for trail construction and maintenance.

**d.** The Department is responsible for inspecting the trail annually. The requestor will maintain the trail to Department specifications.

**e.** All trails used by the commercial enterprise on the property adjacent to the State Forest must be available for use, free of charge, by trail users entering from the State Forest side of the property line.

**f.** The applicant is responsible for following all terms and conditions of the Adopt-A-Natural Resource Agreement.

**g.** The Department assumes no responsibility for any trail or activity on private land. The Department will not maintain trails on private land.

**4. Upon Department inspection and approval of the trail development, the trail leading to private land will be signed for public use.** Trail signing by the Department will stop at the State Forest property line.

**5. Failure to construct or maintain the trail on the State Forest to Department standards will result in the closure of the trail on the State Forest.**

**• Commercial Enterprises Desiring to Construct a New Trail or Trail System on State Forests**

**1. The representative of the commercial enterprise desiring to construct the new trail (or trail system) on State Forests must submit their request to the Regional Forester.**

**2. The Department will meet with the representative requesting development of the trail to determine the suitability of trail development on**

**the proposed site.** Evaluation of the proposal will also consider the potential adverse environmental impacts to the other uses of the State Forest, and the need for further SEQRA compliance pursuant to 6 NYCRR 617.10 (d).

**3. The proposed trail must be consistent with the decisions and actions of this plan.**

**4. The proposed trail must be accessible from a suitable trailhead location on the forest or include the development of a trailhead on the State Forest to access the proposed trail.** Trailhead development will require a parking lot and a kiosk. Other features may be necessary, such as barriers to regulate access. All trailhead construction specifications will be provided by the Department.

**5. If the proposed site is suitable for trail development, the request must be submitted to the Department under the Adopt-A-Natural Resource program.** The following requirements will be included in the Adopt-A-Natural Resource Agreement:

- a. The trail will be located and designed by the Department. The trail design will conform with any requirements in the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG) (see **page 25**).
- b. The requestor will assume responsibility for constructing the trail and trailhead to specifications provided by the Department. The construction of the new trail may require a TRP.
- c. The requestor will assume all costs and must provide any materials necessary for construction of the trail and trailhead.
- d. The Department is responsible for inspecting the trail annually. The requestor must maintain the trail to Department specifications.
- e. All trails used by the commercial enterprise on the property adjacent to the State Forest must be available for use, free of charge, by trail users entering from the State Forest side of the property line.
- f. The requestor is responsible for following all terms and conditions of the Adopt-A-Natural Resource Agreement.
- g. The requestor cannot charge a fee for use of the trail or facilities on the State Forest.
- h. The Department assumes no responsibility for any trail or activity on private land. The Department will not maintain trails on private land.
- i. The Adopt-A-Natural Resource Agreement is a three-year agreement. Prior to completion of that term, the agreement must be reviewed to determine if it will be continued.

**6. Upon Department inspection and approval of the trail development, the trail leading to private land will be signed for public use.** Trail signing by the Department will stop at the State Forest property line.

**7. Failure to construct or maintain trail(s) on the State Forest to Department**

**standards will result in the closure of the trail(s).**

### **C. Trails Developed From Private Land Across State Forests**

Private ownership of property located adjacent to State Forests brings with it numerous benefits. Frequently, owners of such properties desire to develop trail loops or access trails and other recreational facilities located on State Forests directly from their own property rather than from designated trailheads or other authorized access ways. This invariably results in the creation of an unplanned patchwork of unauthorized trail segments. Typically poorly sited and unauthorized by the Department, these trail segments receive no annual maintenance from the DEC. As a result, these segments tend to deteriorate rapidly, at times resulting in conditions that are hazardous to users and damaging to the surrounding environment. In addition, these trails commonly access State Forests in areas not easily accessible to the public, resulting in an unofficial, though essentially, de facto "grant" of exclusive use of that portion of the State Forest.

Clubs, organizations or local groups also seek to construct trails on State Forests. These are often long-distance trails that traverse private land adjacent to the State Forest where the landowner may or may not be aware of, or have given permission for, the trail to cross their land. Nearby recreationists and neighbors frequently seek to access State land with their own private routes. Use of these access routes on private land may or may not be with permission of the abutting impacted landowner(s).

#### **●Decisions and Actions**

The following procedure will be used to enable the Department to better manage the numbers and kinds of trails accessing State Forest recreational facilities from adjacent private lands.

**1. The applicant desiring to use an existing non-designated trail or establish a new trail on a State Forest must contact the Regional Forester and, if required, submit a proposal.** If the applicant requesting use or development of a trail is not the adjacent landowner, the applicant must provide the Department with documentation that the adjacent landowner has granted permission for the trail to be on their land. This documentation must include use of the trail by the general public. The documentation must also include a list of the types of recreational uses allowed.

The organization or individual sponsoring the trail is responsible for providing the documentation and for keeping that permission current. Without permission from the adjacent landowner, that section of trail on State Forests connecting to the private land will not be authorized and will be closed.

**2 . The Department will determine the suitability of the existing trail or the development of a requested new trail on the proposed site.** Evaluation of the proposal will consider the potential adverse environmental impacts to other uses of the State Forest, the need for further SEQRA compliance pursuant to 6 NYCRR 617.10 (d)

and consistency with the plan. Easements and trails will enter State land only at approved locations.

**3. If the proposed site is suitable for trail development, the request must be submitted to the Department under the Adopt-A-Natural Resource Program or through a TRP.** Additional permits may be required. The following requirements will be included in the Adopt-A-Natural Resource Agreement or in the TRP:

- a. The trail on the State Forest will be located and designed by the Department.
- b. Upon completion, the public will be allowed to use the trail, for the designated uses, going from the State Forest onto private land.
- c. The applicant will assume responsibility for constructing the trail to specifications provided by the Department.
- d. The applicant will assume all costs and must provide any materials necessary for trail construction.
- e. The Department will periodically inspect these trails to determine maintenance needs. The applicant will maintain the trail to Department specifications.
- f. The Department will specify what recreational uses are allowed.
- g. The Department assumes no responsibility for any trail or activity on private land. The Department will not maintain trails on private land.

**4. Upon Department inspection and approval of the trail development, the trail leading to private land will be signed for public use.** Trail signing by the Department will stop at the State Forest property line.

**5. Failure to construct or maintain the trail on the State Forest to Department standards will result in the closure of the trail on the State Forest.**

#### **D. Trails Across State Forests and Other Public Lands**

Opportunities are sometimes available to build trails across State Forests and other public lands such as county forests. Trails planned across different public lands can sometimes provide recreational opportunities that would not otherwise exist.

##### **●Decisions and Actions**

**1. The representative of the adjacent public land desiring the trail on State Forests must submit their request to the Regional Forester.**

**2. The Department will meet with the individual requesting the trail to determine the suitability of trail development on the proposed site.** Evaluation of the proposal will also consider the additional impacts to the other uses of the State Forest.

**3. The portion of the trail on State Forests will be designed and constructed by or under the supervision of Department staff.** The proposed trail must be accessible from a suitable trailhead to be constructed on the State Forest.

**4. The Department will be responsible for trail inspection and maintenance on only that portion of the trail on the State Forest.**

**5. The adjacent public entity or agency cannot charge a fee for use of the trail or facilities on State Forests.**

### **E. Notifying Local Governments of Trail Proposals**

Trails established on State Forests can have a variety of impacts on the roads and residents of local towns. These impacts may include increased levels of traffic, noise, disturbance and changing patterns of public use due to the development of trails on State Forests. Communication between town governments and the Department needs to be improved to minimize any negative impacts to the towns from trail development on State Forests.

#### **●Decisions and Actions**

**1. The Department will notify the local town supervisors of all new trail proposals, and provide the town with trail maps and information on proposed support facilities for the trail.** This will improve communication with the towns and also serve as an additional source of information source for the public.

### **F. State Forests Without Designated Recreational Trails**

#### **●Description**

State Forests without designated recreational trails are those forests which contain no designated off-road recreational trails. However, these forests may contain roadways, such as public forest access roads (permanent, unpaved roads marked as motor vehicle trails) or town roads which may be designated for trail related recreational activities.

Forests have been selected for this classification to satisfy the needs of recreational pursuits that are enjoyed more in areas without formal trails. In some cases a forest has been selected for this category because the forest is not able to support formal recreation due to environmental or physical constraints.

#### **●Public Input**

The need for forests without trails was expressed at public meetings and in written comments. These comments came from hunters, trappers, bird watchers, back country campers, orienteering enthusiasts, and others. A large segment of State Forest recreationists do not require designated trails for their pursuits.

#### **●Current Opportunities**

## 1. State Forests

Prior to the development of this plan, there were no State Forests officially designated in this category. Currently there are 20 forests which would qualify. However, the total number of forests in the category will decrease as the plan is implemented.

## 2. Other

Other than State Forests, there are very few locations in Region 7 which offer large areas of forest land without designated recreational trails that are available for public use.

### ●Environmental Impacts, Constraints and User Conflicts

Formal trail systems conflict with several recreational pursuits which do not require trails. Recreational trails can draw a steady flow of users, which may disturb recreationists who are pursuing more solitary activities such as hunting, orienteering, or bird-watching.

The potential impacts of use on State Forests without designated recreational trails include damage to rare species, formation of footpaths along commonly traveled lanes, and disturbance of wildlife. The potential for any of these impacts is slight and can be mitigated through information and environmental education programs.

### ●Analysis

Forests without designated recreational trails best accommodate those types of recreational activities that do not require trails. Among these activities are walking, hunting, trapping, fishing, hiking, back-country camping, orienteering, and nature observation. Many people who participate in these activities go to State Forests to seek solitude. Instead of using trails where they are likely to encounter other people, they seek a solitary experience where they can enjoy nature without being disturbed by others.

Forests may not be suitable for recreational trail development for a variety of reasons. Some of the forests are unsuitable because of small size, poorly drained soils, or other environmental concerns. Portions of a State Forest which are only connected by a single point at a common corner are not accessible. Other areas of State Forests are connected only by very narrow strips of land. Without land acquisition or recreational trail easements to solve the problem, these types of State land boundary patterns effectively divide a forest into smaller sections restricting the development of recreational facilities. The noncontiguous ownership pattern of State Forests also limits the establishment of long-distance trails which connect forests together. Other forests may not be suitable for trail development because of barriers preventing access. Examples are extensive wetlands, rivers or unmaintained town roads. In addition, other forests may be located in areas where there is little demand for recreation or where the demand is met by facilities on nearby forests. Fiscal constraints and environmental issues also limit the Department's ability to develop recreational trails on each State Forest.

●Decisions and Actions

**1. The following will be State Forests without designated recreational trails.**

<u>County &amp; Forest</u>	<u>Forest name</u>	<u>Acres</u>
Chenango 8	Skinner Hill	1666
Chenango 13	Oak Ridge	576
Chenango 14	Ambler	628
Chenango 16	Pitcher Springs	1835
Chenango 28	Red Brook	601
Chenango 33	Bumps Creek	528
Chenango 36	Pigeon Hill	717
Chenango 37	Pine Ridge	274
Cortland 7	Donahue Woods	1093
Cortland 16	Dog Hollow	728
Madison 3	Three Springs	797
Madison 7	Lebanon	759
Madison 8	Texas Hill	704
Oswego 7	Sandy Creek	538
Oswego 11	Orton Hollow	507
Oswego 12	Trout Brook	622
Oswego 14	Battle Hill	1569
Tioga 1	Fairfield	815
Tioga 5	Turkey Hill	1046
Tioga 8	Michigan Hill	1209
	Total	17,212

**2. New trail systems will not be developed in any of the forests identified as State Forests without designated recreational trails.**

**3. Long-distance corridor trails may be considered on a case-by-case basis provided they do not compromise the intent of this designation.**

The State Forests without designated recreational trails will be managed for multiple uses, as are all of the State Forests in Region 7. The multiple-use management of these lands provides many benefits including wildlife habitat, sustainable management for forest products, watershed protection and recreation.

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

The American 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 applies to the Department and requires that reasonable modifications must be made to its service and programs 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 to the Department. Since recreation is an acknowledged program of the Department, and there are services and activities associated with that program, the Department has the mandated obligation to comply with the ADA, Title II, and ADA Accessibility Guidelines, as well as Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act.

The ADA also requires that a public entity assess the level of accessibility provided to people with disabilities in each of the programs and services it has. An assessment entails the use of a formal process that examines the facility (such as a trail, lean-to, picnic area) in terms of the standards established by ADAAG (either adopted or proposed) and/or the New York State Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Codes, as appropriate. An assessment process and a schedule for completing the action must be developed for this unit. This activity is dependent on obtaining an inventory of all the recreational elements comprising the programs so steps should be taken to begin the inventory process and the assessment process.

### **1. The Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requires guidelines, i.e., standards, to ensure that buildings, facilities, programs and vehicles covered by the ADA are accessible, in terms of architecture and design, transportation and communication, to individuals with disabilities. A federal agency known as the Access Board has developed such guidelines and has issued the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG) for this purpose. Current ADAAG addresses the built environment: buildings, ramps, sidewalks, rooms within buildings, etc. The Access Board has proposed guidelines to expand ADAAG to cover outdoor developed facilities: trails, campgrounds, picnic areas and beaches. The proposed ADAAG is contained in the September 1999 Final Report of the Regulatory Negotiation Committee for Outdoor Developed Areas

(Report). Until such time as the proposed ADAAG becomes an adopted rule of the Department of Justice, the Department is required to use the best information available to comply with the ADA and ADAAG, which includes the Report.

## **2. ADAAG Application**

ADAAG applies to newly constructed structures and facilities and alterations to existing structures and facilities. Further, it applies to fixed structures or facilities, i.e., those that are attached to the earth or another structure that is attached to the earth. Therefore, when the Department is planning the construction of new recreational facilities or elements in support of recreational facilities, or is considering an alternation of existing recreational facilities or elements supporting them, it must also consider providing access to the facilities or elements for people with disabilities using the adopted ADAAG for buildings, the proposed ADAAG for outdoor developed areas, the New York State Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Codes, and other appropriate information to accomplish that task. The standards which exist in ADAAG or are contained in the proposed ADAAG provide guidance to achieve modifications to trails, picnic areas, campgrounds (or sites) and beaches in order to obtain programmatic compliance with the ADA.

The following types of facilities or elements pertaining to those facilities are examples to which adopted and proposed ADAAG would apply: parking areas, pedestrian trails, outdoor access routes, sanitary facilities, trail registers, informational bulletin boards, kiosks, interpretive trail narratives, equestrian support elements including platforms and stalls, campgrounds/campsites including tent pads, sinks, restrooms or privies, water supply spigots, hydrants and drinking fountains, cooking surfaces including pedestal grills and fire rings with grills, picnic tables, trash containers, fire rings, lean-to's and warming huts.

## **3. Universal Design**

As those who currently enjoy State Forests age and as more people discover the recreational opportunities on State Forests, the fixtures and facilities available for public use must accommodate a wider range of abilities and users. Universal Design is the design of products and environments to be usable by all people to the greatest extent possible. Incorporating Universal Design into recreational facilities is important because it allows people with diverse preferences and abilities to enjoy and use the facilities.

Universal Design is based upon the following principles which are those used by the National Center on Accessibility at Indiana University and were originally established by the Center for Universal Design at North Carolina State University.

### Principles of Universal Design

- a. Equitable Use - The design is useful to people with diverse abilities.
- b. Flexibility in Use - The design accommodates a wide range of individual preferences and abilities.
- c. Simple and Intuitive Use - Use of the design is easy to understand, regardless

of the user's experience, knowledge, language skills or current concentration level.

**d. Perceptible Information** - The design communicates information effectively to the user, regardless of the conditions or the user's sensory abilities.

**e. Tolerance for Error** - The design minimizes hazards and the adverse consequences of accidental or unintended actions.

**f. Low Physical Effort** - The design can be used efficiently and comfortably with a minimum of fatigue.

**g. Size and Space for Approach and Use** - Appropriate size and space is provided for approach, reach, manipulation, and use regardless of the user's body size, posture, or mobility.

#### ●Decisions and Actions

**1. Only accessible fixtures will be purchased or constructed for State Forests.**

Examples include picnic tables or fire rings.

**2. All new fixtures constructed by the Department will comply with ADAAG and the principles of Universal Design.** These types of fixtures include information kiosks, trail registers, lean-tos, etc.

**3. All trails will be marked with Universal Trail assessment signs at their entrance which will describe the trail characteristics such as length, elevation change, trail obstructions, etc.** The Department will collect the information necessary for these signs through volunteer projects where possible.

**4. All new brochures, maps, information posted at kiosks\*, etc. used by the public related to the recreational opportunities on State Forests will have at least a 14-point typeface.** Larger type sizes will be used when font size is not constrained by the size of the final product.

**5. Newly constructed or altered trails and facilities will comply with existing or proposed ADAAG.**

## **IX. Recreation Needs/Environmental Impact Assessment and Actions**

The following recreation needs/environmental impact assessment and action section addresses a variety of topics. A standard format was used to address each topic section wherever it was applicable.

Each topic section begins with a description of the topic as it is considered in this plan. Each activity known to occur or requested on State Forests have been addressed in separate chapters. Public input and demands related to the topic or activity are then described. Next, for each activity, the available opportunities on State Forests and other public or private lands are described. Data from the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation

and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) provided information on the number of recreational resources currently available in Central New York and throughout the State. This data was used in the analysis of current opportunities for each activity.

Next, the environmental impacts, constraints and conflicts with other recreationists are described. Common environmental impacts from general public use of State Forests include potential negative impacts on rare or endangered species, trail erosion, litter, and noise affecting wildlife or other users. These general impacts are associated in varying degrees with nearly all recreation activities on State Forests. Other environmental impacts related to an activity are described in each activity section, followed by a detailed description of the general constraints limiting recreational decisions and actions.

The description of the environmental impacts, constraints and user conflicts are followed by the analysis, decision and actions for each activity.

Following the decisions and actions, any relevant technical specifications and Best Management Practices (BMP's) are then listed for the topic. The technical specifications are the standards for development and maintenance of recreational trails and facilities. Construction of multipurpose trails may use a combination of the technical specifications for each of the recreational uses allowed. Environmental impacts, trail construction and maintenance, safety and user enjoyment are the main factors considered in the development of the technical specifications. Each recreational activity has technical specifications that were developed to provide facilities for beginner- and intermediate-level users. Best management practices are employed in the development of recreational trails and facilities in order to avoid or mitigate potential adverse environmental impacts. The construction or development for all proposed recreational facilities in this plan, will follow the recommended Best Management Practices to fully protect the natural resources on the State Forests. Specific BMPs are included in the Technical Specifications for each activity. In general, the following BMPs will be implemented for all recreational development:

- Facilities will be located in areas that will minimize unnecessary cut and fill;
- Facilities will be located away from streams, wetlands, and environmentally-sensitive areas;
- To avoid steep or unstable slopes, facilities will be located on flat, well drained sites;
- Trails design will minimize erosion and will avoid wetlands and poorly drained soils; water bars and broad-based dips will be installed as needed.
- Construction will be scheduled during seasonally dry periods.

#### **A. Constraints on Recreational Use or Development**

The following factors are general constraints which pose limitations for recreation use or development on the State Forests within Region 7. Other specific constraints are described in the section for each activity.

##### **1. Physical and Environmental Constraints**

- Steep slopes - Steep slopes limit the available locations for trails due to erosion potential, and may prevent access to areas of gentle terrain.
- Geologic properties - Past geologic conditions have determined in large part the soils characteristics and topography found on State Forests today. Some of these features may restrict recreational opportunities.
- Soil characteristics - Areas of poorly drained soils are generally unsuitable for recreational trail development without extensive improvements to harden the trail tread surface or improve water drainage.
- Water bodies - Streams, wetlands, lakes and ponds all restrict the placement of recreational facilities.
- Density and location of existing recreational trails - Locations of existing recreational trails restrict the opportunities to locate different types of new trails.
- Limited access - Areas of State Forests are inaccessible due to the presence of other physical constraints.
- Presence of cultural resources - Significant cultural and historic resources are protected on State Forests and restrict the placement of new facilities.
- Presence of rare or endangered species - Rare or endangered species are protected on State Forests and restrict the placement of new facilities.
- Lack of contiguous arrangement of State Forests - Portions of a State Forest which are only connected by a single point at a common corner are not accessible. Other areas of State Forests are connected only by very narrow strips of land. Without land acquisition or recreational trail easements to solve the problem, these types of State land boundary patterns effectively divide a forest into smaller sections restricting the development of recreational facilities. The non-contiguous ownership pattern of State Forests also limits the establishment of long distance trails which connect forests together.
- Presence of town, county or state roads - These public roads present various restrictions to recreational facility development depending upon the activity. Concerns are generally related to public safety and the difficulty of crossing these roads.
- Presence of neighbors living adjacent to State Forests - Development of new trails or facilities is done in such a manner as to minimize the impacts to neighbors living adjacent to the forests. Of particular concern is the placement of trailheads since they determine the traffic flow and pattern of activity in the area.
- Deeded rights-of-way - Deeded rights-of-way exist on some State Forests which enable private individuals or companies to use portions of State land for access. The right-of-way may prevent or restrict the development of recreational facilities depending upon the conditions contained in the agreement.
- Concurrent use agreements - These agreements allow towns to use and maintain Department roads for public access.
- Climate - In the winter, snow restricts access to many State Forests due to unplowed roads. During the spring and fall, rain and melting snow saturate the soils with water causing trails to become vulnerable to rutting and damage from erosion. Some trails are closed for use during these "mud seasons" to prevent them from being damaged.
- Natural or other events - In rare cases, due to natural weather phenomena or other activities, certain roads and trails may be temporarily or permanently closed.

- Forestry activities - There is a significant safety risk with any recreational activity on or near an active logging site. Portions of trails passing through timber harvesting areas may be closed. The Department will try to accommodate the recreational activity by finding a temporary alternative route for the trail. Also, the Department may request timber harvesting activities to cease for brief periods to allow popular recreational events to take place.

## **2. Administrative or Economic Constraints**

- Inadequate budgets - The availability of funding for the development and maintenance of recreational facilities limits what can be done. Additional sources of funding will be required to accomplish some of the actions in this plan. If funding is not available, implementation of the actions will be delayed until the funding is acquired.
- Staffing shortages - Department staffing levels limit what can be done each year.
- Management goals - The management goals direct the actions and resources necessary for the Department to provide recreational opportunities for the public.

## **3. Social Influences**

There are differing public opinions on the appropriate management practices and recreational uses of State Forests. All opinions are considered but some are in direct conflict with others.

## **4. Department Mission, Rules, Regulations and Laws**

- Agency Mission - The agency mission guides all activities on State Forests (see generally ECL Articles 3 and 9).
- Legal Mandate - The Department must follow all State and federal laws. **Appendix 2** lists the Department Rules, Regulations and Laws governing recreation on State Forests.
- Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) - This federal law is designed to ensure all people have access to public facilities. Compliance with this law will necessitate changes to recreational facilities on State Forests.
- Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG) - ADAAG defines the design standards for public facilities to ensure that they are accessible.

## **B. Availability of Recreation Information on State Forests**

### **●Description of Recreation Information**

The Department uses various methods to communicate recreation related information on State Forests to the public, including brochures, signs, maps, information boards, presentations and websites.

### **●Public Input**

During the public meetings, many people commented about inadequate information and educational materials about State Forests. Comments were made about the need for

recreational information including additional and improved maps of State lands; trail etiquette education to reduce user conflicts; more information about available opportunities; information and signs explaining what is permitted and not permitted on State Forests; and more interpretive signs and information. Additionally, comments were received about the need to improve the availability of maps and information.

#### ●Current Available Information

Designated trails on State Forests are identified with trail markers. State Forests with designated trail systems have brochures and maps at the **trailheads**\*. The brochures typically describe appropriate trail activities and trail etiquette and give a brief description of the history and features of the State Forest. Most State Forests have at least one 48" x 25" identification sign at or near a main entrance location. This large sign lists the name of the forest and acreage. Smaller 8" x 11" "State Forest" signs are also placed along roadsides and property lines. These signs identify the area as State Forest land. Signs restricting or prohibiting certain activities are posted at key locations. The present information available to the public about rules and regulations is inadequate.

A few State Forests have kiosks that provide additional information. Signs are occasionally placed on State Forests to describe natural features or forestry activities. Self-guided interpretive trail systems are present on Whaupaucau State Forest (Chenango 31), Camillus Forest Unique Area and Labrador Hollow Unique Area. Charles E. Baker State Forest (Madison 1 and 4) has a self-guided interpretive auto tour that describes the history, natural features and forestry practices of the State Forest area.

#### ●Analysis

The Department needs to provide more information to the public with improved maps, brochures and signs. The availability of information can be improved through the use of the DEC website (<http://www.dec.ny.gov>). The public should recognize department literature, maps and the website as official sources of information. Unofficial maps, pamphlets, websites and even newspaper articles may give faulty information about certain State Forests and the activities allowed on those State Forests.

#### ●Decisions and Actions

**1. Provide maps depicting the location of all State Forests.** Presently, maps are only available for those forests with trail systems. A map brochure is needed to show where all the State Forests are located, including those without trail systems. Maps are also needed to show detailed information on each forest area.

**a. Develop a regional booklet depicting the location of State Forests along with general information about them.**

**b. Develop map brochures covering all forest areas to show and describe detailed information about each forest.** Seek to establish a method to provide

topographic elevation lines or vegetation type information on individual State Forest maps for public use.

**2. Provide information about the allowed uses on all State Forest areas.** Develop brochures and signs to communicate what activities are and are not allowed on State Forests.

**a. Construct a kiosk at the primary entrance point of each State Forest area.** Forests with loop trail systems will have the kiosk located at the trailhead. The kiosk will be an information center for the State Forest. One of two versions of the kiosk will be placed on each forest. Forests with significant recreational facilities on them will have a large version of the kiosk that will provide space for the necessary maps and information. Forests without recreational developments will have a smaller kiosk that will provide a map and basic information about the use of the State Forest.

Information at the kiosks will include: a map of the forest, a list of what activities are allowed, a description of where to do those activities and trail etiquette information, if appropriate. A bulletin board will also be a part of the larger kiosks to provide a place where updated and current information can be posted. This information could include hunting seasons, information about temporary trail closures, trail reroutes, etc.

Kiosks will be placed at parking lot locations to facilitate the dissemination of the information. Additional elements, such as benches and trailhead registers, may be placed at the same location. A total of 121 new kiosks will be needed to cover all State Forest areas in Region 7.

**b. Develop a brochure to describe the basic rules, regulations or laws pertaining to recreation on State Forests.**

**3. Improve the availability of information about recreational opportunities on State Forests.** Several public comments were received indicating that people would like to have easier access to information about State Forests.

**a. Develop a Region 7 Internet website to provide recreation information to the public.** The site will include maps of the State Forests, directions to the forest, regulations, trail descriptions, trail etiquette information, etc. The website will be a part of the DEC website: <http://www.dec.ny.gov>.

**4. Improve awareness of trail etiquette.** Providing additional improved information on trail etiquette will reduce conflict among different types of recreationists on multipurpose trail systems.

**a. Trail etiquette rules describing proper behavior will be included on signs at the access points to trail systems.** Trail etiquette rules are necessary when two or more types of uses occur on a trail at the same time. In some situations, they may also be necessary on single-use trails to establish some common rules of behavior. This information will also be included on the Internet website and in

trail brochures.

**5. Improve awareness about the natural features, history, and management practices on State Forests.** Forests provide a unique opportunity to learn about how the influences of man and nature shape today's environment. The long-term benefits of sustainable forest management can also be viewed and explained on these public lands. This objective can be accomplished by providing educational information about State Forests.

**a. State Forests that receive a high level of public use will have educational information describing the natural features, history and forestry practices on the area.** Educational information may consist of interpretive trails, brochures, signs, or auto tours.

**6. Name the public forest access roads, haul roads and access trails that are open to motor vehicle use.** Naming these roads will provide them an identification for the purpose of communicating the location of available recreational opportunities. Providing roads with an identity will also improve administrative communication and emergency operations.

**7. Name or number individual trails.** Naming these trails will provide them an identification for the purpose of communicating the location of available recreational opportunities. Providing trails with an identity will also improve administrative communication.

## **C. Uses of Forest Roads**

### **●Description**

DEC roads provide access within State Forests for the purposes of administration, maintenance, public access and forest product removal. There are many types of roads that vary in quality and allowed uses. Public highways owned in fee or right of ways maintained by municipalities (county and townships), or the State, provide access to the forests and, in some cases, continue through the forests. The following types of roads under the jurisdiction of DEC on State Forests are defined as follows:

**Public forest access roads (PFARs)** are permanent, unpaved roads. These roads were formerly known as truck trails. They may be designed for all weather use depending on location and surfacing. These roads provide primary access within the State Forest. The standards for these roads are those of the Class A and Class B access roads from the DEC *Forest Road Handbook*. The speed limit on these roads is 25 mph. Some of the PFARs may be gated during certain times of the year due to conditions or safety consideration. In Region 7, there are approximately 133 miles of public forest access roads (PFARs) on 57 different State Forests. Unless there are signs restricting use, these roads are open to the public. The PFARs are the only roads designed for all weather use. Other roads and trails may have been designed only for

use during frozen or dry conditions. The PFARs also serve as suitable sites for recreational activities. Unless restricted by a sign, regulation or law, these roads serve as trails for hiking, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, horseback riding, carriage riding and for use by motor vehicles that are registered for use on public highways. See **Appendix 8, Roads**.

**Haul roads** and **access trails** are permanent, unpaved roads, and do not provide all-weather access within the State Forest. These roads and trails were originally designed for removal of forest products and may be used to meet other management objectives such as recreational trails. These roads may or may not be open for public use. Haul roads and access trails are secondary forest roads that often dead end at a landing site for forest product removal or at a point of interest (pond, old homestead, cemetery). There are numerous roads classified as haul roads and access trails in the Region. The present regional classification of DEC roads as haul roads and access trails is ambiguous and contains inaccuracies. During the unit management planning process, the classification of roads is addressed.

Motor vehicle use is prohibited on most haul roads and access trails. The haul roads and access trails that are open to motor vehicles are listed in **Appendix 8, Table 2**. (For exceptions, **see pages 37-39** for the discussion on *Roads and Trails Open to Motor Vehicle Use by People with Mobility Impairment Disabilities*.)

**Abandoned roads** are former public roads that have been legally abandoned (Highway Law § 205), and are no longer maintained by the township. Abandoned roads are routinely used for various forms of recreational access into and through the forest. Typically the conditions of these roads are inadequate to support heavy use, which is the probable reason for abandonment. Portions of these roads have often become deep gullies or stream channels and have become unsuitable for any recreation except hiking. Often opportunities for hiking are better off the old road bed.

**Woods roads** are the skid trails and haul roads created and used to remove forest products from the stump to a staging or landing area. Woods roads are not designated for motor vehicle use and are restricted against such use. Occasionally snowmobilers, skiers and foot travelers use woods roads.

#### ●Public Input

The following comments were received at the public meetings:

- ATVs should be allowed on public forest access roads.
- Don't close road to snowmobiling during logging.
- Individuals stated they wanted more roads opened and to keep all roads open for public use.
- Identify poor roads and close or restrict use.

#### ●Current Opportunities

Motor vehicle use is allowed on State Forests only on roads that are signed for such use. Some PFARs may be closed or restricted to motor vehicle travel at certain times of the year.

These closures or restrictions are for various reasons. These PFARs are:

FOREST AREA	FOREST NAME	PFAR ID	RESTRICTED USE
Chenango 31	Whaupaucau	TT 1, 2 and 3	no motor vehicle and snowmobiles during cross-country ski season
Chenango 29	Lyon Brook		no motor vehicles from end of deer season through spring breakup
Cortland 17	Gee Brook	Calico Pond Access Road	no motorized vehicles
Madison 1	Charles E. Baker	TT# 14	no motorized vehicles
Onondaga 1	Morgan Hill	Rowley Hill Road	no motorized vehicles
Oswego 1	Kasoag		no motorized vehicle access except during deer season.
Tioga 2	Oakley Corners	Pond Haul Road	no motorized access, snowmobiles or horses.

Pursuant to 6 NYCRR Part 190.8 (m), all PFARs are closed to use by ATVs unless they are designated and signed for ATV use by qualified persons with disabilities who have obtained a permit from the Department. See **pages 37- 39** for the discussion of *Roads and Trails Open to Motor Vehicle Use by People with Mobility Impairment Disabilities*.

● Environmental Impacts, Constraints and User Conflicts

Roads and trails provide access into the forest and with that access, there are problems of abuse, such as littering, dumping of trash, and illegal vehicle use. Trash pickup costs thousands of dollars in collection costs and tipping fees. Gatherings for parties usually result in littering, improper fires, and vandalism. Illegal motor vehicle use on closed roads and trails can create serious erosion problems which are very expensive to repair. There are safety problems, legal constraints and user conflicts pertaining to discharge of firearms and bows from roads.

See discussion of *Off-Highway Vehicles/Environmental Impacts* for further details on environmental impacts, **page 99**.

## ●Analysis

There are 133 miles of public forest access roads in Region 7. Additionally, there are many town and county roads that pass through State Forests. This road system has provided adequate access to most State Forests. In recent years, new roads are occasionally built to access remote sections of forest land. The regional land manager also recognizes the benefits of roadless areas and does not intend to increase the density of roads on State Forests.

Some public forest access roads are closed (gated) in the winter to restrict motor vehicle access because these roads are not plowed. Other roads may be temporarily closed during summer months due to timber harvesting. Road closures are often related to safety and access issues.

## ●Decisions With Actions

**1. Properly classify all roads on State Forests, compile a revised list, and develop maps showing roads designated for recreational uses.**

**2. Assign names to the public forest access roads, haul roads and access trails that are open to motor vehicle use.** Naming these roads will provide them an identification for the purpose of communicating the location of available recreational opportunities. Providing roads with an identity will also improve administrative communication and emergency operations.

**3. Designate and sign all allowed uses, except for pedestrian travel, on roads.** All roads are open to hiking and cross-country skiing unless signed against such use. PFARs may be restricted from any and all use by an appropriate sign.

**4. Periodic evaluation of public forest access roads throughout the Region.** The Department will periodically evaluate the regional network of PFARs for conflicts with designated uses and consider closure of impacted PFARs to resolve user conflicts or mitigate environmental impacts.

## **D. Trails Open to Motor Vehicle Use by People with Mobility Impairment Disabilities**

### ●Description

It is the policy of the Department to allow motor vehicle access to certain State lands to individuals with a certified disability. In Region 7, selected trails have been designated for all-terrain vehicle (ATV) use by people with disabilities (see **Appendix 9**).

A qualified person who desires to access State land with an ATV may do so only through the authority of a permit. This permit will authorize the qualified person to operate an ATV on roads that are closed to the use of passenger vehicles, trails and

geographical areas designated by the Department for such use. Use of an ATV by a qualified person under permit must be done in accordance with current law, rules and regulations.

There is no restriction on or permit needed by a person with a disability to access State Forests by use of a wheelchair and related assistive devices.

#### ●Public Input

Some individuals have requested permits for access to specific areas of interest to them or to all State Forests. These individuals are often disappointed that the use is confined to designated trails, often not in their area of interest or close to their residences.

#### ●Current Opportunities

##### 1. State Forests

There are 19 State Forests in Region 7 with routes open to permitted individuals for access. In Region 7, ATVs are the only motor vehicles permitted on these routes.

##### 2. Other

The permit is valid statewide and may be used on designated roads and trails on State land outside the Region. The statewide list of *Roads and Trails Open to Motor Vehicle Use by People with Mobility Impairment Disabilities* identifies opportunities in other DEC Regions of the State along with specific restrictions regarding the types of vehicles that may be used on the designated routes.

#### ●Environmental Impacts, Constraints and User Conflicts

Environmental impacts include soil erosion, soil displacement and compaction, noise, disturbance to habitat, and destruction of vegetation. The number of individuals who would use their permits in this Region is relatively low and the duration of their use of the designated routes is relatively short. The impact from their use is minimal.

ATVs, as with most motorized recreation, conflicts with non-motorized forms of recreation, such as hunting, horseback riding, hiking, mountain biking, running, nature observation (wildlife) and cross-country skiing. ATVs also conflict with snowmobilers as ATV use tends to destroy the packed snowmobile trails.

There have been instances where people with permits travel in places other than where allowed. This leads to problems with soil disturbance and erosion.

#### ●Analysis

More than 50 permits of this type have been issued in Region 7 since 1997. Statewide 467 permits have been issued since 1990. These permits may be used throughout the State.

#### ●Decisions and Actions

**1. Review current opportunities on State Forests. Evaluate existing, proposed and planned trails.**

**2. Provide better quality and quantity of opportunities with education distribution across the region.**

**3. Review and consider additional opportunities as requested.** Each UMP will address the need for trails for people with mobility impairments on a case-by-case basis.

**4. Designate and maintain all routes for permitted use.** Signs should be placed at appropriate distances.

**5. Provide hardened parking areas for unloading ATVs or other mobility-assisted device.**

**6. Develop and designate four new off-road trails for this use.**

a. Develop one off-road route as directed by the McDonough Unit Management Plan on Genegantslet State Forest (Chenango 26). This route totals 1.0 mile.

b. Develop a 1.0 mile off-road trail as per the Tioughnioga UMP on Morrow Mountain State Forest (Madison RA #10).

● Technical Specifications and Best Management Practices

PFAR specifications as per *Unpaved Forest Road Handbook*

Off-road trail clearing width: 6 feet.

Off-road trail clearing height: 6 feet.

Trail tread will be moderately well-drained to well drained soils; wet and soft soil sites will be avoided. If a section of the trail must cross a small section of wet or soft soils that section will be hardened with the use of geo-textiles and gravel or shale.

Crossing of streams will be avoided. Where stream crossings are necessary culverts or hardened fords will be used.

Erosion control measures shall be installed on slopes where expected use has potential for significant erosion. The erosion control measures shall consist of water bars, broad based dips and water diversion ditches.

Trails shall be marked with official DEC trail signs for ATV access by those individuals with disabilities.

Distance between trail markers: appropriate distances.

“End of Trail” sign posted at both ends of each trail.

Slope: 3 to 25%.

Cross slope: 0 to 5%.

Exceptions made for banked turns and water diversion structures.

**E. Pull-Offs and Parking Areas**

The Department provides two types of parking facilities on State Forests: parking areas

and pull-offs. Parking areas are designed and designated for parking with signs and established perimeters. The perimeter can be guard rails, boulders or natural features. Pull-offs are areas where the public can safely pull off the road to park, stand or allow other traffic to pass. These areas are wide spots on the road or just off the road shoulder, often created in conjunction with forest product sales. These areas are not signed and are only suitable for one to a few vehicles.

There are literally hundreds of pull-off areas for parking on State Forests. Pull-offs are identified and listed in respective unit management plans.

**1. Parking area development for Department trail systems will be considered on a case-by-case basis.** Parking areas will be designed to provide adequate and suitable parking for normal weekend use and for the types of uses allowed. Parking area design and construction shall be rustic and compatible with ecosystem management goals and objectives. See those activity chapters for the specific parking decisions and actions.

**2. The Department will monitor parking to ensure there is adequate capacity during normal use periods.**

- a. Forestry staff, forest rangers, and volunteers can monitor the level of parking area use.
- b. Additional parking will be constructed when appropriate.

#### ● Best Management Practices for the Construction and Maintenance of Parking Lots

Parking areas will be;  
located in an area that minimizes necessary cut and fill;  
located away from streams, wetlands and unstable slopes whenever possible;  
located on flat, stable, well drained sites;  
constructed during periods of limited rainfall whenever possible;  
designed to the size necessary to accommodate intended use, where possible.

## **F. Activities**

### **★ Use of Foot Trails**

#### ● Description

Foot trails are designed for hiking. Hiking includes people using the trails for just day hikes and also long-distance hikers who go on multi-day backpacking trips. Trail runners use these trails for training or exercise. Snowshoers use foot trails for primarily day-use excursions. Foot trails are also used by cross-country skiers.

#### ● Public Input

Upon completion of the Draft Recreation Master Plan for State Forests, five additional

public meetings were held at different locations throughout Region 7 during the month of January 2002. Each meeting offered a brief overview of the draft plan as presented by the Department, followed by a session to receive public comments. All formal comments heard during these meetings were recorded along with hundreds of mail-in comments received by DEC after the meetings.

The majority of comments received from the hiking community, including several organized hiking associations, indicated their overall satisfaction with the draft plan regarding the use of foot trails within the Region. Public input indicated that people using foot trails prefer trails be restricted to pedestrian use only because they have a variety of conflicts with other recreationists, especially motorized recreationists. People who use foot trails have also indicated conflicts with mountain bikers and horse riders. They are concerned that foot trails maintained by volunteers can be damaged from these other uses, resulting in increased trail erosion and maintenance. They have also expressed concern about hunting because they feel in danger using the trails during hunting season. Several comments from hikers asked the Department to return to a “no hunting on Sundays” policy.

#### ● Current Opportunities

##### 1. State Forests

A variety of different types of foot trails can be found on State Forests. These include long-distance linear trails, loop trails, destination trails and interpretive trails.

##### Long-Distance Trails

Long-distance linear trails are trails that cross multiple ownerships and traverse across regions of the State. At the statewide scale, these linear trails can interconnect to form regional trail systems. Long-distance linear foot trails in Region 7 include the Finger Lakes Trail, Onondaga Trail and Link Trail. The long-distance linear foot trails on State Forests in Region 7 total approximately 113 miles. Portions of all three of these trails have met the necessary qualifications and have been certified as a segment of the North Country National Scenic Trail that travels from North Dakota to Crown Point, New York.

- The Finger Lakes Trail (FLT) traverses across New York State and enters Region 7 on the Connecticut Hill Wildlife Management Area in Tompkins County. It then proceeds through State Forests in Tompkins, Tioga, Cortland and Chenango Counties until it exits the Region after passing through the Wiley Brook State Forest in Chenango County.
- The Onondaga Trail crosses Morgan Hill State Forest and Labrador Hollow Unique Area in Cortland and Onondaga Counties.
- The Link Trail connects the FLT with the Old Erie Canal Towpath and passes through Three Springs and Muller Hill State Forests, Tioughnioga Wildlife Management Area and Nelson Swamp Unique Area in Madison County.

The following are long-distance linear trails on State Forests in Region 7.

McDonough State Forest (Chenango 1 and 11) - 3.9 miles of FLT  
 Basswood State Forest (Chenango 4) - 1.5 miles of FLT  
 New Michigan State Forest (Chenango 5) - 5.3 miles of FLT  
 Ludlow Creek State Forest (Chenango 6) - 1.3 miles of FLT  
 Wiley Brook State Forest (Chenango 7) - 1.5 miles of FLT  
 Bucks Brook State Forest (Chenango 20) - 3.0 miles of FLT  
 Otselic State Forest (Chenango 21) - 4.1 miles of FLT  
 Mariposa State Forest (Chenango-Madison 1 & 2) - 8.8 miles of FLT & Link Trail  
 Taylor Valley State Forest (Cortland 2) - 7.0 miles of FLT  
 James Kennedy State Forest (Cortland 3) - 11.5 miles of FLT  
 Morgan Hill State Forest (Cortland 4 and Onondaga 1) - 10.0 miles of FLT  
 Cuyler Hill State Forest (Cortland 6) - 6.0 miles of FLT and Onondaga trail  
 Maxon Creek State Forest (Cortland 8) - 1.5 miles of FLT  
 Tuller Hill State Forest (Cortland 9 and 10) - 4.0 miles of FLT  
 Baker School House State Forest (Cortland 12) - 2.0 miles of FLT  
 Hoxie Gorge State Forest (Cortland 15) - 0.5 miles of FLT  
 Labrador Hollow Unique Area (Cortland and Onondaga Counties) - 2.0 miles of FLT  
 Three Springs State Forest (Madison 3) - 0.3 mile of Link Trail  
 Muller Hill State Forest (Madison 5) - 13.5 miles of Link Trail  
 Nelson Swamp Unique Area (Madison County) - 1.2 miles of Link Trail  
 Robinson Hollow State Forest (Tioga 3) - 1.5 miles of FLT  
 Danby State Forest (Tompkins 1) - 12.5 miles of FLT  
 Hammond Hill State Forest (Tompkins 2) - 3.2 miles of FLT  
 Shindagin Hollow State Forest (Tompkins 3) - 5.0 miles of FLT  
 Potato Hill State Forest (Tompkins 4) - 2.0 miles of FLT

### Loop Trails

Loop trails are trails designed to form a single loop or a system of interconnecting loops primarily within a State Forest. Loop trails are often multipurpose trails that are also used by other types of recreationists. There are approximately 93 miles of loop trails on State land located in four different counties.

The following are loop trails on State Forests in Region 7.

Bear Swamp State Forest (Cayuga 1) - 15.0 miles of loop trail  
 Frozen Ocean State Forest (Cayuga 3) - 3.0 miles of loop trail  
 James D. Kennedy Memorial State Forest (Cortland 3) - 1.5 miles of loop trail  
 Klondike State Forest (Oswego 3) - 1.0 miles of loop trail  
 Chateaugay State Forest (Oswego 4 and 5) - 8.0 miles of loop trail  
 Salmon River State Forest (Oswego 8) - 3.0 miles of loop trail  
 Hall Island State Forest (Oswego 10) - 9.0 miles of loop trail  
 Oakley Corners State Forest (Tioga 2) - 16.0 miles of loop trail  
 Jenksville State Forest (Tioga 7) - 12.0 miles of loop trail  
 Danby State Forest (Tompkins 1) - 12.0 miles of loop trail  
 Hammond Hill State Forest (Tompkins 2) - 14.0 miles of loop trail

### Destination Trails

Destination trails are usually linear trails that serve as pathways so people can access popular destinations or other points of interest such as natural features. Examples are trails that go to waterfalls from parking areas.

The following are destination trails on State Forests in Region 7.

Altmar State Forest (Oswego 6) - 2.0 miles of linear trail (Albion Cross Road to Hasto Road)

Hall Island State Forest (Oswego 10) - 8.0 miles of linear trail (along Salmon River Reservoir)

Salmon River Falls Unique Area (Oswego County) - 1.5 miles of linear trail to the Falls

Labrador Hollow Unique Area (Cortland County) - 0.2 miles of trail to Tinker Falls

### Interpretive Trails

Interpretive trails are those trails built for the primary purpose of educating or informing trail users of the surrounding natural, historic or cultural features. They typically have signs, brochures, or viewing stations to convey information to the trail user. Interpretive trails may be either loop trails or linear trails.

The following are interpretive trails on State Forests in Region 7.

Labrador Hollow Unique Area (Onondaga County) - 0.2 miles of accessible loop trail next to the wetland

Camillus Forest Unique Area (Onondaga County) - 2.0 miles of loop trail

Nelson Swamp Unique Area (Madison County) - 0.8 miles of accessible loop trail

Chenango #1, Kopac Trail - 0.2 miles of accessible loop trail

Overall, there are approximately 218 miles of foot trails on DEC lands in this Region.

## 2. Other

There are approximately 10 miles of Finger Lakes Trail and Link Trail on wildlife management areas in Region 7. The following is a list of these trails.

Connecticut Hill Wildlife Management Area (Tompkins County) - 3.7 miles of FLT.

Pharsalia Wildlife Management Area (Chenango County) - 3.4 miles of FLT.

Tioughnioga Wildlife Management Area (Madison County) - 3.0 miles of Link Trail.

Rogers Environmental Education Center (Chenango County) - 5 miles of loop and interpretive trails.

There are 111 non-DEC operated facilities in Region 7 that provide more than 437 miles of hiking trails. Public facilities are the most numerous with 61, followed by commercial facilities (32) and private facilities (18).

The majority of facilities offering opportunities for hiking in Region 7 are located in Onondaga County (28%). Tompkins County accounts for 16% of the facilities, while Madison (14%) and Oswego (11%) Counties round out the major centers of hiking facility concentration.

Trail opportunities for those with disabilities are often available at city, town, county or State parks. These trails are usually in a park setting rather than in a forest.

#### ● Environmental Impacts, Constraints and User Conflicts

Trail compaction and erosion from poor trail design or overuse are the main impacts of hiking trails.

All areas of Region 7 State Forests are open to foot travel except for special restricted areas around NYS Department of Corrections facilities and restricted areas on the Salmon River Falls Unique Area.

Competitive events require a TRP from the Department.

Hikers, runners and snowshoers should not walk on designated snow covered cross-country ski trails.

Motorized recreational use of foot trails conflicts with pedestrian use of foot trails. Foot trail users are disturbed by the presence and the noise from motorized vehicles. A motorized vehicle also requires a wider trail and may cause environmental damage.

Horseback riding and mountain bike riding on foot trails has led to conflict with pedestrian foot trail users. Equestrian use requires a wider trail and has more environmental impact on the foot trails than pedestrians do. The riding, driving or leading of horses is prohibited on foot trails on lands under the jurisdiction of the DEC, except where foot trails are part of a publicly maintained road, or are specifically designated to allow travel by horses (6 NYCRR Section 190.8(n)[2]). Mountain bikers using the relatively narrow foot trails may startle hikers, due to mountain bike's quiet and sometimes swift approach.

Hunting and foot trail use also conflict. Non-hunters feel in danger from hunters during hunting season.

#### ● Analysis

The demand for hiking is expected to increase slightly. The 1994 **SCORP (State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan)\*** identifies the need for additional hiking opportunities to be somewhat higher in Onondaga County than in other areas.

Foot trails are a compatible use of State Forests. However, there are a variety of concerns and issues that need to be addressed. Long-distance linear foot trails have

been established on State Forests largely through volunteer efforts. Most of these trails are in suitable locations. However, some portions are located in wet, poorly drained areas or on steep slopes that are highly erodible. This leads to wider and multiple trails around wet areas. Trails located on unsuitable locations can result in muddy or eroded trail conditions. While these trails are maintained by volunteers, the Department is responsible for their condition. Therefore, these trails should be periodically reviewed by the Department for suitability of location, condition of trail surface, and need for erosion control.

As expressed through the public input for this plan, people who use foot trails may experience a variety of conflicts with others. One of the primary concerns is that other uses, besides foot travel, on long-distance linear foot trails may result in increased trail erosion, maintenance needs, and potential conflicts with private property owners who allow only foot travel on their property. The general public often does not know if these long-distance linear trails on State Forests are foot trails or whether they are multi-purpose trails. Current regulation prohibits horseback riding on designated foot trails, except where such trails are part of a publicly maintained road, or are specifically designated to allow travel by horses thereon (6 NYCRR Section 190.8(n)[2]). For these reasons, all long-distance foot trails on State Forests in Region 7 will be limited to foot travel only.

Hikers have also expressed conflicts with hunters because hikers are concerned about their safety during hunting season. They desire a return to a “No hunting on Sundays” policy on State Forests. While this concern is often expressed by non-hunters, the hunting season is a relatively short period of time and public lands have become more desirable for hunting as private lands are increasingly posted. Hunting is generally a safe activity, however, anyone afield during hunting season should wear some blaze orange clothing to increase their visibility to others and reduce their risk for injury. Anyone who seeks to use foot trails and not encounter hunters can obtain the dates of the hunting seasons to better plan their trip. For further discussion on hunting see **page 83**.

An analysis of the current opportunities revealed that there are a great number of foot trails in State Forests but some types of trails are lacking or are insufficient. Pedestrian trail access for people with disabilities is one category of trail that is needed on State Forests. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) mandates that it is the duty and responsibility of public agencies to ensure that people with disabilities have access to public recreational facilities. Foot trails and associated parking or other facilities are addressed by the ADA. The Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG) specifies the standards for the development of accessible trails including criteria such as trail firmness, clearance, smoothness, slope, etc. Trails constructed to ADAAG standards do not only provide access for those with disabilities but they also are often preferred by others such as elderly or families with children and baby strollers. More foot trails and associated facilities meeting ADAAG standards must be developed throughout the region to accommodate people with disabilities where possible and appropriate. In addition, any new trail development, including rerouting where a trail

crosses a public road, must have provisions to make any associated parking areas and the trail ingress and egress routes accessible under ADAAG standards. Long-distance or loop trails on State land are not exempt from these requirements.

The analysis of current opportunities also showed that more interpretive foot trails and loop trails are needed on State Forests. Currently, there are only two interpretive foot trails on State Forests. Additional trails with interpretive information are needed to provide opportunities throughout the region for the public to learn about and appreciate the unique features found on State Forests. Additional foot trails are also needed to provide or improve access to some existing trails or facilities.

#### ● Decisions and Actions

### **1. Officially designate long-distance linear foot trails on State Forests as DEC foot trails.**

a. Officially designate those portions of the Finger Lakes, North Country National Scenic, Onondaga and Link Trails on State Forests as official DEC foot trails thereby limiting use of these long distance trails to pedestrian travel only. The segments of these trails on State Forests will be signed at access points to the trail. Designating these trails as Department hiking trails will provide them with the same legal protection that other designated hiking trails have and improve communication to the public regarding what is and is not allowed on State Forests.

**2. Review the approximately 113 miles of the Finger Lakes Trail, Onondaga Trail and Link Trail on State Forests to identify areas not meeting the minimum trail design specifications.** Upon review of the trail, the Department will take the necessary actions to correct trail location, trail surface or trail drainage problems. This may require rerouting portions of trail to more desirable locations, hardening trail surfaces, constructing or fixing bridges, and installing erosion control devices. Assistance from volunteer groups will be encouraged. Due to budget and staffing, outside funding may also be needed. The Finger Lakes Trail Conference, Inc. (FLTC) has identified several areas of concern along the trail system that need addressing, including trail segment reroutes, additional switchbacks and bridges. The Department has reviewed these requests and has listed approved changes in the implementation schedule and budget and needs section in the back of the plan starting on **page 123**.

a. Rehabilitate hiking trail on Frozen Ocean State Forest (Cayuga 3), construct a parking lot and kiosk, and install a gate to restrict illegal off-road access. All activities associated with rehabilitating the hiking trail will follow the BMP's listed later in this section. All activities associated with constructing the new parking lot will follow the BMP's listed above in Section E, Pull-offs and Parking Areas.

b. Replace footbridge on Kennedy State Forest (Cortland 3), utilizing volunteers and funding from a grant.

**3. Install or rebuild six lean-tos along the Finger Lakes Trail and one in Oswego County.**

- a. Develop one lean-to campsite to replace the demolished Rose Hollow lean-to. Funding for materials to be provided by the NPSCCS grant.
- b. Replace Paradise Glen lean-to on Mariposa State Forest (Chenango-Madison 1).
- c. Rebuild lean-to on New Michigan State Forest (Chenango 5)
- d. Construct a lean-to campsite on Cuyler Hill State Forest (Cortland 6).
- e. Rebuild lean-to on Danby State Forest (Tompkins 1).
- f. Replace lean-to on Shindagin Hollow State Forest (Tompkins 3).
- g. Rebuild lean-to on Chateaugay State Forest (Oswego 4 & 5).

● Best Management Practices for Lean-to Construction and Maintenance:

All lean-to construction, maintenance and relocation projects will be;  
 located in an area that minimizes necessary cut and fill;  
 located away from streams, wetlands and unstable slopes whenever possible;  
 located on flat, stable, well drained sites;  
 constructed during periods of limited rainfall whenever possible;

**4. Improve signs and upgrade trail markers on long-distance linear foot trails.**

Improving the signs associated with these trails will require posting signs describing acceptable uses of the trail at trail access points and identifying parking areas near the trail through signing.

- a. Adopt 2" x 6" painted blazes on trees along the FLT/NCT and the Onondaga Trail/NCT as the official designated trail marker. Phase out any existing tabs markers and replace with painted blazes to conform with National Park Service(NPS) standards set for the Finger Lakes Trail System in New York State.

**5. Restrict use of long-distance linear foot trails to foot travel and cross-country skiing only.** Restricting uses of these trails to foot travel and cross-country skiing is consistent with the design and purpose of these trails. Although cross-country skiing is allowed on these trails, they were designed for foot travel and do not meet the standards for cross-country ski trail design. Therefore, they will not be designated as ski trails. These trails cross both State Forests and private lands. Restricting use of these trails is also consistent with the agreements made between volunteer groups and private land owners when the trails were originally established. There may be some instances where linear foot trails merge with other trails to protect the resources.

The long-distance linear foot trails in Region 7 are the Finger Lakes Trail, the North Country National Scenic Trail, the Link Trail and the Onondaga Trail.

**6. Evaluate the long-distance linear foot trail systems on State Forests and allow for expansion of these trail systems.** The Department periodically receives requests from volunteer groups to expand existing long-distance trail systems on State Forests. Each request will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis based upon the proposal for

trail development.

**a.** A long-distance trail four miles in length will be constructed on Labrador Hollow Unique Area (see NYCRR 190.10(b)) and Kettlebail State Forest (Cortland 5). Because of the steep terrain, the trail will be for pedestrian use only. Snowmobiles and horses will not be permitted to use the trail because of maintenance and environmental concerns. Furthermore, mountain bikes will also be prohibited because of trail designation as a long-distance hiking trail which will be located in part on a State Unique Area. This trail will connect these DEC administered properties to the 4,200 mile long North Country Trail on the east side of Labrador Hollow Unique Area and to Heiberg Memorial Forest to the west. Heiberg Forest is administered by SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry. Most of the trail will follow old forest roads that were originally established as logging and agricultural roads and to access homesteads. Steep terrain may limit accessibility. Highlights of the trail include scenic vistas, the Labrador Hollow boardwalk, and views of Labrador Hollow Pond, its bog and wetlands.

**b.** A long-distance linear trail has been proposed to connect Morgan Hill State Forest (Onondaga 1) with DeRuyter State Forest (Madison 9) as an expansion to the North Country National Scenic Trail. The trail will be located on both public and private land. The DEC agrees with the concept of this trail, taking into account the following guidelines:

- Trail location on State Forests must be approved by DEC personnel in advance of construction. The DEC will assume no administrative or financial responsibility of trail segments outside of the State Forests.
- An Adopt-A-Natural Resource Agreement will be required prior to construction. This agreement will further detail guidelines and responsibilities related to the trail.
- The trail on State Forests will comply with ADAAG.
- All trail construction and maintenance activities will follow the technical specifications and BMP's listed later in this section.

**7. Provide more opportunities and access for people with disabilities.** Trails and associated facilities meeting ADAAG standards will be provided, where possible and appropriate, on State Forests to ensure that all people have access and the opportunity to enjoy State Forests. Trails and associated facilities will be constructed using natural materials, such as crushed stone, wherever possible while complying with the ADA.

**a.** Evaluate and assess trail accessibility according to the Universal Trail assessment guidelines.

**b.** Provide access for people with disabilities at the Labrador Hollow Unique Area boardwalk trail. This accessible boardwalk has provided visitors an opportunity to view the unique bog environment for more than 15 years. The boardwalk deck

will soon need to be replaced. At that time the boardwalk and parking area will be made compliant with ADAAG.

**c.** Develop a 0.25 mile trail on Labrador Hollow Unique Area to provide access for individuals with disabilities to view Tinker Falls. An existing foot trail will be upgraded to comply with ADAAG.

**d.** Develop a 0.2 mile destination trail on Bear Swamp State Forest (Cayuga 1) to provide access for individuals with disabilities to a scenic overlook of Bear Swamp. An existing multipurpose trail needs to be upgraded to comply with ADAAG. The new trail will be designed for use by pedestrians and individuals with disabilities. Other uses will not be allowed.

**e.** Develop a 0.5 mile destination trail on Salmon River Falls Unique Area to provide access for individuals with disabilities to a viewing location at the Salmon River Falls. An existing foot trail will be upgraded to comply with ADAAG.

**f.** Develop a 1.0 mile destination trail to connect Salmon River Falls to the Lower Reservoir.

#### **8. Develop new loop or destination trails.**

**a.** Construct a 1.0 mile loop hiking trail on Genegantslet State Forest (Chenango 26). This trail will provide access to a lean-to that will be constructed at the highest elevation in stand A-26. The trailhead will be located on Creek Road where a two-car parking area will be developed.

**b.** Split Rock Unique Area is adjacent to the old trolley line that serviced the rock quarry and the adjoining community. Only a small portion of the trolley line is on the property. The DEC will cooperate in the development of a trail if the Town of Camillus and Onondaga County express an interest.

**c.** Develop 2,600 feet of additional foot trail on Camillus Forest Unique Area.

**d.** All trail construction and maintenance activities will follow the technical specifications and BMP's listed later in this section.

**9. Provide additional interpretive trails.** Additional interpretive trails are needed to better educate and inform the public of the natural features, history or forestry practices that occur on State Forests. Four interpretive foot trails will be developed. These will also be accessible to people with disabilities.

**a.** Establish a 1.5 mile interpretive foot trail through the tornado blow-down area on New Michigan State Forest (Chenango 5 and 24). This trail will serve the educational purpose in raising awareness about the role of natural disturbance in forest ecosystems. The trail will also compare varying levels of impact from the tornado and intensities of utilization from the salvage operation. This trail will utilize the landing areas and skid trails established from the salvage of the blown down trees and will be located in stand B-1 on Chenango 24 and stand F-12 on Chenango 5. A portion of this trail will be constructed to ADAAG standards. Parking is currently available for three to five cars.

**b.** Develop an interpretive foot trail adjacent to the Balsam Pond camping area. This trail will be approximately 1.0 mile long and will be located on Balsam Pond State Forest (Chenango 17 and 34). It will provide campers a walking path

through the woods and will serve to inform the public of the value of State forests. Parking is currently available for 3-5 cars at the camping area.

**c.** Develop a new 20 car parking lot and kiosk on Thompson Road, Camillus Forest Unique Area. To follow BMP's the lot will be located on nearly level, open ground which will limit construction impacts and potential erosion problems. Install a gate near the existing lot on Warners Road, to solve potential erosion and public safety problems.

The parking lot will be approximately 100 feet wide by 200 feet long. The location for the new lot has been selected to: 1) Provide for better public safety as the new parking lot entrance will be in a location that provides better sight distance for people entering or leaving the highway; 2) Reduce impact on the environment. The site selected is on level to gently sloping ground. It is not near any streams, spring seeps or water drainage. The lot will be surfaced with crusher run limestone to blend in better with the surrounding area than blacktop. An added benefit is that this surface is more permeable to water.

interpretive stations will be installed at Sandy Pond and Sandy Island Beaches and Salmon River Falls.

**d.** Develop a 0.2 mile interpretive trail for people with disabilities at the Civilian Conservation Corps Historic Site on McDonough State Forest (Chenango 1). An accessible parking area and picnic area were constructed at this site in 2001. The trail will pass through a former CCC camp and include interpretive signing about the site's cultural and natural history.

**e.** Develop a trail to the stone bridge on Hewitt State Forest (Cortland 1) and install a kiosk.

**f.** Develop an interpretive trail system on Danby State Forest (Tompkins 1). Develop a brochure and build a kiosk.

**10. Periodic monitoring of established trails.** The Department will still monitor all trail use within the region for negative environmental impacts. When problems arise, such as erosion or trail degradation, they will be addressed in a manner that offers the opportunity for user groups to assist in remedial work that may correct the environmental impact. Trail amendments, reroutes or trail closure will be the standard sequence to address problem areas once they have been identified. Permanent trail closure will be a final option once trail impacts become environmentally unacceptable.

**● Technical Specification and Best Management Practices for Foot Trail Construction and Maintenance:**

Trails will be constructed using the most current ADAAG available at the time of construction. Where it is not possible or appropriate to follow these guidelines, the following technical specifications will be used. A full explanation of the guidelines can be found in this plan.

Type of trail: long-distance foot.

Trail width: 3 feet.

Trail tread width: 2 feet.

Trail tread surface: Trail surface will be native soils where trail is on moderately well- to well-drained ground. Those portions of trail on poorly drained ground will have a hardened surface or improved trail drainage to prevent muddy conditions.

Trail clearance: 7 feet.

Trail length: No minimum length.

Minimum acreage needed: 500 acres of contiguous upland acreage.

Trail signs: Trail markers will be placed approximately 50 feet apart.

Trails will be located to minimize unnecessary cut and fill;

Trail tread will be located on moderately well-drained to well drained soils. Wet and soft soil sites will be avoided. If a section of the trail must cross a small section of wet or soft soils that section will be hardened.

Some trails will be laid out on existing roads, skid trails or other partially cleared areas. Erosion control measures shall be installed on slopes where expected use has potential for significant erosion. The erosion control measures shall consist of water bars, broad based dips and water diversion ditches.

#### ● Associated Facilities

Accessible parking facilities will be constructed. Parking areas will be improved, where needed. Where appropriate for loop trails, parking facilities will be designed with necessary support facilities such as information kiosks and brochures. All activities associated with parking lot construction and maintenance will follow the BMP's listed above in Section E, Pull-offs and Parking Areas.

#### ● Associated Uses

Cross-country skiing is allowed on all hiking trails although hiking trails are generally not specifically designed for this activity. The Finger Lakes Trail is open to cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. Loop trails will be part of a multipurpose trail system.

#### ● Partnerships

All long-distance linear trails are currently maintained through Adopt-A-Natural Resource Agreements.

### ★ **Horseback Riding**

#### ● Description

Horseback riding is the riding of horses on forest trails or roads. For the purposes of this plan, the term horseback riding will refer to the riding or leading of any hoofed animal including horses, mules and llama. Carriage driving is an associated activity in some locations (see NYCRR 190.8(n)).

#### ● Public Input

Horseback riders prefer loop trails and generally support seasonal restrictions on trail use to protect them from damage. They strongly support shared-use trails but also desire more education for all trail users about trail etiquette. Issues of concern to some include unleashed dogs, conflicts with other users, and insufficient parking. The Department has also received requests for the development of long-distance horse trails passing through State Forests.

Upon completion of the Draft Recreation Master Plan for State Forests, five additional public meetings were held at different locations throughout Region 7 during the month of January 2002. Each meeting offered a brief overview of the draft plan as presented by the Department, followed by a session to receive public comments. All formal comments received at these meetings were recorded, along with hundreds of mail-in comments submitted to DEC following the meetings.

A large representation of equestrian riders, including organized groups and many individual participants, came out in strong force to express their concerns over the draft plan at each of these public meetings. The overriding concern shared by most people was their dissatisfaction with the plan's proposal to limit horseback riding and carriage driving to designated trails only throughout the region. This initial proposal was felt to be too restrictive and applied unfairly to all equestrian users.

Another strong sentiment exhibited by many of the participants was the objection to seasonal restrictions as a region-wide blanket policy for horse riding. In addition, many felt that the Department's documentation of user conflict and negative trail impacts from horse riding was exaggerated.

After taking into account all recorded public comments regarding horseback riding on State Forests, and the Department's approach to regulating this popular use, several modifications have been made to this section of the plan and outlined in the ensuing Decisions and Actions section.

● Current Opportunities

1. State Forests

There are seven designated horseback riding trail systems located on State Forests in Region 7. The Brookfield Trail System is the largest and has a total of 130 miles of trail. It is located on Charles E. Baker State Forest (Madison 1 and 4), Beaver Creek State Forest (Madison 11 and 12), and Brookfield Railroad State Forest (Madison 6). This trail system is designated for horseback riding and snowmobiling. The other five horseback riding trail systems are multipurpose trails and are designated for other activities. The table below lists the State Forests and miles of designated horseback riding trails.

Mileage of Designated Horseback Riding Trails on State Forests

State Forest Name	State Forest #	Miles of Horseback Riding Trail
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Charles E. Baker	Madison 1 & 4	61
Brookfield Railroad	Madison 6	8
Beaver Creek	Madison 11 & 12	24
Bear Swamp	Cayuga 1 & 4	15
Jenksville	Tioga 7	12
Ketchumville	Tioga 6	4
Hammond Hill	Tompkins 2	14
Tuller Hill	Cortland 10	9
Summerhill	Cayuga 2	6

There are few opportunities for carriage driving on State Forests because this activity requires wide trails with a firm, smooth tread surface. This type of trail is relatively expensive to construct, and it is difficult to restrict motor vehicle access to these trails. Illegal access by motor vehicles adds to the costs of trail maintenance. The only designated trails for carriage driving in Region 7 are at the Brookfield trail system on Charles E. Baker State Forest (Madison 1) and at Hammond Hill State Forest (Tompkins 2). The Brookfield carriage trail begins at the Assembly Area and utilizes a network of public forest access roads and town roads. Within the Towns of Smithville, German and McDonough, there is an increasing demand for carriage riding opportunities on State Forest lands. A horse riding club in this area is currently attracting 50 to 100 riders to participate in rides on public forest access roads and town roads on the local State Forests. Participants in these rides are being drawn from southern Chenango county and throughout Broome county. As a result of steadily growing participation in these rides, the demand has increased for improving the opportunities for horseback and carriage riding on the State Forests in this area. The interests of the participants is to create a network of public forest access roads, town roads and forest trails.

In Region 7, there are 133 miles of public forest access roads on 53 different State Forests. All of these roads are open to horseback and carriage driving. They will be signed for horseback and carriage driving where appropriate.

## 2. Other

There are 32 non-DEC operated facilities in Region 7 offering opportunities for horseback riding on more than 178 miles of trail. Commercial facilities are the most numerous (20) and tend to have the greatest trail lengths. There are also six private non-commercial and six public horseback riding facilities in the Region.

The majority of facilities offering opportunities for horseback riding in the Region are located in Onondaga County. Madison County has the second largest concentration of

facilities followed by Cortland County and Chenango County. Trail mileage has a somewhat different distribution. Madison County accounts for 49% of the total non-DEC trail mileage in Region 7. Onondaga County is next with 30%, followed by Chenango County with 12%. Data for Tioga, Tompkins and Cortland Counties was not available from the OPRHP. Most likely, Madison and Onondaga Counties account for the majority of horseback riding trail mileage in Region 7.

### 3. Outside of Region 7

Horseback riding opportunities exist on State Forests, other public land and on private land outside Region 7. Among these are the State facilities at Six Nations Horse Trail System in Schuyler County, Region 8; the Otter Creek Horse Trail in Lewis County, Region 6; and the Bear Spring Mountain Trail System in Delaware County, Region 4.

#### ● Environmental Impacts, Constraints and User Conflicts

Environmental concerns of horseback riding on State Forests may include trail erosion, muddy conditions, manure, unauthorized trail clearing, and damage to trees from leaving horses tethered at locations outside of horse stalls.

Horses tethered to trees or temporarily corralled in paddocks have the potential to cause excessive damage to existing trees, ground vegetation and root compaction when left for any extended period of time.

Horseback riding on trails where the underlying soil conditions cannot support the combined weight of the horse and rider have the greatest potential to cause negative environmental impacts. Most impacts occur from the use of trails that are laid out on poorly drained soils or continued trail use under periods of wet weather or muddy conditions. These conditions are most likely to occur in the late fall, before winter freeze up, or in early spring directly following snowmelt and before trail conditions have firmed up after spring thaws. Similar problems can occur from the high use of trail networks where poor trail design may accelerate environmental impacts.

The potential impact from horseback riding under these conditions is the removal of vegetative cover and the migration of soil from the trail proper. Any heavy or prolonged disturbance of the trail surface can lead to the erosion of sloped trails if no water control measures such as water bars or broad-base drainage dips are in place. Any rutting that may occur has the potential to lead to erosion from water channeling outside of level trail surfaces.

Another associated impact is trail widening from obstacles within the trail such as water or downed trees. Trail braiding is associated with trail widening. Trail braiding occurs when there are several paths in close proximity which avoid the same obstacle. Trail braiding also occurs from other recreational uses, including hiking and mountain biking. Section 190.8 of Title 6 of the Official Compilation of Codes, Rules and Regulations of the State of New York (NYCRR) prohibits anyone from riding or leading a horse on snow covered cross-country ski or snowmobile trails, foot trails, or on land devoted to

intensively developed facilities.

Competitive/organized trail rides require a TRP from the Department.

Use of the designated trails on State Forests requires a valid Negative Coggins test certificate. Owners of out-of-state horses are required to have a current health certificate issued by a licensed veterinarian in their possession.

Horseback riders may experience conflicts with those who hike, hunt, snowmobile, camp without horses, target shoot, or mountain bike. Many conflicts relate to the concern for people becoming injured when horses are surprised by unexpected actions from others.

Significant constraints limit the development of carriage driving trails on State Forests. Construction of a trail suitable for carriage driving requires a firm, smooth tread surface at least 8 feet wide. Development of this type of trail resembles a road and invites illegal off-road vehicle use. Furthermore, the construction and maintenance of this type of trail is relatively costly. Unless the access to this type of trail can be designed to restrict motor vehicle access, carriage trails on State Forests are essentially limited to those roads which are already suitable for motor vehicle use. The construction of short connecting trails, suitable for carriage riding will be considered if they join with town roads or public forest access roads to form a "trail network".

At the Brookfield Trail System, conflicts occasionally occur on the public forest access roads when carriage riders unexpectedly encounter motor vehicles.

#### ● Analysis

There are currently three general types of horse-related uses of trails on State Forests. The first type is the local use by horseback riders who live near State Forests, ride their horses to the forest and often establish their own trails. The second type of use is horseback riding on DEC trails systems where people trailer their horses to the trail to ride. The third type of use is carriage driving.

The demand for carriage driving trails on the State Forests in Madison and Tompkins counties is currently being met with the trail systems of Brookfield and Hammond Hill State Forests. The area located midway between these two trail systems has a public demand that exceeds the current supply of horse and carriage trails on the local State Forests. The development of facilities on any of the State Forests within the Towns of German, McDonough or Smithville would help to satisfy this demand.

The demand for DEC designated horseback riding loop trail systems is currently being met by the existing systems on State Forests. All areas of the region are within a reasonable travel distance to a large trail system with camping facilities such as Brookfield. Additionally, horseback riding is available on more than 120 miles of public forest access roads within the region as well as many private trail systems. Private individuals are currently working on locating a route for a proposed long distance

horseback riding trail system which would originate in the Cazenovia area. This potential future trail would be located on private lands as well as the State Forests of southwestern Madison County.

Horseback trail use is increasing in Region 7. Trail registers show increased horseback riding is occurring. Horseback riding is a compatible use of State Forests when trails are properly located, designed and maintained. Horseback riding causes a number of trail and associated impacts, resulting in a variety of concerns that must be addressed. Proper design, location and maintenance are essential to prevent horseback riding trails from becoming eroded and muddy paths. Trails in such a condition are environmentally unacceptable, unsafe and unpleasant to use. Trails not specifically designed to support horse use are especially vulnerable to erosion and are not suitable for horseback riding.

There are currently many user created, undesignated, "private" trails established and used by local horseback riders on State Forests. These trails typically access State Forests from private land and they have been located and constructed without approval from the Department. Furthermore, they currently are not signed, recognized or maintained by the Department. Because these trails may be in unsuitable locations and do not receive regular maintenance, they have the potential to degrade or become eroded. These trails may or may not be suitable for horseback riding depending on their location and condition.

It is irresponsible for the Department to ignore the use and potential environmental problems which may be caused by these informal, private trails. Use and development of these trails in a responsible manner will require a partnership between those who use them and the Department. To address this problem, the Department will allow use of these trails provided that they are in suitable locations and meet Department standards for design and maintenance and an individual or group agrees to establish and maintain these trails. This can be done under the Adopt-A-Natural Resource Program. After enrollment under the Adopt-A-Natural Resource Program, the trails on State Forests will be designated as Department horse trails and the sponsors may be responsible for maintaining them to Department specifications. By officially recognizing these trails as DEC horseback riding trails, the Department will be able to monitor them for maintenance while also making them available for public use.

Trails are most vulnerable to damage and erosion during periods of wet and muddy ground conditions. Generally, these are the months of November, December, March and April. Due to heavier usage, designated trail systems should be closed during these regular seasons of wet weather to protect them from deteriorating.

The Moscow Hill Assembly Area is the primary staging area to access the Brookfield Trail System. Camping is available at the Assembly Area and the adjacent camping area. Unorganized, open camping at the camping area has resulted in damage to the sites and excessive crowding during periods of peak use. Restricting camping to designated sites only in the camping area will protect the camping area from environmental damage and improve the overall quality of the camping experience.

Many comments were received from horseback riders indicating they felt there was insufficient parking at Department trail facilities. However, the comments did not specify where people felt there was insufficient parking. Parking areas at trail systems are designed to accommodate the carrying capacity of the resource rather than the peak usage which occasionally occurs on holiday weekends, which has the potential to result in overuse and degradation of the area. The parking areas at existing designated horseback riding facilities have been reviewed and it has been determined that parking is available at all facilities except at the Hammond Hill State Forest multipurpose trail system.

● Decisions and Actions

**1. Horseback riding on all State Forests will remain open unless posted closed for use.** [6 NYCRR Section 190.8 [n][1]-[3]] The applicable Department regulations (6 NYCRR 190.8 [n]) states: The riding, driving or leading of horses will be permitted anywhere on State lands under the jurisdiction of the Department of Environmental Conservation unless otherwise prohibited by law, regulation, posted notice or this subdivision. No person shall ride or permit a horse on:

- a. land devoted to intensively developed facilities, such as boat launch sites, day-use areas, campsites, ski centers, education centers, fish hatcheries, game farms or headquarter complexes, and lands managed for public safety, such as flood control levees;
- b. foot trails, except where such trails are part of a publicly maintained road or are specifically designated to allow travel by horses thereon; and
- c. designated snowmobile trails and cross-country ski trails that are covered with ice or snow.

Note: The Region is recommending an amendment to (b) to allow the riding of horses/mules on foot trails when legally pursuing game.

**2. Horseback riding on State Forests with designated trail systems: The Department will encourage riders to stay on designated trails.** This is the current policy for the Brookfield Trail System and it will be applied to other established trail systems. (Reference table, **page 52**) The Department can then focus limited resources on the maintenance of the established trail systems. Although riding off the designated trails will not be prohibited, no permanent trails may be established without the Departments authorization.

The Department will consider proposals for development of additional trails or the use of undesignated trails to accommodate local use of State Forests on a case-by-case basis. *Trails Developed From Private Land Across State Forests* on **page 20** describes the procedure which will be used to address these new trail proposals.

In all cases, those trails not suitable for horseback riding will be closed.

**3. Carriage riding will only be permitted on designated trails and Public Forest Access Roads.** The Department will consider proposals for development of additional trails or the use of undesignated trails to accommodate local use of State Forests on a

case-by-case basis. *Trails Developed From Private Land Across State Forests* on **page 20** describes the procedure which will be used to address these new trail proposals.

**4. Establish a season for horseback riding on State Forests with designated trail systems. The riding season will be from May 1 to October 31, and January 1 to March 1, for all established trail systems, except for the Brookfield Trail System. (Reference table, page 52) Riding horses on these State Forests outside of this season will be prohibited.**

a. Establishing an open season for horseback riding on these popular trail systems will allow people to enjoy horseback riding during the most active seasons while protecting the trails from deterioration and erosion during the normally wet seasons of the year. Horseback riding on these State Forests will be prohibited between November 1 and December 31 and again between March 1 and April 30. One exception to these seasonal dates will be the multipurpose Brookfield Trail System. The current seasonal restrictions of November 1 to May 1 will still be in effect for the Brookfield Trail System. Casual horseback riding on all other State Forests without designated trails will be permitted year-round. Additional trail use restrictions may be imposed on designated trail systems during extended periods of wet weather and muddy conditions. During the closed season, horseback riding will be allowed on those public forest access roads unless designated against such use or the road is a snow covered snowmobile trail or cross country ski trail.

b. The permitted season may be extended depending on the actual soil conditions. The Department will determine if the soils can withstand additional use due to a change in the weather pattern.

**5. Sign trail on Hammond Hill State Forest (Tompkins 2) for carriage riding.**

**6. Support the development of long-distance horseback riding trails across State Forests.** The Department will support development of these types of trails provided that the trail location is acceptable to the Department and the trail sponsor is enrolled in the Adopt-A-Natural Resource Program. In most cases, the trails must be constructed by the trail sponsor. The sponsor must maintain the trail to Department standards. *Trails Developed From Private Land Across State Forests* on **page 20** describes the procedure which will be used to address these new trail proposals. The Department may provide parking, water and hitching posts along the trail. Any other required facilities must be developed outside of State Forests.

a. The Department conceptually approves the long-distance trail proposal involving Three Springs (Madison 3), Muller Hill (Madison 5), DeRuyter (Madison 9), Morrow Mountain (Madison 10) and Stoney Pond (Madison 13) State Forests. The location of the trail on State land will be determined by the Department, in conjunction with the sponsoring trail group.

**7. Camping with horses on State Forests will be restricted to designated sites.**

Camping with horses causes impacts which can degrade a campsite. An accumulation of horse manure on the ground makes a campsite undesirable for use by others. Horses also damage campsite vegetation through trampling or by eating the bark and branches of trees, and damage tree roots through soil compaction. Restricting camping with horses to designated sites or through a permit will minimize these problems.

**8. Restrict camping at Charles E. Baker State Forest (Madison 1) at the Moscow Hill camping area to designated sites only.** Camping will be restricted to designated sites only in the camping area to protect the camping area from damage and improve the overall quality of the camping experience.

**9. Prohibit temporary fencing or paddocking of horses on State Forests except through a permit issued by the Department.** Establishment of temporary corrals on State Forests prevents others from using the limited available open space for parking or camping. Groups of horses enclosed by a fence also damage trees and vegetation through trampling and grazing.

**10. Construct a loop trail between two and four miles in length on South Hill State Forest (Chenango 3).** This trail will consist of a combination of road and off-road trail. This trail will be designed to accommodate local use only. Although this trail does not meet the technical specifications, it has been identified as a management action in the Between Fords Unit Management Plan.

**11. Development of carriage driving trails may be considered if they follow old or existing roads.** New trails will also be considered if they are relatively short and will connect with town roads or forest access roads to form a trail network. Development of these trails will only be allowed through an Adopt-A-Natural Resource Agreement with a trail sponsor.

**12. Continue the rehabilitation work on the multipurpose trail on Bear Swamp State Forest (Cayuga 1).** This is a continuation of the work started in 1998.

**13. Evaluate and relocate, where necessary, the six-mile horseback riding trail on Summer Hill State Forest (Cayuga 2).**

- a. Designate the trail for horseback riding use.
- b. Build a parking area for three cars and trailers on Skinner Hill Road.

**14. Construct 15 miles of multipurpose trail for horseback riding and mountain biking on Morgan Hill State Forest (Cortland 4 & Onondaga 1).**

Build a parking lot for 10 cars and trailers at a suitable location on the forest. All activities associated with constructing the new parking lot will follow the BMP's listed above in Section E, Pull-offs and Parking Areas.

**15. Build a parking lot for 10 cars and trailers on Star Stanton Road on Hammond Hill State Forest (Tompkins 2).** Construction of this parking lot will provide improved

parking for the multipurpose trail on Hammond Hill State Forest.

**16. Rehabilitate horseback riding trail on Tuller Hill State Forest (Cortland 9 & 10).**

- a. Construct a parking area for four cars and trailers.
- b. Install kiosk and develop area brochure.

**17. Periodic monitoring by Department staff of all equestrian trail use within the region for negative environmental impacts.** When problems arise, they will be addressed in a manner that offers the opportunity for user groups to assist in remedial work that may correct the environmental impact. Trail amendments, reroutes or trail closure will be the standard sequence to address problem areas once they have been identified. Permanent trail closure will be a final option once trail impacts become environmentally unacceptable.

**18. The Department continues to support the use of horses or mules for the purposes of hunting or trapping. This activity must be in compliance with applicable Environmental Conservation Laws.**

**● Technical Specifications and Best Management Practices for Designated Horse Trail Systems**

DEC horseback riding trails will be maintained to meet the technical specifications listed below.

Type of trail: loop trail.

Trail width: 6 feet.

Trail tread width: 4 feet

Trail height: 12 feet.

Trail length: 5 to 15 miles.

Slope: 3 to 25%.

Cross slope: 0 to 5%

Trails shall be built and maintained to standards sufficient to prevent or minimize erosion. Water bars or broad-based dips will be installed as needed. Trail tread on wet or soft soils will be hardened. Streams will be crossed with culverts if possible. Stone fords or bridges will be used as a last resort. If it is necessary to use a bridge, it will be designed by Department engineers.

Trails sanctioned by the department outside of the designated trail systems do not have to meet full standards for overall trail width, tread width or minimum lengths as long such trails are still environmentally sound and stable to control erosion. This same standard will apply to all new trails that are built through the AANR program outside of designated trail systems.

Minimum acreage needed: 1,500 acres of contiguous upland acreage needed for a trail

system that is contained within a given State Forest.

Trail signs: Trail signs will be placed at appropriate distances. Refer to “Construction and Maintenance of Horse Trails in Arkansas State Parks” for guidelines on location of road crossings and signs at intersections.

- Associated Facilities

Adequate parking will be provided at existing and new trail systems. Parking at horse-use facilities on State Forests will be provided to accommodate periods of normal use which do not exceed the recreational carrying capacity of the area. Parking and hitching posts will be provided on long-distance trails. Mounting platforms will be provided at newly-constructed trailheads. All activities associated with parking lot construction and maintenance will follow the BMP’s listed above in Section E, Pull-offs and Parking Areas.

- Associated Uses

As with mountain biking and hiking trails, horseback riding trails may be designated as either single-use or multipurpose trails, depending on the site characteristics. Other uses which may be compatible are mountain biking and hiking in summer and snowmobiling and skiing in winter.

- Partnerships

The Adopt-A-Natural Resource Program will be used to develop partnerships with individuals and volunteer groups to help maintain trails. DEC foresters will work with the groups to address trail maintenance issues.

## ★ Mountain Biking

- Description

A bicycle is a two-wheeled device upon which a person or persons may ride, that is propelled by human power through a belt, a chain or gears. Mountain bicycles are different from street bicycles. Mountain bicycles usually have heavy-duty frames, special handlebars, up to 24 changeable gears, wide treaded tires for off-pavement riding, and may be equipped with shock absorbers and other specialized features.

Mountain bikes are used to ride on trails that are off-road. The preference is for riding in natural settings across a variety of track types and trail conditions. Trails can range from being fairly flat and easily ridden to steeper trails with frequent elevation and direction changes. These later conditions are more suitable for the advanced or expert rider.

There are different styles of mountain bike riding depending on the motivation,

conditioning and personal preferences of the participant. Family and leisure riders may travel at a slow to moderate pace on relatively gentle ground on easy to ride trails. These riders stop frequently to enjoy the sights and sounds of the forest.

Some riders seek a recreational experience that offers challenging physical and technical riding opportunities in a natural forest setting. Competitive riders travel at a faster pace on all types of terrain in order to get a more physically challenging workout.

A small percentage of riders gravitate to extreme mountain bike riding. This type of riding is for the real thrill seekers and does not depend on trails for the experience. Extreme riders travel at various speeds over difficult and steep terrain where there are obstacles such as rocks, roots and logs in the path of the rider.

#### ● Public Input

Upon completion of the Draft Recreation Master Plan for State Forests, five additional public meetings were held at different locations throughout Region 7 during the month of January 2002. Each meeting offered a brief overview of the draft plan as presented by the Department, followed by a session to receive public comments. All formal comments received at these meetings were recorded, along with hundreds of mail-in comments submitted to DEC after the meetings.

Members of the mountain biking community, including organized groups and many individual participants, came out in strong force to express their concerns over the draft plan at each of these public meetings. The overriding concern expressed by most people was their dissatisfaction with the plan's proposal to allow mountain biking only on designated trails throughout the region. This initial proposal was felt to be too restrictive and applied unfairly to mountain bike use.

Another strong sentiment exhibited by many of the participants was the objection to seasonal restrictions as a region-wide blanket policy for mountain biking. The Department's presentation of negative trail impacts and user conflicts was also viewed as exaggerated by many who participated in the public comment sessions.

After taking into account all recorded public comments regarding the use of mountain bikes on State Forests, and the Department's approach to regulating this popular use, several modifications have been made to this section of the draft plan and outlined in the following Decisions and Actions section.

#### ● Current Opportunities

##### 1. State Forests

Prior to the implementation of this plan, mountain biking has been allowed anywhere on State Forests unless prohibited by sign.

The following is a list of existing multipurpose trails designated for mountain biking and

other uses:

Bear Swamp State Forest (Cayuga 1 and 4) - 15 miles

Oakley Corners State Forest (Tioga 2) - 16 miles

Jenksville State Forest (Tioga 7) - 12 miles

Hammond Hill State Forest (Tompkins 2) - 11 miles

## 2. Other

There are additional mountain biking trails on other public and private lands. Some of these are:

Chenango Valley State Park (Broome County)

Heiberg Forest (Cortland County)

Green Lakes State Park (Onondaga County)

Highland Forest (Onondaga County)

Vanderkamp (Oswego County)

### ● Environmental Impacts, Constraints and User Conflicts

The use of mountain bikes on trails where the underlying soil conditions cannot support the combined weight of the bike and rider have the greatest potential to cause negative environmental impacts. Most impacts occur from the use of trails that are laid out on poorly drained soils or continued trail use during periods of wet weather or muddy conditions. These conditions are most likely to occur in the late fall, before winter freeze up, or in early spring directly following snowmelt and before trail conditions have firmed up after spring thaws. Similar problems can occur from the high use of trail networks where poor trail design may accelerate environmental impacts.

The potential impact from mountain bike use under these conditions is the rutting of the trail tread. Any rutting has the potential to lead to soil movement off site or soil erosion from water channeling outside of level trail surfaces.

Another associated impact is trail widening due to obstacles within the trail, such as water or downed trees. Trail braiding is associated with trail widening. Trail braiding occurs when there are several paths in close proximity which avoid the same obstacle. Trail braiding also occurs from other recreational uses, including hiking and horseback riding.

Braking of the bicycle on steep hills can also lead to trail erosion. A report on off-road impacts of mountain bikes written by Gordon R. Cessford from 1995 indicates that such skidding can loosen track surfaces on the trail and move soil material downslope. More significantly this action can promote the development of ruts which can channel water flow. The development of such ruts promote erosive water flows to a greater extent than that of impacts by footstep puddling and is a unique impact associated with mountain bikes.

Inadequate or improperly designed stream crossings that allow sedimentation into a water course or erosion of adjacent stream banks from any type of recreational trail use,

including mountain bikes, is environmentally unacceptable.

Some of the physical and environmental constraints on mountain bike trail development are steep slopes, poorly drained soils, limited public access, actual and potential user conflicts, the lack of parking areas, and impacts on rare and endangered species.

Competitive/organized trail rides require a temporary revocable permit from the Department. See **page 14** for discussion on *TRPs*.

The following are conflicts which have been identified:

- Mountain bikes and mountain bikers make little noise when riding the trails. Conflicts may occur when other trail users are startled when they are approached from behind and taken by surprise.
- Right of way may be a conflict occurring between mountain bikers and hikers on the same trail.
- Mountain bikers sometimes feel threatened by the presence of hunters on or near the trails.
- Mountain bikes on cross-country ski trails sometimes conflict because bicycle ruts in the snow compromise ski tracks.

#### ● Analysis

Trail registers and observations by forestry staff indicate that mountain bike activity in Region 7 is increasing. Currently mountain biking is allowed anywhere on State Forest land. The design and development phase of trail construction is extremely important for providing a regional network of environmentally stable trails. Seasonal restrictions are recommended for mountain biking on State Forests due to the potential trail damage during wetter times of the year and conflicts involving designated Nordic ski trail systems and traditional big game hunting seasons.

The distance that a mountain bicyclist will travel to pursue the sport does not seem to be an issue. The Department anticipates demand for mountain biking on State Forests will be met with existing trails and proposed trails as outlined by the plan.

Most trails are designed for beginner to intermediate riders. Technically challenging trails, for more advanced riders, can be found on Oakley Corners State Forest (Tioga 2) and Jenksville State Forest (Tioga 7). A proposed trail on Shindagin Hollow State Forest (Tompkins 3) will include technically challenging trails.

#### ● Decisions and Actions

**1. Mountain biking will remain open on all State Forests within Region 7 except for those areas posted against such use.** If it is determined by the land manager that a trail system needs to be established on a State Forest due to environmental impacts, conflicts or high intensity use, then mountain biking on those sites may be

accommodated and areas not appropriate may be posted against such use. Any trails which cannot support mountain bike use will be closed.

Although mountain biking will not be prohibited on State Forests without designated trails (See table on **pages 24 and 25.**), that activity will not be encouraged on those State Forests. If the intensity of mountain bike use on any of those State Forests conflicts with the intent of this plan, it may necessitate closing that State Forest for mountain bicycling.

**2. Existing multiple-use trails, where mountain bike use is proposed, will be designated after inspection shows that the trail is in a suitable location and in satisfactory condition.** Trails in an unsatisfactory condition or location will need to be upgraded or rerouted before they can become a formally designated trail. Trails not suitable for mountain bikes will be closed.

**3. Develop three new trail systems.** Mountain bike use at these sites will be on designated trails only.

**a.** McDonough State Forest (Chenango 1 and 11) - Develop a combination of on- and off-road bike trail as part of the Genny Green trail project. The bike trail will be located on town roads where possible. The trail on the town roads will be connected with off-road trails traveling through the State Forests to create a loop trail system. The bike trail will be accessible from Bowman Lake State Park and provide a recreational opportunity to those visiting the park. The trail will connect Bowman Lake State Park with Whaley Pond and the CCC historic site.

**b.** Morgan Hill State Forest (Cortland 4 and Onondaga 1) - Develop 15 miles of new multipurpose trail with mountain biking as one of the uses. Design and construct a 10-car parking lot with a kiosk.

**c.** Shindagin Hollow State Forest (Tompkins 3) - Develop a mountain bike trail system which will include 20-25 miles of single-track trails. Design and construct two 10-car parking lots with kiosks and brochures. Construct one four-car parking area on South Road. The primary use of the trail system will be mountain biking. This trail system will not be available for mountain biking throughout the year as originally proposed. (See *Decisions and Actions, Item 6*, in this section.) Eroded trail sections and trail sections that will be difficult or impossible to maintain without heavy machinery will not be included and will be closed to use.

**4. Designate two existing trail systems as multipurpose trails where mountain biking will be allowed from May 1 to October 31.** Due to historic use and development as cross-country ski trails, the use of mountain bikes on either of these two State Forests will be prohibited from November 1 to April 30

**a.** Whaupaucau State Forest (Chenango 31) - Designate approximately 10 miles of current cross-country ski trail as a mountain bike trail.

**b.** Stoney Pond State Forest (Madison 13) - Designate 10 miles of current cross-country ski trail as a mountain bike trail. This is the portion of the trail system located on the east side of Greene Road. Trails located on the west side of Greene Road will not be open for mountain biking.

**5. Allow mountain bike use from May 1 to October 31 and January 1 to March 1.**

a. Mountain bike use will be prohibited during the months of November, December, March and April on all State Forests. Traditionally, “mud season” occurs in the fall and in the spring. This is the time when the ground is wet from the fall rains or from the spring snowmelt and is vulnerable to rutting and compaction. Trail deterioration, leading to costly maintenance, can occur during these “mud seasons.” In addition, many of the designated mountain biking trails on State Forests are also designated for other seasonal uses. One of the other shared designations is cross-country skiing. Mountain biking and skiing are not compatible activities. Other potential conflicts include the historic use of State lands for hunting, including bow and gun hunting for deer in the months of November and December of each year. Additional trail use restrictions may be imposed during unusual periods of wet weather that might occur during the riding season.

b. The permitted season may be extended depending on the actual soil conditions. The Department will determine if the soils can withstand additional use due to a change in the weather pattern.

**6. Mountain biking on Shindagin Hollow State Forest (Tompkins 3) will not be opened year-round on an experimental basis.** Due to changes and increased opportunity for use of mountain bikes within Region 7 as outlined by this plan, trail use on Shindagin Hollow will fall under the same regulations as all State Forests with designated trail systems, including seasonal closures. (See *Decisions and Actions 1 and 5* above for further details.)

**7. The following areas are closed to all mountain bike use.**

Salmon River Falls Natural Area - This high use recreational site is closed due to the small acreage accessible for use, high tourism demand, dangerous cliffs in the gorge.

Labrador Hollow Unique Area - This site is officially designated as a Unique Area under the State Nature and Historical Preserve Trust. To quote the enabling legislation: "The dedication of ecologically significant lands to the preserve is intended for unique and irreplaceable state-owned lands that are relatively undisturbed ...". This property has already been developed for hang gliding, for nature interpretation with a boardwalk which is accessible for individuals with disabilities, hiking with sections of the Finger Lakes Trail and for car-top boating. The property is an unusual mix of flat wetlands located in a steep and rather narrow valley. There is a limit to how much this site can be developed.

Salmon River State Forest - Mountain bikes are prohibited from using nordic ski trails.

Salmon River Easements and Corridor Lands - These lands are riparian protection zones along the Salmon River. They include miles of the deep Salmon River gorge and related cliffs.

Nelson Swamp Unique Area - All areas of the NSUA are closed to mountain bike use except the old rail bed leading from the parking area to the bridge over Chittenango Creek.

Camillus Forest Unique Area - This is a relatively small property which cannot support all recreational uses. It is being developed as a passive use, nature interpretive area. Mountain bikes will not be permitted on the property.

**8. The development or construction of unauthorized trail structures will be prohibited on all State Forests.** This will include any structures, either man-made or natural, that are placed in or near a trail for the purpose of offering additional riding challenges. These obstacles pose a safety hazard to trail riders and are a liability concern for the department.

Trail structures designed for advanced users, such as jumps, expert ramps, trick bridges, etc., will not be permitted. The recreational trails on State Forest in Region 7 are for beginner-intermediate use and are designed to be compatible with the natural setting of the State Forest and safety of the users. Man-made structures would negatively impact the aesthetics of the State Forests. In addition, trail structures described above would present safety concerns and hazards for users.

**9. In most cases, designated hiking trails will be posted to prohibit mountain bike use due to conflicts with foot trail use.**

**10. Trail use will be periodically monitored for environmental impacts.** Trails specifically designated for mountain biking will be monitored for environmental degradation or other associated problems by Department staff. Any trails that develop serious environmental concerns that cannot be positively addressed within reason by the Department or through the Adopt-a-Natural Resource Program will be closed.

**11. The following safety recommendations will be posted at mountain bike trail-heads.** For the safety of the riders, the DEC strongly recommends the use of safety equipment when mountain biking on State Forest trails. Minimal safety equipment is a bicycle helmet and eye protection. Mountain biking on State Forests may be dangerous. A biker might encounter rocks, roots, ruts, stumps and other obstacles while riding on State Forest trails. If equipment fails or accidents occur, the biker might be several miles from a vehicle and help. Anyone using State Forest trails should be prepared for emergency situations.

Mountain bikers are encouraged to follow the International Mountain Bicycling Association (IMBA) Rules of the Trail when riding bicycles on State Forest trails.

● Technical Specifications and Best Management Practices (for newly constructed single-track trails)

Type of trail: loop trail.

Trail width: 4 feet.

Trail tread width: 2 feet.

Trail height: 10 feet.

Trail length: 10 to 25 miles.

Slope: 3 to 25%, with short pitches of up to 30%.

Cross slope: 0 to 10%.

Trail Density: To allow for dispersed recreation, construction of 1 mile of mountain bike trail will require 100 acres of land.

Trail signs: Trails will be signed at appropriate distances.

Trail layout and construction will avoid wetland and poorly drained areas.

Those trails designed to be technically challenging will have narrower trail and tread width.

#### ● Associated Facilities

Parking facilities will be constructed and designed with necessary support facilities (information kiosks and brochures) and all activities associated with parking lot construction and maintenance will follow the BMP's listed above in Section E, Pull-offs and Parking Areas. If parking is not adequate, existing facilities may be expanded or additional parking created in accordance with the carrying capacity of the associated area.

#### ● Associated Uses

During their season of use, mountain bike trails may be single-use or multipurpose. Trails may be multipurpose dependent upon the topography, soils, local demand and the availability of nearby facilities. Other uses that may be allowed on mountain bike trails are hiking, horseback riding, cross-country skiing and snowmobiling.

### ★ **Snowmobiling**

#### ● Description

A snowmobile is a self-propelled vehicle designed for travel on snow or ice, that is steered by skis or runners and supported in whole or in part by one or more skis, belts or cleats. A snowmobile is not considered to be a motor vehicle pursuant to the New York State Vehicle and Traffic Law (see V&T Law §2229). Snowmobiles are high-powered machines capable of very fast speeds.

Snowmobiling is a popular winter activity in Region 7. Primary and secondary snowmobile trails are generally corridor trails that are located principally on private property. The trails occasionally cross State Forests in order to connect segments on private land. In addition, one loop and many shorter linear trails are available on State forests throughout Region 7.

Snowmobiling on State Forests is primarily done on corridor trails. These are long-distance trails that cross both public and private land. A network of corridor trails extends throughout the State. These corridor trails are maintained by volunteers with support and cost-share money from the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. More information about corridor trails and snowmobile trail maintenance can be found by contacting:

Snowmobile Program Coordinator  
New York State Parks  
Empire State Plaza  
Agency Building 1  
Albany, NY 12238-0001  
Phone: (518) 474-0445  
FAX: (518) 486-7378  
Website: [www.nysparks.com/snow/](http://www.nysparks.com/snow/)

#### ● Public Input

Upon completion of the Draft Recreation Master Plan for State Forests, five additional public meetings were held at different locations throughout Region 7 during the month of January 2002. Each meeting offered a brief overview of the draft plan as presented by the Department, followed by a session to receive public comments. All formal comments received at these meetings were recorded, along with hundreds of mail-in comments submitted to DEC following the meetings.

Results of the Region 7 recreation questionnaire indicate that snowmobilers who pay registration fees feel other groups should pay fees to use State Forests. Snowmobilers also talked about the need for trail grooming, speed enforcement and additional signs. The snowmobilers pay fees but have problems accessing State Forests. Concern was expressed by private landowners about snowmobilers trespassing and damaging private land, and by town governments about snowmobilers breaking local laws and ordinances.

#### ● Current Opportunities

There are approximately 600 miles of snowmobile corridor trails within Region 7, crossing public and private properties.

##### 1. State Forests

There are more than 78 miles of snowmobile corridor trails on State Forests in Region 7. Where corridor trails cross State Forests, the trails are located on unplowed town roads, public forest access roads and woodland trails. Most of the corridor trails on State Forests are located in Chenango, Oswego, Cortland and Madison Counties. There are also numerous secondary trails that spur from the corridor trails. The mileage of these secondary trails on State Forests in Region 7 is estimated to be at least equal to that of the corridor trails.

State Forests Containing Corridor Trails (as listed by NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation):

Corridor 2

Broome 1, Triangle State Forest  
Chenango 9 and 15, Melondy Hill State Forest  
Tioga 1, Fairfield State Forest  
Tompkins 3, Shindagin Hollow State Forest

Corridor 2B

Tompkins 2, Hammond Hill State Forest

Corridor 4

Oswego-Lewis 1, West Osceola State Forest

Corridor 5

Cortland 3, Kennedy State Forest  
Oswego 8, Salmon River State Forest  
Oswego 9 O'Hara State Forest  
Oswego 10, Hall Island State Forest

Corridor 5A

Oswego 6, Altmar State Forest

Corridor 5B

Broome-Tioga 2, Beaver Dam State Forest  
Cortland 4 and Onondaga 1, Morgan Hill State Forest  
Cortland 7, Donahue Woods State Forest  
Cortland 11, Grigg's Gulf State Forest  
Tioga 3, Robinson Hollow State Forest  
Tioga 5, Turkey Hill State Forest

Corridor 5C

Cayuga 2, Summerhill State Forest  
Nelson Swamp Unique Area

Corridor 7

Chenango 1 and 11, McDonough State Forest  
Chenango 2 and 25, Beaver Meadow State Forest  
Chenango 5 and 24, New Michigan State Forest  
Chenango 6, Ludlow Creek State Forest  
Chenango 22, Perkins Pond State Forest  
Chenango 26, Genegantslet State Forest  
Chenango 32, Five Streams State Forest  
Chenango 35, Long Pond State Forest  
Madison 1 and 4, Charles E. Baker State Forest

### Corridor S-74

Madison 2, Earlville State Forest

### Corridor S -77

Madison 13, Stoney Pond State Forest

### Loop Trails

In addition to the corridor trails, there is a 130-mile loop trail crossing Madison 1, 4, 6, 11 & 12. These five State Forests comprise the Brookfield Trail System.

### 2. Other

Most snowmobiling outside of State Forests occurs on corridor trails on private land or it involves individuals riding on their own property. There are approximately 24 non-DEC operated facilities in Region 7 offering opportunities for snowmobiling with more than 284 miles. The greatest concentration of facilities offering opportunities for snowmobiling can be found in Onondaga and Madison Counties. Oswego and Cayuga Counties constitute the next highest concentration, while Cortland, Chenango, and Tompkins Counties fill out the distribution. The concentration of facilities has a direct relationship with snow cover and conditions over the entire winter months.

Distribution of trail mileage within the Region differs considerably from the distribution of facilities. Cayuga County accounts for 42% of all non-DEC snowmobile trail mileage in Region 7. Madison County is next with 26%, followed by Cortland County with 15% and Onondaga County with 9%. The remaining counties account for a combined 17%.

### 3. Outside Region 7

There are major opportunities for snowmobiling in Region 5 at Old Forge and in Region 6 on the Tug Hill. These areas usually have earlier and more abundant snow, and have longer snowmobiling seasons than Region 7.

### ● Environmental Impacts, Constraints and User Conflicts

Environmental impacts include air and noise pollution, unauthorized tree cutting and trail creation, and litter. The legal use of horses and the illegal use of ATVs on snowmobile trails in other seasons can create environmental problems on the snowmobile trails. In most cases, the snowmobile trails were designed to be used only in winter. Many of the trails are on soil that does not support activity when the ground is not snow covered. If the trails were used for only snowmobiling, they need little or no maintenance. Use of snowmobile trails for other recreational pursuits outside of winter may necessitate additional trail maintenance.

If a snowmobile is driven off the owner's property, it must be registered with the Department of Motor Vehicles. (Note: registration fees paid to the Department of Motor Vehicles is a payment for the privilege of legally riding a snowmobile and is not a payment for use of State Forests. Registration fees are deposited into a State account which does not fund the Department.) Some of the funds go to the snowmobile trail

fund, a portion of which goes towards the maintenance of the Corridor Trail System. The New York State Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation Law also requires that anyone operating or riding on a snowmobile wear an approved protective helmet. The helmet law does not apply when operating a snowmobile or riding as a passenger on private lands owned by the operator or passenger.

Snowmobiles are not permitted on ski trails and ski slopes (see 6NYCRR Section 190.8[d]).

On State lands under the jurisdiction of the DEC, it is illegal for a person to ride or permit a horse on designated snowmobile trails and cross-country ski trails that are covered with ice or snow (see 6NYCRR Section 190.8[n][3]).

Competitive snowmobile events require a TRP.

Snowmobiling may conflict with hiking, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, and wildlife populations. Horses may conflict with snowmobiles on snowmobile trails. Other problems include lack of trail etiquette, poor trail layout, poorly constructed bridges, poorly located signs, and illegal use of trails by ATVs and/or dirt bikes. Neighboring landowners have problems with riders trespassing. Neighboring landowners may have noise conflicts when corridor trails are used at night.

Many environmental impacts and conflicts resulting from snowmobile use are similar to those associated with ATVs. The New York State Snowmobile Trail Manual published by the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) offers these additional environmental considerations: trails should avoid winter deer yards, wetlands and other sensitive areas. Trail layouts should strive for good snow retention. For safety, trails will avoid crossing bodies of water.

#### ● Analysis

Between 1995 and 1998, New York State Department of Motor Vehicle (DMV) records show a 56% increase in the number of registered snowmobiles used mostly in Region 7 counties.

The demand for snowmobiling is expected to increase region-wide. The demand is expected to remain strongest in Oswego County.

Snowmobiles have evolved from smaller, lighter, slower, air-cooled, one-cylinder machines into big, heavy, fast, liquid-cooled, multi-cylinder machines capable of reaching great speed.

Snowmobiles themselves do little physical damage to the trail as long as the ground is snow covered. Snowmobile trails are used by others during other seasons of the year. Often, a snowmobile trail is used by horseback riders and mountain bikers. If the snowmobile trail is not properly located, the alternate users may cause more damage

to a trail than snowmobiles do.

With the renewed interest in snowmobiling and with bigger and faster snowmobiles, proper trail location is extremely important. Limited maintenance funds make it imperative that trails are built in the right locations and in a manner that will minimize impacts and maintenance. Trail construction involves more than picking out a route on snow covered ground. Trees must be cut, limbs must be trimmed and the ground that the trail traverses must be seen when it is not snow covered to see what the ground conditions are like. Trail construction also should be done with a clear understanding of the other uses that occur on the forest and also with a clear idea of management goals and actions that will take place near the trail.

Most snowmobiling today is done with a destination in mind. There is little interest in loop trails or using dead end trails. With machines capable of great speeds, safety considerations demand well-designed trails that are properly maintained. With other winter activities also becoming more popular and with more people using the State Forests, it is no longer possible to allow snowmobiles everywhere they are capable of going.

Snowmobiling can be a compatible use of State Forests if it is done in a proper manner. While snowmobiles traveling on State Forests may not disturb anyone, their trails usually lead to private lands where they can affect neighbors and communities near the State Forests. Those living near State Forests have expressed a variety of concerns and conflicts including: snowmobilers riding off the trails and going onto private property, snowmobilers going across front yards, noise (especially at night) from frequent snowmobile traffic, and snowmobilers establishing trails on private property near State forests without the permission of the private owners. In other areas, trails have been constructed on State Forests without permission from the Department. Local governments have also expressed safety concerns about snowmobiles on town roads.

Some of the above concerns can be minimized by rerouting snowmobile trails onto State Forests and by improving corridor trail routes. Other concerns can be addressed by requiring snowmobiles to stay on designated trails while on State Forests and by requiring written permission from adjacent landowners before designating a trail on State Forests which leads to private lands. Notification to town governments of new trail development proposals could provide the towns with the opportunity to comment and improve Department awareness of their concerns.

#### ●Decisions and Actions

**1. Restrict snowmobiles to designated trails only.** See Corridor Trails map. The Department will work with snowmobile clubs to identify and designate trails, as appropriate.

**2. Designate all public forest access roads (PFARs) which are part of a corridor**

**trail or provide a connector to a corridor trail for snowmobile use.** The speed limit for all vehicles, including snowmobiles, on public forest access roads is 25 mph.

**3. Designate trail segments for use by snowmobiles.**

- a. Marsh Pond State Forest (Broome 4) - 0.5 mile of qualified abandoned town road.
- b. Page Pond State Forest (Broome 7) - 1.0 mile qualified abandoned road.
- c. Whittacker Swamp State Forest (Broome 8) - 2.0 mile haul road.
- d. Cat Hollow State Forest (Broome 9) - 0.8 mile qualified abandoned road.
- e. Beaver Flow State Forest (Broome-Chenango 1) - Designate 3.0 miles of trail consisting of 1.5 miles on-road and 1.5 miles off-road. Needs rehabilitation work before signing.
- f. McDonough State Forest (Chenango 1) - Designate 3.4 miles of snowmobile trail to connect Bowman Lake State Park with Corridor Trail 7.
- g. McDonough and Genegantslet State Forests (Chenango 1, 11 and 26) - Designate 8.25 miles of trail as Corridor Trail 7 and 2.7 miles of trail as Corridor Trail 5.
- h. Beaver Meadow State Forest (Chenango 2) - Construct 0.4 mile of snowmobile trail from the west end of Stowell Road north to the New Road.
- i. Melondy Hill State Forest (Chenango 9 and 15) - Designate 2.5 miles of road trail and 1.0 miles of off-road trail and construct an additional 1.0 mile of off-road trail.
- j. Lincklaen State Forest (Chenango 18) - 0.4 miles of abandoned town road connecting Johnson Road to Hyer Road.
- k. New Michigan State Forest (Chenango 24) - 3.0 miles of secondary snowmobile trail located between Doing Road and Inman Road. Construct a small bridge 100' north of Inman Road.
- l. Beaver Meadow State Forest (Chenango 25) - 1.7 miles of abandoned town road connecting George Crumb Road to Coye Hill Road.
- m. Charles E. Baker State Forest (Madison 1) - Reestablish trail 13 (compartment F) with improvements and reroutes to create 3.0 miles of trail.
- n. Brookfield Railroad State Forest (Madison 6) - 0.2 mile trail located on east side of Mason Road and on the west edge of stand A-33.

**4. Designate the following trail segments which connect State Forests with private land.** The sponsor of these segments must be enrolled in the Adopt-a-Natural Resource Program prior to the designation as a Department authorized trail. See *Trails Developed from Private Land Across State Forests* on **page 20** for more information.

- a. Beaver Dam State Forest (Broome-Tioga 2) - 0.5 miles of trail between the end of public forest access road and private land to the east along the abandoned section of the Clute Hill Road. Rebuild bridge.
- b. Charles E. Baker State Forest (Madison 1) - 0.2 mile of trail north of Trail 8 to private land.
- c. Earlville State Forest (Madison 2) - 0.3 mile abandoned road connecting Public Forest Access Road with Deep Springs Road.

- d. Charles E. Baker State Forest (Madison 4) - 0.1 mile of trail from private land to trail 31.
- e. Beaver Creek State Forest (Madison 11) - 0.7 mile of trail from Public Forest Access Road to private land through stands A-57, 58 and 63.
- f. Beaver Creek State Forest (Madison 12) - 0.4 mile of trail from top of hill on public forest access road through stands B-97 and 98 to private land.
- g. Gorton Lake State Forest (Madison-Oneida 1) - 1.0 mile of trail crossing the east half of the forest with private property at both ends.
- h. Yellow Barn State Forest (Tompkins 5) - 0.5 miles of trail between Yellow Barn Road and Signal Tower Road.
- i. Turkey Hill State Forest (Tioga 5) - 0.2 miles of trail between public forest access road and private land through stand B-22.

**5. Improve or construct corridor trail routes on State Forests.** Written permission from adjacent landowners will be required before designation of a trail leading from State Forests to private land.

- a. Relocate trail or trail sections if appropriate.
- b. Trail proposals will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.
- c. Develop a trail from Kay Road to Route 17 on Salmon River State Forest (Oswego 8).
- d. Build 2,100 feet of connecting trail on Kennedy State Forest (Cortland 3).
- e. Build 2,000 foot snowmobile trail to bypass route along Heisey Road on Danby State Forest (Tompkins 1).

**6. Correct erosion problems on snowmobile trails on State Forests.**

- a. Close and stabilize snowmobile trail on abandoned Town Line Road on Summerhill State Forest (Cayuga 2).

**7. Construct snowmobile bridges.**

- a. Construct two bridges on Nelson Swamp Unique Area.
- b. Reconstruct a bridge over Red Brook on Long Pond State Forest (Chenango 35)
- c. Construct a bridge on Broome-Chenango 1 (Beaver Flow State Forest)

● Technical Specifications and Best Management Practices for Snowmobile Trails

Snowmobiles are restricted to designated trails only.

Type of trail: Corridor or loop trails.

Trail width, trail tread width and trail clearance: Refer to NYS Snowmobile Trail Manual based on the class of trail.

Trail length: Minimum of 50 miles; shorter for loop trail.

Slope: 3 to 25%.

Cross Slope: 0 to 2%.

Minimum acreage needed: 5,000 acres of contiguous upland acreage for loop trails.

Trail signs: Will be in accordance with the NYS Snowmobile Trail Signing Manual.

Speed Limit: 25 mph on public forest access roads.

Other uses allowed: Sections of snowmobile trails may be part of multipurpose trail systems.

Other: Grooming of trails by snowmobile clubs will be allowed through the Adopt-A-Natural Resource Program or a temporary revocable permit.

Trails will be located to minimize unnecessary cut and fill;

Trails will avoid wet areas,

Wherever possible, trails will be laid out on existing roads, skid trails or other partially cleared areas.

## ★ **Cross-Country Skiing**

### ● Description

Cross-country skiing is traveling on snow on a pair of narrow, wooden, plastic or metal skis secured to the feet by a binding. The binding secures the toe, while the heel remains free. Propulsion is traditionally by kick and glide or from being pulled by a dog in the activity known as skijoring. The “skating” technique is another method of propulsion used and requires much wider trails.

Participation in cross-country skiing is dependent on snow conditions and weather and varies from year to year. Trails are generally not groomed.

Cross-country ski trails may be single-use trails in the winter. They may also be part of a multipurpose trail system supporting hikers, horses or mountain bikes at other times of the year.

### ● Public Input

Upon completion of the Draft Recreation Master Plan for State Forests, five additional public meetings were held at different locations throughout Region 7 during the month of January 2002. Each meeting offered a brief overview of the draft plan as presented by the Department, followed by a session to receive public comments. All formal comments received at these meetings were recorded, along with hundreds of mail-in comments submitted to DEC following the meetings.

Most of the comments received regarding cross-country skiing indicated a concern for other user groups interfering with trail use when snow conditions are present. The largest concern expressed was over the trail track being compromised from other uses, such as ATV, mountain biking or hiking. The designation of single-use trails for cross-country skiing was a desired solution for this conflict as outlined by public comments.

Cross-country skiers prefer loop trails. Cross-country skiers want restrictions on other trail uses and pets on trails, along with restrictions on snowmobiles and motorized

vehicles on trails.

● Current Opportunities

The majority of cross-country ski facilities in Region 7 can be found in Onondaga County (37%). Tompkins (17%), Madison (15%) and Broome Counties (11%) are the next most popular areas. These types of facilities are somewhat less prevalent in Oswego, Cayuga, Chenango and Cortland Counties which, combined, account for only 20% of the Region's facilities.

Trail mileage has a somewhat different distribution. Onondaga County accounts for 37% of the total Regional cross-country ski trail mileage. Cayuga County, with only 7% of the Region's facilities, accounts for 21% of the total Regional cross-country ski trail mileage. Madison County is next with 18%, while the remaining 24% is distributed more or less evenly over the remaining counties. Oswego County accounts for only 9% of the Region's facilities and only 3% of total cross-country ski trail mileage.

1. State Forests

Cross-country skiing is allowed anywhere on State Forests. There are 129 miles of designated trails for cross-country skiing on State Forests within the region. The following is a list of designated cross-country ski trails on State Forests in DEC Region 7.

- Hawkins Pond State Forest (Broome 3) - 5 miles
- Bear Swamp State Forest (Cayuga 1) - 15 miles
- Whaupaucau State Forest (Chenango 31) - 13 miles
- Kennedy State Forest (Cortland 3) - 5 miles
- Tuller Hill State Forest (Cortland 9) - 5 miles
- Stoney Pond State Forest (Madison 13) - 13 miles
- Winona State Forest (Oswego 2) - 30 miles (forest administered by Region 6)
- Chateaugay State Forest (Oswego 4 and 5) - 8 miles
- Salmon River State Forest (Oswego 8) - 3 miles
- Oakley Corners State Forest (Tioga 2) - 16 miles
- Jenksville State Forest (Tioga 7) - 12 miles
- Hammond Hill State Forest (Tompkins 2) - 12 miles

2. Other

There are 38 non-DEC operated facilities offering opportunities for cross-country skiing in Region 7. The following list identifies some of the cross-country ski trails on State, county or municipal parks and private land.

Broome County

- Chenango Valley State Park, Chenango Valley
- Dorchester Park, Whitney Point
- Finch Hollow Nature Center
- Greenwood Park, Nanticoke
- Hawkins Pond Park, Windsor

Nathaniel Cole Park, Colesville  
Oquaga Creek State Park, Sanford

Cayuga County

Fair Haven Beach State Park, Fair Haven  
Fillmore Glen State Park, Moravia

Chenango County

Bowman Lake State Park, Preston  
Rogers Environmental Education Center, Sherburne

Cortland County

Greek Peak, Virgil

Onondaga County

Baltimore Woods, Marcellus  
Beaver Lake Nature Center, Lysander  
Clay Central Park, Clay  
Country Hills Resort, Tully  
Erie Canal Towpath, Camillus, Liverpool and Van Buren  
Four Seasons, Fayetteville  
Green Lakes State Park, Fayetteville  
Highland Forest, Fabius  
Jamesville Beach, Pompey  
Old Erie Canal State Park, Dewitt  
Onondaga Lake Park, Liverpool  
Oneida Shores, Brewerton  
Pratt's Falls, Pompey  
Shackham Brook, Fabius  
Skaneateles Ski Touring Center  
Spafford Forest, Spafford

Oswego

Battle Island State Park, Granby  
Salmon Hills Resort, Redfield  
Selkirk Shores State Park, Pulaski

Tompkins

Alan H. Treman State Park, Ithaca  
Buttermilk Falls State Park, Ithaca  
Eastern Heights Park, Ithaca  
Ithaca College, Ithaca  
Podunk, Trumansburg  
Robert H. Treman State Park  
Taughannock Falls State Park

## ● Environmental Impacts, Constraints and User Conflicts

Environmental impacts are minimal. Competitive and organized group events require a TRP from the Department. Conflicts may exist between cross-country skiing and other activities, such as snowshoeing, mountain biking, hiking, dog walking, snowmobiling, and horseback riding. All of these activities degrade the surface of the ski trail.

## ● Analysis

The demand for cross-country skiing is predicted to remain stable. There are many opportunities for cross-country skiing in Region 7 on State Forests and at other facilities. With the availability of many areas on non-DEC land, the demand for cross-country skiing is being met except in Onondaga County.

To maintain the rustic character of the State Forests and to avoid competition with private skiing areas, trails will generally not be groomed. However, a portion of the trails on Hammond Hill State Forest are groomed to facilitate training by local colleges.

The designated ski trails on State Forests are all designed for the beginner to intermediate skill level. No trails are designated for skiing where the conditions would require an expert skill level.

The Department does not have the resources to remove snow from all parking areas. In some cases, the local Towns plow parking areas which are accessed by Town roads. If this service is not provided, some facilities may have to be closed.

## ● Decisions and Actions

**1. Construct four additional cross-country ski trails.** Trail design will be for beginner and intermediate skiers. Additional cross-country skiing trails are proposed on the following State lands:

- a. Camillus Forest Unique Area (Onondaga County) - 2.0 miles.
- b. Chateaugay State Forest (Oswego 4 & 5) - Construct 4-6 miles and rehabilitate 8 miles of existing trails.
- c. Construct and maintain 3.0 miles of cross-country ski trail on McDonough State Forest (Chenango 1). This trail will connect the Bowman Lake State Park ski trail with Whaley Pond and the Natural Area of old forest to the south.
- d. Construct 1.0 mile of connecting cross-country ski trail on Tuller Hill State Forest (Cortland 9 & 10). Project also involves rehabilitation of 1.5 miles of existing trail and construction of five-car parking lot and kiosk.

**2. Maintain 129 miles of designated cross-country ski trails on the State Forests.**

In addition to the list of designated trails on State Forests, cross-country skiing will be allowed on State Forests without designated trails. Maintenance of these trails does not include trail grooming. Trail grooming could be done by an interested volunteer group or individual

through a TRP or Adopt-a-Natural Resource Agreement.

### ● Technical Specifications and Best Management Practices for Ski Trails

Type of trail: loop trails.

Trail width: 4 feet for ungroomed trails, 6 feet for groomed trails.

Trail tread width: 2 feet for ungroomed trails, 6 feet for groomed trails.

Trail height: 12 feet.

Trail length: 5 to 10 miles.

Slope: 3 to 25%.

Cross slope: 0 to 5% for groomed trails.

Minimum acreage needed: 500 acres of contiguous upland acreage.

Trail signs: trail markers will be placed at appropriate distances.

Trails will be located to minimize necessary cut and fill;

Trails will avoid wet areas; Wherever possible, trails will be laid out on existing roads, skid trails or other partially cleared areas.

## ★ **Camping**

### ● Description

**Primitive camping\*** is available on State Forests at both designated sites and at dispersed locations. The designated sites are located at popular areas where overuse needs to be controlled. Camping at designated sites on some State Forests may require a free permit. Non-designated or dispersed camping occurs at locations seldom used again. Only a few, if any, amenities are offered for camping on State Forests. Where camping sites are designated, there may be nearby parking areas, mowed or cleared areas for camping, picnic tables, fire rings, and latrines. Running water, heated facilities, and electricity are not available. Many of the designated sites are located near lakes or ponds that are popular for fishing or canoeing. There is no fee for camping on State Forests. However, a stay of longer than 3 days in one location or camping in groups larger than 10 persons requires a permit, obtained from the Forest Ranger.

### ● Public Input

Upon completion of the Draft Recreation Master Plan for State Forests, five additional public meetings were held at different locations throughout Region 7 during the month of January 2002. Each meeting offered a brief overview of the draft plan as presented by the Department, followed by a session to receive public comments. All formal comments received at these meetings were recorded, along with hundreds of mail-in comments submitted to DEC following the meetings.

A very limited number of comments were received from the public regarding camping on State lands. Campers would like to limit motorized activities on trails. Requests for ATV

camping facilities and improved camping facilities for horseback riders were received at the public meetings. Many people camp on State Forests in association with other activities, such as hunting or hiking. Hunters prefer to camp along roadsides during big game season. They have expressed concerns regarding the current regulation that prohibits camping within 150 feet of a road.

The demand for camping in Region 7 is expected to increase.

### ● Current Opportunities

#### 1. State Forests With Designated Campsites

There are 20 different camping locations on State Forests in Region 7, providing 95 designated sites consisting of ten lean-tos and 85 open campsites. The following list gives the location of the 95 designated campsites.

McDonough State Forest (Chenango 1) - 3 campsites at Whaley Pond  
New Michigan State Forest (Chenango 5) - 1 lean-to (Finger Lakes Trail)  
Ludlow Creek State Forest (Chenango 6) - 1 lean-to (Finger Lakes Trail)  
Wiley Brook State Forest (Chenango 7) - 1 campsite  
Balsam Pond State Forest (Chenango 17) - 1 campsite at Baker's pond  
Whaupanaucou State Forest (Chenango 31) - 1 lean-to  
Balsam Pond State Forest (Chenango 34) - 9 campsites  
Long Pond State Forest (Chenango 35) - 8 campsites  
Mariposa State Forest (Chenango-Madison 1) - 1 lean-to (Finger Lakes Trail)  
Taylor Valley State Forest (Cortland 2) - 12 campsites  
Morgan Hill State Forest (Cortland 4) - 1 lean-to  
Tuller Hill State Forest (Cortland 9) - 1 lean-to  
Gee Brook State Forest (Cortland 17) - 6 campsites at Calico Pond  
Charles E. Baker State Forest (Madison 1) - 8 campsites at Cherry Ridge  
Charles E. Baker State Forest (Madison 1) - 14 campsites at Moscow Hill  
Charles E. Baker State Forest (Madison 1) - 2 lean-tos  
Beaver Creek State Forest (Madison 12) - 2 campsites at the assembly area  
Stoney Pond State Forest (Madison 13) - 12 campsites  
Morgan Hill State Forest (Onondaga 1) - 9 campsites at Spruce Pond  
Robinson Hollow State Forest (Tioga 3) - 1 lean-to  
Danby State Forest (Tompkins 1) - 2 lean-tos (Finger Lakes Trail)  
Shindagin Hollow State Forest (Tompkins 3) - 1 lean-to (Finger Lakes Trail)

Presently, there are no designated campsites on the State Forests in Cayuga, Tioga, Broome or Oswego counties.

#### 2. Other

There are 44 non-DEC operated camping facilities in Region 7 offering opportunities for primitive camping on more than 2,947 acres, with the capacity to accommodate approximately 3,833 guests. These facilities include private campgrounds (Boy Scouts),

commercial campgrounds and public campgrounds.

Campers are often willing to travel long distances to campsites outside the Region which offer unique natural features and amenities. Opportunities outside the Region also serve to meet the demands of recreationists living in Region 7.

Non-DEC camping facilities are distributed relatively evenly over the counties in Region 7, although they are somewhat more heavily concentrated in Onondaga (19%), Madison (18%), Cayuga (17%), and Cortland (14%) counties.

● Environmental Impacts, Constraints and User Conflicts

Environmental concerns for the activity of camping on designated sites include soil compaction, litter, human waste, and unauthorized cutting of trees for use as firewood. Camping on non-designated sites may cause water pollution from camping too close to water sources, degradation of trees around campsites, tree damage from soil compaction and disturbance to wildlife. Camping may also cause damage to rare species or cultural resources. Conflicts may result from choosing inappropriate sites for camping, such as forest access road turnarounds or along private land boundaries.

The regulations for camping on State Forests and Unique Areas are found at 6NYCRR, Part 190. A generalization of these rules is listed below.

1. Campsites must be kept clean. These are “carry-in/carry-out” areas.
2. Camping is prohibited within 150' of any road, trail, stream, or body of water, except where sites have been designated by the Department.
3. Camping is allowed for up to 3 nights without a permit. (Campers occupying a site for more than 3 nights are required to obtain a written permit from either the Sherburne or Cortland DEC offices. There is no fee for the permit.)
4. Permits will be issued for a maximum of 14 consecutive nights. A permit will not be renewed to the same person for the same site during the same calendar year.
5. Groups of 10 or more persons are required to obtain a camping permit for any length of stay.
6. Camping is prohibited in any area that is posted against camping.
7. All camping equipment and supplies must be removed from State land when the users have completed their stay.
8. No permits will be issued to persons under 18 years of age.

9. Campers may use tents or trailers, but no permanent structures, such as tent platforms or lean-tos, may be constructed for camping.

10. Lean-tos, provided by DEC, may not be occupied for more than 3 successive nights or for more than 10 nights in any one calendar year, provided others wish to use the lean-to.

11. Only dead and down wood may be used for campfires. Fires must be extinguished when the site is not occupied.

By sign, camping is prohibited or regulated on certain Region 7 State Forests: to ease overcrowding at popular areas, to solve safety problems, to avoid conflicts, or to avoid degradation of the site:

Stoney Pond (Madison 13), Old CCC camp (Cortland 2), Calico Pond (Cortland 17), and Spruce Pond (Onondaga 1) - Reservations and permits are required for all designated sites.

By sign, camping is prohibited at all seven of the unique areas in Region 7: Labrador Hollow, Nelson Swamp, Camillus, Split Rock, Salmon River Falls, Sandy Island Beach and Sandy Pond Beach.

By sign, camping with horses is prohibited at the Cherry Ridge campsite on Charles E. Baker State Forest (Madison 1).

#### ● Analysis

The demand for camping in Region 7 is predicted to increase.

Camping is a compatible activity on most State Forests. Although State Forests in Region 7 currently provide a variety of camping opportunities, additional campsites, including those accessible to people with disabilities, are needed in some areas. Since the camping areas on State Forests are designed to be primitive, running water is not provided. Many of the campsites in the region are located near bodies of water, such as Long Pond, Stoney Pond, and the Salmon River Reservoir. Privies are available at several of the campsites. Campers can find more amenities at State parks.

Existing regulations prohibit camping within 150 feet of a road. However, camping near roads is often preferred by hunters during hunting seasons on State Forests. Hunters frequently pull their trucks or campers off the road onto old log landings or other cleared areas to camp while hunting nearby. Camping in this manner does not conflict with State Forests as long as all other rules or regulations are followed. Changing the regulations to allow camping within 150 feet of a road during hunting seasons will make the current practice consistent with the law.

#### ● Decisions and Actions

**1. Develop 31 additional campsites in Region 7.** Twenty-eight of these will be open campsites and three will be lean-tos. A portion of the new campsite development will occur on Hall Island State Forest (Oswego 10), as noted in items b and c. The Department will consider the option of permanently closing any or all of the Island campsites if patrol or enforcement problems become an issue. Fiscal constraints and public demand will determine if any additional campsites are to be developed within the Region.

- a. Development of the new campsites will be in compliance with the guidelines for access by people with disabilities.
- b. Develop 12 to 15 open campsites on Hall Island State Forest (Oswego 10). These campsites will be located on the south side of the Salmon River Reservoir and will only be accessible by water. A permit will be required to occupy these sites. Three of these sites will be developed for people with disabilities.
- c. On Hall Island State Forest (Oswego 10), upgrade two designated campsites on Burdick Island and two campsites on Huckleberry Island in the Salmon River Reservoir. A permit will be required to occupy these sites. Two of these sites will be developed for people with disabilities.
- d. Develop one lean-to campsite along the Finger Lakes Trail on Perkins Pond State Forest (Chenango 22) in the Town of Otselic.
- e. Develop two open campsites on the Marsh Pond State Forest (Broome 4) near the pond. One of these sites will be developed for people with disabilities.
- f. Develop three campsites on Robinson Hill State Forest (Tioga 3) near Tri-county Pond. The exact number of sites will be determined from local demand. One or two of these sites will be developed for people with disabilities. Install kiosk and develop area brochure.
- g. Develop one lean-to on the Genegantslet State Forest with access from Creek Road. The access trail to the lean-to will be approximately 0.7 miles of hiking trail.
- h. Develop an open campsite in stand C-7 on Long Pond State Forest (Chenango 35) designed for access by canoe or boat.
- i. Develop three open campsites on Oakley Corners State Forest (Tioga 2). One of these sites will be developed for people with disabilities. Use of these sites will be by permit only.
- j. Upgrade and designate three formal sites on the Salmon River State Forest (Oswego 8). A permit will be required to occupy these sites.
- k. Rebuild the lean-to along the trail on Chateaugay State Forest (Oswego 4 & 5).
- l. Build one lean-to on Cuyler Hill State Forest (Cortland 6).
- m. Inspect and, if necessary, repair or replace lean-tos on the Finger Lakes Trail.

**2. Propose a change to the current regulations to address the conflicts encountered with camping within 150 feet of a road.**

- a. Propose a change to the current regulation that prohibits camping within 150' of any road. The intent of this proposal is to accommodate the style of camping that is common during hunting season.

**3. Provide camping opportunities on State Forests for people with disabilities.**

These ADA compliant facilities will be distributed throughout the Region. Most of the designated campsites will have fire rings and several of the sites will have picnic tables. Fire rings, picnic tables and benches will be of Universal Design. Accessible latrines will be located at areas with several campsites, such as Long Pond, Stoney Pond and Charles E. Baker State Forests. All camping areas that can be driven to will have at least one accessible parking space.

- a. Make alterations to the Moscow Hill campsites on the Charles E. Baker State Forest (Madison 1 & 4) so that at least four of the sites are accessible by people with disabilities.

**4. Designate 14 campsites at Moscow Hill, Madison 1, camping area.**

**5. Maintain 85 existing campsites.**

**6. Propose a regulation to prohibit camping at Nanticoke Lake Multiple-Use Area and Redfield Island Day-Use Area**

**7. Remove the lean-to on New Michigan State Forest (Chenango 5)**

This lean-to is structurally poor and is no longer located on an active trail. The lean-to proposed in 1. d will replace this lean-to.

● Technical Specifications and Best Management Practices for Campsites and Leantos

Any technical specifications will be in compliance with the ADAAG.

All campsite and lean-to design, maintenance and construction projects will be;  
located in an area that minimizes necessary cut and fill;  
located away from streams, wetlands and unstable slopes whenever possible;  
located on flat, stable, well drained sites;  
constructed during periods of limited rainfall whenever possible;

● Associated Facilities

The proposed lean-to on the Genegantslet State Forest will require the development of a hiking trail for access. This trail will climb approximately 350 feet in elevation over the 0.7 mile length of the trail; therefore, compliance with ADAAG for trails is not possible at this site. The trailhead will also require two parking spaces. The trailhead will be located on Creek Road, near Holtmart Road.

● Partnerships

Currently all campsites on State Forests in Region 7 are maintained by DEC staff. The construction of some of the lean-tos located along the Finger Lakes Trail have been funded either partially or entirely through grants secured by independent organizations. Partnerships are welcome from volunteer organizations, via the Adopt-A-Natural Resource Program, to maintain any of the designated campsites, especially for the

lean-tos that are located on long-distance hiking trails.

## ★ Hunting

### ● Description

Hunting means pursuing, shooting, killing or capturing (other than trapping) wildlife and includes lesser acts that disturb or worry wildlife whether or not they result in taking. Hunting also includes all acts to assist another person in taking wildlife.

### ● Public Input

Upon completion of the Draft Recreation Master Plan for State Forests, five additional public meetings were held at different locations throughout Region 7 during the month of January 2002. Each meeting offered a brief overview of the draft plan as presented by the Department, followed by a session to receive public comments. All formal comments received at these meetings were recorded, along with hundreds of mail-in comments submitted to DEC following the meetings.

A limited number of comments were received regarding hunting on State lands. Concerns were expressed from non-hunters involving their relative safety during open hunting seasons. The desire to ban Sunday hunting was also expressed. Specific comments involving special hunting regulations for Labrador Hollow Unique Area (see "Areas with Special Regulations below) and the potential conflicts with non-hunters drew the most attention for public comments pertaining to hunting on State lands.

Hunters do not require formal trails. They noted problems when encountering people with pets. The pets may be unleashed and may be chasing or harassing wildlife. Some pet owners afield during hunting seasons feel that hunters are a danger to them and their pets. Hunters also commented about people using trails during hunting seasons, and support trail closure in November and December.

Hunters noted damage to State Forests by motorized vehicles and by horses. Other hunters expressed the desire to use motor vehicles to travel into the forest and to remove harvested game, especially deer.

Users of foot trails, campers, horseback riders, cross-country skiers, mountain bikers, nature observers, and owners of unleashed pets feel their safety is threatened during hunting seasons. Non-hunters may be unaware of hunting season dates. Some recreationists are especially concerned with gun hunting for deer on Sundays.

Since hunters pay for hunting licenses, they feel other groups should also pay fees to use State Forests. (Note: money paid for hunting licenses is a payment for the privilege to hunt and not for use of State Forests. License fees do not support management activities on State Forests.)

## ● Current Opportunities

### 1. State Forests

Legal hunting is allowed on all State Forests but may be restricted or forbidden where there are special hunting regulations. The total acreage in Region 7 where hunting is presently allowed is 198,980 acres.

### 2. Other

Hunting is allowed on many other State, county, municipal and private properties.

## ● Environmental Impacts, Constraints and User Conflicts

Improper camping, illegal off-road vehicle use, litter, indiscriminate shooting of trees and illegal taking of wildlife are environmental concerns associated with hunting.

Constraints include hunting seasons and special regulations on certain areas.

## ● **Areas with Special Regulations**

1. Labrador Hollow Unique Area - Hunting is permitted in Labrador Hollow Unique Area Zone 2 and prohibited in Labrador Hollow Unique Area Zone 1. For further information, see the Labrador Hollow Unique Area brochure available from the Cortland Office and 6 NYCRR Part 190.10[b].

2. Sandy Pond Beach Unique Area - Waterfowl hunting only is allowed.

3. Sandy Island Beach - Hunting is prohibited.

Hunting may conflict with other recreationists such as foot trail users, campers, horseback riders, cross-country skiers, mountain bikers, nature observers and owners of unleashed pets.

Pursuant to statute (Article 11 of the Environmental Conservation Law) during the open hunting seasons, hunting is allowed seven days a week. In Region 7, until 1996, all hunting, except big game hunting with a gun, was allowed on Sundays. Starting in 1996, gun hunting for big game was allowed on Sundays for a trial period of three years. After assessing the trial period, legislation was passed that permanently allowed gun hunting for big game on Sundays throughout the State. The gun season for big game in Region 7 runs from the first Monday after November 15 to the second Tuesday of December. Directly following the regular gun season for big game, there is a one-week muzzle loading and archery season.

## ● Analysis

Hunting has long been associated with State Forests. From the inception of the State forest program in 1929, State Forests have provided hunters with the opportunity to

pursue their sport.

Some recreationists are concerned with big game gun hunting on Sundays. There are four Sundays impacted by Sunday hunting for big game during the year.

Posting of private lands has limited hunting opportunities and increased hunting pressure on public lands open to hunting.

The demand for hunting, as measured by license sales, has declined in eight of the past ten years. The declining participation in hunting appears to be greater among those from urban or suburban communities than from rural areas. This trend is predicted to continue.

Hunting, especially big game hunting for deer, has a very positive effect on hardwood forest management and vegetative biodiversity. Deer are browsers and eat hardwood vegetation, especially young trees. When deer populations become high, it is possible for the deer to over-browse the forest. Over-browsing can prevent the growth of new trees and reduce species diversity in the forest.

Hunting is a compatible activity on State Forests.

- Decisions and Actions

**1. Legal hunting will continue to be allowed on State Forests except where prohibited by regulation. (See Section X)**

- a. Change the regulations on Labrador Hollow Unique Area to reduce the size of Zone 1. Hunting will be allowed east of Route 91 except for the area surrounding Tinker Falls and the trail to the Falls.
- b. Prohibit hunting with a gun on Camillus Forest Unique Area. Bow hunting will be permitted.
- c. Prohibit hunting with a gun on Split Rock Unique Area. Bow hunting will be permitted.

## ★ Fishing

- Description

Fishing is the taking, killing, netting, capturing or withdrawal of fish by any means. This includes every attempt to take fish, and assisting another person in taking or attempting to take fish.

- Public Input

Upon completion of the Draft Recreation Master Plan for State Forests, five additional public meetings were held at different locations throughout Region 7 during the month

of January 2002. Each meeting offered a brief overview of the draft plan as presented by the Department, followed by a session to receive public comments. All formal comments received at these meetings were recorded, along with hundreds of mail-in comments submitted to DEC following the meetings. Only a few comments pertaining to fishing were identified and recorded as part of the public input sessions.

Between 1988 and 1996, the DEC Region 7 Anglers Survey indicates a 24% decline in the number of anglers fishing within the Region. Many respondents to the Region 7 recreation questionnaire said that fishing on State Forests was important to them.

#### ● Current Opportunities

Fishing opportunities on State Forests are varied. There are many ponds, creeks, streams and some rivers on State Forests. Many of the watercourses are deep and cool, while others are shallow with warmer water. Some of the waters contain native fish populations and others are stocked with fish.

#### ● Environmental Impacts, Constraints and User Conflicts

Improper camping, off-road vehicle use, litter, and the illegal taking of fish are environmental concerns associated with fishing. Fishing is regulated by Article 11 of the Environmental Conservation Law of New York State. Fishing seasons in New York are set by the DEC.

#### ● Analysis

Fishing has a long tradition on the State Forests of Region 7. Legal fishing is a compatible activity on State Forests except where prohibited by regulation.

#### ● Decisions and Actions

**1. Develop accessible fishing piers at Long Pond State Forest (Chenango 35), Nelson Swamp Unique Area and Labrador Hollow Unique Area.** Activities associated with this improvement will be done during the dry season to minimize soil movement into the water. Impacts will be mitigated further by utilizing BMP's to minimize impacts to aquatic resources. Additionally the technical specifications identified at the end of this section will be adhered to.

**2. Enhance fishing access site on Camillus Forest Unique Area as proposed by the Town of Camillus.** This will be a joint project with the Town.

#### Technical Specifications

Technical specifications will be in compliance with ADAAG, including edge protection, 32" high railings, clear floor space and access route from parking lot. Location of fishing piers will comply with Article 15 and Article 24.

Location will be on dry ground, where possible;  
Unnecessary cut and fill will be minimized;  
Location of pilings will be done to minimize disturbance to aquatic vegetation.  
Access points will be located and stabilized to minimize shore erosion and sedimentation.

## ★ Trapping

### ● Description

Trapping is the taking, killing or capturing wildlife with traps, deadfalls and other devices, including the shooting or killing of lawfully trapped animals. Trapping includes all related activities such as placing, setting, staking, checking traps or assisting another person with these activities. Some animals that are trapped in Region 7 are raccoon, fox, skunk, muskrat, mink and beaver. Trapping does not require trails on State Forests and usually occurs near streams and in wet areas away from trails.

### ● Public Input

Upon completion of the Draft Recreation Master Plan for State Forests, five additional public meetings were held at different locations throughout Region 7 during the month of January 2002. Each meeting offered a brief overview of the draft plan as presented by the Department, followed by a session to receive public comments. All formal comments received at these meetings were recorded, along with hundreds of mail-in comments submitted to DEC following the meetings.

Public comments on trapping were very few. The main concern from non trappers was a desire to have stricter regulations in place for trapping on State lands or eliminating trapping all together.

### ● Current Opportunities

#### 1. State Forests

Trapping has a long tradition on the State Forests of Region 7. Trapping has been allowed on all areas except where it is prohibited by regulation. The total acreage in Region 7 where trapping is presently allowed is 198,980 acres.

#### 2. Other

Trapping is allowed on many other State, county, municipal and private properties.

### ● Environmental Impacts, Constraints and User Conflicts

Off-road vehicle use and illegal taking of wildlife are environmental concerns associated with trapping. Trapping is regulated by Article 11 of the Environmental Conservation Law of New York State. Trapping seasons are set by the DEC. In New York State, all

trappers must pass an education course to obtain a license. This course teaches safety, ethics, wildlife management and biology (for a complete reference on trapping, consult Article 11, Title 11 of the New York State Environmental Conservation Law and Chapter 1, subchapter B of Title 6 of the Codes, Rules and Regulations of the State of New York).

In Labrador Hollow Unique Area, trapping is limited to Labrador Hollow Unique Area-Zone 2. Trapping is prohibited in Labrador Hollow Unique Area-Zone1 (see 6 NYCRR Part 190.10(b)).

Trapping in recreational areas of State Forests may conflict with pet owners by inadvertently catching pets in traps. The DEC will continue to conduct workshops to educate trappers on the proper techniques of trapping.

#### ● Analysis

Trapping has been a traditional and effective method of controlling certain fur-bearing populations of animals, especially beaver. The prohibition of trapping would allow an uncontrolled buildup of some animal populations. The recent buildup of the beaver population has backed up water and caused damage to man-made structures and woodlands.

Trapping is the pursuit of a relatively small number of sportsmen. In 1997-98, approximately 9,000 trapping licenses were sold throughout the State. The demand for trapping is expected to remain steady, but there is fluctuation because of fashion trends and the changing fur markets.

Legal trapping is a compatible and suitable activity on State Forests.

#### ● Decisions and Actions

**1. Legal trapping will continue to be allowed on State Forests except where it is prohibited by regulation.** (See Section X)

- a. Change the regulations on Labrador Hollow Unique Area to reduce the size of Zone 1. Trapping will be allowed east of Route 91 except for the area surrounding Tinker Falls and the trail to the Falls.

### ★ **Target Shooting**

#### ● Description

Target shooting is the firing of a weapon (gun or bow) at targets from a predetermined distance, usually for a score based on accuracy. This activity usually occurs at a shooting range specifically for target shooting. These ranges are set up for shooting

competitions and also have practice areas. Target shooting includes trapshooting, skeet shooting and silhouette shooting. On State Forests, target shooting is usually less disciplined. It includes shooting to sight-in guns or to improve the accuracy of the weapon for hunting. There is also shooting using targets such as trees, glass bottles, cardboard boxes, clay pigeons and plastic jugs. This type of shooting does not require a range, but does require safety and aesthetic considerations.

#### ● Public Input

Upon completion of the Draft Recreation Master Plan for State Forests, five additional public meetings were held at different locations throughout Region 7 during the month of January 2002. Each meeting offered a brief overview of the draft plan as presented by the Department, followed by a session to receive public comments. All formal comments received at these meetings were recorded, along with hundreds of mail-in comments submitted to DEC following the meetings.

There was no public input received in favor of target shooting. The Department received only a couple of comments asking that this activity be completely banned on State Forests.

#### ● Current Opportunities

##### 1. State Forests

There are no designated sites for target shooting on State Forests.

##### 2. Other

There are 36 non-DEC operated facilities offering target shooting opportunities in Region 7. Private facilities are the most numerous (21) followed by commercial (10) and other public (5). One half of the total number of facilities are located in Onondaga and Chenango Counties, while an additional 17% are in Cortland County.

#### ● Environmental Impacts, Constraints and User Conflicts

Damage to trees is a problem. A tree is never a proper backstop for shooting. Litter is also a problem. Broken and whole clay pigeons, spent shell casings, live ammunition, broken glass, cardboard and plastic are litter left behind by target shooters. Target shooting as practiced on State Forests may conflict with other activities.

There are at least two provisions of the Environmental Conservation Law (ECL, Section 9-0303) that apply in regard to target shooting on State Forests. The first provision states that no person shall injure or destroy any trees or timber or other property on a State Forest. This provision of the law supports the concept that a tree is not the proper backstop for shooting. The second provision provides that no person shall deposit or leave on State lands any rubbish or other waste material. All debris associated with target shooting fall under this provision and should be removed after target shooting.

## ● Analysis

There are a number of concerns about target shooting. The primary issue with target shooting is safety. Without a proper backstop, projectiles can travel long distances and strike unintended targets. Shooting without knowing where a bullet will strike is the cardinal sin of shooting.

The use of clay pigeons for target shooting on State Forests is a problem. The litter left behind from the broken targets is nearly impossible to clean up and is very unsightly. Target shooting at clay pigeons requires a large open area. These areas are usually not available on State Forests. When shooting at clay pigeons, shot may carry well beyond the immediate area and endanger other users on the State Forests. There are many “Rod and Gun Clubs” and “Sportsmen Clubs” in the Region that offer the opportunity for clay pigeon target shooting.

Target shooting, when done in a safe manner, with no damage to trees, with all shooting debris removed upon completion of the target shooting, and when done with a proper back stop is a compatible activity on State Forests.

There is no data available on the demand for target shooting within the Region and it appears to be seasonal. Most target shooting occurs just before the start of the big game season when hunters are sighting-in their weapons.

## ● Decisions and Actions

**1. Target shooting is allowed on State Forests unless posted against or otherwise restricted.** Target shooting will be allowed if it is conducted in a safe manner and in a safe location. There must be a proper backstop and any litter must be removed. This includes spent shell casings and any other shooting debris. If these guidelines are not followed, target shooting may be restricted to certain areas or prohibited from State Forests.

**2. Target shooting at clay pigeons will be prohibited on State Forests.** Shooting at clay pigeons when done on State Forests may be dangerous to other users and leads to excessive litter which cannot be effectively removed.

**3. Competitive target shooting events will be prohibited on State Forests.** “Rod and Gun Clubs” and “Sportsmen’s Clubs” offer the opportunity for competitive target shooting.

**4. Target shooting will be prohibited on the following areas due to excessive conflicts or environmental impacts.**

- a. Oakley Corners State Forest (Tioga 2).
- b. Sandy Pond Beach Unique Area.
- c. Salmon River Falls Unique Area.

- d. Jenksville State Forest (Tioga 7).
- e. Any area where gun hunting is not allowed. Refer to hunting restrictions.

## ★ Viewing Natural and Cultural Resources

### ● Description

This category includes activities which primarily involve viewing natural or cultural resources. These activities include birding, nature photography, wildlife observation and viewing of cultural or historic resources such as stone walls, cemeteries, or old foundations.

### ● Public Input

People who enjoy viewing natural and cultural resources expressed strong concerns for protecting State Forests. They desire a minimum of disturbance on State Forests and are opposed to off-road motor vehicle use. In general, they tend to view State Forests as places they can go to escape from the daily noise of society and motor vehicles. They expressed conflicts with hunting because they feel their safety is threatened and it prevents them from using State Forests. They are also concerned about trail erosion and the potential impacts of too many people using State Forests.

### ● Current Opportunities

#### 1. State Forests

These activities can be enjoyed on all State Forests. Region 7 State Forests provide a wide variety of habitat conditions and offer a remote setting for these activities. Some of the habitat types found in the Region include sand dunes along Lake Ontario, cliffs, large remote forested areas, meadows, wetlands, bogs, lakes, rivers and ponds. Interpretive trails offer opportunities for viewing natural and cultural resources.

#### 2. Other

Other DEC areas in the Region, besides State Forests, where these activities can be enjoyed include wildlife management areas, Rogers Environmental Education Center in Sherburne and the Salmon River Fish Hatchery in Altmar. In addition, numerous other areas are available for these activities including any park, backyard, roadside area, etc.

### ● Environmental Impacts, Constraints and User Conflicts

Environmental impacts of viewing natural or cultural resources are minimal.

New York Code Rules and Regulations [(6) Part 190.8 (g)] prohibits anyone from removing or destroying resources found on State land. The law also states that songbirds and their nests and other wildlife will not be molested or disturbed at any time except during any open season on these animals. Section 233 of the State Education

law states, in part, that no person shall appropriate, excavate, injure or destroy any object of archaeological and paleontological interest, situated on or under lands owned by the state of New York.

The primary conflicting activities to those who enjoy viewing natural or cultural resources are off-road motorized vehicle use and hunting. The primary concerns relating to off-road motorized vehicles are noise, erosion, and damage to vegetation or wildlife. The primary concern about hunting is that they feel their safety is threatened during hunting season and, therefore, they cannot use State Forests during that period of time.

#### ● Analysis

Viewing natural or cultural resources is compatible with State Forests. State Forests offer large, relatively undisturbed natural areas where people can enjoy nature viewing activities. Forestry activities on State Forests have traditionally created, maintained and protected a wide variety of habitats required for a diversity of wildlife and plant species.

Between 1980 and 1995, the US Fish and Wildlife Service reported that all regions of the country experienced at least a 52% increase in nature viewing activities. In *Outdoor Recreation in the United States*, the US Forest Service reported that bird-watching increased more than any other activity they examined in the National Recreation Survey. The results of this survey indicated a 155% growth in participation in bird-watching between 1982-83 and 1994-95.

The demand for birding, wildlife/nature observation and similar activities is predicted to increase in Region 7 through 2010.

#### ● Decisions with Actions

### **1. Continue to promote the viewing of natural and cultural resources on State Forests.**

#### **★ All-Terrain Vehicles**

#### ● Description

Section 2281 of the Vehicle and Traffic Law of New York State defines an all-terrain vehicle (ATV) as any self-propelled vehicle manufactured primarily for use on off-highway trails or in off-road competitions and that is not more than 70 inches wide and weighs no more than 1,000 pounds dry weight. This includes vehicles with two or more wheels. Snowmobiles are not included and are subject to other regulations.

#### ● Public Input

Upon completion of the Draft Recreation Master Plan for State Forests, five additional public meetings were held at different locations throughout Region 7 during the month of January 2002. Each meeting offered a brief overview of the draft plan as presented by the Department, followed by a session to receive public comments. All formal comments received at these meetings were recorded, along with hundreds of mail-in comments submitted to DEC following the meetings.

Comments received by the Department concerning ATV use on State lands were numerous and varied. Strong sentiments both for and against ATV use were expressed at the public meetings and in the written comments that followed.

Input from ATV riders included a variety of ideas and comments. ATV riders want access to existing trails or would like new trails constructed. They feel that the benefits they receive are not proportional to the registration fees paid. (It should be noted that money is paid to the Department of Motor Vehicles for ATV registration to legally operate an ATV, somewhat similar to registering a car. This fee is not for use of State Forest land.) Off-highway motorcycle (OHM) enthusiasts are looking for trails 100 miles in length with portions of the trail designed specifically for OHM versus three- and four-wheel ATVs. ATV riders are looking for varied terrain and challenges in trails. Hill climbs and terrain courses are a desired part of a trail system.

Additional comments received from ATV riders in the public meetings and questionnaires include the following:

- Allow ATVs on truck trails.
- Develop a facility for camping and ATV riding.
- Allow ATVs on snowmobile trails.
- Allow people to use ATVs to remove game during spring and fall hunting seasons.

The following are responses to the question “*What can DEC do to reduce conflicts?*”

- Supervise ATV riders through use of clubs.
- Install gates to control ATV access.
- Allow clubs to develop separate ATV trails.
- Educate DEC on ATVs.

Comments from those who don't ride ATVs were mixed. Environmental organizations and people who primarily participated in hiking, birding or cross-country skiing tended to be strongly opposed to development of ATV trails. They felt that ATV riding is not compatible with State Forests. Other groups of recreationists tended to have more mixed opinions.

#### ● Current Opportunities

ATVs are only allowed to operate on:

- Highways designated by regulation (for State roads) or local law or ordinance

(for municipal roads) pursuant to the requirements of Vehicle and Traffic Law §2405 (1), requiring that the designating authority determine that it is otherwise impossible for ATV's to gain access to trails or areas adjacent to the highway and posted for ATV use by the State or local authority having jurisdiction over the highway

- On public land pursuant to Vehicle and Traffic Law §2405 (2) where opened by regulation or order and where specifically signed for ATV use. The use of ATV's is prohibited on State lands, except where permitted by the Department (see 6 NYCRR Part 190.8[m]).
- On private land where the operator has permission from the owner or lessee.

### 1. State Forests

On State Forests in Region 7, the only designated ATV routes are for those with mobility impairments who have a permit from the Department. The permits allow the individual to ride only on those routes designated as trails where the public use of other types of motor vehicles is prohibited. See *Roads and Trails Open to Motor Vehicle Use by People With Mobility Impairments*, **page 37**.

Illegal ATV use is common on most State Forests. Some areas have illegally traveled routes that receive significant use, while other areas have only occasional illegal use.

Although ATVs are prohibited on most DEC administered lands, limited opportunities currently do exist in Lewis, St. Lawrence and Jefferson Counties.

### 2. Other

Riding currently occurs in most rural areas. Farm families often use ATVs to accomplish their tasks.

Private and club trails exist in numerous locations. In addition, there are two private commercial ATV facilities in New York State which are open to the public. One private ATV park known as "ATV New York" exists in the Hudson River valley at Modena, NY, southeast of the Catskill Park. The second commercial ATV park known as "Long Meadows ATV Park" is located at Sinclairville, NY, in Chautauqua County.

### ● Environmental Impacts, Constraints and User Conflicts

Environmental impacts from ATV use may include soil erosion, displacement and compaction, noise, disturbance to habitats and destruction to vegetation. Use of ATVs also contributes towards air pollution and leaks of oil and gas can harm water resources.

Public input has indicated ATV use conflicts with other recreational pursuits. For example, ATV riding may conflict with snowmobiling because ATV use can negatively impact groomed and packed snowmobile trails.

Illegal use does occur by riding on highways not posted for ATV use, on private property

without permission of the owner, and on State Forests where there are no designated trails. Use of ATVs is governed by Vehicle and Traffic Law (§2405), Environmental Conservation Law, and DEC Rules and Regulations (6 NYCRR Section 190.8[m]).

#### ● Analysis

The New York State Off-Road Vehicle Association (NYSORVA) reports that currently there are six motorized trail riding clubs within the Region 7 counties. They also report an estimated 142,000+ ATVs in use in the State during 1998. Approximately 47,900 trail bikes were reported in use during 1997.

Information from New York State Department of Motor Vehicles indicates that participation in ATV riding has fluctuated over the years. Numbers of ATVs registered in 1990 compared with 1997 (the most current data available) show either no growth or a decrease in participation in Broome, Chenango, Cortland and Oswego counties. All counties show a strong increase in numbers of registered ATVs between 1995 and 1997 (see **Appendix 5**).

Advertising in sportsmen/outdoor magazines and TV programs has resulted in a growing number of machines and riders seeking riding opportunities. It is expected that demand for this activity will continue to increase.

Prior to 1983, DEC regulations allowed motor vehicles (including four-wheel-drive trucks, motorcycles and ATVs) anywhere on State Forests except where there were signs prohibiting such use. Unsuitable areas were signed to prohibit motor vehicle use. This approach led to widespread use of motor vehicles on State Forests resulting in serious rutting and erosion problems in many areas. The signs prohibiting motor vehicle use were often removed by the public, making it difficult to enforce the law restricting use in certain areas. In response to this problem, the regulations were changed in 1983 to allow motor vehicle use only on signed roads and trails or through a permit issued by the Department (see 6 NYCRR Section 190.8[m] and Vehicle and Traffic Law §2405). Appropriate roads and trails were then signed for motor vehicles to conform with the new law and to accommodate local use. Signing these roads and trails created short sections of designated trails. This did not satisfy the recreational demand for a long-distance loop trail system. The lack of mileage on the short trail sections also contributed to illegal off-trail use.

In 1985, a loop trail for ATV use was established on New Michigan State Forest (Chenango 5 & 24). The trail was approximately 20 miles long and it received much use. ATV riders eventually became dissatisfied with the trail because it was considered too short and there were no other trail systems to ride. ATV riders desired a longer trail similar to the Brookfield Trail system which contains 59 miles of off-road trails on five State Forests and includes camping facilities. The loop trail on New Michigan State Forest was closed in 1988 due to not meeting the public demand, excessive mud holes and soil erosion.

ATV trails were also established in Cortland County in 1985. A 6.5 mile trail was established on the Morgan Hill State Forest (Cortland 4) and a 3.5 mile trail was established on the Taylor Valley State Forest (Cortland 2). Both of these trails were signed for use by motor vehicles weighing less than 1,500 lbs.

In 1991, an assessment of both trails revealed significant environmental problems. The trails were eroding, badly rutted and contained numerous mud holes. In the short span of 6 years, the trails were in need of either relocation or complete rehabilitation to make them acceptable for use. In addition, many unauthorized or illegal trails had been established by trail users. These unauthorized trails were unacceptable for use due to their environmental impacts. Both of the trails in Cortland County were closed for motor vehicle use in 1991 due to their excessive deterioration from use which caused unacceptable environmental impacts.

ATV riding was also allowed through permits issued to clubs for competitive events on State Forests. The permits allowed trails to be established and signed for temporary use during the event. This led to problems as the public would ride ATVs on the signed trail before the event. After the race, the trail markers were removed and water diversion structures were constructed to prevent erosion on the trail. A visible trail exists to this day, and it continues to attract illegal use. Illegal use by local ATV and motorcycle riders has resulted in damage to the water diversion structures and has caused soil erosion.

In 1986, Article 48-b of the Vehicle and Traffic Law was established which required all ATVs to be registered for a ten dollar fee with 50% of the fee allocated to the New York State ATV Trail Development and Maintenance Fund. The law specified that no more than 25% of the money in this fund could be made available to the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation and the DEC for ATV trail development and maintenance on State lands. The counties were also to be given funds to compensate them for the costs associated with ATV trail development and maintenance. In 1990, the State legislature abolished the fund and used the money to balance the budget. ATV and off-road motorcycle riders are still required to pay the ten dollar registration fee despite the lack of a dedicated fund.

In 1993, the Department issued a position paper regarding all-terrain vehicles on State reforestation areas. The paper states that an ATV trail system is consistent with ECL. However, the Division of Lands and Forests must determine whether a proposed trail is compatible with the natural resource as well as with administrative, cultural and recreational demands and uses. This paper led to the examination of the State Forests for a location to potentially develop an ATV trail system.

An ATV trail system is the most difficult type of trail system to properly locate and develop on State Forests due to the potential environmental impacts, constraints and the possibility of conflicts associated with the activity and the desire by ATV riders for a long-distance loop trail system. Many constraints limit the number of forests which are potentially available for the development of a trail system and include:

- Size of the forest area or group of forests - An ATV trail system suitable for day use must be at least 30-40 miles long. The area under consideration for trail development should be at least 5,000 acres or larger to accommodate this size of a trail system.
- Design requirements for a suitable trail - The 1993 position paper stated that any consideration for trails in New York will stay within standards established by the US Forest Service. The paper also stated that all trail locations should have stable soils and avoid steep or wet areas. Therefore, it is critical that the area chosen for a potential trail system have few areas of poorly drained soils. Otherwise, portions of a trail system on poorly drained soils need costly improvements to the trail surface and drainage to prevent those areas from becoming muddy or eroded. The position paper also required that critical wildlife areas and significant habitats be avoided. Establishing a trail on poorly drained soils without improvements to prevent trail erosion is unacceptable to the Department.
- Potential conflicts with other recreationists - Recreationists who value and use State Forests because they provide places where one can experience solitude are opposed to the development of ATV trails because of concerns such as noise, pollution, disturbance to wildlife and ground or vegetation impacts.
- Potential conflicts with neighbors of State Forests - People who live near State Forests often choose to live there because it is a relatively quiet, undisturbed location. They are often opposed to the development of ATV trails because of increased noise and disturbance levels. Neighbors also are frequently concerned that ATV trail riders on State Forests may ride off the trail and go across the property line onto their land.
- Air and noise pollution - There are varying opinions about the environmental impacts of the air pollution produced by ATVs. Presently, it is not possible to measure air pollution caused specifically by ATV's. Noise pollution is generally an issue of concern for those who currently use or live near State Forests as described above. The 1993 position paper states that machines will be monitored for compliance with muffler requirements and a minimum 1,000 foot buffer zone must be left between the trail and neighboring private structures. Leaving a 1,000 foot buffer zone from private structures precludes ATV trail construction, as it is nearly impossible to accomplish due to the pattern of ownership of State Forests and private lands.

The draft Treaty Line Unit Management Plan proposed the development of an 80- to 100-mile ATV trail system. The Treaty Line Unit consists of Chenango 9 & 15 and Broome 2 in Region 7 and Delaware 2, 4, 5, 6 and 9 in Region 4. This unit was chosen as the most feasible location in Region 7 to develop an ATV trail system. The proposal was withdrawn from the final plan due to significant public opposition, unresolved environmental issues of air and noise pollution, potential conflicts with other users and neighbors, and the impact of the trail system causing significant socially unacceptable changes in the character of the Treaty Line State Forests and surrounding area.

The proposed trail system included a number of measures to mitigate the impacts

through trail design, layout, patrol and maintenance. The trail proposal was strongly supported by ATV trail groups. Environmentalist groups were strongly opposed. Other recreational users were greatly divided in support of and opposition to the trail proposal. Hikers and birders generally opposed the trail proposal, while other recreationists more often supported the trail proposal. Most local residents opposed the ATV trail proposal even though the trail system would potentially have provided an economic boost to the region through increased tourism and growth of associated small businesses. Comments in opposition to the trail mentioned concerns over increased traffic, trespassing, safety, noise and environmental degradation.

In addition, the 1993 DEC position paper states “all cost associated with an ATV Trail must come from an ATV Trail maintenance and development fund. No costs will be directly charged to Department resources.” Although such a fund once existed in New York, it no longer does. Recently, attempts have been made by interest groups to reestablish an ATV trail fund through new legislation. Without an ATV trail development and maintenance fund, sufficient staffing to properly administer, maintain and patrol the proposed ATV trail system was not guaranteed.

The 1993 Department position paper (Commissioner Jorling approved) stated that ATVs would be allowed on State reforestation areas if they were both environmentally compatible and socially acceptable. This criteria was used in the evaluation of the Treaty Line ATV trail system proposal.

#### ● Decision with Actions

**1. Development of an ATV trail system that is sited wholly or substantially on State Forests must be evaluated through the Unit Management Planning process, as would specific cross through trail proposals.** The inclusion of an ATV trail in a UMP and the subsequent establishment of any trail, could only occur if it does not compromise the protection of the natural resources of the Unit nor significantly interfere with other established recreational areas. Any such trail proposal must comply with Department policy, regulations, law and SEQRA.

The factors supporting the decision are:

- The Treaty Line Unit Management Plan proposed an ATV trail system at the most feasible location within the Region. The proposed trail system was withdrawn from the final plan because of numerous factors described above. The many factors which led to the removal of the proposed ATV trail from the Treaty Line Unit Management Plan also apply to the other State Forests in the Region. Therefore, an acceptable location for the development of an ATV trail system wholly on Region 7 State Forests does not currently exist.
- Development of an ATV trail system could potentially alter the character of a State Forest area due to increased noise and vehicle traffic from trail users. The relatively

quiet undisturbed character of State Forests is highly valued by those who live in neighboring communities or near the State Forests in Region 7.

- The mission of the DEC Division of Lands and Forests is “to care for and enhance the lands, forests and natural resources in the State of New York for the benefit of all through the care, custody, and control of State-owned lands, and promotion of the use and protection of all natural resources.” This is a broad mission which reflects that DEC has many other responsibilities beyond satisfying public recreation desires. Rather, recreation opportunities are provided on DEC lands that are compatible with other mandated and permitted uses of those lands. Recreation development on State Forests is also limited by the numerous constraints previously described in this plan. Other agencies responsible for providing recreation opportunities on public lands include the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation and county and local parks departments.
- There is currently no dedicated funding source to support an ATV trail system. The high costs for construction, maintenance and operation of an ATV trail system on public lands are best assumed by an agency with a formal fee structure and on-site staffing.
- Poorly drained soils, commonly found on many State Forests, are unsuitable for trail development. Marginally acceptable soils would require extensive and costly improvements to the trail surface and drainage to prevent those areas from becoming muddy or eroded.
- The opportunity exists in Region 7 for commercial facilities or clubs to develop ATV trails on private lands to fulfill this public recreational desire. Private lands may be better suited for this type of trail development since there are fewer constraints that would restrict how the trail is developed and maintained.

**2. In the event another entity is establishing a public ATV trail system, and a Region 7 State Forest is needed to serve as a connecting link, the Department will evaluate and consider the proposal.** If it is determined to be environmentally compatible a connecting trail could be established on the State Forest on existing public forest access roads or trails.

The designation of individual roads or trails for public ATV use on State Forests in Region 7 may be considered if the road or trail serves to connect already designated ATV trails open to the public. Such designation shall only occur through the amendment or adoption of a unit management plan and full SEQRA review of the proposed designation.

**3. If future legislation is passed regarding ATV use on State Forests; or a statewide ATV policy is adopted, the Region 7 Recreation Plan will comply with the legislation or policy.** If applicable, the decisions regarding ATV use on State Forests will incorporate the change in policy or the legislative mandate. The Recreation Plan will be amended as appropriate and any changes would comply with SEQRA.

## ★ Off-Highway Vehicles

### ● Description

An off-highway vehicle (OHV) is designed for use off highways, weighs more than 1,000 pounds, and is wider than 70 inches. An OHV may also be designed for and registered for highway use. An OHV differs from most vehicles because it is usually a four-wheel-drive vehicle. This means it gets traction from all four wheels. This makes the vehicle capable of traveling on almost every type of terrain.

Since most OHVs are four-wheel-drive vehicles, “four-wheeling” is the term enthusiasts often use to describe the sport of off-highway vehicle use. Although not all OHV users are looking to test the limits of their machines, many would simply rather ride than walk regardless of road condition and suitability. Some hunters often seek to drive their vehicles as far as possible into the forest. Some simply like to drive out of sight for their planned activity.

### ● Public Input

Upon completion of the Draft Recreation Master Plan for State Forests, five additional public meetings were held at different locations throughout Region 7 during the month of January 2002. Each meeting offered a brief overview of the draft plan as presented by the Department, followed by a session to receive public comments. All formal comments received at these meetings were recorded, along with hundreds of mail-in comments submitted to DEC following the meetings.

There were no public comments received in regards to OHV use on State lands.

OHV enthusiasts want to have roads and trails open for their use. See **page 34** for discussion on *Forest Roads*.

### ● Current Opportunities

#### 1. State Forests

Except for permitted use by individuals with mobility impaired disabilities, there is no off-highway vehicle use allowed on State Forests. On State Forests, vehicle use on any road other than a public forest access road is illegal unless there are signs permitting this use (6NYCRR Part 190.8(m)).

#### 2. Other

Only one off-road vehicle trail is known to exist in Region 7. It is located on private property near Skaneateles and provides 0.5 mile of trail on 1.8 acres.

### ● Environmental Impacts, Constraints and User Conflicts

Environmental impacts include rutting, soil erosion and compaction, noise, air pollution, disturbance and destruction of habitat, and damage and destruction of trees and other vegetation. Most motorized recreation conflicts with non-motorized forms of recreation, such as hunting, horseback riding, hiking, mountain biking, running, nature observation (wildlife) and cross-country skiing. Off-highway motor vehicle use also conflicts with skiers and snowmobilers because wheel ruts destroy the packed and groomed trails.

#### ● Analysis

Prior to 1983, motorized vehicles were allowed off road on State Forests except where prohibited by sign. On January 1, 1983, the regulation was changed. Motorized vehicles are now prohibited from going off-road except where allowed by sign.

The environmental impacts, conflicts with other users of State Forests and the current policies, rules and regulations clearly indicate that off-highway vehicle use, except under permit, is unacceptable on State Forests.

#### ● Decisions and Actions

**1. No changes to policy, or to rules and regulations are recommended.** Off-highway vehicle use is prohibited and no trails will be established.

### ★ **Boating**

#### ● Description

This activity includes canoeing, kayaking and use of motorized water craft.

#### ● Public Input

Upon completion of the Draft Recreation Master Plan for State Forests, five additional public meetings were held at different locations throughout Region 7 during the month of January 2002. Each meeting offered a brief overview of the draft plan as presented by the Department, followed by a session to receive public comments. All formal comments received at these meetings were recorded, along with hundreds of mail-in comments submitted to DEC following the meetings.

Only a few comments were received regarding boating on State lands. They addressed the use of personal watercraft or jet-skis with concerns to eliminate or tightly regulate their use. Other concerns voiced included regulating motor size and speed limits on waterways that allow motorized watercraft.

Previous to the public meetings, respondents to the Recreation Questionnaire felt that canoeing had high to moderate importance for provision on State Forests.

● Current Opportunities

1. State Forests

There are 12 ponds, lakes and reservoirs in Region 7 that are at least 25 acres in size and are located either entirely or partially on DEC managed lands.

The following is a list of the ponds and lakes 25 acres or larger in Region 7 with access through State Forest land. All of these water bodies except Lake Ontario, Marsh Pond, North Pond and the Salmon River Reservoir are located entirely on State land.

<u>Water Body</u>	<u>Site</u>	<u>Location</u>
Whaley Pond	56 acres	McDonough State Forest (Chenango 1)
Balsam Lake	146 acres	Balsam Swamp State Forest (Chenango 17 and 34)
Long Pond	117 acres	Long Pond State Forest (Chenango 35)
Round Pond	28 acres	Long Pond State Forest (Chenango 35)
Woodland Pond	36 acres	Charles E. Baker State Forest (Madison 1)
Stoney Pond	44 acres	Stoney Pond State Forest (Madison 13)
Marsh Pond	28 acres	Marsh Pond State Forest (Broome 4)
Nanticoke Lake	50 acres	Nanticoke Lake Unique Area
Labrador Pond	120 acres	Labrador Hollow Unique Area
Salmon River Reservoir	2,000+ acres	Hall Island State Forest (Oswego 9 and 10)
North Pond	75 acres	Klondike State Forest (Oswego 3)
Lake Ontario	7,340 sq. miles	Sandy Island Beach & Sandy Pond Beach UA

## 2. Other

There are 162 non-State Forest facilities in Region 7 offering car-top and/or ramp launches for boating access to local water bodies. Commercial facilities are the most numerous (89) and offer the largest number of ramps (87). Public facilities are the next most numerous (61) and offer the largest number of car-top launches (35). Private facilities are relatively uncommon (12) offering only one car-top launch and 14 ramps between them.

The majority of non-State Forest facilities providing boating access in Region 7 are located in Onondaga (21%) and Oswego (20%) Counties. Another 15% are located in Cayuga County and 14% in Madison County. Most car-top launches are found in Onondaga, Oswego and Chenango Counties, while ramps tend to be more prevalent in Cayuga, Madison and Tompkins Counties.

### ● Environmental Impacts, Constraints and User Conflicts

Environmental impacts of non-motorized craft are minimal. Impacts of motorized craft include noise, shoreline damage, and air and water pollution. Conflicts occur between motorized and non-motorized activities. Due to the unique characteristics of each pond or lake, use is generally regulated on a case-by-case basis during Unit Management Plan preparation or by Environmental Conservation Law.

Electric and gas-powered motors are permitted on water bodies unless otherwise posted against such use. No gas-powered motors are permitted on Stoney Pond, Labrador Pond and Nanticoke Lake.

Gas-powered engines, overnight mooring or beaching of any boat, swimming, and camping are prohibited by sign at Nanticoke Lake.

### ● Analysis

Environmental impacts of non-motorized craft are minimal. Impacts of motorized craft can be greater, but due to the smaller size, limited access and shallower nature of most water bodies on State Forests, relatively few motorized crafts use State Forest waterbodies, therefore associated impacts are diminished.

Most of the ponds on State Forests are man-made and were originally built for waterfowl nesting. Most ponds are spring fed so there is usually not a great flow of water. The water is normally high in the spring after snowmelt. Many of the ponds have been stocked with fish. Because of their small size, these ponds are greatly affected by pollution. The dikes of the ponds are especially susceptible to erosion from wave action. These ponds are typically shallow and contain stumps from dead trees. These can be a hazard to navigation of any boat.

It is predicted that the demand for boating will increase slightly in Region 7.

Boating is a compatible use of State Forest waters unless there are regulations

prohibiting it.

● Decisions and Actions

**1. Provide boating access for individuals with disabilities at Long Pond on Long Pond State Forest (Chenango 35).**

a. A boat launch currently exists at Long Pond and will be upgraded to comply with ADAAG. This accessible boat launch will complement the campsites also to be constructed to ADAAG standards at Long Pond. The boat launch parking area will be reviewed and modified, if necessary, to comply with ADAAG.

**2. Construct an accessible pier at Labrador Pond.** The pier will include a transfer station allowing a person with a disability to get in and out of a boat.

**3. Monitor and evaluate parking and boat launching on Hall Island State Forest (Oswego 10) and if necessary, take remedial action.**

**4. Redesign the Stoney Pond boat launch peninsula site on Stoney Pond State Forest (Madison 13) to accommodate multiple recreational uses.**

a. A boat launch currently exists at Stoney Pond and will be upgraded to comply with ADAAG standards. This accessible boat launch will also include an accessible fishing platform. The boat launch parking area will be reviewed and modified, if necessary, to comply with ADAAG. Access will be restricted to temporary vehicle use for loading and unloading purposes. The northern tip of the current launch site will be reclaimed to promote natural vegetation.

**5. Propose regulatory amendments (based on NY Code Rules and Regulations Title 6, Part 59 and Part 60.2) to prohibit the use of gas-powered motors on any water body with less than 25 surface acres and on:**

- a. Round Pond (Long Pond State Forest)
- b. Whaley Pond (McDonough State Forest)
- c. Long Pond (Long Pond State Forest)
- d. Woodland Pond (Charles E. Baker State Forest)

Water bodies that are less than 25 acres cannot support the use of gas-powered motors, due to potential conflicts with other users and uses; and due to potential environmental degradation.

**6. Propose regulatory amendments to prohibit gas-powered motors greater than 25 hp on Balsam Pond.**

★ **Swimming**

● Description

Swimming occurs in streams, rivers, ponds and lakes on State Forests.

● Public Input

Public input received for the development of this plan did not include any comments from swimmers. However, swimming does occur in the larger water bodies on State Forests.

There were no reported conflicts with swimming and other activities from the public input collected for the development of this plan.

● Current Opportunities

1. State Forests

The most popular area for swimming on State Forests in Region 7 is Sandy Pond Beach on the east end of Lake Ontario. Thousands of people use this area for swimming and sunbathing. Other popular areas receiving high use include the Salmon River, Salmon River Reservoir, Balsam Lake, and Long Pond. People also swim in the other ponds, streams, rivers and lakes on State Forests.

2. Other

Numerous opportunities exist for public swimming at State, county or town parks.

● Environmental Impacts, Constraints and User Conflicts

Environmental impacts are greatest at those areas which receive heavy use such as Sandy Pond Beach. Impacts include litter, damage to dunes and dune vegetation, shoreline erosion, destruction of vegetation, and disturbance to beach and dune wildlife.

Swimming, while not encouraged on State Forests, is not a prohibited activity except on some unique areas and on Stoney Pond. Restrictions on activities associated with swimming are described below. For additional regulations governing activities at unique areas, see *Special Areas Regulations*. (See Section X)

1. Bathing or swimming is prohibited at Labrador Hollow Unique Area.
2. Trespassing on the dunes is prohibited by sign at Sandy Island Beach Unique Area and Sandy Pond Beach Unique Area.
3. At Sandy Pond Beach Unique Area, all vehicles of any kind are prohibited and dogs must be kept on a leash.
4. At Salmon River Falls Unique Area, jumping into the river from any portion of the gorge is prohibited. Swimming is also prohibited on this property.
5. Swimming is prohibited in Stoney Pond

● Analysis

Open bodies of water offer a special attraction for people, especially during periods of hot summer weather. While swimming has not been promoted on State Forests, certain areas such as Sandy Pond Beach receive intensive public use during the summer season. Swimming in places without lifeguard supervision has the potential to be a dangerous activity. Since lifeguard supervision is not provided on State Forests, all persons who swim are responsible for all risks associated with their activity. Swimming is a compatible use of State Forests except where prohibited.

- Decisions and Actions

- 1. The current status of swimming on State Forests will remain unchanged.**

Swimming, while not encouraged, will be allowed on State Forests except on those areas where it is prohibited. All swimming on State Forests is at the swimmer's risk. By regulation, swimming is not permitted at Stoney Pond and Papish Pond.

## ★ Dog Training and Dog Field Trials

- Description

Dog training involves training dogs to hunt and retrieve. Training may involve the shooting of blanks to accustom the dog to firing of guns, setting up situations that may be encountered while hunting and teaching the dog obedience to commands. A field trial is a competition to test the skills of the hunting dog. Both of these activities require a large and generally open area.

- Public Input

Upon completion of the Draft Recreation Master Plan for State Forests, five additional public meetings were held at different locations throughout Region 7 during the month of January 2002. Each meeting offered a brief overview of the draft plan as presented by the Department, followed by a session to receive public comments. All formal comments received at these meetings were recorded, along with hundreds of mail-in comments submitted to DEC following the meetings.

No comments were received regarding dog training or field trials on State Forests. Several comments did address concerns for allowing dog sledding or skijoring on hiking or cross-country ski trails.

There has been little demand for either dog training or field trials on State Forests in Region 7.

- Current Opportunities

1. State Forests

Opportunities are limited on State Forests because dog training and field trials require

large unwooded areas which are generally not found on State Forests. Permits have been issued at Long Pond State Forest (Chenango 35).

## 2. Other

There is one DEC facility in Region 7 at Three Rivers Wildlife Management Area in Baldwinsville. Here, courses have been laid out for pointing and flushing dogs as well as for retrievers. A clubhouse has been built to provide a headquarters area for the field trials.

There are four non-DEC facilities in Region 7 offering opportunities for dog field trials. Commercial facilities account for 50% of that total. Two of the facilities are located in Oswego County, one in Chenango County and another in Tompkins County.

### ● Environmental Impacts, Constraints and User Conflicts

Neither of these activities requires trails. Impacts are minimal but include noise from vehicles, dogs, whistles and gunfire, and compaction and disturbance of soil where there are parking and staging areas. Dog training and field trials can conflict with other nearby recreational activities because of the noise and from the increased traffic on the roads and on the land. Dog training and field trials may disturb wildlife due to the hunting and retrieving activity.

The law concerning dog training can be found in the Environmental Conservation Law, Section 11-0923, "Dogs." Field trials are governed by Environmental Conservation Law, Section 11-0927, "Field Trials." This law deals with conduct of field trials in regards to liberated game, liberated artificially propagated game, led or confined game legally possessed, or wild game.

### ● Analysis

There are at least four facilities in Region 7 which offer opportunities for dog field trials. There has been little demand for either dog training or field trails on State Forests in Region 7. State Forests are usually forested areas with little open ground. There are better opportunities for dog training and field trials available elsewhere. These activities are a compatible activity on State Forests where there are large unwooded areas.

### ● Decisions and Actions

**1. No change is recommended in the current law or rule and regulations on dog training and field trials.** Field trials and dog training may be permitted under a TRP where appropriate.

**2. Permanent facilities for dog training and field trials will not be built on State Forests.**

## ★ Hang Gliding

### ● Description

Hang gliding is the use of a rigid-framed, wing-shaped glider for non-powered flight. The pilot flies the glider in the prone position. Launch sites are located on ridge tops where thermal updrafts are utilized for flight.

### ● Public Input

Upon completion of the Draft Recreation Master Plan for State Forests, five additional public meetings were held at different locations throughout Region 7 during the month of January 2002. Each meeting offered a brief overview of the draft plan as presented by the Department, followed by a session to receive public comments. All formal comments received at these meetings were recorded, along with hundreds of mail-in comments submitted to DEC following the meetings.

Specific requests were received to reopen the hang gliding spot at Thatcher's Pinnacle on Danby State Forest (Tompkins 1).

Other comments focused on the need for tighter hunting restrictions around the current hang gliding site at Labrador Hollow Unique Area.

Hang gliding enthusiasts do not require many trails, but are willing to help other users maintain existing trails. It is predicted that the demand for hang gliding, while low, will remain steady.

### ● Current Opportunities

#### 1. State Forests

Participation in this activity on State Forests in Region 7 is limited by topography. Launch sites must be located on ridge tops where thermal updrafts can be utilized for flight. There is currently one site on the Labrador Hollow Unique Area.

#### 2. Other

Hang gliding sites exist in the Binghamton area and near Highland Forest in Onondaga County.

#### 3. Outside of Region 7

Hang gliding opportunities exist in the Elmira area, and at Farmington, Fishers, Hammondsport, Cohocton, Honeoye Lake, Dansville, Italy, Perkinsville and South Bristol.

### ● Environmental Impacts, Constraints and User Conflicts

Environmental impacts include maintaining a cleared area for a launch site, constructing an access road for vehicles to transport flying apparatus to the launch site, and maintaining a cleared landing site for emergency landings.

A temporary revocable permit is required before the launch site may be used for hang gliding and a TRP will only be issued to a hang gliding club recognized by the US Hang Gliding Association. The TRP further stipulates that each club member must be certified by the club as being qualified and competent to use a hang glider to gain access to the launch site. Hang gliding may conflict with private property owners when there is a landing on private property without permission. Also, traffic on launch site access roads may present liability and safety issues. The impact of maintenance is minimal.

#### ● Analysis

Where the proper site exists and an acceptable access route to the site is available, hang gliding is an acceptable use of State Forests. Hang gliding launch sites will continue to be maintained on State Forest land.

#### ● Decisions and Actions

##### **1. Continue to provide a hang gliding site on State Forests in Region 7.**

a. There is one active launch site on Labrador Hollow Unique Area. This launch will be retained if club sponsorship continues.

b. The inactive launch site on Danby State Forest (Tompkins 1) will not be reopened. This site was established in the early 1970's but has become inactive because it has no access for vehicles. The old access road was very steep and had to be closed to restrict erosion. Construction of a new access road and the reopening of the site for hang gliding was being considered by the Department; however, the landing zone for this site is on the privately-owned Lindsay-Parsons Biodiversity Preserve. The owner (Finger Lakes Land Trust) does not want the property used as a landing site.

##### **2. Hang gliding clubs must obtain a TRP to use a State Forest launch site.**

a. Individuals will not be issued a permit.

b. Hang gliding clubs will be required to maintain the launch sites and access roads to the launch sites.

#### ● Technical Specifications

The launch sites are already established. The access road to the launch sites will be gated to control unauthorized flight by non-club members. Travel on the roads will be kept to a minimum by the limitations imposed by the TRP. Sponsoring clubs will be responsible for maintenance of launch sites and access roads through the TRP. Parking facilities will be provided.

- Associated Uses

The Finger Lakes Trail passes by both launch sites. The launch sites are utilized as scenic overlooks for hikers.

## ★ **Orienteering**

- Description

Orienteering is a sport of navigation using maps and a compass. The object is to run, walk, ski or snowshoe to a series of points shown on a map in the shortest amount of time.

- Public Input

People who participate in orienteering expressed concerns about trail erosion and sections of trails located in wet areas. They supported shared-use trails and also wanted better maps and information about State Forests.

- Current Opportunities

1. State Forests

Participation in this activity occurs on numerous State Forests.

2. Other

Participation in this activity occurs on numerous areas other than State Forests

- Environmental Impacts, Constraints and User Conflicts

Environmental impacts are minimal, but may include litter and illegal camping.

Organized orienteering events require a temporary revocable permit.

Potential conflicts are minor but include disturbing hunters and wildlife during legal hunting seasons. Conflicts may occur if orienteering participants walk on cross-country ski trails. Walking on a ski trail is likely to ruin the track set by skiers.

- Analysis

Orienteering is a compatible use of State Forests. State Forests provide ideal areas for orienteering because they are large and remote forested areas where participants can travel long distances while remaining on public land. At the current use levels, this is a low-impact activity which causes few conflicts with other activities on State Forests.

- Decisions and Actions

## 1. Orienteering is allowed on State Forests.

- a. Competitive and organized orienteering events require a TRP from the Department.

## ★ Paint Ball Activities

### ● Description

Paint ball games are combat simulation games where the participant uses an airgun for a weapon. The airgun, powered by CO2 cartridges, fires a paint ball at high velocity which splatters on impact. Participants wear safety equipment, including goggles, ear protection and vests. Neutral safety zones, where no weapons can be fired and safety equipment can be removed, are established on the playing fields. Paint ball activities are generally done in organized group events but can be conducted individually.

### ● Public Input

No public input was received.

### ● Current Opportunities

#### 1. State Forests

There are no permitted sites on State Forests in the region.

#### 2. Other

One site exists on private land in Madison County.

### ● Environmental Impacts, Constraints and User Conflicts

Paint ball activities may conflict with other uses on the State Forests. Conflicts between other users and management activities are possible. Environmental impacts include litter, intensive use of a small number of acres and aesthetics.

To conduct timber sales, the Department uses tree marking paint to mark trees for harvest. Paint on trees as a result of paint ball activity could easily be mistaken for tree marking paint. This confusion could alter timber harvests and have a long-term negative impact on the forest.

There is a potential hazard to other recreational users. Non-participants could be seriously injured if they were inadvertently shot by a paint ball. Paint ball activities would require exclusive use of an area which is not appropriate for State Forests.

### ● Analysis

The use of paint ball guns on State Forests is not an appropriate activity due to safety

concern with other users and potential conflicts with management activities.

- Decisions and Actions

- 1. Prohibit the use of paint ball guns and related activities on State Forests.**

## ★ Dog Sledding

- Description

Dog sledding is an activity involving the use of several dogs pulling a person on a sled or a wheeled cart. Dog sledding is a limited-use activity on State Forests in the Region.

There are currently no restrictions on dog sledding on State Forests.

- Decisions and Actions

- 1. During snow covered conditions, dog sledding will be prohibited on cross-country ski trails but allowed elsewhere on State Forests unless prohibited by sign. At times of the year without snow, dog sledding is restricted to public forest access roads and abandoned roads only.** If this activity increases and creates environmental or user conflicts, the policy regarding usage will be reevaluated.

## G. Recreational Initiatives

- 1. Salmon River Greenway**

- Description

The Salmon River Greenway includes nine State Forest areas; one unique area; eight fishing access parking areas and associated footpaths; 12 miles of public fishing rights on the Lower Salmon River; and conservation easements covering 1059 acres (15 miles of river and shoreline and two islands) located in the Towns of Redfield, Orwell, Albion, Richland, and the villages of Altmar and Pulaski in Oswego County. Altogether, these areas total approximately 15,288 acres.

As a part of the management planning process, DEC participated in a series of four public meetings. The meetings were sponsored by the Salmon River Greenway Coordinating Committee and were attended by more than 170 people. Potential environmental, land use and economic impacts created by proposed corridor developments were identified. Actions that corridor communities could take to minimize negative impacts and maximize local economic benefits were also identified at the meetings. A summary report utilized the input from the meetings to identify the following

community goals:

1. Protect and enhance the natural landscape and open space environment.
2. Protect and enhance the quality of life for corridor residents.
3. Promote economic development by improving recreation and tourism facilities, services and programs.

The improvements in facilities and activities proposed for the Salmon River Greenway have been designed to assist local communities to attain their goal of expanding recreational interest in the area. They will also realize forestry, fishing, and broad recreation-related economic development opportunities while conserving the scenic and environmental character of the State lands of the river corridor. Finally, the communities will use the improvements and activities to preserve their way and quality of life. Toward this end, DEC has derived three primary objectives for meeting the goals outlined previously.

● Decisions and Actions

**1. Upgrade existing facilities.**

**2. Begin construction of a Greenway Trail System on conservation easement lands.** Restrictions associated with the conservation easement require this trail be for foot use only.

**3. Introduce legislation regarding the designation of and establishment of regulations for three unique areas and one day-use area within the Greenway.** Existing facilities within the Salmon River Greenway which will receive priority attention include:

● **Hall Island State Forest (Oswego 10)**

- a. Relocate and maintain South Shore multipurpose (snowmobiling/cross-country/skiing/hiking) trail.
- b. Develop 12-15 designated campsites, accessible by water only, and to be occupied under permit only.
- c. Upgrade two designated campsites on Burdick Island and two campsites on Huckleberry Island to be occupied under permit only.
- d. Map trails and campsites and develop informational brochure.
- e. Construct new parking area at end of Gay Road (McChesney parcel).
- f. Develop connector trail to South Shore trail.
- g. Consider relocating existing boat launch at the intersection of County Routes 17 and 27 to a more appropriate location. Turn current boat launch area into a car-top only launch site.

- **Redfield Day-Use Area (Oswego County)**
  - a. Develop rules and regulations for area.
  - b. Close access road and designate as accessible trail.
  - c. Develop short hiking trail along bank at the water's edge.
  - d. Stabilize eroding banks.
  - e. Develop 3-5 "common" areas along the shore for picnicking.
  
- **Salmon River Falls Unique Area (Oswego County)**
  - a. Upgrade existing trail access to the top of the falls.
  - b. Extend accessible trail toward dam to point where terrain precludes further development.
  - c. Gravel parking lot, complete construction of kiosk.
  - d. Develop rules and regulations for the area.
  - e. Build auxiliary parking lot for oversize vehicles.
  - f. Develop area brochure.
  - g. Gate Wooliver Road to discourage illegal off-road vehicle use.
  
- **O'Hara State Forest (Oswego 9)**
  - a. Designate existing forest access road as ADAAG accessible trail.
  - b. Construct 3-4 car parking area.
  - c. Gate access road.
  
- **Coey Hill Area - Salmon River State Forest (Oswego 8)**
  - a. Enhance public access to trail system from CCC Road.
  - b. Construct a cross-country ski trail from Little America to Coey Hill.
  
- **CCC Road - Salmon River State Forest (Oswego 8)**
  - a. Upgrade 3-4 informal campsites and designate them for use by permit only.
  
- **Chateaugay State Forest (Oswego 4 & 5)**
  - a. Upgrade eight miles of existing trail system. Develop two trailheads with kiosks.
  - b. Develop an additional 4-6 miles of multipurpose (cross-country skiing/hiking) trail.
  - c. Rebuild existing lean-to.
  - d. Continue the successful partnership with the Town of Orwell to plow parking lots in winter.
  - e. Develop a trail map brochure for the area.
  
- **Salmon River Conservation Easement Lands (excluding Islands)**
  - a. Begin development of Greenway Trail System. Construct hiking trail across existing easement lands.

## 2. Genny Green Trail Project

### ● Description

The Genny Green Trail Project is a land acquisition and recreation development project for State Forests in western Chenango, eastern Cortland, southeastern Onondaga, southwestern Madison, and northeast Broome Counties. Opportunities may be sought to link trails on State lands to provide the opportunity for long-distance touring. Some acquisition of private land may be necessary to link these State Forests and facilitate trail relocation and establishment. Acquisition of inholdings surrounded by State forests may also be desired to preserve the undeveloped character of these areas. Negotiations for land acquisition will only be pursued with willing sellers.

The primary existing trails in this area include the Finger Lakes Trail (FLT) and Snowmobile Corridor Trails 5 and 7. Other trails in the project area include the Stoney Pond (Madison 13) cross-country ski trail and the Link Trail which connects the FLT on Mariposa State Forest (Chenango-Madison 2) with the North Country National Scenic Trail running along the Old Erie Canal.

### ● Decisions and Actions

Proposals for trail development within the Genny Green project area include:

**1. Establish mountain bike loop trails on State Forests in western Chenango County.** The trails will consist of a combination of on- and off-road trails. Most of the mountain bike trail mileage would be on dirt roads that have low daily motor vehicle traffic volume. Off-road connecting trails would be necessary to link the roads in some areas. Since the trails will be mostly on roads, it will not necessarily be limited to State forests and the trail could be linked with local communities. The project will begin in McDonough State Forest (Chenango 1 and 11) around Bowman Lake State Park. Additional trail loops will be established on other State lands so multipurpose trailheads will be required. Informational kiosks will also be located at the trailheads. This trail will highlight State Forests to the public. Some trails will offer a self-guided educational experience through interpretive signs that explain cultural or natural features. This type of bike trail will provide the opportunity for shorter family trips or a long-distance touring experience while enjoying the country roads and State Forests of Chenango County.

**2. Construct and maintain 3.0 miles of hiking and cross-country ski trail.**

This trail will connect the Bowman Lake State Park ski trail with Whaley Pond State Forest and the Natural Area on McDonough State Forest (Chenango 1) to the south.

**3. Identify opportunities where the FLT or snowmobile corridor trails can be rerouted to move them from private land to State land by fee title acquisition or by easement.** This will improve the security of the trail for public use, since those

portions of the trails on private lands are vulnerable to closure at the landowners' discretion.

**4. Identify trails that would enhance the present snowmobile trail system.**

These trails would connect existing snowmobile trails to establish large loops or to improve the present trail by rerouting it to a new location (such as from plowed road to an unplowed area).

**5. Rehabilitate the Berry Hill Fire Tower adjacent to McDonough State Forest (Chenango 1) and upgrade the observer's cabin to a visitor center.** This fire tower is a prominent feature along the FLT which offers a panoramic view of the surrounding landscape.

**6. Evaluate the cross-country ski trail on Stoney Pond State Forest (Madison 13) to determine suitability as a designated mountain bike trail.** This evaluation will identify areas of the trail that are suitable for mountain bikes as well as any areas that need to be upgraded to support mountain bike use. The suitable area will then be signed as a designated mountain bike trail, if appropriate.

**7. Develop recreational brochures for the Genny Green Trail Project.**

**8. Examine the feasibility of developing and designating a long-distance snowmobile loop trail in Broome, Chenango, Cortland, Madison and Onondaga Counties.**

a. The large loop would use the existing Corridor Trails 2, 5 and 7 and would require establishment of a new trail to make a complete loop. This new trail, if established, would likely use a combination of unplowed town roads, private land and trails on State Forest. Some land or easement acquisition may be necessary to accomplish this project. All acquisitions would be with willing sellers. Town governments will be notified and have an opportunity to comment. Written permission from adjacent landowners will be required before designation of a trail leading from State Forests to private land.

## **H. Trail Monitoring and Maintenance**

### **● Description**

Trail use monitoring and trail maintenance are used to help provide quality trails and facilities and to improve user safety and satisfaction. At the time this plan was written, monitoring of trail use was done through registers, located at trailhead parking areas for major trail systems, and through periodic trail inspections. Inspection of trail conditions varies greatly with the types of trail and maintenance priorities. The type and intensity of use, weather and ground conditions during use impact trail quality. All of these factors, along with trail surface conditions and standards, influence the timing of trail inspections.

Notations in trail registers and calls to the local DEC Office about obstructions and trail conditions are common methods of trail monitoring. Trail tread conditions are monitored more from problem reports than from a routine trail monitoring schedule.

However, trail users do not always recognize a deteriorating trail tread, erosion, or failure of a water diversion structure. A monitoring schedule will be established for a DEC-conducted trail inspection for all trails on State Forests.

#### ● Public Input

At the public meetings, individuals requested that DEC better maintain those trails already in place before building new trails. They requested that erosion be controlled on existing trails. Other requests were that volunteer maintenance should be encouraged and more signs were needed. The Maxwell Report recommended the Department refine trail registers to collect more detailed information on the user.

#### ● Conflicts, Constraints and Impacts

Lack of trail and facility monitoring, inspection, and maintenance can quickly result in degradation to the trail or facility. This can cause environmental impacts and a decline in user safety and satisfaction. Insufficient staffing, an inadequate budget, and lack of sufficient number of volunteers can all impact monitoring and maintenance plans and practices.

#### ● Analysis

Horse, mountain bike, snowmobile, and cross-country ski trails typically receive at least one inspection per year by Department staff or volunteers. Obstacles are removed from the trail, and signs and structures are repaired or replaced. Special inspections are done before and after certain events, such as competitive horseback riding.

Monitoring the intensity of use will help establish maintenance and planning priorities. A lightly used trail will likely require less maintenance work than a heavily used trail. The trail needing less maintenance will be better suited for maintenance through an Adopt-A-Natural Resource Agreement. A heavily used trail system will need more inspections and may require a type of maintenance that volunteers cannot provide.

#### ● Decisions and Actions

##### **1. Map all recreational trails using Global Positioning System (GPS) and Geographic Information System (GIS) by 2010.**

- a. Create maps for all trails and facilities.
- b. Identify and locate maintenance needs.

##### **2. Develop a prioritized maintenance schedule for all trails.** Maintenance activities

will be accomplished by Department staff, volunteers, or by outside contractors, and will be in compliance with standards set by the Department. Maintenance will be conducted to ensure that the recreational facilities continue to meet the technical specifications set for the activity. Generally, the Division of Operations will accomplish the heavy maintenance work such as construction of erosion control structures, trail relocation work, clearing a trail of blowdown, parking lot expansion, kiosk construction and repair, installation of culvert pipes, geo-textile fabric and gravel, and trail signing. The funding of some recreational maintenance projects may be achieved through a timber sale on a given management unit.

- a. Close poorly designed trails. Stabilize the soils on the closed trails to prevent further environmental damage.
- b. Inspect all bridges for structural integrity and safety.
- c. Re-route poorly designed trails or trail segments.
- d. Close poorly designed trail segments.
- e. Rehabilitate trails if necessary.

**3. Develop a monitoring schedule to periodically inspect and evaluate each trail system.** Trail systems which have heavy or high impact use or trail systems that are located on steep terrain or on sensitive sites and soils will be monitored annually. Trails which are not as heavily impacted by use and those trails on more stable soil and topography should be monitored at least once every three years.

**4. Install trail registers to collect better information.** Install trail registers near kiosks at designated trailheads.

**5. Solicit participants for assistance in maintaining all trails.** Where the Department has entered into an Adopt-A-Natural Resource Agreement with volunteers, the volunteers will accomplish the light maintenance work. Light maintenance work will include cleaning out erosion control structures, brushing out trails to the specified trail clearing limits, removing small stumps and stubs from the trail surface, placement of geo-textile fabric and gravel in remote areas, and litter pickup. Where no Adopt-A-Natural Resource Agreement exists all maintenance work will be accomplished through the Division of Operations.

**6. Periodically conduct surveys of trail use and users to complement data collected at registers.** Develop a survey schedule.

**7. Trail will be maintained to established standards.** The following standards will be used when evaluating the maintenance needs of trails on State Forests. These standards will also be used when building new trails and evaluating the needs of existing "private" trails for Department designation under the Adopt-A-Natural Resource Program.

These standards are intended to be used as guidelines. Actual trail design or maintenance needs may vary depending upon site characteristics. Additional standards

for trail design and maintenance are described in the technical specifications in each activity chapter.

**a. Guidelines for Trail Maintenance and Design**

Trail or Site Condition	Action or Trail Design Requirements	Trail Type				
		Mt. Bike	Horse	Snow-mobile	Ski	Hike (Long Distance)
Ground characterized as wetland, boggy, or seepy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reroute trail or</li> <li>• Harden tread surface or</li> <li>• Elevate trail surface</li> </ul>	X	X	X	X	X
Stream crossing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Culvert or bridge required.</li> <li>• Culvert or bridge needed if stream banks are higher than 18" or width greater than 5'.</li> <li>• All bridges must be designed by an engineer.</li> <li>• Bridge or culvert needed if stream width is greater than 10' and average water depth is at least 6" or if bank height is greater than 30".</li> <li>• Allow hardened fords in appropriate locations.</li> </ul>	X				
			X	X	X	
Stream crossing wider than 20'	• Engineered bridge design required.	X	X	X	X	X
Mud hole in trail	• Reroute or harden trail if width is greater than twice the trail tread and length is over 12'.	X	X	X	X	X
Chain of smaller mud holes	• Reroute if possible.	X	X			X

Trail or Site Condition	Action or Trail Design Requirements	Trail Type				
		Mt. Bike	Horse	Snow-mobile	Ski	Hike (Long Distance)
Trail eroded 6" or more below ground surface for 50' or longer. New trail construction.	• Divert water flow from trail at intervals recommended in table 7d.	X	X	X	X	X
Dead tree over 30' tall within 30' of trail	• Fell tree to remove hazard.	X	X	X	X	X

**b. Summary of Trail Maintenance Specifications**

Technical Specification	Trail Type				
	Mt. Bike	Horse	Snowmobile	Ski	Hike (Long Distance)
Clearance width	4'	6'	At least minimum tread width	ungroomed - 4' groomed - 6'	3'
Clearance height	10'	12'	Class A - 12' Class B - 10' Class C - 8'	12'	7'
Tread width	2'	4'	Class A - 12' Class B - 10' Class C - 5' (wider on turns)	ungroomed - 2' groomed - 6'	1'
Tread obstacle maximum height	4"	8"	2" on corridor trails	2"	12"
Slope	3-25% with short pitches of 30% allowed	3-25%	3-25%	3-25%	0-25%
Cross slope	0-10%	0-5%	0-2%	0 - 5%	0-10%

Approximate distance between trail marker signs	100'	100'	See NYS Snowmobile Trail Signing Manual	100'	50'-200'
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**c. Maintenance Specifications for Foot Trails Accessible to Those with Disabilities\***

Feature	Requirement
Tread surface	Firm and stable
Openings in trail surface	Must not allow the passage of a ½" diameter sphere. Elongated openings parallel to direction of travel cannot be more than 1/4" wide.
Tread width	36"
Clearance height	80"
Tread obstacles	2" maximum height

\* Further specifications for trail design and exceptions to the requirements listed above are described in proposed ADAAG.

**d. Recommended Distances Between Water Diversions on Trails**

Trail Slope (%)	Interval for Water Drainage (feet)
2	250
5	135
10	80
15	60
20	45

As a general guideline, slopes greater than 20% are not recommended for trail use because of increased erosion potential.

**X. Special Area Regulations**

Unique areas were acquired to preserve the special characteristics of those properties. Endangered plants and other special features are vulnerable to the impacts associated with public use. Waterfalls and beaches attract high levels of public use. These areas

can deteriorate if protection of the area is inadequate. In an effort to conserve the special features of the unique areas, recreational activities on these lands should be limited. The most compatible recreational activities are hiking, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, nature observation and undeveloped recreation. Labrador Hollow Unique Area has high hills which makes it ideal for the low impact activity of hang gliding. ATV use, horseback riding, camping, mountain biking and snowmobiling are high impact activities that conflict with the environmental interests of these lands.

The following special regulations have been implemented to protect rare and endangered species, reduce illegal activities, manage high level recreation use and to provide for the safety of visitors on the unique areas and State Forests.

#### ● Current Regulations

- **Labrador Hollow Unique Area (Onondaga & Cortland Counties)**

1. Bathing or swimming is prohibited.
2. Boat launching is permitted only from the designated area.
3. Motorized boats are prohibited.
4. Camping and open fires are prohibited.
5. Snowmobiling, horseback riding and mountain biking are prohibited.
6. Domestic animals must be under the complete control of their owner/handler.
7. Hunting, fishing and trapping are permitted only within Zone 2. Fishing is permitted from boats and canoes on the pond, but is prohibited from the shoreline unless from a designated area.

- **Other State Forests and Unique Areas**

1. By sign, camping is prohibited or regulated on certain Region 7 State Forests: to ease overcrowding at popular areas, to solve safety problems, to avoid conflicts, or to avoid degradation of the site:  
Stoney Pond (Madison 13), Old CCC camp (Cortland 2), Calico Pond (Cortland 17), and Spruce Pond (Onondaga 1) - Reservations and permits are required for all designated sites.

By sign, camping is prohibited at all seven of the unique areas in Region 7: Labrador Hollow, Nelson Swamp, Camillus, Split Rock, Salmon River Falls, Sandy Island Beach and Sandy Pond Beach.

By sign, camping with horses is prohibited at the Cherry Ridge campsite on Charles E. Baker State Forest (Madison 1).

#### ● Decisions and Actions

The following special regulations will be proposed.

- **Camillus Forest Unique Area (Onondaga County)**

1. Target shooting, horseback riding, mountain biking and snowmobiling are

prohibited.

2. Motor vehicle use outside the parking area is prohibited.
3. Camping is prohibited.
4. Fires are prohibited.
5. The area is closed ½ hour after sunset until ½ hour before sunrise.
6. Hunting with guns is prohibited. Bow hunting is permitted.

#### **Little America Camping Area (Oswego County)**

1. Camping is prohibited on the area except in designated sites, by permit. (No fee will be charged for the permit.)
2. The area is closed from one-half hour after sunset until sunrise (except for permitted campers).
3. Open fires are prohibited except in designated areas.

#### **Labrador Hollow Unique Area**

1. Reduce the size of Zone 1.

#### **Nanticoke Lake Multiple Use Area**

1. Camping is prohibited.

#### **Nelson Swamp Unique Area (Madison County)**

1. Camping is prohibited

#### **Redfield Day Use Area (Oswego County)**

1. The area is closed from one-half hour after sunset until sunrise except for individuals who are actively fishing.
2. Camping is prohibited.
3. Motor vehicle use outside parking areas is prohibited.
4. Open fires are prohibited except in designated areas or in barbecue grills.

#### **Salmon River Conservation Easement Lands (Oswego County)**

1. Camping is prohibited on easement lands except in designated areas, by permit. (No fee will be charged for the permit.)
2. Snowmobiles, horses and mountain bikes are prohibited.
3. Motor vehicle use outside parking areas is prohibited.
4. Open fires are prohibited except in designated areas.
5. Users must stay in areas designated for public use.

#### **Salmon River Falls Unique Area (Oswego County)**

1. The area is closed from sunset to sunrise.
2. The possession of alcoholic beverages or glass containers of any kind is prohibited.
3. The possession of paint of any kind is prohibited.
4. Open campfires are prohibited.
5. No person shall throw or cause any item to fall into the gorge area.
6. The Riverbed Trail, which provides access to the riverbed above the Falls, will

- Be closed from November 15 to May 1 and during high water events.
7. The Gorge Trail, which provides access to the base of the Falls, will be closed from November 15 to May 1 and during high water events.
  8. All visitors are prohibited within 15 feet of the cliff edge and from entering the posted restricted areas on the property.
  9. No motorized vehicles , including snowmobiles, are allowed on the property.
  10. No swimming or wading is allowed in the plunge pools below the Falls.

**Sandy Pond Beach Unique Area (Oswego County)**

1. The area is closed from one-half hour after sunset until sunrise.
2. Camping and glass containers are prohibited.
3. All vehicles of any kind are prohibited.
4. Trespassing on the dunes or in other restricted areas is prohibited.
5. Dogs must be kept on a leash.
6. The designated bird sanctuary is closed to all access. (This includes pets.)
7. Open fires are prohibited except in user-supplied barbecue grills.

**Sandy Island Beach Unique Area (Oswego County)**

1. Trespassing on the dunes is prohibited.

**Split Rock Unique Area**

1. Hunting with guns is prohibited.

## **XI. Recommendations for Department Rules, Regulations, and Policy Guidelines**

As a result of the implementation of this plan, there are some significant changes in the manner by which the various recreational activities will be allowed to continue on State Forests. For consistency from region to region, new statewide regulations and policies should be adopted.

The policy directing recreational use on State Forests is a part of the Environmental Conservation Handbook (ECH), Chapter 8309.11. Regulations controlling recreational use are found in 6NYCRR. These documents should be amended, if the department is to properly manage the public recreational use of State Forests.

The following are recommendation changes to the Rules and Regulations that would affect the management of recreation on State Forests

1. The Department will have the authority to close roads, trails or areas to specific public uses, to reduce conflicts, provide for public safety or to protect the natural resources of the State land.
2. The Department will have the authority to prohibit gas-powered motors on any water body less than 25 acres surface area. The Department will have the authority to prohibit gas-powered motors greater than 25 horsepower on specific bodies of water, as listed in the regulation.
3. On State land, snowmobile use will be restricted to Department designated roads and trails.
4. The storage of personal property on State lands will be prohibited.
5. The layout, design and establishment of recreational trails on State land will be prohibited unless this activity has been specifically authorized by the Department. Manmade trail features designed for advanced users, such as jumps, ramps and trick rails, will be prohibited on State land.

## **XII. Alternatives and SEQRA Compliance**

### **Alternatives Statement**

From a legal perspective, the 'No Action' alternative is an option. There is no specific statutory requirement that the Department develop a recreation master plan for State Forests. However, the Department does have a mandate to manage and protect State Forests, and a master plan substantially facilitates this goal. The Department has chosen to develop the "Region 7 Recreational Master Plan for State Forests" in order to provide consistent guidance to staff and the public with respect to recreational uses in State Forests. The Master Plan will also guide the development of unit management plans (UMPs) for State Forests thereby providing consistency in the UMPs. As noted in the 'Preface' the Master Plan has been developed in response to increased recreation pressure on State Forests in Region 7.

The Master Plan provides guidance necessary for staff to manage State Forests in a manner that is most protective of the environment while at the same time providing the most enjoyable outdoor recreation opportunities for the public. Without the Master Plan the sensitive environmental resources of State Forests could be negatively impacted and it is highly likely that the public enjoyment of such resources would decrease. Management of State Forests in Region 7 via the Master Plan allows the Department to manage use of the lands in order to improve public use and enjoyment of the area, avoid user conflicts and prevent over use of the resource (e.g., through trail designations, access restrictions, placement of campsites and lean-tos in relation to a sensitive resource, etc.).

In addition, the Master Plan serves as a mechanism for the Department to study and identify potential areas for providing access to the State Forests for persons with disabilities in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA of 1990).

Therefore, the 'No Action' alternative of not preparing the Master Plan is not an appropriate or a preferred alternative for the Department.

Alternatives to specific recreation or land use decisions and guidelines are discussed in the 'Recreation Needs Assessment and Actions' Section of the Master Plan.

### **The Generic Environmental Impact Statement (GEIS)**

This Master Plan/GEIS has been prepared in compliance with the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) and constitutes a Generic Environmental Impact Statement (GEIS) in accordance with Article 8 of the ECL and 6 NYCRR Part 617. The Master Plan/GEIS assesses the impacts which may be associated with recreational uses of State Forests. The Master Plan/GEIS also identifies technical specifications, best management practices, thresholds and conditions which must be adhered to in regard to proposals carried out pursuant to the Master Plan. In accordance with the SEQRA regulations (6 NYCRR 617.10) when a subsequent proposed action is carried out to implement or pursuant to the Master Plan/GEIS:

- No further SEQRA compliance is required if a subsequent proposed action will be carried out in conformance with the conditions and thresholds established for such actions in the GEIS or its findings statement;
- An amended findings statement must be prepared if the subsequent proposed action was adequately addressed in the GEIS but was not addressed or was not adequately addressed in the findings statement for the GEIS;
- A negative declaration must be prepared if a subsequent proposed action was not addressed or was not adequately addressed in the GEIS and the subsequent action will not result in any significant environmental impacts;
- A supplement to the final GEIS must be prepared if the subsequent proposed action was not addressed or was not adequately addressed in the GEIS and the subsequent action may have one or more significant adverse environmental impacts.

### XIII. Implementation Schedule

The following tables list the proposed management actions and implementation schedules for projects region-wide and on individual State Forests by county.

**Table 1:** Region 7 Recreation Master Plan Implementation Schedule

Project Name/ Location/Description	Implementation Timetable									
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
• Develop activity specific brochure for mountain biking and one for horseback riding					◆					
• Develop a brochure to describe the basic rules, regulations or laws pertaining to recreation on State Forests					◆					
• Develop a Region 7 Internet Website to provide recreation information	◆									
• Name or otherwise designate individual trails		◆	◆							
• Assign a name to public forest access roads, haul roads and access roads that are open to motor vehicle use • Properly classify all roads on State Forests, compile a revised list, and develop maps showing roads designated for recreational uses		◆	◆							
• Designate and sign all allowed uses, except for pedestrian travel, on roads		◆								
• Designate and maintain all routes for mobility impaired use		◆	◆	◆						
• Provide hardened parking areas for unloading ATVs to comply with ADAAG		◆	◆	◆						

Project Name/ Location/Description	Implementation Timetable									
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
• Propose a change in the current regulations that prohibits camping with 150 feet of any road		◆								
• Officially designate and sign those portions of the Finger Lakes Trail, Onondaga Trail and Link Trail on State Forests as DEC foot trails	◆	◆	◆	◆						
• Evaluate trails constructed from private land across State Forests. Designate as official trail per guidelines					◆	◆	◆			
• Examine the feasibility of developing and designing a long-distance snowmobile loop trail in Broome, Chenango, Cortland, Madison and Onondaga Counties. This will be part of Genny Green project.								◆	◆	◆
• Change regulations on Labrador Hollow so that Zone 1 is reduced, allowing hunting and trapping east of Route 91 except for the area surrounding Tinker Falls and the trail to the Falls		◆								
• Draft and submit request for regulations specific to Salmon River Falls UA, Sandy Island Beach UA, Sandy Pond Beach UA and Redfield Day-Use Area		◆								
• Map and inspect all recreational trails leading from private lands to trails on State Forests. Evaluate and initiate an AANR partnership. Complete by 2009			◆	◆	◆					

Project Name/ Location/Description	Implementation Timetable									
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
• Map all recreational trails using Global Positioning System (GPS and Geographic Information System (GIS) by 2010			◆	◆	◆	◆				
• Develop a monitoring schedule to periodically inspect and evaluate each trail system • Develop a maintenance schedule for all trails		◆								
• Refine trail registers to collect better information		◆								
• Monitor parking to ensure it is adequate during normal use periods	◆	◆	◆							
• Develop recreational brochures for the Genny Green Trail Project							◆	◆		
• Install kiosks at ten State Forests	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆

**Table 2:** Region 7 Recreation Master Plan Implementation Schedule for **Broome County**

Project Name/ Location/Description	Implementation Timetable									
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
<b>Broome 3, Hawkins Pond State Forest:</b> • Designate 2.4 miles of cross-country ski trail	◆									
<b>Broome 4, Marsh Pond State Forest:</b> • Develop two open campsites near the pond		◆						◆		
<b>Broome 4, Marsh Pond State Forest and Broome 7, Page Pond State Forest:</b> • Designate 0.5 mi. of qualified abandoned road linking these two State Forests by a snowmobile trail		◆								
<b>Broome-Chenango 1, Beaver Flow State Forest:</b> • Designate and rehabilitate 3.0 mi. of trail (1.5 mi. on-road, 1.5 mi off-road) as snowmobile corridor trail	◆	◆								

**Table 3: Region 7 Recreation Master Plan Implementation Schedule for Cayuga County**

Project Name/ Location/Description	Implementation Timetable									
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
<b>Cayuga 1, Bear Swamp State Forest:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rehabilitate 15-mile multi-purpose trail system</li> <li>• Repair, replace and install bridges, culverts, fill, fabric, stone barriers and gates</li> </ul>								◆		
<b>Cayuga 1, Bear Swamp State Forest:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Upgrade trail to swamp lookout to comply with the ADA</li> </ul>							◆			
<b>Cayuga 2, Summerhill State Forest:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Designate and rehabilitate horseback riding trail and construct parking lot for 3 cars and trailers</li> <li>• Install kiosk and develop area brochure</li> </ul>					◆					
<b>Cayuga 2, Summerhill State Forest:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Close and stabilize snowmobile trail on abandoned Town Line Road and Sun Lane and between Salt Road and Lick Street</li> </ul>					◆					
<b>Cayuga 3, Frozen Ocean State Forest:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rehabilitate hiking trail, install gate and construct parking lot</li> <li>• Install kiosk and develop area brochure</li> </ul>					◆					

**Table 4:** Region 7 Recreational Master Plan Implementation Schedule for **Chenango County**

Project Name/ Location/Description	Implementation Timetable									
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
<b>Chenango 1, McDonough State Forest:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Construct 3.0 mi. of cross-country ski trail connecting Bowman Lake State Park with Whaley Pond and Natural Area to the south.</li> <li>• Designate 3.4 mi. of snowmobile trail connecting Bowman Lake State Park with Corridor 7</li> </ul>	◆	◆								
<b>Chenango 1, McDonough State Forest:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rehabilitate the Berry Hill Fire Tower and upgrade the observer's cabin as a visitor center</li> </ul>		◆								
<b>Chenango 26, Geneganslet State Forest:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop an off-road route for people with mobility impairment disabilities as directed by the McDonough Unit Management Plan. This route totals 1.3 miles.</li> </ul>	◆									
<b>Chenango 1, McDonough State Forest :</b> Designate a 0.2 mile interpretive trail loop for people with disabilities through the CCC historic site. Trail will include seating and signage.	◆									
<b>Chenango 1 &amp; 11, McDonough State Forest:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop combination on-road and off-road bike trail as part of Genny Green trail project</li> </ul>			◆	◆						

Project Name/ Location/Description	Implementation Timetable									
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
<b>Chenango 1, 11 &amp; 26, McDonough &amp; Genegantslet State Forests:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Designate 8.25 miles as snowmobile Corridor Trail 7 and 2.7 miles of trail as snowmobile Corridor Trail 5</li> </ul>	◆									
<b>Chenango 2, Beaver Meadow State Forest:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Construct 0.4 miles of snowmobile trail from the west end of Stowell Road north to the New Road</li> </ul>		◆								
<b>Chenango 3, South Hill State Forest:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish a 2-4 mile loop trail for horseback riding</li> </ul>			◆							
<b>Chenango 5 &amp; 24, New Michigan State Forest:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Designate 3.0 mi. of snowmobile trail between Doing Road and Inman Road as snowmobile trail. Construct bridge.</li> </ul>	◆									
<b>Chenango 5 &amp; 24, New Michigan Hill State Forest:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish a 1.5 mi. interpretive trail through the tornado blow-down area in stands B-1 (Chenango 24) and F-12 (Chenango 5). A portion of the trail will be constructed to ADAAG standards.</li> </ul>				◆	◆					
<b>Chenango 9 &amp; 15, Melondy Hill State Forest:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Designate 2.5 mi. of on-road and construct 2.0 mi. of off-road snowmobile trail</li> </ul>		◆								

Project Name/ Location/Description	Implementation Timetable									
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
<b>Chenango 10 &amp; 30, Bobell Hill State Forest:</b> • Designate 3.0 mi. of trail as snowmobile trail	◆									
<b>Chenango 17 &amp; 34, Balsam Pond State Forest:</b> • Develop 1.0 mi. of accessible hiking/interpretive trail adjacent to camping area						◆				
<b>Chenango 20, Bucks Brook State Forest and Chen.-Mad. #1 and #2, Mariposa State Forest:</b> Install water diversions on steep portions of the Finger Lakes Hiking Trail (FLT)		◆								
<b>Chenango 21, Otselic State Forest:</b> Install water diversions on steep portions of the Finger Lakes Hiking Trail		◆								
<b>Chenango 21, Otselic State Forest:</b> • Develop one lean-to campsite along the Finger Lakes Trail				◆						
<b>Chenango 22, Perkins Pond State Forest:</b> • Designate 0.3 mi. trail from private land to the Gorge Road as horseback riding trail (pending Adopt-a-Natural Resource Agreement)		◆								
<b>Chenango 25, Beaver Meadow State Forest:</b> • Designate 1.7 miles of snowmobile, mountain bike & horseback riding trail	◆									

Project Name/ Location/Description	Implementation Timetable									
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
<b>Chenango 25, Beaver Meadow State Forest:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Construct 0.4 miles of snowmobile trail from the west end of Stowell Road to the New Road</li> </ul>	◆									
<b>Chenango 26, Genegantslet State Forest:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Construct 1.0 mi. loop trail providing access to lean-to in stand A-26</li> <li>• Develop 2-car parking area on Creek Road at trailhead</li> <li>• Develop one lean-to nearest the highest elevation in stand A-26</li> <li>• Relocate 0.75 miles of snowmobile Corridor Trail from German Hollow Road to forest location.</li> </ul>	◆								◆	◆
<b>Chenango 27, Coventry State Forest:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inspect and upgrade existing trailhead for accessible use</li> </ul>	◆									
<b>Chenango 31, Whaupanaucaw State Forest:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Designate 10 miles of current cross-country ski trail as mountain bike trail</li> </ul>				◆						
<b>Chenango 35, Long Pond State Forest:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alter 20% of campsites located near the pond to make at least 4 comply with ADAAG standards</li> <li>• Develop a campsite accessible by boat or canoe in stand C-7</li> <li>• Develop ADA compliant fishing access site</li> <li>• Repair access road</li> </ul>			◆							

Project Name/ Location/Description	Implementation Timetable									
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
<b>Chenango-Madison 1, Mariposa State Forest:</b> • Replace Paradise Glen lean-to	◆									
<b>Chenango-Madison 1, Mariposa State Forest:</b> • Designate 0.6 miles of snowmobile, mountain bike & horseback riding trail	◆									
<b>Chenango-Madison 1 &amp; 2, Mariposa State Forest:</b> • Rehabilitate lean-to	◆									

**Table 5: Region 7 Recreation Master Plan Implementation Schedule for Cortland County**

Project Name/ Location/Description	Implementation Timetable									
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
<b>Cortland 1, Hewitt State Forest:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop trail to stone bridge</li> <li>• Install kiosk and develop area brochure</li> </ul>						◆				
<b>Cortland 2, Taylor Valley State Forest:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reroute Finger Lakes Trail near Mt. Roderick (ADK/ON) *</li> </ul>							◆			
<b>Cortland 2, Taylor Valley State Forest:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve trail switchbacks on Finger Lakes Trail near Taylor Valley picnic grounds (ADK/ON) *</li> <li>• Replace foot bridge</li> </ul>		◆						◆		
<b>Cortland 3, Kennedy State Forest:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Build two-mile loop trail to Finger Lakes Trail</li> <li>• Explore ADA implications and adjust budget and scheduling if necessary</li> </ul>		◆								
<b>Cortland 3, Kennedy State Forest (south):</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Build 2,100 feet of connecting trail for snowmobiles</li> </ul>				◆						

Project Name/ Location/Description	Implementation Timetable									
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
<b>Cortland 4 &amp; Onondaga 1, Morgan Hill State Forest:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop 15 miles of new multipurpose trail for mountain biking, cross-country skiing and horseback riding</li> <li>• Construct one parking lot for 10 cars and trailers</li> <li>• Install kiosk and update area brochure</li> </ul>				◆						
<b>Cortland 4, Morgan Hill State Forest:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reroute section of Onondaga Trail off of snowmobile marked trail (ADK/ON) *</li> </ul>				◆						
<b>Cortland 4, Morgan Hill State Forest:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Upgrade trail on slope near Hemlock Glen lean-to (ADK/ON) *</li> </ul>						◆				
<b>Cortland 5, Kettlebail State Forest and Labrador Hollow UA:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop Skyline Trail for hiking</li> </ul>					◆					
<b>Cortland 6, Cuyler Hill State Forest:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop lean-to campsite with partial funding from NPS CCS grant (ADK/ON) *</li> </ul>			◆							
<b>Cortland 9 &amp; 10, Tuller Hill State Forest:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Construct 1.0 mi. connecting cross-country ski trail</li> <li>• Rehabilitate 1.5 mi. of existing cross-country ski trail</li> <li>• Construct 5-car parking lot</li> <li>• Install kiosk</li> </ul>					◆					

Project Name/ Location/Description	Implementation Timetable									
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
<b>Cortland 9 &amp; 10, Tuller Hill State Forest:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rehabilitate horseback riding trail and construct parking lot for 4 cars and trailers</li> <li>• Install kiosk and develop area brochure</li> </ul>										◆

**Table 6:** Region 7 Recreation Master Plan Implementation Schedule for **Madison County**

Project Name Location/Description	Implementation Timetable									
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
<b>Madison 1, Charles E. Baker State Forest:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Designate 0.2 mi. of trail north of Trail #8 to private property as snowmobile and horseback riding trail</li> <li>• Designate 0.2 mi. trail to connect Truck Trail 14 with Trail #25 as snowmobile and horseback riding trail</li> <li>• Designate 14 existing campsites</li> <li>• Erect covered tie stalls</li> <li>• Hire Steward for Brookfield Trail System</li> </ul>	◆									
<b>Madison 1, Charles E. Baker State Forest:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reestablish Trail #13 (compartment F) with improvements and reroutes to create 3.0 mi of trail</li> </ul>		◆								
<b>Madison 1 &amp; 4, Charles E. Baker State Forest:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Construct four campsites to ADA standards</li> </ul>	◆									
<b>Madison 2, Earlville State Forest:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Designate 0.3 mile abandoned road connecting public forest access road with Deep Springs Road as snowmobiling trail</li> </ul>	◆									

Project Name Location/Description	Implementation Timetable									
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
<b>Madison 4, Charles E. Baker State Forest:</b> • Designate 0.1 mi. of trail from private property to Trail #31 as snowmobile and horseback riding trail (pending Adopt-a-Natural Resource Agreement)	◆									
<b>Madison 5, Muller Hill State Forest:</b> • Develop one lean-to campsite along the Link Trail in the Town of Georgetown			◆							
<b>Madison 5, Muller Hill State Forest:</b> • Designate and rehabilitate 0.3 miles of trail from Muller Hill to the pond as snowmobile trail			◆							
<b>Madison 6, Brookfield Railroad State Forest:</b> • Designate 0.2 mi. trail located on the east side of Mason Road and on the west edge of stand A-33 as snowmobile and horseback riding trail		◆								
<b>Madison 10, Morrow Mountain State Forest:</b> • Construct 1.0 miles disabled access ATV trail with parking area			◆							
<b>Madison 12, Beaver Creek State Forest:</b> • Designate 0.7 mi. of trail from the Lane through stands A-57, 58 & 63 to private property as snowmobile and horseback riding trail (pending Adopt-a-Natural Resource Agreement)			◆							

Project Name Location/Description	Implementation Timetable									
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
<b>Madison 12, Beaver Creek State Forest:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Designate 0.4 mi. of trail from top of hill on Public Forest Access Road through stand B-97 and 98 to private property as snowmobile trail (Pending Adopt-a-Natural Resource Agreement)</li> </ul>		◆								
<b>Madison 13, Stoney Pond State Forest:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Designate 5 miles of current cross-country ski trail as a mountain bike trail (this is the portion of trail located east of Green Road)</li> </ul>			◆	◆						
<b>Madison 13, Stoney Pond State Forest:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Repair the Stoney Pond dam dropbox</li> </ul>				◆						
<b>Madison 13, Stoney Pond State Forest:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Construct an accessible fishing pier and upgrade the boat access</li> </ul>				◆						
<b>Madison 13, Stoney Pond State Forest:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Create new campsites and upgrade 4 campsites to comply with the ADAAG</li> </ul>				◆						
<b>Madison 13, Stoney Pond State Forest:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Drill water well</li> </ul>				◆						
<b>Madison-Oneida 1, Gorton Lake State Forest:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Designate 1.0 mi. of snowmobile trail crossing the east half of the forest with private property at both ends (pending Adopt-a-Natural Resource Agreement)</li> </ul>	◆									

Project Name Location/Description	Implementation Timetable									
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
<b>Nelson Swamp Unique Area:</b> • Construct two snowmobile bridges		◆	◆							

**Table 7: Region 7 Recreation Master Plan Implementation Schedule for Onondaga County**

Project Name/ Location/Description	Implementation Timetable									
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
<b>Camillus Forest Unique Area:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Construct parking area for 20 vehicles and install a kiosk.</li> <li>• Install one gate off Warners Road</li> <li>• Stabilize erosion on old access road</li> <li>• Install composting toilet</li> <li>• Establish tree planting demonstration area</li> </ul>					◆					
<b>Camillus Forest Unique Area:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhance fishing access site and develop day-use area (project proposed by Town of Camillus)</li> </ul>			◆	◆						
<b>Camillus Forest Unique Area:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Construct additional 2,600 feet of foot trail</li> </ul>								◆		
<b>Labrador Hollow Unique Area:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Upgrade trail on the steep slope located on the east side of Tinker Falls (ADK/ON) *</li> </ul>				◆						
<b>Labrador Hollow Unique Area:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop ADAAG compliant fishing access site</li> </ul>		◆								
<b>Labrador Hollow Unique Area:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Refurbish boardwalk and parking area to make ADAAG compliant and to solve safety problems</li> </ul>				◆	◆	◆				
<b>Labrador Hollow Unique Area:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a 0.25 mile trail to Tinker Falls that will comply with the ADAAG</li> <li>• Install one gate</li> <li>• Develop parking for people with disabilities</li> </ul>								◆	◆	

Project Name/ Location/Description	Implementation Timetable									
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
<b>Onondaga 1, Morgan Hill State Forest:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete proposed trail from Spruce Pond to Shackham Pond and install bridge (ADK/ON) *</li> <li>• Complete proposed trail from Shackham Pond to Onondaga One and Morgan Hill Roads and private land at east boundary (ADK/ON) *</li> </ul>					◆					
<b>Onondaga 1, Morgan Hill State Forest:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Upgrade switchbacks on Finger Lakes Trail west of Spruce Pond (ADK/ON) *</li> </ul>						◆				

**Table 8:** Region 7 Recreation Master Plan Implementation Schedule for **Oswego County**

Project Name/ Location/Description	Implementation Timetable									
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
<b>Oswego 4 &amp; 5, Chateaugay State Forest:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rehabilitate 8 miles of existing trail system. Relocate around trouble spots</li> <li>• Develop two trailheads with kiosks and registration</li> <li>• Develop area brochure</li> <li>• Develop additional 4-6 mi. of multipurpose (cross-country skiing and hiking) trail</li> </ul>										◆
<b>Oswego 4 &amp; 5, Chateaugay State Forest:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rebuild lean-to along trail</li> </ul>							◆			
<b>Oswego 8, Salmon River State Forest:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Upgrade 3 informal campsites to designated sites to be occupied under permit only</li> <li>• Enhance public access to trail system from CCC Road</li> </ul>				◆						
<b>Oswego 8, Salmon River State Forest:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop ski trail from Little America to Coey Hill Road</li> </ul>					◆					
<b>Oswego 8, Salmon River State Forest:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop snowmobile trail from Kay Road to Route 17</li> </ul>					◆					
<b>Oswego 8, Salmon River State Forest:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Upgrade 3-4 informal campsites and designate them for use by permit only.</li> </ul>								◆		

Project Name/ Location/Description	Implementation Timetable									
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
<b>Oswego 9, O'Hara State Forest:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Upgrade existing haul road to ADA compliant trail</li> <li>• Construct 3-4 car parking area</li> <li>• Gate access road</li> </ul>								◆		
<b>Oswego 10, Hall Island State Forest:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relocate South Shore multipurpose (snowmobile/cross-country ski/hike) trail</li> </ul>						◆				
<b>Oswego 10, Hall Island State Forest:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop 12-15 designated campsites along the South Shore of the reservoir, accessible by water only, and to be occupied under permit only</li> <li>• Upgrade 2 campsites on Burdick Island and 2 campsites on Huckleberry Island to be occupied under permit only</li> </ul>						◆				
<b>Oswego 10, Hall Island State Forest:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Map trails and campsites, develop brochure and install kiosk</li> <li>• Construct 5-car parking area at end of Gay Road (McChesney parcel)</li> <li>• Develop connector trail to the South Shore Trail</li> </ul>							◆			
<b>Oswego 10, Hall Island State Forest:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resolve boat launching problems</li> </ul>				◆						

Project Name/ Location/Description	Implementation Timetable									
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
<b>Redfield Day-Use Area:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Close access road from existing parking area to bridge on Rt. 17</li> <li>• Install two barrier gates</li> <li>• Build accessible trail with spurs leading to shore</li> <li>• Develop 3-5 “common” areas along the shore for picnicking</li> </ul>				◆						
<b>Redfield Day-Use Area:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stabilize eroding banks</li> </ul>										◆
<b>Salmon River Conservation Easement Lands:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Begin development of Greenway Trail System. Construct hiking trail across existing easement lands</li> </ul>			◆	◆			◆	◆	◆	◆
<b>Salmon River Falls Unique Area:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop area brochure</li> <li>• Gate Wooliver Road to limit illegal vehicle access</li> </ul>		◆								
<b>Salmon River Falls Unique Area:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Upgrade existing path from falls overlook to the top of Salmon River Falls</li> </ul>					◆					
<b>Salmon River Falls Unique Area:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a 1.0 mile trail to connect Salmon River Falls to the Lower Reservoir</li> </ul>					◆					
<b>Salmon River Falls Unique Area:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gravel existing parking lot</li> <li>• Build auxiliary lot for oversized vehicles</li> </ul>										◆
<b>Salmon River Falls Unique Area:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extend accessible trail from falls toward dam to point where terrain precludes further development</li> <li>• Improve remaining trail</li> </ul>						◆				

Project Name/ Location/Description	Implementation Timetable									
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
<b>Sandy Pond and Sandy Island Beaches:</b> • Install interpretive kiosks on both properties									◆	

**Table 9: Region 7 Recreation Master Plan Implementation Schedule for Tioga County**

Project Name/ Location/Description	Implementation Timetable									
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
<b>Tioga 2, Oakley Corners State Forest:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop three campsites near the large pond. One of the sites will be ADAAG compliant.</li> <li>• Repair gate</li> </ul>							◆			
<b>Tioga 3, Robinson Hollow State Forest:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop three campsites near Tri-county Pond. One of the sites will be ADAAG compliant.</li> <li>• Install kiosk and develop area brochure</li> </ul>						◆				
<b>Broome-Tioga 2, Beaver Dam State Forest:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Designate 0.5 miles of snowmobile trail between end of public forest access road and private land to the east along the abandoned section of the Clute Hill Road</li> <li>• Rebuild snowmobile bridge on this trail</li> </ul>						◆				

**Table 10:** Region 7 Recreation Master Plan Implementation Schedule for **Tompkins County**

Project Name/ Location/Description	Implementation Timetable									
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
<b>Tompkins 1, Danby State Forest:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop four-car parking area at FLT trailhead on Bald Hill Road</li> <li>• Develop four-car parking area at FLT trailhead on South Road</li> <li>• Improve parking area at FLT trailhead on Michigan Hollow Road</li> </ul>							◆			
<b>Tompkins 1, Danby State Forest:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Construct bridge on FLT near Chestnut lean-to with funding from NPS CCS grant</li> <li>• Relocate portions of FLT</li> </ul>				◆						
<b>Tompkins 1, Danby State Forest:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Build a 2,000 ft. snowmobile trail to bypass route along Heisey Road (work to be done by Spencer Van Etten Snowmobile Club)</li> </ul>									◆	
<b>Tompkins 1, Danby State Forest:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Install new roof on Tamarack lean-to, funding from NPS CCS grant</li> </ul>			◆							
<b>Tompkins 1, Danby State Forest:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop interpretive trail system</li> <li>• Develop and print an interpretive brochure</li> <li>• Build a kiosk</li> </ul>							◆			
<b>Tompkins 2, Hammond Hill State Forest:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sign multipurpose trail for carriage riding</li> </ul>			◆							

Project Name/ Location/Description	Implementation Timetable									
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
<b>Tompkins 2, Hammond Hill State Forest:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Build a parking lot for 10 cars and trailers on Star Stanton Road</li> </ul>									◆	
<b>Tompkins 3, Shindagin Hollow State Forest:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop approximately 20-25 miles of new mountain bike trail in two phases</li> <li>• Construct two 10-car parking lots with kiosks</li> <li>• Construct four-car parking area on South Road</li> <li>• Construct two kiosks</li> <li>• Develop area brochure</li> </ul>		◆	◆							
<b>Tompkins 3, Shindagin Hollow State Forest:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relocate FLT between Brearley Hill Road and Shindagin Hollow Road</li> <li>• Relocate FLT between South Road and Shindagin Hollow Road</li> </ul>							◆			
<b>Tompkins 3, Shindagin Hollow State Forest:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Replace the Shindagin Hollow lean-to on the Finger Lakes Trail east of the intersection of Shindagin Hollow and Gulf Creek Roads</li> </ul>			◆							
<b>Tompkins 4, Potato Hill State Forest:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop four-car parking area at FLT trailhead on Level Green Road</li> <li>• Relocate FLT in needed areas with Cayuga Trails Club</li> </ul>							◆	◆		

(ADK/ON) \*- Reference to trail work to be coordinated with DEC and the Onondaga Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club .

## XIV. Annual Budgets and Staff Needs

The following table lists the annual budgets and staffing needs necessary to implement this plan. The estimates listed in the table represent a significant increase over the current budget and staffing levels dedicated to recreation on Region 7's State Forests. Implementation of listed actions may be delayed or canceled if adequate funding or staffing is not available.

2006 Projects	L&F Workdays	Other DEC Workdays	Cost
<b>Annual Maintenance</b>			\$158,270
General - Assign a name to public forest access roads, haul roads and access roads that are open to motor vehicle use • Properly classify all roads on State Forests, compile a revised list, and develop maps showing roads designated for recreational uses	10.0	10.0	\$8,000
General - Name or otherwise designate individual trails	20.0	0.0	\$4,000
General - Designate and maintain all routes for mobility impaired use	2.0	12.0	\$7,500
General - Designate and sign all allowed uses, except for pedestrian travel, on roads	1.0	10.0	\$5,000
General - Provide hardened parking areas for unloading ATVs to comply with ADAAG	8.0	16.0	\$6,000
General - Propose a change in the current regulations that prohibits camping within 150 feet of any road	1.5	2.0	\$1,000
General - Officially designate and sign those portions of the Finger Lakes Trail, Onondaga Trail and Link Trail on State Forests as DEC foot trails	10.0	0.0	\$2,000
General - Change regulations on Labrador Hollow so that Zone 1 is reduced allowing hunting and trapping east of Route 91 except for the area surrounding Tinker Falls and the trail to the Falls	1.5	2.0	\$1,000

<b>2006 Projects</b>	<b>L&amp;F Workdays</b>	<b>Other DEC Workdays</b>	<b>Cost</b>
General - Draft and submit request for regulations specific to Salmon River Falls UA, Sandy Island Beach UA, Sandy Pond Beach UA, and the Redfield Day-Use Area	4.0	0.0	\$800
General - Develop a monitoring schedule to periodically inspect and evaluate each trail system • Develop a maintenance schedule for all trails	100.0	2.0	\$2,500
General - Refine trail registers to collect better information	5.0	0.0	\$400
General - Monitor parking to ensure it is adequate during normal use periods	10.0	0.0	\$2,000
General - Install kiosks at ten State Forests	5.0	10.0	\$20,000
Broome 3 - Designate 2.4 miles of cross-country ski trail	0.5	0.5	\$150
Broome 4 - Designate 0.5 miles of abandoned road as snowmobile trail	0.5	0.5	\$150
Broome-Chenango 1 - Designate and rehabilitate snowmobile corridor trail	3.0	3.0	\$500
Broome-Tioga 2 - Designate 0.5 miles of snowmobile trail between end of public forest access road and private land to the east along the abandoned section of the Clute Hill Road • Rebuild snowmobile bridge on this trail	6.0	18.0	\$10,000
Chenango 1 - Construct 3.0 mi. of hiking and cross-country ski trail connecting Bowman Lake State Park with Whaley Pond and Natural Area to the south.	5.0	20.0	\$5,000
Chenango 1 - Designate 3.4 mi. of snowmobile trail connecting Bowman Lake State Park with Corridor #7	5.0	5.0	\$500
Chenango 1 - Construct 3-5 car parking lot	2.0	6.0	\$2,500
Chenango 2 - Construct 0.4 miles of snowmobile trail from the west end of Stowell Road north to the New Road	1.0	5.0	\$2,000

<b>2006 Projects</b>	<b>L&amp;F Workdays</b>	<b>Other DEC Workdays</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Chenango 9 & 15 - Designate and construct 2.5 mi. of on-road and 2.0 mi. of off-road snowmobile trail	2.0	5.0	\$2,500
Chenango 22 - Designate 0.3 mi. trail from private land to the Gorge Road as horseback riding trail (pending Adopt-a-Natural Resource Agreement)	0.5	2.0	\$500
Labrador Hollow UA - Develop ADAAG compliant fishing access site	0.0	10.0	\$1,500
Madison 1 - Reestablish Trail 13	5.0	30.0	\$10,000
Madison 5 - Develop one lean-to campsite along the Link Trail in the Town of Georgetown	2.0	15.0	\$5,000
Madison 6 - Designate 0.2 miles as snowmobile and horseback riding trail	0.5	0.5	\$100
Madison 10 - Construct 1.0 miles disabled access ATV trail with parking area	1.0	10.0	\$4,500
Madison 13 - Designate and construct to standards 10.0 miles of cross-country ski trail as mountain bike trail	15.0	20.0	\$5,000
Madison 13 - Repair the Stoney Pond dam dropbox	1.0	50.0	\$45,000
Madison 13 - Construct an accessible fishing pier and upgrade the boat access	3.0	30.0	\$50,000
Madison 13 - Create new campsites and upgrade 4 campsites to comply with the ADAAG	3.0	20.0	\$15,000
Madison 13 - Drill water well	0.5	5.0	\$10,000
Nelson Swamp UA - Construct 1.3 miles of hiking trail to ADAAG	5.0	15.0	\$44,250
Labrador Hollow Unique Area - Replace boardwalk	15.0	100.0	\$150,000
Salmon River Falls Unique Area - • Gate Wooliver Road	5.0	8.0	\$2,800
<b>PROJECT TOTALS</b>	<b>??</b>	<b>??</b>	<b>\$430,600</b>

<b>2007 Projects</b>	<b>L&amp;F Workdays</b>	<b>Other DEC Workdays</b>	<b>Cost</b>
<b>Annual Maintenance</b>			<b>\$164,372</b>

<b>2007 Projects</b>	<b>L&amp;F Workdays</b>	<b>Other DEC Workdays</b>	<b>Cost</b>
General - Assign a name to public forest access roads, haul roads and access roads that are open to motor vehicle use • Properly classify all roads on State Forests, compile a revised list, and develop maps showing roads designated for recreational uses	10.0	10.0	\$8,000
General - Name or otherwise designate individual trails	20.0	0.0	\$4,000
General - Designate and maintain all routes for mobility impaired use	2.0	12.0	\$7,500
General - Provide hardened parking areas for unloading ATVs to comply with the ADAAG	8.0	16.0	\$6,000
General - Officially designate and sign those portions of the Finger Lakes Trail, Onondaga Trail and Link Trail on State Forests as DEC foot trails	10.0	0.0	\$2,000
General - Evaluate trails constructed from private land across State Forests. Designate as official trail per guidelines	20.0	8.0	\$2,500
General - Map and inspect all recreational trails leading from private lands to trails on State Forests. Evaluate and initiate an AANR partnership. Complete by 2009	10.0	0.0	\$3,000
General - Map all recreational trails using Global Positioning System (GPS and Geographic Information System (GIS) by 2010	30.0	0.0	\$6,000
General - Monitor parking to ensure it is adequate during normal use periods	10.0	0.0	\$2,000
General - Install kiosks at ten State Forests	5.0	10.0	\$20,000
Camillus Forest Unique Area - Enhance fishing access site and develop a day use area (project proposed by Town of Camillus)	4.0	0.0	\$800
Chenango 1 & 11 - Develop combination on-road and off-road bike trail as part of Genny Green trail project	5.0	30.0	\$9,500

<b>2007 Projects</b>	<b>L&amp;F Workdays</b>	<b>Other DEC Workdays</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Chenango 3 - Establish a 2-4 mile loop trail for horseback riding	5.0	20.0	\$8,000
Chenango 35 - Alter 20% of campsites located near the pond to make at least 4 comply with ADAAG	1.0	3.0	\$5,000
Chenango 35 - Develop a campsite accessible by boat or canoe in stand C-7	1.0	3.0	\$600
Chenango 35 - Develop ADAAG compliant fishing access site, repair access road	2.0	30.0	\$50,000
Cortland 2 - Replace footbridge on FLT near CCC site. Funding to be supplied by FLTCI	2.0	2.0	\$500
Cortland 6 - Develop lean-to campsite with partial funding from National Park Service grant	2.0	20.0	\$8,000
Labrador Hollow UA - Replace boardwalk and parking area to make ADA compliant	2.0	50.0	\$60,000
Tompkins 3 - Develop 15 miles of mountain bike trail (Phase I) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Construct two 10-car parking lots</li> <li>• Construct one 4-car parking lot</li> <li>• Develop area brochure</li> </ul>	20.0	20.0	\$18,000
Tompkins 3 - Replace the Shindagin Hollow lean-to on the Finger Lakes Trail east of the intersection of Shindagin Hollow and Gulf Creek Roads	3.0	30.0	\$8,000
<b>PROJECT TOTALS</b>	140.0	242.0	\$229,400

<b>2008 Projects</b>	<b>L&amp;F Workdays</b>	<b>Other DEC Workdays</b>	<b>Cost</b>
<b>Annual Maintenance</b>			\$170,698
General - Designate and maintain all routes for mobility impaired use	2.0	12.0	\$7,500
General - Provide hardened parking areas for unloading ATVs to comply with ADAAG	8.0	16.0	\$6,000
General - Officially designate and sign those portions of the Finger Lakes Trail, Onondaga Trail and Link Trail on State Forests as DEC foot trails	10.0	0.0	\$2,000
General - Map and inspect all recreational trails leading from private lands to trails on State Forests. Evaluate and initiate an AANR partnership. Complete by 2009	10.0	0.0	\$3,000
General - Map all recreational trails using Global Positioning System (GPS and Geographic Information System (GIS) by 2010	30.0	0.0	\$6,000
General - Install kiosks at ten State Forests	5.0	10.0	\$20,000
Camillus Forest Unique Area - Enhance fishing access site and develop a day-use area (project proposed by Town of Camillus)	4.0	4.0	\$10,000
Chenango 1 & 11 - Develop combination on-road and off-road bike trail as part of Genny Green trail project	10.0	5.0	\$1,000
Chenango 5 & 24 - Establish a 1.5 mi. interpretive trail through the tornado blow down area in stands B-1 (Chenango 24) and F-12 (Chenango 5). A portion of the trail will be constructed to ADAAG	10.0	30.0	\$60,000
Chenango 21 - Develop one lean-to campsite along the Finger Lakes Trail	1.0	30.0	\$8,000
Chenango 31 - Designate 10 miles of current cross-country ski trail as mountain bike trail	5.0	30.0	\$30,000
Cortland 3 - Build 2,100 feet of connecting trail for snowmobiles with volunteer assistance	4.0	10.0	\$8,000

<b>2008 Projects</b>	<b>L&amp;F Workdays</b>	<b>Other DEC Workdays</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Cortland 5 and Labrador Hollow UA - Develop Skyline Trail for hiking	4.0	12.0	\$6,500
Cortland 4 - Reroute section of Onondaga Trail off marked snowmobile trail with volunteer assistance from ADK/ON	3.0	2.0	\$500
Cortland 4 & Onondaga 1 - Develop 15 miles of multipurpose trail for mountain biking & horseback riding • Construct one parking lot for 10 cars and trailers • Install kiosk and update brochure	13.0	60.0	\$65,000
Labrador Hollow Unique Area - Upgrade trail on the steep slope located on the east side of Tinker Falls (ADK/ON) *	4.0	2.0	\$1,500
Labrador Hollow UA - Refurbish boardwalk and parking area to make ADA compliant	2.0	50.0	\$60,000
Oswego 8 - Upgrade 3 campsites to permit-only designated campsites • Enhance access to trail system from CCC Road	3.5	26.0	\$36,700
Oswego 10 - Develop new boat launch	10.0	80.0	\$85,000
Salmon River Conservation Easement Land - Construct 1.0 mile foot trail, accessible where applicable, across existing easement land	8.0	30.0	\$60,000
Tompkins 1 - Construct bridge and relocate sections of FLT. National Park Service grant will cover part of the cost.	50.0	14.0	\$9,800
Tompkins 1 - Install new roof on Tamarack lean-to, funding in part from National Park Service.	3.0	4.0	\$2,000
Tompkins 3 - (Phase II) • Construct two kiosks • Develop approximately 10 miles of mountain bike trails	10.0	10.0	\$8,000
Tompkins 2 - Sign multipurpose trail for carriage riding	1.0	2.0	\$350
<b>PROJECT TOTALS</b>	69.5	337.0	\$496,850

<b>2009 Projects</b>	<b>L&amp;F Workdays</b>	<b>Other DEC Workdays</b>	<b>Cost</b>
<b>Annual Maintenance</b>			\$177,257
General -Develop activity specific brochure for mountain biking and one for horseback riding	14.0	0.0	\$4,000
General - Develop a brochure to describe the basic rules, regulations or laws pertaining to recreation on State Forests	7.0	0.0	\$2,000
General - Evaluate trails constructed from private land across State Forests. Designate as official trail per guidelines	20.0	8.0	\$2,500
General - Map and inspect all recreational trails leading from private lands to trails on State Forests. Evaluate and initiate an AANR partnership. Complete by 2009	10.0	0.0	\$3,000
General - Map all recreational trails using Global Positioning System (GPS and Geographic Information System (GIS) by 2010	30.0	0.0	\$6,000
General - Install kiosks at ten State Forests	5.0	10.0	\$20,000
Cayuga 2 - Designate and rehabilitate existing horseback riding trail	7.0	40.0	\$40,000
Cayuga 2 - Construct parking lot for 3 cars and trailers	1.0	8.0	\$9,000
Cayuga 2 - Close and stabilize snowmobile trail on abandoned Town Line Road and Sun Lane and between Salt Road and Lick Street	3.0	4.0	\$2,000
Cayuga 2 - Install kiosk and develop area brochure	6.0	6.0	\$5,000
Cayuga 3 - Rehabilitate hiking trail	3.0	20.0	\$18,000
Cayuga 3 - Construct 3 car parking lot and gate	2.0	10.0	\$8,000
Cayuga 3 - Install kiosk and develop brochure	6.0	6.0	\$5,000
Chenango 5 & 24 - Establish a 1.5 mi. interpretive trail through the tornado area: Stands B-1 (Chen 24) and F-12 (Chen 5).	20.0	40.0	\$10,000
<b>2009 Projects</b>	<b>L&amp;F Workdays</b>	<b>Other DEC Workdays</b>	<b>Cost</b>

<p>Cortland 9 &amp; 10 -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Construct new 1.0 mile cross-country ski trail to connect parking lot on Clute Rd. with the Finger Lakes Trail on Pipeline Rd. (Volunteers will assist with trail construction.)</li> <li>• Rehabilitate 1.5 mi. of existing cross-country ski trail north of Pipeline Rd.</li> <li>• Construct 5-car parking lot</li> <li>• Install new kiosk</li> </ul>	2.0	4.0	\$16,000
Oswego 8 - Develop ski trail from Little America to Coey Hill Road	5.0	15.0	\$7,500
Oswego 8 - Develop snowmobile trail from Kay Road to Route 17	5.0	10.0	\$12,500
<p>Redfield Day-Use Area -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Build accessible trail with spurs leading to shore</li> <li>• Close access road</li> <li>• Install two barrier gates</li> <li>• Develop 3-5 common areas for picnicking</li> </ul>	6.0	40.0	\$42,000
<p>Salmon River Falls UA - Construct trail from last overlook to the top of falls</p> <p>Construct trail to connect Falls area with Lower reservoir</p>	15.0	80.0	\$95,000
<b>PROJECT TOTALS</b>	81.0	283.0	\$307,500

<b>2010 Projects</b>	<b>L&amp;F Workdays</b>	<b>Other DEC Workdays</b>	<b>Cost</b>
<b>Annual Maintenance</b>			\$184,063
General - Evaluate trails constructed from private land across State Forests. Designate as official trail per guidelines	20.0	8.0	\$2,500
General - Map all recreational trails using Global Positioning System (GPS and Geographic Information System (GIS) by 2010	30.0	0.0	\$6,000
General - Install kiosks at ten State Forests	5.0	10.0	\$20,000
Camillus Forest Unique Area: Stabilize erosion on access road Install kiosk	2.0	5.0	\$3,000
Chenango 17 & 34 - Develop 1.0 mi. of hiking/interpretive trail adjacent to camping area	5.0	30.0	\$45,000
Cortland 4 - Upgrade trail on slope near Hemlock Glen lean-to with volunteer assistance from ADK/ON	4.0	2.0	\$1,500
Onondaga 1 - Upgrade switchbacks on Finger Lakes Trail, west of Spruce Pond, with assistance from ADK/ON volunteers	4.0	2.0	\$1,000
Onondaga 1 - Develop new foot trail from Spruce Pond to Shackham Pond, Morgan Hill Road, and then to the eastern boundary of the State Forest. Project to be completed with volunteer assistance from ADK/ON. Bridge to be built by DEC.	10.0	10.0	\$10,000
Oswego 10 - Relocate South Shore multipurpose trail	3.0	15.0	\$6,500
Oswego 10 - Develop 12-15 permit-only designated campsites along the South Shore of the Reservoir (includes 2 accessible sites) • Upgrade 2 permit-only designated campsites on Burdick Island • Upgrade 2 permit-only designated campsites on Huckleberry Island	5.0	8.0	\$10,000

Salmon River Falls UA • Extend accessible trail from falls toward dam to point where terrain precludes further development • Improve remaining trail	5.0	20.0	\$48,000
Tioga 3 - Develop three campsites near Tri-county Pond. One of the sites will be ADAAG compliant	2.0	25.0	\$5,000
Tioga 3 - Install kiosk and develop area brochure	4.0	4.0	\$2,000
<b>PROJECT TOTALS</b>	42.0	116.0	\$160,500

2011 Projects	L&F Workdays	Other DEC Workdays	Cost
<b>Annual Maintenance</b>			\$191,127
General - Evaluate trails constructed from private land across State Forests. Designate as official trail per guidelines	20.0	8.0	\$2,500
General - Develop recreational brochures for the Genny Green Trail Project	2.0	2.0	\$500
General - Install kiosks at ten State Forests	5.0	10.0	\$20,000
Broome-Tioga 2 – Designate 0.5 miles of snowmobile trail between end of public forest access road and private land to the east along the abandoned section of Clute Hill Rd. • Rebuild snowmobile bridge on this trail	4.0	10.0	\$5,000
Camillus Forest Unique Area - Construct additional 2,600 feet of foot trail	6.0	40.0	\$49,500
Cayuga 1 - Upgrade trail to overlook of Bear Swamp to comply with the ADAAG	4.0	18.0	\$29,000
Cortland 1 - Develop foot trail to stone bridge	4.0	20.0	\$25,000
Cortland 1 - Install kiosk and develop brochure	4.0	4.0	\$2,000
Cortland 2 - Reroute Finger Lakes Trail near Mt. Roderick	4.0	2.0	\$2,000
Oswego 4 & 5, Chateaugay State Forest - Rebuild lean-to along trail	3.0	20.0	\$8,000
Oswego 10 - Map trails and campsites, develop area brochure and install kiosk • Construct 5-car parking area at end of Gay Road • Develop connector trail to South Shore Trail	10.0	18.0	\$16,000
Salmon River Conservation Easement Land - Construct 1.0 mile foot trail, accessible where applicable, across existing easement land	8.0	30.0	\$60,000
Tompkins 1 - • Develop an interpretive trail system on the area. • Develop and print an interpretive brochure • Build kiosk	10.0	5.0	\$8,000

Tompkins 3 - Relocate FLT between Brearley Hill Road and Shindagin Hollow Road with FLT volunteer assistance • Relocate FLT between South Road and Shindagin Hollow Road	4.0	2.0	\$2,500
Tompkins 4 - Relocate FLT in needed areas with Cayuga Trails Club volunteer assistance	5.0	2.0	\$2,500
<b>PROJECT TOTALS</b>	35.0	122.0	\$232,500

2012 Projects	L&F Workdays	Other DEC Workdays	Cost
<b>Annual Maintenance</b>			\$198,462
General - Examine the feasibility of developing and designing a long-distance snowmobile loop trail in Broome, Chenango, Cortland, Madison and Onondaga Counties. This will be part of Genny Green project.	5.0	0.0	\$1,000
General - Develop recreational brochures for the Genny Green Trail Project	2.0	2.0	\$500
General - Install kiosks at ten State Forests	5.0	10.0	\$20,000
Broome 4 - Construct two campsites near the pond	1.5	10.0	\$5,000
Cortland 2 - Improve trail switchbacks on Finger Lakes Trail near Taylor Valley/Chenango Day-Use Area with ADK/ON volunteer assistance	4.0	2.0	\$2,000
Labrador Hollow Unique Area - Develop an ADAAG compliant 0.25 mile trail to Tinker Falls • Install one gate • Develop parking for people with disabilities	6.0	30.0	\$40,000
Oswego 8 - Upgrade 3-4 informal campsites and designate them for use by permit only	4.0	8.0	\$4,000
Oswego 9 - Upgrade existing haul road to ADAAG compliant trail • Construct 3-car parking area • Gate access road	5.0	36.0	\$18,500
Salmon River Conservation Easement Land - Construct 1.0 mile foot trail, accessible where applicable, across existing easement land	8.0	30.0	\$60,000
Tioga 2 - Develop three campsites near the large pond. One of the sites will be ADAAG compliant • Repair gate	2.0	22.0	\$5,000
Tompkins 1- Develop parking areas (4-5 car capacity each) on Bald Hill Road, South Road and Michigan Hollow Road	4.0	15.0	\$12,000
Tompkins 1 - Develop (4-5 car capacity) parking areas on Bald Hill, South and Michigan Hollow Roads	2.0	10.0	\$15,000

Tompkins 2 - Build a parking lot for 10 cars and trailers on Star Stanton Road	2.0	10.0	\$30,000
Tompkins 4 - Develop four-car parking area on Level Green Road at FLT trailhead	2.0	6.0	\$10,000
<b>PROJECT TOTALS</b>	42.5	134.0	\$223,000

2013 Projects	L&F Workdays	Other DEC Workdays	Cost
<b>Annual Maintenance</b>			\$206,082
General - Examine the feasibility of developing and designing a long-distance snowmobile loop trail in Broome, Chenango, Cortland, Madison and Onondaga Counties. This will be part of Genny Green project.	5.0	0.0	\$1,000
General - Install kiosks at ten State Forests	5.0	10.0	\$20,000
Cayuga 1 - Multipurpose trail rehabilitation • Repair, replace and install bridges, culverts, fill, fabric, stone barriers and gates	9.0	40.0	\$42,000
Chenango 26 - Construct 1.0 mi. loop trail providing access to lean-to in stand A-26 • Develop 2-car parking area on Creek Road at trailhead • Develop one lean-to nearest the highest elevation in stand A-26	1.0	5.0	\$29,700
Labrador Hollow Unique Area - Develop an ADAAG compliant 0.25 mile trail to Tinkers Falls • Install one gate • Develop parking for people with disabilities	2.0	40.0	\$48,000
Salmon River Conservation Easement Land - Construct 1.0 mile foot trail, accessible where applicable, across existing easement land	8.0	30.0	\$60,000
Tompkins 1 - Construct a 2,000 ft. snowmobile trail loop to bypass Heisey Road (work to be done by Spencer Van Etten Snowmobile Club)	3.0	2.0	\$1,000
<b>PROJECT TOTALS</b>	24.0	87.0	\$201,700

2014 Projects	L&F Workdays	Other DEC Workdays	Cost
<b>Annual Maintenance</b>			\$214,001
General - Examine the feasibility of developing and designing a long-distance snowmobile loop trail in Broome, Chenango, Cortland, Madison and Onondaga Counties. This will be part of Genny Green project.	5.0	0.0	\$1,000
General - Install kiosks at ten State Forests	5.0	10.0	\$20,000
Chenango 26 - Construct 1.0 mi. loop trail providing access to lean-to in stand A-26 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop 2-car parking area on Creek Road at trailhead</li> <li>• Develop one lean-to nearest the highest elevation in stand A-26</li> </ul>			
Cortland 9 & 10 - Rehabilitate horseback riding trail and construct parking area for four cars and trailers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Install kiosk and develop area brochure</li> </ul>	8.0	22.0	\$26,000
Oswego 4 & 5 - Rehabilitate 8 miles of existing cross-country ski trail system <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop two trailheads with kiosks</li> <li>• Develop area brochure</li> <li>• Develop additional 4-6 miles of multipurpose trail (hiking and cross-country skiing)</li> </ul>	15.0	50.0	\$58,500
Redfield Day-Use Area - Stabilize eroding banks	4.0	15.0	\$9,500
Salmon River Conservation Easement Land - Construct 1.0 mile foot trail, accessible where applicable, across existing easement land	8.0	30.0	\$60,000
Salmon River Falls Unique Area - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gravel existing parking lot</li> <li>• Build auxiliary lot for oversize vehicles</li> </ul>	4.0	20.0	\$29,500
<b>PROJECT TOTALS</b>	49.0	147.0	\$26,000

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## **XVI. Appendices**

### **Appendix 1: Summary of Region 7 Recreation Public Meetings**

The following is a summary of the comments received at the public meetings held at Homer, Johnson City, Sherburne and Syracuse in April and May 1999. *Note: a number following a comment indicates the number of other people who repeated the same thought. This is not an accurate count of the public comments because of the differences in recording comments at the meetings.*

Some recorders made note of thoughts that were repeated while other recorders did not.

**Question 1: What is your reason for visiting State Forests and where else do you participate in your activity?**

<u>Activity</u>	<u>In Region 7</u>	<u>Other Locations</u>
ATV	30	VT/PA, Reg. 6, private
Birding	15	
Boy scout camping	2	Adirondack preserve
Camping	36	Adirondacks., state parks
Canoeing	9	
Contemplation	9	
Dog training/walking	9	
Dog sledding	2	Tughill, Bear Swamp State Forest
Firewood cutting	4	
Fishing	31	Otter Creek/County parks, NYS public & private
Food gathering	3	
Hang gliding	5	Private land, Ellenville, DeRuyter, Harris Hill, Reg. 8 S. F., Elmira 8
Hiking	44	Private lands, PA, Adks., international
Horseback riding	36	Private lands, Otter Creek, USA
Hunting	53	NYS - Public & private, Maine
Informational walks	2	
Kayaking	6	
Motorcycle/dirt bike	9	Massachusetts
Mountain Biking	29	State & county parks, WMAs
Nature study	20	State Forest, WMA Federal lands, private lands, 6, 8, Adirondacks
Other boating	5	Adirondacks
Picnicking	6	

<b>Activity</b>	<b>In Region 7</b>	<b>Other Locations</b>
Rock climbing	3	
Snowmobiling	31	Tughill, Happy Valley, Lowville
Snowshoeing	15	Tughill/Adks., NYS, FLT
Trail running	5	Onondaga County parks
Trapping	6	Coon hunting on mules
Tubing	3	
Cross country skiing	29	Adirondacks

**Question 2: What do you like about State Forests?**

<b>Like</b>	<b>Number</b>
Large land base	14
Opportunity not available on private land	4
Trails are well maintained (FLT)	3
Habitat diversity	36
Natural beauty	10
No motor boats	2
Low maintenance costs	2
Place to meet	6
Controlled with rules and regulations	2
Multiple use	17
Primitive, undeveloped	31
No user fee; using public funds	24
Accessibility	30
Forest Management	7
Narrow trails	2
Map availability	13
Loop trails - horses	11
Not plowed roads - snowmobiling	2

<b>Like</b>	<b>Number</b>
Scattered locations, close-by	2
Snowmobile trails	3
Trail running	2
Clean trails	4
Trail permanence	11
Horseback riding trails	11
Lean-tos	2
Trail heads	3
Safe feeling on marked trail	2
Marked and maintained ski trails	2
Solitude	17
Quiet	13
Clean air	2
Primitive recreation	3
Rustic	2
Ownership	2
Camping facilities (horse)	10
Restrooms (horse)	10
Historical	2
Free travel	2
Unique areas	2

**Question 3: Are State Forests meeting your recreation expectations, and what do you want from State Forests? Sum: 80 Yes, 64 No**

<b>Comment</b>	<b>Number</b>
Don't meet town's expectations; no money to towns	2
More parking	7
Better habitat management	6

<b>Comment</b>	<b>Number</b>
More multiple use trails	14
Wheelchair and handicap access	6
Increase degree of trail difficulty	2
Fix erosion	3
More hiking - snow shoeing trails - low impact paths	6
More hiking trails around wetlands	2
More loop hiking trails	2
Separate trails	3
Single-use trail sections	2
Have seasonal restrictions	2
More trails connecting State Forests	2
Primary horse facility - wants another	4
More horseback riding trails near Cazenovia	2
Provide more parking at non-primary horseback riding areas	2
More horse camping facilities	3
More horse assembly areas	2
More running water, electrical hookups and restrooms - horse areas	2
More covered horse stalls	6
More and bigger parking areas - trailers	2
Larger parking areas	12
More money from snowmobile fund to clubs	3
More snowmobile trails	2
More snowmobile parking	2
Remark snowmobile trails	3
Regional continuity of snowmobile trails	6
Keep snowmobile trails open when logging	2
Dirt bike trails	6

<b>Comment</b>	<b>Number</b>
Widely dispersed dirt bike trails	2
ATV trails	23
No ATV trails	3
ATV registration dollars to go to trail fund	2
ATVs on truck trails	2
ATV camping	2
ATVs on snowmobile trails	2
Single track mountain bike events	2
No mountain bike events	2
Restrict mountain bikes	2
More ski trails	2
Rate ski trail difficulty	2
Improve hang gliding access	3
Trail heads with services	2
Trail makers	6
Better trail maintenance	6
More and better enforcement	3
Seasonal restrictions	2
More education	5
Better volunteer outreach	4
More and better maps	13
Sign in log books	7
Signs showing allowed uses	2
Cooperation with adjacent landowners for hunting access	2
Motor vehicle access for hunting	2
More state lands where there are none	2
Acquire land to link trails	2

<b>Comment</b>	<b>Number</b>
Honor existing leases when buying land	2
Hire more people to manage State Forests instead of acquiring more land	2
Open more roads	2
Keep roads open	2
Improve access to campsites	2
Need water and latrine for primitive camping	2
Clean up pulp - firewood - logging ruts	4
No motors	7
Keep primitive	5

**Question 4: Are there any conflicts with other recreationists for your recreational activity? rough count - yes 30, no 16, sometimes 8**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Source of Conflict</b>	<b>Number</b>
Snowmobiles	ATVs on the trail	6
	ATVs not allowed on private, but using trails	2
	Damaging property	1
	ATVs damaging trails	2
	Hunters on ATVs and vehicles damaging trails	1
Nature Observation & Birding	Loud motors and guns Engine noise	1
Birding	Hunting season	1
Non-motorized	Motorized	2
Quiet Activities	Noisy activities	1
	Late night parties	1
ATV	Horses	3
	ATV and horses not necessarily a conflict	4
ATV	Bikes	4
	Runners	1

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Source of Conflict</b>	<b>Number</b>
	Hunters	1
	Environment erosion, damaging roads	4
	Law - can have TRP for competitive events but otherwise not allowed	1
	Liability issues with ATV trails, ATV-wildlife conflicts, high speeds	1
	Motor vehicles not allowed except where posted for use	1
Horses	Motor vehicles	4
	Deer hunting, hunting season and Sunday hunting	4
	Mountain bikes spook horses	3
	Environment	1
	Hiking trail use	1
	Bridges	1
	Dirt Bikes	1
	Trees	1
(Horse campers)	Non-horse campers acting improperly around horses	1
Mountain bikes	Horse riders with attitudes against bikers	1
	Mountain bikers have no conflicts	1
Cross country skiing	Mountain bikes	1
	Snowmobiles	7
	ATVs	1
Hiking	Mountain bikes	6
	Mountain bikes on wet trails	1
	Hunting and Sunday hunting	5
	Snowmobiles	1
	ATVs	6

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Source of Conflict</b>	<b>Number</b>
	Horses	1
	Motor vehicles	2
	Dogs	1
Hunting	All other users	7
	Hikers and cross country skiers	1
	Military uses	1
	Horseback riding	3
	Mountain biking	4
	Deer hunting is only 4 weeks long	1
(Small games hunting)	archery season	1
Trapping	Vandalism to traps	1
	Pets	1
	Anything	1
Forest management safety	Aesthetics	1
	Log trucks	1
	Logging operations damaging trail erosion control	1
General/Miscellaneous	Camping/respect for others	1
	Dog problems	3
	Sunday hunting	1
	Litter	2
	Sunday hunting with trail maintenance	1
	Private landowners vs. access to state land	1
	Local government vs. road use	1
	Total multiple use	4
	Parties	2

**Question 5: What can DEC do to reduce conflicts?**

<b>Comment</b>	<b>Number</b>
Mark and sign trails, improve adequate maintenance	1
Identify poor roads, trails and close or limit use or mark to limit certain uses	1
Mark trails to keep wrong users off, control use of trails with signs	4
Multi-purpose trails need to be signed as to their multi-purpose users	1
Improve parking opportunities for trailers	1
Put certain restriction on trails	1
Put certain restrictions by State Forest area	1
Designate seasons of use	1
Favor multiple use	1
Prohibit multiple use trails	1
Separate uses - trails	6
Separate schedules	3
Separate uses in conflict, dispersion	3
Designate trails	7
Designate single use trails	8
Assess compatible use and share	1
Separate motorized from passive recreation	1
Separate some bike/hike	1
Coexistence	1
Single/limited uses	1
Designate specific use areas	1
Concentrating activities on certain areas & maintenance of quiet areas (birding)	1
Avoid single use areas	1
Individual trails for specific users	1
Separate ATV/Snowmobile	1

<b>Comment</b>	<b>Number</b>
Designate an area for ATV only	2
If ATVs allowed, need more and better parking	1
Locate ATV trails in non-fragile areas	1
Supervise ATVs with user organizations	1
Mountain bike and ATVs are compatible	1
Open snowmobile trails to ATVs and dirt bikes	1
Special trails & areas for 4-wheeler - this will keep them off wrong areas - special trails should be challenging & interesting - good trails are blocked off - take one State Forest and make it 4-wheeler & educate them where this area is. Remote areas - i.e. Fairfield	1
Don't spend \$ on ATV trails - not compatible. If necessary only allow them on roads.	1
Objections to \$ for ATV trails	1
Ethical problems with ATV damage	1
Keep ATVs out - enforce illegal use - make legal areas for ATVs	1
Snowmobile trails winter - ATVs winter only	1
Install gates to control ATV access	1
Logging trails for ATV/snowmobiles	1
Restrict hours of ATV operation (not at night)	1
Allow clubs to develop separate ATV trails	1
Motor vehicles have rights to use state land	1
Less official support for environment damaging uses	1
Prohibit motor vehicles	1
[Provide] motorized and non-motorized trails	1
Disperse use over numerous properties to reduce impact	1
State land everyone should be able to use	2
Adopt a trail - volunteer help	6
No new trails - do better with what we have	1

<b>Comment</b>	<b>Number</b>
Relocate trails & coordinate with logging operations	2
Widen truck trails for carriages	1
Allow water crossing for horseback riding trails	1
<b>Regulations/policy</b>	
Eliminate Sunday hunting - extend season one week	1
Separate Sunday hunting areas from horseback riding trails	1
No Sunday hunting	3
Allow Sunday hunting	1
Set truck speed limits	1
Rotate hunting areas	1
Sign corridors along trails restricting use	1
Designate target ranges	1
Ban shooting except during hunting season	1
Pass inherent risk legislation for horses	1
User fees	1
Invest money from timber sales into recreation facilities	1
Enforcement	1
More enforcement (more \$ for enforcement, ski/bike patrol, more info on how to report hunting violations)	12
Points on license for illegal activities	1
Notification of improper use - hot line etc.	1
Enforcement paid by tax \$ - not logging revenues	1
Information and education to reduce conflict	7
Trail head signs to educate users	3
Trail head signs and international symbols	1
Better signs	4
Better distribution of land use regulations	1

<b>Comment</b>	<b>Number</b>
Better signing as to allowed users	1
Better publicity re hunting seasons - post hunting seasons at trail heads	1
Signs to warn of trapping season	1
Signs warning hunters of trails	1
Availability of maps to show uses of certain activities - Internet Website maps with multiple use trails located	1
Put up warning signs logging in progress	1
Publish trail etiquette	1
Warn of events	2
Education	1
Conversations between user groups to educate each other	2
Trail etiquette	7
Inform public of other opportunities, video, state parks, educational centers	1
More education - local and distant uses	5
Educate loggers re other uses	1
Work with local groups - educate, i.e. signs - yield to trail etiquette - but groups can change	1
Trail courtesy/education - courtesy by sign-in	1
Educate hunters as to where other recreation occurs	1
Improve hunter etiquette	1
Educate DEC on ATVs	1
Multiple use workshops	1
<b>Other</b>	
Make snowmobiles quieter and less polluting	3
Make ATVs less noisy and lower emissions	3
State should buy more land	1
Increase land acquisition - easement and/or purchase	1

<b>Comment</b>	<b>Number</b>
More facilities (private) (undeveloped)	1
Make garbage bags available	1
Acquire railroad ROW's	1
Better publicity of these meetings	1

**Question 6: Would restricting uses to certain trails be an appropriate direction provided a reasonable number of opportunities were available?** Note: Variation in the format of the responses is because of the different ways responses were recorded at the meetings.

<b>Comment</b>	<b>Number</b>
[OK for] motorized	5
Not for mountain bikes	1
All uses on every unit	1
Not for hunting or mules	1
With input from users	1
Single use hiking trail	1
Sections	1
Seasonable	1
Should reflect use and demand	1
YES - Motorized & non-motorized separate. Can't justify ATVs in State Forest	1
<b>Hiking:</b> In winter same rights as x-country skiers	1
OK to limit some use just to marked trails if environmental concerns are the reason to limit uses of other trails	12
For safety	1
Many/a lot of uses have to be limited to certain spots- <u>Minimal Impact</u> objective	2
<b>Horses:</b> Don't limit horses to trails only, but protect rare and sensitive areas	1
Horses on trails only? - no conflict right now	1
Control erosion from horses	1

<b>Comment</b>	<b>Number</b>
NO - Horse riders make trails then others can use them too	2
Horses - restrict	1
<b>Mountain bikes/snowmobiles:</b> YES - But do not need laws	1
OK but need to be better marked	2
YES - 23      ATVs (1)	
<b>Snowmobiles:</b> Also need access to trails	1
Snowmobiles don't go off trails	2
For environmental concerns	4
Educate why	1
Depends on amount of use	1
Certain restrictions	1
Generally good for all	1
<b>Mountain Biking:</b> Bikers favor few long to many short trails.	3
Mountain bikes - restrict	1
In favor - current use for some trails	1
In favor - only provided all uses are met	1
Education on own activity and others	1
Determine user preferences	1
YES - But traffic and season imp.	1
Low impact activities for off trail.	1
NO - ATVs	2
NO - Snowmobiles	1
Don't need to restrict (recreational purpose)	1
Do restrict in general (recreational purpose)	6
Restrict use during hunting season	1
Restrict when appropriate	3
YES - Majority	1

<b><u>Comment</u></b>	<b><u>Number</u></b>
NO - Mule hunting should not be restricted to trails	2
YES	9
NO	3
Like to keep interaction of different users	1
Depends on who lays out the trail	1
Protect fragile areas, rare plants	1
Horses and mountain bikes near wetlands, ATVs, trail bikes	1

***Question 7: When you visit a State Forest, what information do you want for your activity, have we provided the information you need, or can DEC do a better job of providing that information?***

<b><u>Comment</u></b>	<b><u>Number</u></b>
Maps/Brochure Info	1
More and better maps	8
Provide maps/brochures at more locations; trail heads, libraries, Website, tourist locations, etc.	4
Multiple use maps	1
Overall map of CNY like the one at the session	1
Key map to special use opportunities	1
Booklet of maps	1
Drinking water - camping - available maps like PA State Forests info at State Forest of different areas with similar opportunities as Brookfield	1
Education - Signs at seasons	1
Dangerous areas - fragile areas	1
<b>MAPS</b>	
- rest areas	1
- trail intersections	1
- showing State Forest & activity guidelines - dos and don't	12
- make Regional map showing where activities are available	2

<b><u>Comment</u></b>	<b><u>Number</u></b>
- continue offering maps	1
- list birds found or seen in State Forest by season	1
- maps should be made educational pointing out sensitive sites and water sites	2
- improve availability of maps	2
- make larger maps	1
- topographic maps with trail overlay	2
- don't make them cheap	1
- make 'em cheap	1
State Forest maps don't show trails	1
More discretion on trails	1
Map detail and trail intersection info	1
Show trail distance and time	1
Adequate info now	1
Maps on Website	4
Info on each property on web site	1
Put compass points on maps	1
[Provide] names for identification of roads within State Forest	1
Updated brochures	3
Recycle/reuse brochures	4
<b><u>Rangers</u></b>	
Contacts - who to contact for violations	1
Hard to contact rangers for camping permits 800 number needed	1
E-mail address available	1
Need one place to report violations	1
<b><u>Trails</u></b>	
Maps at entries of trails	1

<b><u>Comment</u></b>	<b><u>Number</u></b>
More sign in registers	1
Information needed on trail beginning/heads	1
Post hunting and trapping seasons at trail heads	1
Post regulations at trail heads	1
Labrador hang gliding site - post info on use & no fire	1
<b><u>Trails</u></b>	
Litter problem - educate user	1
General Info - eat, stay - general info	1
[Better marked] trail markers	2
Parking for snowmobiles and horseback riding trailers	1
<b><u>Signs</u></b>	
Bigger signs for snowmobilers and reflective signs	1
Better maintenance of existing signs - road signs on snowmobile trail; - sign alternate routes for trail closure	1
More and better signage	7
Signs identifying which State Forest one is entering	1
Interpretive signs/information	5
Kiosk	3
[Provide] directional signs	1
<b><u>General</u></b>	
Trail user etiquette	2
Horse safety/actions around horses	1
Work with Roger's for joint programs	1
Clubs good source of info and volunteers	1
More notice of trail closures provide alternative route	1
Information about clubs made available	2
Encourage cooperation for sponsorship and stewardship of users for signs - also private businesses sponsors	1

<u>Comment</u>	<u>Number</u>
Warnings - canoes - danger areas	1
Use "Conservationist," Post Office, DEC web site, libraries, hunting/fishing regulations, highways, trail heads	1
Too much publicity+overuse?!? and possibly unable to manage effectively	1
Encourage volunteer maintenance	1
Fund for: Volunteer donations for maintenance from user groups	1
More documentation of rare/endangered species - may be unaware of loss	1
Better parking for rigs, ability to turn around	1
Private landowners need to be educated	1
Bear swamp good publication (town of Webb advice on maps)	1
Regional web site (student involvement)	1

**Question 8: Are there any other issues regarding recreation you want to comment on?**

<u>Comment</u>	<u>Number</u>
<b>ATVs</b>	
Have ATV trails with a variety of terrain - steep hills, mud, etc.	1
ATV registration fees to [go to] DEC	1
[ATV comment] - Promote fair use and equitable use - ATV users are excluded now	1
ATV users are sensitive to effects of their use (environmental) and can create access for other users	1
Air pollution concern with ATV use	1
Walk, and enjoy environment	1
Certain few rowdies can bad-name an entire group in any use	1
Disbelief in DEC's willingness to listen	1
Motorcycle impact is overstated	1
Where does registration \$ go to?	1

<b><u>Comment</u></b>	<b><u>Number</u></b>
ATVs should get trail, horseback riding trail users in Brookfield don't pay for services	1
<b><u>Law Enforcement</u></b>	
More enforcement	2
Enhance Risk Legislation (legislation to stop frivolous lawsuits) - a real problem to use of private land for "connections"	1
Tax break for easement for FLT on private land easement	1
Consider number of participants by specific activities - number of birders	1
Land use balance should be considered on a large scale (state vs private land)	1
<b><u>Trails</u></b>	
No user fees for birding, hiking	1
Specific users should pay their own way	1
DEC be sensitive to specific demands as to land users	1
Llamas over horses (less impact)	1
Air pollution (snowmobiles) promoting and cycle engines	1
Need long trails, work to connect State Forest's work with Finger Lakes Trail to allow multiple use on public lands	1
Some portions of FLT might be too steep for other uses	1
Snowmobiles - don't want speed limits	1
Proper layout, design, and water management on trails	1
Publish lists of open and closed trails	1
Want more carriage trails	1
Turn logging roads into carriage trails	1
Want more physically challenged access	1
No jet skis in State Forests	1
Encourage Genny Green Trail	1
Revisit mountain bike ban on FLT	1

<b><u>Comment</u></b>	<b><u>Number</u></b>
<b><u>Logging</u></b>	
Enforce best management practices for loggers	1
FLT trails - conflict with logging - loggers remark trails and clear trails	1
Logging leaves shoddy mess and can affect trails in area (ruts)	1
Protection of the FLT by buffer zones, i.e. not log higher status for FLT or having it be a state trail	1
Logging revenues returned to local areas	1
Locate trails away from logging	1
Better logging standards on state land	1
<b><u>Volunteers</u></b>	
Clubs/groups/college classes should volunteer to help maintain trails	1
Colgate University outdoor education program to help as volunteers	1
Chenango County bird club has bird info on a township basis	1
DEC attendance at user group (club) meetings	1
Recreational Outreach/change DEC image	1
DEC coordinates user groups	1
Horseback riding trail users as volunteers	1
All users should contribute to trail maintenance and creation	1
Hikers contribute to trail maintenance and creation	1
Encourage youth involvement	1
<b><u>Other Comments</u></b>	
DEC leans towards money sources (hunting)	1
Protection of resource should be number 1	1
Want to know the results of this meeting	1
Accommodate all - co-existence of users don't close out uses from forests - integrate uses non-separate trails	1
Encourage users locally to keep tourism local - good for local business	1

<b><u>Comment</u></b>	<b><u>Number</u></b>
Mountain bikers competitive events in Region 7	1
Allow ice climbing and rock climbing	1
More meeting like this	1
Vet skills - limit access	1
Motorboat use and size vs. lake size	1
Who pays for ipm. facilities	1
Combine handicapped access with hang gliding	1
Non New Yorker - monetary contribution	1
More license offices	1
Study multiple use	1
No permit for camping < 3 days	1
Acquire more lands in Onondaga County	1
More Camillus management info needed	1
Assess demand through log books and surveys	1
Restrictions as last resort	1

**Question 9: Are user fees a reasonable option to attain quality recreational trail development and maintenance?** Rough count - yes 37, no 32, undecided 1

<b><u>Comment</u></b>	<b><u>Number</u></b>
Willing to pay camping fee, seasonal permit@ developed areas like Otter Creek IF money goes back	2
No user fees - taxes already cover this Membership in certain organizations - give a break in map costs	1
Hard to administer hikers fees	1
Administrative costs might be prohibitive	2
Fees might exclude unplanned visits	1
Okay but "I don't know how you would ever do it" Too many locations	1
Okay if reasonable and fair	5
Should not require a whole new change in structure	1

<b><u>Comment</u></b>	<b><u>Number</u></b>
Okay, but would expect higher quality...drainage on X-country trails	1
Okay, ATV for high maintenance cost	1
Okay, expect something for it	2
Necessary and accountable	1
Take more money from general fund rather than conservation fund for trail maintenance	1
Could be liability with fee??	1
<b><u>Yes Responses</u></b>	
If dedicated funds	1
Have user fee for any activity	1
Put tax on certain purchases	1
Needs to be a net benefit	2
If general funding was reduced & they got a news letter or other tangible gain	1
Agree with concept - unsure how it would be done	2
Tax on equipment to go to a dedicated fund	1
Depends on services provided	1
OK	2
Everyone should pay fees	1
If 100% goes to trails, not to general fund	1
Keep it low and apply it to everyone	1
If money goes back to DEC area	1
Only for those users not already paying	1
<b><u>No Responses</u></b>	
Use volunteers on snowmobile and other trails	1
Not for mountain bikers on State Forests	1
Have ATV funds go for trails	1
No to on-site fees	1

<b><u>Comment</u></b>	<b><u>Number</u></b>
Don't agree	1
Would donate money - almost everyone already pays for campgrounds	1
Would limit some users who can't pay	1
No user fees	2
ATV and snowmobiles already pay	1
Fee collection cost would be more than the fee revenue for the state	1
Timber sale money should go back into state lands for maintaining trails, etc.	1
DEC should not be in the primary business of recreation but should protect and serve	1
Oppose fee for motorized users but not for others	1
Allocate existing taxes but not new taxes	1
Hunters already pay with license fees	1
No user fees for hikers	1
ATV usage increase will generate income	1
State needs better fiscal responsibilities	1
No additional fee on top of registrations.	1

**Appendix 2: Selected Excerpts from Environmental Conservation Rules and Regulations Title 6 Part 190 of the Official Compilation of Codes, Rules and Regulations of the State of New York** *These excerpts deal with State Forests.*

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**PART 190 USE OF STATE LANDS**

(Statutory authority: Environmental Conservation Law, §§ 1-0101, 3-0301, 9-0105; Executive Law, § 816; L. 1970, ch. 140)

**§190.0 Introduction.**

- a. The provisions of this Part shall apply to all persons entering upon or using State lands which are subject to the provisions of article 9, article 45, or article 49 of the Environmental Conservation Law or defined as "unique areas", "environmentally sensitive lands" or "conservation easements" in this section.
- b. *Definitions.* As used in this Chapter, the following words shall have the indicated meanings:
  1. *Bicycle* shall mean a vehicle with two or more wheels, a steering handle, a saddle seat, or seats and pedals by which it is propelled.
  2. *Camp* shall mean any form of temporary shelter, including but not limited to a tent, motor home travel trailer, mobile home, or the use of any vehicle for shelter or sleeping.
  3. *Commissioner* shall mean the State Commissioner of Environmental Conservation.
  4. *Conservation easement* means an easement, covenant, restriction or other interest in real property, which limits or restricts development, management or use of such real property for the purpose of preserving or maintaining the scenic, open, historic, archaeological, architectural, or natural condition, character, significance or amenities of the real property in a manner consistent with the public policy and purpose set forth in section 49-0301 of the Environmental Conservation Law.
  5. *Department* means the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.
  6. *Environmentally sensitive lands* means State lands of exceptional scenic beauty, exceptional forest character, open space, pine barrens, trailways, unique character or public access acquired under the authority of section 52-0701 of the Environmental Conservation Law.
  7. *Mechanically propelled vessel* shall mean any boat or other vessel for transporting personnel, supplies or material on water, which incorporates a motor or engine of any type for propulsion.
  8. *Motor vehicle* shall mean a device for transporting personnel, supplies or material incorporating a motor or an engine of any type for propulsion, and with wheels, tracks, skids, skis, air cushion or other contrivance for traveling on or adjacent to land, water or ice. It shall include such vehicles as automobiles, trucks, jeeps, all-terrain vehicles, duffel carriers, snowcats, bulldozers and other earth-moving equipment, but shall not include snowmobiles.
  10. *Public campgrounds* means any intensive use area designated as a public

campground, operated by the Department of Environmental Conservation, where a user fee is collected for public use. *Public campgrounds* also include the following special facilities: Lake George Beach Park, Lake George Battlefield Park, Prospect Mountain Veterans Memorial Highway, Fourth Lake Picnic Area and Hinckley Reservoir Picnic Area.

12. *Unique area* means State lands acquired under the authority of section 51-0701(3) of the Environmental Conservation Law.

#### **§190.1 Fire.**

- a. No fires are permitted except for cooking, warmth or smudge. No fire shall be lit until all flammable material has been removed from its perimeter as is necessary to prevent its spread. No fires shall be left unattended until extinguished.
- b. No person shall deposit lighted matches, cigars, cigarettes or other burning tobacco where they will cause fire.
- c. No wood, except from dead and down trees or from supplies furnished by the department, shall be used for fuel.

#### **§190.2 Official signs and structures.**

- a. No person shall deface, mutilate or destroy any department sign, structure, barrier or object.
- b. No person shall throw, dump, deposit or place or cause to be thrown, dumped, deposited or placed on or in any department lands or structures any refuse, trash, garbage, rubbish, litter or any nauseous or offensive matter.

#### **§190.3 Camping sites.**

- a. Areas used for temporary camping and adjacent lands under the jurisdiction of the department must be kept in a neat, clean and sanitary condition. Garbage and refuse must either be deposited in receptacles provided, or removed.
- b. Camping is prohibited within 150 feet of any road, trail, spring, stream, pond or other body of water except at camping areas designated by the department.
- c. No person may pollute in any manner nor deposit waste material of any kind in or on waters under the jurisdiction of the department.

#### **§190.4 Camping permits.**

- a. Temporary camping in one location for four nights or more is prohibited except under permit. Except during the big game hunting season, no temporary camping permit will be issued to any person for a period in excess of 14 consecutive nights. No temporary camping permit may be renewed, or a new permit issued, to the same person for the same location in the same calendar year.
- b. Temporary camping is restricted in certain posted areas and no person may camp on such areas without a permit.
- c. Upon termination of camping all equipment and supplies must be removed from State land. The storage of personal property on State lands is prohibited.
- d. No temporary camping permits will be issued to individuals under 18 years of age.
- e. No group of 10 or more individuals may camp on State lands at any time except

under permit.

**§190.5 Permissible structures.**

- a. Permits for the erection of permanent tent platforms and/or lean-tos (open camps) will not be issued by the department under any condition. No person shall erect a tent platform or lean-to (open camp).
- b. The transfer of existing lean-tos (open camps) will not be permitted under any condition.
- c. Current permits for lean-tos (open camps) will be canceled:
  - 1. upon the death of the permittee;
  - 2. when the permitted no longer desires to continue to use and maintain the structure;
  - 3. when as a result of an inspection the lean-to is found to be deteriorated or does not meet department specifications and the condition is not rectified within a reasonable time.
- d. Any of the above structures heretofore erected in accordance with department standard plans are and shall remain the property of the State.
- e. Temporary wooden platforms may be erected in connection with any tent camping permit but shall be removed at the expiration of the permit. No person shall erect tar paper or plastic structures of any sort.
- f. Portable canvas houses with or without platforms are permitted under general camping permits.
- g. Camping permits granted under subdivision (a) of section 190.4 of this Part will permit the use of tents without platforms or on temporary wooden platforms. When occupied for more than three successive nights, permits for the use of a lean-to (open camp) shall be secured in accordance with subdivision (a) of section 190.4 of this Part and the department may grant similar permits to persons other than the builder when not occupied by him under permit.

**§190.6 Open camps.**

- a. Open camps (lean-tos) may not be occupied by the same person or persons for more than three successive nights or for more than 10 nights in any one calendar year, provided others wish to use such camps.
- b. The enclosure of the fronts of open camps is prohibited, except by tying canvas or nylon tarpaulins in place or erecting snow walls. The use of wood, nails, screws or other fasteners is prohibited.
- c. The erection of tents in open camps is prohibited.

**§190.8 General.**

- a. The use of State Forest preserve land or any improvements thereon for private revenue or commercial purposes is prohibited.
- b. Except in an emergency, no mechanically propelled vessel equipped with living quarters shall be anchored or moored to (1) State land above water except under permit from the department, or (2) State land under water for a period in excess of 24 hours. The permit and the 24-hour period referred to herein above may be terminated by the department in the event that the vessel operator fails to comply with any provision of the

Navigation Law of the State of New York or any rule or regulation adopted pursuant thereto, or anchors, moors, or otherwise maintains such vessel in such a manner as to create a hazard to navigation.

c. No boat of any kind shall be tied up or otherwise fastened to any State dock so as to prevent free access to such structure.

d. The use of toboggans, sleds and snowmobiles on ski trails and ski slopes is prohibited.

e. Any tent or other camping structure left unoccupied for more than 48 hours may be taken down or removed by the department.

f. The sale of all alcoholic beverages is prohibited on all State lands at any time except by concessionaires and then only when such sales are provided for in concession agreements.

g. No person shall deface, remove, destroy or otherwise injure in any manner whatsoever any tree, flower, shrub, fern, moss or other plant, rock, fossil or mineral found or growing on State land, excepting under permit from the Commissioner of Environmental Conservation and the Assistant Commissioner for State Museum and Science Service, pursuant to section 233 of the Education Law as amended by chapter 121 of the Laws of 1958, nor shall songbirds and their nests and other wildlife be molested or disturbed at any time, except during the open season therefor, if any.

h. Gambling for money or any other valuable thing upon any State land is prohibited.

i. No person shall erect or post any notice or sign upon State land at any time.

j. No person shall, while on State land or waters under the jurisdiction of the department:

1. intentionally obstruct, prevent or attempt to prevent any officers or employees of the department from performing their legal duties, by means of intimidation, physical force, interference or disobedience of any lawful order or by means of any independently unlawful act;

2. intentionally expose the private or intimate parts of his or her body in a lewd manner;

3. obstruct vehicular or pedestrian traffic with intent to cause public inconvenience, annoyance or alarm, or recklessly create a risk;

4. engage in fighting or violent, tumultuous or threatening behavior; or

5. engage in any other activity which violates the Penal Law.

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

l. No motor vehicle towing, pushing, or hauling a trailer will be permitted access to the Fourth Lake picnic area. The launching of boats other than those carried on carts is prohibited.

m. Use of motor vehicles on State land under the jurisdiction of the Department of Environmental Conservation outside the forest preserve is prohibited, except where specifically permitted by posted notice or by permit issued by the department. Use of motor vehicles within the forest preserve is governed by Part 196 of this Chapter.

n. The riding, driving or leading of horses will be permitted anywhere on State lands under the jurisdiction of the Department of Environmental Conservation unless otherwise prohibited by law, regulation, posted notice or this subdivision. No person shall ride or permit a horse on:

1. land devoted to intensively developed facilities, such as boat launch sites, day use areas, campsites, ski centers, education centers, fish hatcheries, game farms or headquarters complexes, and lands managed for public safety, such as flood control levees;

2. foot trails, except where such trails are part of a publicly maintained road, or are specifically designated to allow travel by horses thereon; and

3. designated snowmobile trails and cross-country ski trails that are covered with ice or snow.

o. No person shall use any portion of State lands for agricultural purposes, including but not limited to the grazing of cattle or domestic animals of any kind thereon, unless he has obtained a permit from the department.

p. No person shall fail to comply with the instructions contained on a sign of the Department of Environmental Conservation.

**Appendix 3: Region 7 Population by County (1980 and 1990 U.S. Census data)**

<b>County</b>	<b>1980 Population</b>	<b>1990 Population</b>	<b>1998 Population Est.*</b>
Broome	213,648	212,160	196,545
Cayuga	79,894	82,313	81,264
Chenango	49,344	51,768	51,052
Cortland	48,820	48,963	48,033
Madison	65,150	69,120	71,069
Onondaga	463,324	468,973	458,301
Oswego	113,901	121,771	124,006
Tioga	49,812	52,337	52,477
Tompkins	87,085	94,097	96,020
Total	1,170,978	1,201,502	1,178,767
NYS	17,557,288	17,990,455	18,175,301

\* 1998 Population Estimate from the New York State Data Center

## Appendix 4: Evaluation of Forests for Recreational Trail Development

Many factors and considerations were weighed in the development of this plan including:

- Public input, societal influences and recreational demand
- The Department’s mission, rules and regulations
- Budgetary and staffing constraints
- The present availability of recreational opportunities on both public and private properties
- The suitability of each State Forest to support recreational activities

This step of the planning process addresses the suitability of each State Forest to support recreational activities. To do this we assessed the physical, ecological and environmental constraints of each State Forest using the form on page 189. Factors that were considered included:

- Property size and shape
- Soils and topography
- Rare and endangered species and significant archeological artifacts
- Wetlands, water bodies and protected streams
- Dedicated or planned reserves
- Existing uses of the property

These constraints were then weighed against the specific needs and impacts of each recreational pursuit. An evaluation form was developed to formalize this analysis. This step of recreational planning strives to “put the right trail in the right location” in order to reduce future maintenance costs and to minimize impacts on the environment. As mentioned this information has to be considered in context with all the other factors mentioned earlier in order to make proper decisions.

The evaluation form and results of this step of the planning process have been included in this appendix.

**Summary of State Forest Evaluations** - All numbers are recorded as acres.

<b>Letter Code</b>	<b>Evaluation Result or Decision</b>
P	Proposal to designate or develop a trail
E	Existing loop trail on the forest
A	Acres insufficient - Forest disqualified for trail system
C	Conflicts with existing uses - Forest disqualified.
F	Forest boundary configuration prevents trail development - Forest disqualified.
TH	No suitable trail head locations - Forest disqualified
D	Forest was disqualified during the evaluation process so a soils evaluation was not done

<b>County</b>	<b>Forest #</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Unsuitable</b>	<b>Net</b>	<b>Poor Soil</b>	<b>Ski</b>	<b>Mt. Bike</b>	<b>Horse</b>	<b>Snowmobile</b>
Br-Chen	1	1028	66	962	380	582	A	A	A
Broome	1	661	109	552	220	A	A	A	A

County	Forest #	Total	Unsuitable	Net	Poor Soil	Ski	Mt. Bike	Horse	Snowmobile
Broome	2	1987	225	1762	160	1602	1602	1602	A
Broome	3	539	400	139	D	E	A	A	A
Broome	4	893	147	746	50	696	A	A	A
Broome	5	533	93	437	D	A	A	A	A
Broome	6	533	36	497	D	A	A	A	A
Broome	7	791	325	466	D	A	A	A	A
Broome	8	812	287	525	0	525	A	A	A
Broome	9	759	182	577	0	577	A	A	A
Broome	10	400	100	300	D	A	A	A	A
Br-Tioga	1	512	100	412	D	A	A	A	A
Br-Tioga	2	1148	356	792	402	A	A	A	A
Cayuga	1&4	3315	1875	1440	215	E	E	E	A
Cayuga	2	4335	1943	2412	1930	A	A	E	E
Cayuga	3	754	300	454	D	E	A	A	A
Chenango	1&11	6772	2156	4616	230	4386	P	4386	A
Chenango	2&25	5809	888	4921	527	4783	4783	4783	A
Chenango	3	1314	259	1055	100	955	A	A	A
Chenango	4	938	155	783	85	698	A	A	A
Chenango	5&24	9069	3096	5973	670	5303	5303	5303	5303
Chenango	6	3197	909	2288	400	1888	1888	1888	A
Chenango	7	1240	233	1007	120	887	A	A	A
Chenango	8	1666	561	1105	76	1029	1029	A	A
Chenango	9&15	3469	642	2827	200	2627	2627	2627	A
Chenango	10&30	2156	54	2102	1200	902	A	A	A
Chenango	12,17,19, 32 & 34	8295	1157	7138	1754	5384	5384	5384	5384
Chenango	13	576	47	539	50	489	A	A	A
Chenango	14	628	0	628	0	628	A	A	A
Chenango	16	1835	110	1725	780	945	A	A	A
Chenango	18&23	4630	643	3987	971	3016	3016	3016	A
Chenango	20	2178	663	1515	216	1299	1299	A	A
Chenango	21	1043	554	489	D	A	A	A	A
Chenango	22	1870	540	1330	290	1040	1040	A	A
Chenango	26	3181	1476	1705	300	1405	1405	A	A
Chenango	27	1156	86	1070	375	1070	A	A	A

County	Forest #	Total	Unsuitable	Net	Poor Soil	Ski	Mt. Bike	Horse	Snowmobile
Chenango	28	601	50	551	250	A	A	A	A
Chenango	29	528	194	334	D	A	A	A	A
Chenango	31	1093	29	1064	175	E	P	A	A
Chenango	33	528	225	303	D	A	A	A	A
Chenango	35	3254	1345	1909	650	1259	1259	A	A
Chenango	36	717	155	562	D	TH	A	A	A
Chenango	37	274	0	274	D	A	A	A	A
Chenango	38	1143	46	1097	46	1051	1051	A	A
Chen-Mad	1&2	3002	1715	1287	50	1237	F	A,F	A,F
Cort/Ono	LHUA	1483	1049	434	D	A	A	A	A
Cortland	1	937	24	913	457	A	A	A	A
Cortland	2	4638	1541	3097	619	2478	2478	2478	A
Cortland	3	3327	1354	1873	645	E	1228	1873	A
Cortland	3 OH*	1202	405	1097	60	1037	1037	A	A
Cort/Ono	4&1	5253	2289	2964	618	P	P	2346	A
Cortland	5	597	92	505	94	A	A	A	A
Cortland	6	5503	429	5074	2610	2464	2464	2464	A
Cortland	7	1093	250	843	256	597	A	A	A
Cortland	8	908	525	383	D	A	A	A	A
Cortland	9	1484	600	884	133	E	A	A	A
Cortland	10	952	952	0	D	A	A	A	A
Cortland	11	2343	225	2118	318	1800	1800	1800	A
Cortland	12	1276	742	534	38	A	A	A	A
Cortland	14&15	2064	183	1881	282	1599	1599	1599	A
Cortland	16	728	67	661	66	595	A	A	A
Cortland	17	833	293	540	54	A	A	A	A
Madison	1&4	9414	4224	5190	D	C	P	E	E
Madison	2	633	0	633	D	TH	A	A	A
Madison	3	797	55	742	60	682	A	A	A
Madison	5	3090	1216	1874	0	TH	1874	1874	A, TH
Madison	6	848	500	348	D	A,C	P	E	E
Madison	7	759	162	597	0	597	A	A	A
Madison	8	704	78	626	D	TH	A	A	A
Madison	9	972	23	949	D	TH	A	A	A
Madison	10	1290	746	544	D	F	A	A	A

County	Forest #	Total	Unsuitable	Net	Poor Soil	Ski	Mt. Bike	Horse	Snowmobile
Madison	11&12	3430	3065	365	D	A	P	E	E
Madison	13	1469	1300	169	D	E	P	A	A
Madison	14	831	500	331	D	A	A	A	A
Oneid-Mad	1	501	101	400	D	A	A	A	A
Onondaga	CFUA*	350	150	205	D	P	A	A	A
Onondaga	SRUA*	29	29	0	D	A	A	A	A
Osw/Lew	1	1900	570	1330	286	1044	1044	A	A
Oswego	1	909	261	648	182	A	A	A	A
Oswego	3	867	420	447	D	A	A	A	A
Oswego	4&5	3465	1795	1850	375	E	1475	A	A
Oswego	6	959	573	386	D	A	A	A	A
Oswego	7	538	370	168	D	A	A	A	A
Oswego	8	2033	322	1711	225	1486	1486	A	A
Oswego	9	1014	310	704	330	A	A	A	A
Oswego	10	1384	1384	0	D	A	A	A	A
Oswego	11	507	210	297	D	A	A	A	A
Oswego	12	622	0	622	0	E	A	A	A
Oswego	13	866	451	415	D	A	A	A	A
Oswego	14	1569	739	830	305	525	A	A	A
Oswego	SIBUA*	126	126	0	D	A	A	A	A
Oswego	SPBUA*	50	50	0	D	A	A	A	A
Oswego	SRFUA*	129	129	0	D	A	A	A	A
Oswego	SREL*	372	0	372	D	A	A	A	A
Tioga	1	815	296	519	82	A	A	A	A
Tioga	2	1042	1042	0	D	E	E	A	A
Tioga	3	1937	347	1590	350	1240	1240	A	A
Tioga	4	554	50	504	176	A	A	A	A
Tioga	5	1118	232	886	100	786	A	A	A
Tioga	6	500	400	100	D	A	A	E	A
Tioga	7	1349	1200	149	D	E	E	E	A
Tioga	8	1209	279	930	46	884	A	A	A
Tompkins	1	7086	1709	5377	1772	3602	3602	3602	A
Tompkins	2	3618	2009	1609	724	E	E	E	A
Tompkins	3	5266	1244	4022	1846	P	P	2176	A
Tompkins	4	915	318	597	305	A	A	A	A

County	Forest #	Total	Unsuitable	Net	Poor Soil	Ski	Mt. Bike	Horse	Snowmobile
Tompkins	5	1275	14	1070	191	695	1070	A	A
Tompkins	6	1552	591	961	124	837	A	A	A
Tom/Sch	1	973	887	86	D	A	A	A	A

- \* CFUA - Camillus Forest Unique
- LHUA - Labrador Hollow Unique Area
- OH - Cortland 3, Owego Hill
- SIBUA - Sandy Island Beach Unique Area
- SPBUA - Sandy Pond Beach Unique Area
- SREL - Salmon River Easement Land
- SRFUA - Salmon River Forest Unique Area
- SRUA - Split Rock Unique Area

Note: The acreage figures listed for each activity are the potential acres available for developing that type of loop trail on the particular forest. The actual decision to develop a trail depends upon numerous other factors beside the available acreage.

Many factors were considered to determine locations to build new trail systems. One of the factors is the size of the State Forest. There is a minimum acreage necessary for trail development. Each activity has different requirements. The recommended acreage for the development of trails for various activities is shown in the following table.

### Recommended Minimum Acres for Trail Development

Trail Type	Recommended Minimum Acres for Development
Snowmobiling	5,000
Horse Riding	1,500
Mountain Biking	1,000
Nordic Skiing	500

### Forest Evaluations

This analysis/rating form is designed to provide the needed information to determine and rank the suitability of respective forests for recreational trail development. This evaluation is for self-contained loop trails. Each forest can be evaluated individually or as a complex when two or more forests connect. Forests can be combined for their common attributes or kept separate due to significant differences or barriers. The evaluation will assess the forest(s) for its suitability to develop recreational trails. Some or all types of trails may not be suitable on this forest.

**Note:** The word State Forest is used to consider all lands administered by Lands and Forests.

**Further note:** If a forest is within the Genny Green-Link Trail project area, further

consideration is needed. A forest in the project area may be eligible for trail development if it is likely that future acquisition could connect the forest to an adjacent forest. Evaluate the forests where likely connections are feasible to determine if a trail system qualifies and acquisition can be pursued.

**Directions for completing this evaluation:**

Fill in the information as requested. This form will determine the net upland acres available for trail development. Acreage entered on lines with black arrows \_\_\_\_\_ ← will be deducted from the gross forest acreage at the end of the evaluation. These acres are not suited for trail development.

Acreage entered on lines with scissors \_\_\_\_\_ ✂ are deducted from the net acreage when evaluating specific recreational trails. For example, poorly drained soils could be subtracted when considering mountain bike trails but not cross country ski trails. If a response indicates that no further evaluation is needed, circle **STOP** and discontinue the evaluation. Also, once the net forest acreage drops below 500 acres, **STOP**, no further evaluation is needed.

Do not double count acreage. If you remove a section of forest from consideration, such as a “flag” parcel, you do not have to evaluate those acres any further.

*Note: Some answers may be subjective and require professional judgement. This evaluation cannot address all situations so it allows some flexibility and depends on professional decision-making by the land manager.*

**Evaluation:**

County \_\_\_\_\_ Forest #(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
UMP Area \_\_\_\_\_ Acreage of forest/complex \_\_\_\_\_  
Does the forest have a common boundary with another forest or unique area? Y\_\_N\_\_  
If yes, which one(s)? \_\_\_\_\_  
Is the forest within the Genny Green- Link Trail project? Y\_\_ N\_\_  
Is the property in the Salmon River Corridor? Y\_\_ N\_\_  
Does the UMP for this forest recommend specific trail development? Y\_\_N\_\_  
If yes, list trails \_\_\_\_\_  
Does the UMP prohibit recreational development? Y\_\_N\_\_ If yes.....**STOP**

**A. Forest Configuration**

The configuration or shape of the forest may make recreational development impractical or impossible.

If a parcel of the forest is connected with a common corner and has no practical access between parcels for any type of trail...list acres in “flag” parcel..... ←  
Is the flag connection a barrier to only certain types of trails?.....Y\_\_ N\_\_  
If yes, list activity \_\_\_\_\_ acres..... ✂  
If a parcel is connected with a ROW or narrow strip that restricts practical access for any type of trail acres of parcel..... ←

**B. Existing recreational facilities on forest:**

Type of trail \_\_\_\_\_ designated uses \_\_\_\_\_  
mileage \_\_\_\_\_

Type of trail \_\_\_\_\_ designated uses \_\_\_\_\_  
mileage \_\_\_\_\_

If the existing trail limits further trail development on the forest, list the acres impacted by the existing trail. As a guide, use 1 mile of trail = 100 acres impacted. \_\_\_\_\_ miles of trail = acres impacted..... ←

If the forests' remaining acreage not impacted by the activity is under 500 acres.. **STOP**  
This forest does not support further development.

Are there special attributes (gorge, historic site, etc.) on the property that a trail could enhance or showcase? Y\_\_N\_\_

If yes, what are they? \_\_\_\_\_

**C. Special Concerns:**

**I. Rare and Endangered Species or Communities**

none present \_\_\_\_\_

present and avoidable Y\_\_N\_\_ species name \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, acres excluded from trail development (excluding wetlands)..... ✂

Is the area containing the species unavoidable from a practical perspective?

If yes, the forest does not warrant further evaluation at this time... **STOP**

**II. Circles and Squares**

none present \_\_\_\_\_

present and avoidable Y\_\_N\_\_

If yes, acres protected due to presence (excluding wetlands)..... ✂

Is the area containing the circle or square unavoidable from a practical perspective?

If yes, **STOP**. The forest does not warrant further evaluation at this time....**STOP**

For this section, sum all "✂" acres ..... ←

**III. Reserves and other unique management areas**

Are there currently designated reserve areas (not protection forest) via UMP process on the forest? Yes\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_ If so how many acres of upland are included in the reserve area? \_\_\_\_\_

Identify the location (stand number) of the reserve(s) \_\_\_\_\_

If the reserve should exclude certain types of trails from development, list the trail types and acres (Do not include wetlands) Trail type(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Acres \_\_\_\_\_ ✂

Other special management areas (correction camps, etc.) excluded from trail development. ....Acres \_\_\_\_\_ ✂

Acres impacted by special management areas that preclude practical trail

development.....Acres \_\_\_\_\_ ✂  
 Are special management areas avoidable to access more than 500 upland acres?  
 Y\_\_N\_\_.  
 If no, STOP. The forest does not warrant further evaluation at this time.....**STOP**  
 For this section, sum all “✂” acres..... \_\_\_\_\_ ←

**D. Wetlands**

Wetland acres..... \_\_\_\_\_ ←  
 If wetlands form a practical access barrier to access upland acres, then list the number  
 of inaccessible acres..... \_\_\_\_\_ ←  
 (Remember: do not double count acreage. Once acreage is removed for any reason  
 (e.g. rare species), do not remove those same acres for another reason (e.g. wet).

**E. Topography**

Using the soil survey and topographic maps estimate the:  
 slope 25% + acres \_\_\_\_\_  
 If these steep slopes present a practical barrier to access upland acres, then list the  
 number of inaccessible acres..... \_\_\_\_\_ ←

**F. Stream crossings to access uplands**

Ct streams present? Y\_\_N\_\_  
 Ponds Y\_\_N\_\_ If yes, acres..... \_\_\_\_\_ ✪  
 Rivers Y\_\_N\_\_ If yes, acres ..... \_\_\_\_\_ ✪  
 Few and only minimal crossings of small water ( intermittent and headwater  
 tributary) Y\_\_N\_\_  
 Numerous crossings of small waters necessary Y\_\_N\_\_  
 Does the stream or water body preclude practical access? Y\_\_N\_\_  
 If yes...acres inaccessible for trail development..... \_\_\_\_\_ ✪

For this section, sum all “✪” acres..... \_\_\_\_\_ ←

**G. Trail head Location Requirements**

Consider a suitable trail head location on the forest parcels still in consideration.  
 Identify the location (stand number) of the trail head \_\_\_\_\_  
 Does the site have at least ½ acre of level, well drained ground? Y\_\_N\_\_  
 Is the road leading to the trail head location maintained and in good condition? Y\_\_N\_\_  
 Is the location free of any barriers to development (e.g. nearby residence)? Y\_\_N\_\_  
 If you answered “no” to any of the above **and** there is no other suitable location for a trail  
 head, the forest does not warrant further evaluation at this time.  
 .....**STOP**

**FOREST EVALUATION**

Total all the black arrow (←) entries.  
 Total forest acres \_\_\_\_\_ - “← acres” \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_ (net acres available for  
 development). (This figure is entered into the NET ACRES column of the chart that  
 follows.)

**Minimum acreage thresholds recommended for trail development**

Nordic ski - 500 acres (minimum), Mountain Bike - 1000 acres, Horse trails - 1500 acres, Snowmobile - 5000 acres.

Using the net acreage of the forest(s), determine if the soils present on the net acres support specific trail development. Proceed if at least 500 net acres remain.

If not, STOP. No further evaluation is necessary.....**STOP**

**Soils**

Using soil surveys, estimate the acres of soils that are poorly drained: (e.g. Volusia, Chippewa).....acres \_\_\_\_\_ ✂

if activity would be impacted by poor soils

To determine acreage for a specific activity, complete the following chart.

ACTIVITY	NET ACRES	-	✂ ACRES	=	DEVELOPMENT ACRES
cross country skiing		-		=	
mountain biking		-		=	
horse trails		-		=	
snowmobile		-		=	
		-		=	

Other Considerations:

**Reserves:** If there is not a draft or approved UMP for this forest, do you anticipate that a specific area on the forest will be designated as a reserve in a future UMP? Y\_\_N\_\_. If yes, what is the location (stand number) of the reserve? \_\_\_\_\_. How many acres of upland might it include? \_\_\_\_\_ acres. These acres may need to be considered if this forest is further evaluated for a specific activity.

**Genny Green Project Area:** If this forest is part of the Genny Green-Link trail project or Salmon River project and a practical acquisition will connect forests, an evaluation should be done of the forests that could be connected. Combine the net acreage of the forests that can be connected and proceed with the trail assessments.

List forest(s) considered. \_\_\_\_\_

Forest evaluation prepared by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Appendix 5: Activity Data

### A. State Forest Use - Estimated Number of Users Based Upon Trail Register Data

#### Charles E. Baker State Forest

Year	Total User Days (May - October)	Estimated Number of User Days for Horseback Riding*
1994	6,053	5,448
1996	2,625	2,362
1997	6,000	5,400
1998	4,000	3,600

\* Based upon 90% of total user days.

#### Jenksville State Forest

Activity	1997	1998
ATV Riding	-	21
Bird Watching	-	14
Cross Country Skiing	80	72
Hiking	128	390
Horseback Riding	-	116
Mountain Biking	280	1,374
Other - Unspecified	720	82
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,208</b>	<b>2,069</b>

#### Oakley Corners State Forest

Activity	1997	1998
Bird Watching	188	28
Camping	-	147
Cross Country Skiing	394	544
Hiking	416	1,062
Horseback Riding	-	6
Mountain Biking	428	1,182

Other - Unspecified	1,006	14
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,432</b>	<b>2,983</b>

### Whaupanaucou and Stoney Pond State Forests

Year	Whaupanaucou*	Stoney Pond*
1994	1,554	2,966
1996	528	-
1997	1,774	-
1998	397	740

\*Ski Trail Register Counts - Note: Use varies greatly due to snow fall accumulation and conditions. The counts are from December through April.

## B. Activity Information

### 1. Hiking

According to SCORP 1994, from 1990 to 2010, participation in hiking as a percentage of the population is expected to decrease slightly from 22.1% to 21.8% of the population. When adjusted for the overall increase in the State's population however, the actual number of hikers is expected to increase by 139,000 participants.

The SCORP report rated the need for hiking opportunities in Onondaga County an 8 out of a maximum score of 10. In this evaluation, the higher the score is, the greater the need is for places to do an activity based upon the 1994 level of facilities and the projected demand for year 2010.

### 2. Horseback riding

*Outdoor Recreation in America 1998* reports 4% of American adults participate in horseback riding.

Students from the Syracuse University interviewed local horseback riding enthusiasts and compared their results with a Michigan survey of 196 horse trail riders. Consistent results found between the two studies are:

- Equestrians will travel a considerable distance to a trail system. Interviews by the Syracuse University students indicated that people were willing to travel 3-4 hours to a trail system. The Michigan study found that the horse riders traveled from 51 - 300 miles to the trail location.
- Most participants in both studies are in the "Baby Boom" age group.
- Available drinking water for the horses was rated as very important.
- Large parking areas were also considered important.

### 3. Mountain Biking

Many recreation studies examine the demand for bicycling in general and do not

distinguish between on and off-road biking. For example the 1994 SCORP report indicates that 25.4% of New York State's population participates in bicycling. It also reports that fat tired mountain bikes comprise about 70% of the national market for bicycles. *Outdoor Recreation in America* written by Roper and Starch Worldwide reported that 4% - 5% of American adults participated in mountain biking between 1994 and 1998.

#### 4. Nordic Skiing

SCORP 1994 indicates that in 1990, 8.8% of the State population participated in nordic skiing. The SCORP demand projection indicated a 6.7% growth in the number of participants by the year 2010.

Research from the *Multiple-Use Recreation Trail Needs and Trends for the Genny Green Project* found there are many local nordic skiing clubs associated with area colleges. This report also indicated that most participants reported skiing one to two times per month in groups of two or three and traveled 20 - 30 minutes to a trail system.

#### 5. Snowmobiling

##### **New York State Snowmobiles by County of Registration** (NYS Department of Motor Vehicles, 1999)

<b>County</b>	<b>1995</b>	<b>1996</b>	<b>1997</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>% Change, 1995-98</b>
Broome	831	1097	1183	1247	+50%
Cayuga	1034	1271	1336	1488	+44
Chenango	721	921	1050	1172	+62
Cortland	544	717	736	861	+58
Madison	1620	1968	2076	2310	+43
Onondaga	3723	4410	4622	5091	+37
Oswego	3949	4958	4910	5375	+36
Tioga	374	436	481	493	+32
Tompkins	286	385	419	482	+68
<b>Total in Region 7</b>	<b>13082</b>	<b>16163</b>	<b>16813</b>	<b>18519</b>	<b>+42</b>
New York City	195	284	292	279	+43
New York State	80090	91308	108453	117823	+47

##### **New York State Snowmobile Registrations by County of Use** (NYS Department of Motor Vehicles, 1999)

<b>County</b>	<b>1995</b>	<b>1997</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>% Change, 1995-98</b>
Broome	848	1148	1208	+42%
Cayuga	964	1236	1393	+44
Chenango	803	1096	1214	+51
Cortland	543	725	838	+54
Madison	1494	2022	2228	+49
Onondaga	3182	3940	4402	+38
Oswego	4761	7391	8292	+74
Tioga	350	496	508	+45
Tompkins	259	427	468	+81
<b>Total in Region 7</b>	<b>13204</b>	<b>18481</b>	<b>20551</b>	<b>+56</b>

## 6. All Terrain Vehicle Riding

**ATV Registrations by County, 1990 - 1997.** (NYS Department of Motor Vehicles, 1999)

<b>County</b>	<b>1990</b>	<b>1991</b>	<b>1992</b>	<b>1993</b>	<b>1994</b>	<b>1995</b>	<b>1997</b>	<b>% Change 1990-97</b>
Broome	342	323	311	297	259	210	322	-6%
Cayuga	285	258	263	241	259	215	393	+38
Chenango	255	237	240	227	193	144	254	0
Cortland	255	270	233	233	225	174	245	-4
Madison	279	288	318	327	320	241	390	+40
Onondaga	992	961	933	913	946	728	1098	+11
Oswego	1334	1446	1408	1425	1447	1125	1720	+29
Tioga	151	158	146	152	159	118	172	+14
Tompkins	146	146	129	115	101	95	142	-3
<b>Total in Region 7</b>	<b>4039</b>	<b>4087</b>	<b>3981</b>	<b>3930</b>	<b>3909</b>	<b>3050</b>	<b>4736</b>	<b>+17</b>
New York State	27208	27277	27963	28461	29362	24106	40502	+49

## 7. Hunting

Hunting as a recreational activity is declining in popularity in New York State. Sales of

hunting licenses have been declining steadily since 1985 when 762,700 licenses were sold to 1998 when there were 653,700 license sales. License sales have declined during eight of the past ten years, and NYS DEC predicts the number of big game license sales will drop to approximately 334,000 in 2008.

The decline of hunters is greater among those from urban or suburban communities than those from rural areas. There is also an increasing trend among those who hunt to specialize in certain types of hunting such as muzzle loading, archery or turkey hunting.

## **8. Trapping**

Compared to hunting, the demand for trapping is minor. In 1996-97, 8,626 trapping licenses were purchased. In 1997-98, the license sales increased to 9,063.

## **9. Fishing**

Information from the 1996 Region 7 Anglers Survey indicates that within the Region, the pressure for fishing has decreased since 1988. The 1988 survey estimated a total of 274,110 anglers fishing within Region 7. The 1996 survey estimates that figure to be 207,490 or a reduction of 24 % from the 1988 level. The 1996 survey also indicates a 19 % reduction in the total number of angler days since 1988.

## **10. Wildlife Observation and Birdwatching**

Between 1980 and 1995, the US Fish and Wildlife Service reports a 63% increase in the number of people who participated in wildlife watching while on trips at least one mile from home. All regions had at least a 52% increase in growth. In addition to this, they report that those closely observing or trying to identify wildlife around their homes increased 96 %. Most of the growth in participation of these activities occurred between 1980 and 1990.

According to the U.S. Forest Service report *Outdoor Recreation in the United States*, bird watching has experienced the greatest growth in participation of any activity that they examined in the National Recreation Survey. Their survey results from 1982-83 and 1994-95 were compared and birdwatching had the largest growth in participation, from 21 million to 54 million participants. This is equal to a 155% increase in participation over that time period or a growth from 27% to 54% of the population 16 years of age and older.

## **12. Camping**

According to SCORP 1994, the statewide demand for camping as an activity by itself is expected to increase by 94,000 participants between 1990 and 2010. As a percentage of the population, its participation rate is expected to remain steady at 11.4% over that time period.

## **13. Boating**

SCORP 1994 predicts only a slight projected increase in the number of boating participants between 1990 and 2010. This report predicts a statewide increase of 42,000

additional boaters by 2010. The demand analysis done for SCORP 1994 identifies the need for additional boating opportunities in Broome, Onondaga and Tioga counties.

## Appendix 6: Existing and Proposed Recreational Facilities on State Forests

Existing Recreational Facilities on State Forests												
County & State Forest	Forest Name	Acres	Hike	Ski	Horse	Snow mobile	Mtn. Bike	Disabled Access	PFAR	Camp Sites	Trail Head	Other Facilities
Br.-Chenango-1	Beaver Flow	1,028							0.8			
Br.-Tioga - 1	Tracey Creek	512										
Br.-Tioga - 2	Beaver Dam	1148						0.6	1.5			
Broome - 1	Triangle	661					0.4					
Broome - 2	Melondy Hill	1,987										
Broome - 3	Hawkins Pond	539		2.4					0.2			
Broome - 4	Marsh Pond	893										
Broome - 5	Skyline Drive	533							2.3			
Broome - 6	Cascade Valley	533										
Broome - 7	Page Pond	791										
Broome - 8	Whittacker Swamp	812						2.2	0.2			
Broome - 9	Cat Hollow	759										
Broome-10	Nanticoke Lake MUA	337										
Cayuga-1&4	Bear Swamp	3315	15	15	15	0.5	15	1.5	0.5		3	
Cayuga-2	Summerhill	4355			5	10			0.5			
Cayuga-3	Frozen Ocean	754	3	3								
Chen.-Mad.-1&2	Mariposa	3,002							0.4	1		
Chenango-1&11	McDonough	6,772	3.9				6		5.1	3		
Chenango-2&25	Beaver Meadow	5,809					6		0.5			
Chenango-3	South Hill	1,314										
Chenango-4	Basswood	938	1.5						1			
Chenango-5&24	New Michigan	9,069	5.3				9		8.6	1		
Chenango-6	Ludlow	3,197	1.3						1.3	1		
Chenango-7	Wiley Brook	1,240	1.5							1		
Chenango-8	Skinner Hill	1,666							0.3			
Chenango-9&15	Melondy Hill	3,469					1		2.5			
Chen.-10&30	Bobell Hill	2,156										
Chenango.-12,17,19	Five Streams, Balsam	7,251										
Chenango-13	Oak Ridge	576										
Chenango-14	Ambler	628							1.7			
Chenango-16	Pitcher Springs	1,835										
Chen.-18&23	Lincklaen	4,630										
Chenango-20	Buck's Brook	2,178	3									
Chenango-21	Otsellic	1,043	4.1						3			
Chenango-22	Perkins Pond	1,870	1						1			
Chenango-26	Genegantslet	3,181					3					
Chenango-27	Coventry	1,156						1.2				
Chenango-28	Red Brook	601						1				
Chenango-29	Lyon Brook	528							1.2			
Chenango-31	Whaupanaucaw	1,093		10					3.2	lean-to	1	
Chenango-32	Five Streams	854					2					
Chenango-33	Bumps Creek	528										
Chenango-34	Balsam Swamp	915								10		
Chenango-35	Long Pond	3,254					4		1.5	8		Boat launch
Chenango-36	Pigeon Hill	717										
Chenango-37	Pine Ridge	274										
Chenango-38	Hunts Pond	1,143										

County & State Forest	Forest Name	Acres	Hike	Ski	Horse	Snow mobile	Mtn. Bike	Disabled Access	PFAR	Camp Sites	Trail Head	Other Facilities
Cort-Ono	Labrador Hollow UA	1483	2					*.2			1	Hang Gliding
Cort/Ono-4/1	Morgan Hill	5253	10			10		1.1	15.1	13		Pond fishing
Cortland-1	Hewitt	937							1.4			
Cortland-2	Taylor Valley	4638	7						7	CCC-C	1	Day use area
Cortland-3N	Kennedy	3227	8	3		1.5		0.2	3.65			
Cortland-3S	Kennedy	1202	3.5									
Cortland-5	Kettlebail	597										
Cortland-6	Cuyler Hill	5503	6						7.2	lean-to		
Cortland-7	Donahue Woods	1093				2.5			2			
Cortland-8	Maxon Creek	908	1.5						1			
Cortland-9	Tuller Hill	1484	4	4.5					2.6	lean-to		
Cortland-10	Tuller Hill	952		1	9				1.8			
Cortland-11	Griggs Gulf	2343				5			1.5			
Cortland-12	Baker Schoolhouse	1276	2						1.8			
Cortland-14&15	Hoxie Gorge	2064	0.5						2.6			
Cortland-16	Dog Hollow	728							1.2			
Cortland-17	Gee Brook	833							0.6	12		
Mad.-Oneida-1	Gorton Lake	501						1				
Madison-1&4	Charles E. Baker	9,414			**61.3	61.3			18.1	23	2	Stables
Madison-2	Earlville	633							1.4			
Madison-3	Three Springs	797	0.3					1.4	1.4			
Madison-5	Muller Hill	3,090	13.5					1.3	7.3			
Madison-6	Brookfield Railroad	848			8.2	8.2		3				
Madison-7	Lebanon	759										
Madison-8	Texas Hill	704							0.6			
Madison-9	DeRuyter	972							1.5			
Madison-10	Morrow Mountain	1,290						0.7	0.9			
Madison-11&12	Beaver Creek	3,430			24.1	24.1			3.9	2		Day use area
Madison-13	Stoney Pond	1,469		13		1	6		0.6	15	2	Day use area
Madison-14	Nelson Swamp U.A.	831	1.2									
Onondaga	Camillus Forest UA	350	2								1	
Onondaga	Split Rock UA	29										
Osw-Lew-1	West Osceola	1900										
Oswego	Sandy Island Beach UA	126										Beach
Oswego	Sandy Pond Beach UA	50										Beach
Oswego	Salmon River Falls UA	129	1.5									
Oswego	Salmon River EL	372										
Oswego-1	Kasoag	909						0.5			1	
Oswego-3	Amboy	867	4	4				1	2			
Oswego-4&5	Chateaugay	3465	5	5							1	
Oswego-6	Altmar	959	2			2					1	
Oswego-7	Sandy Creek	538										
Oswego-8	Salmon River	2033	2	2		2		1	1		1	
Oswego-9	O'Hara	1014	1.5			1.5					1	
Oswego-10	Hall Island	1384	14			14					2	
Oswego-11	Orton Hollow	507										
Oswego-12	Trout Brook	622										
Oswego-13	Stone Hill	866						0.4				

County & State Forest	Forest Name	Acres	Hike	Ski	Horse	Snow mobile	Mtn. Bike	Disabled Access	PFAR	Camp Sites	Trail Head	Other Facilities
Oswego-14	Battle Hill	1569										
Tioga-1	Fairfield	815				1			2			
Tioga-2	Oakley Corners	1042	16	16			16	1.8	1.75		1	Pond, fishing
Tioga-3	Robinson Hollow	1937	1.5			1				lean-to		Pond, fishing
Tioga-4	Anderson Hill	554	0.5			0.5			1.6			Fish acc.site
Tioga-5	Turkey Hill	1118										
Tioga-6	Ketchumville	500			4				1			
Tioga-7	Jenksville	1349	12	12	12		12				2	
Tioga-8	Michigan Hill	1209										Fish acc.site
Tomp-Sch-1	Cliffside	973										
Tompkins-1	Danby	7086	12					1.9		lean-to	s	
Tompkins-2	Hammond Hill	3618	14	11	11	5.6	11	1	2.8		1	
Tompkins-3	Shindagin Hollow	5266	5					0.7	1.5	lean-to	1	
Tompkins-4	Potato Hill	915	2					0.9	0.3			
Tompkins-5	Yellow Barn	1275										
Tompkins-6	Newfield	1552										

(Camp Sites, Trail heads and other Facilities are numbers, other categories are miles)

\* Disabled access boardwalk/interpretive hiking trail.

\*\* Disabled access horseback riding trails.

Proposed Recreational Facilities on State Forests												
County & State Forest	Forest Name	Acres	Hike	Ski	Horse	Snow mobile	Mtn. Bike	Camp Sites	Disabled Access	Trail Head	Other Facilities	
Br.-Chenango-1	Beaver Flow	1,028			3	3	3					
Broome - 1	Triangle	661										
Broome - 2	Melondy Hill	1,987										
Broome - 3	Hawkins Pond	539			2.4		2.4					
Broome - 4	Marsh Pond	893			1.5	1.5		2				
Broome - 8	Whittacker Swamp	812			2	2	2					
Cayuga-1&4	Bear Swamp	3315										
Cayuga-2	Summerhill	4355										
Cayuga-3	Frozen Ocean	754										
Chen.-Mad.-1& 2	Mariposa	3,002			0.6	0.6	0.6					
Chenango-1& 11	McDonough	6,772	*3	3		11	3		1.4	1		
Chenango-2 & 25	Beaver Meadow	5,809			1.7	1.7			1.6			
Chenango-3	South Hill	1,314			4		4					
Chenango-4	Basswood	938										
Chenango-5 & 24	New Michigan	9,069	*1.5		3	3	3					
Chenango-6	Ludlow	3,197							1.3			
Chenango-7	Wiley Brook	1,240										
Chenango-9 & 15	Melondy Hill	3,469			3.5	3.5	3.5					
Chenango-10 & 30	Bobell Hill	2,156			3	3	3					
Chen.-18 & 23	Lincklaen	4,630			0.4	0.4	0.4					
Chenango-20	Buck's Brook	2,178			0.5	0.5	0.5					
Chenango-21	Otselic	1,043										
Chenango-22	Perkins Pond	1,870			0.3			lean-to				

County &	Forest Name	Acres	Hike	Ski	Horse	Snow	Mtn	Camp	Disabled	Trail	Other
State Forest						mobile	Bike	Sites	Access	Head	Facilities
Chenango-26	Genegantslet	3,181						lean-to			
Chenango-29	Lyon Brook	528				1					
Chenango-31	Whaupanaucou	1,093					10				
Chenango-34	Balsam Swamp	915	1							1	
Chenango-35	Long Pond	3,254			4			*4,1			* boat launch
Cort-Ono	Labrador Hollow UA	1483									
Cort-Ono-4&1	Morgan Hill	5253	15	15	15		15			2	
Cortland-1	Hewitt	937									
Cortland-3N	Kennedy	3227								1	
Cortland-5	Kettlebail	597									
Cortland-9	Tuller Hill	1484								1	
Cortland-10	Tuller Hill	952								1	
Mad.-Oneida-1	Gorton Lake	501			1	1					
Madison-1&4	Charles E. Baker	9,414			3.5	3.5	36	*4			
Madison-2	Earlville	633			0.3	0.3					
Madison-5	Muller Hill	3,090			0.5	0.5	0.5				
Madison-6	Brookfield Railroad	848			0.2	0.2	4				
Madison-9	DeRuyter	972			1						
Madison-10	Morrow Mountain				1				1		
Madison-11 & 12	Beaver Creek	3,430			1.1	1.1	19				
Madison-13	Stoney Pond	1,469			1		6				
Madison-14	Nelson Swamp U.A.	831	*1.3							1	
Onondaga	Camillus Forest UA	350									
Onondaga	Split Rock UA	29									
Oswego	Sandy Island Beach UA	126									
Oswego	Sandy Pond Beach UA	50									
Oswego	Salmon River Falls UA	129									
Oswego	Salmon River EL	372									
Oswego-1	Kasoag	909									
Oswego-3	Amboy	867									
Oswego-4&5	Chateaugay	3465						lean-to			
Oswego-6	Altmar	959									
Oswego-8	Salmon River	2033						3 to 4,*1			
Oswego-9	O'Hara	1014									
Oswego-10	Hall Island	1384						12 to 15			
Oswego-13	Stone Hill	866									
Tioga-2	Oakley Corners	1042						3,*1			
Tioga-3	Robinson Hollow	1937						2 to			
Tioga-4	Anderson Hill	554									
Tioga-6	Ketchumville	500									
Tioga-7	Jenksville	1349									
Tomp-Sch-1	Cliffside	973				3					
Tompkins-1	Danby	7086									Hang glider access
Tompkins-2	Hammond Hill	3618									
Tompkins-3	Shindagin Hollow	5266	15	15			15			2	
Tompkins-4	Potato Hill	915									
Tompkins-5	Yellow Barn	1275				0.2					

County &	Forest Name	Acres	Hike	Ski	Horse	Snow	Mtn	Camp	Disabled	Trail	Other
State Forest						mobile	Bike	Sites	Access	Head	Facilities
Tompkins-6	Newfield	1552				1.5					

\* Disabled access recreational facilities.

## Appendix 7: Roads

Table 1: Public Forest Access Roads

FOREST AREA	FOREST NAME	PFAR ID	MILES
Broome 3	Hawkins Pond		0.2
Broome 5	Skyline Drive		2.3
Broome 8	Whittaker Swamp		0.2
Broome-Chenango 1	Beaver Flow	Glendenning Road	0.8
Broome-Tioga 2	Beaver Dam	BT-2 TT	1.4
Chenango 1	McDonough	CCC Road Whaley Road Whaley Pond Road Shortcut Road	1.0 1.6 0.5 2.0
Chenango 2	Beaver Meadow	Weir Dam Road	0.5
Chenango 4	Basswood		1.0
Chenango 5 and 24	New Michigan	Nine Mile Trail	8.6
Chenango 6	Ludlow Creek		1.3
Chenango 8	Skinner Hill		0.3
Chenango 9 and 15	Melondy Hill		2.5
Chenango 14	Ambler		1.7
Chenango 21	Otselic		3.0
Chenango 22	Perkins Pond		1.0
Chenango 29	Lyon Brook		1.2
Chenango 31	Whaupaucau	Post Road Evans-Holiday Pine Marten Spur	2.1 0.8 0.3
Chenango 35	Long Pond		1.5
Chenango-Madison 1	Mariposa		0.4
Cortland 1	Hewitt	Scott	1.4

<b>FOREST AREA</b>	<b>FOREST NAME</b>	<b>PFAR ID</b>	<b>MILES</b>
Cortland 2	Taylor Valley	Secord Hill Mt. Roderick	3.0 4.0
Cortland 3	James Kennedy	Cortland 3 TT Cotton Hanlon Courtney Hill	2.6 0.8 0.7
Cortland 4	Morgan Hill	Morgan Hill Burma Road	4.0 2.3
Cortland 6	Cuyler Hill	Cuyler Hill	6.1
Cortland 7	Donahue Woods	Bell Road	2.0
Cortland 8	Maxon Creek	Pease Hill	1.0
Cortland 9	Tuller Hill	Snyder Hill Pipeline Road	1.6 1.6
Cortland 10	Tuller Hill	Tower Road	1.8
Cortland 11	Griggs Gulf	Griggs Gulf	1.5
Cortland 12	Baker School House	Freetown	1.8
Cortland 14 & 15	Hoxie Gorge	Hoxie Gorge TT	2.0
Cortland 16	Dog Hollow	Dog Hollow TT	1.2
Cortland 17	Gee Brook	Calico Pond Road Stafford TT	0.3 0.3
Madison 1	Charles E. Baker	TT 1 TT 2 TT 3 TT 4 TT 5 TT 6 TT 7 TT 8 TT 9 TT 12 TT 13 TT 14	2.8 1.0 0.3 1.9 0.5 0.9 2.1 1.7 0.8 1.5 3.1 1.2
Madison 2	Earlville		1.4
Madison 3	Three Springs		1.4

<b>FOREST AREA</b>	<b>FOREST NAME</b>	<b>PFAR ID</b>	<b>MILES</b>
Madison 4	Charles E. Baker		0.3
Madison 5	Muller Hill	TT 1 TT 2 TT 3 TT 4 TT 5	1.6 1.4 0.9 2.9 0.5
Madison 8	Texas Hill		0.6
Madison 9	DeRuyter	Tromp Road	1.5
Madison 10	Morrow Mountain	Frollie Road	0.9
Madison 11	Beaver Creek	TT 1 TT 2	0.7 0.4
Madison 12	Beaver Creek	TT 1 TT 2	2.4 0.4
Madison 13	Stoney Pond		0.6
Onondaga 1	Morgan Hill	Morgan Hill Cross Road	2.0 3.8
Oswego 3	Klondike	Klondike	2.0
Oswego 8	Salmon River	Yerdon	1.0
Tioga 1	Fairfield	Tioga 1 TT	2.0
Tioga 2	Oakley Corners	Oakley Corners	0.75
Tioga 4	Andersen Hill	Andersen Hill TT	1.6
Tioga 5	Turkey Hill	Turkey Hill	1.0
Tioga 6	Ketchumville	Ketchumville	1.0
Tompkins 2	Hammond Hill	Canaan Redman Run	1.3 1.1
Tompkins 3	Shindagin Hollow	Number 2 Wheeling-Ekroos	1.2

Table 2: Haul Roads and Access Trails Open to Motor Vehicle Access

<b>FOREST AREA</b>	<b>FOREST NAME</b>	<b>MILES</b>
Cayuga 1	Bear Swamp	0.5
Cortland 3	James Kennedy	0.5
Cortland 4	Morgan Hill	0.5
Chenango 20	Bucks Brook	0.5
Chenango 20	Bucks Brook	0.1
Madison 1	Charles E. Baker	0.7
Madison 4	Charles E. Baker	0.3
Madison 5	Muller Hill	0.1
Madison 7	Lebanon	0.1
Onondaga 1	Morgan Hill	0.3
Oswego 1 <sup>1</sup>	Kasoag	1
Oswego 9	O'Hara	1.5
Oswego 10	Hall Island	1
Oswego 11	Joe Bemish-Orton Hollow	1
Tompkins 1	Danby	1
Tompkins 2	Hammond Hill	1.3
Tompkins 3	Shindagin Hollow	0.5
Tompkins 4	Potato Hill	0.5
Tompkins 5	Yellow Barn	0.3
Tompkins-Schuyler 1	Cliffside	1.3

<sup>1</sup> Road open to motor vehicle traffic during hunting season only.

## **Appendix 8: Roads and Trails Open to ATV Use By People With Mobility Impairments.**

<b>State Forest</b>	<b>Road Miles</b>	<b>Trails Miles</b>	<b>Parking</b>	<b>Maintenance Needs</b>	<b>Road or Trail Name</b>
Whittaker Swamp <i>Broome 8</i>	0	2.2	Adequate	Inspection and signing	Trail #270; 2.2 miles of trail on an old abandoned road.
Beaver Dam <i>Broome-Tioga 2</i>	0	0.6	Adequate	Inspection and signing	Abandoned Clute Hill Road
Bear Swamp <i>Cayuga 1</i>	0	1.5	Adequate	Inspection and signing	Number Six Fire Lane, Smith Lane, Old Ridge Road
McDonough <i>Chenango 1</i>	0	1.0	Adequate	Inspection and signing	
Beaver Meadow <i>Chenango 25</i>	0	1.0	Adequate	Inspection and signing	
Coventry <i>Chenango 27</i>	0	1.2	Adequate	Inspection and signing	Trial #272; 1.2 miles of trail on old skid/haul roads on both east and west side of North Road.
Red Brook <i>Chenango 28</i>	0	1.0		Inspection and signing	Trail #273; one mile of trail on old abandoned town road.
James D. Kennedy Memorial <i>Cortland 3</i>	0	0.2	Adequate		Courtney Hill Access
Morgan Hill <i>Cortland 4</i>	0.3	0.7	Adequate	Inspection and signing	Abandoned Carroll Road, Fire Tower Skid Trail
Three Springs <i>Madison 3</i>	0	1.2	Adequate	Inspection and signing	Trail # 274; 1.2 miles of trail on old skid roads and an old abandoned town road.

<b>State Forest</b>	<b>Road Miles</b>	<b>Trails Miles</b>	<b>Parking</b>	<b>Maintenance Needs</b>	<b>Road or Trail Name</b>
Muller Hill <i>Madison 5</i>	0	.5	Adequate	Inspection and signing	Trail #265 .5 miles of trail north from Shale pit off Davenport Road.
Muller Hill <i>Madison 5</i>	0	.75	Adequate	Inspection and signing	Trail #267; .75 miles of a trail north of Davenport Road leading toward Muller Pond.
Brookfield Railroad <i>Madison 6</i>	0	1.4	Two parking areas; one is adequate, one needs improvement	Inspection and signing	Trail #276; .8 miles of trail on an old abandoned road and .6 miles of trail both north of Vidler Road.
Brookfield Railroad <i>Madison 6</i>	0	1.6	Adequate	Inspection and signing	Trial #277; 1.6 miles of trail.
Morgan Hill <i>Onondaga 1</i>	0	0.1	Adequate		Nowhere Access Trail
Kasoag <i>Oswego 1</i>	0	0.5	Adequate	Inspection and signing	Indian Camp Brook Trail
Klondike <i>Oswego 3</i>	0	1.0	Adequate	Inspection and signing	Klondike Trail
Stone Hill <i>Oswego 13</i>	0	0.4	Adequate	Inspection and signing	Stone Hill Trail
Oakley Corners <i>Tioga 2</i>	0.3	0.0	Adequate	Inspection and signing	On the gated section of the Oakley Pond Haul Road
Danby <i>Tompkins 1</i>	0	1.9	Adequate	Inspection and signing	Abandoned road Bald Hill North, skid trail Bald Hill South
Hammond Hill <i>Tompkins 2</i>	0	1.0	Adequate	Inspection and signing	Star Stanton Access trail, Hammond Hill Landing trail

<b>State Forest</b>	<b>Road Miles</b>	<b>Trails Miles</b>	<b>Parking</b>	<b>Maintenance Needs</b>	<b>Road or Trail Name</b>
Shindagin Hollow <i>Tompkins 3</i>	0	0.7	Adequate	Inspection and signing	Skunk Farm Fire Lane, Brearly Hill Fire Lane

## **Appendix 9: The Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG) and Its Influence on Recreational Trails and Related Facilities**

### ADAAG Application

ADAAG applies to newly constructed structures and facilities and alterations to structures and facilities. Further, it applies to fixed structures or facilities, i.e., those that are attached to the earth or another structure that is attached to the earth. Therefore, when the Department is planning the construction of new recreational facilities or elements in support of recreational facilities, or is considering an alteration of existing recreational facilities or elements supporting them, it must also consider providing access to the facilities or elements for people with disabilities, using ADAAG or other relevant information to accomplish that task. It is also reasonable to expect that the standards which exist in ADAAG or are proposed to be placed in ADAAG provide guidance to achieve modifications to trails, picnic areas, campgrounds (or sites) and beaches in order to obtain programmatic compliance with the ADA.

### Examples of Outdoor Recreational Facilities or Elements Addressed by ADAAG or Proposed ADAAG

The following facilities or elements pertaining to those facilities are examples to which ADAAG would apply: parking areas, pedestrian trails, outdoor access routes, sanitary facilities, trail registers, informational bulletin boards, kiosks, interpretive trail narratives, equestrian support elements including platforms and stalls, campgrounds/campsites including tent pads, access routes, sinks, restrooms or privies, water supply spigots, hydrants and drinking fountains, cooking surfaces including pedestal grills and fire rings with grills, picnic tables, trash containers, fire rings, lean-to's and warming huts.

### Alterations and Maintenance

Where practicable and feasible, land managers are encouraged to maximize the opportunity to improve accessibility on trails through trail maintenance and repair activities. Every time a trail is maintained or repaired, the opportunity to improve access is present.

There are no obligations for following any technical provisions where the actions are considered maintenance or repair. Routine or periodic maintenance or repair of existing trails or trail segments or for any facility addressed in the proposed ADAAG is exempt from the technical and scoping provisions for accessible trails, facilities or elements of them. Maintenance and repair is performed to return the trail, facility or element of them back to the standards or conditions to which they were originally designed and built. In outdoor environments, the ability to maintain the trail, facility or element of them is generally more limited, occurring relatively infrequently, except in highly developed areas. For instance, the act of maintenance and repair includes, but is not limited to:

1. Removal of debris and vegetation such as downed trees or broken branches in the trailway, clearing the trail of encroaching brush or grasses, removing rock slides, etc.
2. Maintenance of trail tread such as filling of ruts and entrenchments; reshaping trail bed; repairing trail surface and washouts; installing rip rap (rock placed to retain cut and fill slopes); constructing retaining walls or cribbing to support trail tread, etc.
3. Erosion control and drainage, replacing or installing necessary drainage structures

such as drainage dips, water bars, or culverts; realigning sections of trail to deter erosion or avoid boggy/marshy areas, etc.

4. Repair of trail and/or trail head structures. This includes replacing deteriorated, damaged, or vandalized parts of structures such as sections of bridges, boardwalks, information kiosks, fencing, and railings; painting; removing graffiti, etc.

Alterations, however, would change or modify the original intent, purpose, condition, design, function, standard or structure of the facility or element and does not simply restore the facility or element to its original design specifications. Actions considered an "alteration" will trigger certain ADAAG technical provisions. Examples of alterations would be:

1. Relocation of a designated trail head.
2. Relocation of a trail or portion of a trail.
3. Replacing a bridge with one of a different design.
4. Replacing a natural trail surface with a manufactured one, including a boardwalk.

There is also an obligation when performing an alteration to extend the extent of accessibility beyond the immediate work site. For instance, if a bridge were to be replaced with one that provided a greater level of accessibility by increasing the width, a portion of the route leading to or from the bridge would also have to be altered for greater accessibility.

#### Relationship Between Use of All Terrain Vehicles (ATVs) and the Proposed Accessibility Guidelines for Trails

There is a concern that applying the proposed accessibility guidelines to trails in the "back country" or lesser developed portions of outdoor recreation areas would make it more difficult to appropriately manage, control and restrict the use of all terrain vehicles (ATVs) and off highway vehicles (OHVs) in these areas. The proposed guidelines for trails address their design, construction, and alteration in the same manner that adopted ADAAG guidelines address fixed facilities. They are similarly based on the dimensions and use patterns of those assistive devices commonly referenced throughout ADAAG. Additionally, the proposed guidelines are specific to pedestrian trails. While in the outdoor environment it may be possible to encompass a wider variety of mobility enhancing equipment, the necessity of protecting the environment and maintaining the appropriateness of the setting might exclude certain of these, particularly ATVs or OHVs. The decision to offer the ability to use ATVs, OHVs or other motor vehicles is reserved for the administrating agency of the affected property and is beyond the scope of the proposed guidelines.

#### Application of Proposed Accessibility Guidelines

States are required, lacking formally adopted ADAAG Guidelines, to use the best available information in determining the appropriated actions to undertake in order to comply with the ADA. For this Plan, a reasonable source for land managers to rely upon when determining compliance are the proposed ADAAG guidelines in the Report. It is also strongly recommended that, although there is no requirement in ADAAG or the ADA to do so, each action planned or executed should be fully and rationally documented.

Each guideline is composed of two parts: scoping and technical specifications. Scoping addresses the “how many” and “where” aspect of the guideline, while the technical specifications address “what” that particular element must look like, be composed of, or provide. In addition, the scoping and/or the technical specifications may each have exceptions to the stated guideline that would allow departure from that guideline in certain instances.

#### Extent of Application

Departures are permitted from certain technical provisions, where specified, for trails, picnic and camping facilities, and beaches. There must exist at least one of the four conditions listed below to justify the departure. Each technical provision must be examined individually to determine whether a departure from that provision is permitted. These specific departures do not provide an overall exemption of the entire trail, facility or outdoor element. It is essential to allow departures as the outdoor environment is very different from a constructed indoor environment. Factors which influence the ability to provide fully accessible facilities such as soil, surrounding vegetation, hydrology, terrain and surface characteristics, are fundamental to the outdoor area. Where trails are concerned, without the opportunity to depart from the technical provisions, compliance may significantly alter the nature of the outdoor experience.

When the condition for departure no longer exists, the technical provisions re-apply. For example, the clear width of a trail tread (36") may be reduced because of a significant natural feature. Once the trail passes this feature, the technical provisions for width must re-apply. This approach also applies when designing certain outdoor elements, so that the highest level of accessibility may be provided.

The conditions that permit departures from specific technical provisions are:

1. Where compliance would cause substantial harm to cultural, historic, religious, or significant natural features or characteristics.
2. Where compliance would substantially alter the nature of the setting or the purpose of the facility, or portion of the facility.
3. Where compliance would require construction methods or materials that are prohibited by Federal, State, or local regulations or statutes.
4. Where compliance would not be feasible due to terrain or the prevailing construction practices.

See the Report for examples and further clarification of these conditions.

#### Conditional Departures

The presence of these conditions may also prevent full compliance with some of the technical provisions for elements in picnic, camping, and beach facilities. In most cases, these are limited to technical provisions for clear space, surface slope, and accessible surfacing.

Where land managers depart from a specific technical provision because of one or more of the conditions previously identified, the other technical provisions should be applied. For example, a significant cultural feature may prohibit a 36-inch trail tread width.

However, all other provisions could be met because they would not be affected by the condition or presence of the significant cultural feature. However, there may also be situations where the combination of factors and conditions may make it impractical to make the entire portion of the trail to be constructed accessible according to the technical provisions.

Two general exceptions address these situations: First, where one or more of the four conditions listed above apply and where one or more of the conditions in this general exception apply, the standards do not apply after the first point of departure. The segment of the trail between the designated trail head and the first point of departure is still required to comply with the standards unless the trail segment is 500 feet or less in length. However, if the trail segment connects to a prominent feature less than 500 feet from the designated trail head, it is required to comply with the standards between the trail head and the prominent feature.

Second, where one or more of the four conditions above apply resulting in departures from the technical provisions for trails for more than 15 % of the length of the trail, the technical provisions for trails do not apply after the first point of departure. The segment of the trail between the designated trail head and the first point of departure is still required to comply with the technical provisions for trails unless the trail segment is 500 feet or less in length. If the trail segment connects to a prominent feature less than 500 feet from the designated trail head, it is required to comply with the technical provisions for trails between the trail head and the prominent feature. The 15 % threshold is a compromise, negotiated to balance the resources and environmental impact with the practicality of providing meaningful access on trails.

The general exceptions are based on these parameters:

- (a) The combination of running slope and cross slope exceeds 40 % for over 20 feet; or,
- (b) A trail obstacle 30 inches or more in height across the full tread width of the trail; or,
- (c) The surface is neither firm nor stable for a distance of 45 feet or more; or,
- (d) A clear trail width is less than 12 inches for a distance of 20 feet or more.

The technical provisions for trails also require elements provided on trails to comply with these provisions. For example, if a bench is provided along a trail complying with the technical provisions for trails, the bench must meet the applicable provisions of the technical provisions for trails. Where elements are provided along trails, they are not required to be connected by an outdoor recreation access route.

#### Trails and Accessible Trails - Definitions and Guidance

For purposes of this portion of the plan, a trail is defined as: a route that is designed, designated, or constructed for recreational pedestrian use or provided as a pedestrian alternative to vehicular routes within a transportation system. This definition was developed to specifically define the scope of these guidelines. Additionally, it is intended that trails and side trails leading to elements related to the trail, such as campsites and restrooms should meet the accessibility guidelines for trails, not outdoor recreation access routes (see "Outdoor Recreation Access Routes, below).

### Accessible trails

The proposed accessibility guidelines apply to all newly constructed and altered trails connected to accessible trails or designated trail heads. Since departures from certain technical provisions are permitted, it is important to clarify what is considered an "accessible trail". Accessible trails include those newly constructed and altered trails that meet all of the provisions of the technical provisions for trails. This includes the exceptions provided within each provision. It does not, however, include those exceptions within some provisions that allow for the provision to not apply due to one of the four conditions described above. Furthermore, only those trails that meet the provisions are required to be signed, indicating that they are accessible.

### Designated trail head

A designated trail head is a specified point of access that may contain a parking area, information kiosks, restrooms, water hydrants, or other such elements and may be reached by vehicular or pedestrian access. The designated trail head may include a vehicle parking area for the public to access the trail or may connect from a sidewalk or road in an area where pedestrian access may be expected. It does not include a junction between trails where there is no other access or a location where a trail crosses a road and public access from the road is not expected or is discouraged. It does not include an access point not open to the public. The elements at the trail head for an accessible trail would naturally also conform to ADAAG.

### Proposed ADAAG Requirements

The discussions of particular proposed scoping and technical specifications for the ADAAG requirements for trails, beaches, camp grounds and picnic areas are included in the Report (See References).

### Outdoor Recreation Access Routes

The outdoor recreation access route is a continuous unobstructed path designated for pedestrian use that connects accessible elements within a picnic area, camping area, or designated trail head. Examples include the paths connecting parking spaces to a picnic or camp unit, or a picnic unit to a toilet building, or those connecting accessible picnic tables to other accessible camping elements. Outdoor recreation access routes do not include pathways such as sidewalks, pathways in visitor centers, or other locations already addressed elsewhere by ADAAG.

Outdoor recreation access routes are obligatory in order to connect elements required to be accessible. For example, where a cooking grill and a picnic table are provided in an accessible camp site, an outdoor recreation route is required to connect these elements. Elements such as benches and picnic tables located along a trail, however, are not required to be connected by an outdoor recreation access route. See the Report.

### Beach Access Routes

The term "beach access route " is defined as a continuous unobstructed path designated for pedestrian use that crosses the surface of the beach. Although the term "beach" is not defined in this Plan, it is broadly considered that it would include designated areas along a shore of a body of water or waterway that provides pedestrian entry for the

purposes of water play, swimming or other water shoreline activities. A beach access route is a designated path over the surface of the beach itself and different from an area where entry into the water is possible, but not provided.

The proposed accessibility guidelines (See Report in References) for beaches include two scoping provisions: new beaches and existing beaches, and are treated differently. A "new beach" refers to sites where a man-made beach is created through the importation of sand or other beach surface to create a beach where none previously existed. A beach access route is required in new construction as the opportunity to provide access is greater with a newly constructed beach.

#### Camping Areas, Camp Sites, Day Use Areas

An "area" refers to a designated location where picnic, day use and/or camping related elements are located. For instance, a picnic "area" is a designated location where picnic related elements are located. Areas may be separated and include different settings on the same site. For example, a picnic area located next to a lake in a State Forest, wildlife management area or unit is considered a separate picnic area when located some distance from a pavilion with numerous picnic tables within the same State Forest, wildlife management area or unit. These "areas" may also be separated and designated by a name or be connected to a separate road system.

Facilities and elements associated with them, such as campgrounds, camp sites, picnic tables, fire rings, parking areas specifically connected to camp sites or campgrounds, grills or pedestal grills and trash receptacles all should be addressed when considering provisions for people with disabilities enjoying camping or a day use facility. See the Report in References.

## **Appendix 10: List of Brochures and Maps Currently Available**

### **Cortland Office**

Bear Swamp State Forest  
Jenksville State Forest  
Oakley Corners State Forest  
Morgan Hill State Forest  
Camillus Forest Unique Area  
Labrador Hollow Unique Area  
Sandy Pond Beach Natural Area

### **Sherburne Office**

Brookfield Trail System - Map and Guide  
Brookfield Auto Tour Guide  
Whaupaucau State Forest Nordic Ski Trail  
Whaupaucau Self Guided Tour  
Stoney Pond State Forest Nordic Ski Trail  
Long Pond Management Unit

### **General Publications Pertaining to Recreation on State Forests**

(Available from either the Cortland, Sherburne or Albany DEC offices)

Horse Trails in New York State  
Snowmobiling in New York State  
State Forests Outside the Catskill and Adirondack Parks  
Tips for Using State Lands  
Wildlife Recreation Map  
Opening the Outdoors to People with Disabilities  
Motor Vehicle Access for People with Disabilities - Application for a Temporary  
    Revocable Permit  
Roads and Trails Open to Motor Vehicle Use by People with Mobility Impairment  
    Disabilities

## XVII. Glossary

**Adopt-A-Natural Resource Program** - The program authorized by section 9-0113 of the Environmental Conservation Law through which individuals or organizations may enter into a stewardship agreement with the Department to perform voluntary activities which help preserve or enhance natural resources on State Forests.

**All Terrain Vehicle (ATV)** Any self-propelled vehicle having two or more wheels, manufactured primarily for use on off-highway trails or in off-road competitions, that is not more than 70 inches wide and weighs no more than 1000 pounds.

**Carry-in/carry-out areas** Areas where no provisions are made for trash collection or disposal. Users are required to take their trash with them when they leave the area.

**Conservation Easement** An easement, covenant, restriction or other interest in real property, created under and subject to the provisions of section 49-0303 of the Environmental Conservation Law which limits or restricts development, management or use of such real property for the purpose of preserving or maintaining the scenic, open, historic, archaeological, architectural, or natural condition, character, significance or amenities of the real property in a manner consistent with the public policy and purpose set forth in section 49-0301 of the Environmental Conservation Law, provided that no such easement shall be acquired or held by the state which is subject to the provisions of article fourteen of the constitution.

**Designate** To specify, through use of signs, that a trail or facility is suitable for a specific use.

**Four Wheeling** The act of driving a truck or car off of a public road, public forest access road or haul road.

**Kiosk** A structure used to provide information including a map, signs, and bulletin board. Kiosks located at trail heads will also include trail registers sign-in books.

**Lean-to** A three sided rustic shelter constructed with logs and having a roof.

**Long distance trails** These trails are linear trails, usually for hiking or snowmobiling that cross multiple ownerships, and provide a means of travel across regions of the state. At the statewide scale, these linear trails can interconnect to form regional trail systems.

**Loop trails** Trails designed to form a series of interconnecting loops.

**Multiple-use** The practice of managing land to provide a sustainable production of resources for current and future generations. These resources include, but are not limited to recreation, timber, water and wildlife.

**Multi-purpose** Those trails or other facilities that are designed to accommodate a variety of activities.

**Parking area** Areas designated and designed for parking with signs and established perimeters. The perimeter can be posts, guard rails, boulders or natural features.

**Pedestrian activities** Those recreational activities pursued on foot including hiking, camping, hunting, fishing, nature observation, orienteering, trapping and cross country skiing.

**Primitive Camping** - A style of camping which requires few amenities. Primitive camping areas typically include designated campsites or lean-tos, a latrine, fireplaces or fire rings and perhaps a picnic table or bench. Running water and electricity are not provided.

**Public forest access roads** - Permanent, unpaved roads marked as motor vehicle trails. They may be designed for all-weather use depending on their location and surfacing. These roads provide primary access within the unit. The standards for these roads are those of the Class A and Class B access roads as provided for in the Forest Road Handbook.

**Rustic** A condition with a minimum level of developments or conveniences.

**Rut** - A track worn below ground level by a wheel or other means of habitual passage. Ruts channelize water flow which leads to erosion.

**Rutting** - To make a rut

**SCORP (State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan)** - This is the statewide recreation plan produced by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. This plan serves as a status report and guide for recreation resource preservation, planning and development.

**Snowmobile corridor trails** Primary snowmobile trails that connect to form a statewide trail system.

**Snowmobile secondary trails** Spur trails that connect destinations of interest with the corridor trails.

**State Forests** - Lands owned by the State of New York, administered by the Department of Environmental Conservation and authorized by the Environmental Conservation Law to be devoted to the establishment and maintenance of forests for watershed protection, the production of timber and other forest products, and for recreation and kindred purposes. These forests shall forever be devoted to the planting, growth and harvesting of such trees. (Title 3, Article 9-0303 ECL)

**Temporary Revocable Permit (TRP)** A permit issued by the department to allow an acceptable and temporary activity to occur on State Forests.

**Trail head** The entrance to a trail system consisting of a parking area, map board or kiosk and trail register.

**Trail segments** Linear sections of trail intended to be designated for recreational use. These segments do not form trail systems, rather they connect to areas of public access to provide for continued public use of a State Forest area.

**Unauthorized trails** Trails not designated by the Department for use.

**Unit Management Plan (UMP)** The comprehensive management plans developed for groups of State Forests. UMPs include both vegetative management and public use aspects of State Forest management.

## XVIII. Public Comments

### ★ Use of Foot Trails (Hiking)

#### ● General

Control ATV traffic on FLT and North Country Trails.

**Response:** *ATV use is not permitted on designated hiking trails (see **All-Terrain Vehicles** section).*

Hiking trails are open for all to hike.

**Response:** *No answer necessary.*

TRP - the wording seems to require a TRP for each published hike. This would be cumbersome. Can Adopt a Natural Resource Policy work to provide a longer permit?; Reconsider the requirement of TRPs for every hike or outing. Could this be covered by the FLT's AANR?

**Response:** *Yes, AANR can cover published hikes.*

Logging is okay, just keep the FLT connectivity (temporary reroutes).

**Response:** *Temporary reroutes will be established during harvesting.*

Limit the number of foot trails to reduce the impact on areas that can be available for trapping.

**Response:** *The plan does not call for a large increase in miles of hiking trails (see **Use of Foot Trails** section).*

Kiosks should include information on proper methods of disposal of human waste.

**Response:** *This will be considered.*

Consider some multiple use sections of foot trails in locations where two parallel trails might be constructed in close proximity otherwise.

**Response:** *This will be considered.*

Strongly support the Genny Green trail project.

**Response:** *No answer necessary.*

ADAAG should not be applied to long-distance linear foot trails.

**Response:** *Trails and associated facilities meeting ADAAG standards are provided where possible and appropriate on State Forests. The trails on State Forests are required by federal law to comply with ADAAG standards where appropriate (see **Use of Foot Trails** section).*

Agree with restrictions on hiking trails and designation of North Country Scenic trail as a "foot trail" by US Department of Interior, National Park Service.

**Response:** *The NCT will be officially designated as a DEC foot trail (see **Use of Foot Trails** section).*

We desire adoption of the final plan to continue with ban on ATVs, seasons and location restrictions on snowmobiles, equestrians, and mountain bikes. If this passes it will be a wonderful model for the rest of the Regions.

**Response:** *ATV use on State Forests are only permitted to those with mobility impairments who have a permit issued by the Department. Horseback riding, mountain bikes and snowmobiles are not permitted on hiking trails.*

Restrict logging from taking place within sight of the FLT.

**Response:** *Hiking organizations will be notified when logging will take place. Care will be taken when harvesting adjacent to hiking trails to control brush and reduce vehicular damage to the trail. But there are no restrictions to harvesting adjacent to hiking trails.*

### ●Conflicts

We have some conflicts with snowmobiles.

**Response:** *Snowmobiles are restricted to designated trails only. Generally, these are not hiking trails.*

We have very few conflicts with bikers. Recommend some hiking trails be opened to biking where appropriate.

**Response:** *Mountain biking is not prohibited on foot trails unless posted.. However, there are trails designated for mountain biking use.*

Keep hikers off snow covered cross-country ski trails.

**Response:** *Proper etiquette is to stay off established ski tracks and walk along the side of them. We will consider educational efforts in brochures and kiosks to promote this recommendation.*

Trail registers should be installed on the FLT at selected trailheads.

**Response:** *Kiosks may be installed adjacent to FLT trailheads.*

Brown fiberglass trail posts should be used at trail junctions with public highways and SF boundary points on the FLT/NCT.

**Response:** *Additional signage will be added when DEC designates long-distance hiking trails.*

### ●Trail Design

Hiking trails are for foot travel only; Want single-use seasonal trails for hiking.

**Response:** *Only trails that are designated as long-distance linear foot trails will be restricted to foot travel.*

There is no reason to distinguish bicycle trails from hiking trails, both are for human powered users.

**Response:** *There is no plan to change long-distance linear foot trails to multi-use trails. Trail route marking of the FLT, Onondaga Trail/NCT is not discussed. See FLT*

comments for recommendations.

**Response:** *Signs and trail markers will be improved and upgraded on long-distance linear foot trails (including FLT/NCT). Paint blazes on trees along the FLT/NCT and the Onondaga Trail/NCT will be used as the official designated trail marker.*

#### ●Lean-tos & Campsites

Place lean-tos at least 3/4 mile from roads.

**Response:** *This will be considered but is not always practical.*

Designated camping areas are lacking in Cayuga, Tioga, Broome and Oswego counties for trail runners; Develop additional campsites, including lean-tos on the FLT and Link trail.

**Response:** *A total of 31 additional campsites are planned for development in Tioga, Broome, Oswego and Chenango Counties. Additional lean-tos on the FLT are planned. None are planned for the Link Trail (see **Use of Foot Trails** section).*

Use a vehicle access camping system similar to that used in White Mountains National Forest.

**Response:** *Most campsites are open and are available on a first-come, first-serve basis. No reservations are required.*

Recommend that TRP fee should not be charged of FLT when building a trail. The requirement of a charge is on page 14 of the draft.

**Response:** *Volunteers doing trail work are generally not charged a TRP fee (see **Permission and Permits** section).*

#### ●Hiking Trail Use

Allow snowshoe use on hiking trails in winter.

**Response:** *This is permitted.*

Want trail running listed as an activity.

**Response:** *Trail running is an accepted activity on foot trails. A separate section for trail running is not necessary.*

More signs at trailheads about litter are needed.

**Response:** *This is planned.*

Use of ski and hiking trails by horses and mountain bikes should be prohibited year-round since such usage seriously degrades the trails by digging up the ground and creating muddy conditions which further subject the trails to even further degradation; Please keep bikes and other vehicles (and, preferably, animals used as vehicles) off of our trails!

**Response:** *Horses and mountain bikes will not be permitted on DEC foot trails.*

### ●Trail Construction & Closure

Want flexibility in scheduling of work if funding becomes available earlier, then change schedule.

**Response:** *This is a possibility if funding becomes available.*

Blackout period (closure ?) is supported on hiking trails before trail is redesigned and moved.

**Response:** *No answer necessary.*

Long trails - DEC support utilization of funding to protect land outside of Jenny Green by securing easement or buying from willing sellers.

**Response:** *The DEC will pursue easements and land purchases outside the Genny Green Project if funding is available.*

Concern over additional stress to Labrador Hollow if additional trails are built.

**Response:** *The Skyline Trail will be established on Labrador Hollow. Most of its course will follow an old logging road. When building, the trail erosion problems on the road will be remedied. The selected location and associated work will limit its impact on the area.*

It should be noted that FLT often does heavy trail maintenance in cooperation with DEC.

**Response:** *This activity is encouraged under AANR.*

Existing loop trails and destination spurs attached to the FLT should be designated as DEC foot trails and part of the FLT system.

**Response:** *Long distance linear foot trails (including FLT) will be designated as DEC foot trails. But loop trails are often multipurpose trails.*

### ●Specific Area Comments

Request to relocate a section of FLT and construct a new lean-to on Cortland 3.

**Response:** *We will consider this request and additional comments from neighboring landowners opposed to this reroute.*

Would like a hiking trail to join Kennedy SF (Cortland 3) with Robinson Hollow SF (Tioga 3) via Griggs Gulf (Cortland 11) and Michigan Hill (Tioga 8). Loop trail to be 20-30 miles.

**Response:** *Cortland 11 and Tioga 8 have been identified as areas without any or further recreational development. Construction of a new trail on these forests will not be possible.*

Create parking area at trailhead on Daisy Hollow Rd. This is old landing that was blocked 7 years ago.

**Response:** *Landing was blocked because of dumping, parties and illegal ATV use*

Want campsite on Houck Hill for trail runners.

**Response:** *State Forests provide rustic camping opportunities. Resources are not available to develop formal campgrounds. Designated campsites are only used when all other means of protecting the resource from overuse have been exhausted.*

Want lean-to in either Griggs Gulf or Michigan Hill.

**Response:** *These two State Forests have been designated as "State Forests without trails." They will be dedicated to recreational uses which prefer undeveloped areas. The construction of a lean-to cannot be considered on these properties.*

Designated campsites at south end of Oakley Corners needed.

**Response:** *This project is scheduled for 2007.*

Replace lean-to in Shindagin Hollow SF.

**Response:** *This project is scheduled for 2007.*

Proposed trail in Labrador Hollow:

1. Reconsider allowing mountain biking on new hiking trail.
2. Involve CNY DIRT & IMBA in constructing bike trail (Labrador).
3. Doesn't understand work done on proposed trail, bulldozed entire trail and put up 8 foot berms, dozed creek up to falls.
4. Worried about sedimentation problems from the widening of the Tinker Falls trail.

**Response:** *Labrador Hollow is a unique area with very steep terrain. Unique areas are dedicated to minimal development and a higher level of protection than State Forests. Not all uses can be accommodated on this area. Existing trails are to be dedicated as foot trails which excludes mountain biking. A logging road that was present on the property when the State purchased it was actively eroding and changing the natural water flow off the hillside. A bulldozer was used to stabilize the old road and return the water flow to a more natural drainage. The berms will reduce future erosion from the old road.*

Don't build hiking trail on Lab Hollow.

**Response:** *The trail extension is part of a larger project which is intended to be a component of the North Country National Scenic Program which has significant support in the hiking community. The construction of this trail has been scheduled for over 10 years and has been mentioned in the area's management plan and brochure.*

Okay to improve Tinker Falls accessibility.

**Response:** *This project is scheduled for 2012 and 2013.*

No need for a boat launch or fishing pier fishery poor.

Want fishing pier. (The worst day of fishing is better than the best day of working.)

**Response:** *This project is scheduled for 2006.*

Garbage cans at Tinker Falls.

Pit toilets at Tinker Falls.

**Response:** *Tinker Falls will be designated as a “Carry it in, Carry it out” facility. Garbage cans have not been successfully employed on any State Forest. They tend to be filled with household garbage and be more unsightly than an improvement. Toilets are available at Labrador Hollow’s main parking lot.*

Dog waste station at boardwalk.

**Response:** *There have been problems with individuals not cleaning up after their dogs on the boardwalk. If the signs requesting them to be responsible are not successful, dogs will be prohibited on the boardwalk.*

## ★ Horseback Riding

### ● General comments

Oppose designated trails, any single designation of trails should be at least 10 miles.

There is not a sufficient number of trails designated for horse riding.

All State Forests should be open to all user groups with very few exceptions.

Horse trails deserve careful consideration and regulation.

Do not close our forests and parks to horseback riding.

The restrictions proposed will greatly hurt the economy.

Permit off trail riding where and when conditions permit.

Use of horse riding must not change until all trails are agreed upon by the public, funding is made available to develop these trails from general source of revenue, not fees and current use stays as is until all trails are completed. It would seem this would then not happen until 2014, maybe longer because of adding 100's of more miles of trails.

We protest the reduced services you plan for recreational trail riders.

**Response:** *The final plan upholds 6 NYCRR 190.8 which states: The riding, driving or leading of horses will be permitted anywhere on State lands under the jurisdiction of the Department of Environmental Conservation unless otherwise prohibited by law, regulation, posted notice or this subdivision.*

Do not allow horses on State Forests and unique areas.

**Response:** *Horses are permitted on all state lands as referenced by 6 NYCRR 190.8 unless otherwise prohibited by law, regulation or posted notice.*

Is current for a Coggins test certificate pertaining to the calendar year or within two years as allowed by law in NY?

**Response:** *A current Coggins test certificate as required by DEC for use of designated trails on State lands is the same as required by the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets. The regulation for Equine Infectious Anemia Test (EIA/Coggins) states that a valid EIA chart documenting that the animal has been tested (any USDA approved test) within the current or previous calendar year and found to be negative for EIA infection, is required of all equines 6 months of age and older.*

Out-of-state health certificates issued by the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets could require an unreasonable time to obtain because following a veterinarian exam,

paperwork would then be mailed to Albany and returned before a permit would be received. An alternative would be to accept an interstate health certificate issued by a licensed veterinarian in the state of origin.

**Response:** *NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets does not issue out-of-state health certificates; however, they do approve the certificate upon submission from a licensed veterinarian for an out-of-state horse as required. The Department will accept a current certificate of veterinarian inspection (health certificate) that has been issued within 30 days of arrival for an out-of-state horse using any facilities on State Forests by any licensed veterinarian from the State of origin.*

NYS Horse Council, Inc. is strongly opposed to the implementation of the Recreation Master Plan as it is written. The plan is too restrictive on the recreational use of horses on State land and has an adverse effect on the commercial horse industry.

**Response:** *After careful consideration, the Department has modified the initial Draft Plan and relaxed some of the proposed restrictions (see **Horseback Riding** section of Plan).*

The DEC wants to change Section 190.8 of Title 6 of the official compilation of the State of New York's Codes, Rules and Regulations to the exact opposite. Instead of enjoying the riding or leading of a horse anywhere on state lands except where signed as a "foot trail," we would not be allowed anywhere except on trails which are designated for horse use (p.47). Would this change to subdivision (n) be done through legislation?

**Response:** *The final plan upholds 6 NYCRR 190.8 of the Environmental Conservation law. See Decisions and Actions #1 of the **Horseback Riding** section.*

Allow the use of horses and mules on foot trails when hunting and trapping.

**Response:** *Current regulation (6 NYCRR 190.8) prohibits the use of horses on foot trails for any purpose. Since very few users participate in this activity, the DEC supports the recommendation to allow this activity. The most efficient method to do this is through a regulatory change, so the DEC will pursue an amendment to the current regulation. A regulation will eliminate the need to post individual State Forests.*

The "Adopt-a-Natural Resource" program (pg. 109, 110) is described as a volunteer stewardship program with the DEC doing all "heavy construction or hazardous work." There is no mention of private individuals providing funds. But on page 18, 3c and 3d the "Adopt-a-Natural Resource" for all new horse trails developed from private land across State Forests requires that the applicant "assume all costs," "provide any materials for" and be "responsible for trail construction to DEC specifications." Is the former wording for adopting existing trails and the latter for new trails?

**Response:** Yes

Institute a licensing fee of \$40 per year to drivers and riders of horses on public land for construction and maintenance of horse trails or earmarking the horse trailer licensing fee for creating and maintaining horse trailer parking on public land; there should be a user fee for all users to fund maintenance and facilities.

**Response:** *The Department is not authorized to collect such usage fees.*

Designating PFARs or connector trails for snowmobile use effectively eliminates them from being designated horse trails, unless the restrictive law is changed.

**Response:** *Horses are not allowed on any trails that are snow covered and designated for use by snowmobile or cross-country skiing as stated by 6 NYCRR 190.8.*

At this time the trails available to equine usage is limited. Even though major trails in this state were originally created and maintained by equine practitioners, we are not allowed to use some of these trails. ...Don't shut us out.

Use public education, not regulations.

No restrictions.

**Response:** *Please refer to the **Horseback Riding** section of the Final Region 7 Recreation Plan.*

Designating PFARs or connector trails for snowmobile use effectively eliminates them from being designated horse trails, unless the restrictive law is changed.

Keep horses off XC trails in winter when snow covered.

Did not address existing laws prohibiting horses on snowmobile trails.

**Response:** *6 NYCRR 190.8-n.3 states: The riding, driving or leading of horses will be permitted anywhere on State lands under the jurisdiction of the Department of Environmental Conservation unless otherwise prohibited by law, regulation, posted notice or this subdivision. No person shall ride or permit a horse on designated snowmobile trails and cross-country ski trails that are covered with ice or snow.*

It is incorrect to say that horse riders needs are being met.

**Response:** *No answer.*

Horse riders should not be requested to dismount when meeting other trail users. It is easier to control a horse while in the saddle.

**Response:** *This may be true and should be at the discretion of the rider.*

Water management to stop erosion should be initiated before trail is eroded so bad.

**Response:** *Any new trail layout will take into account adequate water control on the trail surface during layout and construction. Existing trails are periodically monitored for problems which are then addressed when resources of the Department allow.*

If all trails were brought up to standards as listed in the plan, then they could be used for horses, mt. bikes, snowmobiles & skiers with no environmental impact.

**Response:** *The Department does not have the resources to upgrade all trails to the highest of standards. Conflict can also occur if all user groups were allowed on the same trails for their prospective uses.*

Appendix 3: A population increase of 4% in over 18 years does lend support to the claim that our forests are being over used. What has been the increase in State Forest acreage in the last 18 years?

**Response:** *Over 1,000 acres have been purchased or added to State Forests in Region 7 over this period.*

Appendix 4: Did the Maxwell School search out horseback riding clubs?

**Response:** *No. The survey questionnaires were developed by DEC and distributed to all types of recreational user groups from lists and trail registers kept by the Department. The Maxwell School was used as a resource to analyze the returned questionnaires.*

Appendix 6: Labeling of current and future trails is insufficient.

**Response:** *Along with the existing and proposed trails for equestrian use as outlined in appendix 6, horse riders are allowed to ride anywhere on State Forests unless otherwise prohibited by law, regulation, posted notice or the subdivisions of 6 NYCRR 190.8.*

6 NYCRR does not need amending.

**Response:** *The Plan's final revision does not propose any changes to this section of the Environmental Conservation law.*

There should be tie stalls at each camp site and each trailhead, which would eliminate tethering to trees.

**Response:** *For the Brookfield trail system, covered tie stalls are planned for each designated campsite. Tie rails are also planned for strategic locations along the trail system.*

It is not right to prohibit horses from forest roads that are designated snowmobile and cross country ski trails during the non snow season and at times in the winter when there is no snow.

**Response:** *Horses are not restricted during those times.*

The proposed change states that users will only be allowed if signs permit; this is in direct conflict with the ECL that established the State Forests. The plan states with this stated purpose of multiple uses, State Forest offers opportunities for recreational activities in remote, relatively undisturbed natural areas. Horse riding is best enjoyed in these remote areas, and there are fewer and fewer of these in Tompkins County. The State Forests provide the remote areas to maintain this sport.

**Response:** *The final plan upholds 6 NYCRR 190.8 which states: The riding, driving or leading of horses will be permitted anywhere on State lands under the jurisdiction of the Department of Environmental Conservation unless otherwise prohibited by law, regulation, posted notice or this subdivision.*

Many of our State Forests are viewed by DEC as having no trails when in fact they have log trails, truck trails, and old farm roads which are completely accessible.

**Response:** *This is true. The DEC does not have formal, designated trails on these areas.*

Your information is faulty and based on one type of riding area. It did look at each park individually, type of uses and number of users.

More information from users should be gathered.

TEA-21 is well suited source of funding for horse trail development. Horse people contribute more to the local economy and work harder at their hobby than any other

State Forest user. We have a right to use it.

**Response:** *No answer.*

The proposed schedules, regulations and standards for horse trails will inhibit and restrict growth of trails appropriate of riders and carriages. This is counter productive to the progress made to develop the equine industry in our area. DEC should work on new regulations, schedules and trails standards with the private sector.

**Response:** *Private sector input is always welcome by the Department.*

We want expansion of existing trail systems.

**Response:** *No major expansions of existing trail systems are proposed.*

Let the people that don't want to walk over and around a pile of poop in the woods stick to city sidewalks.

**Response:** *No comment.*

Agree with current demand for riding loop system is being met. However there are many riders using trails not listed; please note that the average backyard person does not have the means to transport their horses to designated systems nor is it practical with a State Forest nearby to truck long distances to a designated trail.

**Response:** *The new decision should satisfy the users. The final plan upholds 6 NYCRR 190.8 which states: The riding, driving or leading of horses will be permitted anywhere on State lands under the jurisdiction of the Department of Environmental Conservation unless otherwise prohibited by law, regulation, posted notice or this subdivision.*

How does DEC plan to monitor these trails when they are already understaffed and unbudgeted?

**Response:** *This is a problem that needs to be addressed. Final approval of this plan by the Commissioner may open more avenues for increased staffing and funding for Region 7.*

Reconsider the confusing language an intent regarding *the* "Adopt-a-Natural Resource" program - see pages 109-110. DEC does the heavy construction. Then on page 18 -3c and d in the Adopt-a Natural Resource Program the applicant funds all costs. This is unfair and I presume in response to phase one of the proposed "loop horse riding and driving trail" (page 51, 5a) between Tioughnioga and DeRuyter State Forest for which a \$100,000 grant has been procured by the Cazenovia Area Equine Association. All of that money is to fund the purchase of easements on private land to connect the two areas- not construct them! Since DEC will hold the easement does this mean we have to meet the AANR requirements for every easement mile of the trail?

**Response:** *The Department will not hold the easement on those lands if the properties do not abut a State Forest.*

Recreational horse people want a meeting to review the final draft of the plan.

**Response:** *A meeting between the Department and equine user groups is planned.*

Horse pulled carriages are called Driving.

**Response:** *All references to carriage riding in this plan have been changed to carriage driving.*

AANR is too costly for individuals. Is there any way DEC can share the cost of these AANR trail Construction?

**Response:** *Each trail segment can be reviewed to determine Department involvement in sharing costs.*

#### ●Trail Design

All trails should be multiple use.

Support multipurpose trail systems and limited single use trails because these trails would restrict horse travel on trail.

**Response:** *No answer.*

Multiple use trails are best - ATV's, Horses, Bikes - Working together.

They should be multiple use including ATV's.

**Response:** *No ATV trails are planned in Region 7.*

More multiple use trails is better for the tourism economy.

Different classes of trails.

Design and construction of new trails borne by the Adopt-A-Natural Resource program.

We're seeing increased use.

Trails tech specs: width good, tread width - 18 " needed so 2 foot is good.

Length is too long. Don't make it so long so shorter trail systems are encouraged.

**Response:** *No answer.*

Allow ATV's on horse trails, they are polite!

**Response:** *ATV's are prohibited on State Forests in Region 7.*

Shindagin is a good horse riding area. Keep multiple use.

**Response:** *The final Recreation Plan has been changed to permit horse use on all State Forests unless specifically prohibited. This will allow "neighborhood" use of Shindagin trails. The trail system scheduled to be developed on Shindagin in 2005-2007 will be designed to single track mountain bike standards. Horses will be permitted to use this trail system as long as conflicts and resource damage is minimal. If problems develop, this situation will be re-examined.*

New trail construction can only be linear trail of 15-20 miles, want smaller loop trails.

**Response:** *A smaller loop trail system is planned for DeRuyter State Forest (Madison 9).*

Trail length of 15 - 20 miles is too long to curtail the DEC from building more trails due to budget restraints. A five mile destination trail can provide ten miles of riding. Change wording to Trail System Length.

**Response:** See revised technical specifications in **Horseback Riding** section of the plan.

In most cases equestrians don't want long-distance horse trails. Long distance trails need loops trails attached as riders need to return to place of origin (trailers).

**Response:** At this time, Region 7 has no designated long-distance horseback riding trails. Most equestrian trail systems have a combination of shorter trails (0.5 to 5 miles) that can be ridden in a variety of routes as preferred by the individual riders.

Please research how other states address stream crossings. Geo-textiles product consisting of cells 6" X 6" do a fine job of stabilizing crossings.

**Response:** Stream crossing options vary on the given terrain or soil conditions at the site. Several options can be used in most cases. Geo-textile crossing materials can be explored as an option.

Add picnic spots, and hitching posts away from areas where trees would be damaged.

**Response:** Additional hitching posts are planned for the Brookfield trail system. Other designated trail systems have additional hitching posts planned.

Types (and numbers) of bridges in Region 7 forests are listed on P. 33. I do not see any listing designation their locations. From experience I know that the bridges built in the Brookfield Trail System are safe for horses, with some specifically signed for snowmobile use. I am very concerned about the bridges specifically in Bear Swamp. Most (not all), I am certain, were not designed by your department engineers but by cross-country skiers years ago and are not intended for horses. Of utmost importance is the perilous bridge built across a steep drop along the eastern ledge of the property overlooking Skaneateles Lake. Perhaps this will be a top priority on the rehabilitation work to be continued on the multipurpose trail as identified on P.52, #12. Please sign the intended use of bridges on multi-use trails.

**Response:** Designated trail systems with specific recreational uses will have appropriate support facilities designed to handle or support the intended use. Work on Bear Swamp's bridges is scheduled for 2007 and 2008.

P. 52 Technical Specifications: The generalized trail specifications listed are too extreme for minimally used trails. These specifications not only make trail maintenance and the development of new trails a costly burden to the DEC but would make the "Adopt-A-Resource" program unreasonable for individuals who would like to maintain limited use trails.

**Response:** Trail specifications may be modified or relaxed for lesser used trails.

There should be another trail specification for the rider who wants the "wilderness experience."

There needs to be a minimum of 18 miles of horseback riding when considering riding trails in a particular forest.

These are our own trails.

**Response:** No answer.

The technical specs are good for high use trails, but not on infrequently used trails.

**Response:** *This is true. The specifications listed in the plan are designed for heavier use trails.*

The 1500 acre minimum is absurd. Most people don't ride 15 to 20 miles a day, 4 to 10 is more common. Smaller forests satisfy that need perfectly.

**Response:** *Changes to the plan will permit shorter trails.*

### ●Parking Lots

"The parking areas at existing horseback riding facilities have been reviewed and it has been determined that adequate parking is available at all facilities" (p.50) does not take into account a growing ...to use the "gooseneck trailer" which is much longer. I request that the DEC re-evaluate the parking spaces required at high usage areas.

More space and planning is needed in equestrian parking areas. The ideal layout is a large level parking area with a loop ingress/egress road around the outer perimeter. Parking areas need to be redesigned to accommodate modern vehicles. Current specifications are too small. See Equestrian Facilities: a source book for designers, developers, owners, and agencies.

**Response:** *Future parking areas planned for use by horse trailers will consider larger vehicle needs.*

Insufficient parking is a global problem. DEC needs to be more specific in the plan where parking is insufficient and address the need. Jenksville is an area where there is roadside parking and that is dangerous.

**Response:** *We will meet the needs for parking on our State Forests by providing additional parking where needed. When organized events bring in crowds that can not be accommodated in existing off-road facilities, we will require organizers to provide a safety plan to address the potential problem and to work with the appropriate highway supervisor. (Parking along public road right of ways is regulated by town, county or State transportation officials, not the DEC).*

At the assembly area and at trail heads on multiple use trails put rules and regulations so people can safely use and enjoy our trails. Signs that tell users what uses are permitted on adjacent trails tell the user what to expect on the trails.

**Response:** *This is planned for all existing or new trail head kiosks.*

### ●Restrictions

Leave truck trails open to horse use year round. Individuals would like to have sleigh rides in winter especially on the truck trails in Brookfield System.

**Response:** *In Brookfield, the trails are also designated for snowmobile use. As stated by 6 NYCRR 190.8, subdivision n-3, no horses are allowed on snow-covered trails designated for snowmobile or cross-country ski use.*

Trails should be closed if muddy or if snow covered and used by skiers/snowmobiles.

Support restriction on unauthorized trail clearing.

**Response:** *Trails are closed to horses when they are snow- or ice-covered and designated for snowmobile or cross-country ski use. In addition, designated horse trail systems are closed seasonally during the traditional "mud" seasons. See Decisions and Actions #3 in the **Horseback Riding** section of the plan.*

Trails should be open unless posted closed, and not closed unless posted open.

Support restriction of horseback riding to designated trails only.

Restriction of horses to trails - other than parts of trails that are a mess, want unrestricted use of trails.

Restricting to designated trails will cost enforcement dollars. Use enforcement dollars on trail maintenance & you will get help from the users.

Continue as is policy, open unless closed.

Designated trails are not necessary.

Don't need to restrict horses.

To restrict horses to roadways is dangerous and ridiculous.

A lot of people don't use trails, they just ride, now you say we can't go off the road. Don't want to be restricted to certain trails.

We want to ride in our back yard on nearby forests.

Do not curtail horse use on state land, it is an important contributor to local economies.

**Response:** *The final plan upholds 6 NYCRR 190.8 which states: The riding, driving or leading of horses will be permitted anywhere on State lands under the jurisdiction of the Department of Environmental Conservation unless otherwise prohibited by law, regulation, posted notice or this subdivision.*

Restriction on private trails on State Forests is a practical approach.

**Response:** *The plan calls for any trails leading from private land to State Forests must meet with DEC approval before any formal designation is made.*

Horses need to be restricted to well drained, paved or gravel hardened paths without steep inclines or sharp switchbacks. Keep them off foot trails.

**Response:** *Horses are not allowed on designated long distance linear foot trails (DEC foot trails). See Decisions and Actions #5 of the **Use of Foot Trails** section.*

Trails that are in existence should not be closed. Leave them open!

**Response:** *No closure of any existing designated trails are outlined in this plan. Outside of these trails, horseback riding is open as stated by 6 NYCRR 190.8.*

Horses on snowmobile trails - can use during dry season.

**Response:** *Unless otherwise restricted by signs on State Forests, this is permitted.*

Coon hunting with mules would be illegal, I enjoy it; please address.

**Response:** *This activity will still be allowed as permitted by 6 NYCRR 190.8 .*

Occasional use on sparse, under-used forests on logging roads is not impacting the forest. Don't close this use, there are no problems. Logging operations are what damage

the forest, horses don't.

**Response:** *See changes to the **Horseback Riding** section of the plan which does continue to allow this type of use.*

Adopt a trail is excessive, way too costly to build trails to DEC standards, especially on occasional use trails, it is not necessary.

Each area must be considered by itself.

Adopt-a-Natural Resource is excessive and beyond reasonable. I don't deserve to be shut out from using the land I have been using responsibly!

**Response:** *No answer.*

Horse riding will be discouraged due to costly maintenance requirements; lighten requirements and choose trails carefully.

**Response:** *See changes to the **Horseback Riding** section of the Plan.*

Page 50 It should be noted currently ECL permits the riding, driving or leading of horses anywhere on State lands under DEC jurisdiction unless otherwise prohibited by law, regulation or posted notice. The full text is on pages 184-185 and a reference should be given on page 50.

**Response:** *Reference has been made to this section of the ECL earlier in the **Horseback Riding** section of the Plan.*

Page 51 - I strongly disagree with the statement "to reduce environmental ...to designated trails only." The amount of off-trail use is very minimal. To change the ECL to be extremely restrictive serves virtually no purpose in reducing environmental impacts. It should be changed as follows: "to reduce environmental impacts and to provide quality trails, horseback trail riding should be restricted to designated trails only". Hunters and those wishing a back country experience should not be prevented from doing so.

**Response:** *The final plan upholds 6 NYCRR 190.8-which states: The riding, driving or leading of horses will be permitted anywhere on State lands under the jurisdiction of the Department of Environmental Conservation unless otherwise prohibited by law, regulation, posted notice or this subdivision.*

Page 51 - Plan gives the impact of designated trails too little attention.

**Response:** *No answer.*

Use funds to create sustainable trails, not police low-grade trails.

**Response:** *The Department will continue to evaluate existing trails as outlined in the decisions and actions of the **Horseback Riding** section. This will allow staff the opportunity to improve or change any trails as needed.*

To limit my access as a disabled American rider is limiting access to the forest in my way (unless I access by an ATV). It would become illegal except on designated trails. That is not right.

**Response:** *The final plan upholds 6 NYCRR 190.8 which states: The riding, driving or leading of horses will be permitted anywhere on State lands under the jurisdiction of the*

*Department of Environmental Conservation unless otherwise prohibited by law, regulation, posted notice or this subdivision.*

Free horse riding for needed access for disabilities everywhere.

**Response:** *No answer.*

I am glad to see DEC responding for the need for private trails to be clearly represented.

**Response:** *No answer.*

Horseback riding should be permitted only on trails where they will not damage the terrain and cause siltation of streams and erosion. In many places, this activity is incompatible with the DEC's mission.

I appreciate the plan's intent to sign all allowed uses of trails in State Forests. I really want to be a good person and always be on designated trails.

**Response:** *No answer.*

I would prefer ..."horseback riding and horse-pulled carriage riding will be restricted where it is determined that the activity poses a threat to the environment."

**Response:** *This is now the intent of the plan.*

P.53 Associated Uses: ATV use of horse trails should not pose a problem due to user conflict. A little education and "traffic rules" would go a long way. Posting signs "wheels yield to ...horses" would be a good idea.

**Response:** *ATV use is illegal on horse trails.*

All trails should be re-evaluated as to usage every 2 years by user group representatives and State Foresters. ...there should be an appeals process for a trail being closed (pg. 18, 3i).

**Response:** *See Decisions and Actions #15 in the **Horseback Riding** section of the Plan.*

Petition - No restrictions on horses at all.

**Response:** *See Decisions and Actions #1 in the **Horseback Riding** section of the Plan.*

Keep horses off cross-country ski trails.

**Response:** *The ECL does not permit horses on snow or ice covered cross-country ski trails.*

Horse industry should be promoted rather than restricted.

**Response:** *No answer.*

Object to horse restrictions on Shindagin.

**Response:** *The final Recreation Plan has been changed to permit horse use on all State Forests unless specifically prohibited. This will allow "neighborhood" use of Shindagin trails. The trail system scheduled to be developed on Shindagin in 2005-2007 will be designed to single track mountain bike standards. Horses will be permitted to use*

*this trail system as long as conflicts and resource damage is minimal. If problems develop, this situation will be re-examined.*

Folar Hill (probably Tuller Hill) horse trails - are they there or not?

**Response:** *Tuller Hill State Forest, (Cortland 10) has 9 miles of designated trails for horseback riding.*

There are trails in my area; 90% of what I ride in Tuller Hill is not designated.

**Response:** *Tuller Hill State Forest, (Cortland 10) has 9 miles of designated trails for horseback riding. Outside of this designation, a horse rider may take their horse anywhere on State Forest lands as indicated by 6 NYCRR 190.8.*

Want a parking lot on Tuller Hill, Cortland 9 & 10.

**Response:** *This was included in the Draft Plan and scheduled for 2013. One parking lot is scheduled to be built on this area in 2006, another in 2014.*

Want a parking lot on Hammond Hill, Tompkins. 2.

**Response:** *Installation of a parking lot was scheduled for Hammond Hill, in part of stand A -11, for the year 2007.*

Want to ride on Muller Hill State Forest.

**Response:** *This is a permitted activity as stated in 6 NYCRR 190.8 of the ECL.*

Develop a trail like Brookfield in or near Broome County.

**Response:** *This is not planned. The State Forests of Broome county are open for horseback riding as stated in NYCRR 190.8 of the ECL..*

I have used Tracy State Forest for horse riding for 30 years and have never seen anyone, except during hunting season. There is not a problem.

**Response:** *No answer.*

Broome County has no trails to be designated for horses and 6 out of the ten areas are closed to any trails.

**Response:** *This is no longer the case. See revisions in the **Horseback Riding** section of the Plan, Decisions and Actions #1.*

The Cazenovia Area Equine Association is currently laying out phase one for the proposed "Horse Riding and Driving Loop Trail." Is the DEC aware that all of the monies are assigned to fund the purchase of trail easements on private land to connect the state areas - not to construct or maintain them? Since the DEC will hold the easements (to be approved by the Attorney General), does this mean that every mile of every trail between State Forests would have to meet the Adopt-a-Natural Resource "Technical Specification" for new trails as stated in the horseback riding section?

**Response:** *The Department has no plans to acquire easements for this proposed trail system unless the easement is adjacent to a State Forest.*

The “unified public and private horse trail system” between DeRuyter, 3 Springs, Muller Hill, Morrow Mountain, Stoney Pond and Tioughnioga (WMA), can only have the loops in the trail on state lands yet in this document the DEC requires a minimum of 1500 acres so only Muller Hill meets this standard.

**Response:** *The 1,500 acre minimum applies to self-contained loop trails and does not apply to long distance trails utilizing portions of different State lands.*

Want to use trails at Long Pond for buggy trails.

**Response:** *An area in Smithville Flats may be considered using the Adopt-a-Natural Resource agreement.*

On Brookfield, keep campers away from horses and corrals.

**Response:** *No answer.*

On Brookfield, an overflow or alternate campsite is needed (old tower site?)

**Response:** *This is not planned for in the Brookfield Unit Management Plan. Currently a private enterprise directly adjacent to the Moscow Hill assembly area offers additional horse stabling and camping opportunities along with other amenities that DEC cannot provide.*

New signs should state that hunting will take place during legal hunting season, for an example, Brookfield during May when there may be horses.

**Response:** *This can be done in the kiosks or trail registers.*

Page 202 and 203, .2 to .3 mile horse trails are too short to attract riders.

**Response:** *These short trails no longer need to be designated due to the changes in the Decisions and Actions segment of the **Horseback Riding** section.*

Wants horse trail access to Stoney Pond.

**Response:** *Horses are not permitted at the Stoney Pond campsites as referenced by 6 NYCRR 190.8, n-1.*

Recent improvements to Moscow Hill assembly area actually reduced effective parking and made use more difficult. Rather than reduce crowding, it compounded problems. The retaining wall makes turning around with larger rigs more difficult.

**Response:** *The changes made were done to provide a level surface for added camping opportunities and day use parking, not necessarily for larger rigs. Turn around opportunities are restricted only when the lower section of the assembly area is full.*

There are no horse trails in Broome County, but there are many horses.

**Response:** *Equestrian users that desire to ride in Broome county on any of the State Forests can do so as provided by 6 NYCRR 190.8 of the ECL.*

#### ●Season

Object to riding season.

Support seasonal closure for horses.

**Response:** See changes in **Horseback Riding** section of the plan.

Trail closure November-April generally good as this is usually mud season, but not always. Mark on maps the trails that are muddy and people would stay off these (seasonally muddy trails). People want to exercise animals when the weather is good even after November 1.

**Response:** Only marking the closed trails on maps would not be effective. Horses can be exercised on public forest access roads (unless those roads are snow covered designated snowmobile or ski trails) after the trail season closes.

Trails should never be closed, users will police themselves.

Riding season, want more flexibility.

Don't set rigid dates!

Trail season should coincide with actual trail conditions. Want trail season extended into December and allowed in April, especially in Brookfield.

Neighbors object to the November to May closing.

Closing trails based on arbitrary dates is unacceptable.

I agree with restrictions during mud seasons but often conditions are great during Nov - May. Provide a Hotline versus seasons.

Better to establish a hotline.

Seasonal restrictions need to be made on a site by site basis.

**Response:** See **Horseback Riding** section of final Plan for revised proposed seasonal restrictions. Seasonal restrictions are necessary to protect the trails from excessive degradation during wet times of the year. While they are not a perfect solution, they are easily understood by trail riders and are usually appropriate for the weather and soil conditions in Region 7. Seasonal restrictions on a site-by-site basis are not feasible due to limited staffing, the difficulty in communicating when trails would be open or closed and the variation in conditions due to weather and soil characteristics.

Trails should not be absolutely closed during the period 10/31-4/30 ...but instead on a case by case basis, usage permitted if conditions allow it during this time period. (such as if the ground is frozen but no snow, or if the trails are dry enough to allow usage without damaging the trail.) Also agree that SOME trails sustain damage during a wet spell and should have limited use during wet periods.

Horseback riding should not be permitted in May, as May is typically very wet.

Seasonal restrictions are understandable and reasonable. While the closed season may be extended under certain conditions, could it also be extended for use due to dry weather and solid trails? The past two autumns exemplifies this request as reasonable.

A published "hot line" phone number to call regarding any changes in dates of seasonal use and/or an easy-to-access web page could supply this information. Additionally, could the November 1 deadline be extended to the beginning of hunting season (which I think is about 2 weeks later)?

This year is a perfect example of why there should not be a restricted season of Nov to May. Look at Brookfield - no one gets to use it this winter.

**Response:** See response listed above to previous comment.

Horseback season should not apply to equine use by hunters and trappers.

**Response:** *Any regulations should apply equally since the use of horses by hunters and trappers can have similar impacts to trail riders if they are following trails. See **Horseback Riding** section for changes addressing this issue.*

Supports seasonal restrictions as written.

**Response:** *No answer.*

Page 46 - Change wording from support to "Tolerate" seasonal restrictions.

Pg. 46 "Horseback riders... support seasonal restrictions on trail use to protect them from damage." That statement is not reflected in this document but is a flawed reference. I've yet to hear any horse enthusiast support the ban of horses from Oct.1 through April 31<sup>st</sup>. Believe in self policing to avoid damaging the trails.

**Response:** *Past experiences with self-policing have not been totally successful as viewed by the Department.*

Just as the DEC is concerned about "extended periods of wet weather and muddy conditions" (pg. 50), horse people could enjoy riding and driving on state land when it is unseasonably mild and dry like the weather we are having right now.

**Response:** *See **Horseback Riding** section for changes addressing this issue.*

The DEC's desire to establish a May through October "horse season" would eliminate the age-old traditions of skijoring and sleigh riding on 199,000+ acres of public land forever. Seasonal restrictions for horse riders and drivers is unnecessary and unfriendly. ...erosion and mud are caused by poor trail layout and bad water management not by horse traffic. We should close the trails that are inadequately sited and drained or were originally designed for much lighter horse use. Do not institute a horse season that would end the age old traditions of skijoring, sleigh riding and coon hunting with mules.

**Response:** *A horseback riding season will not affect skijoring. Skijoring is the winter activity where one is pulled by their dog(s) while they slide along on skis. The riding of horse drawn sleighs is also not prevented by a trail riding season. Numerous unplowed public forest access roads and town roads in or near State Forests provide opportunities for this activity. Also, see the **Horseback Riding** section in the final Plan for revised proposed trail season dates.*

Page 50 when combined with page 51 do not make sense. Page 50 state riding and leading a horse outside the season is prohibited then and on page 51 you state horse on not allow on PFAR which are designated as snowmobile trails. If horses are not allowed Nov thru May there is no conflict.

**Response:** *The Draft Plan explains that those public forest access roads that are not designated snowmobile trails are open for horseback riding during the proposed closed season. See horseback riding section of final plan for revised proposed seasonal restrictions.*

With all the money spent on this plan you should be able to build trails that hold up in any weather.

**Response:** *No answer.*

●Damage

Title 6 already addresses horse issues and concerns. Changes are not needed.

**Response:** *The current rules and regulations are inadequate. See the section on **Horseback Riding** for proposed changes and explanations for why they are necessary.*

We don't do damage.

The fact is horses do not damage trails in a natural setting.

Damage is caused by unsupervised ATV's not horses.

A few horses on the land is not going to ruin it.

The only damage by horses is at Lost Pond where they water their horses along a stream.

**Response:** *Horseback riders, like all trail users, have an impact on trails. Regular trail maintenance, education of trail riders and rules or regulations are needed to minimize these impacts.*

Horse damage is about three times that of a hiker, there are ten times as many hikers so hikers are doing more damage than horses, yet you are not restricting hikers.

**Response:** *These numbers cannot be corroborated.*

Brookfield is fabulous, but on other State Forests I have seen trails with bridges washed out and the Ranger did not want to replace them.

**Response:** *No answer.*

Horse manure is not a source of Cryptosporidium or of Giardia or C. Parium.

**Response:** *The plan does not address Cryptosporidium, Giardia or C. Parium in manure.*

I agree improper camping with horses can degrade a camp site. Overhead picket lines, tied to trees with "tree saver" straps or old horse girths, are routinely used to confine horses. The back country ethic of "Leave No Trace" needs to be widely advertised and taught; Horses cause damage to trees, we need to educate horse people more.

**Response:** *Horses tied up next to trees can damage trees. Education is one part of the approach used in the plan to prevent and minimize user impacts.*

Occasional use on sparse under-used forests on logging roads is not impacting the forest. Don't close this use, there are no problems. Logging operations are what damage the forest, horses don't.

**Response:** *See section on **Horseback Riding** for revised proposed regulations from those included in the Draft Plan.*

I have found no erosion on truck trails which are used in the summer by horseback riders, mtn bikers or hikers.

**Response:** *Truck trails are hardened roads built for vehicle traffic that can support all of*

*the uses mentioned.*

I have found erosion on horse trails with high use by horse, mtn. bike and hikers which tends to support the theory that marking trails leads to overuse. Individual should be allowed to go anywhere to relieve high use trails.

**Response:** *Department authorized trails need to be marked and mapped for the public to follow them. Trail erosion is a factor of the intensity and types of use, the time of year the use occurs and the soil characteristics of the trail.*

●Enforcement

The “Bad People” will ride whether closed or not.

**Response:** *No answer.*

●Conflict

Hiking is unpleasant on horse trails.

**Response:** *No answer.*

There is no conflict out there - the danger is only 6 areas for riding horses in the plan. There is very little conflict.

**Response:** *Conflicts among recreational users are most often reported on areas with trail systems.*

Don't allow hikers, bicycles and non-horse campers to use camping facilities and trails designated for horses. Bicycles are not compatible with horses, hikers are verbal about the incompatibility of horses on hiking trails to the point horse trails have been closed to horses and are now hiking only.

**Response:** *This exclusion is not planned.*

User conflicts as identified in the plan are exaggerated, encourage user etiquette. (31 by petition)

**Response:** *Improving user etiquette is part of the approach used in the Plan. See section IX, part B. **Availability of Recreation Information on State Forests.***

DEC is creating conflicts by limiting trails.

**Response:** *Trail use regulations have been revised from those proposed in the Draft Plan.*

Conflicts exist, but illegal ATV'ers are not a conflict.

**Response:** *No answer.*

Establishing trail etiquette is good.

**Response:** *No answer.*

No conflict with Mt Bikes, skiers or snowmobiles.

**Response:** *No answer.*

Hikers complain foot trails maintained by volunteers are being damaged by mountain bikers and horses. I would agree that this might be a concern but I feel that many hikers are confusing multi-use trails with foot trails. Under current law, horses are prohibited from using designated foot trails and prohibited from using snowmobile and cross country ski trails when snow is on the ground. I would suggest users on multi-use trails be advised to expect horses on the trail and both groups be advised to be considerate of each other.

**Response:** *No answer.*

Pg. 40. "Horseback riding and mountain biking...require wider trails and have more environmental impact on the foot trails than pedestrians do." In this comment DEC itself confuses foot trails and multi-use trails. None-the-less, the statement is inaccurate, because it doesn't take into account the numbers of each use when concluding that horses have a greater environmental impact. The data is limited but available numbers don't support the conclusion. Appendix 5 Activity Data shows usage in Jenksville State Forest as 2,069 in 1998, however, only 116 uses were horse. Similarly, Oakley State Forest shows total use 2,983 of which only 6 were horses, 1,062 were hikers, and 1,182 were mountain bikers. With the extremely small number of horses listed on your sign-in sheets, how do you conclude they are the group which needs to be banned due to their negative impact.

**Response:** *In reference to the first sentence of the comment: The sentence chosen was part of a paragraph in the plan explaining why horses are prohibited on foot trails. Its reference in this comment is out of context. The Draft Plan did not propose banning horse use on State Forests. See the section on **Horseback Riding** for revised proposed regulations for this activity.*

A friend once had a conflict with a loose dog which caused her horse to stir and she fell off. Leash laws should be enforced for the safety of others.

**Response:** *There are currently no leash laws for State Forests. The plan does not propose any either.*

Institute "wheels yield to heels yield to hooves". The plan proposes this type of signage at the entrance to trail systems.

**Response:** *See section IX, part B. **Availability of Recreation Information on State Forests, action 4.***

#### ●Carriage Trails

Horse drawn vehicles is a more correct term.

**Response:** *Already answered.*

Page 49 - Fire roads and access roads are good venues for carriage or at least carts. Will state publish location and access to these areas?

**Response:** *Fire breaks are open lanes between plantations. These are not mapped and*

*are not necessarily suitable for horse drawn carriage or carts because they were not established for recreational use. Public forest access roads are mapped and are open and suitable for horse drawn carriage or cart use.*

I am pleased to see PFAR signed for carriage and horse use.

**Response:** *No answer.*

Your logic to not build carriage trails because it invites illegal off-road vehicle use is wrong. Using that logic would indicate we should not have any trails because of possible and documented illegal/irresponsible users. The issue is more complicated and deserves fair consideration.

**Response:** *Trail establishment for all uses presents an opportunity for illegal use. The reference to carriage trails as a means for illegal use has been deleted.*

Need expansion of carriage trail systems.

**Response:** *Development of future carriage trails will be considered by the Department as outlined in Decisions and Actions # 11, of the **Horseback Riding** section.*

#### ●Hotline/Website

Hotline to allow the opening or closing of specific areas based on conditions.

**Response:** *A hot line for trail conditions is not proposed because of the difficulty of effectively implementing it. Trail users are not accustomed to calling a hot line and trail conditions constantly change with weather patterns. Planning a trip to a trail system and enforcement of the trail use rules would be very difficult. Furthermore, some trails are dry while at the same time, others on less well drained ground are wet and not suitable for use. Seasonal trail use based upon calendar dates can be more readily understandable by trail users while also protecting the trails from degradation during wet seasons.*

Website to be set up and maintained by DEC or a trail association or coalition of clubs. Website will have a map of NYS showing all counties, all trails. Clicking on a trail will give description of trail, how to find it, length, difficulty, conditions of trail, open or closed.

**Response:** *The Department is in the process of developing a web site for Region 7 State Forests that will have maps showing trails.*

#### ●Miscellaneous

Since many of the horse trailer rigs are self-contained camping, provisions for over night camping need to be made.

**Response:** *Adding a camping area to an existing day-use trail system results in significantly increased maintenance needs and associated costs. Decisions on whether to provide for the needs of overnight camping depend on the extent of the trail system and it's intended uses. Some trails are intended for day use only and therefore do not require provisions for overnight camping.*

Provisions for manure disposal must also be made at all horse trailer parking areas.

Not necessarily concrete bunkers for small areas, but at least instructions for scattering and disposal.

**Response:** *The Department cannot provide manure disposal services at all parking facilities that are associated with equestrian use. This service, if provided, is only feasible at camping areas set up for equestrian use. Outside of these areas, providing helpful information on this subject may be posted at associated State Forest kiosks.*

Parking areas need to be redesigned to accommodate modern vehicles. Current specifications are too small. See Equestrian Facilities: a source book for designers, developers, owners, and agencies.

Parking areas should have signage for who can park there and if possible how everyone should park.

There should be separate parking for horse trailers away from hiker and general public in cars. This will reduce conflicts in parking areas.

**Response:** *Most parking areas are informal. The Department will provide adequate parking for normal or casual use of trail systems, taking into consideration the intended use of those recreational facilities. Areas with inadequate parking facilities may have additional parking areas provided or existing facilities expanded, if terrain and other management considerations allow. Any future construction of parking facilities for horse trailers will take into consideration the larger, more modern vehicles. See section **XIII. Implementation Schedule** for specific area improvements, including parking facilities. Additional information can also be posted at associated kiosks regarding parking etiquette.*

Need signage on who is permitted on the trails.

**Response:** *Proposals in this plan will address this.*

As result of trail restrictions Brookfield will get more use and you will need more camping sites and a reservation system. A 5 hour drive to Brookfield to find no available sites is not acceptable. Hotels and motels don't accept horses.

**Response:** *See **Horseback Riding** section for revised trail restrictions from those proposed in the Draft Plan. If overcrowding becomes problematic at Brookfield, a camping reservation system will be considered.*

Rather than restricting camping to designated sites, why not permit camping elsewhere as long as Leave No Trace ethics are adhered to. More info on Leave No Trace is at [www.1nt.org/](http://www.1nt.org/).

**Response:** *Restricting camping with horses to designated sites is needed to prevent resource damage on State Forests.*

Do not establish a "blanket" minimum acreage requirement; base restrictions on user density.

**Response:** *Standards for trail development in the past often considered user density. This has caused problems however as trail use patterns change over time. Trails that initially receive low levels of use can become popular and, years later, receive a high*

*level of use resulting in problems because of inadequate planning to accommodate the new usage level. The minimum acreage requirement is for the development of new trail systems and is based upon the area of land needed to accommodate the minimum trail mileage.*

Disagree with assessment that there is adequate parking at Moscow Hill. The recent change serves no useful purpose. You have reduced available parking space for truck trailer combinations.

**Response:** *The Department cannot provide enough parking for peak usage on the few, traditionally popular weekends of the riding season, given the physical constraints of the Moscow Hill assembly area. Leveling of the upper parking area was intended to provide additional camping opportunities for smaller setups, not the larger rigs that traditionally use the main opening next to the stalls.*

We agree with the long-term upgrade projects, as proposed in the year 2014.

**Response:** *No answer.*

## ★ Mountain Biking

### ● General

Do not allow biking on State Forests and unique areas.

**Response:** *Mountain biking will remain open on all State Forests unless posted closed for use (see **Mountain Biking** section). However, mountain biking is restricted in Labrador Hollow Unique Area and on State Forests without trails.*

In most cases, where hikers go, mountain bikes should be able to go.

**Response:** *Mountain bikes are not permitted on designated hiking trails.*

Do not feel that hiking and biking are incompatible (comment by a hiker).

**Response:** *No answer.*

Future growth of sport not supported by current facts.

Mountain bike sales have been in decline for a couple of years now.

Bike companies have filed for bankruptcy (Schwinn and GT Bikes).

By personal observation, bike usage has declined a bit the past couple of years.

I hope you won't assume substantial growth in biking and associated trail impact without more factual evidence to back it up.

**Response:** *Trail registers and observations by forestry staff indicate that mountain bike activity in Region 7 on State Forests is increasing.*

Mountain bikes (and other ORV users of wildlife habitat) should be restricted to PAVEMENT! Wildlife needs to be protected from mountain biking.

**Response:** *Designated mountain bike trails will be periodically monitored for environmental impacts. Any trails experiencing negative environmental impacts will be addressed (see **Mountain Biking** section).*

Trails should not be designated as “hiking trails” but instead as human powered vs. non-human powered designation.

**Response:** *The “hiking trails” designation was used to provide a more specific identification of use.*

Do not allow mt. bikes on Unique Areas.

**Response:** *Mountain biking will remain open on all State Forests unless posted closed for use (see **Mountain Biking** section). However, mountain biking is restricted in Labrador Hollow Unique Area and on State Forests without trails.*

Retain current policies about mountain bikes as they are in the rest of the regions. Plan recommends drastic changes in the way mountain bikes are managed in Region. This is out of synch with the rest of the state and removes procedures and management policies that have worked well throughout the rest of the state. Plan does not justify why changes are being made; list of reasons are based on anecdotal evidence, ideas or misunderstandings about mountain bikes or impacts of mountain bikes on the environment.

**Response:** *Changes have been made to the Draft Plan (see **Mountain Biking** section)*

What are the staffing impacts on DEC to evaluate each trail on each state land?

**Response:** *Adequate staffing may not always be available to evaluate each trail in a timely manner.*

What study was used to evaluate multi-use trails in Region 7?

**Response:** *No specific study was used.*

Pay taxes on forest service lands and have as much right as anyone to responsibly use NY State Forest trails.

**Response:** *No answer.*

Adopt IMBA rules for trails.

**Response:** *IMBA rules are to be followed on State Forest trails (see **Mountain Biking** section).*

Safety equipment - biking helmets should be required not recommended.

**Response:** *No regulation is proposed to require helmets.*

More policing of trails should be done on these public lands.

**Response:** *There is a continuous request to increase policing of State lands. It is highly desirable.*

Better education needed, kiosks are good.

**Response:** *Kiosks providing educational information will be located on each State Forest.*

Current inventory for trails open for mountain biking is inaccurate.

**Response:** *Currently, only the following State Forests contain multipurpose trails designated for mountain bike use: Bear Swamp State Forest, Oakley Corners State Forest, Jenksville State Forest and Hammond Hill State Forest. Four new designated trail systems, that will permit biking in designated areas, are planned for development at McDonough State Forest, Morgan Hill State Forest and Shindagin Hollow State Forest. Also, two existing multi-use trail systems will be designated for mountain bike use at Whaupanaucou State Forest and Stoney Pond State Forest (see **Mountain Biking** section).*

If the recommendations are followed for the amount of trails as stated in the plan, then there will be overuse and erosion.

**Response:** *Designated mountain bike trails will be periodically monitored for environmental impacts. Any trails experiencing negative environmental impacts will be addressed (see **Mountain Biking** section).*

Not sure if DEC is informed about all of the trails or able to manage them.

**Response:** *The Department does not intend to designate every trail that is currently used for mountain biking. There is not and will not be sufficient funding to accomplish designating all trails.*

Want properly built trails.

**Response:** *There are multi-use trail systems that will be designated and managed for mountain bike use as well as other uses (see **Mountain Biking** section).*

Should be expanding access and encouraging use.

**Response:** *Four new trail systems that will permit mountain biking in designated areas are planned for development. Also, two existing trail systems will be designated for mountain bike use (see **Mountain Biking** section).*

Create Website and hotline to obtain information on trail status and submitting information on trail conditions (erosion).

**Response:** *Due to the great number of trails on State Forests and limited staff availability, it would not be feasible to post current trail conditions on a regular basis. A Region 7 website is being developed.*

Is the state liable for posting safety recommendations for mountain biking

**Response:** *Yes. Safety recommendations will be posted at mountain bike trailheads.*

Quality is subjective to those implementing the plan. More research should be done.

**Response:** *No answer.*

We need as much activity as possible on these forests.

**Response:** *There are many diverse recreational opportunities available on State Forests.*

Minimize regulations, it is not what the public wants, it costs too much. Give more control to the local citizens. Trail systems should be fluid, allowed to change and mutate to fit

environmental and usage conditions, rather than fix from edict from above.

**Response:** *Management and regulations implemented on mountain bike trails are necessary to maintain public safety and State Forest integrity. Trail systems should not be fluid.*

Don't over manage and over regulate, it is not needed. We don't want it like some parks.

**Response:** *Management and regulations implemented on mountain bike trails are necessary to maintain public safety and State Forest integrity. Trail systems should not be fluid.*

Approve of plan specifics for mountain biking.

**Response:** *No answer.*

The restrictions will just take opportunities from responsible people; the bad people will be out there anyway.

**Response:** *No answer.*

Cooperation and education needs to be implemented, not banning trail use.

**Response:** *Information kiosks and brochures will be provided at parking facilities associated with designated mountain bike trails. Cooperation between the Department and user groups is encouraged.*

Why funnel all use to Shindagin, this is contrary to other reasoning?

**Response:** *This is not proposed (see **Mountain Biking** section).*

Consider studies and facts in the write up for mountain bikes, not generalizations.

**Response:** *No answer.*

Let mountain bikes use hiking trails. If hikers feel this is a conflict, consider sharing by an odd/even days of use.

**Response:** *Mountain bikes are permitted on designated multipurpose trails. Mountain bikes will not be permitted on long-distance hiking trails.*

Plan gives bikers many new opportunities.

**Response:** *No answer.*

Reported that a mountain bike narrowly missed him while he was hiking. Single use trails are needed.

**Response:** *Single use trails designated for foot activities only are provided and designated as such.*

Supports closing illegal trails.

**Response:** *No answer.*

#### ●Designated trails

Misconception that existing legal trails will be closed until inspected.

**Response:** *All designated mountain biking trails will remain open on all State Forests unless otherwise posted. Inspections will occur on all trails to determine suitability of all trail locations.*

Agree with closed unless designated open.

**Response:** *No answer.*

Don't want closed unless designated open policy

**Response:** *The policy states trails will remain open unless posted as closed.*

Retain the current policy of trails open to bicycles unless designated closed.

**Response:** *The policy states trails will remain open unless posted as closed.*

Closed unless open policy is a shock

**Response:** *The policy states trails will remain open unless posted as closed.*

Closed unless designated is less helpful than a more proactive open unless otherwise marked.

**Response:** *The policy is stated as such.*

Directly opposed to idea that trails that are currently open would not be open unless designated open.

**Response:** *The policy states trails will remain open unless posted as closed.*

Don't want closed unless open system. If you adopt designated system, you will concentrate the people who use the trail to few small areas, all cyclist and equestrians would be using the same trails concentrating the erosion problem and would eliminate miles and miles of trails further away from parking areas.

**Response:** *Mountain biking will remain open unless posted as closed. Trails designated for mountain bike use are available throughout the State Forests (see **Mountain Biking** section).*

Allow mountain biking on trails unless specifically marked otherwise.

**Response:** *This is proposed (see **Mountain Biking** section).*

Allow mountain biking on all trails in Region 7. An exception would be if one or two trails were designated as hiking only.

**Response:** *Mountain biking is allowed on all State Forests within Region 7 with the exception of those State Forests without designated recreation trails. Environmental impacts, conflicts or high intensity use will influence the closure of trails to mountain bike use. Mountain bikes are not permitted on designated hiking trails.*

Considering all trails closed unless specifically marked open will lead to vandalism of signs. The signs will be defaced or torn down resulting in a defacto closure of the trail.

**Response:** *Although this may be true, the vandalism and/or removal of signs does not negate the DEC policies of trail usages.*

Designated trails is fundamentally wrong. It is discrimination and is not appreciated.

**Response:** *Trail designation is necessary to minimize negative environmental impacts and conflicts between recreationists, and designated trails are eligible for funding.*

Support restriction of mountain biking to designated trails only.

**Response:** *No answer.*

Restricting riding to designated trails would result in more erosion and more conflict with other users on these trails.

**Response:** *No answer.*

Closed unless open will concentrate riding in Shindagin Hollow thus concentrating impacts there. Keeping other areas open will spread impacts there.

**Response:** *Mountain biking trails will be open unless posted as closed on all State Forests in Region 7. The designated trails at Shindagin Hollow are suitable for mountain bike use. Sections of the trail not suitable for use will be closed. Refer to the **Mountain Biking** section for locations of other designated trail systems.*

Supports sustainable trails. If the trail is not sustainable, it should be closed.

**Response:** *No answer.*

Support closure of unsustainable trails.

Close unsustainable trails.

**Response:** *No answer.*

Many sustainable trails will be closed under the Draft Plan.

**Response:** *Trails suitable for mountain bike use will not be closed unless the conditions of that trail deem it unsuitable for use. Refer to the **Mountain Biking** section for seasonal and locational trail closings.*

I fully support closing illegally built or unsustainable trails.

**Response:** *No answer.*

Rotate State Forests or keep trails open until they are closed.

**Response:** *Mountain biking trails on State Forests in Region 7 will remain open unless posted as closed. The trail system throughout the State Forests will be consistent and rotational use between State Forests will not occur.*

If trails are closed to bikes from erosion, no other groups use the trail until it is fixed.

**Response:** *Generally, this is true.*

Closing trails - do not see people on trails during middle of week, to close trails is a waste of a resource.

**Response:** *Trails are closed to protect the resource from irreversible negative impacts. See **Mountain Biking** section for trails opened for use.*

Support closing trails to bike use during muddy conditions.

**Response:** *No answer.*

Restriction riding to designated trails would result in more erosion and more conflict with other users on those trails.

**Response:** See *Mountain Biking* section for new proposal.

Restricting mountain bike use to limited select trails will cause concentrated traffic. The more trails that are open, the less the impact will be.

**Response:** See *Mountain Biking* section for new proposal.

Restrict use on a trail by trail basis when conflicts arise and only after a complete and thorough review.

**Response:** *This is proposed.*

Bicycles need to be restricted to well drained, paved or gravel hardened paths without steep inclines or sharp switchbacks. Keep them off foot trails.

**Response:** *Designated bike trails are restricted to areas suitable for mountain bike use. Paving or graveling trails is not planned. Although mountain biking is permitted on multi-use trails, foot trails restricting mountain bike use are also available.*

We approve proposal to provide well designed trails specifically for mtn. bikes.

Object to any of the mtn bike restrictions

**Response:** *No answer.*

Don't ban the trails to mtn bikes.

**Response:** *Mountain biking is allowed on all State Forests within Region 7 with the exception of those State Forests without designated recreation trails. Environmental impacts, conflicts or high intensity use will influence the closure of trails to mountain bike use. Mountain bikes are not permitted on designated hiking trails.*

What is your basis for restrictions? What scientific evidence do you have? Show us!

**Response:** *Mountain biking is allowed on all State Forests within Region 7 with the exception of those State Forests without designated recreation trails. Environmental impacts, conflicts or high intensity use will influence the closure of trails to mountain bike use. Mountain bikes are not permitted on designated hiking trails.*

This violates fundamental liberties.

**Response:** *No answer.*

Restrictions are the method to address problems in this plan. The best approach is to address the problem people. Need education and to work for cooperation. That will be more successful

**Response:** *No answer.*

Designated trails only will cause over use. Spread usage out.

**Response:** See *Mountain Biking* section for new proposal.

DEC is not aware of trails and does not take them into account when conducting sales.  
**Response:** *The Department does recognize designated trails when considering timber harvesting.*

Mountain biking should be permitted only on trails where they will not damage the terrain and cause siltation of streams and erosion. In many places, this activity is incompatible with the DEC's mission.

**Response:** *Mountain biking is a compatible activity when DEC regulations and policies are followed and trails are designed to technical specification.*

Until evidence, other than anecdotal, is offered that a problem really does exist, ... a trail should be left open until evidence is shown that it should be closed.

**Response:** *This is being done by periodic monitoring and inspections of trails. Trails will remain open unless closed.*

Retain the current policy of "Trails Open to Bicycles Until Closed" and only then, for justified, documented and non-anecdotal reasons.

**Response:** *This is being done by periodic monitoring and inspections of trails. Trails will remain open unless closed.*

I do not ride into the woods unless there is a designated trail ... but do not believe it is necessary to ban or restrict mountain bike access to designated hiking/horseback riding/skiing/etc. trails.

**Response:** *Mountain bikes will not be restricted to designated trails only (see **Mountain Biking** section).*

Region 7 rec. plan's requirement that mountain bikes will only be allowed on designated trails is in direct conflict with the Department's position in the wild forests and to the Adirondack Park mountain bike initiative. Requiring this by a statewide regulation would negative impact their efforts.

**Response:** *Mountain bikes will not be restricted to designated trails only (see **Mountain Biking** section)*

DEC should have the independent authority to close trails.

**Response:** *No answer.*

Trail closure plans should be submitted to organized cycling groups prior to implementation.

**Response:** *Cycling groups and DEC met in May 2002 to discuss this.*

Final plan should not seek to make recommendations apply statewide.

**Response:** *These recommendations are focused primarily on State Forests within Region 7. Regulations resulting from this plan will apply State wide.*

Sierra Club, FLT chapter "Pleased with plans to develop and improve Shindagin Hollow mountain bike trail system."

**Response:** *No answer.*

Do not support. Many sustainable trails will be closed under the Draft Plan.

**Response:** *Trails suitable for mountain bike use will not be closed unless the conditions of that trail deem it unsuitable for use. Refer to the **Mountain Biking** section for seasonal and locational trail closings.*

Trail closure should only be done on a trail by trail based, not all closed until designated.

**Response:** *Trail closure is conducted on a trail-by-trail basis and mountain biking is allowed on all State Forests within Region 7 unless posted as closed or on State Forests without trails.*

The current inventory of Mtn bike trails is grossly inaccurate. The plan states mtn bike trails are not being overused. The demand is being or will be met with existing or proposed trails. Since the inventory missed hundreds of miles of trails currently being used, the current and proposed trails will not meet the actual biking demands and conditions of overuse will result.

**Response:** *The hundreds of miles of trails mentioned are informal trails. These will remain open if they do not occur on State Forests without trails and are environmentally sound.*

APMBI position:

- To highly discourage any mtn. biking in prohibited areas such as NYS designated Wilderness areas.

- To encourage the development of quality off-road and in the woods mtn. biking opportunities everywhere else.

**Response:** *Off-road mountain biking opportunities are available. However, only those areas suitable and appropriate for mountain bike use are designated for this activity (see **Mountain Biking** section).*

We are very concerned about the negative impact on our initiative of the Region 7 Plan. This position is in direct opposition to the initiative that DEC is part of.

**Response:** *Changes to the draft plan should address these concerns (see **Mountain Biking** section).*

●Season

Do not want 6 month restriction during winter.

**Response:** *Only two months (November & December) during winter are closed to mountain bike use region-wide (see **Mountain Biking** section).*

Support closed season but not so long. (Nov. and Dec. open)

**Response:** *Seasonal closings will remain to prevent potential user conflicts and trail deterioration (see **Mountain Biking** section, Decisions & Actions #5).*

Mountain biking should be banned from October 15 to May 31.

**Response:** *Mountain biking will not be allowed during the months of November,*

December, March and April and during unusual periods of wet weather during the riding season.

Mountain biking should be banned from February 15 to April 15.

**Response:** *Mountain biking will not be allowed during the months of November, December, March and April and during unusual periods of wet weather during the riding season.*

Opposed to closing trails to bikes in winter or at any time of the year if the trails are in a condition to be ridden without harm.

**Response:** *Seasonal closings will remain to prevent potential user conflicts and trail deterioration (see **Mountain Biking** section, Decisions & Actions #5).*

Reduce duration of seasonal wet closures.

**Response:** *In order to prevent trail deterioration, seasonal wet closures will remain unchanged.*

Ride (mountain bikes) year round or at same time as hikers. November and December are excellent times to ride right after the dry month of October. It then gets colder and trails freeze up.

**Response:** *Trail closure during November and December will remain in effect (see **Mountain Biking** section).*

Trails in wet areas seldom freeze up; it is a misconception that they will not be damaged in winter.

**Response:** *Any area that poses a threat of negative environmental impacts will not be designated for mountain bike use. Problem areas will have to be closed or corrected. Also, additional trail use restrictions may be imposed during unusual periods of wet weather that might occur during the riding season.*

Do not support riding season of May 1 to Oct. 31.

**Response:** *No answer.*

Make the seasonal closures for wet conditions flexible...based on prevailing conditions.

**Response:** *Mountain biking will not be allowed during the months of November, December, March and April and during unusual periods of wet weather during the riding season.*

Muddy season seems to be too arbitrary.

**Response:** *No answer.*

Support closure of specific trails during wet periods but not all trails and not for 6 months.

**Response:** *Trail closures during the wet season apply to the months of March and April on all trail (see **Mountain Biking** section)*

Allow mountain biking year round except during mud season (supposedly March and April).

**Response:** *Mountain biking will not be allowed during the months of November, December, March and April and during unusual periods of wet weather during the riding season.*

Eliminate the seasonal closures for wet conditions.

**Response:** *In order to prevent trail deterioration, seasonal wet closures will remain unchanged.*

Closing certain trails for the winter months makes sense in certain areas, but not on a system wide basis.

**Response:** *Winter trail closings will remain in effect on all State Forests.*

Mountain biking should be restricted at some times during the year, but it would be better to be more flexible regarding these dates.

**Response:** *Seasonal closings will remain to prevent potential user conflicts and trail deterioration (see **Mountain Biking** section, Decisions & Actions #5).*

Protest against the 6 month winter restriction on cycling. May through August are the wettest months of the year, not the months of the proposed plan.

**Response:** *Mountain biking will not be allowed during the months of November, December, March and April and during unusual periods of wet weather during the riding season.*

Mt Bikes do damage - they go when they want to regardless of whether conditions are bad or not. The ban Nov to May is the simplest approach.

**Response:** *Mountain biking will not be allowed during the months of November, December, March and April and during unusual periods of wet weather during the riding season.*

Certain restrictions may be needed only a few times a year. For example the FLT is not used much.

**Response:** *No answer.*

Bikers don't want to ride in deep snow on ski trails. You mention hikers and snowshoes damage ski tracks, but you don't ban them.

**Response:** *Mountain bikes will not be permitted on designated snow-covered cross-country ski trails.*

Change to open unless closed because of a real problem.

**Response:** *This is proposed.*

Only need spring mud season closure.

**Response:** *Mountain biking will not be allowed during the months of November, December, March and April and during unusual periods of wet weather during the riding season.*

Closing seasons makes no sense.

**Response:** *Seasonal closings will remain to prevent potential user conflicts and trail deterioration (see **Mountain Biking** section, Decisions & Actions #5).*

Mtn bikers seem to be singled out - ADK warns hikers against spring mud season hikes, but Dec closes trails to bikes, but not hikers.

**Response:** *No answer.*

If trails are closed to mtn. bikes than they should be closed to all users.

**Response:** *No answer.*

Suggest 2/15 to 4/15 closure to all if no snow.

**Response:** *No answer.*

Impact of fall usage is minor due to lower use numbers. Spring restriction is required.

**Response:** *No answer.*

Reduce duration of wet season, but extend it to Shindagin. Close Shindagin in spring only.

**Response:** *In order to prevent trail deterioration, seasonal wet closures will remain unchanged. Shindagin Hollow will follow the same regulations as all State Forests with designated trail systems, including seasonal closures.*

No need for seasons, educate responsible use.

**Response:** *Seasonal closings will remain to prevent potential user conflicts and trail deterioration (see **Mountain Biking** section, Decisions & Actions #5).*

Object to closure Nov to May.

**Response:** *Mountain biking will not be allowed during the months of November, December, March and April and during unusual periods of wet weather during the riding season.*

Support keeping bike off trails in muddy conditions, but to have a policy mandating closure when trails are as dry as bone is unrealistic, unfair and unenforceable.

**Response:** *Seasonal closings will remain to prevent potential user conflicts and trail deterioration (see **Mountain Biking** section, Decisions & Actions #5).*

Mountain bike riding should not be permitted in May, as May is typically very wet.

**Response:** *Designated seasonal trail closings will remain unchanged. However, additional trail use restrictions may be imposed during unusual periods of wet weather at any time of the year.*

The concept of ONLY a fixed calendar period being declared as suitable for bicycling is just plain wrong. The key is responsible use by those who recreate, combined with responsible supervision by those charged with that responsibility - not a fixed, declared "Open" period of May 1<sup>st</sup> to October 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Response:** *Seasonal closings will remain to prevent potential user conflicts and trail deterioration (see **Mountain Biking** section, Decisions & Actions #5).*

Seasons for bicycling should be flexible from year-to-year, from region-to-region and based only on the seasonal evaluation of regional foresters and qualified DEC personnel. Also 800 number and Website.

**Response:** *Seasonal closings will remain to prevent potential user conflicts and trail deterioration (see **Mountain Biking** section, Decisions & Actions #5). An 800 number and website for Region 7 are not available at this time.*

Banning any mountain bike riding for the period November 1 to May 1 is not necessary.

**Response:** *Seasonal closings will remain to prevent potential user conflicts and trail deterioration (see **Mountain Biking** section, Decisions & Actions #5).*

Ban mountain bikes from X-C trails when snow covered.

**Response:** *Mountain bikes will not be permitted on designated snow-covered cross-country ski trails.*

Close X-C trails to bikes when ski-able snow is present.

**Response:** *Mountain bikes will not be permitted on designated snow-covered cross-country ski trails.*

Seasonal closure too long (6 mos.).

**Response:** *Mountain biking will not be allowed during the months of November, December, March and April and during unusual periods of wet weather during the riding season.*

Support for calendar seasonal closure - 11/1-4/15.

**Response:** *Mountain biking will not be allowed during the months of November, December, March and April and during unusual periods of wet weather during the riding season.*

Website for trail closure based on trail conditions.

**Response:** *A Region 7 website is being developed.*

Accepts the seasonal closure as necessary.

**Response:** *OK.*

Only ban mtn bikes from ski trails when there is more than 12 inches of snow on the ground.

**Response:** *Mountain bikes will not be permitted on designated snow-covered cross-country trails.*

Most bikers ski so there is not conflict with skiers and no need to restrict winter use.

**Response:** *Mountain bikes will not be permitted on designated snow-covered cross-country ski trails.*

#### ●Trail Design

Want trails open to multi-use unless designated closed.

**Response:** *Not all trails will be designated as multi-use trails due to environmental conditions and economic factors.*

More consideration should be given to multiple use.

**Response:** *Multi-use trail systems are planned for development and designation (see **Mountain Biking** section, Decisions & Actions #3 & #4)*

Multipurpose trails make sense.

**Response:** *Not all trails will be designated as multi-use trails due to environmental conditions and economic factors.*

Want multiple use single track trails.

**Response:** *One is not proposed.*

There is no reason to distinguish bicycle trails from hiking trails, both are for human powered users.

**Response:** *No answer.*

Current multi-use system works in Bear Swamp.

**Response:** *No answer.*

Trail specs are too wide. Should be the same as hiking.

**Response:** *A variety of trails and trail widths are specified in the trail specs.*

Support protecting trails from erosion.

**Response:** *Yes, this is very important.*

Trails should be very large with interconnecting small trails to disperse use.

**Response:** *No answer.*

“Rutting can also be attributed to poor trail design.” Gordon Cessford 1995 New Zealand DEC

**Response:** *This is covered in the plan.*

The best trails have the least government involvement in building. These trails naturally evolved into narrow hiking type trails, such as the FLT and those in Shindagin Hollow. Don't want mini ATV roads, such as Hammond Hill built by the infamous oxymoron “trail building bulldozer”. Just leave the trails alone, unless there is some major, specific problem, and that the cure is not worse than the disease, as in Hammond Hill.

**Response:** *Some informal trails, established by users, have been located in areas of poor locations leading to erosion problems. Trails will be built to a variety of specifications for a variety of uses. Hammond Hill trails were designed for multiple uses (for horses, mountain bikes and cross-country skiing). Their width was dictated by the needs of all these users.*

The Plan states that a bike trail is 4 feet wide with a 2 foot tread. I feel that this is wider

than necessary. A bike trail might be as narrow as 24-26", (the width of a handlebar) with a tread width as little as 3-4 inches in some places. Want to be able to enjoy some narrow, winding, up and down trails like ones that Native Americans might have walked 200 years ago, not only 4-foot wide pathways through the forest. Wider trails also seem to encourage much more illegal ATV use.

**Response:** *Trails have to be designed with safety in mind. A wide variety of users with different skill levels use the trails.*

Many of the problems attributed to bicycles, i.e. rutting of soft ground and shortcutting of switchbacks are problems of trail design and construction and not with bicycles or bicyclists. Well-designed trails are well-drained trails that don't have mud holes. Well-designed trails make it impossible to bypass switchbacks.

**Response:** *No answer.*

The Plan should address the ramps and man-made obstacles being built on mountain bike trails.

**Response:** *Regulations are in process to restrict man-made obstacles (see **Regulations** section).*

Good trail design and seasonal closures can drastically reduce braiding, braking, related erosion and other negative impacts.

**Response:** *No answer.*

#### ●Description of Activity

Language about mt. biking in plan is patently unfair - Styles - family, competitive, extreme.

**Response:** *No answer.*

Some of data or comments made are due to misperception that know is driven home in the media.

**Response:** *No answer.*

Bike riders go into woods for solitude.

**Response:** *No answer.*

Mountain bikers enjoy their surroundings.

**Response:** *No answer.*

Some cross country skiers are thrill seekers same as description of extreme bikers. What is in these forests is not extreme, just a challenge of something more difficult to smoothly handle.

**Response:** *No answer.*

Pleased to see that Shindagin Hollow will be reviewed and designated as an official trail, including closure of poor trails when necessary.

**Response:** *See **Mountain Biking** section, Decisions & Actions #6.*

## ●Impacts & Conflicts

Disagree with description and impacts of mt. biking.

**Response:** *No answer.*

Agree with plans comments about bike impacts.

**Response:** *OK.*

Noticed increased impacts of mountain bikes over other uses. What are the impacts?

**Response:** *See **Mountain Biking**, Environmental Impacts, Constraints and User Conflicts section.*

Conflicts, concern over way data collected particularly if you base info on comments left at trail heads.

**Response:** *Information collected from trailheads is one source of data from which decisions are made.*

Mountain bike erosion, see April 2001 Appalachian Mountain Club Outdoor Magazine. Bikes have no greater impact on trails than other uses.

**Response:** *No answer.*

Absurd to think that bikes cause more erosion than other user groups.

**Response:** *No answer.*

Pressure per square inch is more in hiking than in 2 tires from bike.

**Response:** *No answer.*

Have not observed environmental effects or conflicts in report in Bear Swamp.

**Response:** *There are classic examples of trail braiding by mountain bikes on this forest. It is a result of poor trail location.*

While riding in Shindagin Hollow, saw evidence of erosion on bike trails.

**Response:** *See **Mountain Biking** section, Decisions & Actions #3c.*

Mountain biking contributes little to erosion and mud at current low levels of use.

**Response:** *No answer.*

Afraid of being shot by hunters, think there is a conflict.

**Response:** *See **Mountain Biking** section, Decisions & Actions #5. Seasonal closure of trails should assist in preventing user conflicts.*

Letchworth Park FLT - trail changed drastically in last 20 years due to mt. bikes.

**Response:** *No answer.*

Letchworth Park FLT in great shape.

**Response:** *No answer.*

Committee on Grafton State Park to broker trail differences, need committee.

**Response:** *The Department will work with user groups.*

Motorized vehicles, ATVs, dirt bikes and ORVs causing the vast majority of erosion, mud pits, etc. Need to enforce ban on motorized vehicles.

**Response:** *This is true.*

Plan overstates impacts of mountain biking to soil, water quality and aesthetics.

**Response:** *No answer.*

Degraded trails should be repaired or should be closed for all users.

**Response:** *Generally, this is true.*

The negative tone of this plan toward mtn bikes seems to blame the majority of trail damage on mtn biking, but ignores scientific data.

**Response:** *No answer.*

Mtn bikers damage steep slopes and conflict with other users.

**Response:** *No answer.*

Actual impacts on trails represents more of a maintenance concern than a significant impact on the environment.

**Response:** *See **Mountain Biking**, Environmental Impacts, Constraints and User Conflicts section. Without a maintenance budget, some trails will have to be closed.*

Trail damage is based on width - the wider the more damage:

- 1-2 feet - hikers & mtn bikes-very little damage
- 2-4 feet - some mtn bikes, skiers - modest erosion
- 4' + - skate skiers, horse riders, ATV's - serious impact

**Response:** *No answer.*

Intentional widening of trails such as at Hammond Hill is bad.

**Response:** *No answer.*

Dozer for trail maintenance cause too much damage itself. The trails become too attractive for illegal ATV use.

**Response:** *No answer.*

On 10-15 degree slopes impacts from hiker and bikes are not different.

**Response:** *No answer.*

Heavy bicycle use on steep slopes usually requires more maintenance than hiker or equestrian only.

**Response:** *No answer.*

Trail design and steepness have more to do with erosion than mtn bike use.

**Response:** *Trail design and steepness of the site may have an effect on erosion (see*

***Mountain Biking, Environmental Impacts, Constraints and User Conflicts).***

Mtn. bikes kill organisms that live on and under the soil. They provide easy access to wilderness areas for unsupervised people who have no conception of the damage they are doing.

Keep mountain bikes on public roads.

**Response:** *No answer.*

DEC should be more concerned over damaging logging than Mt Bikes.

**Response:** *No answer.*

Logging should be a reference for measuring impacts on other uses.

**Response:** *No answer.*

Shindagin Hollow erosion problems are not on user built trails. The problems are almost exclusively on pre-existing jeep and logging trails reused by bikers. The problem is poor road layout and misuse by ATV's, not mtn bikes.

**Response:** *No answer.*

The plan should state: "Mtn biking has surprising little environmental impact, even when trails are not properly located, and much less than logging." With no damage no need to designate trails.

**Response:** *This statement is not going to be added to the Plan.*

Plan should stipulate that all trail closures are to be submitted to organized cycle groups prior to implementation. Trail then could be either rerouted or fixed.

**Response:** *Cycling groups and DEC met in May 2002 to discuss this.*

Plan should stipulate between human power and non-human powered. Cycles should not be lumped with horses and motorized travel.

**Response:** *No answer.*

"Trail compaction is good - it helps harden the trail; however, this only works if the trail is properly designed. Compaction by mtn bikes is roughly the same as a back packer." Gordon Cessford 1995 New Zealand DEC.

**Response:** *No answer.*

"On slopes where skidding does occur impact is less than hikers." Gordon Cessford 1995 New Zealand DEC.

**Response:** *No answer.*

The Plan should address the ramps and man-made obstacles being built on mountain bike trails.

In general bicyclists don't compact and braid and shortcut switchbacks. Braiding only occurs on poorly designed trails.

**Response:** *No answer.*

## ●Conflicts

There are no conflicts between mountain bikes and others.

**Response:** *In general, most users do not have conflicts with other forest users. However, specific conflicts between users have been reported to the Department.*

Horses do have a conflict with bikes.

**Response:** *In general, most users do not have conflicts with other forest users. However, specific conflicts between users have been reported to the Department.*

Letters and reports from hikers and equestrians tell of many close calls, confrontational and unsettling experiences, especially on steep blind trails (Golden Gate Natural Recreation Area). Uses for bicycles is now only on motorized trails, parking areas and trails designated for their use.

**Response:** *In general, most users do not have conflicts with other forest users. However, specific conflicts between users have been reported to the Department.*

Conflicts are acute between mountain bikes and cross-country skiers.

**Response:** *No answer.*

Only 3-5 people in the crowd have had any conflicts.

**Response:** *No answer.*

Hikers, especially the elderly, have abandoned their favorite trails due to bike impacts. Mixing hiking and biking is dangerous.

**Response:** *Mountain biking will not be permitted on foot trails.*

Safety concerns should be addressed with trails designed to reduce downhill and cornering speed.

**Response:** *Most trails will be designed for beginner to intermediate users where the rider will feel safe in downhill sections.*

The analysis does not address how to deal with the conflicts.

**Response:** *Seasonal trail use may reduce conflicts of other recreational users. Prohibiting some uses is another (see **Mountain Biking, Decisions & Actions #5**).*

Keep bikes off trails suitable for skiing. Simply designate trails for skiing closed to mtn bikes only when there is sufficient snow cover for skiing.

**Response:** *Mountain bikes will not be permitted on designated snow-covered cross-country ski trails.*

It is only an unusual trail user that are causing problems.

**Response:** *No answer.*

Dislikes ATV's but give them a place.

**Response:** *No answer.*

There are no conflicts.

**Response:** *In general, most users do not have conflicts with other forest users. However, specific conflicts between users have been reported to the Department.*

Mountain bikes do not do any damage.

**Response:** *No answer.*

Educate users to reduce conflicts.

**Response:** *Kiosks will be located on each State Forest providing educational information.*

Bikers do not sneak up on horses. However, users need to understand and respect other users.

**Response:** *No answer.*

The draft author is outdated by several years.

**Response:** *No answer.*

Hunters do not threaten bikers. Bikers are aware of the risks of riding in the hunting season and prepare accordingly.

**Response:** *No answer.*

#### ●Enforcement

Need more enforcement.

**Response:** *There is a continuous request to increase policing of State lands. It is highly desirable.*

Have not seen a ranger or DEC person ever.

**Response:** *No answer.*

I have seen Rangers on weekdays.

**Response:** *No answer.*

#### ●Miscellaneous

Mt. Bikers are categorized and others are not. WE do not fit in categories.

**Response:** *No answer.*

Have volunteered to help work on trails, but no one has ever called.

**Response:** *DEC presently works with many groups through the Adopt-A-Natural Resource Program. Please call again, we can use your assistance.*

Do not allow logging next to trails.

**Response:** *Trail corridor aesthetics and safety are important and will be considered in harvesting. Many different approaches will be used including trail relocations where necessary.*

There should be a public meeting in Ithaca.

**Response:** *No answer.*

Add litigation as a final step.

**Response:** *No answer.*

●Construction & Maintenance

Mountain bike trails deserve careful consideration and regulation.

**Response:** *No answer.*

Ask for trail maintenance assistance from local ski, hiking or bicycling clubs.

**Response:** *Volunteer groups aid in trail maintenance.*

Assign areas to groups for maintenance under DEC supervision.

**Response:** *Volunteers may assist the DEC under the Adopt-A-Natural Resource Program.*

Object to the three additional parking areas at Shindagin. They are not needed, it would be needless destruction. Instead of building parking lots hire a part time person.

**Response:** *Use of Shindagin Hollow mountain bike trails will increase with the development of brochures and a formal marked trail system. For safety sake, more parking must be established to accommodate the increase. In addition, the Americans with Disabilities Act requires that accessible parking is developed.*

It is really nice. We agree to shutting down some of the bad trails, but also to trail redesign and getting clubs involved in maintenance.

Object to the Shindagin Area as the only winter time open test area. It will cause overuse and damage from that over use, thus the test is invalid.

Shindagin Hollow should also be closed when soil conditions are bad.

Agree with year round opening of Shindagin.

Both Oakley and Jenksville should be open year around for cycling for the interest of a great number of Binghamton cyclists.

**Response:** *Trails in Shindagin Hollow, Oakley Corners and Jenksville will be subject to the same closures as all mountain bike trails.*

We have GPS all the trails, put them in the plan.

**Response:** *This data will be used in the development of the formal trail system.*

Thanks for the work at Shindagin.

Shindagin Hollow should be a laboratory for trail use and design. The network should be expanded not reduced.

**Response:** *We are constantly learning from monitoring efforts on all trail systems.*

Commend DEC for work on Oakley.

**Response:** *Thank you.*

We take care of Oakley, that gives us the right to use it. Seasons are not needed.

**Response:** *No answer.*

Bear Swamp, Stony Pond , Morgan Hill, and Shindagin Hollow: It would be a substantial inconvenience, if not a personal tragedy, to lose access to even a single trail currently in use for off road cycling at any of these localities.

**Response:** *This plan calls for the creation of new formal trail systems at Shindagin and Stony Pond. It also identifies that only unsustainable or parallel trails will be closed on the other areas.*

Mtn biking should be banned from the 3000 acres of Unique Areas.

**Response:** *See **Mountain Biking** section, Decisions and Actions #7, for unique areas where mountain biking is prohibited.*

### ★Snowmobiling

Support restriction of snowmobiles to designated trails only.

**Response:** *Snowmobiling will be restricted to designated trails. The Department will work with snowmobile clubs to identify and designate trails, as appropriate (see **Snowmobiling** section).*

Snowmobile use is good when restricted to trails. Provide route for other uses. Eliminate single use trails. We can all get along. Do not eliminate some uses.

**Response:** *Snowmobile trails are used by others during other seasons of the year, often by horseback riders and mountain bikers. However, multiple uses on snowmobile trails, while snow covered, will not be permitted due to liability issues. However, other winter recreational activities are permitted on designated areas, for example cross-country skiing (see **Snowmobiling** and **Cross-Country Skiing** sections).*

What damage do we do when we create trails? We have been putting in lots of trails, 90% on private. I guess we are not being allowed to ride on State Land.

There are 50% more registered snowmobiles today than in 1996 (146,000 in 2001 vs. 96,000 in 1996). This is not a time to be reducing trail mileage.

Object to restricting snowmobiles to designated trails only. We still need to link trails and this will not allow use link areas if we have to stay on designated trails

**Response:** *The section titled **Snowmobiling** lists all designated trail segments for snowmobilers, as well as designated trail segments which connect State Forests with private lands. The Department will continue to work with snowmobile groups through the Adopt-A-Natural Resource Program to establish new snowmobile corridor trails through State Forests where appropriate. All trails must be established with Department approval.*

Have a club representative talk to problem people to effectively address problems.

**Response:** *No answer necessary.*

It is getting harder and harder to deal with the state. NYS is missing the boat on cashing in on trails.

**Response:** *The Department reviews all legitimate requests for trail establishment on State Forests.*

Designated trails is the way to go, but we need the ability to make new trails in the future.

**Response:** *Trail proposals are evaluated on a case-by-case basis. However, keep in mind that trail location is extremely important to minimize negative environmental impacts. This plan has taken an aggressive approach to new trail building and enhancement of existing trail systems (see **Implementation Schedule**). Also, with other winter sport activities becoming more popular and people using the State Forests, it is no longer possible to allow snowmobiles everywhere they are capable of going (see **Snowmobiling** section).*

ATV's need a place, but not on snowmobile trails.

**Response:** *ATVs are not permitted on snowmobile trails in Region 7 (see **All-Terrain Vehicles** section). Snowmobile trails are only open for other uses when not snow covered.*

At times we use state lands for club activities such as "poker runs." We use non-designated trails due to the number in attendance (200 plus sleds participate). Not allowing us to use other than designated trails will not allow us to have these other activities. Having that many people at one time on designated trails could cause issues with the normal trail rider. We would like to continue to use State Land, either designated trails or non-designated trails. We do have two events per year and maintain non-designated areas.

**Response:** *A Temporary Revocable Permit (TRP) is required for competitive snowmobile events (see **Snowmobiling** section). Use of non-designated snowmobile trails will be considered and can be allowed by this permit where appropriate.*

Many of our trails have not been designated and recorded by the state. Requests for designating non-designated trails should be submitted to the Department.

Page 63 - Your notation is incorrect. This fee is toward a statewide fund trail maintenance fund that is available for use on State Forests. DEC should be using this fund.

**Response:** *The Department does utilize snowmobile grant money.*

Snowmobiling is a problem when there is not enough snow cover... (resulting in) trails where the soil has been completely torn up when there is too little snow or the trails are wet. Snowmobiling should be limited to trails where this problem (and conflicts with quiet uses of the forest) will be minimized - for example on seasonal roads with a firm base.

**Response:** *Section 196.2 in ECL requires that trails designated and marked by the DEC as snowmobile trails must be completely covered with snow or ice to be traveled on.*

Snowmobiles should be limited to three forests and 15 mph.

Note in the plan that snowmobile trails are relatively long and wide, taking up a good deal of acreage that impacts other forest values and allows for the penetration of invasive species.

**Response:** *The speed limit for all vehicles on public forest roads is 25 mph. Snowmobile trails are approximately 8-10 feet wide. Off-road snowmobile trails do not disturb canopy cover in such a way to create long corridors of disturbance that are attractive to invasive species. Other snowmobile trails are located on already constructed roads. Although these roads may attract invasive species, it is not related to the use of snowmobiles.*

### ●Conflicts

Statements about snowmobile impact and conflicts with other users are not correct.

**Response:** *The plan makes statements about conflicts with other uses. These statements are based on direct input from the public to the Land Managers.*

Build new snowmobile trail though Camillus Forest property.

**Response:** *Snowmobiling is not a recommended activity in the draft stewardship plan for the area which is currently in print. The stewardship plan provides for better cross-country ski trail access by a winter accessible parking lot and restores the old forest trail. This is a relatively small property near a large urban population. It is not possible to accommodate all uses on the forest.*

Cortland 3 new connecting trail.

**Response:** *The plan recommends an additional 2,100 ft. connecting trail through Kennedy State Forest in the year 2008.*

Request for ½ mile new snowmobile trail segment on Cortland 9 & 10.

**Response:** *The plan addresses improvements to the cross-country ski trails and horse trails on this State Forest. Not all uses can be accommodated on each State Forest.*

Tompkins 1 additional snowmobile trail.

**Response:** *The plan schedules a 2,000 ft. snowmobile trail to be built as a bypass route along Heisey Road in 2013.*

Tompkins 2 - Move section of trail off Harford-Slaterville Rd.

**Response:** *The Department does not support this trail relocation due to the impact it would have on neighboring homes.*

Don't want snowmobiles using Hammond Hill or Star Stanton Road logging road.

**Response:** *Snowmobiles have been routed on these roads to minimize impact on the cross-country ski trails. Some overlap still exists, but it is not avoidable.*

Noise and pollution is being addressed by manufacturers. Since use is winter only environmental concerns are not a major issue.

**Response:** *Environmental concerns include the impact of snowmobiles on wildlife. We look forward to the day when more environmentally friendly snowmobiles replace current models.*

Is there ever going to be any trails into the Tioughnioga Area?

**Response:** *The Tioughnioga Area is managed by the Division of Fish and Wildlife. Currently, there are no plans to establish trails in this area.*

Nelson Swamp - DEC bought the land, pays no taxes, let beaver kill the orchids and then took our bridge out. Why?

**Response:** *The bridge was removed for two reasons: The beaver were using the abutments to build a dam which was causing flooding in the swamp; the bridge is not a sanctioned trail and is a magnet for much illegal use in the summer by ATVs.*

Support snowmobile loop system in the Genny Green Project.

Thank you DEC for helping to build snowmobile trails in Chenango County.

**Response:** *You're welcome!*

### ★Cross-Country Skiing

Support construction of additional skiing trails.

**Response:** *No answer.*

### ●Trail Use

Hikers and bikers should stay off trails in the winter months.

**Response:** *Some trails will be designated as multiple-use and will allow skiing, biking, horseback riding, snowshoeing, and other possible uses. It is recognized that these trails, once the snow is tracked by other activities, will not provide a high quality facility for skiing, but they will accommodate many users. Other trails will not allow biking or horseback riding in the wintertime, and these trails are intended to serve as high quality facilities for skiing. Although all pedestrian activities such as hiking and snowshoeing will be allowed on these trails, their primary use, historically, has been cross-country skiing. These include the trails at Stoney Pond State Forest and Whaupaucau State Forest. Do not want to meet a pack of snowmobiles or ATVs on the trail. Limit motorized use. The use of ATV's will not be allowed on State Forests.*

**Response:** *The Draft Plan does not permit snowmobiles to use trails that will be specifically designated as cross-country ski trails, such as those on Stoney Pond State Forest and Whaupaucau State Forest. Skiers will be allowed to use designated snowmobile trails and must be aware of the potential conflict on these trails.*

Is snow shoeing allowed on a designated cross country ski trail?

**Response:** *Yes. The Draft Plan states that snowshoers should not travel on designated ski trails, but it does not prohibit the use. Although, in the interest of skiers, it is not considered good etiquette to hike or snowshoe on a ski trail, the Department does not*

*prohibit any type of pedestrian activity on these trails.*

Want cross country ski trails as single use trails.

**Response:** *See response to previous comment. Some trails will be designated as multiple-use and will allow skiing, biking, horseback riding, snowshoeing, and other possible uses. It is recognized that these trails, once the snow is tracked by other activities, will not provide a high quality facility for skiing, but they will accommodate many users. Other trails will have limited uses, such as the trails at Stoney Pond State Forest. Primarily, these trails will be used only by skiers; however, other pedestrian activities such as snowshoeing will not be prohibited.*

Dogs should be allowed on trails. I use mine for skijoring and kick fecal waste off to the side.

**Response:** *All pedestrian activities, including dog walking, will be allowed on ski trails. I have never found walkers, snowshoers, or dogs to be a problem. Skiing right over their tracks is not a problem.*

**Response:** *No answer.*

Usage of ski and hiking trails by horses and mountain bikes should be prohibited year-round since such usage seriously degrades the trails by digging up the ground and creating muddy conditions which further subject the trails to even further degradation.

**Response:** *The Department will design and manage most of the recreational trails on State Forests for multiple activities. If trails are significantly degrading due to certain activities, then the Department will take steps to remediate the problem. Seasonal restrictions, redesigning of the trail, or prohibiting specific activities are all options that can and will be used to correct any significant problems.*

It is inconceivable that any sensible plan would permit concurrent use of trails by skiers, snowshoers, hikers, bikers and equestrians. If you were to give in to lobbying by biking clubs etc. and allow them on the trails in winter, it's certain that you would have major conflict on your hands and plenty of incivility to go around.

**Response:** *Some trails will be designated as multiple-use and will allow skiing, biking, horseback riding, snowshoeing, and other possible uses. It is recognized that these trails, once the snow is tracked by other activities, will not provide a high quality facility for skiing, but they will accommodate many users. If conflicts between different user groups becomes a problem, restrictions or prohibitions will be placed on certain activities. Other trails will not allow biking or horseback riding in the wintertime, and these trails are intended to serve as high quality facilities for skiing. Although all pedestrian activities such as hiking and snowshoeing will be allowed on these trails, their primary use, historically, has been cross-country skiing. These include the trails at Stoney Pond State Forest and Whaupaucau State Forest.*

#### **●Trail Design**

Enjoy the access and facilities at Winona for cross country skiing. It might serve as an example for Region 7 areas.

**Response:** *Thank you. The Department does like to build upon its successes, and the facilities at Winona are a good reference.*

A general trail width of 4 feet for ungroomed trails is not wide enough for safety or enjoyment especially on down sections. Downhill trails should be wider and should also increase in curvature and decrease slope in downhill direction? This advice is contained in several documents supplied to DEC a few years ago.

**Response:** *Ski trails on State Forests are designed for beginner and intermediate skill levels. Most slopes will be gentle (5%-15%); however, some sections of trail may have slopes up to 25%. On the steeper slopes, trail width should be increased to ensure safety, and to limit the required skill level to no more than intermediate. Trail width may be increased to 6 feet in such sections.*

### ●Conflicts

Assertions by people such as the so-called 'Friends of Hammond Hill' that all of the various recreational users get along just fine with multiple use are ridiculous. The only reason it works in parts of the year is that skiers are obviously not around at those times, and places like Hammond Hill don't have a lot of use by hikers during summer, except on the FLT.

**Response:** *Some trails will be designated as multiple-use and will allow skiing, biking, horseback riding, snowshoeing, and other possible uses. If conflicts between different user groups becomes a problem on these types of trails, restrictions or prohibitions will be placed on certain activities.*

Cayuga 1 - More barricades to keep illegal traffic off X-C trails.

**Response:** *Although the Department prefers to limit the number of gates and barricades on State Forests, if illegal traffic is causing environmental damage or safety problems, barricades or gates will be used.*

Cortland 3 - Suggest XC trail improvement and kiosk on Kennedy SF (Cortland 3) due to high elevation.

**Response:** *An additional cross-country trail at Cortland 3 is not recommended in this planning period. An additional trail system is proposed on Tuller Hill (Cortland 9 and 10). This project, if accepted by DEC, will require significant DEC and volunteer resources to accomplish. Kiosks will be placed as part of the recreation plan.*

Cortland 9 & 10 - Build an additional 4½ miles of new X-C trail on Tuller Hill SF and redesign existing trails into a new trail system.

**Response:** *This project makes sense given its close proximity to Greek Peek. Additionally, stake holders have expressed willingness to volunteer their time and energy to make the project happen. Phase 1 of the project involves construction of a new parking lot on Clute Road.; phase 2 an upgrade/reroute of the existing 1.5 mile "Tuller North" trail to the pipeline; phase 3 establishes a 1.5 mile new trail from the parking lot to*

*connect with the Finger Lakes Trail at the junction of Pipeline Road. Phases 4 thru 6 propose constructing connector trails to Greek Peak property (via Cortland 10) and a second parking lot and should be deferred to the next 10-year planning period. Recommend phase 1 for 2006, phase 3 for 2006, and phase 2 for 2008.*

Hammond Hill SF (Tompkins 2) - Close the Star Stanton Road in winter when snow is present and X-C conditions are acceptable.

**Response:** *Project should not be included in the Recreation Plan and (rather) considered as part of an UMP. Would require two large gates/barriers on Star Stanton Road. Access to open and close the gate during the winter presents challenges. Deep snow restricts vehicle access anyway.*

### ★Camping

Object to restricted camping.

**Response:** *Camping restrictions are listed on page 71 of the Draft Plan. These restrictions have been placed on camping activities for a number of reasons: environmental protection, safety, prevention of overuse and prevention of user conflicts.*

Camping is a fine activity, when the participants are respectful of others and the forest. Often, campers leave huge messes behind (along Bald Hill Rd. and the former hang-gliding spot in the Danby SF). The DEC does not have the personnel to police these areas and clean up the debris...how will it maintain an additional 30+ campsites?

**Response:** *Participants in camping and other activities on State Forests often leave litter on site. Through the use of information posted on new kiosks and the distribution of new brochures for camping on State Forests, we hope to better educate the public on the proper use of the State Forest facilities. Campsites do require routine maintenance. The Final Plan will include a budget proposal to support all of the proposed improvements. The budget will address the expenses of constructing and maintaining new campsites along with the needs of designated personnel to complete these activities.*

Restricting camping to designated sites will not benefit horseback riders.

**Response:** *The Draft Plan states that camping is allowed at "dispersed locations." Camping is prohibited within 150 feet of any road, trail or water source except at camping areas designated by the department. Areas that are designated campgrounds allow camping only at designated sites to control environmental impacts.*

If someone backpacks (in a State Forest) would they be breaking the law by camping. Does this mean we can't camp at the fire tower or gravel pits?

**Response:** *See response to above comment regarding the ability to camp throughout the State Forests, not just at designated sites.*

Endorse camping regulations.

**Response:** *No answer.*

Support camping near roads.

**Response:** *The Draft Plan includes a proposal to allow roadside camping, at least during big game hunting season.*

★Hunting

No Sunday hunting.

Hunting should be banned on Sundays - as it once was throughout the Southern Tier.

**Response:** *By legislation, during the open hunting season, hunting is allowed seven days a week. There are only four Sundays impacted by Sunday hunting for big game during the year (see **Hunting** section). Hunting regulations are established by legislative action based on recommendations by public advisory groups. They are not part of the responsibilities of Lands and Forests and not within the scope of this plan.*

Hunting is an important tool to control wildlife populations and to reduce related agricultural crop damage.

**Response:** *Hunting, especially big game hunting for deer, has a very positive effect on hardwood forest management and vegetation bio-diversity. Over-browsing by wildlife can reduce yield from agricultural crop production. Hunting is a compatible activity on State lands (see **Hunting** section).*

Support hunting as an important activity.

I hope that you consider the hunters and fishermen in this (plan) also as there are a number of us.

Access to SFs for hunting should be protected and maintained.

**Response:** *Hunting is considered an important activity; however, hunting seasons and special regulations must be followed. Otherwise, hunting may cause negative environmental impacts (see **Hunting** section).*

Trails are interfering with hunting opportunities at Oakley Corners.

**Response:** *Legal hunting is permitted on all State Forests but may be restricted or prohibited where there are special hunting regulations. No special regulations apply to Oakley Corners. In response to similar requests from hunters and others who prefer to use forests without formal trails, the Recreation Plan has designated 20 State Forests which will not be developed with formal recreational trail systems (see **State Forest Without Designated Recreational Trails** section).*

Money from "Putman/Rudman" Act goes to maintain and improve the State land for all to enjoy.

Hunting fees contribute significantly to funds for the state. People need these areas for hunting. Nothing should be done to discourage hunting.

**Response:** *The Pitman/Robertson Act of 1937 is a Federal program to aid states in wildlife restoration projects. All can enjoy the wildlife projects undertaken, but the funding does not go to general maintenance and improvement of State Forests proposed in the plan.*

Do not feel safe in the woods during hunting season. Posting a sign at the trailhead indicating when hunting is would help people make informed decisions about where they

walk and what they wear while doing it.

The posting (Website, hot line number, or kiosks) of dates of all types of hunting seasons would be greatly appreciated.

**Response:** *Due to the sheer volume of kiosks, trailheads, etc., constant updating of these items during the hunting season is not possible. For accurate updates, a Hunting & Trapping Regulations Guide is available annually at all NYSDEC offices or accessed through the internet at [www.dec.state.ny.us](http://www.dec.state.ny.us).*

Hunters don't want trails. Other users need to respect hunters.

**Response:** *This concern has been addressed in part by designating some State Forests to be left without any trail systems developed on them (see **State Forests Without Designated Recreational Trails** section). Hunting is presently allowed on 198,890 acres of State Forests in Region 7 (see **Hunting** section).*

Hunters should be allowed to use the land, without building roads. Once hunting areas are gone they will be gone forever making it important to keep areas open and designated now. Hunters support conservation and protection of the environment and are responsible for much of the land that is set aside for public.

**Response:** *This plan accommodates hunting on almost all of the State Forest acreage (see section on **Hunting**).*

DEC should provide access to other uses during hunting season.

Keeping deer management unit needs in mind DEC could close certain SFs to hunting on a rotational basis to give other recreational users a place to go during hunting season. This closure could be balanced by extending the season on "open" areas.

**Response:** *Legal hunting is allowed on all State Forests but may be restricted or prohibited where there are special hunting regulations, as stated in the **Hunting** section. The special hunting regulation areas are not being expanded.*

Don't outlaw raccoon hunting with mules indirectly with horse restrictions. Suggests that this be an exception.

**Response:** *Hunting with mules will not be affected by the plan.*

#### Labrador Hollow

Concern over the change in hunting regulations, allowing hunting near hang gliding site, hunters may shoot, endangering hang gliders who sometimes use site during hunting season.

Extending hunting into zone 1 will force hunters to shoot at his house. Sees a conflict on western slope between hikers and hunters.

Labrador Hollow offers a safe haven for people to hike in fall.

Want hunting allowed on entire area of Labrador Hollow Unique Area.

Opposed to changing the size of the current zones to allow hunting east of Rt. 91 because:

There are residences in or near this proposed zone for hunting.

Labrador Hollow is a frequently visited area by many people.

Hang Gliding takes place in this area.

The Onondaga Trail passes along the summit of Jones Hill.

The Skyline Trail will pass through the area.

As stated on page 74, "The total acreage where hunting is presently allowed is 198,980 acres." That is a considerable amount of land, so it is doubtful that the hunters will require any more.

**Response:** *Area 1 will be changed to allow more acreage to be open for hunting on Labrador Hollow. There are numerous State Forests with recreational trail systems and usage patterns similar to those on Labrador Hollow Unique Area. For many years, hunting and other recreational uses have been compatible on these areas. There are also many homes surrounding State Forests, similar to those around Labrador Hollow. It has not been necessary to adopt blanket regulations in those cases. For additional information, see **Hunting** section.*

### ★Fishing

Fishermen should be allowed to use the land, without building roads.

**Response:** *No answer.*

I hope that you consider the hunters and fishermen in this (plan) also as there are a number of us.

**Response:** *Hunting and fishing are addressed in the Draft Plan. The interests of hunters and fishermen have been considered.*

### Redfield Day-Use Area

Consider allowing fishing there at night.

**Response:** *The plan has been changed. Redfield Day-Use Area will remain closed at night except for those individuals actively fishing. This exception will be monitored. If it is abused, the provision may have to be removed.*

### Labrador Unique Area

What about ice fishing on Labrador Pond?

**Response:** *There are no regulations in Environmental Conservation Law which prohibit such use. The activity would have very little impact on the area. The next time the Labrador Hollow brochure is revised we will add a statement indicating that ice fishing is allowed. It is not expected that this will create an extensive amount of additional use, considering the shallow depth of the pond and related problems with winter fish kills.*

### ★All-Terrain Vehicles (ATV'S)

Look at Massachusetts trails for design and use.

Development of ATV trails needs to be clearly regulated and they do not belong in some of the State Forests. Riding loud, expensive, fuel-guzzling machines is contradictory to the basic intent of forest preservation.

Open State lands to ATV's.

Open up a few areas for ATV's, reroute trails often. Use aggressive enforcement.

There should be one forest for ATV'ers.

There should be some forests for ATV'ers.

ATV's should not be banned from using State land.

Want ATV use in Marsh Pond and Cat Hollow. Also Steam Mill and Arctic.

Want ATV trails.

ATV's are incompatible with State Forests.

I am extremely disappointed DEC is blatantly disregarding one trail user's group's need.

There has been clear and undeniable public input from the ATV contingency, yet they are ignored.

I am a senior citizen who...does not envision an ATV trails system for (public) lands.

Opposed to turf-ripping, erosion-acceleration ATV's on public land.

**Response:** *Efforts to include an ATV trail system on State Forests in an earlier unit management plan were met with significant opposition from neighboring landowners, local government and other special interest groups. Based on this opposition, it has been decided that the development of an ATV trail system is incompatible with the cultural and recreational demands, uses and natural characteristics of State Forests in Region 7. No ATV trail systems will be designed for public use within the Region (see **All-Terrain Vehicles** section).*

ATV usage is both annoying and destructive.

Approve of keeping ATV's and motor vehicles off State Forests.

Ban recreational ATV use.

**Response:** *This is a common opinion of recreationists and neighbors of State Forest. For this, and other reasons, ATV trails and usage are illegal on State lands unless the ATV is used by those with mobility impairments who have a permit by the State to use designated trails (see **All-Terrain Vehicles** section).*

Do not allow motorized vehicles, bikes, and horses on SF or Unique areas due to erosion, mud, puddles, vegetation damage, and trail widening.

Female hiker does not feel safe in woodlands accessible to ATV's or off-road vehicles.

**Response:** *Off-highway vehicles and ATVs are prohibited on State Forests unless used by those with mobility impairments who have a permit by the State (see **Off-Highway Vehicles**). Mountain bikes and horses are permitted on State Forests, but only in designated areas (see **Mountain Biking** and **Horseback Riding** sections). Negative environmental impacts are minimized by proper trail construction and constant maintenance of these trails.*

Want access to exiting ATV trails.

Equal access to public land motorized recreation is necessary for disabled and older persons. Lack of ATV access is discriminatory.

Help access to areas by persons who are handicapped or have medical conditions requiring use of some type of motorized vehicle.

**Response:** *The ATV trails presently located on State Forests in Region 7 are open only to those with mobility impairments who have a permit by the State. Other ATV trails located on private lands are open to the public, but they should be contacted directly (see **All-Terrain Vehicles** section).*

Reconsider the complete ban on ATV's

**Response:** *The complete ban on ATVs on State Forests will not be reconsidered due to public opposition, unresolved environmental issues of air and noise pollution and potential conflicts with other users and neighbors (see **All-Terrain Vehicles** section).*

Support ATV decision. ATV'ers need rail and paved trails.

Plan written by a terrorist who has a one-sided opinion about ATV's.

No longer possible for machines to go anywhere possible.

Correct the occurrence of our name to read "New York State Off-Highway Recreational Vehicle Association, Inc."

ATV'ers never have any conflict with hunters and horse riders.

Quebec has a great trail system with 6000 miles of trails supported by a federation of clubs and the govt. NYS is missing out! Big tourism dollars.

NYS should check Canada's ATV trails; it's a boom to the economy.

Pharsalia trail was made wrong and was not supervised. Four Wheelers destroyed it.

ATV'ers are riding along roads because there is no place to ride.

Investigate sale and marketing practices that are promoting illegal irresponsible use.

If you don't give us a trail you'll see more illegal riding.

Good luck in dealing with illegal use.

Not providing places to ride forces riders to ride illegally damaging unsuitable trails and sensitive sites; it will only get worse.

There is no better way to protect the outdoors than making it easy for people to be outdoors.

What is worse - wide spread damaging ATV use or an appropriate ATV System?

California has riding areas and no problems. Give us riding areas, make rules, enforce them, and then you will have no problems

Put seasons on use and charge a fee to use the land.

ATV Policy is unfair.

It is a privilege, not a right; let's work together.

If this discrimination is not stopped it will spread to all activities and this plan is proof of it.

The Adirondack Park region was almost deserted when the snow is gone. They have recently allowed ATV usage in many areas and the business people actually have a profitable season to look forward to. There are areas in the Southern Tier that could also benefit from the same type of Land Management Usage. It's a wasted area and it could be greatly utilized.

Be it on legs, wheels, or tracks we all come to enjoy the forests with our favorite toys. I think that those who enjoy ATV's should be allowed to enjoy them too. This comment by a horseback rider.

As "recreational" vehicles, (ATV's) are instruments of destruction to the soil without exception. If people choose to remove the topsoil, plant life and other biota on their own land, they have that right. It's an unfortunate choice, and absolutely violates their neighbors rights to peace and quiet.

ATV ownership and use is growing at a fast rate.

Need more enforcement, more high tech enforcement.

**Response:** *Does not need an answer.*

Allow ATV's on truck trails

**Response:** *ATVs are currently not permitted on truck trails (public forest access roads) in DEC Region 7.*

DEC is discriminatory by allowing snowmobile access through State Forests and not ATV's.

The ATV ban is discrimination against a part of society that has a right to use it.

ATV's should be allowed any place a snow machine is.

...our group obeys the rules of the road, but see the snowmobiles going anywhere they want. Why is there such favoritism to snowmobiles?

**Response:** *Snowmobiling can be a compatible use of State Forests if done in a proper manner (see **Snowmobiling** section). Snowmobile use is restricted to designated trails only. However, ATV use is incompatible with the cultural and recreational demands, uses and natural characteristics of State Forests (see **All-Terrain Vehicles** section).*

Why can't ATV's ride on snowmobile trails?

**Response:** *In most cases, snowmobile trails are designed to be used only when snow covered. Many of the trails are on soil that does not support activity when the ground is not snow covered. This makes these trails unsuitable for ATV use (see **Snowmobiling** section).*

ATV's should only be used for rescue and enforcement.

Against motorized uses for recreational purposes. The internal combustion should only be used for work.

**Response:** *ATVs are only allowed to operate on:*

- *Highways designed and posted for ATV use by State or local authority;*
  - *On public lands where specifically designated and signed for ATV use;*
  - *On private land where the operator has permission from the owner or lessee.*
- (See **All-Terrain Vehicles** section).*

We're all glad to see an ATV when there is an accident. We all pay taxes. They should be allowed to ride too.

Banning ATV's would ultimately destroy many hours of family pleasure. Taking (the opportunity to ride ATV's on state land) away is just one more blow to our kids. We need to keep these activities open for our children and their children to come.

**Response:** *ATVs are not permitted on State Forests, unless designated for use by those with mobility impairments who have a permit from the Department. However ATVs are permitted on private commercial ATV facilities (see **All-Terrain Vehicles** section).*

I encourage DEC to help move appropriate legislation to make more legal trails in NYS.

**Response:** *The DEC is not in a position to encourage ATV trails.*

Grant them an ATV trail system, designed for their use in non-sensitive areas and away from other recreation trails.

Put ATV trails parallel to some of the major highways. It would benefit neo-tropical birds, because the birds would be forced inland away from some predator thus improving nesting success.

**Response:** *No ATV trails are planned in the Region.*

There's no conflicts.

**Response:** *Most local residents are against the development of ATV trails. There are also unresolved environmental issues of air and noise pollution and potential conflict with other users and neighbors (see **All-Terrain Vehicles** section).*

Various Comments Related to ATV's and Hunting:

I don't want ATV's in the woods when I'm trying to hunt.

Want to use ATV's for deer hunting.

Hunters need ATV's for access.

Need more ATV access for hunting by people with disabilities.

Want to use the ATV for hunting. Why not, it is not fair.

Have trouble with ATV's when hunting.

**Response:** *ATV use for hunting is not permitted unless used by those with mobility permits who have a permit with the Department.*

ATV's are a major problem on the FLT.

**Response:** *ATV use is not permitted on FLT.*

Approve ATV decision as they have serious environmental impacts; specifically impacts on wildlife especially breeding birds. This should be in the plan.

**Response:** *Environmental impacts caused by ATV use is included in the **All-Terrain Vehicles** section of the Management Plan.*

ATV Trail System Planning should be included for the following reasons:

1. 1993 DEC Position Statement
2. Registration Fees Collected and Unused
3. Federal Funding available
4. Equal Access to Public Land
5. Economic Impact
6. Increased interest in ATV Recreation
7. Heavy statewide restriction on ATV's. There is 4 million acres of state land and in the Adirondack there is only 40 miles of motorized vehicle trails open to ATV's.
8. Support from other Trail user groups: NYS Trails Council, Snowmobile Association, etc.
9. Ecologically - Sensitive Trail Design
10. ATV riders ready to assist in trail development and maintenance; they just need to be given a chance.
11. Some State Forests have been identified as uniquely well-suited for location of ATV trail system.
12. No ATV trail system currently available. The Tug Hill and Brasher Falls are

too far away to travel for just a few hours of time.

**Response:** *An ATV trail system is the most difficult type of trail system to properly locate and develop on State Forests due to the environmental impacts, constraints and conflicts associated with the activity and the desire by ATV riders for trail systems that have many miles open to their use.*

Does an ATV trail system need the backing of a State Senator, before the DEC will respond to this need?

**Response:** *No, a creation of ATV trails may be created through the political process.*

The limitation of motorized vehicles is most important. I have seen the destructive ruts and holes made by all terrain vehicles in soft areas of trails.

Machines are so noisy and disturb the tranquility and peace we search for in the Parks and Forests. Please keep machines out of the wild lands.

I strongly believe (that motorbikes and ATV's) should be restricted to special use trails.

**Response:** *ATV use is only permitted in designated areas by those with mobility impairments who have a permit issued by the Department (see **All-Terrain Vehicles** section).*

As "recreational" vehicles, (ATVs) are instruments of destruction of the soil without exception. If people choose to remove the topsoil, plant life and other biota on their own land, they have that right. It's an unfortunate choice and absolutely violates their neighbors rights to peace and quiet.

**Response:** *No answer.*

Use grant money to build ATV trails (i.e. National Recreation Trails

**Response:** *There is currently no dedicated funding source to support on ATV trail system (see **All-Terrain Vehicles** section).*

ATV ownership and use is growing at a fast rate.

**Response:** *No answer.*

ATV trails can be constructed in a manner that does not damage the land.

**Response:** *The requirements for a successful ATV trail is severely restricted due to the criteria. Also, the high costs associated with the construction, maintenance and operation on public lands need to be considered (see **All-Terrain Vehicles** section).*

I wholeheartedly support all management decisions favoring non-motorized recreational pursuits. Use of ATV's and snowmobiles is antithetical to forest maintenance, preservation and sustainability. They pollute, cause excessive noise, endanger all living things and are costly in trail maintenance. Only motorized use of cars on truck trails and careful logging operations should be allowed.

**Response:** *No answer necessary.*

Various Comments About ATV's and the Registration Fees Paid:

We pay registration fee and get nothing for it.

We pay registration fees and taxes, but we are the only group that gets nothing. You won't stop illegal use with this approach.

ATV's should not have to pay registration fees to run on private lands.

State legislature should rescind the fees on ATVs.

Where are the registration fees going to?

Charge a flat fee for all use of state lands.

The money is there so let's get with it please.

If you charge a fee, a right comes with that fee.

It does not make much sense, we pay but get no privileges.

One injustice is used to support another in the plan - the Registration fee. The impact will go far beyond regional boundaries as others regions follow suit.

The same as the snowmobile fund, money was collected for a purpose - trail construction and maintenance. Now it is denied.

Give us the same rights as snowmobiles as my registration brings extra money into our area.

**Response:** *In 1990, the State Legislature abolished the ATV Trail Development and Maintenance Fund and uses the money for registration only. The registration fee is administered by the Department of Motor Vehicles.*

Suggest expanding the data in Appendix 5 regarding registration data.

**Response:** *See **All-Terrain Vehicles** section.*

ATV trails can be constructed using sales tax money from sale of ATVs.

Trails will be maintained by riders.

User groups would help build, maintain and police ATV trails.

**Response:** *ATV trails will not be constructed on State Forests (see **All-Terrain Vehicles** section).*

Maintained trails help fire equipment access, emergency personnel access for distressed, ill, injured, lost hunters, hikers, birdwatchers, etc.

**Response:** *This is true.*

## ★Boating

Jet skies are not addressed.

**Response:** *Jet skies are not addressed separately; however, they are addressed in the Draft Plan, along with other motor boats, as "motorized water craft."*

Jet skies should be totally banned.

Personal water craft should be restricted, there should be speed limits on boats and hours of operation.

**Response:** *See **Boating** section for applicable restrictions.*

Jet skies should be specifically banned from all State Forest waters. They are inappropriate and do extensive damage on these sensitive, small, shallow water

resources.

**Response:** See ***Boating*** section for applicable restrictions.