

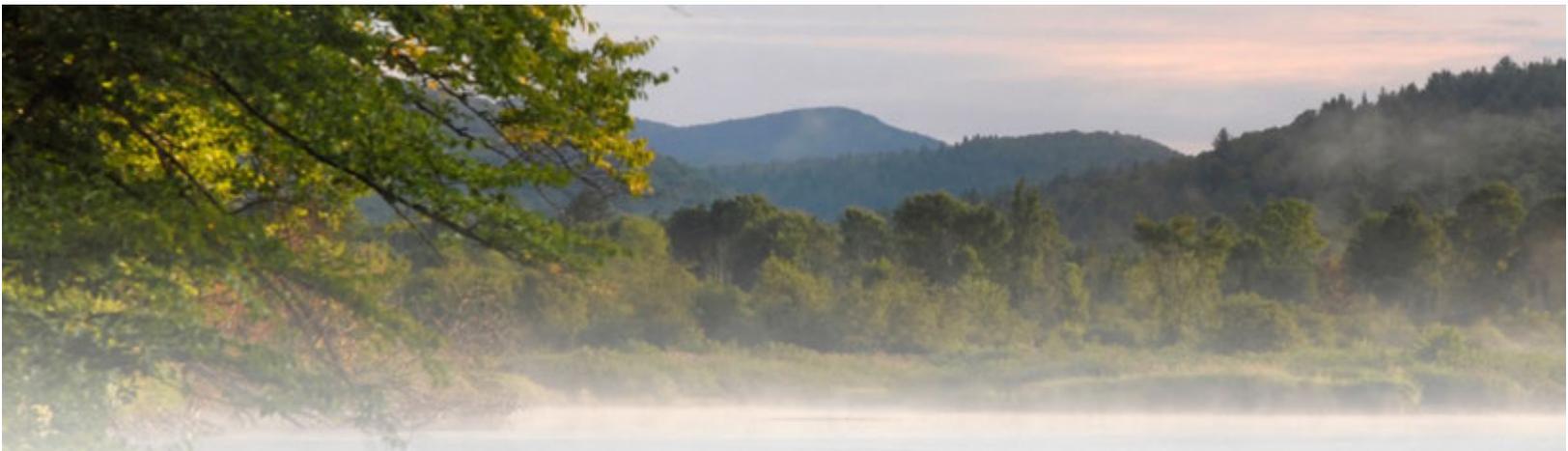


Department of
Environmental
Conservation

THREE LAKES TRACT CONSERVATION EASEMENT

Recreation Management Plan

Town of Webb
Herkimer County

A landscape photograph showing a misty lake in the foreground, surrounded by dense green forest. In the background, there are rolling hills and mountains under a soft, hazy sky. The image is partially obscured by a blue horizontal bar at the top.

NYS DEC, REGION 6, DIVISION OF LANDS AND FORESTS

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Plan Summary

The 3,350-acre Three Lakes Tract (TLT) Conservation Easement is located in the Town of Webb, Herkimer County. In 1990, New York State purchased a conservation easement on the TLT, which protects natural resources, facilitates continued forest management activity, and permits some public recreation activities. The Three Lakes Tract Recreation Management Plan (RMP) outlines future DEC management of the property, consistent with terms of the encumbering conservation easement.

The remote location of the TLT, currently limits the total number of public visitors to the property. Snowmobile trails represent the majority of public use, and this is anticipated to remain the case following the adoption of this RMP. Several new foot trails are proposed in the RMP to facilitate public access to the property and its ponds, and several campsites will be designated. Information and maps will also be developed and distributed to facilitate public exploration and enjoyment of the property.



Blue Pond is not one of the “three lakes” the Three Lakes Tract is named after, but is nonetheless spectacularly beautiful in autumn

Summary of Recreation Proposals

- Two existing snowmobile trails will be maintained on the property, totaling 4.8 miles.
- Hiking trails will be established connecting McCarty Road in the Independence River Wild Forest to Blue, Hitchcock, Grass and Moose Ponds on the TLT (a total of 4.4 miles of trail on the conservation easement (2.9 miles will follow existing snowmobile trails and the remaining 1.5 miles will involve minimal trail construction, mostly following old skid trails or existing trails used by the lease camp located on the TLT. Additionally, a connector trail up to 0.6 miles may be constructed to the Ha-De-Ron-Dah Wilderness Area, pending proposals in the Ha-De-Ron-Dah Wilderness Unit Management Plan revision.
- Primitive camping will be permitted throughout the property. Three primitive campsites will be maintained near Hitchcock, Grass and Moose Ponds, and a campsite meeting Accessible Design standards will be established near Blue Pond. Pending public demand, a lean-to may be constructed near Hitchcock Pond.
- Hunting, Fishing, and Trapping will be permitted throughout the property.
- Paddling will be permitted throughout the property.
- New recreation maps and information will be developed and distributed to the public.

Preface

Use of Conservation Easements in New York State

The New York State Legislature has declared that the public policy of the State is to conserve, preserve, and protect its environmental assets, natural resources and man-made resources. In addition to purchasing lands in fee on behalf of the People of the State, the State also protects land and natural resources by purchasing less than fee permanent interests in land, termed conservation easements. Conservation easements are used widely across the United States by government and non-profit land conservation organizations to protect a variety of properties with important natural resources and other landscape values such as water quality, wildlife habitat, sensitive ecosystems, wetlands, riparian areas, scenic areas such as meadows and ridgelines, agricultural land, working forests, and historic sites. The primary function of conservation easements is to limit or eliminate future development and undesirable land uses on a property, while allowing for continued private ownership and traditional management.

New York State acquires conservation easements primarily on properties that buffer existing State lands, provide additional public recreation opportunities, and/or maintain large working forests. There are now hundreds of thousands of acres of land in New York that are protected by conservation easements acquired by the State. Most of that land consists of large tracts of commercial timber land in the Adirondack and Tug Hill regions; however, New York State also holds easements on a variety of other properties across the State.

Some conservation easements allow public access to the protected property and some do not. On many large working forest conservation easement properties, the State has acquired public recreation rights in addition to development and land use restrictions. In some cases, a wide range of public recreational use is permitted, and in others public access is very limited. The amount of public access depends largely on the goals and objectives of the landowner and the State at the time the easement was negotiated.

This recreation management plan will explain public recreation rights the State acquired through the conservation easement and how these rights are to be implemented compatibly with rights retained by the landowner.

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Contents

- Plan Summary..... i
- Preface.....ii
- Contents..... 4
- I. Introduction 7
 - A. Purpose of the Recreation Management Plan 7
 - B. Planning Process 8
- II. Setting..... 8
 - A. Property Description and Access 8
 - B. History 9
 - C. Current Uses of the Property..... 9
 - 1. Forest Management..... 9
 - 2. Lease Camp 9
 - 3. Public Recreation..... 10
 - D. Existing Infrastructure 10
 - 1. Structures 10
 - 2. Roads 10
 - E. Natural Resources 11
 - 1. Geology, Terrain and Soils 11
 - 2. Water Bodies 13
 - 3. Wetlands..... 16
 - 4. Fish and Wildlife..... 17
 - 5. Winter Deer Habitat 21
 - 6. Vegetation..... 22
 - 7. Vectors of Change 22
 - F. Cultural Resources..... 23
 - 1. Cultural and Archeological 23

2.	Scenic	23
3.	Economic Impact	24
III.	Public Use Administration and Management.....	24
A.	Management and Policy Considerations.....	24
1.	Laws and Regulations.....	24
2.	Policies and Memoranda	27
3.	Guidelines.....	27
B.	Management Authority, Staff and Responsibility.....	28
C.	Management Goals and Objectives	29
D.	Management Considerations	31
1.	Shared Maintenance.....	31
2.	Logging Closures.....	32
3.	Recreation Monitoring.....	32
4.	Search, Rescue, Fire, Emergency Response, and Law Enforcement	32
E.	Recreation Facility Standards	33
1.	Snowmobile Trail Standards	33
2.	Foot Trail Standards	34
3.	Campsite Standards	35
F.	Best Management Practices	36
IV.	Proposed Recreation Management Actions	37
Motorized Use		37
1.	Passenger Vehicle Use.....	37
2.	Snowmobile Use	38
3.	ATV Use	39
Non-Motorized Use.....		40
4.	Hiking.....	40
5.	Bicycling.....	42
6.	Equestrian Use	43
7.	Snowshoe/Cross-Country Skiing	44

**Three Lakes Tract Conservation Easement
Recreation Management Plan**

8.	Paddling.....	44
9.	Hunting, Fishing and Trapping.....	45
10.	Camping	46
11.	Other Recreation Activities	47
12.	Accessibility for People with Disabilities.....	48
	Natural Resources	49
13.	General Actions	49
14.	Climate Change	50
15.	Invasive Species.....	51
16.	Fish and Wildlife Management.....	52
	Recreation Implementation Phases	52
V.	Appendices	54
A.	Public Comments	54
	RMP Pre-Draft Comments	54
	Draft RMP Comments	55
B.	SEQRA	56
C.	DEC and Landowner Review Declaration	59
D.	APA Review Letter	60
E.	Wildlife Species Lists	61
	1) Breeding Bird Atlas Species	61
	2) Herp Atlas Species	65
F.	Maps	66

I. Introduction

In 1990, the State of New York purchased a conservation easement on the Three Lakes Tract, in the Town of Webb, Herkimer County. The stated purposes of the conservation easement are: 1) to preserve, develop and improve natural resources on the property, for mutually compatible purposes of forest management and recreation; 2) to grant public access and recreation on the property where compatible with forest management activities; and 3) to restrict development and use of the property in the interest of perpetuating forest management activity and recreational activity. The encumbering conservation easement is recorded in the Herkimer County Clerk's Office - dated May 25, 1990 (Liber 775; Page 571).

The Three Lakes Tract Conservation Easement, referred to herein as the "TLT" or "property", grants New York State a legal interest in the property and defines restrictions and rights of both the landowner and New York State. The landowner is responsible for managing the property in a manner that complies with conservation easement terms, and the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) is responsible for managing the rights purchased by the People of New York and ensuring landowner management is in compliance with the encumbering conservation easement.

A. Purpose of the Recreation Management Plan

Public recreation on New York State conservation easement lands is managed subject to Recreation Management Plans (RMPs). The purpose of an RMP is to establish a planned, written management strategy to implement the State's rights and protect property rights of the landowner. RMPs condense applicable laws and regulations, DEC policies, easement-specific conditions, and property-specific information into a single management document. It is intended that RMPs serve to guide management over time, despite changes to DEC personnel or the landowner. RMPs may be periodically updated or amended, following a similar public planning process as occurs during drafting of the initial RMP. Should discrepancies arise between the RMP and the conservation easement, easement terms take precedence. This RMP applies only to those lands subject to the Three Lakes Tract Conservation Easement located in the Town of Webb, Herkimer County.

B. Planning Process

Before preparing the draft RMP, the DEC consulted with the landowner, and solicited input from DEC management team members, including Lands and Forests staff, Division of Fish and Wildlife biologists, Division of Operations maintenance staff, and Division of Forest Protection Forest Rangers. The public and stakeholders also had the opportunity to provide input between December 2, 2020 and January 13, 2021. Twelve written comments were received at this time – comments are summarized in Appendix A. The draft plan was then prepared, reviewed by the Adirondack Park Agency and the landowner, then released for public comment between June 1 and July 1, 2022. No public comments were received on the draft plan, which was subsequently finalized.

II. Setting

A. Property Description and Access

The Three Lakes Tract Conservation Easement is comprised of an approximately 2.5-mile by 2-mile, 3,350-acre parcel in the Town of Webb, Herkimer County. The tract is named for three waterbodies located on the property – Hitchcock, Grass and Moose Ponds. The tract abuts the Independence River Wild Forest to the north, Big Moose Tract Conservation Easement to the east, Ha-De-Ron-Dah Wilderness to the south, and private land to the west.

The TLT is remotely located – except for snowmobile trails, there is no public motor vehicle access to the property. McCarthy Road approaches the northern boundary of the Three Lakes Tract - a short bushwhack through the Independence River Wild Forest allows one to reach the TLT boundary. New York State owns a right-of-way across Balsam Flats/Ten Mile Crossing Road, approaching the TLT from the south. However, due to the length of this



road (approximately 10-miles), maintenance, potential trespass and other associated management issues, DEC has not opened Balsam Flats/Ten Mile Crossing Road to public passenger vehicles. During winter months, snowmobile main corridor trail C7B/C8A crosses the TLT from Ten-Mile Crossing Road, forking north to McCarthy Road, and east towards Big Moose Road.

B. History

The acquisition of the Three Lakes Tract Conservation Easement was a unique, multi-partner process. The Nature Conservancy, acting as a third party, acquired lands from J.P. Lewis Paper Company (Town of Ohio, Herkimer County) and the Three Lakes Tract from the Patten Corporation (Town of Webb, Herkimer County). Ownership of these properties were then transferred to Lyons Falls Pulp and Paper Company (subject to newly granted conservation easements) in exchange for a conservation easement on part of the John Brown Tract (Towns of Lyonsdale, Lewis County; Webb, Herkimer County; and Forestport, Oneida County). The Nature Conservancy then transferred all three encumbering conservation easements to New York State. In the end, three properties (Three Lakes, J.P. Lewis, and John Brown Tracts), were protected from future development, and public recreation rights were acquired. Lyons Falls Pulp and Paper Company meanwhile, increased Adirondack lands which it owned by almost six-fold.

C. Current Uses of the Property

1. Forest Management

A stated purpose of the encumbering conservation easement is to manage natural resources on the TLT for purposes of continuing forest management. The landowner currently contracts with a land management company to conduct forestry operations on TLT. It is common to see loggers, and logging equipment on the property - members of the public recreating on the property should expect to encounter this type of activity during a typical visit. At times, portions of the property may be closed to public recreation during forest management operations.

2. Lease Camp

A single private lease camp is located on the TLT, on the east side of Cherry Creek/Ash Hill Road, just north of Cherry Creek. Five (5) acres around the camp are posted against

public use. Camp lessees are most active during big game hunting season but may use their camp for a variety of four-season outdoor-based recreation. They are also permitted to use motorized vehicles, including ATVs, to access their camp.

Public Recreation

The DEC maintains two snowmobile routes. The Three Lakes Trail runs east to west between the Ten-Mile Crossing Road and the Big Moose Conservation Easement and the Cherry Creek Trail connecting McCarthy Road with the Three Lakes Trail. Currently, no other public recreation facilities are maintained on the property.

D. Existing Infrastructure

1. Structures

A 2,040 square foot camp is located on the east side of Cherry Creek/Ash Hill Road, just north of Cherry Creek (UTM 18 493110 4849152). The structure is currently leased to a hunting club.

A DEC kiosk is currently located at the intersection of Cherry Creek/Ash Hill Road and the Three Lakes Snowmobile Trail.

2. Roads

Numerous forest management trails in varying condition exist throughout the TLT. These trails were created for forest management activities and range from heavily grown-in, “winter roads”, to clear and semi-hardened routes. Three maintained gravel roads represent the primary roads on the property: Three Lakes Road, Cherry Creek/Ash Hill Road, and Fourth Creek Road. Road access is controlled by gates located outside of the Three Lakes Tract boundaries. These gates are located on Balsam Flats/Ten Mile Crossing Road near Partridgeville Road to the south, on the Lennon Ponds private property to the north and Polack Swamp Road on the Big Moose Tract Conservation Easement to the east.

Road Name	Length	Current Use(s)	Description
Ten-Mile Crossing Road	200 feet	Public Snowmobile Trail Landowner Use	Western CE boundary east to Three Lakes Road intersection with Cherry Creek/Ash Hill Road
Three Lakes Road	3.1 miles	Public Snowmobile Trail Landowner Use	Balsam Flats / Ten Mile Crossing Road east to Big Moose Tract Conservation Easement.
Cherry Creek/Ash Hill Road	1.6 miles	Public Snowmobile Trail Landowner Use	Balsam Flats / Ten Mile Crossing Road north to private property south of Lennon Ponds. Road continues through private property to McCarthy Road in the Independence River Wild Forest.
Fourth Creek Road	1.1+ miles	Landowner Use	Improved road leads east from Cherry Creek/Ash Hill Road, between Cherry Creek and Fourth Creek. Road splits at approximately 1.1 miles – spurs continue in varying condition.

E. Natural Resources

1. Geology, Terrain and Soils

The TLT is depicted on USGS 7.5 x 15-minute quad map “Stillwater Mountain”. The topography of the tract can generally be described as low, rolling hills - the most notable topographic feature on the tract is a small double-peaked mountain north of Moose Pond. Lowlands with hydric soils are generally found surrounding drainages. The two largest wetlands surround a tributary south of Fourth Creek and extend west onto the TLT from Moose Creek.

The vast majority of TLT soils are comprised of Turnbridge-Lyman-Becket soils. Loxley-Dawson-Colton-Adams soils surround the wetland extending west from Moose Creek. Soil types are described by the National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) as follows:

The Tunbridge Series

The Tunbridge series consists of moderately deep, well drained soils on glaciated uplands. They formed in loamy supraglacial till. Saturated hydraulic conductivity is moderately high or high throughout the mineral soil. Slope ranges from 0 to 80 percent. Common trees include American beech, white ash, yellow birch, paper birch, northern red oak, sugar maple, eastern white pine, eastern hemlock, red spruce, white spruce, and balsam fir. The Tunbridge Series is a primary component of soils near Fish Pond, west of Francis Lake, north and south of Moshier and Stillwater Reservoirs, east of Smith Road and generally running north to south through the center of the unit.

The Lyman Series

The Lyman series consists of shallow, somewhat excessively drained soils on glaciated uplands. They formed in loamy supraglacial till. Estimated saturated hydraulic conductivity is moderately high or high throughout the mineral soil. Slope ranges from 0 to 80 percent. Common trees include American beech, white ash, yellow birch, paper birch, northern red oak, sugar maple, eastern white pine, eastern hemlock, red spruce, white spruce, and balsam fir.

The Becket Series

The Becket series consists of very deep, well drained soils that formed in a loamy mantle overlying dense, sandy till on drumlins and glaciated uplands. They are moderately deep to a densic contact. Saturated hydraulic conductivity is moderately high or high in the mineral solum and moderately low or moderately high in the dense substratum. Slope ranges from 3 to 60 percent. Becket soils are on drumlins and glaciated uplands. Principle species include sugar maple, yellow birch, paper birch, eastern white pine, eastern hemlock, balsam fir, and white spruce.

The Loxley Series

The Loxley series consists of very deep, very poorly drained soils formed in herbaceous organic deposits more than 51 inches thick in depressions on moraines, lake plains and outwash plains. These soils have moderately slow to moderately rapid permeability. Slopes range from 0 to 2 percent. These soils are acidic and have high water tables. Ground cover consists principally of blueberry, leatherleaf, sphagnum moss, and wintergreen. Trees are limited to a few scattered black spruce, jack pine, quaking aspen, and tamarack.

The Dawson Series

The Dawson series consists of very deep, very poorly drained soils, formed in herbaceous organic material 16 to 51 inches thick overlying sandy deposits in depressions on outwash plains, lake plains, ground moraines, end moraines and floodplains. Permeability is moderately slow to moderately rapid in the organic material and rapid in the sandy material. Slopes range from 0 to 2 percent. These soils are extremely acidic, have shallow organic deposits, and high-water tables. Tree vegetation is sparse with black spruce and tamarack comprising the major species. Ground cover is composed of bog rosemary, cranberries, laurel, leatherleaf, sphagnum mosses, and blueberries.

The Colton Series

The Colton series consists of very deep, excessively drained soils formed in glacio-fluvial deposits. They are on terraces, kames, eskers, and outwash plains. Slope ranges from 0 through 70 percent. Estimated saturated hydraulic conductivity is high or very high in the solum and very high in the substratum. Forested areas support sugar maple, eastern white pine, red pine, and white spruce.

The Adams Series

The Adams series consists of very deep, excessively and somewhat excessively drained soils formed in glacial-fluvial or glacio-lacustrine sand. They are on outwash plains, deltas, lake plains, moraines, terraces, and eskers. Saturated hydraulic conductivity is high or very high. Slope ranges from 0 through 70 percent. Extensive areas are idle and support aspen, birch, and pine seedlings or sweet fern, spirea, and brambles. Uncleared areas support maple, beech, spruce, and pine.

2. Water Bodies

The Three Lakes Tract is named after Hitchcock, Grass and Moose Ponds, located along the southern boundary of the tract. Several small streams pass through the tract – draining to the Independence River, then to the Black River and eventually Lake Ontario.

The Waterbody Inventory/Priority Waterbodies List (WI/PWL) is a statewide inventory of the waters of New York state that DEC uses to track support (or impairment) of water uses, overall assessment of water quality, causes and sources of water quality impact/impairment, and the status of restoration, protection and other water quality activities and efforts. The WI/PWL describes upper tributaries of the Independence River as having no known impacts. However nearby ponds - Panther Pond, Fifth Creek Pond,

and Lennon Ponds are described as having impaired aquatic life due to low pH, attributed to acid deposition. While none of the ponds on the TLT have been assessed under the WI/PWL, it is possible acid deposition has also impacted these waterbodies. Updated water quality information can be found in the Water Body Inventory/Priority list, available at: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/36730.html>

Due to its location and geology, the Adirondack Park is one of the most sensitive regions in the United States to acidic deposition. Low levels of base cations such as calcium, magnesium, sodium, and potassium, and bedrock which weathers slowly, limits the area's ability to buffer acidity.¹ Extensive research has been conducted on the negative effects of acid deposition, including many studies focused on the Adirondack Park.

In 1984, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, found that 12% of Adirondack lakes had a pH less than 5.0 (acidic). The same year, the Adirondack Lakes Survey Corporation found 24% of lakes greater than 4 hectares in size, had a pH less than 5.0. A 1998 report to Congress identified 70% of target lakes in the Adirondack Park as being susceptible to episodic acidification.² The 2008 Western Adirondack Stream Survey³ collected data for western Adirondack streams from 2003-2005. The study area included 565 streams which were assessed. Important results indicated that acidified soils had led to toxic aluminum in 66% of assessed streams, and that macroinvertebrates had been severely affected in 52% of streams. Diatoms (a type of algae) were moderately to severely affected in 80% of accessed streams. Of streams previously surveyed in the 1980s, recovery from acidification was minimal in 11 of 12 streams. Lastly, a new acidification index developed under the study indicated that less than 1/3 of measured stream acidity was from natural sources.

Recent trends in acid deposition show some signs of improvement. Within the Adirondacks, 90% of study lakes have improving sulfate trends and 32% show

¹ National Acid Precipitation Assessment Program. 2011. Report to Congress 2011: An Integrated Assessment. Available at: http://ny.water.usgs.gov/projects/NAPAP/NAPAP_2011_Report_508_Compliant.pdf

² National Acid Precipitation Assessment Program. 1998. Report to Congress 1998.

³ Western Adirondack Stream Survey 2003-2005. 2008. New York State Energy Research and Development Authority, U.S. Geological Survey New York Water Science Center, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, University of Texas at Arlington Department of Biology, and Adirondack Lakes Survey Corporation. Available at: <http://www.adirondacklakessurvey.org/pubs/WASSFinalReport.pdf>

improvement in nitrate trends.⁴ Additionally, 58% of sites show improving acid-neutralizing capability trends.

NYSDEC management actions to combat acidification of waters are coordinated by the Division of Fish and Wildlife. Liming of state-owned waters to neutralize acid deposition has been implemented in accordance with the *Final Generic Environmental Impact Statement on the NYSDEC Program of Liming Selected Acidified Waters* (1990). Water quality on the TLT (which is private land) has not been assessed but warrants future consideration of DEC resources.

Three Lakes Tract Waterbodies

Pond/Stream Name	Size	Water Classification Standard	Quality / Description
Blue Pond	2.4 acres	C / C(T)	A small pond located along the western boundary of the TLT, just north of Fourth Creek. Max depth is 4.3m.
Grass Pond	40.6 acres	C / C(T)	The central, and largest of the “3 lakes” the TLT is named after. Max depth is 1.5m.
Hitchcock Pond	28.4 acres	C / C	The western-most of the “3 lakes” the TLT is named after. Max depth is 2.1m.
Moose Pond	20.8 acres	C / C(T)	The smallest, eastern-most of the “3 lakes” the TLT is named after. Max depth is 4.3m.
Cherry Creek	1.5 miles	C / C(T)	Leads from center of TLT to western boundary.

⁴ Roy, K.M., Dukett, J., Houck, N., and Lawrence, G. 2012. A Long-Term Monitoring Program for Evaluating Changes in Water Quality in Selected Adirondack Waters: Program Summary Report 2011. Available at: <http://www.adirondacklakessurvey.org/pubs/12-16-A-Long-Term-Monitoring-Program.pdf>

Fourth Creek	2.6 miles	C / C(T)	Crosses northern half of TLT from east to west
Hitchcock Creek	0.1 miles	C / C(T)	Crosses northwest corner of TLT.
Moose Creek	1.2 miles	C / C(T)	Crosses southeast corner of TLT.

¹ Adirondack Lakes Survey Corporation. Historic Data. Available at: <http://www.adirondacklakessurvey.org/>

3. Wetlands

In New York State, more than 60% of wetland acreage present in the 1780s has since been lost (US EPA, 2013)⁵. Wetlands provide flood damage and storm water control, help to stabilize water flow, and recharge groundwater aquifers. Wetlands also protect against erosion and protect water quality by filtering natural and manmade pollutants from water. Additionally, wetlands are among the most productive ecosystems, provide fish and wildlife habitat, and provide areas for recreation, education, and research. On the Three Lakes Tract, freshwater wetlands are protected under the Adirondack Park Agency Act, NYS Freshwater Wetlands Act, and Section 404 the of the federal Clean Water Act.

The Adirondack Park Agency Cover Type Wetlands Map shows 762.5 acres, or 22.8% of the TLT as wetland, including open water. Approximately 658.7 acres or 19.7% of the TLT is covered by wetlands with a primary vegetation classification other than open water. Most of these wetland systems surround major drainages. A summary of wetland systems, regime, and vegetation information generated from the Adirondack Park Agency Cover Type Wetlands Map follows.

⁵ United States Environmental Protection Agency. Wetlands – Status and Trends. Updated January 24, 2013. Available at: http://water.epa.gov/type/wetlands/vital_status.cfm

TLT Wetland Systems, Regimes, and Vegetation

Acres*	% of TLT Total Acreage	% of TLT Wetlands	System
93.6	2.8%	12.3%	Lacustrine habitat, greater than 8 hectares (20 acres) and more than 2 meters deep
668.9	20.0%	87.7%	Palustrine habitat, non-tidal, less than 8 hectares (20 acres) and less than 2 meters deep
			Regime
438.3	13.1%	57.5%	Saturated
37.9	1.1%	5.0%	Seasonally Flooded - Saturated
176.5	5.3%	23.1%	Semi-Permanent
109.8	3.3%	14.4%	Permanent
			Primary Vegetation Classification
23.8	0.7%	3.1%	Persistent Emergent
39.8	1.2%	5.2%	Forested, broad-leaved deciduous
307.4	9.2%	40.3%	Forested, evergreen
202.4	6.0%	26.5%	Broad-leaved deciduous scrub/shrub (shorter than 6 meters)
85.3	2.5%	11.2%	Needle-leaved evergreen scrub/shrub (shorter than 6 meters)
103.8	3.1%	13.6%	Open water

*Acreage does not include linear wetland data included in APA Cover Type Wetlands Map. Linear data has some overlap with polygon data, does not include acreage information, and accounts for a relatively small portion of the planning area.

4. Fish and Wildlife

Fish

While the fishery on the Three Lakes Tract is generally believed to be unremarkable, there is a lack of recent survey data. In order to inform future management of waterbodies on the property (within constraints of the encumbering conservation easement), the DEC will inventory water quality and fisheries on the TLT when resources are available to do so. All current survey data is presented below.

Waterbody	Adirondack Lake Survey Corporation Historic Data*	DEC Survey
Blue Pond	No species caught	No survey
Hitchcock Pond	Golden Shiner Northern Redbelly Dace	2003 Survey: Northern Redbelly Dace. Noted that no trout habitat was present and that pond is shallow and warm. 1965 Survey: indicated Brown Bullhead and Creek Chub.
Grass Pond	Brown Bullhead	2003 Survey: Brown Bullhead, Northern Redbelly Dace, Pumpkinseed. Noted that no trout habitat was present. Pond is shallow and warm.
Moose Pond	Brown Bullhead, Pumpkinseed, White Sucker	2003 Survey: Brook Trout, Northern Redbelly Dace, Pumpkinseed

*Adirondack Lake Survey Corporation historic data is from 1985 and 1986 and is available at: <http://www.adirondacklakessurvey.org/historic.php>

Mammals

Large mammals present on the Three Lakes Tract include black bear, coyote, white-tailed deer, and moose. Other species include American marten, beaver, bobcat, fisher, gray fox, long-tailed weasel, mink, moose, muskrat, porcupine, raccoon, red fox, river otter, short tailed weasel, snowshoe hare, striped skunk.

Birds

The second New York State Breeding Bird Atlas (2000-2005) documents bird species that have been identified in survey blocks encompassing the TLT. Due to the fact that survey blocks encompass an area larger than individual tracts addressed in this RMP, not all species identified in encompassing blocks have necessarily been observed on the TLT itself. The Breeding Bird Atlas identifies 94 confirmed, probable and possible breeding bird species in the blocks covering the tract (4885C, 4885D, 4884B, and 4984A). A complete list of species identified in the Breeding Bird Atlas is included in Appendix G.

The following species are listed in the second NYS Breeding Bird Atlas as protected endangered, threatened, or species of special concern in New York State:

Cerulean Warbler – Special Concern
Common Loon – Special Concern
Osprey – Special Concern
Sharp-shinned Hawk – Special Concern

Herpetofauna

The New York State Herp Atlas (2000-2005) documents reptile and amphibian species in survey blocks. The Herp Atlas identifies 15 reptile and amphibian species in the survey block encompassing the TLT (complete list of species in Appendix E). Due to the fact that the survey block encompasses an area larger than the TLT, not all species have been observed on the TLT itself.

No species identified by the Herp Atlas as present within the survey block encompassing the TLT is identified as endangered, threatened, or species of special concern in New York State.

Fish and Wildlife Harvest

Fish and wildlife have historically been harvested on the Three Lakes Tract Conservation Easement and continue to be as the property is now open for public hunting, trapping and fishing. Wildlife harvest is managed by the Division of Fish and Wildlife under Wildlife Management Units (WMUs). The TLT is located in WMU 6J.

Deer populations in WMU 6J are primarily influenced by winter weather conditions (generally more abundant after successively mild winters and reduced after harsh winters), as they are throughout the Adirondacks. Currently, WMU 6J does not have buck take or population objectives and Deer Management Permits (DMP) are not issued in the unit to regulate antlerless deer take. There is an annual female take from bow and muzzleloader hunting seasons, but harvest is relatively small, and negligible in terms of population effects. Deer Management Assistance Program tags are issued in the unit where localized populations are abundant and impacting landowners. Black bears are found throughout the unit and annual harvests vary depending on weather and the abundance of natural foods like beechnut and cherry. The long-term trends in bear harvest for the Adirondacks and WMU 6J are stable.

Avian game species found in the region include the American Black Duck, American Crow, American Woodcock, Canadian Goose, Common Merganser, Hooded Merganser, Mallard, Ring-necked Duck, Ruffed Grouse, Wild Turkey, and Wood Duck. Of these, wild turkey represents the most popular game species - populations are believed to be healthy and able to support continued harvest. Furbearer populations in WMU 6J are also generally believed to be able to support continued harvest subject to DEC

regulations. Fisher populations are of slight concern in the Adirondacks and are managed under the 2015 Fisher Management Plan.

NYSDEC does not collect data relating to the harvest of fish. Limited fishing occurs on the TLT.

Deer Harvest for the Town of Webb, Herkimer County

Year	Adult Buck Take	Total Deer Take
2012	155	190
2013	122	150
2014	102	125
2015	112	136
2016	129	133
2017	164	171
2018	138	145
2019	127	133

Additional deer harvest data available at: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/42232.html>

Bear Harvest for the Town of Webb, Herkimer County

Year	Total Take
2012	5
2013	15
2014	9
2015	9
2016	7
2017	0
2018	4
2019	7

Additional bear harvest data available at: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/42232.html>

Turkey Harvest for Herkimer County

Year	Spring Take	Fall Take
2012	379	123
2013	442	39
2014	392	203
2015	371	43
2016	338	69
2017	340	58
2018	557	45
2019	355	-

Additional turkey harvest data available at: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/48823.html>

Furbearer Harvest for Town of Webb, Herkimer County

Year	Bobcats	Fisher	Marten	Otter
2011-12	6	16	0	37
2012-13	5	17	12	30
2013-14	11	14	2	42
2014-15	6	16	22	31
2015-16	3	16	6	18
2016-17	2	1	11	17
2017-18	1	10	3	7
2018-19	0	7	13	8

Additional trapping harvest data available at: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/93855.html>

5. Winter Deer Habitat

Deer wintering yards are particularly important habitat for deer survival in winter months (especially in the northern portions of their range). Deer yards are usually located in dense conifer cover, often in mapped wetlands. Surveys and corresponding maps of deer yards have been completed by the DEC in the past but have not been recently updated. Due to the fact that not every location which matches typical wintering habitat is utilized by deer, field survey may be required prior to basing management decisions on previously identified deer yard locations. This RMP has been developed with cognizance of potential wintering deer concentrations that may be impacted by recreation facilities and use. Management proposals are intended to afford protection of core sections of utilized deer wintering areas and avoid fragmenting travel corridors between them.

6. Vegetation

The Three Lakes Tract Conservation Easement is located within the Western Adirondack Foothills and Central Adirondacks Ecozones. The property represents commercially managed forestland, comprised primarily of a northern hardwood forest, with lowland pockets of pine-hemlock-hardwood forest.

Most of the property can be described as Laurentian-Acadian Northern Hardwood Forest with interspersed Laurentian-Acadian Swamp Systems, Acadian-Appalachian Montane Spruce-Fir Forest, Laurentian-Acadian Shrub-Herbaceous Wetland Systems, and grassy harvested forest areas in early regeneration. Tree species most commonly associated with the property include American beech, black cherry, eastern hemlock, red maple, sugar maple, yellow birch, and white pine. The TLT is managed for the production of forest products, and as such, growth of commercially desirable species is facilitated, representing a major influence on vegetation diversity, composition, and age.

No Natural Heritage Program elements of occurrence have been identified in the vicinity of the TLT. No threatened, endangered, or species of special concern or sensitive or unique communities have been identified on the tract.

7. Vectors of Change

Invasive Species

As global trade and travel have increased, so has the introduction of non-native species. Many non-native species do not have adverse effects on the areas in which they are introduced, however, some become invasive in their new ranges, disrupting ecosystem function and reducing biodiversity. Invasive species have been identified as one of the greatest threats to biodiversity, second only to habitat loss, and can damage native habitats by altering hydrology, fire frequency, soil fertility and other ecosystem processes.

The Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program (APIPP) is a partnership program between the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Department of Transportation, Adirondack Park Agency, the Adirondack Chapter of the Nature Conservancy, and more than 30 other cooperating organizations. While APIPP has not identified any invasive species on the TLT, that does not mean that they do not exist. Due to the remote nature of the TLT, invasive species are less likely to have been identified by surveys, which are primarily conducted along major travel corridors. Surrounding the TLT, common reed phragmites and Japanese knotweed have been identified along Ten-Mile Crossing Road, mugwort and honeysuckle have been identified along Stillwater Road, and purple loostrife can be found along Big Moose Road.

Generally, APIPP lists aquatic invasive species in the Adirondack region to include brittle naiad, curly-leaf pondweed, Eurasian watermilfoil, European frog-bit, fanwort, variable-leaf watermilfoil, water chestnut, and yellow floating heart. Terrestrial invasive species in the region include common reed grass, garlic mustard, giant hogweed, hemlock woolly adelgid, Japanese knotweed, oriental bittersweet, purple loosestrife, swallow-worts, wild parsnip, yellow iris the balsam woolly adelgid, Eurasian boar, and the sirex woodwasp. Several invasive species that have not yet been identified in the Adirondack Park but of concern include hydrilla, kudzu, Asian longhorn beetle, and emerald ash borer.

It is imperative that best management practices (BMPs) for all proposals under this RMP be used to reduce the risk of spreading invasive species.

Climate Change

In recent years, evidence of climate change has been thoroughly documented. Should current trends continue, temperature, precipitation (including snowfall), extreme weather events, forest composition, wildlife and other ecological functions are likely to be affected.

The fact that climate change is occurring has been considered within the recreation planning process. It is acknowledged that public access to the property for recreation using motorized vehicles, and snowmobile recreation releases greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change, but that these emissions are insignificant in the scope of other sources. It is also acknowledged that winter recreational activities that require snow may be impacted by climate change in the future, and that investment in and siting of recreation facilities must consider the potential for impacts attributable to climate change.

F. Cultural Resources

1. Cultural and Archeological

There are no known cultural or archaeological sites on the TLT. Any future findings of potential historical or cultural significance will be documented and reported to appropriate DEC staff for consideration.

2. Scenic

No outstanding scenic destinations exist on the TLT, but ponds on the property represent what are most traditionally considered scenic locations. Streams, wetlands, and portions

of the forest where timber has not recently been harvested are other aesthetically pleasing locations.

3. Economic Impact

The conservation easement which encumbers the Three Lakes Tract is meant in part to ensure that the property will remain a privately-owned working forest and to provide public recreation opportunities. The logging industry is an important component of Adirondack Park communities and economies. By facilitating continued forest management of the TLT, the conservation easement protects historical and significant economic inputs. Additionally, the protection of natural resources and opening of public recreation opportunities will draw visitors to the area to enjoy the natural setting and recreate, expanding tourism and general spending in the vicinity of the property. The DEC currently pays 75% of the TLT property taxes, which reflects the proportional value of property rights purchased by New York State.

III. Public Use Administration and Management

A. Management and Policy Considerations

The DEC is responsible for managing public access and recreation in a manner consistent with the terms of the encumbering conservation easement, applicable laws and regulations. This RMP has been developed within the constraints set forth by the Environmental Conservation Law; Title 6 NYCRR of the State of New York; established DEC policy and MOUs; and the terms and conditions of the Conservation Easement that encumbers the Property.

1. Laws and Regulations

New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQR)

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/permits/357.html>

SEQRA requires all state and local government agencies to consider environmental impacts equally with social and economic factors during discretionary decision-making. As the lead agency developing this RMP, NYSDEC completed a full Environmental Assessment Form, see appendix D. Public comments were accepted, considered and incorporated into the RMP where appropriate.

Adirondack Park Agency Administered Laws

<https://www.apa.ny.gov/Regulations/index.html>

Pursuant to the ***New York Freshwater Wetlands Act***, the DEC must consult with the Adirondack Park Agency (APA) concerning all recreation management actions on the property within 100 feet of a freshwater wetland. The ***Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers System Act*** is also administered by APA for private lands within the Adirondack Park, however this is not applicable to the TLT RMP because there are no WSR rivers on the property. Consultation is addressed in the 2010 Memorandum of Understanding between APA and DEC.

Application of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), along with the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 (ABA) and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title V, Section 504, has 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.

Consistent with ADA requirements, DEC incorporates Accessibility for people with disabilities into siting, planning, construction, and alteration of recreational facilities and assets supporting them. In addition, Title II of the ADA requires, in part, that services, programs, and activities of DEC, when viewed in their entirety, are readily Accessible to and usable by people with disabilities. DEC is not required to take any action which would result in a fundamental alteration to the nature of the service, program, or activity, or would present an undue financial or administrative burden. When accommodating access to a program, DEC is not necessarily required to make each existing facility and asset Accessible, as long as the program is Accessible by other means or at a different facility.

This plan incorporates an inventory of all the recreational facilities and assets on the unit or area, and an assessment of the programs, services, and facilities provided to determine the level of Accessibility. In conducting this assessment, DEC employs guidelines which ensure that programs are Accessible, including buildings, facilities, and

vehicles, in terms of architecture and design, and the transportation of and communication with individuals with disabilities.

In accordance with the US Department of Justice's ADA Title II regulations, all new DEC facilities, or parts of facilities, that are constructed for public use are to be Accessible to people with disabilities. Full compliance is not required where DEC can demonstrate that it is structurally impracticable to meet the requirements [28 CFR § 35.151 (a)]. Compliance is still required for parts of the facility that can be made Accessible to the extent that it is not structurally impracticable, and for people with various types of disabilities. In addition, all alterations to facilities, or part of facilities, that affect or could affect the usability of the facility will be made in a manner that the altered portion of the facility is readily Accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities [28 CFR § 35.151 (b:1-4)].

DEC uses the Department of Justice's 2010 Standards for Accessible Design in designing, constructing, and altering buildings and sites. For outdoor recreational facilities not covered under the current ADA standards, DEC uses the standards provided under the ABA to lend credibility to the assessment results and to offer protection to the natural resource (ABA Standards for Outdoor Developed Areas; Sections F201.4, F216.3, F244 to F248, and 1011 to 1019).

Any new facilities, assets, and Accessibility improvements to existing facilities, or assets proposed in this plan, are identified in the section containing proposed management actions. A record of Accessibility determination is kept with the work planning record.

For further information, please contact Leah Akins, DEC Statewide ADA Accessibility Coordinator, at accessibility@dec.ny.gov

Facilities in this plan that largely meet Accessible design standards (ADA and/or ABA standards) are described in this plan as Accessible with a capital "A".

New York Freshwater Wetlands Act

All activities pursuant to this RMP and future amendments must adhere to permit requirements of the Freshwater Wetlands Act. The Act regulates activities within 100 feet of freshwater wetlands in New York State. The APA administers the Freshwater Wetlands Act inside the Adirondack Park and NYSDEC administers the Act outside the Park.

Section 404 of the Clean Water Act

<https://www.epa.gov/cwa-404/section-404-permit-program>

The Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) is charged with reviewing projects that could affect any "waters of the United States" under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, including

wetlands, irrespective of size. All activities, including dredging and filling, in water pursuant to this RMP or future amendments, must adhere to permit requirements of the ACOE.

2. Policies and Memoranda

MOU Concerning State-Owned Conservation Easements on Private Lands within the Adirondack Park. August 13, 2010

https://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/lands_forests_pdf/cedecapamou.pdf

The 2010 *Memorandum of Understanding between the Adirondack Park Agency and Department of Environmental Conservation: Concerning State-Owned Conservation Easements on Private Land within the Adirondack Park* guides communication between the APA and NYSDEC regarding RMP development, and lists activities requiring Agency consultation, notice and/or review or no Agency review. The APA's role relating to the Freshwater Wetlands Act, and administration of the Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers System Act on conservation easements is also outlined. All NYSDEC management of public recreation on the conservation easement property is subject to this MOU.

NYSDEC Directive Documents

DEC Guidance and policy documents are available at:

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/regulations/2401.html>

- Temporary Revocable Permits for State Lands and Conservation Easements (ONR-3)
- Volunteer Stewardship Agreements (CP-58; formerly Adopt-A-Natural Resource, ONR-1)
- Motorized Access Program for People With Disabilities (CP-3)
- Standards and Procedures for Boundary Line Maintenance (NR-95-1)

3. Guidelines

NYSDEC Conservation Easement Public Recreation Road and Trail Sign Guidance Manual, 2012

A manual has been developed to standardize DEC signage posted on conservation easements. The DEC will post signs on the TLT consistent with this guidance.

NYSDEC Standard Accessible Designs for Outdoor Recreational Facilities Guidebook, 2014

As the DEC continues to expand outdoor recreation opportunities, the design process will continue to incorporate Accessible Design standards whenever possible.

B. Management Authority, Staff and Responsibility

The Regional Natural Resources Supervisor is the Manager of regional staff in the DEC's Division of Lands and Forests, Division of Fish and Wildlife, and Division of Mineral Resources. The Division of Lands and Forests has primary responsibility for managing public use of the lands subject to this RMP, including the development of this Plan, development of individual work plans and schedules, implementation and coordination of all activities with the landowner, partners, and other DEC Divisions. The Division of Operations, at the direction of the Division of Lands and Forests, will oversee construction and maintenance of facilities approved by this RMP. The Regional Forester has overall responsibility for these matters. Reporting to the Regional Forester is a Supervising Forester who is responsible for forestry and land management programs. Reporting to the Supervising Forester are one or more Foresters or Natural Resource Planners that may be assigned to specific tasks in preparing or implementing this Plan. The Regional Fisheries Manager and Regional Wildlife Manager are responsible for all Division of Fish and Wildlife activities. Forest Rangers have primary responsibility for monitoring and enforcement of most public use of the Protected Property, while Environmental Conservation Officers are responsible for fish and game and environmental quality enforcement.

A land manager has been designated by the Regional Forester as the lead DEC staff person for developing and implementing this and subsequent Recreation Management Plans for the TLT property. The land manager is responsible for:

- Overseeing the coordination and preparation of the RMP, as well as periodic updates, revisions, or amendments;
- Coordinating the implementation of this RMP;
- Overseeing the budget outlined in the RMP;
- Assuring that management activities of all DEC Divisions, as they relate to this RMP, comply with applicable laws, regulations, policies, and easement terms;

- Monitoring conditions and public use; addressing conflicts; and assessing the effectiveness of the RMP in addressing resource protection and public needs;
- Fostering communication about management activities within the DEC, between the DEC and the landowner, and between the DEC and the public. The land manager will be the primary liaison with the landowner regarding public access and use issues.

The development of this RMP has primarily involved DEC staff and the landowner's land management staff. Communication and coordination of planning efforts between the parties was critical to formulating management objectives and proposals. Consistent communication is extremely important in preparing and implementing this RMP and adhering to the terms of the Easement. DEC staff will regularly communicate with the landowner to review completed activities, address concerns or problems, and coordinate future work.

C. Management Goals and Objectives

Management goals are broad statements of intent, direction and purpose. Goals may be based upon law, DEC regulations, policies, and/or general philosophy. Management objectives are statements that describe specific conditions to manage towards and serve as criteria for deciding what management actions are needed. Objectives are more specific than goals and may be measured or confirmed as having been accomplished.

Management goals and objectives were developed in consideration of conservation easement terms, DEC policies and philosophy, interests of various stakeholders, and use and ownership of the property by the landowner.

Management Goals and Objectives

Goal 1: Avoid or minimize any negative impacts of public recreation on the natural resources and environmental benefits of the property and nearby state lands.

Objectives

- 1.1 Enforce all applicable laws and regulations including the Environmental Conservation Law, hunting, fishing, trapping and recreation related regulations.
- 1.2 For all current public recreation facilities and opportunities within areas identified in Natural Heritage Program geospatial data or other sensitive habitats or communities as identified by DEC staff, complete an alternatives analysis assessing environmental impacts and including an alternative in which public facilities are removed and/or recreation opportunities are closed.

- 1.3 When constructing new facilities, infrastructure, or implementing public recreation rights within any area identified in Natural Heritage Program geospatial data or within other sensitive habitats or communities as identified by DEC staff, complete an alternatives analysis assessing environmental impacts and including a “no action” alternative.
- 1.4 Follow Best Management Practices (BMPs) during all construction and maintenance activities on the TLT. These include but are not limited to those listed in Section IV of this RMP.
- 1.5 Regularly complete inspection reports evaluating public recreation impacts on natural resources of the property

Goal 2: Construct, maintain, and manage facilities/infrastructure to facilitate a variety of outdoor recreational opportunities on the property, consistent with the conservation easement, DEC policies and reserved landowner rights.

Objectives

- 2.1 Improve public access to the TLT – provide passenger vehicle access or a short non-motorized trail accessing the tract.
- 2.2 Maintain snowmobile trails to provide connections on the TLT to the local/regional snowmobile trail system. Maintain or construct alternative routes for periods when landowner forest management activities require closure of a primary trail.
- 2.3 Designate non-motorized trails to notable destinations on the TLT.
- 2.4 Designate primitive campsites on the property.
- 2.5 Where practical, provide opportunities for hunting, fishing, trapping, bicycling, paddling, hiking, skiing, snowshoeing, and other public recreation rights allowed per the conservation easement.
- 2.6 Provide public information regarding the TLT online, and by posting informational signage.
- 2.7 Create a list of priorities for all public recreation facility development and implementation on the TLT.

Goal 3: Avoid or minimize conflicts between public recreational use and landowner Reserved Rights

Objectives

- 3.1 Coordinate siting of all public recreation facilities with the landowner.
- 3.2 Maintain an open dialogue with the landowner and landowner representatives.
- 3.3 Maintain signage to direct public visitors on designated trails.

Goal 4: Enforce laws and regulations on the property.

Objective

- 1.1 Provide support to NYS Forest Rangers and Environmental Conservation Officers who will enforce laws and regulations on the property.

Goal 5: Periodically assess the impacts of recreational use on forest management activities, lease camps, and natural resources.

Objectives

- a. Monitor facility/infrastructure conditions using Guidelines and Standards outlined in this RMP.
- b. Regularly complete inspection reports evaluating public recreation impacts on natural resources of the property
- c. Maintain an open dialogue with the landowner or landowner designated Land Manager.

Goal 6: Use the TLT as a conservation education resource.

Objective

- 6.1 Place environmental and forest management interpretation signage as appropriate.

D. Management Considerations

1. Shared Maintenance

Neither DEC, nor the Landowner, is responsible for assuming a cost that is not commensurate with the interest they have in a particular facility on the TLT. NYSDEC is solely responsible for incurring costs unique to providing for public access and use, as well as posting and maintaining public recreation signage. Any damage caused by public recreational activities is the responsibility of NYSDEC to repair. Similarly, the landowner is solely responsible for costs related to their reserved rights on the Property. Any damage caused by the landowner's activities (for example, logging) is solely the landowner's responsibility.

The landowner and NYSDEC coordinate and share costs of mutually beneficial infrastructure such as shared bridges and roads/snowmobile trails. The construction of permanent barriers, gates, and locks is also coordinated between the parties. Cost sharing is discussed each year at an annual meeting with the landowner, or more frequently as needed.

2. Logging Closures

The landowner may temporarily close a portion of the TLT to the public during forest management operations. Closures are intended to avoid conflicts and safety issues with logging activities and equipment and are subject to specific terms listed in the encumbering conservation easement. Whenever possible, the landowner and NYSDEC will provide alternative trails or accommodations for public recreation, where permissible under conservation easement terms.

3. Recreation Monitoring

DEC staff regularly inspects the Three Lakes Tract for compliance with conservation easement terms. Recreation impacts are observed during conservation easement inspections, and issues are documented in inspection reports. Reports are maintained by the DEC and shared with the landowner.

The exercise of public recreation rights purchased through the conservation easement may be temporarily or permanently closed or altered by the DEC for administrative, or environmental reasons.

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

The DEC and the landowner have the right to undertake emergency actions necessary to preserve and protect private property interests, public recreation amenities, and human health and safety in response to natural disasters, environmental hazards, or other threats. The DEC Environmental Conservation Police, Forest Rangers, State Police, and other emergency response personnel will have full access to the property in the case of an emergency. Emergency response for search, fire, and rescue on the property will be coordinated by the NYS Forest Rangers, however a response may include other emergency responders. The DEC will notify the landowner of all emergency actions and

serious violations. The landowner will report public use violations to the DEC by filing complaints through the area manager or the regional dispatch center.

E. Recreation Facility Standards

1. Snowmobile Trail Standards

The snowmobile trails which cross the TLT follow existing roads and skid trails. While the DEC will only expend resources to maintain these routes for snowmobile use, it is acknowledged that these trails represent shared infrastructure between the DEC and landowner. The DEC will work to coordinate and share maintenance costs of these corridors to meet both parties' needs.

The DEC will maintain the portion of the Three Lakes Trail that is not a hardened motor vehicle road 12-14 feet wide, and 12-feet high. The Cherry Creek Trail and part of the Three Lakes Trail that follows hardened road will be maintained at the current road width and 12-feet high unless otherwise coordinated with the landowner.

Motorized routes, including snowmobile trails, will be signed as being open to only certain types of motor vehicles (in this case, snowmobiles), consistent with the CE Public Recreation Road & Trail Sign Guidance Manual (http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/lands_forests_pdf/cesigntrailguidance.pdf).

2. Foot Trail Standards

Indicator	Standard
Maintained Tread Width	24"
Adjacent Vegetation: cleared width & height, presence of ground vegetation	Cleared <6' wide / 12' high; grass, fern, small plants and shrubs present within cleared width.
Length of Water/Mud Occurrences	<100 feet per mile
Tread Erosion: trenching & root exposure	<6" trenching; Occasional root exposure
Presence of Litter	<1 occurrence / mile

** Where trails use old forest management roads, they may be wider or more substantial than specified standards but will only be maintained to specified levels.*

3. Campsite Standards

Indicator	Standard	
	Primitive Sites	Accessible Design Standard Sites
Size of Campsite (sq. ft.)	1200	1200
Mineral Soil Exposure (sq. ft.) ¹	0-50%	N/A
		site hardened
Vegetative ground cover (onsite) ²	25-50%	N/A
		site hardened
Condition Class ³	4 or <	N/A
		site hardened

(1) *Exposed Soil (On-site): Estimate the percentage of exposed soil defined as soil with very little or no organic litter (partially decomposed leaf, needle, or twig litter) or vegetation cover within the campsite boundary. Dark organic soil (the decomposed product of organic litter) should be assessed as bare soil when its consistency resembles that of peat moss. If there are few thin patches of organic litter, assess the entire area as bare soil.*

(2) *Estimate the percentage of live non-woody vegetative ground cover within the campsite boundaries (e.g., herbs, grasses, and mosses but not saplings or tree seedlings).*

(3) *Condition Class*

Class 1: Recreation site barely distinguishable; slight loss of vegetation cover and/ or minimal disturbance of organic litter.

Class 2: Recreation site obvious; vegetation cover lost and/ or organic litter pulverized in primary use area.

Class 3: Vegetation cover lost and/ or organic litter pulverized on much of the site, some bare soil exposed in primary use areas.

Class 4: Nearly complete or total loss of vegetation cover and organic litter, bare soil widespread.

Class 5: Soil erosion obvious, as indicated by exposed tree roots and rocks and/or gullyng.

F. Best Management Practices

All public recreation management activities will incorporate the use of Best Management Practices (BMPs) to the greatest practical extent. BMPs are those methods, procedures, and devices that are designed to prevent or minimize soil erosion, water run-off, damage to natural resources or wildlife habitat, pollution, pathogens, or other negative environmental impacts when conducting various management activities. For more information regarding BMPs, please visit: <https://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/37845.html>.

BMPs related to the implementation of public access and recreational improvements on the property include, but are not limited to:

- Limiting improvements to the minimum number and size necessary to meet intended and anticipated use;
- Locating improvements away from streams, wetlands, and unstable slopes;
- Locating improvements to minimize necessary cut and fill on flat, stable, well-drained sites;
- Avoiding designation/construction of recreation facilities in areas where sensitive species and communities are known to exist;
- Minimizing tree cutting;
- Using proper drainage devices, such as water bars and broad-based dips, to prevent erosion and damage to improvements;
- Designing, constructing, and maintaining bridges and other improvements on or near streams to avoid disrupting or preventing movement of fish and other aquatic species;
- Minimizing the use of construction equipment in streams;
- Using soil stabilization practices on exposed soil around construction areas, especially bridges, immediately after construction;
- Constructing roads, trails, bridges and other stream crossings at right angles to the stream;
- Limiting stream crossings and construction on or near streams to periods of low flow;
- Properly cleaning equipment to prevent the spread of invasive species from one site to another.

IV. Proposed Recreation Management Actions

Please note that conservation easement terms are summarized throughout this section where applicable to RMP management actions. The full encumbering conservation easement deed text is available to the public in the Herkimer County Clerk's Office (Liber 775; Page 571).

Motorized Use

1. Passenger Vehicle Use

Conservation Easement Terms

The conservation easement deed grants NYS public motor vehicle access (by automobile, truck, jeep, van, bus or mobile camper) at the south end of Cherry Creek/Ash Hill Road, 200 feet beyond the property boundary. A parking area may be constructed at the end of this right-of-way.

Discussion

The DEC does not own public passenger vehicle rights through the Big Moose Tract Conservation Easement to the east, or private property to the west.

The DEC does own the right to allow public passenger vehicle access to the Three Lakes Tract from the south, following Balsam Flats/Ten Mile Crossing Road to Cherry Creek/Ash Hill Road. DEC Survey Map #10,975 shows the agreed upon parking area which may be constructed on Balsam Flats/Ten Mile Crossing Road, near the west boundary of the property. Opening the Balsam Flats/Ten Mile Crossing Road would need to be addressed in the Independence River Wild Forest UMP - at this time the DEC does not plan to open the road in the foreseeable future. Of the road's 10-mile length, only 2.3-miles pass through forest preserve lands (the rest pass through private land), providing very little public access in the context of DEC resources required for maintenance. Furthermore, current public use of the Three Lakes Tract and the portion of the Independence River Wild Forest accessed by the Balsam Flats/Ten Mile Crossing Road is extremely limited, and it is believed use would remain low even if the road were to be opened.

North of the TLT, McCarthy Road leads through the Independence River Wild Forest, through private property around Lennon Ponds, then onto the TLT. The DEC does not own any rights-of-way across the Lennon Ponds property and constructing a new road through the Independence River Wild Forest is not permitted by the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan. As a result, public passenger vehicle access from McCarthy Road to the Three Lakes Tract is not possible.

In summary, no practical public passenger vehicle access option exists to the TLT. The Balsam Flats/Ten Mile Crossing Road represents the sole viable option to provide this opportunity, but due to the length of the road and the limited additional access it would provide, the DEC has no plans to open the road to the public for passenger vehicle use.

Environmental impacts from passenger vehicle use on the TLT are limited by the fact that the encumbering conservation easement only allows for public motorized access 200 feet beyond the property boundary (and that ultimately no motorized use has been proposed on the property). Impacts considered include emissions, noise pollution, and wildlife disturbance. Impacts to vegetation and soils are other potential impacts, but these would be minimized by the fact that public passenger vehicle use would be limited to designated roads and parking areas capable of sustainably supporting their use.

Management Actions

- No passenger vehicles roads are proposed to be opened on the TLT.

2. Snowmobile Use

Conservation Easement Terms

The conservation easement deed grants NYS public snowmobile access on the TLT on routes designated and maintained by the DEC for this use. The landowner may close snowmobile trails where they pass through “closure zones” or if trail locations are determined to be unsuitable to the landowner.

Discussion

In coordination with the landowner, DEC has opened two snowmobile trails on the TLT. The 1.7-mile Cherry Creek/Ash Hill Road connects Balsam Flats Road with McCarthy Road to the north and is part of corridors C8A and C7B. The 3.1-mile Three Lakes Trail leads east from the Cherry Creek/Ash Hill Road to the Big Moose Tract Conservation Easement. DEC has also constructed a kiosk at the intersection of these two snowmobile trails with a snowmobile trail map.

The two trails maintained on the TLT provide important connectivity to the surrounding trail system. The New York State Department of Transportation has maintained a trail counter for snowmobile traffic on Balsam Flats Road, just north of Otter Creek (south of Cherry Creek/Ash Hill Road). At the counter location, an average of 200-300 riders are counted per 24-hour period during mid-season. On several days per year, over 1,000 riders per day are counted. Use varies dramatically, based on snow conditions, time of day and day of the week.

The current snowmobile trails maintained on the TLT serve to provide significant access to the TLT and connectivity within the exiting trail system – additional trails are not believed to be needed. However, should either trail be closed for forest management activity, DEC should work with the landowner to identify and provide alternative trail routes when possible. Due to infrequent winter harvesting (snowmobile trails have never been closed by the landowner in the past) proactive construction of alternative trails is not warranted. It should also be noted that DEC does not own any rights where corridor C8A/C7B crosses private land between the Three Lakes Tract and the Independence River Wild Forest – as such, this trail segment could cause disruption of the snowmobile trail network in the future.

Environmental impacts relating to snowmobile use include emissions, noise pollution, and wildlife disturbance. Properly sited and maintained trails can mitigate wildlife disturbance and emissions and noise impacts are generally accepted on conservation easement lands. Impacts to soil and vegetation are minimal when snowmobiles stay on designated trails.

Management Actions

- Maintain existing snowmobile trails – Cherry Creek/Ash Hill Road (will be named Cherry Creek Trail) and Three Lakes Trail.
- Communicate with the landowner on a regular basis and with landowner approval, identify or clear short-term alternative public snowmobile trails when primary trails are closed for forest management activity.

Snowmobile Trail	Distance (mi)
Cherry Creek Trail	1.7
Three Lakes Trail	3.1

3. ATV Use

Conservation Easement Terms

The conservation easement deed does not grant NYS public ATV access on the TLT.

Discussion

DEC may use all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) to access the TLT solely for administrative or enforcement purposes. The DEC does not own the right to open any portion of the property to public ATV use.

Management Actions

- No public ATV use will be permitted.

Non-Motorized Use

4. Hiking

Conservation Easement Terms

The conservation easement deed grants NYS the right to construct and maintain hiking trails in pre-determined locations: between the Ha-De-Ron-Dah Wilderness and Moose Pond to the south and Independence River Wild Forest to the north, following the current Three Lakes Snowmobile Trail to Hitchcock Pond and the Ha-De-Ron-Dah Wilderness to the south and to Grass Pond further east. Additional trails may also be established with landowner consent. "Passive recreational pursuits" permitted under the conservation easement also allows recreationists to hike off-trail as long as they avoid landowner posted closure zones.

Discussion

It is desirable for hiking trails on the TLT to provide access to primary destinations on the property. These destinations include Blue, Hitchcock, Grass, and Moose Ponds. DEC received public comments prior to developing this RMP that a foot trail connecting the Independence River Wild Forest with the Ha-De-Ron-Dah Wilderness is also desirable, to provide options for long-distance hiking trips in this region of the Adirondack Park.

While DEC staff agree that access to the TLT from McCarthy Road in the Independence River Wild Forest is appropriate, construction of any trail through the forest preserve requires approval through a revision to the individual forest preserve Unit Management Plan (UMP). The DEC is in the process of revising the Independence River Wild Forest Unit Management Plan and will propose a trail (named the Hitchcock Creek Trail), to access the TLT and the Cherry Creek/Ash Hill Road from the McCarthy Road, to the north.

A trail connection to the Ha-De-Ron-Dah Wilderness trail system, to the south, also requires revision to the Ha-De-Ron-Dah Wilderness UMP. A 2.5 to 3.0-mile trail through the Ha-De-Ron-Dah Wilderness would ultimately need to be constructed to access Lost Creek Trail, the closest trail within the Ha-De-Ron-Dah Wilderness. Lost Creek Trail is designated as a “minimum maintenance trail”, and stream crossings would be required at Lost Creek and the Independence River. The portion of a potential connector trail on the TLT would consist of either a 0.2-mile trail from the end of the trail to Moose Pond, or a 0.6-mile trail from the end of the trail to Hitchcock Pond to the TLT boundary. Choosing between these trail segments should be postponed until a complete evaluation of the forest preserve portion of the trail has been completed.

Environmental impacts associated with hiking include wildlife disturbance, erosion/soil impacts and minor vegetation damage. Impacts from these activities are limited by low current and projected use levels and can be further mitigated by limiting repetitive use to corridors capable of supporting sustainable use by these user groups.

Management Actions

- Construct and maintain foot trails leading from the Independence River Wild Forest to the Cherry Creek Trail, south to Blue Pond, continuing south to the Three Lakes Snowmobile Trail, then east to Moose Pond. Trail spurs will also be maintained to Hitchcock and Grass Pond. All trails will be constructed only after the portion of Hitchcock Creek Trail on the Independence River Wild Forest has been approved and constructed.
- Assess the Hitchcock Creek Trail using the Universal Trail Assessment Process (UTAP), to Blue Pond.
- Pending construction of the Hitchcock Creek Trail, place a trail register at the McCarthy Road/Hitchcock Creek Trailhead.
- In the future, should trails be considered and approved in the Ha-De-Ron-Dah Wilderness Unit Management Plan leading to the Three Lakes Tract boundary, DEC will construct a connecting trail via either Hitchcock Pond or Moose Pond. DEC will work with the landowner to site the exact location of this trail if constructed. This management action should not be construed as a commitment for any future trail proposal in an upcoming revision to the Ha-De-Ron-Dah Wilderness UMP.

Proposed Hiking Trail	Distance (mi)	Description
Hitchcock Creek Trail	0.5	Independence River Wild Forest to Cherry Creek Snowmobile Trail
Cherry Creek Trail	1.3 (portion signed for hiking)	Hitchcock Creek Trail to Three Lakes Trail
Blue Pond Spur	0.1	Cherry Creek Trail to pond

Three Lakes Trail	1.6 (portion signed for hiking)	Cherry Creek Trail to Moose Pond Spur
Hitchcock Pond Spur	0.2	Three Lakes Trail to Hitchcock Pond
Grass Pond Spur	0.1	Three Lakes Trail to Grass Pond
Moose Pond Spur	0.6	Three Lakes Trail to Moose Pond
Trail to Ha-De-Ron-Dah Wilderness	To be determined	Pending approval of a trail from the Ha-De-Ron-Dah Wilderness to the TLT boundary. Ha-De-Ron-Dah to Three Lakes Trail via Hitchcock or Moose Pond.

5. Bicycling

Conservation Easement Terms

The conservation easement deed grants NYS the right to permit passive public recreational pursuits, including mountain biking on the TLT.

Discussion

The remote location of the TLT does not lend itself to supporting a mountain bicycle trail system, and the property is not located to provide connectivity between other existing mountain bike trails. No bicycling is permitted within the Ha-De-Ron-Dah Wilderness to the south, private property is located to the west, and there is a significant distance across private roads to access the Town of Webb bicycle trails to the southeast. McCarthy Road to the north primarily connects to town roads, because the Beach Mill Trail and Fish Trail in the Independence River Wild Forest are not suitable for mountain bike use.

Nonetheless, due to the distance required to access the three large ponds on the TLT from McCarthy Road, the option for visitors to bicycle to the ponds is attractive. By constructing the Hitchcock Creek Trail to accommodate bicycles to the greatest extent possible, a day-trip could be completed from McCarthy Road, to the ponds and back (Cherry Creek Trail and Three Lakes Trails are hardened roads already capable of sustaining mountain bike use).

Environmental impacts associated with bicycling include wildlife disturbance, erosion/soil impacts and minor vegetation damage. Impacts from these activities are limited by low current and projected use levels and can be further mitigated by limiting repetitive use to corridors capable of supporting sustainable use by these users.

Management Actions

- Mountain biking will be permitted on all trails on the TLT, and other existing forest management trails on the property.
- The Hitchcock Creek Trail will be constructed to the greatest extent possible to accommodate bicycles (for portions of the trail this may not be possible).

6. Equestrian Use

Conservation Easement Terms

The conservation easement deed grants NYS the right to permit public passive recreational pursuits on the TLT.

Discussion

During the public comment period held prior to developing the draft RMP, some commenters specifically requested that equestrian recreation be supported on the TLT. The only new access route which is proposed to the TLT is by way of the Hitchcock Creek hiking trail. Construction of this trail to meet equestrian use standards is not practical given the fact that equestrian trails must be constructed significantly more robustly than hiking trails, and the fact that the trail will be managed secondarily to accommodate mountain bicycles. The Balsam Flats/Ten Mile Crossing Road which approaches the TLT from the south is gated at Otter Creek, and the DEC does not plan to open this road in the future. It is notable that there are no accessory equestrian recreation facilities near the TLT, further limiting potential for equestrian use. Serving as an alternative for equestrian recreationists, the Otter Creek Trails are located nearby and are managed primarily for equestrian use.

Environmental impacts associated with equestrian recreation include wildlife disturbance, erosion/soil impacts and minor vegetation damage. Impacts from these activities are limited by low current and projected use levels and can be further mitigated by limiting repetitive use to corridors capable of supporting sustainable use by these users. Equestrian use in particular requires robust trail tread construction and maintenance to minimize environmental impacts.

Management Actions

- No equestrian recreation management actions are proposed.

7. Snowshoe/Cross-Country Skiing

Conservation Easement Terms

The conservation easement deed grants NYS the right to permit public snowshoeing and cross-country skiing on the TLT.

Discussion

Due to the remote location of the Three Lakes Tract, proximate winter parking is not available. Snowmobile access to the property is possible, however few recreationists are likely to ride a snowmobile to the property to go snowshoeing or skiing. Nonetheless, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing are a permissible public recreation type under the encumbering conservation easement and will be permitted throughout the TLT.

Environmental impacts associated with snowshoeing and cross-country skiing recreation include wildlife disturbance, erosion/soil impacts and minor vegetation damage. Impacts from these activities are limited by low current and projected use levels and can be further mitigated by limiting repetitive use to corridors capable of supporting sustainable use by these user groups.

Management Actions

- Snowshoeing and cross-country skiing will be permitted throughout the TLT, however no facilities will be specifically managed for this purpose

8. Paddling

Conservation Easement Terms

The conservation easement deed grants NYS the right to permit canoeing, kayaking and other non-motorized boating activities on the TLT.

Discussion

Access to the three namesake ponds on the TLT requires a lengthy carry from the south end of McCarthy Road in the Independence River Wild Forest. The 3.1-mile hike from McCarthy Road to Hitchcock Pond (the closest of the three large ponds) is likely to greatly limit paddling activity. Moose Pond, the furthest pond from McCarthy Road (4.6-mile hike) is the only one of the three large ponds that contains brook trout habitat, further decreasing the likelihood of extensive paddling activity. Trails should nonetheless be cleared 6 feet wide and 12 feet high to facilitate the carrying of boats.

Subject to 6 CRR-NY 190.12, motorized watercraft are prohibited on Hitchcock, Grass, Moose and Blue Ponds.

Environmental impacts associated with paddling are mostly associated with access to waterbodies, including erosion/soil effects, water quality and minor vegetation damage. These impacts can be mitigated by providing appropriate access to desirable paddling destinations.

Management Actions

- Paddling and non-motorized boating will be permitted on all waterbodies on the TLT.

9. Hunting, Fishing and Trapping

Conservation Easement Terms

The conservation easement deed grants NYS the right to permit the public to hunt, fish and trap on the TLT.

Discussion

Access to hunting, fishing, and trapping opportunities on the TLT will be facilitated by the proposed Hitchcock Creek Trail which will provide access to the property without bushwhacking. New trails to ponds on the property, roads and old forest management trails of varying condition may be used by sportsmen accessing the field, as well as bushwhacking/off-trail travel.

Hunters and trappers generally select desirable hunting locations based on their knowledge of game behavior and habitat preference. Desirable hunting and trapping grounds are located throughout the property and range from more easily accessed lands to more physically challenging access/remote locations. Generally, due to motorized access limitations provided for under the conservation easement (discussed on page 37), hunting, fishing and trapping will require foot access.

Fishing opportunities on the TLT include Fourth Creek, Cherry Creek, Moose Creek, Hitchcock Pond, Grass Pond and Moose Pond. Limited fisheries survey data exists for these waters, however generally, Hitchcock and Grass Ponds are relatively shallow and contain warmwater species – brown bullhead and pumpkinseed are likely to be caught by anglers. Moose Pond also holds sun fish, however this waterbody appears to have the potential to hold brook trout - in 2003, DEC fisheries staff caught a single trout in the pond.

Streams through the TLT may also contain brook trout, however no surveys have been conducted.

Some environmental impacts from hunting, fishing and trapping relate to fish and wildlife population health. These impacts are managed by the Division of Fish and Wildlife who administers public hunting, fishing and trapping in New York State. Minor impacts may also occur when accessing an area to hunt, fish, or trap; these impacts are similar to those described under “unconfined recreation”.

Management Actions

- Permit public hunting, fishing and trapping throughout the TLT in accordance with established seasons, rules and regulations.
- Display a topographic map of the TLT (including waterbodies, wetlands, and roads/forest management trails) at the future trail register for the Hitchcock Creek Trail (trail register will be located in Independence River Wild Forest).

10. Camping

Conservation Easement Terms

The conservation easement deed grants NYS the right to permit public camping throughout the TLT. The DEC can construct campsites and lean-tos with landowner permission.

Discussion

In order to maintain consistency with surrounding state lands where camping is permitted, camping on the TLT will mirror state land rules and regulations. Camping will be permitted at designated campsites, or undesignated sites 150 feet from all roads, trails and waterbodies. Campfires will be permitted only using dead and down wood. A camping permit will be required for all parties larger than nine people and/or groups camping longer than three nights.

The encumbering conservation easement does permit the DEC to construct lean-tos. However, given low anticipated use levels of this remote property, expenditure of DEC resources on a lean-to should be informed by public demand. For reference, two relatively low-use lean-tos located in the adjacent Independence River Wild Forest receive the following use: the trail register for the Panther Pond Lean-to documents between 99 and 272 annual registered visitors over the last decade and the trail register for the Pine Lake Lean-to documents between 73 and 161 annual registered visitors over

the last decade. It is anticipated that public use levels on the TLT will remain extremely low until the Hitchcock Creek Trail is approved and constructed, pending a revision to the Independence River Wild Forest UMP. Once trail access to the TLT is established, the DEC anticipates use will remain low unless 1) a trail connecting to the Ha-De-Ron-Dah Wilderness is established or 2) fisheries in the three large ponds on the TLT naturally improve, or the Division of Fish and Wildlife undertakes management actions which may attract anglers.

Environmental impacts attributable to public camping is anticipated to be minimal, due in large part to the fact that public use of the TLT is anticipated to remain low. Pit privies may be a useful tool to protect the environment, where a threshold of human waste is generated, or in sensitive locations, such as campsites near a water body. As such, at the land manager's discretion (dependent on actual public use levels), pit privies may be installed at designated campsites in the future.

Management Actions

- Camping will be permitted throughout the TLT, including undesignated sites under the same rules and regulations as exist for state land.
- Primitive water adjacent campsites will be designated near Hitchcock, Grass, and Moose Ponds. Pit privies may be installed at the land manager's discretion. An additional campsite will be constructed near Blue Pond, designed to meet Accessible design standards. This site will include an Accessible picnic table, fire pit and pit privy.
- Pending public use reaching a sustained threshold of approximately 100 annual registered visitors at the McCarthy Road trailhead, a lean-to may be constructed at the designated campsite near Hitchcock Pond. The lean-to will meet *DEC Standard Accessible Designs for Outdoor Recreational Activities*.
- Campfires will be permitted for cooking, warmth or smudge, however, consistent with conservation easement language, fires may be suspended by the DEC following landowner timber harvesting.

11. Other Recreation Activities

Conservation Easement Terms

In addition to designated recreation facilities, NYS has purchased the right for the public to access and enjoy the TLT for "passive recreational pursuits" and general enjoyment.

Discussion

In addition to designated public recreation facilities on the property, this RMP seeks to facilitate a quality experience for unconfined outdoor recreationists. Unconfined recreation includes those activities which do not rely on facilities such as designated recreation facilities. Examples include hunting, fishing, trapping, orienteering, wildlife observation, and countless other outdoor pursuits. While unconfined recreationists may use designated trails or existing roads on the property for access, their primary recreational activity will occur away from this infrastructure.

Unconfined recreation activities will generally be dispersed enough to minimize resource impacts. The Land Manager will, however, be cognizant and responsive to resource impacts from this type of recreation.

Management Actions

- None

12. Accessibility for People with Disabilities

Facilities in this plan that largely meet Accessible design standards (ADA and/or ABA standards, pg. 26) are described in this plan as Accessible with a capital "A".

Conservation Easement Terms

The encumbering conservation easement does not have any terms that directly address Accessibility.

Discussion

Since non-winter access to the TLT is primarily provided from McCarthy Road, the Accessibility of this property has been evaluated in consideration of facilities located along the road. Along McCarthy Road within the Independence River Wild Forest, one Accessible campsite exists (firm and stable gravel surface, Accessible picnic table, fire pit and privy).

It is the goal of the DEC to provide opportunities for people with all abilities to experience the TLT. The primary recreation activities that will occur on the TLT are snowmobiling and hiking/camping/recreating near ponds on the property. While no special facilities or design are needed to improve the Accessibility of snowmobiling, primitive campsites can be improved to meet Accessible design standards. Foot trails can also be improved, or

information regarding trail conditions provided to potential visitors to aid in assessing their ability to complete their hike.

Due to terrain, overall remote and primitive character of the land and limited legal access, foot trails will not be constructed to meet Accessible design standards. One campsite will be constructed to meet Accessible design standards, and access trail conditions will be assessed and provided to the public. The lean-to near Hitchcock Pond, proposed pending a public use threshold, will also be constructed to meet Accessible design standards.

Accessibility laws are generally discussed on page 25.

Management Actions

- Construct a campsite that meets Accessible design standards near Blue Pond, including an Accessible fire ring, picnic table, and pit privy.
- Complete the Universal Trail Assessment Process (UTAP) for the Hitchcock Creek Trail, from McCarthy Road to Blue Pond. Provide UTAP information at the trailhead and the DEC website.
- If constructed, the Hitchcock Pond Lean-to will meet Accessible design standards.

Natural Resources

13. General Actions

Conservation Easement Terms

Numerous conservation easement terms relate to the protection of natural resources including, but not limited to, restrictions on dumping, pollution, and development. While the conservation easement grants specific rights for the DEC to manage public recreation, it does not specifically address how the DEC should minimize environmental impacts from this recreation.

Discussion

The siting of recreation facilities has the potential to impact natural resources and has been addressed through the drafting of this RMP. Design, construction, and maintenance of recreation facilities, and monitoring future conditions attributable to public use are other

important steps necessary to protect natural resources on the TLT. Additional surveys and/or research relating to natural resources located on the TLT would be also valuable to inform management in the future.

Management Actions

- Site and design recreation trails and campsites to minimize environmental impacts.
- Follow best management practices when constructing and maintaining recreation facilities.
- Document all new facilities with photos to aid assessment of any future degradation.
- Document any observed environmental impacts associated with public recreation or other causes in regularly completed conservation easement inspection reports.
- As resources permit, or when opportunities arise to partner with outside organizations, encourage and facilitate surveys and research relating to natural resources found on the TLT.

14. Climate Change

Conservation Easement Terms

The encumbering conservation easement does not directly address climate change.

Discussion

Address of climate change is beyond the scope of this RMP. However, it is acknowledged that public access to the TLT for recreation using motorized vehicles, as well as snowmobile recreation, releases greenhouse gases which contribute to climate change. These passenger vehicle and snowmobile emissions are minor in the context of other emission sources, and generally, motor vehicles are integral to accessing forest preserve and conservation easement lands in the Adirondack Park.

In terms of recreation impacts from climate change, winter recreation activities that require snow (both motorized and non-motorized) may be affected in the future. Major storm events may also become more common, which has the potential to damage recreation infrastructure.

Management Actions

- Culverts and bridges will be sized properly when replaced, accounting for a potential increase in significant storm events.

- All snowmobile trails will remain in their current location. They are sustainably routed on roads/trail so no portion of these trails require deep snow or long periods of freezing temperatures to be passable.
- By protecting the health of TLT ecosystems - properly siting recreation facilities and following best management practices, ecosystem functioning will be better preserved and resiliency to ongoing climate change may be improved.

15. Invasive Species

Conservation Easement Terms

The encumbering conservation easement does not directly address invasive species.

Discussion

The presence of invasive species may disrupt ecosystem function and reduce biodiversity. Consistent with the purpose of the encumbering conservation easement to preserve natural resources on the TLT, the DEC may, in coordination with the landowner, manage invasive species identified on the property. The landowner has reserved the right to conduct forest management operations on the property - any invasive species control actions must be coordinated with the landowner to avoid infringing upon this right. To date, no invasive species have been identified on the TLT.

Management Actions

- Best management practices (BMPs) will be used to reduce the risk of spreading invasive species when constructing and maintaining recreation facilities.
- Any invasive species observed by DEC staff on the TLT will be documented in a conservation easement inspection report.
- If invasive species are identified on the property, DEC will initiate discussion with the landowner per potential management actions.

16. Fish and Wildlife Management

Conservation Easement Terms

The conservation easement deed grants NYS the right to administratively manage fish and wildlife on the TLT. The landowner retains the right to control nuisance wildlife.

Discussion

While the fishery on the Three Lakes Tract is generally believed to be unremarkable, there is a lack of recent survey data. In order to inform future management of waterbodies on the property (within constraints of the encumbering conservation easement), the DEC should inventory water quality and fisheries on the TLT when resources are available to do so. The property may also be used for other ongoing wildlife monitoring projects under the Division of Fish and Wildlife.

Management Actions

- As resources permit, the Division of Fish and Wildlife will inventory water quality and fisheries on the TLT to inform future management.
- The Division of Fish and Wildlife will continue to administer public hunting, fishing and trapping on the TLT.
- The TLT may be used by the Division of Fish and Wildlife for monitoring studies as appropriate.

Recreation Implementation Phases

Phase 1*	1) The current Cherry Creek and Three Lakes Snowmobile Trails will continue to be maintained by the DEC.
	2) The current kiosk will be maintained at the intersection of Cherry Creek Trail and Three Lakes Trail.
	3) Document all current recreation facilities with photos.
	4) Develop a map of the Three Lakes Tract to be displayed at the Hitchcock Creek trail register (update as appropriate).
	5) Revise the DEC website to provide additional information and an updated map of the TLT (continue to update as appropriate).
	6) Document any observed environmental impacts associated with public recreation or other causes in regularly completed conservation easement inspection reports.

	7) As resources permit, the Division of Fish and Wildlife will inventory water quality and fisheries on the TLT to inform future management.
Phase 2	1) Clear, sign and improve all proposed foot trails on the TLT: a. Hitchcock Creek Trail (install a trail register at the McCarthy Road trailhead) b. Portions of Cherry Creek and Three Lakes Trails which will serve as part of the foot trail network c. Spur Trails to Blue, Hitchcock, Grass and Moose Ponds
	2) Clear and sign campsites at Hitchcock, Grass and Moose Ponds. Pit privies will be installed at the land manager's discretion, dependent on use level of each campsite.
	3) Construct Blue Pond campsite (Accessible design standards).
	4) Complete Universal Trail Assessment Process (UTAP) for Hitchcock Creek Trail and the Blue Pond Spur Trail.
	5) Document all new facilities with photos.
Phase 3	1) Pending public use reaching a sustained threshold of approximately 100 annual registered visitors at the McCarthy Road trailhead, a lean-to meeting Accessible design standards will be constructed at the designated campsite near Hitchcock Pond.
	2) Pending the revision of the Ha-De-Ron-Dah Wilderness Area UMP to provide a connecting trail, a hiking trail may be constructed across the TLT passing either Hitchcock Pond or Moose Pond
	3) Document all new facilities with photos.

* Primary Spring, Summer and Fall public access to the TLT is proposed from McCarthy Road in the Independence River Wild Forest. The proposed Hitchcock Creek Trail is located partially on forest preserve and has not yet been approved through an amendment or revision to the Independence River Wild Forest UMP. As such, Phase 1 under this RMP will consist of no major actions by the DEC until the portion of Hitchcock Creek Trail that crosses the Independence River Wild Forest has been approved for construction.

V. Appendices

A. Public Comments

RMP Pre-Draft Comments

Prior to the development of the draft RMP, a press release and notice in the Environmental Notice Bulletin were published encouraging the public to provide comments and suggestions. The solicitation period was held between December 2, 2020 and January 13, 2021. Twelve (12) written comments were received. Suggestions are summarized below without DEC response (comments pertinent to this plan are addressed in the RMP text).

- Support for development of a RMP to outline management of the TLT.
- Support for making conservation easement available on DEC website during comment period.
- Include text directly from the conservation easement to inform readers deed terms.
- Prioritize protection of ecological integrity.
- DEC should comprehensively inventory natural resources, sensitive habitats, any rare, endangered or threatened species present, and biological and ecological composition on the TLT.
- Undertake complex planning addressing not only the TLT but adjacent conservation easements and forest preserve lands.
- Include plans for long term management and monitoring.
- Utilize the USFS Recreation Opportunity Spectrum framework.
- Provide ecological factor and limitation analysis for public review.
- Continue to maintain the McCarthy Road to serve as access to the TLT.
- Construct a parking area at the end of McCarthy Road directly adjacent to the TLT boundary to facilitate future motorized access to the TLT.
- Do not open the road to the TLT – it would be a waste of tax payer funds.
- Camp lessees will be negatively impacted by opening the TLT for additional public recreation.
- Do not allow ATVs on the property.
- Before this RMP is complete a comprehensive ATV management strategy should be developed to address conservation easement and forest preserve lands.
- Address how enforcement against illegal ATV use will be achieved.

- Construct a lean-to at Hitchcock Pond.
- Create better public maps for the TLT.
- Provide fishery data for the TLT.
- Consider how winter logging operations would impact snowmobile trails on the TLT.
- Consider constructing hiking trails through the property to connect the Ha-De-Ron-Dah Wilderness and Independence River Wild Forest. Few long-distance hiking options exist in the area of the Adirondack Park.
- There are already many hiking trails and snowmobile trails in this region. Develop mountain bike trails and cross-country ski trails on the TLT.
- Develop equestrian trails and facilities on the property.
- Maintain multi-use trails through the property.
- Facilitate access for older individuals – provide motorized access, roadside campsites, roadside access to paddling opportunities and paddle access campsites.
- Acquire rights as needed and construct roads on the property as needed to facilitate motorized access.
- Designate roadside campsites – extra roadside campsites may be warranted during hunting season.
- Provide passenger vehicle access to Hitchcock, Grass and Moose Ponds.
- Develop a paddle-access site on the north shore of the stream connected to Moose Pond.
- Evaluate the old road between TLT and McCarthy Road to serve as a foot trail.
- Take measures to reduce pollution in waterbodies. Limit waterbodies to non-motorized use.
- Improve the Otter Creek Horse Trails.
- Limit the number of users to number trails are capable of handling.
- Establish connections to potential volunteer groups to assist DEC.
- Increase use of technology to aid DEC management.
- Hold fundraising events or sell additional goods/services to support conservation.

Draft RMP Comments

Following the development of the draft RMP, a press release and notice in the Environmental Notice Bulletin were published encouraging the public to provide comments and suggestions. The comment period was held between June 1, 2022 and July 1, 2022. Zero (0) comments were received.

B. SEQRA

Agency Use Only [If Applicable]
 Project : Three Lakes Tract Conservation Easement Re
 Date : 5/19/2021

Full Environmental Assessment Form
Part 3 - Evaluation of the Magnitude and Importance of Project Impacts
and
Determination of Significance

Part 3 provides the reasons in support of the determination of significance. The lead agency must complete Part 3 for every question in Part 2 where the impact has been identified as potentially moderate to large or where there is a need to explain why a particular element of the proposed action will not, or may, result in a significant adverse environmental impact.

Based on the analysis in Part 3, the lead agency must decide whether to require an environmental impact statement to further assess the proposed action or whether available information is sufficient for the lead agency to conclude that the proposed action will not have a significant adverse environmental impact. By completing the certification on the next page, the lead agency can complete its determination of significance.

Reasons Supporting This Determination:

To complete this section:

- Identify the impact based on the Part 2 responses and describe its magnitude. Magnitude considers factors such as severity, size or extent of an impact.
- Assess the importance of the impact. Importance relates to the geographic scope, duration, probability of the impact occurring, number of people affected by the impact and any additional environmental consequences if the impact were to occur.
- The assessment should take into consideration any design element or project changes.
- Repeat this process for each Part 2 question where the impact has been identified as potentially moderate to large or where there is a need to explain why a particular element of the proposed action will not, or may, result in a significant adverse environmental impact.
- Provide the reason(s) why the impact may, or will not, result in a significant adverse environmental impact
- For Conditional Negative Declarations identify the specific condition(s) imposed that will modify the proposed action so that no significant adverse environmental impacts will result.
- Attach additional sheets, as needed.

Question #1 Impact on Land

h. Other impacts:

Proposed management actions in the RMP will have minimal impacts on the landscape, including localized and minimal grading of hiking and snowmobile trails, and grading and leveling of campsites and a lean-to site. Water table depth, slope, and bedrock are not issues of concern. Proposed public use is anticipated to have very few impacts on the landscape, since low use is anticipated.

The following Best Management Practices will be followed for the construction of trails: Locate trails to minimize necessary cut and fill; wherever possible, lay out trails on existing old roads or cleared or partially cleared areas; locate trails away from streams, wetlands and unstable slopes wherever possible; construct stream crossings at right angles to the stream, limit stream crossing construction to periods of low or normal flow; use stream crossings with low, stable banks, firm stream bottoms and gentle approach slopes; use stream bank stabilizing structures made of natural materials such as rock or wooden timbers; locate trails to minimize grade; use natural materials to blend the structure into the natural surroundings; and use proper drainage devices such as water bars and broad-based dips to minimize the potential for erosion.

The following Best Management Practices will be followed for campsites: Locate campsites to minimize cut and fill; minimize tree cutting; locate campsites so that they are properly separated from one another; are away from wetlands, streams and unstable slopes and are located on flat, stable, well-drained sites.

The following Best Management Practices will be followed for the construction of the lean-to: Locate the lean-to to minimize necessary cut and fill as well as tree cutting; locate it away from streams, wetlands and unstable slopes; use drainage structures on trails leading to the lean-to site to prevent water from flowing into the site; locate the lean-to on a stable well drained site; and limit construction to periods of low or normal rainfall.

Soil stabilization practices will be utilized on exposed soil around construction areas immediately following construction. Construction will occur where species of special concern are known to exist. All facilities will be periodically inspected to ensure there is no degradation to natural resources.

Determination of Significance - Type 1 and Unlisted Actions

SEQR Status: Type 1 Unlisted

Identify portions of EAF completed for this Project: Part 1 Part 2 Part 3

FEAF 2019

**Three Lakes Tract Conservation Easement
 Recreation Management Plan**

Upon review of the information recorded on this EAF, as noted, plus this additional support information
A map depicting proposed public recreation facilities is attached. Public use of the property will be consistent with proposed facilities and existing uses.

and considering both the magnitude and importance of each identified potential impact, it is the conclusion of the
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation as lead agency that:

A. This project will result in no significant adverse impacts on the environment, and, therefore, an environmental impact statement need not be prepared. Accordingly, this negative declaration is issued.

B. Although this project could have a significant adverse impact on the environment, that impact will be avoided or substantially mitigated because of the following conditions which will be required by the lead agency:

There will, therefore, be no significant adverse impacts from the project as conditioned, and, therefore, this conditioned negative declaration is issued. A conditioned negative declaration may be used only for UNLISTED actions (see 6 NYCRR 617.7(d)).

C. This Project may result in one or more significant adverse impacts on the environment, and an environmental impact statement must be prepared to further assess the impact(s) and possible mitigation and to explore alternatives to avoid or reduce those impacts. Accordingly, this positive declaration is issued.

Name of Action: Three Lakes Tract Conservation Easement Recreation Management Plan

Name of Lead Agency: New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

Name of Responsible Officer in Lead Agency: Kramer Kwaczala

Title of Responsible Officer: Forester 1

Signature of Responsible Officer in Lead Agency: Kramer Kwaczala Date: 1/19/22

Signature of Preparer (if different from Responsible Officer) Kramer Kwaczala for Matthew Nowak Date: 1/19/22

For Further Information:
 Contact Person: Matthew Nowak
 Address: 7327 State Route 812 Lowville NY 13367
 Telephone Number: (315) 376-3521
 E-mail: matthew.nowak@dec.ny.gov

For Type 1 Actions and Conditioned Negative Declarations, a copy of this Notice is sent to:
 Chief Executive Officer of the political subdivision in which the action will be principally located (e.g., Town / City / Village of)
 Other involved agencies (if any)
 Applicant (if any)
 Environmental Notice Bulletin: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/enb/enb.html>

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**Three Lakes Tract Conservation Easement
 Recreation Management Plan**

Question #7 Impact on Plants and Animals

j. Other impacts:

While any project in a forest setting may impact flora and fauna, proposed management actions will mostly utilize existing property infrastructure and resources such as old log landings and existing forest management roads and trails, whenever possible. Only minimal brushing and tree removal is anticipated. Some sites will require leveling, grading and hardening of surfaces. Consumptive public uses such as hunting, fishing and trapping are regulated by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation to protect fish and wildlife populations. Noise and emissions from public motorized uses have the potential to impact plants and wildlife, however, impacts are anticipated to be small. These impacts are similar to those which occur from forest management equipment which is regularly operated on the property. The New York State Breeding Bird Atlas identifies species of Special Concern such as the Cerulean warbler, Common loon, Osprey and Sharp-shinned Hawk in the vicinity of the property, therefore they could be found on the Conservation Easement. Public use will be avoided in areas where these species are known to exist. Since most proposed facilities utilize existing openings in the forest and existing infrastructure, public use will have minimal impact on plants and animals.

Management actions proposed in the Three Lakes Tract Recreation Management Plan will not result in any significant adverse environmental impact. They are minor in nature and of short duration. All projects will follow Best Management Practices as set forth in this Full EAF/Negative Declaration minimizing the potential for impacts.

C. DEC and Landowner Review Declaration

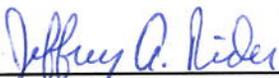
The New York Department of Environmental Conservation has the responsibility of managing public access and recreation on the Three Lakes Tract, in accordance with the encumbering conservation easement. This Recreation Management Plan is consistent with the purpose, terms and conditions of the conservation easement. RMP management actions are approved for implementing public recreation on the easement property. Notwithstanding the foregoing, should any discrepancies arise between the RMP and the Conservation Easement, the Conservation Easement will prevail.

ACCEPTED BY Empire Riverlands, LLC

By: 
Cahey Worthington
Vice President, Forestry Operations

Date 07/28/2022

ACCEPTED BY NYS Department of Environmental Conservation

By: 
Jeffrey Rider, Acting Director
Division of Lands & Forests

Date 08/10/2022

**Three Lakes Tract Conservation Easement
Recreation Management Plan**

D. APA Review Letter



KATHY HOCHUL
Governor

TERRY MARTINO
Executive Director

November 10, 2021

David Smith, Regional Forester
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Region 6
Dulles State Office Building
317 Washington Street
Watertown, NY 13601-3787

RE: Three Lakes Tract Conservation Easement Draft Recreation Management Plan

Dear David Smith:

Thank you for providing the above-referenced plan for Adirondack Park Agency review pursuant to the Memorandum of Understanding Between the Adirondack Park Agency and Department of Environmental Conservation Concerning State-Owned Conservation Easements on Private Lands within the Adirondack Park.

Review of this plan indicates that no approval is required under the Adirondack Park Agency Act for its implementation, as the plan will not involve any of the activities listed under Section II(d) of the Memorandum of Understanding. Please note, however, that any activity involving wetlands will require an Agency permit.

Feel free to contact me or Matt McNamara with any additional questions regarding this matter. Thank you again for your coordination.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Terry Martino".

Terry Martino
Executive Director

Cc: Rob Lore

E. Wildlife Species Lists

1) Breeding Bird Atlas Species

Common Name	Scientific Name	Behavior Code*	NY Legal Status
Alder Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax alnorum</i>	X1	Protected
American Black Duck	<i>Anas rubripes</i>	X1	Game Species
American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	X1	Game Species
American Goldfinch	<i>Spinus tristis</i>	T2	Protected
American Redstart	<i>Setophaga ruticilla</i>	X1	Protected
American Robin	<i>Turdus migratorius</i>	FY	Protected
American Woodcock	<i>Scolopax minor</i>	T2	Game Species
Barred Owl	<i>Strix varia</i>	X1	Protected
Belted Kingfisher	<i>Megasceryle alcyon</i>	T2	Protected
Black-and-white Warbler	<i>Mniotilta varia</i>	X1	Protected
Black-backed Woodpecker	<i>Picoides arcticus</i>	X1	Protected
Black-billed Cuckoo	<i>Coccyzus erythrophthalmus</i>	T2	Protected
Blackburnian Warbler	<i>Dendroica fusca</i>	S2	Protected
Black-capped Chickadee	<i>Poecile atricapillus</i>	X1	Protected
Black-throated Blue Warbler	<i>Dendroica caerulescens</i>	S2	Protected
Black-throated Green Warbler	<i>Dendroica virens</i>	S2	Protected
Blue Jay	<i>Cyanocitta cristata</i>	X1	Protected
Blue-headed Vireo	<i>Vireo solitarius</i>	S2	Protected
Boreal Chickadee	<i>Poecile hudsonicus</i>	FL	Protected
Broad-winged Hawk	<i>Buteo platypterus</i>	FL	Protected

Brown Creeper	<i>Certhia americana</i>	X1	Protected
Canada Warbler	<i>Wilsonia canadensis</i>	S2	Protected
Cedar Waxwing	<i>Bombycilla cedrorum</i>	P2	Protected
Cerulean Warbler	<i>Dendroica cerulea</i>	X1	Protected-Special Concern
Chestnut-sided Warbler	<i>Dendroica pensylvanica</i>	FY	Protected
Chimney Swift	<i>Chaetura pelagica</i>	X1	Protected
Chipping Sparrow	<i>Spizella passerina</i>	X1	Protected
Common Grackle	<i>Quiscalus quiscula</i>	FL	Protected
Common Loon	<i>Gavia immer</i>	X1	Protected-Special Concern
Common Merganser	<i>Mergus merganser</i>	FL	Game Species
Common Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	X1	Protected
Common Yellowthroat	<i>Geothlypis trichas</i>	S2	Protected
Dark-eyed Junco	<i>Junco hyemalis</i>	X1	Protected
Downy Woodpecker	<i>Picoides pubescens</i>	T2	Protected
Eastern Bluebird	<i>Sialia sialis</i>	ON	Protected
Eastern Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus tyrannus</i>	S2	Protected
Eastern Phoebe	<i>Sayornis phoebe</i>	X1	Protected
Eastern Wood-Pewee	<i>Contopus virens</i>	X1	Protected
Golden-crowned Kinglet	<i>Regulus satrapa</i>	T2	Protected
Gray Jay	<i>Perisoreus canadensis</i>	X1	Protected
Great Blue Heron	<i>Ardea herodias</i>	T2	Protected
Great Crested Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus crinitus</i>	X1	Protected
Great Horned Owl	<i>Bubo virginianus</i>	X1	Protected
Hairy Woodpecker	<i>Picoides villosus</i>	T2	Protected
Hermit Thrush	<i>Catharus guttatus</i>	X1	Protected

**Three Lakes Tract Conservation Easement
Recreation Management Plan**

Hooded Merganser	<i>Lophodytes cucullatus</i>	FL	Game Species
Least Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax minimus</i>	X1	Protected
Least Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax minimus</i>	FY	Protected
Lincoln's Sparrow	<i>Melospiza lincolnii</i>	T2	Protected
Magnolia Warbler	<i>Dendroica magnolia</i>	S2	Protected
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	P2	Game Species
Mourning Warbler	<i>Oporornis philadelphia</i>	S2	Protected
Nashville Warbler	<i>Vermivora ruficapilla</i>	X1	Protected
Northern Flicker	<i>Colaptes auratus</i>	FL	Protected
Northern Flicker	<i>Colaptes auratus</i>	ON	Protected
Northern Parula	<i>Parula americana</i>	S2	Protected
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	<i>Stelgidopteryx serripennis</i>	X1	Protected
Northern Waterthrush	<i>Seiurus noveboracensis</i>	X1	Protected
Olive-sided Flycatcher	<i>Contopus cooperi</i>	T2	Protected
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	X1	Protected-Special Concern
Ovenbird	<i>Seiurus aurocapilla</i>	S2	Protected
Philadelphia Vireo	<i>Vireo philadelphicus</i>	X1	Protected
Pileated Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus pileatus</i>	X1	Protected
Purple Finch	<i>Carpodacus purpureus</i>	X1	Protected
Red-breasted Nuthatch	<i>Sitta canadensis</i>	ON	Protected
Red-eyed Vireo	<i>Vireo olivaceus</i>	S2	Protected
Red-winged Blackbird	<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>	T2	Protected
Ring-necked Duck	<i>Aythya collaris</i>	X1	Game Species
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	<i>Pheucticus ludovicianus</i>	S2	Protected
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	<i>Archilochus colubris</i>	T2	Protected

**Three Lakes Tract Conservation Easement
Recreation Management Plan**

Ruffed Grouse	<i>Bonasa umbellus</i>	FL	Game Species
Rusty Blackbird	<i>Euphagus carolinus</i>	X1	Protected
Scarlet Tanager	<i>Piranga olivacea</i>	X1	Protected
Sharp-shinned Hawk	<i>Accipiter striatus</i>	X1	Protected-Special Concern
Song Sparrow	<i>Melospiza melodia</i>	X1	Protected
Song Sparrow	<i>Melospiza melodia</i>	FY	Protected
Spotted Sandpiper	<i>Actitis macularius</i>	FL	Protected
Swainson's Thrush	<i>Catharus ustulatus</i>	X1	Protected
Swamp Sparrow	<i>Melospiza georgiana</i>	S2	Protected
Tree Swallow	<i>Tachycineta bicolor</i>	X1	Protected
Turkey Vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i>	X1	Protected
Veery	<i>Catharus fuscescens</i>	X1	Protected
White-breasted Nuthatch	<i>Sitta carolinensis</i>	N2	Protected
White-throated Sparrow	<i>Zonotrichia albicollis</i>	DD	Protected
White-winged Crossbill	<i>Loxia leucoptera</i>	FY	Protected
Wild Turkey	<i>Meleagris gallopavo</i>	T2	Game Species
Winter Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	X1	Protected
Wood Duck	<i>Aix sponsa</i>	X1	Game Species
Wood Thrush	<i>Hylocichla mustelina</i>	T2	Protected
Yellow Warbler	<i>Dendroica petechia</i>	S2	Protected
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax flaviventris</i>	X1	Protected
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	<i>Sphyrapicus varius</i>	S2	Protected
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	<i>Coccyzus americanus</i>	X1	Protected
Yellow-rumped Warbler	<i>Dendroica coronata</i>	S2	Protected

*Codes that end in 1 indicate a possible occurrence, codes that end in 2 indicate a probable occurrence and codes that end in a letter indicate a confirmed sighting

**Three Lakes Tract Conservation Easement
Recreation Management Plan**

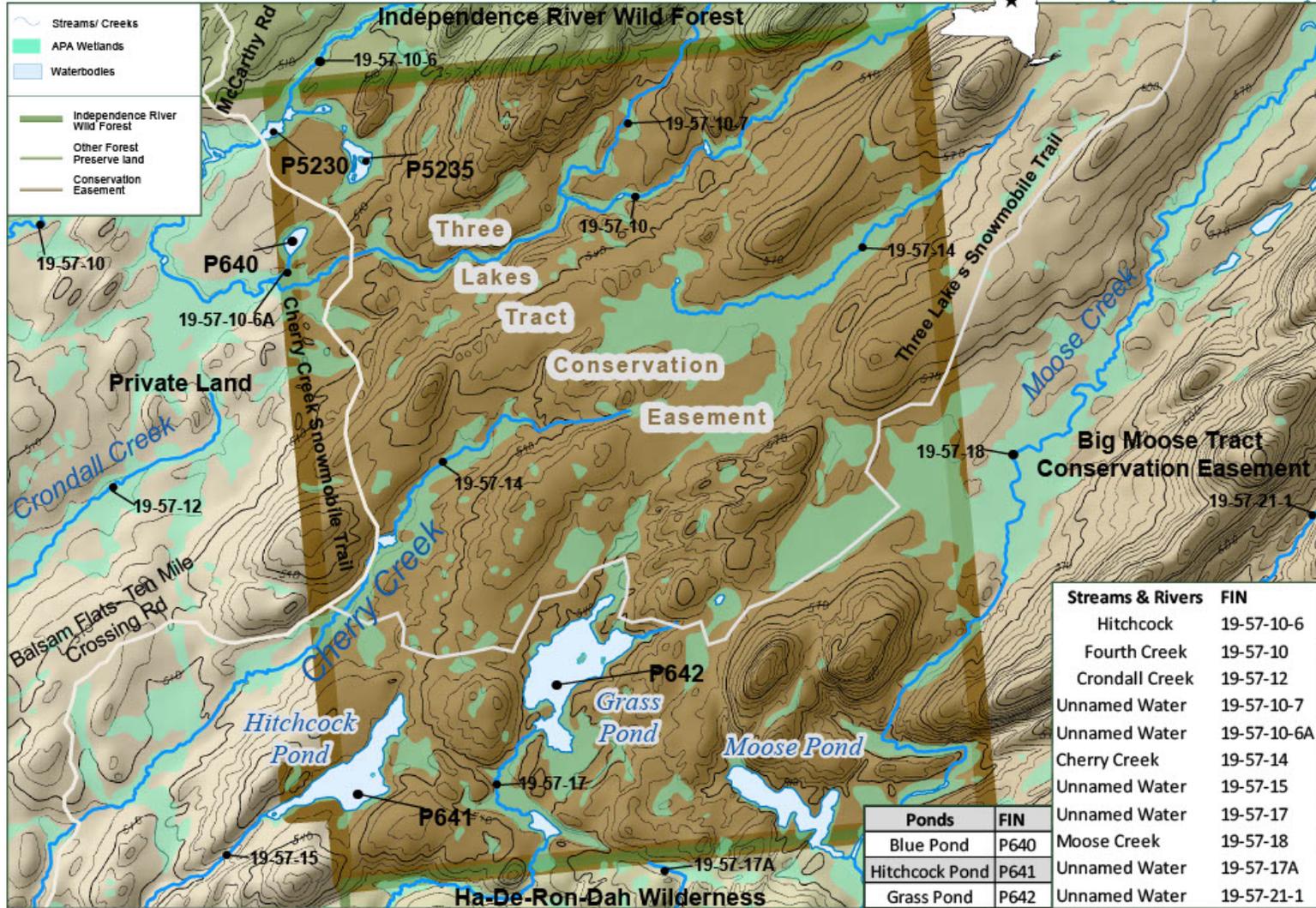
2) Herp Atlas Species

Common Name	Scientific Name
Spotted Salamander	<i>Ambystoma maculatum</i>
Red-spotted Newt	<i>Notophthalmus viridescens</i>
Northern Dusky Salamander	<i>Desmognathus fuscus</i>
Allegheny Dusky Salamander	<i>Desmognathus ochrophaeus</i>
Northern Redback Salamander	<i>Plethodon cinereus</i>
Northern Spring Salamander	<i>Gyrinophilus porphyriticus</i>
Northern Two-lined Salamander	<i>Eurycea bislineata</i>
Eastern American Toad	<i>Bufo americanus</i>
Northern Spring Peeper	<i>Pseudacris crucifer</i>
Green Frog	<i>Rana clamitans</i>
Wood Frog	<i>Rana sylvatica</i>
Pickerel Frog	<i>Rana palustris</i>
Painted Turtle	<i>Chrysemys picta</i>
Northern Redbelly Snake	<i>Storeria occipitomaculata</i>
Common Garter Snake	<i>Thamnophis sirtalis</i>

F. Maps

Three Lakes Tract Conservation Easement

Topo and Hydro Map



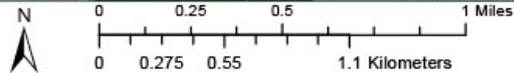
Streams/ Creeks
 APA Wetlands
 Waterbodies

Independence River Wild Forest
 Other Forest Preserve land
 Conservation Easement

Streams & Rivers	FIN
Hitchcock	19-57-10-6
Fourth Creek	19-57-10
Crondall Creek	19-57-12
Unnamed Water	19-57-10-7
Unnamed Water	19-57-10-6A
Cherry Creek	19-57-14
Unnamed Water	19-57-15
Unnamed Water	19-57-17
Moose Creek	19-57-18
Unnamed Water	19-57-17A
Unnamed Water	19-57-21-1

Ponds	FIN
Blue Pond	P640
Hitchcock Pond	P641
Grass Pond	P642

NEW YORK STATE OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
 Department of Environmental Conservation
 Lowville Office: 315-376-3521

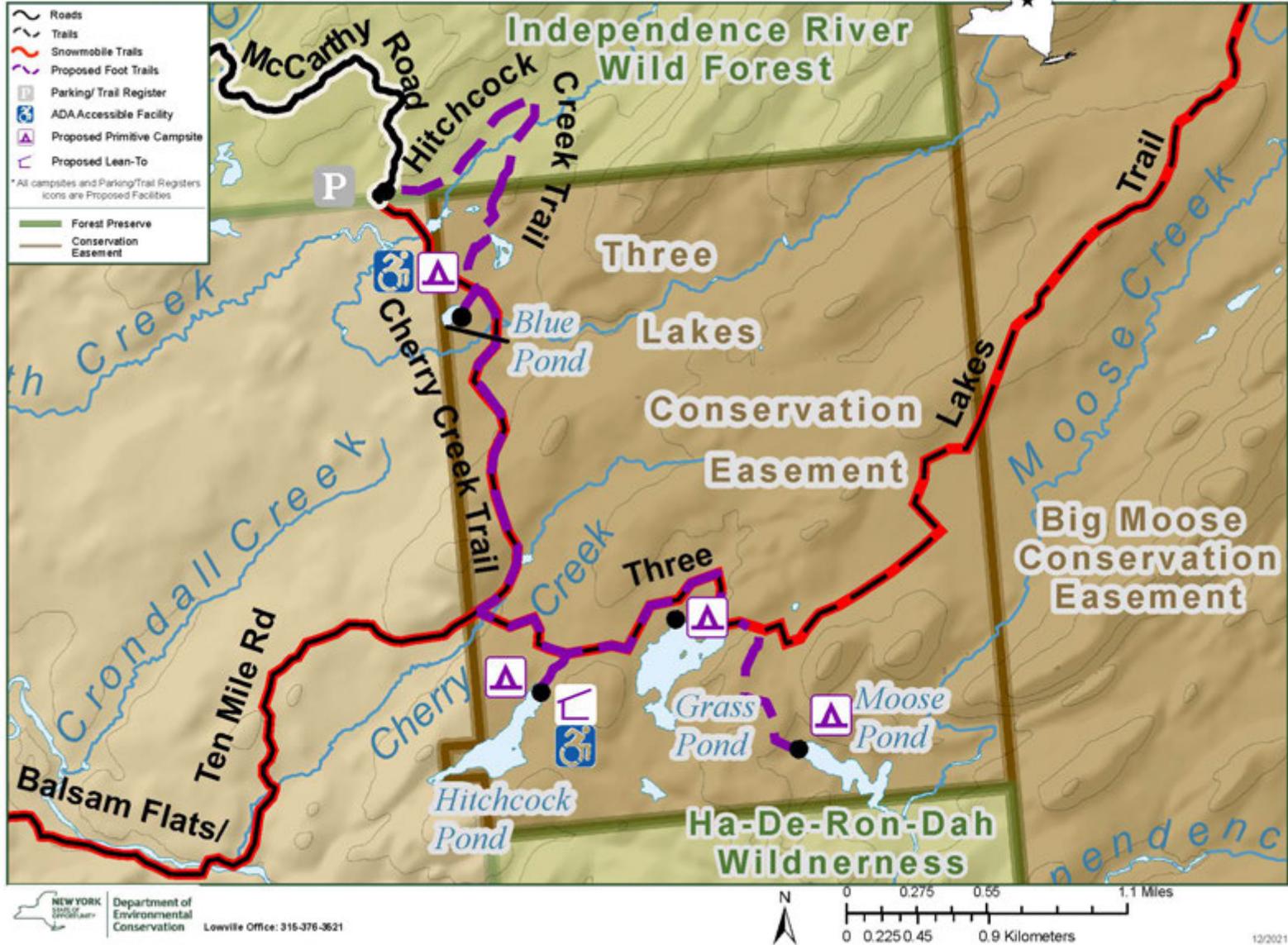


Three Lakes Tract Conservation Easement



Recreation Management Plan

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