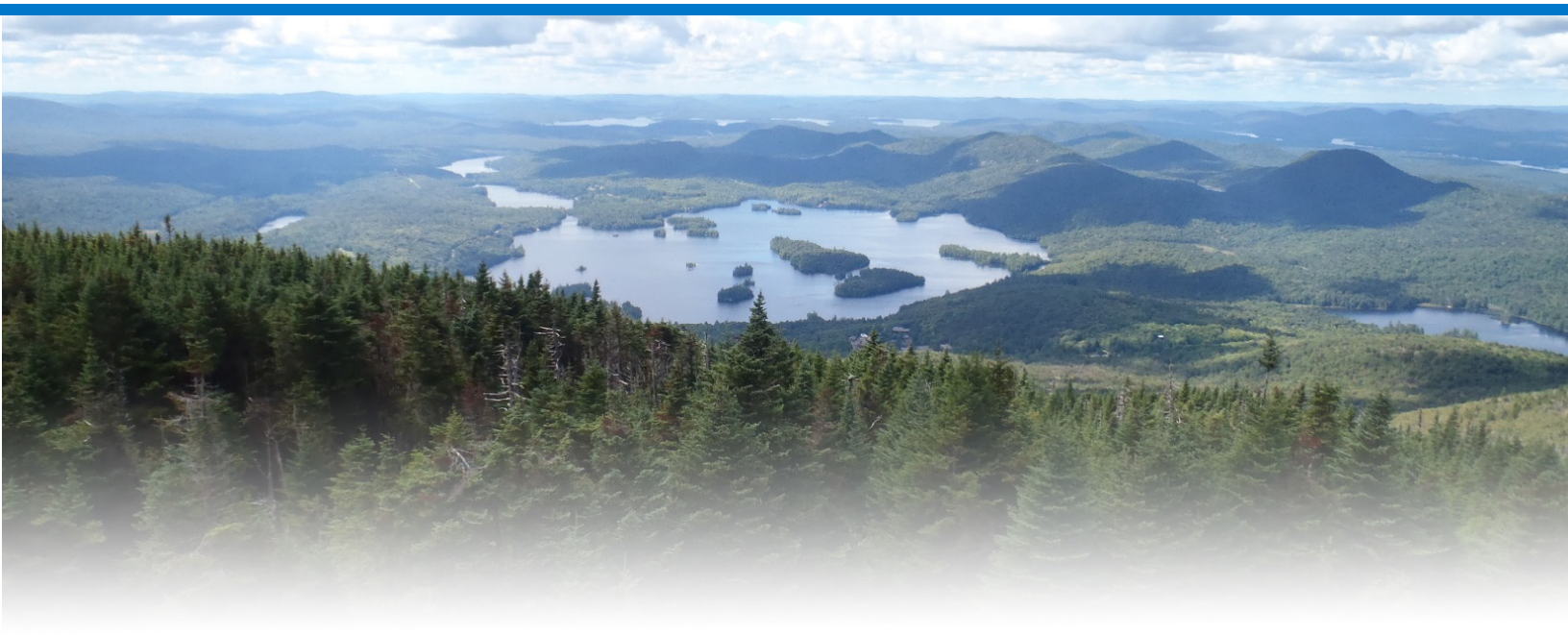
NEW YORK STATE OF OPPORTUNITY. Department of Environmental Conservation

BLUE MOUNTAIN WILD FOREST

Amendment

to the

1995 Blue Mountain Wild Forest Unit Management Plan



NYS DEC, REGION 5, DIVISION OF LANDS AND FORESTS

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www.dec.ny.gov **December 2019**

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OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Record

FROM: Basil Seggos

SUBJECT: Blue Mountain Wild Forest Unit Management Plan Amendment

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The Unit Management Plan amendment for the Blue Mountain Wild Forest has been completed, and the Adirondack Park Agency has found the Plan to be in conformance with the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan.

The amendment is consistent with Environmental Conservation Law, and Department Rules, Regulations and Policies and is hereby approved and adopted.

Basil Seggos
Commissioner
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

Date: 12/19/19

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NEW YORK STATE OF OPPORTUNITY. | Adirondack Park Agency

ANDREW M. CUOMO
Governor

TERRY MARTINO
Executive Director

FINAL
RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE ADIRONDACK PARK AGENCY WITH RESPECT TO THE BLUE MOUNTAIN WILD FOREST UNIT MANAGEMENT PLAN AMENDMENT

November 14, 2019

WHEREAS, Section 816 of the Adirondack Park Agency Act (APA Act) directs the Department of Environmental Conservation (Department) to develop, in consultation with the Adirondack Park Agency (Agency), individual management plans for units of land classified in the Adirondack Park State Land Master (APSLMP) and requires such management plans to conform to the guidelines and criteria of the APSLMP; and

WHEREAS, in addition to such guidelines and criteria, the APSLMP prescribes the contents of unit management plans (UMPs) and provides that the Agency will determine whether a proposed individual UMP complies with such guidelines and criteria; and

WHEREAS, in 1995 the Department adopted the UMP for the Blue Mountain Wild Forest (BMWF), located in the Town of Minerva, Essex County, and the Towns of Indian Lake and Long Lake, Hamilton, County, and adopted subsequent amendments to the 1995 BMWF UMP in 2016 and 2017; and

WHEREAS, the Department proposes a 2019 BMWF UMP Amendment involving the permanent installation of a boat washing station with a small rustic shed and containment pad for boat cleaning at an existing highway pull-off maintained by the NYS Department of Transportation on NYS Route 28, near Lake Durant; and

WHEREAS, the boat washing station is part of a larger network of such stations across the Adirondack Park administered by the Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program (APIPP) for the purpose of intercepting boater traffic heading into the interior Adirondacks from the Great Lakes, Finger Lakes, Hudson River, and Mohawk River watersheds which are known to be invaded by numerous small-bodied aquatic invasive animals and aquatic invasive plants; and

WHEREAS, the network of boat washing stations is considered an important element of a regional program to protect the waters of the Adirondack Park from aquatic invasive species in the Park; and

WHEREAS, on October 11, 2019 the Department and Agency staff jointly presented a draft of the 2019 BMWF UMP Amendment to the Agency and established a concurrent public comment period on the draft 2019 BMWF UMP Amendment and its conformance with the APSLMP, which ran through October 20, 2019; and

WHEREAS, the Agency and the Department received six comment letters during the public comment period, all in support of the proposal; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) , the Department has determined that the Proposed Final 2019 BMWF UMP Amendment is a Type II action under that Act, which would not have a significant adverse impact on the environment and does not require further SEQRA review; and

WHEREAS, the Agency has considered the foregoing recitals, the Proposed Final 2019 BMWF UMP Amendment, the November 6, 2019 Memorandum from Rick Weber to Terry Martino, Agency and Department staffs' October 11, 2019 and November 14 presentations, public comment and Agency and Department staffs' responses, and the deliberations of Agency Board Members and Designees at the Agency's November 14, 2019 meeting.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that pursuant to Section 816 of the Adirondack Park Agency Act, the Agency finds the Proposed Final 2019 BMWF UMP Amendment, dated November 2019 conforms with the APSLMP guidelines and criteria; and

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

Ayes: Brad Austin, John Ernst, Art Lussi, Bill Thomas, Dan Wilt, Lynne Mahoney, Bob Stegemann.

Nays: None

Abstentions: None

Absent: Dr. Chad Dawson

Background

The Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program (APIPP) serves as the Adirondack Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management (PRISM), one of eight PRISMs across New York. APIPP is a partnership program founded in 1998 by The Nature Conservancy, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), New York State Department of Transportation (DOT) and New York State Adirondack Park Agency (APA) and is housed under the Adirondack Chapter of The Nature Conservancy. Funding is provided by the New York State Environmental Protection Fund and administered through the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation via 5-year contracts. Since APIPP's founding, the program has grown to include more than 30 cooperating partner organizations, and over 700 volunteers.

The vicinity of the intersection of State Routes 30 and 28 in the hamlet of Blue Mountain Lake was prioritized for a boat decontamination station under the Adirondack Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Program. This location could intercept boater traffic heading into the interior Adirondacks from the Great Lakes, Finger Lakes, Hudson River, and Mohawk River watersheds which are known to be invaded by numerous small-bodied aquatic invasive animals and high priority aquatic invasive plants. The location also falls centrally to the waterbodies of Indian Lake, Raquette Lake and Long Lake, which are known to be infested.

In 2017, representatives of DEC, DOT, and APIPP assessed a highway pull-off along Route 28, located immediately across the highway from Lake Durant, to determine the suitability of the site as a boat washing station. Lake Durant is located along the south-western border of Blue Mountain Wild Forest and is also adjacent to other Forest Preserve lands including Lake Durant Campground and Blue Ridge Wilderness Area. The lake covers 327 acres and provides over two miles of shoreline that can be accessed from Route 30 and Lake Durant Campground.

The highway pull-off was determined to be a suitable location, and in spring of 2019, a mobile boat washing system was installed. The system chosen for this location was a Landa ECOS mobile wash system, which recovers, filters and recycles the dirty water from pressure washing for safe disposal or reuse—meeting most municipal and environmental regulations and does not require a State Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (SPDES) permit. The ECOS unit is easy to maintain and transport for off-site winter storage.

Actions Taken to Date

The following actions were undertaken as part of the installation of the boat washing station:

- Removed sod and other organic material (spoils), as needed, to a minimum 6-inch depth and to the site-specific length and width needed for vehicle/boat ingress and egress, staging, containment pad, and shed site;
- Lined excavated site with standard woven road fabric;
- Installed “crusher run” (2-inch maximum rock size and smaller with fines for packing) to a minimum compacted depth of 6 inches, maintaining a level surface;
- A stable and level surface was constructed to allow for the placement of the ECOS unit’s containment pad to be laid flat on the road surface for boat inspection and cleaning. The pad is designed to allow wash water to be contained, collected and recycled back to the ECOS unit for re-use.
- Installed shed adjacent to containment pad for boat cleaning, with the opening facing the containment pad without impeding the flow of vehicle traffic.

Management Action

The entrance and exit of the highway pull-off are in the highway right-of-way and fall under the jurisdiction of DOT, while the interior of the pull-off, where the boat washing is occurring, has been determined to be in the Blue Mountain Wild Forest and under the jurisdiction of DEC.

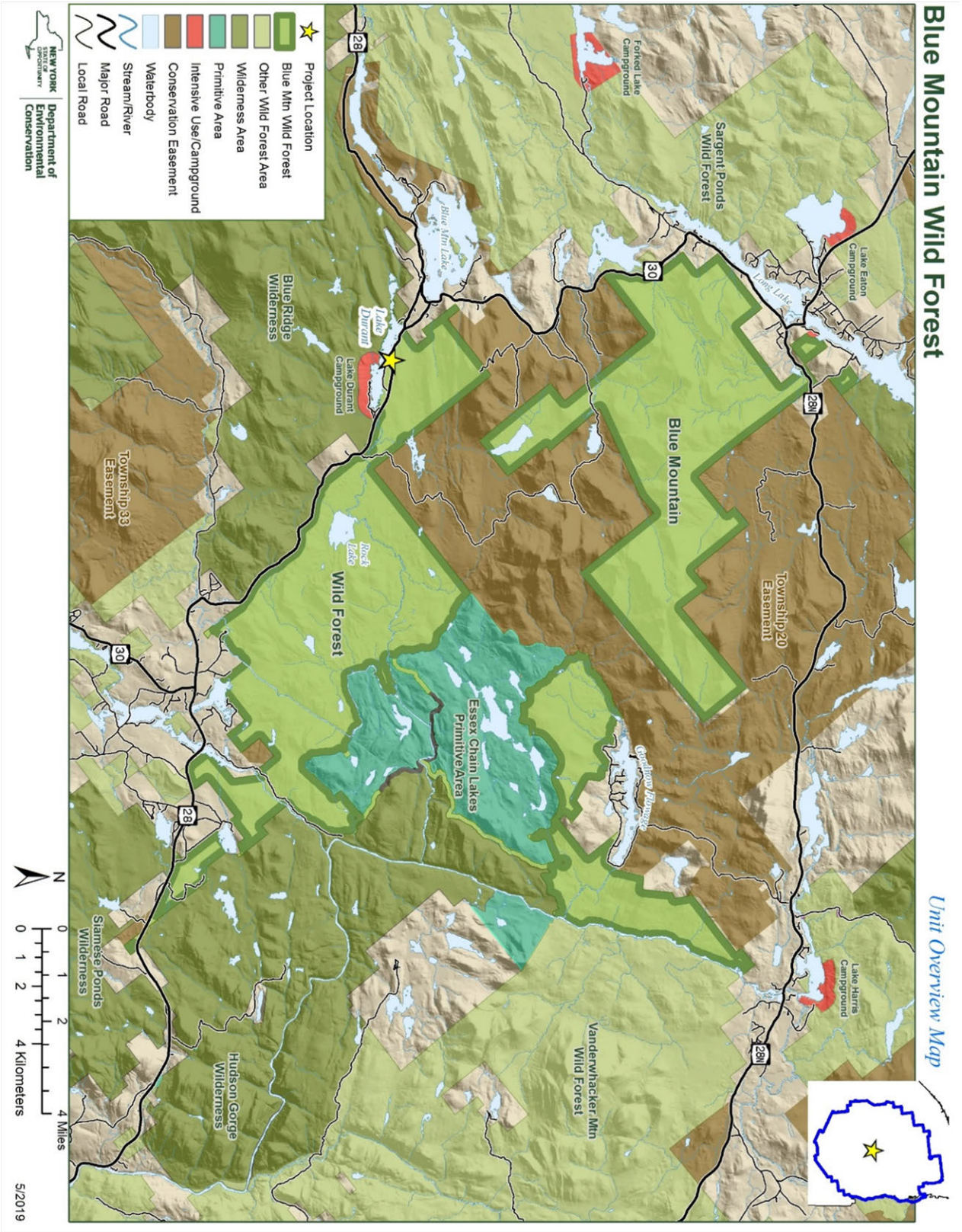
The temporary placement of the shed was necessary for the immediate storage of the ECOS unit at the end of each day. The Department will maintain the shed as a permanent structure rather than remove it at the end of each fall and re-install it every spring because: 1) the physical moving of the shed compromises its structural integrity, and 2) it would take additional resources to move and store the shed off-site every year.

The Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan allows for the permanent placement of storage sheds, for use by administrative personnel, for the protection of state lands. As demonstrated by the following specifications and photograph, this storage shed is considered to be rustic in nature.

Specifications

- 12' wide x 20' long windowless storage shed
- Minimum 9’-wide x 7’-high windowless overhead garage doors on both 12’ ends of the shed
- 2” x 4” wall and roof joists 16” O.C.
- T-111 5/8” Duratemp exterior siding
- Dark brown painted exterior walls
- Green, 30-year architectural shingled roof
- Hunter green painted trim
- The deck (floor) of the 12’ x 20’ shed must meet the following specifications:
    - Six 4x4” pressure-treated skids running the length of the shed (evenly spaced)
    - 2x4” pressure-treated floor joists 8” O.C.
    - 3/4” pressure-treated plywood deck screwed in place
    - Detached exterior ramp for entry and exit at one entrance of garage door
    - One exterior windowless man door for side entrance

Existing boat washing station.


Blue Mountain Wild Forest
Unit Overview Map
Project Location
Blue Mtn Wild Forest
Other Wild Forest Area
Wilderness Area
Primitive Area
Intensive Use/Campground
Conservation Easement
Waterbody
Stream/River
Major Road
Local Road
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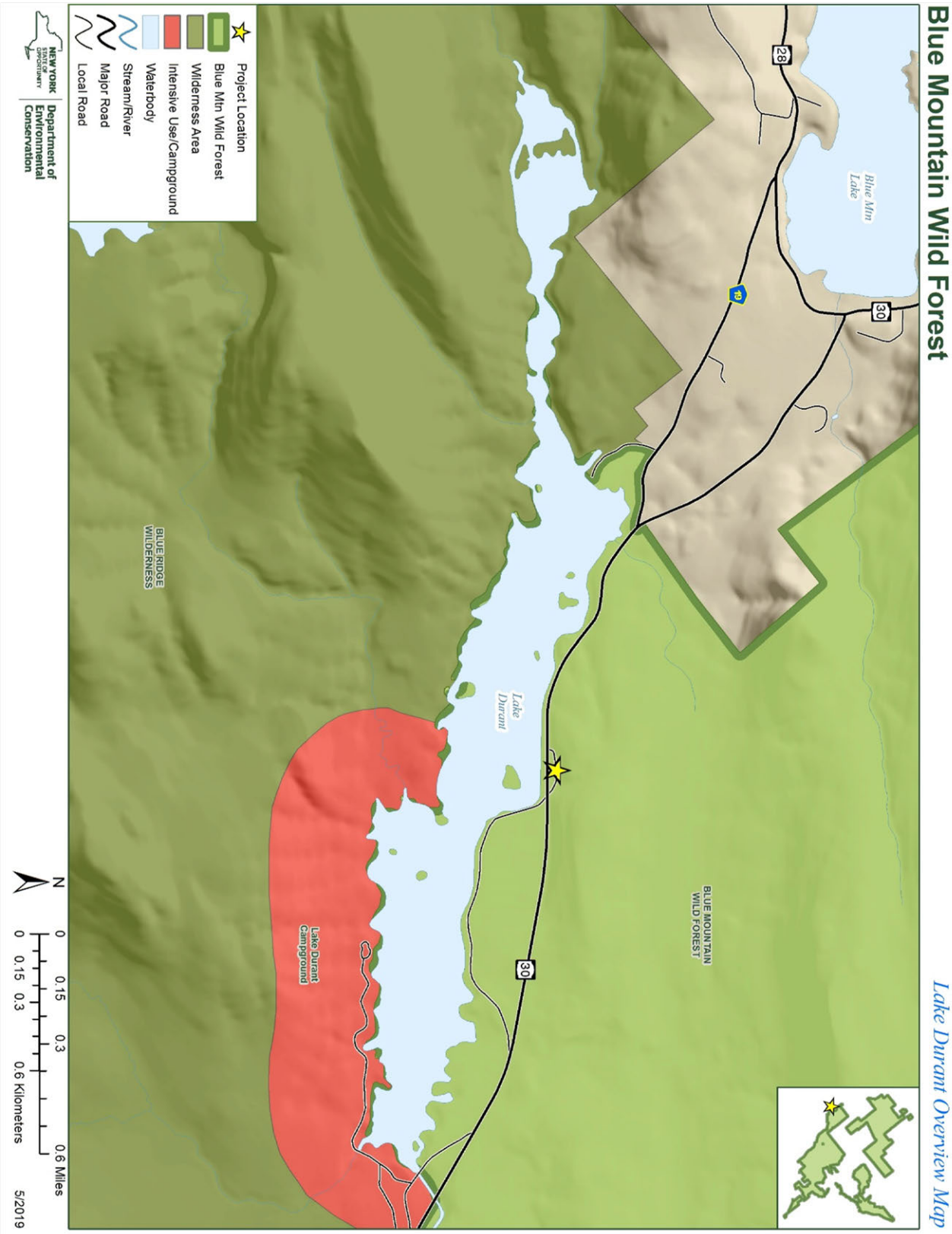
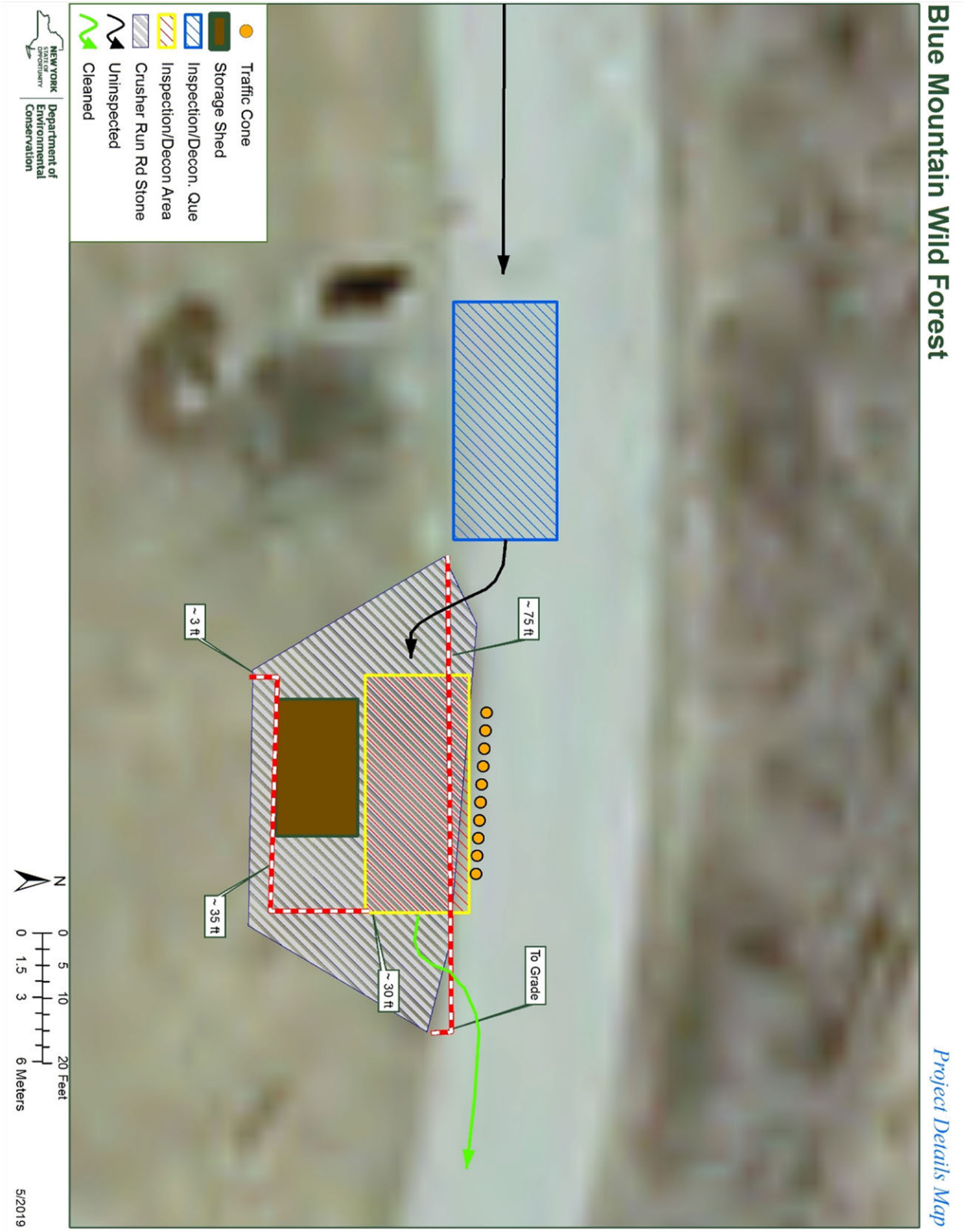
Forked Lake Campground
Sargent Ponds Wild Forest
Lake Eaton Campground
Long Lake
Blue Mtn Lake
Lake Durant
Lake Durant Campground
Blue Ridge Wilderness
Blue Mountain
Township 20 Easement
Township 33 Easement
Rock Lake
Wild Forest
Essex Chain Lakes Primitive Area
Goodnow Flowage
Lake Harris Campground
Vanderwhacker Mtn Wild Forest
Hudson Gorge Wilderness
Siamese Ponds Wilderness
28
28N
30
N
0 1 2 4 Miles
0 1 2 4 Kilometers
5/2019


Blue Mountain Wild Forest
Lake Durant Overview Map
Blue Mtn Lake
28
30
28
30
BLUE MOUNTAIN WILD FOREST
Lake Durant
Lake Durant Campground
BLUE RIDGE WILDERNESS
Project Location
Blue Mtn Wild Forest
Wilderness Area
Intensive Use/Campground
Waterbody
Stream/River
Major Road
Local Road
N
0 0.15 0.3 0.6 Miles
0 0.15 0.3 0.6 Kilometers
5/2019
NEW YORK STATE OF OPPORTUNITY
Department of Environmental Conservation

Blue Mountain Wild Forest
Traffic Flow Overveiw Map
Right-of-Way Signage
Directional Signage
Right-of-Way Signage
Storage Shed
Inspection/Decon. Que
Inspection/Decon Area
Crusher Run Rd Stone
Uninspected
Cleaned
NEW YORK STATE OF OPPORTUNITY
Department of Environmental Conservation
N
0 25 50 100 Feet
0 5 10 20 Meters
5/2019


Blue Mountain Wild Forest
Project Details Map
~ 75 ft
To Grade
~ 3 ft
~ 30 ft
~ 35 ft
Traffic Cone
Storage Shed
Inspection/Decon. Que
Inspection/Decon Area
Crusher Run Rd Stone
Uninspected
Cleaned
N
0 5 10 20 Feet
0 1.5 3 6 Meters
5/2019
NEW YORK
STATE OF OPPORTUNITY
Department of Environmental Conservation

Appendix 1 – Public Comment

The Department held a public comment period from October 9, 2019 through October 30, 2019. During this time period a total of six comments were received related to the management proposals found in the amendment. All comments were in favor of the of the UMP amendment.