

# FULTON CHAIN WILD FOREST UMP AMENDMENT

## Quiver Pond Accessible Fishing Pier and Fourth Lake/Daiker's Snowmobile Trail Connector

October 3, 2006

### INTRODUCTION

The Fulton Chain Wild Forest is located in the Town of Webb, Herkimer County. The unit contains approximately 15,140 acres. A unit management plan for the unit was completed in 1990. This amendment proposes one new project, the Quiver Pond Accessible Fishing Pier, and also proposes to formally designate an existing snowmobile trail that was overlooked when the original plan was completed.

### QUIVER POND ACCESSIBLE FISHING PIER

Quiver Pond, an 18 acre brook trout pond, is located adjacent to the South Shore Road (Herkimer County Route 118). The shoreline adjacent to the highway is currently utilized by fishermen with parking occurring along the road shoulder. The following is proposed to be added to the existing FCWF UMP.

#### “V. SPECIFIC PROJECTS TO MEET MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

##### **Q. Quiver Pond Accessible Fishing Pier**

The Galusha/ADA Consent Decree signed by the Department and APA in July of 2001 called for the construction of three accessible fishing piers within the adjoining Moose River Plains Wild Forest. During the development of the MRPWF UMP only two locations were found to be suitable for accessible fishing piers. To meet the terms of the Consent Decree, construction of an accessible fishing pier is being proposed at Quiver Pond.

**Accessible parking area-** An existing informal parking area located at the western end of the project area will be hardened using crushed limestone. The existing cross-slopes are within the 2% allowed under ADAAG. One parking space on the eastern end of the parking area will be designated for disabled parking, with the 2-3 remaining parking spaces to be for general public, use thus eliminating the need for parking on the road shoulder. There is an existing earthen berm between the parking area and the shoreline which will define the edge of the parking area. The finished

dimensions of the parking area will be approximately 22'X52'. Signage will be erected identifying the disabled parking space.

**Access Route-** A hardened access route 48" wide and 12' long will need to be constructed from the parking area to the fishing pier. Crushed limestone will be used to provide a firm and stable surface. Approximately 4" of existing topsoil will be removed from within the trailbed and replaced with crushed limestone. This will negate the need for any edging and reduce visibility from the water.

**Accessible Fishing Pier-** The accessible fishing pier will consist of a hardened pad 10'X8' located at the end of the access route. The pad will extend to a point approximately 18-24" from the high water line of the pond. Approximately 4" of existing topsoil will be removed from within the area where the pad is to be located and replaced with crushed limestone. This will negate the need for any edging and reduce visibility from the water.

There will be no significant environmental impacts from this proposal. There are no regulated wetlands associated with this site. Any material removed for the accessible trail or fishing pier will be dispersed in an upland area.

A sketch map locating the proposed project in relation to the surrounding area is attached."

The following section of the FCWF UMP will also be amended as noted.

#### **"VI. PRIORITY, SCHEDULES AND ESTIMATED COSTS OF PROJECTS**

##### **Year 2006**

1. Quiver Pond Accessible Fishing Pier	Operations	\$5,000"
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#### **4<sup>TH</sup> LAKE - DAIKERS CROSSING SNOWMOBILE TRAIL**

A seventy-five foot long section of snowmobile trail on Forest Preserve was overlooked when the plan was developed. The trail connects the Town of Webb's trail system, on an abandoned rail road bed owned in fee by the town, to a town road that is open for snowmobile use. To make the connection, however, the trail must cross State Highway 28. At this location the trail also crosses the narrow strip of Forest Preserve that lies between the town's trail and the Right of Way for SH 28. This trail has been in existence for many years and has been the historic route from the rail road bed to the Fulton Chain of Lakes and other trails. Since the trail has been in use since before 1990, the actual use of Forest Preserve land will not change as a result of this amendment.

The Fulton Chain Wild Forest UMP will be amended as follows:

## “II. INVENTORY OF RESOURCES, FACILITIES, AND PUBLIC USE

### B. Facilities

#### 1. Trails and Roads

##### D. Snowmobile Trails(7.6 miles)

(5) Fourth Lake/Daikers Connector - from the Town of Webb trail corridor to NYS Rt. 28 to provide a connection to Fourth Lake at Daikers Inn.

Class A

Approx. 75 feet

## V. SPECIFIC PROJECTS TO MEET MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

### A. Trail Maintenance

7. The Fourth Lake/Daikers Connector - A project is proposed to improve the safety of the connector trail as it junctions with NYS Rt. 28. Currently there is a short steep rise from the trail to the shoulder of the highway, and very little flat shoulder for snowmobiles to stop on to watch for traffic before crossing. The NYS Department of Transportation(DOT) proposes to install a graveled ramp over a culvert at the crossing. The new ramp will improve the safety of the crossing by providing a flat, level spot for snowmobile riders to pause to check traffic before crossing SH 28 and the new configuration will allow motorists to see snowmobiles better. The top of the ramp will be approximately level with the shoulder and highway.

The ramp, culvert, all fill and nearly all construction will be within the DOT's ROW for the highway. The work includes relocating a small section of stream so it is entirely within the DOT ROW(see attached before and after design sketches). The trail crosses about seventy-five feet of Forest Preserve, most of which is wetland, but since the trail is used in winter when the ground is frozen no significant impacts to wetlands on Forest Preserve will occur. The Trail will be classified as a Class A trail, though due to its length and orientation it will only need to be maintained at 8' wide. No trees need to be cut to continue to use this trail. It is expected that it will be groomed, as the adjacent trail corridor owned and maintained as a snowmobile trail in the winter by the Town of Webb is regularly groomed. There are no known rare, endangered or threatened species in the vicinity.

Alternative routes were explored for this trail that would remove it from the wetland, but because of the extensive amount of earthmoving and tree cutting to create a safe crossing in the vicinity, the current location was considered to be the best option. Consultation with APA, DEC and DOT staff at the site lead to the conclusion that since prior disturbance had occurred in the DOT ROW, it makes more sense to use the site and confine further construction to the area that has already been disturbed.

DEC staff have and will consult with APA State Lands staff and APA Permit staff to finalize the constructions plans for this site.”

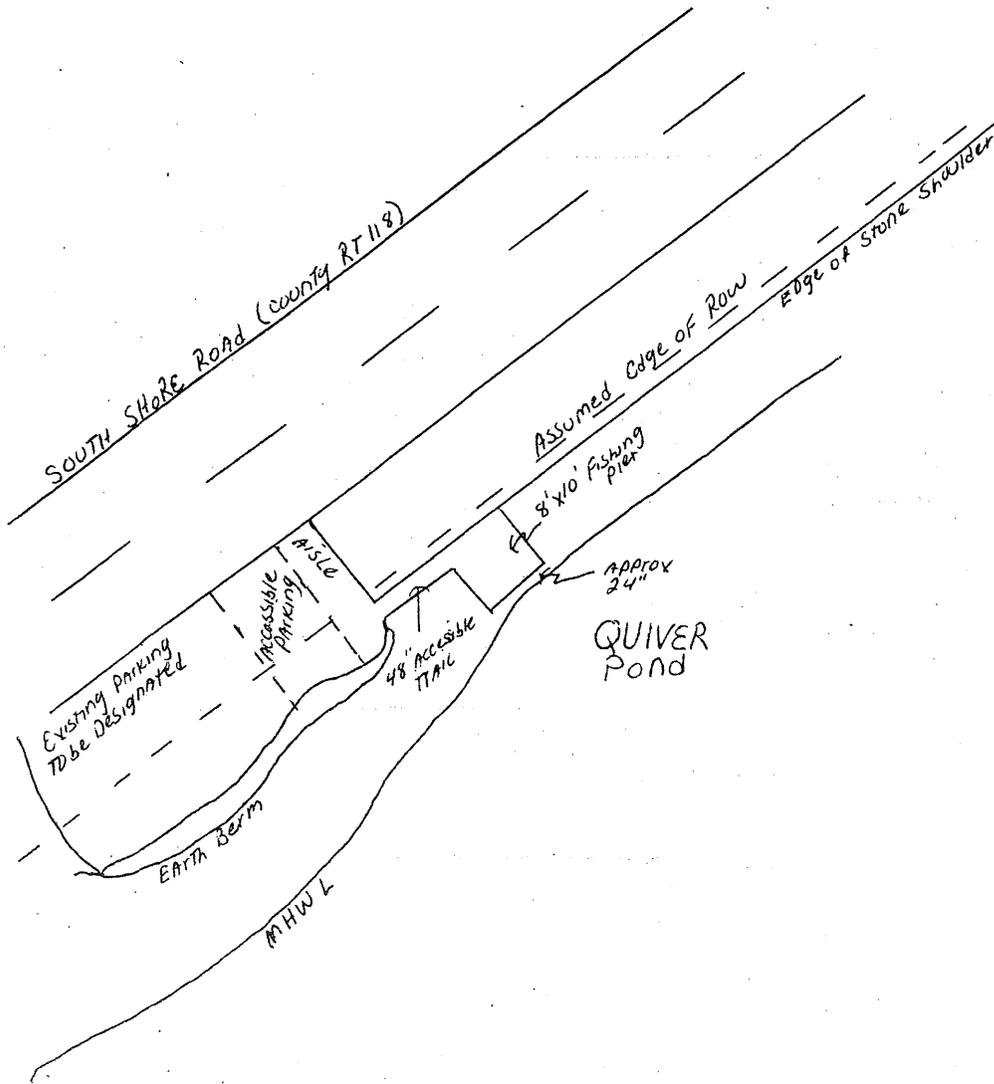
## **LEGAL/POLICY MANDATES**

All construction will comply with the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan, Adirondack Park Agency Rules and Regulations (such as the wetlands reg's), and DEC policies and regulations.

This project is not already in an approved unit management plan, therefore a Long Environmental Assessment Form (EAF), a negative declaration, and a dated copy of the project notice will appear in the Environmental Notice Bulletin.

**QUIVER POND  
ACCESSIBLE PARKING AREA AND ACCESSIBLE FISHING  
PIER**

↑  
NORTH  
SCALE: 1" = 20'





**RESOLUTION AND SEQRA FINDINGS  
ADOPTED BY THE ADIRONDACK PARK AGENCY  
WITH RESPECT TO  
FULTON CHAIN WILD FOREST  
UNIT MANAGEMENT PLAN AMENDMENT**

**October 12, 2006**

**WHEREAS**, Section 816 of the Adirondack Park Agency Act directs the Department of Environmental Conservation to develop, in consultation with the Adirondack Park Agency, individual management plans for units of land classified in the Master Plan for Management of State Lands and requires such management plans to conform to the general guidelines and criteria of the Master Plan; and

**WHEREAS**, in addition to such guidelines and criteria, the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan prescribes the contents of unit management plans and provides that the Adirondack Park Agency will determine whether a proposed individual unit management plan complies with such general guidelines and criteria; and

**WHEREAS**, the Department of Environmental Conservation has prepared a unit management plan amendment for the Fulton Chain Wild Forest; and

**WHEREAS**, the unit plan contains two separate proposals including the formal designation of a short snowmobile trail connection and the development of a fishing access opportunity for persons with disabilities; and

**WHEREAS**, this action is a Type II action pursuant to 6 NYCRR Part 617.5(29); and

**WHEREAS**, the Department of Environmental Conservation has consulted with the Adirondack Park Agency staff in the preparation of the proposed plan amendment; and

**WHEREAS**, the Agency is requested to determine whether the final Fulton Chain Wild Forest Unit Management Plan Amendment, dated October 3, 2006 is consistent with the guidelines and criteria of the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan; and

**WHEREAS**, the Adirondack Park Agency has reviewed the proposed Fulton Chain Wild Forest Unit Management Plan Amendment; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that pursuant to Section 816 of the Adirondack Park Agency Act, the Adirondack Park Agency finds the Fulton Chain Wild Forest Unit Management Plan Amendment, dated October 3, 2006 conforms with the guidelines and criteria of the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Adirondack Park Agency finds pursuant to 6 NYCRR Part 617.11 that the management actions contained therein are:

1. Intended to ensure the management of the Unit complies with all applicable rules, regulations, policies, guidelines, laws, constitutional provisions and the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan.
2. Intended to permit and encourage recreational use levels consistent with the protection of the Unit's natural resources, character and capacity to withstand use.
3. Intended to preserve and protect wetland community vegetation and to minimize the amount of wetland disturbances and impacts caused by the construction, maintenance and use of structures and improvements.
4. Intended to protect species and ecological communities identified as rare, threatened and endangered.
5. Intended to ensure compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act by improving access and creating opportunities for people with disabilities.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that consistent with the social, economic and other essential considerations, from among the reasonable alternatives, the proposed Fulton Chain Wild Forest Unit Management Plan Amendment seeks to minimize or avoid adverse environmental effects to the maximum extent practicable; and

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

AYES: R. Beach (DED), S. Buchanan (DEC),  
R. Hoffman (DOS), A. Lussi, K. Roberts,  
J. Townsend, L. Ulrich, C. Wray, R. Whaley

NAYS: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

ABSENT: None