New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
Division of Lands & Forests

Interim Recreation Management Plan (IRMP)

Upper Hudson Woodlands ATP
Working Forest Conservation Easement

Block: High Peaks
Tracts: Chain of Lakes, Township 20 & Township 19

Block: Indian Lake
Tract: Township 33

Block: Lake George
Tracts: Hilderbrant Road, Veile Pond Road & Hall Hill Road

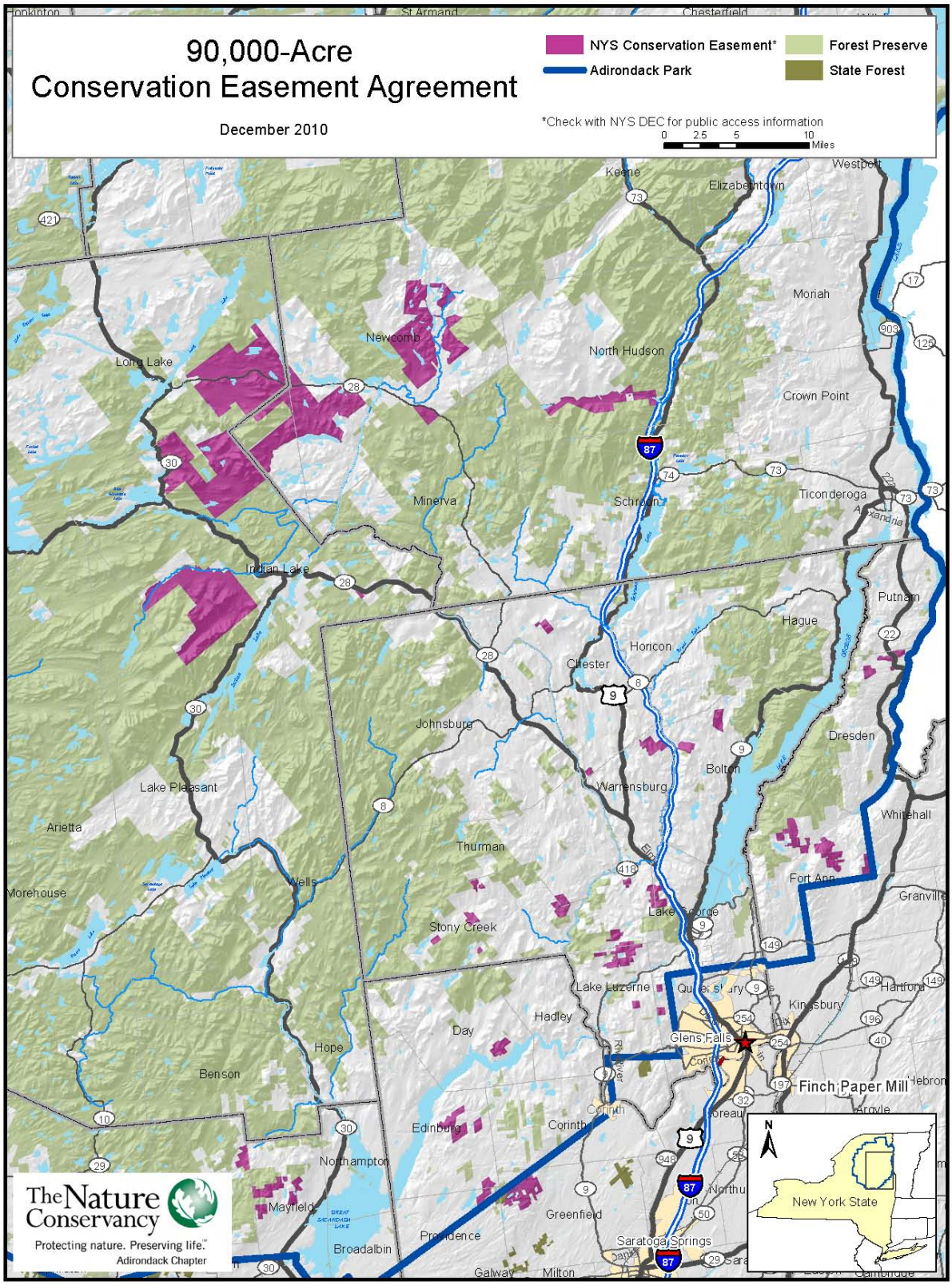
Block: Sacandaga
Tract: Lake Desolation

January 7, 2011

Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor

Joseph Martens
Acting Commissioner

Tract Location Map



Purpose of the IRMP

DEC is issuing this IRMP for the continuation of 9 portions of existing public snowmobile trails that have been under lease, and are now transitioning to State management of public recreation rights under the Upper Hudson Woodlands Conservation Easement (UPWCE) purchased by the State on 12/27/2010.

Importance of the Snowmobile Trails for Public Recreation

Snowmobiling is an important winter recreation activity that contributes to the local economy of communities in the Adirondack Park. Portions of the 9 trails that run through the UPWCE properties provide vital links between communities and the many miles of snowmobile trail system throughout the Park. The existing trails in this plan have been in place for many years or are mostly located on existing forest roads. Snowmobile clubs and local municipalities have leased and maintained these trail portions for public use. Now, they will be maintaining these public snowmobile trail portions for DEC through "Adopt A Natural Resource Agreements" (AANR) or "Temporary Revocable Permits" (TRP).

State Purchase of Public Snowmobile Trail Rights in the UPWCE

Public access and Public Recreational Use of the Protected Property includes the use of Snowmobiles only within areas delineated for such use in the CE and on the Exhibit Nos. 1-15 according to the following provisions:

1) Grantee may implement Snowmobile routes along designated Linear Recreation Corridors in accordance with trail design and maintenance standards appropriate for private property as established in manuals and guidelines published by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation.

2) Linear Recreation Corridors are fifty (50) feet in width and trails and public access and use must be confined to that corridor width.

3) Alternate trails will be provided in the event the public cannot access the designated snowmobile trail due to a temporary closure by the Grantor for forest management purposes, or due to the location of the snowmobile trail within land not owned by Grantor, or other legal or physical obstructions.

4) Grantee shall install and maintain appropriate signage in order to advise the public of the permitted Public Recreational Uses in a specific area of the Protected Property. In all instances, roads and corridors open for Motorized Public Recreational Use shall be specifically marked with appropriate signage for the type(s) of vehicle(s) permitted.

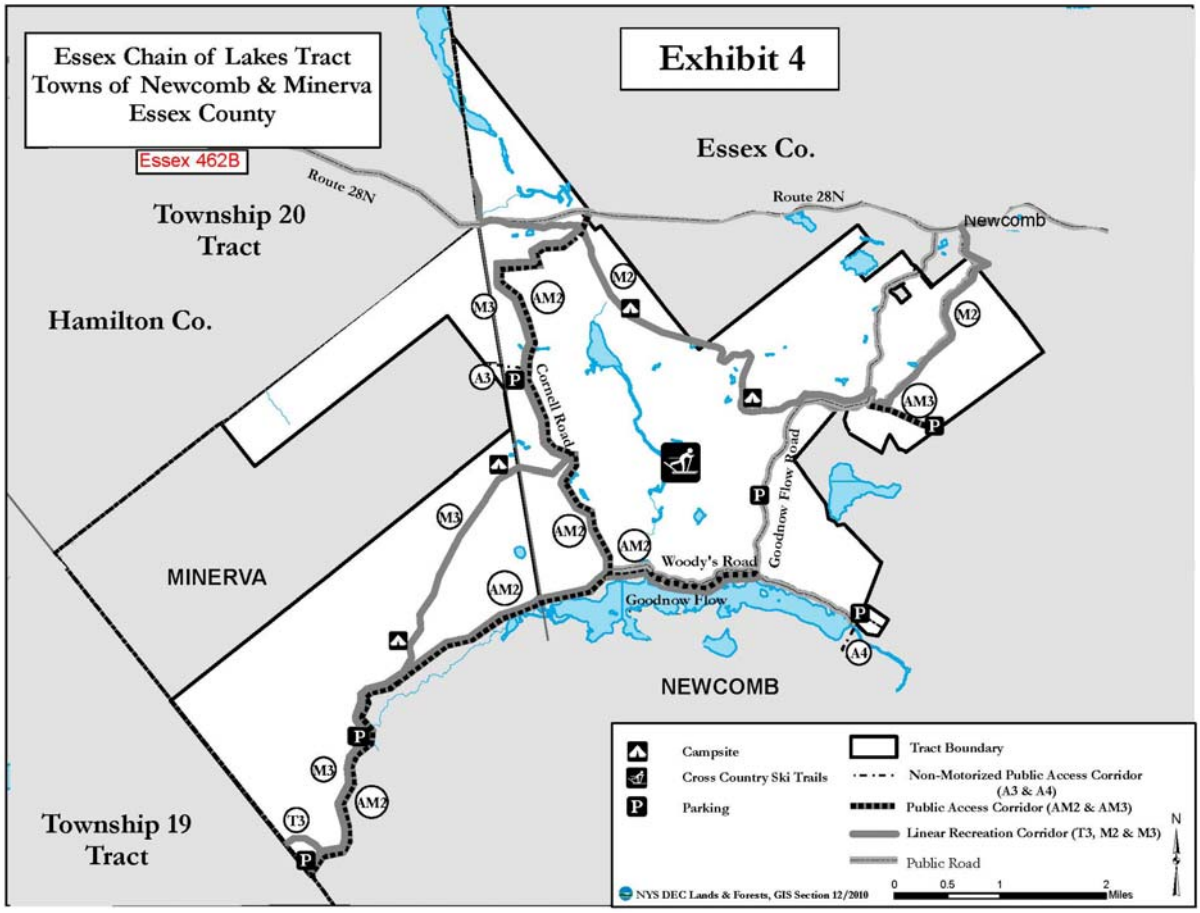
5) Specific rights to place the 9 snowmobile trails covered in this IRMP and located on the property are identified in the CE Exhibits 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10 and 13. Below is a description of those rights with exhibits.

Essex Chain of Lakes Tract, as shown on Exhibit 4: A Linear Recreation Corridor known as the Newcomb to Long Lake Corridor, identified and shown as "M2" on the attached Exhibit 4, shall provide public access and Motorized Public Recreational Uses and Non-Motorized Public Recreational Uses, including Snowmobiles, mountain biking and horseback riding, which generally follows the existing forest roads and Snowmobile trail in a westerly direction continuing into the Township 20 Tract towards the Village of Long Lake.

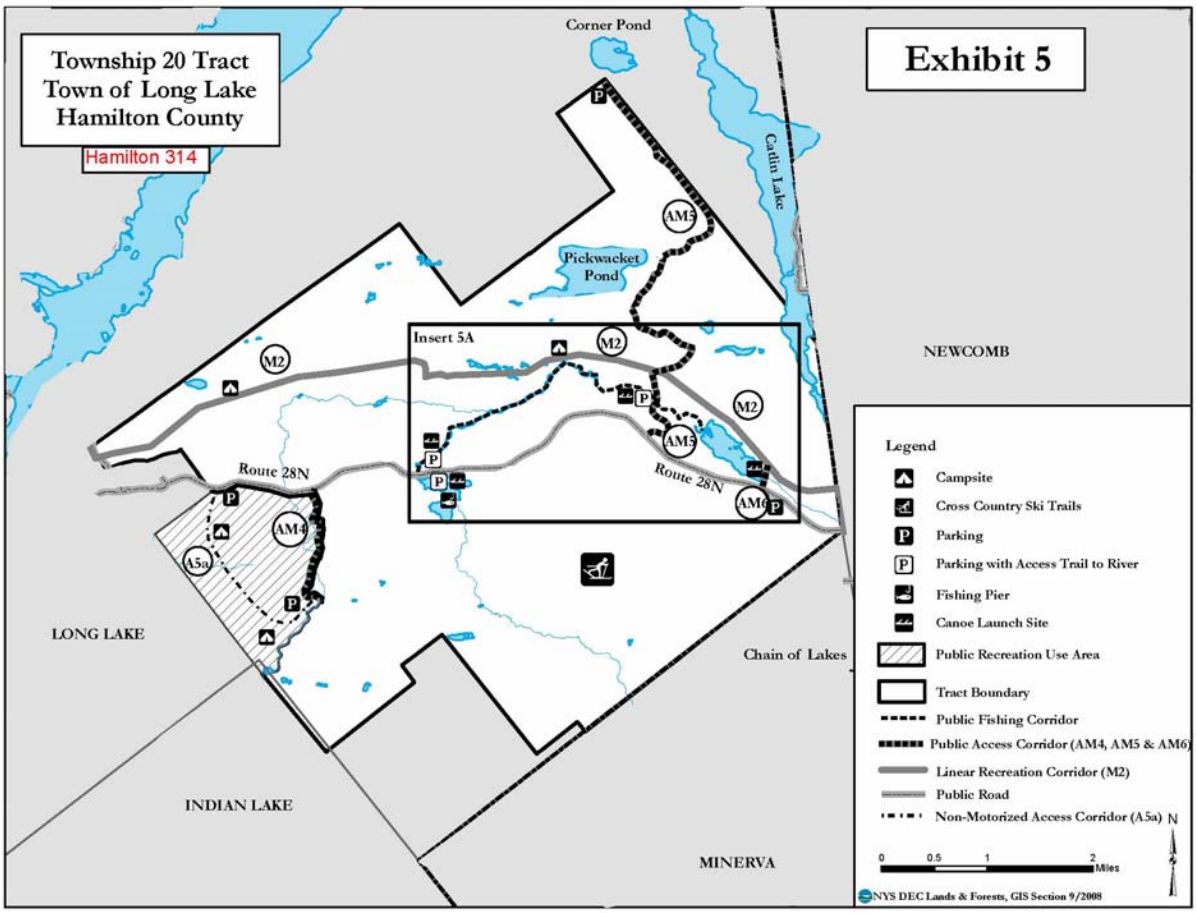
A year-round Public Access Corridor, as identified and shown as "AM2" on Exhibit 4, for Non-Motorized Public Access and Motorized Access and Motorized Public Recreational Uses and Non-Motorized Public Recreational Uses, including use of Motor Vehicles or Snowmobiles by the public, beginning from the point where the Goodnow Flow Road intersects with Woody's Road along the north side of the Goodnow Flow. At the intersection, the Public Access Corridor "AM2" continues in two directions: Northerly towards Route 28N and Southwesterly towards the Township 19 Tract as shown on Exhibit 4.

The northern and western portions of the Public Access Corridor, identified and shown as "AM2" on the attached Exhibit 4, shall also serve as a Linear Recreation Corridor, identified and shown as "M3" on Exhibit 4, and shall be part of the Indian Lake Corridor as it travels south from the Linear Recreation Corridor "M2", for snowmobiling, mountain biking and horseback riding by the public.

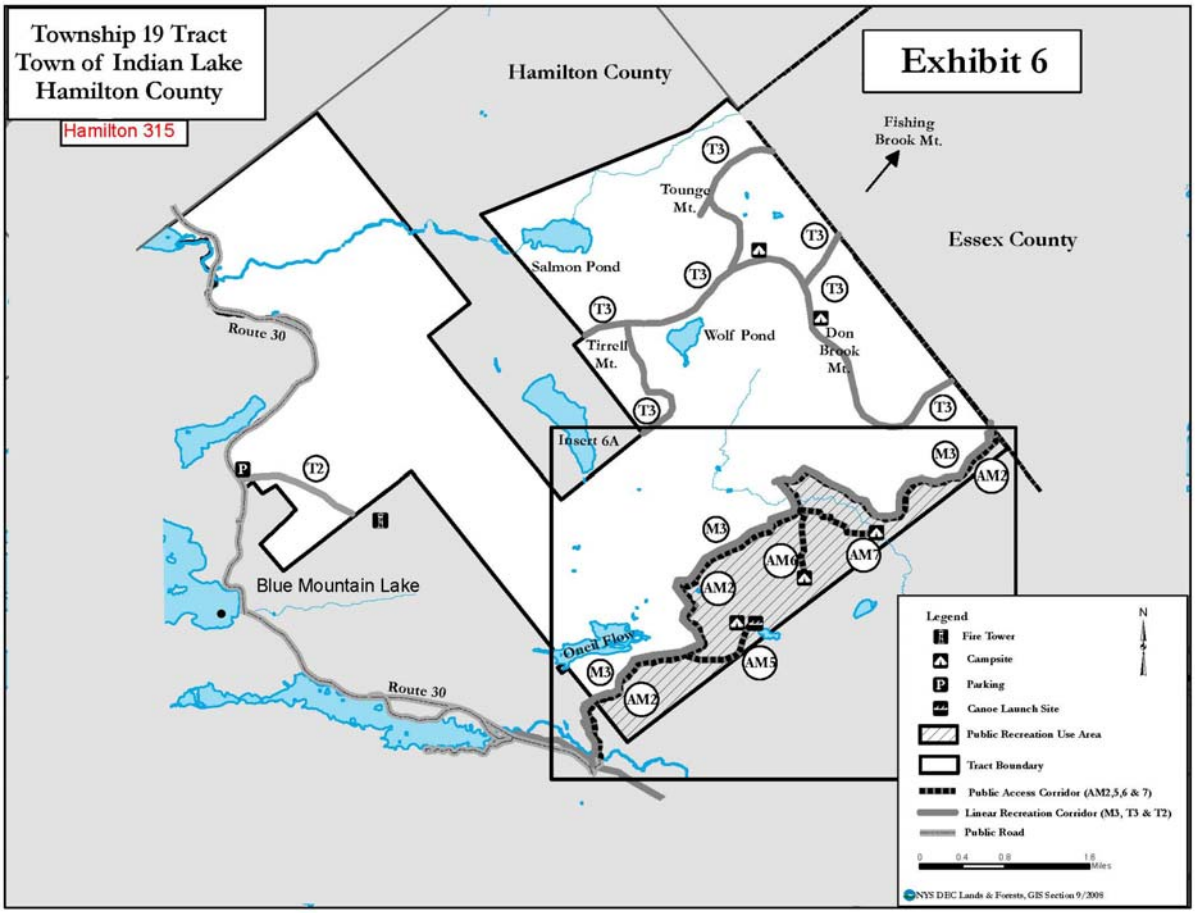
The Linear Recreation Corridor for Motorized Public Recreational Use, identified and shown as "M3" on the Exhibit 4, also known as the Indian Lake Corridor, travels south from the Newcomb-to-Long Lake Corridor "M2". The "M3" Linear Recreation Corridor overlaps with the Public Access Corridor "AM2", until a point where it separates from "AM2" and runs southwesterly before again joining with "AM2" as it goes into Township 19 Tract. The final location of the Linear Recreation Corridor "M3" shall be established after full consideration of the existing terrain of the Protected Property within the general location of the Linear Recreation Corridor as shown on the Exhibit No. 4. As an alternative to Grantee's use of the Linear Recreation Corridor "M3" for Motorized Public Recreational Use, Grantee may provide for Motorized Public Recreational Use "M3a" on entire length of the Public Access Corridor "AM2" as it runs from Route 28N to the boundary of the Township 19 Tract. During the winter, Grantee may establish Snowmobile use by the Public on the Public Access Corridor "AM2" which runs from Indian Lake and Blue Mountain Lake to Newcomb and Long Lake.


Essex Chain of Lakes Tract
Towns of Newcomb & Minerva
Essex County
Exhibit 4
Essex 462B
Essex Co.
Route 28N
Route 28N
Newcomb
Township 20
Tract
Hamilton Co.
MINERVA
NEWCOMB
Cornell Road
Goodnow Flow Road
Woody's Road
Goodnow Flow
Township 19
Tract
M2
M3
AM2
AM3
A3
A4
T3
P
Campsite
Cross Country Ski Trails
Parking
Tract Boundary
Non-Motorized Public Access Corridor (A3 & A4)
Public Access Corridor (AM2 & AM3)
Linear Recreation Corridor (T3, M2 & M3)
Public Road
NYS DEC Lands & Forests, GIS Section 12/2010
0
0.5
1
2
Miles
N

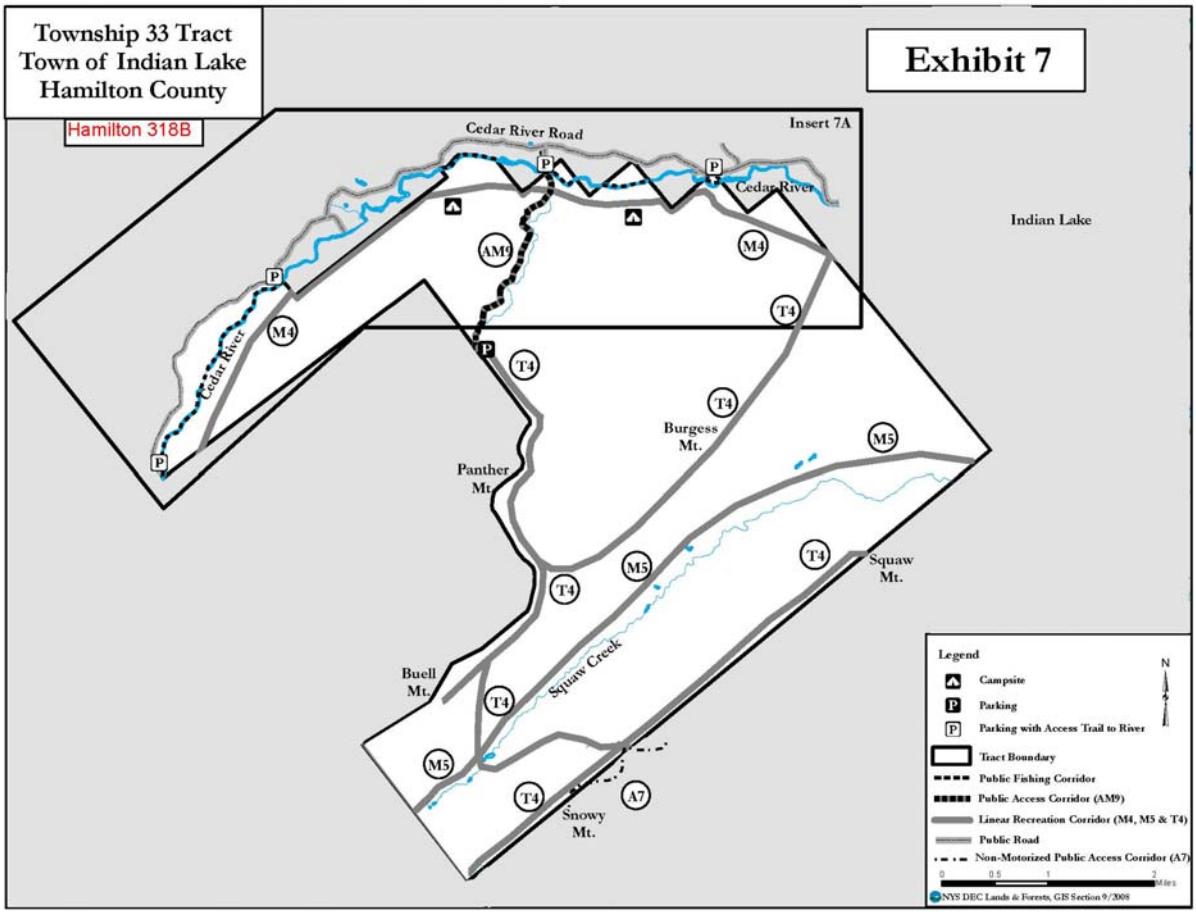
<u>Township 20 Tract, as shown on Exhibit 5 and Insert 5A</u>: A Linear Recreation Corridor identified as "M2" on Exhibit 5 is a continuation of the Linear Recreation Corridor identified as "M2" on Exhibit 4 of the Essex Chain of Lakes Tract. This Linear Recreation Corridor shall be established for Motorized Public Access and Motorized Public Recreational Use limited to Snowmobiles and other Non-Motorized Public Recreational Uses, and is generally located as running westerly on existing forest roads and an existing Snowmobile trail to Long Lake.



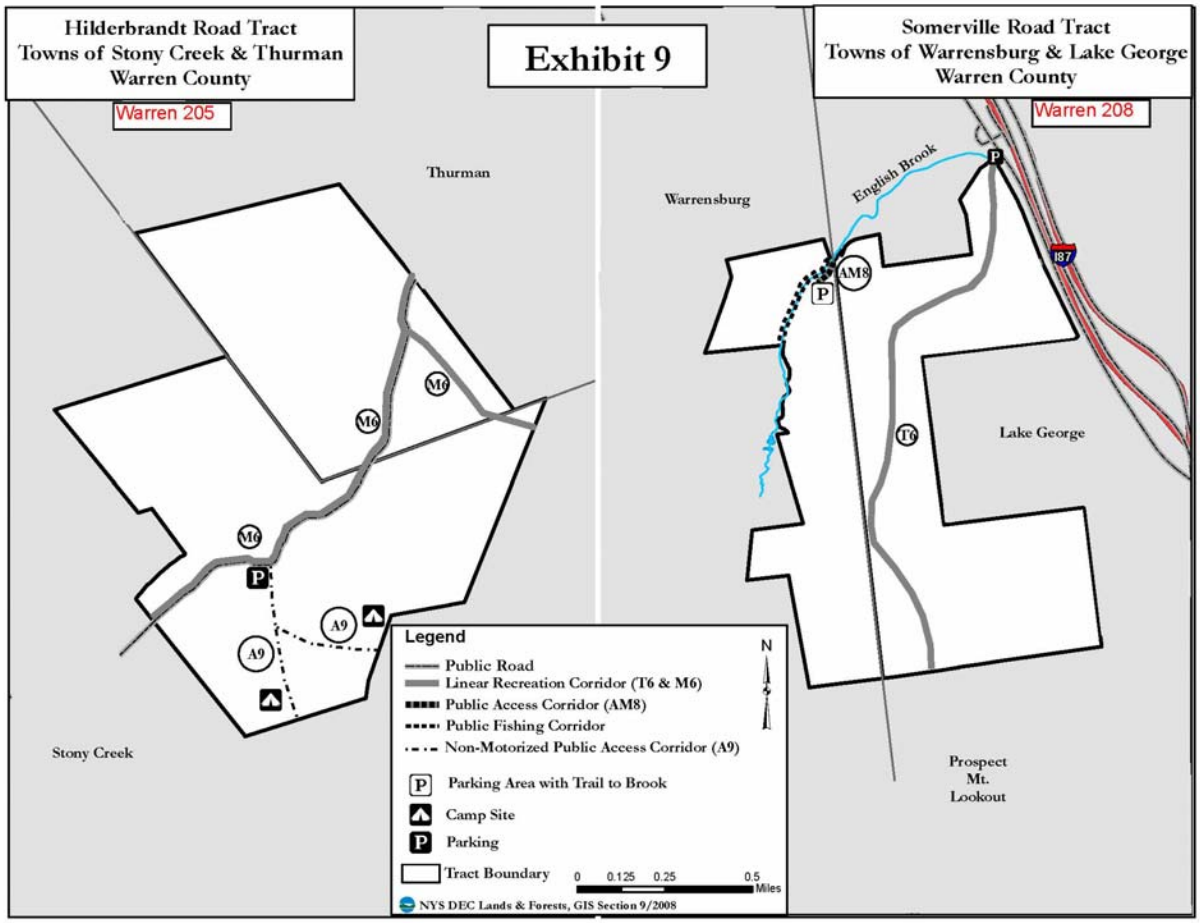
<u>Township 19 Tract, as shown on Exhibit 6 and Insert 6A</u>: A Linear Recreation Corridor, identified as "M3" on Exhibit 6, shall be established for year-round Motorized Public Access, Non-Motorized Public Access and Public Recreational Uses, including Snowmobiling, mountain biking and horseback riding, generally located as running southwest from the Essex Chain of Lakes Tract, crossing through the Township 19 Tract, to the Forest Preserve boundary, and continues to Route 30 along Grantor's right of way over adjoining lands.



<u>Township 33 Tract, as shown on Exhibit 7 and Insert 7A</u>: A Linear Recreation Corridor, as generally located and identified as "M4" on Exhibit 7, shall be established for Motorized Public Recreational Uses and Non-Motorized Public Recreational Uses, including snowmobiling, mountain biking and horseback-riding, along the existing Snowmobile trail from Indian Lake, southwesterly along the Cedar River to the Forest Preserve boundary.

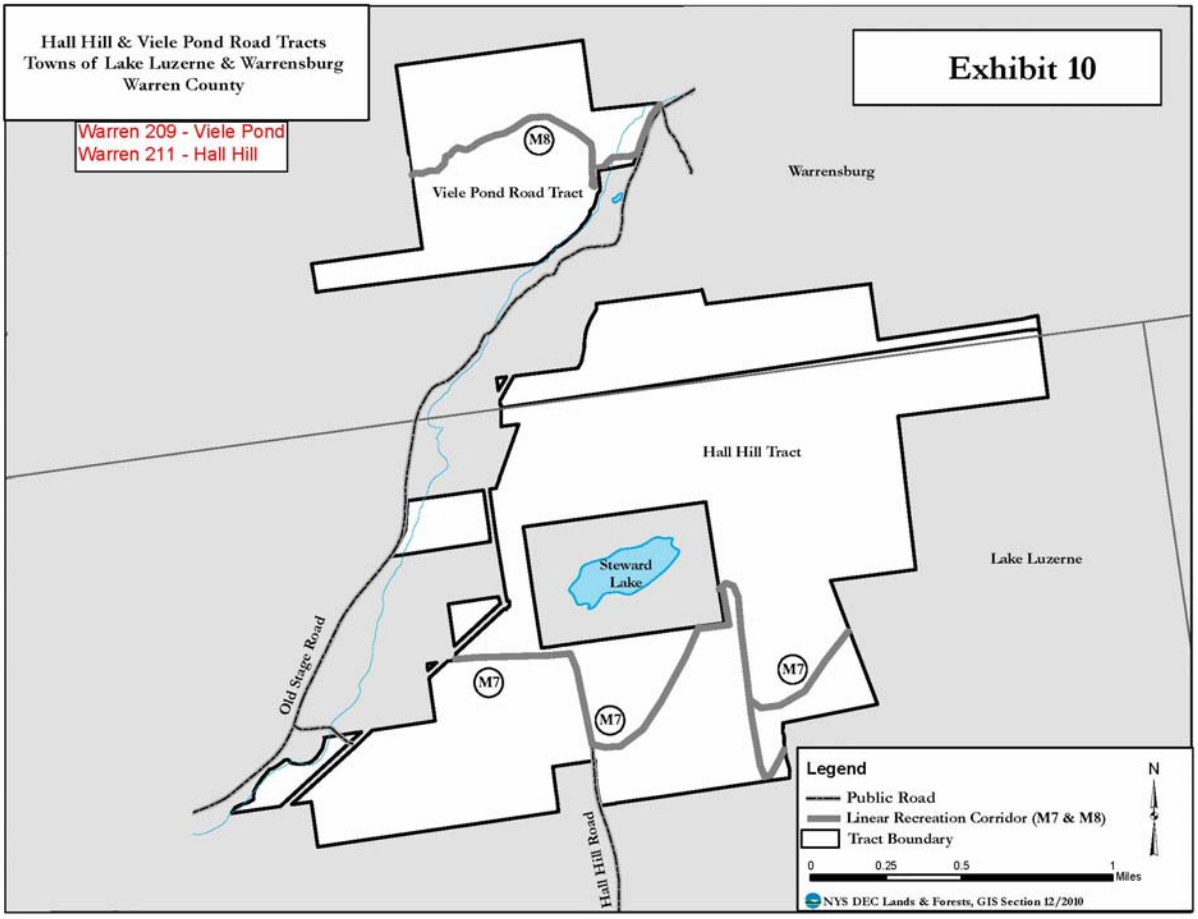


<u>Hilderbrandt Road Tract, as shown on Exhibit 9</u>: A Linear Recreation Corridor for Motorized Public Access and Motorized Public Recreational Uses, as identified and shown as "M6" on Exhibit 9, shall be established generally along existing Snowmobile trails, and specifically used for the continuation of Snowmobile use by the public from the existing Snowmobile trail located within the Town of Thurman and the Town of Stoney Creek.



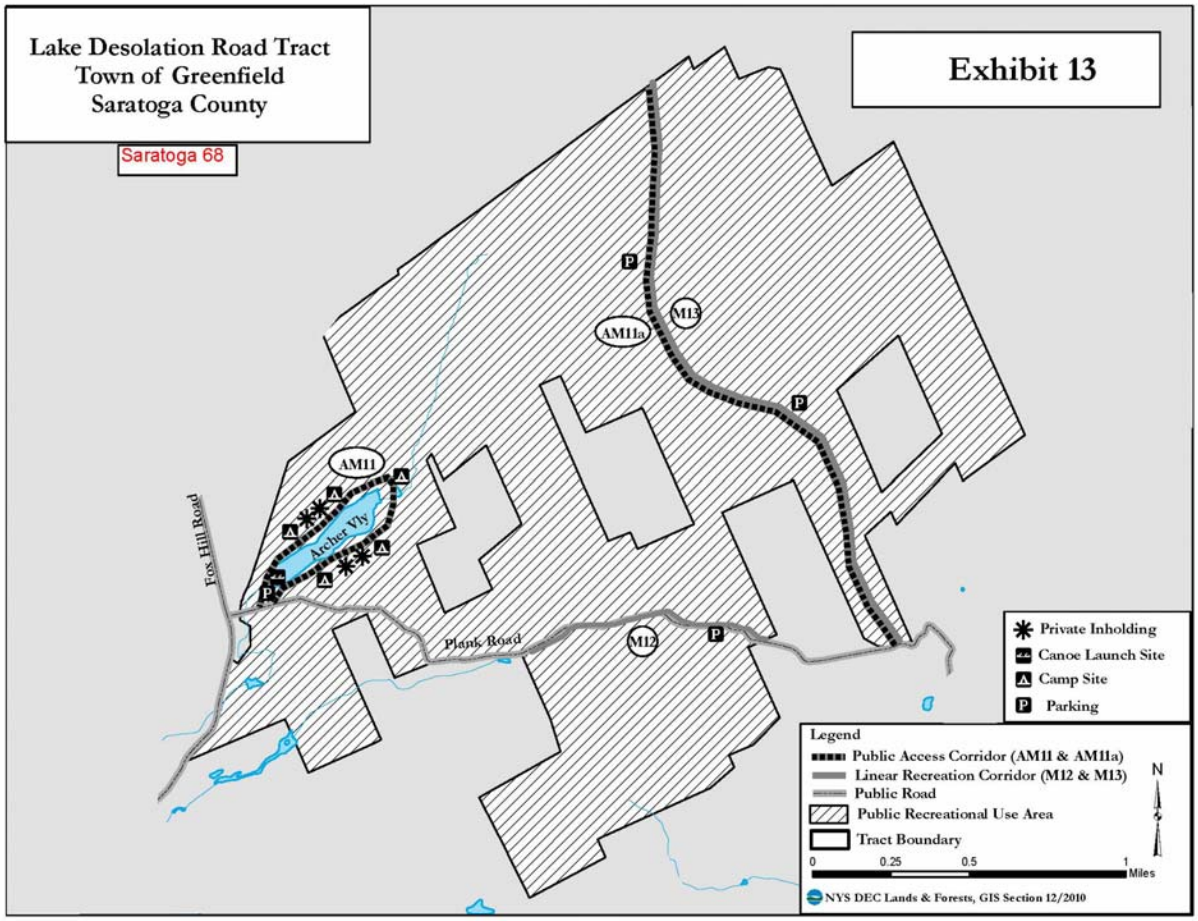
<u>Hall Hill Tract, as shown on Exhibit 10</u>: A Linear Recreation Corridor, identified and shown as "M7" on Exhibit 10, for public access and Motorized Public Recreational Uses and Non-Motorized Public Recreational Uses, including snowmobiling, biking, and horseback riding, shall be located across the Tract along and within existing Snowmobile trails.

<u>Viele Pond Road Tract, as shown on Exhibit 10</u>: A Linear Recreation Corridor, identified and shown as "M8" on Exhibit 10, for public access and Motorized Public Recreational Uses and Non-Motorized Public Recreational Uses, including snowmobiling, biking, and horseback riding, shall be located generally along the forest road which crosses the parcel and on the existing Snowmobile trails.



<u>Lake Desolation Road Tract, as shown on Exhibit 13</u>: Grantee may establish future Linear Recreation Corridors for Motorized Public Access, Motorized Public Recreational Uses and Non-Motorized Public Recreational Uses, including the continued use of the existing Snowmobile trail, along any road or trail located or constructed within the Tract. The exact location of any Linear Recreation Corridor not specifically shown on the attached Exhibit No. 13 shall be set forth in a future Recreation Management Plan.

Linear Recreation Corridors, identified and generally located as "M12" and "M13" on Exhibit 13, shall be established for Motorized Public Access, Motorized Public Recreational Uses and Non-Motorized Public Recreational Uses; including, but not limited to, snowmobiling.



Public Recreational Amenities and Improvements. Grantor hereby grants Grantee the following rights associated with the Public Recreation Easements granted under this Conservation Easement:

1) Grantee may establish, construct, use, repair, maintain, improve, expand, relocate, replace, demolish, abandon, or remove Recreational Amenities and improvements within the Public Recreation Easements, including Public Access Corridors, Public Fishing Corridors, Public Recreational Use Areas and along and within Linear Recreation Corridors, including those set forth in the terms of this Conservation Easement, those identified in this Section 4, and those generally indicated on the attached Exhibit Nos. 1-15, that are appurtenant or accessory to the Public Recreational Uses permitted thereon.

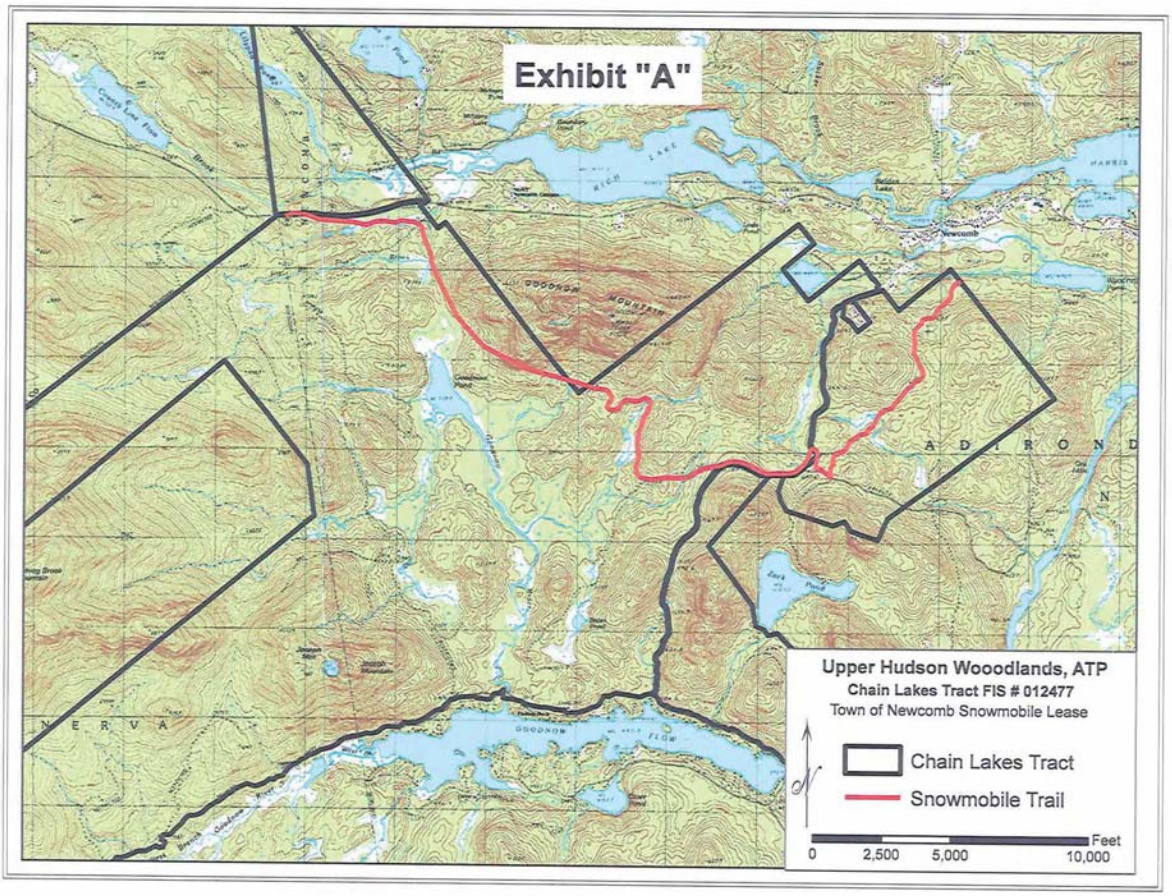
2) Recreational Amenities and improvements may include roads, trails, parking areas, boat launches, campsites, lean-tos or other similar structures intended for shelter, outhouses, fire rings, fire places, signs, kiosks, barriers, fences, gates, and other such structures or improvements used in connection with, or to facilitate, the management of public access and Public Recreational Uses of the Protected Property.

3) In the event that Grantee may delegate its right to maintain Recreational Amenities to other entities, such as a local municipality or authorized club, Grantee shall provide written notice to Grantor.

Management Goals for these Snowmobile Trails on Private Land

Newcomb to Long Lake Snowmobile Trail: This established trail is shown as M2 on Exhibits 4 and 5 and on Maps 1A & 1B. The two portions of trail have been leased by the Towns of Newcomb and Long Lake and open for public snowmobile use. The trail has been maintained and groomed by the Newcomb Snowmobile Club and the Town of Long Lake consistent with OPRHP trail maintenance guidelines and signing manuals. With State acquisition of the Conservation Easement, DEC will issue a TRP to the Town of Newcomb, and amend our existing TRP with the Town of Long Lake for continued maintenance and grooming of the existing snowmobile trail. The continued operation of the snowmobile trail will be consistent with the previous maintenance and grooming operations conducted by the Club under the previous lease agreements.

MAP 1A



Map 1B

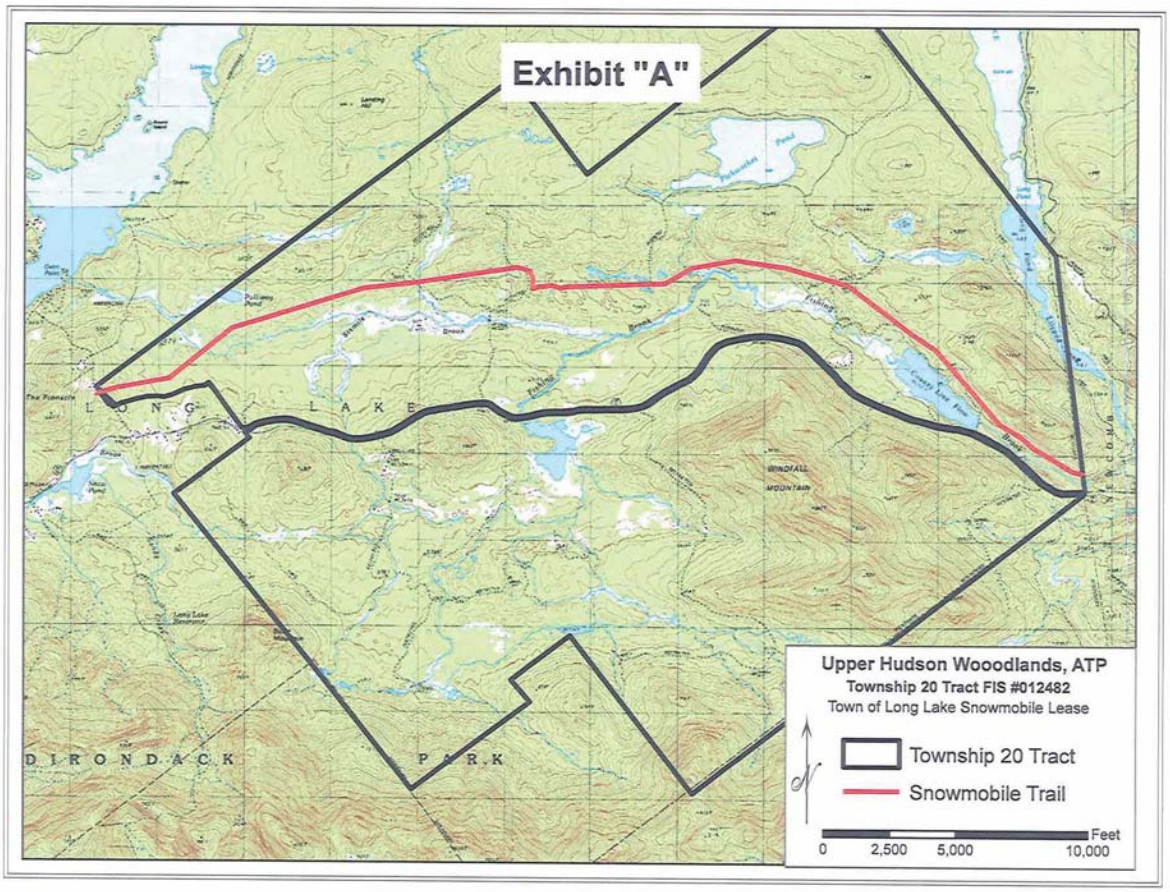
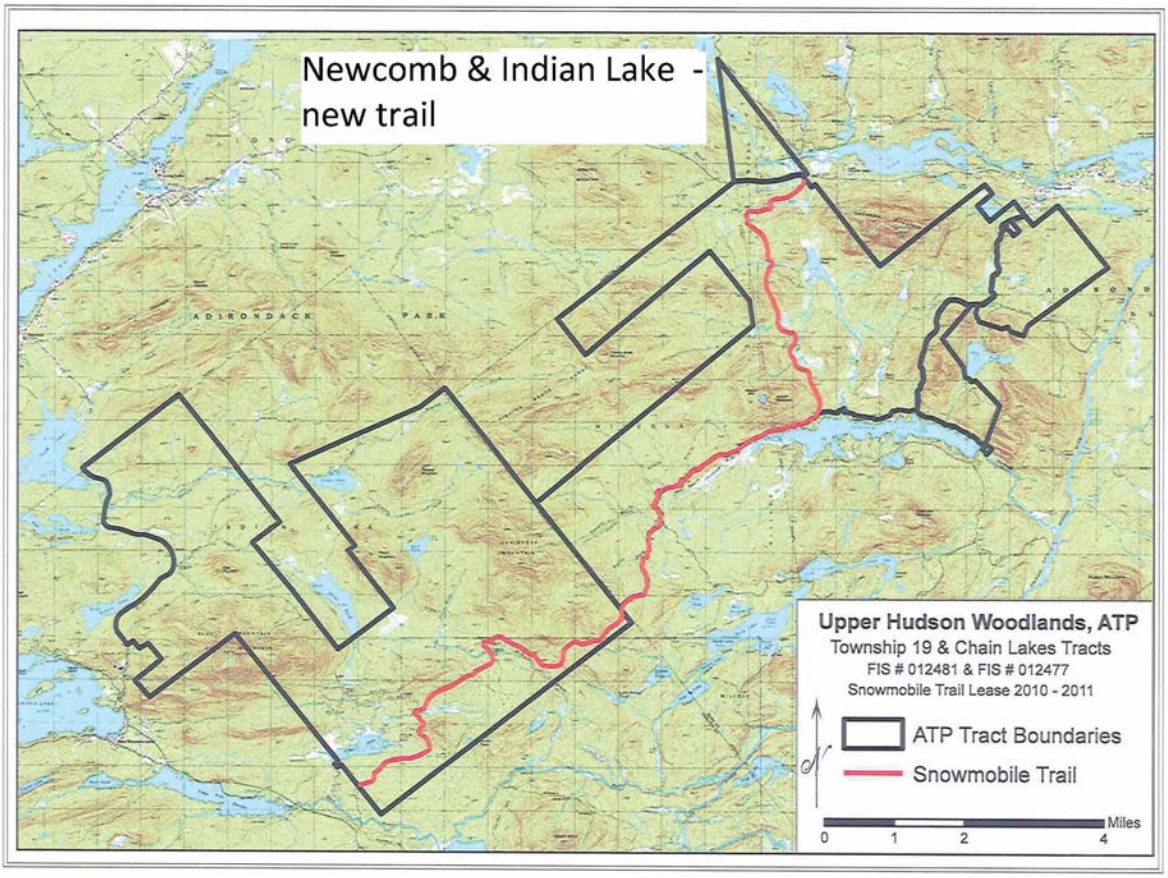


Exhibit "A"
L O N G
L A K E
D I R O N D A C K
P A R K
Upper Hudson Wooodlands, ATP
Township 20 Tract FIS #012482
Town of Long Lake Snowmobile Lease
Township 20 Tract
Snowmobile Trail
Feet
0
2,500
5,000
10,000

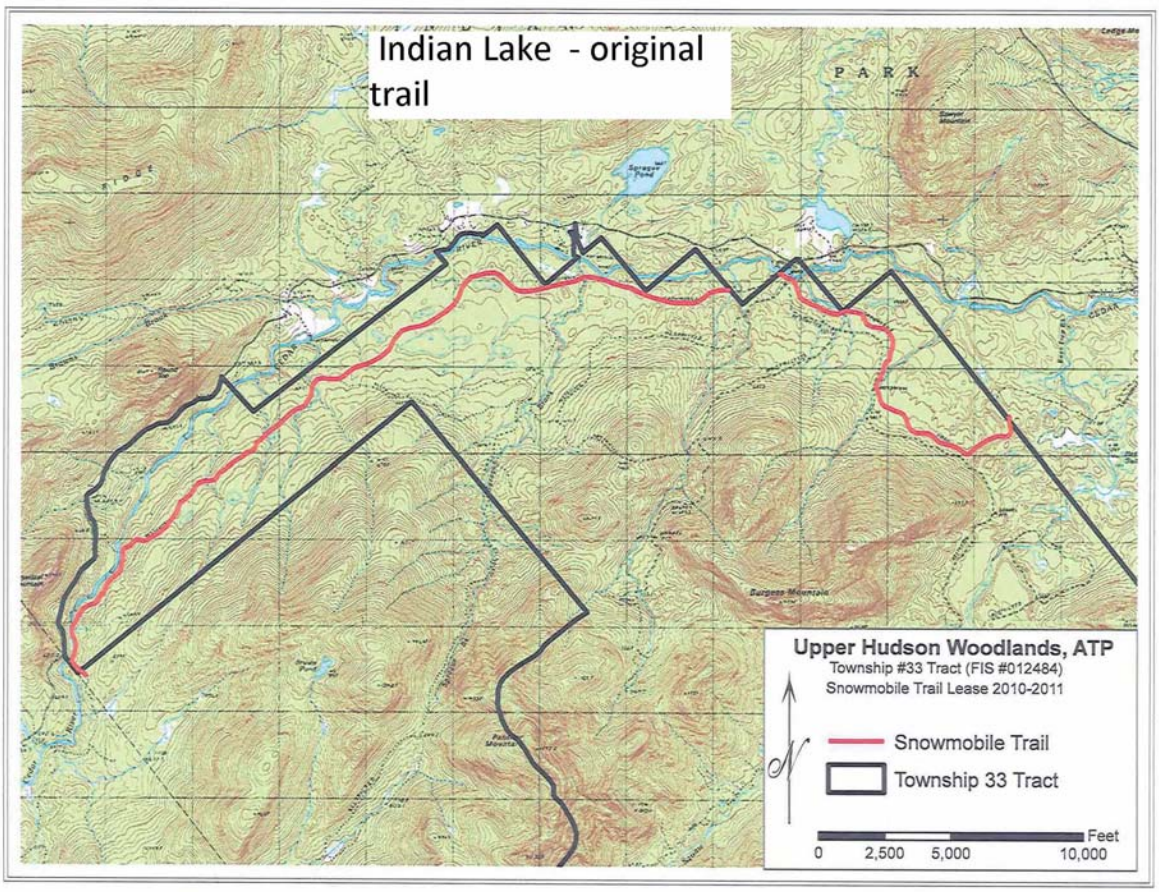
<u>Indian Lake to Long Lake/Newcomb Snowmobile Trail</u>: The trail is shown as M3/AM2 on Exhibit 4 and on Map 2. The trail is leased by the Town of Indian Lake and the Town of Newcomb and opened for public snowmobile use in 2010. The trail is entirely on forest management road from Route 30 on the west to junction of the Newcomb to Long Lake snowmobile trail near Route 28N on the north of the Chain of Lakes Tract. The Towns and local snowmobile clubs created the trail. The Towns will continue to maintain and groom the trail under a DEC issued TRP. Trail operation, maintenance and grooming will be consistent with OPRHP trail maintenance guidelines and signing manuals. The Towns of Indian Lake and Newcomb will be restricted in the TRP to operational activities that were allowed under the previous lease agreement.

Map 2



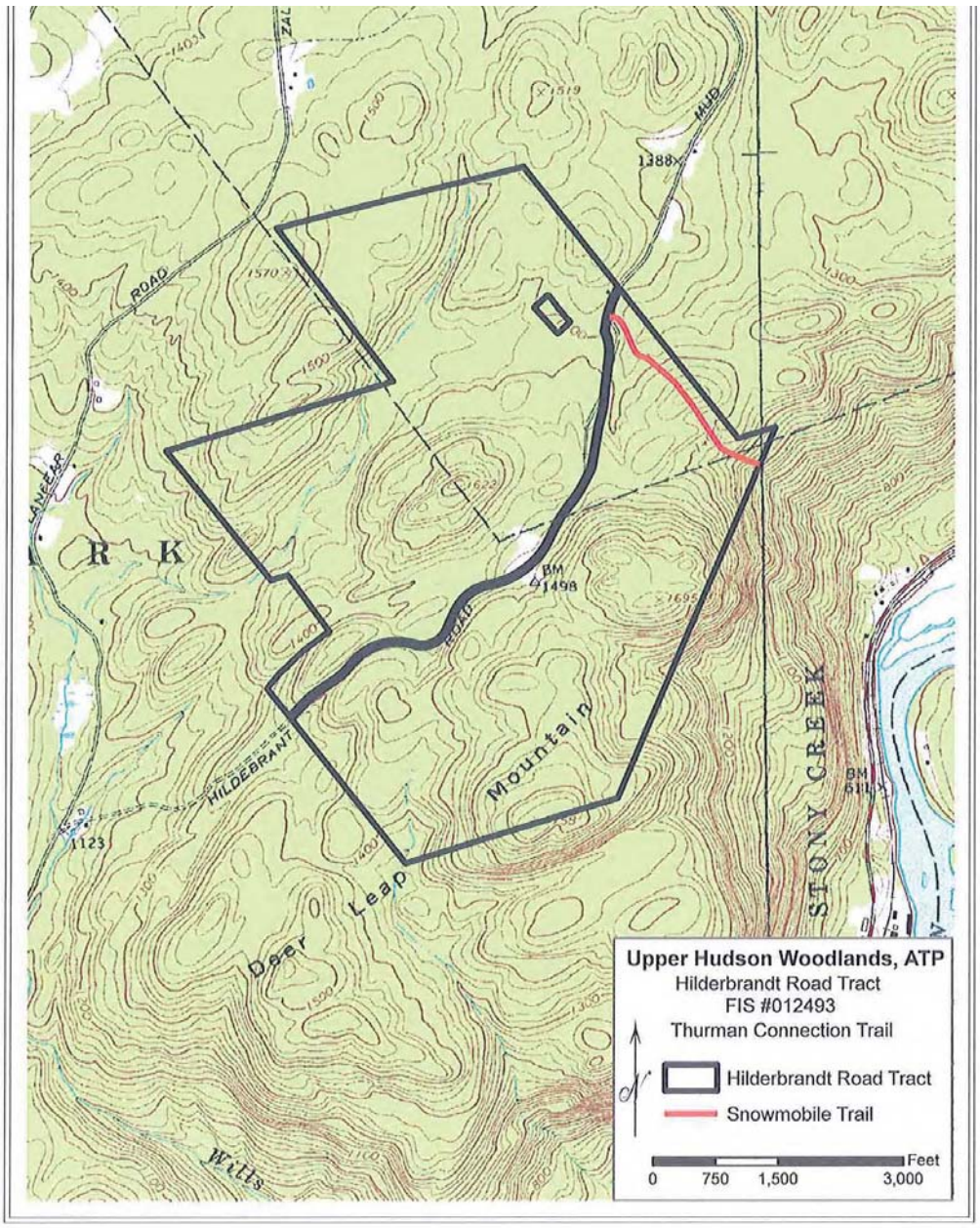
<u>Cedar River Snowmobile Trail</u>: The trail is shown as M4 on Exhibit 7 and on Map 2. This section of the existing trail has been leased by the Town of Indian Lake and opened for public snowmobile. It connects the Town of Indian Lake to the Moose River Plains. The Town will continue to maintain and groom the trail under a DEC issued TRP. Trail operation, maintenance and grooming will be consistent with OPRHP trail maintenance guidelines and signing manuals. The Town of Indian Lake will be restricted in the TRP to operational activities that were allowed under the previous lease agreement.

Map 3



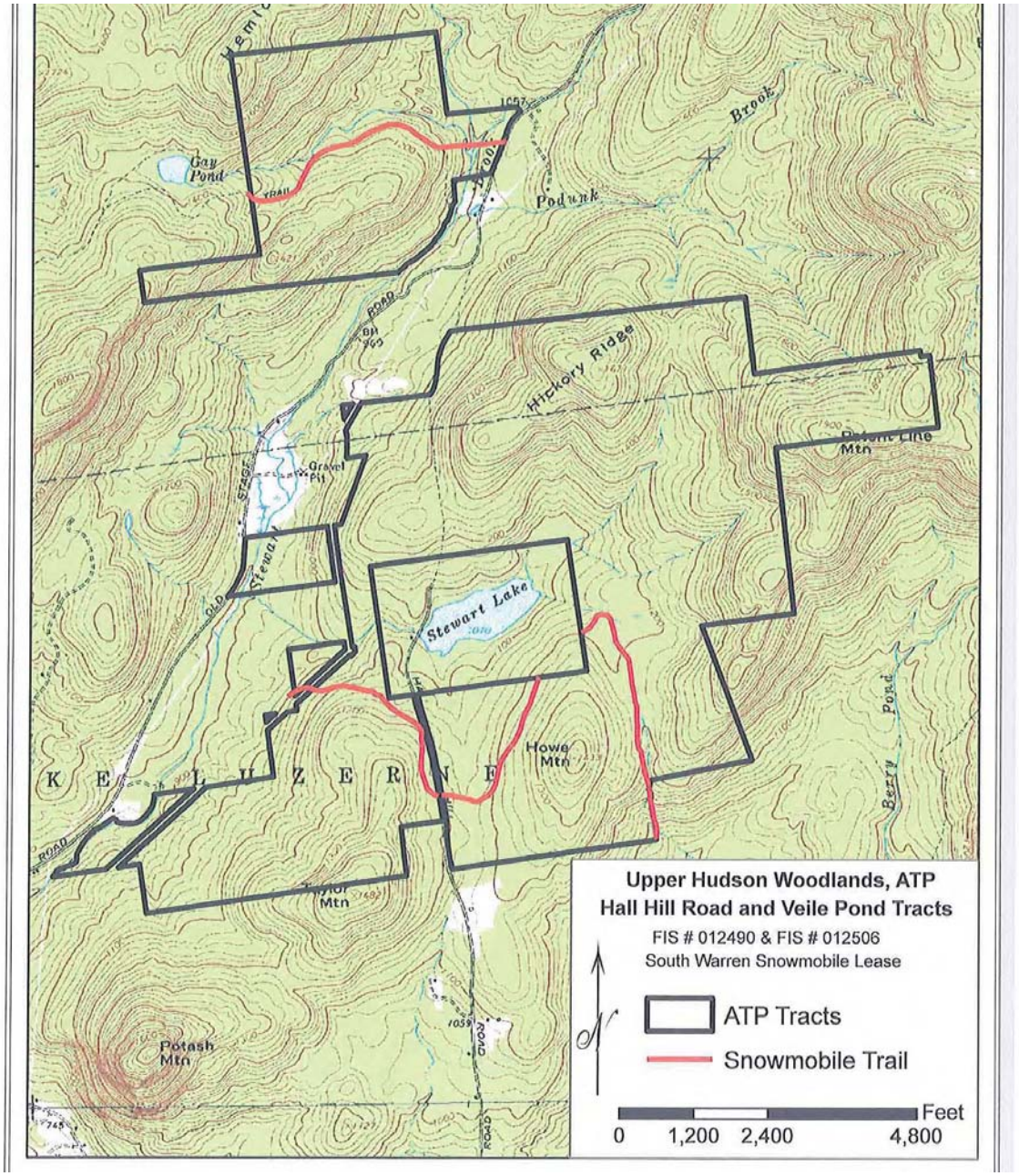
<u>Hilderbrandt Road Tract Snowmobile Trail Segment</u>: The trail is shown as M6 on Exhibit 9 and on Map 4. This section of the existing trail has been leased by the Thurman Connection Snowmobile Club and opened for public snowmobile use. It connects Stoney Creek to the trails west of the Hudson River. The club will continue to maintain and groom the trail under an AANR agreement. Trail operation, maintenance and grooming will be consistent with OPRHP trail maintenance guidelines and signing manuals. The snowmobile club will be limited to operational, maintenance and grooming activities that were allowed under the previous lease agreement

MAP 4



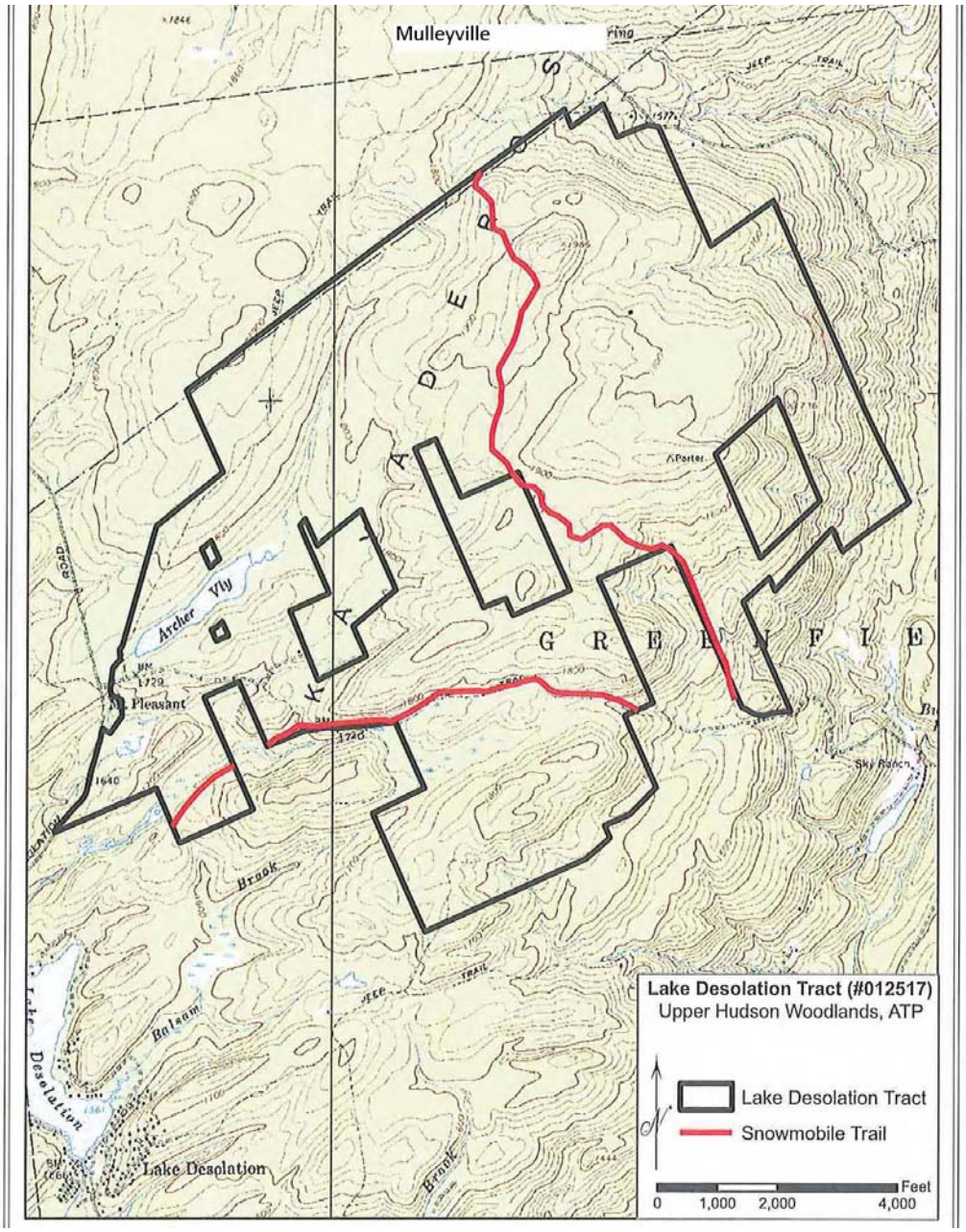
<u>Hall Hill Road & Veile Pond Road Snowmobile Trail Segments</u>: The trail is shown as M7 and M8 on Exhibit 10 and on Map 5. This section of the existing trail has been leased by the South Warren Snowmobile Club and opened for public snowmobile use. It connects the snowmobile trail system east of the Hudson River between Warrensburg and Lake Luzerne. The club will continue to maintain and groom the trail under an AANR agreement. Trail operation, maintenance and grooming will be consistent with OPRHP trail maintenance guidelines and signing manuals. The snowmobile club will be limited to operational, maintenance and grooming activities that were allowed under the previous lease agreement

Map 5



<u>Archer Vly Snowmobile Trail Segments</u>: These trails are shown as M12 and M13 on Exhibit 13 and on Map 6. This section of the existing trail has been leased by the Saratoga County Association of Snowmobile Clubs and opened for public snowmobile use. It connects the snowmobile trail system north of the blueline in the Adirondack Park with northern Saratoga County. The Association will continue to maintain and groom the trail under an AANR agreement. Trail operation, maintenance and grooming will be consistent with OPRHP trail maintenance guidelines and signing manuals. The snowmobile club will be limited to operational, maintenance and grooming activities that were allowed under the previous lease agreement.

Map 6



Impact of this IRMP on adjacent Forest Preserve

All of the snowmobile trails proposed in this IRMP are existing snowmobile trail connections that have been open to public snowmobile use in the past. Connections to Forest Preserve snowmobile trails from these trail segments are unchanged from those in operation before DEC's acquisition of this Conservation Easement. Snowmobile trail maintenance and grooming will be limited to what has been allowed under the private leases and within the OPRHP guidelines as prescribed by provisions in the CE. As such, DEC determined that the above action will result in no change in public snowmobile use and as a result this IRMP will not have a negative impact on adjacent Forest Preserve.

AANR & TRP Snowmobile Trail Management Conditions

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

03/04/10

STATE FOREST AND CONSERVATION EASEMENT
ADOPT A NATURAL RESOURCE AGREEMENT
SNOWMOBILE TRAIL MAINTENANCE SPECIAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

I. **Only activities specifically authorized by this Agreement or as specified in an approved work plan may be conducted.**

II. **If the terms and conditions of this Agreement are violated at any time, the Agreement will be amended or revoked at the sole discretion of the Director of Lands and Forests.**

III. **Authorized participants/Employees:** At no time may the authority to perform the activities conveyed by this Agreement be delegated to any outside agency, organization, or individual without prior Department approval. **Whenever any of the activities authorized by this Agreement are conducted, at least one member of the work party will carry a copy of this Agreement for presentation upon the request of an Environmental Conservation Officer, Forest Ranger, Supervising Forester or designee.**

IV. **Maintenance Activities Allowed by this Agreement:**

A. Routine/Ordinary Maintenance - This Agreement authorizes Routine/Ordinary maintenance activities only on snowmobile trail segments officially designated and marked by the Department of Environmental Conservation and highlighted on the attached maps.

All Routine/Ordinary maintenance activities allowed under this Agreement are to be done within the width of the existing trail.

The following Routine/Ordinary maintenance activities are allowed under this Agreement:

1. **Removal of fallen trees and woody debris (blowdown):** Trails identified on the attached map may be cleared of fallen trees, limbs, and branches within the width of the trail (see Table 1 for allowable cleared trail width and height). Where the remaining fallen material beyond the nominal trail width could create a hazardous situation for trail users, it can also be cut and removed beyond the tree line of that trail section if necessary. All cut material will be delimbed and cut into lengths short enough to lay flat on the ground, and dispersed clear of the trail corridor, out of sight if possible, and not left in piles next to the trail.

2. **Brushing:** Brushing is the cutting of woody vegetation less than 3 inches in diameter at breast height (d.b.h). Brushing may carried out on the trails identified on the attached map. Brush may <u>only</u> be cut within the width of the existing trail. All brush will be cut as close as possible to ground level in order to eliminate stubble and stumps and the preference will be to leave root masses in place. All material will be cut into lengths short enough to lay flat on the ground, and dispersed clear of the trail corridor, out of sight if possible, and not left in piles next to the trail. <u>No standing trees greater than 3 inches in diameter at breast height may be cut within or outside of the existing cleared width of any trail unless specified in an approved work plan.</u>

3. **Pruning:** Pruning is the removal of limbs and branches from live standing trees. Tree branches that extend into the width of the existing trail may be pruned. The maximum trail clearance height to be pruned is 12 feet from the ground. All pruning of tree limbs will be to between 0.5 and 1.5 inches from the main trunk or stem. All cut material will be cut into lengths short enough to lay flat on the ground, and dispersed clear of the trail corridor, out of sight if possible, and not left in piles next to the trail.

4. **Mowing:** Mowing with hand operated motorized mowers will be allowed. Mowing with ATV's or other vehicles will have to be authorized in a separate work plan for specific trails or segments of trails in order to limit the impact of motor vehicles on soils, wetlands, etc.

4. **Snowmobile bridge, culvert, waterbar, and ditch maintenance:** Individual broken or worn planks on wooden bridges may be replaced in kind. Culverts, waterbars, and ditches may be cleaned using hand tools only.

5. **Replacement of Trail Markers and Signs:** Existing signs and markers may be replaced in kind. Placement of <u>new</u> signs and markers requires an approved work plan.

B. Other Maintenance activities - All other maintenance activities will be carried out pursuant to an approved work plan. This includes, but is not limited to:

1. Snowmobile bridge replacement or construction

2. Placement of drainage devices

3. Rock and stump removal

4. Placement of Trail Markers and Signs

5. Use of motorized vehicles, except on roads open to public motor vehicle use or Initial Annual Maintenance Trips or unless otherwise specifically authorized under this agreement.

V. **Use of Motor Vehicles**:

With the exception of Initial Annual Maintenance Trips or grooming, all uses of motor vehicles and landscaping equipment will only be undertaken pursuant to an approved work plan.

All uses of motor vehicles will be supervised by an individual that has attended and completed DEC training concerning guidelines and policies for snowmobile trail construction and maintenance.

All operation of earth moving equipment will be directly supervised by DEC staff.

All motor vehicles used pursuant to this Agreement or specified in an approved work plan will display an official "DEC Administrative Use" sign on the vehicle at all times.

No motor vehicle use, other than snow grooming, will take place without the prior approval of the Supervising Forester. When any motor vehicle trip other than snow grooming is undertaken pursuant to this Agreement or any amendments thereto, the Steward shall notify the DEC Contact (below) no less than 48 hours prior to such trip. The Department will determine whether or not trail conditions are suitable for such work and vehicle use.

a. **Initial Annual Maintenance Trips**: Initial Annual Maintenance trips will be undertaken for routine/ordinary maintenance activities as defined above when environmental conditions allow primarily during the months of August, September, and October.

During these Initial Annual Maintenance Trips, the steward shall record on the Department's *Snowmobile Trail Maintenance Log* (Attachment A) a description of trail construction and maintenance work the Steward recommends is necessary. This Trail Log will

describe necessary work by specific location, and will be used to develop a Work Plan for the trail. Said Trail Log shall be submitted to the DEC Contact (below) **as soon as possible after the maintenance trip but no later than May 30th of each calendar year.**

This agreement authorizes motorized Initial Annual Maintenance Trips for each of the following trails. Work on a trail can be done over more than one day, but must be authorized each day by the DEC Contact in order to minimize the impact of vehicles due to changing weather and associated site conditions. Trails maybe traveled with the following authorized vehicle type:

Table 1

Trail Name	Class	Allowable Cleared Area (width/height)	Authorized Motor Vehicle
		,	

b. **Maintenance, Rehabilitation and Construction Trips.** These trips include all other work trips on snowmobile trails except for "Grooming and Associated Winter Maintenance Trips." All work of this type will be carried out pursuant to a separate approved work plan.

c. **Grooming:** This AANR authorizes the following grooming equipment on the trails for which it is specified below.

Table 2

Trail Name	Class	Authorized Equipment and Width*

**** Grooming equipment not included in Table 2 may <u>not</u> be used unless it meets Department guidelines and is included in an amendment to this Agreement.***

VI. **Notification/Recordkeeping:** The Steward will be responsible for communicating with the appropriate Supervising Forester or their designee as follows:

A. The Regional Natural Resource Supervisor, or a Departmental designee, will be notified no less than 48 hours prior to commencement of motor vehicle use and will determine whether or not trail conditions are suitable for such work and vehicle use prior to such use.

B. **<u>All</u>** work undertaken pursuant to this Agreement which involves the use of motor vehicles, other than grooming, will be recorded on the Department's *<u>Snowmobile Trail Maintenance Log</u>* (Attachment A). Said Trail Log will be filled out during each

trip, and will be submitted to the DEC Contact (below) **as soon as possible after the maintenance trip but no later than May 30th of each calendar year.** In addition to recording the motor vehicle used and work completed during the work trip, the Steward should include in the Trail Log a description of trail construction and maintenance work the Steward recommends is necessary. Work recommended shall not be undertaken without approval of the Supervising Forester or designee and possibly an amendment to the work plan or this Agreement.

D. **By May 30th of each calendar year**, the Steward will submit a report to the DEC Contact (below), on the Department's *Interior Facilities Maintenance Report* (Attachment B) giving a detailed account of work accomplished and the number of person-hours spent on non-grooming trail maintenance activities. The Supervising Forester or their designee will verify this report through on-site inspections to assure that the work was accomplished in compliance with these Agreement conditions. This will also enable the Department trail crew to keep track of trail conditions and avoid duplication of effort.

E. As soon as possible after discovery, the Steward will report unsafe trail conditions or bridges.

F. The Steward will notify the Supervising Forester or their designee if the Steward is unable for any reason to continue trail maintenance during the term of the Agreement.

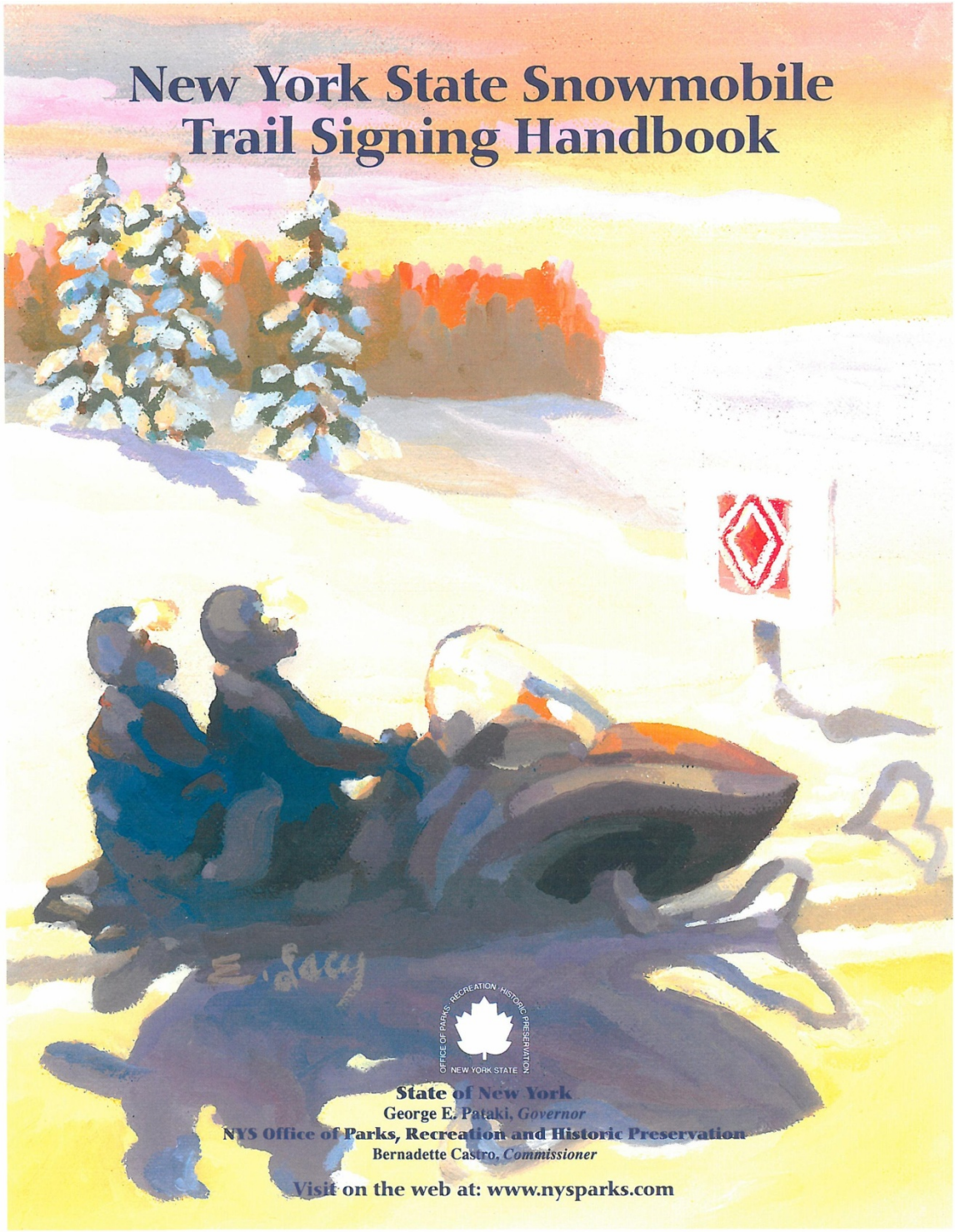
VII. **DEC Contact:**

OPRHP Snowmobile Trail Maintenance Guidelines

These guidelines can be found in: the “State of New York Snowmobile Trail Plan

OPRHP Snowmobile Sign Manual

This manual can be found on the internet at http://nysparks.state.ny.us.



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