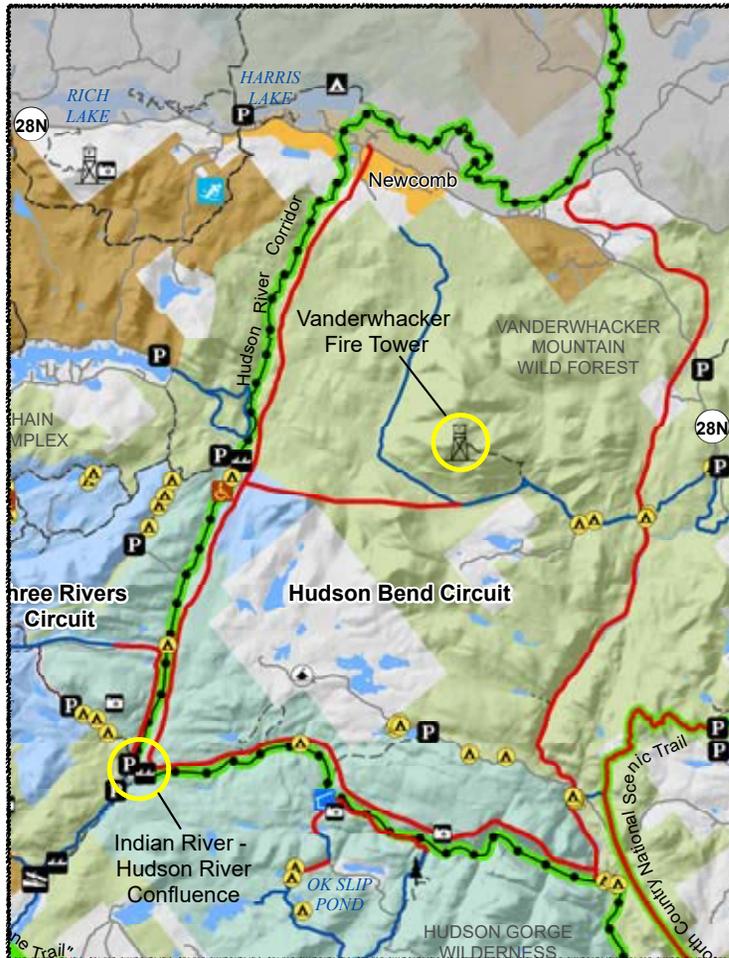
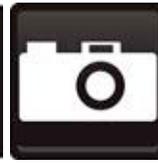


Map 1 ► Five Towns Area Hudson Bend Circuit



Access: New hiking along 20 miles of the Wild and Scenic Hudson River, 6+ miles along the Scenic Boreas River; access to Borough's Cave; alternate access to Vanderwhacker Mtn. Trail. May need to develop more campsites along Hudson and Boreas, and boat take-outs at several points on Hudson.

Connectivity: Access from Newcomb to Minerva and North Creek along the Hudson River Corridor, junctions with Vanderwhacker Circuit, North Country National Scenic Trail.

Stewardship: Significant trail construction along river corridors poses environmental and logistical challenges. Trail design, construction and maintenance must safeguard *Wild and Scenic* status of these reaches and the protection of rare and sensitive ecosystems, including calcareous cliffs at Blue Ledges and ice meadows along the Hudson River. Hiking trail along Gorge rim will likely require hand rails and signage. Will need registers and signage in Newcomb, NYS 28N, and along Northwoods Club Road.

Destination: Multi-modal circuit potential, starting from Newcomb with the option of hiking to-be-constructed trail, or floating down the Hudson River, exiting the water at a take-out and heading east at the Indian River. Hike through the Hudson Gorge past Blue Ledges to Boreas River, hiking or biking north back toward Newcomb. Alternatively, Hudson/Boreas junction can be reached from North Creek and taken up to Newcomb.

Partnerships: Negotiate access with Northwoods Club. Ample opportunities for local engagement with trail construction and stewardship. East leg could be constructed for biking on old railroad bed, supporting bike rentals/ outfitters in North Creek, Newcomb and/or Minerva. Numerous workshop participants highlighted needs and opportunities for hiking along Hudson.

The **Hudson Bend Circuit** is a 39-mile loop of almost entirely new construction along the Hudson and Boreas rivers, providing access to the east banks of the Hudson River and the north rim of the Hudson Gorge. Circuit also connects with existing Vanderwhacker Mtn summit trail and fire tower. With potential opportunities for multi-modal hiking-paddling or paddling-biking trips, the circuit can be accessed from the trailhead on NYS 28N, via Northwoods Club Road, or from Newcomb via existing and proposed trails.

Map 1 ► Five Towns Area Stark Hills Circuit



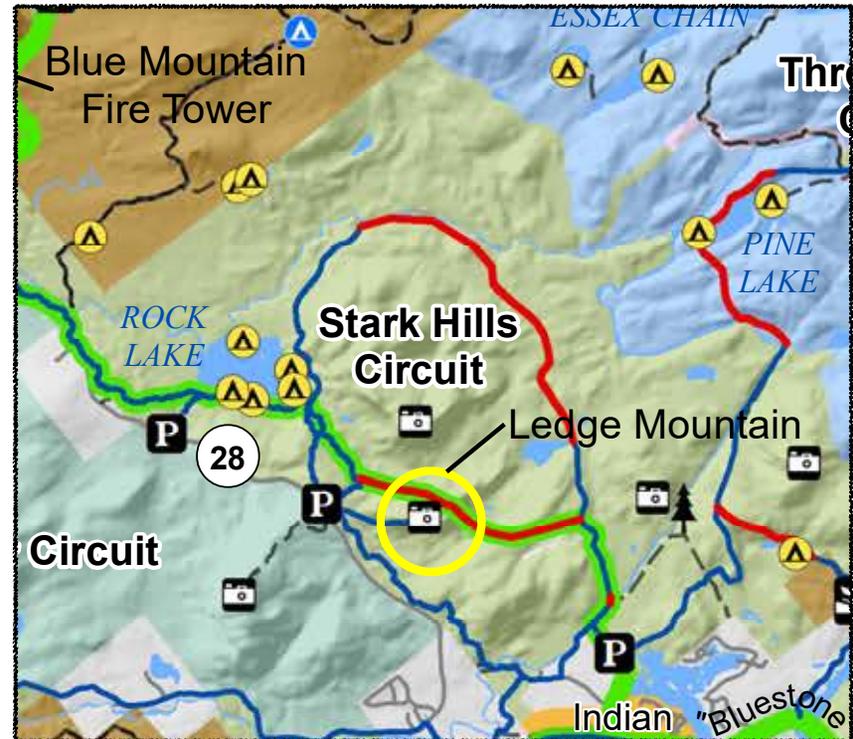
Access: New segments of trail connects together existing, dead-end segments to create alternate (loop) hiking routes to Rock Lake, Ledge Mtn scenic views, and short bushwhacks to Stark Hills and Rock River. Southernmost leg is snowmobile trail along NYS 28.

Connectivity: Loop in and out of hamlet of Indian Lake; circuit is bisected by Bluestone Trail (proposed) regional route, which connects with Blue Mountain Lake to the northwest, and several communities to the southeast, including Stony Creek.

Stewardship: Maintenance on snowmobile sections to provide for hikers. Lakefront campsites (Rock Lake) need regular monitoring and maintenance. Footbridge across Cedar River should be designed and constructed to minimize impacts on riparian habitats.

Destination: A weekend backcountry hiking or skiing trip, along Rock River and to Rock Lake with ample camping opportunities and scenic views from multiple mountain tops. For a more challenging day hike, tackle the full outer loop in the wild forest.

Partnerships: Indian Lake outfitters and restaurants; community assistance with trail and foot bridge construction over Cedar River.



The **Stark Hills Circuit** is a 11.7-mile network of loop trails that explores the backcountry of Blue Mountain Wild Forest, with waterfront camping opportunities on Rock Lake, and scenic views from the summit of Ledge Mountain. Hikers can head off-trail to explore the Stark Hills and Rock River. Southern portions of the circuit are currently used for snowmobiling in winter, but other portions of loop are suitable for nordic skiing. Boats may be portaged from adjacent parking area on NYS 28 into Rock Lake, providing paddling opportunities with lakefront campsites that are located along hiking circuit. Addition of a foot bridge across Cedar River provides more convenient access to the Stark Hills Circuit from the hamlet of Indian Lake.