Map 3 ▶ Fulton Chain & Raquette Lake

Fulton Chain, Raquette Lake

Map produced by the Great South Woods Project Team at the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry
The **South Raquette Circuit** highlights existing access to a historically and culturally rich region of the Great South Woods. The circuit is a ‘triangle of opportunity,’ including Raquette Lake, Great Camp Sagamore, and the Eighth Lake Public Campground. Consisting of 28.4 miles of multiple loop trail options, this circuit supports multiple uses, including biking on the unpaved road from the hamlet of Raquette Lake to Great Camp Sagamore, and Mohegan Lake, and continuing to the Eighth Lake Campground via the Old Uncas Road. Bikers may complete a loop by continuing north along Rt. 28 returning to Raquette Lake. This offers campers at the Eighth Lake Campground the opportunity to experience one of the Adirondack’s legendary Great Camps with a relatively easy biking daytrip similar to the Lake Harris Campground - Great Camp Santanoni bike trip. Hikers can use the Great Camp Sagamore trail system which includes a scenic loop trail around Sagamore Lake.

**Access:** Existing circuit is now connected with regional network, including to-be-built sections of Hamilton Co Trail (proposed). At least one campsite on Eighth Lake is ADA accessible. Southwestern loop might be developed further for mountain biking or groomed ski trails.

**Connectivity:** Multiple loops linking Eighth Lake camping opportunities to Great Camp Sagamore and the village of Raquette Lake. Circuit is bisected by Hamilton County Trail (proposed) which connects Long Lake with Fulton Chain area. This circuit also helps to link Hamilton Co Trail with village of Raquette Lake and DEC-proposed fishing area near the hamlet.

**Stewardship:** Special management considerations across the network, part on Wild Forest and part Wilderness, and passes through balsam flats exemplary natural community near Great Camp Sagamore. Junction signs needed with Hamilton County Trail (proposed).

**Destination:** From camp on Eighth Lake, trek through Wild Forest to Mohegan Lake, visit Great Camp Sagamore on Sagamore Lake, and return along a new path through wild forests. Overnights at 8th Lake (campsites, campground), also at Sagamore Lake (one is ADA).

**Partnerships:** Raquette Lake and Great Camp Sagamore can promote this existing circuit, which has flexibility of potential uses. Potential opportunity to travel loop on NYS 28 and a portion of this network between 8th Lake and Raquette Lake, half-marathon distance.
The **Potter Bike Trail** is a 7.73 mile mountain bike loop that originates in the hamlet of Inlet and encircles Fern Park, a popular community recreation area. The Trail takes advantage of existing roads and trails, only requiring 1.78 miles of newly constructed tail. Spur trail affords a view at 4th Lake Overlook. Potter Bike Trail links to the TOBIE, which is also bike-able around the Fulton Chain of Lakes. Bikes can be rented from the local outfitter in Inlet.

**Access:** New trail segments close circuit and provide access to scenic view on hilltop, via spur trail up to 4th Lake Lookout.

**Connectivity:** Uses part of South Shore Rd, snowmobile trails (also Hamilton County Trail), and the start of the Black Fly Challenge trail out of Inlet. Junction with Limekiln Loop Trail (proposed).

**Stewardship:** Field-validate suitability of snowmobile trails for biking, assess potential impacts on wetland areas. Bike tracks may need to be established to connect main loop with portion of Hamilton Co Trail (proposed) that runs south to Limekiln Lake Campground. Install bike-washing stations for invasives and junction signage at trail crossings. Foot traffic on shared portions of route may require alternative tracks for hikers.

**Destination:** Bike from camp on Limekiln Lake along wooded trails to Fulton Chain scenic views and good eats in Inlet, then follow the circuit back to camp. Suitable for beginner/intermediate bikers (and families). Needs to be designed to ensure high-quality mountain biking experience.

** Partnerships:** Just over a mile of construction to close the circuit, some of which is located on private land, requiring negotiation with landowners; potential to organize mountain bike trail stewardship organization, and coordinate with bike rental businesses in Inlet (likely already using this area) and Old Forge. Design specialized trails for advanced bikers.
**Access:** Small trail network offers hikers / skiers multiple alternative routes up a summit that is a traditional family favorite in the Fulton Chain area.

**Connectivity:** Hamilton County Trail (proposed) runs up and over Black Bear’s summit. To the east, HamCo provides a route from the Black Bear Circuit into 7th Lake Campground (overnight option) and onto the South Raquette Circuit. To the west, HamCo grounds this circuit in Inlet, with the TOBIE Connection, Potter Bike Trail, and Limekiln Lake Loops.

**Stewardship:** Needs assessment to identify suitable segments for skiing (portions already marked/designated). Clear signage would be important to understand the circuit and hiking options.

**Destination:** ‘Choose your own adventure to the top’ with multiple routes up and down Black Bear Summit, leaving directly from Inlet village. For more of a challenge, tack on the short hike up Rocky Point Mtn.

**Partnerships:** Education opportunity on summit; could encourage hikers to start from the Rocky Pt/Black Bear parking lot, head up the mountain, and back landing in the town center. Then they must walk Inlet’s main street back to their vehicle, and have the opportunity to enjoy tourism amenities along the way (including public restrooms, department store, grocery, bakery, coffee, etc.).

Jump on the **Black Bear Circuit** (completely constructed) from the main streets of Inlet. Choose between 2 access points in town (approach of 1.9 or 2.3 mi), or start the trail from the Uncas Rd (approach is 1.4 mi), or even Eighth Lake Campgrounds (approach is 3.6 mi)-- all trails lead to the summit with views of Seventh Lake. On a clear day and a high rock, you might catch a glimpse of the High Peaks. Some trail segments are designated for skiing.
**Map 3 ▶ Fulton Chain**

**TOBIE Trail Connection**

**Access:** Sections of TOBIE trail are well-known and widely used by locals and visitors - we highlight its potential as a circuit that connects front-country features and hamlets in the Fulton Chain area: e.g., the Scenic Mountain Trail, access to Mountain and Fly Ponds, Moose River, Siss and Bubb Lakes, Rondaxe/Bald Mtn, South Shore scenic views of Fulton Chain, Quiver and Twin Ponds.

**Connectivity:** Existing connection of Thendara, Old Forge, Big Moose, Inlet, and Eagle Bay. Overlaps with a section of the Hamilton County Trail (proposed) through Inlet, where it also links with the Potter Bike Trail, Limekiln Loop, and Black Bear Circuit.

**Stewardship:** Scenic Mountain Trail is often challenging to find and follow, better signage and interpretation could be helpful. Signage at Rondaxe could encourage users to head east instead up the Scenic Mountain Trail to reduce congestion on the popular Fire Tower trail. Requires management across 3 units and between 2 complexes.

**Destination:** This trail is heavily used by locals for short walks, bike rides, runs, and snowmobiling. Can be divided into sections: road bike 28 and South Shore, hike from Bubb & Siss Parking up the Scenic Mountain Trail and to the Rondaxe Mtn. Parking, then back to your start along the TOBIE.

**Partnerships:** Opportunities to sponsor/maintain sections for specific uses; represents unity among 5 local communities that can be leveraged for events. Could offer scenic photography opportunities off South Shore at Quiver or Twin Pond -- easy access. Opportunity for "hike and beat your float" challenge, put-in to put-in on a stretch of the Moose River.

The **TOBIE Trail Connection** is a classic route north of the Lower Fulton Chain, but becomes a circuit by adding the South Shore Rd. It becomes even more appealing by connecting to the Scenic Mountain Trail/Vista Trail, which follows a ridge from Bubb & Siss Lake trailhead to the Rondaxe/Bald parking area -- making it easy to add this iconic fire tower summit onto the day's itinerary as well. All aspects of this 32.2 mile circuit are constructed, and support hiking, biking, dog walking, snowmobiling, scenic photography, and paddling where it crosses the North Branch of the Moose River. Take advantage of town amenities along the way, including bakeries, public restrooms, public beaches, and visitor centers.
The “N” Lake Network envisions a 27.6 mile hiking experience from Nicks Lake to Nelson Lake and along the South and North Branch of the Moose River. Combine hiking and paddling along multiple loops, with many overnight options in the Black River Wild Forest including Nick’s Lake Campground.

Access: Existing foot and snowmobile trails featured as a network for hikers and bikers to access Nelson Lake, Nicks Lake and the Nicks Lake Campground via multiple pathways through Black River Wild Forest and along the Moose River. Proposed second lean-to on Nelson Lake.

Connectivity: Links Thendara and Old Forge with McKeever and Otter Lake via its connection with the Black River Loop trails (proposed, see Map 6), which require a proposed bridge over the Moose River.

Stewardship: Several segments are snowmobile trail that will need field validation and special management efforts to become suitable for hiking or biking. Additional paths / tracks may be desirable along certain segments. Invasive species education and boat washing stations at Nick’s Lake and Nelson Lake boat launches, at Nick’s Lake Campground, and at hand launch on Moose River. Primitive campsite or lean-to might be needed for overnight stay along Nick’s Lake Outlet Trail (via eastern leg from Nicks Lake down to Moose River). Signage required at internal junctions, directing to the Black River Loop, and through the Fulton Seventy to TOBIE.

Destination: 3-5 days exploring lakes and remote reaches of the Moose River in Black River Wild Forest.

Partnerships: Potential to combine hiking and paddling stretches, with shuttles/outfitters provided by community.
The **Limekiln Loop Trail** runs along the South Shore Rd before heading southeast through the Fulton Chain Wild Forest to access Limekiln Lake and Public Campground, before heading north and east into Inlet, totaling 17 miles. A key trail connection of 0.6 miles needs to be constructed as the loop heads north into Inlet (same section as Potter Bike Trail). This loop offers a smaller day-loop option from the Campground around ponds to the west of Limekiln Lake. Biking and hiking multimodal opportunity takes advantage of town roads and the Potter Bike Trail, and the potential to provide and shuttle bikes from the Campground.

**Access:** Fern Park, Inlet, Scenic South Shore Rd, Limekiln Lake and Campground. The 'new' element is hiking access out of Inlet (alternatively one can drive to the campground)

**Connectivity:** Uses part of HamCo, Potter Bike Trail, TOBIE trail system.

**Stewardship:** Construction of new trail, signage off of TOBIE and HamCo, marking internal loop options.

**Destination:** Can combine activities: road biking on South Shore, Mtn. Biking Potter Bike Trail, hike the rest through the Campground (or rest for the night) and back to South Shore.

**Partnerships:** Small section (0.64) to construct connecting the loop between the campground and Inlet (might involve private land). Campground could take more ownership of the loop, that’s where hikers would likely stay or pass through. Shuttles or bike rentals could be provided to finish the TOBIE/South Shore section. Improved parking may be required out of Inlet.
Map 4 ▶ Indian Lake and Cedar River Flow

Map produced by the Great South Woods Project Team at the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry.
The **Cedar River Circuit** is a prime example of a multi-modal trail, leveraging 35 miles of existing trail from Lake Durant Campground to Indian Lake, along the Cedar River Road to Wakley Dam and back through Blue Ridge Wilderness along the Northville-Placid Trail. The unique appeal of this circuit is the opportunity to combine hiking and biking, with rental and shuttle support from Lake Durant Campground or Indian Lake. Side day trip options include Sawyer Mountain and Wakely Mountain (prominent fire tower mountain).

**Access:** Biking and hiking access in and out of Wakely Pond parking areas. Multiple parking/access opportunities along the circuit. Spur option bushwhack off circuit to Sugarloaf Mtn. scenic vista.

**Connectivity:** Blue Mtn Lake via Lake Durant Campground to Indian Lake, potential to end up in Inlet via Black Fly Challenge route. Uses stretch of NPT and Bluestone Trail (proposed).

**Stewardship:** Requires monitoring of bike impacts and potential 2-way bike/road traffic along Cedar River Rd. Bike security at drop points. Improve snowmobile trail from Lake Durant to Indian Lake to accommodate biking.

**Destination:** Multi-modal circuit potential starting from Lake Durant Campground: bike to Rock Lake and into Indian Lake, continue to Wakely Pond along Cedar River on Cedar River Rd, hike back through Blue Ridge Wilderness to Lake Durant Campground. Could be adventurous one-day opportunity, or multi-day staying overnight at Cedar River Flow campsites or pitch your own tent.

**Partnerships:** Portion of Black Fly Challenge (along Cedar River Rd). Great opportunity to store/rent bikes out of Lake Durant Campground or town of Indian Lake, offering pick up at Wakely Pond or Cedar River Flow and transport back to origin.