The **West Indian Lake Network** totals 65 miles around and through the West Canada Lake Wilderness and DEC easement (Indian Lake Block, Township 33). This network is one of the more conceptual of the GSW Recommended features, requiring 9 miles constructed through the valley west of the Little Great Range, plus 7.3 miles constructed perpendicular to the valley stretching from Wakely Dam, over the Little Great Range, down to the Snowy Mountain parking area. 9.6 miles of new trail are required to avoid walking a stretch of Route 30 to complete the outer loop.

**Access**: Multiple loop options out of Indian Lake/Sabael and through West Canada Lake Wilderness and Jessup River Wild Forest, including Township 33 easement. Existing outer backcountry loop follows the Cedar River, passing Wakely Pond and Cedar River Flow, with a potential bushwhack up Sugarloaf Mtn. Multiple camping options along Cedar River and Flow, and at Lewey and Indian Lake campgrounds.

**Connectivity**: Provides several routes for connecting Indian Lake to NPT and Cedar River Flow area. Location of the proposed trail network creates connections to several local and regional routes.

**Stewardship**: Careful design and construction of trails on Wilderness and DEC Easement lands, particularly over the Little Great Range, with attention to sensitive plant communities and riparian habitats. Signage required at internal junction points, with the two Regional Networks, NPT, and to direct hikers off the network to Wakely Way (not shown). Overnight stay locations (campsites, lean-tos) may be required in easement.

**Destination**: Many different opportunities, including long-distance hiking of interior loops, bisecting the network over Snowy Mtn., rock climbing near Snowy Mtn., scenic Beaver Brook Cliffs, boat launches at Cedar River Flow and Indian Lake and an ADA hand launch at Wakely Pond.

**Partnerships**: Could become a significant attraction for hikers in the area, with Indian Lake as a home base. Approximately 40% needs to be constructed, mostly interior routes and on easement lands.
**Map 4 ▶ Indian Lake**

**Wakely Way** is a backcountry hiking experience through the Blue Ridge Wilderness. 5.6 miles of trail constructed through the Blue Ridge Wilderness links Wakely Mountain and the Sagamore area, providing access from the west to the fire tower and connecting two historic points of interest: Great Camp Sagamore and Wakely Mountain Fire Tower. By adding only 0.6 more miles of trail, and leveraging the existing Moose River Road Spur, hikers can enjoy a loop hike to Wakely Mountain's fire tower, taking in part of the Northville-Placid Trail along the way.

**Access:** 6 miles to-be-constructed connects the Wakely Mtn. Trail (made into a loop using old or to-be-closed roads) out of the Cedar River Flow area and into Sagamore Lake and Great Camp Sagamore trail system. Provides access to Wakely Mtn from new direction (out of Raquette Lake), and creates a loop hike up the mountain from the existing parking area.

**Connectivity:** Serves as connector trail linking Sagamore / Raquette Lake area to NPT and Cedar River Flow campsites and fishing areas along Cedar River, which are connected via West Indian Lake Network (proposed) to the village of Indian Lake.

**Stewardship:** Trail design and construction should minimize disturbance to exemplary natural communities, including forested wetlands (balsam flats) located along proposed approximate route. Signage required at junction with West Indian Lake Network, South Raquette Circuit, Great Camp Sagamore and NPT. Directions required to follow the loop, to or thru-hike to Sagamore Lake and trail connections to the north and west. Wakely Mtn. summit has a fire tower and cabin and is a great location for natural and cultural interpretation.

**Destination:** Wakely has one of the tallest fire towers in the state, and is currently only accessed via many miles down Cedar River Rd with an out-and-back hike. A new access point and loop-option greatly increase the draw and potential challenge of this hiking destination.

**Partnerships:** Several workshop participants suggested this type of connection. Partner with Great Camp Sagamore and NPT stewards.
Map 5 ▶ North Creek, North River, Indian Lake

North Creek, North River

Map produced by the Great South Woods Project Team at the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry
North Creek Network access points include North River (3.5 miles of new trail needed to access the network), North Creek, and Indian Lake (with 4 miles of new trail needed to access the network and proposed lodging). This network features a hut-to-hut route using Garnet Hill Lodge and lodging at King's Flow (commercial structures exist, but arrangements need to be made), with shorter loop hikes around Thirteenth Lake with plenty of options to overnight at campsites. The North Country National Scenic Trail runs through the North Creek Network.

Access: Extends Schaefer Trail offering additional western loop; 13th Lake at its core; Out of Indian Lake: Kings Flow/Chimney Mtn, John Pond ridge; Out of North Creek: 13th Lake, Balm of Gilead Mtn, Peaked Pond/Mtn, Gore Mtn, Waterfalls along Roaring Brook; 23 camping opportunities across the network.

Connectivity: 3.24 miles of construction required to connect to North River, provides connecting route through Wilderness from North Creek/River to Indian Lake; Uses sections of NCNST, Bluestone Trail (proposed), meets the Hudson River Corridor; proposed hike/ski connector trail, starting at Peaked Mtn. Pond through Siamese Ponds to OK Slip Falls (red line).

Stewardship: Caretakers at lodges/huts/backcountry lean-tos; monitor impact of common bushwhack trips; monitor usage and potential site deterioration at 13th Lake campsites.

Destination: A backcountry hub for winter and summer fun; multiple loops for hiking, some sections appropriate for XC ski; Potential hut-to-hut connecting North Creek to Indian Lake.

Partnerships: 24% needs construction to connect dead-ends and extend to new access points. Possible “hut-to-hut” opportunity leveraging Kings Flow and Garnet Hill and others for backcountry lodging, might involve a guide service; organize/guide hike and float adventures out of North Creek into various points of the network making use of lodging opportunities, then return to North Creek by floating down the Hudson (putting in at Indian River confluence).