Map 6 ▶ Black River
Wild Forest

Map produced by the Great South Woods Project Team
at the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry
The **Woodhull Lake Loop** is primarily a 21-mile snowmobile circuit. However, this circuit could be a suitable loop for biking opportunities that directly connects Woodgate, Otter Lake, and McKeever with accessible and scenic lean-tos and primitive campsites. This loop also connects with a spur trail to Woodhull Lake fire tower, one of the more remote fire tower mountains in the Adirondack Park, at roughly 15 miles round-trip.

**Access:** Tour along McKeever, Otter Lake, Woodgate, and Woodhull Lake.

**Connectivity:** This feature provides connections with the proposed Black River Loop, Fulton Seventy, McKeever-Morehouse Connector, “N” Lake Network, and includes a portion just outside the Blue Line.

**Stewardship:** To use snowmobile trails for other purposes requires field-validation, else this is a one-way snowmobile loop. Junction signs required at intersections with Black River Loop, and directing users over to “N” Lake Network.

**Destination:** A 21-mile snowmobile loop along three communities and several waterbodies, including Woodhull Lake, which can provide a summer destination for biking, lakeside camping and hiking.

**Partnerships:** all completed/existing. Likely is or could be managed by local snowmobile chapters. Possible to collaborate between user groups for maintenance and management of use. Existing proposal to purchase portions of BSA Camp Russell to improve access to White Lake and Otter Lakes.
Access: New trail completes these loops, including Chub pond, Lily Lake, and Little Woodhull Lake as destinations along a series of unpaved roads and snowmobile trails that currently tour Bear Lake, Woodhull Lake, and Bloodsucker Pond. Many hiking trails in this area are in-and-outs, but this loop system connects many points of interest with overnight locations and other features.

Connectivity: Uses sections of NCNST and connects to Woodgate-Otter Lake, Fulton Seventy (Reg. Network), and “N” Lake Network via section to-be-constructed bridge over South Branch of the Moose River.

Stewardship: Bridge or crossing over South Moose River may be challenging to place. All contributing snowmobile trails need to be investigated for suitability as hiking trails. Signage required at NCNST overlap, at internal junctions, and directing users across the South Moose and onto the “N” Lake Networks.

Destination: For solitude seekers, a backcountry tour of waterbodies; numerous loops and opportunities to ‘get lost’ in the Black River Wild Forest with lots of camping, especially on North Lake, as well as quiet lean-tos on remote ponds.

Partnerships: 16% (5.61 miles) needs to be constructed, most of which overlaps with construction required for NCNST. North end of the loop system takes users to Woodhull Mtn (has fire tower) -- can be uniquely reached by biking over old roads and flat trail, opportunity to provide bikes and transport out of local communities.

The Black River Loop links together a number of lakes and ponds, with access from the north out of McKeever and from the south out of Woodgate. This area generally attracts low visitor volumes and is an ideal location for hikers seeking solitude, with overnight opportunities at picturesque lake-side lean-tos on Gull Lake and Chub Pond. Many of these trail segments follow old forest roads or current snowmobile trails, and may be suitable for backcountry biking, such as the route from McKeever to Woodhull Lake and out to Woodgate via Bear Creek Road parking, or towards the spur trail to Woodhull Mountain fire tower.
Map 7 ➤ West Canada Lake Wilderness

West Canada Regional Hub

Map produced by the Great South Woods Project Team at the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry
French Louie Loops is the ‘hub’ of the backcountry network where intersecting segments of the North Country National Scenic Trail, the Hamilton County Trail (proposed) and the Northville-Placid Trail form a pair of circuits. Nearly all (93%) of the French Louie trails exist -- and the gap to be filled in the Little Moose Wilderness could include scenic overlooks on Little Moose Mountain, mapped and suggested by Bill Ingersoll.

**Access:** Primarily hiking and backcountry skiing, multiple access points are possible via long-distance thru-hikes. Also accessible from the unpaved Cedar River Rd via <1 mile on the Sly Pond Loop Trail, offering an entry point for hikers uninterested in long-distance trips. The 40.4 trail-miles provide access to a dozen backcountry ponds and lakes, including Sly Pond, Cedar Lake and Brook-Trout Lake, as well as the scenic Little Moose Mtn, Cobble Hill, Old Skidder Historic Site and Cedar Lake Dam. Parking is available at the NCNST and HCT junction.

**Connectivity:** No direct connections to communities, but serves as the central hub of a network of long-distance routes and shorter connections that link the Fulton Chain area, the Piseco-Speculator area, and Indian Lake.

**Stewardship:** Additional signage and trail registers will be required, especially at the four junctions of the regional routes. The French Louie Loops pass through mature beech-maple forests and hemlock-hardwood swamps, but avoid sensitive wetlands in the West Canada Lakes, Moose River Plains, and Little Moose management units. New section of trail along ridgeline should be designed carefully to protect sensitive plant communities and for hiker safety. Trail junctions and nearby areas should be managed for greater foot traffic, erosion during mud season, and increased exposure to invasive species. Increased recreational traffic may have negative impacts on local wildlife.

**Destination:** A multi-day, multi-option series of loops that provide unrivaled backcountry hiking, fishing and rustic camping opportunities, right at the doorstep of the Moose River Plains road system with over two dozen campsites available. Could become a popular pitstop with thru-hikers and a destination for day-trippers, weekend warriors, and outdoor education groups based out of camps and schools nearby.

**Partnerships:** Needs significant local and regional engagement for trail maintenance, backcountry stewardship and invasive species monitoring. Junctions could benefit from additional maps of points of interest.