

**617.20**  
**Appendix A**  
**State Environmental Quality Review**  
**FULL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FORM**

**Purpose:** The full EAF is designed to help applicants and agencies determine, in an orderly manner, whether a project or action may be significant. The question of whether an action may be significant is not always easy to answer. Frequently, there are aspects of a project that are subjective or unmeasurable. It is also understood that those who determine significance may have little or no formal knowledge of the environment or may not be technically expert in environmental analysis. In addition, many who have knowledge in one particular area may not be aware of the broader concerns affecting the question of significance.

The full EAF is intended to provide a method whereby applicants and agencies can be assured that the determination process has been orderly, comprehensive in nature, yet flexible enough to allow introduction of information to fit a project or action.

**Full EAF Components:** The full EAF is comprised of three parts:

- Part 1:** Provides objective data and information about a given project and its site. By identifying basic project data, it assists a reviewer in the analysis that takes place in Parts 2 and 3.
- Part 2:** Focuses on identifying the range of possible impacts that may occur from a project or action. It provides guidance as to whether an impact is likely to be considered small to moderate or whether it is a potentially-large impact. The form also identifies whether an impact can be mitigated or reduced.
- Part 3:** If any impact in Part 2 is identified as potentially-large, then Part 3 is used to evaluate whether or not the impact is actually important.

**DETERMINATION OF SIGNIFICANCE -- Type 1 and Unlisted Actions**

Identify the Portions of EAF completed for this project:     Part 1         Part 2         Part 3

Upon review of the information recorded on this EAF (Parts 1 and 2 and 3 if appropriate), and any other supporting information, and considering both the magnitude and importance of each impact, it is reasonably determined by the lead agency that:

- A. The project will not result in any large and important impact(s) and, therefore, is one which **will not** have a significant impact on the environment, therefore **a negative declaration will be prepared.**
- B. Although the project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect for this Unlisted Action because the mitigation measures described in PART 3 have been required, therefore **a CONDITIONED negative declaration will be prepared.\***
- C. The project may result in one or more large and important impacts that may have a significant impact on the environment, therefore **a positive declaration will be prepared.**

\*A Conditioned Negative Declaration is only valid for Unlisted Actions

**Adoption of the Rome Sand Plains Consolidated Management Plan**

Name of Action

**NYS Department of Environmental Conservation**

Name of Lead Agency

**Alan W Brown**

**Senior Forester**

Print or Type Name of Responsible Officer in Lead Agency

Title of Responsible Officer

**Tom Wolfe for Alan Brown /s/**

Signature of Preparer (If different from responsible officer)

Signature of Responsible Officer in Lead Agency

**March 30 , 2006**

Date

**PART 1--PROJECT INFORMATION**  
**Prepared by Project Sponsor**

NOTICE: This document is designed to assist in determining whether the action proposed may have a significant effect on the environment. Please complete the entire form, Parts A through E. Answers to these questions will be considered as part of the application for approval and may be subject to further verification and public review. Provide any additional information you believe will be needed to complete Parts 2 and 3.

It is expected that completion of the full EAF will be dependent on information currently available and will not involve new studies, research or investigation. If information requiring such additional work is unavailable, so indicate and specify each instance.

NAME OF ACTION <b>Rome Sand Plains Consolidated Management Plan</b>		
LOCATION OF ACTION (INCLUDE STREET ADDRESS, MUNICIPALITY AND COUNTY) <b>Oneida County, City of Rome, Rome Sand Plains Unique Area</b>		
NAME OF APPLICANT/SPONSOR <b>NYS Department of Environmental Conservation</b>		BUSINESS TELEPHONE <b>(315)866-6330</b>
ADDRESS <b>PO Box 89, 225 N. Main Street</b>		
CITY/PO <b>Herkimer</b>	STATE <b>NY</b>	ZIP CODE <b>13350</b>
NAME OF OWNER (IF DIFFERENT)		BUSINESS TELEPHONE <b>( )</b>
ADDRESS		
CITY/PO	STATE	ZIP CODE
DESCRIPTION OF ACTION <b>This action involves the adoption of a Consolidated Unit Management Plan for the Rome Sand Plains Unique Area. Management of the area will be directed by this plan for a ten year period. The plan also includes management activities for lands owned by the Izaak Walton League, The Nature Conservancy and Oneida County forest, all lying within the area known as the Rome Sand Plains. Management activities are intended to protect and maintain unusual plant communities and geologic features while providing for increased public use.</b>		

**Please Complete Each Question--Indicate N.A. if not applicable**

**A. SITE DESCRIPTION**

Physical setting of overall project, both developed and undeveloped areas.

1. Present Land Use:  Urban  Industrial  Commercial  Residential (suburban)  Rural (non-farm)  
 Forest  Agriculture  Other \_\_\_\_\_

2. Total acreage of project area: <u>3,875</u> acres.	PRESENTLY	AFTER COMPLETION
APPROXIMATE ACREAGE	<u>3,875</u> acres	<u>3,875</u> acres
Meadow or Brushland (Non-agricultural)	<u>107</u> acres	<u>115</u> acres
Forested	<u>1,191</u> acres	<u>1,182</u> acres
Agricultural (Includes orchards, cropland, pasture, etc.)	_____ acres	_____ acres
Wetland(Freshwater or tidal as per Articles 24,25 of ECL)	<u>2562</u> acres	<u>2,562</u> acres
Water Surface Area	<u>1</u> acres	<u>1</u> acres
Unvegetated (Rock, earth or fill)	_____ acres	_____ acres
Roads, buildings and other paved surfaces	<u>14</u> acres	<u>15</u> acres
Other (Indicate type) _____	_____ acres	_____ acres

3. What is predominant soil type(s) on project site? **Saugatuck Sand, Windsor Loamy Fine Sand, Napoleon Peat**
- a. Soil drainage:  Well drained 34 % of site  Moderately well drained \_\_\_\_\_ % of site.

- Poorly drained 66 % of site
- b. If any agricultural land is involved, how many acres of soil are classified within soil group 1 through 4 of the NYS Land Classification System? N / A Acres (see 1NYCRR 370).
4. Are there bedrock outcroppings on project site?  YES  NO  
a. What is depth to bedrock? (in feet) 5'
5. Approximate percentage of proposed project site with slopes:  0-10% 75 %  10-15% 15 %  
 15% or greater 10 %
6. Is project substantially contiguous to, or contain a building, site, or district, listed on the State or National Registers of Historic Places?  YES  NO
7. Is project substantially contiguous to a site listed on the Register of National Natural Landmarks?  YES  NO
8. What is the depth of the water table? 0' to 6' (in feet)
9. Is site located over a primary, principal, or sole source aquifer?  YES  NO
10. Do hunting, fishing or shell fishing opportunities presently exist in the project area?  YES  NO
11. Does project site contain any species of plant or animal life that is identified as threatened or endangered?  YES  NO  
According to: Natural Heritage Data  
Identify each species: Frosted Elfin (threatened)
12. Are there any unique or unusual land forms on the project site? (i.e., cliffs, dunes, other geological formations)?  YES  NO  
Describe: Sand Dunes - glacial lake origin
13. Is the project site presently used by the community or neighborhood as an open space or recreation area?  YES  NO  
If yes, explain: Hiking & cross country skiing, hunting, bird watching
14. Does the present site include scenic views known to be important to the community?  YES  NO
15. Streams within or contiguous to project area: Wood Creek, Beaver Creek, Canada Creek, Brandy Brook  
a. Name of Stream and name of River to which it is tributary: Erie Canal, Oneida Lake
16. Lakes, ponds, wetland areas within or contiguous to project area:  
a. Name: Huckleberry Swamp  
b. Size (in acres): 698 ac
17. Is the site served by existing public utilities?  YES  NO  
a. If YES, does sufficient capacity exist to allow connection? N / A  YES  NO  
b. If YES, will improvements be necessary to allow connection? N / A  YES  NO
18. Is the site located in an agricultural district certified pursuant to Agriculture and Markets Law, Article 25-AA, Section 303 and 304?  YES  NO
19. Is the site located in or substantially contiguous to a Critical Environmental Area designated pursuant to Article 8 of the ECL, and 6 NYCRR 617?  YES  NO
20. Has the site ever been used for the disposal of solid or hazardous wastes?  YES  NO

## B. Project Description

1. Physical dimensions and scale of project (fill in dimensions as appropriate).
- a. Total contiguous acreage owned or controlled by project sponsor 3875 acres.
- b. Project acreage to be developed: 1 acres initially; 1 acres ultimately.
- c. Project acreage to remain undeveloped 3874 acres.
- d. Length of project, in miles: N / A (if appropriate)
- e. If the project is an expansion, indicate percent of expansion proposed N / A %
- f. Number of off-street parking spaces existing 13 ; proposed 29

- g. Maximum vehicular trips generated per hour N / A (upon completion of project)?
- h. If residential: Number and type of housing units:
- |            | One Family   | Two Family | Multiple Family | Condominium |
|------------|--------------|------------|-----------------|-------------|
| Initially  | <u>N / A</u> |            |                 |             |
| Ultimately | <u>N / A</u> |            |                 |             |
- i. Dimensions (in feet) of largest proposed structure N / A height; \_\_\_\_\_ width; \_\_\_\_\_ length.
- J. Linear feet of frontage along a public thoroughfare project will occupy is? N / A ft.
2. How much natural material (i.e. rock, earth, etc.) will be removed from the site? N / A tons/cubic yards.
3. Will disturbed areas be reclaimed?  N/A  YES  No
- a. If yes, for what intended purpose is the site being reclaimed? Natural vegetation, wild blue lupine for Frosted Elfin
- b. Will topsoil be stockpiled for reclamation?  YES  No
- c. Will upper subsoil be stockpiled for reclamation?  YES  No
4. How many acres of vegetation (trees, shrubs, ground covers) will be removed from site? 1 acres.
5. Will any mature forest (over 100 years old) or other locally-important vegetation be removed by this project?  YES  No
6. If single phase project: Anticipated period of construction N / A months, (including demolition)
7. If multi-phased:
- a. Total number of phases anticipated N / A (number)
- b. Anticipated date of commencement phase 1 N / A month \_\_\_\_\_ year, (including demolition)
- c. Approximate completion date of final phase N / A month \_\_\_\_\_ year.
- d. Is phase 1 functionally dependent on subsequent phases?  YES  No
8. Will blasting occur during construction?  YES  No
9. Number of jobs generated: during construction N / A ; after project is complete \_\_\_\_\_
10. Number of jobs eliminated by this project N / A
11. Will project require relocation of any projects or facilities?  YES  No  
If yes, explain: \_\_\_\_\_
12. Is surface liquid waste disposal involved?  YES  No
- a. If yes, indicate type of waste (sewage, industrial, etc) and amount \_\_\_\_\_
- b. Name of water body into which effluent will be discharged \_\_\_\_\_
13. Is subsurface liquid waste disposal involved? Type \_\_\_\_\_  YES  No
14. Will surface area of an existing water body increase or decrease by proposal?  YES  No  
If yes, explain: \_\_\_\_\_
15. Is project or any portion of project located in a 100 year flood plain?  YES  No
16. Will the project generate solid waste?  YES  No
- a. If yes, what is the amount per month \_\_\_\_\_ tons
- b. If yes, will an existing solid waste facility be used?  YES  No
- c. If yes, give name \_\_\_\_\_ ; location \_\_\_\_\_
- d. Will any wastes not go into a sewage disposal system or into a sanitary landfill?  YES  No
- e. If yes, explain: \_\_\_\_\_
17. Will the project involve the disposal of solid waste?  YES  No
- a. If yes, what is the anticipated rate of disposal? \_\_\_\_\_ tons/month.
- b. If yes, what is the anticipated site life? \_\_\_\_\_ years.
18. Will project use herbicides or pesticides?  YES  No
19. Will project routinely produce odors (more than one hour per day)?  YES  No

20. Will project produce operating noise exceeding the local ambient noise levels?  YES  NO
21. Will project result in an increase in energy use?  YES  NO  
If yes, indicate type(s) \_\_\_\_\_
22. If water supply is from wells, indicate pumping capacity N/A gallons/minute.
23. Total anticipated water usage per day N/A gallons/day.
24. Does project involve Local, State or Federal funding?  YES  NO  
If yes, explain: EPF Funding, USEPA grant,

**25. Approvals Required:**

	YES	NO	TYPE	SUBMITTAL DATE
City, Town, Village Board	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____
City, Town, Village Planning Board	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____
City, Town Zoning Board	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____
City, County Health Department	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____
Other Local Agencies	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____
Other Regional Agencies	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____
State Agencies	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Commissioner's approval</b>	_____
Federal Agencies	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____

**C. Zoning and Planning Information**

1. Does proposed action involve a planning or zoning decision?  YES  NO  
If Yes, indicate decision required:  
 Zoning amendment  Zoning variance  New/revision of master plan  Subdivision  
 Site plan  Special use permit  Resource management plan  Other \_\_\_\_\_
2. What is the zoning classification(s) of the site? P-Z Preservation Zone
3. What is the maximum potential development of the site if developed as permitted by the present zoning?  
N/A
4. What is the proposed zoning of the site? N/A
5. What is the maximum potential development of the site if developed as permitted by the proposed zoning?  
N/A

6. Is the proposed action consistent with the recommended uses in adopted local land use plans?  YES  NO
7. What are the predominant land use(s) and zoning classifications within a ¼ mile radius of proposed action?

**R-1 Single Family Residential, F-1 Agricultural, P-Z Preservation Zone**

8. Is the proposed action compatible with adjoining/surrounding land uses with a ¼ mile?  YES  NO
9. If the proposed action is the subdivision of land, how many lots are proposed? N/A  
a. What is the minimum lot size proposed? N/A
10. Will proposed action require any authorization(s) for the formation of sewer or water districts?  YES  NO
11. Will the proposed action create a demand for any community provided services (recreation, education, police, fire protection)?  YES  NO  
a. If yes, is existing capacity sufficient to handle projected demand?  YES  NO
12. Will the proposed action result in the generation of traffic significantly above present levels?  YES  NO  
a. If yes, is the existing road network adequate to handle the additional traffic.  YES  NO

**D. Informational Details**

Attach any additional information as may be needed to clarify your project. If there are or may be any adverse impacts associated

with your proposal, please discuss such impacts and the measures which you propose to mitigate or avoid them.

**E. Verification**

I certify that the information provided above is true to the best of my knowledge.

Applicant/Sponsor Name Alan W Brown Date March 30, 2006

Signature Tom Wolfe for Alan Brown /s/ Title Senior Forester

**If the action is in the Coastal Area, and you are a state agency, complete the Coastal Assessment Form before proceeding with this assessment.**

## PART 2 - PROJECT IMPACTS AND THEIR MAGNITUDE

### Responsibility of Lead Agency

**General Information** (Read Carefully)

- In completing the form the reviewer should be guided by the question: Have my responses and determinations been **reasonable?** The reviewer is not expected to be an expert environmental analyst.
- The **Examples** provided are to assist the reviewer by showing types of impacts and wherever possible the threshold of magnitude that would trigger a response in column 2. The examples are generally applicable throughout the State and for most situations. But, for any specific project or site other examples and/or lower thresholds may be appropriate for a Potential Large Impact response, thus requiring evaluation in Part 3.
- The impacts of each project, on each site, in each locality, will vary. Therefore, the examples are illustrative and have been offered as guidance. They do not constitute an exhaustive list of impacts and thresholds to answer each question.
- The number of examples per question does not indicate the importance of each question.
- In identifying impacts, consider long term, short term and cumulative effects.

**Instructions** (Read carefully)

- a. Answer each of the 20 questions in PART 2. Answer **Yes** if there will be **any** impact.
- b. **Maybe** answers should be considered as **Yes** answers.
- c. If answering **Yes** to a question then check the appropriate box(column 1 or 2)to indicate the potential size of the impact. If impact threshold equals or exceeds any example provided, check column 2. If impact will occur but threshold is lower than example, check column 1.
- d. Identifying that an Impact will be potentially large (column 2) does not mean that it is also necessarily **significant**. Any large impact must be evaluated in PART 3 to determine significance. Identifying an impact in column 2 simply asks that it be looked at further.
- e. If reviewer has doubt about size of the impact then consider the impact as potentially large and proceed to PART 3.
- f. If a potentially large impact checked in column 2 can be mitigated by change(s) in the project to a small to moderate impact, also check the **Yes** box in column 3. A **No** response indicates that such a reduction is not possible. This must be explained in Part 3.

### IMPACT ON LAND

1. Will the Proposed Action result in a physical  **NO**  **YES** change to the project site?

**Examples** that would apply to column 2

- Any construction on slopes of 15% or greater, (15 foot rise per 100 foot of length), or where the general slopes in the project area exceed 10%.
- Construction on land where the depth to the water table is less than 3 feet.
- Construction of paved parking area for 1,000 or more vehicles.
- Construction on land where bedrock is exposed or generally within 3 feet of existing ground surface.
- Construction that will continue for more than 1 year or involve more than one phase or stage.
- Excavation for mining purposes that would remove more than 1,000 tons of natural material (i.e., rock or soil) per year.
- Construction or expansion of a sanitary landfill.
- Construction in a designated floodway.
- Other impacts **construction of a viewing platform, development and expansion of parking lots, construction of boardwalks and site disturbance for wild blue lupine management**

2. Will there be an effect to any unique or unusual land forms found on the site? (i.e., cliffs, dunes, geological)  **NO**  **YES**

	1 Small to Moderate Impact	2 Potential Large Impact	3 Can Impact be Mitigated by Project Change	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

• Specific land forms: \_\_\_\_\_    Yes  No

	1 Small to Moderate Impact	2 Potential Large Impact	3 Can Impact be Mitigated by Project Change	
<b>IMPACT ON WATER</b>				
<b>3. Will Proposed Action affect any water body designated as protected?</b> (Under Articles 15, 24, 25 of the Environmental Conservation Law, ECL) <div style="text-align: right;"><input type="checkbox"/> NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES</div> <p><b>Examples</b> that would apply to column 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developable area of site contains a protected water body.</li> <li>• Dredging more than 100 cubic yards of material from channel of a protected stream.</li> <li>• Extension of utility distribution facilities through a protected water body.</li> <li>• Construction in a designated freshwater or tidal wetland.</li> <li>• Other impacts</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>cutting woody debris in Wood Creek to facilitate access by canoe or kayak</b></p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>4. Will Proposed Action affect any non-protected existing or new body of water?</b> <div style="text-align: right;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> YES</div> <p><b>Examples</b> that would apply to column 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A 10% increase or decrease in the surface area of any body of water or more than a 10 acre increase or decrease.</li> <li>• Construction of a body of water that exceeds 10 acres of surface area.</li> <li>• Other impacts</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>5. Will Proposed Action affect surface or groundwater quality or quantity?</b> <div style="text-align: right;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> YES</div> <p><b>Examples</b> that would apply to column 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proposed Action will require a discharge permit.</li> <li>• Proposed Action requires use of a source of water that does not have approval to serve proposed (project) action.</li> <li>• Proposed Action requires water supply from wells with greater than 45 gallons per minute pumping capacity.</li> <li>• Construction or operation causing any contamination of a water supply system.</li> <li>• Proposed Action will adversely affect groundwater.</li> <li>• Liquid effluent will be conveyed off the site to facilities which presently do not exist or have inadequate capacity.</li> <li>• Proposed Action would use water in excess of 20,000 gallons per day.</li> <li>• Proposed Action will likely cause siltation or other discharge into an existing body of water to the extent that there will be an obvious visual contrast to natural conditions.</li> <li>• Proposed Action will require the storage of petroleum or chemical products greater than 1,100 gallons.</li> <li>• Proposed Action will allow residential uses in areas without water and/or sewer services.</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

	1 Small to Moderate Impact	2 Potential Large Impact	3 Can Impact be Mitigated by Project Change	
			Yes	No
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proposed Action locates commercial and/or industrial uses which may require new or expansion of existing waste treatment and/or storage facilities.</li> <li>Other impacts _____</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>6. Will Proposed Action alter drainage flow or patterns, or surface water runoff?</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> YES <b>Examples</b> that would apply to column 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proposed Action would change flood water flows</li> <li>Proposed Action may cause substantial erosion.</li> <li>Proposed Action is incompatible with existing drainage patterns.</li> <li>Proposed Action will allow development in a designated floodway.</li> <li>Other impacts _____</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>IMPACT ON AIR</b>				
<b>7. Will Proposed Action affect air quality?</b> <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <b>Examples</b> that would apply to column 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proposed Action will induce 1,000 or more vehicle trips in any given hour.</li> <li>Proposed Action will result in the incineration of more than 1 ton of refuse per hour.</li> <li>Emission rate of total contaminants will exceed 5 lbs. per hour or a heat source producing more than 10 million BTU's per hour.</li> <li>Proposed Action will allow an increase in the amount of land committed to industrial use.</li> <li>Proposed Action will allow an increase in the density of industrial development within existing industrial areas.</li> <li>Other impacts <b>Controlled burn on small acreage will have very limited impact from smoke</b></li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>IMPACT ON PLANTS AND ANIMALS</b>				
<b>8. Will Proposed Action affect any threatened or endangered species?</b> <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <b>Examples</b> that would apply to column 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduction of one or more species listed on the New York or Federal list, using the site, over or near the site, or found on the site.</li> <li>Removal of any portion of a critical or significant wildlife habitat.</li> <li>Application of pesticide or herbicide more than twice a year, other than for agricultural purposes.</li> <li>Other impacts <b>positive impact on wildlife through habitat improvement, protection and maintenance of unique plant communities.</b></li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>9. Will Proposed Action substantially affect non-threatened or non-endangered species?</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> YES <b>Examples</b> that would apply to column 2           _____	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

- Proposed Action would substantially interfere with any resident or migratory fish, shellfish or wildlife species.
- Proposed Action requires the removal of more than 10 acres of mature forest (over 100 years of age) or other locally important vegetation.

**IMPACT ON AGRICULTURAL LAND RESOURCES**

10. Will Proposed Action affect agricultural land resources?  NO  YES

- Examples** that would apply to column 2
- The Proposed Action would sever, cross or limit access to agricultural land (includes cropland, hayfields, pasture, vineyard, orchard, etc.)
  - Construction activity would excavate or compact the soil profile of agricultural land.
  - The Proposed Action would irreversibly convert more than 10 acres of agricultural land or, if located in an Agricultural District, more than 2.5 acres of agricultural land.
  - The Proposed Action would disrupt or prevent installation of agricultural land management systems (e.g., subsurface drain lines, outlet ditches, strip cropping); or create a need for such measures (e.g. cause a farm field to drain poorly due to increased runoff).
  - Other impacts \_\_\_\_\_

**IMPACT ON AESTHETIC RESOURCES**

11. Will Proposed Action affect aesthetic resources? (If necessary, use the Visual EAF Addendum in Section 617.20, Appendix B.)  NO  YES

- Examples** that would apply to column 2
- Proposed land uses, or project components obviously different from or in sharp contrast to current surrounding land use patterns, whether man-made or natural.
  - Proposed land uses, or project components visible to users of aesthetic resources which will eliminate or significantly reduce their enjoyment of the aesthetic qualities of that resource.
  - Project components that will result in the elimination or significant screening of scenic views known to be important to the area.
  - Other impacts **small impacts from vegetation management, positive impact by maintaining scenic road corridors**

**IMPACT ON HISTORIC AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES**

12. Will Proposed Action impact any site or structure of historic, prehistoric or paleontological importance?  NO  YES

- Examples** that would apply to column 2
- Proposed Action occurring wholly or partially within or substantially contiguous to any facility or site listed on the State or National Register of historic places.
  - Any impact to an archaeological site or fossil bed located within the project site.
  - Proposed Action will occur in an area designated as sensitive for archaeological sites on the NYS Site Inventory.

1 Small to Moderate Impact	2 Potential Large Impact	3 Can Impact be Mitigated by Project Change	
		Yes	No
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	1 Small to Moderate Impact	2 Potential Large Impact	3 Can Impact be Mitigated by Project Change	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Other impacts _____</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>IMPACT ON OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION</b>				
<b>13.</b> Will Proposed Action affect the quantity or quality of existing or future open spaces or recreational opportunities? <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <b>Examples</b> that would apply to column 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The permanent foreclosure of a future recreational opportunity.</li> <li>A major reduction of an open space important to the community.</li> <li><b>Other impacts</b>    <b>positive impact through development of non-motorized trails, increasing public awareness of availability of open space resource</b></li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>IMPACT ON CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL AREAS</b>				
<b>14.</b> Will Proposed Action impact the exceptional or unique characteristics of a critical environmental area (CEA) established pursuant to subdivision 6NYCRR 617.14(g)? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> YES				
<b>Examples</b> that would apply to column 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proposed Action to locate within the CEA?</li> <li>Proposed Action will result in a reduction in the quantity of the resource?</li> <li>Proposed Action will result in a reduction in the quality of the resource?</li> <li>Proposed Action will impact the use, function or enjoyment of the resource?</li> <li>Other impacts _____</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
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	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>IMPACT ON TRANSPORTATION</b>				
<b>15.</b> Will there be an effect to existing transportation systems? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> YES <b>Examples</b> that would apply to column 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alteration of present patterns of movement of people and/or goods.</li> <li>Proposed Action will result in major traffic problems.</li> <li>Other impacts _____</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>IMPACT ON ENERGY</b>				
<b>16.</b> Will Proposed Action affect the community's sources of fuel or energy supply? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> YES <b>Examples</b> that would apply to column 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proposed Action will cause a greater than 5% increase in the use of any form of energy in the municipality.</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

- Proposed Action will require the creation or extension of an energy transmission or supply system to serve more than 50 single or two family residences or to serve a major commercial or industrial use.
- Other impacts

### NOISE AND ODOR IMPACT

17. Will there be objectionable odors, noise, or vibration as a result of the Proposed Action?

NO  YES

Examples that would apply to column 2

- Blasting within 1,500 feet of a hospital, school or other sensitive facility.
- Odors will occur routinely (more than one hour per day).
- Proposed Action will produce operating noise exceeding the local ambient noise levels for noise outside of structures.
- Proposed Action will remove natural barriers that would act as a noise screen.
- Other impacts prescribed fire will create temporary smoke odor

### IMPACT ON PUBLIC HEALTH

18. Will Proposed Action affect public health and safety?

NO  YES

Examples that would apply to column 2

- Proposed Action may cause a risk of explosion or release of hazardous substances (i.e. oil, pesticides, chemicals, radiation, etc.) in the event of accident or upset conditions, or there may be a chronic low level discharge or emission.
- Proposed Action may result in the burial of "hazardous wastes" in any form (i.e. toxic, poisonous, highly reactive, radioactive, irritating, infectious, etc.)
- Storage facilities for one million or more gallons of liquefied natural gas or other flammable liquids.
- Proposed Action may result in the excavation or other disturbance within 2,000 feet of a site used for the disposal of solid or hazardous waste.
- Other impacts

### IMPACT ON GROWTH AND CHARACTER OF COMMUNITY OR NEIGHBORHOOD

19. Will Proposed Action affect the character of the existing community?

NO  YES

Examples that would apply to column 2

- The permanent population of the city, town or village in which the project is located is likely to grow by more than 5%.
- The municipal budget for capital expenditures or operating services will increase by more than 5% per year as a result of this project.
- Proposed Action will conflict with officially adopted plans or goals.
- Proposed Action will cause a change in the density of land use.

1 Small to Moderate Impact	2 Potential Large Impact	3 Can Impact be Mitigated by Project Change	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
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- Proposed Action will replace or eliminate existing facilities, structures or areas of historic importance to the community.
- Development will create a demand for additional community services (e.g. schools, police and fire, etc.)
- Proposed Action will set an important precedent for future projects.
- Proposed Action will create or eliminate employment.
- Other impacts **Positive impact by protecting open space**

1 Small to Moderate Impact	2 Potential Large Impact	3 Can Impact be Mitigated by Project Change	
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<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

20. Is there, or is there likely to be, public controversy related to potential adverse environment impacts?

NO  YES

**If Any Action in Part 2 Is Identified as a Potential Large Impact or If you Cannot Determine the Magnitude of Impact, Proceed to Part 3**

### Part 3 - EVALUATION OF THE IMPORTANCE OF IMPACTS

Responsibility of Lead Agency

Part 3 must be prepared if one or more impact(s) is considered to be potentially large, even if the impact(s) may be mitigated.

#### Instructions

Discuss the following for each impact identified in Column 2 of Part 2:

1. Briefly describe the impact.
2. Describe (if applicable) how the impact could be mitigated or reduced to a small to moderate impact by project change(s).
3. Based on the information available, decide if it is reasonable to conclude that this impact is **important**.

To answer the question of importance, consider:

- The probability of the impact occurring
- The duration of the impact
- Its irreversibility, including permanently lost resources of value
- Whether the impact can or will be controlled
- The regional consequence of the impact
- Its potential divergence from local needs and goals
- Whether known objections to the project relate to this impact.

**State Environmental Quality Review  
NEGATIVE DECLARATION  
Notice of Determination of Non-Significance**

Identifying # \_\_\_\_\_

Date May 10, 2006

This notice is issued pursuant to Part 617 of the implementing regulations pertaining to Article 8 (State Environmental Quality Review Act) of the Environmental Conservation Law.

The NYS Department of Environmental Conservation as lead agency, has determined that the proposed action described below will not have a significant environmental impact and a Draft Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared.

**Name of Action:** Adoption of the Rome Sand Plains Consolidated Management Plan

**SEQR Status:**     Type 1   X    
                          Unlisted \_\_\_\_\_

**Conditioned Negative Declaration:**     \_\_\_\_ Yes  
  X   No

**Description of Action:**

The Rome Sand Plains (RSP) Consolidated Management Plan provides management direction for land under the protection of the DEC known as the Rome Sand Plains Unique Area, as well as lands owned by The Nature Conservancy, the Izaak Walton League and Oneida County. These lands lie within the City of Rome, Outer District, and cover 3,875 acres. The character of these lands is unique by the plant communities that are found there, by the presence of a variety of endangered or unusual flora and fauna, by the geologic development of the area and the sand dunes that remain, and by the historic role the area served during the early exploration and settlement of the United States. This management plan provides for the protection, enhancement and/or maintenance of these unique characteristics while providing increased opportunities for public use in a manner that will not be detrimental to the resource.

Specific proposed projects include, construction of a viewing platform, development and expansion of parking lots, construction of boardwalks to accommodate trails over streams or wetlands and site disturbance for wild blue lupine management.

**Location: (Include street address and the name of the municipality/county. A location map of appropriate scale is also recommended.)**

Oneida County, City of Rome, on Hogsback Road, Oswego Road, Humaston Road, Route 49 and West Thomas Street.

**Reasons Supporting This Determination:**

(See 617.7(a)-(c) for requirements of this determination; see 617.7(d) for Conditioned Negative Declaration)

It has been determined that management activities recommended in this plan will not have a significant adverse impact on the environment. Projects undertaken in the implementation of this plan will be in accordance with all appropriate Department rules, regulations, policies and guidelines. Activities planned for the unit will be covered by the following Programmatic/Generic Environmental Impact Statements:

State Forest Commercial Products Sales Program, Habitat Management Activities, Wildlife Habitat Management on State Forest Land, Red Pine Plantation Clearcut Program, State Forest Recreation Management Program and the New York State Open Space Plan

Activities which would require a site specific environmental review under the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) include: prescribed fire, site preparation with herbicide, and clearcuts larger than 40 acres. In addition, if after the public review process, activities are added to the plan to provide better management of the unit and are not covered by this Negative Declaration or cited Programmatic/Generic Environmental Impact Statements, DEC will undertake a site specific environmental review for such activities.

Activities in the plan will be performed in accordance with the standards and policies and procedures set forth in the following DEC documents:

Continuous Forest Inventory Handbook, State Forest Multiple Use Management Plan, Unpaved Forest Road Handbook, and the Timber Management Handbook.

In addition, activities in the plan will be guided by the Environmental Conservation Law, the expertise of foresters and biologists, the views expressed by the participating public and the following best management practices:

Locating parking areas to minimize necessary cut and fill;  
Locating parking areas away from streams, wetlands, and unstable slopes;  
Locating parking areas on flat, stable, well-drained sites;  
Locating parking areas in areas that require a minimum amount of tree cutting;  
Limiting construction to periods of low or normal rainfall;  
Wherever possible, using wooded buffers to screen parking lots from roads;  
Limiting the size of the parking lot to the minimum necessary to address the intended use; and  
Surfacing parking areas with gravel to avoid surface water runoff and erosion.

- Locating trails to minimize necessary cut and fill;,
- When possible, trails will utilize existing old roads or open areas;
- Locating trails away from streams, wetlands, and unstable slopes where possible;
- Use of proper drainage devices such as waterbars and broad-based dips;
- Locating trails to minimize grades;
- Using stream crossings with low, stable banks, firm stream bottom and gentle approach slopes;
- Construction of stream crossings at right angles to the stream;
- Limiting stream crossing construction to periods of low or normal flow;
- Using stream bank stabilizing structures made of natural materials such as rock or wooden timbers;
- Using natural materials to blend the structure into the natural surroundings

The Rome Sand Plains includes several plant communities listed by the Natural Heritage Program as vulnerable in New York State. One of these communities is the pitch pine-heath barrens. Natural succession challenges the survival of this plant community. Intervention and management will be necessary to maintain a viable community. This plan calls for an assessment of several management alternatives including various levels of tree and vegetation removal, scarification, use of herbicides and prescribed fire to determine the best approach to maintain the pitch pine community. The experiments will be conducted on relatively small size plots which will help to minimize impacts. Prior to implementing a controlled burn a Fire Management Plan will be completed and impacts will be assessed using a Long Environmental Assessment Form.

The Rome Sand Plains is laced with numerous woods roads and logging trails left from previous owners. The current foot trail system now used by the public will be expanded by using the old roads and trails. Development of this trail system will require putting up trail markers, signs, brushing and pruning. Use of some old roads will be discouraged to reduce the effects of human activity on more sensitive areas. Signs or natural physical barriers will direct users away from old roads not intended to be used as part of the trail system. Limiting public use on trails to non-motorized activities will help prevent rapid degradation of trails, habitats and plant communities. Boardwalks will be necessary to accommodate trails over streams or wetlands. While these boardwalks present a visual change to the character of the wooded trails they will prevent damage to the stream banks and wetlands from regular foot traffic.

Providing parking lots at trailheads will make access safer than roadside parking. They will be the minimum size necessary to accommodate trail users. Several parking lots and trail options will help to disburse trail use, thereby reducing impacts to any one location over time. Tree cutting will be necessary to develop the proposed parking lots on Oswego Road, however the size of these facilities will be small and the number of trees to be removed will be minimal. Minor graveling and leveling may be necessary to provide proper drainage of parking lots.

A viewing platform is proposed which will allow users to observe a black spruce-tamarack bog. The impact of a small platform on the bog edge will be offset by protecting the bog from trampling while still allowing users to observe this unique plant community. The platform will be located to allow access for individuals with disabilities.

To meet accessibility guidelines for projects involving access for persons with disabilities a packed surface of fine, screened gravel may be used over the existing soil. Material to bind the fine gravel may also be applied to stabilize the surface.

Survival of the Frosted Elfin butterfly in the Rome Sand Plains is being jeopardized by natural succession reducing the population of the wild blue lupine. The butterfly, a threatened species, depends on the wild lupine for survival. Expanding the lupine population into existing open areas will allow for a larger Elfin population. Tree cutting and other site disturbance will be necessary in certain areas to maintain open areas suitable for wild lupine. These noticeable changes will become less obvious as lupines and other native plants occupy the site. Benefits to the Frosted Elfin population may not be obvious to the casual observer but will be significant.

### **1. Impact on Land**

An effort to reduce the effects of natural succession inevitably results in changes to the land. Failure to interrupt natural succession in the Rome Sand Plains will result in the loss of important plant communities and other flora and fauna. Removal of trees and disturbance of other vegetation will be necessary to alter sites and make them suitable for maintaining wild lupine, Frosted Elfin and the pitch pine community. These changes will occur on relatively small areas or will be spread out over a long period of time, but will produce benefits that would not occur by chance. In a reasonably short time after disturbance these changes will blend in with the natural character of the Rome Sand Plains.

Research suggests that Frosted Elfin butterflies use trees and shrubs to define their territories. Consequently, it is not planned to remove all trees from areas that will be managed for lupine and Frosted Elfin. Areas designated for expansion of the wild lupine population will have trees removed to the extent necessary to create openings suitable for survival, growth and expansion of lupines. These areas are currently occupied mostly by either small diameter or short trees in varying densities. Tree removal will result in densities as low as 12 trees per acre but may be as high as 50 or more trees per acre and will vary with tree size. The appearance after disturbance will be more consistent with a healthy pine barrens ecosystem. Areas that are currently open and occupied by grasses may have to be treated with herbicides or mechanical removal of the sod cover to eliminate competition from the dense cold season grasses. Replanting these disturbed areas with wild lupine and other nectar species will maintain vegetative cover. The visual appeal will be enhanced during the flowering season.

Necessary changes to the land to accommodate use of trails by the public, such as parking lots and boardwalks, will be limited in size and number and will be well distributed. Development of these facilities will result in minimal impacts but will provide improved recreational opportunities. Interpretive signage will be used to help educate the public about the significance of the Sand Plains to develop a greater appreciation of the area. A short road terminating at a small parking lot is proposed to provide access to Wood Creek for exploration by canoe or kayak. The road is expected to be about 700 feet in length and will be in an area that is mostly open and is presently occupied by grasses, weeds and scattered trees. The length of the road would not be significant and would provide an opportunity to easily access Wood Creek. A second, smaller parking lot is proposed near the entrance of this access road where a kiosk would be

located to inform visitors about the Rome Sand Plains. Development of this short road would thereby serve a dual purpose.

An increase in public use could result in negative impacts with litter and degradation of the trails. It is not anticipated that use will increase to the point of undesirable impacts. The well drained, sandy soils and generally level terrain on the trails will help to minimize erosion. As proposed in the plan, the use of volunteer groups to periodically pick up litter will help control accumulation of trash. Trail registers to determine levels of use and monitoring of trail condition will allow for closing of trails before impacts become undesirable. The presence of numerous old trails and roads will provide alternate trail routes, if necessary, to allow over used trails to recover.

## **2. Impact on Water**

Travel on Wood Creek is repeatedly blocked by numerous fallen trees and branches lying in the stream corridor. Use of this stream for a canoe route would be made easier by eliminating these obstructions. Historically, travelers using this water route faced similar barriers making travel difficult. Retaining the woody debris in the stream channel will reflect the historic character of travel on this stream however some cutting of downed trees will allow more enjoyable travel by the average, modern canoeist. Impacts to the stream will be minimized by only removing sections of tree wide enough to allow passage by canoe or kayak. Debris that is completely submerged or that could be bypassed will be left intact. As the woody debris adds to habitat for aquatic insects and other invertebrates and subsequently improves habitat for fish, there will be no attempt to remove trees or clear the entire stream channel.

## **3. Impact on Air**

Although prescribed fires will produce smoke there will not be adverse impacts to air quality. Because burn activity will involve small areas and will be of limited duration, impacts from smoke will be minimal in time and effect. Burning under proper conditions will insure the best possible control of smoke to reduce impacts to residents in the area. Suitable conditions for a controlled burn and management of smoke will be addressed in a Fire Management Plan which will be developed as part of planning for the burn.

## **4. Impact to Plants and Animals**

Management under this plan will have a positive impact on plants and animals by maintaining and protecting habitats that are threatened by natural succession. The wild blue lupine and Frosted Elfin butterfly in particular will benefit from habitat manipulation. The lupine population will increase in size and area and the butterfly population will increase in response. The long term impact will be to disburse the butterfly over a larger area thereby lessening the chance of catastrophic loss to a single, small population.

Pitch pine exists throughout the sand plains but generally in low densities. There will be a positive impact to pitch pine as a result of habitat changes which will result in increased quantities of pitch pine. The character of the Rome Sand Plains and pine barrens habitat includes the presence of pitch pine. Without manipulation of the habitat, pitch pine will eventually fade from the area.

The red shouldered hawk, a species of special concern, is known to nest in the Rome Sand Plains. Locating nest areas as recommended in the plan will allow temporarily closing trails, if necessary, to prevent inadvertent disturbance of nesting hawks by the public.

### **5. Impact on Aesthetic Resources**

Site disturbance to expand and maintain existing plant communities will result in visual changes to the area. Use of herbicides when necessary will cause browning of vegetation. These impacts will be small in size, often in areas away from view, and re-vegetation of the areas will reduce the visual impacts after a short time.

The management plan recommends limiting roadside cutting to maintain the scenic character of the road corridors. Cooperation from the City of Rome Department of Public Works will help to retain the scenic nature of the roads through the sand plains.

### **6. Impact on Open Space and Recreation**

Providing additional trails for non-motorized use will result in increased recreational opportunities. Because the Rome Sand Plains is in close proximity to the City of Rome it provides an important open space for urban residents. Signs and marked trails will contribute to more use as people are more inclined to follow a marked trail than to randomly explore unfamiliar areas.

### **7. Noise and Odor Impact**

Impacts from odor will be a result of recommended prescribed burning. Due to the small size and experimental nature of burning, odor impact will be of short duration. A Fire Management Plan that addresses smoke control will help to reduce the spread of smoke and the associated odor impacts.

### **8. Public Health**

Use of herbicides are proposed as part of experimental test plots to determine the best management alternative to regenerate pitch pine. Herbicides may also be necessary to eliminate competing vegetation in areas designated for wild lupine expansion. Impacts to public health through this herbicide application can be minimized through proper application, timing, attention to wind and weather conditions to prevent drift, and signing the area to be treated. Selecting a pesticide that does not pose a health threat will further reduce potential impacts to public health. These impacts will be addressed in an Herbicide Application Plan which will be prepared prior to any herbicide use.

### **9. Growth and Character of Community**

The City of Rome and Oneida County have been partners in the development of the Rome Sand Plains Management Plan. Rome has included protection of the Rome Sand Plains in the city's comprehensive plan. Open space opportunities in close proximity to an urban area are known to improve the quality of life for urban residents

and this concept has been embraced by the city. The city views the Rome Sand Plains as an attraction and an additional reason for people to visit the Rome area. The Sand Plains presents an opportunity for local residents to enjoy undeveloped, unique open space within a short traveling distance.

**If Conditioned Negative Declaration, provide on attachment the specific mitigation measures imposed, and identify comment period (not less than 30 days from date of publication in the ENB)**

**For Further Information:**

Contact Person: Alan Brown

Address: PO Box 89  
225 N Main St  
Herkimer, NY 13350

Telephone Number: (315) 866-6330

For Type 1 Actions and Conditioned Negative Declarations, a Copy of this Notice is sent to:

Appropriate Regional Office of the Department of Environmental Conservation

Chief Executive Officer, Town/City/Village of

Other involved agencies (if any)

Applicant (if any)

Environmental Notice Bulletin - NYS DEC - 625 Broadway - Albany, NY 12233-1750 (Type One Action Only)