

---

# FOREST PRESERVE DETAILED PROJECT WORK PLAN

---

**Fiscal Year 2023**  
**Project # CO-WP309**

<u>Region</u> 6	<u>Project Title</u> Cooper Structure Removal
--------------------	--

<u>Project Type</u> Modification of Existing Structure/Improvement	<u>Town(s)</u> Ohio	<u>County</u> Herkimer	<u>Management Unit</u> Black River Wild Forest
---	------------------------	---------------------------	---

---

## Description of Desired Condition(s) for Project

Background: The Cooper Structure is a wooden camp structure and associated appurtenances that earliest records date its construction to pre-1957. It is assumed this structure was illegally built on lands owned by Hazel Northam at the time, which were then donated to the State of New York in 1965. At that time the structure was presumed to be on lands managed by the NY State Canal Corporation, but present surveys show that the structure is on lands managed by NYSDEC. The structure was occupied by Carlton Cooper until his death in 2022.

This illegal structure is a non-conforming structure in accordance with the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan. Removal of non-conforming structures is considered “Ordinary Maintenance” according to the DEC/APA MOU and does not require consultation with the Adirondack Park Agency. The resulting desired condition for this project is to remove the camp structure and associated appurtenances and return the site to a wildland setting. Project will also include the removal of all man-made solid waste from the site.

## Description of Project Specifications

A detailed description of the project is attached and labeled as “Appendix 6. Project Plans and Specifications”.

## Description of Measures Taken to Avoid, Mitigate and Minimize Impacts to Natural Resources

No trees greater than 1” DBH are anticipated to be cut during the project.

An underground septic system consisting of two 55-gallon drums will be excavated and removed. This area, along with a hand dug well, will be filled with native material and smoothed to the existing ground contour. Site will be seeded and mulched with a conservation seed mix upon structure removal. Details are attached and labeled as “Appendix 6. Project Plans and Specifications”.

Project is located approximately 75 feet from the Black River; however, no streams, wetlands, or waterbodies will be affected by the project activity. As mentioned above, all exposed soil will be

seeded and mulched to revegetate the site and prevent erosion. The site itself is level (0% slope), therefore erosion from rainfall events is not anticipated.

A review of the New York Natural Heritage Program's Element Occurrence layer shows the Common Loon as an occurrence within one quarter mile of the project area, on North Lake Reservoir. The project location is downstream of the dam which impounds North Lake Reservoir, along the Black River, and will not impact the Common Loon.

#### Analysis of Project Location and Design Alternatives

The project location is a fixed location, as it is an existing non-conforming structure on State land. No alternative site can be considered.

Alternative Action #1 would be to convert the existing structure to an administrative structure for Department use. This alternative is not being considered because there is no current need for an administrative structure at this location. In addition, the structure is in poor condition and would need extensive rehabilitation to upgrade it to a serviceable state. And, due to its remote location, there is a high chance of vandalism.

Alternative Action #2 would be to do nothing with the site. This alternative is not being considered for numerous reasons. The structure and associated appurtenances are illegal and non-conforming on Wild Forest lands. The structure is also an attractive nuisance and would be prone to vandalism. A plethora of solid waste (junk) is littered about the site, which is adjacent to the Black River, which is classified as Recreational under the WSRR Act at this location. Unknown liquid waste is located within and around the structure which would eventually leach out into the Black River. The dug well and homemade septic system can become a hazard should they cave in.

#### Description of Use of Motorized Equipment and/or Motor Vehicles (if any)

It is anticipated that an excavator will be used to demolish the existing structure. Dump trucks will be used to haul away all manmade materials. Other possible motorized equipment that may be used would be: a bulldozer, chainsaws, and hay mulcher/seeder. This is all dependent upon the equipment that the contractor has available to them. There is a driveway that leads directly to the structure.

#### Description of Applicable Standards for Accessibility by People with Disabilities

This is not applicable for this type of project (structure demolition).

#### Other Relevant Considerations

After remediation of the site, the site will be monitored on a routine basis to ensure that the conservation seed mix germinates and stabilizes the site. Reapplication by NYSDEC staff will be performed, if necessary. The driveway into the site will be blocked off with large stones to prevent future motor vehicle traffic after the site is fully reclaimed.

Prepared by (Name & Title): Scott Healy, Supervising  
Forester  
Phone: 315-866-6330

Date: 5/18/2023

**REGULATORY CLEARANCE CHECKLIST – STATE LANDS and CONSERVATION EASEMENT PROJECTS**

PROGRAM	PERMIT	REQUIRED		SECURED BY	COMMENTS
		YES	NO	(NAME)	
Air Resources	Restricted Burning	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Mineral Resources	Mining	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Materials Management	Solid Waste Mgt. Fac.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Water	Dam Safety Review	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
	Const. in Flood Hazard	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
	Public Water Supply	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
	SPDES	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Spills Management	Petro. Bulk Storage	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Lands and Forests	Unit Management Plan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Approved UMP 1996
	Tree Cutting	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
	Protected Native Plants	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		None in NYNHP database
	Historic Preservation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Fish and Wildlife	Freshwater Wetlands	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
	Wild Scenic & Rec. River	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Within Recreational River Corridor
Compliance Services	Other Protection of Waters	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
	EAF	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Scott Healy	Full EAF Attached
	Negative Declaration	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Scott Healy	In FEAF
	Env. Impact Statement	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
	Water Quality Cert.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
DEC (other)	CP-17	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
	Commissioner (aircraft, motorized equipment)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
	Flight Request	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
	Contract Clearance Sh.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
	DOB Exemption	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Other Agencies	APA MOU	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Routine Maintenance
	APA Wetlands Permit	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
	Corps. of Engineers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
	Building Permits	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
	Local Permits	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
	Easements	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
	Highway Enter DOT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
	Wastewater Disposal	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

# **Attachment 6. Project Plans and Specifications**

## **Attachment 6**

Black River Wild Forest

Cooper Structure Removal

### **SCOPE OF WORK - PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS**

#### **A. SCOPE OF WORK**

The NYSDEC is requesting quotes from qualified contractors for removal and disposal of abandoned property on State Lands, located off South Lake Rd. in the Hamlet of Atwell, Town of Ohio, Herkimer County, NY. The Contractor shall furnish all labor, materials, equipment, and supervision necessary for the demolition, removal, and disposal of all above ground structures, foundations, concrete blocks/slabs, garbage, and debris at the project location. More specifically the contractor shall be responsible for the following:

1. Demolition, removal, and disposal of the main structure and attached shed.
2. Removal and disposal of all outlying debris, including but not limited to; the portable carport structure, building materials and debris, scrap metal, used tires, waste oil, and all other non-natural materials scattered around the project site.
3. Removal, disposal, backfilling, and restoration of the improvised onsite wastewater treatment system. (System is reported to be two buried 55-gallon drums used as an improvised septic tank and drywell).
4. Abandonment and closure of the existing dug well.
5. Final site restoration.

#### **B. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS**

All employees involved in the work must be properly and appropriately certified as identified in Subpart 56-3 of Industrial Code Rule 56, as promulgated by the New York State Department of Labor (NYSDOL). This includes all individuals involved in all portions of the work including managing, supervising, designing, inspecting, or performing the work.

#### **C. ASBESTOS CONTAINING MATERIALS**

The main structure at the project site was found to be in structurally unsound condition and will be demolished with asbestos in place utilizing ICR 56 Section 11.5, Controlled Demolition with Asbestos in Place.

##### **1. Regulatory Variances**

The contractor shall remove and dispose of ACM in accordance with 12 NYCRR 56 (Industrial Code Rule 56). If the asbestos contractor elects to remove the ACM using methods other than those allowed under Industrial Code Rule 56, the contractor shall apply for a site-specific variance from the NYSDOL. The contractor shall not begin asbestos removal using alternate methods until a site-specific variance has been issued by the NYSDOL. All costs and/or delays associated with obtaining a site-specific variance shall be borne by the Contractor. The Contractor shall submit a copy of the proposed site-specific variance to the Project Manager for approval prior to submittal to the NYSDOL.

##### **2. Contractor Responsibilities**

###### **i. Asbestos Contractor**

All asbestos abatement work shall be performed by a licensed NYSDOL Asbestos Contractor. The asbestos contractor shall remove and dispose of the Asbestos Containing Material in strict accordance with NYSDOL Industrial Code Rule 56 (ICR 56) or approved Site-Specific Variance.

Black River Wild Forest  
Cooper Structure Removal

ii. Project Notification

All asbestos work notifications are the responsibility of the contractor. The Contractor shall provide a copy of the notifications to the Project Manager. The project size is classified by the total amount of material to be removed in each structure. The work of this project is a large ACM removal project and USEAP and NYSDOL notifications will be required.

3. Project Monitoring - Asbestos Project Monitor and Compliance Air Monitoring

The Department is responsible for hiring a NYSDOL-certified Asbestos Project Monitor to oversee the asbestos removal work. This project monitor will also be responsible for performing compliance air monitoring required by 12 NYCRR 56 or regulatory variance. The Contractor shall coordinate with the Department to ensure project monitoring services can be arranged.

**D. NON-ASBESTOS CONTAINING MATERIALS**

All outlying debris and non-natural materials in the surrounding area shall be removed and properly disposed. Any hazardous materials encountered shall be handled in accordance with applicable rules and regulations. Removed materials become the property of the contractor, with salvage value to be considered in the bid price. The State does not guarantee the amount of any material of value to be present after its release to the contractor. The Contractor shall have no claim against the State because the salvage value of facilities has changed at the time of disposal.

**E. REMOVAL OF SUB-SURFACE IMPROVEMENTS**

The location of subsurface improvements to be removed and restored as part of this project will be identified in the field by the Project Manager. All known features are identified below.

1. Improvised Onsite Wastewater Treatment System

The improvised treatment system, consisting of two buried 55-gal drums, shall be excavated and removed. The void shall be backfilled with suitable material sourced from the project site.

2. Shallow Dug Well

The existing dug well shall be abandoned and closed. Remove all pumps, piping and/or debris and break any curbing to below ground level. Completely fill the well with clean native material, compacted to prevent settling and ponding, and grade the area to conform to the existing ground contours.

Any unknown subsurface features discovered during the project shall be removed.

**F. SITE RESTORATION**

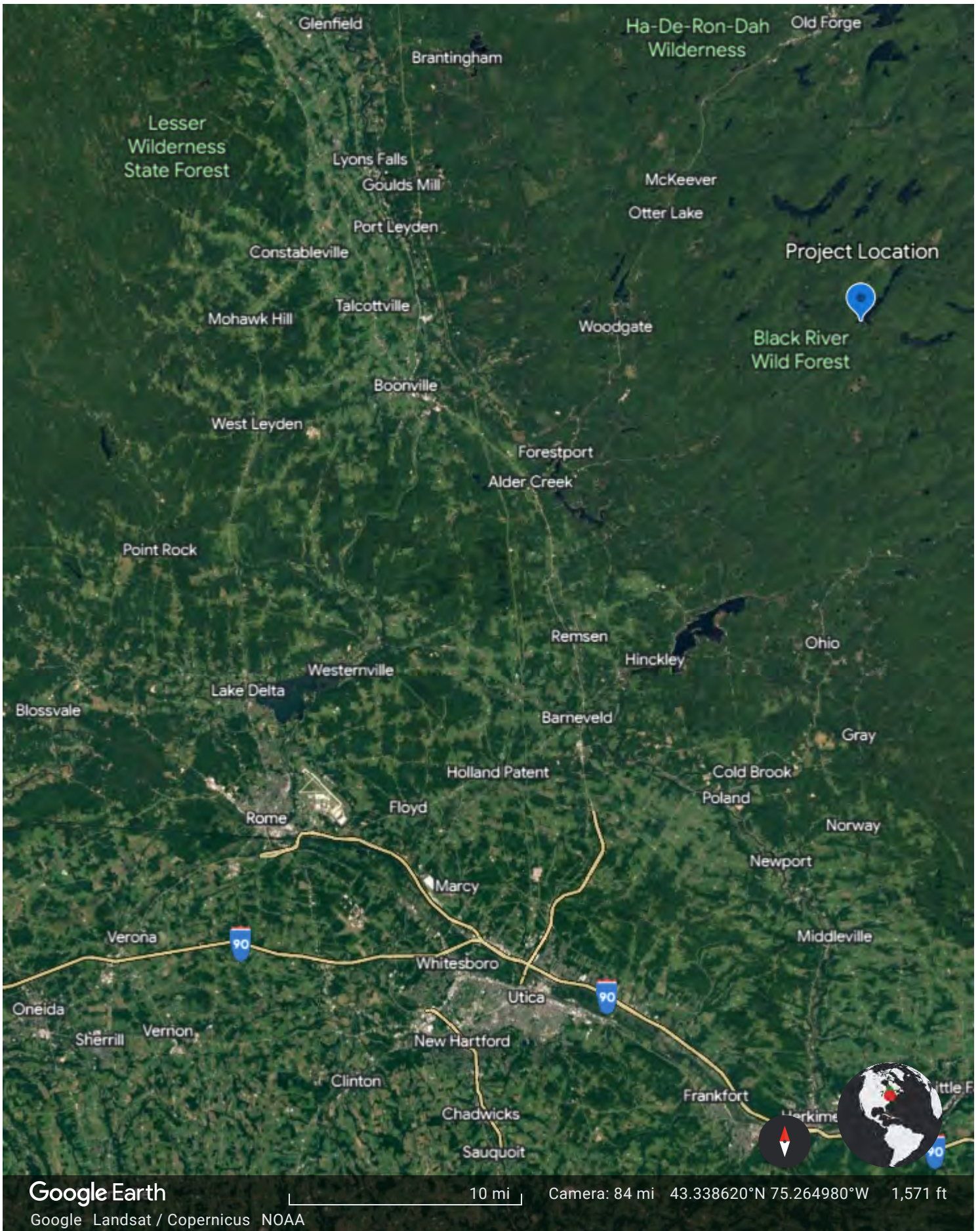
Upon completion of all work, the Contractor shall grade all disturbed areas to match existing ground contours and promote free water drainage. Final surfaces shall be uniform and smooth. After completion of site grading, the contractor shall seed and mulch all disturbed areas.

1. Seed

Ernst Conservation Seeds, Lakeview Conservation Mix ERNMX-116 or approved equal. Seed shall be applied at a rate of 150 bulk lbs. per acre or 3 lbs. per 1,000 sf. Seeds shall be distributed by any method that does not injure the seeds in the process.

2. Mulch

Straw mulch shall consist of stalks of oats, wheat, rye, or other approved crops which are free of noxious weeds. All seeded areas shall be mulched. Mulch shall be spread, by hand or machine, uniformly in a continuous blanket of sufficient thickness to hide the soil from view, taking care not to over apply.



Google Earth

Google Landsat / Copernicus NOAA

10 mi

Camera: 84 mi 43.338620°N 75.264980°W 1,571 ft





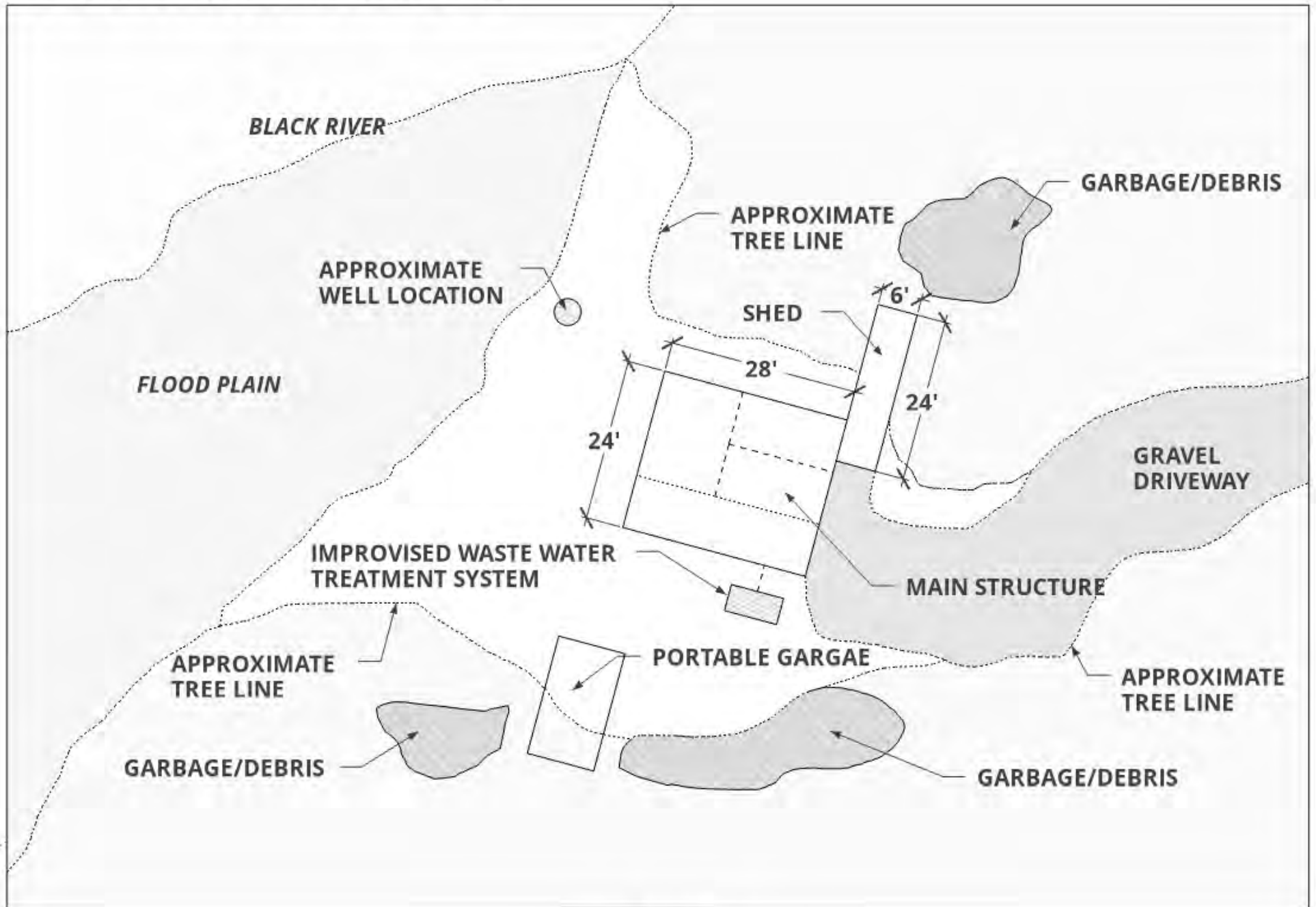
Google Earth

Imagery date: 10/3...

1,000 ft

Camera: 9,365 ft 43.524341°N 74.9...

# BLACK RIVER WILD FOREST COOPER STRUCTURE REMOVAL



**SITE PLAN**  
NO SCALE









