

State Land/Easement Project Work Plan  
for  
Construction of New Facilities and Expansion or  
Modification of Existing Facilities  
Fiscal Year 2023-2024

**Project #** Click or tap to enter Project Number (leave blank if not applicable)

<u>Region</u>	<u>Project Title</u>
6	Mt. Arab Hiking Trail Maintenance

<u>Project Type</u>	<u>Town(s)</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Management Unit</u>
Modification of Existing Facility	Piercefield	St. Lawrence	Bog River UMP Horseshoe Lake Wild Forest Conifer-Emporium Conservation Easement

**Project Description/Desired Condition(s):**

This project will conduct maintenance on the Mt. Arab Hiking Trail, located on both Horseshoe Lake Wild Forest (0.3 mile) and the Conifer-Emporium Conservation Easement (0.7 mile; private land). This project will improve user safety on a heavily used hiking trail (approximately 10,000 trail register sign ins per year). The trail is mentioned in the Bog River UMP (2002), but is not assigned a specific trail class or maximum dimensions. Using the Trail Class Matrix developed by the US Forest Service, the existing trail is best described as a Trail Class 3, or “Developed” Trail, single tread, with a tread width of 18-48”. Existing wooden and stone staircases (located on the Conservation Easement section of trail) are generally 30-36” in width, which corresponds to a Trail Class 4 or “Highly Developed” Trail. The trail generally sees heavy summer and fall foot traffic, with lighter use the rest of the year. Bicycle usage is allowed, but due to steep topography, is minimal.

The Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan defines a foot trail as “ a marked and maintained path or way for foot travel located and designed to provide for reasonable access in a manner causing the least effect on the surrounding environment.” In following this definition, the trail improvements will aim to improve resilience of the trail to heavy use, while minimizing future environmental impacts due to soil erosion or trail widening. To preserve the wild forest character of the trail, overstory tree removal will be minimized, the trail will be routed to better conform to the natural topography (i.e avoid steep uphill slopes prone to erosion), and will avoid impacts to wetlands.

The trail work proposed is not expected to increase trail usage, but will accommodate the existing trail use with reduced environmental impacts.

Location 1 – Horseshoe Lake Wild Forest. The existing trail climbs a steep sloping rock face (25% slope) which becomes slippery and dangerous during wet or icy conditions. The existing trail (130’) will be re-routed, and a 185’ trail re-route located to the north will be constructed. The old trail segment will then be obliterated with rocks and logs to prevent further use. The new trail section will have a maximum 6’ wide tree cutting / disturbance limit, with a maximum 36” trail tread. In areas that do not require stone steps, benching, or rockwork the disturbance area will be narrower, 48” in width with a 30” wide tread.

Location 2 – Conifer-Emporium Conservation Easement – An existing section of failing wooden bog bridging (2' x 25') across a muddy area will be removed and replaced by turnpiking or stepping stones using nearby rocks and mineral soil.

Location 3 – Conifer-Emporium Conservation Easement – An existing 3' x 50' section of wooden staircase has started to rot and fail. It will be replaced with a similar wooden staircase constructed from treated lumber. A trail re-route at this location was considered, however due to steep topography it would require a very extensive re-route that would involve substantial earthwork and soil disturbance.

**Trees to be Removed:**

Location 1 – Horseshoe Lake Wild Forest – 185' Trail Re-route. A maximum of 41 trees will be cut.

Location 2 – Conifer-Emporium CE – 2' x 25' turnpiking or stepping stones. No trees will be cut.

Location 3 – Conifer-Emporium CE – Replace 3' x 50' wooden stairs. No trees will be cut.

Table 1. Summary of Trees Marked for a 185 ft Re-route of the Mt. Arab Trail, Horseshoe Lake Wild Forest.

DBH /Species	BE	HM	RM	Str. M	YB	Totals
1-2"	All Species					26
3-4"	8	1	2			11
5-6"	1	1				2
7-8"		1				1
9-10"						0
11-12"						0
13-14"					1	1
Totals	9	3	2	0	1	41

Trees are marked with orange paint.

BE = Beech  
 HM = Sugar Maple  
 RM = Red Maple

Str. M = Striped Maple  
 YB = Yellow Birch

09/13/22

Note that the above table represents the maximum number of trees to be removed for the project. The final number of trees to be removed is expected to be lower, as some trees near the edges of the 6' wide disturbance limit may not need to be removed. This will depend upon the amount of benching and trail hardening needed, stone step installation, the presence of rock outcrops, and associated root disturbance encountered when the trail re-route is installed. Some of these variables can only be estimated, and will become known only when the trail work begins.

**Earthwork and Disturbance, Including Identification of Work Outside Trail Corridor:**

Location 1 – Horseshoe Lake Wild Forest – 185' Trail Re-route. Earthwork will include benching, installation of rock steps, and rock fill with retention on cross sloped sections of trail. Material will be gathered within 50' either side of the trail.

Location 2 – Conifer Emporium CE – Remove 2' x 25' of wooden bog bridging. A 2' x 25' section of trail will be hardened by turnpiking or placement of large stepping stones. Material will be gathered from within 50' either side of the trail.

Location 3 – Conifer Emporium CE – Replace 3' x 50' wooden stairs - none.

**Analysis of Project Location and Design Alternatives:**

Alternative 1. No Action Alternative. Under this alternative, no trail re-route will be constructed and failing wooden structures would not be replaced. This is considered unacceptable, as it would contribute to the continued deterioration of the trail and worsening of known hazards to trail users.

Alternative 2. Location 1 – Horseshoe Lake Wild Forest. Construct a 3' x 40' wooden or rock staircase along the existing steep sloping rock face, with no trail re-route or tree cutting needed. This option would avoid tree cutting, but would not help with the problem of the steps becoming packed with snow and ice in the winter. Winter hikers often do not wear traction devices or snowshoes, which causes them to avoid steeply sloped stairs packed with snow and ice, and create herd paths adjacent to the stairs. In other locations on the trail, this has caused a widening usage corridor and an increased negative impact on the forest adjacent to the trail. Experience has shown that users prefer trails which have a lower average grade (10% or less), and a short series of 2 or 3 steps rather than long staircases. A new wooden staircase at this location would also add to the the infrastructure that would eventually need to be replaced as the wood decays.

Alternative 3. Location 1 – Horseshoe Lake Wild Forest. Construct a 150' reroute to the south of the existing trail alignment. This alignment would be approximately the same steepness as the existing trail, and would similarly require the construction of rock or wooden steps for the sharp increase in grade. The number of trees to be cut would depend on the final alignment, but would be approximately 34 trees. This would involve much steeper grades than the proposed 185' re-route, and significantly more rock work.

**Description of Measures Taken to Mitigate Impacts on Vegetation, Water Quality, Wild Forest Character and the Aesthetics of the area:**

The goal of the trail maintenance is to improve the durability of the trail system and improve year round user safety, while also minimizing impacts to the overall wild forest character of the area. Tree cutting will be minimized, and will generally remove only small diameter saplings and pole sized trees, while leaving the overstory tree canopy unaffected. Wooden infrastructure will generally be replaced by stonework or hardened trail surfaces which blend better into the surrounding landscape and will require less future maintenance.

**Identification of Rare, Threatened or Endangered Species:**

There are no known rare / threatened / endangered species within the work areas affected by this project.

**Description of Use of Motorized Equipment and/or Motor Vehicles, if any:**

Use of motorized equipment will be minimal.

Location 1 – Horseshoe Lake WF – Trail Re-route. A portable generator may be used to power a rock drill to split rocks for rock steps, although this work would likely be done by hand.

**Other Relevant Considerations:**

Click or tap to enter other relevant considerations

**Prepared by (Name & Title):** Aaron Graves, Forester 1  
**Phone:** (315) 274-3344

**Date:** 11/29/2022

**Approvals:**

**Comments:**

**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 type="checkbox"/>		
Mineral Resources	Mining	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Materials Management	Solid Waste Mgt. Fac.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Water	Dam Safety Review	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
	Const. in Flood Hazard	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
	Public Water Supply	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
	SPDES	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Spills Management	Petro. Bulk Storage	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Lands and Forests	Unit Management Plan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	A. Graves	Trail covered in 2002 Bog River UMP.
	Tree Cutting	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	A. Graves	
	Protected Native Plants	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	A. Graves	None in work areas
	Historic Preservation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	A. Graves	None in work areas
Fish and Wildlife	Freshwater Wetlands	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	A. Graves	None in work areas
	Wild Scenic & Rec. River	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	A. Graves	None in work areas
Compliance Services	Other Protection of Waters	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
	EAF	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
	Negative Declaration	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
	Env. Impact Statement	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
	Water Quality Cert.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
DEC (other)	CP-17	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
	Commissioner (aircraft, motorized equipment)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
	Flight Request	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
	Contract Clearance Sh.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
	DOB Exemption	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Other Agencies	APA MOU	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	A. Graves	SL Consultation Form 11/2/22
	APA Wetlands Permit	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	A. Graves	SL Consultation Form 11/2/22
	Corps. of Engineers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	A. Graves	No Fed Wetlands in work areas
	Building Permits	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
	Local Permits	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
	Easements	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
	Highway Enter DOT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
	Wastewater Disposal	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		

State Land Consultation

File Number:



**Adirondack  
Park Agency**

KATHY HOCHUL  
Governor

BARBARA RICE  
Executive Director

## STATE LAND PROJECT CONSULTATION FORM

*Completion of this form is required to receive a determination of Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan (APSLMP) and/or Unit Management Plan compliance and wetland jurisdiction for all DEC State land projects from the Agency. A site visit by Agency staff may be required depending on the complexity of the project, the natural resources involved and the level of documentation provided.*

### **Part 1**

(To be completed by DEC staff)

#### **A. Project Identification**

Project Name:

DEC Contact Person:

Telephone:

Email:

#### **B. Project Location and Other Information**

State Land Unit:

Region:

Town:

County:

Is a UMP for this unit completed and approved?    Yes     No

(If yes, please attach a copy of the cover page and all pages relevant to this project.)

Is the proposal to replace an existing structure?    Yes     No

If yes:

a) When was the structure constructed?

b) Will the new structure be the same size and located in the same place?

Yes  No  (Describe in the narrative, section D.)

### C. Prior Agency Contact

Has there been prior contact (including any wetland delineation work) with the Agency regarding this project? Yes  No

If yes, name of contact person(s) and date(s) (approximate, if not known):

Contact person:  Date:

### D. Project Description

Provide a brief, narrative description as precisely as possible with any additional location information necessary. Include/attach map(s), photograph(s) and plan(s) whenever possible. (attach another sheet if needed)

Maintenance will occur at 3 locations. Location 1 Horseshoe Lake Wild Forest. Construct a 185' trail re-route to avoid a steep bare rock slope on the trail. Location 2. Conifer-Emporium CE. Replace 25' of bog bridging with stepping stones or turnpiking. Location 3. Conifer-Emporium Conservation Easement. Replace an existing 3' x 50' wood staircase with another treated wood staircase. We would also like to apply for any needed wetland permits for this project, although GIS layers do not show any APA or Federal wetlands in the vicinity of the work areas.

If the proposed project is determined to be compliant with the APSLMP but jurisdictional for wetlands, the Agency can determine if the project qualifies for *General Permit 2005G-1R* or if an individual Article 24 Freshwater Wetlands permit will be required. If either of these wetlands permits is applied for, additional information about the project will likely be requested. Agency staff can provide the appropriate permit application form with the return of this completed State Land Consultation Form, if requested.

Submitted by:

Date:

Return this form to the Agency (preferably electronically) for APA staff completion of Part 2.

**Part 2**

(To be completed by APA staff)

**ADIRONDACK PARK STATE LAND MASTER PLAN COMPLIANCE REVIEW**

Planning Status (check one)

- A) The project, as planned, is described sufficiently in an approved UMP and does not require additional consultation with APA State land staff before being undertaken.
- B) The project is proposed in insufficient detail in an approved UMP and so does require additional consultation with APA State land staff before being undertaken.
- C) The project is not proposed in an approved UMP and – via this submission - is the subject of consultation with APA State land staff to determine if it may be undertaken, as per Section V of the DEC/APA MOU.

DEC/APA Consultation Guidelines

Planning Status “A” Projects:

- The proposed project has been determined by the APA Board, via approval of a UMP, to conform to APSLMP guidelines and criteria in all respects other than potential wetland impacts.
- IF the result of the “Preliminary APA Wetlands Jurisdiction Assessment” (page 6) is an APA staff conclusion that jurisdictional wetlands:
  - WILL NOT be involved or affected by the proposed project, THEN, the project may be undertaken.
  - MAY BE involved or affected by the proposed project, THEN, the Agency can determine if the project qualifies for *General Permit 2005G-1R* or an individual Article 24 Freshwater Wetlands permit and may request additional information.

#### Planning Status “B” Projects:

- The proposed project, via review and approval of a UMP, has received conceptual approval by the APA Board but must still be reviewed by APA State land staff in sufficient detail before it may be determined to conform to APSLMP guidelines and criteria in all respects other than potential wetland impacts.
- IF the result of the “Preliminary APA Wetlands Jurisdiction Assessment” (page 6) is an APA staff conclusion that jurisdictional wetlands:
  - WILL NOT be involved or affected by the proposed project, THEN, the project may be undertaken.
  - MAY BE involved or affected by the proposed project, THEN, the Agency can determine if the project qualifies for *General Permit 2005G-1R* or an individual Article 24 Freshwater Wetlands permit and may request additional information.
- IF the result of the “APSLMP Compliance Review” is a conclusion that the proposed project:
  - DOES NOT CONFORM to APSLMP guidelines and criteria regardless of wetland impacts, THEN, the project should not be undertaken by DEC staff.

#### Planning Status “C” Projects:

- The project has NOT been proposed within a UMP approved by the APA Board, and so it has not been determined to conform to APSLMP guidelines and criteria. It must therefore be determined by APA State land staff to meet the definition of “ordinary maintenance,” “rehabilitation” or “minor relocation” of conforming structures or improvements as per Section V of the DEC/APA MOU if it is to be undertaken without being included in such a UMP.
- IF the result of the determination is that the proposed project:
  - CANNOT BE so defined, THEN, the project should not be undertaken by DEC staff at this time.
  - CAN BE so defined, THEN, the Agency can determine if the project qualifies for *General Permit 2005G-1R* or an individual Article 24 Freshwater Wetlands permit and may request additional information.
- IF the result of the “Preliminary APA Wetlands Jurisdiction Assessment” (page 6) is an APA staff conclusion that jurisdictional wetlands:



- WILL NOT be involved or affected by the proposed project, THEN, the project may be undertaken.
- MAY BE involved or affected by the proposed project, THEN, the Agency can determine if the project qualifies for *General Permit 2005G-1R* or an individual Article 24 Freshwater Wetlands permit and may request additional information.

**APA State Land Staff Determination Regarding Consistency with the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan**

Staff have determined the proposed project – in all respects other than potential wetlands impacts – conforms  , does not conform  , to the guidelines and criteria of the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan.

/s/ Megan Phillips

10/31/22

Deputy Director, Planning or designee

Date

**Rationale for Determination**

See attached memo.

**PRELIMINARY APA WETLANDS JURISDICTION ASSESSMENT**

1) Is the proposed project located in a wetland? Yes  No

2) Does the project involve any of the following activities whether or not it is located in a wetland? Yes  No

Discharge of liquid wastes into (or so as to drain into) a wetland, including sewage treatment effluent within 100' of a wetland? Yes  No

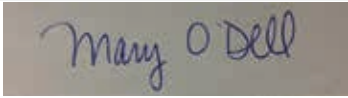
Any other form of pollution of a wetland? Yes  No

Any activity that may substantially impair the functions served by, or the benefits derived from, wetlands?

Yes  No

**APA RASS Staff Preliminary Assessment Regarding Adirondack Park Freshwater Wetlands Jurisdiction**

Staff have determined that wetlands subject to the review jurisdiction of the Adirondack Park Agency may , will not  be involved or affected by the proposal.



10/21/22

Supervisor, Natural Resource Analysis or designee

Date

**Rationale for Determination**

A review of aerial photos and file photos taken on-site do not indicate the presence of wetlands in the vicinity of the project.

If the project is determined to be jurisdictional for wetlands, the Agency will determine if the project qualifies for *General Permit 2005G-1R* or an individual Article 24 Freshwater Wetlands permit and may request additional information.

Form completed by APA State Land member:

Completion Date:

**Distribution:**

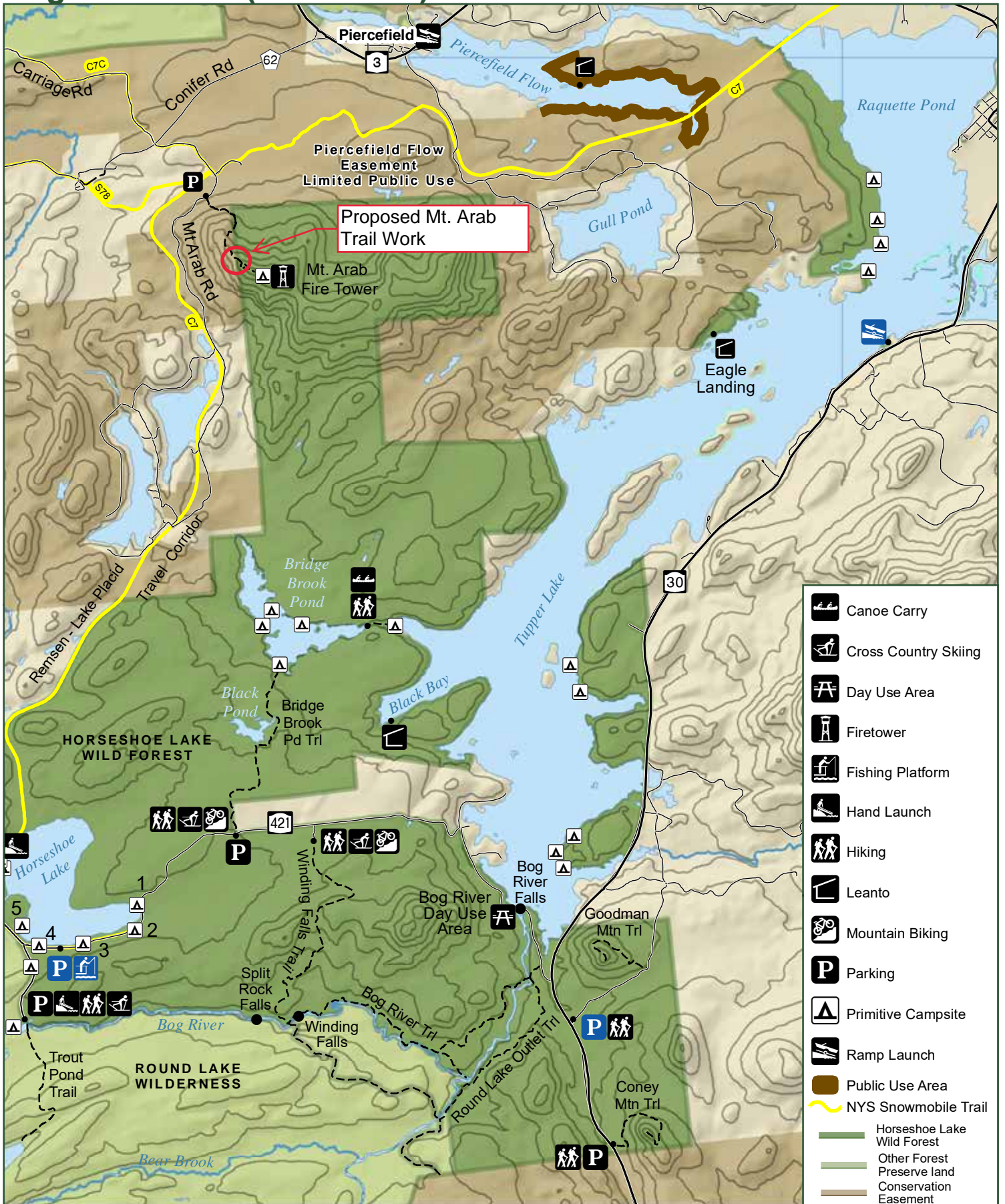
DEC Contact:

Regional Forester:

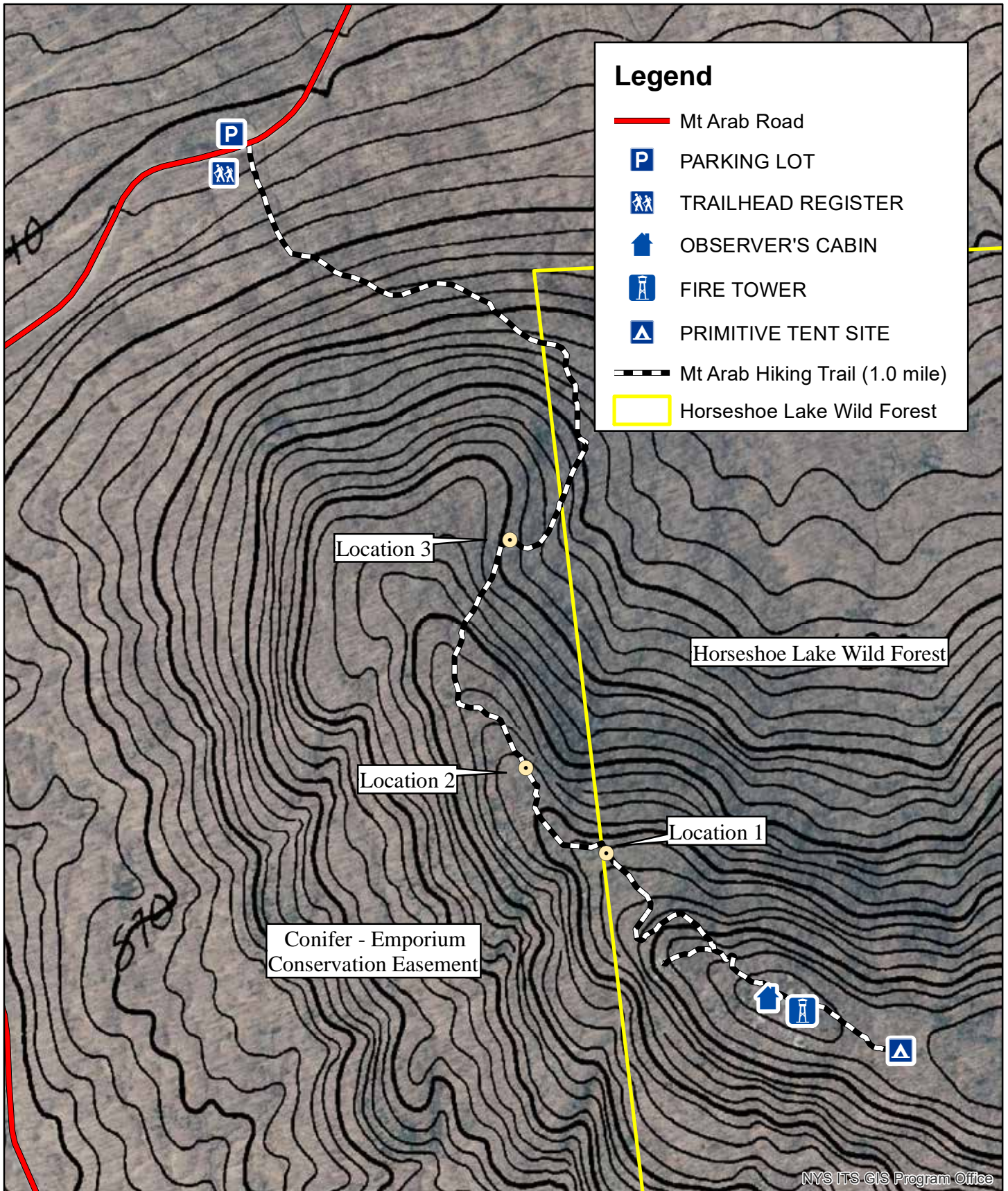
Natural Resources Supervisor of Region:

Forest Preserve Coordinator, Central Office:

# Bog River Flow (Lows Lake) - East



- Canoe Carry
- Cross Country Skiing
- Day Use Area
- Firetower
- Fishing Platform
- Hand Launch
- Hiking
- Leanto
- Mountain Biking
- Parking
- Primitive Campsite
- Ramp Launch
- Public Use Area
- NYS Snowmobile Trail
- Horseshoe Lake Wild Forest
- Other Forest Preserve land
- Conservation Easement



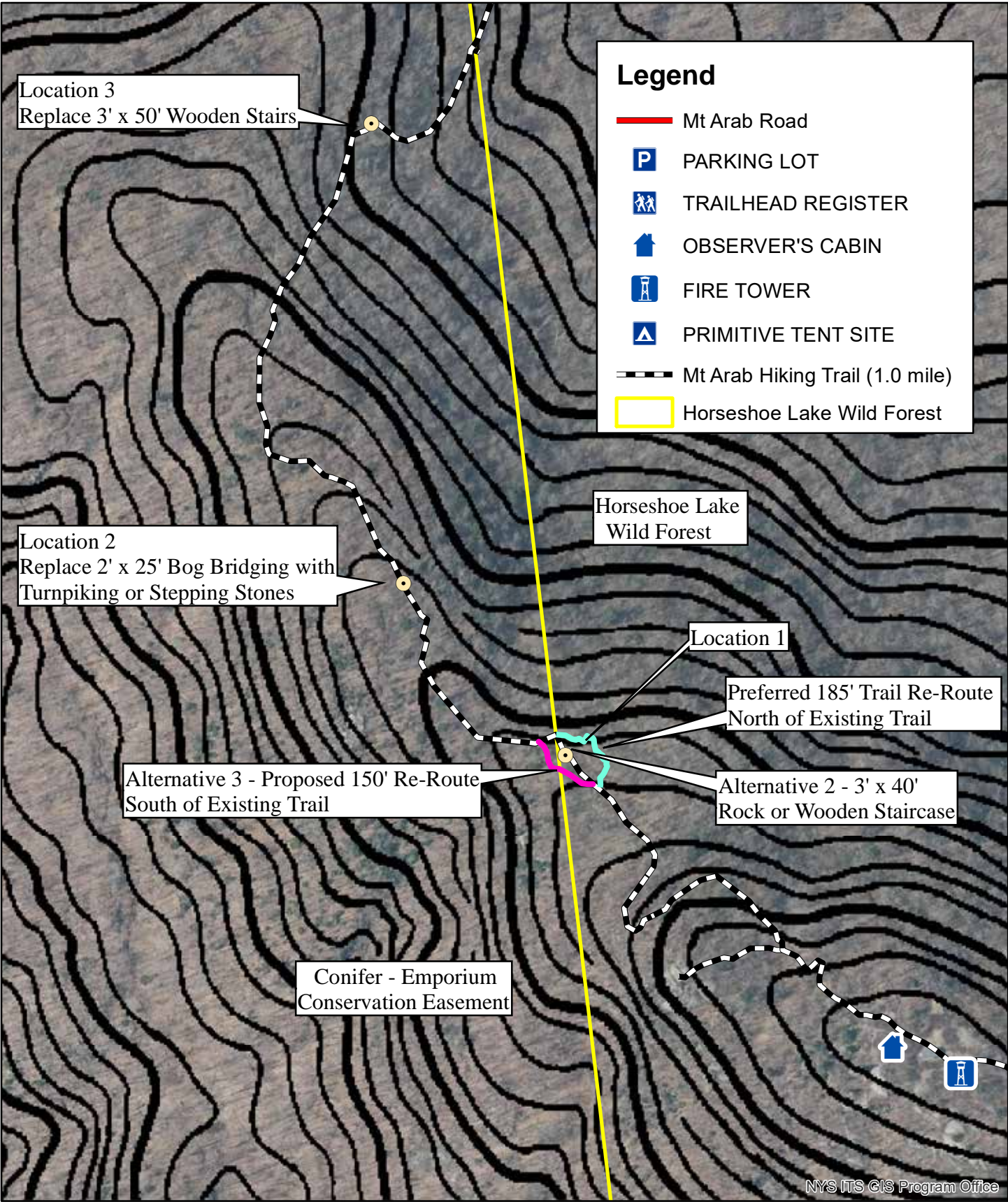




Photo 1.1 Location 1. Horseshoe Lake Wild Forest.

Existing steep sloping rock face on the Mt. Arab hiking trail. The white tape is placed along the existing trail centerline. The red dashed line to the left is the preferred 185' trail re-route to the north of the existing trail.



Photo 1.2. Location 1. Horseshoe Lake Wild Forest. Proposed 185' re-route.  
The tape is along proposed centerline of the preferred trail re-route.



Photo 1.3. Location 1. Horseshoe Lake Wild Forest. Proposed 185' Trail Re-route. The white tape is laying along the approximate trail centerline. The yellow measuring tape represents the 6' proposed limit of disturbance along the trail. Some trees marked for removal near the edges of the disturbance limit may not need to be cut, depending upon the amount of rock work, benching, and retention required to harden the trail surface.



Photo 1.4. Location 1. Horseshoe Lake Wild Forest. Alternative 3. This is the proposed 150' Trail re-route to the south of the existing trail. The topography on this side of the trail is significantly steeper, with rock or wooden steps needed to climb the rock ledge in the foreground.





Photo 2.1 Location 2. Conifer - Emporium Conservation Easement.  
Existing 2' x 24' wooden bog bridging to be replaced by turnpiking or rock stepping stones.



Photo 3.1 Location 3. Conifer - Emporium Conservation Easement.

Existing 3' x 50' wooden staircase to be replaced by another treated wood staircase.

**Table 1. Summary of Trees Marked for a 185 ft Re-route  
of the Mt. Arab Trail,  
Horseshoe Lake Wild Forest.**

DBH /Species	BE	HM	RM	Str. M	YB	Totals
1-2"	All Species					26
3-4"	8	1	2			11
5-6"	1	1				2
7-8"		1				1
9-10"						0
11-12"						0
13-14"					1	1
Totals	9	3	2	0	1	41

Trees are marked with orange paint.

BE = Beech

Str. M = Striped Maple

HM = Sugar Maple

YB = Yellow Birch

RM = Red Maple

09/13/22

**BOG RIVER**

**UNIT MANAGEMENT PLAN**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**  
**STATEMENT**

**HORSESHOE LAKE WILD FOREST**  
**HITCHINS POND PRIMITIVE**  
**AREA LOWS LAKE PRIMITIVE**  
**AREA TUPPER LAKE BOAT**  
**LAUNCH CONIFER EASEMENT**  
**LANDS**

**in FRANKLIN COUNTY**  
**HAMILTON COUNTY ST.**  
**LAWRENCE COUNTY**

Lead Agency: Department of Environmental Conservation  
Preparer of Draft: Department of Environmental Conservation  
Contact Person: Stewart Brown, Senior Forester Phone  
number: (315) 265-3090

November 12, 2002

fish in the area rivers and streams originate almost entirely from natural spawning (except for the lower Bog River which is stocked annually with brook trout). Specific data regarding fish species presence and abundance in most of the area's streams is lacking. It is presumed that brook trout, white sucker and associated minnow species such as creek chub and blacknosed dace inhabit most of these waters. Natural spawning brook trout populations have been confirmed in both the South Branch of the Grass River and Sucker Brook.

### 3. Visual

Much of the aesthetic appeal of this area is water related, with the Bog River and Tupper Lake providing many scenic opportunities. Generally, the mountains are too wooded to provide scenic vistas but Mt. Arab provides a very popular exception, as does a rocky ridge adjacent to the Upper Dam on the Bog River that provides open views of Lows Lake and Hitchins Pond. Another impressive view can be seen from Coney Mountain.

Along SH 421, at the mouth of the Bog River, Bog River Falls Day Use Area offers an exceptional opportunity to view a splendid waterfall Winding Falls, currently not accessible by trails, is also a spectacular waterfall. Beautiful scenery can be experienced canoeing along the Bog River and associated waters and is enjoyed by thousands of people every year. The Bog River Falls and the summit of Arab Mountain are designated as Scenic Special Management Areas in the Master Plan.

### 4. Critical Habitats

See Appendix D for significant habitats and a map portraying historic deer wintering areas from 1970-1975 data.

### 5. Wild, Scenic, and Recreational Rivers

Within the unit the following rivers are designated

“Scenic” by the Wild, Scenic, and Recreational Rivers Act:

- ! Bog River from Lows Lower Dam to its outlet at Tupper Lake - 7.3 mi. (ECL §15-2714(2)(b));
- ! Round Lake Outlet from the outlet of Round Lake to the confluence with the Bog River - 2.7 mi. (ECL §15-2714(2)(y)); and
- ! South branch of the Grass River - 4.5 mi. (ECL §15-2714(2)(l)).

Pursuant to 6 NYCRR §666.6(f), upon the designation of a river in this system and until final boundaries are established, the provisions of 6 NYCRR Part 666 (the regulations implementing the Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers program) are applicable within one-half mile of each bank of the river.

None of these rivers is known to have a current use which is in conflict with either the Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers Act (ECL Article 15, Title 27) or the implementing regulations. A permit under 6 NYCRR Part 666 would be required for any new snowmobile trail crossing the above mentioned rivers.



#### Bridges (2)

Goodman - Concrete and steel structure approximately 70 feet long.

Winding Falls - Steel and wood structure approximately 40 feet long.

#### Dams (3)

Mountain Camp Property (1) - Concrete structure approximately 180 feet long

Horseshoe Lake (1)

Bridge Brook Pond (1)

Designated (Primitive) Campsites (28)

- w/pit privy
  - Adjacent to Bog River Falls DUA (1)
  - Mt. Arab (1)
  - Horseshoe Station (3)
- w/o pit privy
  - Bridge Brook Pond (4)
  - Tupper Lake (6)
  - Horseshoe Lake (13)

Fire Tower (1)

- Mt. Arab (with observers cabin)

Gates (6)

- Massawepie Rd. (2)
- Goodman Parcel (1)
- Pine Pond Rd. (2)
- Mountain Camp Rd. (1)

Lean-tos (1)

- Tupper Lake

Parking Area (2)

- Bog River Day Use Area (now paved)
- Horseshoe Lake (unpaved)

Picnic Sites (7)

- Bog River Falls DUA (6)
- Bridge Brook Pond Island (1)

Roads (5) Unpaved

- Open for public motorized use
  - 1. Otterbrook Rd. (from the end of SH 421 to gate at south branch GR near Conifer Easement line gate-3.2 mi.)
  - 2. Lower Dam Rd. (from the Otterbrook Rd. to Lower Dam-0.7 mi.)
- Administrative access only
  - 1. Pine Pond Rd. (1.0 mi.)
  - 2. Concrete Bridge Rd. (0.1 mi.)
  - 3. Cut off Rd. (1.0 mi.)

Signs (6)

Snowmobile Trails (5)

1. Otterbrook Rd. from SH 421 to Five Ponds Wilderness Boundary (8.5 mi.)
2. Trout Pond (3.7 mi.)
3. Cut off Rd. (1.0 mi.)
4. Massawepie Rd. (2.2 mi.)
5. Lower Dam Rd. (0.7 mi.)

2. Hitchins Pond Primitive Area

Dams (2)

- Lows Lower Dam (concrete)
- Lows Upper Dam (concrete)

Designated (Primitive) Campsites (10)

- Lower Dam (1)
- Sabattis Road (3)
- Bog River (3)
- Hitchins Pond (3)

Gates (4)

- Lower Dam Road (2)
- Upper Dam Road (1)
- Hitchins Pond (1)

Gravel Mine (1)

- Hitchins Pond Road

Kiosk/Register (1)

- Upper Dam

Parking Area (1) Unpaved

- Lower Dam

Picnic Sites (1)

- Hitchins Pond

Register (2)

- Upper Dam
- Lower Dam

Roads (1) Unpaved

trips. Like the other large lakes in the area, Horseshoe Lake is used by anglers for ice fishing as well as during the open water season. Reports of Horseshoe Lake ice anglers catching tiger muskellunge up to 16 pounds are not uncommon.

Stream fishing opportunities are limited in the area. The small size and remoteness of most of the area's streams, coupled with the small sizes of the brook trout which inhabit these waters, make them unattractive to anglers. Anglers use of the lower Bog River, which is stocked annually with brook trout, is believed to be at a higher rate than any of the other streams of the area. At less than 150 angler hours/acre, however, angler effort on the lower Bog River is considered very low in comparison to other stocked New York streams.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Public use on the Mt. Arab trail is prohibited from the beginning of rifle season for deer through December 31. This restriction will end December 31, 2004.

Coney Mountain presently has a path to the summit from SH 30 that is not a designated trail, but receives significant use. The path is approximately .6 miles in length and is moderately steep.

The Trout Pond trail, though not a designated hiking trail presently, is used, and is permitted to be used, by hikers. Presently, this trail ends in an open wetland where it connects to the Sabattis Road and cannot be re-routed due to private lands. A trail located on private land adjacent to the Sabattis Road does connect to the Trout Pond trail. Also, the Department would be unable to propose a parking lot off the Sabattis Road. For

these reasons the section of trail from Trout Pond south to the Sabattis Road, will not be designated a hiking trail, but the section of trail from the Lower Dam to Trout Pond will be designated a foot trail if an alternative snowmobile trail is approved.

#### 11. Floatplanes and Motorboats

Motor craft use on Lows Lake can be categorized several ways.

Public floatplane use on Lows Lake, primarily by commercial operators, peaks at the beginning of bass season, approximately June 20 each year. Floatplane operators also bring other recreationists to this area that may not have the time to enter and return through Hitchins Pond, or don't want to put the effort into getting to Lows Lake.

Public motorboat use includes two primary groups. One group is those who paddle small boats and canoes with motors up through Hitchins Pond (closed to motorboat use) to the Upper Dam, and then use their motors on Lows Lake. The second group gains access from Bog Lake, a privately owned waterbed, which connects by a shallow waterway to Lows Lake. Riparian landowner motorized use of Lows Lake includes at least one landowner that has had a floatplane, and the Boy Scouts that use a motorboat or two in the summer associated with their programs. Motorboat use by the Boy Scouts was expressly reserved when they sold land to the State in the mid 1980's. DEC staff also uses motorboats on the lake for facilities maintenance, patrol, and emergencies.


An estimate of the amount and frequency of use by all motorized craft has not been made at this time, but staff believe motorboat use by riparian owners and their guests is at least as significant as use by the public. Most floatplane use appears to be by commercial pilots flying in clients.

#### F. Capacity of Resource to Withstand Use

Generally, use levels in the area are not enough to

north from the hamlet of Long Lake and through lands south of the Horseshoe Lake Wild Forest (now owned by the Nature Conservancy and referred to as the Round Lake parcel), then one or more alternatives to complete the route could extend through the HLWF to connect existing trails and the Remsen/Lake Placid Travel Corridor, subject to Master Plan guidelines. Establishing this connection may require crossing the Bog River and Round Lake Outlet, both classified as Scenic Rivers.

The Trout Pond Trail from Lows Lower Dam to Trout Pond is part of a longer snowmobile trail which extends west of the pond. Maintenance of this trail for snowmobile use has been reduced in recent years primarily due to the documentation of illegal winter fishing on Trout Pond, because of the risk to snowmobilers of crossing the pond itself, and because there has been little interest in the route it provides. This trail should be fully closed if alternate snowmobile routes are identified in the unit which are more appropriate.



The abandonment of the Mt. Arab fire tower and adjacent observer's cabin in 1988 resulted in these facilities being severely vandalized. Two flights of stairs were then removed from the fire tower for safety purposes.

Most of the foot trail to this popular destination crosses CE lands on which public use is prohibited from the beginning of rifle season through December 31. This restriction will end on December 31, 2004. In spite of signs informing the public of this prohibition, conflicts between users and lessees have arisen.

Local organizational efforts began in 1996 to address rehabilitation and improvement of access to the fire tower for historical and educational purposes. The Friends of Mt. Arab has had broad support and it expects to procure all the materials necessary to restore the facilities (both

tower and observers cabin) and supply voluntary support whenever that is needed, including possible weekend staffing. In June 1997, the DEC staff initiated assessment of fire tower integrity. Engineering tests showed the tower to be in good condition. Materials needed to renovate the tower were identified. During the summer of 1999, a helicopter was used to carry wood siding and other supplies to the summit. Much of the renovation has been completed since then by the Friends of Mt. Arab as well as DEC staff. Some work has been recommended to assure the structure remains usable well into the future.

Use levels have increased as work on the structures progressed. An intern staffed the tower for much of the summer of 2000, providing information and education to the public.

#### 8. Motorized Boats and Floatplanes

Motorboat and floatplane use have increased dramatically on Lows Lake since the lake was opened to the public in 1986, causing significant conflicts with users expecting a wilderness experience generally undisturbed by motor vehicles. The increase in motorized use since the mid-1990's can be attributed to the recent introduction of bass into the Lake (probably by way of Bog Lake) and the resulting development and popularity of the bass fishery.

Public use of motorboats and floatplanes is currently allowed on Lows Lake, although the use of motorboats is prohibited on the Bog River between the Lower and Upper Dams. Public motorboat access to the lake involves either a two mile long carry over the Upper Dam Road, fly-in of a boat by floatplane, or paddling motorboats up the river from the Lower Dam followed by a short carry around the Upper Dam.

There are four private landowners on Lows Lake who have motor vehicle access via private road right-of-way rights to the shore of Lows Lake. These landowners use these private roads to bring





**Adirondack  
Park Agency**

**KATHY HOCHUL**  
Governor

**BARBARA RICE**  
Executive Director

November 2, 2022

Aaron Graves  
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NYSDEC  
190 Outer Main Street  
Suite 103  
Potsdam, NY 13676

**RE: State Land Consultation Determination SL2022-0024, Mt. Arab Foot Trail Re-Route, Horseshoe Lake Wild Forest**

Dear Aaron:

Pursuant to the "MOU Between the Adirondack Park Agency and the Department of Environmental Conservation Concerning Implementation of the State Land Master Plan for the Adirondack Park," the proposed 185' re-route of the Mt. Arab hiking trail (identified in the 2002 UMP) is considered to be a minor relocation of a conforming improvement in the wild forest unit, provided that the proposed tree cutting is carried out in accordance with the latest DEC work plan policy and LF 91-2. The trail re-route will not result in a material change to the use or appearance of the land or vegetation thereon, as a maximum of 15 trees larger than 3" dbh will be removed. Follow up conversations with the Department's land manager helped to inform the Agency's understanding of the intended use of the trail and the intensity of development (accommodation of two-way traffic flow). The alternative provided (construction of a wooden or rock stair case to move hikers up the steep sloping rock) is a less desirable alternative, as the land manager provided anecdotal information indicating that winter use of the trail is high and hikers have tended to circumvent the existing staircases along this trail if they lack spikes or snowshoes. This leads to the formation of herd paths which inevitably widen the trail and result in a greater impact to the surrounding area. The other two proposed trail work projects occur on easement lands and therefore are not subject to the guidelines and criteria set forth in the SLMP, and there is not an approved RMP for staff to use in evaluating the appropriateness of these projects.

Agency staff evaluated this project for wetland involvement and have determined that wetlands subject to the Agency's jurisdiction will not be involved or affected by this proposal.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Agency.

Sincerely,

Megan Phillips  
Deputy Director, Planning

Enclosure:

cc: Peter Frank, Bureau Chief, DEC Lands and Forests  
Josh Clague, Forest Preserve Adirondack Coordinator, DEC Lands and Forest  
Fred Munk, Supervisor of Natural Resources, Region 6  
Keith Rivers, Regional Forester, Region 6  
Henry Detric, Forester 2, Region 6