

State Land/Easement Project Work Plan
for
Construction of New Facilities and Expansion or
Modification of Existing Facilities
Fiscal Year 2022

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

<u>Region</u>	<u>Project Title</u>
4	Elm Ridge Trail Six Reroute

<u>Project Type</u>	<u>Town(s)</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Management Unit</u>
Modification of Existing Facility	Windham	Greene	Elm Ridge Wild Forest

Project Description/Justification:

Elm Ridge Wild Forest contains a network of multiple-use trails that are a popular for mountain biking, hiking, trail running, skiing, and snowshoeing. In 2021, trail counters estimated over 15,000 users entering from the primary trailhead on Route 23 in Windham. Overall recreational use of facilities in the Catskills is trending upward. It appears that this trend also applies to this popular trail system and as such it is important that these facilities are maintained to sustain the existing use and anticipated future use.

Trail Six is one of the multiple-use trails in the Elm Ridge Wild Forest trail system. This trail is primarily used by mountain bikers as a connection between the lower elevation “fun loops” in the northern section of the unit and the higher elevation “ridge trails” in the southern section of the unit. It serves as a bypass to limit user conflict on the Escarpment Trail which does allow mountain biking where it travels through the wild forest unit, but is primarily used by hikers. The current trail alignment is not designed to shed water which has led to a challenging maintenance scenario and an unpleasant user experience. Trail widening is becoming an issue as users attempt to divert around the many wet spots on the trail. To resolve these issues, Trail Six will be rerouted to a more sustainable alignment that more closely follows the contour of the land rather than climbing nearly directly up the slope. A portion of the Levitate Trail will also be rerouted as part of this project. The original alignments of both rerouted sections will be closed. The total length of reroute will be approximately 1,115 feet. See attached map.

The new reroute trail will be built as a Class 4 trail (as described in the current draft guidelines) and will be single lane with up to 36” tread width and up to 72” (six foot) cleared corridor width.

Trees to be Removed:

See attached tally.

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

The majority of the reroute will require a full bench cut and two cambered turns. All bench cutting will be confined to the footprint of the trail corridor. Where bench cutting is not required, trail construction will include clearing organic material within the trail corridor to expose a dry, stable soil surface.

Analysis of Project Alternatives:

Alternative options were explored. One alternative option would be to maintain Trail Six in it’s existing alignment with more minor reroutes that would lengthen the switchbacks and improve the drainage on the trail. This option is not

preferred because it would require extensive work, more tree cutting, and is still likely to require intensive recurring maintenance due the terrain and water runoff characteristics in this part of the unit.

Impacts to Wetlands:

None

Impacts to Rare, Threatened or Endangered Species:

None

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

Micro excavator and tracked wheelbarrow

Other Relevant Considerations:

Click or tap to enter other relevant considerations

Prepared by (Name & Title): Alicia Sullivan, Forester
Phone: 607-652-3698

Date: 8/25/2022

MP L A T E

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"/>	Vicki Cross	2015 Elm Ridge WF UMP Amendment identifies this trail.
	Tree Cutting	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Alicia Sullivan	
	Protected Native Plants	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
	Historic Preservation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Fish and Wildlife	Freshwater Wetlands	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
	Wild Scenic & Rec. River	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
	APA Wetlands Permit	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
	Corps. of Engineers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
	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"/>		