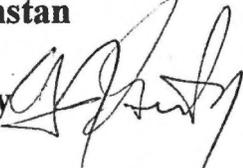


MEMORANDUM

3/26
Pls see me on this
Thanks
Tom

TO: Frank Dunstan

FROM: Fred Gerty 

SUBJECT: Amendment to the Willowemoc-Long Pond UMP-Final

DATE: March 15, 2001

Attached is the documentation amending the Willowemoc-Long Pond UMP, to add the removal of an old lean-to at Long Pond, the erection of a new lean-to at Long Pond, and to correct problems at the parking area on Black Bear Road.

Also attached is a response to comments received from the public in connection with this amendment.

Cc: T. Wolfe
W. Rudge
J. Rider

AMENDMENT TO THE WILLOWEMOC-LONG POND
WILD FOREST
UNIT MANAGEMENT PLAN
Dated October 1991

Section IV. A, Facilities Development and or removal, is hereby amended by adding the following:

Page 72 PROJECT #11—Relocate the lean-to at Long Pond, by removing the existing lean-to on the west shore of the pond, and erect a new lean-to on the east side of the pond.

The existing lean-to continues to deteriorate. The lean-to's location directly on a major trail results in easy access, along with increasingly heavy use, loss of privacy, and some abuse. The new privy, installed in 1999, was vandalized and burned almost immediately, removing the one means necessary to provide a facility for proper sanitation. A review of options, including additional maintenance needed for the old lean-to, and projected frequent replacement of the privy, resulted in the decision to replace and relocate the lean-to to the other side of the pond.

The new lean-to will be located above and away from the water, on a wooded ridge, with a view toward the pond. It will be accessible by a 0.4 mile side trail off the Long Pond—Beaver Kill Ridge Trail, which will provide a more secluded setting. The spur trail will be designated for multiple use, as are the others in the nearby vicinity of the unit.

A fireplace and privy will be installed in association with this lean-to.

DEC will pursue volunteers to assist with the erection of the lean-to and privy. Private donations are expected to cover costs of building materials needed to complete the lean-to and associated facilities.

Section IV. A, is amended as follows:

Page 69 PROJECT #3 Enlarge the ten car parking lot at Black Bear Road to accommodate ten vehicles with snowmobile or horse trailers. Experience has shown that the lot is too small to safely park the vehicles with trailers that now utilize it.

In addition, correct an unforeseen drainage problem by installing devices to divert spring water from overland flow across the parking lot to drainage ditches along the road. The seepage causes icy conditions in winter, and a muddy situation in warm weather months.

An immaterial number of trees will be removed in connection with this project.

Section IV. B, Maintenance and Rehabilitation of Facilities, is hereby amended as follows:

Page 73 PROJECT #2—Maintain the Long Pond Lean-to.
Provide continued maintenance as required to the new lean-to, fireplace, and privy, to be installed on the east side of Long Pond.

Section IV, B, is hereby amended as follows:

Page 73 Delete PROJECT #3: Rehabilitate the outhouse which serves the Long Pond lean-to.

The privy (outhouse) is gone at the original location, and will not be replaced there.

Section IV, C. Public Use Management and Controls is hereby amended as follows:

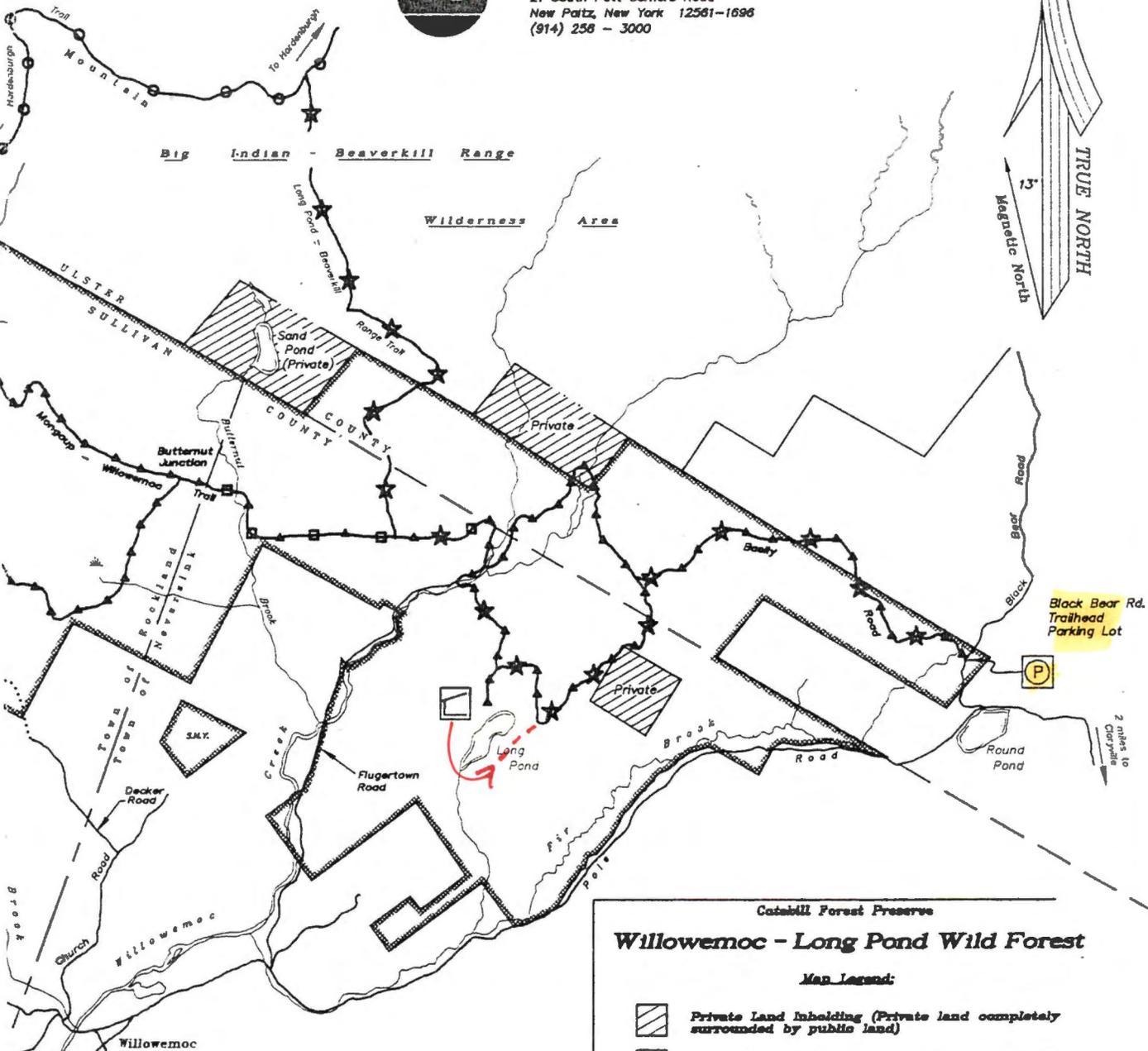
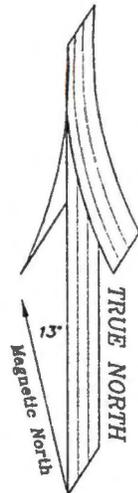
Page 82 Delete PROJECT #13: Designate a short snowmobile spur trail to the eastern shore of Long Pond.

Adequate access to Long Pond already exists on the west side of the pond. Additional access on the eastern side is not needed, and may result in loss of seclusion for the new lean-to to be installed there.

March 15, 2001



New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
 Region 3
 21 South Putt Corners Road
 New Paltz, New York 12561-1696
 (914) 258 - 3000



Catskill Forest Preserve
Willowemoc - Long Pond Wild Forest

Map Legend:

-  Private Land Inholding (Private land completely surrounded by public land)
-  Beech Mountain Nature Preserve - Private land with an easement allowing for public use:
 - No hunting or trapping
 - Foot travel only, stay on marked hiking trail unless fishing at Hodge Pond
-  Hiking/Cross Country Ski Trail - Blue Markers
-  Hiking/Cross Country Ski Trail - Red Markers
-  Hiking/Cross Country Ski Trail - Yellow Markers
-  Unmarked Trail/Old Road
-  Snowmobile Trail
-  Wild Forest Property Boundary
-  Lean-to Location
-  Designated Parking Area

Scale: 1 inch = 4000 feet



AMENDMENT TO THE WILLOWEMOC-LONG POND
WILD FOREST
UNIT MANAGEMENT PLAN
Dated October 1991

Response to Comments Received on the Proposed Amendment

DEC staff reviewed the comments received on the proposal to amend the Willowemoc-Long Pond UMP, inspected the immediate area, and examined alternatives. Based on this review, the proposed amendment will be adopted for the reasons discussed below.

Discussion—Long Pond Lean-to:

An objective in locating and re-locating lean-tos in the forest preserve is to site them at remote locations, well interior from parking areas, and off main trails. The existing lean-to site at Long Pond fails to meet these objectives. In addition, with lean-tos near ponds fairly rare in the Catskill Park, DEC wants to keep a lean-to at Long Pond.

A number of alternative actions and locations offered in written and verbal comments were examined for the proposal to replace the lean-to at Long Pond, including:

-- The existing lean-to should be maintained, or replaced at the present location.

This alternative is not acceptable, due to being on a major trail, with the subsequent loss of privacy and sense of remoteness. The lean-to shows signs of extensive decay, and is noticeably tilted forward. It neither warrants maintenance nor replacement at the present site.

--The trail passing in front of the lean-to should be located further west, as shown in the UMP. When laid out on the ground, the new trail could not be located further west, due to slope conditions and extensive wet areas. The present route of the trail will not be changed.

--Consider a site for the lean-to half way between Black Bear Road and Beaverkill Road. This location, while well interior, might involve forest preserve lands in the Big Indian-Beaverkill Range Wilderness Area, and is beyond the scope of the proposed amendment. This location may be offered when the Wilderness Area UMP is updated.

--Consider a site close to the Mongaup-Willowemoc Trail near the Butternut Brook. This interior location is within the area, and has some attractions. However, it fails to provide the objective of keeping a lean-to at Long Pond. If an additional lean-to is desired at this location, the site may be considered when the Willowemoc-Long Pond UMP is updated.

--Consider a site on the west side of Long Pond, in the vicinity of the present lean-to. Sites to the north end of the pond are low and wet, and the access to the pond is across a boggy area. This location is also quite close to the main trail. Similarly, sites to the south remain close to the main trail.

--The proposed location (0.4 mile from the Long Pond-Beaverkill Trail) is too far for hikers to use it; the distance to the pond is too far for campers to go to get water; the site does not provide a view of the water. Actual walking time from the trail is about 10 minutes, well within the ability of hikers to reach a lean-to on a side trail. The distance to the pond is reasonable for a reliable source of water in the Catskills. The lean-to being replaced does not provide a good view of the pond, and the new lean-to is in keeping with the situation at the old

one. The location provides air circulation, a seasonal view, a dry site, and ample room for a fireplace and privy.

Therefore, the new lean-to at Long Pond will be located on the east side of the pond, above and away from the water on a wooded ridge.

Discussion—Enlarge the ten car parking lot at Black Bear Road

Public comments were in support of this project. DEC will notify the Town Highway Supervisor in connection with the start of this project.

Discussion—other proposals

The other proposals support the above projects and will be adopted.

Frederick Gerty
Regional Forester
March 15, 2001