

APPENDIX I to UMP
STATE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY REVIEW ACT
Hinckley Reservoir Day-Use Area Unit Management Plan
FINAL SUPPLEMENTAL GENERIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
(SGEIS)

Name of Action: Adoption of Hinckley Reservoir Day-Use Area Unit Management Plan

Location: Town of Russia, Herkimer County, New York

SEQR Status: Type 1

Lead Agency: New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
(DEC)

Involved Agency: Adirondack Park Agency

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Comments accepted until: October 1st, 2020 and may be submitted by mail or email to:

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I. Introduction

A. Purpose

This is a combined final supplemental generic environmental impact statement (SGEIS) and proposed final Unit Management Plan to supplement the 1990 Generic Environmental Impact Statement for DEC Campgrounds and Day-Use Areas (1990 GEIS). The 1990 GEIS is a generic plan and contains an overview, discussion of the environmental setting, goals, policy, management, and impact assessment criteria that pertain universally and in common to all Adirondack and Catskill public campgrounds and special day--use classified Intensive Use Areas.

The purpose of the supplement is to address potentially significant impacts not adequately addressed in the 1990 GEIS for the proposed development of a campground, associated infrastructure, and related appurtenances at Hinckley Reservoir Day-Use Area (Hinckley DUA).

DEC prepared this SGEIS pursuant to the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQR; ECL § 8-0101 et seq.) and its implementing regulations found in Part 617 of Title 6 of the New York Codes, Rules and Regulations (6 NYCRR Part 617). This SGEIS analyzes the relevant areas of environmental concern resulting from the adoption of the amendment to the Hinckley DUA Unit Management Plan. A supplement to the final generic EIS must be prepared if the subsequent proposed action was not addressed or was not adequately addressed in the generic EIS and the subsequent action may have one or more significant adverse environmental impacts (6 NYCRR § 617.10). DEC has drafted this document to ensure a site-specific and thorough review of any potentially significant environmental impacts.

II. Description of Proposed Action, Public Need, and Benefits

A. Project Background

The Adirondack Park Agency (APA) classified this unit as an Intensive Use Area pursuant to Section 816 of the Adirondack Park Agency Act (Executive Law Article 27). Section 816 of the Adirondack Park Agency Act also requires the development of Unit Management

Plans by the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) within the guidelines and criteria set forth in the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan approved by Governor Andrew M. Cuomo in August 2019.

In accordance with its administrative management responsibility, DEC is charged with the duty to prepare the Unit Management Plan (UMP) for the Hinckley DUA.

Hinckley DUA is located on the south shore of Hinckley Reservoir. Existing amenities include picnic areas with tables, fireplaces, and charcoal grills, reservable pavilions; a swimming beach with bathhouse; and fishing and hiking opportunities. Some facilities are designed to accommodate campers with physical disabilities. Hinckley Reservoir covers approximately 4.46 square miles and is 6.6 miles in length. The Village of Barneveld, located 10 miles to the west, has many shops and services day-use visitors may require.

In 1964, monies from a New York State Park and Recreation Land Acquisition Bond Act were used to acquire lands that were intended to be developed into the Hinckley Public Campground, Day-Use Area, and Boat Launch Site. Portions of lots 14–17 of the Jerseyfield Patent in the Town of Russia totaling 475 acres were purchased by New York State. In December 1971, the New York State Department of Transportation issued a permit to DEC for the use of an additional 46 acres of property lying within the shoreline and the reservoir right-of-way line for the purpose of developing and maintaining Hinckley Reservoir Campground. The site is depicted in Exhibits 1–16 of the Unit Management Plan.

Construction of the Hinckley DUA began in mid-1967 with the clearing of roads for comfort stations, 150 campsites, a day-use area, and a boat launch site. Some portions of the camping area were completed, including one loop of 12 sites with one 8-unit comfort station and associated electric and water systems. A second adjacent loop of 13 sites was roughed out, but the remaining 125 sites, as originally planned, were not developed. At that time, funding for the campground and boat launch were delayed and completion was never realized. The remaining funds were used to complete the day-use area, which was opened to the public in 1973. Existing and proposed facility components are depicted in Exhibits 1–16 of the Unit Management Plan.

B. Project Summary

DEC proposes to complete development of and operate the Hinckley Public Campground. When completed, the facility will consist of up to 150 campsites and associated support facilities and infrastructure, in addition to the existing day-use area. It will be developed

consistent with the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan Intensive Use Campground classification.

The proposed project will utilize existing facilities to the fullest extent possible and expand or formalize existing uses presently occurring at the site. The proposed project components are described in detail in Chapter IV of the Unit Management Plan and will involve rehabilitation of the existing site facilities and construction of new site improvements as explained below.

A campground facility will be completed at Hinckley DUA in the Town of Russia, County of Herkimer, providing a supervised bathing beach, 150 camping sites, family picnic sites, hand launch for access to water, vehicle access road and parking areas, a bathhouse convenient to the beach and waterfront picnic areas, four comfort stations convenient to the camping sites and a multiuse trail system for hiking, biking, and cross-country skiing.

C. Existing Environmental Setting

The Hinckley DUA is located on the south shore of Hinckley Reservoir in the Town of Russia, Herkimer County. The entrance is on Stormy Hill Road, 0.7 mile north of the Hamlet of Grant, 3 miles east of the Village of Hinckley, and 22 miles north of the City of Utica. The facility is on portions of Lots 14–17 of the Jerseyfield Patent. The facility comprises 573 acres. A location map is provided in Exhibit 1 of the Unit Management Plan. The 127,000-acre Black River Wild Forest is located just north of Hinckley DUA and the 1,590-acre Hinckley State Forest is located just south of the Day-Use Area. The Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan classifies the Hinckley DUA site as intensive use/day-use area (see Exhibit #3 of the Unit Management Plan).

III. Potential Impacts and Mitigation

A. Geology

a. Subsurface Geology

Construction associated with this project is not expected to encounter bedrock, and no blasting or removal of bedrock is expected. There will be subsurface structures constructed such as building foundations, water lines, utility lines, septic systems, and drainage structures. These

facilities will be constructed in the soil overburden and are not expected to impact the subsurface geologic conditions.

b. Surface Geology

Soil associations consist primarily of Searsport-Pillsbury-Namburg-Chrogon-Beseman series over most of the unit. This series consists of very deep, poorly and somewhat poorly drained soils that formed in sandy deltaic or glaciofluvial deposits. These soils are on low sand plains and terraces. The use and vegetation of this series is predominantly wooded or idle. Much of the proposed construction occurs in the gravel and sandy soils, which are ideally suited for construction of buildings, pavements, and site improvements. The proposed project maximizes the use of the existing road system and existing facilities, which helps to reduce construction activity and soil disturbance. Site-specific plans will be developed to include erosion and sediment control components and will address stormwater runoff. The goal is to minimize erosion and protect watercourses and wetlands from sediment and other pollutants. Construction activities disturbing more than one acre will require a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP). These plans will be prepared in accordance with the DEC's SPDES General Permit for Stormwater Discharges, to inform construction personnel of measures to be implemented for controlling runoff and pollutants from the site during and after construction activities.

Erosion control will include:

- Sediment control fencing will be installed along the downhill side of disturbed areas. The sediment control fencing will be inspected and maintained daily until the potential of soil loss has been eliminated;
- Straw bale filter dams will be installed in grass swales to reduce velocity of channel flow and to trap sediment; and
- Straw bale filter dams and filter fabric will be installed at all drainage inlets and maintained daily until the potential of soil loss has been eliminated.

Disturbed soil areas will be seeded with grass or planted and mulched as soon as practical. Steep slopes prone to "wash outs" will be stabilized with biodegradable erosion control netting.

Erosion control during operation can be essentially eliminated by proper design and construction of facilities.

- Areas prone to heavy foot traffic or vehicle traffic will be paved with asphalt or compacted gravel and crushed stone.
- Steep slopes will be planted with grass or ground cover that will establish dense root systems to stabilize the soils on these slopes.
- Site grading during construction will establish proper grades and drainage patterns to reduce potential for erosion.

Storm water runoff from parking areas and pavements will be collected in grass swales, dry wells, or infiltration trenches with controlled discharge/overflow to reduce velocity of surface runoff to reduce the threat of erosion.

c. Topography

Proposed facilities are in areas intended to minimize site grading. Some grading will be required to construct new trails and parking areas providing slopes that are easily accessible and maintainable.

B. Water Resources

a. Groundwater

Currently, there are two wells supplying potable water to the facility. A third well will be drilled to provide water supply to the C–G loops of the Hinckley Campground (see Exhibits 6 and 15g of the Unit Management Plan). The new well will be located to provide adequate separation from sewage disposal systems as required by the regulations of DEC and the New York State Department of Health (DOH).

On-site sewage disposal systems will be installed for each of the comfort stations, trailer dumping station, recycling center, and housing. The systems will be a conventional septic system consisting of a precast concrete septic tank and subsurface absorption system. On-site sewage disposal will require construction of septic systems with leach fields. The leach fields will be in existing sand soils, which are ideally suited for sewage disposal. The sewage disposal systems will be located to provide adequate separation from water wells, wetlands, groundwater, and surface water. All on-site sewage systems will be designed to comply with applicable DEC and DOH standards and guidelines.

b. Surface Water

The principal impact on water resources is the increase of stormwater runoff resulting from the construction of impervious surfaces, roofs, and parking areas. The total increase in impervious surfaces is 4.3 acres. The potential impact from increased runoff is minimized by the relatively small size and distribution of the impervious surface areas.

Stormwater drainage and runoff from parking areas will be collected in infiltration trenches. Capacity will be provided in the infiltration structures to collect a minimum of the first 0.5 inch of runoff, the "first flush," from parking surfaces. Collection of runoffs from parking areas will reduce the risk of vehicle pollutants carried by surface runoff into the nearby lake and wetlands.

Increased runoff may result in soil erosion and result and sedimentation in the lake and wetlands. This impact will be minimized by the following measures:

- Appropriate erosion control and sediment control measures will be implemented during construction as previously described. All land disturbed during construction outside of paved areas and buildings will be graded and seeded as soon as practical to establish vegetation to stabilize soils;
- To reduce risk of surface erosion, stormwater will be directed into collection systems for infiltration at each building and parking area. Drainage swales and ditches will be used minimally. Overflow from the drainage system will be directed into open meadow, grass areas, and natural depressions to reduce direct runoff to wetlands and the lake.

Stream crossings by new bridges or large culverts will be required in three locations. All crossings will be designed and constructed in conformance with applicable DEC standards and regulations. Bridges will comply with HL-93 live load standards as defined by the American Association of State Highway Transportation Officials (AASHTO). Culverts will be designed for the 100-year storm based on Cornell's Northeast Regional Climate Center (NRCC) rainfall data. Required permits and approvals will be obtained as part of the Joint Application through DEC, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the APA prior to start of construction.

C. Air Resources

a. Air Quality

Smoke from campfires and picnic areas is not expected to impact adjoining private properties. The campsites are located to provide adequate separation from the residential area.

Temporary air emissions may result from road clearing, land-clearing equipment, delivery vehicles, and the tub grinder for processing cleared trees and brush. Some fugitive emissions of methane from septic tanks and tile fields at very low levels is unavoidable.

D. Terrestrial and Aquatic Ecology

a. Vegetation

Tree removal will be necessary to provide adequate clearance for construction of campsites, trails, parking areas, and other facilities. Removal of trees will be minimized by utilizing existing roads, trails, and clearings to the fullest extent possible.

All tree cutting will be done in accordance with DEC's policy on Tree Cutting on Forest Preserve Lands (LF-91-2), which requires a work plan including a tree count by species and size class of all trees that are 3" dbh or more to be cut, removed, or destroyed. This work plan also describes measures to be taken to mitigate the impact on vegetative cover. Unutilized waste materials will be deposited at two locations noted on exhibit 14 of the draft UMP.

New planting of native trees will be implemented with the construction of new facilities to blend with the existing site character and to provide future tree cover. Planting of native trees will be implemented to provide privacy and screening between new campsites.

b. Wetlands

In the planning and layout of the facilities, DEC's major priority was avoiding disturbance to existing wetlands. DEC and the APA inventory, map, and protect wetlands under Article 24 of the Environmental Conservation Law. Within Hinckley DUA, there are four types of identified wetlands. There are 88 acres of palustrine wetlands, wetlands characterized by the presence of trees, shrubs, and emergent vegetation (vegetation that is rooted below water but grows above the surface). There are 0.7 mile of upper perennial riverine linear wetlands, 0.15 mile of lower perennial riverine linear wetlands, and 0.8 mile of intermittent riverine wetlands. Both wetland types are found along the edges of streams and creeks and lakes.

Projects that alter or adversely affect the wetlands or any sewage disposal system within 100 feet of them will require a permit from the APA. The APA will be consulted to determine whether a permit is needed prior to site disturbance in or adjacent to these designated wetland areas.

The varying topography and drainage patterns of the site create a patchwork of wetlands which are most heavily concentrated on the northern and southwestern portions of the intensive use area. As a result, proposed infrastructure has been located to avoid these areas and will require only minimal impacts.

A wetland permit will be required from the Adirondack Park Agency and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for work within the wetlands. Final infrastructure location and design will be selected based on the minimum impact to the wetlands when more intensive site surveys are conducted.

c. Wildlife

The diverse wildlife habitat occurring at Hinckley DUA will be maintained. No rare, threatened, or endangered species or unique natural communities have been documented to exist within Hinckley Day-Use Area. Increased use of the facility may discourage some species; however, no significant impact is anticipated since the site is currently subject to formal and informal public use. In disturbed areas, it is expected that wildlife will disperse to the immediate peripheral and surrounding areas, including the 127,000-acre Black River Wild Forest, located just north of Hinckley Day-Use Area and 1,590-acre Hinckley State Forest, located to the south. Once the campground is operational, DEC staff will monitor patron-wildlife interactions. If specific issues arise, a targeted plan of action can be developed to address concerns.

d. Fisheries

No impact on the existing fishery of Hinckley Reservoir is anticipated as a result of the proposed project.

E. Noise

Noise will be generated during construction operations. This impact will be restricted to short periods to accomplish various phases of construction. All construction activities will be restricted to normal working hours during the day. No blasting will be required during construction.

Noise will also be generated during operation. Buffer areas will be provided along adjoining residential areas. Hinckley DUA facilities will only operate during normal day time schedules. Noise generated by the Campground will be consistent with normal lake activities such as boating and swimming and will not produce noise levels above normal ambient noise levels of waterfront residential use. Noise levels will be monitored and enforced by Park Rangers.

F. Land Use and Zoning

DEC does not expect that demand for support services or supplies generated by the proposed campground will significantly impact the surrounding land uses or change local community character. Some increase to or expansion of existing retail business could be expected. Current use and attendance reports project that many of anticipated visitors to the campground will be residents of Herkimer and Oneida Counties. The impact on land use, therefore, will be minimal. Some visitors to Hinckley Reservoir, especially visitors utilizing the campground, will make purchases from private merchants and restaurateurs in the local communities. Given the rural location of Hinckley Reservoir and the Town of Russia, it is expected that most visitors will bring necessary supplies for their visit out of convenience. As is evident at other DEC campgrounds, if local retail or supporting services options increase patrons will utilize them. Hinckley DUA is classified as an Intensive Use Area (IUA) under the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan. Campgrounds and their appurtenances are generally acceptable uses within and IUA classification. No changes to existing zoning will occur as a result of the project.

G. Community Services

a. Fire

Fire protection is provided by the Prospect Fire District, located approximately seven miles west and the Remsen Fire District, located approximately nine miles west. Existing service is adequate to service the campground.

b. Police

New York State Police and the Herkimer County Sheriff service the area. Existing service is adequate to service the campground.

Emergency services (paramedic and ambulance) are provided by Prospect Fire Department. Additionally, Kuyahoorra Valley Ambulance, located in the Village of Poland, is equipped to handle emergencies. The nearest hospital is the Faxton-St. Luke's Hospital located 14 miles to the southwest by Route 365. Existing service is adequate to service the campground.

The Town of Russia has confirmed that they are equipped to handle emergency situations at the proposed campground.

c. Solid Waste and Recycling

Solid waste and recyclable materials will be collected from the campsites on a daily basis by DEC personnel. The "carry-in, carry-out" policy will be enforced at all day-use facilities. The 1990 GEIS Exhibit 4A identifies volumes of refuse generated at existing DEC campgrounds. Using the U.S. EPA Solid Waste Management Office's publication entitled *Solid Waste Management in Recreational Forest Area*, it indicates that 0.92 lb/visitor of waste is generated in campgrounds per day. Using program averages for occupancy and expected season length, when fully constructed, the facility is expected to generate 36 tons of garbage annually. This does not adjust for recycling or composting rates so the actual volume of garbage will be significantly less.

d. Electric and Telephone Utilities

Hinckley DUA is currently equipped with telephone utilities that will be extended to additional administrative buildings within the proposed plan. The main phone number for the facility is (315) 826-3800, and calls are only answered when the facility is open. The current electric system is described in section II.A.9 of the unit management plan. The project will extend National Grid Power Corporation electric service and incorporate on-site solar electric generation. Solar panels will be incorporated into site designs to minimize tree clearing or the need for additional structures. Solar power generation will be scaled to meet on-site power needs only and industrial-scale ground mount systems will not be considered for this site.

e. Water Supply

No municipal water supply is available. On-site wells and water supply are provided to visitors and will be extended as described in the plan. Currently there are two wells supplying potable water to the facility. A third well will be drilled to provide water supply to the C-G loops of the proposed campground. The new well will be located to provide adequate separation from sewage disposal systems as required by DEC and DOH regulations. Since the water supply is used by the general public, it is subject to DOH Standards of Public Water Supply. The proposed third well and treatment system must conform to DOH Standards for quantity and quality. DOH will also review the design and systems for the comfort stations and will issue general operating permits for these facilities.

f. Sewage Disposal

No municipal sewage disposal system is available. A DEC SPDES permit # NY-020-7098 covers the current systems described in section II.A.4 of the UMP. On-site sewage disposal will be installed for each of the comfort stations, trailer dumping station, recycling center and housing. The systems will be a conventional septic system consisting of a precast concrete septic tank and subsurface absorption system. The sewage disposal systems will be designed and reviewed for conformance with current DEC design standards for wastewater treatment works. Since both systems for the bathhouse and the comfort station are larger than 1,000 gallons per day (gpd) design flow, they are not subject to the Adirondack Park Agency's "Guidelines for On-Site Sewage Disposal Systems." The system will in no case be less than that required for the private sector and the leach fields will be located a minimum of 100 feet from the lake and wetlands. The systems will require a SPDES Permit from DEC for systems larger than 1,000 gpd but smaller than 10,000 gpd.

H. Transportation

Transportation to the site will be by private vehicles. No public transportation is available. Hinckley Day-Use Area is located on the south shore of Hinckley Reservoir in the Town of Russia, Herkimer County. The entrance is on Stormy Hill Road, 0.7 mile north of the Hamlet of Grant, 3 miles east of the Village of Hinckley, and 22 miles north of the City of Utica. Access from both the east and west is via Interstate 90, a major six-lane divided highway, and Route 12 from points north and south.

The day-use area has a parking capacity of 400 cars. When the facility was opened in 1973, the parking lot was often filled on the weekends. For the past 3 years, the daily average of vehicles on weekends has dropped to less than 40 cars per day without a single day of over 200 vehicles. This drop was partially the result of fluctuating water levels which resulted in beach closures, but also may partly be due to a general trend seen at most facilities of a decrease in interest in picnicking and swimming. With the construction of 150 campsites, up to 150 additional cars could arrive and depart on peak weekends but an increase in day-use is not anticipated. Even with the addition of camping, traffic levels on the busiest days should not exceed levels seen in the past.

Stormy Hill Road is a local, two-lane road that is partially closed during the winter months. The New York State Department of Transportation has recorded an Annual Average Daily

Traffic count of 153 vehicles with the adequate capacity to handle increased volume. Both Route 12 and Interstate 90 have much more than adequate capacity to handle the peak traffic generated by the proposed campground facility. Even at peak hours, the proposed facility will have little if any impact on the adjacent highway system.

I. Cultural Resources

a. Visual

The views of the site from Hinckley Reservoir and adjoining private property will be substantially unchanged. The proposed bathhouse and some of the camping sites will be partially visible. Replacement and modernization of the current day-use area buildings will result in minor visual change, albeit of a similar nature to what currently exists. Overall day-use area building count will be reduced and the new structures will have an Adirondack character, utilizing natural materials and earth-tone colors, consistent with the natural setting and other DEC campgrounds. New plantings of indigenous material will be installed around all structures, campsites in open areas, and parking lots. Other facility structures and camping sites will be set back from the shoreline to minimize visibility. Existing trees providing screening of the structures will be maintained, and additional trees will be planted to provide visual screening as necessary. Parking areas will be set back sufficiently from the lake to screen cars by intervening landforms and vegetation. Lighting will be used only as necessary for security and safety.

b. State Historic Preservation Act (SHPA)

Preliminary DEC staff investigation showed no historic or archeological resources at this site. However, the Agency Historic Preservation Officer and New York State Historic Preservation Office have requested a Phase 1 Cultural Resource Survey be conducted for any areas where ground disturbance will take place (see Exhibit#18). The project has been submitted to the New York State Historic Preservation Office.

J. Socioeconomic Factors

a. Population and Trends

The campground will provide local and regional recreational opportunities to the public. The operation of the campground will not impact the population trends of the surrounding communities.

b. Employment

The campground will provide 1 full-time management position and 10 full-time summer positions.

Visitors to the campground may purchase goods and services in the adjacent communities. DEC does not expect that jobs will be created as a result of this commerce; however, this additional revenue will support local businesses and existing employment.

c. Community Services

During operation, the increased activity and number of visitors to the campground may potentially result in an increased occurrence of emergency calls to local police, fire, and emergency units. Adequate community services exist to meet these needs. This increased demand on community services will be partially offset by the presence of DEC personnel who will be trained to respond to emergency situations. Alarms and emergency telephone connections to local emergency services will be installed at key locations throughout the facility.

K. Community Character

The campground will provide local and regional recreational opportunities to the public. Campground operations will not impact the character of the surrounding communities; in fact, it will support the character of the area by providing an increased number of recreational opportunities.

L. Related Short-term and Long-term Impacts

There are no reasonably related short-term and long-term impacts or cumulative impacts.

M. Adverse Environmental Impacts

There are no adverse environmental impacts that cannot be avoided or adequately mitigated if the proposed action is implemented. Temporary noise impacts associated with construction are discussed in section III.D. above.

N. Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitments of Environmental Resources

The only such impact of irreversible and irretrievable commitments of environmental resources that would be associated with the proposed action, should it be implemented, are the removal of approximately 20–30 acres of existing trees to accommodate grading and construction of proposed facilities, which is discussed below.

O. Growth-inducing Aspects

While the surrounding community and local merchants may see a slight economic boost by overnight patrons, the development of a campground will not have direct growth-inducing impacts of the proposed action. The potential for the increase in solid waste is discussed in section III.G.c above.

P. Impacts Related to the Use of Energy or on Climate Change

There are no potentially significant impacts related to the use and conservation of energy or on measures to avoid or reduce impacts on climate change. As discussed in the UMP, DEC intends to explore the use of solar panels and install electric-vehicle charging stations. Campsite location and facility design will incorporate best management practices to minimize environmental impact and energy consumption. Building plans and materials are intended to meet or exceed all applicable energy efficient standards. In addition, DEC strives to incorporate green infrastructure and technology wherever possible as evident in other recent department projects.

IV. Potential Benefits of the Proposed Action

The campground compliments the recreational base of the Utica area and the Adirondack Park and will add to the enjoyment of the local residents and visitors.

V. Potential Impacts Not Considered Significant

Removal of approximately 20–30 acres of existing trees will be necessary to accommodate grading and construction of proposed facilities. Estimated tree removal for campsites will total 9.6 acres for 150 campsites, affording adequate space for camping equipment, providing clearance from fireplaces to assure fire safety, and allowing for parking at sites. Estimated tree removal for new road construction will total 8.6 acres, allowing adequate width for roadway, drainage ditches, and a buffer from brush and limbs. Estimated tree removal for new buildings and associated parking, including a boat launch, will total 1.2 acres, providing adequate clearing around footprints of buildings and parking areas. Estimated tree removal for new septic tanks and tile fields totals 1 acre. Modern wastewater treatment design and techniques will be utilized, but actual sizing will be determined when percolation tests are completed. Trees removed to accommodate improvements will be used for firewood or for landscaping and vegetation protection structures. Stumps will be removed or ground flush with grade if they

present a safety hazard or interfere with construction. All limbs and brush will be chipped and composted, dispersed, or utilized wherever appropriate. An actual count of trees that will be removed will take place prior to cutting and clearing. All tree cutting will be done in accordance with DEC's policy on Tree Cutting on Forest Preserve Lands (LF-91-2), which requires a work plan including a tree count by species and size class of all trees 3" DBH or more to be cut, removed, or destroyed. This work plan also describes measures to be taken to mitigate the impact on vegetative cover. Unutilized waste materials will be deposited at two locations noted on exhibit 14 of the Hinckley DUA Draft Unit Management Plan.

VI. Alternatives

Campground Development: Alternatives to the proposed action consider by DEC include:

- A. The No Action alternative of maintaining the facility as it exists;
- B. The action proposed by the Conservation Department (now DEC) in 1967 in the original plan for Hinckley Reservoir involving a more intensive use;
- C. A half-scale plan involving a less intensive use; and
- D. A larger-scale alternative.

A. No Action alternative

The current use of the site allows limited access to the site by the public. Outside of the day-use area, the site is relatively unknown, and the use is limited. No action will eliminate the environmental impacts resulting from the proposed action; however, the unsupervised use of both the developed and undeveloped portions of the intensive use area has created problems such as:

- Sanitation issues, including litter, human waste, and garbage, resulting from lack of facilities and vandalism of facilities;
- Aging infrastructure in need of modernization to current needs, design standards, accessibility, and health code regulations;
- Overuse of waterfront areas. Unauthorized camping and use are concentrated around the beach area and Price's Point bluffs, resulting in loss of shoreline screening and vegetation, soil compaction, and soil erosion;
- Tree cutting for firewood;
- Use of trails and open areas by ATVs and motor bikes; and

- Vandalism of the vacant buildings and trees.

Continuing the current use will allow the problems to continue and possibly worsen.

B. The original design for Hinckley Reservoir Campground

The 1967 plan included a beach area, group and family picnic facilities with shelters and comfort stations, camping, boat launch, trails, and a bathhouse. Construction of the facility began in mid-1967 with the clearing of roads. Some portions of the camping area were completed, including one loop of 12 sites with one 8-unit comfort station and associated electric and water systems. A second adjacent loop of 13 sites was roughed out, but the remaining 125 sites, as originally planned, were never developed. At that time, funding for the campground and boat launch were delayed and completion was never realized. The remaining funds were used to complete the day-use area, which was opened to the public in 1973.

The 1967 plan would not be appropriate based on modern design requirements, regulations, and natural resource protection standards. For example, the 1967 plan did not consider the weight of wetlands impacts as is done today.

- The 1967 plan would result in the loss of an increased area of wetland and emergent marsh.
- The original layout of the campground loops required a higher number of comfort stations, leach fields, and associated site clearing for camper use, whereas the current proposed plan seeks to minimize user and environmental impact.
- Larger topographic alterations and site grading would result if road and campsites were located as described in the original plan.

C. Half-scale alternative.

A half-scale alternative to the proposed preferred alternative in the Hinckley DUA UMP would be to reduce the campsite count to 75 sites. This alternative would not be practical from a natural resource disturbance, economic feasibility, or capital investment perspective, although it would decrease overall spatial impact over the preferred alternative. Due to the spatial separation of the proposed camping area from the day-use area under both alternatives, simply scaling down the campsite count by half would not result in a proportionate decrease in site disturbance, infrastructure development, or capital investment. DEC design standards and DOH regulations would still require the expansion of potable water, wastewater treatment, and utility systems in

addition to staff housing, a dumping station, and a recycling center regardless of the number of sites. This alternative also poses an economic viability concern. Programmatically, on average, campgrounds that are less than 150 campsites are not financially self-supporting. Costs associated with staffing, maintenance, and required infrastructure cannot be covered by facility revenue under current operating conditions.

D. A larger scale alternative

The acreage available at Hinckley DUA could allow for a much larger scale campground. The most profitable campgrounds operated by DEC average 300 campsites. These facilities maximize economies of scale and have revenues that support their operating costs. While revenue generated would support the Division of Operations, Bureau of Recreation program goals, a campground this size and its associated increase in environmental impacts and user density would not be preferred.

E. Proposed Action.

The proposed action represents a plan to meet the public demands to use the site and to resolve the current concerns with the existing facility. At 150 campsites, the economy of scale would be most beneficial to the program's goals and ensure that resources expended would fit expected use and revenue generated. Sanitation problems will be eliminated with the construction of the comfort stations. Facilities will be designed and constructed to meet the demands and projected use. Supervision and public use of the facility will reduce vandalism and use by unauthorized vehicles. The project is consistent with the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan, complements private enterprises and provides a facility to allow the public use and enjoyment of the unit while preserving the natural character of the unit and its surrounding environmental setting.