



Department of
Environmental
Conservation

Vienna Woods

UNIT MANAGEMENT PLAN

FINAL

Towns of Annsville, Camden, Vienna

County of Oneida

August 2015

DIVISION OF LANDS AND FORESTS

Bureau of State Land Management, Region 6

Herkimer Sub Office

225 N. Main St., Herkimer, NY 13350

www.dec.ny.gov

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
625 Broadway, 14th Floor, Albany, New York 12233-1010
P: (518) 402-8545 | F: (518) 402-8541
www.dec.ny.gov

AUG 11 2015

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Record
FROM: Marc Gerstman, Acting Commissioner
SUBJECT: Vienna Woods UMP



The Unit Management Plan for Vienna Woods has been completed. The Plan is consistent with Department policy and procedure, involved public participation and is consistent with the Environmental Conservation Law, Rules and Regulations. The plan includes management objectives for a ten year period and is hereby approved and adopted.

Vienna Woods

Unit Management Plan

A planning unit consisting of 2 State Forests, in Oneida County

Prepared by the Vienna Woods Unit Management Planning Team:

Mary Kay Allen, Senior Forester

Dave Cornell, Forest Ranger

Dave Erway, Senior Fisheries Biologist

Scott Healy, Supervising Forester

Steve Heerkens, Senior Wildlife Biologist

Steve Litwhiler, Citizen Participation Specialist

Jessica Mosher, Forest Technician

Joan Salmon, Conservation Operations Supervisor II

Bruce Robinson, Lands and Claims Adjuster II

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Andrea Mercurio, Senior Forester

Jake Buckingham, Forest Technician

Scott Glen, Forest Technician

Dave Smith, Regional Forester

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

Division of Lands and Forests

Region 6

Herkimer Sub-office

225 N. Main St.

Herkimer, NY 13350

315-866-6330

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/90760.html>

DEC's Mission

"The quality of our environment is fundamental to our concern for the quality of life. It is hereby declared to be the policy of the State of New York to conserve, improve and protect its natural resources and environment and to prevent, abate and control water, land and air pollution, in order to enhance the health, safety and welfare of the people of the state and their overall economic and social well-being." - Environmental Conservation Law 1-0101(1)

VISION STATEMENT

State Forests on the Vienna Woods Unit will be managed in a sustainable manner by promoting ecosystem health, enhancing landscape biodiversity, protecting soil productivity and water quality. In addition, the State Forests on this unit will continue to provide the many recreational, social and economic benefits valued so highly by the people of New York State. DEC will continue the legacy which started more than 80 years ago, leaving these lands to the next generation in better condition than they are today.

This plan sets the stage for DEC to reach these ambitious goals by applying the latest research and science, with guidance from the public, whose land we have been entrusted to manage.

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Preface

State Forest Overview

The public lands comprising this unit play a unique role in the landscape. Generally, the State Forests of the unit are described as follows:

- large, publicly owned land areas;
- managed by professional Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) foresters;
- green certified jointly by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) & Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI);
- set aside for the sustainable use of natural resources, and;
- open to recreational use.

Management will ensure the **sustainability, biological diversity**, and protection of **functional ecosystems** and optimize the ecological benefits that these State lands provide, including the following:

- maintenance/increase of local and regional biodiversity
- response to shifting land use trends that affect habitat availability
- mitigation of impacts from invasive species
- response to climate change through carbon sequestration and habitat, soil and water protection

This unit also contains lands categorized as Detached Parcels of Forest Preserve. They are considered as Forest Preserve and managed as such.

Legal Considerations

Article 9, Titles 5 and 7, of the Environmental Conservation Law (ECL) authorize DEC to manage lands acquired outside the Adirondack and Catskill Parks. This management includes **watershed protection**, production of **timber** and other forest products, **recreation**, and **kindred purposes**.

For additional information on DEC's legal rights and responsibilities, please review the statewide Strategic Plan for State Forest Management (SPSFM) at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/64567.html>. Refer specifically to pages 33 and 317.

Management Planning Overview

The Vienna Woods Unit Management Plan (UMP) is based on a long range vision for the management of Stone Barn and Fish Creek State Forests, balancing long-term ecosystem health with current and future demands. This Plan addresses management activities on this unit for the next ten years, though some management recommendations will extend beyond the ten-year period. Factors such as budget constraints, wood product markets, and forest health problems may necessitate deviations from the scheduled management activities.

Public Participation

One of the most valuable and influential aspects of UMP development is public participation. Public meetings are held to solicit input and written and verbal comments are encouraged while management plans are in draft form.

Strategic Plan for State Forest Management

This unit management plan is designed to implement DEC's statewide Strategic Plan for State Forest Management (SPSFM). Management actions are designed to meet local needs while supporting statewide and eco-regional goals and objectives.

The SPSFM is the statewide master document and Generic Environmental Impact Statement (GEIS) that guides the careful management of natural and recreational resources on State Forests. The plan aligns future management with principles of landscape ecology, ecosystem management, multiple use management and the latest research and science available at this time. It provides a foundation for the development of Unit Management Plans. The SPSFM divides the State into 80 geographic "units," composed of DEC administered State Forests that are adjacent and similar to one another. For more information on management planning, see SPSFM page 21 at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/64567.html>.

DEC's Management Approach and Goals

Forest Certification of State Forests

In 2000, New York State DEC-Bureau of State Land Management received Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC®) certification under an independent audit conducted by the National Wildlife Federation - SmartWood Program. This certification included 720,000 acres of State Forests in DEC Regions 3 through 9 managed for water quality protection, recreation, wildlife habitat, timber and mineral resources (multiple-use). To become certified, the Department had to meet more than 75 rigorous criteria established by FSC. Meeting these criteria established a benchmark for forests managed for long-term ecological, social and economic health. The original certification and contract was for five years.

By 2005 the original audit contract with the SmartWood Program expired. Recognizing the importance and the value of dual certification, the Bureau sought bids from prospective auditing firms to reassess the Bureaus State Forest management system to the two most internationally accepted standards - FSC and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI®) program. However, contract delays and funding shortfalls slowed the Departments ability to award a new agreement until early 2007.

Following the signed contract with NSF-International Strategic Registrations and Scientific Certification Systems, the Department was again audited for dual certification against FSC and additionally the SFI program standards on over 762,000 acres of State Forests in Regions 3 through 9. This independent audit of State Forests was conducted by these auditing firms from May until July 2007 with dual certification awarded in January 2008.

State Forests continue to maintain certification under the most current FSC and SFI standards. Forest products derived from wood harvested off State Forests from this point forward may now be labeled as "certified" through chain-of-custody certificates. Forest certified labeling on wood products may assure consumers that the raw material was harvested from well-managed forests.

The Department is part of a growing number of public, industrial and private forest land owners throughout the United States and the world whose forests are certified as sustainably managed. The Department's State Forests can also be counted as part a growing number of working forest land in New

York that is *third-party certified* as well managed to protect habitat, cultural resources, water, recreation, and economic values now and for future generations.



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Ecosystem Management Approach

State Forests on this unit will be managed using an ecosystem management approach which will holistically integrate principles of landscape ecology and multiple use management to promote habitat biodiversity, while enhancing the overall health and resiliency of the State Forests

Ecosystem management is a process that considers the total environment - including all non-living and living components; from soil micro-organisms to large mammals, their complex interrelationships and habitat requirements and all social, cultural, and economic factors. For more information on ecosystem management, see SPSFM page 39 at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/64567.html>.

Multiple-use management

DEC will seek to simultaneously provide many resource values on the unit, such as fish and wildlife, wood products, recreation, aesthetics, minerals, watershed protection, and historic or scientific values.

Landscape Ecology

The guiding principle of multiple use management on the unit will be to provide a wide diversity of habitats that naturally occur within New York, while ensuring the protection of rare, endangered and threatened species and perpetuation of highly ranked unique natural communities. The actions included in this Plan have been developed following an analysis of habitat needs and overall landscape conditions within the planning unit (i.e. the geographical area surrounding and including the State Forests) the larger ecoregion and New York State.

Ecosystem Management Strategies

The following strategies are the tools at DEC's disposal, which will be carefully employed to practice landscape ecology and multiple-use management on the unit. The management strategy will affect species composition and habitat in both the short and long term. For more information on these management strategies, please see SPSFM page 81 at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/64567.html>.

Passive Management

DEC foresters will employ passive management strategies through the designation of natural and protection areas, and buffers around those areas, such as along streams, ponds and other wetlands, where activity is limited.

Silviculture (Active Management)

DEC foresters will practice silviculture; the art and science of controlling the establishment, growth, composition, health, and quality of forests and woodlands; in an effort to promote biodiversity and produce sustainable forest products. There are two fundamental silvicultural systems which can mimic the tree canopy openings and disturbances that occur naturally in all forests; even-aged management and uneven aged management. Each system favors a different set of tree species. In general, even-aged management includes creating wide openings for large groups of trees that require full sunlight to regenerate and grow together as a cohort, while uneven-aged management includes creating minimal openings for individual trees or small groups of trees that develop in the shade but need extra room to grow to their full potential.



Landscape ecology seeks to improve landscape conditions, taking into account the existing habitats and land cover throughout the planning unit, including private lands

State Forest Management Goals

Goal 1 – Provide Healthy and Biologically Diverse Ecosystems

Ecosystem health is measured in numerous ways. One is by the degree to which natural processes are able to take place. Another is by the amount of naturally occurring species that are present, and the absence of non-native species. No single measure can reveal the overall health of an ecosystem, but each is an important part of the larger picture. The Department will manage State Forests so that they demonstrate a high degree of health as measured by multiple criteria, including the biodiversity that they support.

Goal 2 – Maintain Man-made State Forest Assets

Man-made assets on State Forests include structures, boundary lines, trails, roads and any other object or infrastructure that exists because it was put there by people. Many of these items need no more than a periodic check to make sure they are still in working order. Others need regular maintenance to counteract the wear of regular use. It is the Department's intent to ensure that all man-made items on State Forests are adequately maintained to safely perform their intended function.

Goal 3 – Provide Recreational Opportunities for People of all Ages and Abilities

State Forests are suitable for a wide variety of outdoor recreational pursuits. Some of these activities are entirely compatible with one another, while others are best kept apart from each other. Equally varied are the people who undertake these activities, as well as their abilities, and their desire to challenge themselves. While not all people will be able to have the experience they desire on the same State Forest, the Department will endeavor to provide recreational opportunities to all those who wish to experience the outdoors in a relatively undeveloped setting.

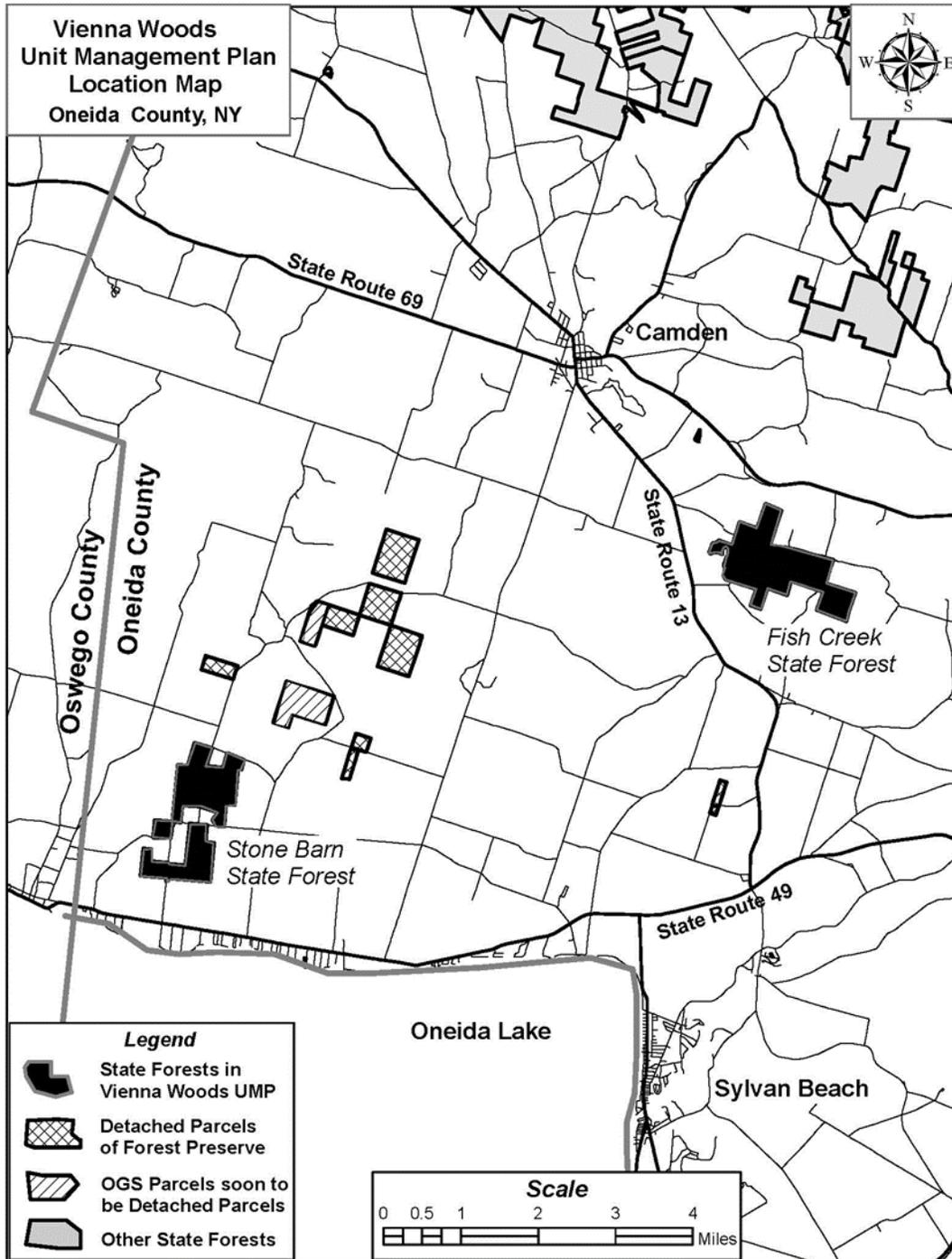
Goal 4 – Provide Economic Benefits to the People of the State

ECL §1-0101(1) provides in relevant part that “It is hereby declared to be the policy of the State of New York to conserve, improve and protect its natural resources and environment and to prevent, abate and control water, land and air pollution, in order to enhance the health, safety and welfare of the people of the state and their overall **economic** and social well-being.” (Emphasis added) In considering all proposed actions, the Department will attempt to balance environmental protection with realizing potential economic benefit.

Goal 5 – Provide a Legal Framework for Forest Conservation and Sustainable Management of State Forests

Staff must have clear and sound guidance to direct their decisions and actions. Likewise, the public must have clear information regarding what they are and are not allowed to do on State Forests. Both of these are provided by well-written laws, regulations and policies. The Department will work to improve existing legal guidance that has proved to be inadequate, and create new guidance that is needed but does not yet exist.

Location Map



I. Information on the Vienna Woods Unit

State Lands in the Unit

Table I.A. contains the names of the state land facilities that make up this unit. A web page will be developed for each of the State Forests. Each web page will feature an updated map of the State Forest with recreational information and natural features.

<i>Table I.A. – State Lands in the Unit</i>	
Facility Name	Acreage
Fish Creek State Forest (Oneida 15)	678
Stone Barn State Forest (Oneida 19)	621
OGS 1 (west of Elpis Rd.) (Office of General Services(OGS) parcel soon to be Detached Parcel of Forest Preserve(DFP))	70
OGS 2 (south of Whiskey Island Rd.) (OGS parcel soon to be DFP)	74
OGS 3 (south of Whiskey Island Rd.) (OGS parcel soon to be DFP)	104
FP 15 (north of Swartz Rd.) (DFP)	25
FP 16 (south of Swartz Rd.) (DFP)	25
On 9 (north of Saltzman Rd.) (DFP)	18
On 9 (south of Saltzman Rd.) (DFP)	6
On 10 (north of Elpis Rd.) (DFP)	166
On 11 (south of Elpis Rd.) (DFP)	120
On 12 (south of Elpis Rd.) (DFP)	77
On 13 (south of Elpis Rd.) (DFP)	152
On 14 (west of Elpis Rd.) (DFP)	52
Total Unit Acreage	2188

INFORMATION ON THE VIENNA WOODS UNIT

HIGH CONSERVATION VALUE FORESTS

Detached Parcels of Forest Preserve

In the general vicinity of the 2 State Forests are 12 parcels, totaling 889 acres, of land categorized as Detached Parcels of Forest Preserve. Three of these parcels (containing 248 acres) are actually under the jurisdiction of the Office of General Services. As of March 2014, these lands have been transferred over to DEC as Detached Forest Preserve Parcels.

Detached Forest Preserve (DFP) parcels are a unique classification of state land. In the early 1900's there was a concerted effort in New York State to acquire land to protect natural resources and for public use. As time went on, different programs were developed to do this. As these programs were more clearly defined, lands were acquired for different purpose and with different funding sources by the State of New York.

Forest Preserve lands were one of the first categories of lands created, in 1885, and a number of counties were classified as "Forest Preserve Counties". This meant any lands acquired by the state for natural resources purposes was to be classified forest preserve. Oneida was one of the forest preserve counties, so early acquisitions automatically became forest preserve. Subsequent to the establishment of the forest preserve in the Adirondacks, the Adirondack Park was created in 1892. This identified a "blue line" around the Adirondacks that defined the Park boundary. Any forest preserve parcels that were located outside the Blue Line, became Detached Parcels of Forest Preserve. They predated the establishment of State Forests, which was provided for by the State Reforestation Law of 1929 and the Hewitt Amendment of 1931.

Most of these "Detached Parcels..." remain classified as forest preserve today so are protected by the NYS Constitution, and as such "shall be forever kept as wild forest lands.....shall not be leased, sold or exchanged or be taken by any corporation, public or private, nor shall the timber thereon be sold, removed or destroyed." Their primary use at this time is for public recreation and resource preservation. The parcels range in size from 24 acres to 166 acres and have varying levels of access. Most have good access adjacent to major roads. Two pieces have no public access. The character of these pieces of land is similar to the nearby State Forests, except that there are not any plantations. Major cover types include northern hardwood and hemlock - northern hardwood.

High Conservation Value Forests

High Conservation Value Forests (HCVF) are those portions of State Forests which have known high conservation values that the Department feels should take precedent over all other land use and management decisions. HCVFs may not be identified on every Unit and State Forests that have an HCVF designated will not necessarily have multiple classifications. Areas that are identified as having exceptional values may be managed for timber, wildlife and/or recreation, however management activities must maintain or enhance the high conservation values present. Currently, HCVFs are assigned to one or more of five land classifications, four of which may be found on State Forests:

1. Rare Community - Forest areas that are in or contain rare, threatened or endangered ecosystems.

INFORMATION ON THE VIENNA WOODS UNIT

2. Special Treatment - Forest areas containing globally, regionally or nationally significant concentrations of biodiversity values (e.g. endemism, endangered species, and refugia).
3. Cultural Heritage – Forest areas fundamental to meeting basic needs of local communities (e.g. subsistence, health) and are critical to their traditional cultural identity (areas of cultural, ecological, economic or religious significance identified in cooperation with such local communities).
4. Watershed - Forest areas that provide safe drinking water to local municipalities.
5. Forest Preserve* - Forest areas containing globally, regionally or nationally significant large landscape level forests, contained within, or containing the management unit, where viable populations of most if not all naturally occurring species exist in natural patterns of distribution and abundance.

**Forest Preserve lands inside both the Adirondack and Catskills Park Blue line. Although Forest Preserve is not considered State Forest, they offer a significant high conservation value for lands managed by the Department.*

None of the Vienna Woods Unit has been identified as having high conservation value. For more information on HCVFs please go to <http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/42947.html>.

Soils

Soils provide the foundation, both figuratively and literally, of forested ecosystems. They support an immense number of microorganisms, fungi, mosses, insects, herptofauna and small mammals which form the base of the food chain. They filter and store water and also provide and recycle nutrients essential for all plant life. For information on DEC’s policies for the protection of forest soils, as well as water resources, please see SPSFM page 108 at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/64567.html>.

Soils susceptible to disturbance are a key indicator of the potential for erosion and water quality impacts in the unit and adjacent lands. Table I.B. below lists the acres of soils considered highly susceptible to erosion, due to the characteristics of the soil as well as slope.

<i>Table I.B. - Soils (see Figure 1 for maps)</i>		
Facility Name	Predominant Soil Type(s)	Acres
Stone Barn State Forest	Worth Loam	149
Fish Creek State Forest	Windsor Loamy Fine Sand	84

Water Resources

DEC’s GIS data contains an inventory of wetlands, vernal pools, spring seeps, intermittent streams, perennial streams, rivers and water bodies on the unit. This data is used to establish special management zones and plan appropriate stream crossings for the protection of water resources. Table I.C. contains a summary of water resources data on the unit.

INFORMATION ON THE VIENNA WOODS UNIT

WATER RESOURCES

<i>Table I.C. – Water Resources (see Figure 2 for maps)</i>		
Watersheds		
Hydrologic units		
Black Creek (Frontal Oneida Lake)		413.5 ac.
Little River		879.1 ac.
Hall Brook(Frontal Oneida Lake)		193.6 ac.
Lower West Branch Fish Creek		679.3 ac.
Fish Creek		18.3 ac.
Wetlands		
All Wetlands		476.9 ac.
Streams/Rivers *		
Perennial streams/ivers		1.9 mi.
Trout streams/ivers	AA or A	0 mi.
	B	0 mi.
	C	4.6 mi.
	D	0 mi.
AA (T), A (T), B (T) or C (T)		3.5 mi.
Water Bodies		
Water bodies (open-water ponds and lakes)		8.2 ac.

*For more information regarding stream classifications please refer to <http://www.dec.ny.gov/permits/6042.html>

In New York State, waters with a classification of A or AA signify that the water can be used as a source of drinking water.

A classification of B indicates that the water can be used for swimming or other contact recreation but is not used for drinking water.

A classification of C indicates that the water could support a fish population, but is not suitable for drinking water.

A classification of D is the lowest classification.

Streams with a classification of A, B or C may also have a (T) or (TS) standard which means that the stream is capable of supporting a trout population (T), or trout spawning (TS). Another indicator of the quality of the water resource in this unit is the 1.9 miles of streams classified as (T) or (TS).

All streams with a classification and standard of C(T) or higher are subject to the stream protection provisions of the Protection of Waters regulations.

Major Streams, Rivers and Water Bodies

Stone Barn State Forest contains two unnamed tributaries that are C(T) in class and standard. The western stream flows directly into Oneida Lake. The eastern tributary flows into Hall Brook, which is C(T) in class and standard, which flows into Oneida Lake.

Fish Creek State Forest contains an unnamed tributary that is C(TS) in class and standard that flows into the West Branch of Fish Creek. The West Branch of Fish Creek is C(T) in class and standard and forms the western boundary of Fish Creek State Forest. The West Branch of the Fish Creek flows into the main stream of Fish Creek and this eventually flows in to Oneida Lake as well.

Biodiversity

Information regarding biodiversity has been gathered to support the following goals:

- “Keep Common Species Common” by maintaining landscape-level habitat diversity and a wide variety of naturally occurring forest-based habitat as well as managing plantations according to DEC natural resources policy.
- Protect, and in some cases manage, known occurrences and areas with potential to harbor endangered plants, wildlife and natural communities.
- Consider other “at-risk species” whose population levels may presently be adequate but are at risk of becoming imperiled due to new incidences of disease or other stressors.

Common Species

The following information sources indicate which common species (among other species) are present over time:

NYS Breeding Bird Atlas

INFORMATION ON THE VIENNA WOODS UNIT

BIODIVERSITY

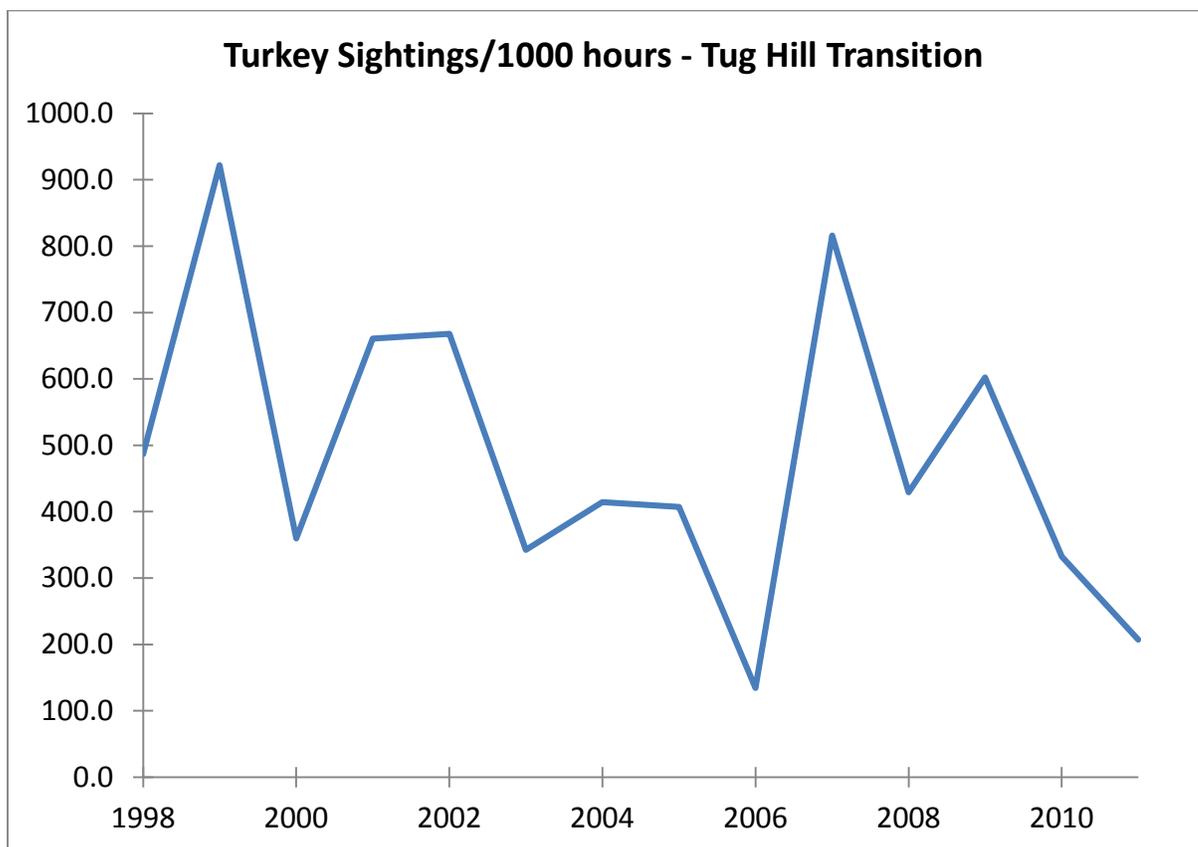
- Block Numbers : 1679, 1761, 1762, 1763, 1764, 1857 & 1859
- Breeding Bird Atlas blocks can be searched at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/cfm/xtapps/bba/>

NYS Herpetological Atlas

- Block Numbers: Camden East (n33), Camden West (n32), & Jewell (o32)

Game Species Population Levels

- Turkey Population



This chart utilizes the U S Environmental Protection Agency's Ecoregion delineations which differs from the Nature Conservancy's Ecoregion delineations. The Tug Hill Transition is a Level IV Ecoregion (Level I is the coarsest level of subdivisions, Level IV is the most refined level) that surrounds the Tug Hill Plateau Ecoregion. The Tug Hill Transition Ecoregion comprises some 1,113 square miles of low rolling hills that range in elevation between 1,000 and 1,700 feet above sea level.

At present, the land use pattern is a mosaic of marginal dairy farms, abandoned pasture land, established woodland, and State Reforestation Areas. The established forest cover type is

INFORMATION ON THE VIENNA WOODS UNIT

predominantly northern hardwood that transitions into a northern hardwood -hemlock cover type moving from east to west. The more recently abandoned pasture lands are comprised of early successional and pioneer species. This generally provides good habitat for wild turkeys. Population fluctuations generally coincide with poor nesting seasons (cold and wet, though, as reflected in this graph, there has also been a general slightly downward trend in the turkey population here as well as statewide. Research is underway now to try and determine the reasons for this trend if it is not just cyclical.

WMU Numbers: 6K

Beaver, Coyote, Fisher and Otter Harvests for WMU 6K2001- 02 thru 2010-11 Seasons

Season	Beaver*	Coyote**	Fisher	Otter
2001-02	977	110	176	56
2002-03	584	100	182	18
2003-04	821	104	283	60
2004-05	587	38	368	22
2005-06	966	NA	389	62
2006-07	1061	NA	340	42
2007-08	778	NA	249	28
2008-09	706	NA	204	42
2009-10	1023	NA	213	54
2010-11	NA	NA	300	50

*

Beaver pelt sealing ended after the 2009-10 season and harvest data is no longer available at the WMU level.

**Coyote reporting for 2004-05 season was via call-in system. This was abandoned after the 2004-05 season and harvest data is no longer available at the WMU level.

INFORMATION ON THE VIENNA WOODS UNIT

BIODIVERSITY



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
Wildlife Management Unit Total
 CALCULATED LEGAL DEER TAKE IN NEW YORK STATE



YEARMALES.....	FEMALES.....		TOTAL	HARVESTED DEER/SQUARE MILE			DMP ISSUED
	ADULTS	FAWNS	ADULTS	FAWNS		ADULT MALES	ADULT FEMALES	TOTAL DEER	
2011	2453	209	1427	174	4263	2.11	1.23	3.67	3195
2010	2462	268	1486	263	4479	2.12	1.28	3.86	3203
2009	2171	185	1419	144	3919	1.87	1.22	3.38	3681
2008	2670	301	1962	254	5187	2.30	1.69	4.47	4797
2007	2436	327	1335	252	4350	2.10	1.15	3.75	2515
2006	2169	303	1101	220	3793	1.87	0.95	3.27	2193
2005	1814	250	1083	192	3339	1.56	0.93	2.88	2650
2004	1649	304	1194	243	3390	1.42	1.03	2.92	3305
2003	2166	486	1828	421	4901	1.87	1.57	4.22	5268
2002	2705	693	2221	532	6151	2.33	1.91	5.30	8686
2001	2762	401	1423	284	4870	2.38	1.23	4.19	2919
2000	3330	246	1053	193	4822	2.87	0.91	4.15	356
1999	2994	172	783	134	4083	2.58	0.67	3.52	258
1998	2554	138	587	100	3379	2.20	0.51	2.91	90
1997	2245	100	449	82	2876	1.93	0.39	2.48	0
1996	2008	87	353	68	2516	1.73	0.30	2.17	0
1995	2179	39	96	26	2340	1.88	0.08	2.02	0
1994	1596	32	67	19	1714	1.37	0.06	1.48	0
1993	1999	59	158	41	2257	1.72	0.14	1.94	0
1992	2077	63	142	39	2321	1.79	0.12	2.00	0

Tuesday, May 29, 2012

Habitat

The following information provides several representations of habitat types on the unit within the state forest parcels:

Vegetative Types and Stages

Vegetative Type	Acres by Size Class				% of Total
	0 - 5 in	6 - 11 in	12+ in	Other	
Natural Forest Hardwood	3.6	124.3	408.2	0	41.2 %
Natural Forest Conifer	0	12	91.6	0	8 %
Plantation Softwoods	0	94.9	386.9	0	37.1 %
Wetland (open)	0	0	0	45.7	3.5 %
Wetland (forested)				93.1	7.2%

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Table I.D. - Vegetative Types and Stages within the Unit

Vegetative Type	Acres by Size Class				% of Total
	0 -5 in	6 - 11 in	12+ in	Other	
Ponds	0	0	0	25	1.9 %
Open/Brush	0	0	0	0	0
Other (Roads, Parking lots, etc.)	0	0	0	14	1.1 %
Total (Acres)	3.6	231.2	886.7	177.8	100%

The statistics above show that the Vienna Woods unit is predominantly a forest composed of pole and sawtimber sized stands, about equal in conifer and hardwoods, and a small component of natural conifer. Non- forest is relatively low, and ponds and open wetlands account for the majority of this cover type. Just under half the unit is plantations, which were likely croplands or pasture lands before they were planted.

Significant Natural Communities

A search of the New York Natural Heritage Data Base found no Significant Natural Communities listed on the unit. Additionally, there were no High Conservation Value Forest areas or Representative Sample Areas found in this planning area. For more information on RSAs please go to <http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/42947.html>.

Habitat Related Demands

Open Grasslands: There is a continuing decline in grassland habitat across New York State. This habitat is critical for a number of grassland bird species of management concern within the state, such as: Northern Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*), Upland Sandpiper (*Bartramia longicauda*), Horned Lark (*Eremophila alpestris*), Sedge Wren (*Cistothorus platensis*), Eastern Bluebird (*Sialia sialis*), Clay-colored Sparrow (*Spizella pallida*), Vesper Sparrow (*Pooecetes gramineus*), Savannah Sparrow (*Passerculus sandwichensis*), Grasshopper Sparrow (*Ammodramus savannarum*), Henslow’s Sparrow (*Ammodramus henslowii*), Dickcissel (*Spiza americana*), Bobolink (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*), and Eastern Meadowlark (*Sturnella magna*). The Vienna Woods Unit does not really lend itself to open grassland habitat, as it has no open or even brushy lands, so managing for open grassland would not be feasible or appropriate here.

Early-Successional Habitat: As with Open Grasslands, early-successional habitat of forests has become increasingly scarce across New York State. This type of habitat is the beginning stages of a forest, where saplings and shrubs dominate the cover type. Important game bird species, such as the American Woodcock (*Scolopax minor*) and the Ruffed Grouse (*Bonasa umbellus*), are reliant upon early successional woodlands for food, cover, and for their mating rituals. Another wildlife species that is dependent upon early successional (mainly conifer) woodlands is the Snowshoe Hare (*Lepus americanus*). Due to habitat loss, the numbers of these animals has been on the decline over the past few decades. Within the Vienna Woods Unit, there are very few acres of early successional forestland at the writing of this plan. Softwood plantation stands could be evaluated at the time of harvest for consideration of being converted to either early successional hardwood or softwood stands. Stands where dense pockets of Quaking or Large Tooth Aspen occur will be targeted for the removal of the

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mature aspen trees. Doing so produces a rapid response of root suckering from the aspen stumps, which is a highly desirable habitat for the above-mentioned species.

Resource Protection Areas

In the course of practicing active forest management, it is important to identify areas on the landscape that are either reserved from management activity or where activity is conducted in such a manner as to provide direct protection and enhancement of habitat and ecosystem functions. For more information on these protective measures, see SPSFM page 85 at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/64567.html>.

Special Management Zones (SMZs) provide continuous over-story shading of riparian areas and adjacent waters, by retaining sufficient tree cover to maintain acceptable aquatic habitat and protect riparian areas from soil compaction and other impacts. DEC's buffer guidelines also maintain corridors for movement and migration of all wildlife species, both terrestrial and aquatic. Buffers are required within SMZs extending from wetland boundaries, high-water marks on perennial and intermittent streams, vernal pool depression, spring seeps, ponds and lakes, recreational trails, campsites and other land features requiring special consideration. See the Appendix for a map of the SMZs as applied on the unit. For more information regarding Special Management Zones please see www.dec.ny.gov/sfsmzbuffers.pdf

The identification of large, unfragmented forested areas, also called matrix forest blocks, is an important component of biodiversity conservation and forest ecosystem protection. In addition, securing connections between major forested landscapes and their imbedded matrix forest blocks is important for the maintenance of viable populations of species, especially wide-ranging and highly mobile species, and ecological processes such as dispersal and pollination over the long term.

Maintaining or enhancing matrix forest blocks and connectivity corridors must be balanced against the entire array of goals, objectives and demands that are placed on a particular State Forest. Where matrix forest block maintenance and enhancement is chosen as a priority for a given property, management actions and decisions should emphasize closed canopy and interior forest conditions. The following areas have been identified to meet demands at the landscape level:

Matrix Forest Block: Stone Barn State Forest is located in the southeast corner of the Oneida Lake Matrix Forest Block. Stone Barn is 620 acres in size.

Forest Landscape Connectivity Corridor: Fish Creek State Forest is located in the connectivity corridor that links the Oneida Lake Matrix Forest Block (which contains Stone Barn) and the Rome Sand Plains Matrix Forest Block located to the east of Fish Creek State Forest.

USFWS Critical Habitat Area: none exists on the unit

More information regarding Matrix Forest blocks, connectivity corridors and associated management considerations can be found in the SPSFM page 85 at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/64567.html>.

At-Risk Species

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The presence of at-risk species and communities on the Vienna Woods Unit and in the surrounding landscape has been investigated to inform appropriate management actions and protections. This investigation was conducted in development of this UMP and the associated inventory of State Forest resources. A more focused assessment will be conducted before undertaking specific management activities in sensitive sites. Appropriate protections may include reserving areas from management activity or mitigating impacts of activity. For more information on protection of at-risk species, please see SPSFM page 115 at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/64567.html>.

Investigation included the following:

- A formal plant survey was conducted on this Unit in the spring of 2005 by the New York Natural Heritage Program.
- Element Occurrence Records for the New York Natural Heritage Program(NHP)s Biological and Conservation Data System were consulted for information.
- Utilization of DEC’s Predicted Richness Overlays (PRO’s) to identify potential habitat and sensitive sites.
- Consultation with NHP species guides.
- Consultation with the NYS Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy

No endangered, threatened, or special concern wildlife or plant species are known to exist within the State Forests that comprise this Unit at this time. However, at the larger landscape level, the presence of several at-risk species has been recorded and has been confirmed or predicted by PRO’s. Table I.F. lists these species and their required habitats.

<i>Table I.F. - At-Risk Species - Plants*</i>				
Species Name	NYNHP Rank	Habitat	Record Source	NYS Status
<i>Confirmed or Predicted in the Landscape and May Be Affected by State Forest Management</i>				
Auricled Twayblade	S1	Alluvial banks, alder thickets, cedar swamps	NYNH PRO’s: (PRED)	Endangered
Downy Lettuce	S1	Open woods, clearings, thickets, power line right of ways, ridge tops	NYNH PRO’s: (PRED)	Endangered
Hill’s Pondweed	S2	Aquatic plant of high alkaline shallow impoundments	NYNH PRO’s: (PRED)	Threatened
Roseroot	S1	Shaded cool cliffs or in the misty areas of waterfalls	NYNH PRO’s: (PRED)	Endangered

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Southern Twayblade	S1	Bogs, poor fens, wet woods	NYNH PRO's:(PRED)	Endangered
Virginia False Gromwell	S1	Sandy, open sites	NYNH PRO's: (PRED)	Endangered

*Defined as NY NHP rank S1, S2, S2-3, G1, G2 or G2-3

(PRED) – Predicted Species

(CONF) – Confirmed Species

Visual Resources

The aesthetic quality of State Forests is considered in management activity across the unit. However, some areas have greater potential to preserve or create unique opportunities for public enjoyment. For information on the protection of visual resources, please see SPSFM page 81 at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/64567.html>.

The Vienna Woods state forests are characterized by mostly flat ground with some mild rolling terrain interspersed with open wetlands, as well as alder covered wetlands. The scenic vistas and steep gorges of other state forests in this working circle are not present here. The open wetlands and picturesque stream side character of the West Branch of the Fish Creek are the main visual attractions for this unit.

Historic and Cultural Resources

History of the Unit

This plan covers State Forest lands in the southwest section of Oneida County. Settlers first came to this area in the late 1700's. The Town of Vienna was first known as Orange and then Bengal, and was split off from Camden in 1807.

Early accounts of the region note an abundance of wolves, panthers and bears and the heroics of local hunters in dealing with these "bothersome vermin". The area was well covered with softwood species, especially pine and hemlock, and many sawmills (there were 37 at the height of the lumbering boom), carpentry shops, and boat builders were established in the area. Farming, cheese factories, blacksmith shops and canning factories were also prevalent in the area, as they were in most farm based communities. In addition to the usual local industries, oil of wintergreen distilleries, a cigar factory, a stone quarry, the growing and processing of hops, and the extraction of bog iron ore, peat, and Fuller's earth (a sedimentary clay used today in most kitty litters) were major industries for the area.

The large number of good sized streams in the area that flowed year-round was an advantage for the early manufacturing industries, but made access and travel a bit of a challenge. Bridges had to be built to cross these streams to connect the communities with each other and expand the road systems. The planning and actual construction of these bridges was often quite the engineering achievement. The early communities were very proud of their bridges and with good reason.

As with most early communities, triumphs went hand in hand with tragedies. In a community known as Whiskey Island (located just to the north east of Stone Barn State Forest), Samuel Holmes lived on Holmes Road (now abandoned). Samuel lost his wife, grew old and over time had lost his mental faculties. He wandered away from home one afternoon and made his way down to the railroad tracks at North Bay (the next village over to the southeast). Tragically, he was struck and killed by the afternoon eastbound train. His son Jim took the body home in a wagon and as he was unloading it, the knee dropped off. The dog grabbed the knee and ran off into the woods with it. As it was dark out by that time, the knee was never recovered. Years later, some neighbors coming back from Camden late at night swear that they saw someone with a lantern out behind the Holmes place (which had been abandoned for some time). One conclusion was that it was the ghost of Samuel Holmes out looking for his lost knee.

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Sylvan Beach is another community just to the southeast of Stone Barn State Forest on the eastern shore of Oneida Lake. This village became the “Coney Island of central New York” and was a very popular resort community that hosted thousands of seasonal visitors each year. Sylvan Beach enjoyed its heydays from about 1891 to 1924. During this time railroad service to this area made it easily accessible for many vacationers in central New York. From dance halls to roller coasters, Sylvan Beach was the place to be for the summer months. After about 1924, with the advent of the easily acquired automobile, the popularity of this resort town began to wane. Destinations that were farther away, such as the Adirondacks, became more accessible to more people.

Over the years, population levels in this area have fluctuated. Farmland that had been in production for roughly 100 years, in some cases, was not terribly productive anymore. Little by little, families left the farms and drifted into the towns and cities.

The 1929 State Reforestation Act and the 1931 Hewitt Amendment paved the way for the formation of the State Forests as we know them today. These pieces of legislation allowed the state to purchase lands to be managed under a multiple use concept. The State Forests in this plan were largely purchased in the late 1930's and early 1940's.

After acquiring these parcels, the open areas that were pasture and cropland were replanted with various softwood species. This work was done mostly through the efforts of the Civilian Conservation Corps. The areas that were already forested were allowed to grow.

At the same time, the care and management of these lands was also evolving. Protection from fire and insects along with proper forest management techniques became very important. Today, these lands provide many opportunities for recreation. The harvest of forest products provides raw materials and jobs. Many different habitats are available for many different species of plants, animals, fish, reptiles and amphibians.

Inventory of Resources

The term cultural resources encompass a number of categories of human created resources including structures, archaeological sites and related resources. The Department is required by the New York State Historic Preservation Act (SHPA) (PRHPL Article 14) and SEQRA (ECL Article 8) as well as Article 9 of Environmental Conservation Law, 6NYCRR Section 190.8 (g) and Section 233 of Education Law to include such resources in the range of environmental values that are managed on public lands. For more information on protection of historic and cultural resources, please see SPSFM page 139 at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/64567.html>.

As a part of the inventory effort associated with the development of this plan the Department arranged for the archaeological site inventories maintained by the New York State Museum and the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation to be searched in order to identify known archaeological

resources that might be located within or near the unit. The two inventories overlap to an extent but do not entirely duplicate one another. The purpose of this effort was to identify any known sites that might be affected by actions proposed within the unit and to assist in understanding and characterizing past human use and occupation of the unit. A search of the appropriate data bases confirmed that there were no sites located on the unit.

Historic and Archaeological Site Protection

There are no identified historic and archaeological sites located within the unit, however any additional unrecorded sites that may exist on the property are protected by the provisions of the New York State Historic Preservation Act (SHPA - Article 14 PRHPL), Article 9 of Environmental Conservation Law, 6NYCRR Section 190.8 (g) and Section 233 of Education Law. No actions that would impact known resources are proposed in this Unit Management Plan. Should any such actions be proposed in the future they will be reviewed in accordance with the requirements of SHPA. Unauthorized excavation and removal of materials from any of these sites is prohibited by Article 9 of Environmental Conservation Law and Section 233 of Education Law. In some cases additional protection may be afforded these resources by the federal Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA).

Archaeological Research

There are no identified historic and archaeological sites located within the unit. However, as with site protection, any additional unrecorded sites that may exist on the property may be made available for appropriate research. Any future archaeological research to be conducted on the property will be accomplished under the auspices of all appropriate permits. Research permits will be issued only after consultation with the New York State Museum and the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. Extensive excavations are not contemplated as part of any research program in order to assure that the sites are available to future researchers who are likely to have more advanced tools and techniques as well as more fully developed research questions.

Real Property

DEC's Bureau of Real Property GIS system contains maps and some deeds for State Forest properties. Original deeds were also consulted to complete the information below.

Boundary Lines

This unit includes 2 separate State Forests with a total of 16.3 miles of boundary line. There are also 9 parcels of Detached Forest Preserve with a total distance of 11.2 miles of boundary lines. The three OGS parcels noted previously have 4.6 miles of boundary lines. These 3 parcels have been transferred to DEC as of March 2014. Table IV.F Boundary Line Management Action Schedule outlines each State Forest, miles of boundary line and the proposed maintenance schedule, found in the Ten Year List of Management Actions section of this plan.

Once the newly transferred OGS pieces have been surveyed, they will be entered in to the boundary line maintenance schedule.

The State Forest boundary lines are maintained on a 5 - 7 year schedule.

Encroachments and other issues are addressed as they become apparent.

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For more information on boundary line maintenance, please see SPSFM page 153 at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/64567.html>.

Exceptions and Deeded Restrictions

None known to exist in this unit.

Encroachments

Well marked boundary lines that are readily identifiable to the public reduce unintentional trespass. However, encroachments onto State Forest lands do sometimes occur. No encroachment issues exist at this time on the State Forests and Forest Preserve Detached Parcels, however, on one of the parcels owned by OGS (OGS -3, tax parcel # 180.000-1-42) there have been significant timber trespasses in the past. Transfer of jurisdiction to NYSDEC would ensure that the boundary lines of this parcel be marked out, signed, and patrolled by Forest Rangers to prevent any further encroachments. Should any new encroachments be found on the unit, they will be addressed in a timely fashion.

Land Acquisition

Acquisition of property from willing sellers on the landscape surrounding the unit may be considered in the following priority areas:

- in-holdings and adjoining properties that would reduce management costs and benefit resource protection and public access goals
- the mineral estate wherever it is split from a State Forest tract
- properties within identified matrix forest blocks and connectivity corridors
- forested lands in underserved areas of the state
- forested lands in areas that are in need of watershed protection

For more information on land acquisition, please see SPSFM page 147 at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/64567.html>.

Infrastructure

State Forests are managed with a minimal amount of improvements to accommodate rustic, forest based recreational opportunities while providing for resource protection, public health and safety, and access for individuals of all ability levels. For more information on infrastructure policies, please see SPSFM page 157 at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/64567.html>.

Roads and Trails

DEC's GIS data contains an inventory of public forest access roads, haul roads and multiple-use-trails on the unit, including a representation of the allowable uses along each road or trail segment. This data is available at DEC's Mapping Gateway <http://www.dec.ny.gov/pubs/212.html> in Google format or in the

State Lands Interactive Mapper. Table I.G. below contains a summary of roads, trails and related infrastructure on the unit.

<i>Table I.G. – Existing Access and Parking (see Figure 5 for maps)</i>	
Category	Total Amount
Public Forest Access Roads	0
Haul Roads	1.0 mi.
Stream Crossings	
Bridges	0
Culverts	1
Related Infrastructure	
Parking Areas / Turnouts	1
Gates / Barriers	2

Use and Demand on Roads, Haul Roads and Parking Areas

The majority of the roads on this unit are town and county highways. In fact, there are no Public Forest Access Roads (PFARs) on either of the state forests in this plan. There are short sections of haul road on each state forest. There is 1 pull off on Elpis Road at the state forest sign.

Haul Roads and Public Forest Access Roads are two classes of roads that provide access to the State Forests for many purposes, but are built and maintained to different standards. The two paragraphs below detail the differences.

Haul roads are permanent, unpaved roads which are not designed for all-weather travel, but may have hardened or improved surfaces with drainage features/structures. They are constructed according to forestry best management practices primarily for the removal of forest products, providing limited access by log trucks and other heavy equipment. Most of the haul roads listed here are open for public motor vehicle use but are not maintained according to specific standards or schedules.

Public Forest Access Roads (PFAR) are permanent, unpaved roads which may be designed for all weather use depending upon their location, surfacing and drainage. These roads provide primary access for administration and public use within the Unit. The design standards for these roads are those of the Class A and Class B access roads as provided in the Unpaved Forest Road Handbook (8/74) (http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/lands_forests_pdf/sfunpavedroad.pdf).

Signs/Kiosks

There are a total of 2 State Forest I.D. sign standards on the unit. The sign for Fish Creek is located on Bones Road just south of the intersection with Forward Rd. The sign for Stone Barn is located on Elpis

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Rd., about half way between Moss Rd. and Stone Barn Rd. There is also a sign standard recognizing the Camden American Legion and the Veterans Memorial Forest on Bones Rd. on Fish Creek State Forest.

There are no informational kiosks on the unit. The addition of informational kiosks for each state forest will be addressed as funding allows.

Boating and Fishing Facilities

There are no developed boating facilities on the State Forests within the unit, however there is a shallow pond on Stone Barn (accessed by a short foot path) and the West Branch of the Fish Creek borders Fish Creek State Forest.

Boat launch facilities and access to Oneida Lake are located at Godfrey Point and Jewell.

Boating and fishing facilities as well as their use and demand are discussed under Recreation.

Operations Facilities

Godfrey Point Sign Shop and a boat launch facility for Oneida Lake is located just south of Stone Barn State Forest. An additional fishing access site for Oneida Lake is located to the east of Godfrey Point at Jewell.

Formal and Informal Partnerships and Agreements

Conservation and stewardship partnerships are increasingly important, especially for public land management agencies. Considering the fact that resources will always be limited, collaboration across political, social, organizational and professional boundaries is necessary for long-term success and sustainability. Encouraging the development of cooperative and collaborative relationships is and can be done through DEC's Volunteer Stewardship Agreement Program. For more information on these and other partnerships, please see SPSFM page 181 at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/64567.html>.

Partnerships are extremely important to the Herkimer DEC Office. These partnerships are formalized through Volunteer Stewardship Agreements and Temporary Revocable Permits (TRP).

The Taberg Trail Blazers, a snowmobile club, maintains snowmobile trails near Fish Creek State Forest.

If there is interest, a partnership could be formed with groups interested in the informal cross country ski trails. Formal volunteer agreements must be put in place and specific trail guidelines must be followed.

Recreation

Recreation is a major component of planning for the sustainable use of State Forests on this unit. DEC accommodates diverse pursuits such as snowmobiling, horseback riding, hunting, trapping, fishing, picnicking, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, bird watching, geocaching, mountain biking and hiking. Outdoor recreation opportunities are an important factor in quality of life. We often learn to appreciate

and understand nature by participating in these activities. However, repeated use of the land for recreational purposes can have significant impacts. For further discussion of recreational issues and policies, please see SPSFM page 187 at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/64567.html>. The following section includes an inventory of recreational opportunities available on this unit as well as a description of use and demand for each activity.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

State Lands Interactive Mapper (SLIM) – An interactive online mapper can be used to create custom maps of recreational trails on this Unit to help people plan outdoor activities. Located at DEC’s Mapping Gateway: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/pubs/212.html>

Google Earth Virtual Globe Data - Some of DEC’s map data, including accessible recreation destinations, boat launches, lands coverage, roads and trails on this Unit can be viewed in Google Maps or Google Earth. (Also located at DEC’s Mapping Gateway)

Exceptional Recreational Opportunities

These state forests are relatively small areas and somewhat nondescript. The West Branch of the Fish Creek where it borders Fish Creek State Forest has some very pleasant spots and the pond on Stone Barn State Forest is a nice quiet place to spend some time.

Wildlife-related Recreation

Hunting

The state forests in this unit have a good network of road systems, primarily maintained by towns, throughout, making access for hunting quite good. Some of these roads are seasonal use, and in the winter serve as snowmobile trails.

These state forests do provide public hunting opportunities, but have private residences in relatively close proximity that hunters should be aware of.

Deer, grouse, snowshoe hare, turkey, migratory game birds and other small game species are present on the state forests in this unit. Not all species are found on all state forests, but where the habitat is available, quality hunting experiences are easily obtainable.

In general, hunting pressure on the state forests seems to be declining. This seems to be in keeping with the trend of decreasing hunting license sales over the past few years.

Fishing

There is one fairly large pond in the south east corner of Stone Barn State Forest. This is a shallow body of water with feeder streams that are classified as C(T); the outlet of the pond eventually drains into Oneida Lake. This pond is about 1/2 mile from the road and there is no formal boat launch. As time and resources permit, this pond will be inventoried to determine what fish populations exist and what the potential is for aquatic life.

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The West Branch of Fish Creek on Fish Creek State Forest is also classified as C(T) and there are many easy access points along the western edges of Fish Creek State Forest.

Public access to Oneida Lake is available at Godfrey Point and Jewell. Godfrey Point has a paved boat launch.

Facility Name	Waterway / Water Body	Acreage	Type
Fish Creek (Oneida 15)	West Branch Fish Creek	0.9 miles of frontage along western boundary	natural creek
Stone Barn (Oneida 19)	pond at south east corner	34 acres total (29 acres within State Forest boundary)	natural/beaver

Trapping

Trapping does take place on the State Forests on this unit. As mentioned earlier, access to most of the State lands is good.

Viewing Natural Resources

Whether driving the roads in search of wildlife, hiking through the woods exploring rocks and upturned trees, bird watching, visiting an open spot at night to view the stars, or just being out in the middle of the woods, away from the noise and distraction of everyday life, many people go to State Lands for many different reasons.

Camping

At present, no formal, designated campsites exist on the unit. Camping on these State Forests is not terribly popular due to their small size. Some camping is done by big game hunters who camp with trailers in old log landings, parking areas and wide spots in the road.

Water-based Recreation

Swimming is allowed in the bodies of open water that exist on the unit. However, there are no lifeguards or beaches. The pond at Stone Barn is relatively shallow with a muddy bottom and not terribly appealing to swim in. The wetlands and beaver flows with open water are similar in nature.

Boating on these water bodies is allowed, however, there are no boat launch sites for any of them. Lightweight canoes and kayaks could easily be put in from level areas adjacent to the water. These open water sites are shallow and fairly small in size and offer flat water boating opportunities.

Demand for these activities is very light.

Trail-based Recreation

Multiple Use Trail Use

On the state forests in this unit, no formal designated trails exist. The town roads and abandoned town roads as well as old fire lanes, old farm lanes, skid trails and other old logging roads can and are being used for recreational purposes.

Foot Trail Use

As mentioned above, no formal designated trails exist on the unit. Old fire lanes, old farm lanes, skid trails and other old logging roads provide many informal opportunities for hiking.

Cross Country Skiing

Informal cross country skiing opportunities are widely available on this unit. Unplowed town roads and logging roads/skid trails provide great opportunities to enjoy this pastime. The Camden Central Schools use the informal trails and woods roads on the Fish Creek State Forest for some of their cross country ski team training.

Use and demand for this activity of course varies with the weather and snow conditions Efforts are underway to formalize a partnership with interested groups to designate core trails. The Volunteer Stewardship Agreement is the current mechanism used to allow groups to work on State Forest Lands. As with all formal trail designations, other uses of the area will be considered. Making certain that the trail is in the best possible location for the use it will receive is of paramount importance.

Equestrian

There are no specifically designated horse trails on this unit. As stated in the Strategic Plan for State Forest Management, the riding, driving or leading of horses is permitted unless it is otherwise prohibited by law, regulation or posted notice. The existing abandoned town roads, old logging roads, old fire lanes and old farm lanes provide opportunities for this use.

Two major horseback riding areas (Otter Creek Trail System south of Lowville in Lewis County, and Brookfield Horse Trail System in eastern Madison County) are within a day's drive of this unit. These areas provide good opportunities for destination travelers. Local neighbors of the state forests on this unit occasionally use the roads and trails with their horses.

Mountain Biking

There are no trails specifically designed for mountain bikes on this unit. As stated in the Strategic Plan, mountain bikes are permitted to travel on any existing road or trail on State Forests, unless it is prohibited. The existing town roads and abandoned town roads, old logging roads, old fire lanes and old farm lanes provide opportunities for this use.

Snowmobiling

The Taberg Trail Blazers maintain snowmobile trails near Fish Creek State Forest. Recent major overhauls of their trail locations make it unnecessary to cross Fish Creek State Forest.

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Like other winter sports, use of the snowmobile trails is directly dependent on weather conditions. With cold temperatures and good snow totals, the trails are groomed regularly by the local clubs. The use of these trails will sky rocket when conditions are good.

Other Recreational Activities

Target Shooting

The state forests in this unit are small areas with residences in close proximity, making safe target shooting difficult. Complaints of unsafe target shooting are received from time to time and every effort is made to remedy the situation. Some success has been realized when unsafe areas are posted against target shooting and the shooters are informed of the hazardous situation. This will continue to be done as complaints are received. As always, law enforcement officials may be called for this or any other problems.

According to Section 190.8, subsection bb of the New York Codes, Rules and Regulations (NYCRR), as authorized under the Environmental Conservation Law:

bb. No person shall possess breakable targets, including but not limited to clay pigeons, on State lands and no person shall target shoot at breakable targets, including but not limited to clay pigeons and glass containers, on State lands. Unless legally engaged in the act of hunting, no person shall discharge firearms on State lands posted or designated as closed to target shooting.

Off-Highway and All-Terrain Vehicle Use

At the time of the writing of this plan, off-road motor vehicles are not allowed on any trails on the Unit. For a comprehensive discussion of DEC's policy regarding ATV use on State Forests, please refer to page 213 of the SPSFM at www.dec.ny.gov/lands/64567.html.

Overall Assessment of the Level of Recreational Development

It is important that recreational use is not allowed to incrementally increase to an unsustainable level. DEC must consider the impact on the unit from increased use on other management goals or other recreational uses. DEC must consider the full range of impacts, including long-term maintenance and the balancing of multiple uses.

Trash and garbage that is left on site after a party are some of the most visible negative impacts of recreational use. That, along with dumping of household garbage, results in many hours spent trying to track down the culprits. The labor and equipment costs to clean up these messes can be in the thousands of dollars annually, which could be much better spent maintaining existing facilities such as roads, trails and campsites.

Use of off-road motor vehicles on old fire lanes, old farm lanes, skid trails and other old logging roads causes these paths to become rutted, accelerating erosion and leading to other serious problems. This is

probably the next most obvious sign of inappropriate recreational use. At the time of the writing of this plan, motor vehicles are not allowed off road anywhere on the Unit.

Universal Access

DEC has an essential role in providing universal access to recreational activities that are often rustic and challenging by nature, and ensuring that facilities are not only safe, attractive and sustainable, but also compatible with resources. For more information on universal access policies, please see SPSFM page 173 at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/64567.html>.

Application of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), along with the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 (ABA) and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; Title V, Section 504, have had a profound effect on the manner by which people with disabilities are afforded equality in their recreational pursuits. The ADA is a comprehensive law prohibiting discrimination against people with disabilities in employment practices, use of public transportation, use of telecommunication facilities and use of public accommodations. Title II of the ADA requires, in part, that reasonable modifications must be made to the services and programs of public entities, so that when those services and programs are viewed in their entirety, they are readily accessible to and usable by people with disabilities. This must be done unless such modification would result in a fundamental alteration in the nature of the service, program or activity or an undue financial or administrative burden.

Title II also requires that new facilities, and parts of facilities that are newly constructed for public use, are to be accessible to people with disabilities. In rare circumstances where accessibility is determined to be structurally impracticable due to terrain, the facility, or part of facility is to be accessible to the greatest extent possible and to people with various types of disabilities.

Consistent with ADA requirements, the Department incorporates accessibility for people with disabilities into the planning, construction and alteration of recreational facilities and assets supporting them. This UMP incorporates an inventory of all the recreational facilities or assets supporting the programs and services available on the unit, and an assessment of the programs, services and facilities on the unit to determine the level of accessibility provided. In conducting this assessment, DEC employs guidelines which ensure that programs are accessible, including buildings, facilities, and vehicles, in terms of architecture and design, transportation and communication to individuals with disabilities.

Any new facilities, assets and accessibility improvements to existing facilities or assets proposed in this UMP are identified in the section containing proposed management actions.

The Department is not required to make each of its existing facilities and assets accessible as long as the Department's programs, taken as a whole, are accessible.

For copies of any of the above mentioned laws or guidelines relating to accessibility, contact the DEC Universal Access Program Coordinator at 518-402-9428 or UniversalAccessProgram@dec.ny.gov

INFORMATION ON THE VIENNA WOODS UNIT

Motorized Access Permit for People with Disabilities (MAPPWD)

The Department's Motorized Access Program for People with Disabilities (MAPPWD) permits qualifying people with disabilities to use motor vehicles along specific routes for access to programs, such as hunting and fishing, on state lands. These routes are provided to facilitate access to these traditional programs and not for the support of ORV or ATV riding activities. This program provides access to significant recreational opportunities throughout the state and is one more way that New York is opening the outdoors to people with disabilities. This permit program is maintained pursuant to DEC Commissioner's Policy 3 (CP-3).

MAPPWD permits may be obtained from Regional DEC Foresters through regional DEC offices. The permit provides access for those who seek solitude, connection to nature, undisturbed wildlife habitat, and inclusion with fellow sportspeople. Permit holders can use specified vehicles to travel beyond the reach of public roads, to areas where others must hike or bike.

Efforts are underway to establish and formalize a MAPPWD CP-3 trail on the north end of Fish Creek State Forest.

Mineral Resources

Oil, Gas and Solution Exploration and Development

Oil and gas production from State Forest lands, where the mineral rights are owned by the state, are only undertaken under the terms and conditions of an oil and gas lease. As surface managers, the Division of Lands and Forests will evaluate any concerns as they pertain to new natural gas leases on State Forest lands. Consistent with past practice, prior to any new leases DEC will hold public meetings to discuss all possible leasing options and environmental impacts. A comprehensive tract assessment will be completed as part of this process that will identify areas where leasing and facilities associated with drilling may or may not be allowed. For more information on natural gas and other mineral resource policies, please see SPSFM page 225 at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/64567.html>.

Leases on the unit:

No existing or planned leases are on this unit at this time.

Active wells on the unit:

No active wells are present on the unit at this time.

Inactive wells on the unit:

No inactive wells are present on the unit at this time.

Mining

Gravel/shale pits and other surface mines:

There are no active shale or gravel pits in this unit. There is an inactive gravel pit at the south end of Stone Barn State Forest.

This gravel pit will remain inactive. The material derived from this pit is generally of low quality that doesn't hold up well. It is often very sharp edged and can cut into and damage tires. Crushed stone and gravel needs will be met with material obtained from commercial pits in the area. This material is of much better quality and will last for a longer amount of time. Anticipated needs include routine maintenance of haul roads and any new log landings needed for timber harvesting.

Supporting Local Communities

Tourism

State Forests can be an economic asset to the local communities that surround them. It is estimated that more than three out of every four Americans participate in active outdoor recreation of some sort each year. When they do, they spend money, generate jobs, and support local communities. For more information, please see SPSFM page 245 at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/64567.html>.

Taxes Paid

The New York State Real Property Tax Law provides that all reforestation areas (State Forests) are subject to taxation for school and town purposes. Some are also subject to taxation for county purposes. Most unique areas (such as Rome Sand Plains) and multiple use areas (sometimes part of some State Forests) are exempt from taxation. Vienna Woods includes reforestation areas, and detached parcels of forest preserve. NYS pays taxes on all of the lands in the unit. Taxes are based on the assessed value of these lands as determined by the local (town or county) assessor. They are assessed as if privately owned.

Detailed tax information can be obtained by contacting Oneida County Real Property Tax Services (ocgov.net), Camden Central School District and the Central Square School District (infotaxonline.com).

The following taxes have been paid for State Forest lands in this unit for 2013:

- Township Tax (incl. highway, general, fire taxes, etc.): \$3669.36
- Total School Tax: \$16,924.81

Forest Products

Timber

Timber management is used as a tool to enhance biodiversity, create habitat features that might be lacking in the landscape, and provide a renewable supply of sustainably-harvested forest products. These products may include furniture quality hardwoods, softwoods for log cabins, fiber for paper making, firewood, animal bedding, wood pellets, biofuel, and chips for electricity production. For more information, please see SPSFM page 251 at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/64567.html>.

INFORMATION ON THE VIENNA WOODS UNIT

Information on timber expected to be produced from timber management activities on the unit is contained in the Land Management Action Schedules in Part IV of this plan.

Due to the recent economic downturn, timber prices have dropped off somewhat over the last few years. In spite of this, a base level of demand still exists. However, due to inadequate staffing levels, timber harvesting for the state forests that the Herkimer office is responsible for has been far below anticipated and sustainable levels.

These circumstances have decreased the ability to manage overcrowded timber stands, resulting in adverse effects on forest health, growth rates and State Forest infrastructure (the latter which is often enhanced when roads are upgraded as part of a timber sale contract).

Maple Tapping

DEC Region 6, which includes Oneida Co., decided to focus maple tapping opportunities on the working circles to the north (the Lowville and Potsdam Sub Offices). This decision was based on proximity to major maple producers and the much larger acreage of appropriate stands compared to those state forests in Oneida County.

Forest Health

Forest health is pursued with the goal of maintaining biodiversity. Any agent that decreases biodiversity can have a deleterious effect on the forest as a whole and its ability to withstand stress. Forest health in general should favor the retention of native species and natural communities or species that can thrive in site conditions without interrupting biodiversity. For more information on forest health, please see SPSFM page 277 at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/64567.html>.

In the State Forests in this plan, overall forest health is good. The untended softwood plantations are slowly declining and will likely continue to do so until they are thinned out. Emerald Ash Borer has been detected to the west in the Syracuse area and to the east in the Albany area. If the Emerald Ash Borer is detected in this area, all of the current protocols and guidelines will be followed. New methods of control and response are still being developed as we learn about this particular pest.

Invasive Species

As global trade and travel have increased, so have the introduction of non-native species. While many of these non-native species do not have adverse effects on the areas in which they are introduced, some become invasive in their new ranges, disrupting ecosystem function, reducing biodiversity and degrading natural areas. Invasive species have been identified as one of the greatest threats to biodiversity, second only to habitat loss. Invasive species can damage native habitats by altering hydrology, fire frequency, soil fertility and other ecosystem processes. Table I.K includes invasives that are or may be present on Vienna Woods.

INFORMATION ON THE VIENNA WOODS UNIT

*Table I.K. – Invasive Species, Pests and Pathogens**

Plants	Status
Japanese Knotweed (Polygonum cuspidatum or Fallopia japonica)	Invasive. Various sized patches growing on all state forests in this unit.
Giant Knotweed (Polygonum sachalinense or Fallopia sachalinensis)	Invasive. Various sized patches growing on all state forests on this unit.
Wild Parsnip (Pastinaca sativa L.)	Invasive. Patches commonly found along roadsides in Oneida County.
Garlic Mustard (Alliaria petiolata)	Invasive. Various sized patches growing on most state forests in this unit.
Insects	Status
Forest Tent Caterpillar (Malacosoma disstria)	Infestations are cyclical and come in waves, generally from north to south. Populations crashed about 3 years ago and are building at this time. The next infestation will depend on weather and population dynamics of this insect.
Eastern Tent Caterpillar (Malacosoma americanum)	Infestations are cyclical and come in waves, generally from north to south. Populations crashed about 3 years ago and are building at this time. The next infestation will depend on weather and population dynamics of this insect.
Gypsy Moth (Lymantria dispar)	Invasive. Infestations are cyclical for this insect however, it usually occurs in hotspots that vary according to weather, elevation and population dynamics. This insect is susceptible to some natural predators and parasites that can help keep the population in check.
Sirex Woodwasp (Sirex noctilio)	Invasive. This wasp has reportedly been found in Oneida County. Very few problems have been identified due to this insect.
Diseases	Status
Beech Bark Disease (Nectria coccinea)	Invasive. Present throughout the northeast for many years. Unfortunately there is no effective treatment. Not cutting beech trees that appear to be immune is practiced with scattered and limited success.
Ash Dieback (various agents)	Occurs in pockets throughout this unit. Keeping the hardwood stands healthy and properly thinned appear to help.
Red Rot, Butt Rot (various species) primarily in White Pine	Found in some softwood plantations in this unit. Keeping the plantations healthy and properly thinned seems to help.
Animals	Status

INFORMATION ON THE VIENNA WOODS UNIT

*Table I.K. – Invasive Species, Pests and Pathogens**

Porcupines	These animals are native and have been found in this area for hundreds of years. Due to lack of predators and limited hunting pressure, populations in some areas have skyrocketed. High populations can seriously damage trees that are being grown for high quality forest products.
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*Species not identified as *Invasive* are native species

At this time, the knotweed infestations are mostly small patches. Herbicide spot treatments and some cultural practices done in a timely manner should help keep these patches in check. If not treated, current research indicates that this plant will spread out of control, though it doesn't survive well under a closed forest canopy.

Native Pests and Pathogens

Forest tent caterpillars pose a threat to hardwood stands, though they can occasionally cause problems in softwood stands. Heavy infestations occur in cycles based on weather, cold temperatures and the availability of organisms that are parasites and that prey on these creatures. Trees (especially sugar maple) that have repeatedly been severely defoliated by the tent caterpillar often go into decline and die. Management options include aerial spraying, releasing parasitic wasps or trapping the larvae with commercially available implements. Delaying treatments of stressed stands is also recommended.

Managing Deer Impacts

There is limited ability to manage deer impacts using silvicultural systems. The most effective method of keeping deer impacts in line with management objectives is to monitor impacts while working with the Division of Fish, Wildlife and Marine Resources to observe and manage the herd. On properties where deer are suspected of impacting values and objectives associated with biodiversity and timber management, such impacts must be inventoried and assessed. Deer browse is not a problem in this unit. For more information on managing deer impacts, please see SPSFM page 291 at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/64567.html>.

State and Regional Tug Hill Initiatives

The Vienna Woods Unit is one of 10 state forest management units within the Tug Hill Region. These state forest units, along with public easement lands and private non-industrial forest lands, collectively provide a unique region wide natural resource. There are in place now several regional and state wide initiatives that recognize the importance of open space, natural resources and quality of life on the Tug Hill Plateau. These planning initiatives provide direction and support for protection and management of natural, cultural and recreation resources, broad public participation in the planning and decision making process and assessing economic impacts on local communities. The objectives and recommendations of the Vienna Woods UMP are in part shaped by the goals of the following initiatives.

Tug Hill Connectivity Initiative

The objective of Tug Hill-Adirondack Habitat Connectivity Project is to maintain or enhance landscape permeability across the Black River Valley for all species, natural communities and ecological processes. The project envisions a landscape where all native species can move freely and persist in the face of threats like land conversion (development) and climate change. The more immediate planning effort is to develop a set of place-based strategies to address functional and genetic connectivity for a suite of wide-ranging focal species that currently or historically move between the Adirondacks and the Tug Hill. The Vienna Woods unit is not located directly within the prime connectivity corridor, yet the wildlife and silvicultural recommendations within the UMP can play a role in enhancing the quality and abundance of habitats required by these focal species. Active, sustainable natural resource management will continue the Tug Hill region's essential role of providing critical habitat for the natural communities and wildlife species of New York State.

Tug Hill Area Watershed Initiatives

The Tug Hill region has 4 watershed based initiatives currently going on; the Black River Watershed Management Plan, Oneida Lake Watershed Plan, Salmon River Watershed Natural Resources Assessment Project and Sandy Creek Watershed Ecosystem Based Management Project. The Vienna Woods unit is located within the Oneida Lake Watershed. The Tug Hill region has seen that comprehensive, long-term watershed planning can help to maintain a healthy, sustainable watershed while attracting business, tourism and recreation to strengthen the local economy. These watershed plans foster an environment that builds regional partnerships between state and local governments, local industry and resource professionals behind a common goal. The four watershed projects have been promoted as an opportunity to protect water resources while strengthening the region's economic viability.

NYS Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy Plan

The Wildlife Conservation Strategy Plan is broken up into management unit by watersheds. The Vienna Woods unit is located in the Southeastern Lake Ontario Basin. The vision for the basin, which is reflected in this unit management plan, is to be a part of a landscape where economic growth needs of the region and effective wildlife management on public and private lands exist in balance. Public and private conservation partners work in a coordinated fashion to gather the most accurate, comprehensive data on Species of Greatest Concern within the basin in a format that can be shared with natural resource managers as well as the public. Below are basin wide goals and objectives:

- Establish a conservation framework within the SELO Basin through which the public and private stakeholders interested in wildlife conservation can work cooperatively towards the management, enhancement and protection of biodiversity in the Basin.
- Ensure that no at-risk (threatened/endangered) species become extirpated from the Basin and seek opportunities to restore extirpated species where feasible.
- Manage animals, habitats and land use practices to produce long-term benefits for species of conservation concern.
- Maintain knowledge of species and their habitats in sufficient detail to recognize long term population shifts.

INFORMATION ON THE VIENNA WOODS UNIT

- Fill “data gaps” for those species where population status, distribution and habitat needs are unknown.
- Identify, manage, protect, maintain and restore habitat/natural communities over as broad a spacial scale as possible. Work to keep large forest, wetland and grassland complexes unfragmented and to restore fragmented habitats where feasible to increase patch size and connectivity.
- Work with land managers to incorporate wildlife-based objectives into traditional land management activities such as forestry and agriculture that still allow these activities to be economically sustainable.
- Strengthen existing relationships between water quality and wildlife management planning programs in the basin and create new ones.
- Develop a “stepped down”, more targeted plan for the Basin that expands upon the recommendations made in the Plan. This plan may focus on specific species and habitats, where and when management actions occur, who will execute those actions and how they will be implemented “on the ground”.

Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

This Plan is prepared periodically by the New York Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation to provide statewide policy direction and to fulfill the agency’s recreation and preservation mandate. The Department of Environmental Conservation Division of Lands and Forests also manages state forest lands for public recreation. The following objectives of the Outdoor Recreation Plan are also considerations in the Vienna Woods UMP.

- Improve recreation and historic site operation, maintenance and resource management practices.
- Improve and expand water-oriented recreation opportunities.
- Apply research techniques and management practices to improve and expand trails and other open spaces.
- Preserve and protect natural and cultural resources.
- Support compatible recreation and interpretive programs.
- Develop comprehensive, interconnected recreationway, greenway, blueway and heritage trail systems.
- Protect natural connections between parks and open space areas.
- Improve access to opportunities for regular physical activity that is in close proximity to where people live, work and/or go to school.
- Improve cooperation and coordination between all levels of government and the private sector in providing recreational opportunities and in enhancing natural and cultural resource stewardship.
- Employ ecosystem-based management to ensure healthy, productive and resilient ecosystems which deliver the resources people want and need.

II. Summary of Eco-Region Assessments

To practice ecosystem management, foresters must assess the natural landscape in and around the management unit. State Forest managers utilized The Nature Conservancy Eco-Region Assessments to evaluate the landscape in and around this management unit. The Vienna Woods UMP falls within the Great Lakes Eco-Region.

Eco-Region Description Summary



Great Lakes Ecoregion: The Great Lakes (GL) Ecoregion encompasses 234,000 square miles in parts of eight Midwestern states and one Canadian province (The Nature Conservancy, Great Lakes Ecoregional Planning Team 1999). The ecoregion extends from northeastern Minnesota across to north central New York, and south to northern Indiana and Ohio. The entire landscape was

glaciated during the last Ice Age, and is characterized by level lake plains, level to gently rolling lowlands, and hillier upland areas. Elevation across the ecoregion ranges from 300 to over 2,000 feet. Michigan's Porcupine and Huron Mountains and Minnesota's North Shore are some of the areas with higher elevations, while the southern shores of Lakes Michigan, Erie and Ontario have lower elevations and less relief. In New York, the Great Lakes Ecoregion represents the watersheds of the Finger Lakes, Lake Ontario and Lake Erie, including the Mohawk River Valley. Historically, the northern part of the ecoregion was dominated by northern hardwood forests, pine forests, and spruce-fir forests. The vast majority of these forests was cut over by 1910, and is now in second growth; some areas are even in third growth. Much of the Great Lakes Ecoregion in New York was dominated by tallgrass prairies and savannas, with some beech-maple and other hardwood forests mixed in. This area has been almost completely converted to agricultural and urban or residential uses. The primary disturbance events that helped to shape these ecosystems were fire, blow-downs, and insect and disease outbreaks in the forested parts of the ecoregion, and fire in the grasslands and savannas.

Eco-Region Assessment

Local Landscape Conditions

The landscape surrounding the Vienna Woods Unit consists of mainly flat to gently rolling hills, interspersed with large, low lying wetland areas. This area was once covered by Lake Iroquois, which was created during the melting of the glaciers during the last ice age around 10,000 years ago. The

SUMMARY OF ECO-REGION ASSESSMENTS

soils are mainly sandy or composed of glacial till that was deposited as the glaciers receded and Lake Iroquois drained out through the Mohawk River Valley. Oneida Lake, one of the largest lakes in New York, lies to the South/Southwest of the Unit and is what remains of Lake Iroquois.

Due to the lack of any large river corridors within the Unit's landscape, industrial development did not play a large role in the shaping of the area. Any development is largely constrained to residential development of suburbs to the cities of Rome, Utica and Syracuse. McConnellsville and Sylvan Beach are the two more developed areas within the landscape.

Most of the area, outside of wetland areas, has historically been used as either pasture land, or a source of timber, since colonial times. This has resulted in the present day mosaic of mainly deciduous or mixed deciduous/conifer cover types in the largely rural landscape. Listed below is the land use and cover for the towns in the area surrounding the unit. Forest cover for the area is about 56%, dominated by deciduous forest. Lake cover is a relatively high 16.7 % due to the adjacent Oneida Lake. Conifer forest, either natural or plantations, is quite low. Most conifer plantations within the Unit area are located on State Forests or Detached Forest Preserve Parcels. Agriculture is generally limited to corn and hay production in areas where rich soil has been deposited by the West Branch of Fish Creek. Many cattle and horse farms are also scattered throughout the unit area.

<i>Table II.A. Land Use and Land Cover for the Landscape Surrounding the Vienna Woods Management Unit</i>		
Land Use and Land Cover	Approximate Acreage	Percent of Landscape
Mixed Forest	13,724	10.2 %
Plantations/Conifer Forests	477	0.3 %
Deciduous Forest	40,629	30.3 %
Crop Land and Pasture	17,324	12.9 %
Residential	2,313	1.7 %
Other Urban/Built-up Land	6,222	4.6 %
Introduced Vegetation	5.0	0.0 %
Shrubland/Seedling Sapling	1,323	1.0 %
Lakes	22,383	16.7 %
Forested Wetland	22,025	16.4 %
Non-forested Wetlands	1,977	1.5 %
Floodplain/Riparian	5,693	4.2 %
Total	134,095	99.8 %

Note: Landscape conditions are based upon a spatial analysis of the 2001 National Land Cover Database, using data from the Towns of Annsville, Camden and Vienna.

Habitat Related Demands

Within the Vienna Woods Unit landscape, there is a definite lack of uneven-aged forests, due to most of the landscape having been cut over during the last century. On Fish Creek State Forest and Stone Barn State Forest, stands that lend themselves to uneven-aged management will be managed as such to retain their uneven-aged character.

There is also a lack of conifer cover type on a landscape level within the Vienna Woods Unit landscape. Conifer stands present on Fish Creek State Forest and Stone Barn State Forest will be managed through a series of thinnings to promote conifer regeneration. The sandy soils on both of these forests lend themselves to ideal growing conditions for both red and white pine, as well as larch species, so natural regeneration is expected.

The detached Forest Preserve parcels located on the unit are protected under Article XIV of the State Constitution from any active forest management. These parcels will be allowed to succeed in a natural state.

III. Management Challenges on the Unit

Vienna Woods is a relatively quiet group of state forests, without any major issues or challenges at this time. The various activities that occur on this unit, from timber harvesting to cross country skiing to hunting, co-exist quietly. Decisions have been made in the past to keep potentially conflicting uses, such as snowmobiling and cross country skiing, in separate locations, so minimizing conflict. There are no major invasives problems at this time, nor forest conditions such as failing conifer plantations or insect and disease problems, so no drastic and or potentially controversial actions need to be considered. However, there are a few things highlighted by forestry staff and the public which need to be dealt with.

Trash, Dumping and Vandalism - One of the major challenges on this unit is the illegal dumping of trash and the destructive vandalism that takes place on these State Forests. These areas are in rural locations with only a few neighbors. The roads are lightly traveled most times of the year making them attractive places for unsavory characters to illegally dump their trash or damaging the land by going off road illegally with ATV's and full sized vehicles. The resources that need to be used to clean up the trash and fix the other problems caused by illegal use could be much better utilized to keep up on routine maintenance or make much needed improvements.

Information on the Unit – State Forests generally are relatively low profile state lands. Most provide extensive versus intensive recreation opportunities, unless there is a particular point of interest like a trail network, scenic vista, etc. But each has its own unique opportunities which could be better presented to potential public users. Currently these state forests that comprise the Vienna Woods unit are identified by “sign standards” which are brown hanging wooden signs about 3’by 3’ with yellow lettering that identify the name of the state forest and usually the acreage. The boundaries are then marked by small DEC boundary line signs. There is usually no other on site information unless there is a

IV. MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND ACTIONS

trailhead with a trail register for signing in, which sometimes also includes a map of the property. Providing the public more information about these state forests should be an important objective of management of these lands. This could include providing kiosks on site with information and a map or maps of the SF, and a web page for each of the state forests that would provide more detailed info before a user ventured into the field.

Partnerships for Public Recreation – There are a few partnerships already in place between DEC and private groups that have helped establish and maintain trails for public users. The Taberg Trail Blazers maintains snowmobile trails in the area that connect to a regional network of trails. Continuing these working relationships, and entering into additional ones for other public use opportunities, should be a priority objective for this plan.

Target Shooting - The major target shooting area on this unit is at the old gravel pit on Stone Barn SF (Oneida 19). At present, this area has not been badly abused and most of the people shooting here clean up after themselves. It is hoped that this trend will continue and the area can continue to be enjoyed by everyone.

DEC regulations, recently modified, allow target shooting as long as no “breakable targets” are used, and also allows an area of state land to be closed to target shooting. Where target shooting results in significant garbage left on state lands, or unsafe situations due to nearby residences, stepped up enforcement action will be taken and/or the area being abused will be closed to target shooting.

IV. Management Objectives and Actions

Management objectives and actions for Vienna Woods are based on DEC’s “Management Approach and Goals” outlined at the beginning of this UMP, as well as on the specific resource conditions, community and user’s interests, and management tools and resources identified over the course of developing this UMP. Objectives below are paired with actions; some more specific actions are spelled out in the “Ten-Year Management Actions” which follows the tables below.

Ecosystem Management

<i>Table IV.A. –Ecosystem Management Objectives and Actions</i>	
Objective	Actions
Active Forest Management	
AFM I – Apply sound silvicultural practices	All current guidelines will be followed.
AFM II – Use harvesting plans to enhance diversity of species, habitats & structure	All current guidelines and Best Management Practices will be followed.
AFM III – Fill ecoregional gaps to maintain and enhance landscape-level biodiversity	All current guidelines will be followed.

<i>Table IV.A. –Ecosystem Management Objectives and Actions</i>	
Objective	Actions
AFM IV – Enhance matrix forest blocks and connectivity corridors where applicable	The Detached Parcels of Forest Preserve are areas that will not be harvested and only managed for low impact recreation. These areas will become mature high canopy forest unless a wind storm or other natural disturbance occurs.
FM V – Practice forest and tree retention on stands managed for timber	All current guidelines will be followed.

The following guidelines and policies which relate to the above objectives and actions are in place and being followed.

- Final Management Rules for Special Management Zones on State Forests (June 2008) http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/lands_forests_pdf/sfsmzbuffers.pdf
- Plantation Management on State Forests (ONR-DLF-1) http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/lands_forests_pdf/policysfplantation.pdf
- Retention on State Forests (ONR-DLF-2) <http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/69658.html>
- Clearcutting on State Forests (ONR-DLF-3) <http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/69658.html>
- State Forest Rutting Guidelines http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/lands_forests_pdf/ruttingguidelines.pdf

Resource Protection

<i>Table IV.B. –Resource Protection Objectives and Actions</i>	
Objective	Actions
Soil and Water Protection	
SWP I – Prevent erosion, compaction and nutrient depletion	NYS Best Management practices will be followed. Areas that are too steep or too wet will not be harvested. New skid trails and access roads will be engineered at the appropriate grades. These guidelines are outlined and enforced in the timber harvest contracts used in the sale of all forest products on State Forests.
SWP II – Identify and map SMZ's and highly-erodible soils	Special management zones are identified on our GIS layer and on the ground before any treatments take place.
At-Risk Species and Natural Communities	

IV. MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND ACTIONS

<i>Table IV.B. –Resource Protection Objectives and Actions</i>	
Objective	Actions
ARSNC I – Protect species and communities ranked S1, S2, S2-3, G1, G2 or G2-3 where present	All current guidelines will be followed.
ARSNC II – Conduct habitat restoration and promote recovery of declining species	Use of the new Predicted Richness Overlays in the Geographic Information System (PRO GIS) will help identify opportunities. Early successional habitat will be enhanced and maintained where possible. All guidelines will be followed.
ARSNC III - Consider protection and management of Species of Greatest Conservation Need	Use of the new PROS GIS layer will help identify opportunities. All guidelines will be followed.
Visual Resources and Aesthetics	
VRA I – Maintain or improve overall quality of visual resources	New opportunities will be taken advantage of as they are identified.
VRA II – Use natural materials where feasible	All current guidelines will be followed.
VRA III – Lay out any new roads/trails to highlight vistas and unique natural features	New opportunities will be taken advantage of as they are identified, and as partners are identified to help maintain them.
VRA IV – Develop kiosks to provide info and education and reduce sign pollution	See Table IV.J Recreation Management Action Schedule for Second 5-year period.
Historic and Cultural Resources	
HCR I – Preserve and protect historic and cultural resources wherever they occur	All current guidelines will be followed.
HCR II – Inventory resources and document in the state forest GIS and with OPRHP	All current guidelines will be followed.

Infrastructure and Real Property

<i>Table IV.C. –Infrastructure Objectives and Actions</i>	
Objective	Actions
Boundary Line Maintenance	
BL I – Maintain boundary lines	See maintenance schedule in Ten Year List of Mgt. Actions

<i>Table IV.C. –Infrastructure Objectives and Actions</i>	
Objective	Actions
BL II – Address encroachments and other real property problems	Pursue any situations identified as encroachments or related situations.
Infrastructure	
INF I – Provide and maintain public forest access roads, access trails, haul roads, parking areas, and associated appurtenances	See maintenance schedule in Ten Year List of Mgt. Actions
INF II – Upgrade, replace or relocate infrastructure out of riparian areas where feasible	Identify problem areas, develop work plans and solicit funding to remedy them.
INF III – Resolve issues of uncertain legal status or jurisdiction	Problems will be addressed as they become evident.
INF IV – Prevent over-development	Current guidelines will be followed. Very limited development is planned on this unit.

Public/Permitted Use

<i>Table IV.D –Public / Permitted Use Objectives and Actions</i>	
Objective	Actions
Universal Access	
UA I – Use minimum tool approach to provide universal access to programs	Current guidelines will be followed. A MAPPWD CP-3 trail will be developed on the north end of Fish Creek State Forest.
Formal and Informal Partnerships and Agreements	
FIPA I – Collaborate with local organizations and governments to reach mutual goals	Partnerships are sought out and nurtured where ever possible.
FIPA II – Consider full range of impacts associated with Volunteer Stewardship Agreements and recurring TRPs	Current guidelines will be followed.
Recreation	
REC I – Accommodate public use while preventing illegal activity, reducing impacts and enhancing public safety	Efforts are underway to formalize an agreement with the Camden Central School Cross Country Ski Club or other local group for designated ski trails in Fish Creek SF and to relocate a snowmobile trail off of the plowed portion of Forward Rd on Stone Barn SF. Current guidelines for such facilities will be followed.

IV. MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND ACTIONS

<i>Table IV.D –Public / Permitted Use Objectives and Actions</i>	
Objective	Actions
REC II – Provide public recreation information	Kiosks will be placed at all state forest units as funding allows, and a web page will be prepared for each state forest. In addition, this UMP and Google Earth are excellent sources of specific information.
REC III – Inventory recreational amenities and schedule recreation management actions	A list of all recreational resources is maintained in a G.I.S. database and through the NYSDEC Maintenance Management System. This database will be updated on a yearly basis to reflect any changes to the recreational amenities, add any newly constructed amenities, and plan for any future maintenance or construction activities.
REC IV – Enhance fish & game species habitat	<p>Fish species within the Unit will be periodically monitored through angler surveys and through fish sampling. Fish species will then be managed by the Bureau of Fisheries, based on suitable habitat for appropriate species. Timber harvesting activities will be performed utilizing NYS BMP guidelines to protect water quality.</p> <p>Game species will be monitored through the DECALS program, and game take allowances will be adjusted accordingly by the Bureau of Wildlife. Wildlife habitat enhancement will be considered with all timber harvesting activities.</p>
All-Terrain and Off Highway Vehicle Use	
ATV I – Enhance recreational access by people with disabilities under the MAPPWD program	Department staff will improve existing routes and evaluate any possible new MAPPWD routes for disabled persons as opportunities allow.
ATV II – Consider requests for ATV connector routes across the unit	All requests will be handled on a case by case basis, and follow the guidance provided in the “Strategic Plan for State Forest Management” or subsequent policy.
ATV III – Minimize illegal use of ATVs	Use enforcement tools available to keep illegal use of ATVs to a minimum.

<i>Table IV.D –Public / Permitted Use Objectives and Actions</i>	
Objective	Actions
Mineral Resources	
MR I – Provide for mineral exploration and development while protecting natural resources and recreation	There is no proposed mineral exploration on the unit at this time.
Supporting Local Communities	
SLC I – Provide revenue to New York State and economic stimulus for local communities	Timber harvesting activities on State lands provides income for New York State and provides local jobs for communities.
SLC II – Improve local economies through forest-based tourism	State Forest lands are promoted through multiple brochures and through the NYSDEC website to enhance tourism.
SLC III – Protect rural character and provide ecosystem services to local communities.	State Forest land on the Unit will remain undeveloped and retain Open Space within the local communities.

Forest Management and Health

<i>Table IV.E. –Forest Management and Health Objectives and Actions</i>	
Objective	Actions
Forest Products	
FP I – Sustainably manage for forest products	Current guidelines will be followed.
FP II – Educate the public about the benefits of silviculture	This plan, public meetings, county wide conservation field days, and other public forums will be used to get the word out.
Plantation Management	
PM I – Convert plantation stands to natural forest conditions where appropriate	Current guidelines will be followed.
PM II – Artificially regenerate plantations where appropriate	Current guidelines will be followed.
Forest Health	
FH I – Help maintain healthy forests through vegetation management.	Any timber harvest conducted will include considerations in the prescription to help improve the health of the harvested stand.

IV. MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND ACTIONS

Table IV.E. –Forest Management and Health Objectives and Actions

Objective	Actions
FH II – Protect the unit and surrounding lands from introduced diseases and invasive plant and animal species	Will conduct yearly aerial pest flights, on the ground surveillance, timely inventory and alerts from the public provide to identify potential forest health issues Appropriate actions will be taken when these problems are discovered.
Managing Deer Impacts	
DM I – Minimize the impacts of deer browsing on forest health and regeneration	Monitor deer browse impacts as part of/during inventory field work and when in the field for other activities.
Fire Management	
FM I – Support Forest Rangers in controlling the ignition and spread of wildfires	Support staff wild land fire training and certifications. Assist with fire control operations as needed.
FM II – Maintain naturally occurring fire-dependent communities	There are no known fire-dependent communities on this unit.
Carbon Sequestration	
CS I – Keep forests as forests, where appropriate	No major cover type changes are proposed for this unit.
CS II – Enhance carbon storage in existing stands	Use of sound forest management strategies will help ensure that the carbon storage opportunities are maximized. Keeping forests as forests will also enhance long term carbon storage.
CS III – Keep forests vigorous and improve forest growth rates	Forest health is the number one goal with any timber harvest conducted.
CS IV – Sequester carbon in forest products	Current guidelines are being followed.

Ten-Year List of Management Actions

See Figure 6 for Forest Stand ID # maps.

The tables below list actions in the following categories: Boundary Line Management, Road Maintenance, Recreation Management, and Land Management Actions.

Action 1

Develop and subsequently adopt this UMP with future amendments as needed and periodic updates at least every ten years.

Action 2

Create/update the web page for each State Forest in this unit, including an electronic, printable map showing the location of recreational amenities.

Action 3

Maintain boundary lines and roads per the schedule below.

Action 4

Follow all stand treatment and recreation schedules as listed.

Table IV.F. Boundary Line Management Action Schedule (BL I, BL II)

State Forest	Length of Boundary (mi.)	Year of Last Maintenance	Year of Next Maintenance	Issues
Oneida 15, Fish Creek	7.3	2014	2019	None
Oneida 19, Stone Barn	9.4	2014	2019	None
Detached Parcels of Forest Preserve (9 parcels total)	11.2	unknown	unknown	unknown
OGS Parcels to be acquired. These parcels were acquired March 2014. Surveys will be completed as soon as possible and the maintenance will be included in this schedule.	4.6	unknown	unknown	unknown

IV. MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND ACTIONS

<i>Table IV.G. Roads Management Routine Maintenance Schedule (INF I, II)</i>						
Road Name	Length (miles)	Last Brushing	Last Grading	Next Brushing	Next Grading	Issues
Oneida 15, Fish Creek State Forest						
Forward Rd. West	0.4	-	-	-	-	Abandoned portion of Forward Rd. not scheduled for maintenance at this time.
Access Lane east of Bones Rd.	0.1	-	-	-	-	Not scheduled for maintenance at this time.
Oneida 19, Stone Barn State Forest						
Access lane west of Elpis Rd.	0.2	-	-	-	-	Not scheduled for maintenance at this time.
Access lane east of Elpis Rd.	0.4	-	-	-	-	Not scheduled for maintenance at this time.

<i>Table IV.J. Recreation Management Action Schedule For second 5 - Year Period</i>	
State Forest	Proposed Kiosk Location
Oneida 15, Fish Creek	At the location of the State Forest sign on Bones Rd.
Oneida 19, Stone Barn	At the location of the State Forest sign on Elpis Rd.

Land Management Actions

The tables below list all stands for which it is anticipated there will be management actions within the next 10 years. All stands identified are in need of treatment. At the actual time of treatment, the forester responsible for each harvest will do a detailed stand analysis. All guidelines and policies will be considered and applied including:

Final Management Rules for Special Management Zones on State Forests (June 2008)

http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/lands_forests_pdf/sfsmzbuffers.pdf

Plantation Management on State Forests (ONR-DLF-1)

http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/lands_forests_pdf/policysfplantation.pdf

Retention on State Forests (ONR-DLF-2)

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/69658.html>

Clearcutting on State Forests (ONR-DLF-3)

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/69658.html>

State Forest Rutting Guidelines

http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/lands_forests_pdf/ruttingguidelines.pdf

This information will then be used to create a specific treatment prescription for each stand on an acre by acre basis that will be implemented by the foresters that mark out the sale.

Because of extremely low staffing levels, stand treatments in this unit are lagging far behind expected schedules. Stand treatments will strive to decrease unacceptable growing stock, jumpstart growth rates and so regulate the stand. After this is done, a much better determination can be made as to the true future potential of these areas.

No major changes in cover type or stand conversions (barring any natural disasters or major pest or disease infestations) are anticipated over the next 10 years.

Stands not listed are not scheduled for treatment in the 10 year consideration of this unit management plan. However, natural occurrences (wind storms, insect or disease infestations) as well as economic conditions (demand or lack thereof for forest products) may also alter which stands will be treated in this time period.

No designated natural areas have been identified in the unit.

IV. MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND ACTIONS

Forest Type Codes

<u>Softwood Species</u>	<u>Hardwood Species</u>	<u>Forest Type</u>
EL – European Larch	Asp – Quaking or Bigtooth Aspen	Hem-NH – Hemlock with Northern Hardwoods
Hem – Hemlock	BB – Black Birch	NH-Hem – Northern Hardwoods with Hemlock
NS – Norway Spruce	BC – Black Cherry	Natural Forest (P) - Natural Forest- Protection - areas that are not necessarily excluded from management actions, but will need special consideration for any treatments
JL – Japanese Larch	BE – Beech	
JP – Jack Pine	HM – Hard (Sugar) Maple	
RP – Red Pine	RM – Red (Soft) Maple	
SP – Scotch Pine	RO – Red Oak	
WP – White Pine	WA – White Ash	
WS – White Spruce	WO – White Oak	
	YB – Yellow Birch	

Land Management Action Schedules

Table IV.1. - Land Management Action Schedule for First Five-Year Period (by State Forest)

State Forests	Stand	Acres	Forest Type			Management Category		Treatment Type
			Species	Current	Future	Current	Future	
Oneida 15	11.2, 21.1, 21.2	71	RO, RM, BE	Natural Forest - RO	Natural Forest - RO	Uneven Aged	Uneven Aged	Treat Beech Understory
Oneida 15	21.3, 24	56	RO, RM, BE	Natural Forest - RO	Natural Forest - RO	Uneven Aged	Uneven Aged	Treat Beech Understory
Oneida 19	5, 8	46	RP, WP, EL	Plantation	Plantation	Even Aged	Even Aged	Thinning/Sawtimber Harvest

IV.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND ACTIONS

Table IV.I. - Land Management Action Schedule for First Five-Year Period (by State Forest)

State Forests	Stand	Acres	Forest Type			Management Category		Treatment Type
			Species	Current	Future	Current	Future	
Oneida 19	12, 19.1, 19.2, 23.1, 23.2	35	RP, WP, RM	Plantation	Plantation	Even Aged	Even Aged	Thinning/Sawtimber Harvest

Table IV.I. - Land Management Action Schedule for Second Five-Year Period (by State Forest)

State Forests	Stand	Acres	Forest Type			Management Category		Treatment Type
			Species	Current	Future	Current	Future	
Oneida 15	2.1, 2.2, 2.3	63	WP, RP, RM	Softwood Plantation	Softwood Plantation	Even Aged	Even Aged	Sawtimber Harvest, Cull Removal
Oneida 15	6.1, 6.2, 12.1, 12.2	33	RP, WP, BC	Softwood Plantation	Softwood Plantation	Even Aged	Even Aged	Sawtimber Harvest, Cull Removal
Oneida 15	9.1, 9.2, 11.1, 11.3	59	RO, RM, HM	Natural Forest - RO	Natural Forest - RO	9.1, 9.2 Uneven Aged	9.1, 9.2 Uneven Aged	Pulp Harvest, Cull Removal
						11.1, 11.2 Even Aged	11.1, 11.2 Even Aged	
Oneida 15	17.2, 17.4, 19.1, 25.1, 25.2	24	RP, WP, SP	Softwood Plantation	Softwood Plantation	Even Aged	Even Aged	Sawtimber Harvest, Cull Removal
Oneida 15	12.3, 17.1, 17.3, 19.2	18	RP, WP, SP	Softwood Plantation	Softwood Plantation	Even Aged	Even Aged	Sawtimber Harvest, Cull Removal

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MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND ACTIONS

<i>Table IV.I. - Land Management Action Schedule for Second Five-Year Period (by State Forest)</i>								
State Forests	Stand	Acres	Forest Type			Management Category		Treatment Type
			Species	Current	Future	Current	Future	
Oneida 19	3.1, 3.2, 10.1, 10.2, 10.3	30.6	RM, BC, HM	Natural Forest - NH	Natural Forest - NH	3.1, 10.1, 10.2, 10.3 Uneven Aged 3.2 Even Aged	Uneven Aged	Sawtimber Harvest, Cull Removal
Oneida 19	10.4, 17, 18.2	26	RM, WP, HM	Natural Forest – NH - Hem	Natural Forest – NH - Hem	10.4 Even Aged 17, 18.2 Uneven Aged	10.4 Even Aged 17, 18.2 Uneven Aged	Sawtimber Harvest, Cull Removal
Oneida 19	24.1, 24.2, 26, 27, 28, 29	65	WP, RM, Hem	Natural Forest – NH - Hem	Natural Forest – NH - Hem	24.1, 24.2, 28 Uneven Aged 26, 27, 29 Even Aged	24.1, 24.2, 28 Uneven Aged 26, 27, 29 Even Aged	Sawtimber Harvest, Cull Removal
Oneida 19	24.3, 24.4, 33	53	Hem, RM, WP, EL	24.3, 24.4 Natural Forest – Hem - NH 33 Plantation	Natural Forest	24.3, 24.4 Uneven Aged 33 Even Aged	24.3, 24.4 Uneven Aged 33 Even Aged	Sawtimber Harvest, Cull Removal

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MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND ACTIONS

<i>Stands Not Treated in This Time Frame</i>							
<i>Fish Creek State Forest, Oneida 15</i>							
State Forest	Stand	Acres	Species	Forest Type		Management Category	
				Current	Future	Current	Future
ON 15	1.0	38.1	RM, HM, BE	Natural Forest	Natural Forest	Uneven Aged	Uneven Aged
ON 15	3.0	3.2	Shrubs	Wetlands	Wetlands	Wetlands	Wetlands
ON 15	4.0	11.5	JP, WP, RP	Plantation	Plantation	Even Aged	Even Aged
ON 15	5.0	1.2	JP, RM, WP	Plantation	Plantation	Even Aged	Even Aged
ON 15	7.1	3.6	Shrubs	Natural Forest (P)	Natural Forest (P)	Uneven Aged	Uneven Aged
ON 15	7.2	18.6	Hem, RO, RM	Natural Forest (P)	Natural Forest (P)	Uneven Aged	Uneven Aged
ON 15	8.0	8.2	Shrubs	Wetlands	Wetlands	Wetlands	Wetlands
ON 15	10.1	4.3	RP, WP, BC	Plantation	Plantation	Even Aged	Even Aged
ON 15	10.2	6.7	RP, RO, WP	Plantation	Plantation	Even Aged	Even Aged
ON 15	10.3	6.5	RP, WP, RO	Plantation	Plantation	Even Aged	Even Aged
ON 15	10.4	6.2	RP, RO, WP	Plantation	Plantation	Even Aged	Even Aged
ON 15	13.1	48.5	SP, RP, BE	Plantation	Plantation	Even Aged	Even Aged
ON 15	13.2	10.2	RP, SP, RO	Plantation	Plantation	Even Aged	Even Aged

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MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND ACTIONS

ON 15	13.3	13.1	SP, RP, BC	Plantation	Plantation	Even Aged	Even Aged
ON 15	13.4	1.4	WP, Hem, RO	Plantation	Plantation	Even Aged	Even Aged
ON 15	13.5	1.8	SP, BC, RM	Plantation	Plantation	Even Aged	Even Aged
ON 15	14.0	4.3	RO, RM, BC	Natural Forest	Natural Forest	Even Aged	Even Aged
ON 15	15.1	1.0	NS, BC	Plantation	Plantation	Even Aged	Even Aged
ON 15	15.2	1.5	NS, Asp, RP	Plantation	Plantation	Even Aged	Even Aged
ON 15	15.3	4.7	NS, BC	Plantation	Plantation	Even Aged	Even Aged
ON 15	16.0	2.5	RO, BB, RM	Natural Forest	Natural Forest	Uneven Aged	Uneven Aged
ON 15	18.0	2.2	BE, RM, Hem	Natural Forest	Natural Forest	Even Aged	Even Aged
ON 15	20.0	29.3	RP, SP, WP	Plantation	Plantation	Even Aged	Even Aged
ON 15	22.0	10.5	SP, RP, RO	Plantation	Plantation	Even Aged	Even Aged
ON 15	23.0	14.8	WP, SP, RP	Plantation	Plantation	Even Aged	Even Aged
ON 15	26.0	32.4	RM, BC, RO	Natural Forest	Natural Forest	Uneven Aged	Uneven Aged
ON 15	27.1	35.1	RO, RM, BE	Natural Forest	Natural Forest	Even Aged	Even Aged

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MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND ACTIONS

ON 15	27.2	4.9	RO, RM, BE	Natural Forest	Natural Forest	Uneven Aged	Uneven Aged
ON 15	28.0	20.2	BE, RM, RO	Natural Forest	Natural Forest	Even Aged	Even Aged
ON 15	711.0	0.4		Road			
ON 15	711.0	1.4		Road			
ON 15	711.0	3.5		Road			
ON 15	711.0	2.7		Road			
ON 15	711.0	2.5		Road			

<i>Stands Not Treated in This Time Frame</i>							
<i>Stone Barn State Forest, Oneida 19</i>							
				Forest Type		Management Category	
State Forest	Stand	Acres	Species	Current	Future	Current	Future
ON 19	1.0	51.2	RM, HM, BC	Natural Forest	Natural Forest	Uneven Aged	Uneven Aged
ON 19	2.0	11.9	WP, RM, Hem	Plantation	Plantation	Even Aged	Even Aged
ON 19	4.1	1.4	RM, HM, BE	Natural Forest	Natural Forest	Even Aged	Even Aged
ON 19	4.2	4.7	RM, BE, BC	Natural Forest	Natural Forest	Even Aged	Even Aged
ON 19	6.1	29.7	Hem, RM, WP	Natural Forest (P)	Natural Forest (P)	Even Aged	Even Aged
ON 19	6.2	20.0	Shrubs	Wetland	Wetland	Even Aged	Even Aged
ON 19	9.0	5.4	BC, RM, HM	Natural Forest	Natural Forest	Even Aged	Even Aged
ON 19	11.0	51.2	Hem, RM, YB	Natural Forest (P)	Natural	Even Aged	Even Aged

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MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND ACTIONS

					Forest (P)		
ON 19	13.0	1.2	WP, RP, BC	Plantation	Plantation	Even Aged	Even Aged
ON 19	14.0	6.6	RM, WP, Hem	Plantation	Plantation	Even Aged	Even Aged
ON 19	15.1	10.2	RM, JP, WP	Plantation	Plantation	Even Aged	Even Aged
ON 19	15.2	4.1	RM, JP, HM	Plantation	Plantation	Even Aged	Even Aged
ON 19	16.0	7.4	RP, WP, RM	Plantation	Plantation	Even Aged	Even Aged
ON 19	18.1	12.2	RM, Hem, WP	Natural Forest (P)	Natural Forest (P)	Even Aged	Even Aged
ON 19	20.0	6.8	Shrubs	Wetland	Wetland	Even Aged	Even Aged
ON 19	21.0	4.6	RM, RP, BC	Plantation	Plantation	Even Aged	Even Aged
ON 19	22.1	12.2	Hem, RM, BE	Natural Forest	Natural Forest	Even Aged	Even Aged
ON 19	22.2	9.7	RM, HM, BE	Natural Forest	Natural Forest	Uneven Aged	Uneven Aged
ON 19	24.5	5.3	Hem, RM, YB	Natural Forest	Natural Forest	Even Aged	Even Aged
ON 19	25.1	5.7	RP, JP, RM	Plantation	Plantation	Even Aged	Even Aged
ON 19	25.2	11.2	RM, JP, BC	Natural Forest	Natural Forest	Even Aged	Even Aged
ON 19	30.1	16.5	RM, BC, Hem	Natural Forest	Natural Forest	Uneven Aged	Uneven Aged
ON 19	30.2	7.3	RM, BC, BE	Natural Forest	Natural Forest	Uneven Aged	Uneven Aged
ON 19	31.0	32.5	Open Water	Pond	Pond	Pond	Pond
ON 19	32.1	22.2	RM, BE, WO	Natural Forest	Natural Forest	Even Aged	Even Aged

ON 19	32.2	4.4	RO, Hem, RM	Natural Forest	Natural Forest	Uneven Aged	Uneven Aged
ON 19	711.0	0.1		Road			
ON 19	711.0	3.9		Road			
ON 19	711.0	0.7		Road			
ON 19	711.0	1.2		Road			
ON 19	711.0	0.3		Road			
ON 19	711.0	0.3		Road			
ON 19	711.0	1.3		Road			

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APPENDICES & FIGURES

VI. Appendices & Figures

Appendix A - Glossary

Access trails - temporary, unpaved roads which do not provide all weather access within the state land. They are not designed for long term and repeated use by heavy equipment. These corridors were originally constructed for the seasonal removal of forest products by skidding to log landings or other staging areas. Constructed according to best management practices, these trails may be used to support other management objectives such as recreational access corridors. Maintenance is limited to activities which minimally support seasonal access objectives.

Adaptive management - a dynamic approach to forest management in which the effects of treatments and decisions are continually monitored and used, along with research results, to modify management on a continuing basis to ensure that objectives are being met

Afforestation - The establishment of a forest or stand in an area where the preceding vegetation or land use was not forest

Age class(es) - trees of a similar age originating from a single natural event or regeneration activity

All-aged - a condition of a forest or stand that contains trees of all or almost all age classes.

Basal area - the cross sectional area, measured in square feet, of a single stem, including the bark, measured at breast height (4.5 ft. above the ground)

Best Management Practices (BMP's) - a practice or a combination of practices that are designed for the protection of water quality of water bodies and riparian areas, and determined to be the most effective and practicable means of controlling water pollutants

Biodiversity - **1.** the variety and abundance of life forms, processes, functions, and structures of plants, animals, and other living organisms, including the relative complexity of species, communities, gene pools, and ecosystems at spatial scales that range from local through regional to global —synonym biological diversity, diversity; **2.** an index of richness in a community, ecosystem, or landscape and the relative abundance of these species —note 1. there are commonly five levels of biodiversity: (a) genetic diversity, referring to the genetic variation within a species; (b) species diversity, referring to the variety of species in an area; (c) community or ecosystem diversity, referring to the variety of communities or ecosystems in an area; (d) landscape diversity, referring to the variety of ecosystems across a landscape; and (e) regional diversity, referring to the variety of species, communities, ecosystems, or landscapes within a specific geographic region —note 2. each level of biodiversity has three components: (a) compositional diversity or the number of parts or elements within a system, indicated by such measures as the number of species, genes, communities, or ecosystems; (b) structural diversity or the variety of patterns or organizations within a system, such as habitat structure, population structure, or species morphology; and (c)

functional diversity or the number of ecological processes within a system, such as disturbance regimes, roles played by species within a community, and nutrient cycling within a forest

Biological legacy - an organism, living or dead, inherited from a previous ecosystem - note: biological legacies often include large trees, snags, and down logs left after timber harvesting

Blowdown - tree or trees felled or broken off by wind

Browse- portions of woody plants including twigs, shoots, and leaves consumed by animals such as deer

Buffer zone(s)/buffer strip - a vegetation strip or management zone of varying size, shape, and character maintained along a stream, lake, road, recreation site, or other vegetative zone to mitigate the impacts of actions on adjacent lands, to enhance aesthetic values, or as a best management practice

Cavity tree/den - tree a tree containing an excavation sufficiently large for nesting, dens or shelter; tree may be alive or dead

Clearcut - the cutting of essentially all trees, producing a fully exposed microclimate for the development of a new age class —note 1. regeneration can be from natural seeding, direct seeding, planted seedlings, or advance reproduction —note 2. cutting may be done in groups or patches (group or patch clearcutting), or in strips (strip clearcutting) —note 3. the management unit or stand in which regeneration, growth, and yield are regulated consists of the individual clearcut stand —note 4. when the primary source of regeneration is advance reproduction, the preferred term is overstory removal

Climax forest - an ecological community that represents the culminating stage of a natural forest succession for its locality / environment

Coarse filter - approach a strategy for conserving biodiversity that involves maintaining a variety of native ecosystems within a landscape context. A coarse filter approach would ensure the availability of grasslands, shrublands, open wetlands, forest wetlands, riparian zones, northern hardwood forest and mixed northern hardwood/conifer forest in various stages of successional development. This approach assumes that a representative array of native ecosystems will contain the vast majority of species in a region

Coarse woody material - any piece(s) of dead woody material on the ground in forest stands or in streams

Cohort - a population of trees that originate after some type of disturbance

Community - **1.** an assemblage of plants and animals interacting with one another, occupying a habitat, and often modifying the habitat; a variable assemblage of plant and animal populations sharing a common environment and occurring repeatedly in the landscape. **2.** a group of people living in a particular local area

Conversion - a change from one silvicultural system to another or from one tree species to another

APPENDICES & FIGURES

Corridor(s) - a linear strip of land identified for the present or future location of a designed use within its boundaries. Examples: recreational trails, transportation or utility rights-of-way. When referring to wildlife, a corridor may be a defined tract of land connecting two or more areas of similar management or habitat type through which a species can travel from one area to another to fulfill any variety of life-sustaining needs

Cover type(s) - the plant species forming a majority of composition across a given area

Crown class - a category of tree based on its crown position relative to those of adjacent trees. a) dominant: a tree whose crown extends above the general level of the main canopy and receives full light from above and partial to full light from the sides. b) co-dominant: a tree whose crown helps to form the general level of the main canopy and receives full light from above and comparatively little from the sides. c) intermediate: a tree whose crown extends into the lower portion of the main canopy and receives little direct light from above and none from the sides. d) suppressed / overtopped: a tree whose crown is completely overtopped by the crowns of one or more neighboring trees and receives little or no direct sunlight

Cultural resources - significant historical or archaeological assets on sites as a result of past human activity which are distinguishable from natural resources

Cutting interval - the number of years between harvest or regeneration cuts in a stand

Designated recreational trail(s) - a Department authorized recreational trail that is signed and/or mapped

Diameter (at) Breast Height (DBH) - the diameter of the stem of a tree (outside bark) measured at breast height (4.5 ft) from the ground

Disturbance - a natural or human-induced environmental change that alters one or more of the floral, faunal, and microbial communities within an ecosystem. Timber harvesting is the most common human disturbance. Wind or ice storms are examples of natural disturbance

Early successional habitat - the earliest stage of development in an ecosystem. An example: vegetative habitat where early successional is seen as old fields, brushy shrubby type plants, with species that are shade intolerant

Ecosystem - a spatially explicit, relatively homogeneous unit of the earth that includes all interacting organisms and components of the abiotic environment within its boundaries - note: an ecosystem can be of any size, e.g., a log, pond, field, forest or the earth's biosphere

Ecosystem management - the appropriate integration of ecological, economic, and social factors in order to maintain and enhance the quality of the environment to best meet current and future needs. Involves management at the landscape level, prompting the biodiversity of natural communities of plants, animals, and seeking to maintain healthy and productive environments

Edge(s) - the more or less well-defined boundary between two or more elements of the environment, e.g., a field adjacent to a woodland or the boundary of different silvicultural treatments

Endangered species - any species of plant or animal defined through the Endangered Species Act of 1976 as being in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range, and published in the Federal Register

Even-aged - a class of forest or stand composed of trees of about the same age. The maximum age difference is generally 20 years

Even-aged (silviculture) - a program of forest management directed to the establishment and maintenance of stands of trees having relatively little (10-20 yrs) variation in ages. The guidelines to be applied in using this system at all stages of tree development are uniquely different from the uneven-aged system

Flood plain(s) - the level or nearly level land with alluvial soils on either or both sides of a stream or river that is subject to overflow flooding during periods of high water level

Forest fragmentation - 1. the process by which a landscape is broken into small islands of forest within a mosaic of other forms of land use or ownership. Note- fragmentation is a concern because of the effect of noncontiguous forest cover on connectivity and the movement and dispersal of animals in the landscape 2. islands of a particular age class (e.g., old growth) that remain within areas of younger-aged forest

Forestry - the profession embracing the science, art, and practice of creating, managing, using, and conserving forests and associated resources for human benefit and in a sustainable manner to meet desired goals, needs, and values

Fragipan - a dense and brittle layer of soil. Its hardness results mainly from extreme density or compactness rather than from high clay content; the material may be dense enough to restrict root, nutrient, and water penetration

Gaps - natural communities, habitats, successional stages, or organisms which have been identified as lacking in the landscape

Geocaching - an outdoor activity in which the participants use a Global Positioning System (GPS) receiver or other navigational techniques to hide and seek containers

Geographic Information System (GIS) - an organized collection of computer hardware, software, geographic and descriptive data, personnel, knowledge and procedures designed to efficiently capture, store, update, manipulate, analyze, report and display the forms of geographically referenced information and descriptive information

Group selection - trees are removed and new age classes are established in small groups —note 1. the width of groups is commonly approximately twice the height of the mature trees with smaller openings providing microenvironments suitable for tolerant regeneration and larger openings providing conditions suitable for more intolerant regeneration —note 2. the management unit or stand in which regeneration, growth, and yield are regulated consists of an aggregation of groups

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Habitat - the geographically defined area where environmental conditions (e.g., climate, topography, etc.) meet the life needs (e.g., food, shelter, etc.) of an organism, population, or community

Hardwoods - broad-leaved, deciduous trees belonging to the botanical group Angiospermae

Haul roads - permanent, unpaved roads which are not designed for all-weather travel, but may have hardened or improved surfaces with artificial drainage; they are constructed according to best management practices primarily for the removal of forest products, providing limited access by log trucks and other heavy equipment; these roads may or may not be open for public motor vehicle use, depending on management priorities and objectives; they may serve as recreational access corridors, but are not maintained according to specific standards or schedules

Improvement thinning(s) - the removal of less desirable trees of any species in a stand of poles or larger trees, primarily to improve composition and quality

Indicator species - species with such specialized ecological needs that they can be used for assessing the quality, condition, or extent of an ecosystem on the basis of their presence and density, or the accumulation and effect of materials in their tissues

Invasive species - species that have become established outside their natural range which spread prolifically, displacing other species, and sometimes causing environmental damage

Keystone species - a plant or animal species that strongly influences the functioning of an entire ecosystem; for example, the way beaver influence wetlands

Landscape - a spatial mosaic of several ecosystems, landforms, and plant communities across a defined area irrespective of ownership or other artificial boundaries and repeated in similar form throughout

Landscape ecology - the study of the distribution and abundance of elements within landscapes, the origins of these elements, and their impacts on organisms and processes.

Landscape matrix - the most extensive and connected landscape element type present, which plays the dominant role in landscape functioning; for example, New York's South-Central Highlands (Central Appalachian) landscape is dominantly forest cover; thus, the landscape matrix is forest cover

Large poles - trees that are 9 to 11 inches in diameter at breast height

Large sawtimber - trees that are 24 inches or greater in diameter at breast height

Late successional habitat - habitats predominated by forests with older and larger trees, having more structural complexity than mature forest, and being either in the process of developing or have developed old growth characteristics; they may exhibit evidence of past human or natural disturbances; these forests may exist as entire stands or as smaller patches within younger stands

Log landing(s)/(Log deck) - a cleared area to which logs are skidded and are temporarily stored before being loaded onto trucks for transport

Mast - all fruits of trees and shrubs used as food for wildlife; hard mast includes nut-like fruits such as acorns, beechnuts and chestnuts. Soft mast includes the fleshy fruits of black cherry, dogwood and serviceberry

Mature forest cover - pertaining to an even-aged stand that has attained most of its potential height growth, or has reached merchantability standards. Within uneven-aged stands, individual trees may become mature but the stand itself consists of trees of diverse ages and stages of development

Medium sawtimber - trees that are 18-23 inches in diameter at breast height

Mesic - of sites or habitats characterized by intermediate moisture conditions; i.e., neither decidedly wet nor dry

Mid Successional - forests that are pole-sized or larger, with relatively open understories

Multiple use - a strategy of land management fulfilling two or more objectives, e.g. forest products removal and recreation

Natural area(s) - an area allowed to develop naturally; intervention will be considered to protect forest health (e.g. fire or invasive plant or animal invasive species), to enhance structural or species diversity, to protect, restore or enhance significant habitats or to exploit or create regeneration opportunities for desired plant species

Natural regeneration - the establishment of a forest stand from natural seeding, sprouting, suckering or layering

Neotropical migratory birds (migrants) - birds that breed in Canada and the United States and spend the winter in Mexico, Central America, South America or the Caribbean islands; these species represent more than 50% (340 of the 600 species) of North American birds

Niche - **1.** the ultimate unit of the habitat, i.e., the specific spot occupied by an individual organism; **2.** by extension, the more or less specialized relationships existing between an organism, individual or synusia, and its environment; **3.** the specific set of environmental and habitat conditions that permit the full development and completion of the life cycle of an organism —note the ecological niche of a species is the functional role of the species in a community; the fundamental niche is the totality of environmental variables and functional roles to which a species is adapted; the realized niche is the niche a species normally occupies

Northern hardwood forest - a forest type usually made up of sugar and red maple, American beech, yellow birch, and to a lesser extent black cherry and white ash. This type represents about 70 percent of all forests in New York State

Old growth - an abundance of late successional tree species, at least 180 - 200 years of age in a contiguous forested landscape that has evolved and reproduced itself naturally, with the capacity for self-perpetuation, arranged in a stratified forest structure consisting of multiple growth layers throughout the canopy and forest floor, featuring canopy gaps formed by natural disturbances

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creating an uneven canopy, and a conspicuous absence of multiple stemmed trees. Old growth forest sites typically are characterized by an irregular forest floor containing an abundance of coarse woody materials which are often covered by mosses and lichens; show limited signs of artificial disturbance and have distinct soil horizons. The understory displays well developed and diverse surface herbaceous layers. Single, isolated trees may be considered as old growth if they meet some of the above criteria

Overstory - that portion of the trees in a forest forming the upper or uppermost canopy layer

Overstory removal - the cutting of trees constituting an upper canopy layer to release adequate desirable advanced regeneration in the understory

Parcelization - the subdivision of land into smaller ownership blocks. This intrudes new features and activities into the forest and changes its character, but does not necessarily fragment it in biophysical terms

Patch cut - a type of clearcut where the cut area consists of a small part of a stand or forest. The minimum size of a patch depends primarily on (a) the creation of microclimate conducive to establishment of desired regeneration of particular tolerance, and (b) the area needed for safe felling and yarding of harvested trees

Pioneer Species - a plant capable of invading bare sites (newly exposed soil) and persisting there or colonizing them until supplanted by later successional species

Plantation - a stand composed primarily of trees established by planting or artificial seeding – a plantation may have tree or understory components that have resulted from natural regeneration

Poletimber - trees that are generally 6-11 inches diameter at breast height

Prescribed fire - fire that is deliberately ignited to burn wildland fuels in either their natural or modified state and under specific environmental conditions which allow the fire to be confined to a predetermined area and produces the fireline intensity and rate of spread required to attain planned resource management objectives.

Protection area - land excluded from most active management to protect sensitive sites; exclusions include: timber harvesting, road construction, oil and gas exploration and development and some recreational activities. These sites most often include steep slopes, wet woodlands and riparian zones along stream corridors

Public Forest Access Roads (PFAR) - permanent, unpaved roads which may be designed for all weather use depending upon their location, surfacing and drainage. These roads provide primary access for administration and public use within the Unit. The design standards for these roads are those of the Class A and Class B access roads as provided in the Unpaved Forest Road Handbook (8/74) (http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/lands_forests_pdf/sfunpavedroad.pdf). As a general guideline, sufficient access is typically achieved when 1 mile of PFAR is developed for each 500 acres of state land, and no position within the Unit lies more than one half-mile from a PFAR or public highway

Pulpwood - low grade or small diameter logs used to make paper products, wood chips

Regeneration - seedlings or saplings of any origin

Release - **1.** a treatment designed to free trees from undesirable, usually overtopping, competing vegetation; **2.** a treatment designed to free young trees not past the sapling stage from undesirable competing vegetation that overtops or closely surrounds them

Riparian buffer (zone) - areas of transition between terrestrial and aquatic ecological systems; they are characterized as having soils and vegetation analogous to floodplains, or areas transitional to upland zones; these areas help protect the water by removing or buffering the effects of excessive nutrients, sediments, organic matter, pesticides, or pollutants

Rotation - the period of years between stand establishment and final harvest as designated by management decisions

Salvage cutting - the removal of dead trees or trees damaged or dying because of injurious agents other than competition, to recover economic value that would otherwise be lost

Sapling - a small tree, usually defined as being between 1 and 5 inches diameter at breast height

Sawtimber - trees that are 12 inches and larger diameter at breast height

Seed tree - **1.** a regeneration method consisting of cutting all trees except for a small number of widely dispersed trees retained for seed production and to produce a new age class in fully exposed microenvironment; **2.** a tree retained for seed production —note seed trees are usually removed after regeneration is established

Seedling - a young tree originating from seed that is less than one inch in diameter

Seedling(s)/sapling(s) - trees less than 6 inches diameter at breast height

Shade tolerance - the ability of a tree species to germinate and grow at various levels of shade; a) shade tolerant: having the capacity to compete for survival under shaded conditions, b) shade intolerant: having the capacity to compete for survival only under direct sunlight conditions; light demanding species

Shelterwood - an even-aged method of natural regeneration designed to regenerate and maintain a stand with a single age class; the cutting of most trees, leaving those needed to produce sufficient shade to produce a new age class in a moderated microenvironment —note the sequence of treatments can include three types of cuttings: (a) an optional preparatory cut to enhance conditions for seed production, (b) an establishment cut to prepare the seed bed and to create a new age class, and (c) a removal cut to release established regeneration from competition with the overstory; cutting may be done uniformly throughout the stand (uniform shelterwood), in groups or patches (group shelterwood), or in strips (strip shelterwood); in a strip shelterwood, regeneration cuttings may progress against the prevailing wind

Silviculture - the art and science of controlling the establishment, growth, composition, health, and quality of forests and woodlands to meet the diverse needs and values of landowners and society on a sustainable basis

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Single tree selection - individual trees of all size classes are removed more or less uniformly throughout the stand, to promote growth of remaining trees and to provide space for regeneration — a synonym is individual tree selection

Site - the area in which a plant or forest stand grows, considered in terms of its environment, particularly as this determines the type and quality of the vegetation the area can support

Skid trail(s) - a temporary or permanent trail used to skid or forward felled trees from the stumps to the log landing

Small poles - trees 6-8 inches diameter at breast height

Small sawtimber - trees 12-17 inches in diameter at breast height

Snags - standing, dead trees, with or without cavities; function as perches, foraging sites and/or a source of cavities for dens, roosting and/or nesting for wildlife

Softwoods - generally refers to needle and/or cone bearing trees (conifers) belonging to the botanical group Gymnospermae

Spatial analysis - an examination of data in the context of where it occurs geographically or “on the ground;” This is usually accomplished by tying database information to GIS based maps

Species - the main category of taxonomic classification into which genera are subdivided, comprising a group of similar interbreeding individuals sharing a common morphology, physiology and reproductive process

Species richness - the number of different species present within a defined area

Stand - a contiguous group of trees sufficiently uniform in age-class distribution, composition, and structure, and growing on a site of sufficiently uniform quality, to be a distinguishable unit —see all-aged stand, mixed, pure, even-aged, and uneven-aged stands — Note 1. a mixed stand is composed of a mixture of species — Note 2. a pure stand is composed of essentially a single species —Note 3. in a stratified mixture stand different species occupy different strata of the total crown canopy

Stand structure - the horizontal and vertical distribution of components of a forest stand including the height, diameter, crown layers and stems of trees, shrubs, herbaceous understory, snags and down woody materials

State Forest/State Reforestation Area - lands owned by the State of New York, administered by the Department of Environmental Conservation Division of Lands & Forests, and authorized by Environmental Conservation Law to be devoted to the establishment and maintenance of forests for watershed protection, the production of timber and other forest products, and for recreation and kindred purposes. These forests shall be forever devoted to the planting, growth, and harvesting of such trees (Title 3 Article 9-0303 ECL). (G)

Stocking - 1. the amount of material on a given area – example: the stand is fully stocked ; 2. an indication of growing- space occupancy relative to a pre-established standard

Succession - the gradual supplanting of one community of plants by another —note 1. the sequence of communities is called a sere, or seral stage —note 2. a sere whose first stage is open water is termed a hydrosere, one whose first stage is dry ground, a xerosere —note 3. succession is primary (by pioneers) on sites that have not previously borne vegetation, secondary after the whole or part of the original vegetation has been supplanted, allogenic when the causes of succession are external to and independent of the community (e.g., accretion of soil by wind or water, or a change of climate), and autogenic when the developing vegetation is itself the cause

Suite - species similar in their habitat needs which may respond similarly to habitat changes

Sustainable forest management - management that maintains and enhances the long-term health of forest ecosystems for the benefit of all living things, while providing environmental, economic, social and cultural opportunities for present and future generations

Temporary revocable permit (TRP) - a Department permit which authorizes the use of state land for a specific purpose for a prescribed length of time

Thinning(s) - a silvicultural treatment made to reduce stand density of trees primarily to improve growth of remaining trees, enhance forest health, or recover potential mortality

Threatened species - a species likely to become endangered in the foreseeable future, throughout all or a significant portion of its range, unless protected

Timber Stand Improvement (TSI) - pre-commercial silvicultural treatments, intended to regulate stand density and species composition, while improving wood product quality and fostering individual tree health and vigor through the removal of undesirable trees

Understory - the smaller vegetation (shrubs, seedlings, herbaceous plants, small trees) within a forest stand, occupying the vertical zone between the overstory and the forest floor

Uneven-aged system - a planned sequence of treatments designed to maintain and regenerate a stand with three or more age classes

Uneven-aged stand/forest - a stand with trees of three or more distinct age classes, either intimately mixed or in small groups

Universal Design - Universal design is the design of products and environments to be usable by all people, to the greatest extent possible, without the need for adaptation or specialized design.

Variable patch retention (harvest system) - an approach to harvesting based on the retention of structural elements or biological legacies (trees, snags, logs, etc.) from the harvested stand for integration into the new stand to achieve various ecological objectives

Watershed - a region or area defined by a network of stream drainage. A watershed includes all the land from which a particular stream or river is supplied

Wetland(s) - a transitional area between aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems that is inundated or saturated for periods long enough to produce hydric soils and support hydrophytic vegetation

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Appendix B - Summary of Comments from Initial Public Comment Period

Recreation

Cross country ski opportunity on Fish Creek is very important.

Target shooting along Trestle Road is dangerous and all night parties disruptive.

Facilities

Would like to be notified if any Detached Parcels are to be sold off.

Forestry

Would like to see the homeowner firewood program brought back.

Would be nice if Detached Parcels could be actively managed as working forests.

Beavers and forest tent caterpillars are troublesome in the area.

Timber management and harvesting of forest products are very important to local economy and are valuable contributions to the supply of local raw materials.

Appendix C - Public Comments and Responses from Draft UMP Comment Period

Recreation

Comment: The snowmobile trail has been overhauled and no longer needs to cross Fish Creek State Forest.

Response: The Department looks forward to continuing this valuable partnership with the snowmobile club on the other State Forests that do have snowmobile trails located on them.

Comment: Formalize cross country ski trails on Fish Creek State Forest.

Response: We are in the process of meeting with the people interested in this project. Formal volunteer agreements must be put in place and specific trail guidelines must be followed.

Comment: Fur trappers cannot legally set traps within 100 feet of recreational trails. Trails located in close proximity to water very much limit trapping opportunities.

Response: When locating recreational trails, all user groups are considered. Every attempt is made to balance all interests.

Comment: The hunting and fishing in this area is pretty good, keep up the good work.

Response: It's always nice to hear positive feedback. If the truth be told though, Mother Nature does deserve quite a bit of the credit.

Comment: Establish a trail for those with mobility limitations (CP3 trail) on the northern section of Fish Creek State Forest.

Response: Excellent suggestion. We are in the process of implementing this recommendation. Hopefully the trail will be ready for permitted use by this summer.

Comment: Unsafe target shooting is an issue at the southwest corner of Fish Creek State Forest.

Response: Discharging firearms is legal on State Forest Lands, however, the safety of neighboring landowners is of paramount importance. Target shooters are encouraged to shoot safely and are routinely reminded that there are houses nearby. To emphasize this, safety zone signs will be placed in this area and when kiosks are put in place this information will be included on the kiosk.

Comment: Happy that ATV use is prohibited on State Forest lands. Main trails should be blocked off, kiosks should inform people that ATV use is prohibited and law enforcement should patrol regularly to enforce regulations.

Response: The main function of the proposed kiosks is to inform people of the proper uses of each State Forest. ATV use will certainly be a topic. State Forest Lands are patrolled by the Rangers, Sheriffs and State Troopers. These agencies have experienced staff shortages, as most other agencies have, and have a huge area to cover. Patrols are made as often as possible, especially if there are problems in a certain section.

Facilities

Comment: Land acquisition in this area by Native Americans is a concern.

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Response: This is beyond the scope of this unit management plan. Concerns on this issue should be made known to local, county and state officials.

Comment: Do not allow hydrofracking on this unit management planning unit.

Response: Oil, gas and solution exploration and development are addressed on page 36 of this unit management plan. As stated, there are no existing or planned leases on this unit.

Comment: Boundary lines on the detached parcels of forest preserve need to be maintained more often.

Response: Once the OGS parcels come under the jurisdiction of DEC, new surveys will be done where needed and the lines will be kept up to standards.

Comment: Provide more parking opportunities on the State Forests.

Response: The wide road shoulders and existing pull-off areas seem to accommodate most of the vehicles that come to these areas. Improvements to the existing pulloffs are already occurring as road maintenance on these State Forests occurs.

Fish / Wildlife

Comment: Have more timber harvests to promote habitat for deer and snow shoe hare.

Response: Timber harvests are carefully planned and usually have many goals. Improving wildlife habitat in general, and deer and hare habitat in particular, are common components of a timber harvest prescription.

Forestry

Comment: Give a special designation to the 25 acres on the west side of Elpis Road just to the south of the intersection of Moss Rd. (roughly the southern portion of Stand A-1) on Stone Barn State Forest to retain the old growth forest qualities and preserve the superlative example of late successional forest.

Response: Interestingly, the majority (eastern most 20 acres) of this area was part of a larger (90 acre) parcel that came into State ownership in the late 1980's. The land acquisition agreement for this piece was finalized in 1990. The strip of land identified in the comment is mostly populated by (in decreasing order of composition percentage) black cherry, red maple, basswood, and sugar maple on the western end and has white ash, red maple and sugar maple on the eastern end. Scattered throughout the area are a few tulip poplar trees in varying states of health.

In about the middle of the strip is a one half acre area of softwood trees including Norway spruce, red pine, white pine, Scotch pine and larch.

The diameters of the trees here range from about 10" DBH (diameter breast height - a point 4 ½ feet above the ground) to 16" DBH with six or seven trees 20" - 22" DBH scattered through the area.

Based on these observed conditions, a likely theory would be that this area was actually fairly open in the recent past. Black cherry, white ash and tulip poplar are considered shade intolerant species and need very open sunlit conditions in order to become established in any given stand of trees.

The small patch of softwood trees was likely planted, as the larch, Scotch pine and Norway spruce are introduced, naturalized species often used in reforestation projects.

To confirm this theory, aerial photographs from 1938 clearly show this area, as well as the surrounding acreage, as fairly open ground, quite probably pasture for livestock.

The very large trees mentioned in the comment can be found along the old boundary lines and hedgerows that made up the field edges.

It is very gratifying to know that people enjoy and are familiar with our State Forest lands. However, as can be seen in the above description, this area does not meet the definition for old growth. It should also be pointed out that this area is not scheduled for any treatment in the time frame for this UMP.

In order to maintain the presence of the tulip poplar, some treatment will be necessary at some point in the future. Some of the tulip trees present here now are in a state of decline and will likely die in the short term future if no action is ever taken. To ensure the future health of these trees, neighboring competing trees will need to be thinned out in order to allow the crowns of the tulip trees to flourish.

All treatments contemplated for any State Lands are carefully considered and carried out in a thoughtful, meticulous manner. Due to this area's proximity to the protected wetland and other wildlife concerns, extra special care and consideration will be taken when it is time for a treatment.

Comment: Create more young forest and convert some plantations to a more natural condition.

Response: The plantations were originally established to stabilize fragile soils and provide a long term ground cover that would prevent any further degradation of the site. They have done their job admirably and provide many benefits in addition to their original goals. Care must always be taken to ensure that the site and soils are not compromised. Over time, many of the plantations will be slowly converted to a more natural situation.

Comment: Increase full time permanent Forester staff to keep up with the implementation of all of the actions outlined in the unit management plans.

Response: Lack of staff has been a concern for a number of years. Increased responsibilities in addition to an increasing work load stretch existing staff far too thin. It is hoped that this situation will someday be remedied.

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Appendix D - State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR)

State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR)

This Plan and the activities it recommends will be in compliance with State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR), 6NYCRR Part 617. The State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) requires the consideration of environmental factors early in the planning stages of any proposed action(s) that are undertaken, funded or approved by a local, regional or state agency. The Strategic Plan for State Forest Management (SPSFM) serves as the Generic Environmental Impact Statement (GEIS), regarding management activity on State Forests. To address potential impacts, the SPSFM establishes SEQR analysis thresholds for each category of management activity.

Management actions in this Plan are within the thresholds established in the SPSFM, therefore these actions do not require additional SEQR. Any future action that does not comply with established thresholds will require additional SEQR prior to conducting the activity.

STATE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY REVIEW ACT

This Unit Management Plan (UMP) does not propose pesticide applications of more than 40 acres, any clearcuts of 40 acres or larger, or prescribed burns in excess of 100 acres. Therefore the actions in the plan do not exceed the thresholds set forth in the Strategic Plan/Generic Environmental Impact Statement for State Forest Management.

This Unit Management Plan also does not include any of the following:

1. Forest management activities occurring on acreage occupied by protected species ranked S1, S2, G1, G2 or G3
2. Pesticide applications adjacent to plants ranked S1, S2, G1, G2 or G3
3. Aerial pesticide spraying by airplane or helicopter
4. Any development of facilities with potable water supplies, septic system supported restrooms, camping areas with more than 10 sites or development in excess of other limits established in this plan.
5. Well drilling plans
6. Well pad densities of greater than one well pad in 320 acres or which does not comply with the limitations identified through a tract assessment
7. Carbon injection and storage or waste water disposal

Therefore the actions proposed in this UMP will be carried out in conformance with the conditions and thresholds established for such actions in the Strategic Plan/Generic Environmental Impact Statement , and do not require any separate site specific environmental review (see 6 NYCRR 617.10[d]).

Actions not covered by the Strategic Plan/Generic Environmental Impact Statement

Any action taken by the Department on this unit that is not addressed in this Unit Management Plan and is not addressed in the Strategic Plan/Generic Environmental Impact Statement may need a separate site specific environmental review.

[**Link to Figures 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & X - Location Map, soils, water ,topo, facilities & Recreation maps**](#)

[**Link to Figure 6. – Forest Stand Identification Numbers, Age Structure, Forest Composition maps**](#)