

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION (RFI)

Information Requested: **Horse & Wagon Service Preferences, Feasibility, and Possibilities for Non-motorized Access Service into Camp Santanoni, Newcomb, NY**

Release Date: **Thursday, January 25, 2024**

Submit By: **Friday, February 23, 2024**

Submit To: **Comment.WagonRFI@dec.ny.gov**

Or by mail:

NYSDEC, C/O Robert Ripp, Forester
Re: Santanoni RFI
1115 State Route 86, PO Box 296
Ray Brook, NY 12977-0296

Article 1: Purpose

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), Division of Lands & Forests, requests information on the feasibility of providing horse-drawn wagon rides to people with disabilities at the Camp Santanoni Historic Area in the town of Newcomb, Essex County, New York.

The camp's Main Lodge is located at the end of a 4.8-mile-long gravel road which is closed to public motor vehicle use under the terms of the Unit Management Plan (UMP) approved for this facility. DEC is obligated to provide a ready means for people with disabilities to reach the Main Lodge. DEC would like to provide this service through the use of a horse-drawn wagon, in keeping with this historic setting. In 2023, DEC acquired a wagon specially designed to accommodate people with disabilities for use at Camp Santanoni.

DEC would benefit from responses from all members of the public, including but not limited to horse and wagon service providers, draft horse networks, and DEC's Accessibility Advisory Committee, concerning the feasibility and parameters for providing this service and the availability of potential vendors. If DEC determines to proceed with this service, DEC will release a Request for Quotations (RFQ) and/or Invitation for Bids (IFB) at a later date.

Article 2: Background

Access to Santanoni for people with disabilities should be convenient, dependable, and reservable. Access must begin from the Gate Lodge and be available all the way to the Main Camp, a round trip of approximately 9.6 miles, for qualifying individuals and an aid or companion. Access should be available for the months of May through October, weather and road conditions permitting. Access should be provided to a level that satisfies the individual need. Please see the site map in Attachment A.

In 2023, DEC purchased a new wagon specially designed to maximize the comfort and enjoyment of all riders. The wagon has seats of two different sizes, supported by posts, and which can be reconfigured in the bed of the wagon. The maximum seating will accommodate 13 people in forward facing seats, 5 wheelchairs, or a combination thereof. Wheelchairs will be secured to specially designed tracks in the wagon floor like those found in many busses, to provide a safe, secure and enjoyable ride.

Detailed wagon specifications (please also refer to the photos in Attachment B):

- 8 feet wide by 16 feet long;
- The wagon has an unladen weight of approximately 3,500 pounds;
- Hydraulic brakes on all 4 wheels with a parking brake;
- Torsion axle suspension;
- Three gated access points: one on the rear and one on each side;

- The rear access point utilizes an integrated roll-out emergency egress ramp. The side access points utilize a drop-gate that will be used with recently constructed access platforms located at the endpoints of the trip.

DEC also constructed a platform system for easy loading and access to the wagon. The platform conforms with Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Guidelines; Outdoor Developed Areas and facilitates near-level entry / exit to and from the wagon.

Article 3: Submission Content

DEC requests that feedback submitted regarding this RFI include information about the following:

A. Site Conditions

1. DEC seeks feedback regarding the location and site conditions as they pertain to the capacity, ability, and availability of vendors as well as any improvements that can be made to facilitate better service.

B. Potential Vendor Pool Development

1. Any interested party should respond to the RFI based on their expertise regarding any level of services they can provide and forward this RFI to other potentially interested parties. This RFI is not limited to vendors with the capacity to provide DEC with the entire suite of potential uses.
2. DEC is interested in hearing from existing farms that may be interested in providing passenger horse and wagon services but who may need further information before beginning to commercially transport and employ their team. Respondents may also nominate other known draft horse operations or describe their own operation and its ability to address the program needs.

C. Horse & Wagon Passenger Service

1. DEC seeks the following feedback on the scope of work as it relates to the site, location, and frequency of service as it pertains to the capacity, ability, and availability of vendors as well as any improvements that can be made to facilitate better service.
 - a. How often can a vendor reasonably provide the service?
 - i. Daily?
 - ii. Weekly?
 - iii. Monthly?
 - b. Can the specified wagon with passengers be reasonably drawn the full 9.6-mile round trip?
 - c. Are there recognized weight limits for wagon loads hauled by horse

teams over this distance?

- d. How many trips into the site per day is reasonable?
 - i. One or two?
- e. Can one vendor reasonably facilitate regular scheduled trips, or should multiple vendors be considered?
- f. How should compensation be structured?
 - i. Per person?
 - ii. Per trip?
 - iii. Per day?
 - iv. Per season?
 - v. Other?
- g. Which vendor might be interested in bidding on a contract for this service?

Article 4: How and When to Submit Your Feedback to DEC

Note: No contract will be awarded as a result of this RFI. Response to this RFI is not a requirement to be eligible to respond to any subsequent requests. Response to this RFI will not prevent any respondent from being eligible to respond to any subsequent requests.

Submission Guidelines:

1. Provide full contact information: include your name, address, telephone number, and an email address. If you are nominating / suggesting another entity as a potential vendor, please list those potential vendors and their contact information.
2. Narrative: responses should include written responses to the areas of need identified above, Article 3. Please include any relevant references or promotional materials within your submission.
3. Emailed submissions should be clearly labeled in the subject line with the following statement: DEC Camp Santanoni Horse and Wagon RFI Response
4. Postmarked submissions should be sent to the full mailing address below.

Submissions must be emailed or postmarked by Feb. 23, 2024. DEC also welcomes questions about this RFI process, as well as requests for a site tour to better inform submissions.

RFI Submissions, questions and site tour requests should be submitted to Comment.WagonRFI@dec.ny.gov or to the address below:

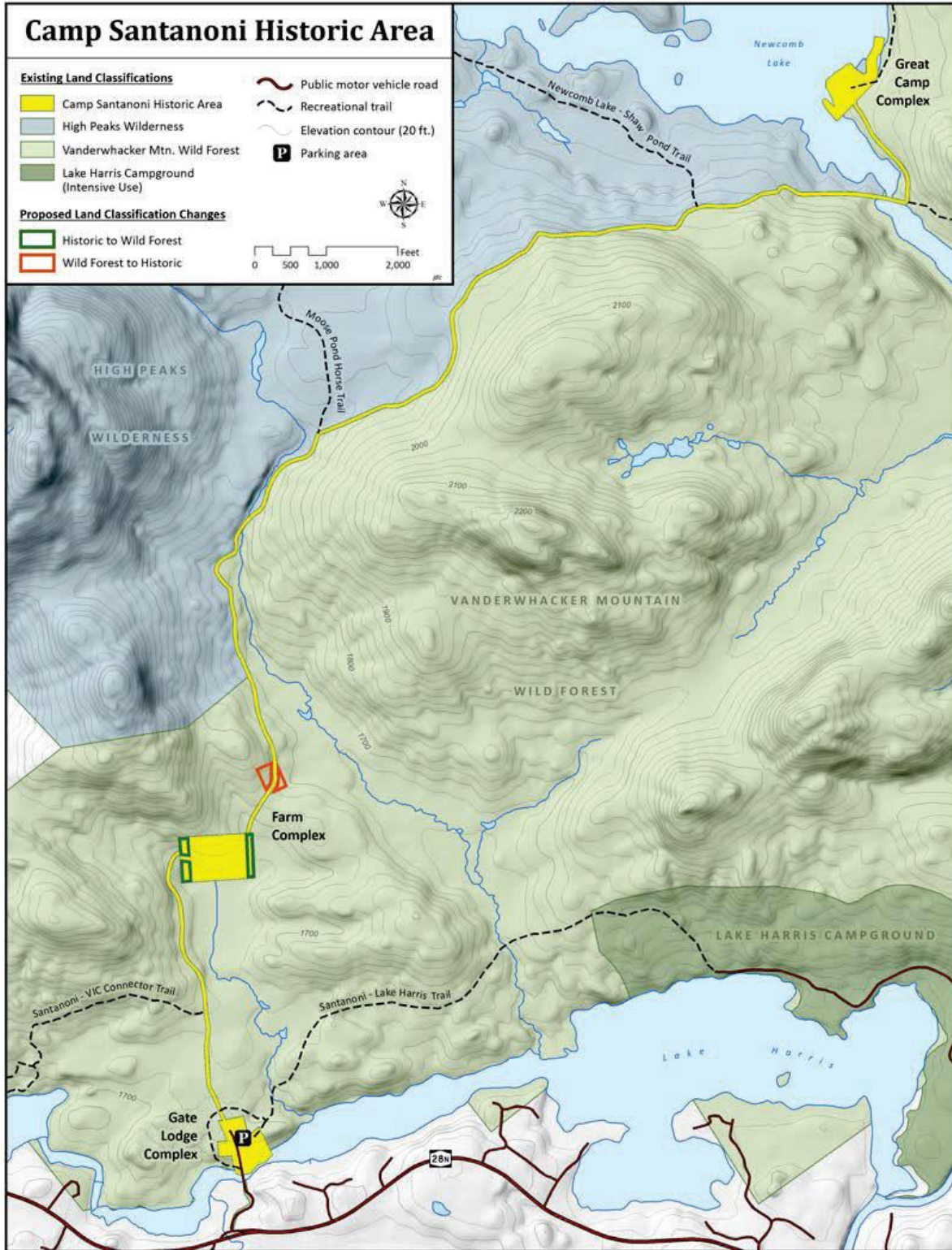
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Article 5: Proprietary Information

All information submitted in response to this RFI may be subject to the Freedom of Information Law (FOIL), Article 6 of the New York Public Officers Law, which generally mandates the disclosure of documents in the possession of DEC upon the request of any person unless the content of the document falls under a specific exemption to disclosure. Respondents must identify any information provided in their response is proprietary or a trade secret. DEC will maintain confidentiality of such information to the extent allowed under FOIL and all other applicable legal requirements, including but not limited to 6 NYCRR Section 616.7.

ATTACHMENT A



ATTACHMENT B



