FOREST PRESERVE DETAILED PROJECT WORK PLAN

Fiscal Year 2024

Project # 2023-WB-009; CO-WP-322

Region	Project Title
5	East Puffer Pond and Elizabeth Point Trail Reroutes

Project Type	Town(s)	County	Management Unit
Modification of Existing Structure/Improvement	Johnsburg	Warren	Siamese Ponds Wilderness

Description of Desired Condition(s) for Project

Sections of the East Puffer Pond and Elizabeth Point Trails are currently poorly aligned which has resulted in channeling water from the seepy eastern hillside of Thirteenth Lake onto the trails. There is ankle deep water throughout much of the peak season most years. The desired future condition for these trails is to create a dry, stable, and sustainable tread by rerouting these poorly aligned portions of trail. The two trails are near each another and thus will be managed as one project with two objectives:

1) Construct a 1,795 foot reroute of the Elizabeth Point Trail, closing quarter of a mile of the existing trail;

2) Construct a 1,439 foot reroute of the East Puffer Pond Trail, closing 0.2 miles of existing trail.

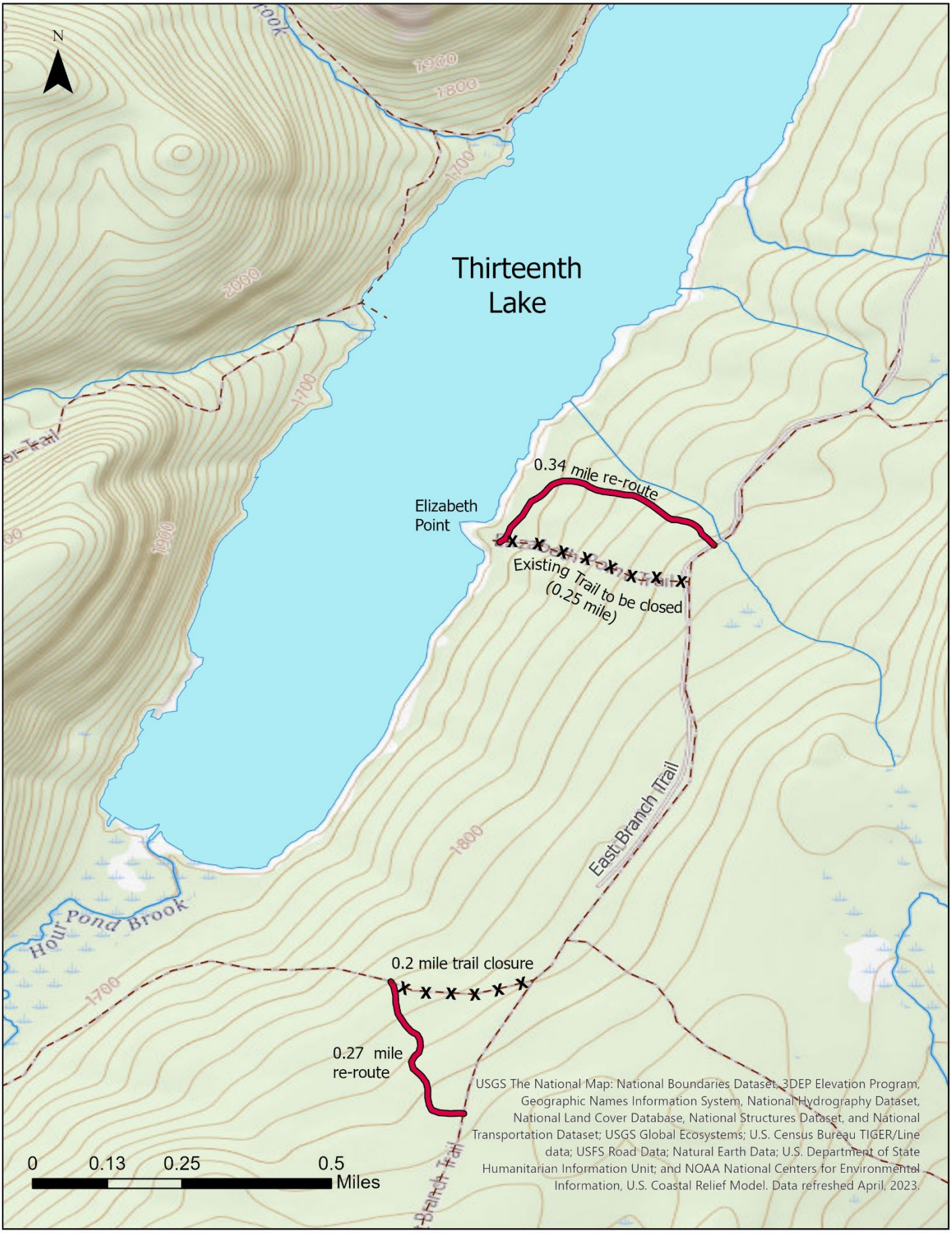
Description of Project Specifications

The proposed trail reroutes will use sustainable trail construction techniques. The reroutes are designed to shed water through realignment to higher ground with better soils and use of grade reversals, drainage dips and tread out sloping. Tread widths will be 18-24 inches and the trail corridor will be cleared of obstructions to four (4) feet wide and 12 feet high. No disturbance is expected outside of this corridor. To create a sustainable tread, organic material will be scraped away down to mineral soil. Duff and other organics will be raked away from the tread and dispersed such that the material does not form berms that impede drainage off the trail tread. Minor drainage areas are crossed at right angles to the flow and in the narrowest locations possible. At these crossings, stepping stones will be utilized as needed to insure a firm and stable tread for this passage and to minimize impacts to soils. Closure of the poorly aligned sections will occur after the reroute construction is completed and will involve brushing in with natural debris and nearby boles of downed trees at both ends of the closed sections.

Example photos of existing conditions at the sites



Map showing the project



Description of Measures Taken to Avoid, Mitigate and Minimize Impacts to Natural Resources

Trail layout was chosen to maximize the best possible alignment for management of water on the trail tread but also to minimize the amount of vegetation and trees that would need to be cleared for its construction. Current sustainable trail construction techniques result in favorable water movement as well as restriction of impacts outside of the corridor by providing firm, stable, clearly identified tread for users.

A) Trees to be removed:
See tree tally tables.

State Land Tree Tally

Project: East Puffer Pond Trail Re-Route
State Land Unit: Siamese Ponds Wilderness
County: Warren Town: Johnsburg
Date Tallied: May 12, 2023
Tallied By: Kirstin Seleen

Species	Diameter (inches)														Total
	2	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20	22	24	26	28	
ash, black															0
ash, white															0
aspen															0
beech, Amer.		5		2											7
birch, paper															0
birch, yellow															0
cherry, black															0
fir, balsam															0
hemlock															0
maple, red															0
maple, sugar															0
oak, red															0
pine, red															0
pine, Scotch															0
pine, white															0
spruce, black															0
spruce, Norway															0
spruce, red		1													1
spruce, white															0
hophornbeam		1													1
	47														47
															0
															0
Total	47	7	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	56

State Land Tree Tally

Project: Elizabeth Point Trail Re-Route
State Land Unit: Siamese Ponds Wilderness
County: Warren Town: Johnsburg
Date Tallied: May 19, 2023
Tallied By: Kirstin Seleen

Species	Diameter (inches)														Total
	2	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20	22	24	26	28	
ash, black															0
ash, white															0
aspen															0
beech, Amer.		3	5												8
birch, paper															0
birch, yellow															0
cherry, black															0
fir, balsam															0
hemlock															0
maple, red		1													1
maple, sugar															0
oak, red															0
pine, red															0
pine, Scotch															0
pine, white															0
spruce, black															0
spruce, Norway															0
spruce, red		1													1
spruce, white															0
	49														49
															0
															0
															0
Total	49	5	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	59

B) Earthwork and Disturbance

Tread widths will be 18-24 inches and the trail corridor will be cleared of obstructions to four (4) feet wide and 12 feet high. No disturbance is expected outside of this corridor. To create a sustainable tread, organic material will be scraped away down to mineral soil. Duff and other organics will be raked away from the tread and dispersed such that the material does not form berms that impede drainage off the trail tread.

C) Impacts to Streams, Waterbodies, and Wetlands

This project is intended to reduce impacts to these sensitive areas by rerouting the trail away from wet areas and drainage channels to the greatest extent possible and eliminating users regularly walking through them. Minor drainage areas are crossed at right angles to the flow

and in the narrowest locations possible. At these crossings, stepping stones will be utilized as needed to insure a firm and stable tread for this passage and to minimize impacts to soils in these areas.

D) Rare, Threatened or Endangered Species

No Rare, Threatened, or Endangered, species or communities are known to exist within 0.25 miles of the project area.

Analysis of Project Location and Design Alternatives

Many different locations were evaluated for each of the trail reroutes. Selecting the proposed best option was based on several days of field work and was assisted by using LiDAR elevation data to generate flowlines which showed the many unmapped streams and drainages in this area. Field work quickly demonstrated the utility of this mapping that accurately identified the stream/drainage channels as well as areas where water is prone to pool based on topography. This allowed for efficient identification of potential routes ahead of time that could then be investigated in the field.

There were limited options for the East Puffer Pond Trail. One alternative would have resulted in a much longer reroute (approximately one mile) further to the south on the East Branch Trail. The other alternative to the northern side would have been more than twice as long as the proposed route and would have resulted in a very high number of trees in the one (1) to six (6) inch size class that would have to be removed due to traveling through a dense Spruce-Fir Forest.

The Elizabeth Point Trail reroute options were also limited by the spatial distribution of drainages and wet areas. A shorter route that stayed closer to the existing trail corridor would have traversed through two wetland areas, which even in the narrowest locations to cross, would have required tread hardening of at least 150 feet.

The no action alternative would retain the unsustainable “streams in the trail” condition that currently exist.

Description of Use of Motorized Equipment and/or Motor Vehicles (if any)

No motorized equipment or vehicles will be used.

Description of Applicable Standards for Accessibility by People with Disabilities

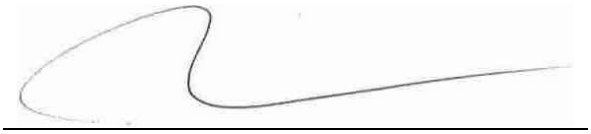
These trails are not currently designated as accessible or constructed to accessible standards. The reroutes will be consistent with the existing trails specifications, but where possible and terrain allows, attempts will be made to incorporate accessible features to maximize accessibility for the widest range of abilities.

Other Relevant Considerations

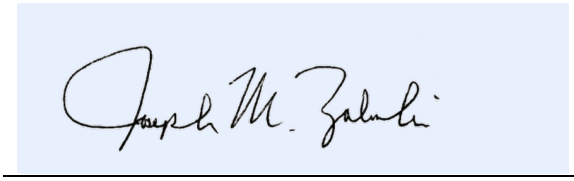
This project has been determined to be in conformance with the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan per APA State Land Consultation Determination SL2023-0012.

Prepared by (Name & Title): Kirstin Seleen, Forester Date: 5/22/2023
Phone: (518) 623-1200

Approvals: Comments:



Regional Program Manager
Date: 8/25/2023



Regional Director
Date: 3/20/2024

Division Director
Date: 3/19/2024

REGULATORY CLEARANCE CHECKLIST – STATE LANDS and CONSERVATION EASEMENT PROJECTS					
PROGRAM	PERMIT	REQUIRED		SECURED BY	COMMENTS
		YES	NO	(NAME)	
Air Resources	Restricted Burning	☐	☒		
Mineral Resources	Mining	☐	☒		
Materials Management	Solid Waste Mgt. Fac.	☐	☒		
Water	Dam Safety Review	☐	☒		
	Const. in Flood Hazard	☐	☒		
	Public Water Supply	☐	☒		
	SPDES	☐	☒		
Spills Management	Petro. Bulk Storage	☐	☒		
Lands and Forests	Unit Management Plan	☒	☐		Siamese Ponds Wilderness UMP
	Tree Cutting	☒	☐		
	Protected Native Plants	☐	☒		
	Historic Preservation	☐	☒		
Fish and Wildlife	Freshwater Wetlands	☐	☒		
	Wild Scenic & Rec. River	☐	☒		
Compliance Services	Other Protection of Waters	☐	☒		
	EAF	☐	☒		
	Negative Declaration	☐	☒		
	Env. Impact Statement	☐	☒		
	Water Quality Cert.	☐	☒		
DEC (other)	CP-17	☐	☒		
	Commissioner (aircraft,motorized equipment)	☐	☒		
	Flight Request	☐	☒		
	Contract Clearance Sh.	☐	☒		
	DOB Exemption	☐	☒		
Other Agencies	APA MOU	☒	☐		APA State Land Consultation Determination SL2023-0012
	APA Wetlands Permit	☐	☒		
	Corps. of Engineers	☐	☒		
	Building Permits	☐	☒		
	Local Permits	☐	☒		
	Easements	☐	☒		
	Highway Enter DOT	☐	☒		
	Wastewater Disposal	☐	☒		