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# FOREST PRESERVE DETAILED PROJECT WORK PLAN

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**Fiscal Year 2024 Project #  
2024-NV-005; CO-WP-330**

<u>Region</u> 5	<u>Project Title</u> West Lake Lean-to #2 Restoration
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<u>Project Type</u> Modification of Existing Structure/Improvement	<u>Town(s)</u> Arietta	<u>County</u> Hamilton	<u>Management Unit</u> West Canada Lake Wilderness
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## Description of Desired Condition(s) for Project

West Lake Lean-to #2 is a frequented trail shelter located along a segment of the North Country National Scenic Trail known as the Brook Trout Lake Trail. The lean-to provides an overnight camping opportunity for backpackers travelling on the interior trail system of West Canada Lakes Wilderness. The structure is located at the base of a side hill and was built low to the ground. Water draining off the hill contributes to an overall wet site. Rot is present in the base logs and rear rafters of the lean-to and the structure requires repair.

The objective of this project is to relocate the lean-to to a drier site in the same general vicinity and repair the shelter to allow its continued use. The desired condition is to provide a dry, useable trail shelter for backpackers traveling along the wilderness trail system. Implementing repairs to the structure will ensure the lean-to remains a preferred camping destination. This helps to concentrate impacts associated with overnight use to one designated location. This work is necessary to maintain the lean-to for current and future use levels which are expected to increase.

## Description of Project Specifications

The lean-to repair work will include new foundation stones, roof replacement, floor replacement, and select base log replacements. A suitable relocation site has been identified a short distance northwest of the current site. The new location is high and dry, offers good drainage and is adequately screened and distanced from West Lake.

Relocation will require a minor amount of tree cutting and earthwork to install the lean-to and fire ring. The extent of this work is described below. After the relocation site has been cleared, the existing lean-to will be disassembled and transported by hand a short distance to the new location. The old shingles and tar paper stripped from the roof will be packed in bags to be brought off site for proper disposal. Extraction will occur by helicopter in conjunction with other material transport flights planned for the area.

The work outlined in this work plan is considered rehabilitation of an existing lean-to. Lean-tos are conforming structures in all state land classifications and the new site is conforming with the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan guidelines and criteria for wilderness areas.

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

Care will be given to ensure impacts to the Forest Preserve are kept to the minimum extent necessary to complete the project.

a.) Trees to be removed:

Relocating the lean-to will require the cutting of five trees between one and three inches in diameter at breast height (DBH) and 11 trees greater than three-inches DBH. Efforts were made to retain the wild forest character of the site by avoiding the cutting of large overstory trees and utilizing natural openings in the forest. Trees to be cut are further described on the attached tree tally.

b.) Earthwork and Disturbance:

Minor earthwork is needed to relocate the lean-to. This work involves the leveling of the foundation stones and the lean-to site using grub hoes and shovels. The area beneath the fire ring will be dug out, filled with a base of stones and topped with mineral soil to prevent ground fires. The fire ring at the former lean-to site will be broken up and dispersed into the surrounding area. Stones used for the fire ring and the lean-to foundation will be sourced from the surrounding forest. Stone selection will be dispersed to avoid significant impacts.

c.) Impacts to Streams, Waterbodies, and Wetlands:

No wetlands will be impacted by the activities described in this work plan. The current lean-to site is adjacent to a small stream and the side hill drainages that feed into it. These conditions contribute to the wet and muddy conditions at the site. Relocating the lean-to away from the drainages will reduce erosion and prolong the life of the lean-to shelter. The new lean-to site is screened from view on West Lake and is located an adequate distance from the lake to avoid shoreline impacts.

d.) Identification of Rare, Threatened or Endangered Species:

A search of available databases yielded no known occurrences of rare, threatened, or endangered species within a quarter of a mile of the project site.

## Analysis of Project Location and Design Alternatives

The project location is a mixed spruce-fir northern hardwood forest located on side hill terrain at the eastern end of West Lake. Due to the topography, there are limited options for lean-to relocation near the current site. The selected relocation site is on a natural shelf with gentle topography atop well drained soils. These conditions are favorable for a designated camping location where soil compaction is expected to occur.

Alternative 1: Repair the lean-to in its current location.

Although this alternative would eliminate tree cutting, the current location sits at the base of a hill and is wet, as is evident from rot at the base of the structure. The replacement of the base logs require the lean-to to be disassembled. This provides an opportune time to relocate the lean-to to a drier site. Relocating the lean-to away from the drainage will reduce the long-term maintenance needs for the shelter. Due to the need to disassemble the lean-to, and the identification of a better location in the immediate vicinity, the alternative to repair in place is not preferred.

Alternative 2: Remove the lean-to and create a primitive tent site.

Although this alternative would eliminate the need for future lean-to maintenance, it would reduce the availability of a dry shelter that has become expected along the interior trail network of the West Canada Lake Wilderness. Aside from rotten base logs the structural condition of the rest of

the shelter is still sound and fit for continued use. For these reasons, conducting ordinary maintenance on an existing lean-to is preferred over conversion to a tent site.

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

Due to the remote location, building materials will be flown into the project area by helicopter. A chainsaw will be used to fell the trees and saddle notch the logs. Helicopter use will be authorized through an approved CP-17. Chainsaw use will be limited to the wilderness chainsaw window. The asphalt roof shingles from the previous roof will be bagged and extracted for proper disposal off site. The extraction will coincide with material transport flights to reduce flight entries.

Description of Applicable Standards for Accessibility by People with Disabilities

Due to the remote location and challenging terrain along the trail system the lean-to site will not be built to accessible design specifications.

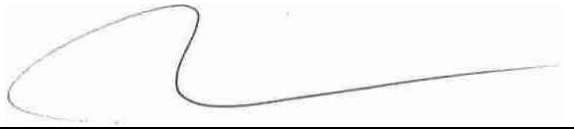
Other Relevant Considerations

Lean2Resuce will complete the lean-to work in partnership with the DEC staff.

Prepared by (Name & Title): Jonathan DeSantis, Forester      Date: 12/18/2023  
Phone: (518) 863 4545 ext. 3005

Approvals:

Comments:



Regional Program Manager  
Date: 2/14/2024



Regional Director  
Date: 9/24/2024



Division Director  
Date: 06/25/2024

## State Land Tree Tally

Project: West Lake Lean-to #2 Restoration

State Land Unit: West Canada Lake Wilderness

County: Hamilton

Town: Arietta

Date Tallied: 8/30/23

Tallied By: Jonathan DeSantis

Species	Diameter														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.					1										1
birch, paper															0
birch, yellow				1											1
cherry, black															0
fir, balsam	1	1													2
hemlock															0
maple, red				1	2										3
maple, sugar															0
oak, red															0
pine, red															0
pine, Scotch															0
pine, white															0
spruce, black															0
spruce, Norway															0
spruce, red	1	2													3
spruce, white															0
maple, striped	3	1		1	1										6
															0
															0
															0
<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>16</b>

# West Lake Lean-to #2 Location Map



0 650 1,300 2,600 3,900 5,200 Feet

JVD 12/2023

**REGULATORY CLEARANCE CHECKLIST – STATE LANDS and CONSERVATION EASEMENT PROJECTS**

PROGRAM	PERMIT	REQUIRED		SECURED BY	COMMENTS
		YES	NO	(NAME)	
Air Resources	Restricted Burning	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Mineral Resources	Mining	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Materials Management	Solid Waste Mgt. Fac.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Water	Dam Safety Review	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
	Const. in Flood Hazard	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
	Public Water Supply	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
	SPDES	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Spills Management	Petro. Bulk Storage	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Lands and Forests	Unit Management Plan	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
	Tree Cutting	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Approval sought through this work plan
	Protected Native Plants	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
	Historic Preservation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Fish and Wildlife	Freshwater Wetlands	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
	Wild Scenic & Rec. River	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Compliance Services	Other Protection of Waters	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
	EAF	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
	Negative Declaration	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
	Env. Impact Statement	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
	Water Quality Cert.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
DEC (other)	CP-17	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NYS DEC	To be obtained upon approval of work plan
	Commissioner (aircraft, motorized equipment)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NYS DEC	To be obtained upon approval of work plan
	Flight Request	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NYS DEC	To be obtained upon approval of work plan
	Contract Clearance Sh.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
	DOB Exemption	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Other Agencies	APA MOU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Ordinary maintenance
	APA Wetlands Permit	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
	Corps. of Engineers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
	Building Permits	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
	Local Permits	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
	Easements	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
	Highway Enter DOT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
	Wastewater Disposal	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		