
FOREST PRESERVE DETAILED PROJECT WORK PLAN

Fiscal Year 2023
Project # 2024-RB-016
CO-WP 344

<u>Region</u> 5	<u>Project Title</u> Jackrabbit Trail Reroute Off Mountain Lane
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<u>Project Type</u> New Construction	<u>Town(s)</u> North Elba	<u>County</u> Essex	<u>Management Unit</u> Saranac Lakes Wild Forest
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Description of Desired Condition(s) for Project

Desired conditions for ski trails, as stated in the Saranac Lakes Wild Forest Unit Management Plan, are:

- Minimal corridor expansion from the designed footprint.
- No negative impacts on trailside vegetation.
- Provides an enjoyable and safe user experience.
- Trail surface looks like the surrounding areas, with the exception that large woody debris is removed from the trail.

Description of Project Specifications

This project will reroute a section of the Jackrabbit Ski Trail that is on Mountain Lane, a paved and plowed town road. This project should be completed to improve the safety and experience for skiers. Providing visitors a route roughly parallel to Mountain Lane will eliminate the need to walk in the road. Mountain Lane has limited room to accommodate pedestrians, especially during the winter when snowbanks are present. There are safety concerns with pedestrians and vehicles both being in this space. Skiers are expected to enjoy the increased skiable trail distance as compared to carrying skis while walking in a road. This project will consist of building an approximately half-mile-long ski trail. The trail corridor will be generally six-feet-wide but may be up to eight-feet-wide at steep slopes or curves. The corridor will be twelve-feet-high. All standing vegetation in this corridor will be removed. Other than the removal of woody debris, no ground alteration will occur in the corridor. Once a volunteer group acquires private landowner permission, a small section of private property will be crossed by the trail at a State land corner.

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

- A) Trees to be removed: 125 trees between one and 2.9 inches in diameter at breast height (DBH), and 27 trees 3.0 inches or greater in diameter at breast height (DBH) will need to be removed to create the trail.
- B) Earthwork and disturbance: no earthwork will be needed for this project. Since this is a winter-use trail, no trail tread will be built for this project.
- C) Impacts to streams, waterbodies, and wetlands: there will be no impacts to water resources from this project.

D) Identification rare, threatened, or endangered species: no rare, threatened, or endangered species are documented within 0.25 miles of the project location.

Analysis of Project Location and Design Alternatives

The general project area is the only practical location that could accommodate a trail routed off Mountain Lane. There are alternatives to the proposed trail layout that could be considered. The primary alternative would be to route the trail to parallel and be within 100 feet of Mountain Lane. This alternative layout reduces the length of the trail by about 600 feet and would result in an overall grade of greater than ten percent, which is steeper than the proposed trail's six percent grade. The alternative route being greater than 10 percent grade would result in a more challenging experience for users and would likely necessitate a wider trail corridor. The shorter length, but wider width of the alternative layout would result in roughly the same amount of disturbed area and same number of trees needing to be cut when compared to the proposed layout. The alternative route would be closer to Mountain Lane, so the impact area from trail use would overlap the impact area from the road.

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

Chainsaws will be used to clear the trail corridor.

Description of Applicable Standards for Accessibility by People with Disabilities

The trail is designed for use when it is covered in snow, so no tread work is proposed. The creation of a firm and stable surface would be a departure from the proposed project. Establishing a firm and stable surface would alter the nature of the project and increase the earthwork needed for the project.

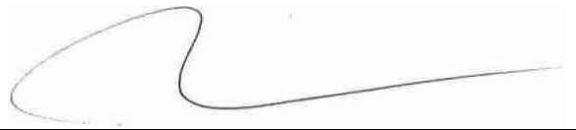
Other Relevant Considerations

Prepared by (Name & Title): Steven Guglielmi
Phone: (518) 897-1286

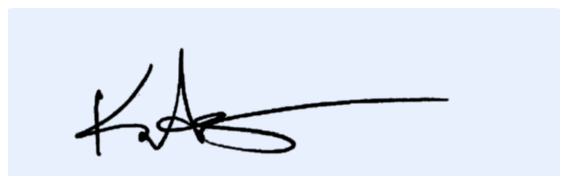
Date: 6/1/2023

Approvals:

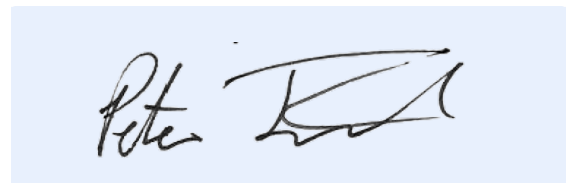
Comments:



Regional Program Manager
Date: 3/29/2024



Supervisor of Natural Resources
Date: 08/20/2024

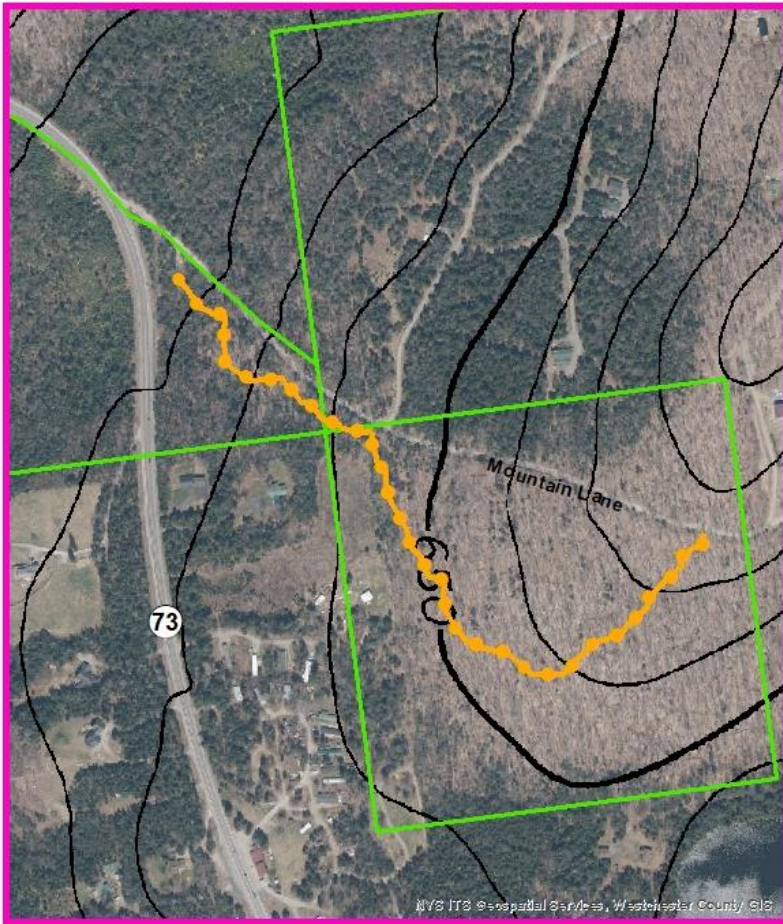


Division Director
Date: 08/16/2024



REGULATORY CLEARANCE CHECKLIST – STATE LANDS and CONSERVATION EASEMENT PROJECTS

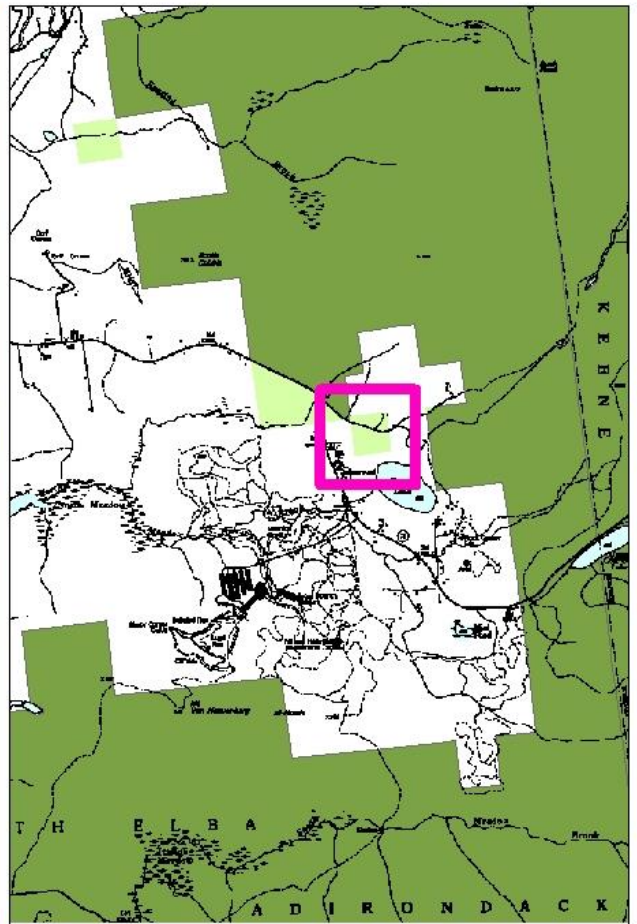
PROGRAM	PERMIT	REQUIRED		SECURED BY	COMMENTS
		YES	NO	(NAME)	
Air Resources	Restricted Burning	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Mineral Resources	Mining	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Materials Management	Solid Waste Mgt. Fac.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Approved 2019
	Tree Cutting	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Included with 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
	Commissioner (aircraft,motorized equipment)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
	Flight Request	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
	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"/>		
	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"/>			

Jackrabbit Trail Reroute Off Mountain Lane






0 0.075 0.15 0.3 Miles

-  Proposed Trail Reroute
-  State Land



0 0.75 1.5 3 Miles N

-  Wilderness
-  Wild Forest
-  Area of Detail

6/26/2023

State Land Tree Tally

Project: Jackrabbit Trail Reroute Off Mountain Lane

State Land Unit: Saranac Lakes Wild Forest

County: Essex

Town: North Elba

Date Talled: 6/23/2023

Talled By: Steven Guglilelmi

Species	Diameter Class (inches)														Total
	2	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20	22	24	26	28	
beech, Amer.		5													5
fir, balsam		14	1	1											16
maple, red		2	2					1							5
spruce, red		1													1
Total	125	22	3	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	152



Department of
Environmental
Conservation

SARANAC LAKES WILD FOREST

and

Lake Placid Boat Launch
Lake Flower Boat Launch
Upper Saranac Lake Boat Launch
Raquette River Boat Launches

Unit Management Plan

River Area Management Plans

Saranac River, Ausable River, and Raquette River

Final Environmental Impact Statement

NYS DEC, REGION 5, DIVISION OF LANDS AND FORESTS

P.O. Box 296, 1115 State Route 86, Ray Brook, NY 12997-0296
r5.ump@dec.ny.gov

www.dec.ny.gov

April 2019

IV. Proposed Management Actions

All the trails in the SLWF are open for winter use, although some trails are difficult to access because roads and parking areas may not be plowed, and they can become blocked by snow banks. Some of the trails receive as much or even more use in the winter than the summer. The more popular winter trails in the SLWF include: those at the Deer Pond area, Brewster Peninsula, around Follensby Clear Pond, and Scarface Mountain. In addition to these trails, the Jackrabbit Trail passes through sections of the SLWF. The Jackrabbit Trail stretches from Paul Smiths to Keene. The trail traverses private, State, and conservation easement lands. The Jackrabbit Trail is managed by the Adirondack Ski Touring Council; on State land this is pursuant to an agreement with the Department.

Desired Conditions for Cross-Country Ski Trail Monitoring

Desirable conditions are typically easily achievable for cross country ski trails, if the weather cooperates. With adequate snow pack, conditions rarely become deteriorated, which shifts the typical tread concerns like erosion to other concerns like corridor expanding through a loss of vegetation. Desirable cross-country ski trails maintain safe lines of sight and corridors that are free from vegetative obstructions, along several other features. Cross-country skiing is often a secondary use on hiking or mountain bike trails, so when this is the case, the monitoring variables for the trails in which they use will be the primary guide for monitoring variables. When the trails are for skiing only, the monitoring program will assess, in the non-winter months, corridor expansion through vegetation loss, and erosion. Photo points will be developed along routes to continually monitor impacts and to ensure corridor expansion through vegetation loss is not occurring

Objective:

- To provide winter recreational opportunities for various activities and user ability levels.

Management Actions:

- Monitoring for the desired conditions of cross-country ski trails will help measure and determine impacts to better inform carrying capacity development and long-term planning. Final specifics will be detailed in the guidance for wildlands monitoring but generally:
 - Desired conditions for ski trails will be ones that have minimal expansion from the designed footprint of the built facility, doesn't negatively impact trailside vegetation, and provides an enjoyable user experience.
 - Monitoring could include photo point locations, control measuring points, occurrences corridor expansion, and visible erosion in non-winter months.
- Allow construction of a portion of the Jackrabbit Trail onto a portion of the SLWF south of Mountain Lane. This is a reroute of the trail from the road. The trail will travel on SLWF for about 2,530 feet. The route will be roughly parallel to Mountain Lane.