
FOREST PRESERVE DETAILED PROJECT WORK PLAN

Fiscal Year 2024
Project # WP 338

<u>Region</u> 3	<u>Project Title</u> Mongaup Creek Restoration Project Barrier Removal
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<u>Project Type</u> Modification of Existing Structure/Improvement	<u>Town(s)</u> Rockland	<u>County</u> Sullivan	<u>Management Unit</u> Willowemoc Wild Forest
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Description of Desired Condition(s) for Project

Mongaup Creek is a Class C(T) tributary to the Willowemoc Creek within the 1991 Willowemoc Wild Forest Unit Management Plan (UMP). The 1991 Willowemoc Wild Forest management objective for fisheries in this unit is to, *“Perpetuate the native fish populations in all streams and ponded waters occurring within the unit.”* (Page 63). This project will bring the conditions in the Mongaup Creek back into alignment with desired conditions by improving the condition of available trout habitat and restoring stream connectivity within a “Wild Quality” trout stream.

The objective of this project is to alleviate the environmental impacts associated with a structural impoundment on the Mongaup Creek. Currently there is a wooden “pool digger” that acts as a barrier to fish passage through the creek. The proposed habitat improvements are designed to re-establish stream continuity. Removal of this structure will also restore natural hydrology and support movement of fish and other aquatic organisms. In addition, pool digger removal will enhance the wild forest fishing experience along this section of the waterway by restoring the stream to its natural and wild condition while mitigating the negative environmental impacts associated with the man-made structure.

The goal for pool digger removal is to remove a severe barrier for aquatic organisms and reduce habitat fragmentation for brook trout. This project aims to improve stream conditions by creating a stable stream reach that has a diversity of instream habitat.

Description of Project Specifications

This project is necessary to support healthy, wild Brook Trout populations in the Mongaup Creek. This project consists of four actions:

- A) Removal of the pool digger and all remnants associated with the structure to reconnect 6.6 miles of upstream habitat, 8.5 miles of tributary and 0.94 miles downstream habitat with the confluence of Willowemoc Creek.
- B) Installation of a rock J hook to stabilize the west bank of Mongaup Creek above an existing crib wall.
- C) Installation of boulder clusters near the existing crib wall to improve diversity and stabilize the shoreline after the pool digger is removed.

- D) Installation of 4 rock control structures within the footprint of the pool digger.

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

A) Trees to be removed:

The area immediately surrounding the work site will require some tree cutting to ensure excavator access to the stream during the pool digger removal process. Removal of the pool digger will require the cutting of forty-two (42) trees. Twenty-nine (29) trees are between 1"-3" DBH. Thirteen (13) trees are between 4"-16" DBH. All cut trees will be left on site. Stumps will be cut low and cut materials will be dispersed throughout the surrounding forest. Trees to be cut are further described on the attached tree tally.

B) Earthwork and Disturbance:

Earthwork for the removal of the pool digger is minor and would be limited to addressing any rutting resulting from ingress and egress of the excavator into the project area. Project materials will be staged in a stable area to prevent runoff. Silt socks and straw bales will be used as needed to prevent runoff. As final grades are achieved, native tree and shrub plantings will be installed. Any disturbed area will be restored to the original, pre-project condition.

C) Impacts to Streams, Waterbodies and Wetlands:

All work activities associated with the pool digger removal will be limited to the placement of temporary erosion control and water devices. There will be no permanent negative impacts to the stream, rather this project will result in restored natural flow and hydraulic function. All in-stream work will be done between May 1 and September 14 to avoid impacts to trout spawning and will be compliant with USA Army Corps of Engineers Nationwide Permit #27-Maintenance. All activity in the project area will comply with Article 15 Stream Disturbance or Excavation and Fill in Navigable Waters Permit Standards. A construction sequencing and erosion control plan has also been developed to minimize any impacts to water quality. Temporary turbidity is anticipated.

D) Identification of Rare, Threatened or Endangered Species:

The presence of Rare, Threatened or Endangered Species was not detected within ¼ miles of the project area.

Analysis of Project Location and Design Alternatives

- 1) No Action- Leaving the pool digger in its current location is not the preferred alternative. There are undesirable impacts occurring to the fisheries resource resulting from the pool digger. Under the no action alternative, natural resource and visitor experience conditions will continue to degrade.
- 2) Alternate location- Pool digger re-location would perpetuate the adverse impacts occurring to natural resources. Pool diggers are no longer considered to be an effective habitat enhancement tool. This option would also require additional and unnecessary tree cutting. The proposed action is the only long-term solution that restores hydrology and protects the natural resources in the stream corridor.

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

The use of motorized equipment and vehicles for the pool digger removal will include a heavy duty, tandem axel dump truck. The use of an excavator and backhoe will also be necessary to remove the

pool digger from the creek and to place boulders in the stream corridor. Limited use of hand-held motorized equipment will also be necessary.

Description of Applicable Standards for Accessibility by People with Disabilities

In accordance with the US Department of Justice’s ADA Title II regulations, all new DEC facilities or parts of facilities, that are constructed for public use are to be accessible to people with disabilities. Full compliance is not required where DEC can demonstrate that it is structurally impracticable to meet the requirements. [28 CRF§ 35.151 (a)].

This project is a modification of a man-made, former habitat enhancement tool that was originally intended to increase instream habitat and there are no suitable locations for an accessible public access point within the project area.

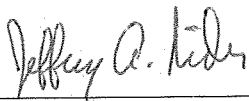
Other Relevant Considerations

This project is intended to be completed during the 2024 field season. Additional project information attached to this work plan was proposed by Trout Unlimited (TU) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife (USFWS) Service. The scope of work outlined in this Forest Preserve work plan for the project area supersedes the scope of work outlined in the project proposal that was developed by T.U. and USFWS.

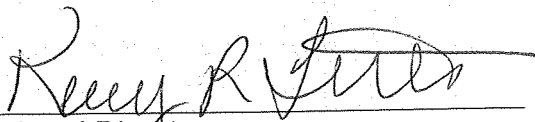
Prepared by (Name & Title): Pine Roehrs, Environmental Program Specialist, Natural Resources, 2
Date: 7/10/2024
Phone: 845-256-3075

Approvals:

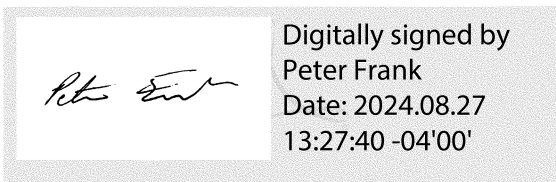
Comments:



Regional Program Manager
Date: 8/26/2024



Regional Director
Date: 8/26/2024



Division Director
Date: [Click to enter a date](#)

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"/>	Michael Callen, Forester 2	
	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"/>	NYSDEC	
	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"/>		

FOREST PRESERVE WORK PLAN TREE TALLY

Name: Mongaup Creek Barrier Removal
 Date: 4/5/2024 Talled By: Michael Callan

Town: *Rockland*

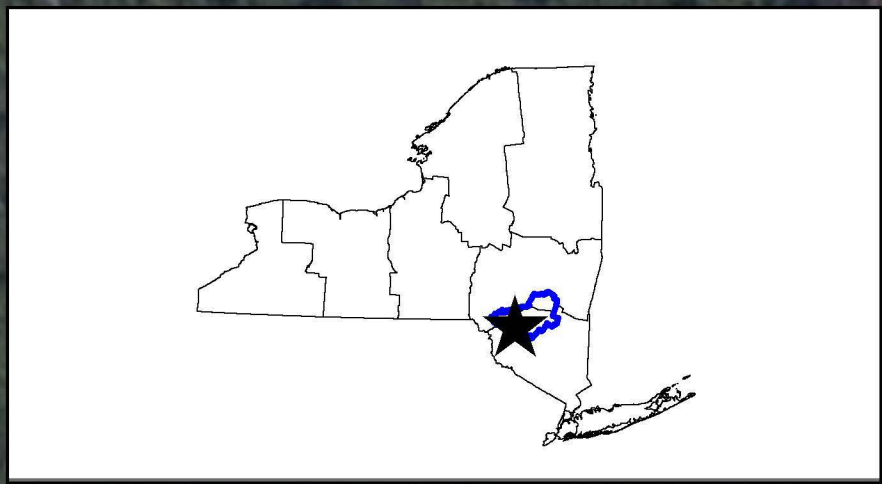
Species	Diameter															Total
	1 to 3	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20	22	24	26	28	30	
<i>Beech</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>1</i>				<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>								<i>15</i>
<i>White Ash</i>	<i>2</i>			<i>1</i>	<i>3</i>											<i>6</i>
<i>Yellow Birch</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>2</i>												<i>15</i>
<i>Striped Maple</i>	<i>6</i>															<i>6</i>
Total	<i>29</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>								<i>42</i>

Note: 1"- 3" size class are trees from 1.0" to 2.9" DBH. 4" size class are trees from 3.0" to 4.9". 6" size class are trees from 5.0" to 6.9".

Mongaup Creek Restoration Barrier Removal Project



Location of Proposed J-Hook and entry point of where stream will be accessed



Willowemoc Wild Forest

Willowemoc Wild Forest

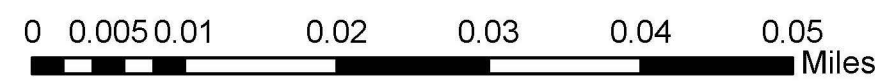
Monagup Rd.

Location of the Pool Digger and entry point of where stream will be accessed

Location of shoreline stabilization following pool digger removal. Shoreline adjacent to pool digger will be stabilized using boulders



NYS ITS Geospatial Services, Sources: Esri, Garmin, USGS, NPS



Mongaup Creek Restoration Project Barrier Removal Project
Image of existing pool digger on Mongaup Creek



Mongaup Creek is a Class C(T) tributary to the Willowemoc Creek in the Town of Rockland in Sullivan County, NY. Mongaup Creek is managed as a "Wild Quality" Trout Stream and is not stocked.