
FOREST PRESERVE DETAILED PROJECT WORK PLAN

Fiscal Year 2024
Project # CO-WP-359
2024-RB-015

<u>Region</u> 5	<u>Project Title</u> Peninsula Nature Trails Parking Area
--------------------	--

<u>Project Type</u> New Construction	<u>Town(s)</u> North Elba	<u>County</u> Essex	<u>Management Unit</u> Saranac Lakes Wild Forest
---	------------------------------	------------------------	---

Description of Desired Condition(s) for Project

As described in the 2019 Saranac Lakes Unit Management Plan (UMP), the current parking area for the Peninsula Nature Trails is a pull-off area in front of a gated access road. A right-of-way over a private road is used to reach this parking area. The parking area is poorly delineated, which results in vehicles parking along the private road. This causes problems with traffic flow along the private road and compromises the overall experience of visitors looking for a relatively accessible, family-friendly recreational experience.

Contrasted by the larger, more remote and rugged tracts of wilderness and wild forest within the Adirondack Park, the gentle grades and easy access of the Peninsula Trails, combined with their proximity to Lake Placid, make them uniquely suited to provide people of many backgrounds and abilities the opportunity to experience the Forest Preserve in a positive way. Providing appropriately sited and clearly delineated parking will contribute to the overall positive experience of the visiting public.

The parking area will be designed to blend well with the surrounding natural area, will minimize erosion, and will discourage visitor-created expansion. The construction and use of the parking area will provide a firm and stable surface while not negatively impacting adjacent vegetation. The area will be free of occurrences of human waste or litter, and visitors will have a safe and enjoyable experience.

Description of Project Specifications

The Department will build a parking area designed to accommodate 18 cars for the Peninsula Nature Trails. These trails are a popular destination due to their proximity to Lake Placid, ease of access, and numerous interpretive panels along the trail system. Upgraded parking is needed because the currently available parking is poorly designed and not adequate to handle the number of visitors. The construction of this parking is proposed in the Saranac Lakes Wild Forest Unit Management Plan.

The parking area will be 190 feet long by 20 feet wide. The existing access road will be cleared of encroaching vegetation and will be resurfaced with crushed stone to a width of 24 feet. Parking will be perpendicular to the access road. The parking area will be surfaced with crushed stone on top of road

stabilization fabric and will be graded to shed water away from the road. Two parking spaces will be built to ADA standards, which will include a ten-foot-wide access aisle.

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

- A) Trees to be removed: A total of 54 trees between one and three inches in diameter at breast height (DBH) and 84 trees greater than three-inches DBH.

State Land Tree Tally

Project: Peninsula Nature Trails Parking

Area State Land Unit: Saranac Lakes

Wild Forest County: Essex

Town: North Elba

Date Tallied: 1/5/2024

Tallied By: Steve Guglielmi

Species	Diameter Class (inches)														Total
	2	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20	22	24	26	28	
beech, Amer.		2	3	1											6
birch, paper		1	1	1	1										4
birch, yellow		5	4	7	5	3	3	1			1				29
cherry, black			1		2	2		2	1						8
fir, balsam		17	4	1		1									23
maple, red			2	1	1	4		1		2					11
maple, sugar		1		1				1							3
Total	54	26	15	12	9	10	3	5	1	2	1	0	0	0	138

B) Earthwork and disturbance:

To build the parking area the organic layer will be removed from the site. The mineral soil under this layer will need to be graded to form a good base for the parking area construction. This will then be topped with road fabric and crushed stone. All earth work will occur in the parking area footprint.

C) Impacts to streams, waterbodies, and wetlands:

There will be no impacts to water resources from this project.

Identification of 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

An alternative to the project would be to build a horse-shoe shaped parking off Peninsula Way. The parking area would be 24-feet-wide and 400-feet-long. It would feature one-way traffic flow with parallel parking. This alternative design offers some advantages over the project, with easier snowplowing and a reduction in the need for vehicles to back into or out of parking spaces. However, this alternative design would result in more than twice the number of trees needing to be cut and more than twice the area of new earthwork disturbance. The alternative design would also be more challenging to construct compared to the selected design for the project. In balancing these considerations, the alternative design was not selected.

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

Motorized equipment and motor vehicles will be used for this project. Dump trucks will be needed to haul materials. For the parking area construction, an excavator and loader will perform the surface development. Chainsaws will be used to clear the vegetation.

Description of Applicable Standards for Accessibility by People with Disabilities

Two parking spaces will be built to meet accessibility standards. These parking spaces will share a ten-foot-wide access aisle.

Other Relevant Considerations

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

Date: 1/8/2023

Approvals:

Comments:



Regional Program Manager
Date: 4/9/2024

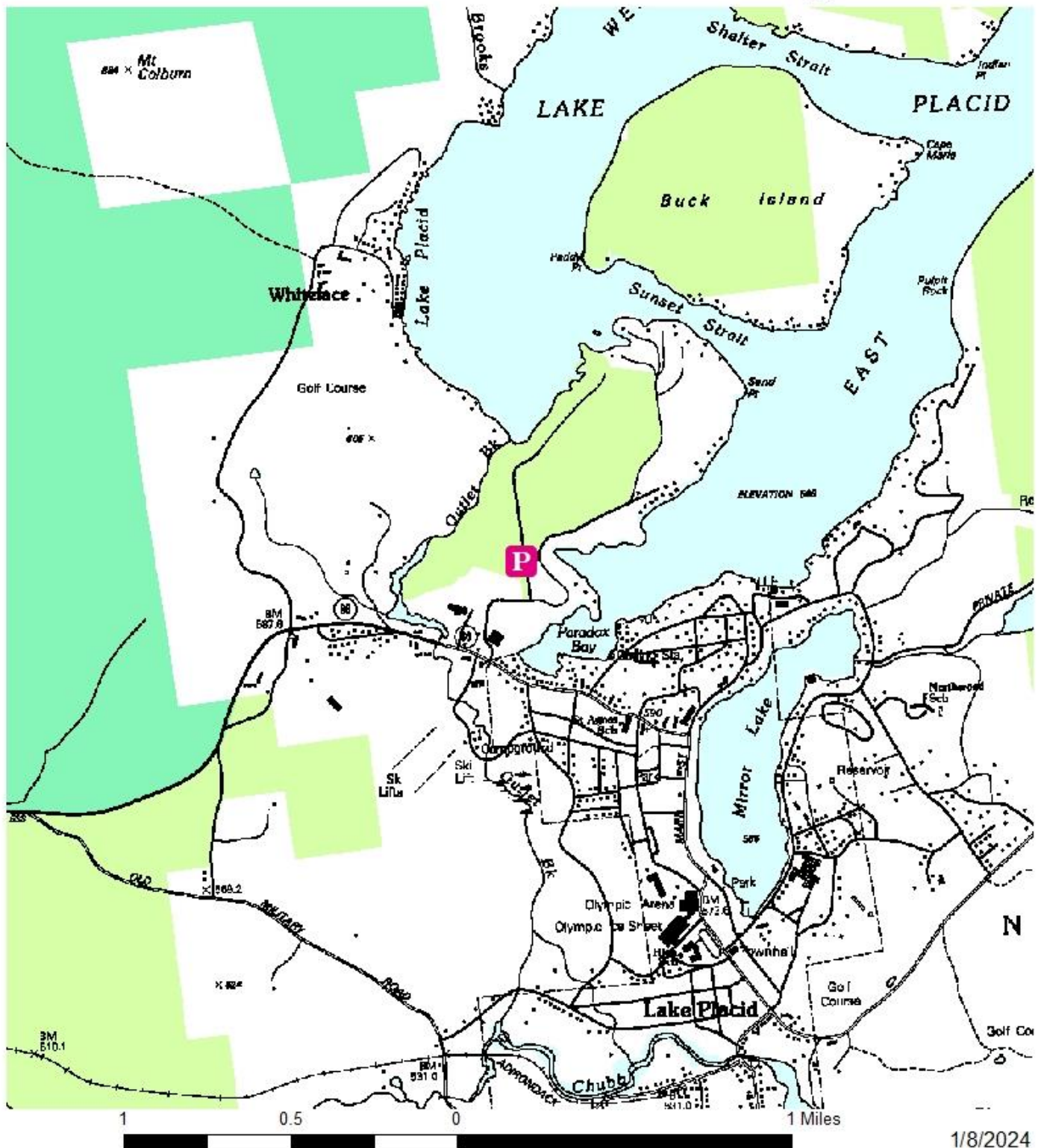


Regional Director
Date: 12/24/2024



Division Director
Date: 12/19/2024

Peninsula Nature Trails Parking Area



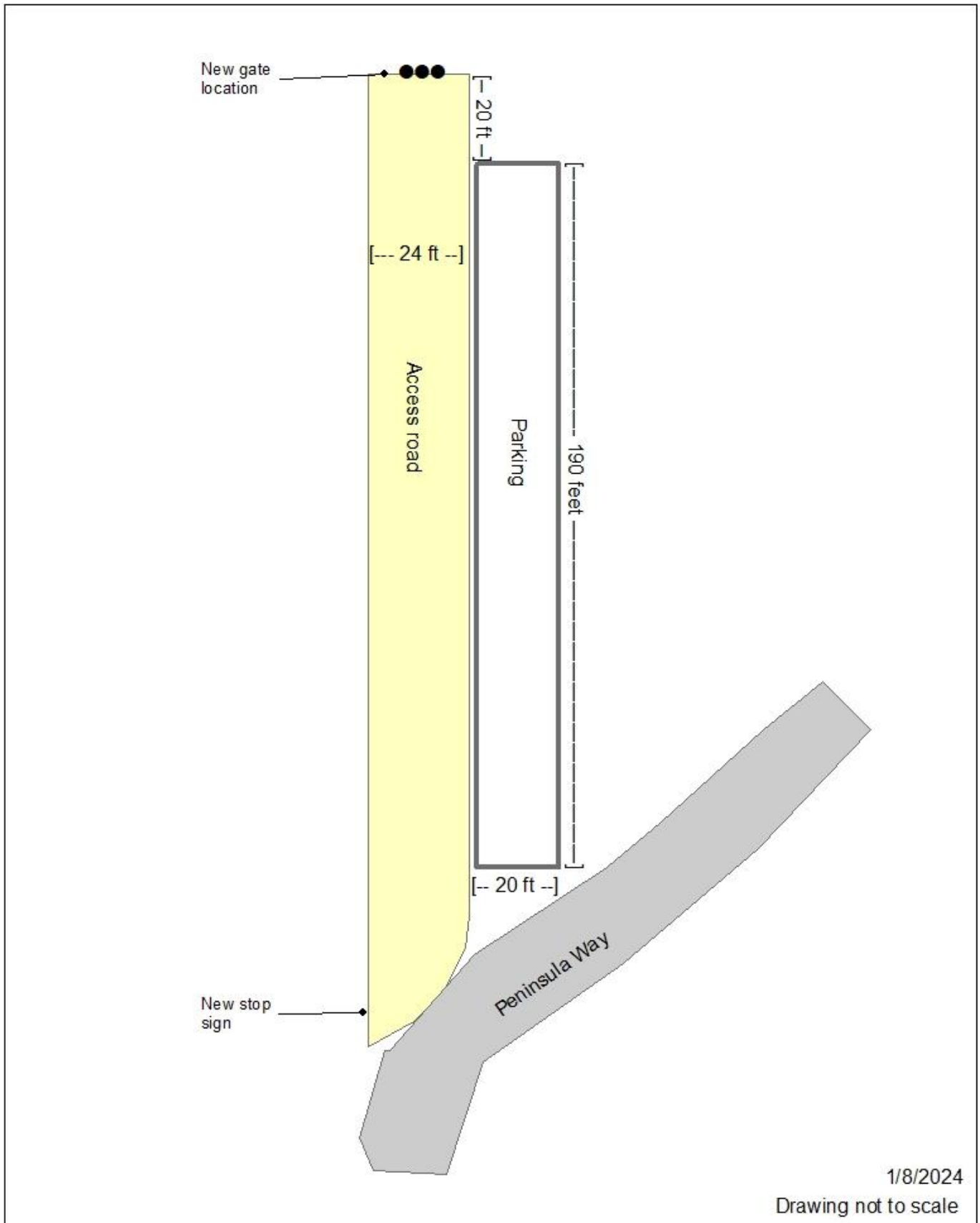
1/8/2024

Legend

- State Land Classification
 - Wilderness
 - Wild Forest
 - Water
- Parking Area Location



Sketch Plan for Peninsula Nature Trails Parking Area



1/8/2024

Drawing not to scale



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

IV. Proposed Management Actions

Today there is a one-half mile interpretive nature trail through the plantation. The self-guided trail provides visitors with information on the history of Fernow Forest and the early efforts to promote scientific and sustainable forestry in the United States. There is a plaque commemorating Bernhard Fernow and the historical significance of the forest that he established.

Objective:

- Encourage the enjoyment of the historic Fernow Forest.

Management Actions:

- Maintain the trail, interpretive materials, and the historic markers.
- Camping and fires will not be allowed within 500 feet of the trail.
- The installation of better interpretive signs at key locations on the trail will be allowed. These interpretive signs will be made of rustic materials.
- Allow natural forces to continue shaping the condition of the current forest.

2. Brewster Peninsula Nature Trails

This is a system of nature trails located near the Village of Lake Placid (see map 10). The location results in high use of the parcel. It is used by cross-country skiers, bikers, hikers, and anglers. It receives a significant amount of use by people walking their dogs. When this property was originally purchased the Department had considered putting a campground on this parcel, but this was not developed, in part because there was significant opposition to the idea.

This parcel totals 161 acres; most of which was bought in 1963. Forty acres were acquired in 2006. The parcel is bordered by developed private lands and Lake Placid. A segment of trail, approximately 275 feet long, passes through private property near the dam on Lake Placid outlet. The dam and a small dock near it are on private property. There is a dirt road that passes through the center of the parcel. This road has been opened seasonally to facilitate fishing access. There are telephone and sewer lines that cross the property; these utilities existed prior to State ownership.

In 2002 the Lake Placid Garden Club placed 14 interpretive panels along the trails. There is also a brochure that provides a description of some labeled features along the trails.

The current parking area for this parcel is a pull off area in front of the gated access road. A right-of-way over a private road is used to reach this parking area. The parking area is poorly delineated, which results in vehicles parking along the private road. This causes problems with access through the private road.

IV. Proposed Management Actions

Objective:

- Facilitate the connection of people to nature through the nature trails on this parcel.

Actions:

- Camping and fires on the Brewster Peninsula parcel will be prohibited because of the small size of this parcel and heavy use it receives.
- The trails on this parcel will be interpretive trails. Trails may be improved to make access easier for visitors. Additional signs may be placed along the trails. The interpretive signs will be made of rustic materials.
- A designated parking area for 18 cars will be built off Peninsula Way.

3. Lake Clear Beach

This area is a strip of sandy beach on the east shoreline of Lake Clear (see map 9). This has been a popular swimming location for many years, going back to when Paul Smith's College owned this parcel. In 1989 the State purchased this area from the college. In 1992 the Department constructed the current parking area; prior to this there were problems with cars parking along State Route 30. The Department has also installed pit privies at this location. A gated road that passes through the parking area is opened during winter to allow for ice fishing access.

The beach receives a great deal of use in the summer. There are problems with fires and garbage on the beach, thus detracting from the experience of other visitors by making the beach area unsightly and creating a hazard from broken glass. The worst of the problems seem to occur from groups holding parties at the beach, often at night. The Department has posted signs at the beach indicating that fires and camping are prohibited.

The upland portions of this special management area were used for many years by Paul Smith's College as part of the forestry curriculum. This area includes a 42-acre pine plantation that was established in the 1950's. This plantation was planted by forestry students under the direction of professors Gould Hoyt and George Peroni. Over the years, many forestry students worked on this plantation as part of their studies.

Desired Conditions for Beach Areas Monitoring

The Lake Clear Beach is an example of a natural area the receives a high level of recreation use. This makes it different than a purpose-built facility, but this area can still be included in a wildland monitoring plan or guidance. The monitoring variables for a beach area will include efforts to collect data on the expansion vegetation loss; the occurrence of trash, human waste, and remnants of fires; and that visitors are perceiving the wild forest character of the area. Photo points will be a useful tool to help illustrate potential changes over time.

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 in 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"/>		