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# FOREST PRESERVE DETAILED PROJECT WORK PLAN

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**Fiscal Year 2025**  
**Project # CO-WP-376**

<u>Region</u> 6	<u>Project Title</u> Sis and Bubb Lakes Trail Improvement
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<u>Project Type</u> Modification of Existing Structure/Improvement	<u>Town(s)</u> Webb	<u>County</u> Herkimer	<u>Management Unit</u> Fulton Chain Wild Forest
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## Description of Desired Condition(s) for Project

### *Current Conditions*

The Sis and Bubb Lakes Trail located in the Fulton Chain Wild Forest is a popular trail used by a variety of recreationalist. Originally designed as a foot trail in the 1990 UMP, the 1992 Amendment allowed mountain bikes on this path. Due to extensive use which has led to erosion and uneven trail tread, the hillside immediately following the trail register has become difficult for all users to traverse. To address these issues and improve visitor safety the work proposed will divert water off the trail and improve trail surface.

The entirety of the Sis and Bubb Lakes Trail is 2.3 miles long with the proposed trail improvement being a total of 0.1 miles. This work includes the removal of 5 trees between 1" and 3" DBH, with no trees over 3" DBH being cut. The placement of crushed rock and mineral soil to allow for a more stable trail tread and improved drainage. In some areas rock relocation and full bench cutting will be utilized to create a single trail tread. A partial bench cut on the uphill side of the trail will also be applied, along with rock cribbing. This will be installed on the downhill side of the trail with crushed rock being used for fill and a surface to build the mineral soil trail tread on. The end goal is to produce a more sustainable and hiker/biker friendly trail capable of withstanding the numerous users received and environmental forces present.

### *Desired Conditions*

The desired condition for the Sis and Bubb Lakes Trail improvement project is to improve visitor safety, enhance public access, and to promote the enjoyment of the lands in Fulton Chain Wild Forest. The trail should be able to accommodate current levels of use, which are appropriate in a wild forest area, without showing signs of erosion, expansion or other degradation that impact the adjacent natural resources.

## Description of Project Specifications

Below is a description of the proposed work in order travelling from east to west:

West of the trail register, the trail surface has eroded away exposing numerous roots. To provide for adequate drainage and a stable trail tread, crushed rock will be placed within the existing trail corridor and capped with mineral soil (“crush and cap”) for approximately 15 feet with a trail tread width of 2 feet. The trail surface will be slightly outsloped downhill to shed water.



Looking west at the existing trail corridor where “crush and cap” will be employed from the trail register to the other side of the beech tree with the sign on it (around 15 ft.). The red lines delineate the approximate boundary of the trail tread.

Then, the next 30 feet of trail will have the numerous rocks removed, a full bench cut applied, and the trail tread resurfaced with mineral soil to rehabilitate this section.



Looking west where the trail will be cleared of rocks, recut with a full bench cut, and surfaced/outsloped. The red lines delineate the approximate boundary of the trail tread.

Another 45 feet of a full bench cut will then be applied to establish a single trail tread.



Looking west where a full bench cut will be applied to create a single trail tread. The red lines delineate the approximate boundary of the trail tread.

Then another 10 feet of “crush and cap” will be applied.



Looking at another section where “crush and cap” will be applied. The red lines delineate the approximate boundary of the trail tread.

Then 60 feet of a partial bench cut on the uphill side of the trail will be applied. Rock cribbing will be installed on the downhill side of the trail with crushed rock being used for fill and a surface to build the mineral soil trail tread on.



Looking west at the beginning of the partial bench cut/rock cribbing/trail surfacing. The red lines delineate the approximate boundary of the trail tread. Note that the rock cribbing will be placed on the downhill (left) side of the trail.



Looking further west at the partial bench cut/rock cribbing/trail surfacing. The red lines delineate the approximate boundary of the trail tread. Note that the rock cribbing will be placed on the downhill (left) side of the trail.

From the beginning to this point, five rock water bars will be installed at the recommended intervals to drain water off the trail. The locations of these drainage structures will be delineated with flagging.

At the end of the bench cut/rock cribbing, the trail travels to a split in the trail near a small, unclassified, intermittent stream. The uphill fork in the trail will be closed off to hiker and biker traffic with brush and other woody debris.



Looking west at the split in the trail. The uphill fork will be closed off (delineated by the red X) with the corridor indicated by the blue arrow being retained.

At the stream crossing, the rocks present will be repositioned to create a stepping stone path across this seasonal watercourse.



Looking west at the intermittent stream with the red arrow indicating where the proposed stepping stones will be relocated.

All material (rocks and soil) will be sourced on site through “borrow pits” located adjacent to this trail.

### *Tree Cutting*

A total of 5 trees between 1” and 3” DBH will have to be cut during the construction process. No trees over 3” DBH will have to be cut. See the summary table on the next page.

**FOREST PRESERVE WORK PLAN TREE TALLY**

Project Name: Sis and Bubb Lakes Trail Bench Cut

State Land Unit: Fulton Chain Wild Forest

County: Herkimer

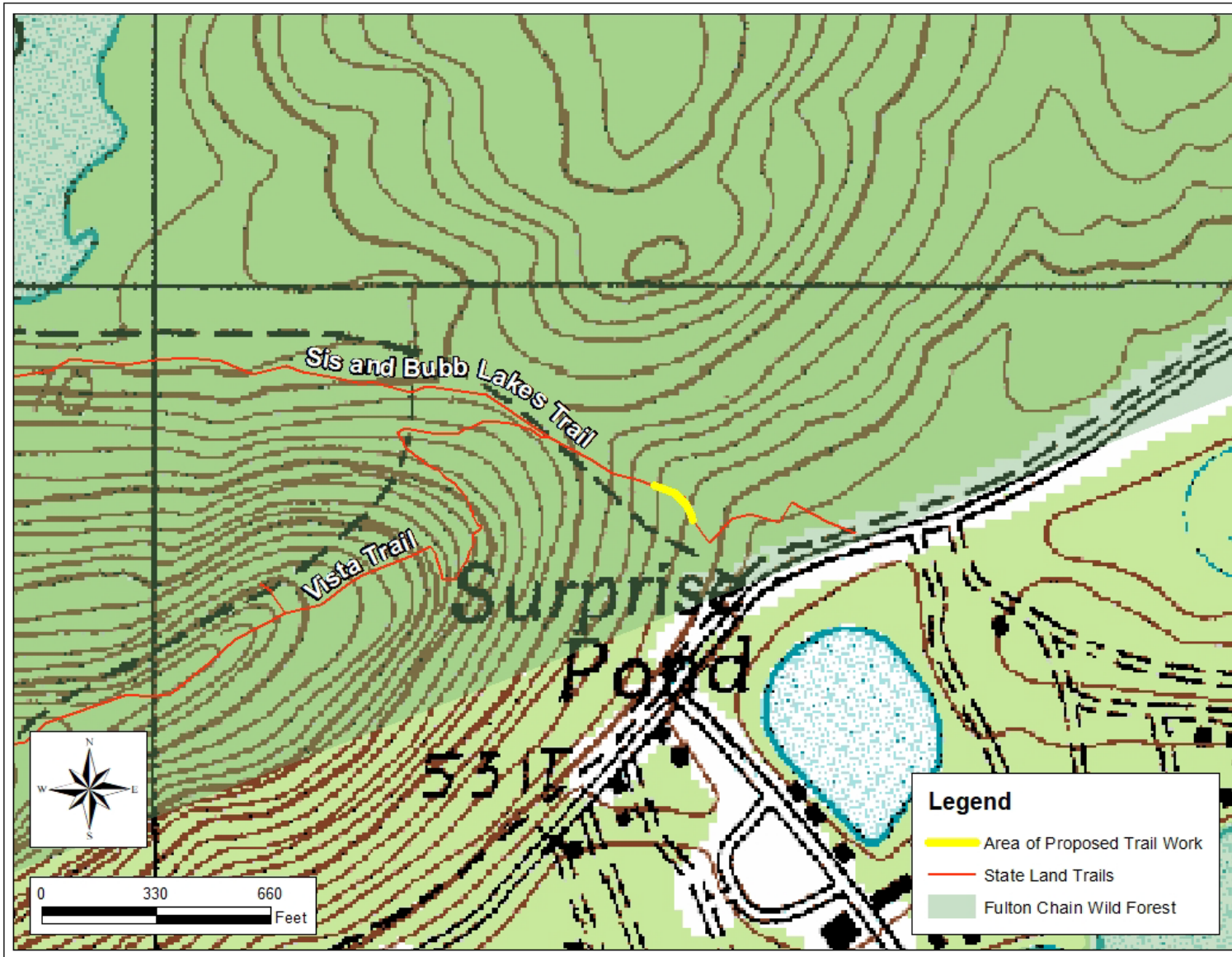
Town: Webb

Date Talled: 11/01/24

Talled By: Michael Marsh

Species	Diameter															Total
	1 to 3	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20	22	24	26	28	30	
Various (1" ≤ 3" DBH)	5															5
<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>															<b>5</b>

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".



Map of the Proposed Trail Work

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

The objective of this project is to improve this section of trail to be more resistant to erosion, and in turn more “hiker and biker friendly”, than the existing path.

Implementing this project as proposed will minimize the impact currently being experienced by providing a more stable trail tread with corresponding drainage structures, both features currently lacking.

Improving this existing corridor, rather than installing a relocation, reduces the total impact to the site by rehabilitating already disturbed ground. That is, additional area does not need to be cleared of trees and excavated to install a trail reroute.

“Borrow pits”, where mineral soil is to be mined for trail construction, will be kept as small as possible and reclaimed with leaves and brush once no longer in use.

### Analysis of Project Location and Design Alternatives

*No Action:* Without any management intervention, the existing trail will remain unchanged. This consequence is not desirable environmentally or from a recreational standpoint due to the erosion occurring, which has also led to a less desirable trail for its users.

*Closing the Trail:* This option would not be socially acceptable given the demand for access to Sis and Bubb Lakes. As a result, this choice was rejected.

*Rerouting a portion of the trail:* As mentioned above, rerouting the trail would require additional tree cutting and ground disturbance than the preferred option of improving the existing trail. Also, given the terrain present, the current trail appears to be in the most favorable location through this hillside. Therefore, this option was not considered any further.

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

There will not be any motorized vehicles used. However, motorized handheld tools, specifically a handheld drill along with a small generator, may be used to split rock for rock cribbing and water bar construction.

### Description of Applicable Standards for Accessibility by People with Disabilities

The trail leading up to this location is not ADA accessible and it would be impractical to make it conform to this standard.

### Other Relevant Considerations

#### *Natural Heritage Data*

A check of the NYS Natural Heritage Database indicates that only one species, the Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*), a NYS Endangered species, has been documented in the area. Since this trail

project avoids any of the cliffs which this raptor may inhabit, it is unlikely that this proposed project will cause any harm.

### *Cultural Resources*

A check of the available Archeological sites in DEC's GIS database indicates that there are not any known cultural resources at or near the project area.

### *Non-Native Invasive Species*

Currently there are not any known non-native invasive species in the immediate area of this project. To help prevent any from becoming established, sanitation efforts consisting of cleaning any hand tools and boots of trail crew workers prior to mobilizing to the site should be employed.

Prepared by (Name & Title): Michael Marsh, Forester  
Phone: 315-866-6330

Date: 12/10/2024

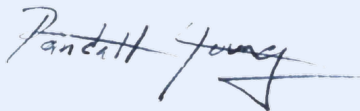
Approvals:

Comments:



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Regional Program Manager  
Date: 3/25/2025



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Regional Director  
Date: June 20, 2025



On behalf of Fiona Watt

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Division Director  
Date: 6/16/2025

**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 type="checkbox"/>		
Mineral Resources	Mining	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Materials Management	Solid Waste Mgt. Fac.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Water	Dam Safety Review	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
	Const. in Flood Hazard	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
	Public Water Supply	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
	SPDES	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Spills Management	Petro. Bulk Storage	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 as part of this work plan.
	Protected Native Plants	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
	Historic Preservation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Fish and Wildlife	Freshwater Wetlands	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
	Wild Scenic & Rec. River	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Compliance Services	Other Protection of Waters	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
	EAF	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		See attached
	Negative Declaration	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		See attached
	Env. Impact Statement	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
	Water Quality Cert.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
DEC (other)	CP-17	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
	Commissioner (aircraft, motorized equipment)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
	Flight Request	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
	Contract Clearance Sh.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
	DOB Exemption	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Other Agencies	APA MOU	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		See attached
	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 type="checkbox"/>		
	Local Permits	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
	Easements	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
	Highway Enter DOT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		

	Wastewater Disposal	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
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**Adirondack  
Park Agency**

**KATHY HOCHUL**  
Governor

**BARBARA RICE**  
Executive Director

March 19, 2025

Michael Marsh, Senior Forester  
Via email

**RE: State Land Consultation Determination SL2024-0028**

Dear Michael:

Pursuant to the “MOU Between the Adirondack Park Agency and the Department of Environmental Conservation Concerning Implementation of the State Land Master Plan for the Adirondack Park,” the trail tread improvements on the Sis and Bubb Lakes Trail are considered to be “rehabilitation” of a conforming structure on lands classified as wild forest. The tread work proposed in the consultation therefore does not require an amendment to the Fulton Chain Wild Forest unit management plan before it may be undertaken.

Agency staff have also determined that the project, as proposed, does not involve wetlands.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Agency.

Sincerely,

Megan Phillips  
Deputy Director, Planning

Enclosure: Complete consultation form

cc: Josh Clague, Forest Preserve Coordinator, DEC Central Office  
Andy MacDuff, Supervisor of Natural Resources, Region 6  
Keith Rivers, Regional Forester, Region 6