
FOREST PRESERVE DETAILED PROJECT WORK PLAN

Fiscal Year 2025
Project # 2025-NV-003
CO-WP-378

<u>Region</u> 5	<u>Project Title</u> Rock Lake Trail Improvements
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<u>Project Type</u> Modification of Existing Structure/Improvement	<u>Town(s)</u> Indian Lake	<u>County</u> Hamilton	<u>Management Unit</u> Blue Mountain Wild Forest
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Description of Desired Condition(s) for Project

The Rock Lake Trail is a secondary trail, documented in the 1995 Blue Mountain Wild Forest Unit Management Plan (BMWf UMP). The trail is approximately 0.7 miles long, situated in low lying areas adjacent to Johnny Mack Brook and follows a northeasterly direction to the Cedar River snowmobile trail. From the snowmobile trail, users can reach multiple primitive tent sites and locations to launch canoes/kayaks on Rock Lake. Due to the scenic nature of the trail, the lake destination, gentle terrain, and proximity to the Village of Indian Lake the trail receives moderate to high use in all seasons

The trail can be characterized by many exposed roots, rocks, and areas of mud. Trail braiding and widening are occurring throughout the trail. The management objective of this project is to mitigate resource concerns in sensitive wetland areas. The desired condition is to provide users a distinct and sustainable pathway to Rock Lake. The proposed trail maintenance projects are intended to improve access for resource users who are portaging watercraft to the lake.

Description of Project Specifications

There are three problem areas along the trail that this project will address. Approved maintenance actions per Appendix 11 of the Blue Mountain Wild Forest UMP include: trail hardening, bridges, and erosion control structures as needed. Tread width is between 18-24 inches. All Adirondack Park Agency (APA) approvals have been obtained. (SLCF # 2024-0020 and APA Wetland GP # 2024-0331) Management objectives and project specifications are as follows for each individual project site:

Site 1 is a 75-foot section of trail that currently includes 32 feet of bog bridging and a 10-foot-long span bridge over an unnamed drainage into Johnny Mack Brook. The trail is significantly widened and braided in this location. Management objectives for this location are to designate one single path, replace and better situate the existing bog bridging and replace the span bridge which is currently unstable.

- The new bridge will be moved approximately five feet upstream to better align with the trail. The puncheon style bridge will be four feet wide and 12 feet long.
- Bog bridging will be built in the standard design, with three two-inch by eight-inch by eight-foot boards atop six-inch by six-inch by three-foot sills.

The wider structures will accommodate users who choose to carry boats to the lake and make the trail more accessible for a wider range of abilities. Site 1 is not located within an APA classified wetland.

Site 2 is a 50-foot section of trail that is rutted and retains water. Trail widening is present as well as many rocks and exposed roots. Management objectives for this location are to construct a 25-foot turnpike along the side of the trail. The turnpike will be 24 inches wide and will utilize rock found on site for crush materials and retention. Flat and stable steppingstones will be placed as needed on either side of the turnpike (up to 20 feet of trail, before and after turnpike). Site 2 is located within an APA classified wetland.

Site 3 is an 18-foot-long section of trail that is consistently wet and muddy. Users have placed down woody debris in this section to avoid sinking in the mud. The management objective for this site is to construct an 18-foot bog bridge.

- Bog bridging will be built in the standard design, with three two-inch by eight-inch by eight-foot boards atop six-inch by six-inch by three-foot sills.

The wider structures will accommodate users who choose to carry boats to the lake and make the trail more accessible for a wider range of abilities. Site 3 is located within an APA classified wetland.

Description of Measures Taken to Avoid, Mitigate and Minimize Impacts to Natural Resources These improvement projects are designed to mitigate and minimize impacts to natural resources along the trail.

- A.) There will be no tree cutting associated with this project.
- B.) Earthwork and Disturbance, Including Identification of Work Outside the Trail Corridor: Earth

work will be minimal and contained to the project locations. Earthwork will occur when leveling sills for bog bridge construction, quarrying and installing rocks for turnpike construction. All sites will be naturalized at the completion of the project.

- C.) Impacts to Streams, Waterbodies, and Wetlands: Two of the proposed project sites are located within APA classified wetlands. APA General Permit #2024-0331 authorizes the work at these locations. This project will reduce trail widening by providing a single, hardened corridor through the wet areas. Herd paths will be closed, allowing for terrain adjacent to the trail corridor to revegetate.
- D.) There are 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 desired outcomes of this project are to provide users a single hardened pathway to Rock Lake and protect natural resources from degradation caused by pedestrian traffic along the trail corridor. To achieve these conditions the following actions were considered.

No Action Alternative

- A no action alternative was considered during the planning phase of this project. Based on the sensitive wetland locations and noticeable impacts, this alternative is not preferred. Action is required to reduce natural resource impacts.

Alternative 1: Realign the trail to go around the three project sites.

- Realignment options were explored during the planning phase of this project. Observations of the surrounding landscape showed poor mineral soils, organic rich hummocks and rocks in a dense spruce/fir forest and wetlands. Due to poor ground conditions in the surrounding landscape this alternative is not preferred.

Alternative 2: Harden specific problematic areas along the existing trail corridor (preferred option). See project specifications above.

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

An ATV may be used under suitable ground conditions to transport construction materials to project locations. Chainsaws may be used to cut lumber to length.

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 to an existing trail that is not currently built to ADA standards. It wouldn't be feasible to modify the entire trail system, and it is not practical due to terrain. All new structures will be built to provide access for as many abilities as possible.

Other Relevant Considerations

This project is intended to be completed during the 2025 field season.

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Date: 1/8/2025

Approvals:

Comments:



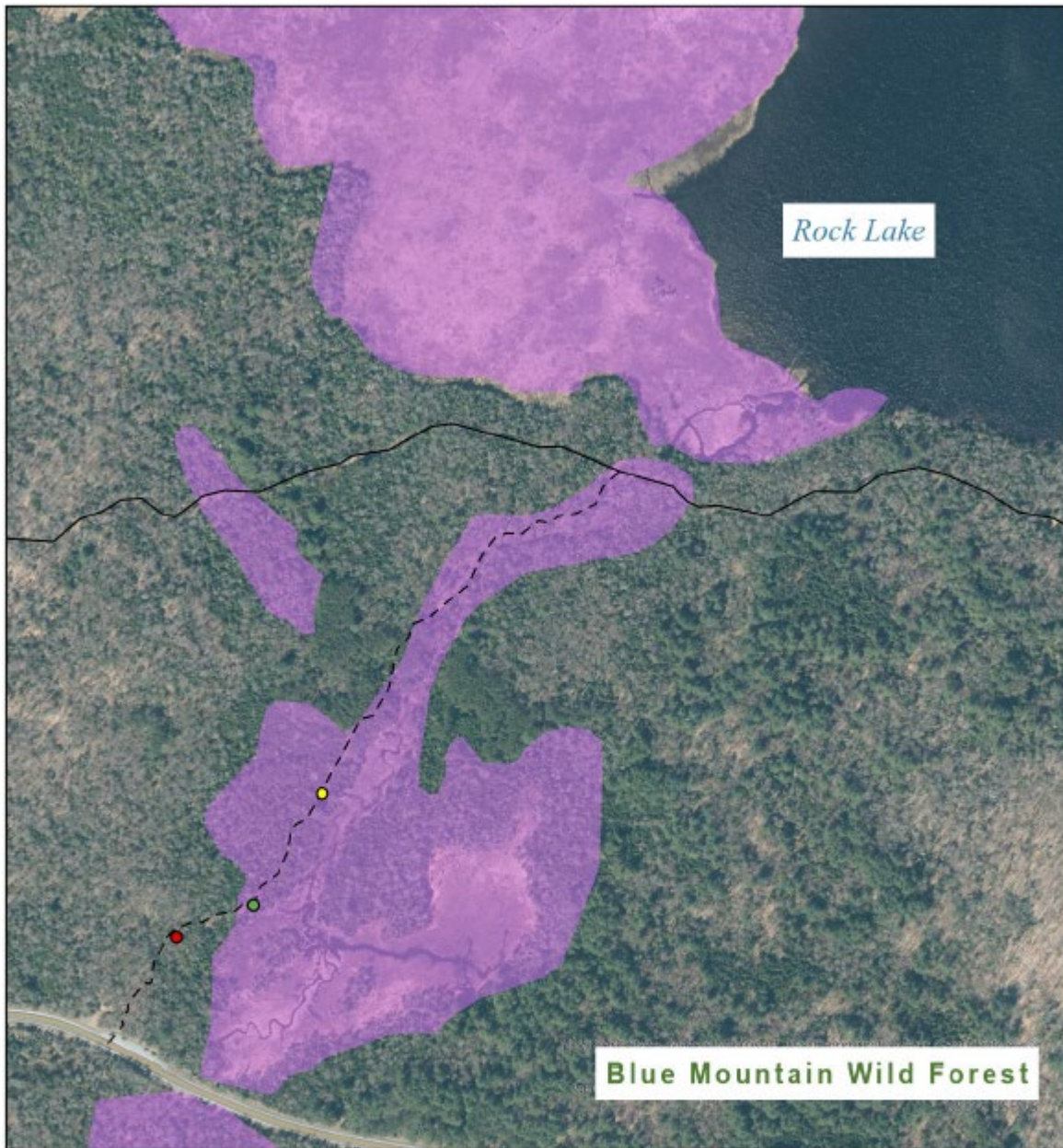
Regional Program
Manager Date: 1/16/2025



Regional Director
Date: 10/30/2025



On Behalf of the Division Director
Date: 6/24/2025

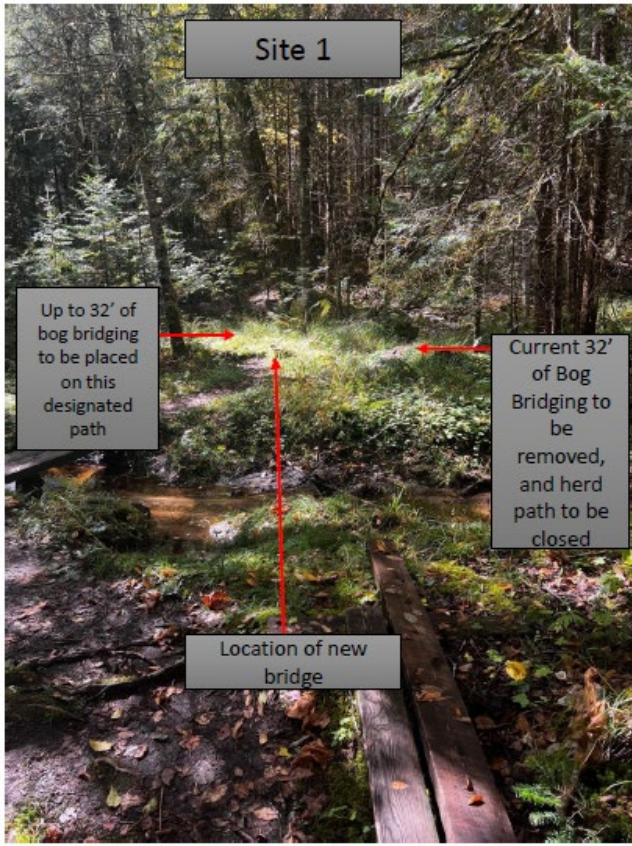


**Rock Lake Trail Improvements
Site Location Map**



Legend

- Site 1
- Site 2
- Site 3
- Cedar River Snowmobile Trail
- - - Rock Lake Trail
- APA Wetlands Polygon
 - Palustrine
 - Lower perennial riverine
 - Upper perennial riverine



REGULATORY CLEARANCE CHECKLIST – STATE LANDS and CONSERVATION EASEMENT PROJECTS

PROGRAM	PERMIT	REQUIRE D		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"/>	NYSDEC	1995 BMWF UMP
	Tree Cutting	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
	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	Approved
	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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NYSDEC	Approved
	APA Wetlands Permit	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NYSDEC	Approved
	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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		