



Department of
Environmental
Conservation

CONIFER-EMPORIUM CONSERVATION EASEMENT

Draft Recreation Management Plan

Towns of Clifton, Colton & Piercefield
St. Lawrence County



NYS DEC, REGION 6, DIVISION OF LANDS AND FORESTS
Conservation Easement Program

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Plan Summary



Figure 1. Lost Pond on the Conifer-Emporium Conservation Easement (CECE)

The Conifer-Emporium Conservation Easement (CECE) encompasses approximately 19,600 acres in the Towns of Clifton, Colton, and Piercefield in St. Lawrence County. The Property is wholly contained within the northwestern Adirondack Park. The Property is split into eight parcels, located in proximity to NYS State Route 3 and the South Branch of the Grass River (see the Location Map – Section C. History or the Property Description Map – Appendix G. Maps). The CECE shares boundaries with the Grass River Wild Forest (GRWF), the Cranberry Lake Wild Forest (CLWF), and the Horseshoe Lake Wild Forest (HLWF). The CECE also shares boundaries with multiple other conservation easements.

This Conifer-Emporium Conservation Easement Recreation Management Plan (CECE RMP) outlines public recreation access and facilities which will be provided for public use of the property. Consistent with the encumbering conservation easement, proposed public recreation is considered only where compatible with sustainable forestry and natural resource protection objectives.

Following is a summary of management proposals in this RMP:

- New informational signage and maps will be placed at the already existing kiosks on the Property;
- 3.0 additional miles of existing roads will be newly opened to public passenger vehicles. In total, 5.0 miles of road will be open on the Property;
- Eleven (11) parking areas will be newly constructed or maintained;
- This plan does not propose any new snowmobile routes, only the continued maintenance of existing snowmobile routes. There are currently 27.3 miles of roads and trails open to public snowmobile use;
- Approximately six (6) miles of non-motorized trails will be sustainably constructed, for a total of 54 miles of roads and trails that will be open to non-motorized public recreation on the Property;
- Six (6) primitive campsites will be constructed, two (2) of which will meet universal accessibility standards;
- An accessible hand launch for persons with disabilities will be constructed to provide non-motorized water access to the South Branch of the Grass River, a designated scenic river;
- A rock-climbing area will be established at Little Mountain;
- Hunting, fishing, and trapping will continue to be permitted throughout the property, subject to all applicable seasons and regulations.

Preface

Use of Conservation Easements in New York State

The New York State Legislature has declared that the public policy of the State is to conserve, preserve, and protect its environmental assets, natural resources and man-made resources. In addition to purchasing lands in fee on behalf of the People of the State, the State also protects land and natural resources by purchasing less than fee, permanent interests in land, termed conservation easements. Conservation easements are used widely across the United States by government and non-profit land conservation organizations to protect a variety of properties with important natural resources and other landscape values such as water quality, wildlife habitat, sensitive ecosystems, wetlands, riparian areas, scenic areas such as meadows and ridgelines, agricultural land, working forests, and historic sites. The primary function of conservation easements is to limit or eliminate future development and undesirable land uses on a property, while allowing for continued private ownership and traditional management.

New York State acquires conservation easements primarily on properties that buffer existing State lands, provide additional public recreation opportunities, and/or maintain large working forests. There are now hundreds of thousands of acres of land in New York that are protected by conservation easements acquired by the State. Most of that land consists of large tracts of commercial timber land in the Adirondack and Tug Hill regions; however, New York State also holds easements on a variety of other properties across the State.

Some conservation easements allow public access to the protected property, and some do not. On many large working forest conservation easement properties, the State has acquired public recreation rights in addition to development and land use restrictions. In some cases, a wide range of public recreational use is permitted, and in others public access is very limited. The amount of public access depends largely on the goals and objectives of the landowner and the State at the time the easement was negotiated.

This recreation management plan will explain public recreation rights the State acquired through the conservation easement and how these rights are to be implemented compatibly with rights retained by the landowner.

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I. Introduction

In 1990, the Conifer-Emporium Conservation Easement was purchased by the People of the State of New York. The conservation easement assures that the property will remain a privately owned sustainable working forest, protect natural resources, and allow for specific public recreation opportunities. The conservation easement deed is dated December 19, 1990, and is located at the St. Lawrence County Clerk's Office in Liber 1046, Page 666.

The Conifer-Emporium Conservation Easement, referred to herein as "CECE", "Conservation Easement", "Easement", or "Property", grants New York State a legal interest in the property and sets forth terms, restrictions, and rights of both the Landowner (currently MWF Adirondacks, LLC) and the State with respect to use and management of the tract. The State now owns the development rights and specific recreation rights on the property. As with other conservation easements, by purchasing the development rights, the State effectively extinguished development rights on the property. The Landowner is responsible for managing the property in a manner that complies with the conservation easement deed. This requires that they, for example, protect water quality, maintain and enhance biological diversity, provide for a broad distribution of forest age classes and provide standing dead trees, den and nest trees and large downed trees. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (Department, DEC or NYSDEC) is responsible for managing the rights purchased by the People of the State of New York.

A. Purpose of the Recreation Management Plan

Public recreation on privately-owned conservation easement lands is guided by Recreation Management Plans (RMPs). This RMP addresses NYSDEC's role in planning, implementation, and management of the public recreation rights on the eight (8) tracts of land that make up the Protected Property. It also describes the Department's planning process and provides opportunities for stakeholders to participate in that process. The Landowner has been consulted during the planning process and has had an opportunity to review and comment on this RMP.

The purpose of an RMP is to establish a planned written management strategy to implement the State's rights and protect the property rights of the Landowner. The RMP is intended to serve as a consistent guide to management over time regardless of changes to Department personnel or the Landowner. The RMP integrates Department

recreation management with pertinent laws and regulations, policies, easement-specific requirements and conditions, and property-specific information in a single document. This RMP provides: a description of the property its past and present uses; relevant public recreation opportunities and limitations; how public access and recreation will be implemented and managed; who will have responsibility for various management tasks; identification of public recreation facilities that may already exist on the property; new public recreation facilities and improvements proposed to be constructed and maintained; and how the public is anticipated to interact with other uses of the property such as active forest management. Periodically, RMPs may be amended or revised., Should any discrepancies arise between the RMP and the conservation easement, the easement control.

B. Planning Process and Timeline

Scoping/Kickoff Meeting

The Department held a public scoping session regarding the CECE March 21, 2018. The Department received twenty-five (25) comments responding to the scoping session. Thirty-four people (34) attended the scoping session. Sixteen (16) comment cards were submitted by the end of the scoping session (see Comment Card in Appendix C. Public Comment Summary for Public Session). The Department also received eight emailed comments and one mailed comment.

II. Setting

A. Property Description

The Conifer-Emporium Conservation Easement is in the foothills of the Northwestern Adirondack Mountains. The Property encompasses approximately 19,600-acres and contains several elevations over 2000-feet, with the tallest, Center Pond Mountain, at over 2400-feet. The Property contains roughly 3,000 acres of wetlands. There are four named ponds and several streams located on the property, including three main waterways: South Branch of the Grass River (a designated scenic river), Brandy Brook, and Dead Creek.

The term Conifer-Emporium is an amalgamation of names derived from a previous landowner and the nearby logging town of Conifer. For a detailed account of the property's lineage and use, please see the History section of this plan.

The Conifer-Emporium Conservation Easement lies within three Unit Management Areas, which are managed by the following Unit Management Plans, respectively: Bog River Unit Management Plan, Cranberry Lake Unit Management Plan, and the Grass River Unit Management Plan. In addition to the lands of the CECE, the Bog River UMP also includes the Horseshoe Lake Wild Forest, Lows Lake (also known as Bog River Flow), and the Eastern Five Ponds Access Primitive Areas. Conifer-Emporium Conservation Easement parcels 7 and 8 are currently managed according to the terms of the Bog River UMP. Once finalized, those parcels (along with all others) will be managed by the terms of this Plan. The Cranberry Lake UMP includes the Cranberry Lake Wild Forest. The Grass River UMP includes the Grass River, Long Pond, Tooley Pond, Seveys, and Silver Lake Conservation Easements.

https://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/lands_forests_pdf/bogriver.pdf.

https://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/lands_forests_pdf/cranberryump.pdf

https://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/lands_forests_pdf/gwfwump.pdf

The CECE lies within the townships of Clifton, Colton, and Piercefield. The easement acreage by township is shown below:

Approximate acreage by Town

County	Town	Acreage
St. Lawrence	Clifton	612
	Colton	11,677
	Piercefield	7,336
Total		19,625

The CECE is comprised of eight parcels, numerically laid out from west to east, respectively. These parcels are not all contiguous, but the Property is managed as one unit. The easement acreage by parcel is shown below:

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Approximate acreage by Parcel

Town	Parcel	Acreage
Clifton	1	368
	2	244
Colton	3 (Tract 1)	192
	3 (Tract 2)	21
	4	2,977
	5	1,603
	6	6,907
Piercefield	7 (Tract 1)	373
	7 (Tract 2)	525
	8	6,415

Public road access to the CECE is provided by the Columbian Road to Parcel 1, and State Highway 3 to Parcels 2, 3, and Parcel 7, Tract 1. The Massawepie Road provides access to Parcels 6 and 8, and County Route 62 provides access to Parcel 7, Tract 2.

Tract Descriptions

Parcel 1 contains the 5-acre Lost Pond. A trail of approximately 1-mile loops around the pond and connects to the Peavine Swamp Trail, part of a route referred to as the Cranberry Lake 50, a trail which travels around Cranberry Lake.

Parcel 2 contains wetlands surrounding an unnamed stream that crosses the southern portion of the parcel.

The small portion of Parcel 3, Tract 1, on the northern side of NYS Route 3, contains the Jag Fishing Access Road, which leads to a site for fishing along the South Branch of the Grass River as it flows through the Grass River Wild Forest. The Rustic Lodge Road travels north from NYS Route 3 to private property. The Frohn Road is a non-motorized and snowmobile route which starts at NYS Route 3 and continues east through this tract to Parcel 4.

Parcel 3, Tract 2 is located south of NYS State Route 3 and is bordered to the east and south by the Cranberry Lake Wild Forest.

The northern section of Parcel 4 is bisected by the Grasse River Railroad, part of the Cranberry Lake Wild Forest. The South Branch of the Grass River and the Grass River

Flow border the property to the north. Brandy Brook runs through the parcel from the 8.7-acre Lilypad Pond and the 1.5-acre Egg Pond, which are situated in the northeast portion of the parcel. Brandy Brook Road, an unpaved forest road, crosses the parcel from the Grasse River Railroad to the south, connecting to other logging roads.

Roaring Brook crosses the southeast portion of Parcel 5. Brandy Brook Road crosses the parcel and connects Parcels 4, 5, and 6.

Parcel 6 is crossed by Roaring Brook, Burntbridge Outlet, and the South Branch of the Grass River. The 17.9-acre Center Pond is located in the southwest portion of the parcel. Several mountains over 2,000-feet are located within Parcel 6, including Center Pond Mountain (2,432-feet) and Little Mountain (2,216-feet). Brandy Brook Road continues across the northern portion of the parcel to Center Pond Road. Center Pond Road and Burntbridge Pond Outlet Road, both unpaved forest roads, travel south through the parcel.

On Parcel 7, Tract 1, the Stovepipe Alley Trail connects the Seveys Conservation Easement in the west with private property to the east of the tract. Tuttle Brook crosses the parcel.

Parcel 7, Tract 2 lies south of NYS Route 3. County Route 62 crosses the center of the parcel.

A portion of the Grasse River Railroad, which is part of the Horseshoe Lake Wild Forest, crosses the northern portion of Parcel 8. The Remsen Lake Placid Railroad runs north-south on the eastern side of the parcel. The Massawepie Road travels south from NYS State Route 3 through the Massawepie Conservation Easement to the parcel. The Mount Arab Road crosses the eastern portion of the property. There is a hiking trail up Mount Arab which begins on the parcel, continuing onto the adjoining Horseshoe Lake Wild Forest. Dead Creek travels north through the parcel. Promontories of note on the parcel include Buck Mountain (2312-feet), Haystack Mountain (2178-feet), and Wheeler Mountain (2191-feet).

B. Location and Access

The Property is located wholly within the northwestern region of the Adirondack Park, in the towns of Clifton, Colton, and Piercefield in St. Lawrence County. More details about these parcels can be found at <https://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/34715.html> and the NYS

DECinfo Locator; be advised that not all CE Facilities are on the DECinfo Locator at this time (<https://gisservices.dec.ny.gov/gis/dil/>).

Relationship to Adjacent Public Property

The Property is located north of and adjacent to the Cranberry Lake Wild Forest (CLWF 23,240-acres) (<https://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/34715.html>) which contains most of Cranberry Lake and encompasses many smaller ponds, brooks, and mountain peaks. The Property also shares 2.5 miles of boundary with Wild Forest along the South Branch of the Grass River. Two snowmobile trails on the Property continue into the Cranberry Lake Wild Forest. Several publicly accessible foot trails, including the “Cranberry Lake 50”, connect the CECE to the CLWF as well.

The Grasse River Railroad, part of the Cranberry Lake and Horseshoe Lake Wild Forests, is a publicly accessible Forest Preserve parcel, administrative road, and trail that transects Parcels 3, 4, 5, 6, and 8 of the Property. This trail connects to many others located on these parcels, providing continuous snowmobile and non-motorized access throughout.

Parcel 3 of the Conifer-Emporium Conservation Easement also shares 0.3 miles of boundary with the Grass River Wild Forest (<https://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/75300.html>), on which there is fishing access to the South Branch of the Grass River.

The southeastern portion of the Property is also directly connected to the 15,014-acre Horseshoe Lake Wild Forest (<https://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/75295.html>), sharing 4 miles of boundary. This Wild Forest bounds on the east with Tupper Lake and fully encompasses Horseshoe Lake. North-south snowmobile trails in the area lead from the Property to the Wild Forest. The Mt. Arab Trail, which begins on Parcel 8 of the Property, travels east to the Mt. Arab summit and fire tower on the Horseshoe Lake Wild Forest.

Parcels 7 and 8 of the Property both share 0.6 miles of boundary with the Dead Creek Primitive Area (<https://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/83175.html>), a 1,135-acre tract protecting a portion of the Dead Creek tributary to the Raquette River.

Forest preserve lands are managed by their respective Unit Management Plans. Public recreation information on the forest preserve is available through the NYS DECinfo Locator (<https://gisservices.dec.ny.gov/gis/dil/>).

Relationship to Adjacent Private Property

Conservation Easements

The Grass River Conservation Easement (GRCE <https://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/75300.html>), part of the Grass River Wild Forest Unit, shares approximately 1.3 miles of boundary with Parcel 2 of the CECE. Like the CECE, the GRCE is managed as a sustainable forest and is open annually to public recreation from December 16th through September 30th. For more information on the GRCE Recreation Management Plan, please see https://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/lands_forests_pdf/grassriverfinalrmp.pdf.

Parcels 2 and 3, Tract 1 of the CECE also share 0.1 miles of boundary each with the newly acquired Cranberry Forest Conservation Easement (<https://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/75300.html>). This easement is open to public recreation from December 16th through the first Tuesday after Labor Day. The public use corridors to access the interior forest preserve parcel are open year-round.

The Property also shares boundaries with the Massawepie Conservation Easement (<https://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/34715.html>). The Massawepie CE lies between Parcel 7, Tract 1 and Parcel 8 of the CECE. Primary access to the CECE involves traveling south from NYS State Route 3 along the Massawepie Road, which crosses through the Massawepie CE.

The Massawepie CE allows public recreation from September 1st through June 14th in the forms of camping, hiking, paddling, fishing, and the use of the snowmobile trails that cross the easement and connect to trails on the adjoining Parcels of the CECE.

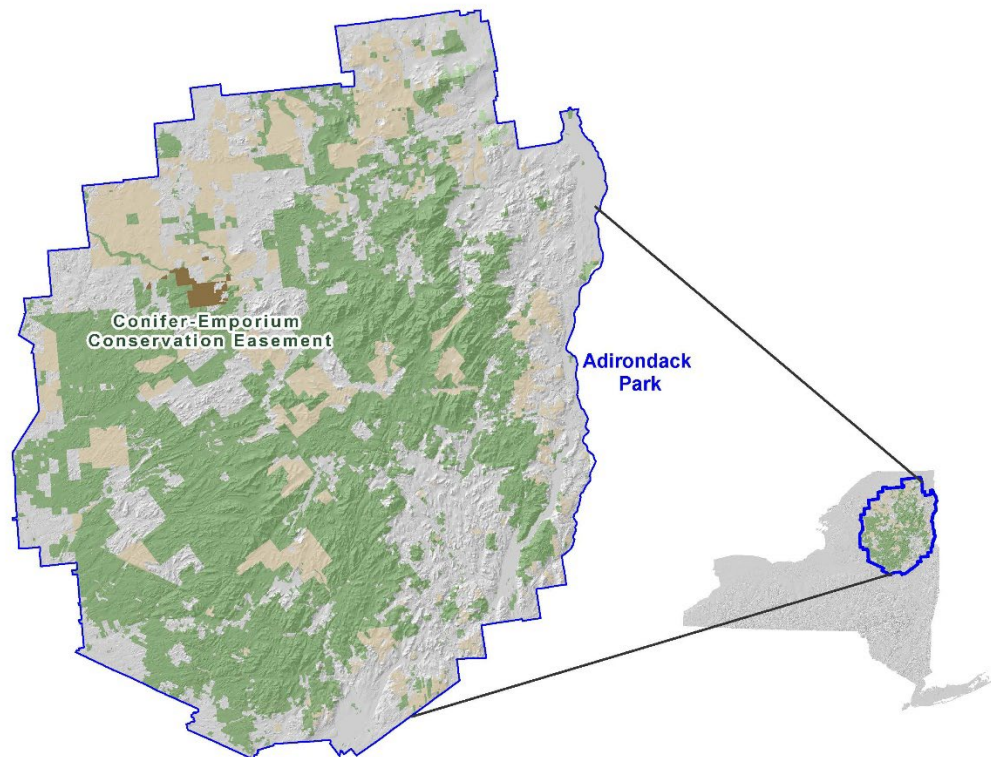
Parcel 7, Tract 1 of the Property also shares its 0.5-mile long western boundary with the Seveys Conservation Easement (<https://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/75300.html>). The Seveys CE allows public use of the snowmobile trails that transect the property, including the one that connects this easement to Parcel 7, Tract 1 and continues south to the rest of the Property and other trails in the system.

Public recreation information on conservation easements is available through the NYS DECinfo Locator; be advised that not all CE Facilities are on the DECinfo Locator at this time (<https://giservices.dec.ny.gov/gis/dil/>).

Other Private Property

Private property abuts 26.6 miles of the CECE boundary. Private landowners abutting the property include the Grass River Outing Club, The Conservation Fund, and the private communities of Mt. Arab and Eagle Crag lakes.

C. History



Map 1. Adirondack Park.

The protected property of the Conifer-Emporium Conservation Easement falls within the Adirondack Park Blue Line and shares the region's rich history of forestry production and management. It also shares the region's history of forest loss through timber harvest, mining, construction of dams, and agriculture in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The creation of the Forest Preserve in 1885 and then the Adirondack Park in 1892 helped to promote the restoration of the Adirondack forests typical of the area and promote the practice of sustainable forestry and sustainable public recreation within the park itself.

Historically, the lands within and around this easement were home to many indigenous nations. The Mohawk, Oneida and Onondaga tribes all utilized this area. Hunting, fishing, farming and gathering were just a few of the activities which provided a subsistence life on these lands. The water resources in this unit provided travel via rivers and lakes which facilitated trade, hunting and fishing activities. The forests provided vast resources for everyday living. Since European settlement, this land has been used to practice forestry, for hunting, fishing, trapping, historic lease camps, and more. In 1905, when the Emporium Lumber Company moved into the Adirondacks from their original lands in Pennsylvania, the company reorganized into the Emporium Forestry Company to include their New York and Vermont lands and purchased 90,000 acres of land in the towns of Clare and Piercefild. This purchase included portions of the protected parcels of the future Conifer-Emporium CE. The Emporium Forestry Company utilized the Grasse River Railroad to haul timber back to the sawmill the company had established in the hamlet of Conifer. In 1950, the Emporium Forestry Company was dissolved, and the lands were transferred back to the Emporium Lumber Company for management. The Conifer sawmill remained in operation through 1960, producing mostly flooring materials from the harvested Adirondack timber.

Emporium Lumber Company owned and operated these land parcels until 1966, when this land was sold to Draper Lumber, which later merged with the company Rockwell International. Draper ran one of the eight sawmills located in the region until closing in the 1970s. In 1977, Rockwell International sold these tracts of land to Yorkshire Timber Company, who owned the land until 1995.

In 1990, New York State DEC agreed upon a conservation easement with Yorkshire Timber Co. and their land management company, Wagner Woodlands, Inc., to encumber approximately 19,600 acres of their owned land as the “Conifer-Emporium Conservation Easement.” This easement conveyed property rights protecting natural resources by limiting development and ensuring sustainable forestry. It also allowed NYS DEC to provide public access and recreational opportunities. Included within the recreational opportunities were historical rights such as hunting, fishing, and trapping rights for the public, non-motorized and vehicle access throughout the property, and hunting camp lease retention until their removal in 2005 by the landowner in accordance with the terms of the easement.

In 1995, Yorkshire sold the parcels, along with their encumbering easement, to Hancock Timber Resources Group, who owned and operated the land for five-years before selling

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to Great Eastern Timber Co., LLC in 2000. Great Eastern Timber Co. then sold the lands to Fund 6 Domestic, LLC in 2003, who owned the parcels until 2006.

Rayonier Forest Resources then purchased these parcels and managed them as sustainable working forests until 2014, when the current landowner, MWF Adirondacks, LLC, purchased the parcels.

D. Current Uses of the Property

Forest Management

A stated purpose of the Conservation Easement is to ensure that the forest resource will continue to be available to the current and future landowners for sustainable forest management and the associated long-term production of forest products. MWF Adirondacks currently contracts Molpus Woodlands Group for the continuation of sustainable forest management on the Property. MWF Adirondacks is currently enrolled in third party certification, which satisfies the sustainable forestry terms of the conservation easement. It is common to see foresters, loggers, and logging equipment on the Property. Members of the public using the Property for recreation can expect to encounter this type of activity during a typical visit. At times, portions of the property may be closed to public recreation during forest management operations (see Section C. Public Use Management. Logging Closures).

E. Existing Infrastructure

Inventory and Condition

The conservation easement grants the People of the State of New York a permanent right of access to the Property for outdoor recreational use subject to the specific terms in the recorded conservation easement document agreed to by the State and the Landowner. All management actions on the Property, as implemented through this Recreation Management Plan, will be conducted in accordance with those specific easement terms. NYSDEC will strive to ensure actions under this RMP are consistent and compatible with the reserved rights of the Landowner. This plan does not and cannot grant or deny rights that are not contained within the CE.

The following affirmative rights, subject to specific terms, conditions, requirements, limitations, and restrictions stated in the Easement and described in Section 3D, have been granted to the State of New York and apply directly to the development and implementation of this public Recreation Management Plan:

1. Non-motorized Access - Use and Activities

DEC has the right to provide public access to the property for a variety of dispersed, non-motorized outdoor recreational activities, such as: hiking, bicycling, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, photography, bird watching, wildlife observation, picnicking, boating (with car-top watercraft such as canoes, kayaks, or rowboats), swimming, camping at designated campsites, horseback riding, dog-sledding, fishing, hunting, and trapping. These activities will be permitted year-round on the entire Property and must be conducted in accordance with applicable State laws and regulations.

2. Motorized Access - Use and Activities

DEC has the right to allow public motorized access to the Property via certain designated routes. These routes will be signed accordingly as being open to only certain types of vehicles, such as passenger vehicles, and snowmobiles. Speed limits and other restrictions or safety information may also be posted.

The below table and associated map describe infrastructure currently on the Property. See Section III.D. Motor Vehicle Use for the list of roads proposed to be open by this plan. Please read the road descriptions carefully and refer to the Property Description and Existing Infrastructure maps in Appendix G when planning a visit to the Property.

1. Current Roads, Trails, and Facilities

Parcel #	Corridor Name	Mileage	Description	Current Public Uses
1	Cranberry Lake 50 – West Connector Trail	1.1	Connects the Peavine Swamp trail in Cranberry Lake Wild Forest to the Lost Pond Trail on the CECE.	Foot trail only
	Lost Pond Trail	1.0	Foot trail branching off the West Connector Trail. Kiosk and trailhead register	Foot trail only

Parcel #	Corridor Name	Mileage	Description	Current Public Uses
			located at the parking lot.	
2	Gravel Pit Road	0.1	Access trail to the Grass River Conservation Easement.	Non-motorized
3, Tract 1	Rustic Lodge Road	0.1	Road to access adjacent private property – public access allowed only until CECE boundary line.	Non-motorized
	Jag Fishing Access Road	0.2	Road to parking area on the boundary of the CECE and the adjacent Forest Preserve parcel – allows access to Jag Fishing Access Site on the South Branch Grass River.	Passenger Vehicle
	Frohn Road	0.8	Access from State Rt. 3, continuing onto Parcel 4 of the CECE.	Snowmobile, non-motorized
4	Frohn Road	0.2	Access from State Rt. 3, continuing from Parcel 3, Tract 1 of the CECE and connecting to the Grass River Railroad trail on Forest Preserve.	Snowmobile, non-motorized
	Brandy Brook Road	3.0	Main north-south trail through Parcel 4, providing access to Brandy Brook. The northern terminus is at the Grass River Railroad trail on Forest Preserve. Continues to Parcel 5.	Snowmobile, non-motorized
	Brandy Brook Loop	2.1	Foot trail to Brandy Brook.	Non-motorized

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Parcel #	Corridor Name	Mileage	Description	Current Public Uses
	Brandy Brook – Burntbridge Pond Connector	1.0	Continues south from the CECE onto the Cranberry Lake Wild Forest.	Snowmobile, non-motorized
5	Brandy Brook Road	1.7	Transects Parcel 5, continuing west onto Parcel 4 and southeast onto Parcel 6.	Snowmobile, non-motorized
	Silver Brook Spur	0.5	Trail spurring off Brandy Brook Road to the north onto private property.	Snowmobile, non-motorized
6	Brandy Brook Road	1.5	Continues from Parcel 5. Provides access to Roaring Brook and Burntbridge Pond Outlet.	Snowmobile, non-motorized
	Burntbridge Pond Outlet Road	3.4	Foot trail. Located south and parallel to Burntbridge Pond Outlet.	Non-motorized
	Berkley Mountain Road	1.8	Provides access to Center Pond Mountain.	Non-motorized
	Center Pond Road (from Brandy Brook Road to the Grass River Railroad trail)	0.8	Connects Parcels 6 and 8 of the CECE. Provides access to the South branch Grass River.	Snowmobile, non-motorized
	Center Pond Road (from Brandy Brook Road to Center Pond)	5.0	Foot trail (no snowmobiles). Provides access to Center Pond. Located west and parallel to the South Branch Grass River.	Non-motorized
	Center Pond Spur	0.5	Foot trail off Center Pond Road.	Non-motorized
	Unnamed spur	0.2	Foot trail off Center Pond Road.	Non-motorized
	Main Haul Spur	2.3	Trail off the Main Haul Road. Part of this trail facilitates the southern	Snowmobile, non-motorized

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Parcel #	Corridor Name	Mileage	Description	Current Public Uses
			portion of the C7A-alternative snowmobile trail.	
	Southern C7A-Alt Trail	2.0	Alternative snowmobile trail off of the Main Haul Road.	Snowmobile
7, Tract 1	Stovepipe Alley Trail	1.6	Connects the Seveys Conservation Easement with the CECE.	Snowmobile, non-motorized
8	Massawepie Road (town road)	1.8	Main north-south haul road connecting to the Massawepie Conservation easement to the north. Terminus at the gate on Parcel 6. The Main Haul Road crosses the boundary of Parcel 6 and 8 multiple times.	Passenger vehicle, snowmobile
	Main Haul Road	2.8	Main north-south haul road connecting to the Horseshoe Lake Wild Forest to the south. Terminus at the gate on Parcel 6. The Main Haul Road crosses the boundary of Parcel 6 and 8 multiple times.	Snowmobile, non-motorized
	Northern C7A-Alt Trail	2.6	Alternative snowmobile trail off of the Main Haul Road. Utilizes the length of the Wheeler Mountain Road.	Snowmobile
	Wheeler Mountain Road	0.9	Connects to the Main Haul Road and facilitates the Northern C7A-alternative snowmobile trail.	Snowmobile, non-motorized
	Buck Mtn. Loop	5.0	Former skid trails leading around the base of Buck Mtn.	Non-motorized

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Parcel #	Corridor Name	Mileage	Description	Current Public Uses
	Carriage Road (town road)	0.14	Unpaved road.	Passenger vehicle, snowmobile
	Mt. Arab Foot Trail	0.8	CECE segment of the Mt. Arab Foot Trail. The trail continues to the summit on Horseshoe Lake Wild Forest.	Foot trail only

*Parcel 3 – Tract 2, currently has no publicly accessible roads or trails.

**Parcel 7, Tract 2 borders the Conifer Road on both sides. Because this is a public road and not an easement road or trail, it has been omitted from this table.

***Parcel 8 borders the Mt. Arab Road. Because this is a public road and not an easement road or trail, it has been omitted from this table.

****In addition to listed public uses, all roads/trails are subject to use by the landowner.

2. Parking Lots

Parcel #	Location
1	Lost Pond Trailhead on the Cranberry Lake Wild Forest
3	Jag Fishing Access Road.
8	Mt. Arab Trailhead.

3. Bridges

Parcel #	Road/Trail	Waterbody	Current Public Uses
6	Center Pond Road	South Branch Grass River	Snowmobile, non-motorized
6	Main Haul Road	Unnamed Stream	Snowmobile, non-motorized
7, Tract 1	Stovepipe Alley Trail	Tuttle Brook	Snowmobile, non-motorized

4. Gates

Parcel #	Location	Purpose of Gate
2	Gravel Pit Road, north of State Rt. 3	Restrict public motorized access.
3, Tract 1	Western end of the Frohn Road.	Only open during snowmobile season. Closed all other times.
6	Center Pond Road.	Only open during snowmobile season. Closed all other times.

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	Main Haul Road, at the boundary of the CECE and Horseshoe Lake Wild Forest.	Only open during snowmobile season. Closed all other times.
7, Tract 1	Stovepipe Alley Trail, at the boundary of the Seveys CE and the CECE.	Only open during snowmobile season. Closed all other times.
8	Western end of the Conifer Road.	Only open during snowmobile season. Closed all other times.
	Wheeler Mountain Road.	Only open during snowmobile season. Closed all other times.
	Main Haul Road.	Only open during snowmobile season. Closed all other times.

5. Gravel Pits

Parcel #	Location
4	Brandy Brook Road.
6	2 gravel pits off the Main Haul Road.

6. Kiosks

Parcel #	Location
1	Lost Pond Trailhead on the Cranberry Lake Wild Forest
8	Located at the 'Four Corners' intersection of the Grass River Railbed/Conifer Road and Main Haul Road.
8	Mt. Arab Trailhead.

F. Natural Resources

Geology and Soils

The major geologic features of the Conifer-Emporium Conservation Easement are the Childwold Rock Terrace and the Adirondack Mountain Section. The Terrace is underlain predominantly by igneous gneiss and is about 15-20 miles wide and occupies over 400 square miles. It is characterized by low relief and an abundance of swamps and sand plains. The Lyon Mountain range of the Adirondack Mountain Section passes through the

southeastern sections of the Easement, extending from Mount Matumbula to Arab Mountain to Wolf Mountain (Buddington, 1962).

Soil types inform, to some extent, recreation management decisions and opportunities an area can sustain. Current and proposed recreational activities on the Easement should be designed and managed consistent with the natural resources unique to the area. The associated soil types found on the Easement are depicted on the Soils Map in Appendix G. The predominant soil series found within the Easement include:

The Colton Series

The Colton series consists of very deep, excessively drained soils formed in glacio-fluvial deposits. They are on terraces, kames, eskers, and outwash plains. Slope ranges from 0 through 70 percent. The soils formed in water-sorted sand, gravel, cobbles, and stones typically derived from granite with lesser amounts of sandstone and schist. The potential for surface runoff is very low to medium. Estimated saturated hydraulic conductivity is high or very high in the solum and very high in the substratum. Elevation ranges from 5 to 3000 ft above sea level. Large areas are idle and support seedling birch and pine, bracken fern, and blueberries. Farmed areas are used mainly for grass hay or pasture with some corn and oats. Forests include sugar maple, eastern white pine, red pine, and white spruce.

The Duxbury Series

The Duxbury series consists of very deep, well drained soils on valley trains, outwash plains, eskers, kames, and terraces. Slope ranges from 0 to 70 percent. They formed in sandy glaciofluvial deposits with a mantle of loamy glaciofluvial deposits. The deposits are derived primarily from gneiss, schist and granite. Estimated saturated hydraulic conductivity is moderately high or high in the solum and high or very high in the substratum. Most areas are used for hay, pasture, and silage corn. Some areas are used as a source of gravel. Common trees in wooded areas are eastern white pine, red pine, red spruce, eastern hemlock, white spruce, balsam fir, sugar maple, and red maple.

The Lyman Series

The Lyman series consists of shallow, somewhat excessively drained soils on glaciated uplands. They are on nearly level to very steep glaciated uplands on the tops and sides of hills and mountains. Slope ranges from 0 to 80 percent. They formed in loamy supraglacial till. The potential runoff is very high. Estimated saturated hydraulic

conductivity is moderately high or high throughout the mineral soil. Elevation ranges from about 10 to 2500-feet above mean sea level. Most areas are wooded. The common trees are American beech, white ash, yellow birch, paper birch, northern red oak, sugar maple, eastern white pine, eastern hemlock, red spruce, white spruce, and balsam fir. Some areas have been cleared and are primarily used for hay and pasture. A few cleared areas are used for cultivated crops.

The Potsdam Series

The Potsdam series consists of very deep, well drained soils on till plains and glaciated mountainsides. They are nearly level to steep soils formed in an eolian or water deposited mantle that overlies dense till. Slope ranges from 3 through 60 percent. The regolith is fine sandy loam through loamy sand till from sandstone, schist, or granite gneiss overlain by a 16 to 40-inch eolian or lacustrine mantle containing 50 to 80 percent silt plus very fine sand. The potential for surface runoff is low to very high. Saturated hydraulic conductivity is moderately high through high in the layers above the substratum and moderately low through moderately high in the substratum. Elevation ranges from 500 to 2000-feet above sea level. Many areas have been cleared and used for growing hay, oats, and limited acreage of corn for silage; however, most cleared areas have reverted to brush or woodland. Woodlots contain sugar maple, American beech, black ash, white ash, hop hornbeam, eastern hemlock, red oak, and eastern white pine.

The Tunbridge Series

The Tunbridge series consists of moderately deep, well drained soils on nearly level to very steep glaciated uplands on the tops and sides of hills and mountains. Slope ranges from 0 to 80 percent. The soils formed in loamy supraglacial till of Wisconsin age derived mainly from micaceous schist, gneiss, phyllite, granite, and meta-anorthosite. Saturated hydraulic conductivity is moderately high or high throughout the mineral soil. Elevation ranges from about 10 to 2500-feet above mean sea level. Most areas are wooded. The common trees are American beech, white ash, yellow birch, paper birch, northern red oak, sugar maple, eastern white pine, eastern hemlock, red spruce, white spruce, and balsam fir. Some areas have been cleared and are primarily used for hay and pasture. A few cleared areas are used for cultivated crops.

Terrain/Topography

The Property is in the Northwestern portion of the Adirondack Park. The Adirondack Mountain Region, which covers nearly 20% of the State, is a rugged mountain system composed of metamorphic and igneous rock. Glaciers have removed most of the mineral soil from the mountain region and deposited it in low-lying areas such as the St. Lawrence River Valley and associated foothill regions. The resulting areas of gravel and sandy loam enabled the forest growth and agricultural activities which have shaped the human and natural histories of the Easement and surrounding region.

Elevations within the Easement range from over 2400-feet on Center Pond Mountain to just under 1500-feet along the South Branch of the Grass River. The Property contains multiple mountains above 2000-feet. The aforementioned Center Pond Mountain is the highest on the Easement, with an elevation of 2432-feet. Other peaks include Buck Mountain at 2312-feet, Little Mountain at 2216-feet, Wheeler Mountain at 2191-feet, and Haystack Mountain at 2178-feet. While not contained within the Easement, Arab Mountain, with an elevation of 2548-feet, is on the adjacent Horseshoe Lake Wild Forest and contains a trail up and a fire tower at the top. The majority of the trail up the mountain to the fire tower is within the Easement boundary.

For those interested, detailed topographic information for the area can be found on the following USGS topographic maps: Brother Ponds, Childwold, Mount Matumbula, Cranberry Lake, Long Tom Mountain, and Piercefield. The USGS 7.5 min Quads Map in Appendix G depicts the locations of the Easement parcels within the USGS Quads.

Water Resources

The water resources of the Easement reside within three (3) sub-basins of the St. Lawrence River Basin; the Raquette River, Grass River, and Oswegatchie River watersheds. The Property contains four named ponds: Lost Pond, Lilypad Pond, Egg Pond, and Center Pond, and contains part of Grass River Flow. There are several streams and brooks that flow through the Property including the South Branch of the Grass River, Dead Creek, Burntbridge Outlet, Roaring Brook, Silver Brook, Tuttle Brook, Bridge Brook, and Brandy Brook. The main riverway that runs through the Easement is the South Branch of the Grass River, which is a designated scenic river. Its headwaters are a little over three (3) miles from the Easement boundary. The South Branch of the Grass River

joins with the North and Middle Branches north of the Easement and flows into the St. Lawrence River.

Several of the named and unnamed streams that transect the Property are classified as protected C(T) streams by 6 NYCRR Part 910. Classification C is for waters that support fisheries and are suitable for non-contact activities. The (T) designation indicates that the water may support a trout population. There are also streams with AA and D classifications. AA indicates waters that are suitable for use as a source of drinking water. D is the lowest classification. Of the almost 75 miles of streams within the Easement, over 45 miles are classified as C(T) streams and suitable for trout populations. The South Branch of the Grass River and the Grass River Flow have been surveyed for water quality and both were found to have no use impairment. More information on the ponds and streams can be found in the following tables and on the Hydrology Map (Appendix G).

Waterbody	Fisheries Identification Number (FIN)	Total Acreage
Lost Pond	SL-25-115-1-P307	5.0
Grass River Flow	SL-2-59-P366	187.0
Lilypad Pond	SL-25-P309-4-P311	8.7
Egg Pond	SL-25-P309-4-P310	1.5
Center Pond	SL-2-59-46-P376	17.9

Waterway	FIN	Section Length (miles)	NHD Water Quality Classification
Brandy Brook	SL-25-P309-4	4.13	Protected class C(T)
Bridge Brook	SL-1-P109-15	1.32	Unprotected class D
Burntbridge Outlet	SL-2-59-40	2.28	Protected class C(T)
Dead Creek	SL-1-109	4.16	Protected class C(T)
Roaring Brook	SL-2-59-39A	1.01	Unprotected class D
Silver Brook	SL-2-59-38	0.54	Protected class C(T)
South Branch of the Grass River	SL-2-59	10.44	Protected class C(T)
Tuttle Brook	SL-2-59-37-4	1.68	Protected class C(T)

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Un-Named Streams	N/A	5.49	Protected class AA
Un-Named Streams	N/A	22.85	Protected class C(T)
Un-Named Streams	N/A	2.61	Unprotected class C
Un-Named Streams	N/A	9.0	Unprotected class D
Un-Named Streams	N/A	3.21	Unclassified

The wetlands within the Property offer great ecological, aesthetic, recreational, and educational value. Wetlands have the capacity to receive, store, and slowly release rainwater and meltwater. They protect water resources by stabilizing water flow and minimizing erosion and sedimentation. Many natural and human-made pollutants are removed from the water when it enters wetland areas. As they constitute one of the most productive habitats for fish and wildlife, a great diversity of plant and animal species are found in association with most wetlands. For the visitor, expanses of open spaces provide a visual contrast to the heavily forested environment.

It is estimated that wetlands within the Conifer-Emporium Conservation Easement make up 15 percent of the total area of the Property. The majority of the wetlands are palustrine and classified as Forested Needle-leaved Evergreens and Scrub Shrub Broad-leaf Deciduous wetlands. These wetlands are often temporarily or seasonally flooded. The New York Natural Heritage Program Database identifies the occurrence of shrub swamps and shallow emergent marsh communities within the Easement as well. Shallow emergent marshes are ranked as vulnerable in New York State. The Massawepie Mire, a boreal peatland bog and the largest bog in New York State, is located just north of the Easement boundary. Some of the wetlands within the Easement stem from the mire. The Hydrology Map in Appendix G indicates the locations of wetlands within the Property.

Fish and Wildlife

Fish

The many streams and ponds within the easement support a variety of different fish species. Surveys of some of the ponds and streams were conducted by the Adirondack Lakes Survey Corporation from 1984-1986 and by NYSDEC Fisheries staff in 2012 and 2014. The following table shows the data collected from these surveys. There were no

endangered, threatened, or special concern species found in the surveys. The species identified and their proportions represent a healthy fish assemblage of brook trout and other native species. While New York State does not stock any waterbodies within the easement, there is the potential for high quality fishing opportunities for the public.

Please note the current special regulation along the South Branch Grass River: Trout is catch and release only from 0.5 mile downstream of Route 3 upstream to Grass River Flow. The NYS DEC Freshwater Fishing Guide lists all current regulations.

(https://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/fish_marine_pdf/fishguide.pdf)

Water Body	Species	Total
Center Pond (1986 ALSC Survey)	Brook Trout	7
	Brown Bullhead	120
	Creek Chub	26
	White Sucker	30
Center Pond (2014)	Brook Trout	17
	Brown Bullhead	33
	Creek Chub	13
	Eastern Blacknose Dace	31
	Summer Sucker	6
	White Sucker	23
Egg Pond (1986 ALSC Survey)	Brown Bullhead	4
Grass River Flow (1986 ALSC Survey)	Brook Trout	12
	Brown Bullhead	50
	Central Mudminnow	5
	Common Shiner	11
	Creek Chub	11
	Golden Shiner	69
	Rock Bass	14
	White Sucker	170
Lilypad Pond (1986 ALSC Survey)	Brown Bullhead	35

Lost Pond (1984 ALSC Survey)	No fish caught	NA
South Branch of the Grass River (2012)	Brook Trout	52
	Brown Bullhead	3
	Central Mudminnow	9
	Common Shiner	18
	Creek Chub	20
	Eastern Blacknose Dace	14
	Longnose Dace	7

Mammals

Typical of the Western Adirondack Foothills and Central Adirondacks ecozones, wildlife present on the Conifer-Emporium Conservation Easement include common large mammals such as white-tailed deer and black bear, and although uncommon, moose are increasingly present. Fur-bearing species represented in NYSDEC harvest data for the area include bobcat, fisher, pine marten, and river otter. While there were no endangered, threatened, or special concern mammal species identified within the easement, an ongoing mammal survey being conducted by NYSDEC Wildlife staff will provide a greater understanding of the populations and distribution of mammals including bats across NYS that could inform future management decisions.

Birds

The New York State Breeding Bird Atlas documents bird species that have been identified in survey blocks encompassing the Property. Due to the fact that survey blocks encompass an area larger than individual tracts addressed in this RMP, not all species have been observed on the Property itself. The Breeding Bird Atlas identified 118 confirmed, probable and possible breeding bird species in the 13 blocks covering the Property (5089B, 5089D, 5188B, 5189A, 5189B, 5189D, 5190D, 5289A, 5289B, 5289C, 5289D, 5288A, and 5290C). This map can be found in Appendix G.

The following are listed on the 2000-2005 Breeding Bird Atlas as endangered, threatened, or species of special concern in New York State: American Bittern, Bald Eagle, Common Loon, Cooper's Hawk, Northern Goshawk, Northern Harrier, Osprey, Peregrine Falcon, Red-shouldered Hawk, Sharp-shinned Hawk, and Spruce Grouse. The New York Natural Heritage Program Database has identified the presence of Spruce Grouse over a small portion of the easement and immediately adjacent. However, there have not been any

observations since 1987. A complete list of all the species identified can be found on the list in Appendix F.

Herpetofauna

The New York State Herp Atlas documents reptile and amphibian species that have been identified in survey blocks encompassing the Property. Due to the fact that survey blocks encompass an area larger than individual tracts addressed in this RMP, not all species have been observed on the Property itself. The Herp Atlas identified 23 herp species in the six blocks encompassing the tract (Brother Ponds, Childwold, Mount Matumbla, Cranberry Lake, Long Tom Mountain, Piercefield). This map can be found in Appendix G.

The only species listed on the Herp Atlas as endangered, threatened, or species of special concern in New York State is the Wood Turtle. A complete list of all the species identified can be found in the table in Appendix F.

Fish and Wildlife Harvest

The Conifer-Emporium Conservation Easement is open to the public for hunting, fishing, and trapping during all established seasons, in accordance with NYS rules and regulations. Historically, private hunting clubs have leased camps on the property, but all camps have been removed. The property has been open to public hunting since January 1, 2005. While many factors can affect wildlife harvests and trends, there has not yet been a comprehensive statewide Mammal Survey, so harvest data is used to extrapolate and predict population trends.

Based on the following harvest data for the towns of Clifton, Colton, and Piercefield, deer harvest trends are mostly stable. Bear harvests fluctuate year to year but are overall stable. Overall, in New York State, deer populations appear to be on the rise and black bear populations appear to be increasing in the Adirondack region.

Some game bird species found in the associated NYS Breeding Bird Atlas Blocks include: American Black Duck, American Woodcock, Canada Goose, Common Merganser, Mallard, Ruffed Grouse, Wild Turkey, and Wood Duck. Wild Turkey harvests have been relatively stable, with a majority of birds harvested in the spring season.

Furbearer populations of bobcat, marten, and otter in the region appear to be relatively stable. Fisher populations appear to be decreasing slightly in the Northern New York region but increasing in the Southern New York region.

The NYSDEC does not collect harvest data for fish species.

Deer Harvest

Year	St. Lawrence County	
	Adult Buck	Total Take
2020	3,714	6,014
2019	4,465	5,806
2018	3,772	5,046
2017	3,969	4,998
2016	3,258	4,292
2015	2,657	3,827
2014	3,033	4,908
2013	3,452	5,349
2012	3,676	5,456
2011	3,277	5,542
2010	3,662	6,233

Bear Harvest

Year	Clifton	Colton	Piercefield
2020	7	12	4
2019	5	15	2
2018	0	8	2
2017	7	9	5
2016	4	12	2
2015	1	14	7
2014	7	4	1
2013	6	11	2
2012	2	6	7
2011	9	16	8
2010	2	6	9

Additional Deer and Bear harvest data available at:

<https://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/42232.html>

Turkey Harvest

Year	St. Lawrence County	
	Fall Take	Spring Take
2020	62	940
2019	67	675

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2018	50	906
2017	37	584
2016	77	629
2015	48	494
2014	196	684
2013	78	637
2012	144	494
2011	103	375
2010	167	691

Additional Turkey Harvest data available at:

<https://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/8366.html>

Trapping Harvest

Season	Bobcat			Fisher		
	Clifton	Colton	Piercefield	Clifton	Colton	Piercefield
2019-20	-	2	-	-	9	1
2018-19	-	3	-	4	4	3
2017-18	-	2	2	-	15	3
2016-17	-	2	2	-	1	2
2015-16	2	1	-	1	5	1
2014-15	2	1	1	3	8	3
2013-14	2	8	5	1	11	6
2012-13	3	4	5	1	5	15
2011-12	3	3	4	5	3	4
2010-11	1	3	6	3	4	7
2009-10	5	1	2	7	-	9
Season	Marten			Otter		
	Clifton	Colton	Piercefield	Clifton	Colton	Piercefield
2019-20	-	1	-	4	21	1
2018-19	6	-	2	6	6	6
2017-18	-	-	-	2	6	1
2016-17	-	-	-	1	10	3
2015-16	-	-	-	4	14	3
2014-15	-	-	4	9	10	18
2013-14	-	-	-	11	23	8
2012-13	-	-	-	21	28	14
2011-12	-	-	-	23	16	22
2010-11	-	-	4	10	17	25
2009-10	-	-	-	12	19	15

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Additional Trapping Harvest data available at:

<https://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/93855.html>

Vegetation

The Conifer-Emporium Conservation Easement lies within two ecoregions in the northern parts of New York State. The northern half of the Property is in the Northern and Western Adirondack Foothills. The southern half of the Property is in the Acid Sensitive Adirondack ecoregion. The lands within this Property are almost entirely forested, with species composition resulting from historical events, forest management, and differences in site factors; including soil type, soil moisture, and climatic conditions determined by elevation, slope, and aspect. The most common landcover types on the property are deciduous forest, hardwood forest, and mixed forest. There are also some areas of forested wetlands and shrub. Common species in these forest types are red maple, ash, birch, beech, red and white pines, and hemlock. The NYS Natural Heritage Program Database identified habitat for the endangered plant Northern Firmoss and the vulnerable natural community Shallow Emergent Marsh. The Database also identified Shrub swamp as a natural community present on the property.

Invasive Species

As global trade and travel have increased, so has the introduction of non-native species. Many of these non-native species do not have adverse effects on the areas in which they are introduced, however, some become invasive in their new ranges, disrupting ecosystem function and reducing biodiversity therefore degrading natural areas. Invasive species have been identified as one of the greatest threats to biodiversity, second only to habitat loss. Invasive species can damage native habitats by altering hydrology, fire frequency, soil fertility and other ecosystem processes.

The Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program (APIPP) is a reliable source of information regarding invasive species. PRISMs report and record invasive species occurrences, which are viewable to the public, via the iMapInvasives web application. While the iMapInvasives internet portal (<https://www.nyimainvasives.org/data-and-maps>) does not list any invasive species on the Property that does not mean that they do not exist. There are several invasive species identified nearby, generally on road corridors. Because roads and vehicles are the most common means to spread invasive species, actions must

be taken to impart the importance of prevention to the public and to react quickly to new infestations. Best management practices (BMPs) for any improvements on the Property must be used.

Existing Known Invasive Species Populations in the immediate vicinity

Invasive Species	Scientific Name	Type	Confirmed
Garlic Mustard	<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>	Terrestrial Plant	Y
Japanese Knotweed	<i>Polygonum cuspidatum</i>	Terrestrial Plant	Y
Pale Swallow-wort	<i>Cynanchum rossicum</i>	Terrestrial Plant	Y
Phragmites	<i>Phragmites australis</i> ssp. <i>asutralis</i>	Terrestrial Plant	Y
Purple Loosestrife	<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>	Terrestrial Plant	Y
Variable Watermilfoil	<i>Myriophyllum heterophyllum</i>	Aquatic Plant	Y
Yellow Flag Iris	<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>	Wetland Plant	Y

G. Cultural Resources

Cultural and Archeological

There are no Archaeological sites reported for the Property and this location is not listed as an architectural site under the NYNHP. However, any findings of potential historical significance should be reported to the Department or the managing forester. Culturally, there were 23 historic hunting camps on the property that were removed by Rayonier TRS North Timber, LLC, upon sale of the land to MWF Adirondacks, LLC, per terms of the easement. The loss of these historic camps was significant to their owners and the local community.

Visual and Scenic

There are multiple mountains on the easement with an elevation greater than 2000-feet. The highest point is at 2432-feet on Center Pond Mountain. There are no outstanding vistas from the peaks of any of the mountains on the Easement. The trail to nearby Arab Mountain, which has an elevation of 2548-feet, begins on the Easement and provides an expansive view looking towards the easement property.

The South Branch of the Grass River passes through the Easement and is classified as a scenic river. The river and surrounding wetlands can be viewed from sections of the Center Pond Road. On the westernmost parcel of the Property, a short trail travels around scenic Lost Pond. Several other streams and ponds provide scenic beauty throughout the Property.

H. Economic Impact

The conservation easement which encumbers the Conifer-Emporium Tract is meant to ensure that the property will remain a privately-owned sustainable working forest, protect natural resources, and provide specific public recreation opportunities. The logging industry represents an important economic component of communities within the Adirondack Park. By facilitating continued traditional management of the lands within the CECE, the conservation easement protects these historical and significant economic inputs. Natural resource protection and the opening of public recreation opportunities may also draw more visitors to the area, expanding tourism and general spending in the vicinity of the Property.

III. Public Use Administration and Management

A. Management Authority, Staff and Responsibility

The Regional Natural Resources Supervisor is the Manager of regional staff in the Department's Division of Lands and Forests, the Division of Fish and Wildlife, Division of Marine Resources and the Division of Mineral Resources. The Division of Lands and Forests has primary responsibility for managing public use of the lands subject to this RMP, including development of this Plan, development of individual work plans and schedules, implementation and coordination of all activities with the Landowner, partners, and other Department Divisions. The Division of Operations, at the direction of the Division of Lands and Forests, will oversee construction and maintenance of facilities

approved by this RMP. The Regional Forester has overall responsibility for these matters. Reporting to the Regional Forester is a Supervising Forester who is responsible for forestry and land management programs. Reporting to the Supervising Forester are one or more Foresters or Natural Resource Planners that may be assigned to specific tasks in preparing or implementing this Plan. The Regional Fisheries Manager and Regional Wildlife Manager are responsible for all Division of Fish and Wildlife activities. The Office of Public Protection will be responsible for enforcement of laws and Department rules and regulations. Environmental Conservation Officers and Forest Rangers have primary responsibility for monitoring and enforcement of public use of the Property.

A land manager will be designated by the Regional Forester as the lead Department staff person for developing and implementing this and subsequent Plans for the Property. The land manager will be responsible for:

- Overseeing the coordination and preparation of the RMP, as well as periodic updates, revisions, or amendments;
- Coordinating the implementation of this RMP;
- Overseeing the budget outlined in the RMP;
- Assuring that management activities of all Department Divisions, as they relate to this RMP, comply with applicable laws, regulations, policies, and easement terms;
- Monitoring conditions and public use;
- Addressing conflicts;
- Assessing the effectiveness of the RMP in addressing resource protection and public needs;
- Fostering communication about management activities within the Department, between the Department and the Landowner, and between the Department and the public. The land manager will be the primary liaison with the Landowner regarding public access and use issues.

The development of this RMP has primarily involved Department staff and the Landowner's land management staff. Communication and coordination of planning efforts between all the parties was critical to formulating management objectives and proposals. Consistent communication is extremely important in preparing and implementing this RMP and adhering to the terms of the Easement. Department staff will regularly communicate with the Landowner to review completed activities, address concerns or problems, and coordinate future work. The Department, Landowner and managing foresters meet, at a minimum, once a year.

B. Management Goals and Objectives

Management goals are broad statements of intent, direction, and purpose. Goals may be based upon law, Department regulations, policies, or general philosophy. Management objectives are statements that describe specific conditions to manage towards and serve as criteria for deciding what management actions are needed. Objectives are more specific than goals and may be measured or confirmed as having been accomplished within a reasonable timeframe.

Management goals and objectives were developed in consideration of conservation easement terms, Department policies and philosophy, interests of various stakeholders, and use and ownership of the Property by the Landowner.

Projected climate change through the 21st century will generate warmer temperatures and changes in precipitation that are expected to decrease the duration and extent of natural snow cover across the northern hemisphere (Wobusa, Small, Hosterman, et al, 2017.) These alterations to the availability and quality of snow has potential to affect snow-dependent winter recreation activities (Perry, Manning, et al, 2018.) Effects upon the predictability and forecast length of the snowmobile season represent a specific concern when drafting management plans such as the CECE RMP. As such, NYSDEC natural resource managers and planners recognize climate change as a serious threat to human and natural systems and are committed to ensuring sustainable natural resources for future generations by identifying climate change vulnerabilities and adaptation strategies that address those vulnerabilities. We are committed to making decisions based on the best available science. We rely on resources such as the ClimAID Report (New York State Research and Development Authority, 2011), updated in 2014, and the forest ecosystem vulnerability assessments for New England and New York, which include information on observed and future climate trends and summarizes key vulnerabilities for forested natural communities. We are also committed to incorporating that vulnerability information into land management planning by using resources such as the Forest Adaptation Resources: Tools and Approaches for Land Managers document (Swanston et. al., 2016), which outlines an adaptation workbook process and menus of adaptation strategies.

Goal 1: Avoid or minimize any negative impacts of public recreation on the natural resources and environmental benefits of the Property.

Objectives

- 1.1 Enforce all applicable laws and regulations including the Environmental Conservation Law, hunting, fishing, and trapping regulations and seasons.
- 1.2 For all current public recreation facilities and opportunities within areas identified in Natural Heritage Program geospatial data, complete an alternatives analysis addressing environmental impacts and including an alternative in which public facilities are removed and/or recreation opportunities are closed.
- 1.3 When constructing new facilities, infrastructure, or implementing public recreation rights within any area identified in Natural Heritage Program geospatial data, complete an alternatives analysis addressing environmental impacts and including a “no action” alternative.
- 1.4 Where possible, limit snowmobile routes through deer wintering yards as identified on the map in Appendix G.
- 1.5 When public facilities are decided to be removed or recreation opportunities to be closed pursuant to this RMP, identify a deadline for such action.
- 1.6 Maintain gates and/or appropriate signage at all intersections of public motorized routes and other motorized and non-motorized corridors.
- 1.7 Follow Best Management Practices (BMPs) identified in Appendix B for all construction and maintenance activities pursuant to this RMP.
- 1.8 Continue monitoring and inventory visits to the Property to evaluate public recreation impacts on natural resources and complete inspection reports when appropriate.

Goal 2: Construct, maintain, and manage facilities/infrastructure to facilitate a variety of outdoor recreational opportunities on the Property, consistent with Department policies.

Objectives

- 2.1 Maintain a total of 5.0 miles of public motor vehicle roads including access to each tract addressed in this RMP.
- 2.2 Construct/designate/maintain eleven (11) parking areas to serve as access points for the numerous outdoor recreation activities permitted on the Property
- 2.3 Maintain a total of 27.3 miles of designated snowmobile trails to provide connections between the snowmobile trail system surrounding the Property and use as detours around Landowner forest management activities.
- 2.4 Designate or construct 54 miles of non-motorized trails on the Property.

- 2.5 Construct 4 primitive campsites on the property. Construct 2 campsites accessible to people with disabilities.
- 2.6 Construct 1 hand launch site accessible to people with disabilities to the South Branch Grass River.
- 2.7 Create an implementation schedule for all public recreation facility development and implementation.
- 2.8 All future maintenance and construction projects will consider the potential effects of climate change (e.g., culverts will be upsized when possible and appropriate).

Goal 3: Avoid or minimize conflicts between public recreational use and Landowner forest management activities, permitted structures, and Reserved Rights.

Objectives

- 3.1 Routinely communicate with the landowner regarding planned activities and the condition of the property.
- 3.2 Promote partnerships with the landowner and/or recreational constituencies and secure assistance as necessary to complete management actions.

Goal 4: Enforce all laws and regulations on the property.

Objectives

- 4.1 Provide support to NYS Forest Rangers and Environmental Conservation Officers who will enforce laws and regulations on the Property.

Goal 5: Periodically assess the impacts of recreational use on forest management activities, lease camps, and natural resources.

Objectives

- 5.1 Monitor facility/infrastructure conditions using Guidelines and Standards outlined in this RMP.
- 5.2 Regularly complete inspection reports evaluating public recreation impacts on natural resources of the Property.
- 5.3 Maintain an open dialogue with the landowner or landowner designated Land Manager.

Goal 6: Use the CECE as a conservation education resource.

Objectives

- 6.1 Place environmental and forest management interpretation signage as appropriate.
- 6.2 Develop a better understanding of the natural resources, environmental benefits, and public recreation opportunities and limitations on the property.

C. Public Use Management

Shared Maintenance of Improvements

The Conservation Easement provides general guidance on how the costs of maintaining improvements are to be shared. DEC and the Landowner will share the expense of any maintenance or replacement of improvements for public use based on the proportionate amount of use and benefit that each party derives from the open and accessible improvement. A cost sharing agreement, developed by both parties with due consideration to their respective annual budgets and work-plans, shall be discussed, reviewed, and updated, at a minimum, each year at the annual meeting or at whatever interim point deemed necessary by either party.

DEC or the Landowner are not responsible for assuming a cost that is not commensurate with the interest they have in a particular shared improvement. With that in mind, DEC is solely responsible for incurring costs unique to providing for public access and use; likewise, the Landowner is solely responsible for incurring costs unique to providing for their reserved rights on the Property. Any damage caused by public recreational activities shall be the responsibility of DEC to repair. Any damage caused by the Landowner's activities (for example, logging operations) shall be the responsibility of the Landowner to repair.

When roads and trails are constructed by DEC, they will be generally built to the standards DEC uses on State Forest lands (DEC Unpaved Forest Road Handbook, August 2008). On occasion, roads and trails will be constructed and maintained with consideration of standards that have been mutually agreed to by the Landowner and DEC.

“Minimum Tool” Management

DEC allows and promotes public recreational use of the Conifer-Emporium Tracts to the extent that the adverse physical and social impacts of public use are controlled and

reduced to the greatest extent possible. When public recreational use must be controlled to prevent or correct misuse and overuse, it is best to do so by education and the application of the minimum tools, equipment, regulations, or practices necessary that will bring the desired result. To achieve this, DEC uses the “minimum tool” necessary to obtain specific objectives, employing indirect methods (limiting parking, etc.) whenever possible, and developing regulations only where necessary and as a final resort. Existing programs that promote outdoor recreation use and etiquette will be utilized where appropriate and feasible. Examples of successful programs and messages used in other management units include Leave No Trace™ and Tread Lightly!™.

Recreation Monitoring and DEC Access

DEC staff are responsible for the inspection of the Conifer-Emporium Conservation Easement. Monitoring occurs on a regular basis. Additionally, annual meetings between DEC and the Landowner will provide a chance for both parties to express concerns and bring up violations of the Conservation Easement.

Barriers, Gates, and Locks

In consultation with the Landowner, DEC has the right to install barriers and gates to control public access as needed. Both DEC and the Landowner will have access through all locked gates.

- Gates will be wide enough to accommodate tractor trailer log trucks, skidders or other large vehicles. This is generally 16-feet.
- All new and replacement DEC gates will be constructed of materials that will be highly visible and appropriately signed per DEC safety, color, and design standards.
- Gates may be locked during certain times of year because of unsafe conditions, during periods of adverse weather (i.e., “mud season”) and to prevent damage to natural resources or infrastructure. **DEC may close any road to any or all public motorized use for any reason, at any time.** Violators will be prosecuted.

Recreation Signs

DEC will be primarily responsible for installing, constructing, and maintaining all signs deemed necessary for identifying access to designated recreational amenities, roads and

trails open to the public. Trails will be signed for modes of transportation and types of use. Appropriate signage and maps will be placed in kiosks including information to inform visitors of steps they can take to help prevent the spread of invasive species. The Landowner may elect to place additional signage that they feel is situation-appropriate.

Logging Closures

Logging closure zones (LCZs) may be established to temporarily exclude the public from areas of the Property to avoid conflicts and safety issues with logging activities and equipment. The Landowner must give DEC 30-days notice of setting up LCZs, though preferably be identified at the annual meeting. LCZs shall not remain closed to public use for more than two years. LCZs may not include more than 10% of the area of the Property that is open to the public at any one time.

If a portion of a recreation corridor is closed, the parties will cooperate to identify and provide an alternate corridor. If an alternative route or trail is established, that route shall not remain a permanent trail after the original route has re-opened unless the DEC and the landowner agree otherwise. If an alternative route is not feasible, then DEC *may* agree that the trail should be closed, and an alternative not established. Any agreement of this kind will be in writing.

Gravel pits

Current gravel pits are listed in Section E. Existing Infrastructure. DEC may transport and use on-property sand and gravel for the maintenance and construction of roads and trails on the Property that are designated for public use. To minimize negative environmental impact and maintain forested areas, parties should use existing sand and gravel pits when practical and avoid opening new pits unless necessary. New pits are those not identified in the Baseline Documentation. To create a new pit, the Landowner must approve the area or location from which sand and gravel are to be extracted by DEC. DEC will not create new gravel pits within buffer areas as defined by the Easement and will comply with all applicable laws and regulations when extracting sand and gravel. Existing pits within buffer areas may be used as long as operations minimize adverse environmental and visual impacts.

D. Proposed Recreation Management Actions

Parcels 1-8

See Proposed Recreation Maps in Appendix G.

Advanced planning is always advisable when engaging in wildlands recreation. Those wishing to participate in allowable activities on Conservation Easements should utilize the NYSDEC Public Website (<https://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/41156.html>), finalized versions of RMPs, and consult with the local NYSDEC office before heading out. Onsite, information panels, maps, and important notices can be found at kiosks located in strategic positions around the properties. See the attached maps in Appendix G for kiosk locations on the Conifer-Emporium Conservation Easement.

Accessible Features

The following table lists all accessible facilities for persons with disabilities as proposed in this plan.

Parcel	Proposed Facility	Description
3, Tract 1	Accessible Campsite	Primitive campsite on the Jag Fishing Access Road which meets all required accessibility standards.
6	Accessible Campsite	Primitive campsite on the Center Pond Road which meets all required accessibility standards.
	Accessible Hand Launch	Hand launch on the South Branch Grass River which meets all required accessibility standards.

Motorized Use

Motor Vehicle Use

Conservation Easement Terms

The Conservation Easement grants DEC the right to allow passenger vehicle access on the Property, including all vehicles which may be legally registered and insured for use on a public highway (i.e. cars, trucks, motorcycles). The Conifer-Emporium Conservation Easement currently has 2.0-miles designated for public passenger vehicle use.

Affirmative Rights, Section 1b, Subsection 1, Page 3 of the easement, limits public access by motor vehicle to the following existing roads on **Parcels 3, 6 & 8**:

- **Parcel 3** – The Jag Fishing Access Road to the Parking Lot and Fishing Access on the South Branch Grass River.
- **Parcels 6 & 8** – The Main Haul Road leading south from the terminus of the Massawepie Road to the southern boundary of the Property.
- **Parcels 6 & 8** – The portion of Center Pond Road leading westerly from the Main Haul Road to the bridge crossing the South Branch Grass River.

Per Affirmative Rights, Section 1i, Page 5, DEC may construct parking lots as necessary to provide for the recreational rights conveyed in the easement.

Discussion

Motor vehicle access to the property, as described in the easement document, involves travel through the adjacent Massawepie Conservation Easement via the Massawepie Road and, provisions for two future bridge projects that include new road construction. One of those conceptual roads would enter the easement along the Grasse River Railroad from NYS Route 3 near an existing NYSDOT parking area. This bridge would cross the South Branch Grass River in an area where it is designated as Scenic. This status paired with the fact that a new bridge would be within one quarter mile of an existing bridge along Route 3 make the likelihood of receiving a permit for construction highly unlikely. Wishing to access their property from Route 3, the previous landowner constructed a road near this site which reaches the property without crossing the river. This road, known locally as the Frohn Road, was constructed after the terms of the easement were negotiated and NYSDEC does not own the right to allow public motor

vehicle-use on it. The other conceptual bridge location is in the southern part of the CECE along a route where the landowner could construct a road and bridge, but to date has chosen not to. This route also includes a scenic river crossing.

NYSDEC has made attempts in the past to negotiate public motor vehicle access to the CECE via the Frohn Road with the current landowner. While these attempts have not been successful to date, inquiries will continue to be made as new opportunities develop. If the State acquires motor vehicle access rights, in the future, along the Frohn Road or the landowner constructs the proposed southern bridge project, an amendment to the RMP will be considered.

Currently, there are three existing parking areas serving the Property as follows:

- **Parcel 1** – Lost Pond Trail / Cranberry Lake 50 West Connector Trailhead shares parking with the Cranberry Lake Boat Launch overflow area.
- **Parcel 3** – A parking area at the terminus of the Jag Fishing Access Road, at the northern boundary of the CECE, which provides access to the Jag Fishing Access on the South Branch Grass River.
- **Parcel 8** – Parking area on the Property for the Trailhead of the Mt. Arab Trail.

Management Actions

This plan proposes that the Main Haul Road be opened past the center gate to the southern terminus at the Property's boundary, as well as open the road from the Four Corners Kiosk to the gate and proposed parking area on Center Pond Road. This will provide motor vehicle access to an additional 3.0 miles of already existing roads and allow the public to access proposed infrastructure along these routes.

Parcels 6 & 8 – This Plan proposes to open the southern half of the Main Haul Road to public motorized use from the center gate (commonly known as the 'Red Gate') to the terminus of the Main Haul Road at the southern boundary of the Property.

Parcels 6 & 8 – This Plan also proposes to open a section of Center Pond Road to public motor vehicle access, from the Grass River Railroad to the gate at the South Branch Grass River. This proposal is contingent upon .25 miles of the Grass River Railroad (GRR) being opened for public motorized use by the upcoming Cranberry Lake Wild Forest UMP update.

Currently, these routes are unimproved gravel roads suitable only for authorized high clearance and 4x4 motor vehicles.

Parcel 2 – DEC proposes a parking area along the boundary of **Parcel 2** where it borders NYS Route 3 to facilitate public use on the parcel for hunting, fishing, etc.

Parcel 6 – A parking area is also proposed to be established on the eastern side of the gate on Center Pond Road, at the South Branch Grass River, to allow for safe motor vehicle parking and access to a proposed hand launch on the river.

Parcel 6 – A rock-climbing area is proposed to be established near Little Mountain at the southern end of the Main Haul Road. A parking area is proposed to be established at an appropriate location on the Main Haul Road to allow safe parking for public motor vehicles to access this proposed rock-climbing area.

Parcel 7, Tract 2 – Two (2) parking areas are proposed to be established – one in the northern portion of the Tract to provide access to the Dead Creek Primitive Area, and one in the southern portion of the Tract off County Route 62.

Parcel 8 – A parking area is also proposed to be established on the Main Haul Road between the northern and southern ends of the proposed Buck Mountain Loop Trail. This would facilitate access to the non-motorized Buck Mountain Loop Trail. Two (2) additional parking areas are proposed to be established along the Mt. Arab Road to provide access to the eastern portion of **Parcel 8**.

Gates will be required at the following locations on **Parcel 6**:

- At the location of the southern parking lot on the Main Haul Road, to prevent motor vehicles from accessing the non-motorized access only trail leading to the south.
- At the southern terminus of the Main Haul Road to prevent motor vehicles from accessing the non-motorized access only trail leading to the north.

Conifer-Emporium Conservation Easement signs will be placed in accordance with NYSDEC standards along routes open to the public and the Property's boundary.

Snowmobile Use

Conservation Easement Terms

The Conservation Easement grants DEC the right to allow snowmobiles the use of all presently established roads, except those plowed by the Grantor for logging purposes. The Department may construct new snowmobile Motorized Access Corridors which have been identified in an RMP or otherwise approved by the landowner. See Affirmative Rights, Section 1b, Subsection 2, Page 3, and Section 1h, Page 4 of the easement.

Discussion

The CECE currently has 27.3 miles of maintained roads and trails designated open for public snowmobile use on **Parcels 3 – 8**. **Parcels 1 & 2** do not have any snowmobile trails located on them. Snowmobile use on the Property primarily serves to connect snowmobile routes from east-west and north-south. While all existing roads are open to public snowmobile use, only those trails designated in accordance with a Volunteer Stewardship Agreements (VSA) currently held by the Childwold Snow Packers and the St. Lawrence County Snowmobile Association may be groomed and maintained.

Management Actions

This Plan does not propose changes to the currently existing snowmobile trails on the Property. Existing snowmobile trails will continue to be maintained and monitored, and existing and proposed gates will continue to be maintained for snowmobile season openings/closures.

This Plan acknowledges that future forest management, climate change, or recreational trends may require the establishment of alternative snowmobile trails and routes (see Section III. Public Use Administration and Management. B. Management Goals and Objectives). Existing roads and trails will be used where possible, but alterations to the existing trail system might be required. The Rustic Lodge Road, for example, could connect to the proposed trail listed in the Cranberry Forest Conservation Easement IRMP.

Non-Motorized Use

The Conservation Easement grants DEC the right to allow access to and over the property by foot, horseback, dogsled, bike, skis, snowshoes, etc. for purposes of lawful recreation including but not limited to: hunting, trapping, fishing, bird watching and nature observation, paddling, and hiking. See Affirmative Rights, Section 1a, Page 2 of the easement.

Hiking/Snowshoeing/Cross-Country Skiing/Bicycling

Conservation Easement Terms

The Conservation Easement grants DEC the right to allow access to and over the property by foot, snowshoe, cross-country ski, or bicycle. See Affirmative Rights, Section 1a, Page 2 of the easement.

Discussion

The public currently has access to approximately 27.3 miles of roads and trails open to non-motorized and snowmobile access, and 21.1 miles of trails designated as non-motorized access only. This is a total of 48.4 miles of roads and trails currently open to non-motorized access across the Property. Some notable trails include the following:

Parcel 1 – Lost Pond Trail

Parcel 3, 4, & 6 – Access to the Grasse River Railroad trail on Forest Preserve.

Parcel 6 – Access to Center Pond via Center Pond Road.

Parcel 8 – Buck Mountain Trail – currently an undeveloped trail.

Limited demand for snowshoeing or cross-country skiing on the CECE is anticipated, aside from the Lost Pond Trail on **Parcel 1** which is a popular snowshoeing trail in the winter. However, all trails proposed on or accessed from the property could be used for winter recreation. Forest management roads/trails and off-trail use may also occur.

No new Accessible trails are proposed.

Management Actions

This Plan proposes that a non-motorized trail, approximately 2,000' in length, be constructed from a proposed parking area on **Parcel 2** to the proposed fishing access site on the nearby stream.

This RMP also proposes that a non-motorized trail, approximately 0.7-miles in length, be established from the Brandy Brook Road to Lilypad Pond on **Parcel 4**.

This Plan proposes to establish a rock-climbing area with associated parking, access trails, and campsite(s). A non-motorized trail will be constructed from the Main Haul Road on **Parcel 6** to a staging area at the base of the cliff approximately 750 feet from the road. Additional trails will lead to the summit of the cliff to facilitate access to both ends of established routes and enable climbers and non-climbers to use the area in a safe and responsible manner.

This Plan proposes the construction of an access trail on **Parcel 7 Tract 1**. This trail would lead from the proposed parking area on the Property to the boundary of the Forest Preserve Dead Creek Primitive Area Parcel and would be approximately 0.2 miles long. This trail would be constructed along a former, somewhat reclaimed logging road until the boundary of the Conservation Easement and the Forest Preserve.

This plan also proposes a non-motorized trail be constructed to the summit of Buck Mountain on **Parcel 8**, utilizing the proposed Buck Mountain Loop Trail. This summit spur would extend from a proposed 3-mile trail which forms a loop around the base of Buck Mountain to the summit at a location to be determined when and if resources for this project become available to the Department. Access to the non-motorized loop and summit trail would be facilitated by the proposed motorized access and proposed parking lot on the Main Haul Road.

The Buck Mountain Trail also provides access to Dead Creek as it crosses **Parcel 8**. This plan proposes to establish a trail to a primitive campsite along a ridge in the southeast corner of the parcel. At this time, a temporary bridge spans Dead Creek to facilitate landowner harvest operations. In the event that the current landowner removes this temporary bridge, a footbridge could be considered as an alternative to fording Dead Creek to access the proposed trail. Such a project, including the installation of a footbridge, establishment of a trail approximately 1.5-miles in length, and construction of the primitive campsite, will be dependent upon the availability of resources and need.

The public will have access to approximately 54 miles of established roads and trails for hiking, including the motorized-accessible portions of the Main Haul Road, Center Pond Road, and Jag Fishing Access Road.

Paddling

Conservation Easement Terms

The Conservation Easement grants DEC the right to allow canoe and other means of nonmotorized access and travel by the public on any navigable streams which cross the property. See Affirmative Rights, Section 1c, Page 3 of the easement.

Discussion

Water bodies on the CECE are generally small and not desirable paddling locations. The South Branch Grass River is the main navigable river that exists on this Property. Non-motorized water access to this river would provide opportunities to paddle several miles in either direction along the river.

Management Actions

This plan proposes to establish a car-top hand launch that meets all standards of universal accessibility at the South Branch Grass River where it crosses Center Pond Road on **Parcel 6**. Motorized access to this hand launch will be provided via the proposed motor vehicle access and parking area on Center Pond Road as described above in the 'Motorized Access' section of this Plan.

Hunting

Conservation Easement Terms

Starting in 2004, public hunting is permitted throughout the Property in accordance with established seasons and applicable rules and regulations, per the terms of the Conservation Easement. See Affirmative Rights, Section 1g, Page 4 of the easement.

Discussion

Designated public motor vehicle roads, snowmobile trails, and non-motorized trails facilitate access to hunting opportunities on the CECE. However, bushwhacking or off-trail travel is also expected.

Proposed motor vehicle access provides proximate access throughout **Parcels 6 & 8**, and proposed parking areas will provide reasonable access to **Parcels 2, 3, 6, 7, & 8**. Foot trails as well as old forest management trails of varying condition may also be used by sportsmen accessing the field. Hunters generally select desirable hunting locations based on their knowledge of game behavior and habitat preference. Desirable hunting grounds are located throughout the property and range from easily accessed/road adjacent lands to more physically challenging and remote locations.

Management Actions

This plan will continue to permit public hunting throughout the Property in accordance with established seasons, rules, and regulations. This plan proposes providing a topographic map of the Conifer-Emporium Conservation Easement (including waterbodies, wetlands, Department roads/trails and major but unmaintained roads/forest management trails) at the proposed Four Corners Kiosk.

Fishing & Trapping

Conservation Easement Terms

The Conservation Easement grants DEC the right to permit fishing and trapping by the public in accordance with established seasons and applicable rules and regulations. See Affirmative Rights, Section 1f, Page 4 of the easement.

Discussion

Designated public motor vehicle roads, snowmobile trails, and non-motorized trails facilitate access to fishing and trapping opportunities on the CECE; however, bushwhacking or off-trail travel is also expected. Proposed motor vehicle access provides proximate access throughout **Parcels 6 & 8**, and proposed parking areas will provide reasonable access to **Parcels 2, 3, 6, 7, & 8**.

Trappers generally select desirable trapping locations based on their knowledge of game behavior and habitat preference. Desirable trapping grounds are located throughout the property and range from easily accessed/road adjacent lands to more physically challenging access/remote locations.

Notable fishing opportunities accessed from the Property include South Branch Grass River and numerous smaller streams and ponds.

Management Actions

This plan will continue to permit public fishing and trapping throughout the Property in accordance with established seasons, rules, and regulations.

As described above in the Hiking section, a short non-motorized trail leading to fishing access along a tributary of the South Branch Grass River is proposed on **Parcel 2**.

Camping

Conservation Easement Terms

The State purchased the right to permit public camping on the CECE. The Conservation Easement grants DEC the right to allow camping by the public, which is to be regulated in the same manner as on existing Forest Preserve land or in accordance with this RMP. Designated campsites must be identified in an RMP. See Affirmative Rights, Section 1d, Page 3. Per Affirmative Rights, Section 1e, Page 3, firewood may be gathered from dead and downed trees only for on-site use to build fires for cooking or warmth only.

Discussion

There are no designated campsites on the Property at this time. Currently, dispersed camping is allowable and is regulated the same as on other State lands – camps must be at least 150 feet from water or roads, only dead and down wood may be collected and used for firewood and fires are only permissible for cooking and/or warmth.

This plan proposes to construct one accessible campsite at the end of the Jag Fishing Access Road on **Parcel 3, Tract 1**, and construct another accessible campsite at the proposed accessible hand launch and parking area on Center Pond Road on the South Branch Grass River (**Parcel 6**). The Jag Fishing Access Road is already open to public motor vehicle access, and this Plan proposes to open more of the Main Haul Road to

public motor vehicle access. Primitive Tent Sites with Accessible features are generally not for exclusive use by individuals with disabilities, but are generally available on a first-come, first-serve basis. If it is found that individuals with disabilities are regularly unable to find and use these Accessible sites, then the Department may designate these as Primitive Tent Sites with Accessible features for exclusive use as per NYCRR 190.3 (f).

Four additional primitive campsites are proposed to be constructed on this property as well. One on **Parcel 4** along the southern Brandy Brook Loop Trail, in proximity to Brandy Brook; two on **Parcel 6**: one at Center Pond, and another (or a group of sites) at the proposed Little Mountain Rock Climbing Area; and one on **Parcel 8** on an elevated ridge near an unnamed water body.

Management Actions

This Plan will designate 6 primitive campsites, two of which will be ADA compliant, as shown on the associated RMP Maps (Appendix G). The accessible campsites at the end of the Jag River Fishing Access Road and on Center Pond Road will be reachable by motor vehicle.

The other four, at Brandy Brook, Center Pond, Little Mountain, and off the Buck Mountain Loop Trail to the east, will be accessible by non-motorized means only. The Brandy Brook Primitive Campsite on **Parcel 4** will be situated north of Brandy Brook between the brook and the trail. The Center Pond Primitive Campsite on **Parcel 6** will be situated just north of Center Pond, utilizing an already existing camp clearing from a previous lease camp. The campsite(s) at Little Mountain will be accessible by foot via a short access trail off the Main Haul Road. The primitive campsite proposed on **Parcel 8** will be reached via the Buck Mountain Loop Trail to the east of Dead Creek near a pond at elevation west of Eagle Crag Lake.

This plan will continue to allow and regulate camping at undesignated sites at least 150-feet from water bodies, wetlands, roads, or trails.

Rock and Ice Climbing

Conservation Easement Terms

The Conservation Easement grants DEC the right to allow access to and over the property by foot, horseback, dogsled, bike, skis, snowshoes, etc. for purposes of lawful recreation including but not limited to: hunting, trapping, fishing, bird watching and nature observation, paddling, and hiking. This Plan expands this list of activities to include rock and ice climbing. See Affirmative Rights, Section 1a, Page 2 of the easement.

Discussion

There are no established climbing areas on the Property at this time. The sport of climbing is growing in popularity in the Adirondacks. Climbing combines the skills required for hiking with more advanced techniques. Access trails to climbing areas will be constructed and maintained as hiking trails. Desirable locations for proposed routes include firm and stable areas to prepare for an ascent, a face that accepts removable anchors, and a top that is firm and stable with suitable conditions for anchors. While climbing routes themselves consist primarily of rock relatively immune to erosion, they are often associated with steep slopes prone to erosion. Cliff base stabilization will be a consideration for locating proposed routes.

Like all facilities, climbing areas will be monitored for relevant data on access trails, the presence of litter and disturbance, and checked for erosion of soils and expansion of the tread leading to vegetation loss. The monitoring of climbing areas could include photo point locations – which would act as control measuring points for occurrences of trash, fires, human waste, and vegetation loss – as well as visitor surveys.

This plan proposes designating and maintaining a rock-climbing area on **Parcel 6** of the Property in the area of Little Mountain.

Management Actions

This Plan proposes the establishment of a climbing area to serve the community in a manner consistent with resource protection. The site will be located such that it can be accessed by a short trail from a parking area along the Main Haul Road through Tract 6. As such, the face of Little Mountain was surveyed by the Adirondack Climbers Coalition (ACC). The ACC determined that the site is of moderate to high quality and contains many of the desirable conditions sought for the establishment of a climbing area:

proposed use of the site will entail minimal impact to the areas atop and beneath the cliffs and access routes to popular locations; the site is currently free of human waste or litter; the site does not currently contain fixed anchors; and the site has potential to provide safe and satisfying opportunities for the climbing community.

In the process of establishing this climbing area, sustainable practices will be followed to minimize negative impacts to the area. This includes stabilizing the soil at the top and base of climbing routes using native materials, particularly where erosion is identified as a problem. The ACC identified between 20 and 30 possible routes, all of which would require a fixed anchor at the top to preserve the cliff top ecosystem. Some routes may require fixed protection (bolts) to make the climb safe and doable.

An access trail will be constructed from the proposed parking area on the Main Haul Road to the climbing area at Little Mountain will be established. Foot trails may be installed along the base of the cliff-face to access climbing routes. Additional trails may be established to access the top of the cliff for non-climbers and to facilitate emergency access to the climbing area.

Additionally, this Plan considers the potential for harm that climbing could cause to native species and proposes that interpretive information be included at the Four Corners Kiosk. In addition, climbing specific signage will be considered for the parking area associated with Little Mountain. Closing problematic routes in this area (seasonally or permanently) may be necessary when managing for the protection of native species.

If necessary, a partnership through a Volunteer Stewardship Agreement will be sought with the Adirondack Climbers Coalition as well as area climbers to better manage rock climbing on the Protected Property through encouraging responsible climbing ethics and use of the area.

E. Implementation Table

Work plans for each of the projects listed below will be developed by the Potsdam DEC Lands and Forests staff. The work plans will address best management practices, road improvements, and facilities development such as the placement of parking areas, road

and trail signs, information kiosks, and any gates necessary to permit access while providing mandated protections to the landowner and neighboring private property owners.

The following table outlines priorities for implementation of the proposed management actions.

Project Implementation Table	
	Annual Maintenance
1	Routine maintenance of roads, boundaries, and public recreation facilities
	Proposed Projects
1	Construct motorized access and install two (2) gates.
2	Construct five (5) parking areas on Parcels 6 & 8.
3	Construct a hand launch, campsite, and parking area designed for use by people with disabilities on the South Branch Grass River.
4	Construct Center Pond campsite on Parcels 6.
5	Construct two (2) parking areas on Parcel 7, Tract 2.
6	Construct accessible campsite on Parcel 3.
7	Install bridge over Burntbridge Outlet on Parcel 6.
8	Construct campsite on Brandy Brook Loop, Parcel 4.
9	Construct foot trail on Parcel 7, Tract 2.
10	Construct foot trail to Lilypad Pond on Parcel 4.
11	Construct parking area and fishing access trail on Parcel 2.
12	Construct the northern section of the Buck Mountain Trail.
13	Construct Little Mountain trail and campsite(s).
14	Construct Ridge Trail and Campsite to the east of Dead Creek, Parcel 8.

IV. References

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V. Appendices

A. Management and Policy Considerations

The Department is responsible for managing public access and recreation in a manner consistent with the terms of the Conservation Easement, applicable laws and regulations. This RMP has been developed within the constraints set forth by the Environmental Conservation Law; Title 6 NYCRR of the State of New York; established Department policy and MOUs; and the terms and conditions of the Conservation Easement that encumbers the Property.

Laws and Regulation

New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQR)

SEQR requires all state and local government agencies to consider environmental impacts equally with social and economic factors during discretionary decision-making. This means these agencies must assess the environmental significance of all actions they have discretion to approve, fund or directly undertake. SEQR requires the agencies to balance the environmental impacts with social and economic factors when deciding to approve or undertake an action. As the lead agency developing this RMP, the Department prepared an environmental assessment and then published a Negative Declaration. Public comments were sought, considered, and incorporated into the RMP as appropriate.

Regulations of the Adirondack Park Agency

The Department must consult with the Adirondack Park Agency (APA) where recreation management actions on the Property and within the Adirondack Park involves activities such as: improvements or actions within or adjacent to freshwater wetlands, Wild, Scenic, or Recreational Rivers, or other waterbodies. This consultation is established by the 2010 Memorandum of Understand between the APA and the DEC.

Application of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), along with the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 (ABA) and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title V, Section 504, has a profound effect on the manner by which people with disabilities are afforded equality in their recreational pursuits. The ADA is a comprehensive law prohibiting discrimination against people with disabilities in employment practices, use of public transportation, use of telecommunication facilities, and use of public accommodations.

Consistent with ADA requirements, DEC incorporates accessibility for people with disabilities into siting, planning, construction, and alteration of recreational facilities and assets supporting them. In addition, Title II of the ADA requires, in part, that services, programs, and activities of DEC, when viewed in their entirety, are readily accessible to and usable by people with disabilities. DEC is not required to take any action which would result in a fundamental alteration to the nature of the service, program, or activity, or would present an undue financial or administrative burden. When accommodating access to a program, DEC is not necessarily required to make each existing facility and asset accessible, as long as the program is accessible by other means or at a different facility.

This plan incorporates an inventory of all the recreational facilities and assets on the unit or area, and an assessment of the programs, services, and facilities provided to determine the level of accessibility. In conducting this assessment, DEC employs guidelines which ensure that programs are accessible, including buildings, facilities, and vehicles, in terms of architecture and design, and the transportation of and communication with individuals 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 CFR § 35.151 \(a\)\]](#). Compliance is still required for parts of the facility that can be made accessible to the extent that it is not structurally impracticable, and for people with various types of disabilities. In addition, all alterations to facilities, or part of facilities, that affect or could affect the usability of the facility will be made in a manner that the altered portion of the facility is readily accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities [\[28 CFR § 35.151 \(b:1-4\)\]](#).

DEC uses the Department of Justice's 2010 Standards for Accessible Design in designing, constructing, and altering buildings and sites. For outdoor recreational facilities not covered under the current ADA standards, DEC uses the standards provided under the ABA to lend credibility to the assessment results and to offer

protection to the natural resource (ABA Standards for Outdoor Developed Areas; Sections [F201.4](#), [F216.3](#), [F244](#) to [F248](#), and [1011](#) to [1019](#)).

Any new facilities, assets, and accessibility improvements to existing facilities, or assets proposed in this plan, are identified in the section containing proposed management actions. A record of accessibility determination is kept with the work planning record. For further information, please contact Leah Akins, DEC Statewide ADA Accessibility Coordinator, at accessibility@dec.ny.gov

New York Freshwater Wetlands Act

All activities pursuant to this RMP and future amendments must adhere to permit requirements of the Freshwater Wetlands Act. The Act regulates activities within 100-feet of freshwater wetlands in New York State. The APA administers the Freshwater Wetlands Act inside the Adirondack Park and NYSDEC administers the Act outside the Park.

Section 404 of the Clean Water Act

The Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) is the agency charged with reviewing projects that could affect any “waters of the United States” under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, including wetlands, irrespective of size. All activities, including dredging and/filling, in water pursuant to this RMP or future amendments, must adhere to permit requirements of the ACOE.

Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers Act

In 1972, the State enacted the Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers Act. This Act protects certain designated rivers in their free-flowing condition and natural setting. The South Branch of the Grass River is designated as Scenic Rivers.

All activities pursuant to this RMP and future amendments must adhere to the Wild, Scenic, and Recreational Rivers Act. APA administers the Wild, Scenic, and Recreational Rivers Act for private lands within the Adirondack Park. Projects are regulated by APA Rules and Regulations within 0.25-mile of each bank. The South Branch of the Grass River, as it traverses the Property, is designated Scenic for approximately 12 miles from Center Pond to NYS Route 3.

Policies and Memoranda

OU Concerning State-Owned Conservation Easements on Private Lands within the Adirondack Park. August 13, 2010

The 2010 Memorandum of Understanding between the Adirondack Park Agency and Department of Environmental Conservation: *Concerning State-Owned Conservation Easements on Private Land within the Adirondack Park (MOU)* guides communication between the APA and NYSDEC regarding RMP development, and lists activities requiring Agency consultation, notice and/or review or no Agency review. The APA's role relating to the Freshwater Wetlands Act, and administration of the Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers System Act on conservation easements is also outlined. All management of public recreation on the conservation easement property by NYSDEC is subject to this MOU.

NYSDEC Directive Documents

- Temporary Revocable Permits for State Lands and Conservation Easements (ONR-3)
- Volunteer Stewardship Agreements (CP-58; formerly Adopt-A-Natural Resource, ONR-1)
- Motorized Access Program for People With Disabilities (CP-3)
- Standards and Procedures for Boundary Line Maintenance (NR-95-1)

Guidelines and Standards

Guidelines

NYSDEC Conservation Easement Public Recreation Road and Trail Sign Guidance Manual, 2012

The manual was developed to standardize signs on conservation easements. It is intended to assist Department staff with the development of clear directions for the public. Signs addressing safety issues on roads are addressed in this guidance manual. The manual can be viewed online here:

https://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/lands_forests_pdf/cesigntrailguidance.pdf

NYSDEC Standard Accessible Designs for Outdoor Recreational Facilities Guidebook, 2014

As the Department continues to expand outdoor recreation opportunities, the design process will continue to incorporate research and ingenuity to harmonize accessibility and Universal Design principles to provide a quality visitor experience on state lands, including state easements.

Standards

Standards for Public Recreational Roads and Trails

The Department will maintain Easement roads to the standards outlined in the Unpaved Forest Handbook, typically used on state land. Based on need, funding and Landowner activity, the Department will decide whether portions of trails and roads will be repaired, improved, relocated, or if public use will be temporarily suspended. Road maintenance is a shared cost between the Department and Landowner.

NYS DEC CONSERVATION EASEMENT | ROAD & TRAIL SPECIFICATIONS

ROAD/TRAIL SPECIFICATION FACTOR	VEHICULAR ROAD VOLUME CLASS ¹			ATV TRAIL VOLUME CLASS			SNOWMOBILE TRAIL VOLUME CLASS		
	LOW	MED	HIGH	LOW	MED	HIGH	LOW	MED	HIGH
# of TRAFFIC LANES	1	1	1+	1	1	2	1	1	2
MINIMUM CURVE RADIUS w/o signage(feet)	50	50	50	n/a	35	50	n/a	40	50
MAXIMUM GRADE % (sustained/ short stretch)	10/15	10/15	10/15	10/15	10/15	10/15	10/15	10/15	10/15
SHOULDER WIDTH, EACH SIDE (feet)	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 6	n/a	3 to 4	4 to 5	n/a	n/a	n/a
TRAVELED SURFACE WIDTH (feet)	10	12	14	6/8	10	12	6/8	12	14
MINIMUM TURNOUT SPACING	n/a	2 mi	1/4 mi	n/a	n/a	1/2mi	n/a	n/a	1/2mi
SURFACE SPECIFICATIONS	BMP's ²	BMP's	BMP's	BMP's	BMP's	BMP's	BMP's	BMP's	BMP's
DITCHING	BMP's	BMP's	BMP's	BMP's	BMP's	BMP's	BMP's	BMP's	BMP's

Conifer-Emporium Conservation Easement Draft Recreation Management Plan

CULVERT INSTALLATION SPECIFICATIONS ³	BMP's	BMP's	BMP's	BMP's	BMP's	BMP's	BMP's	BMP's	BMP's
MIN. SIGHTING DISTANCE w/o SIGNAGE (feet)	100	150	250	n/a	150	250	n/a	150	250
VEGETATION CONTROL	cut/remove	cut/remove	cut/remove	n/a	n/a	cut/remove	n/a	n/a	cut//remove
PITCH (maximum)	<10%	4" crown	4" crown	N/A	20%	15%	n/a	20%	15%
STREAM AND WETLAND X-ING SPECS	BMP's	BMP's	BMP's	BMP's	BMP's	BMP's	BMP's	BMP's	BMP's
SENSITIVE AREA SET BACKS	BMP's	BMP's	BMP's	BMP's	BMP's	BMP's	BMP's	BMP's	BMP's
SIGNAGE STANDARDS ⁴	Minimal	Basic	Moderate	Minimal	Basic	Moderate	Minimal	Basic	Moderate
GATE LOCATIONS	as agreed	as agreed	as agreed	as agreed	as agreed	as agreed	as agreed	as agreed	as agreed
SEASONAL USE SPECIFICATIONS ⁵	surface	surface	surface	surface	surface	surface	winter	winter	winter
MAINTENANCE STANDARDS	minimal	as needed	regular	minimal	as needed	graded	none	none	groomed
ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS ⁶	APA/DEC	APA/DEC	APA/DEC	APA/DEC	APA/DEC	APA/DEC	APA/DEC	APA/DEC	APA/DEC
INSURANCE STANDARDS ⁷	NYS REG	NYS REG	NYS REG	NYS REG	NYS REG	NYS REG	NYS REG	NYS REG	NYS REG
ENFORCEMENT ⁸	DEC	DEC	DEC	DEC	DEC	DEC	DEC	DEC	DEC

1 VEHICLE VOLUME SPECS:

LOW: +/- LESS THAN 20 TRIPS/MONTH

MEDIUM: +/- 20-300 TRIPS/MONTH

HIGH: +/- GREATER THAN 300 TRIPS/MONTH

2 BMP'S ARE PER THE NYS FORESTRY BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR WATER QUALITY: BMP FIELD GUIDE

3 ALL CULVERTS SHALL BE PROPERLY HEADED WITH STONE, WOOD, OR STEEL/PLASTIC COLLARS

4 SIGNAGE STANDARDS:

MINIMAL - SIGNS FOR IDENTIFYING ROAD NAME WHERE BEGINS AND FOR HAZARDOUS SITUATIONS SUCH AS BARRIERS/KNOWN HAZARD PREVENTING PASSAGE AHEAD, STOP SIGN INDICATING INTERSECTION WITH A MODERATE OR HIGHER VOLUME ROAD

**Conifer-Emporium Conservation Easement
Draft Recreation Management Plan**

BASIC - SAME AS MINIMAL PLUS BRIDGE APPROACH SIGNAGE, SHARP CURVE SIGNS, OR ADDITIONAL AS OTHERWISE NEEDED AND AGREED UPON BY DEC AND HFFIII (EG., SUCH AS SUGGESTED SPEED LIMIT IF IS FIRST ROAD INTO A PROPERTY

MODERATE - SAME AS BASIC PLUS SUGGESTED SPEED LIMIT (UNTIL IT BECOMES A REGULATION), TURNOUT SPACING, OR ADDITIONAL AS OTHERWISE NEEDED AND AGREED UPON BY DEC AND HFFIII

- 5 SURFACE MEANS THE CONDITION AND TYPE OF THE SURFACE WILL SET STANDARDS FOR SEASONAL USE. GENERALLY CLOSED DURING MUD SEASON (AS POSTED) TO PUBLIC MOTOR VEHICLE AND LOG TRUCK USE, BY AGREEMENT OF DEC AND LANDOWNER; WINTER MEANS WINTER USE ONLY

MAINTENANCE STANDARDS:

MINIMAL - CONDITION CHECKED ANNUALLY, ROUTINE MAINTENANCE SUCH AS GRADING, DITCH CLEANING POTHOLE/WASHOUT REPAIR GENERALLY NEEDED ONLY EVERY THREE OR FOUR YEARS

AS NEEDED - SAME AS MINIMAL BUT DUE TO HIGHER USE LEVELS WILL LIKELY NEED SOME ROUTINE MAINTENANCE ANNUALLY OR EVERY OTHER YEAR

REGULAR - ANNUAL ROUTINE MAINTENANCE LIKELY NEEDED

- 6 APA/DEC REGULATIONS FOR WETLANDS, STREAM CROSSING, ETC.

- 7 NYS REGULATIONS ON INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS FOR VEHICLES

- 8 LANDOWNERS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR INFORMING LESSEE'S OF RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR USE OF TRAILS AND RELATED RETAINED RECREATION RIGHTS; DEC HAS LEGAL AUTHORITY FOR ENFORCEMENT OF DEC REGULATIONS WITH MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC, INCLUDING LESSEES WHEN ARE RECREATING AS MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

B. Best Management Practices

All public recreation management activities will incorporate the use of Best Management Practices (BMPs) to the greatest practical extent. BMPs are those methods, procedures, and devices that are designed to prevent or minimize soil erosion, water run-off, damage to natural resources or wildlife habitat, pollution, pathogens, or other negative environmental impacts when conducting various management activities. A list of BMPs will also be included in any work plans written prior to starting projects. BMPs related to the implementation of public access and recreational improvements on the Property include, but are not limited to:

- Locating improvements away from streams, wetlands, and unstable slopes;
- Locating improvements to minimize necessary cut and fill;
- Locating camping sites or other structures on flat, stable, well-drained sites;
- Locating roads and parking areas on existing old roads, cleared, or partially cleared areas;
- Locating trails to minimize grade and avoid streams, wetlands, and unstable slopes;
- Avoiding areas where threatened and endangered species are known to exist during any period of the year;
- Limiting the size of parking lots and other improvements to the minimum necessary to meet the intended and anticipated use;
- Minimizing tree cutting;
- Using proper drainage devices, such as water bars and broad-based dips, to prevent erosion and damage to improvements;
- Using stream crossings with low, stable banks, firm stream bottom, and gentle approach slopes;
- Constructing roads, trails, bridges and other stream crossings at right angles to the stream.
- Limiting stream crossings and construction on or near streams to periods of low flow;
- Designing, constructing, and maintaining bridges and other improvements on or near streams to avoid disrupting or preventing movement of fish and other aquatic species.
- Minimizing the use of equipment in streams;
- Using soil stabilization practices on exposed soil around construction areas, especially bridges, immediately after construction;
- Properly clean equipment to prevent the spread of invasive species from one site to another.

C. Public Comment Summaries

a. Scoping Session

The following is a summary of the public comments that were received during the scoping session for the creation of the Conifer-Emporium Conservation Easement Recreation Management Plan. A public meeting was held March 21, 2018, at the SUNY-ESF Ranger School Campus in Wanakena, New York. Thirty-four people signed an attendance sheet that night. Comment cards were utilized during the public meeting to collect public comments. (See example card below.) Following the meeting, comments were received by email and letter. Comments are in bold text, with DEC responses in italics.

Input Card (Please Print)		Instructions: Please check the boxes on the left that represent the topics that interest you the most and write your comments here and on the back of this card. If you need help please ask. <input type="checkbox"/> Check here to be on our email list.
Name:		
Address:		
City:	State: Zip:	
Email:		
Unit/Recreation Management Area:		
<input type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity	<input type="checkbox"/> Mountain biking	Cards can be left at the registration table or mailed to: NYS DEC, Lands & Forests 6739 US Highway 11 Potsdam, New York 13676
<input type="checkbox"/> Camping	<input type="checkbox"/> OHV /ATV use	
<input type="checkbox"/> Ecosystem Management	<input type="checkbox"/> Snowmobiling	Comments:
<input type="checkbox"/> Fishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Wilderness	
<input type="checkbox"/> Forest products	<input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife habitat	
<input type="checkbox"/> Hiking	<input type="checkbox"/> XC-skiing	
<input type="checkbox"/> History / Archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> Other	
<input type="checkbox"/> Horseback riding		
<input type="checkbox"/> Hunting / Trapping		

General Comments:

1. **“Develop early detection and rapid response plans for invasive species. Also include an inventory of invasive species which are a threat or a likely threat to the area...”**

Thank you for your comment. Detection and response efforts to invasive species are guided by Division of Lands and Forests Policy 16-1 / Rapid Response for Invasive Species: Framework for Response, which is available at:

https://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/lands_forests_pdf/isrrprogrampolicy1.pdf . The policy outlines all the necessary components of an effective response, including coordination, communication, public outreach, planning, scientific analysis, information management, compliance with laws and regulations, resources and logistics. The Division of Lands and Forests’ Bureau of Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health collaborates with numerous stakeholders including State and Federal agencies, non-governmental organizations, industry and notably through Partnerships for Regional Invasive Species Management (PRISMs). The PRISM overseeing the property in this Plan is the Adirondack Park Invasive Species Plant Program (APIPP), which records and reports invasive species occurrences via the iMapInvasives web application. These records and inventories are viewable by the public. To see a list of existing known invasive species in the vicinity of this Property, please see Section F. Natural Resources. Invasive Species.

NYS DEC staff trained to identify invasive species watch for occurrences during regular monitoring visits to the Property.

2. **Develop a Leave No Trace Outdoor Skills and Ethics education program to educate the public on the impacts of their behavior and how they can alter their behavior to protect natural resources.**

The DEC promotes Leave No Trace Principles on kiosk panels, webpages, press releases, and through staff, intern, and volunteer interactions with the public. Summer Interns, as part of the NYS Natural Resource Stewardship Program, represent a collaborative effort between DEC and the Student Conservation Association. Interns are trained in Leave No Trace principles and disseminate the information to the public while in the field. For more information regarding Leave No Trace Principles, please see: <https://lnt.org/>.

3. “...Allow for the return of hunting camps to the Easement.”

The Conservation Easement of December 19, 1990, called for the removal of lease camps on the property at the end of the deeded exclusive rights period. MWF Adirondacks acquired the property from Rayonier in 2014 and stipulated that this condition be met, at which time the camps were removed.

Reestablishing lease camps on the property would require a modification to the Easement Document. Regulation 6 NYCRR Part 592 identifies the standards and procedures DEC must follow when modifying a conservation easement. A DEC Conservation Easement modification would require a specific proposal with terms agreeable to the landowner, public, and easement holder. In addition, a modification would require a net conservation benefit to the State and considerable staff time.

4. Make the easement more accessible by motor vehicles.

This plan proposes to open 5 miles of road to public motor vehicle access (see Section D and the Proposed Infrastructure Maps in Appendix G). This plan also formalizes 27.3 miles of snowmobile trails currently operating on the property.

5. “Road repairs should be billed to the responsible party(s)... and closures must be mutually agreed upon and can be reopened any time.”

Impacts to the roads and the subsequent work to repair them are handled through the terms of the Easement Document. Generally speaking, the landowner is responsible for impacts associated with their forestry operations and the DEC is responsible for impacts related to public recreation. The landowner, the DEC, and its partners all play a role in road and trail maintenance.

Recreation based comments:

6. Construct an outhouse/port-a-potty at the Mt. Arab parking area.

Research will be done on visitation numbers associated with this trail – a good reminder of the importance of signing in when using a facility – to determine if an “outhouse/port-a-potty” is warranted at this location. The type of facility, specific siting, and administrative requirements will also be studied for possible inclusion in a final draft of this Plan.

7. Create printable PDF brochures including all the special conditions and regulations within the easement.

The Region 6 CE Team intends to develop a comprehensive brochure for all properties with public access. When completed, these brochures describe facilities, rights, and regulations particular to the tract. The brochures will also include a map of the property. The Conifer-Emporium tracts are scheduled to be included in the brochure development process.

8. “Install weatherproof signage along trails with historic sites, in particular something about the history of the Grass River Railroad and the history of the Mt. Arab fire tower.”

The DEC will consider placing information about the history of the Grasse River Railroad on the existing kiosk at the intersection of the Townline and Conifer Roads. There is a considerable amount of information about the Mt. Arab Fire Tower, located within the historic firewatcher’s cabin on the summit of Mt. Arab.

9. Increase trailhead parking along Rt 3.

This plan proposes two new parking areas off from NYS Route 3.

10. Mark all the easement gates with hiking and biking signs so there is no question as to what is open to the public.

NYSDEC intends to adequately sign all roads, trails, and routes involving public access on easement lands.

11. Increase the amount and quality of trails for mountain biking and XC-skiing. Current trails should be improved.

This plan proposes non-motorized access to 54 miles of road and trail for seasonal use by cyclists and XC-skiers. Conservation Easements are, at their core, working forests. Landowner retention of the timbering rights make creation of new/use-specific facilities (i.e., single track for Mtn. Bikes) difficult. Putting resources into a trail that might be harvested in the future requires a level of planning and collaboration that isn't always practical.

Rail Trail Comments:

12. Integrate the Grass River Railroad as a rail trail for hiking and biking use. Create bridges over the wetlands to protect the ecosystem.

Most of the Grasse River Railroad bed is Forest Preserve land that is currently open to non-motorized use. Currently, the easternmost portion, in and near Conifer, is privately owned without any public rights making this type of trail infeasible.

13. Install a lean-to along the Grass River Rail Trail.

Recreation and management proposals for easement tracts rely on a variety of factors. Budget, resources, and projected use levels are all considered when deciding whether a trail or facility should be recommended. Land classification is also important. At this time, projected use levels cannot recommend the cost in staff and resources required to install a lean-to along the Grasse River Railroad bed on easement land. An existing lean-to on Burnt Bridge Pond, combined with the camping facilities proposed in this plan will provide sufficient opportunities along the route. This topic can be revisited if use levels surpass projections.

14. "The Rail Trail being planned is a great idea and will be an excellent recreational asset, but unlimited snowmobile access may make it too dangerous for cross country skiing."

The Grasse River Railroad bed is a Forest Preserve administrative access road that is addressed in Forest Preserve UMPs. Use of the road is outside the scope of this plan.

Snowmobiling Comments:

- 15. “Continue to allow snowmobile use on the Conifer-Emporium CE as snowmobiling can help the local economies...”**

This plan reflects the terms of the Easement Document of December 19, 1990. It endeavors to provide for all the rights acquired for the public. Snowmobile rights as acquired through the easement will continue to exist on the property and be improved with alternatives when appropriate.

- 16. “Update RMP to reflect current snowmobile trail guidance for the existing Class 2 Connector, Secondary, and Club Trails...”**

Snowmobile trails within the Conifer-Emporium Conservation Easement Tract are located mostly on existing haul roads that are maintained, according to The Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation’s New York State Snowmobile Trail Manual, based on trail class. The DEC will work with the Childwold Snow Packers if an update is needed to a trail’s classification. The Class 2 Connector guidance referred to in the comment was specific to Forest Preserve lands prior to being rescinded.

- 17. “Trail Closure signage and posting are the responsibility of the Grantor or SLCSA should be reimbursed for its efforts...”**

In recent seasons, trail closure signage and postings have been accomplished by NYSDEC staff and the Childwold Snow Packers, a SLCSA member club. The SLCSA and the Childwold Snow Packers operate under the terms and conditions of its Volunteer Stewardship Agreement. All parties work together to ensure safe and enjoyable use of the trails by the snowmobiling community.

- 18. “Honor snowmobile usage on all roads within the easement except roads plowed for logging...”**

This plan depicts all snowmobile trails and rights as acquired through the easement process. Snowmobiles may use all existing roads, though only designated snowmobile trails will be maintained via a VSA.

19. “...Construct new snowmobile trails, if necessary, to preserve trail system.”

Snowmobile trails on the Conifer-Emporium tract(s) conform to the rights acquired through the easement process. New and alternative trails are constructed when conditions call for and within the framework of easement terms.

20. “To establish continuity between snowmobile trails on both state and private land, the trail maintenance entity should be allowed to seek permission from the landowner to better facilitate the construction and maintenance of a snowmobile trail...”

The terms of the easement document were negotiated between the landowner and the State of New York. NYSDEC acquired the snowmobile rights to the property through that process. The VSA holder/steward responsible for maintaining the trails on the Conifer-Emporium easement acts as an agent of NYSDEC per the agreement.

21. “There should be information on how logging operations will impact trail operations and a procedure to deal with snowmobile trail closures in a timely fashion.”

NYSDEC works closely with the landowner and local snowmobile clubs to provide safe alternatives whenever logging operations shut down a trail. The scheduling of operations, the dynamic nature of conditions due to climate change, and availability of resources all affect the timing of these responses.

22. “Snowmobile speed limits should be clearly posted as distinct from motor vehicle speed limits.”

The VSA steward should work with the DEC to incorporate signage along designated snowmobile trails.

23. “Use signage to prevent the operation of a motor vehicle on a groomed snowmobile trail during snowmobile season, such as a “No Wheeled Vehicles” sign.”

Groomed snowmobile trails are generally not open to wheeled public motor vehicles between December 15th and mud season. In the case of the Conifer-Emporium Conservation Easement, the landowner and others with rights of way may access their properties according to their established rights. See Section C. Shared Maintenance of Improvements. Recreation Signs above for further information on signage plans for this property.

- 24. “Build a wooden bridge over the Grass River on snowmobile trail S88, south of STLA Jct. 3, where two crushed culverts create a continual state of washout or flooding.”**

NYSDEC is currently working with the landowner and the Childwold Snow Packers to address this issue. There is consensus between the Landowner and DEC that the current situation is unsustainable and that a bridge or some other arrangement be made. The process will require permitting from APA and can be expected to take time to complete.

- 25. The UMP/RMP should show the following Class II Trails: S88 Brandy Brook and Burnt Bridge trails on RR bed and logging roads on Saxe, Edgar, and Burnt Bridge Parcels, C7A Shurtleff Connector at Brandy Brook Station, C8 Old Wanakena Rd NYSSA #748 Inlet Rd on west border of the Rich Lumber Property, NYSSA# 747 Burnt Bridge Pond Trail to Burnt Bridge Pond Lean- to, NYSSA #718 GRRB, C7A GRRB, S78 GRRB / Conifer Rd or (Dead Creek Rd) Community Connector Trails: S78 GRRB / Conifer Haul Rd, S88 Alcan Rd, Burnt Bridge Rd, C7A Otter Brook / Massawepie Rd, S79 Carriage Rd NYSSA 718 GRRB, NYSSA 717 Alcan Rd, NYSSA 720 Silver Brook Spur Rd, NYSSA 719 North Ridge Club Rd, C7C Stove Pipe**

All designated snowmobile trails on the Conifer-Emporium Conservation Easement Tract and included in Volunteer Stewardship Agreements with NYSDEC have been depicted in the Existing Infrastructure map (p.94) and discussed in the section on snowmobile access on (p.49) of this plan. This plan includes all recent trail adjustments/alternatives to the network.

D. SEQRA

Agency Use Only [If Applicable]
 Project : Conifer-Emporium CE RMP
 Date : _____

Full Environmental Assessment Form
Part 3 - Evaluation of the Magnitude and Importance of Project Impacts
and
Determination of Significance

Part 3 provides the reasons in support of the determination of significance. The lead agency must complete Part 3 for every question in Part 2 where the impact has been identified as potentially moderate to large or where there is a need to explain why a particular element of the proposed action will not, or may, result in a significant adverse environmental impact.

Based on the analysis in Part 3, the lead agency must decide whether to require an environmental impact statement to further assess the proposed action or whether available information is sufficient for the lead agency to conclude that the proposed action will not have a significant adverse environmental impact. By completing the certification on the next page, the lead agency can complete its determination of significance.

Reasons Supporting This Determination:

To complete this section:

- Identify the impact based on the Part 2 responses and describe its magnitude. Magnitude considers factors such as severity, size or extent of an impact.
- Assess the importance of the impact. Importance relates to the geographic scope, duration, probability of the impact occurring, number of people affected by the impact and any additional environmental consequences if the impact were to occur.
- The assessment should take into consideration any design element or project changes.
- Repeat this process for each Part 2 question where the impact has been identified as potentially moderate to large or where there is a need to explain why a particular element of the proposed action will not, or may, result in a significant adverse environmental impact.
- Provide the reason(s) why the impact may, or will not, result in a significant adverse environmental impact
- For Conditional Negative Declarations identify the specific condition(s) imposed that will modify the proposed action so that no significant adverse environmental impacts will result.
- Attach additional sheets, as needed.

See attachment and location map.

Determination of Significance - Type 1 and Unlisted Actions

SEQR Status: ☒ Type 1 ☐ Unlisted

Identify portions of EAF completed for this Project: ☒ Part 1 ☒ Part 2 ☒ Part 3

FEAF 2019

Conifer-Emporium Conservation Easement
Draft Recreation Management Plan

Upon review of the information recorded on this EAF, as noted, plus this additional support information <u>Proposed Facilities maps.</u>	
and considering both the magnitude and importance of each identified potential impact, it is the conclusion of the NYSDEC _____ as lead agency that:	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A. This project will result in no significant adverse impacts on the environment, and, therefore, an environmental impact statement need not be prepared. Accordingly, this negative declaration is issued.	
<input type="checkbox"/> B. Although this project could have a significant adverse impact on the environment, that impact will be avoided or substantially mitigated because of the following conditions which will be required by the lead agency:	
There will, therefore, be no significant adverse impacts from the project as conditioned, and, therefore, this conditioned negative declaration is issued. A conditioned negative declaration may be used only for UNLISTED actions (see 6 NYCRR 617.7(d)).	
<input type="checkbox"/> C. This Project may result in one or more significant adverse impacts on the environment, and an environmental impact statement must be prepared to further assess the impact(s) and possible mitigation and to explore alternatives to avoid or reduce those impacts. Accordingly, this positive declaration is issued.	
Name of Action: Conifer-Emporium Conservation Easement (CECE) Recreation Management Plan	
Name of Lead Agency: NYSDEC	
Name of Responsible Officer in Lead Agency: Kramer Kwaczala	
Title of Responsible Officer: Forester 1	
Signature of Responsible Officer in Lead Agency: <i>Kramer Kwaczala</i>	Date: 2/14/23
Signature of Preparer (if different from Responsible Officer)	Date:
For Further Information: Contact Person: Peter D'luhosch Address: 190 Outer Main Street, Suite 103, Postdam, NY 13676 Telephone Number: 518-294-4045 E-mail: peter.dluhosch@dec.ny.gov	
For Type 1 Actions and Conditioned Negative Declarations, a copy of this Notice is sent to: Chief Executive Officer of the political subdivision in which the action will be principally located (e.g., Town / City / Village of) Other involved agencies (if any) Applicant (if any) Environmental Notice Bulletin: http://www.dec.ny.gov/enb/enb.html	

PRINT FULL FORM

Page 2 of 2

Conifer-Emporium Conservation Easement Draft Recreation Management Plan

Part 3 Attachment

Question #1

Impact on Land

h. Other impacts:

This Plan involves the construction of 5.6-miles of foot trails. The foot trails will extend from existing roads and follow existing skid trails to the greatest extent possible. This Plan also proposes the construction of eight (8) new unpaved parking areas and six (6) new primitive campsites. To ensure that there are no significant environmental impacts associated with these management actions, the following Best Management Practices will be followed.

Trail construction:

A total of 5.6-miles of new foot-trails will be located such that the amount of cut and fill is minimal; will be routed away from or around wetlands to the greatest extent practicable; and will not be located on areas with unstable slopes, grades exceeding 10% or characterized by erodible soils;

Measures will be taken to ensure that any surface water from new trails will drain away from adjacent wetlands into undisturbed forest soil or other vegetated areas. The measures will include the installment of water bars and other trail drainage structures. These control measures will be inspected and maintained on a regular basis to ensure that they remain functional;

Operations will be conducted only during dry periods of weather to avoid soil compaction and erosion;

Proper layout techniques will be followed to minimize erosion;

Construction of parking areas and campsites:

Where possible, flat, stable, well-drained sites which have already been cleared (such as old log landings or lease camp sites) will be used;

Gravel will be added where necessary to avoid runoff and decrease the likelihood of erosion. Some grading and raking may be required.

Question #3

Impacts on Surface Water

I. Other impacts

Bridge installation:

Bridges will be sited on elevated, firm and stable banks, at locations that minimize the length of stream crossings, and will be constructed above the mean annual water level. Stream bank stabilizing structures made of natural materials will be used. Soil stabilizing practices will be followed on exposed soil around bridges following construction. Construction will avoid disruption of fish and other aquatic life.

Hand launch construction:

The proposed hand launch will be located on dry, level ground. Some brush and a small number of trees may need to be removed to establish the sites. The entry into the water at the proposed site will be hardened with natural materials to maximize accessibility. The access point at the mean water level will be monitored to ensure it remains vegetated. If the access point shows signs of erosion, the banks will be stabilized with large, flat rocks in a way that facilitates access and also protects the banks from further erosion.

Question #7

Impact on Plants and Animals

j. Other impacts:

Constructing new foot-trails, parking areas, and campsites will require removal of trees, branches, and possibly stumps. Tree cutting will be minimal.

Each of the projects discussed in this Plan will be addressed in a project work plan detailing the number of trees to be removed and other specific project information prior to any work on the ground.

Question #10

Impact on Historic and Archeological Resources

d. Other impacts:

The Grasse River Railroad, recognized as a part of the New York Central Railroad Adirondack Division Historic District, runs through the Property from the Town of Conifer to the intersection with NYS Route 3 by the Town of Cranberry Lake. The sections of the railroad that cross the Property are currently protected as NYS Forest Preserve.

This Plan proposes actions on conservation easement lands adjacent to the historic railroad parcels. No actions are proposed on the Forest Preserve.

E. APA Review Letter



KATHY HOCHUL
Governor

BARBARA RICE
Executive Director

January 6, 2023

NYS DEC Region 6 Div. of Lands and Forests
Attn: Peter D'Luhosch
190 Outer Main St. Suite 103
Potsdam, NY 13676

**RE: Jurisdictional Determination J2022-1004
Conifer Emporium Conservation Easement
Draft Recreation Management Plan**

Dear Peter D'Luhosch:

Thank you for providing the Draft Conifer Emporium Conservation Easement Recreation Management Plan (CECE RMP) to the Agency for review pursuant to the MOU Between the Adirondack Park Agency and the Department of Environmental Conservation Concerning State-Owned Conservation Easements on Private Lands Within the Adirondack Park (MOU).

The following are management proposals included in the plan as summarized on page iii of the Draft Plan:

- New informational signage and maps will be placed at the already existing kiosks on the Property;
- 3.0 additional miles of existing roads will be newly opened to public passenger vehicles. In total, 5.0 miles of road will be open on the Property;
- Eleven (11) parking areas will be newly constructed or maintained;
- This plan does not propose any new snowmobile routes, only the continued maintenance of existing snowmobile routes. There are currently 27.3 miles of roads and trails open to public snowmobile use;
- Approximately six (6) miles of non-motorized trails will be sustainably constructed, for a total of 54 miles of roads and trails that will be open to non-motorized public recreation on the Property;
- Six (6) primitive campsites will be constructed, two (2) of which will meet universal accessibility standards;
- An accessible hand launch for persons with disabilities will be constructed to provide non-motorized water access to the South Branch of the Grass River, a designated scenic river;
- A rock-climbing area will be established at Little Mountain;

P.O. Box 99 • 1133 NYS Route 86 • Ray Brook, NY 12977 • Tel: (518) 891-4050 • www.apa.ny.gov

**Conifer-Emporium Conservation Easement
Draft Recreation Management Plan**

- Hunting, fishing, and trapping will continue to be permitted throughout the property, subject to all applicable seasons and regulations.

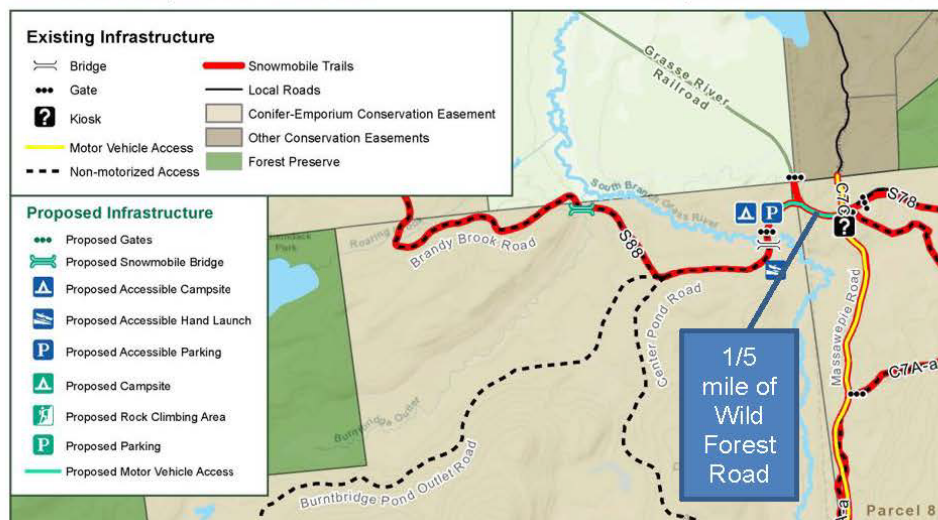
With one exception as described in more detail below, each of these proposals is a “minor activity” meeting the criteria set forth in sections II (b) and II (c) of the MOU. Even though these activities are considered “minor” pursuant to the terms of the MOU, further consultation with the Agency is recommended whenever these activities may involve wetlands or classified river corridors. Agency staff are available to assist with wetland delineations and permit requirements as necessary. Please contact the Agency to schedule a site visit or arrange for a pre-application consultation as soon as possible when planning the project.

Activities Requiring Further Agency Review

The draft plan proposes “An accessible hand launch for persons with disabilities will be constructed to provide non-motorized water access to the South Branch of the Grass River, a designated scenic river”. For this particular proposal to be undertaken, it requires that a portion of a Wild Forest Road along the Grass River Railroad Corridor be opened to public motor vehicle use. The map below from page 93 of the draft plan highlights the section of Wild Forest Road which would become available for public motor vehicle use. The Wild Forest Road is located on the Grass River Railroad corridor between Massawepie Road and Center Pond Road.

Conifer-Emporium CE RMP

Proposed Facilities: Parcel #6



During review of the Draft Plan, Agency staff consulted with DEC Regional staff regarding this proposal and learned that the Grass River Railroad at this location is part of the Cranberry Lake Wild Forest Unit. The Cranberry Lake Wild Forest Unit does not identify the road as a public Wild Forest Road, and it is currently managed by the regional office as an administrative road over Forest Preserve with reserved rights held by adjacent hunting clubs and landowners. The chart below shows all the public road mileage identified within the Cranberry Lake Wild Forest Unit. This chart was provided by DEC staff for public review as part of the ongoing Agency board interpretation of the State Land Master Plan and Basic Guideline #4 dealing with No Material Increase of public Wild Forest Road mileage.

May 2022

Adirondack Wild Forest Road Mileage			
Cranberry Lake Wild Forest			
Road Name	1972 Miles	2022 Miles	Notes
Burntbridge Pond Road	6.3	0	Closed as a management decision
Totals:	6.3	0.0	
Net Change in Road Mileage:	-6.3		
Percent Change in Road Mileage:	N/A		
<div><div></div>No change in Wild Forest road mileage since 1972</div> <div><div></div>Loss in Wild Forest road mileage since 1972</div> <div><div></div>Gain in Wild Forest road mileage since 1972</div>			

Draft Plan Recommendations

The action as currently proposed in the draft plan requires that the Wild Forest Road identified above be included within a final UMP or UMP Amendment before it is opened to public motor vehicle use. Alternatively, the road may be identified for inclusion in the CP-3 program. It is recommended that if this proposal is retained within the RMP, the management strategy for how this Wild Forest Road will be handled is further clarified, and the proposal is pending until road usage over the Forest Preserve is resolved.

Conclusion

Upon the submission of this letter to Department staff engaged in the ongoing development of this RMP, part V (a) (3) of the MOU is satisfied and the Agency welcomes further consultation at the discretion of the Department. Thank you for the opportunity to review the draft plan and provide comments.

NYS DEC Region 6 Div. of Lands and Forests
January 6, 2023
Page 4

Sincerely,

/s/John Burth

John Burth
Environmental Program Specialist 3, Regulatory Programs

cc: Peter Frank, Bureau Chief, Forest Preserve Management
Josh Clague, Adirondack Forest Preserve Coordinator
Keith Rivers, Region 6 Supervisor of Natural Resources

F. Inventory lists that are too long for in-text (over one page)

Breeding Bird Atlas Inventory List

Common Name	Scientific Name	NYS Legal Status
Alder Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax alnorum</i>	Protected
American Bittern	<i>Botaurus lentiginosus</i>	Protected-Special Concern
American Black Duck	<i>Anas rubripes</i>	Game Species
American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	Game Species
American Goldfinch	<i>Spinus tristis</i>	Protected
American Kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius</i>	Protected
American Redstart	<i>Setophaga ruticilla</i>	Protected
American Robin	<i>Turdus migratorius</i>	Protected
American Woodcock	<i>Scolopax minor</i>	Game Species
Bald Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	Threatened
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Protected
Barred Owl	<i>Strix varia</i>	Protected
Belted Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle alcyon</i>	Protected
Black-and-white Warbler	<i>Mniotilta varia</i>	Protected
Black-backed Woodpecker	<i>Picoides arcticus</i>	Protected
Black-billed Cuckoo	<i>Coccyzus erythrophthalmus</i>	Protected
Blackburnian Warbler	<i>Dendroica fusca</i>	Protected
Black-capped Chickadee	<i>Poecile atricapillus</i>	Protected
Black-throated Blue Warbler	<i>Dendroica caerulescens</i>	Protected
Black-throated Green Warbler	<i>Dendroica virens</i>	Protected
Blue Jay	<i>Cyanocitta cristata</i>	Protected
Blue-headed Vireo	<i>Vireo solitarius</i>	Protected
Boreal Chickadee	<i>Poecile hudsonicus</i>	Protected
Broad-winged Hawk	<i>Buteo platypterus</i>	Protected
Brown Creeper	<i>Certhia americana</i>	Protected

Brown-headed Cowbird	<i>Molothrus ater</i>	Protected
Canada Goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>	Game Species
Canada Warbler	<i>Wilsonia canadensis</i>	Protected
Cedar Waxwing	<i>Bombycilla cedrorum</i>	Protected
Chestnut-sided Warbler	<i>Dendroica pensylvanica</i>	Protected
Chimney Swift	<i>Chaetura pelagica</i>	Protected
Chipping Sparrow	<i>Spizella passerina</i>	Protected
Common Grackle	<i>Quiscalus quiscula</i>	Protected
Common Loon	<i>Gavia immer</i>	Protected-Special Concern
Common Merganser	<i>Mergus merganser</i>	Game Species
Common Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	Protected
Common Yellowthroat	<i>Geothlypis trichas</i>	Protected
Cooper's Hawk	<i>Accipiter cooperii</i>	Protected-Special Concern
Dark-eyed Junco	<i>Junco hyemalis</i>	Protected
Downy Woodpecker	<i>Picoides pubescens</i>	Protected
Eastern Bluebird	<i>Sialia sialis</i>	Protected
Eastern Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus tyrannus</i>	Protected
Eastern Phoebe	<i>Sayornis phoebe</i>	Protected
Eastern Wood-Pewee	<i>Contopus virens</i>	Protected
European Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Unprotected
Evening Grosbeak	<i>Coccothraustes vespertinus</i>	Protected
Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>	Game Species
Golden-crowned Kinglet	<i>Regulus satrapa</i>	Protected
Gray Catbird	<i>Dumetella carolinensis</i>	Protected
Gray Jay	<i>Perisoreus canadensis</i>	Protected
Great Blue Heron	<i>Ardea herodias</i>	Protected
Great Crested Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus crinitus</i>	Protected
Great Horned Owl	<i>Bubo virginianus</i>	Protected
Hairy Woodpecker	<i>Picoides villosus</i>	Protected
Hermit Thrush	<i>Catharus guttatus</i>	Protected
Hooded Merganser	<i>Lophodytes cucullatus</i>	Game Species

**Conifer-Emporium Conservation Easement
Draft Recreation Management Plan**

House Wren	<i>Troglodytes aedon</i>	Protected
Indigo Bunting	<i>Passerina cyanea</i>	Protected
Least Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax minimus</i>	Protected
Lincoln's Sparrow	<i>Melospiza lincolnii</i>	Protected
Magnolia Warbler	<i>Dendroica magnolia</i>	Protected
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Game Species
Merlin	<i>Falco columbarius</i>	Protected
Mourning Dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	Protected
Mourning Warbler	<i>Oporornis philadelphia</i>	Protected
Nashville Warbler	<i>Vermivora ruficapilla</i>	Protected
Northern Flicker	<i>Colaptes auratus</i>	Protected
Northern Goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>	Protected-Special Concern
Northern Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	Threatened
Northern Parula	<i>Parula americana</i>	Protected
Northern Saw-whet Owl	<i>Aegolius acadicus</i>	Protected
Northern Waterthrush	<i>Seiurus noveboracensis</i>	Protected
Olive-sided Flycatcher	<i>Contopus cooperi</i>	Protected
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	Protected-Special Concern
Ovenbird	<i>Seiurus aurocapilla</i>	Protected
Palm Warbler	<i>Dendroica palmarum</i>	Protected
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	Endangered
Philadelphia Vireo	<i>Vireo philadelphicus</i>	Protected
Pileated Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus pileatus</i>	Protected
Pine Siskin	<i>Spinus pinus</i>	Protected
Pine Warbler	<i>Dendroica pinus</i>	Protected
Purple Finch	<i>Carpodacus purpureus</i>	Protected
Red-bellied Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes carolinus</i>	Protected
Red-breasted Merganser	<i>Mergus serrator</i>	Game Species
Red-breasted Nuthatch	<i>Sitta canadensis</i>	Protected
Red-eyed Vireo	<i>Vireo olivaceus</i>	Protected
Red-shouldered Hawk	<i>Buteo lineatus</i>	Protected-Special Concern

**Conifer-Emporium Conservation Easement
Draft Recreation Management Plan**

Red-tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	Protected
Red-winged Blackbird	<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>	Protected
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	<i>Pheucticus ludovicianus</i>	Protected
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	<i>Regulus calendula</i>	Protected
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	<i>Archilochus colubris</i>	Protected
Ruffed Grouse	<i>Bonasa umbellus</i>	Game Species
Rusty Blackbird	<i>Euphagus carolinus</i>	Protected
Savannah Sparrow	<i>Passerculus sandwichensis</i>	Protected
Scarlet Tanager	<i>Piranga olivacea</i>	Protected
Sharp-shinned Hawk	<i>Accipiter striatus</i>	Protected-Special Concern
Song Sparrow	<i>Melospiza melodia</i>	Protected
Spotted Sandpiper	<i>Actitis macularius</i>	Protected
Spruce Grouse	<i>Falci pennis canadensis</i>	Endangered
Swainson's Thrush	<i>Catharus ustulatus</i>	Protected
Swamp Sparrow	<i>Melospiza georgiana</i>	Protected
Tennessee Warbler	<i>Vermivora peregrina</i>	Protected
Tree Swallow	<i>Tachycineta bicolor</i>	Protected
Turkey Vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i>	Protected
Veery	<i>Catharus fuscescens</i>	Protected
White-breasted Nuthatch	<i>Sitta carolinensis</i>	Protected
White-throated Sparrow	<i>Zonotrichia albicollis</i>	Protected
Wild Turkey	<i>Meleagris gallopavo</i>	Game Species
Wilson's Snipe	<i>Gallinago delicata</i>	Game Species
Winter Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	Protected
Wood Duck	<i>Aix sponsa</i>	Game Species
Wood Thrush	<i>Hylocichla mustelina</i>	Protected
Yellow Warbler	<i>Dendroica petechia</i>	Protected
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax flaviventris</i>	Protected
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	<i>Sphyrapicus varius</i>	Protected
Yellow-rumped Warbler	<i>Dendroica coronata</i>	Protected
Yellow-throated Vireo	<i>Vireo flavifrons</i>	Protected

**Conifer-Emporium Conservation Easement
Draft Recreation Management Plan**

NYS Herp Atlas Inventory List

Common Name	Scientific Name	NYS Legal Status
Allegheny Dusky Salamander	<i>Desmognathus ochrophaeus</i>	Protected
American Bullfrog	<i>Lithobates catesbeiana</i>	Game Species; with Season
Common Garter Snake	<i>Thamnophis sirtalis</i>	Protected
Common Snapping Turtle	<i>Chelydra s. serpentina</i>	Game Species; with Season
Eastern American Toad	<i>Anaxyrus a. americanus</i>	Game Species; with Season
Gray Treefrog	<i>Hyla versicolor</i>	Game Species; with Season
Green Frog	<i>Lithobates clamitans melanota</i>	Game Species; with Season
Mink Frog	<i>Lithobates septentrionalis</i>	Game Species; with Season
Northern Dusky Salamander	<i>Desmognathus fuscus</i>	Protected
Northern Leopard Frog	<i>Lithobates pipiens</i>	Game Species; with Season
Northern Redback Salamander	<i>Plethodon c. cinereus</i>	Protected
Northern Redbelly Snake	<i>Storeria o. occipitomaculata</i>	Protected
Northern Ringneck Snake	<i>Diadophis punctatus edwardsii</i>	Protected
Northern Spring Peeper	<i>Pseudacris c. crucifer</i>	Game Species; with Season
Northern Spring Salamander	<i>Gyrinophilus p. porphyriticus</i>	Protected
Northern Two-lined Salamander	<i>Eurycea bislineata</i>	Protected
Painted Turtle	<i>Chrysemys picta</i>	Protected
Pickerel Frog	<i>Lithobates palustris</i>	Game Species; with Season
Red-spotted Newt	<i>Notophthalmus v. viridescens</i>	Protected
Smooth Green Snake	<i>Liochlorophis vernalis</i>	Protected

**Conifer-Emporium Conservation Easement
Draft Recreation Management Plan**

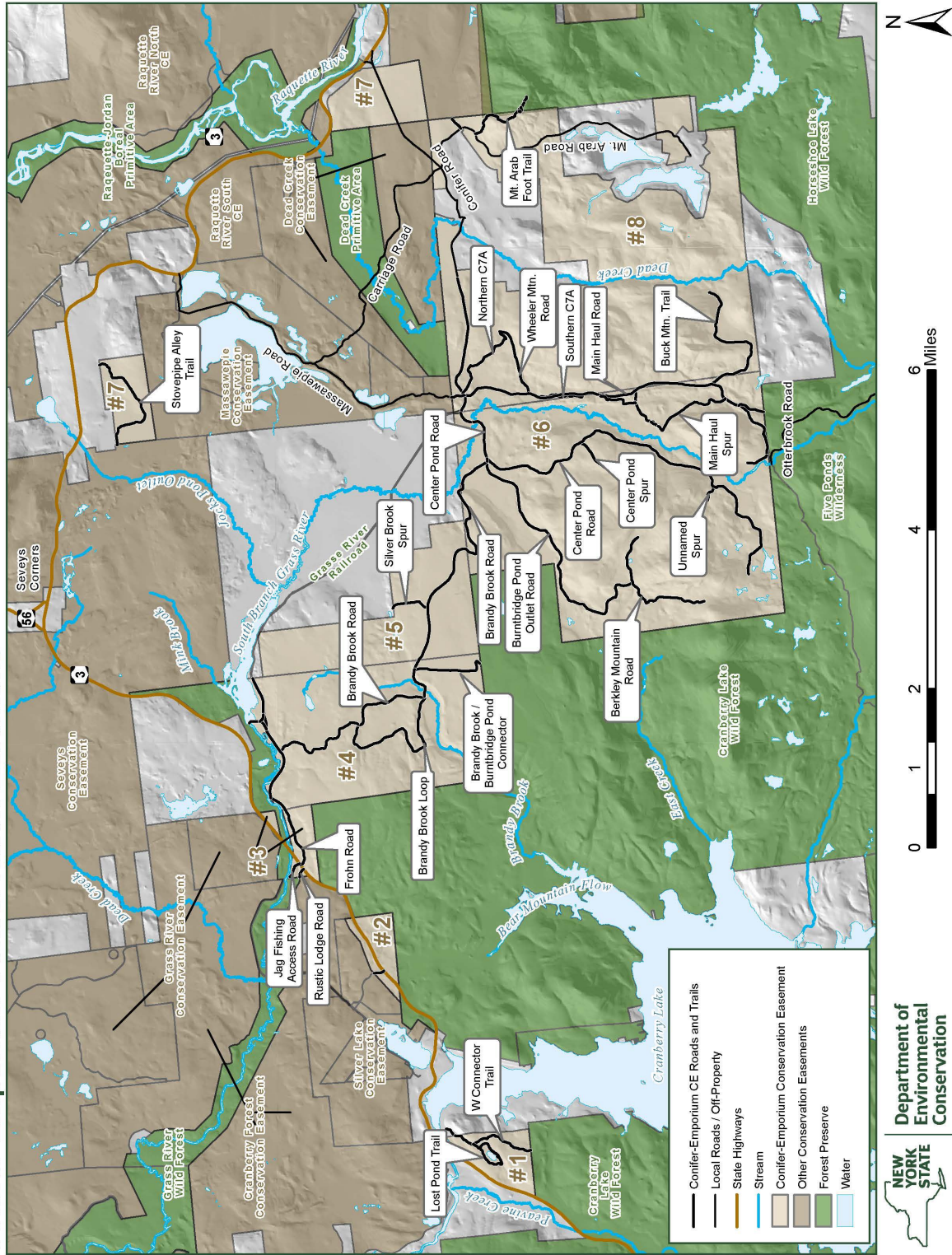
Spotted Salamander	<i>Ambystoma maculatum</i>	Protected
Wood Frog	<i>Lithobates sylvatica</i>	Game Species; with Season
Wood Turtle	<i>Clemmys insculpta</i>	Special Concern Species

G. Maps

1. Property Description Map (page 92)
2. Existing Infrastructure Map (page 93)
3. Proposed Infrastructure Maps (pages 94 – 101)
4. Soils Map (page 102)
5. USGS Quadrangle Map (page 103)
6. Hydrology Map (page 104)
7. Breeding Bird Atlas Blocks (page 105)
8. Deer Wintering Yards (page 106)

Conifer-Emporium Conservation Easement

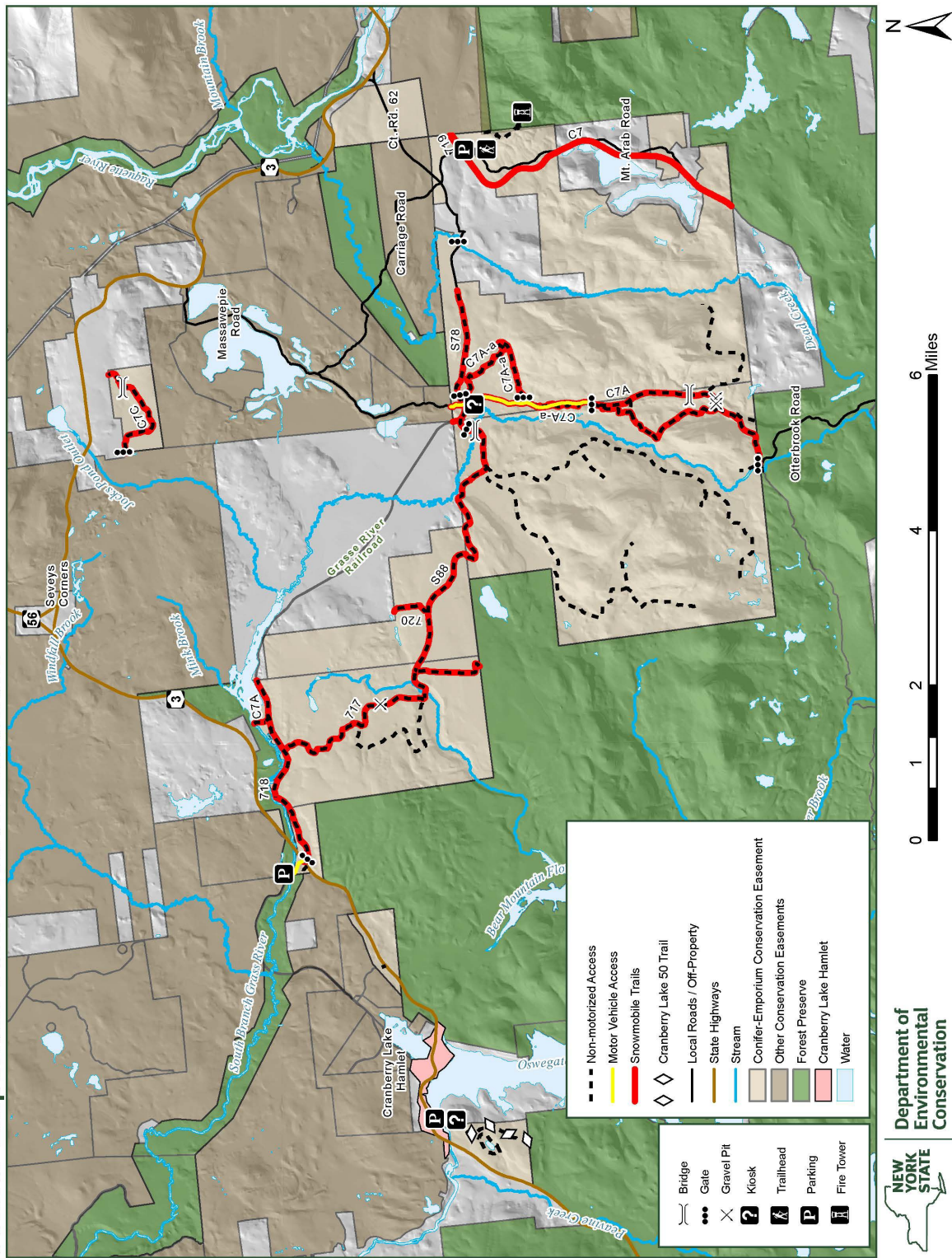
Property Description Map



Conifer-Emporium Conservation Easement Draft Recreation Management Plan

Conifer-Emporium Conservation Easement

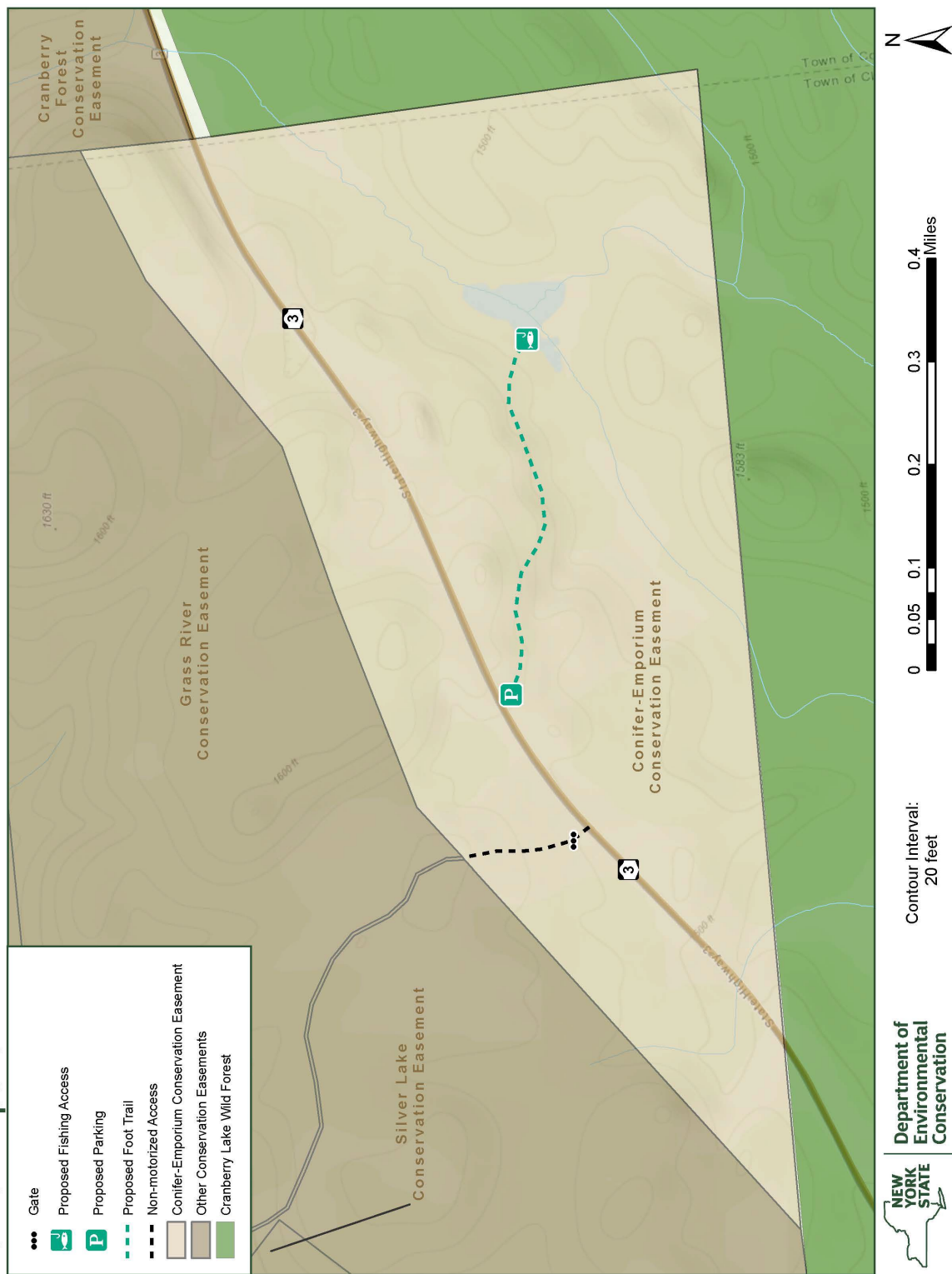
Existing Infrastructure Map



Conifer-Emporium Conservation Easement Draft Recreation Management Plan

Conifer-Emporium CE RMP

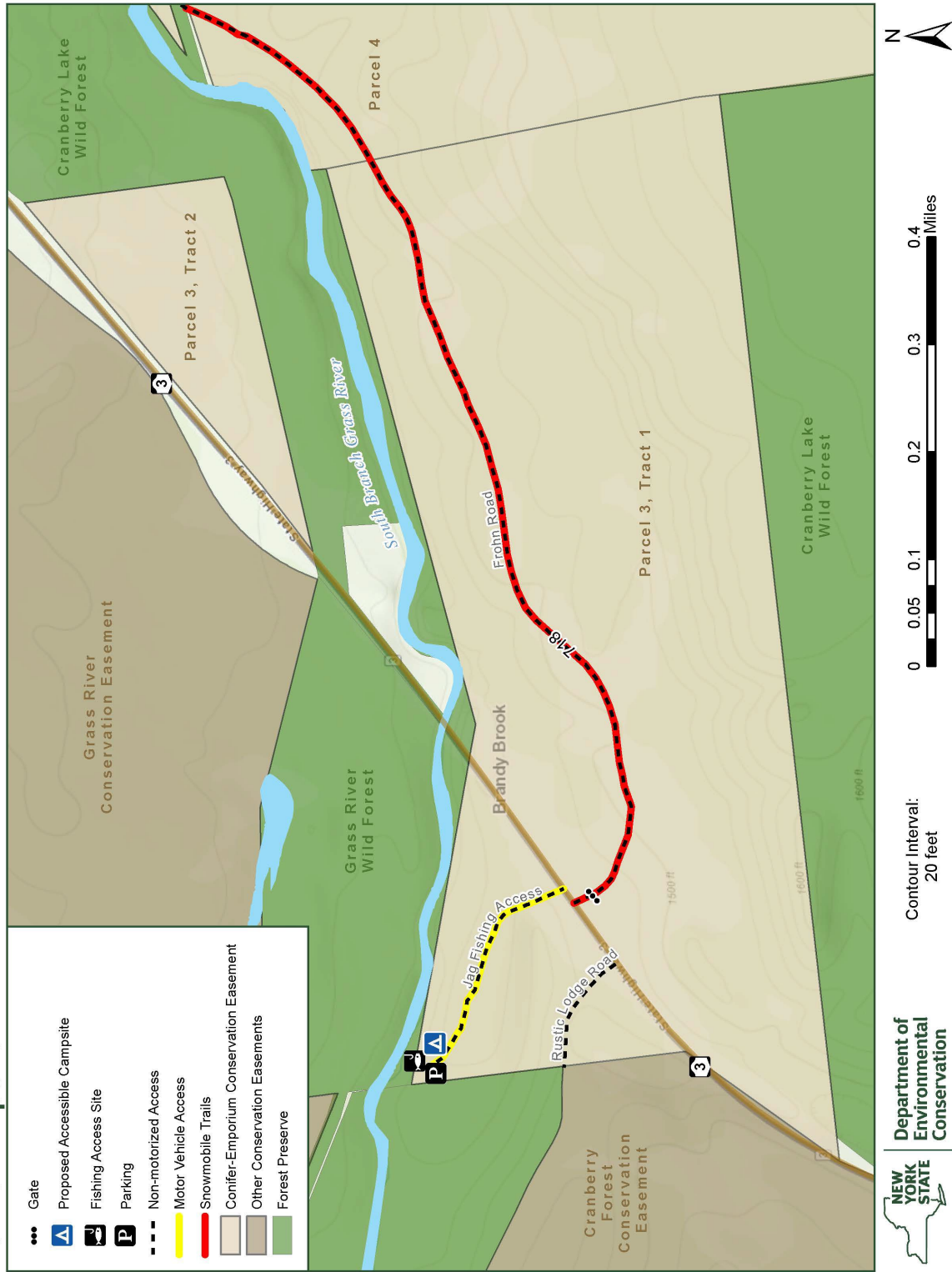
Proposes Facilities: Parcel #2



Conifer-Emporium Conservation Easement Draft Recreation Management Plan

Conifer-Emporium CE RMP

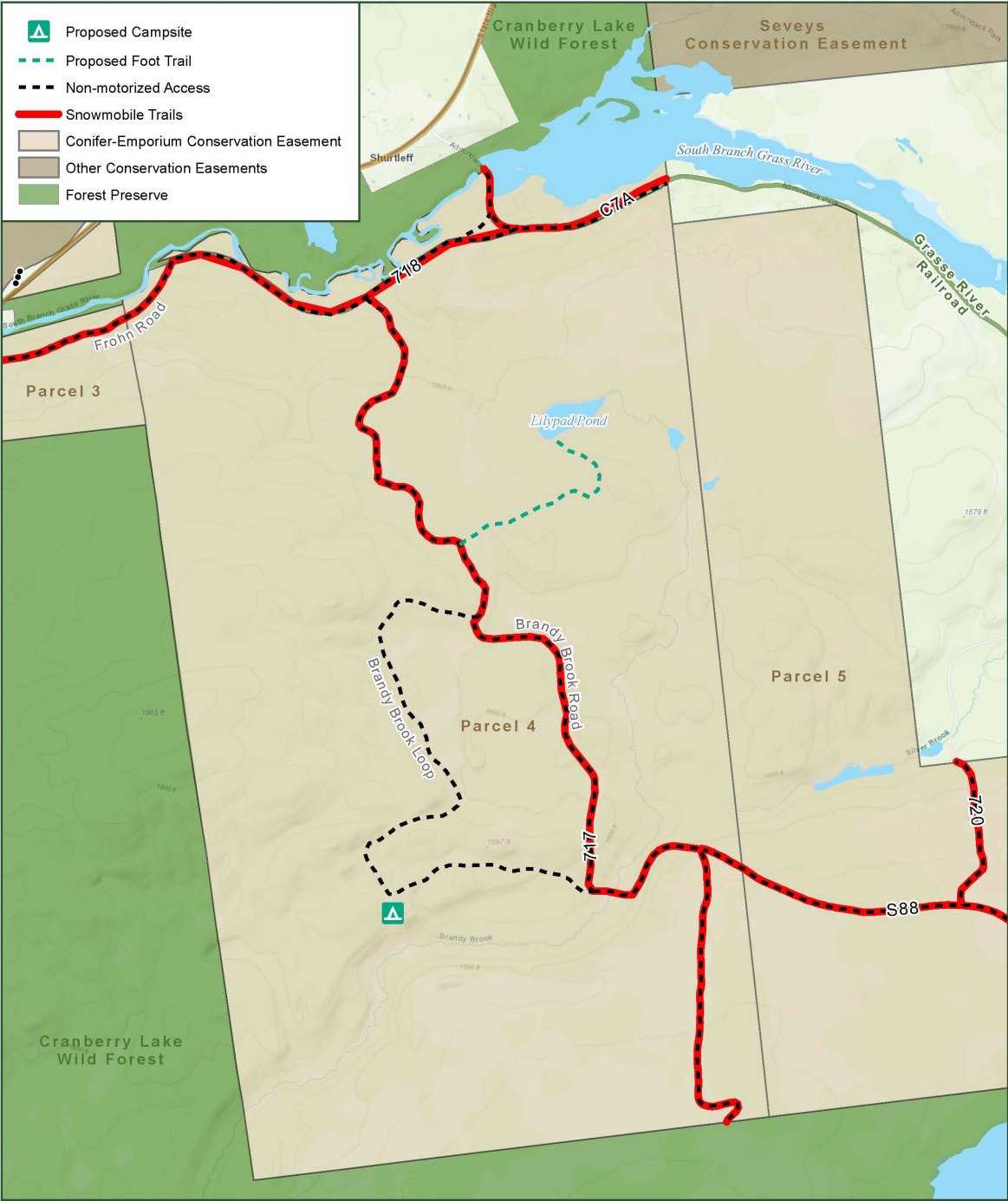
Proposed Facilities: Parcel #3




Conifer-Emporium Conservation Easement Draft Recreation Management Plan

Conifer-Emporium CE RMP

Proposed Facilities: Parcel #4






Department of
Environmental
Conservation

Contour Interval:
20 feet

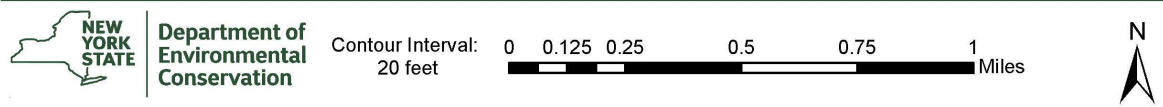
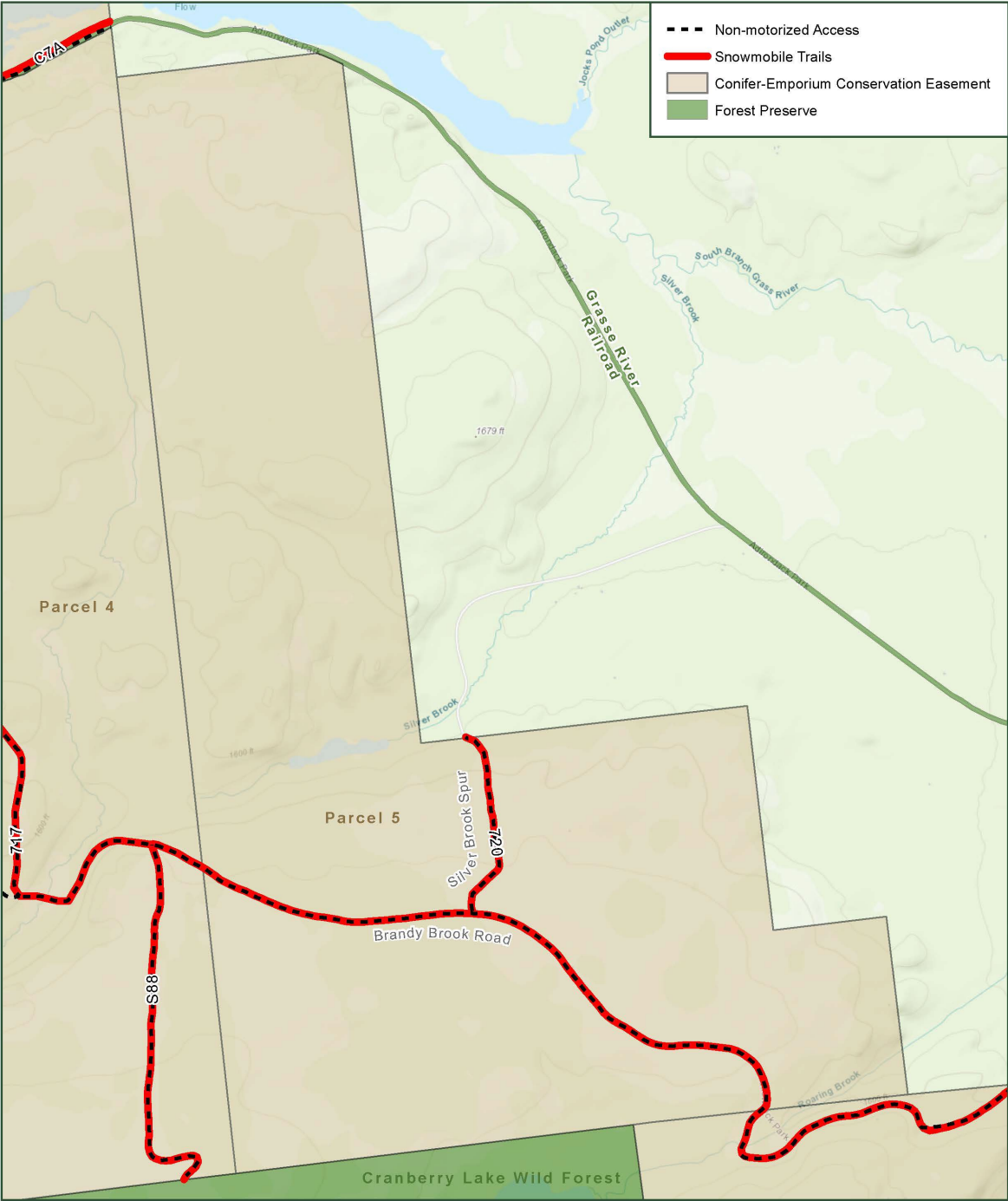
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Miles



**Conifer-Emporium Conservation Easement
Draft Recreation Management Plan**

Conifer-Emporium CE RMP

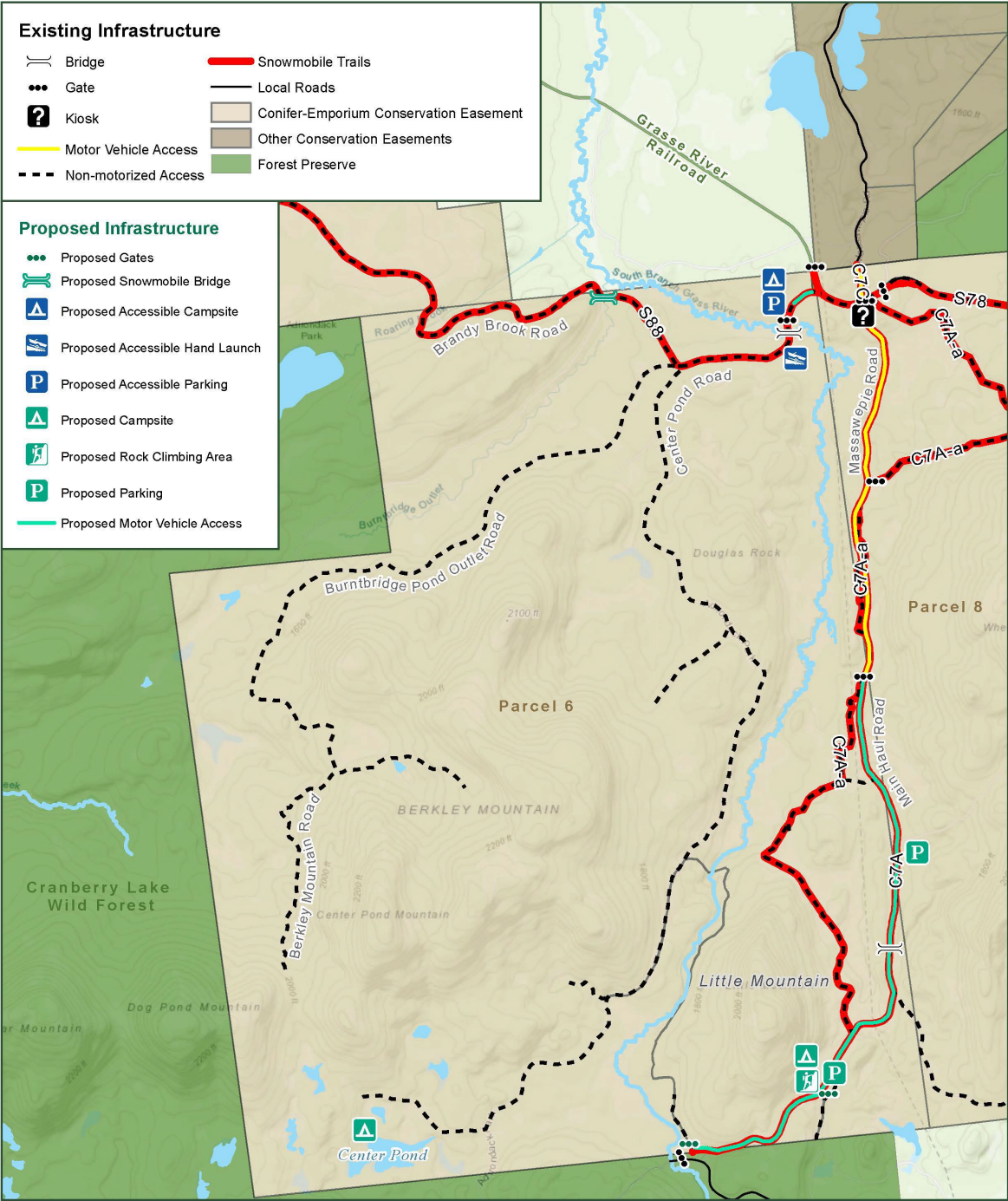
Proposed Facilities: Parcel #5



Conifer-Emporium Conservation Easement
Draft Recreation Management Plan

Conifer-Emporium CE RMP

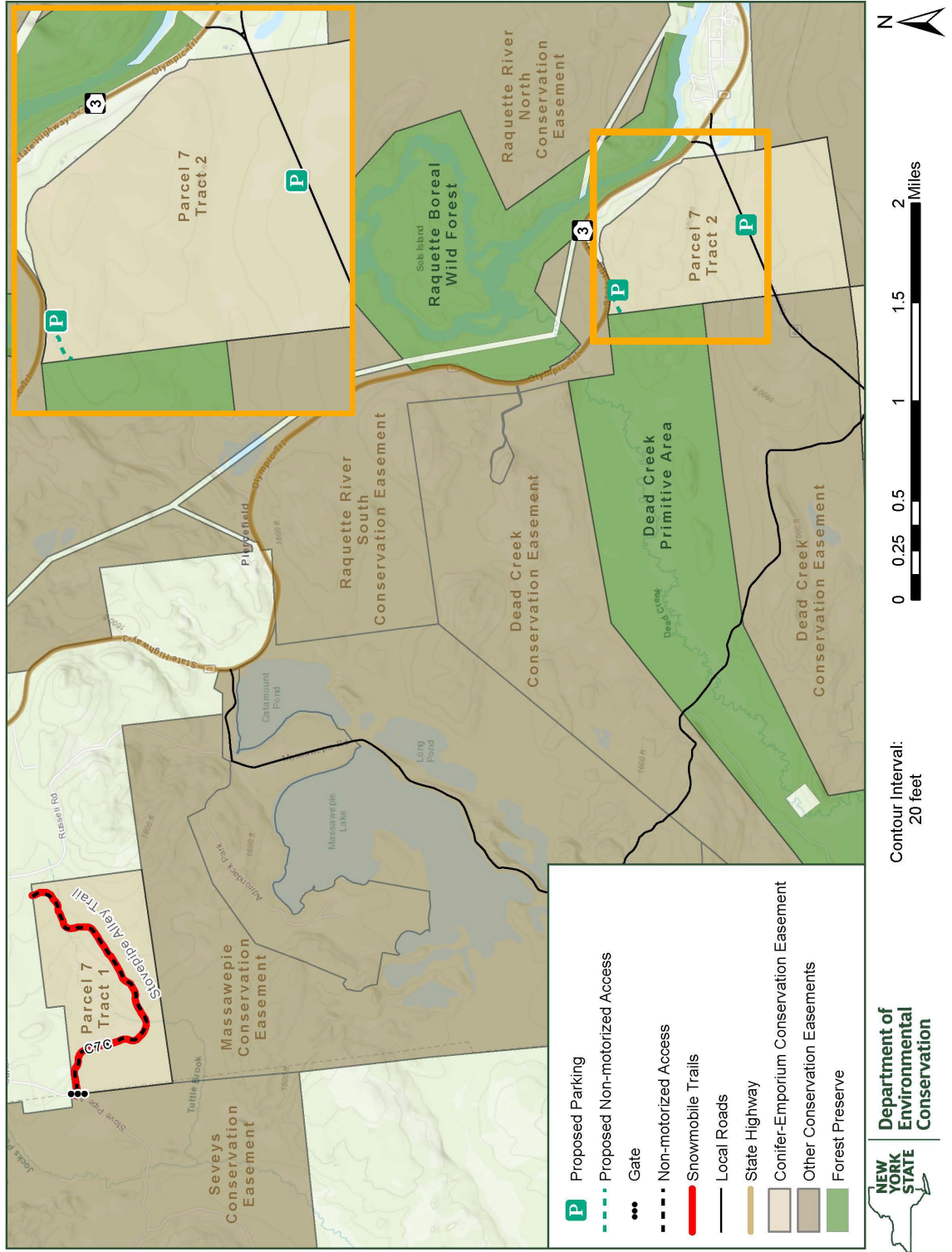
Proposed Facilities: Parcel #6



Conifer-Emporium Conservation Easement
Draft Recreation Management Plan

Conifer-Emporium CE RMP

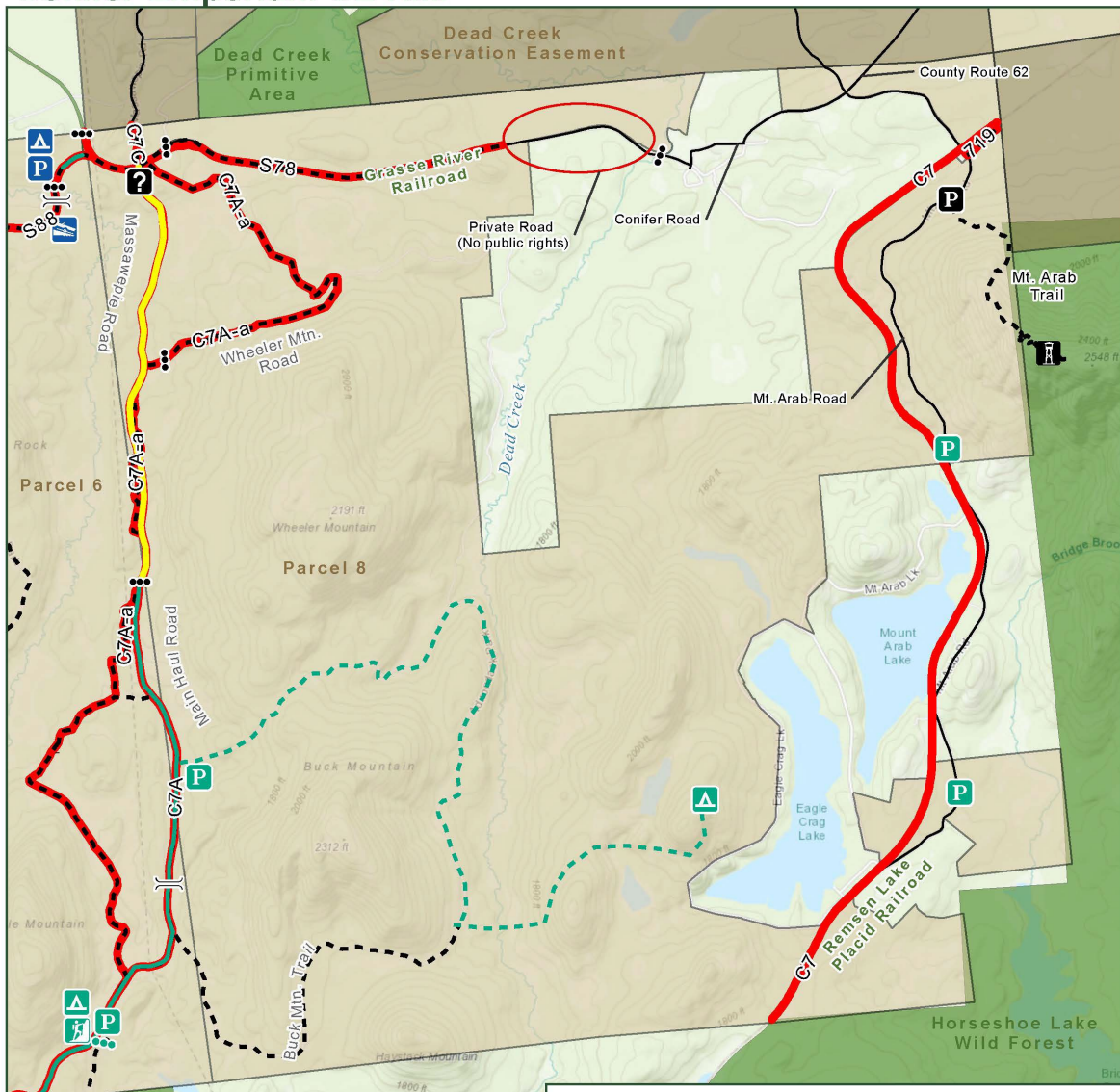
Proposed Facilities: Parcel #7



Conifer-Emporium Conservation Easement Draft Recreation Management Plan

Conifer-Emporium CE RMP

Proposed Facilities: Parcel #8



Proposed Facilities

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------|--|-------------------------------|
| | Proposed Accessible Hand Launch | | Proposed Rock Climbing Area |
| | Proposed Accessible Campsite | | Proposed Parking |
| | Proposed Accessible Parking | | Proposed Motor Vehicle Access |
| | Proposed Campsite | | Proposed Non-motorized Access |
| | Proposed Gates | | |

Existing Facilities

- | | | | |
|--|--------------|--|--|
| | Gate | | Non-motorized Access |
| | Bridge | | Motor Vehicle Access |
| | Kiosk | | Snowmobile Trails |
| | Parking Area | | Public Road/No Jurisdiction |
| | Fire Tower | | Conifer-Emporium Conservation Easement |
| | | | Other Conservation Easements |
| | | | Forest Preserve |



Department of
Environmental
Conservation

Contour Interval:
20 feet

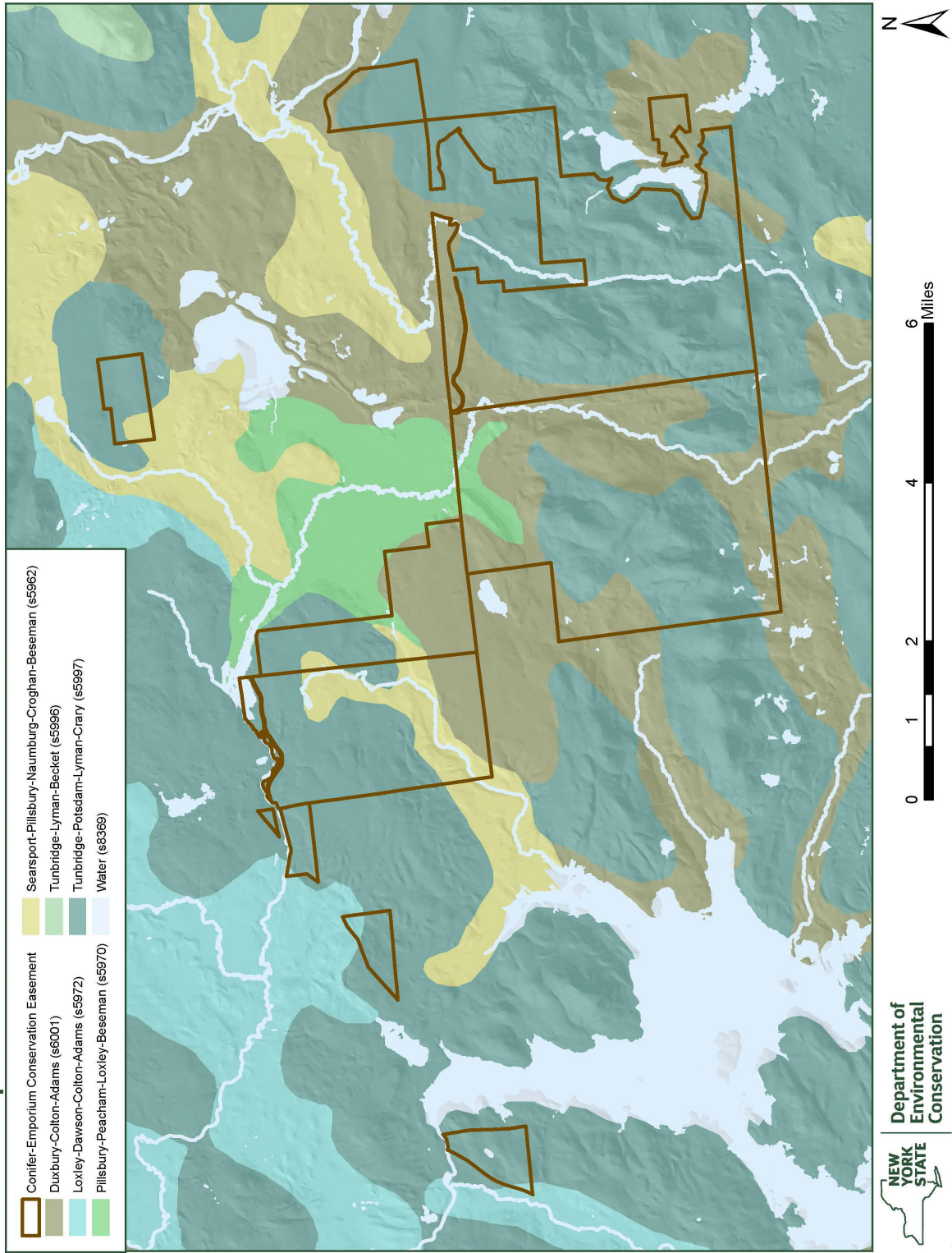
0 0.25 0.5 1 1.5
Miles



Conifer-Emporium Conservation Easement Draft Recreation Management Plan

Conifer-Emporium Conservation Easement

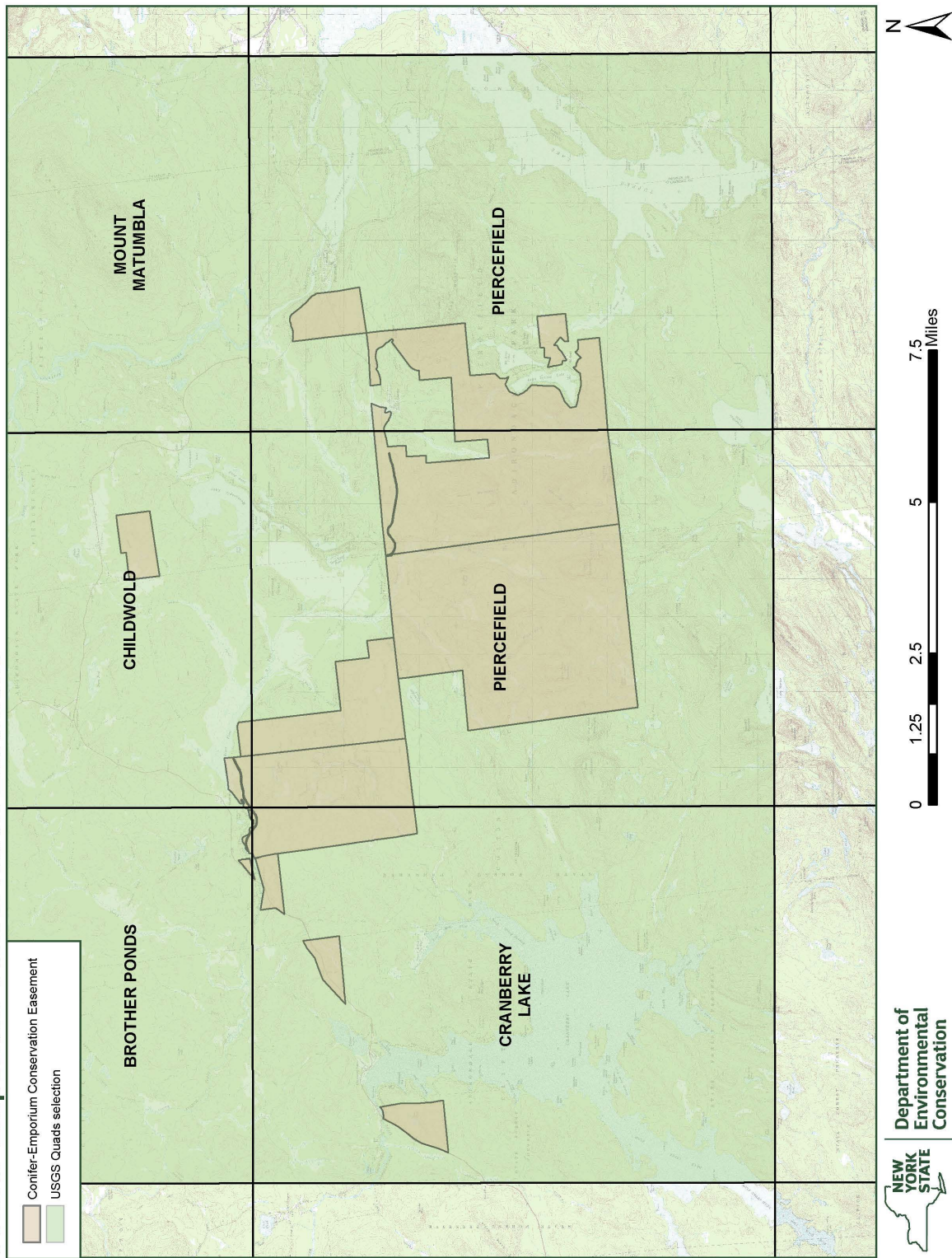
Soils Map



Conifer-Emporium Conservation Easement Draft Recreation Management Plan

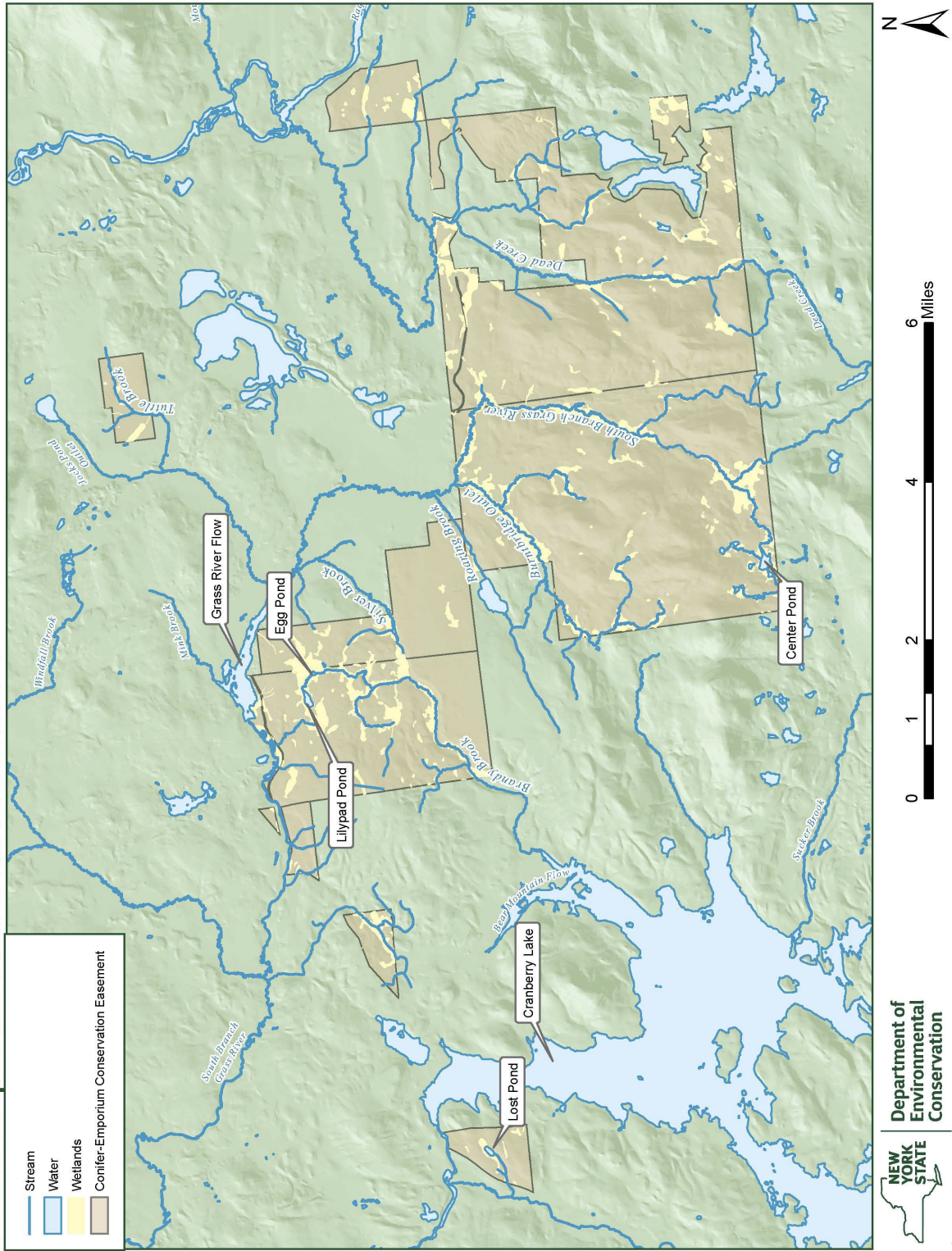
Conifer-Emporium Conservation Easement

USGS 7.5 min Quads Map



Conifer-Emporium Conservation Easement Draft Recreation Management Plan

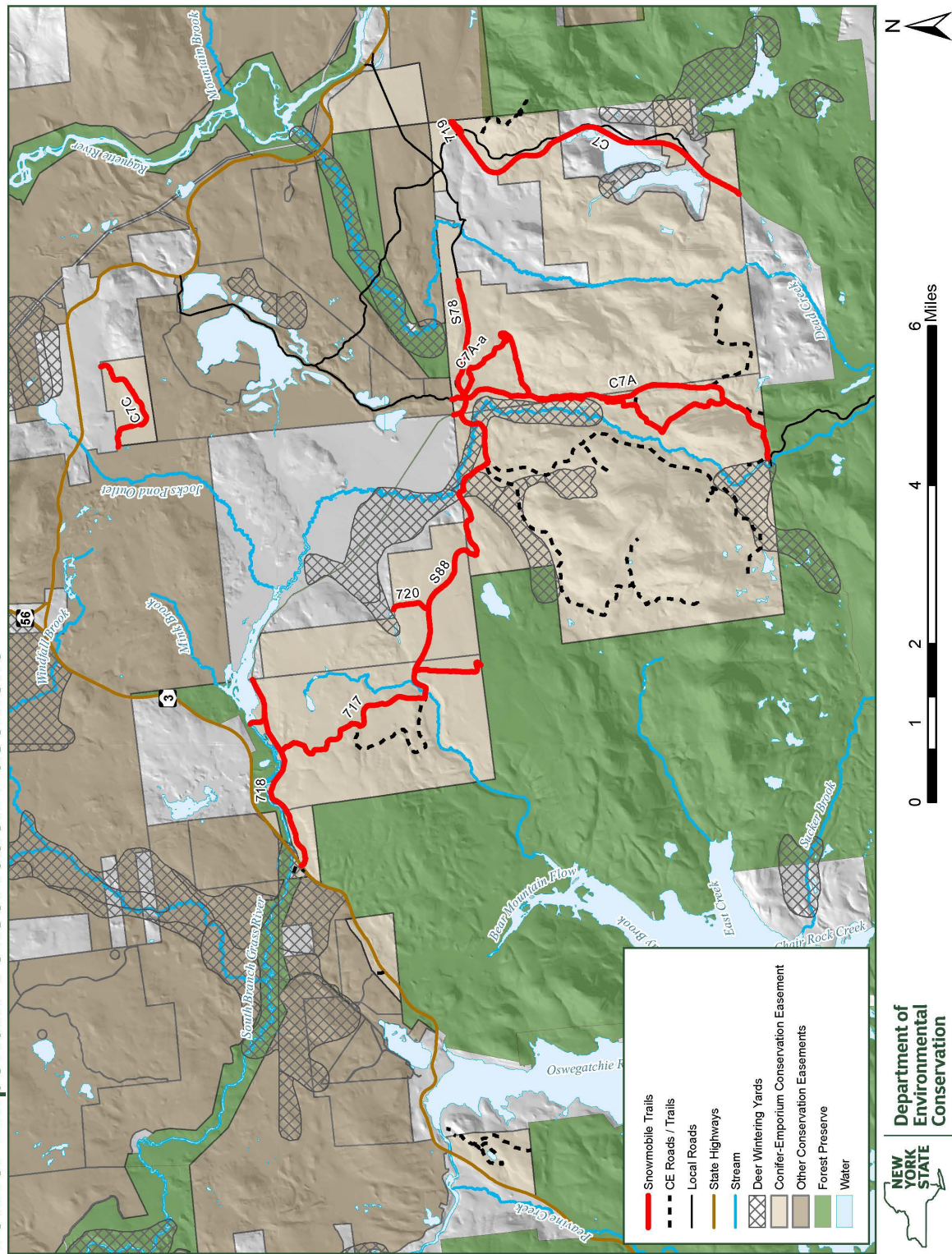
Conifer-Emporium Conservation Easement



Conifer-Emporium Conservation Easement Draft Recreation Management Plan

Breeding Bird Atlas Blocks Map





Conifer-Emporium Conservation Easement Draft Recreation Management Plan