NEW YORK STATE OF OPPORTUNITY. | Department of Environmental Conservation

# Neversink River

# UNIT MANAGEMENT PLAN

## DRAFT

### Towns of Forestburgh, Highland, Mamakating and Wawarsing.

Sullivan and Ulster Counties

June 2022

**DIVISION OF LANDS AND FORESTS**
Bureau of Forest Resource Management, Region 3

21 South Putt Corners Rd. New Paltz, NY 12561.

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# Neversink River

# Unit Management Plan

**A planning unit consisting of 5 State Forests, in Sullivan and Ulster Counties**

**June 2022**


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New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

Division of Lands and Forests

Region 3

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## DEC's Mission

"The quality of our environment is fundamental to our concern for the quality of life. It is hereby declared to be the policy of the State of New York to conserve, improve and protect its natural resources and environment and to prevent, abate and control water, land and air pollution, in order to enhance the health, safety and welfare of the people of the state and their overall economic and social well-being." - Environmental Conservation Law 1-0101(1)

## Vision Statement

State Forests on the Neversink River Unit will be managed in a sustainable manner by promoting ecosystem health, enhancing landscape biodiversity, protecting soil productivity and water quality. In addition, the State Forests on this unit will continue to provide the many recreational, social, and economic benefits valued so highly by the people of New York State. DEC will continue the legacy, which was started in 1929, of leaving these lands to the next generation in better condition than they are today.

This plan sets the stage for DEC to reach these ambitious goals by applying the latest research and science, with guidance from the public, whose land we have been entrusted to manage.

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# Preface

## State Forest Overview

The public lands comprising this unit play a unique role in the landscape. Generally, the State Forests of the unit are described as follows:

1. large, publicly owned land areas;
2. managed by professional Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) foresters;
3. green certified jointly by the Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC®) & Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI®);
4. set aside for the sustainable use of natural resources, and;
5. open to recreational use.

Management will ensure the **sustainability**, **biological diversity**, and protection of **functional ecosystems** and optimize the ecological benefits that these State lands provide, including the following:

1. maintenance/increase of local and regional biodiversity
2. response to shifting land use trends that affect habitat availability
3. mitigation of impacts from invasive species
4. response to climate change through carbon sequestration and habitat, soil and water protection

### Legal Considerations

Article 9, Titles 5 and 7, of the Environmental Conservation Law (ECL) authorize DEC to manage lands acquired outside the Adirondack and Catskill Parks. This management includes **watershed protection**, production of **timber** and other forest products, **recreation**, and **kindred purposes**.

For additional information on DEC's legal rights and responsibilities, please review the statewide Strategic Plan for State Forest Management (SPSFM) at https://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/64567.html. Refer specifically to pages 33 and 317.

### CP-42 Contact Cooperation, and Consultation with Indian Nations

The Commissioner's Policy (CP-42) (https://www.dec.ny.gov/public/36929.html) provides guidance to DEC staff concerning cooperation and consultation with Indian Nations on issues relating to protection of environmental and cultural resources within New York State. Specifically, this policy (i) formally recognizes that relations between the Department and Indian Nations will be conducted on a government-to-government basis; (ii) identifies the protocols to be followed by Department staff in working with Indian Nations; and (iii) endorses the development of cooperative agreements between the Department and Indian Nations to address environmental and cultural resource issues of mutual concern.

Nine Indian Nations reside within or have common geographic borders with New York State: the Mohawk, Oneida, Onondaga, Cayuga, Seneca, Tonawanda Seneca, Tuscarora, Unkechaug, and Shinnecock. Communication between DEC and the Indian Nations should be direct and involve two-way dialogue and feedback. Face-to-face meetings are generally desirable; however, phone calls, correspondence, and other methods of communication are also encouraged. Therefore, DEC staff should be reaching out to the respective Nations as early in

the UMP planning process as possible. The Department wishes to ensure that its actions, with respect to the environment and cultural resources, are sensitive to the concerns of Indian Nations, and that the perspective of the recognized Indian Nations is sought and taken into account when the Department undertakes an action having implications for indigenous peoples, their territories, and their culture. The Department and Indian Nations share key roles in protecting and preserving natural and cultural resources important to all citizens, and early consultation and cooperation between the Department and Indian Nations will foster more comprehensive protection and preservation of those resources.

## Management Planning Overview

The Neversink River Unit Management Plan (UMP) is based on a long-range vision for the management of Hickok Brook Multiple Use Area (MUA), Oak Ridge MUA, Painters Hill MUA, Wolf Brook MUA, and Neversink River Unique Area (UA)), balancing long-term ecosystem health with current and future demands. This Plan addresses management activities on this unit for the next ten years, though some management recommendations will extend beyond the ten-year period. Factors such as budget constraints, wood product markets, and forest health problems may necessitate deviations from the scheduled management activities.

### Public Participation

One of the most valuable and influential aspects of UMP development is public participation. Public meetings are held to solicit input from written and verbal comments are encouraged while management plans are in draft form. Mass-mailings press releases and other methods for soliciting input are often also used to obtain input from adjoining landowners, interest groups and the general public.

### Strategic Plan for State Forest Management

This unit management plan is designed to implement DEC's statewide Strategic Plan for State Forest Management (SPSFM). Management actions are designed to meet local needs while supporting statewide and ecoregional goals and objectives.

The SPSFM is the statewide master document and Generic Environmental Impact Statement (GEIS) that guides the careful management of natural and recreational resources on State Forests. The plan aligns future management with principles of landscape ecology, ecosystem management, multiple use management and the latest research and science available at this time. It provides a foundation for the development of Unit Management Plans. The SPSFM divides the State into 80 geographic "units," composed of DEC administered State Forests that are adjacent and similar to one another. For more information on management planning, see SPSFM page 21 at https://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/64567.html.

## DEC's Management Approach and Goals

## Forest Certification of State Forests

In 2000, New York State DEC-Bureau of State Land Management received Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC®) certification under an independent audit conducted by the National Wildlife Federation - SmartWood Program. This certification included 720,000 acres of State Forests in DEC Regions 3 through 9 managed for water quality protection, recreation, wildlife habitat, timber, and mineral resources (multiple-use). To become certified, the Department had to meet more than 75 rigorous criteria established by FSC. Meeting these criteria established a

benchmark for forests managed for long-term ecological, social, and economic health. The original certification and contract were for five years.

By 2005 the original audit contract with the SmartWood Program expired. Recognizing the importance and the value of dual certification, the Bureau sought bids from prospective auditing firms to reassess the Bureau's State Forest management system to the two most internationally accepted standards - FSC and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI®) program. However, contract delays and funding shortfalls slowed the Departments ability to award a new agreement until early 2007.

Following the signed contract with NSF-International Strategic Registrations and Scientific Certification Systems, the Department was again audited for dual certification against FSC and additionally the SFI program standards on over 762,000 acres of State Forests in Regions 3 through 9. This independent audit of State Forests was conducted by these auditing firms from May until July 2007 with dual certification awarded in January 2008.

State Forests continue to maintain certification under the most current FSC and SFI standards. Forest products derived from wood harvested off State Forests from this point forward may be labeled as "certified" through chain-of-custody certificates. Forest certified labeling on wood products may assure consumers that the raw material was harvested from well-managed forests.

The Department is part of a growing number of public, industrial, and private forest landowners throughout the United States and the world whose forests are certified as sustainably managed. The Department's State Forests can also be counted as part of a growing number of working forest land in New York that is *third-party certified* as well managed to protect habitat, cultural resources, water, recreation, and economic values now and for future generations.

FSC
www.fsc.org

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SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY INITIATIVE
SFI-00102

## Ecosystem Management Approach

State Forests on this unit will be managed using an ecosystem management approach which will holistically integrate principles of landscape ecology and multiple use management to promote habitat biodiversity, while enhancing the overall health and resiliency of the State Forests.

Ecosystem management is a process that considers the total environment - including all non-living and living components; from soil micro-organisms to large mammals, their complex interrelationships and habitat requirements and all social, cultural, and economic factors. For more information on ecosystem management, see SPSFM page 39 at https://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/64567.html.

### *Multiple-use Management*

DEC will seek to simultaneously provide many resource values on the unit such as, fish and wildlife, wood products, recreation, aesthetics, minerals, watershed protection, and historic or scientific values.

**Landscape ecology seeks to improve landscape conditions, taking into account the existing habitats and land cover throughout the planning unit, including private lands**

### *Landscape Ecology*

The guiding principle of multiple use management on the unit will be to provide a wide diversity of habitats that naturally occur within New York, while ensuring the protection of rare, endangered, and threatened species and perpetuation of highly ranked unique natural communities. The actions included in this plan have been developed following an analysis of habitat needs and overall landscape conditions within the planning unit (i.e., the geographical area surrounding and including the State Forests) the larger ecoregion and New York State.

## Ecosystem Management Strategies

The following strategies are the tools at DEC's disposal, which will be carefully employed to practice landscape ecology and multiple-use management on the unit. The management strategy will affect species composition and habitat in both the short and long term. For more information on these management strategies, please see SPSFM page 81 at https://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/64567.html.

### *Passive Management*

DEC foresters will employ passive management strategies through the designation of natural and protection areas, and buffers around those areas, such as along streams, ponds and other wetlands, where activity is limited.

### *Silviculture (Active Management)*

DEC foresters will practice silviculture; the art and science of controlling the establishment, growth, composition, health, and quality of forests and woodlands, in an effort to promote biodiversity and produce sustainable forest products. There are two fundamental silvicultural systems which can mimic the tree canopy openings and disturbances that occur naturally in all forests; even-aged management and uneven aged management. Each system favors a different set of tree species. In general, even-aged management includes creating wide openings for large groups of trees that require full sunlight to regenerate and grow together as a cohort, while uneven-aged management includes creating smaller patch openings for individual trees or small groups of trees that develop in the shade but need extra room to grow to their full potential.

## State Forest Management Goals

### *Goal 1 – Provide Healthy and Biologically Diverse Ecosystems*

Ecosystem health is measured in numerous ways. One is by the degree to which natural processes are able to take place. Another is by the amount of naturally occurring species that

are present, and the absence of non-native species. No single measure can reveal the overall health of an ecosystem, but each is an important part of the larger picture. The Department will manage State Forests so that they demonstrate a high degree of health as measured by multiple criteria, including the biodiversity that they support.

### *Goal 2 – Maintain Man-made State Forest Assets*

Man-made assets on State Forests include structures, boundary lines, trails, roads and any other object or infrastructure that exists because it was put there by people. Many of these items need no more than a periodic check to make sure they are still in working order. Others need regular maintenance to counteract the wear of regular use. It is the Department's intent to ensure that all man-made items on State Forests are adequately maintained to safely perform their intended function.

### *Goal 3 – Provide Recreational Opportunities for People of all Ages and Abilities*

State Forests are suitable for a wide variety of outdoor recreational pursuits. Some of these activities are entirely compatible with one another, while others are best kept apart from each other. Equally varied are the people who undertake these activities, as well as their abilities, and their desire to challenge themselves. While not all people will be able to have the experience they desire on the same State Forest, the Department will endeavor to provide recreational opportunities to all those who wish to experience the outdoors in a relatively undeveloped setting.

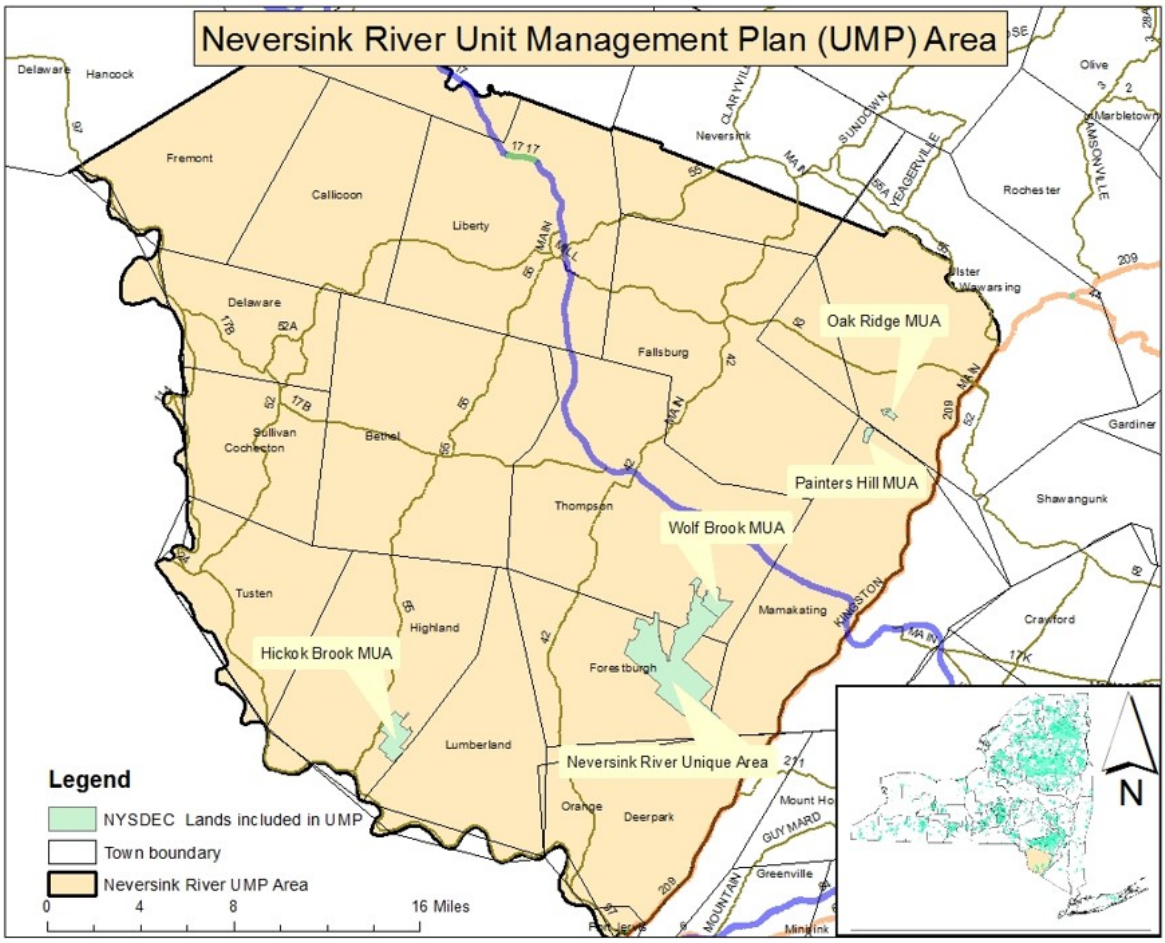
### *Goal 4 – Provide Economic Benefits to the People of the State*

ECL §1-0101(1) provides in relevant part that "It is hereby declared to be the policy of the State of New York to conserve, improve and protect its natural resources and environment and to prevent, abate and control water, land and air pollution, in order to enhance the health, safety and welfare of the people of the state and their overall **economic** and social well-being." (Emphasis added) In considering all proposed actions, the Department will attempt to balance environmental protection with realizing potential economic benefit.

### *Goal 5 – Provide a Legal Framework for Forest Conservation and Sustainable Management of State Forests*

Staff must have clear and sound guidance to direct their decisions and actions. Likewise, the public must have clear information regarding what they are and are not allowed to do on State Forests. Both of these are provided by well-written laws, regulations and policies. The Department will work to improve existing legal guidance, which has proved to be inadequate, and create new guidance that is needed but does not yet exist.

## Location Map



## Information on the Unit Name Unit

### State Lands in the Unit

Table I.A. contains the names of the state land facilities that make up this unit. A web page has been developed for each of the State Forests. Each web page features an updated map of the State Forest with recreational information and natural features.

*Table I.A. – State Lands in the Unit*

| Facility Name and Webpage | Acreage |
|---|---|
| Sullivan 01 Wolf Brook Multiple Use Area (MUA) https://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/104409.html | 585 |
| Sullivan 02 Hickok Brook Multiple Use Area (MUA) https://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/104404.html | 1036 |
| Sullivan 04 Painters Hill Multiple Use Area (MUA) https://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/104523.html | 104 |
| Sullivan 06 Neversink River Unique Area (UA) https://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/104402.html | 6823 |
| Ulster 04 Oak Ridge Multiple Use Area (MUA) https://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/104624.html | 96 |
| TOTAL | 8644 |

### High Conservation Value Forests

High Conservation Value Forests (HCVF) are those portions of State Forests that have known high conservation values, which the Department feels should take precedent over all other land use and management decisions. HCVFs may not be identified on every Unit and State Forests that have an HCVF designated will not necessarily have multiple classifications. Areas that are identified as having exceptional values may be managed for timber, wildlife and/or recreation, however management activities must maintain or enhance the high conservation values present. Currently, HCVFs are assigned to one or more of five land classifications, four of which may be found on State Forests:

1. Rare Community - Forest areas that are in or contain rare, threatened or endangered ecosystems.

2. Special Treatment - Forest areas containing globally, regionally or nationally significant concentrations of biodiversity values (e.g. endemism, endangered species, and refugia).

3. Cultural Heritage – Forest areas fundamental to meeting basic needs of local communities (e.g. subsistence, health) and are critical to their traditional cultural identity (areas of cultural, ecological, economic or religious significance identified in cooperation with such local communities).

4. Watershed - Forest areas that provide safe drinking water to local municipalities.

5. Forest Preserve* - Forest areas containing globally, regionally or nationally significant large landscape level forests, contained within, or containing the management unit, where viable populations of most if not all naturally occurring species exist in natural patterns of distribution and abundance.

**Forest Preserve lands inside both the Adirondack and Catskills Park Blue Line. Although Forest Preserve is not considered State Forest, they offer a significant high conservation value for lands managed by the Department.*

Portions of the Neversink River Unit have been identified as having high conservation value. Acreage totals for designated HCVFs located within the unit can be found in the appropriate sections below. For more information on HCVFs please go to https://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/42947.html.

## Soils

Soils provide the foundation, both figuratively and literally, of forested ecosystems. They support an immense number of microorganisms, fungi, mosses, insects, herpetofauna and small mammals which form the base of the food chain. They filter and store water and provide and recycle nutrients essential for all plant life. For information on DEC's policies for the protection of forest soils, as well as water resources please see SPSFM page 108 at https://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/64567.html.

*Table I.B. - Soils*

| Facility Name | Predominant Soil Type(s) | Acres |
|---|---|---|
| Neversink River Unique Area | Wellsboro and Wurtsboro soils | 1970.8 |
| Neversink River Unique Area | Arnot-Lordstown Complex | 1883.7 |
| Neversink River Unique Area | Arnot-Rock Outcrop | 787.8 |
| Neversink River Unique Area | Swartswood and Lackawanna Soils | 733.3 |
| Neversink River Unique Area | Lordstown-Arnot Complex | 234.7 |
| Neversink River Unique Area | Valois gravelly Sand Loam | 186.5 |
| Neversink River Unique Area | Lordstown Silt Loam | 124.1 |
| Neversink River Unique Area | Palms Muck | 72.8 |
| Neversink River Unique Area | Scriba and Morris Loams | 68.4 |
| Neversink River Unique Area | Chenango gravelly loam | 68.1 |
| Neversink River Unique Area | Swartswood Gravelly Loam | 62.1 |
| Neversink River Unique Area | Neversink and Alden Soils | 50.9 |
| Neversink River Unique Area | Wurtsboro Loam | 41.2 |
| Neversink River Unique Area | Carlisle muck | 40.8 |
| Neversink River Unique Area | Red Hook Sandy Loam | 22.1 |
| Neversink River Unique Area | Barbour Loam | 21.0 |

# Information on the Unit Name Unit

Soils

*Table I.B. - Soils*

| Facility Name | Predominant Soil Type(s) | Acres |
|---|---|---|
| Neversink River Unique Area | Scriba Loam | 20.1 |
| Neversink River Unique Area | Fluvaquents-Udifluvents complex, frequently flooded | 17.8 |
| Neversink River Unique Area | Alden Silt Loam | 13.2 |
| Neversink River Unique Area | Neversink Loam | 11.8 |
| Neversink River Unique Area | Unadilla Silt Loam | 9.7 |
| Neversink River Unique Area | Bash Silt Loam | 7.6 |
| Neversink River Unique Area | Riverhead Sandy Loam | 7.2 |
| Neversink River Unique Area | Tunkhannock gravelly loam | 6.5 |
| Neversink River Unique Area | Tuller Rock Complex | 4.9 |
| Neversink River Unique Area | Tunkhannock and Otisville | 4.8 |
| Neversink River Unique Area | Scio Silt Loam | 4.6 |
| Neversink River Unique Area | Wallington Silt Loam | 2.8 |
| Neversink River Unique Area | Carlisle, Palms, and Alden soils, ponded | 1.8 |
| Neversink River Unique Area | Philo Silt Loam | 1.8 |
| Wolf Brook MUA | Wellsboro and Wurtsboro soils | 210.2 |
| Wolf Brook MUA | Swartswood and Lackawanna soils | 115.7 |
| Wolf Brook MUA | Neversink and Alden soils | 69.1 |
| Wolf Brook MUA | Lordstown silt loam | 54.3 |
| Wolf Brook MUA | Scriba and Morris loams | 19.5 |
| Wolf Brook MUA | Chenango Gravelly loam | 12.2 |
| Wolf Brook MUA | Palms Muck | 4.3 |
| Wolf Brook MUA | Oquaga-Arnot complex | 3.8 |
| Wolf Brook MUA | Lordstown Arnot complex | 1.8 |
| Hickok Brook MUA | Wurtsboro loam | 278.2 |
| Hickok Brook MUA | Wellsboro and Wurtsboro soils | 207.5 |
| Hickok Brook MUA | Swartswood gravelly loam | 147.7 |
| Hickok Brook MUA | Arnolt rock complex | 65.7 |
| Hickok Brook MUA | Alden silt loam | 15.1 |
| Hickok Brook MUA | Arnot-Lordstown complex | 23.45 |
| Hickok Brook MUA | Valois gravelly sandy loam | 54.3 |
| Hickok Brook MUA | Scriba loam | 52.7 |

*Table I.B. - Soils*

| Facility Name | Predominant Soil Type(s) | Acres |
|---|---|---|
| Hickok Brook MUA | Arnot-Oquago Complex | 41.5 |
| Hickok Brook MUA | Wellsboro gravelly loam | 35.1 |
| Hickok Brook MUA | Swartswood and Lackawanna soils | 33.4 |
| Hickok Brook MUA | Lackawanna Channery loam | 26.9 |
| Hickok Brook MUA | Lordstown silt loam | 26.7 |
| Hickok Brook MUA | Carlisle, Palms and Alden soil | 10.4 |
| Hickok Brook MUA | Palms muck | 10.3 |
| Hickok Brook MUA | Lordstown-Arnolt complex | 6.0 |
| Hickok Brook MUA | Wallington silt loam | 1.3 |
| Painters Hill MUA | Wellsboro and Wurtsboro soils | 46.6 |
| Painters Hill MUA | Smartswood and Lackawanna soils | 32.4 |
| Painters Hill MUA | Scriba and Morris loams | 10.5 |
| Painters Hill MUA | Morris loam | 7.3 |
| Painters Hill MUA | Arnot-Oquaga complex | 4.6 |
| Painters Hill MUA | Neversink and Alden soils | 1.2 |
| Oak Ridge MUA | Wellsboro and Wurtsboro soils | 41.4 |
| Oak Ridge MUA | Scriba and Morris | 28.2 |
| Oak Ridge MUA | Menlo | 11.1 |
| Oak Ridge MUA | Lackawanna and Swartswood | 9.2 |
| Oak Ridge MUA | Lordstown-Arnot-Rock outcrop complex | 4.6 |
| Oak Ridge MUA | Arnot-Lordstown-Rock outcrop complex | 1.5 |

## Water Resources

DEC's GIS data contains an inventory of wetlands, vernal pools, spring seeps, intermittent streams, perennial streams, rivers, and water bodies on the unit. This data is used to establish special management zones and plan appropriate stream crossings for the protection of water resources. Table I.C. contains a summary of water resources data on the unit.

*Table I.C. – Water Resources (see Figure 2 for maps)*

| ***Watersheds*** |
|---|

## Water Resources

| *Table I.C. – Water Resources (see Figure 2 for maps)* | | |
|---|---|---|
| Hydrologic unit(s) | | Neversink River (HUC 0204010403)<br>Upper Roundout Creek (HUC 0202000705)<br>Halfway Brook-Delaware (HUC 0204010405) |
| Watershed HCVF (If applicable) | | ac. |
| ***Wetlands*** | | |
| All Wetlands** | | 433.5 ac. |
| ***Streams/Rivers **** | | |
| Optional: Intermittent streams | | mi. |
| Perennial streams/rivers | AA or A | mi. |
| | B | 0.5 mi. |
| | C | 4.0 mi. |
| | D | mi. |
| Trout streams/rivers | AA (T), A (T), B (T) or C (T) | 19.3 mi. |
| ***Water Bodies*** | | |
| Water bodies (open-water ponds and lakes) | | 14.4 ac.* |

Disturbance to bed or banks of Class C(t) or higher streams and navigable waterbodies are subject to ECL Article 15 jurisdiction. Wetlands disturbance requiring an article 24 permit are not proposed within this unit management plan.

**Wetland acreages are approximate.

*For information regarding stream classifications please refer to https://www.dec.ny.gov/permits/6042.html

### Major Streams, Rivers and Water Bodies

The Neversink River downstream of Neversink Reservoir is considered a high-quality trout stream. This is largely supported by a cold-water release continuously provided from the Neversink Reservoir. In addition to excellent wild brown trout fishing, anglers can also target stocked brook and brown trout. The Neversink River within the Neversink River Unique Area is un-stocked, and anglers mostly target wild brown trout with the occasional stray stocked brown trout encountered. Since this section of river is 20 miles below the reservoir, water temperatures periodically reach the low to mid-70's and can cause thermal stress to trout. In spite of this, fishing for wild brown trout can still be good in this remote setting. Trout abundance in this section of the Neversink has not been sampled since 1994. Sampling can be difficult here, as the river is deep and inaccessible to standard fish sampling gear. A special fishing regulation exists for trout on all streams within the Unique Area: Catch and release only from April 1 until Oct 15th, artificial lures only.

## Biodiversity

Information regarding biodiversity has been gathered to support the following goals:

1. "Keep Common Species Common" by maintaining landscape-level habitat diversity and a wide variety of naturally occurring forest-based habitat as well as managing plantations according to DEC natural resources policy.

2. Protect, and in some cases, manage known occurrences and areas with potential to harbor endangered plants, wildlife, and natural communities.

3. Consider other "at-risk species" whose population levels may presently be adequate but are at risk of becoming imperiled due to new incidences of disease or other stressors.

## Common Species

The following information sources indicate which common species (among other species) are present over time:

1. NYS Breeding Bird Atlas Block Numbers 5259A 5260D 5259D 5260C 5259B 5361D 5361B,5059A 5059B 5059C 5059D

   Breeding Bird Atlas blocks can be searched at https://www.dec.ny.gov/cfmx/extapps/bba/

2. Herp Atlas (USGS Quads) (Eldred, PA-NY), ELLENVILLE, HARTWOOD, POND EDDY (SHOHOLA, PA-NY), YANKEE LAKE

   Herp Atlas information on amphibians, toads, frogs, turtles, lizards, and snakes can be found at https://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/7140.html

3. Game Species Harvest Levels Wildlife Management Unit (WMU) 2018 Harvest numbers

   (3H) Total Deer: 2470 Bear: 41

4. (3K) Total Deer:1028 Bear: 64
   (Deer take, bear take, turkey harvest, etc.)

# Information on the Unit Name Unit

## Biodiversity

### Habitat

The following information provides several representations of habitat types on the unit.

*Table I.D. - Vegetative Types and Stages within the Unit (see Figure 4 for maps)**

| Vegetative Type | Acres by Avg. Tree DBH Size Class | | | | Total Acres | % of Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 0 -5 in (seedling-sapling) | 6 - 11 in (pole) | 12+ in (sawtimber) | Other | | |
| Natural Forest Hardwood | | 1691.1 | 2007.2 | | 3698.3 | 47.12 |
| Natural Forest Conifer | | 108.73 | 120.52 | | 229.25 | 2.92 |
| Natural Forest Mixed Wood | | 1865.9 | 1796.6 | | 3662.5 | 46.66 |
| Plantation Softwoods | | | | | | |
| Plantation Hardwoods | | | | | | |
| Wetland (Forest) | | | | 118.5 | | - |
| Wetland (Open/emergent and or Shrub) | | | | | 172 | 2.19 |
| Ponds/streams | | | | | 9.8 | .12 |
| Open/Brushy/Grassland | | | | | 54.09 | .69 |
| Other (Roads, Parking lots, etc.) | | | | | 22.7 | .29 |
| Total (Acres) | | 3665.8 | 3924.3 | | 7848 | 100% |
| | | | | | | |

### Vegetative Types and Stages

Summaries of each parcel, and information on each stand, is available in Appendix and Figures section at the end of this document.

*Approximately 7.8 percent error attributed to non-forested acreage when compared to the total acreage of State Forest Lands within the unit.

### Representative Sample Areas

Representative Sample Areas (RSA) are stands which represent *common* ecological communities (i.e., forest types) of high or exceptional quality in their natural state. RSAs are established to serve one or more of the following purposes:

1. To establish and/or maintain an ecological reference condition; or
2. To create or maintain an under-represented ecological condition (i.e., includes samples of successional phases, forest types, ecosystems, and/or ecological communities); or
3. To serve as a set of protected areas or refugia for species, communities and community types not captured in other protection standards such as an endangered species or a High Conservation Value Forest.

RSAs can simply be viewed as an effort to keep high quality examples of common ecosystems or assemblages from becoming rare in the landscape. An RSA designation does not prevent future management and in certain cases might require silvicultural treatment to achieve site conditions that will perpetuate the representative community. In addition, treatment of an RSA to mitigate unfavorable conditions that threaten the continuation of the target community will be allowed (ex. fire, natural pests, or pathogens). Although allowed, silvicultural treatment or infrastructure development should not impact the RSA in a way that will degrade or eliminate the viability of the specific assemblage or community. For more information on RSAs please go to https://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/42947.html.

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*Table I.F. – RSAs and Rare Community HCFVs within the Unit*

| Community Name | Vegetative Type/HCVF Classification | Facility Name | NYNHP Rank | Acreage |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| ***Representative Sample Areas of Commonly Occurring Natural Communities*** | | | | |
| No RSAs currently exist within the unit. | | | | |
| ***Rare Community HCVF*** | | | | |
| Hemlock-Hardwood swamp | Special Treatment Area | Neversink River UA | S4 | 39.98 |
| Highbush Blueberry Bog Thicket | Special Treatment Area | Neversink River UA | S3 | 46.91 |
| Perched Bog | Special Treatment Area | Wolf Brook MUA | S1 | 2.0 |
| Bald Eagle | Rare Community | Neversink River UA | S2S3B | N/A |
| Brook Snaketail | Rare Community | Neversink River UA | S3 | 8.0 |
| Appalachian Tiger Beetle | Rare Community | Neversink River UA | S2 | 3.0 |
| Brook Floater | Rare Community | Neversink River UA | S1 | N/A |
| Timber Rattlesnake | Rare Community | Neversink River UA | S3 | 19.3 |
| Riverweed | Rare Community | Neversink River UA | S2S3 | 2.0 |
| Hemlock-Hardwood Swamp | Special Treatment Area | Painters Hill MUA | S4 | 18.7 |

### *Resource Protection Areas*

In the course of practicing active forest management, it is important to identify areas on the landscape that are either reserved from management activity or where activity is conducted in such a manner as to provide direct protection and enhancement of habitat and ecosystem functions. For more information on these protective measures, see SPSFM page 85 at https://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/64567.html.

## Biodiversity

Special Management Zones (SMZs) provide continuous over-story shading of riparian areas and adjacent waters, by retaining sufficient tree cover to maintain acceptable aquatic habitat and protect riparian areas from soil compaction and other impacts. DEC's buffer guidelines also maintain corridors for movement and migration of all wildlife species, both terrestrial and aquatic. Buffers are required within SMZs extending from wetland boundaries, high-water marks on perennial and intermittent streams, vernal pool depressions, spring seeps, ponds and lakes, recreational trails, campsites, and other land features requiring special consideration. See Figure 2 for a map of the SMZs as applied on the unit. For more information regarding Special Management Zones please see https://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/lands_forests_pdf/sfsmzbuffers.pdf

The identification of large, unfragmented forested areas, also called matrix forest blocks, is an important component of biodiversity conservation and forest ecosystem protection. In addition, securing connections between major forested landscapes and their imbedded matrix forest blocks is important for the maintenance of viable populations of species, especially wide-ranging and highly mobile species, and ecological processes such as dispersal and pollination over the long term.

Maintaining or enhancing matrix forest blocks and connectivity corridors must be balanced against the entire array of goals, objectives and demands that are placed on a particular State Forest. Where matrix forest block maintenance and enhancement are chosen as a priority for a given property, management actions and decisions should emphasize closed canopy and interior forest conditions. The following areas have been identified to meet demands at the landscape level:

- Matrix Forest Block 30364 acres
- Forest Landscape Connectivity Corridor 165158 acres

More information regarding Matrix Forest blocks, connectivity corridors and associated management considerations can be found in the SPSFM page 85 at https://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/64567.html.

### At-Risk Species

The presence of at-risk species and communities on the Neversink River Unit and in the surrounding landscape has been investigated to inform appropriate management actions and protections. This investigation was conducted in development of this UMP and the associated inventory of State Forest resources. A more focused assessment will be conducted before undertaking specific management activities in sensitive sites. Appropriate protections may include reserving areas from management activity or mitigating impacts of activity. For more information on protection of at-risk species, please see SPSFM page 115 at https://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/64567.html.

Investigation included the following:

1. A formal plant survey was conducted on this Unit in the spring of 2005 by the New York Natural Heritage Program.

2. Element Occurrence Records for the New York Natural Heritage Program's Biological and Conservation Data System were consulted for information.

3. Consultation of NHP species guides.

4. Consultation of the NYS Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy

Table I.F. lists the species confirmed or predicted on the State Forests that comprise this Unit and in the larger landscape, as well as their required habitats.

*Defined as NYNHP rank S1, S2, S2-3, G1, G2 or G2-3 OR identified as an SGCN

**Key to Codes**

BBA - Breeding Bird Atlas
(PRED) - Predicted Species
(CONF) - Confirmed Species

**Status**

E - Endangered Species (New York)
T - Threatened Species (New York)
PSC - Protected, Special Concern Species (New York)
SGCN - Species of Greatest Conservation Nee

*Table I.G. At-Risk Species**

| Species Name | NYNHP Rank | Habitat | Record Source | NYS Status |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| ***Confirmed or Predicted within the Unit*** | | | | |
| Osprey | S5 | Large Waterbodies, Wetlands | BBA | SPC |
| Sharp-shinned Hawk | S4 | Interior Woodlands | BBA | SPC |
| Cooper's Hawk | S4 | Mixed deciduous/coniferous Forest | BBA | SPC |
| Northern Goshawk | S3S4B, S3N | Mixed Northern Hardwoods Oak-Pine Forest Plantation, Disturbed Land, Pioneer Forest | BBA | SGCN |
| Red-Shouldered Hawk | S4B, SZN | Floodplain Forest Hardwood Swamp Mixed Northern Hardwoods Oak Forest Plantation, Disturbed Land, Pioneer Forest Riparian | BBA/SWAP | SGCN |

## BIODIVERSITY

*Table I.G. At-Risk Species**

| Species Name | NYNHP Rank | Habitat | Record Source | NYS Status |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ruffed Grouse | S5 | Mixed Northern Hardwoods<br>Oak Forest<br>Oak-Pine Forest<br>Old Field/Managed Grasslands<br>Plantation, Disturbed Land, Pioneer Forest<br>Powerline | BBA | SGCN |
| Whip-poor-will | S3B | Mixed Northern Hardwoods<br>Oak Forest<br>Oak-Pine Forest | BBA | SGCN |
| Eastern Hog-nosed Snake | S3 | Cliff and Talus<br>Coastal Coniferous Barrens<br>Maritime Dunes<br>Oak Forest<br>Oak-Pine Forest<br>Old Field/Managed Grasslands<br>Pine Barrens<br>Riparian | HERP | SGCN |
| Eastern musk turtle | S5 | Freshwater Marsh<br>Lake; Pond; Eutrophic<br>Lake; Small Lake; Eutrophic<br>Large/Great River | HERP | SGCN |
| Spotted turtle | S3 | Coastal Plain Pond Forest and Woodland; Northeast Wetland Forest<br>Freshwater Marsh<br>Mixed Northern Hardwoods<br>Open Acidic Peatlands<br>Vernal Pool<br>Wet Meadow/Shrub Marsh | HERP | SGCN |

*Table I.G. At-Risk Species**

| Species Name | NYNHP Rank | Habitat | Record Source | NYS Status |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Wood Turtle | S3 | Floodplain Forest<br>Headwater/Creek<br>Lake and River Beach<br>Non-native Shrublands<br>Oak Forest<br>Riparian<br>Small River<br>Vernal Pool<br>Wet Meadow/Shrub Marsh | HERP | SGCN |
| Woodland Box Turtle | S2S3 | Non-native Shrublands<br>Oak-Pine Forest<br>Old Field/Managed Grasslands | HERP | SGCN |
| Blue Spotted Salamander | S4 | Hardwood Swamp<br>Mixed Hardwood Swamp<br>Mixed Northern Hardwoods<br>Vernal Pool<br>Wet Meadow/Shrub Marsh | HERP | SGCN |
| Common ribbon snake | S4 | Freshwater Marsh<br>Headwater/Creek<br>Open Acidic Peatlands<br>Riparian | HERP | SGCN |
| Northern Black Racer | S4 | Cliff and Talus<br>Forest and Woodland; Northeast Upland Forest<br>Old Field/Managed Grasslands<br>Powerline<br>Wet Meadow/Shrub Marsh | HERP | SGCN |
| Northern Copperhead | S3 | Caves and Tunnels<br>Cliff and Talus<br>Oak Forest<br>Powerline<br>Surface Mining<br>Wet Meadow/Shrub Marsh | HERP | SGCN |

*Table I.G. At-Risk Species**

| Species Name | NYNHP Rank | Habitat | Record Source | NYS Status |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Smooth Green snake | S4 | Old Field/Managed Grasslands<br>Riparian<br>Wet Meadow/Shrub Marsh | HERP | SGCN |
| Marbled Salamander | S3 | Deciduous Forest | HERP | SGCN |
| Snapping Turtle | S5 | Freshwater Marsh<br>Lake<br>Lake; Reservoir<br>Vernal Pool<br>Wet Meadow/Shrub Marsh | HERP | SGCN |
| ***Confirmed or Predicted in the Unit and May Be Affected by State Forest Management*** | | | | |
| Timber Rattle Snake | S3 | Cliff and Talus<br>Oak Forest<br>Oak-Pine Forest<br>Powerline<br>Residential Rural | NHP (CONF) | T |
| Appalachian Tiger Beetle | S1 | Floodplain Forest<br>Lake and River Beach<br>Riparian | NHP(CONF) | T |
| Brook Floater | S1 | Headwater/Creek<br>Large/Great River<br>Medium River<br>Small River | NHP(CONF) | T |
| Brook Snaketail | S3 | Headwater/Creek<br>Small River | NHP(CONF) | T |
| Bald Eagle | S2S3B, S2N | Waterbodies, rivers, major streams | NHP(CONF) | T |

## Visual Resources

The aesthetic quality of State Forests is considered in management activity across the unit. However, some areas have greater potential to preserve or create unique opportunities for public enjoyment. These especially scenic areas are inventoried below. For information on the protection of visual resources, please see SPSFM page 127 at https://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/64567.html.

**Neversink River Unique Area:**

The 6580-acre unique area offers destination hikers unparalleled views of the Neversink River free from roads and other manmade structures. High Falls, Denton Falls, and Mullet Brook falls are popular waterfall destinations.

**Hickok Brook Multiple Use Area:**

Campsites along the edge of Hickok Brook Pond offer campers scenic water views.

## Historic and Cultural Resources

### History of the Unit

The lands within the Neversink River Unit have a rich and complex history. The following history section is not meant to be comprehensive but focus on historic actions that directly influence the management of the unit and peoples influence on the existing flora and fauna of the unit.

At the time of European contact, the Native American groups who inhabited this portion of New York State were Lenape or Delaware. The lands within the unit are still an inseparable component of their identity. The State Forest Lands that now encompass the Neversink River Unit are the ancestral lands of the Delaware Nation and the Delaware Tribe.

Beginning with the second half of the 18th century, Indigenous peoples were displaced from their homelands, mostly being pushed farther west, and many forcibly moved several times to different reservations. Some members of Indian Nations were able to return to their eastern homelands, although members of Indigenous Nations live in many parts of the United States today. These indigenous peoples left an area where they were able to sustain themselves based off their traditional knowledge of the surrounding environment prior to European contact and subsequent displacement. State owned lands in the Neversink River Unit are among the few remaining places that offer access to resources that are essential for Indigenous peoples to sustain their cultural and spiritual practices.

DEC acknowledges the Indigenous right to use the natural resources found on State Forest Lands as their tradition and heritage requires. State Forest Lands in New York State contain a wide variety of habitat. This variety supports an array of plant life, of which many species, both common and scarce, are utilized by Indigenous peoples as food and medicine. For many centuries, Indigenous people actively managed the landscape of New York State: they used frequent burning to promote growth of food sources and cultivated specific crops. Consequently, many natural areas were never a “pristine wilderness.” Indigenous peoples maintain extensive ecological knowledge systems, often called Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK). TEK refers to the body of knowledge, practice, and belief concerning the relationship of living beings to one another and to the physical environment, which is held by people in societies with a long history of direct dependence on local resources (Berkes, 1993). Like Western science, TEK is based on systematic observations of nature. In both knowledge traditions observations are interpreted in a cultural context. TEK has value not only for its wealth of factual information, but also for the cultural framework of respect, reciprocity, and responsibility in which it is embedded (Kimmerer, 1998, Pierotti and Wildcat, 2000). Citizens of Indian Nations continue to employ TEK in their hunting, trapping, fishing, and foraging activities. Maintaining and preserving the ecological

knowledge associated with these activities is central to the Indigenous way of life. Helping Indian Nations gain access to natural resources and all the necessary data (GIS and otherwise) will support the preservation of TEK and will be a continued goal of DEC.

The lands within the unit have been greatly influenced by historic natural resource extraction. Logging, mining and to a lesser degree farming had significant influence on the current forest stand composition and soil conditions, it left telltale signs of human influence on the lands such as old carriage roads, dam ruins, and abandoned quarries that can be found on land within the unit. The following historical information is an excerpt from the 1997 Neversink River Unit Management Plan that outlines the typical timeframe in which natural resources were extracted:

*The history of land use within the Unit and surrounding area can be assumed and summarized as follows. White pine would have been the first trees cut because locally, it is a good quality species of lumber. Hemlock was sought for its bark that was used to tan leather. Use of hemlock logs for lumber would have occurred when white pine was in limited supply. Often, hemlock logs were left after the bark was removed. Firewood was always needed for cooking and heating and charcoal was made for blacksmith use. With the advent of the railroad, large amounts of timber, leather and stone could be transported as needed in a relatively short period. This promoted the increase of logging and quarrying with little or no thought to what was left of the mature forests, soil integrity or stream water quality. The mill at Gilman Station could and probably did process all the available timber within a five-mile radius. This would include almost all of the Unique Area west of the Neversink River. Clearcutting was probably not deliberate since there was no point in cutting trees that did not have immediate use. Photographs of the era do show hillsides somewhat deforested as a result of heavy logging and subsequent tree mortality from disease, insects, or wildfire. Forest fires would have been common to heavily cut areas or areas immediately around or uphill of a railroad. It wasn't until the late 19th century that the State of New York began to take some action toward control of forest fires. Not until 1924 did areas of the State outside the Catskill and Adirondack Park areas become included in forest fire control districts. Quarry activity was very extensive and very much a gamble. High quality bluestone was known to occur in the area of the Unique Area but not every vein of stone would be valuable. This led to quick exploration for high quality stone with little or no care for the surrounding forest cover. Charcoal production would occur where there was a quantity of hardwood timber, especially oak. Trees would be cut, piled, buried, and burned to make charcoal. Forest fires were very common to areas where charcoal was produced.*

**Wolf Brook MUA and Neversink River UA:**

(The following information is from the 1997 Neversink River Unit Management Plan)

*There were at least three significant settlements in the 1800's within the boundaries of the Neversink River Unique Area.*

*The most historic settlement within the Unique Area was called Hackledam located at the intersection of Wolf Brook (the western outflow of Wolf Lake) and the Neversink River. This community was mostly in the Town of Thompson on the east side of the river. Around 1800, a Dutch immigrant surnamed Hackle, built a [saw]mill at the end of Wolf Brook. He eventually built a wire cable suspension bridge across the Neversink at this location. Cable and abutments along with numerous stone foundations of the settlement can still be seen today. The bridge*

*allowed for settlements to develop on both sides of the river but most of the industries occurred on the east side. A stagecoach station was located where an old road crosses Mullet Brook near the eastern property line, about one mile southeast of Hackledam. In time, Hackledam included 30 or so families, two sawmills, a tannery, a grist mill, a brewery, vineyards, and a large farm. Most likely, this community came to an end with the loss of available timber and bluestone markets as well as better economic opportunities near Monticello. Hackledam eventually became more of a bedroom community before it was totally abandoned. By 1918 this community, including the school building, moved up-river to the present end of Katrina Falls Road.*

*The least significant in population, development and duration appears to have been Quarryville. This community is designated on an old map 7 of the Town of Forestburgh, circa 1872. Quarryville was located on the east slope of the Neversink River Valley and probably along the former property line between the State of New York and former Leonard tract near the old White Oak Hunting Club cabin. (The Leonard Tract was acquired by the Department in 2001) This community was accessible over "Bluestone Quarry Road" that appears to be the northern extension of Griffin Road. The south end of Griffin Road begins along the Oakland Valley Road, 0.6 miles south of the Neversink River. Most likely this community existed solely as living quarters for quarry laborers and would have been abandoned in the late 1890's when the bluestone market collapsed. The nearest farm would have been the Griffin homestead that was established in the early 1800's on the plateau along Griffin Road, about 3/4 miles north of Oakland Valley Road at the Sullivan and Orange County line.*

*The most industrial of communities to develop within the Unique Area was Gilman's Station. This hamlet was located near the intersection of the O&W Railroad (Monticello to Port Jervis line) tracks and St. Joseph's Road. About 1850, W. W. Gilman began to establish one of the largest tanneries and sawmills in Sullivan County. In 1871, the O&W was providing tremendous opportunities for transporting merchandise. The tanning and lumber businesses eventually lead to an employment of 200 workers at this site. A picture of the area taken in 1886 and other evidence indicate the tannery, engine house and sawmill were located on lands now part of the Unique Area immediately south of St. Joseph's Road. By the late 1890's, the industries at Gilman Station had for the most part ended.*

*The 1872 map also indicates a sawmill and homestead(s) of Gillett and Howell on the west side of the Neversink River near Eden Brook. Remains of mill(s) and foundations can still be found at this location.*

*The Clove Development Tract was purchased by Rockland Light and Power Company, now Orange and Rockland Utilities, between 1927 and 1931 for possible use as a reservoir for generating hydroelectric power. When New York City developed the Neversink Reservoir approximately 17 miles north and upstream of the area that would become the Neversink River Unique Area, insufficient water flows stopped future development of the hydro-electric project.*

The first parcel of land acquired for the Development of the Neversink River Unique Area was acquired in fee from Clove Development Corporation, on December 29, 1981. This, as well as future purchases, were in response to the following resolution of the New York State Nature and Historical Preserve Trust Board on May 20, 1980:

*"RESOLVED, that the Department of Environmental Conservation be requested and authorized to acquire the Neversink Wilderness properties (Sullivan County) as a Unique Area in the category of wilderness character, to include less than fee interests as may be appropriate, supplementing Unique Area funds with funds from other Bond Act categories and Federal sources to the extent feasible*."

## HISTORIC AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

The former Philwold Estate, acquired in 1991, included a lifetime lease agreement for Jon Wallach, President, Eden Brook Aquaculture, Inc. This lease included 49.1 acres of exclusive use and 194.3 additional acres of buffer zone for operation of a trout hatchery along Eden Road and a caretaker's cabin near the intersection of Cold Spring Road and St Joseph Road. This lease was terminated in February 2002. Following the termination of lease and subsequent 2013 Neversink River UMP Amendment buildings associated with the Hatchery were demolished. Dams and raceways associated with the hatchery still influence the flow of the headwaters of Eden Brook.

**Hickok Brook Multiple Use Area:** Hickok Brook Multiple Use Area was acquired by NYSDEC on June 28, 1963. The pond on the MUA was constructed in 1938 for recreational purposes according to Dam records. A large area of the Multiple Use Area was impacted by Spongy Moth outbreak in the early 1990s. Due to widespread mortality from Spongy moth defoliation, a salvage harvest removed much of the dead and dying oak. Today much of the area that was previously salvage harvested is predominately white pine.

**Painters Hill Multiple Use Area:** Painters Hill was originally a 65-acre detached Forest Preserve Parcel acquired in 1928 prior to being rededicated as a Multiple Use Area by a commissioner's order. The stone walls and remnants of an old concrete dam on the property would suggest that areas of Painters Hill were previously farmed.

**Oak Ridge Multiple Use Area:** Acquired in 1941 in two separate parcels, this MUA was originally a detached Forest Preserve Parcel. These lands were rededicated as Multiple Use Areas by a Commissioners Order. In the 1980s due to Spongy moth mortality the Department marked and sold a 50-acre area on Oak Ridge MUA that was predominately Northern Red Oak. Due to the loss of this oak, a dense mountain laurel understory covers large portions of the Multiple Use Area.

### Inventory of Resources

The term cultural resources encompass a number of categories of human created resources including structures, archaeological sites and related resources. The Department is required by the New York State Historic Preservation Act (SHPA) (PRHPL Article 14) and SEQRA (ECL Article 8) as well as Article 9 of Environmental Conservation Law, 6NYCRR Section 190.8 (g) and Section 233 of Education Law to include such resources in the range of environmental values that are managed on public lands. For more information on protection of historic and cultural resources, please see SPSFM page 139 at https://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/64567.html.

As a part of the inventory effort associated with the development of this plan the Department arranged for the archaeological site inventories maintained by the New York State Museum and the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation to be searched in order to identify known archaeological resources that might be located within or near the unit. The two inventories overlap to an extent but do not entirely duplicate one another. The purpose of this effort was to identify any known sites that might be affected by actions proposed within the unit and to assist in understanding and characterizing past human use and occupation of the unit. The following generic cultural resources and archaeological site protection text will be valid only after a Structural Archaeological Assessment Form has been completed for planned site developments scheduled within the first two years of the plan or if you do not have any such developments within the first two years of the plan. Site developments include things such as roads, parking areas and the like.

## Historic and Archaeological Site Protection

The historic and archaeological sites located within the unit as well as additional unrecorded sites that may exist on the property are protected by the provisions of the New York State Historic Preservation Act (SHPA - Article 14 PRHPL), Article 9 of Environmental Conservation Law, 6NYCRR Section 190.8 (g) and Section 233 of Education Law. No actions that would impact known resources are proposed in this Unit Management Plan. Should any such actions be proposed in the future they will be reviewed in accordance with the requirements of SHPA. Unauthorized excavation and removal of materials from any of these sites is prohibited by Article 9 of Environmental Conservation Law and Section 233 of Education Law. In some cases, additional protection may be afforded these resources by the federal Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA).

## Archaeological Research

The archaeological sites located on this land unit, as well as additional unrecorded sites that may exist on the property, may be made available for appropriate research. Any future archaeological research conducted on the property will only be conducted under the auspices of all appropriate permits. Research permits will be issued only after consultation with the New York State Museum and the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. Extensive excavations are not contemplated as part of any research program in order to assure that the sites are available to future researchers who are likely to have more advanced tools and techniques as well as more fully developed research questions.

# Real Property

DEC's Bureau of Real Property GIS system contains maps and some deeds for State Forest properties. Original deeds were also consulted to complete the information below.

## Boundary Lines

*Table I.H. – Status of Boundary Lines*

| Facility Name | Length of Boundary (mi.) | Length Needing Maintenance | Length Needing Survey |
|---|---|---|---|
| Neversink River Unique Area | 25.29 | 25.29 | 0 |
| Wolf Brook Multiple Use Area | 5.16 | 5.16 | 0 |
| Hickok Brook Multiple Use Area | 7.12 | 7.12 | 0 |
| Painter Hill Multiple Use Area | 2.10 | 2.10 | 0 |
| Oak Ridge Multiple Use Area | 2.18 | 2.18 | 0 |

For more information on boundary line maintenance, please see SPSFM page 153 at https://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/64567.html.

## Exceptions and Deeded Restrictions

## REAL PROPERTY

*Table I.I. – Exceptions and Deeded Restrictions*

| Facility Name | RA # | Description<br>E.g., deeded ROW, easement, access lane, water rights, cemetery, etc. | Proposal ID<br>(Surveyor's Reference) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Neversink River Unique Area | 6 | -Subject to the rights of the City of New York per Liber 450 of Deeds at page 452<br>-Subject to certain right of bathing, fishing, boating & hunting in and upon the 30.5-acre parcel as reserved in Liber 277 of Deeds at page 334, Liber 280 of Deeds at page 582, Liber 284 of Deeds at page 2 | Sullivan 72.2 |
| Neversink River Unique Area | 6 | -Together with a 60' wide easement for ingress, egress and regress for the construction and placement of residential utility and cable tv lines, wires and poles and a roadway thereon per Liber 2000 of Deeds at page 182<br>-Subject to the right of the Bureau of Water Supply of the City of New York | Sullivan 72.3 |
| Neversink River Unique Area | 6 | -Subject to rights of Richard Blackburn, successors & assigns, as owner of land described in Liber 975 of Deeds at page 204 to maintain the existing septic tank and associated leach field which serve said lands of Blackburn. Right to maintain does not include any right to improve, enlarge, or extend but does include the right to replace in kind. | Sullivan 72.5 |
| Neversink River Unique Area | 6 | -Reserving a 25' right of way for ingress, egress and regress from lands retained by the grantor along Eden Brook Road and an old woods road leading from Eden Brook Road to the lands retained. | Sullivan 72.6 |
| Wolf Brook Multiple Use Area | 1 | -Subject to a 365' wide utility easement<br>-Subject to a 30' wide access right of way | Sullivan 67 |

### *Use and Demand Related to Exceptions and Deeded Restrictions*

### Encroachments

Well-marked boundary lines that are readily identifiable to the public reduce unintentional trespass. However, encroachments onto State Forest lands do sometimes occur. When issues arise Foresters will work collaboratively with Real Property staff and Forest Rangers to resolve encroachments.

### Land Acquisition

Acquisition of property from willing sellers on the landscape surrounding the unit may be considered in the following priority areas:

1. In-holdings and adjoining properties that would reduce management costs and benefit resource protection and public access goals
2. the mineral estate wherever it is split from a State Forest tract
3. properties within identified matrix forest blocks and connectivity corridors
4. forested lands in underserved areas of the state
5. forested lands in areas that are in need of watershed protection
6. for other reasons, as identified in the current NYS Open Space Plan

For more information on land acquisition, please see SPSFM page 147 at https://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/64567.html.

## Infrastructure

State Forests are managed with a minimal amount of improvements to accommodate rustic, forest based recreational opportunities while providing for resource protection; public health and safety; and access for individuals of all ability levels. For more information on infrastructure policies, please see SPSFM page 157 at https://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/64567.html.

## Roads and Trails

DEC's GIS data contains an inventory of public forest access roads, haul roads and multiple-use-trails on the unit, including a representation of the allowable uses along each road or trail segment. Table I.K. contains a summary of roads, trails, and related infrastructure on the unit.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

**DECinfo Locator** – An interactive online mapper can be used to view recreational trails and assets on this Unit to help people plan outdoor activities. Located at DEC's Mapping Gateway: https://www.dec.ny.gov/pubs/212.html

**Google Earth Virtual Globe Data** - Some of DEC's map data, including accessible recreation destinations, boat launches, lands coverage, roads and trails on this Unit can be viewed in Google Maps or Google Earth. (Also located at DEC's Mapping Gateway)

***Table I.K. – Existing Access and Parking (see Figure 3 for maps)***

| Category | Total Amount | Needing Improvement |
|---|---|---|
| Public Forest Access Roads | 4.84 mi. | 0.20 mi. |
| Trails | 12.26 mi. | 4.02 mi.* |
| **Stream Crossings** | | |
| Bridges | 4 | 3 |
| **Related Infrastructure** | | |
| **Parking Areas / Trailheads | 10 | 4 |

INFRASTRUCTURE

*Table I.K. – Existing Access and Parking (see Figure 3 for maps)*

| Category | Total Amount | Needing Improvement |
|---|---|---|
| Gates | 8 | 4 |

*Includes designated trail system to be redesigned on Hickok Brook MUA.
**Includes only officially designated trailheads and parking areas.

### *Use and Demand on Roads, Haul Roads and Parking Areas*

**Public forest access roads** (PFAR)s on Hickok Brook and Wolf Brook Multiple Use Areas are extremely popular locations. These locations are easily accessible by motor vehicle and provide a popular location for dog walking and hiking. Litter from illegal dumping and roadside camping are common issues along PFARs.

**Parking Areas:**

**Hickok Brook Multiple Use Area**: There are two formal parking areas and multiple informal parking spots along the public forest access road. From December 31st- April 15th, parking is limited to the one exterior parking lot located near the front entrance on Barker Road.

**Wolf Brook Multiple Use Area:** There are two formal parking areas on Wolf Brook MUA. The first parking area is located at the entrance to the property along Wolf Lake Road**.** The second parking area is located near the boundary of the Multiple Use Area with the Neversink River Unique Area. This serves as an access to the Neversink River Unique Area and is a popular location during the summertime to access the Mullet Brook Falls trail.

**Neversink River Unique Area:** There are five designated parking areas within the unit, described in further detail below:

**Katrina Falls Road Parking Area**: The Katrina Falls Road parking area is the most popular access; the lot fills quickly during spring and summer weekends. In 2020, unprecedented levels of use led to parking issues along Katrina Falls Road. These issues will be addressed through coordinating with the Town of Thompson, expanding the existing parking area, and potentially restricting parking along the boundary of Wolf Brook MUA on Katrina Falls Road.

**Hatchery Road**: A ten car parking area near the intersection of hatchery road and Eden Road. This parkin area was completed in spring 2021. This parking area provides access to Hatchery Road.

**Hiram Jones:** This is an unimproved pull off near the end of Hiram Jones Road. This access is mostly used by individuals accessing the Unique Area to fish the Neversink River. A trail will be formally marked to the river from this access to avoid trespass issues, since the current trail crosses over a small portion of private property. This parking lot will be improved and marked to discourage people from blocking the road and parking on private land at the end of Hiram Jones Road.

**Cold Spring Road Access:** This parking area is located on the western boundary of the Unique Area off County Route 101. This area provides access to the western side of the Neversink River Unique Area trail network.

**Eden Road access:** Eden Road is an unimproved seasonal use highway. The parking area should only be accessed by high clearance vehicles. During the winter months access is dependent upon snow cover. This location provides access to the southwestern side of the Neversink River Unique Area and is a popular fishing access.

**Painters Hill Multiple Use Area:** There is one formal parking area located off Painter Hill Road.

**Oak Ridge Multiple Use Area:** There are no formal parking areas. The Department is proposing to construct a 5-car lot, please see Land Management Objectives for Oak Ridge MUA on page 63.

### Signs / Kiosks

There are only four kiosks within the unit, the Department is proposing to construct at least one kiosk per property and a kiosk in each formal parking area.

There are five facility signs within the unit located near the entrances of parking lots. All properties within the unit have a facility sign identifying the name of the property and its acreage near formal parking areas.

Facility signs will be replaced on Painters Hill, Neversink River, and Oak Ridge. These signs are either outdated with incorrect acreage or faded to the point of being illegible. To eliminate the need to replace signs that are still in good condition, state land acreage will not be listed. Kiosks will be updated with a panel that includes State land information and a map of the area as described under the management actions section of the plan.

### Boating and Fishing Facilities

**Neversink River UA**: Informal stream access points to the Neversink River exist throughout the Unique Area. These informal access points vary in the degree of use and impact on the surrounding landscape.

**Hickok Brook MUA:** Gordon Pond is the only location within the unit where kayaking and canoeing occur on a routine basis.

Boating and fishing facilities are further discussed under Recreation.

### Designated Campsites and Lean-tos

**Hickok Brook MUA:** There are five designated campsites on the property. Two designated sites are located along the road system, three campsites are located near Gordon Pond.

Camping near Gordon Pond is popular and on holiday weekends all the sites are normally taken.

Camping facilities, as well as their use and demand are discussed under Recreation.

NO AGRICULTURAL USE OCCURS WITHIN THE UNIT.

### Communications Facilities

There are no communications facilities on lands within the unit.

### Utility Transmission and Collection Facilities

Marcy South Powerline Corridor runs through Wolf Brook Multiple Use Area.

### Operations Facilities

There are no operations facilities within the unit.

### Correction or Youth Camps

There are no Correction or Youth Camps within the unit.

### Seed Production Areas

There are no seed production areas are in the unit.

### Non-recreational Uses

#### *Off-Highway and All-Terrain Vehicle Use*

For a comprehensive discussion of DEC's policy regarding ATV use on State Forests, please refer to page 213 of the SPSFM at www.dec.ny.gov/lands/64567.html.

No opportunities currently exist for long distance trail corridors for All Terrain Vehicles on lands within this unit. Should the potential exist to develop a long-distance trail connection to an existing All-Terrain Vehicle trail corridor the Department will evaluate the potential viability to develop such a connection. All-Terrain Vehicle Trail networks exclusively on State Forest Lands will not be developed nor will any corridor be allowed to cross the Neversink River Unique Area.

Illegal use of ATVs and UTVs poses a serious threat in the former Leonard Tract of the Neversink River Unique Area. These vehicles pose a serious threat to the State Threatened Timber Rattlesnake.

#### *Military Field Exercises*

No Temporary Revocable Permits have been issued for military training within the unit. There has been interest in conducting land navigation courses on the Neversink River Unique Area. Any training exercises occurring in the Neversink River Unique Area or within the Unit must comply with the Departments Temporary Revocable Permit Policy. No activities will be permitted that will cause adverse impacts to the resource or exclude other recreational users from enjoying the lands within the unit.

#### *Agricultural Use*

No agricultural use occurs within the unit.

## Formal and Informal Partnerships and Agreements

Conservation and stewardship partnerships are increasingly important, especially for public land management agencies. Considering the fact that resources will always be limited, collaboration across political, social, organizational and professional boundaries is necessary for long-term

success and sustainability. Encouraging the development of cooperative and collaborative relationships is and can be done through volunteer agreements with the Department. For more information on these and other partnerships, please see SPSFM page 181 at https://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/64567.html.

The New York / New Jersey Trail conference has a Volunteer Stewardship Agreement to maintain the trail network on the Neversink River Unique Area. This agreement has been vital to maintaining the trail system within the Unique Area.

The Can't Hurt Steel Foundation entered into a Volunteer Stewardship Agreement with the Department in 2018. The volunteer organization has been instrumental in developing the proposed trail system on Hickok Brook Multiple Use Area.

## Recreation

Recreation is a major component of planning for the sustainable use of State Forests on this unit. DEC accommodates diverse pursuits such as snowmobiling, horseback riding, hunting, trapping, fishing, picnicking, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, bird watching, geocaching, mountain biking, and hiking. Outdoor recreation opportunities are an important factor in quality of life. We often learn to appreciate and understand nature by participating in these activities. However, repeated use of the land for recreational purposes can have significant impacts. For further discussion of recreational issues and policies, please see SPSFM page 187 at https://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/64567.html. The following section includes an inventory of recreational opportunities available on this unit as well as a description of use and demand for each activity. Recreational maps and geographic data are available at DEC's Mapping Gateway https://www.dec.ny.gov/pubs/212.html in Google format or in the State Lands Interactive Mapper.

### Exceptional Recreational Opportunities

The Neversink River Unique Area offers unparalleled opportunities to recreate within a wilderness setting outside the Catskill Forest Preserve.

### Wildlife-related Recreation

#### *Hunting*

Hunting occurs on all State Forest lands within the Unit. All lands within the Neversink River Unit are popular with hunters during the regular big game hunting season.

**Wolf Brook MUA:** The Department releases pheasants during the small game hunting season in the brushlands surrounding the Marcy South Powerline corridor. Pheasant habitat is limited on Wolf Brook MUA and the quality of the habitat is poor. Department Foresters and Wildlife Biologists will continue to evaluate the feasibility of releasing pheasants on the Wolf Brook MUA.

**Neversink River UA:** Hunters use all the formal access points on the property during the small and big game seasons according to trail register sign in sheets. The surrounding hunting clubs access the unique area from adjoining private lands.

Due to the lack of motor vehicle access and lower deer densities the Neversink River Unique Area does not receive the level of hunting pressure normally associated with other state lands within the Neversink River Unit.

## RECREATION

**Hickok Brook MUA**: This area is a popular location for deer hunting.

**Painters Hill and Oak Ridge MUA**: The level of use and demand for these areas are unknown. Due to the small size of the properties and limited parking, it is assumed these properties receive limited use by local hunters.

### *Fishing*

- **Neversink River UA:** The mainstem of the Neversink River within the Unique Area is a popular wild brown trout fishery, though some stocked brown trout may be caught that come from outside of the boundaries of the property. Native brook trout are present in limited numbers within the Neversink River, and its tributaries. This stretch of the Neversink River Unique Area supports both small and largemouth bass, but the warmwater gamefish in the area receive less attention from most anglers who are fly-fishing for trout.

  Trout fishing is extremely popular on the Neversink River Unique Area from early to mid-spring, but trout can be caught here year-round. This portion of the Neversink River and its tributaries within the unique area are specially designated no-kill, artificial only waters. The property offers the unique opportunity to fish in a backcountry setting away from roads and other manmade structures.

  For more information regarding the Fishery within the Neversink River Unique please read the fishery section under the section, *Major Streams, Rivers and Water Bodies* on page 16.

- **Hickok Brook MUA:** A Gordon Pond offers warm water fishing, mainly for Largemouth bass.

- **Wolf Brook MUA:** Wolf Pond Brook, a small tributary to the Neversink River, offers anglers the opportunity to fish a small stream for brook trout.

### *Trapping*

Trapping occurs on all lands within this Unit. The level of use and demand for trapping is unknown.

### *Viewing Natural Resources*

Opportunities to nature view are excellent for users of all abilities on lands within the unit. Opportunities exist for more remote backcountry nature observation on the Neversink River Unique Area, while the public forest access roads on Wolf Brook MUA and Hickok Brook MUA provide roadside nature viewing opportunities.

### Camping

- **Hickok Brook Multiple Use Area**: Five designated camping sites are located on Hickok Brook MUA. Increased demand for camping is causing overuse issues near Gordon pond. Excessive litter, damage to living vegetation, and the compaction of soil are becoming an issue on the campsites surrounding Hickok Brook Pond. Two additional sites along the road system receive less use and the overall impact to the area is limited to garbage left behind in fire rings. To reduce overuse issues the Department has proposed the area be limited to camping by permit only.

- **Neversink River Unique Area and Wolf Brook Multiple Use Area**: Demand for camping is increasing for the Neversink River UA and Wolf Brook MUA. Camping is prohibited within the Neversink River Unique Area to protect the area from overuse.

  To address the increased demand for camping, the Department is proposing to construct two designated campsites on Wolf Brook MUA near the boundary line with Neversink River Unique Area. These campsites will provide direct access to the Unique Area and will be easily accessible by campers and Forest Rangers.

- **Painters Hill and Oak Ridge MUA**: Primitive camping is allowed on these lands as well as any State Forest land where camping is not prohibited. At large, primitive camping is allowed provided camps are setup at least 150 feet away from roads, trails, or water. Camping is not popular on Oak Ridge or Painters Hill due to a dense mountain laurel understory.

## Water-based Recreation

Limited opportunities exist for non-fishing water based recreational activities within the unit.

- Swimming is prohibited within the Neversink River Unique Area.
- Hickok Brook Pond provides an opportunity for canoeing and kayaking.

## Trail-based Recreation

***Table I.L. – Designated Trails and Public Forest Access Roads (PFARS)***

***(see Figure 3 for maps)***

| Use | Length (mi.) |
|---|---|
| Foot Trail | 10.64 |
| Multiple Use Trail | 1.62** |
| PFARS | 4.84 |
| **includes designated trail system to be redesigned on Hickok Brook MUA | |

* Length available for each use includes use on PFARs; does not include municipal roads

### *Multiple Use Trails*

Hickok Brook Multiple Use Area has a designated multiple use trail system that will be redesigned. The current trail system has grown in and is unused by the public due to a lack of maintenance. The Department is working in close cooperation with the Cant hurt Steel Foundation to develop a looped trail system on the property.

### *Foot Trail Use*

Neversink River Unique Area has 10.64 miles of foot trail foot that is extremely popular for hiking and fishing access to the Neversink River.

## RECREATION

### *Cross Country Skiing*

Cross Country Skiing is permitted on all lands within the unit, the overall level of use and demand for cross country skiing within the unit is unknown. There are no designated cross-country ski trails within the Neversink River Unit.

### *Equestrian*

Limited opportunities exist within the unit for horseback riding. The existing interior roads on Wolf Brook MUA and Hickok Brook MUA offer limited riding opportunities. Horseback riding is prohibited on the Neversink River Unique Area. The overall level of use and demand for equestrian riding opportunities within the unit are unknown.

### *Mountain Biking*

There are no designated mountain bike trails within the unit. Mountain biking is allowed on all lands within the unit. Unless otherwise posted, mountain biking is allowed on all designated trails. The level of use and demand for mountain biking is limited on the lands within the unit.

### *Snowmobiling*

There are limited opportunities for snowmobiling within the Neversink River Unit. Hickok Brook, Painters Hill, Oak Ridge, and Wolf Brook MUA are open to snowmobiling, but have no designated snowmobile trails. Snowmobiling is prohibited within the Neversink River Unique Area.

## Other Recreational Activities

### *Orienteering*

The Neversink River Unique Area has no interior motor vehicle roads offering an excellent area for orienteering. The demand and the use of lands within the unit for orienteering is unknown.

### *Dog Training / Field Trials*

Informal Dog Training is permitted on State Forest lands within this unit. Individuals may train dogs on raccoon, fox, coyote, and bobcat from July 1 through April 15. You may train dogs on other small game only from August 15 through April 15.

Use of lands within the unit for informal dog training is unknown, no permits have been issued for formal training or field trial events within the unit.

### *Hang Gliding*

No opportunities exist within the unit for hang gliding. Hang gliding is prohibited on the Neversink River Unique Area.

### *Target Shooting*

Limited informal target shooting opportunities exist on State Forest Lands within the unit.

Informal target shooting areas on State Lands are often promoted through social media and online forums as being open for target shooting, leading to overuse issues. The shooting of breakable targets, damaging live vegetation, and excessive littering are common issues on State Forest Lands within the Unit Management Plan. Due to these problems, state lands are increasingly being closed to target shooting throughout the region.

Target shooting in the gravel pit located off Cold Spring Road on the Neversink River Unique Area will once again be closed to target shooting. Target shooting was prohibited, and DEC Operations staff cleaned the area after the 2013 Neversink River Unique Area Amendment was adopted prohibiting target shooting in the gravel pit. In 2018 the prohibition on target shooting was lifted and the issues that caused the original closure are once again forcing the Department to close the area to target shooting.

If a volunteer organization were to enter into a formal volunteer stewardship agreement to maintain the area the Department may consider removing the prohibition against target shooting in the gravel pit on the Neversink River Unique Area. This action is consistent with the 2013 Amendment to the Neversink River Unique Area Unit Management Plan.

The gravel pit on Hickok Brook MUA is starting to show signs of overuse from target shooting. Excessive littering, shooting of living vegetation, and user conflict in the area may lead the Department to prohibiting target shooting within the gravel pit. This issue is being monitored by area Forest Rangers and the Department. If necessary, the immediate area will be posted as closed to target shooting.

The Department may prohibit target shooting on specific State Forest Lands or locations on as needed basis, under ECL Part 190.8 (ab), “Unless legally engaged in the act of hunting, no person shall discharge firearms on State lands posted or designated as closed to target shooting”.

All other areas within the unit will remain open to informal target shooting unless overuse and safety issues force the Department to post a specific area or entire property closed to target shooting.

### Overall Assessment of the Level of Recreational Development

It is important that recreational use is not allowed to incrementally increase to an unsustainable level. DEC must consider the impact on the unit from increased use on other management goals or other recreational uses. DEC must consider the full range of impacts, including long-term maintenance and the balancing of multiple uses.

The Department will use multiple sampling techniques to assess the overall level of use on lands within the unit. In the Neversink River Unique Area the Department is compiling baseline data from trail register sign-sheets that will guide future recreation management decisions. On other lands within the unit the Department will utilize trail counters and car counters to determine overall visitor use.

Proposed infrastructure development within the unit will focus on improving existing parking areas and trails. Newly designated trails will use portions of existing woods roads wherever possible to minimize the need to construct new trail tread. Where trails, parking areas and bridges are developed the Department will work to avoid and minimize adverse impacts to sensitive areas near wetlands, streams, vernal pools, and habitat for rare, threatened, or endangered species

## Universal Access

DEC has an essential role in providing universal access to recreational activities that are often rustic and challenging by nature, and ensuring that facilities are not only safe, attractive, and

sustainable, but also compatible with resources. For more information on universal access policies, please see SPSFM page 173 at https://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/64567.html.

Hickok Brook Multiple Use Area and Neversink River Unique area have designated ATV trails for individuals participating in the Motorized Access Program for People with Disabilities (MAPPWD). Both ATV accessible routes receive little use and, to improve access while mitigating impacts to the environment, the following proposals were developed to address the issues associated with both routes.

**Hickok Brook Multiple Use Area:** The current accessible ATV route is under used and in poor condition. The Department will eliminate the existing MAPPWD ATV route on Hickok Brook Multiple Use Area and will develop an accessible campsite near Gordon Pond. The proposed campsite will be accessible by passenger car using the existing public forest access road and will provide an accessible feature that appeals to a larger number of users.

**Neversink River Unique Area:** The former ATV accessible route on Neversink River Unique Area will be modified to shorten the distance to the Neversink River from Katrina Falls parking lot by designating a portion of the Hackledam trail as an accessible route. This will eliminate the need for an ATV bridge crossing, and limit ATV access to the defined (MAPPWD) route by installing a gate immediately east of the intersection of the Hackledam trail with the High Falls trail. The proposed Katrina Falls parking lot expansion will include a designated accessible parking spot with space for a truck and trailer.

### Application of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), along with the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 (ABA) and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; Title V, Section 504, have 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, the Department 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 the Department, when viewed in their entirety, are readily accessible to and usable by people with disabilities. The Department 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, the Department is not necessarily
required to make each existing facility and asset accessible, as long as the program is accessible by the 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, include buildings, facilities, and vehicles, in terms of architecture and design, transportation and communication to individuals with disabilities.

For outdoor recreational facilities not covered under the current ADA standards, the Department will use standards provided under the Architectural Barriers Act, to lend credibility to the

assessment result and to offer protection to the natural resource.
All new 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. *(See Text of 28 CRF § 35.151 (a)(b) below).* 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.
A record of accessibility determination is kept with the work planning record. 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.

**28 CFR § 35.151 (a)(b)**

(a) Design and Construction.

*(1) Each facility or part of a facility constructed by, on behalf of, or for the use of a public entity shall be designed and constructed in such a manner that the facility or part of facility is readily accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities, if the construction was commenced after January 26, 1992*.

(2) There are exceptions for structural impracticability:

*"(i) Full compliance with the requirements of this section is not required where a public entity can demonstrate that it is structurally impracticable only in those rare circumstances when the unique characteristics of terrain prevent the incorporation of accessible features.*
*(ii) If full compliance with this section would be structurally impracticable, compliance with this section is required to the extent that it is not structurally impracticable. In that case, any portion of the facility that can be made accessible shall be made accessible to the extent that it is not structurally impracticable.*
*(iii) If providing accessibility in conformance with this section to individuals with certain disabilities (e.g., those who use wheelchairs) would be structurally impracticable, accessibility shall nonetheless be ensured to persons with other types of disabilities, (e.g., those who use crutches or who have sight, hearing, or mental impairments) in accordance with this section."*

(b) Alterations.

*(1) Each facility or part of facility altered by, on behalf of, or for the use of a public entity in a manner that affects or could affect the usability of the facility or part of the facility shall. To the maximum extent feasible, be altered in such manner that the altered portion of the facility is readily accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities, if the alteration was commenced after January 26, 1992.*

For further information contact the ADA Coordinator at
UniversalAccessProgram@dec.ny.gov

## Mineral Resources

### Oil, Gas and Solution Exploration and Development

Oil and gas production from State Forest lands, where the mineral rights are owned by the state, are only undertaken under the terms and conditions of an oil and gas lease. As surface managers, the Division of Lands and Forests will evaluate any concerns as they pertain to new natural gas leases on State Forest lands. Consistent with past practice, prior to any new leases, DEC will hold public meetings to discuss all possible leasing options and environmental impacts. A comprehensive tract assessment will be completed as part of this process. For more information on natural gas and other mineral resource policies, please see SPSFM page 225 at https://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/64567.html.

Existing leases on the unit:

No lease agreements exist within the unit.

Active wells on the unit:

No Active Wells exist on this unit.

Inactive wells on the unit:

No inactive wells exist on this unit.

Pipelines

The Department, pursuant to ECL § 9-0507, may lease State lands for the construction and placement of oil and gas pipelines only if a portion of the mineral resources to be transported was extracted from State lands. Pipeline and road development must be in compliance with State Forest tract assessments, the Strategic Plan for State Forest Management, and the Generic Environmental Impact Statement and Supplemental Generic Environmental Impact Statement on the Oil, Gas and Solution Mining Regulatory Program.

Pipelines will be located immediately adjacent to Public Forest Access Roads. The location of the roads and pipelines will be in compliance with tract assessments. Pipelines may be located in stands managed for closed canopy conditions only along pre-existing roads that intersect such area. Additional surface disturbance associated with such construction will be considered only in areas other than stands which are managed for relatively unbroken canopy conditions. Areas managed for unbroken canopy conditions may be referred to using various terms such as “uneven-aged,” “uneven-aged variable retention,” “all aged,” “high canopy,” “closed canopy” or others.

Pipeline development on State land will not be permitted if the Department determines that it creates a significant long-term conflict with any management activities or public use of the State Forests, or with other management objectives in this plan. All pipelines will be gated to restrict motorized access, and if necessary hardened crossings or bridges will be installed, to allow heavy equipment access across pipelines. These requirements will be satisfied by the Lessee.

Exceptions to the above guidance must be approved by the Division of Lands and Forests, in consultation with the Division of Mineral Resources.

- There are no pipelines on lands within the Unit.

### Mining

Gravel/shale pits and other surface mines

- Neversink River UA: A gravel pit is located west of Cold Spring Road (County Route 101). The area is inactive, the Department currently does not plan to utilize the gravel for work on the Unique Area.
- Hickok Brook MUA: A gravel pit is located south of the main east-west public forest access road. Gravel from this area may be used to repair the road system and during timber harvesting operations on Hickok Brook MUA.

## Supporting Local Communities

### Tourism

State Forests can be an economic asset to the local communities that surround them. It is estimated that more than three out of every four Americans participate in active outdoor recreation of some sort each year. When they do, they spend money, generate jobs, and support local communities. For more information, please see SPSFM page 245 at https://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/64567.html.

Local Tourism will benefit from recreational infrastructure improvements proposed within the Neversink River Unit Management Plan. The recreational improvements proposed within this plan will benefit local communities from an increased number of recreational users traveling to the area.

### Taxes Paid

The New York State Real Property Tax Law provides that all reforestation areas are subject to taxation for school and town purposes. Some reforestation areas are also subject to taxation for county purposes. Most unique areas and multiple use areas are exempt from taxation. All of these lands are assessed as if privately owned.

Detailed tax information can be obtained by contacting the assessors for the towns of Forestburgh, Highland, Mamakating, Thompson and Wawarsing. All lands owned by the state in the Neversink River Unique Area in the Sullivan County towns of Forestburgh, Thompson, and Mamakating fall under Real Property Tax Law Section 532(i).. The following taxes are projected for State lands in this unit for the 2014 tax year:

1. Township Tax (incl. highway, general, fire taxes, etc.): 78,112
2. Total School Tax: 309,281
3. Total County Tax: 101,083
4. Other Tax: 0

## Forest Products

### Timber

Timber management provides a renewable supply of sustainably-harvested forest products and can also enhance biodiversity. The products harvested may include furniture-quality hardwoods,

softwoods for log cabins, fiber for paper making, firewood, animal bedding, wood pellets, biofuel, and chips for electricity production. For more information, please see SPSFM page 251 at https://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/64567.html.

Information on upcoming timber expected to be produced from timber management activities on the unit is contained in the land management action schedules in the Appendices at the end of this document.

The authority to sell forest products from DEC administered lands is provided by the Environmental Conservation Law. To perpetuate the growth, health and quality of the forest resources, the Department has implemented a sustained yield timber management program for State Forest lands.

Forest stands being considered for timber harvesting are selected based on the following criteria:

1. Adequate access;
2. Wildlife considerations;
3. Present and future forest health concerns (including invasive plants and pests);
4. Current distribution of vegetative stages within the unit management land area and surrounding landscape, including the ecoregional habitat gaps as per the Strategic Plan for State Forest Management;
5. Ability to regenerate stands (if a regeneration harvest);
6. Existing timber and vegetation management needs from other unit management plans;
7. Market conditions;
8. Potential growth response of stands to treatment
9. Presence of rare, threatened and endangered species and unique natural communities

By law, any trees to be removed in a harvest must be designated and paid for prior to removal. Designation (marking) of trees is made by DEC forestry staff. After designation is completed, a fair market appraisal is conducted. No products may be sold at less than the fair market value. Forest stands are selected for harvest based on the criteria outlined above, and the desired future conditions identified by this Unit Management Plan

The Environmental Conservation Law requires that different procedures are employed based on the appraised value of a timber sale. Sales that are appraised greater than $10,000 are called revenue sales and sales that are appraised at less than $10,000 are known as local sales. Revenue sales contracts must be approved by DEC's Central Office staff, and revenue sale contracts valued at $25,000 or more must be approved by the Office of the State Comptroller. The Regional Forester has the authority to execute local sale contracts. All sales valued at more than $500 (and those less than $500 which are thought to have substantial public interest) are publicly advertised and competitively bid.

### Non-Timber Forest Products

Within each UMP, stands that could be considered for maple tapping must be discussed and identified as per FP Action 7 of the SPSFM

Lands within the Neversink River Unit cannot support maple tapping. Most forest stands within the unit have no or low densities of sugar maple trees in areas where topography, recreational use, and drainage would conflict with both recreational and commercial maple tapping.

## Forest Health

Forest health is pursued with the goal of maintaining biodiversity. Any agent that decreases biodiversity can have a deleterious effect on the forest as a whole and its ability to withstand stress. Forest health in general should favor the retention of native species and natural communities or species that can thrive in site conditions without interrupting biodiversity. For more information on forest health, please see SPSFM page 277 at https://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/64567.html.

### Invasive Species

As global trade and travel have increased, so have the introduction of non-native species. While many of these non-native species do not have adverse effects on the areas in which they are introduced, some become invasive in their new ranges, disrupting ecosystem function, reducing biodiversity, and 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.

| *Table I.M. – Invasive Species, Pests and Pathogens* | |
|---|---|
| **Plants** | **Status** |
| Japanese Barberry (*Berberis thunbergii)* | Present within the counties of the unit and observed on State Lands within the plan. |
| Multi-Flora Rose (*Rosa multiflora*) | |
| Tree of Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*) | |
| Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*) | |
| Oriental Bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*) | |
| Black and Pale Swallowwort (*Cynanchum rossicum*) | Present within the counties of the unit but not observed on State Lands within the plan. |
| Mile-a-Minute Vine (*Persicaria perfoliata*) | |
| | |
| **Insects** | **Status** |
| Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (*Adelges tsugae*) | Present within the counties of the unit and observed on State Lands within the plan. |
| Emerald Ash Borer (*Agrilus planipennis*) | |
| Spotted Lantern Fly (*Lycorma delicatula*) | Not present within the unit. The Bureau of Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health (BISEH) and United States Department of Agriculture are actively monitoring for its presence. |
| **Diseases** | **Status** |
| Chestnut Blight (*Cryphonectria parasitica*) | Present within the counties of the unit and observed on State Lands within the plan. |
| Beech Bark Disease (*Cryptococcus fagisuga*) | |
| Dutch Elm Disease (*Ophiostooma ulmi*) | |
| Oak Wilt (*Ceratocystis fagacearum*) | Not present within the unit. The Bureau of Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health (BISEH) conducts annual oak wilt monitoring flights. |
| **Animals** | **Status** |
| Feral Swine (*Sus scrofa*) | Eradicated from Sullivan County, Feral Swine were never observed on lands within the unit. |

Control and Monitoring of Invasive Species:

The NYSDEC Bureau of Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health (BISEH) monitors for invasive species across New York State. The Department actively works in cooperation with the United States Department of Agriculture, Universities, and partners in regional invasive species management (PRISM) to control and monitor for invasive species throughout New York State. On State Forest Lands Foresters, volunteers, and Central Office BISEH Forest Health technicians monitor lands for invasive species.

Controlling Invasive Species:

Herbicide applications and mechanical removal of invasive plants will focus on areas where the targeted invasive plant is not already widespread and pervasive, to prevent its spread to new locations, and during forest management activities where invasive species would inhibit regeneration of the forest or cause its spread due to soil scarification and an increase in available sunlight. In some instances, management actions may not be taken to avoid spreading or improving growing conditions for invasive plant species. Where herbicide is applied an Herbicide Action Plan (HAP) must be written and approved prior to any chemical application on State Forest Lands that includes a detailed map, targeted species, and chemical application rate.

Where invasive species have become established and pervasive, the use of bio-controls will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis for both invasive plant and insect species. The Department is working with Cornell's *New York Hemlock Initiative* on the targeted release of bio-controls for Hemlock Woolly Adelgid. Several bio-controls have been released in other parts of New York State, the Laricobius beetle (*Laricobius nigrinus)* and silverflies, (*Leucopis argenticollis)* and (*Leucopis piniperda)*. The release of Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA) bio-controls on lands within the unit would benefit hemlock stands common along riparian corridors and wetlands on State Lands within the unit.

Chestnut Tree Blight:

Large diameter American Chestnut trees are no longer present on the landscape due to Chestnut blight introduced from China killing most large diameter chestnut trees in the United States during the early 20$^{th}$ century. Remnant stump and root sprout American chestnut trees still grow but are unable to survive being girdled by chestnut tree blight. (Powel et al)

The 1997 Neversink River Unique Area Unit Management Plan called for the establishment of blight resistant chestnut tree orchards. The trees once played an important role in the ecology and economy of New York State. The Department currently does not have blight resistant chestnut trees to reintroduce to the Unique Area.

The State University of New York's College of Environmental Science and Forestry (SUNY-ESF) is developing a blight resistant chestnut tree with the hopes to reintroduce a genetically modified American Chestnut tree back to the environment. In the future these trees could potentially be re-introduced to oak forest stands within the unit management plan area.

The release of a genetically engineered organism on State Forest Lands would have to be pre-approved and the current prohibition on releasing genetically modified organisms under the

## FOREST HEALTH

Department's Forest Sustainability Council certification would need to be addressed prior to the release of any of the genetically modified trees on State Forest Lands.

Native Interfering Vegetation:

Native vegetation can reach undesirable densities that interfere with regenerating forest stands and other native plants. Plants such as hay-scented fern and mountain laurel can reach densities that can inhibit the growth of tree seedlings. In instances where interfering vegetation reaches undesirable densities within forest stands scheduled for timber harvests designed to regenerate or release desired tree seedlings, the Department may treat these areas with herbicide to ensure adequate growing space is available for regeneration prior to forest management actions. All herbicide applications are done by licensed pesticide applicators after an herbicide application plan has been approved by the Department.

### Managing Deer Impacts

There is limited ability to manage deer impacts using silvicultural systems. The most effective method of keeping deer impacts in line with management objectives is to monitor impacts while working with the Division of Fish and Wildlife to observe and manage the herd. On properties where deer are suspected of impacting values and objectives associated with biodiversity and timber management, such impacts must be inventoried and assessed. For more information on managing deer impacts, please see SPSFM page 291 at https://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/64567.html.

Deer densities vary greatly within the unit from property to property and specific forest stands within each area. When developing forest management prescriptions deer densities are addressed on an as needed basis by evaluating browse conditions within individual forest stands.

## Summary of Ecoregion Assessments

To practice ecosystem management, foresters, must assess the natural landscape in and around the management unit. State Forest managers utilized The Nature Conservancy Ecoregion Assessments to evaluate the landscape in and around this management unit. All State Forest lands covered under the Neversink River UMP fall within the High Alleghany Plateau Ecoregion.

### Ecoregion Summary

[The High Allegheny Plateau (HAP) Ecoregion is located along the southern tier of New York and the northern tier of Pennsylvania (Zaremba and Anderson et. al. 2003). It includes a small portion of New Jersey. Well known features in HAP include the Catskills, The Shawangunks, The Kittatinny Ridge, The Poconos, Allegany State Park, Allegheny National Forest, and a large mass of Pennsylvania state-owned land.

The HAP ecoregion is defined by high elevation features at the northern end of the Appalachian Plateau. Most of the ecoregion is above 1200 feet. The general landform of the area is mid elevation hills separated by numerous narrow stream-cut valleys.

One of the main features of the ecoregion is an abundance of rivers and streams. The Delaware, Susquehanna, and Allegheny Rivers and their many tributaries cover the entire ecoregion. The Delaware River drains into Delaware Bay; the Susquehanna flows into the Chesapeake Bay; the Allegheny flows into the Ohio and eventually into the Mississippi. These three different drainages contribute to the high overall aquatic diversity in the ecoregion.

The northern and eastern portions of the ecoregion were glaciated; the southwest portion was not. Many northern species and communities reach their southern limit in HAP, while many southern species extend into the ecoregion but not beyond. Species and communities associated with glaciated landforms occur in the north and east; biodiversity associated with older substrate and deeper erosional soils occur in the southwest.

Another prominent feature of the ecoregion is its currently low population density, although major population centers are nearby. There are 1.7 million people living in the 16.9 million acres of HAP (2000 census data). The largest city is Binghamton, New York at 47,000. Only 250,000 people in HAP live in cities over 10,000. The overall population trend in HAP indicates that people are moving out of the ecoregion with the notable exception of the areas within reach of New York City by major highways.

There are large and significant managed areas in HAP, including three large intact forested areas: the Catskills, the Allegheny National Forest/Allegany State Park complex, and the Pennsylvania state land in central PA.

## Ecoregion Assessment

| *Table II.A. Land Use and Land Cover for the Landscape Surrounding The Neversink River UMP | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Land Use and Cover** | **Approximate Acreage** | **Percent of Landscape** |
| Mixed Forest | 175562.47 | 29.4% |
| Conifer Forest | 45513.03 | 7.6% |
| Deciduous Forest | 250891.13 | 42.0% |
| Developed Lands | 40242.52 | 6.7% |
| Hay/Pasture | 34868.37 | 5.8% |
| Cultivated Lands | 656.17 | 0.1% |
| Barren Lands | 1305.67 | 0.2% |
| Shrub/Scrub land | 1023.85 | 0.2% |
| Herbaceous Land | 3568.24 | 1% |
| Forested Wetland | 25569.83 | 4.3% |
| Non-forested Wetlands | 2134 | 0.4% |
| Open Water | 15928.32 | 2.7% |
| **Total** | **597263.6** | **100** |

* Numbers derived from the 2006 National Landcover Dataset for the lower 48 States.]

## Local Landscape Conditions

[The following land cover types and percentages are approximate. These acreages were derived from State Forest Land inventory data for state forest lands within the Neversink River UMP and the 2006 National Landcover dataset. There is an inherit level of error in the analysis when compared to surveyed land acreage totals and forest inventory acreage totals. The approximate 7.8 percent error in total inventory acreage when compared to total surveyed acreage within the unit can be attributed to non-forested acreage discrepancies within the unit. The following discussion is a comparison of landcover types within the High Alleghany Plateau, and within the Neversink River UMP area.

**Forest Cover** within the Neversink River Unit is well represented. Approximately 79% of the lands within Unit fall within this cover type.

**Conifer Forest cover** within the surrounding UMP area and the High Allegheny Plateau ecoregion are underrepresented when compared to the rest of New York State. Pure conifer stands within the UMP area only represent 7.6 % of the total acreage of lands within the surrounding area for all land within the unit. White pine and hemlock conifer cover within the Neversink River Unit cover just under 3 % of state forest lands. Conifer cover will continue to decline due to forest health issues associated with White Pine Decline and the invasive Hemlock Woolly Adelgid. Where site conditions favor pure conifer cover management will focus on maintaining and improving existing pure conifer stands.

**Mixed Forest Cover** Represents 29.4% of the Neversink River UMP area. Mixed Forest Cover is well represented in the unit when compared to the surrounding High Alleghany Plateau ecoregion, mixed forest cover represents 12.2 % of total landcover area. Over 46% of State Forest Land fall within the mixed forest cover type within the unit. Due to forest health issues associated with white pine and hemlock, conifer cover is expected to decrease while mixed forest cover is expected to increase as hardwoods replace conifer trees within pure conifer cover. Actions to increase mixed forest cover are not proposed within the plan.

**Deciduous Forest Cover:** Deciduous Forest cover is well represented within the unit management plan area. Approximately 42% of all the land within the unit management plan area falls within the deciduous forest cover type, on State Forest Lands around 47% of State Forest lands within the unit are deciduous forest cover. Deciduous Forest Cover is expected to remain stable or slightly increase due to conifer cover mortality.

**Shrub/scrub:** Shrub and scrubland also includes young forest cover or seedling/sapling stage forest cover within the unit. Within State Forest lands and the surrounding landscape within the unit management plan area, only 0.2% of the total landcover area within the unit falls under the Shrub/scrub landcover type. Much of the State Lands within the unit management plan area had been harvested in the 1980s and early 1990s. Those areas would be approximately 30-40 years old, too old to be considered young forest and not old enough to justify regenerating those areas to increase young forest cover.

The largest area of shrubland within the unit occurs on Wolf Brook Multiple Use Area. The Marcy South Utility line corridor provides shrub/scrubland habitat that will continue to be maintained as shrub/scrub land for the perpetuity of the utility line corridor.

**Forested wetlands and herbaceous emergent wetland cover**: Wetland land cover types within New York State are underrepresented. Both forested and herbaceous emergent wetland cover represents only 4.7% of total land within the UMP area. State lands will not be converted to wetland cover types, but the Department will continue to actively protect wetland cover types on state lands.

**Grasslands and Herbaceous land:** Grassland and herbaceous cover types are underrepresented within the Neversink River Unit Management Plan area. Grassland and Herbaceous landcover only represents 1% of the total land within the UMP area.

## Habitat Related Demands

While much of the habitat related deficiencies are discussed within the ecoregional assessment, habitat related demands will focus on how the Department will manage land cover within the unit based on the Ecoregional analysis, current site conditions, previous management actions and demands on those cover types.

**Forest Cover:** Forest management within the unit is challenging due to poor soils that are excessively stony, have dense mountain laurel understories, and past damage due to Spongy moth mortality in the 1980s and early 1990s. The following is a brief description of management activities aimed at improving the overall health and vigor of forest cover types within the unit.

## HABITAT RELATED DEMANDS

**Thinning:** Thinning treatments will focus on retaining the healthiest overstory trees within a stand following a written prescription that references a silvicultural stocking guide. Thinning will focus on improving the overall health and vigor of residual trees.

**Regeneration Shelterwood Cut Method/ with reserves:** In Stands scheduled for regeneration in the next ten years that are predominately white pine, white pine-northern hardwood, white pine-oak and oak forest cover types management will follow a prescription designed to establish and release a new understory of seedlings through a series of 2-3 cuts. The first cut is designed to scarify and increase available sunlight to the understory by removing approximately 40-60% of the overstory. Subsequent harvests are designed to increase available sunlight and remove the overstory once adequate regeneration is established, a portion of the overstory trees or 'shelterwood' will be reserved to serve as a biological legacy, a source of hard mast such as mature oak or hickory trees, and under-represented tree species. Retention distribution, number of trees retained, age class structure and species composition after harvest will vary based on current and future desired conditions within individual stands.

**Un-evenaged management (Northern Hardwood Forest Cover Types)**: A 43-acre northern hardwood stand within Painters Hill Multiple Use Area will be managed for an un-evenaged stand structure. This will be accomplished through a combination of timber sales and homeowner firewood sales. The quality of the Northern Hardwood Forest cover type with shade tolerant sugar maple within this stand and proximity to road access make un-evenaged management possible.

**Grasslands and shrubland cover type management**: Grassland habitat will not be expanded on lands within the unit, conversion of forest cover to grasslands is incompatible with forest management goals on State Forest Lands. The Department will not maintain fields within the Neversink River Unit, in order to allow fields to revert to forest cover. All lands within the Unit fall within a forest matrix block or forest linkage. Thus, to encourage improved continuity across the landscape these areas will be allowed to revert to forest cover. Grasslands and Herbaceous lands are expected to decrease overtime as fields begin to revert to shrub/scrubland and young forest cover.

**Early Successional Habitat management:** According to inventory analysis for forested stands within the unit there is a lack of early successional habitat. This includes both seedling sapling and brush/scrub land cover types. Early successional habitat will continue to be underrepresented within the lands of the unit. A cyclical increase will correspond with scheduled regeneration timber harvests. Outside of forest management, natural disturbances such as microbursts, ice storms, and tornadoes have the potential to create early successional habitat but are infrequent.

To protect the Forest Matrix block and linkage zone that the Neversink River Unit falls in, stands will be allowed to naturally mature past the early successional stage, except in small, isolated locations in the Neversink River Unique Area where this habitat is vital to the population of NYS Threatened Timber Rattlesnake. Several small-scale patch cuts approximately 2.0 acres in size will be created to improve basking and gestating areas for the NYS threatened Timber Rattlesnake. These areas will be maintained as early successional and open cover for timber rattlesnake habitat.

**Forested wetlands and herbaceous emergent wetland cover type management**: The Department will not actively convert other land cover types to wetlands within the unit. Wetlands are delineated and protected during management activities. Recreational and forest management actions are specifically designed to mitigate and avoid adverse impacts to wetland habitat on State Forest Lands. Please refer to the information on page 19 of this plan that describes Special Management Zones that protect wetland and riparian areas during management activities.]

# Management Objectives and Actions

## Objectives

### Ecosystem Management

*Table III.A. –Ecosystem Management Objectives and Actions*

| Objective | Actions |
|---|---|
| **Active Forest Management** | |
| **AFM I –** Apply sound silvicultural practices | Forest Management Activities will follow guidelines set forth in the Strategic Plan for State Forest Management. |
| **AFM II –** Use harvesting plans to enhance diversity of species, habitats & structure | All timber harvests follow a written prescription that takes biodiversity, habitats, and structure into account during the planning process for all timber harvests. |
| **AFM III –** Fill ecoregional gaps to maintain and enhance landscape-level biodiversity | Proposed Forest Management will focus on under-represented cover types identified in the Ecoregional analysis. |
| **AFM IV** – Enhance matrix forest blocks and connectivity corridors where applicable | The lands within this unit fall within a Forest Matrix Block and connectivity corridor as described on page 20 of this plan. The following actions will be taken:<br><br>Managing forest stands through un-evenaged single tree selection where appropriate to maintain a closed canopy.<br><br>Where evenaged management is most appropriate or in any stand scheduled for regeneration the use of retention, inclusions, and feathering of stand edges will minimize impacts of forest canopy openings to the integrity of the Forest Matrix Block.<br><br>The Department will cease mowing public forest access roads and fields to allow areas to revert to forest. |
| **AFM V** – Practice forest and tree retention on stands managed for timber | The Department follows retention policies within the Strategic Plan for State Forest Management that promote biodiversity through forest and tree retention. |
| **AFM VI** - Identify and maintain HCVFs | The DEC with assistance from the Natural Heritage Foundation Maintains and identifies High Conservation Value Forests throughout the State of New York. |

OBJECTIVES

## Resource Protection

*Table III.B. –Resource Protection Objectives and Actions*

| Objective | Actions |
|---|---|
| **Soil and Water Protection** | |
| **SW I** – Prevent erosion, compaction, and nutrient depletion | Review soils maps and follow Best Management Practices during the planning process for trail construction and timber management activities. |
| **SW II –** Identify and map SMZ's and adapt management for highly-erodible soils | Special Management zones that are not already delineated are identified and mapped on the ground during the layout and planning phase of forest management activities. |
| **At-Risk Species and Natural Communities** | |
| **ARS I** – Protect ARS&C ranked S1, S2, S2-3,G1, G2 or G2-3 where present | **Timber Rattlesnakes**<br>Develop educational signage for Neversink River Unique area, informing the public that Timber Rattlesnakes are present on the property.<br>1) Before undertaking any trail construction, timber harvesting, prescribed fire, or mowing within 1.5 miles of a known rattlesnake den location, consult with Bureau of Wildlife staff to review proposed actions for potential impacts to timber rattlesnakes or critical habitat as prescribed in DEC's guidelines |

*Table III.B. –Resource Protection Objectives and Actions*

| Objective | Actions |
|---|---|
| **ARS I** – Protect ARS&C ranked S1, S2, S2-3,G1, G2 or G2-3 where present | **Forest Bats**<br>1. The acceptable work window for tree removal is October 1st to March 31st. All potential harvest should be screened using the New York Natural Heritage Program records for the presence of known roost trees. Ideally, a 100m no activity buffer should be maintained around all known roost trees. If this cannot be maintained, the proposed project will need to be reviewed for impacts to the particular bat species.<br>2. Harvests should aim to retain 60% canopy cover in areas known to have Indiana Bat.<br>3. For Harvests in areas with Northern Long-eared bats only:<br>a. No cutting of any trees may occur inside of the ¼ mile buffer around a hibernaculum.<br>i. Please note that if any tree clearing activities are required within ¼ mile of a hibernation area for NLEB, you may be required to obtain a permit from the US Fish and Wildlife Service.<br>b. April 1 to October 31<br>i. During this period of time, the NLEB are active and will be found outside the hibernacula.<br>ii. Within 5 miles of known hibernacula or within 150' of documented summer occurrence the following cutting restrictions apply:<br>iii. Leave uncut all snag and cavity trees unless their removal is necessary for protection of human life and property. For the purposes of this guidance, protection of human life and property includes removal of trees that, if not removed, could result in the loss of electric service. Snag and cavity trees are defined under DEC Program Policy ONR-DLF-2 Retention on State Forests. |
| | |

OBJECTIVES

| *Table III.B. –Resource Protection Objectives and Actions* | |
|---|---|
| **Objective** | **Actions** |
| **ARS I** – Protect ARS&C ranked S1, S2, S2-3,<br>G1, G2 or G2-3 where present | **Forest Bats Continued:**<br><br>iv. Leave uncut all known and documented roost trees, and any trees within a 150-foot radius of a documented summer occurrence.<br>v. Please note that if you plan any tree clearing activities within 150 ft of a summer occurrence for NLEB during June or July, you may be required to obtain a permit from the US Fish and Wildlife Service.<br>vi. If any bats are observed flying from a tree, or on a tree that has been cut, forestry activities in the area should be suspended and DEC Wildlife staff notified as soon as possible.<br>vii. Within a ¼ mile of a hibernaculum, leave all trees uncut unless their removal is necessary for protection of human life and property.<br>c. Please note that if any tree clearing activities are required within ¼ mile of a hibernation area for NLEB, you may be required to obtain a permit from the US Fish and Wildlife Service.<br>https://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/106090.html |
| **ARS II –** Conduct habitat restoration and promote recovery of declining species | Coordinate with wildlife staff to improve habitat for the Timber Rattlesnake on Neversink River Unique Area. Wildlife staff will assist Lands and Forests with small scale tree cutting (approximately 2.0 acres total) to improve a basking area and separate gestating site. Lands and Forests will work with Wildlife staff to identify and improve rattlesnake habitat identified by ongoing research and census studies of the snake population on the unique area. |
| **ARS III** - Consider protection and management of Species of Greatest Conservation Need | Coordinate with wildlife staff to incorporate habitat requirements of species of Greatest Conservation Need in timber harvest prescriptions. |
| **Visual Resources and Aesthetics** | |

| *Table III.B. –Resource Protection Objectives and Actions* | |
|---|---|
| **Objective** | **Actions** |
| **VR I** – Maintain or improve overall quality of visual resources | In order to maintain the vista along the Banks of the Neversink River within the Neversink River Unique Area, no bridges or man-made improvements will be constructed within the river corridor. Forest Management Actions within the unit will take into consideration visual resources when laying out timber harvests. |
| **VR II** – Use natural materials where feasible | All materials used on lands within this unit are natural. |
| **VR III** – Lay out any new roads/trails to highlight vistas and unique natural features | Proposed trails within this plan will highlight vistas and unique natural features. |
| **VR IV** – Develop kiosks to provide education and reduce sign pollution | Kiosk information will be updated, and any formal parking lot will have a kiosk installed with an informational panel containing a map and State land regulations. |
| **Historic and Cultural Resources** | |
| **HC I** – Preserve and protect historic and cultural resources wherever they occur | Historic and Cultural resources are inventoried and protected on all State Forest lands. |
| **HC II** – Inventory resources in GIS and with OPRHP | The inventory of historic and cultural resources is updated whenever new sites are discovered. |

## Infrastructure and Real Property

| *Table III.C. –Infrastructure and Real Property Objectives and Actions* | |
|---|---|
| **Objective** | **Actions** |
| **Boundary Line Maintenance** | |
| **BL I** – Maintain boundary lines | The Department will strive to inspect and maintain property lines every seven years. |
| **BL II** – Address encroachments and other real property problems | Forest Rangers routinely patrol property lines for encroachments and problems. Real property surveyors are consulted if questions arise regarding property lines on State Forest Lands. |
| **Infrastructure** | |
| **INF I** – Provide and maintain public forest access roads, access trails, haul roads, parking areas, and associated appurtenances | This unit management plan focuses on maintaining existing infrastructure. Limited development will focus on creating access to specific areas and unique destinations on State Forest Lands. |

OBJECTIVES

| *Table III.C. –Infrastructure and Real Property Objectives and Actions* | |
|---|---|
| **Objective** | **Actions** |
| **INF II** – Upgrade, replace or relocate infra-structure out of riparian areas where feasible | Infrastructure within riparian areas will be evaluated for removal when those structures are ready to be repaired or replaced. |
| **INF III** – Resolve issues of uncertain legal status or jurisdiction | Coordinate with legal staff, law Enforcement, and the affected parties to resolve uncertain legal status or jurisdiction within the unit. |
| **INF IV** – Prevent over-development | The Level of Development on Lands within this unit will be determined by the size of the property, anticipated level of recreational use, and potential adverse impacts to the surrounding environment. |

## Public/Permitted Use

| *Table III.D –Public / Permitted Use Objectives and Actions* | |
|---|---|
| **Objective** | **Actions** |
| **Universal Access** | |
| **UA I** – Use minimum tool approach to provide universal access to programs | DEC will evaluate and improve access on new lands. |
| **Formal and Informal Partnerships and Agreements** | |
| **PRT I** – Collaborate with local organizations and governments to reach mutual goals | Work with Volunteer Stewardship Agreement holders to develop and maintain trails. Collaborate with local towns and Sullivan county government to develop and maintain long distance trail corridors where appropriate. |
| **PRT II** – Consider full range of impacts associated with AANRs and recurring TRPs | Agreements and Temporary revocable permits (TRPs) are reviewed on an annual basis. |
| **Recreation** | |
| **REC I** – Accommodate public use while preventing illegal activity, reducing impacts and enhancing public safety | Improve public access to state forests to discourage illegal use. Install gates, rock barriers, and earthen berms as needed to curb illegal motor vehicle access. |
| **REC II** – Provide public recreation information | Develop educational panels for each kiosk within this unit that includes a location map and any pertinent state land regulations. Periodically update webpages for State lands within the unit. |

| *Table III.D –Public / Permitted Use Objectives and Actions* | |
|---|---|
| **Objective** | **Actions** |
| **REC III** – Inventory recreational amenities and schedule recreation management actions | Recreational amenities were inventoried while developing this unit management plan. A schedule for recreation management actions can be reviewed on Page 49. |
| **REC IV** – Enhance fish & game species habitat | Collaborate with Department Wildlife Biologists to help maintain game species through active forest management. Develop and maintain fishing regulations throughout the unit based on the recommendations of Fisheries Biologists. |
| **Off-Highway and All-Terrain Vehicle Use** | |
| **ATV I** – Enhance recreational access by people with disabilities under the MAPPWD program | Modify the MAPPWD route within the Neversink River UA and construct an accessible Campsite on Hickok Brook MUA to improve access for people with disabilities. View these Management proposals on Page 49. |
| **ATV II** – Consider requests for ATV connector routes across the unit | The Department will review proposals for ATV connector routes for long distance trail systems on a case-by-case basis. No long-distance ATV routes or trail connections will be allowed to cross the Neversink River Unique Area. |
| **Mineral Resources** | |
| **MR I** – Provide for mineral exploration and development while protecting natural resources and recreation | No mineral exploration is proposed within the unit. |
| **Supporting Local Communities** | |
| **LC I** – Provide revenue to New York State and economic stimulus for local communities | Support local communities by managing State Forest lands for the benefit of the Public through the protection of ecosystem services, development of recreational opportunities, and active forest management. The Department will support long distance trail corridors, such as the proposed O&W rail to trail proposal that will run along the boundary of the Neversink River Unique Area west of Cold Spring Road) |
| **LC II** – Improve local economies through forest-based tourism | Through the development of this Unit Management Plan and implementation of proposed recreational improvements on lands within the unit. |

# MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND ACTIONS

## OBJECTIVES

| *Table III.D –Public / Permitted Use Objectives and Actions* | |
|---|---|
| **Objective** | **Actions** |
| **LC III** – Protect rural character and provide ecosystem services to local communities. | See LC 1 |

### Forest Management and Health

| *Table III.E. –Forest Management and Health Objectives and Actions* | |
|---|---|
| **Objective** | **Actions** |
| **Forest Products** | |
| **FP I** – Sustainably manage for forest products | DEC will periodically re-inventory forest stands and use this information to guide management decisions. |
| **FP II** – Educate the public about the benefits of silviculture | Through the development and placement of educational signage on lands where active forest management activities are occurring. |
| **Plantation Management** | |
| **PM I** – Convert plantation stands to natural forest conditions where appropriate | No actions proposed at this time. |
| **PM II** – Artificially regenerate plantations where appropriate | No actions proposed at this time. |
| **Forest Health** | |
| **FH I** – Use timber sales to improve forest health and the diversity of species | Forest stands listed for timber management within the next 10 years will be evaluated for health and diversity of species when prescriptions are developed for timber sales. |
| **FH II** – Protect the unit and surrounding lands from introduced diseases and invasive plant and animal species | The Department actively monitors for invasive species and introduced diseases within this unit and across the state. |
| **Managing Deer Impacts** | |
| **DM I** – Monitor impacts of deer browsing on forest health and regeneration | Deer browse levels will be evaluated and taken into consideration when planning forest management activities. |
| **DM II** – Address issues of over-browsing | Lands and Forests will collaborate with Department wildlife staff if deer over-browsing becomes an issue. |
| **Fire Management** | |
| **FM I** – Support Forest Rangers in controlling the ignition and spread of wildfires | The Division of Lands and Forests will assist Forest Rangers in the control of Wildfires on State Forest lands. |

| *Table III.E. –Forest Management and Health Objectives and Actions* | |
|---|---|
| **Objective** | **Actions** |
| **FM II** – Maintain naturally occurring fire-dependent communities | Portions of the unit contain fire dependent communities. The Department may choose to use timber harvesting or prescribed fire to perpetuate these communities. Prescribed fires that exceed GEIS thresholds will be subject to further review under SEQR. |

| **Carbon Sequestration** | |
|---|---|
| **CS I** – Keep forests as forests, where appropriate | Maintain forests through an active forest management program that includes pre-harvest forest stand analysis, and post-harvest regeneration surveys. |
| **CS II** – Enhance carbon storage in existing stands | Enhance tree health and vigor through active forest management, thus improving the ability of forest stands to store carbon. |
| **CS III** – Keep forests vigorous and improve forest growth rates | Maintain healthy forests through periodic forest management. |
| **CS IV** – Sequester carbon in forest products | An active forest management regime will sequester carbon through the products made from timber harvested on State lands within the unit. |

## Ten-Year List of Management Actions

### Unit-wide Actions

**Action 1**
Develop and subsequently adopt this UMP with future amendments as needed and periodic updates at least every ten years.

**Action 2**
Update the web page for each State Forest within the Neversink River Unit, including an electronic, printable map showing the location of recreational amenities.

**Action 3**
Maintain existing recreational infrastructure using Department and Volunteer resources.

### Hickok Brook Multiple Use Area (MUA) Actions

1) Repair Gordon Dam and establish an emergency spillway. Any work on the dam will be contracted and overseen by DEC engineers. This work is necessary to comply with NYSDEC dam safety regulations. A site specific SEQR will be completed during the planning process to implement this action.
2) Camping will be allowed by permit only at one of the five designated campsites on Hickok Brook MUA to address overuse problems.
3) Officially close the Barker Road gate from December 31st - April 15th to protect the road system from damage. Forest Rangers will continue to have discretion to close gates on as needed basis for public safety and protection of the road system.
4) Develop a loop multi-use trail system in partnership with the Can't Hurt Steel Foundation through a Volunteer Stewardship Agreement.
5) Develop a kiosk panel with an updated map after the trail system has been constructed.
6) Construct an accessible campsite near Gordon Pond.
7) Officially close the CP-3 ATV route. The Current Trail has no clear destination and runs through a poorly drained location near Hickok Brook Pond.

### Wolf Brook MUA Actions

1) Establish (2) designated campsites near the boundary of Wolf Brook MUA and Neversink River Unique Area. These sites will allow camping by permit only.
2) Close the internal road system from December 31st- April 15th to protect the road system from damage. Forest Rangers will continue to have discretion to close gates on an as needed basis for public safety and protection of the road system.
3) Barricade two ATV trails entering the MUA from the eastern boundary of the property.
4) Improve the Wolf Brook Road access to the cul-de-sac access to the Neversink River Unique Area.

## Neversink River Unique Area (UA) Actions:

### Trail and Recreation Management Actions:

1. Develop a Kiosk panel for each formal parking area with an updated trail map, trail descriptions, and special regulations listed. Cellphone service is poor, and many users are unprepared to navigate the Unique Area. An updated brochure would help alleviate this problem.
2. Coordinate with New York / New Jersey Trail Conference (NY/NJTC) to construct and mark trails approved in the 2013 Amendment to the Neversink River Unique Area UMP. (One proposed trail running along the Eastern boundary of the Unique Area was eliminated from this plan due to natural resource concerns)
3. Develop formal signage notifying the public of the right of adjoining landowners to access private lands along hatchery road by motor vehicle and to respect the privacy of adjoining private landowners along Hatchery Road.
4. Construct a foot bridge to cross Eden Brook to connect Cold Spring Road Parking Area to fish Hatchery Road.
5. Construct a foot bridge to cross Little Eden Brook on the Blue Trail West. Recreational users are forced to ford the stream.
6. Formalize a trail from Hiram Jones Road to the Neversink River. This will provide direct access to the Neversink River and direct users away from a section of existing woods road that crosses private land to access the Neversink River.
7. Install trail wayfaring signs that includes mileage and trail directions for the entire trail system. Each trail intersection without a wayfaring sign will be labeled with an intersection sign. (Trail wayfaring signage was installed from Highfalls north to the Katrina Falls Access)
8. Designate a short foot-trail to a waterfall north of the former White Oak hunting club cabin.
9. Work to improve the Denton Falls trail. The trail has drainage and tread issues that need to be addressed. The Department will coordinate repairs or modify the trail with volunteer or professional trail crew resources.
10. Improve the drainage and tread on the Cold Spring Road parking lot red trail. Portions of the trail are extremely wet, and the trail tread will be improved, or the route modified to provide a sustainable route for hiking.
11. Coordinate with Sullivan County to develop a trail connector to access the proposed future O&W rail trail located along the western boundary of the Neversink River Unique Area near Cold Spring Road.
12. Develop a new Motor Vehicle Access Permit for people with Disabilities (MAPPWD) ATV route from the Katrina Falls Access to Hackledam. The previous route is no longer accessible due to the footbridge crossing Mullet Brook along the
13. Modify and shorten the existing CP-3 Route starting from the Katrina Falls parking area. For further information please refer to the *Universal Access* section under the Neversink River Unique Area heading on page 36.
14. Install a gate southeast of the intersection of High Falls trail and Hackledam trail. The gate will restrict MAPPWD permittees to the proposed CP-3 Route.
15. Repair the Wolf Brook Bridge on the High Falls Trail.

16. Submit a Technical Service Report (TSR) for Department engineers to conduct a safety inspection of the two bridges along Eden Brook Road.
17. Evaluate the feasibility of replacing the former suspension bridge crossing the Neversink River.
18. Coordinate with the local historic society to develop historic signage for the former Hackledam site and evaluate other potential locations. This action will be coordinated with NYSDEC communications staff and the Forester managing the area.

**Neversink River UA Parking and Access Proposals:**

1. Improve and expand the existing Katrina Falls parking area to a 20-car capacity lot with one designated parking space for CP-3 permittees with ATV trailers.
2. Relocate the Kiosk during parking lot expansion of the Katrina Falls Road parking area to eliminate cars from blocking the kiosk.
3. Continue to Coordinate with the Town of Thompson to mitigate parking issues along Katrina Falls Road.
4. Post the boundary of Wolf Brook MUA along Katrina Falls Road to no parking once the proposed Katrina Falls parking lot expansion is completed to protect the Unique Area from overuse.
5. Improve the parking access off Hiram Jones Road and designate an unmarked woods road trail to provide access to the west bank of the Neversink River Unique Area.
6. Repair the stream crossing on Skinner Road to make the road access safe for vehicle traffic and formalize the access. Once this work is completed a Kiosk will be installed and the informal parking area improved. This action is consistent with the 2013 Amendment to the Neversink River Unique Area.
7. Griffin Road Access: The State maintains that it has access to the former Leonard parcel of the Neversink River Unique Area across the Historic Griffin Road. Until 2022, administrative access through a locked gate was allowed by the private landowners who adjoin the unique area. Lands and Forests will work with real property and legal staff to address this access issue.

**Neversink River UA Natural Resource Protection and Management Actions:**

1. Barricade illegal ATV trails crossing the boundary of the Neversink River Unique Area. Illegal ATV trespass from Griffin Road and the Skinner Road area is a major issue from surrounding private lands. In addition to damaging vegetation and soils, ATV trespass is a direct threat to the Timber Rattlesnake population on the Unique Area.
2. Target shooting in the gravel pit located off Cold Spring Rd on the Neversink River Unique Area will once again be closed to target shooting. See page 38 under the Target Shooting section for further details.
3. Coordinate with Wildlife to improve Eastern Timber Rattlesnake habitat through small scale forest management on 2 acres of forest cover within the Unique Area. Specific locations will be kept confidential to protect the state threatened Timber Rattlesnake.
4. Install educational Timber Rattlesnake signage at trailheads alerting the public to the presence of Timber Rattlesnakes on the Unique Area.

5. Coordinate with Fisheries Biologists, Wetland Biologists, and Operations staff to develop a dam breach plan for 3 dams along Eden Brook to improve water flow and the fishery. This action is contingent on ensuring minimal adverse impacts during dam removals and that actions will improve water quality to Eden Brook and the Neversink River. Once a breach plan has been developed a site-specific review of plan through SEQR (State Environmental Quality Review) will be conducted prior to removal of any dams. Department will ensure no private lands will be impacted.
6. Demolish the former White Oak Club Camp near the northern boundary of the former Leonard Tract acquired in 2001. Remove trailers and debris along the access to the former White Oak Club.
7. Further investigate the potential to re-introduce a genetically modified American Chestnut tree on Neversink River Unique Area.
8. Forest Management: The Department has selected 288.6 acres for potential management within the next ten years to initiate or release regeneration in four white pine mixed hardwood forest cover type stands within the Neversink River Unique Area. Initial forest inventory data indicates these stands contain high densities of White Pine that appear to be declining. Further stand analysis will be conducted to evaluate stand conditions and develop a prescription that will protect and improve forest health. Stands will be managed for an all-aged stand structure consistent with the 1997 Neversink River Unit Management Plan.

### Painters Hill MUA Actions:

1. Construct a kiosk within the parking area that includes a map and state lands regulations.

### Oak Ridge MUA Actions:

1. Construct a 5 Car parking area with a kiosk in the former log landing located off Roberts Road. The kiosk will have a map of the property and state lands regulations.
2. Interfering vegetation control: Evaluate stands for mechanical and chemical control of Mountain Laurel. Dense Mountain laurel will impede any forest management activities on Oak Ridge MUA. The dense stands of Mountain laurel were caused from the salvage harvest of oak due to Spongey moth caused mortality.

FOREST TYPE CODES

## Forest Type Codes

### Natural Forest Types

10 Northern Hardwood
11 Northern Hardwood-Hemlock
13 Northern Hardwood-Spruce-Fir
12 Northern Hardwood-White Pine
14 Pioneer Hardwood
15 Swamp Hardwood
16 Oak
17 Black Locust
18 Oak-Hickory
19 Oak-Hemlock
20 Hemlock
21 White Pine
22 White Pine-Hemlock
23 Spruce-Fir
24 Spruce-Fir-Hemlock-White Pine
25 Cedar
26 Red Pine
27 Pitch Pine
28 Jack Pine
29 Tamarack
30 Oak-Pine
31 Transition Hardwoods (NH-Oak)
32 Other Natural Stands
33 Northern Hardwood-Norway Spruce
97 Seedling-Sapling- Natural
99 Non-Forest
-99 Null

### Plantation Types

40 Plantation: Red Pine
41 Plantation: White Pine
42 Plantation: Scotch Pine
43 Plantation: Austrian Pine
44 Plantation: Jack Pine
45 Plantation: Norway Spruce
46 Plantation: White Spruce
47 Plantation: Japanese Larch
48 Plantation: European Larch
49 Plantation: White Cedar
50 Plantation: Douglas Fir
51 Plantation: Balsam Fir
52 Plantation: Black Locust
53 Plantation: Pitch Pine
54 Plantation: Misc. Species (Pure)
60 Plantation: Red Pine-White Pine
61 Plantation: Red Pine-Spruce
62 Plantation: Red Pine-Larch
63 Plantation: White Pine-Spruce
64 Plantation: White Pine-Larch
65 Plantation: Scotch Pine-Spruce
66 Plantation: Scotch Pine-Larch
67 Plantation: Larch-Spruce
68 Plantation: Bucket Mixes
70 Plantation: Pine-Natural Species
72 Plantation: Misc. Hardwood
98 Plantation: Seedling-Sapling

## Management Direction

Wildlife (WL)
Experimental (EXP)
Recreation (REC)
Protection (PRO)
Non-Management (NM)
Sugar Bush/Maple Tapping (SB)
Timber Management:
- Even Age (T-EA)
- Un-Even Age (T-UE)
- Non-Silvicultural (T-NS)

## Treatment Type

Harvest (HV)
Release (RL)
Salvage (SL)
Sanitation (SN)
Thinning (TH)
Regeneration (RG)
Habitat Management (HM)
Sale Stand (SS)

## Size Class

Seedling/Sapling <5” DBH (S-S)
Pole Timber 6”-11” DBH (PT)
Small Saw Timber 12”-17” DBH (SST)
Medium Saw Timber 18”-23” DBH (MST)
Large Saw Timber > 24” DBH (LST)

## Land Management Action Schedules

### Land Management Action Schedule for the First Five Years

The Following Land Management Action Schedule serves as a guide for future Forest Management Activities. Pending future stand analysis, environmental conditions, and timber markets management may or may not occur within the following Forest Stands scheduled for treatment within the next years:

*Table III.F. -Land Management Action Schedule for First Five-Year Period* **(by State Forest)**

| State Forests | Stand | Acres | Size Class | Forest Type | | Management Direction | Treatment Type |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | Current | Future | | |
| Sullivan 01 Compartment 1 | 1 | 10.2 | PT | 31 | 31 | T-EA | TH |
| Sullivan 01 Compartment 1 | 4 | 15.3 | SST | 30 | 30 | T-EA | TH |
| Sullivan 01 Compartment 1 | 6 | 27.35 | PT | 11 | 11 | T-EA | TH |
| Sullivan 01 Compartment 1 | 10 | 81.1 | SST | 22 | 22 | T-UA | RG |
| Sullivan 02 Compartment 1 | 1 | 61.4 | SST | 11 | 11 | T-EA | TH |
| Sullivan 02 Compartment 1 | 2 | 38 | SST | 12 | 12 | T-EA | TH |
| Sullivan 02 Compartment 1 | 3 | 34 | SST | 32 | 32 | T-EA | TH |
| Sullivan 02 Compartment 1 | 5 | 34.9 | SST | 30 | 30 | T-EA | RG |
| Sullivan 02 Compartment 1 | 21 | 40 | SST | 12 | 12 | T-EA | RG |
| Sullivan 04 Compartment 1 | 2 | 43.5 | SST | 31 | 31 | T-UA | TH |
| Ulster 04 Compartment 1 | 1 | 16.6 | PT | 11 | 11 | T-EA | TH |

## LAND MANAGEMENT ACTION SCHEDULES

### Land Management Action Schedule for the Second Five Years

*Table III.F. -Land Management Action Schedule for Second Five-Year Period* **(by State Forest)**

| State Forests | Stand | Acres | Size Class | Forest Type | | Management Direction | Treatment Type |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | Current | Future | | |
| Sullivan 02 Compartment 1 | 32 | 63 | SST | 12 | 12 | T-EA | RG |
| Sullivan 06 Compartment 2 | 6 | 20.9 | SST | 12 | 12 | T-UA | RG |
| Sullivan 06 Compartment 2 | 11 | 67.9 | PT | 12 | 12 | T-UA | RG |
| Sullivan 06 Compartment 3 | 31 | 78.9 | PT | 12 | 12 | T-UA | RG |
| Sullivan 06 Compartment 3 | 32 | 121.06 | SST | 30 | 30 | T-UA | RG |

**Stands without Scheduled Maintenance within 10 years**

Table III.H. –Stands without Scheduled Management within 10 Years (by State Forest)

| State Forests | Stand | Acres | Size Class | Forest Type | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | Current | Future |
| Sullivan 01 Compartment 1 | 2 | 10.6 | PT | 10 | 10 |
| Sullivan 01 Sullivan Compartment 1 | 3 | 10.7 | PT | 16 | 16 |
| Sullivan 01 Compartment 1 | 5 | 16.9 | PT | 11 | 11 |
| Sullivan 01 Compartment 1 | 7 | 119 | SST | 11 | 11 |
| Sullivan 01 Compartment 1 | 8 | 40.8 | PT | 16 | 16 |
| Sullivan 01 Compartment 1 | 9 | 57.2 | PT | 16 | 16 |
| Sullivan 01 Compartment 1 | 11 | 89.0 | PT | 10 | 10 |
| Sullivan County 02 Compartment 1 | 4 | 18.7 | SST | 12 | 12 |
| Sullivan County 02 Compartment 1 | 6 | 60.93 | SST | 12 | 12 |
| Sullivan County 02 Compartment 1 | 7 | 10.5 | SST | 12 | 12 |
| Sullivan County 02 Compartment 1 | 8 | 6.7 | SST | 12 | 12 |
| Sullivan County 02 Compartment 1 | 9 | 37 | SST | 19 | 19 |
| Sullivan County 02 Compartment 1 | 10 | 49.3 | PT | 18 | 18 |
| Sullivan County 02 Compartment 1 | 11 | 83.7 | PT | 16 | 16 |

## LAND MANAGEMENT ACTION SCHEDULES

Table III.H. –Stands without Scheduled Management within 10 Years (by State Forest)

| State Forests | Stand | Acres | Size Class | Forest Type | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | Current | Future |
| Sullivan County 02 Compartment 1 | 12 | 30 | SST | 32 | 32 |
| Sullivan County 02 Compartment 1 | 13 | 107 | SST | 32 | 32 |
| Sullivan County 02 Compartment 1 | 14 | 15.4 | SST | 31 | 31 |
| Sullivan County 02 Compartment 1 | 16 | 13.5 | SST | 12 | 12 |
| Sullivan 02 Compartment 1 | 18 | 20.6 | PT | 21 | 21 |
| Sullivan 02 Compartment 1 | 19 | 14 | SST | 11 | 11 |
| Sullivan 02 Compartment 1 | 20 | 7.2 | SST | 10 | 10 |
| Sullivan 02 Compartment 1 | 22 | 18.4 | PT | 11 | 11 |
| Sullivan 02 Compartment 1 | 23 | 7 | PT | 15 | 15 |
| Sullivan 02 Compartment 1 | 24 | 9 | SST | 15 | 15 |
| Sullivan 02 Compartment 1 | 25 | 22 | PT | 12 | 12 |
| Sullivan 02 Compartment 1 | 26 | 25 | PT | 12 | 12 |
| Sullivan 02 Compartment 1 | 27 | 43 | SST | 12 | 12 |
| Sullivan 02 Compartment 1 | 28 | 17.3 | SST | 12 | 12 |

Table III.H. –Stands without Scheduled Management within 10 Years (by State Forest)

| State Forests | Stand | Acres | Size Class | Forest Type | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | Current | Future |
| Sullivan 02 Compartment 1 | 29 | 33 | SST | 11 | 11 |
| Sullivan 02 Compartment 1 | 30 | 45.8 | SST | 12 | 12 |
| Sullivan 02 Compartment 1 | 31 | 14.8 | SST | 15 | 15 |
| Sullivan 02 Compartment 1 | 32 | 63 | SST | 12 | 12 |
| Sullivan County 04 Compartment 1 | 1 | 32.5 | SST | 10 | 10 |
| Sullivan County 04 Compartment 1 | 3 | 12 | SST | 11 | 11 |
| Sullivan County 04 Compartment 1 | 5 | 4 | PT | 10 | 10 |
| Sullivan 06 Compartment 1 | 1 | 43.9 | PT | 10 | 10 |
| Sullivan 06 Compartment 1 | 7 | 60.5 | PT | 10 | 10 |
| Sullivan 06 Compartment 1 | 8 | 28.1 | PT | 16 | 16 |
| Sullivan 06 Compartment 1 | 9 | 33.6 | PT | 30 | 30 |
| Sullivan 06 Compartment 1 | 10 | 108.9 | PT | 16 | 16 |
| Sullivan 06 Compartment 1 | 11 | 17.26 | PT | 10 | 10 |
| Sullivan 06 Compartment 1 | 13 | 77.1 | PT | 16 | 16 |

Table III.H. –Stands without Scheduled Management within 10 Years (by State Forest)

| State Forests | Stand | Acres | Size Class | Forest Type | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | Current | Future |
| Sullivan 06 Compartment 1 | 16 | 21.3 | PT | 19 | 19 |
| Sullivan 06 Compartment 1 | 17 | 6.4 | SST | 16 | 16 |
| Sullivan 06 Compartment 1 | 18 | 30.87 | PT | 11 | 11 |
| Sullivan 06 Compartment 1 | 20 | 53.9 | SST | 10 | 10 |
| Sullivan 06 Compartment 1 | 21 | 42.8 | SST | 21 | 21 |
| Sullivan 06 Compartment 1 | 26 | 139.7 | SST | 30 | 30 |
| Sullivan 06 Compartment 1 | 27 | 54.3 | SST | 19 | 19 |
| Sullivan 06 Compartment 1 | 31 | 12.2 | SST | 31 | 31 |
| Sullivan 06 Compartment 1 | 33 | 24.8 | SST | 11 | 11 |
| Sullivan 06 Compartment 1 | 34 | 56.2 | PT | 16 | 16 |
| Sullivan 06 Compartment 1 | 35 | 25.3 | PT | 11 | 11 |
| Sullivan 06 Compartment 2 | 1 | 38.1 | PT | 10 | 10 |
| Sullivan 06 Compartment 2 | 2 | 31.7 | PT | 13 | 13 |
| Sullivan 06 Compartment 2 | 3 | 27.6 | PT | 12 | 12 |

Table III.H. –Stands without Scheduled Management within 10 Years (by State Forest)

| State Forests | Stand | Acres | Size Class | Forest Type | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | Current | Future |
| Sullivan 06 Compartment 2 | 4 | 66.9 | PT | 12 | 12 |
| Sullivan 06 Compartment 2 | 5 | 20.9 | SST | 12 | 12 |
| Sullivan 06 Compartment 2 | 6 | 48 | PT | 12 | 12 |
| Sullivan 06 Compartment 2 | 7 | 51.9 | PT | 31 | 31 |
| Sullivan 06 Compartment 2 | 9 | 17.4 | SST | 12 | 12 |
| Sullivan 06 Compartment 2 | 10 | 28.8 | PT | 30 | 30 |
| Sullivan 06 Compartment 2 | 11 | 67.9 | PT | 12 | 12 |
| Sullivan 06 Compartment 2 | 12 | 28.5 | PT | 12 | 12 |
| Sullivan 06 Compartment 2 | 13 | 84.2 | PT | 30 | 30 |
| Sullivan 06 Compartment 2 | 14 | 157.4 | SST | 31 | 31 |
| Sullivan 06 Compartment 2 | 16 | 43.7 | SST | 21 | 21 |
| Sullivan 06 Compartment 2 | 17 | 6.4 | SST | 16 | 16 |
| Sullivan 06 Compartment 2 | 18 | 36.7 | PT | 12 | 12 |
| Sullivan 06 Compartment 2 | 19 | 30 | PT | 12 | 12 |

Table III.H. –Stands without Scheduled Management within 10 Years (by State Forest)

| State Forests | Stand | Acres | Size Class | Forest Type | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | Current | Future |
| Sullivan 06 Compartment 2 | 20 | 29.7 | PT | 12 | 12 |
| Sullivan 06 Compartment 2 | 21 | 24 | PT | 12 | 12 |
| Sullivan 06 Compartment 2 | 22 | 35.2 | PT | 31 | 31 |
| Sullivan 06 Compartment 2 | 23 | 67.9 | PT | 30 | 30 |
| Sullivan 06 Compartment 2 | 24 | 40.11 | PT | 16 | 16 |
| Sullivan 06 Compartment 2 | 25 | 35.5 | PT | 31 | 31 |
| Sullivan 06 Compartment 2 | 26 | 23.5 | PT | 31 | 31 |
| Sullivan 06 Compartment 2 | 27 | 13.5 | PT | 12 | 12 |
| Sullivan 06 Compartment 2 | 28 | 12.7 | PT | 16 | 16 |
| Sullivan 06 Compartment 2 | 30 | 35.5 | SST | 16 | 16 |
| Sullivan 06 Compartment 2 | 31 | 28.9 | SST | 30 | 30 |
| Sullivan 06 Compartment 2 | 32 | 103.1 | PT | 31 | 31 |
| Sullivan 06 Compartment 2 | 33 | 58.9 | PT | 30 | 30 |
| Sullivan 06 Compartment 2 | 34 | 24.8 | PT | 30 | 30 |

## Resource Protection and Natural Areas

| State *Table III.I.–Resource Protection/Natural Areas* (by State Forest) | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Forests** | **Stand** | **Acres** | **Size Class** | **Forest Type** |
| Sullivan County 02 Compartment 1 | 15 | 2 | SST | 19 |
| Sullivan County 02 Compartment 1 | 17 | 7 | PT | 24 |
| Sullivan 06 Compartment 1 | 2 | 44.1 | SST | 11 |
| Sullivan 06 Compartment 1 | 3 | 76.1 | PT | 10 |
| Sullivan 06 Compartment 1 | 4 | 50.1 | SST | 11 |
| Sullivan 06 Compartment 1 | 5 | 45.4 | SST | 11 |
| Sullivan 06 Compartment 1 | 6 | 74.8 | SST | 11 |
| Sullivan 06 Compartment 1 | 12 | 38.5 | SST | 12 |
| Sullivan 06 Compartment 1 | 14 | 15.4 | PT | 11 |
| Sullivan 06 Compartment 1 | 15 | 51.0 | PT | 11 |
| Sullivan 06 Compartment 1 | 19 | 38.3 | SST | 12 |
| Sullivan 06 Compartment 1 | 22 | 36.1 | SST | 10 |
| Sullivan 06 Compartment 1 | 23 | 29.7 | SST | 12 |
| Sullivan 06 Compartment 1 | 24 | 37.4 | PT | 10 |
| Sullivan 06 Compartment 1 | 25 | 69.5 | PT | 12 |
| Sullivan 06 Compartment 1 | 30 | 42.9 | PT | 11 |

| State *Table III.I.–Resource Protection/Natural Areas* (by State Forest) *-Continued* | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Forests** | **Stand** | **Acres** | **Size Class** | **Forest Type** |
| Sullivan 06 Compartment 1 | 36 | 22.3 | PT | 11 |
| Sullivan 06 Compartment 2 | 39 | 99.61 | SST | 12 |
| Sullivan 06 Compartment 2 | 40 | 53.7 | SST | 31 |
| Sullivan 06 Compartment 2 | 43 | 25.9 | PT | 16 |
| Sullivan 06 Compartment 2 | 45 | 21.6 | SST | 31 |
| Sullivan 06 Compartment 2 | 46 | 72.7 | SST | 10 |
| Sullivan 06 Compartment 3 | 1 | 68 | SST | 31 |
| Sullivan 06 Compartment 3 | 2 | 20.3 | SST | 19 |
| Sullivan 06 Compartment 3 | 3 | 30.4 | SST | 31 |
| Sullivan 06 Compartment 3 | 8 | 37.4 | SST | 11 |
| Sullivan 06 Compartment 3 | 11 | 102.6 | PT | 30 |
| Sullivan 06 Compartment 3 | 16 | 53.1 | SST | 31 |
| Sullivan 06 Compartment 3 | 18 | 22.1 | PT | 31 |
| Sullivan 06 Compartment 3 | 20 | 30.6 | PT | 11 |
| Sullivan 06 Compartment 3 | 23 | 102.6 | SST | 12 |
| Ulster 04 Compartment 1 | 4 | 31 | N/A | 15 |

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## Glossary of Acronyms

**ADAAG**: Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines

**AANR**: Adopt a Natural Resource program

**ADA**: Americans with Disabilities Act

**ARPA**: Archaeological Resources Protection Act

**ATV**: All-Terrain Vehicle

**BA/AC**: Basal Area per Acre

**BBA**: Breeding Bird Atlas

**BMP**: Best Management Practices

**DEC**: Department of Environmental Conservation

**DLF**: Department of Lands and Forests

**ECL**: Environmental Conservation Law

**EIS**: Environmental Impact Statement

**FCSFU**: Fulton County State Forest Unit

**FSC**: Forestry Stewardship Council

**GEIS**: Generic Environmental Impact Statement

**GIS**: Global Information Systems

**GPS**: Global Positioning System

**HCVF**: High Conservation Value Forest

**IPM**: Integrated Pest Management

**MAPPWD**: Motorized Access Program for People with Disabilities

**MUA:** Multiple Use Area

**NYCRR**: New York Codes, Rules and Regulations

**OPRHP**: Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historical Preservation

**PFAR**: Public Forest Access Road

**PFD**: Personal Floatation Device

**ROW**: Right-of-Way

**RSA**: Representative Sample Area

**SEQR**: State Environmental Quality Review

**SEQRA**: State Environmental Quality Review Act

**SFI**: Sustainable Forestry Initiative

**SGCN**: Species of Greatest Conservation Need

**SHPA**: State Historic Preservation Act

**SMZ**: Special Management Zone

**TRP**: Temporary Revocable Permit

**UMP**: Unit Management Plan

**UA**: Unique Area

**UTV**: Utility Task Vehicle

**VSA**: Volunteer Stewardship Agreement

**WMA**: Wildlife Management Unit

## Glossary of Terms

**Access trails** - Temporary, unpaved roads which do not provide all weather access within the unit. They are not designed for long term and repeated use by heavy equipment. These corridors were originally constructed for the seasonal removal of forest products by skidding to landings or other staging areas. Constructed according to best management practices, these trails may be used to support other management objectives such as recreational access corridors. Maintenance is limited to activities which minimally support seasonal access objectives.

**Aesthetics** - Forest value, rooted in beauty and visual appreciation and providing a distinct visual quality.

**Age Class** - Trees of a similar size originating from a single natural event or regeneration activity. see cohort.

**All-Aged** - A condition of a forest or stand that contains trees of all or almost all age classes.

**Allowable Cut** - The amount of timber considered as available for cutting during a specified planned period of operation.

**Basal Area** - The cross-sectional area, measured in square feet, of a single stem, including the bark, measured at breast height (4.5 ft above the ground).

**Basal Area/Acre** - A measure of forest density, the sum total of the basal areas of all trees on one acre.

**Best Management Practices** - A practice or a combination of practices that are designed for the protection of water bodies and riparian areas and determined to be the most effective and practicable means of controlling point and non-point source water pollutants.

**Biomass** - the weight of organic matter in a tree, stand, or forest, in units such as living or dead weight, wet or dry weight, etc.

**Biological Diversity (Biodiversity)** - The variety of life on earth. The variety of things and the variability found within and among them. Biodiversity also encompasses processes –both ecological and evolutionary that allow organisms to keep adapting and evolving. Includes genetic diversity (unique combinations of genes found within and among organisms), species diversity (numbers of species in an area), ecological diversity (organization of species into natural communities and the interplay of these communities with the physical environment – interactions among organisms and between organisms and their environment is the key here), Landscape diversity (refers to the geography of different ecosystems across large areas and the connections between them.

**Biological legacy** - an organism, living or dead, inherited from a previous ecosystem; biological legacies often include large trees, snags and down logs left after timber harvesting. (E)an organism, living or dead, inherited from a previous ecosystem; biological legacies often include large trees, snags and down logs left after timber harvesting.

**Blowdown** - Tree or trees felled or broken off by wind.

**Buffer Zone / Buffer Strip** - A vegetation strip or management zone of varying size, shape, and character maintained along a stream, lake, road, recreation site, or different vegetative zone to mitigate the impacts of actions on adjacent lands, to enhance aesthetic values, or as a best management practice.

**Cavity Tree / Den Tree** - A tree containing an excavation sufficiently large for nesting, dens, or shelter; tree may be alive or dead.

**Clear Cut** - A harvesting and regeneration technique that removes all the trees, regardless of size, on an area in one operation. This practice is done in preparation of the re-establishment of a new forest through reforestation, stump sprouting, or changing habitats, i.e., from forest to brush or grass cover.

**Climax Forest** - An ecological community that represents the culminating stage of a natural forest succession for its locality/environment.

**Coarse Woody Debris (CWD)**- Any piece(s) of dead woody material on the ground in forest stands or in streams.

**Cohort** - A population of trees that originate after some type of disturbance. The disturbance makes growing space available.

**Community** - An assemblage of plants and animals interacting with one another, occupying a habitat, and often modifying the habitat; a variable assemblage of plant and animal populations sharing a common environment and occurring repeatedly in the landscape.

**Conversion** - A change from one silvicultural system to another or from one tree species to another.

**Coppice** - Stems originating primarily from vegetative reproduction, e.g., the production of new stems from stumps, roots or branches. see low forest.

**Corridor** - A linear strip of land identified for the present or future location of a designed use within its' boundaries. Examples: recreational trails, transportation, or utility rights-of-way.

1. When referring to wildlife, a corridor may be a defined tract of land connecting two or more areas of similar management or habitat type through which a species can travel from one area to another to fulfill any variety of life-sustaining needs.

**Cover type** - The plant species forming a majority of composition across a given area.

**Crown** - the part of a tree or woody plant bearing live branches and foliage.

**Crown Class** - A category of tree based on its crown position relative to those of adjacent trees.

2. dominant - receives full light from above and partial to full light from the sides.
3. co-dominant -a tree whose crown helps to form the general level of the main canopy and receives full light from above and comparatively little from the sides.
4. intermediate -a tree whose crown extends into the lower portion of the main canopy and receives little direct light from above and none from the sides.
5. suppressed/ -a tree whose crown is completely overtopped by the crowns of one or more overtopped neighboring trees and receives little or no direct sunlight.

**Crown Closure** - The point at which the vertical projections of crown perimeters within a canopy touch.

**Cull** - Any item of production, e.g., trees, logs, lumber, or seedlings, rejected because it does not meet certain specifications of usability or grade.

**Cultural Resources** - Significant historical or archaeological assets on sites as a result of past human activity which are distinguishable from natural resources.

**Cutting Interval** - The number of years between harvest or regeneration cuts in a stand.

**Deciduous** - Tree and shrub species that lose their foliage in autumn.

**Defoliation** -The partial or complete loss of foliage, usually caused by an insect, disease, or drought.

**Diameter Breast Height (DBH)** -The diameter of the stem of a tree (outside bark) measured at breast height (4.5 ft) from the ground.

**Diameter-Limit Cut** - A timber harvesting treatment in which all trees over a specified diameter may be cut. Diameter-limit cuts often result in high-grading.

**Disturbance** - An event that causes significant change from the normal pattern in an ecosystem. A disturbance can be endogenous, or part of the developmental process that weakens, for example, a tree, making it susceptible to physical or biological forces. Disturbance can also be exogenous, or external to the developmental process, such as intense winds or fires.

**Disturbance Regime** - Describes a repeating pattern of disturbance in a community or across a landscape, such as seasonal flooding, daily tidal flooding, insect outbreaks, periodic fires, windthrow, erosion, and ice scouring/ice storms.

**Ecosystem** - A spatially explicit, relatively homogeneous unit of the earth that includes all interacting organisms and components of the abiotic environment within its boundaries. (note: an ecosystem can be of any size, e.g., a log, pond, field, forest, or the earth's biosphere.)

**Ecosystem Management** -The appropriate integration of ecological, economic, and social factors in order to maintain and enhance the quality of the environment to best meet our current and future needs. Means keeping natural communities of plants, animals, and their environments healthy and productive so people can benefit from them year to year.

**Edge** - The more or less well-defined boundary between two or more elements of the environment, e.g., a field adjacent to a woodland or the boundary of different silvicultural treatments.

**Endangered Species** - Any species of plant or animal defined through the Endangered Species Act of 1976 as being in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range and published in the Federal Register.

**Even-Aged** - A class of forest or stand composed of trees of about the same age. The maximum age difference is generally 10-20 years.

**Even-Aged System** - A program of forest management directed to the establishment and maintenance of stands of trees having relatively little (10-20 yrs.) variation in ages. The guidelines to be applied in using this system at all stages of tree development are uniquely different from the uneven-aged system.

**Exotic** -Any species that is not native to a particular geographic region or ecosystem.

**Flood Plain** - The level or nearly level land with alluvial soils on either or both sides of a stream or river that is subject to overflow flooding during periods of high-water level.

**Forest** - An assemblage of trees and associate organisms on sites capable of maintaining at least 60% crown closure at maturity.

**Forestry** - The profession embracing the science, art, and practice of creating, managing, using, and conserving forests and associated resources for human benefit and in a sustainable manner to meet desired goals, needs, and values.

**Forest Management** - The application of business methods and technical forestry principles to the operation of a forest property.

**Forest Succession** -The gradual replacement of one community of plants by another. Example: an area of open grass becoming shrub which then becomes shade intolerant trees (pioneer species) and finally climax forest of mostly shade tolerant trees.

**Forested Wetland** - An area characterized by woody vegetation where soil is periodically saturated with or covered by water.

**Fragipan** - A dense and brittle layer of soil. Its hardness results mainly from extreme density or compactness rather than from high clay content. The material may be dense enough to restrict root, nutrient, and water penetration.

**Fragmentation** - A biophysical process of breaking forests into dispersed blocks separated by non-forest, or in some areas, dispersed blocks of mature forest separated by young forest.

**Gaps** - Communities, habitats, successional stages, or organisms which have been identified as lacking in the landscape.

**Geocaching** - A high-tech, hide and seek, outdoor activity for utilizing the Global Positioning System (GPS) where an item is “cached” on the landscape.

**Grassland** -Land on which the vegetation is dominated by grasses, grass like plants, or forbs.

**Green Tree Retention** - The practice of retaining live trees after a release cut. This practice creates higher levels of structural diversity providing varied wildlife habitat and future downed wood. The residual overstory trees also moderate the microclimate of the site and provide continuity of habitat for plant and animal species between uncut forest areas. These residual trees are left through the next rotation.

**Habitat** - The geographically defined area where environmental conditions (e.g., climate, topography, etc.) meet the life needs (e.g., food, shelter, etc.) of an organism, population, or community.

**Harvest /Cut/ Logging** - Altering a forest by removing trees and other plants so as to control the composition and form of forest stands.

**Haul roads** - Permanent, unpaved roads which are not designed for all weather travel but may have hardened or improved surfaces with artificial drainage. They are constructed according to best management practices primarily for the removal of forest products, providing limited access within the unit by log trucks and other heavy equipment. These roads may or may not be open for public motor vehicle use, depending on management priorities and objectives. They may serve as recreational access corridors but are not maintained according to specific standards or schedules. The design standards for these roads are below those of the Class B access roads as provided in the Unpaved Forest Road Handbook.

**Header** - See Log Landing.

**High Forest** - A forest originating mainly from natural reproduction.

**High-Grading** - The removal of the most commercially valuable trees (high-grade trees), often leaving a residual stand composed of trees of poor condition or species composition.

**Improvement Cut** - The removal of less desirable trees of any species in a stand of poles or larger trees, primarily to improve composition and quality.

**Indicator Species** - Species with such specialized ecological needs that they can be used for assessing the quality, condition, or extent of an ecosystem on the basis of their presence and density, or the accumulation and effect of materials in their tissues.

**Intermediate Treatment** - Any silvicultural treatment designed to enhance growth, quality, vigor, and composition of the stand after establishment or regeneration and prior to final harvest.

**Invasive** - Species that, after they have been moved from their native habitat to a new location, or following disturbance in their native habitat, spread on their own, displacing other species, and sometimes causing environmental damage.

**Large Poles** - Trees 9-11 inches in diameter at breast height.

**Large Sawtimber** - Trees 18 inches or greater diameter at breast height.

**Log Landing / Log Deck** - A cleared area in the forest to which logs are skidded and are temporarily stored before being loaded onto trucks for transport.

**Low Forest** -A forest produced primarily from vegetative regeneration, i.e., coppice.

**Mast** - All fruits of trees and shrubs used as food for wildlife. Hard mast includes nut-like fruits such as acorns, beechnuts, and chestnuts. Soft mast includes the fleshy fruits of black cherry, dogwood, and serviceberry.

**Mature Stand** - Pertaining to an even-aged stand that has attained most of its potential height growth or has reached merchantability standards -note within uneven-aged stands, individual trees may become mature but the stand itself consists of trees of diverse ages and stages of development.

**Medium Sawtimber** - Trees 15-17 inches in diameter at breast height.

**Mesic** - Of sites or habitats characterized by intermediate moisture conditions, i.e., neither decidedly wet nor dry.

**Multiple Use** - A strategy of land management fulfilling two or more objectives, e.g. forest products removal and recreation.

**Multiple Use Area** - Lands acquired pursuant to Article 15, Section 15.01 (b) of the Parks and Recreation Land Acquisition Bond Act. Multiple Use Areas are acquired to provide additional opportunities for outdoor recreation, including public camping, fishing, hunting, boating, winter sports, and, wherever possible, to also serve multiple purposes involving the conservation and development of natural resources, including the preservation of scenic areas, watershed protection, forestry, and reforestation.

**Native** - Species believed to have existed in a particular geographic region or ecosystem of the Northeast prior to European settlement and subsequent large-scale alteration of the landscape. The state reference for native species is Mitchell. 1997 Revised Checklist of New York State Plants.

**Natural Area** - These areas are not managed for the production of wood products. A physical and biological area left in a natural condition, usually without direct human intervention, to attain and sustain a climax condition, the final stage of succession.

**Natural Regeneration** - The establishment of a forest stand from natural seeding, sprouting, suckering, or layering.

**Non-Commercial Forest** - Areas of a forest permanently inoperable due to conditions such as inaccessibility, altitude, and poor growing conditions. Meyer, Arthur H. and Others. 1961. Forest Management. New York: Ronald Press.

**Neo-Tropical Migratory Birds** - Bird species which migrate between the Northern and Southern hemispheres. These species represent more than 50% (340 of the 600 species) of North American birds.

**Northern Hardwood Forest Type** - A forest type usually made up of sugar and red maple, American beech, yellow birch, and to a lesser extent black cherry and white ash. This type represents about 70 percent of all forests in New York State.

**Old Growth Forest** - The definition of "Old Growth Forest" involves a convergence of many different, yet interrelated criteria. Each of these criteria can occur individually in an area that is not old growth, however, it is the presence of all of these factors that combine to differentiate" Old Growth Forest." from other forested ecosystems. These factors include: An abundance of late successional tree species, at least 180 - 200 years of age in a contiguous forested landscape that has evolved and reproduced itself naturally, with the capacity for self-perpetuation, arranged in a stratified forest structure consisting of multiple growth layers throughout the canopy and forest floor, featuring (1) canopy gaps formed by natural disturbances creating an uneven canopy, and (2) a conspicuous absence of multiple stemmed trees and coppices. Old growth forest sites typically (1) are characterized by an irregular forest floor containing an abundance of coarse woody materials which are often covered by mosses and lichens; (2) show limited signs of human disturbance since European settlement; and (3) have distinct soil horizons that include definite organic, mineral, illuvial accumulation, and unconsolidated layers. The understory displays well developed and diverse surface herbaceous layers.

**Overstory** - That portion of the trees in a forest forming the upper or uppermost canopy layer.

**Parcelization** - The subdivision of land into smaller ownership blocks. This intrudes new features and activities into the forest and changes its character but does not necessarily fragment it in biophysical terms. Richards, N.A., Forest Resources of Central NY, NY Forest Owner 9/93

**Pioneer** - A plant capable of invading bare sites (newly exposed soil) and persisting there or colonizing them until supplanted by successional species.

**Plantation** - A stand composed primarily of trees established by planting or artificial seeding - a plantation may have tree or understory components that have resulted from natural regeneration.

**Poletimber** - Trees that are generally 6-11 inches in diameter at breast height.

**Protection Forest** - Forest land excluded from most active management including wood product management, oil and gas exploration and development, and some recreational activities to protect sensitive sites. These sites most often include steep slopes, wet woodlands, and riparian zones along stream corridors.

**Public Forest Access Roads** - Permanent, unpaved roads which may be designed for all-weather use depending upon their location, surfacing and drainage. These roads provide primary access for administration and public use within the unit. The design standards for these roads are those of the Class A and Class B access roads as provided in the Unpaved Forest Road Handbook (8/74). As a general guideline, sufficient access is typically achieved when 1 mile of PFAR is developed for each 500 acres of state land, and no position within the unit lies more than 1 half mile from a PFAR or public highway.

**Public Roads** - Permanent, paved, or unpaved roads primarily designed for motor vehicle travel which are maintained by federal, state or local government. These roads may. Or may not provide year-round access.

**Pulpwood** - Low grade or small diameter logs used to make paper products, wood chips, etc.

**Recreational Trail** - Unpaved recreational corridors that do not provide all weather access within a unit and are designed to achieve specific recreational access objectives. Constructed according to best management practices, and following accepted regional standards for design, these trails may be used to support multiple types of seasonal recreation access. Maintenance is limited to activities which minimally support the access objectives and design.

**Reforestation** - The re-establishment of forest cover by natural or artificial means.

**Regeneration** - Seedlings or saplings of any origin. The Society of American Foresters. 1958. Forest Terminology, 3rd edition. Washington, DC.

**Release** - 1.) A treatment designed to free trees from undesirable, usually overtopping, competing vegetation. 2.) A treatment designed to free young trees not past the sapling stage from undesirable competing vegetation that overtops or closely surrounds them.

**Residual Stand** - A stand composed of trees remaining after any type of intermediate harvest. (H)

**Rights-Of-Way** - Permanent, paved or unpaved roads which allow the Department access to state Forest properties while crossing private land, or, corridors across state Forests allowing access to

**Riparian zone** - Areas of transition between terrestrial and aquatic ecological systems. They are characterized as having soils and vegetation analogous to floodplains, or areas transitional to upland zones. These areas help protect the water by removing or buffering the effects of excessive nutrients, sediments, organic matter, pesticides, or pollutants.

**Rotation** - The period of years between stand establishment and timber harvest as designated by economic or natural decisions.

**Salvage Cutting** - Recovery of the values represented by damaged trees or stands. Smith, David M. 1962, The Practice of Silviculture. New York: John Wiley & Sons.

**Sapling** - A small tree, usually defined as being between 1 and 5 inches in diameter at breast height.

**Sawtimber** - Trees that are generally 12 inches and larger diameter at breast height.

**Second Growth** - The forests re-established following removal of previously unharvested or old -growth stands. Most northeastern forests are either second or third growth.

**Seedling** - A young tree originating from seed that is less than 4 feet tall.

**Seedling/Sapling** - Trees less than 6 inches in diameter at breast height.

**Seed Tree Cut/Method** - The removal of the mature timber in one cutting, except for a small number of trees left singly, or in small groups, as a source of seed for natural regeneration.

**Significant Natural Community** - Communities that are either rare in New York State or are determined by New York Natural Heritage Program staff to be outstanding examples of more common natural communities.

**Selective Cut** - High Grade (Replaces Selective Thinning) -A type of exploitation cutting that removes only certain species (a) above a certain size, (b) of high value; Known silvicultural

requirements and/or sustained yields being wholly or largely ignored or found impossible to fulfill. Society of American Foresters. Ford-Robertson, F. C., editor. 1971. Terminology of Forest Science, Technology, Practice and Products. Cambridge: England

**Shade Tolerance** - The ability of a tree species to germinate and grow at various levels of shade.

1. Shade tolerant: having the capacity to compete for survival under shaded conditions.
2. Shade intolerant: having the capacity to compete for survival only under direct sunlight conditions; light demanding species.

**Shelterwood Cut/Method** - A regeneration action designed to stimulate reproduction by implementing a series of cuts over several years that will gradually remove the overstory trees. Gradual reduction of stand density protects understory trees and provides a seed source for the stand.

**Shrub (replaces Brush)** - Shrubs and stands of scrubby tree species that do not reach a merchantable size. The Society of American Foresters. 1958. Forest Terminology, 3rd edition. Washington, DC.

**Silviculture** - The application of art, science, and practice to influence long term forest development.

**Even aged Silviculture** - A system for maintaining and regenerating forest stands in which trees are approximately the same age (cohort). This system favors shade intolerant species such as aspen, white ash and black cherry.

**Uneven aged Silviculture** - A system for maintaining and regenerating forest stands with at least three distinct age classes (cohorts). this system favors shade intolerant species such as sugar maple, hemlock, and beech. Uneven aged silviculture creates a stratified stand structure with trees of different heights represented in all levels of the forest canopy.

**Site** - The area in which a plant or forest stand grows, considered in terms of its environment, particularly as this determines the type and quality of the vegetation the area can support.

**Site Index** - A species-specific measure of actual or potential forest productivity, expressed in terms of the average height of trees included in a specified stand component at a specified age.

**Site Preparation** - Hand or mechanized manipulation of a site, designed to enhance the success of regeneration.

**Site Quality** - The sum of soil and topographic factors of a particular place for growth of a particular species.

**Skid Trail** - A temporary or permanent trail used to skid or forward felled trees from the stumps to the log landing.

**Small Poles** - Trees 6-8 inches in diameter at breast height.

**Small Sawtimber** - Trees 12-14 inches in diameter at breast height.

**Snags** - Standing, dead trees, with or without cavities; function as perches, foraging sites and/or a source of cavities for dens, roosting and/or nesting for wildlife.

**Species Richness** - The number of different species present within an area

**Stand** - A contiguous group of trees sufficiently uniform in species composition, arrangement of age classes, and condition to be a homogeneous and distinguishable unit.

**Stand Treatment** - Work done in a stand which is directed towards the management of the stand.

**State Forest** - The collective term applied to lands administered by the Division of Lands and Forests which are located outside the forest preserves. State forests include acreage acquired and classified as Reforestation Areas, Multiple Use Areas and Unique Areas.

**State Reforestation Area** - Lands acquired by the Department pursuant to Title 3 Article 9-0501 of the Environmental Conservation Law. Reforestation Areas are adapted for reforestation and for the establishment and maintenance thereon of forests for watershed protection, the production of timber and other forest products, and for recreation and kindred purposes.

**Stocking** - The number of trees per unit area in relation to the desired number for optimum growth and management. Guides and tables have been developed that illustrate the optimum number of trees per acre based on the average diameter.

**Succession** - The natural series of replacements of one plant community (and the associated fauna) by another over time and in the absence of disturbance.

**Sustainable Forest Management** - Management that maintains and enhances the long-term health of forest ecosystems for the benefit of all living things, while providing environmental, economic, social and cultural opportunities for present and future generations.

**Sustained Yield** - The achievement and maintenance in perpetuity of a reasonable regular periodic output of the various renewable resources without impairment of the land's productivity.

**Temporary Revocable Permit (TRP)** - A Department permit which authorizes the use of state land for a specific purpose for a prescribed length of time.

**Thinning** - Intermediate cuttings that are aimed primarily at controlling the growth of stands through adjustments in stand density.

**Threatened Species** - A species likely to become endangered in the foreseeable future, throughout all or a significant portion of its range, unless protected.

**Timber Stand Improvement (TSI)** - Pre-commercial silvicultural treatments, intended to regulate stand density and species composition while improving wood product quality and fostering

**Understory** - The smaller vegetation (shrubs, seedlings, saplings, small trees) within a forest stand, occupying the vertical zone between the overstory and the herbaceous plants of the forest floor.

**Uneven-Aged Group Selection** - A type of uneven-aged forest management used to create openings in the forest canopy. Trees are removed and new age classes are established in small groups.

**Uneven-Aged System** - A planned sequence of treatments designed to maintain and regenerate a stand with three or more age classes.

**Uneven-Aged Stand/Forest** - A stand with trees of three or more distinct age classes, either intimately mixed or in small groups.

**Unique Area** - Lands acquired pursuant to Sections 45-0101, 51-0701, 51-0705, 54-0303, 56-0307 & 49-0203 of the Environmental Conservation Law.

**Watershed** - A region or area defined by a network of stream drainage. A watershed includes all the land from which a particular stream or river is supplied.

**Water Quality Classes** - A system of classification in ECL Article 17 which presents a ranked listing of the state's surface waters by the letters AA, A, B, C or D according to certain quality standards and specifications. AA is the highest quality rank and has the greatest suitability for human usage.

**Wetland** - A transitional area between aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems that is inundated or saturated for periods long enough to produce hydric soils and support hydrophytic vegetation.

**Wetland Classes** - A system of classification set forth in ECL Article 24, section 664.5 which ranks wetland I through IV based upon wetland functions and benefits, I being the highest rank.

**Wildlife Management Areas** - Lands acquired by the Department pursuant to Title 21 Section 11-2103 of the Environmental Conservation Law. Wildlife Management Areas are managed by the Division of Fish, Wildlife and Marine Resources for the purpose of establishing and maintaining public hunting, trapping and fishing grounds.

**Windthrow** - Trees that have been broken, uprooted, or felled by strong winds.

## Appendices & Figures

### Appendix A - Summary of Comments During Public Scoping Sessions

**Comment: I think we should be more concerned with preservation and less with increasing the public use of such areas. Public use never does nature any good.**

**Response:** The Department manages all NYSDEC State Forest Lands for multiple uses, including the protection of natural resources. Each proposed action is reviewed for potential adverse impacts to the environment.

**Comment: It would be nice if there could be a biking/hiking trail along the Neversink River. Several unofficial trails exist south of Rock Hill. Some trail maintenance and possibly a bridge to connect both sides of the Neversink River would really open the area to eco-friendly tourism. Partnering with NY/NJ Trail Conference would bring additional resources to help effectuate this. This would provide an economic stimulus for local businesses as well.** I

**Response:** The Department proposes to evaluate the feasibility to reconstruct the former suspension bridge across the Neversink River. Expanded Trail construction within the riparian corridor of the Neversink River Unique Area is not proposed to protect the riparian corridor and maintain the wilderness character of the property.

**Comment: Regardless of what the management plan is, DEC needs to increase personnel to manage these lands. It's like a free for all since DEC took over. You really don't have enough people on the ground**

**Response:** Hiring decisions and staffing levels within the Department are outside the scope of the Unit Management Planning process**.** Please report illegal activities to the Department by contacting the NYSDEC Forest Ranger 24-hour dispatch: (518) 408-5850.

**Comment: If DEC cuts a new short trail into Hatchery Road, it will result in more illegal ATVs accessing the Neversink River Unique Area**.

**Response:** The parking area trail will be designed for foot use only to discourage ATV access. The majority of illegal motor vehicle trespass occurs from adjoining landowners to the Neversink River Unique Area**.**

**Comment:** I **have a cabin on Hatchery Road and feel that allowing the general public down the Hatchery Road is a liability to property owners along the road. There are numerous access points on both sides of the river with trails connecting all the parking areas, funding would be better spent on maintaining the existing infrastructure.**

**Response:** The formal designation of a trail system along Hatchery Road was previously approved in the 2013 Neversink River Unique Area Unit Management Plan Amendment**.** The Department has proposed including language in the kiosk and trail entrance to Fish Hatchery Road educating the public that the road is shared by adjoining landowners who access the area by motor vehicle. Motor vehicle access and public access can coexist without incident, for

example Stewart State Forest is open to motor vehicle use from October 1st-December 31st for licensed hunters to drive the internal road system while sharing the area with hikers, bicycle riders, and horseback riders.

**Comment**: **Can You make sure Sullivan County Planning is involved with the unit management plan. The County is working with Trailkeeper.org to develop the O&W rail trail that runs adjacent to the Neversink River Unique Area.**

**Response:** The Department has addressed the Sullivan County Planning Board's concerns under the Trail Management Objectives for the Neversink River. The Department is proposing to develop a trail connection to the proposed O&W rail trail once construction is completed

**Comment: There are a lot of requirements for volunteering on State Forest Lands. It would be helpful for the Department to provide the necessary required trainings for volunteers.**

**Response:** Requirements for volunteering on State Forest Lands are necessary to protect volunteers, the general public, and the Department. The Department has limited resources to provide all the necessary trainings to volunteer organizations. When resources are available the Department will work to provide required trainings to interested volunteer organizations.

**Comment: A management program for invasive species, inclusion of a young forest initiative to improve forest biodiversity, and habitat improvement projects for game/non-game species.**

**Response**: Management of State Forest lands are covered within this Unit Management Plan. Where appropriate State Forest Land foresters work collaboratively with wildlife biologists to address the needs of both game and nongame species on State Forest Lands throughout the state. This Unit Management Plan proposes active forest management and specific forest management actions to improve habitat for NYS threatened species.

**Comment: User guidelines need to be better publicized.**

**Response:** The webpage for the Neversink River Unique Area will be updated as part of the proposed management actions within this plan. Each parking area will include a kiosk with the special regulations clearly marked**.**

**Comment: The no overnight camping rule needs to be enforced**.

**Response**: Camping is not permitted on the Neversink River Unique Area and this regulation is proactively enforced by NYSDEC Forest Rangers. If you observe illegal camping occurring on the Neversink River UA, please contact NYSDEC Forest Ranger 24-hour dispatch: (518) 408-5850. Camping is permitted on Wolf Brook MUA**.**

**Comment: The Marcy South Powerline acts as a conduit for ATV trespass onto private lands.**

**Response:** The Department will continue to work to curb illegal ATV access on its lands throughout the unit. Included in the Management Objectives for the Neversink River Unique Area and Wolf Brook Multiple Use Area are proposals to barricade illegal ATV trails. We ask

that landowners assist the Department by ensuring that legitimate users of their property do not cross onto State Lands where ATV use is prohibited.

**Comment: The website for the Neversink River Unique Area is out of date and has incorrect information.**

**Response:** The webpage is being updated as part of the Unit Management Planning Process.

**Comment: The parking area located on Katrina Falls Road should be expanded and improved. The parking lot is narrow and difficult to maneuver around. It should be expanded.**

**Response:** The Department agrees, and the parking lot is going to be expanded to include a MAPPWD designated parking spot for vehicles with ATV trailers**.**

**Comment: Mileage/directional signage should be installed at trail intersections to help people navigate the trail system.**

**Response:** This is a good idea; this UMP has directional/mileage signage proposed for the Neversink River Unique Area.

**Comment: If adjacent landowners could work with the DEC toward a cohesive management plan it would benefit everyone involved.**

**Response:** The Department will continue to work with adjoining landowners through the public planning process and through the Volunteer Stewardship Agreement program. The Unit Management Planning process works to address landscape level goals through evaluating potential forest management needs

**Comment: There should be Trail Conference maps at the Skinner Road and Eden Road parking areas.**

**Response:** This unit management plan proposes to install kiosks and up to date information panel that includes a map of the Neversink River Unique Area.

**Comment: Skinner Road and Eden Road should be repaired; these roads are rough.**

**Response:** Eden Road is a seasonal use highway maintained by the Town of Forestburgh, the Department will not maintain town owned roads. Skinner Road is a privately-owned road that the Department has an easement to access to the Neversink River Unique Area, this includes a right to maintain the easement. The Department intends to make the stream crossing on Skinner Road safe for vehicles to cross as the current water crossing is unsafe. Users are expected to use their best discretion when accessing State Forest lands from seasonal use Highways or dirt roads.

## Appendix B - Responsiveness Summary to Public Comments*

*Pending public input into the Draft UMP

## Appendix C - State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR)

**State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR)**

This Plan and the activities it recommends will be in compliance with State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR), 6NYCRR Part 617. The State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) requires the consideration of environmental factors early in the planning stages of any proposed action(s) that are undertaken, funded or approved by a local, regional or state agency. The Strategic Plan for State Forest Management (SPSFM) serves as the Generic Environmental Impact Statement (GEIS), regarding management activity on State Forests. To address potential impacts, the SPSFM establishes SEQR analysis thresholds for each category of management activity.

Management actions in this Plan are within the thresholds established in the SPSFM, therefore these actions do not require additional SEQR. Any future action that does not comply with established thresholds will require additional SEQR prior to conducting the activity.

The following boilerplate can only be used if the plan does not cross any of the thresholds outlined within the text.

**STATE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY REVIEW ACT**

This Unit Management Plan (UMP) does not propose pesticide applications of more than 40 acres, any clearcuts of 40 acres or larger, or prescribed burns in excess of 100 acres. Therefore the actions in the plan do not exceed the thresholds set forth in the Strategic Plan/Generic Environmental Impact Statement for State Forest Management**.**

This Unit Management Plan also does not include any of the following:

1. Forest management activities occurring on acreage occupied by protected species ranked S1, S2, G1, G2 or G3

2. Pesticide applications adjacent to plants ranked S1, S2, G1, G2 or G3

3. Aerial pesticide spraying by airplane or helicopter

4. Any development of facilities with potable water supplies, septic system supported restrooms, camping areas with more than 10 sites or development in excess of other limits established in this plan.

5. Well drilling plans

6. Well pad densities of greater than one well pad in 320 acres or which does not comply with the limitations identified through a tract assessment

7. Carbon injection and storage or waste water disposal

Appendix C - State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR)

Therefore the actions proposed in this UMP will be carried out in conformance with the conditions and thresholds established for such actions in the Strategic Plan/Generic Environmental Impact Statement, and do not require any separate site specific environmental review (see 6 NYCRR 617.10[d]).

Actions not covered by the Strategic Plan/Generic Environmental Impact Statement

Any action taken by the Department on this unit that is not addressed in this Unit Management Plan and is not addressed in the Strategic Plan/Generic Environmental Impact Statement may need a separate site specific environmental review.

FIGURE 1 – WATER RESOURCES, SPECIAL MANAGEMENT ZONES AND TOPOGRAPHY MAPS

## Figure 1 – Water Resources, Special Management Zones and Topography Maps

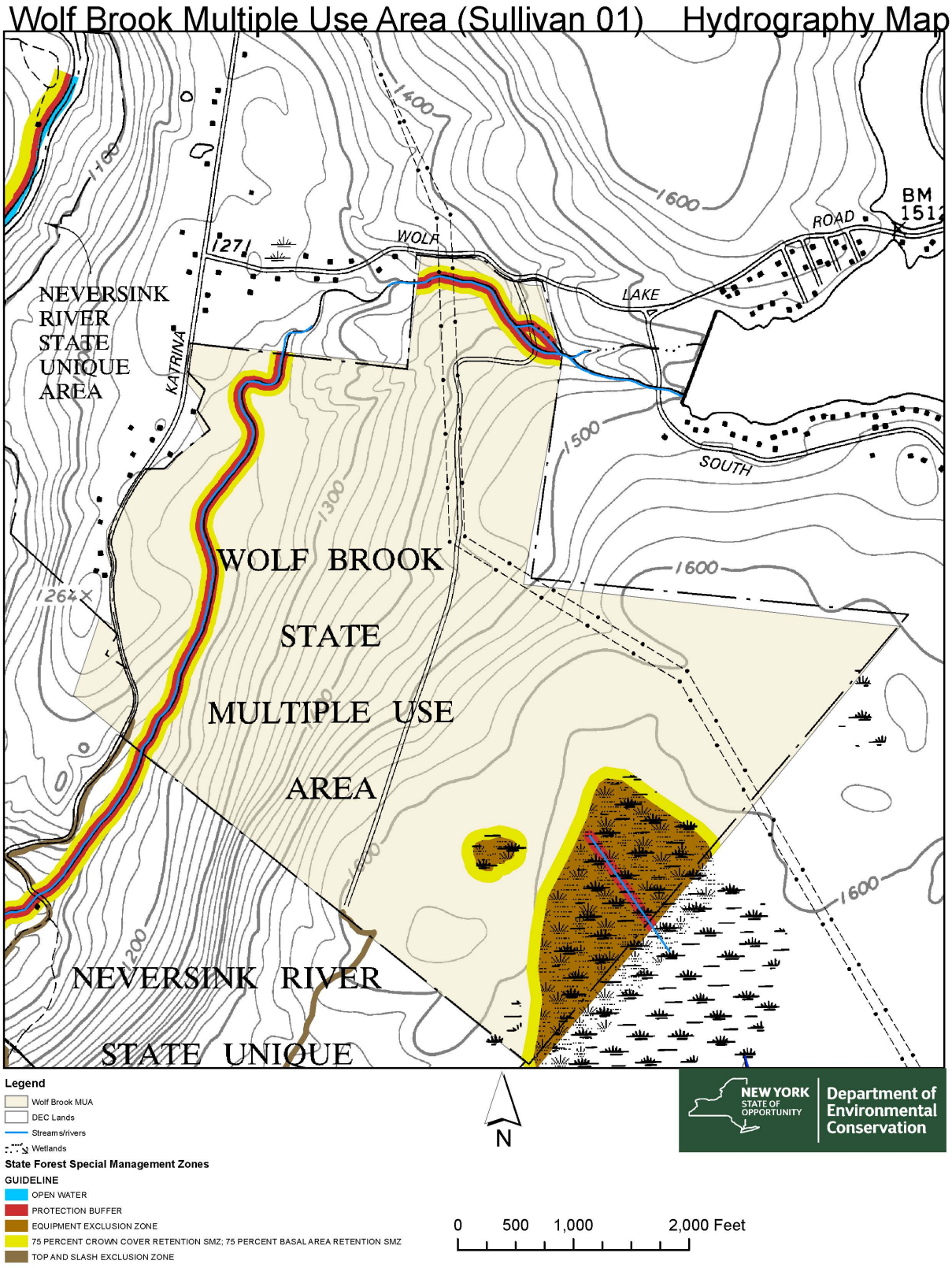
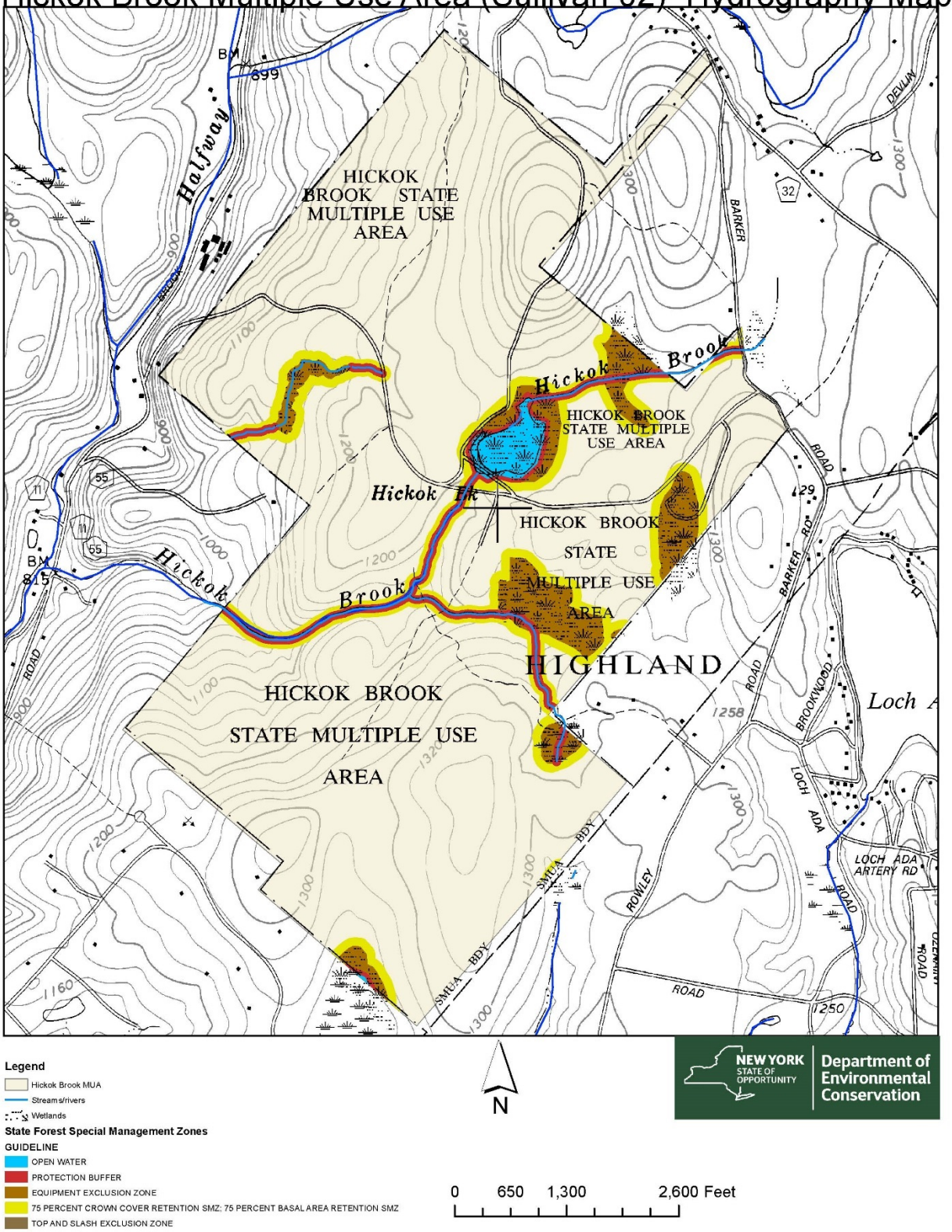


FIGURE 1 – WATER RESOURCES, SPECIAL MANAGEMENT ZONES AND TOPOGRAPHY MAPS

## Hickok Brook Multiple Use Area (Sullivan 02) Hydrography Map



## FIGURE 1 – WATER RESOURCES, SPECIAL MANAGEMENT ZONES AND TOPOGRAPHY MAPS

### Painters Hill Multiple Use Area (Sullivan 04) Hydrography Map

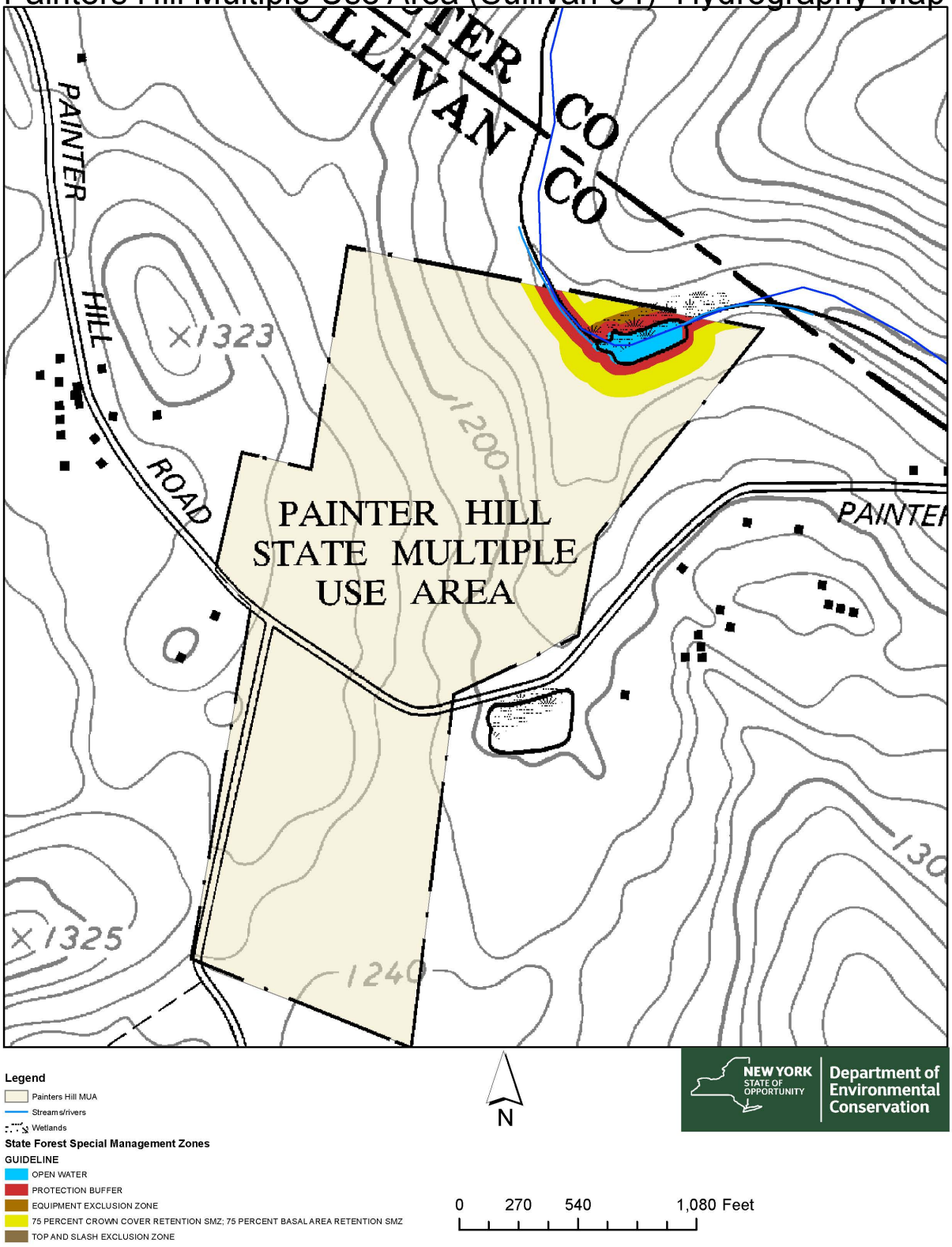


FIGURE 1 – WATER RESOURCES, SPECIAL MANAGEMENT ZONES AND TOPOGRAPHY MAPS

Neversink River Unique Area (Sullivan 06) Hydrography Map

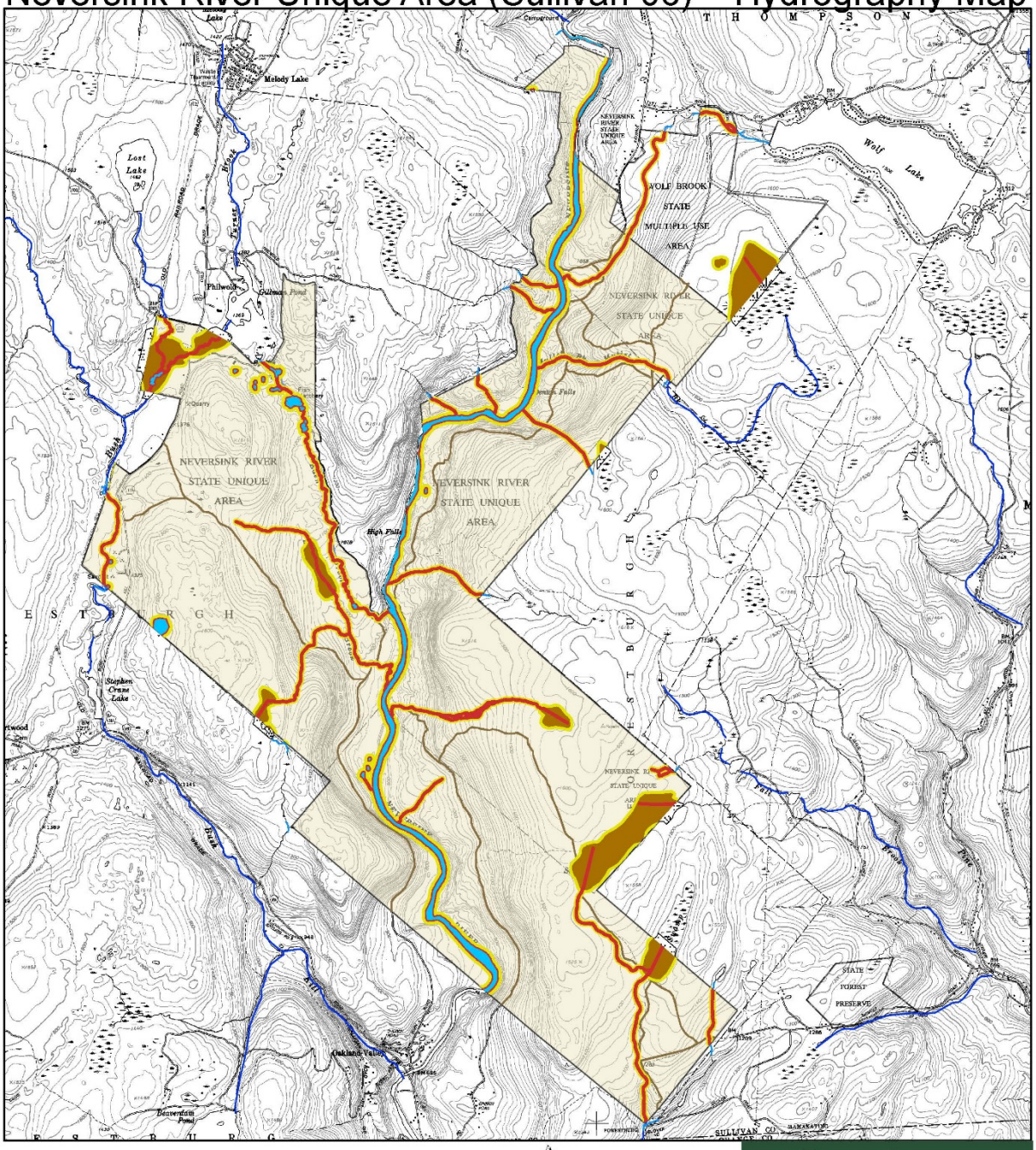
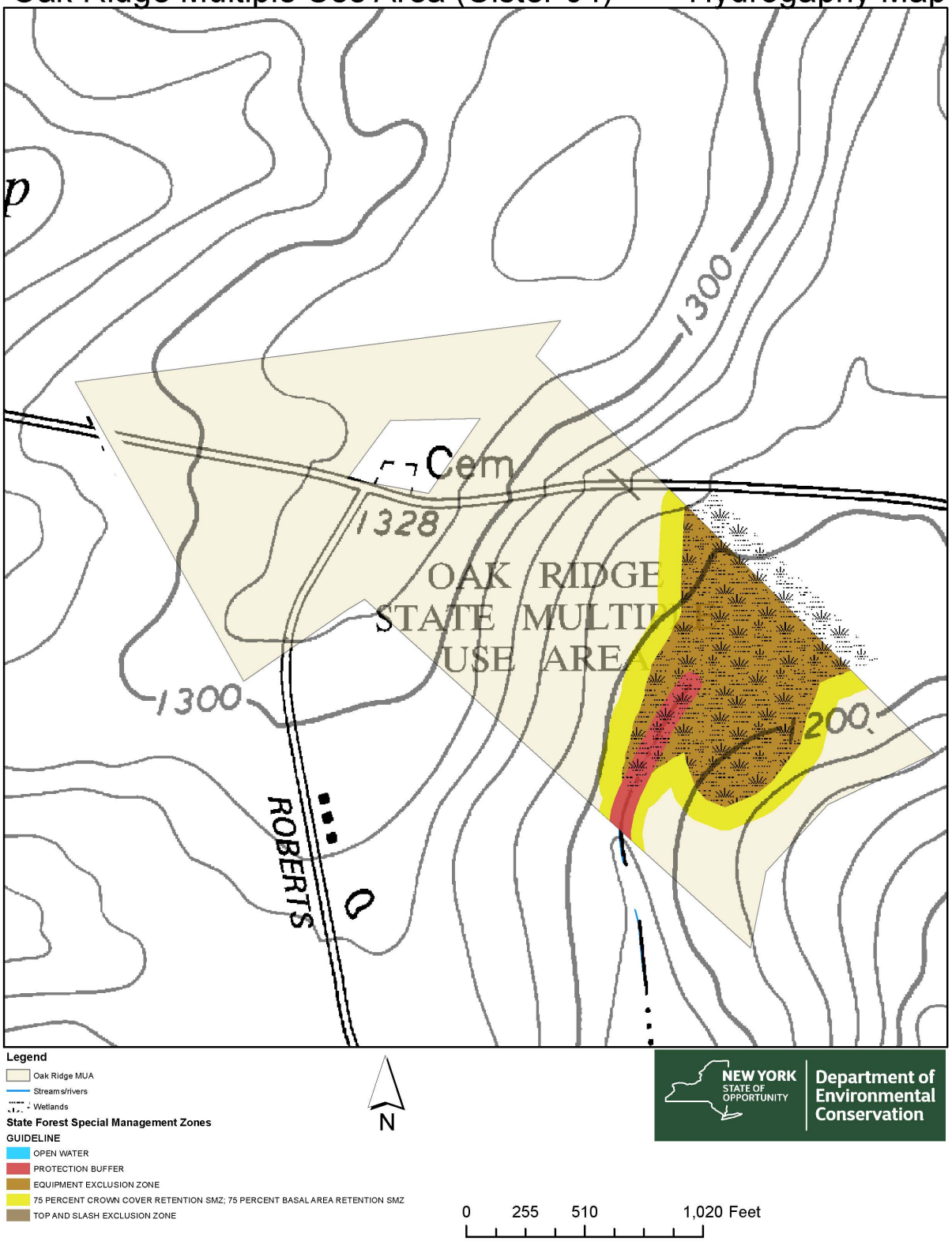


FIGURE 1 – WATER RESOURCES, SPECIAL MANAGEMENT ZONES AND TOPOGRAPHY MAPS

Oak Ridge Multiple Use Area (Ulster 04) Hydrogaphy Map



## Figure 2 – Infrastructure and Recreation Maps

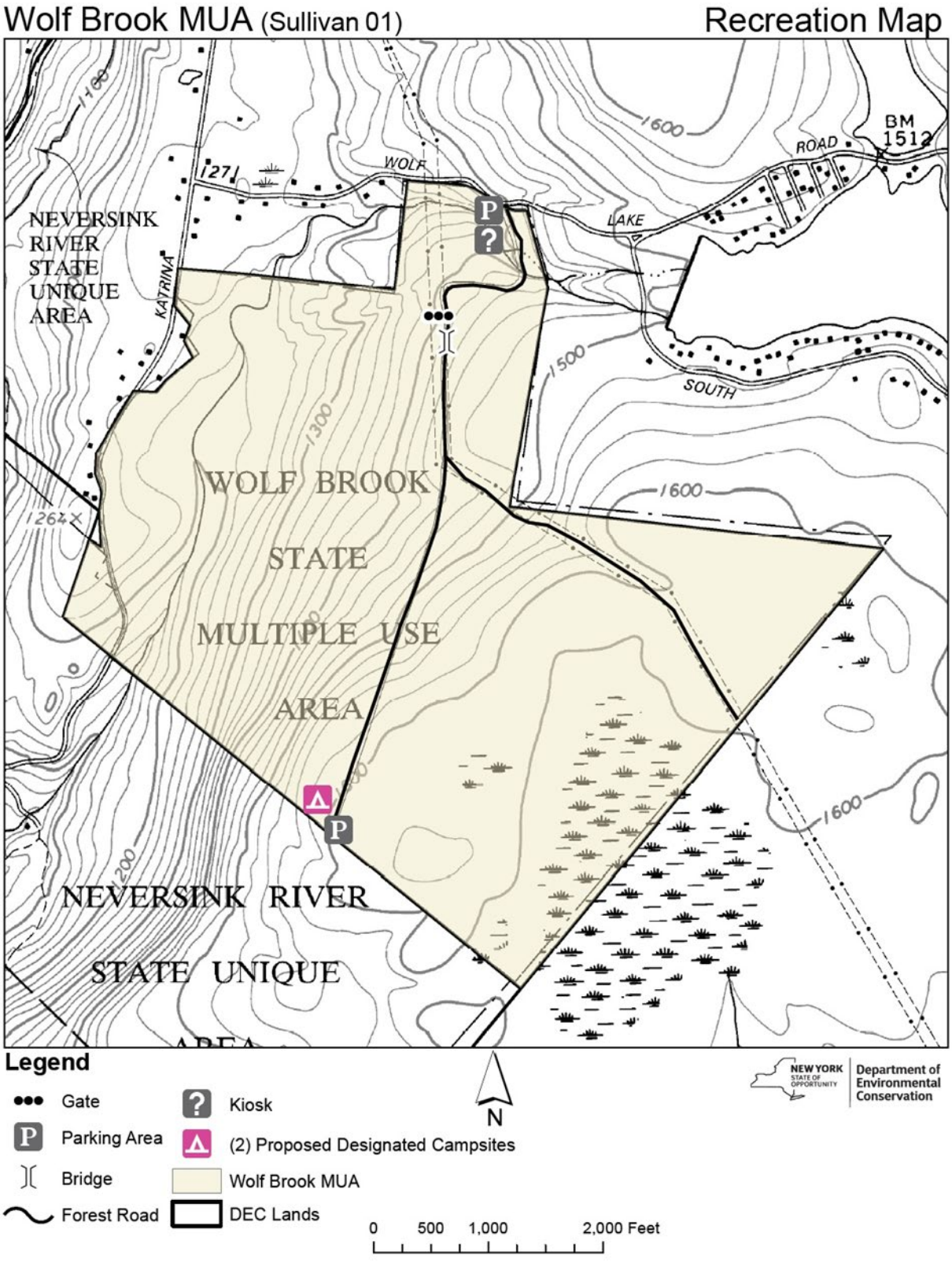
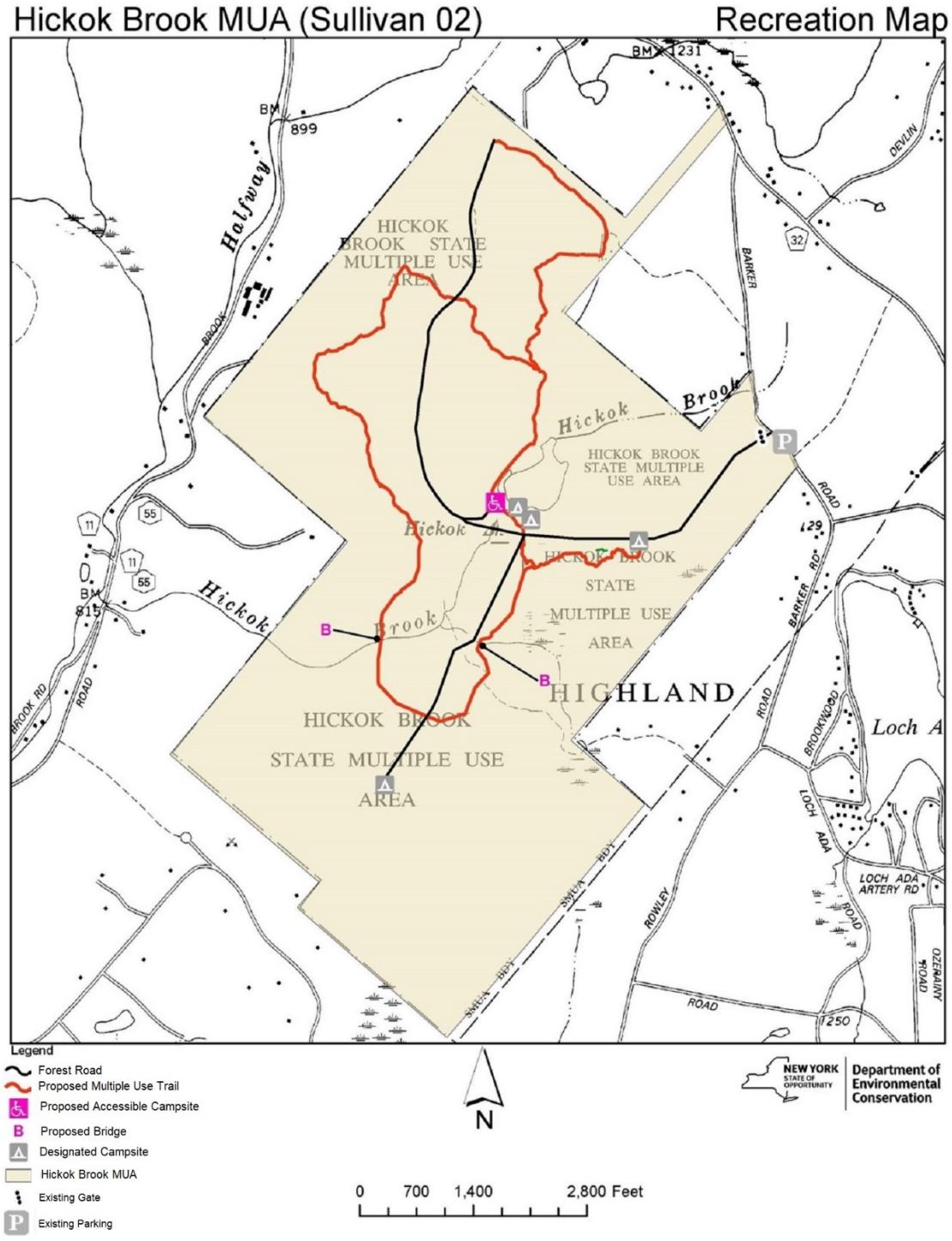


FIGURE 2 – INFRASTRUCTURE AND RECREATION MAPS



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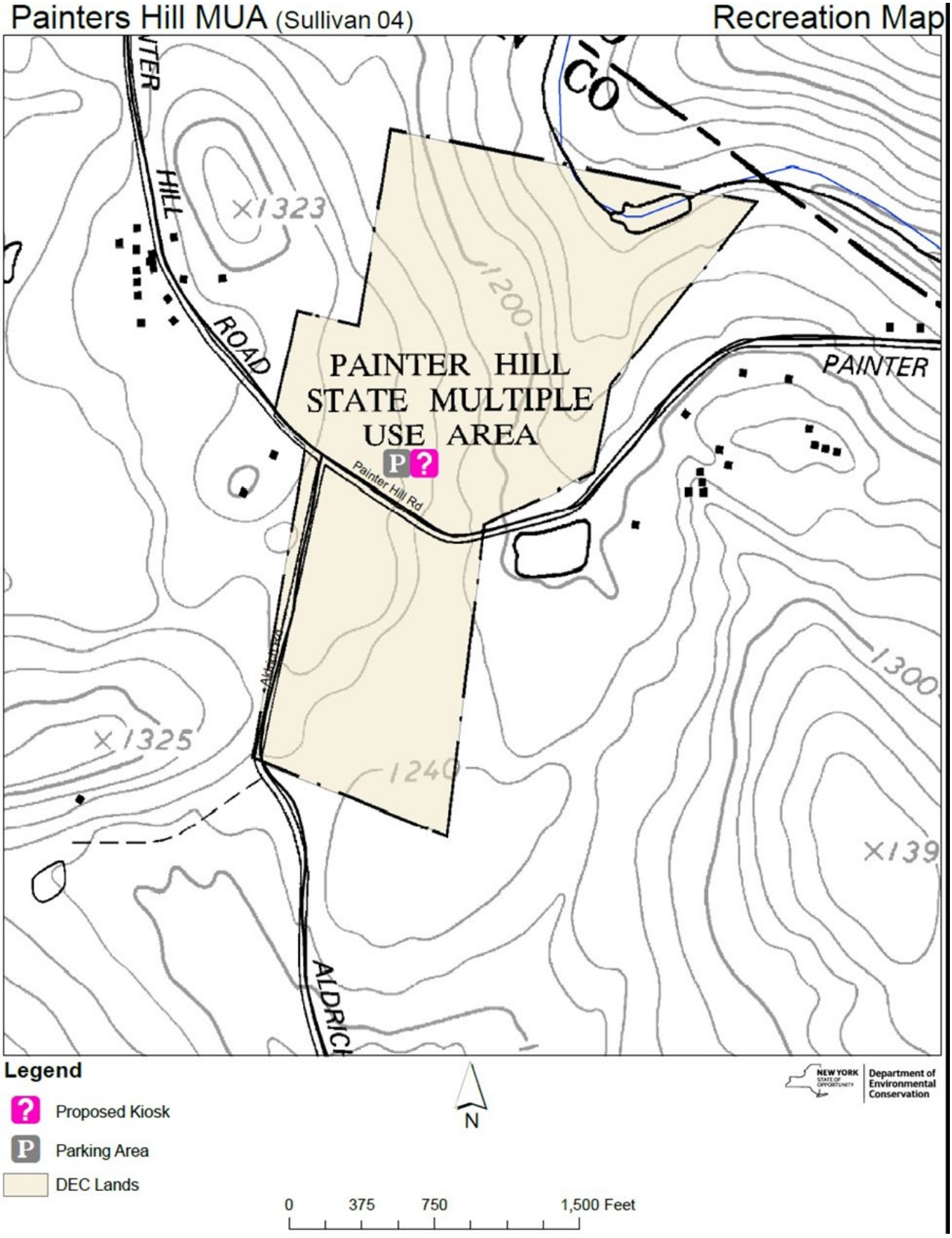

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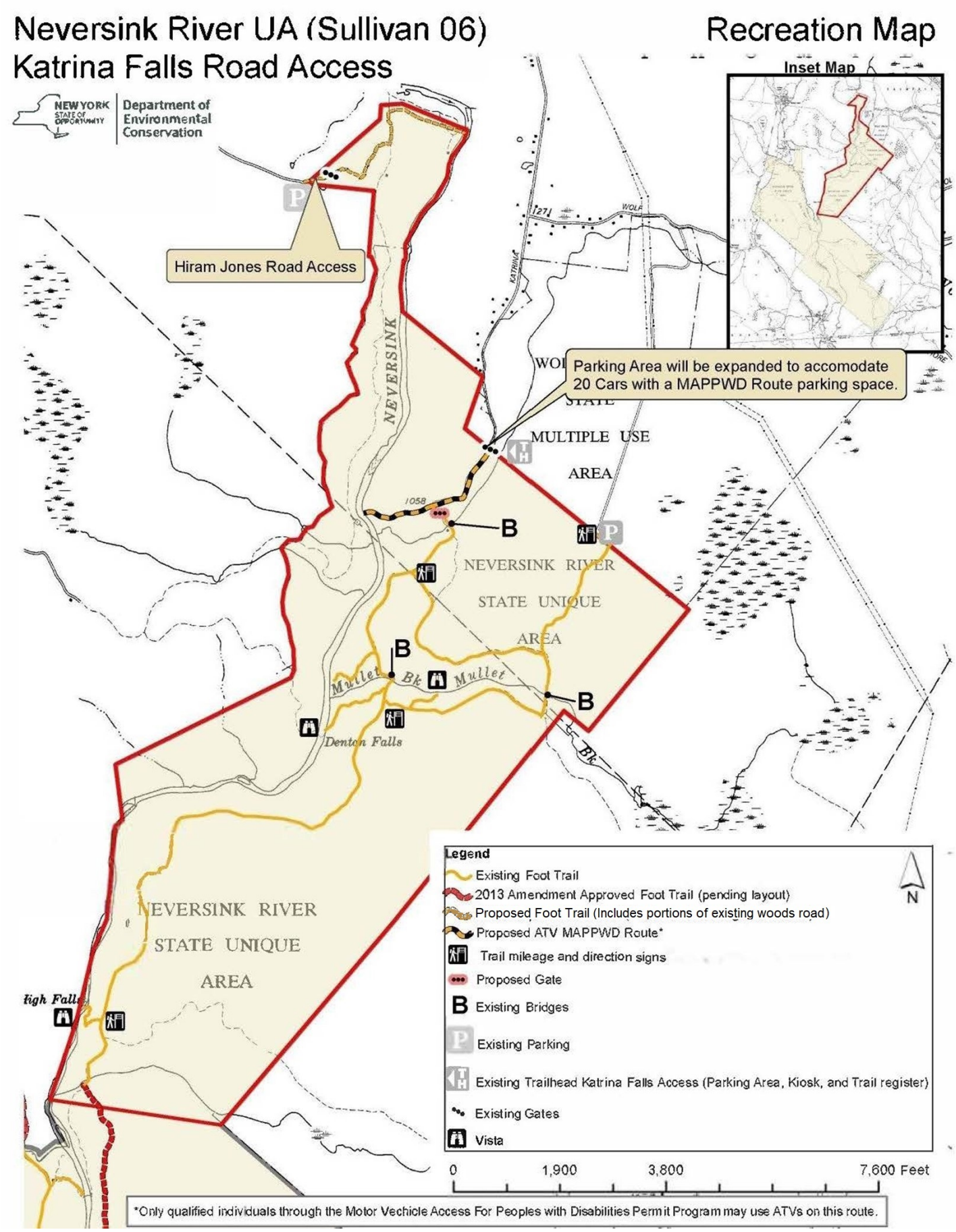
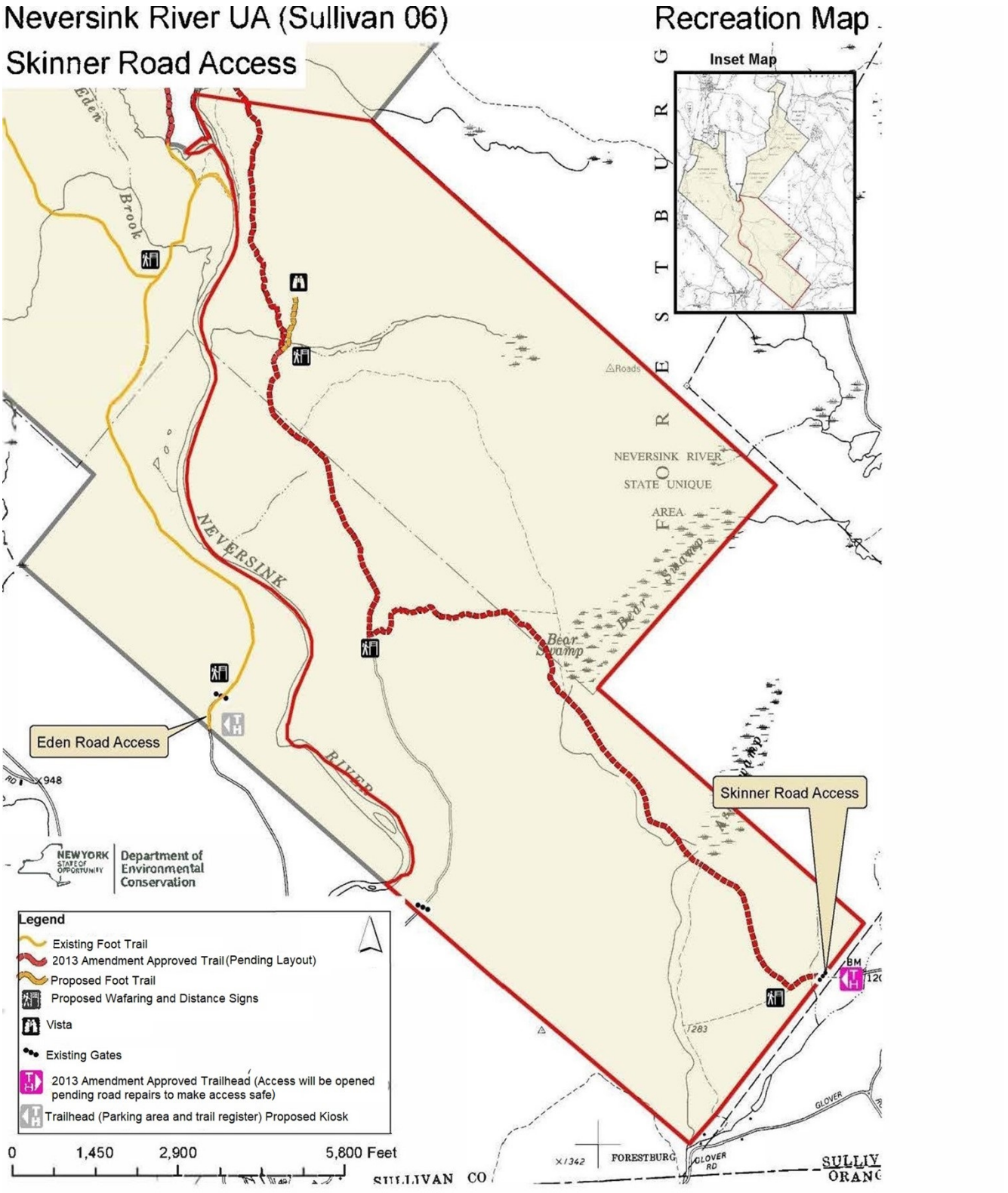
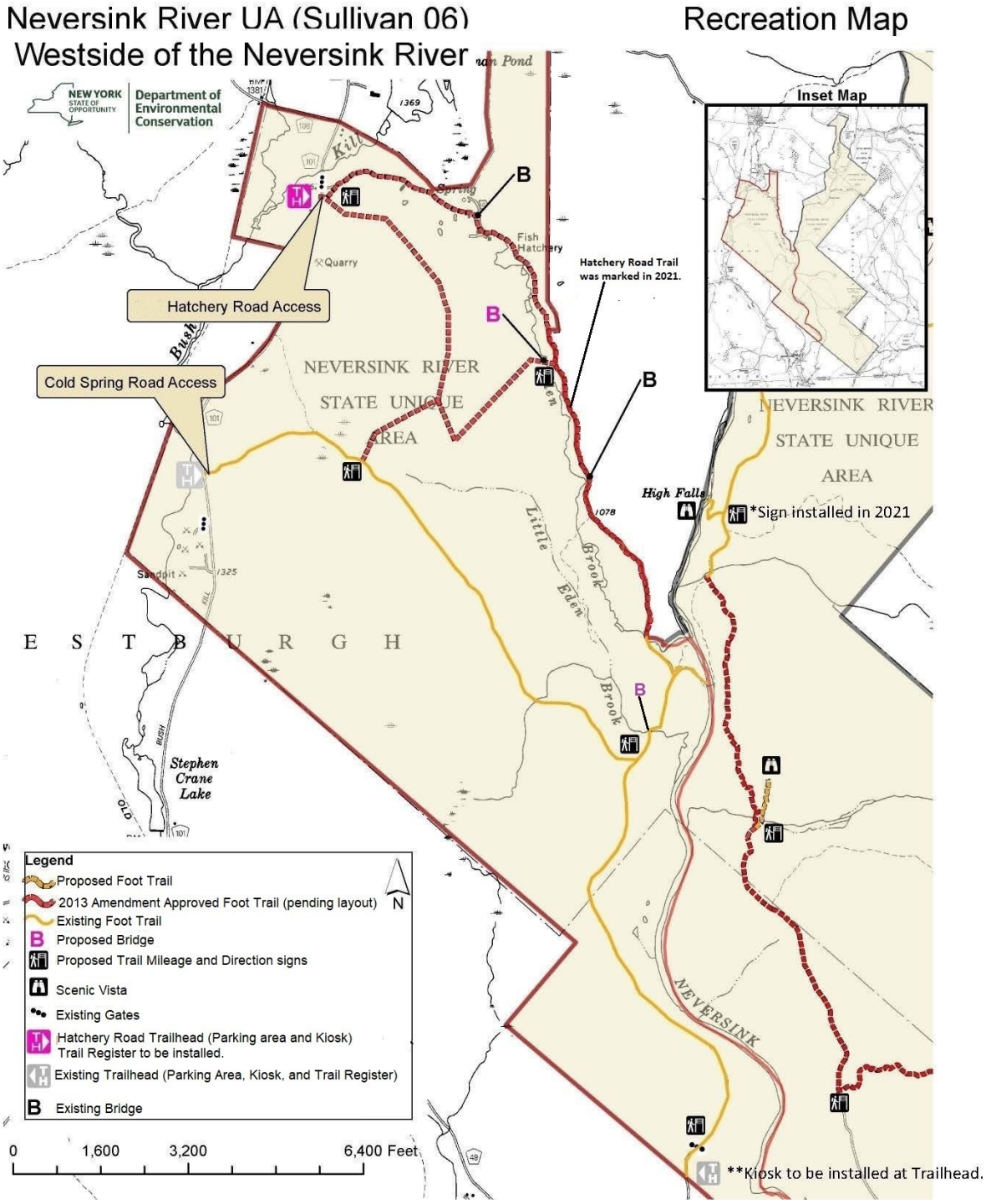



Neversink River UA (Sullivan 06)
Recreation Map
Skinner Road Access
Inset Map
NEVERSINK RIVER
STATE UNIQUE
AREA
Eden Road Access
Skinner Road Access
NEW YORK
STATE OF OPPORTUNITY
Department of Environmental Conservation
Legend
Existing Foot Trail
2013 Amendment Approved Trail (Pending Layout)
Proposed Foot Trail
Proposed Wafaring and Distance Signs
Vista
Existing Gates
2013 Amendment Approved Trailhead (Access will be opened pending road repairs to make access safe)
Trailhead (Parking area and trail register) Proposed Kiosk
0
1,450
2,900
5,800 Feet
FORESTBURG
GLOVER RD
SULLIVAN CO

## FIGURE 2 – INFRASTRUCTURE AND RECREATION MAPS



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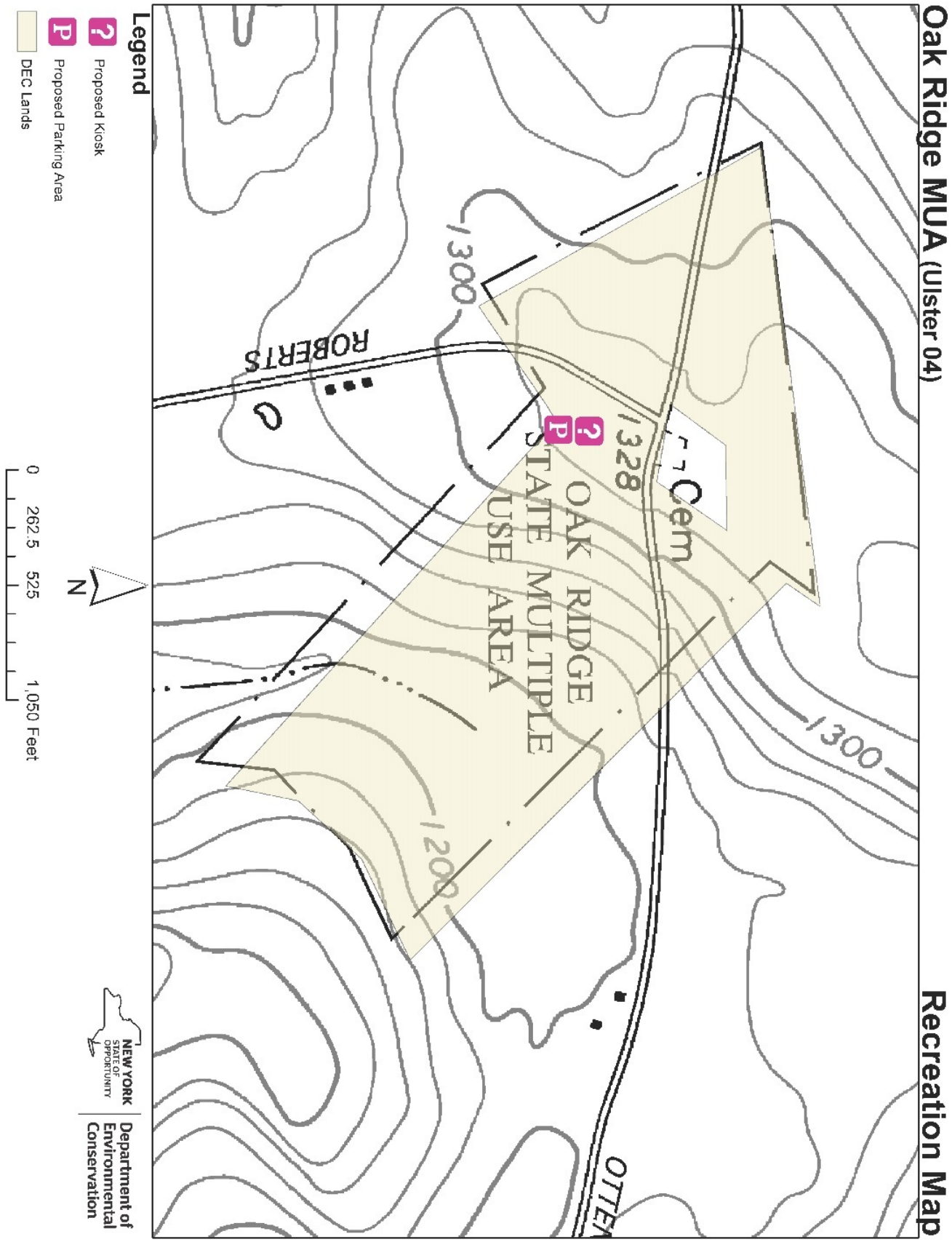

FIGURE 3 – CURRENT FOREST TYPE AND FOREST STAND IDENTIFICATION NUMBER MAPS

## Figure 3 – Current Forest Type and Forest Stand Identification Number Maps

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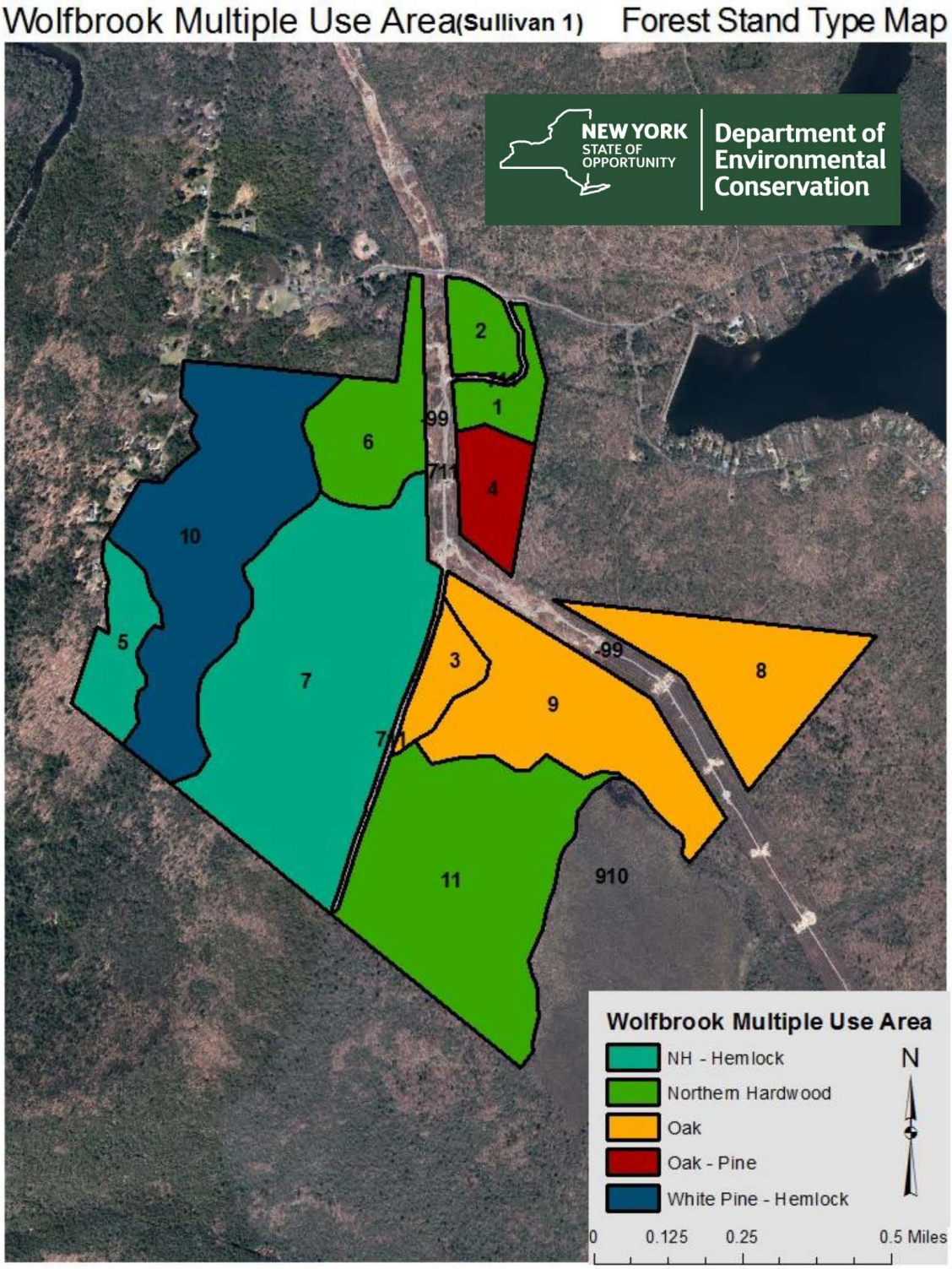

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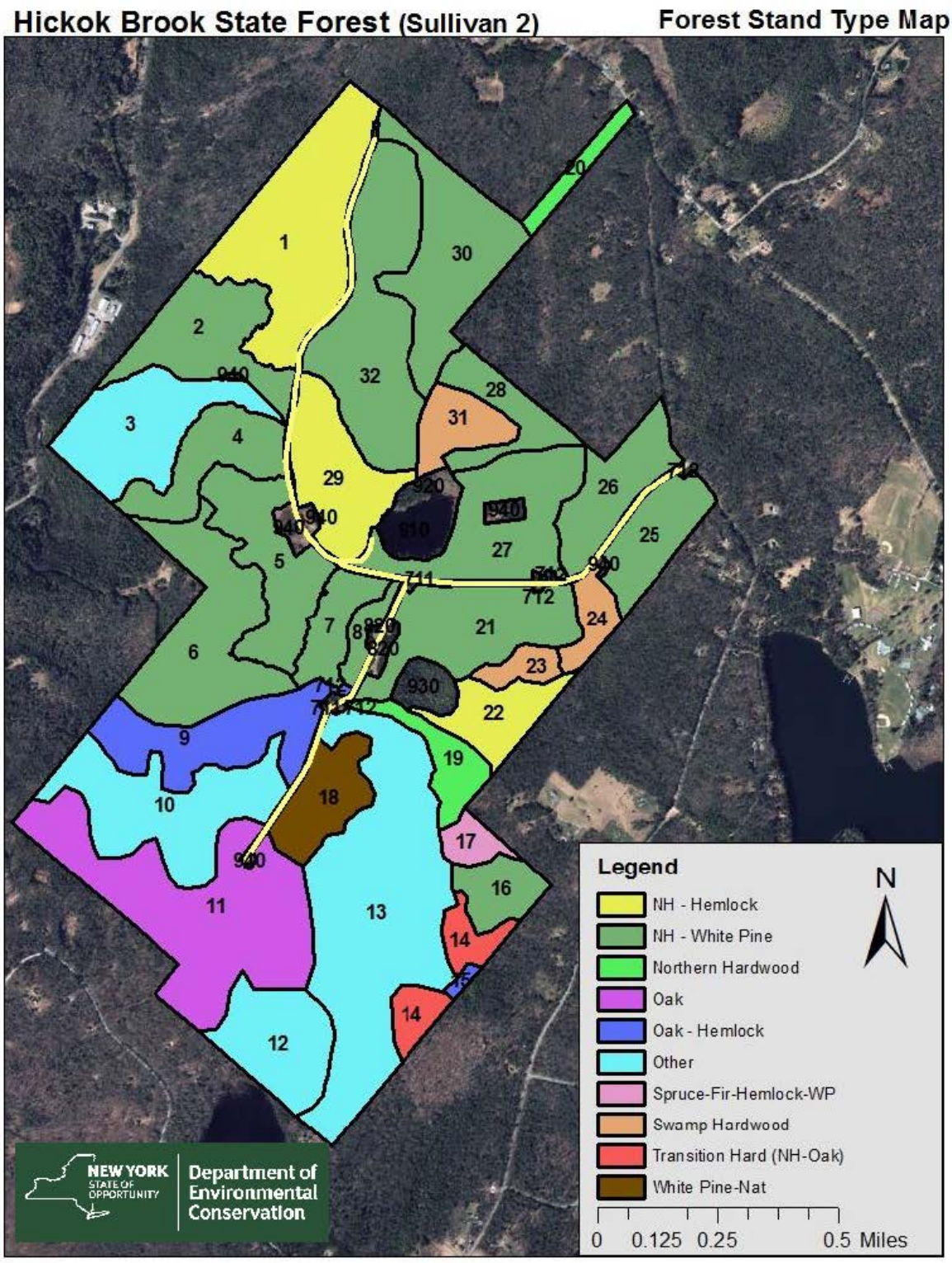

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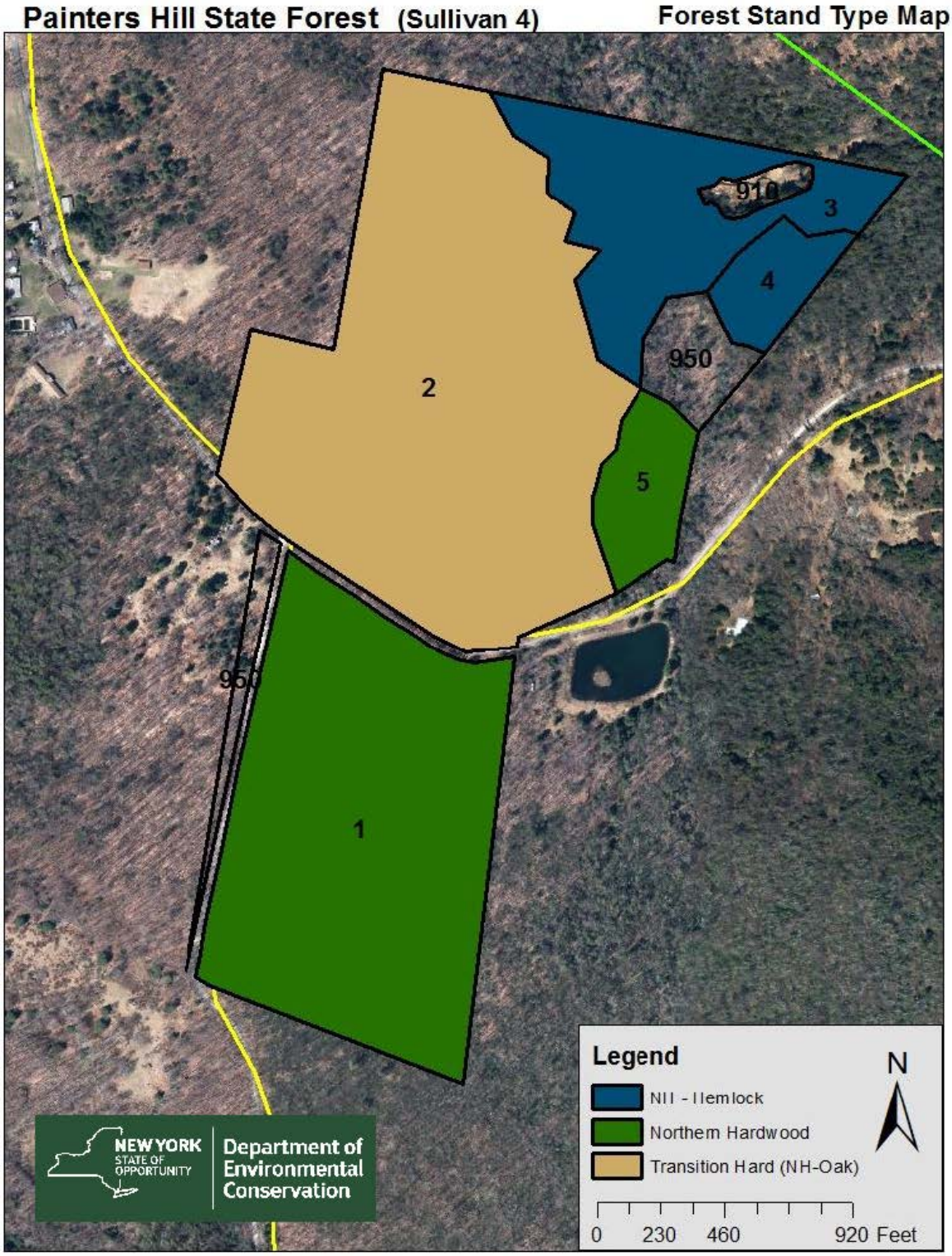

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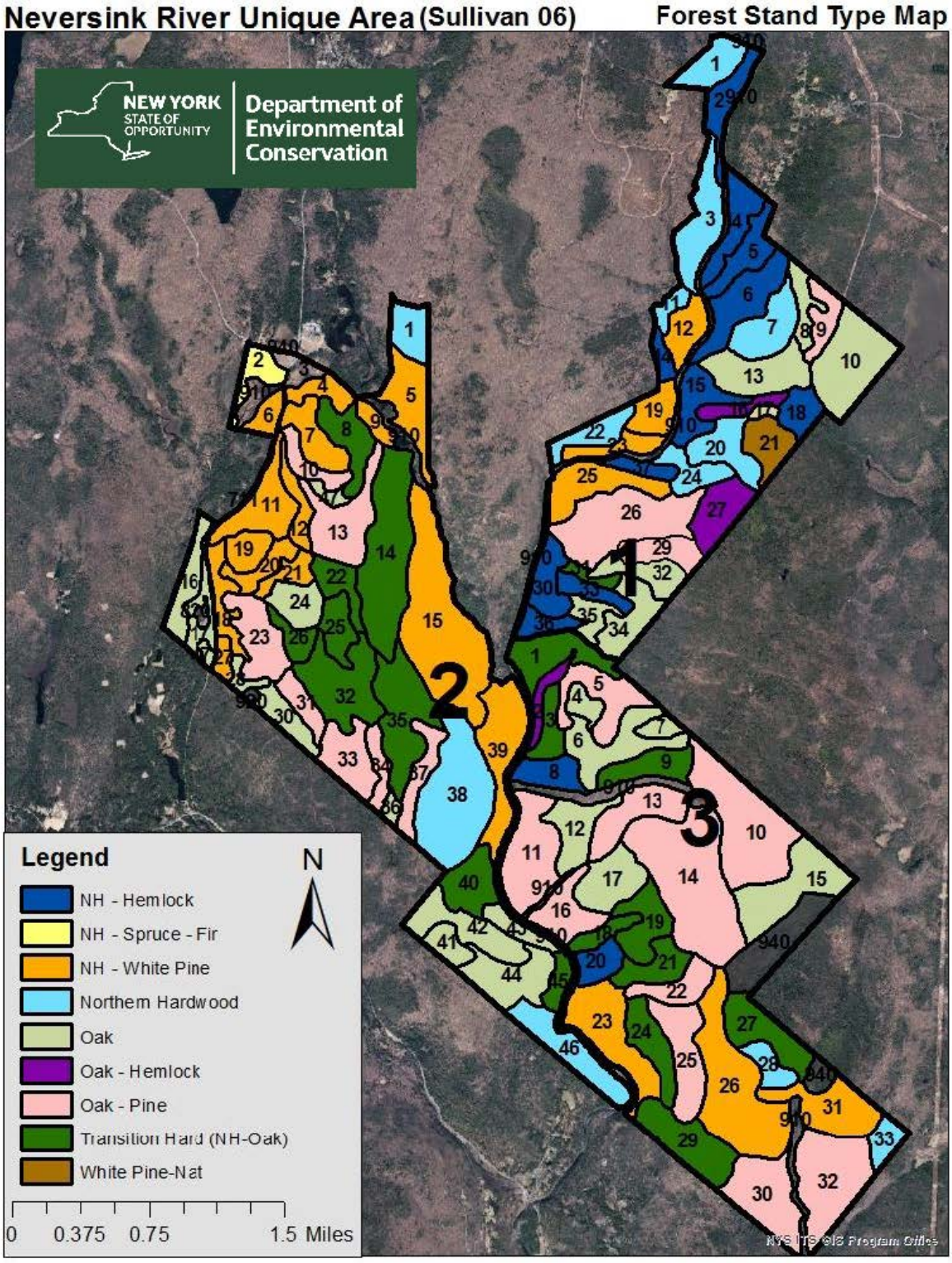

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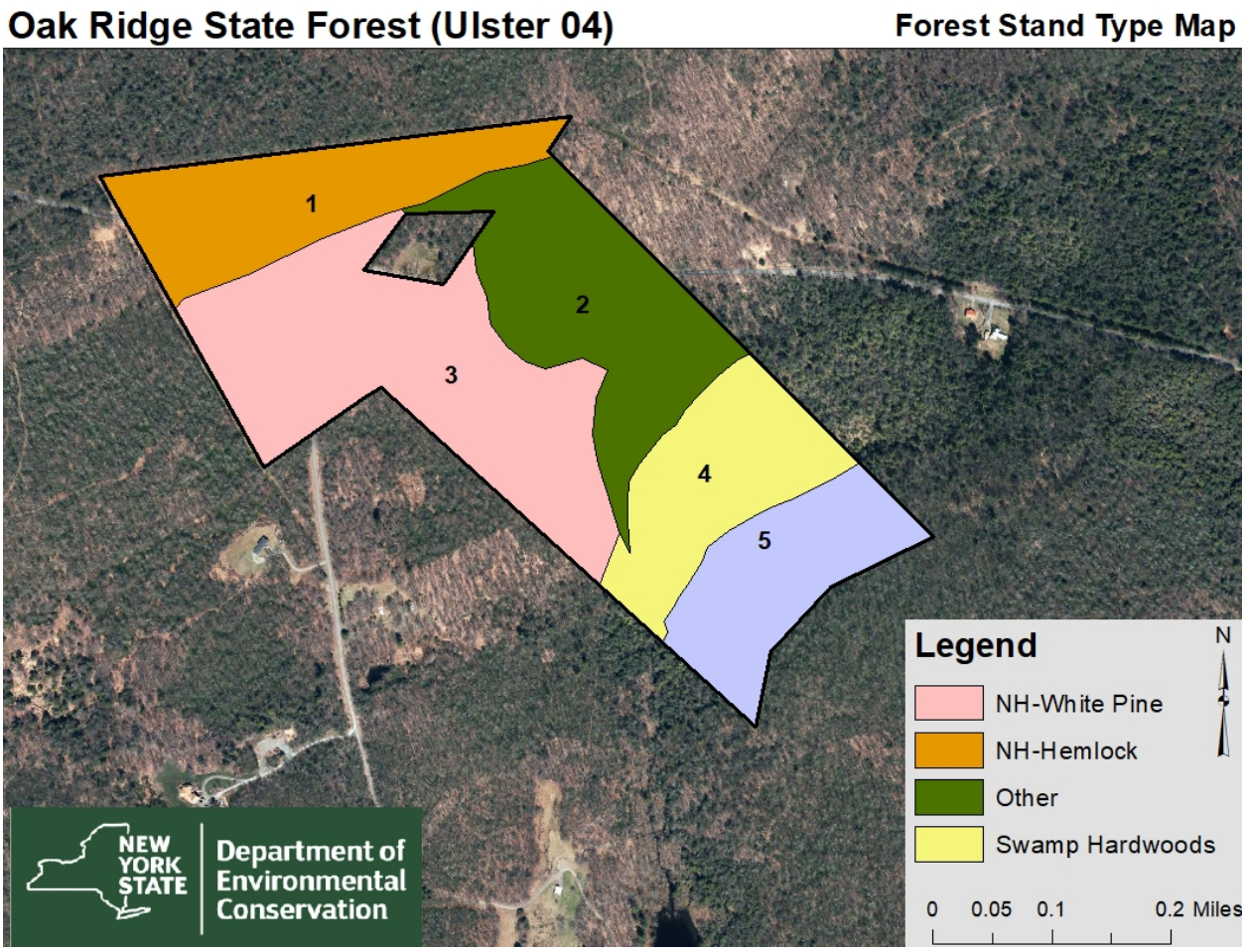

## Figure 4 – Neversink River Unique Area Special Regulations

6 CRR-NY 190.10 NY-CRR

190.10 Unique areas

(c) Neversink River unique area.

All lands owned by the People of the State of New York lying and situated in the Towns of Thompson and Forestburgh and abutting that reach of the Neversink River from its confluence with Mercer Brook south to the Sullivan-Orange county line.

(1) fires are prohibited at all times;

(2) camping is prohibited;

(3) rock climbing, the riding or other use of horses, swimming and hang gliding are prohibited;

(4) the launching of mechanically propelled vessels from the area is prohibited;

(5) parking of motor vehicles permitted in designated sites only;

(6) all users of the area shall comply with all official Department signs, including any signs indicating a restricted area to which entry by members of the public is prohibited;

(7) canoes, kayaks, and floats may be portaged only at designated locations;

(8) the area is open for public entry and use only from one-half hour before sunrise until one-half hour after sunset;

(9) the use of snowmobiles is prohibited; and

(10) the defacement, destruction or removal of any State property from the area is prohibited