

Appendix 9

Gore Mountain Sustainability Analysis



Sustainability Analysis

Environmental Report
June 2016





Overview

This report is a summation of various aspects of Gore Mountain's environmental performance. The information will be regularly updated and utilized as we develop annual reports and master plans for the facility.

Gore Mountain recognizes the impact that climate change has on our environment, and potentially on the ski experience we provide. We are an industry leader in environmental stewardship; our consistent commitment to sustainability can be noted not only throughout our responsible development practices, but also through the industry's recognition of Gore with several prestigious awards in this area. We voluntarily reviewed our entire operation in this report to demonstrate how we have improved, and where we can continue to improve.

As the largest ski area in New York State, we can play an active role in helping to change the culture toward a more sustainable future. We have improved our efficiencies and transferred our electric loads from traditional supply to solar power. We will continue modernizing our snowmaking system and greening our on-road and grooming fleets. We are working towards a hydroelectric generation system, composting our food waste, and expanding our educational programs.

Gore Mountain works closely with the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to maintain the health of the environment at our facilities. The DEC has issued environmental permits to Gore Mountain for Bulk Petroleum Fuel Storage, Wastewater Treatment Facility Operations, Water Withdrawal, Dam Safety, Stormwater Management, and Air Emissions. We have expanded our educational programs and are developing plans for both a hydroelectric generation system and food waste composting.



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Gore Mountain uses large amounts of energy and fuel in maintaining the highest quality ski experience for our customers. Throughout the years we have undergone several successful initiatives to offset our usage. These **efficiencies have reduced our annual electrical load**, in spite of us expanding the length of our season and the number of lifts we operate.



ELECTRICITY & FUEL

Diesel

Diesel is a major energy source for our operation. We use diesel for powering maintenance equipment, snowmaking compressors, and grooming equipment. Diesel operates the ski lifts during power outages and also fuels trucks and buses.

Over the past eight fiscal years, our usage of off-road diesel has decreased significantly and a future trend forecasts that this shift will continue (See Figure 1.1).

Our on-road diesel usage has had a slight average increase over the past eight fiscal years (See Figure 1.2). We correlate this to the amount of vehicles and equipment in our control, including the shuttle bus fleet. This increase was necessary to accommodate our growing number of guests, trails, and other expansion projects. We are actively investigating modernization of existing fleets with new technologies such as electric grooming machines and hybrid buses. Revised shuttle routes will help to conserve energy during busy days, and we are researching alternative fuels for the vehicles we presently own.

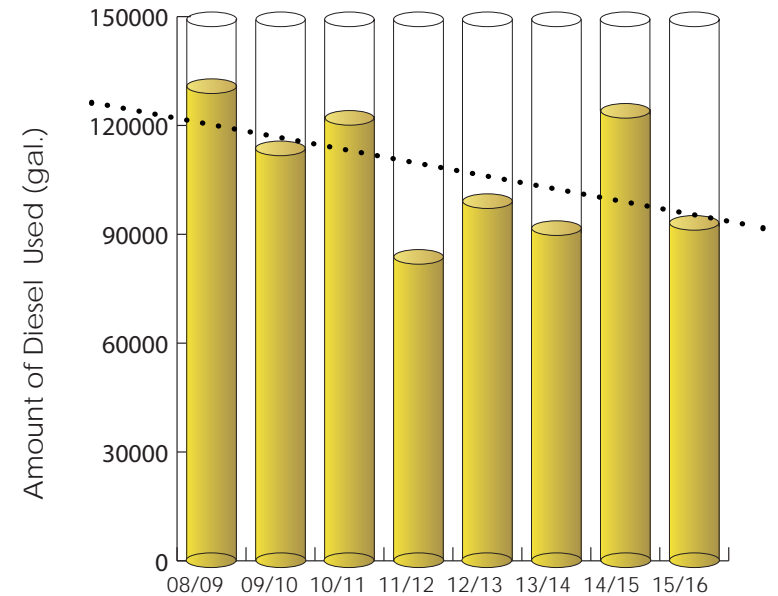


Figure 1.1: Off-road diesel usage over the past 8 fiscal years

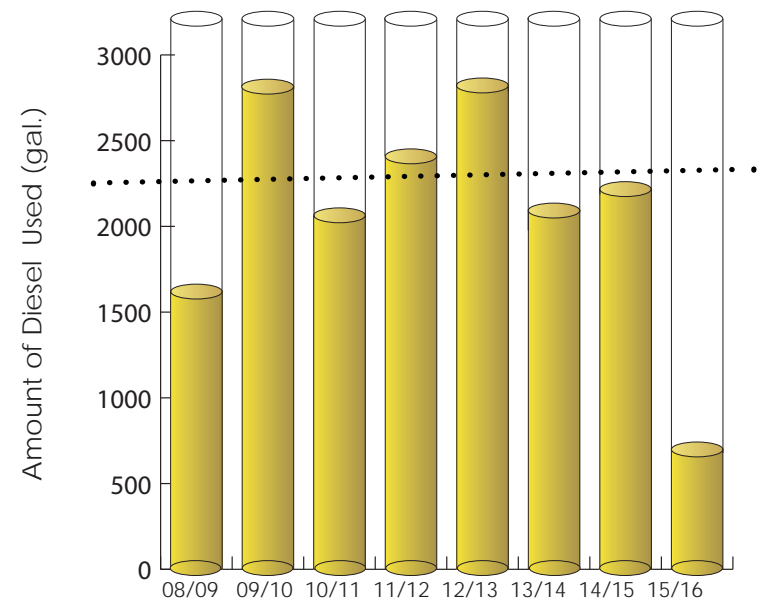


Figure 1.2: On-road diesel usage over the past 8 fiscal years

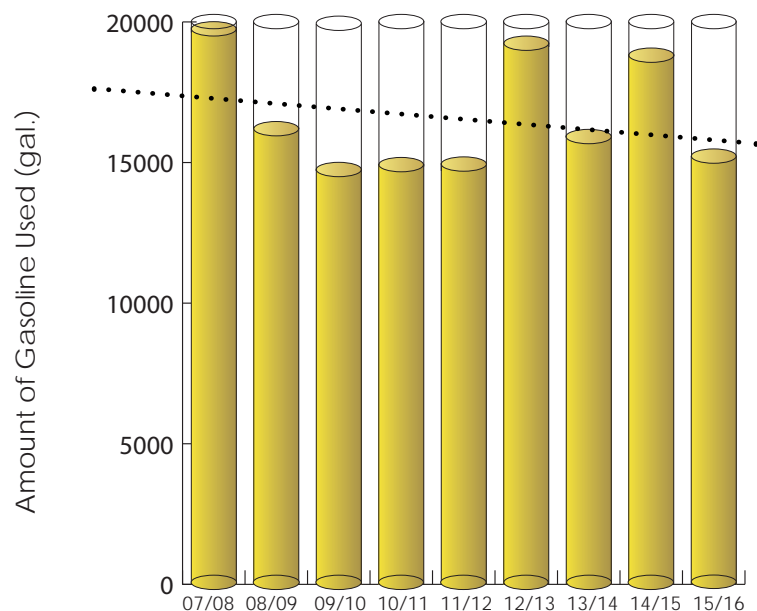


Figure 1.3: Gasoline usage over the past 9 fiscal years

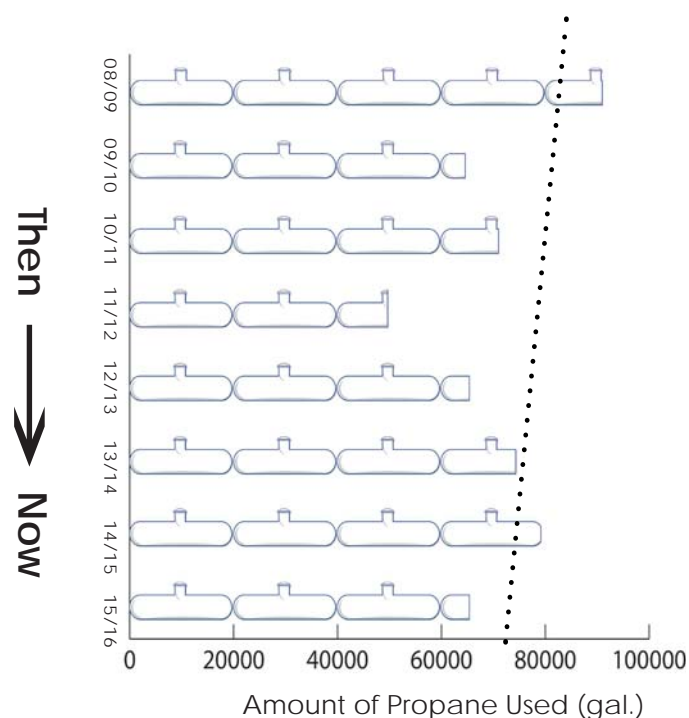


Figure 1.4: Propane usage over the past 8 fiscal years

Gasoline

Gore Mountain uses gasoline to operate snowmobiles for ski patrol and snowmaking operations. Gasoline is also used to attend trade shows, meetings, and conferences in our vehicles. Our use has been fluctuating over time, but overall there is a slight downward trend. (See Figure 1.3).

Propane

Our propane usage had a dramatic increase after the 2007/2008 fiscal year due to the addition of the Northwoods Lodge, conversion of the Base Lodge's heat from fuel oil, and the addition of two more commercial kitchens. Propane is used to heat almost all of Gore Mountain's buildings, with the exception of the Saddle Lodge which uses a wood stove and electric heat. The usage trend for propane is relatively flat and primarily dependent on the weather. (See Figure 1.4) A green heat initiative is targeted for future improvement in propane use reduction.



Electricity

While electricity powers the lifts, the largest use of it is for snowmaking compressors and pumps. We have substantially reduced the amount of kilowatt hours (kWh) used during the last four fiscal years and we plan to maintain this trend by continuing to replace traditional snowmaking with modernized, high-efficiency guns. We are also modernizing our compressors with improved, more efficient drives and changing most lighting to motion sensing and high-efficiency bulbs or LEDs. (See Figure 1.5)

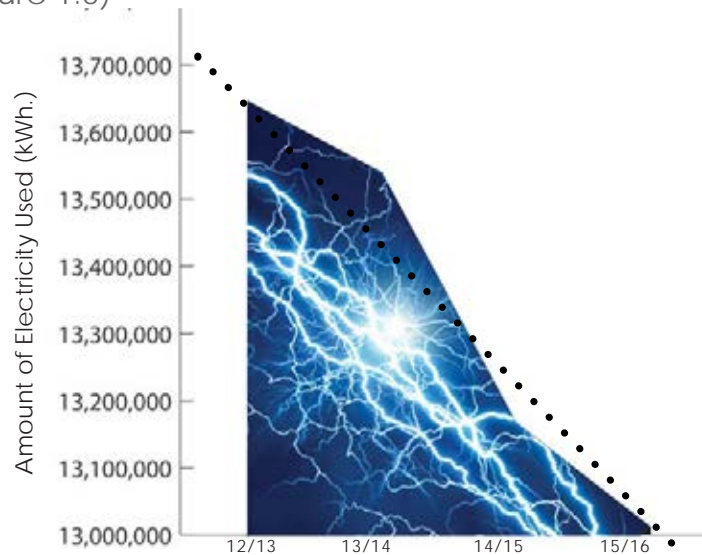


Figure 1.5: Kilowatt Hours used over the past 4 fiscal years

Emissions

Every year we measure the carbon and nitrate emissions directly expelled from Gore Mountain's use of electricity. The lifts, lodges, snowmaking operations, and larger buildings are measured. There is an upward trend over the past six fiscal years for both of the emissions sources (See Figures 1.6 and 1.7). We are actively lessening this impact through a conversion to solar power.

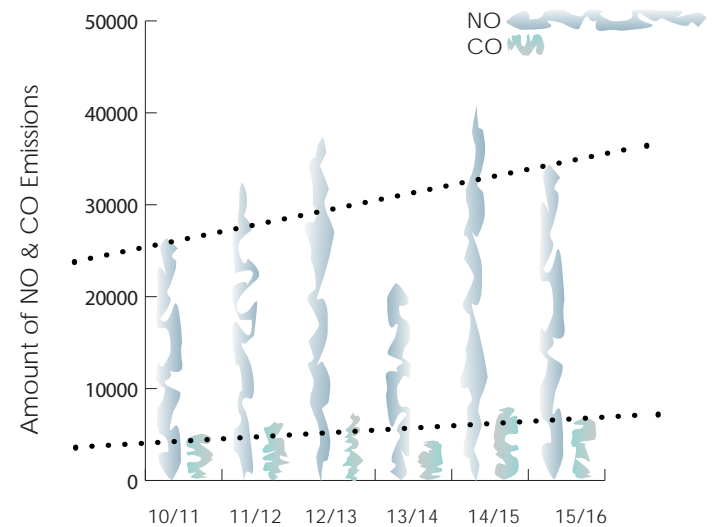


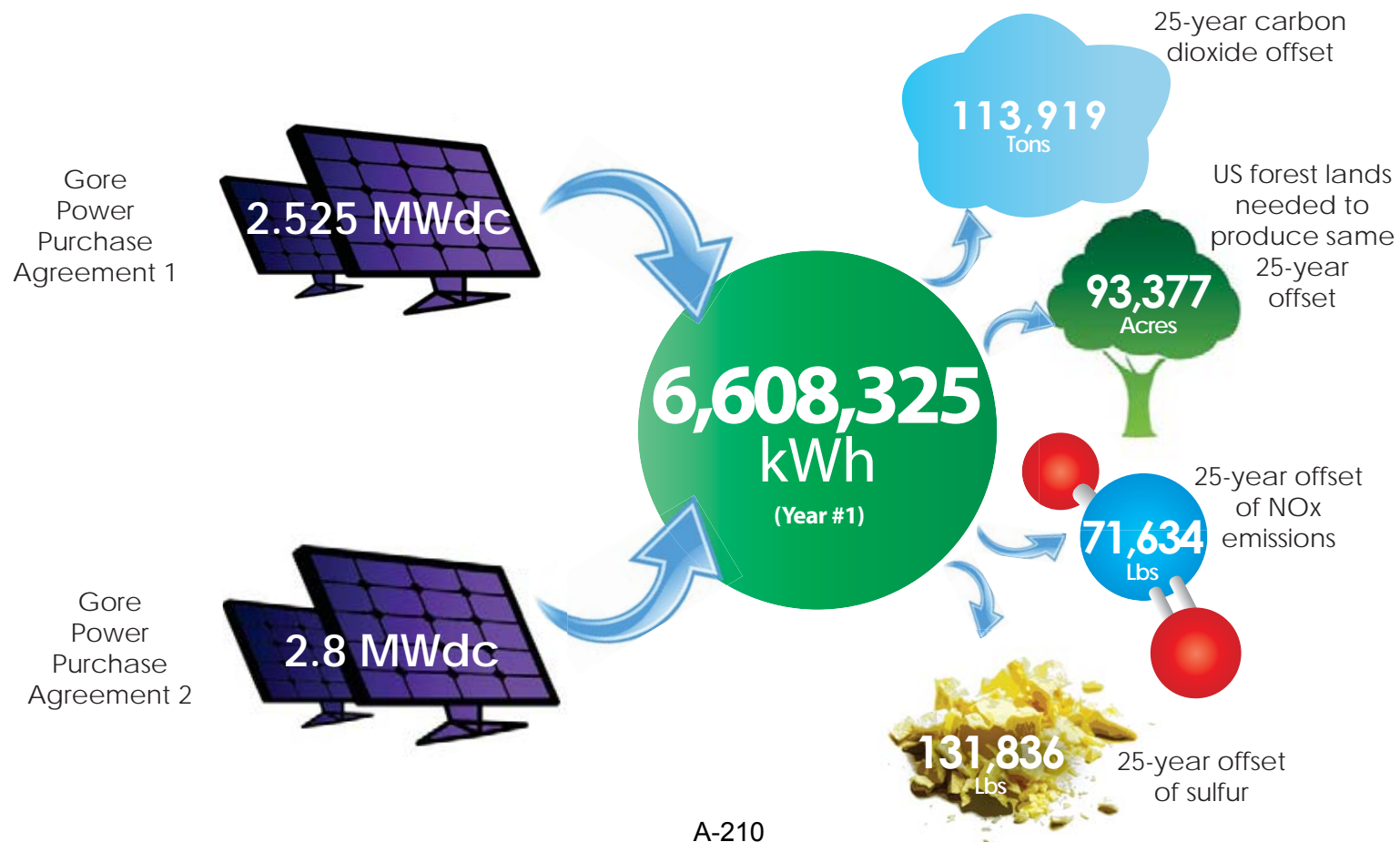
Figure 1.6: Carbon and Nitrous emissions from all measured sources over the past 6 fiscal years





Solar

Gore Mountain signed two 25-year solar power purchase agreements in June 2015. 14,589 panels have since been installed spanning 20 acres, with their energy production scheduled to go online in summer 2016. The electricity generated, a combined 5.325MWdc, will credit Gore's meter at a rate higher than power that is traditionally sourced, and will offset approximately 85% of the mountain's energy use. The agreements are projected to save Gore approximately \$10M over the life of the contract, while providing a cleaner, more sustainable source of energy to Gore Mountain's electric distribution zone.



Hydroelectric

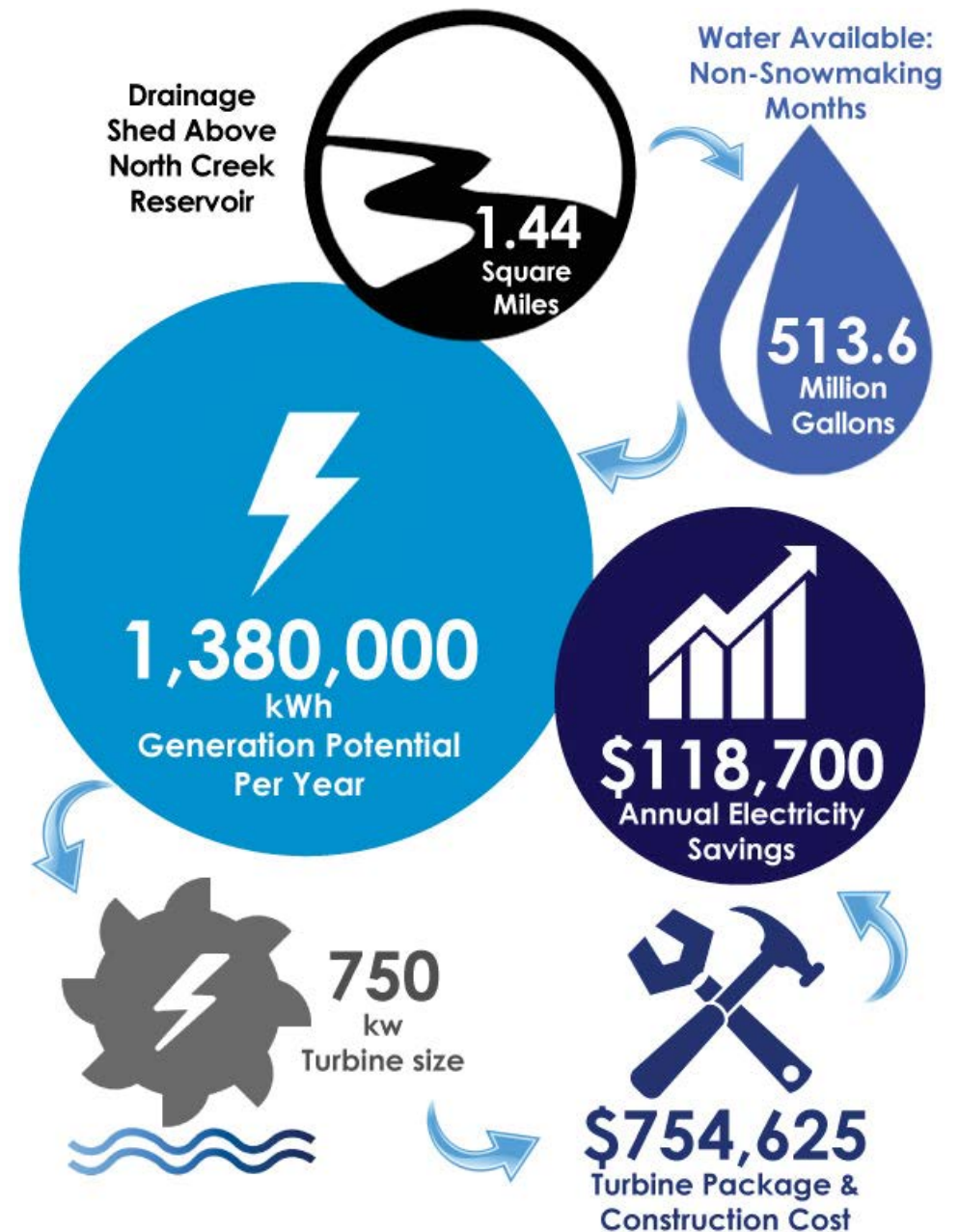
Gore Mountain has conceptually designed and is seeking capital funds for a hydroelectric plant on site *using the existing Hudson River snowmaking water transmission system*. It is estimated that the plant will generate 1,380,000 million kWh annually by passively utilizing natural water resources.

Gore Mountain has an advanced, sophisticated system of water storage, transportation, and control that is currently used only 3 months of the year. Capitalizing upon this infrastructure throughout the year could provide economic opportunities and bolster the mountain's sustainability.

Installation of a hydroelectric turbine and generator could almost completely offset the cost and emissions of electricity required to run the Hudson River pumps, all from naturally collected rainwater that otherwise pours over a dam and is not presently generating energy.

This system would provide yearly benefits up to \$118,700 for the foreseeable future, and would pay for itself within 8 years. Additional tax credits of \$15,200 could also be available.

If non-renewable energy costs continue to rise, this system will return even higher percentages of the initial investment.







Potable Water

Gore Mountain's treated water is provided by its own non-transient, non-community potable water system. There are two developed wells, one in the Base Area that produces 70 gallons per minute, and another at the Saddle Area that produces 5 gallons per minute. Both systems utilize holding tanks with chlorination pumps that are activated by flow. The chlorine residuals are monitored and recorded daily. Analytical reports are filed monthly with the NYS Department of Health. The Ski Bowl Lodge's potable water is serviced by the North Creek Water District.

North Creek Reservoir

The North Creek reservoir is a 25-million gallon upper elevation water source used for snowmaking since 1975. The reservoir was originally built as a Work Progress Administration project for the North Creek Water District. The reservoir is above Roaring Brook, an intermittent brook that flows into North Creek and then the Hudson River.

Hudson River

Gore Mountain withdraws water for snowmaking from the Hudson River. The pump house is located at the North Creek Train Depot. The established limit of 5,000 gallons per minute (GPM) is 1% of the record low flow at this location. The intake structure is designed to appear as a box culvert with a stream flowing into the river and has baffles and chambers designed to mitigate carryover effects from pumping and draining. Each year, almost 300 million gallons of water are used in snowmaking.



Wastewater

The mountain's annual wastewater treatment permit is a State Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit, which is designed to "eliminate the pollution of New York waters and to maintain the highest quality of water possible consistent with; public health, public enjoyment of the resource, protection and propagation of fish and wildlife and the industrial development within the state," according to the DEC's website.

Gore Mountain's operators monitor the wastewater produced. The normal testing parameters are volume, temperature, turbidity, dissolved oxygen, pH, biochemical oxygen demand, ammonia, suspended solids, settled solids and alkalinity. These tests are done on a daily basis and recorded for monthly submission to DEC. The waste sludge is trucked out periodically to a commercial wastewater facility. The plant has the capacity to process 70,000 gallons of wastewater per day but even at its peak, the mountain does not operate at 50% of design capacity.

Stormwater

Gore Mountain actively practices stormwater management techniques through proper implementation of Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plans developed individually for each construction project. During heavy construction, the project site and the water downstream are closely monitored to protect water quality. Gore Mountain also incorporates proper stormwater management devices into any new construction project to control runoff after construction projects are completed.

Water Conservation

Gore Mountain uses low flow water fixtures in the lodges. These fixtures use a high-pressure technique that produces an equal flow to that of older, less efficient models, but they use less water.

With tactical earthwork of smoothing and filling irregularities on terrain, Gore has had great success decreasing the amount of manmade snow required to open several trails. Earthen features built into runs such as our boardercross have also allowed some mountain areas to open more quickly, with less energy needed to do so.



Gore Mountain generates substantial recyclable and non-recyclable waste from the guests, construction projects, and daily activities. Through the implementation of new systems, we are working to improve various areas of our facility's waste management practices.



WASTE MANAGEMENT & RECYCLING



WASTE MANAGEMENT & RECYCLING

Waste Repurposing

Gore Mountain has repurposed many items to keep material out of the waste cycle. The most high profile examples of repurposed, relocated items are the Topridge Triple, the Hudson Chair, the Village Chair, and the Bear Cub surface lift. Many of our buildings have been modernized and some have even been moved to continue utilizing these resources. Large repurposing projects include the Northwoods Lodge, which was converted from the loading barn of the historic 1967 gondola. Relocated buildings include the Mountain Adventure Buildings, both Ski Bowl yurts, and the operator buildings for the base of the gondola and Topridge lifts. Repurposed material has been used to construct the framework for the Fairview observation deck, safety bollards, corral posts, parking lot directional equipment, the Corduroy Café, and other specialty items.

Single-Stream Recycling

For the last four years, Gore Mountain has utilized a facility-wide single-stream recycling system. Single-stream recycling is a process in which materials are all mingled together with no sorting required by individuals.



Precious Metal Recycling

Our recycling has remained fairly constant. In fiscal year 2014/2015, we recycled an inordinately large amount of material due to a lift replacement that generated several tons of scrap metal.

Hazardous Waste

Gore Mountain generates some hazardous waste that must be disposed of properly and separately from the regular waste. Most of this waste is mercury from expired light bulbs. These light bulbs are temporarily stored in a sealed container by Gore Maintenance, then properly disposed of at a certified off-site facility.

Food Waste

Gore Mountain staff is researching compost systems in order to generate fertile soil from food waste. One option is an on-site composting pile or a composting tumbler. The compost would be initially generated from the kitchens' food waste, then secondarily from customer waste. The fertile soil produced would be used in gardens around the mountain and could also be spread on trails.

Gore Mountain and the Olympic Regional Development Authority have a corporate partnership with Centerplate to be their concession operator. Centerplate has transferred all of its cups and paper products used at the mountain to compostable and recyclable products. The amount of locally sourced foods and healthier options within Centerplate's offerings to Gore's guests is on the rise.

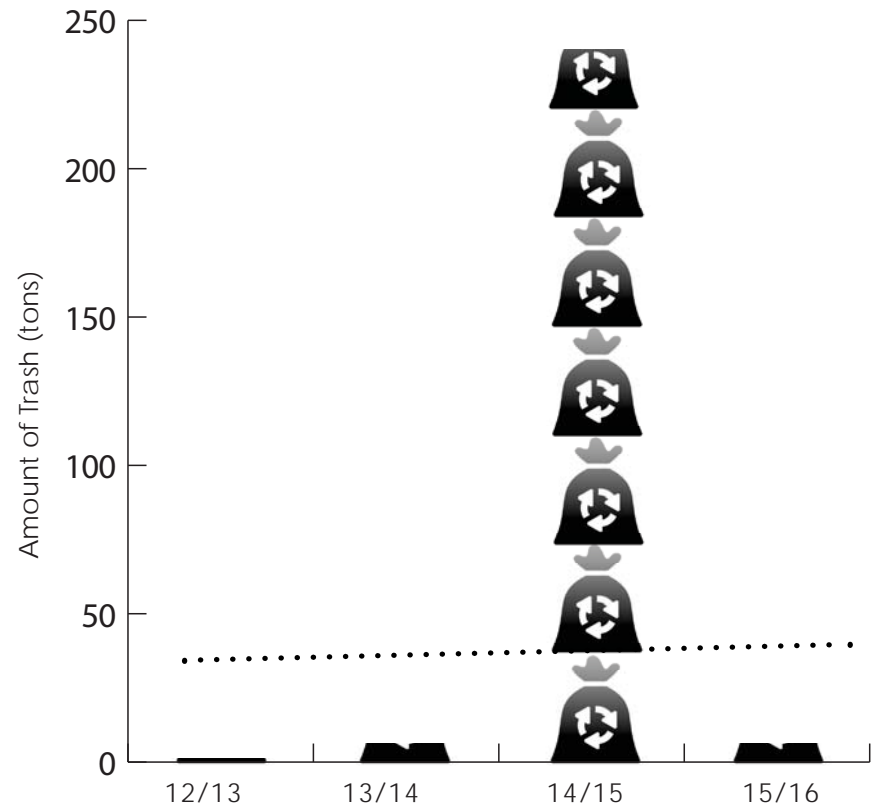


Figure 1.10: Amount of material recycled over the past 4 fiscal years



HERITAGE & EDUCATION



HERITAGE & EDUCATION

Visual Resource Management

A “gore” is a surveyor’s term for an area of unsurveyed land. Gore Mountain was left off the area’s earliest maps, likely due to the mysterious way the summit blends into the peaks surrounding it upon approach, as well as the natural ruggedness of the landscape. We have held true to this natural blend we have with our surroundings in our development of the ski resort as well. Examples of our award-winning performance in mitigating visual impact include:

- The layout and appearance of the Northwoods Gondola, designed with low towers, a low-profile lift line that follows the natural contour of the land, and color scheme carefully selected to blend into its surroundings.
- The appearance of the Hudson River Pump House and transformer at the Upper Hudson River Railroad station, painted Johnsbury Brown and designed to merge flawlessly into the depot facade.



- The appearance of the Hudson River Intake Structure, designed on the water’s edge to appear as a box culvert from which a tributary would flow.

•Gore’s new lift and trail network at the North Creek Ski Bowl, designed using a layout virtually identical to its historic layout.

•Constructing new buildings only in color schemes and architectural styles that match the natural environment, while renovating existing shells when possible to preserve open space and reuse materials.

•The “Topridge Area,” a pod of skiing that cannot be seen from any developed location.

•Gore Mountain’s new Nordic trail network, using existing terrain profiles and infrastructure to integrate new recreational opportunities with resources already available.

Environmental Awareness

Gore Mountain transforms every gondola ride into an educational opportunity with its unique Northwoods Knowledge program. Each cabin features a unique story about the area’s ecology or heritage. Topics that guests can read about on their gondola rides include wildlife adaptations, the Great Camps of the Adirondacks, how mountains are formed, and the science of snow. Interpretive signage is also placed around the mountain and lodges for people to identify area peaks, learn about the environment, and discover the history of Gore.

Gore has hosted environmental field trips for area schools and is developing environmental activities to incorporate into summer programming.





Timeline of Progress

- 1934** The first snow train, carrying 378 winter enthusiasts, arrives in North Creek at 10:30am from Schenectady on March 4. Round trip \$1.50. The Ski Patrol was organized, led by Lois Perret. It was one of the first of its kind and served as a model for patrols all over the world.
- 1946** A 3000' t-bar is installed at the North Creek Ski Bowl, servicing 830 vertical feet.
- 1964** The primary Gore Mountain facility is opened by New York State on January 25. It features a j-bar, a t-bar, and for the more advanced, a double chair, the longest lift in the East.
- 1967** The first gondola in New York State is installed at Gore Mountain. It remains New York's only gondola until 1999.
- 1976** Gore Mountain installs its first snowmaking system on four trails: Sleeping Bear, Sunway, Showcase, and Cloud.
- 1984** Gore Mountain installs the "Adirondack Express." This high-speed triple is the only lift of its kind in the Eastern US.
- 1995** "The Rumor" opens on February 9. This trail has 70% pitch and is one of the steepest trails in the East, designed for experts only.
- 1996** Gore Mountain taps the mighty Hudson River for a snowmaking water source and quadruples snowmaking capabilities.
- 1999** The Northwoods Gondola replaces the 1967 "Old Red Gondola." The high-speed eight-passenger lift is named SKI Magazine's "Best New Lift" and transports guests to the newly developed summit of Bear Mountain.
- 2002** The Topridge Area is introduced with a lift and four new trails. Conveniently linking guests from the Straight Brook Valley to Bear Mountain's summit, Topridge transforms the Gore Mountain experience.
- 2003** Gore Mountain begins winter management of the town-owned North Creek Ski Bowl.
- 2006** "Ruby Run," a new easier-rated trail off the Northwoods Gondola is added, offering beginners 1700' vertical feet and 2.2 miles of continuous skiing and riding.
- 2007** Gore Mountain opens the new Northwoods Lodge. "Village Chair," the first-ever aerial chairlift at the North Creek Ski Bowl, is installed for day/night skiing and snowboarding.
- 2008** New terrain serviced by a high-speed quad opens on Burnt Ridge Mountain, increasing Gore's vertical to 2300'.
- 2011** Gore Mountain opens the "Hudson Chair," completing its interconnect with the Historic North Creek Ski Bowl on Little Gore Mountain, and further developing its fourth peak of
- 2014** The 1984 Adirondack Express is replaced with an all-new luxurious and high-speed detachable quad, AEII.
- 2016** Gore Mountain's 14,589 solar panels go live on the grid and offset 85% of the mountain's energy use.





AWARDS

Awards and Recognitions

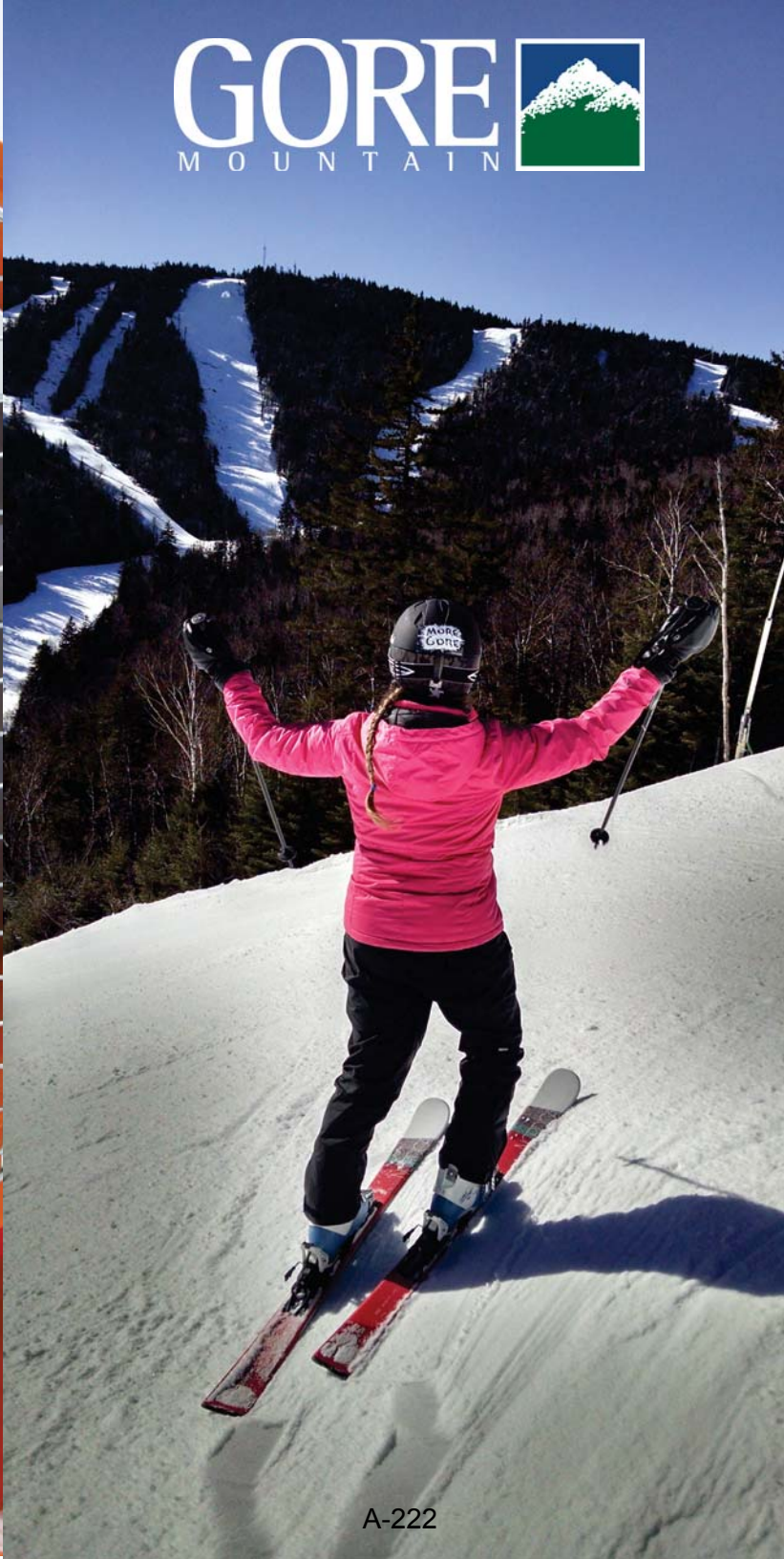
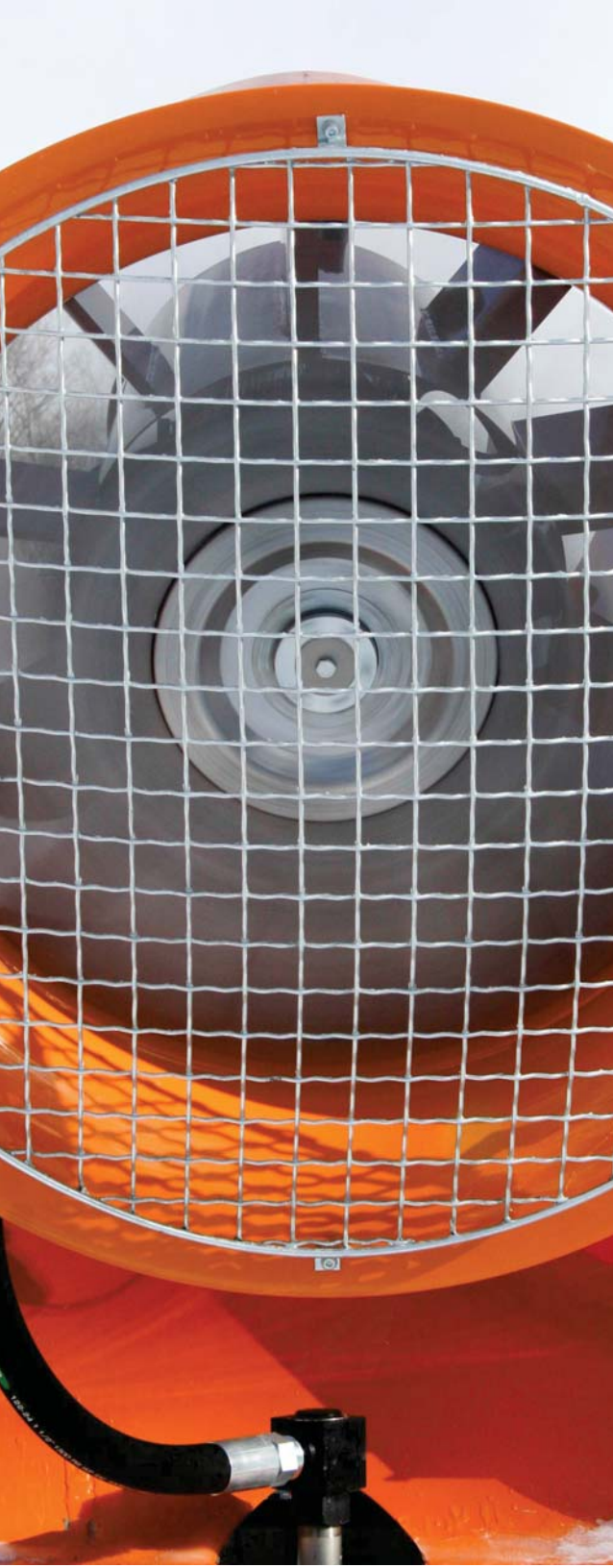
In May 2016, Gore Mountain received the ski industry's most esteemed recognition for sustainable performance—the Golden Eagle for Overall Environmental Excellence, presented by SKI Magazine and the National Ski Areas Association (NSAA). Gore was chosen for consistent leadership on environmental stewardship and enhancing the guest experience in creative ways that help both the planet and its business, with an emphasis upon initiatives accomplished during the last twelve months. Gore Mountain serves as an industry model for development, demonstrating that a growing resort (its acreage and uphill capacity have increased 131 percent and 142 percent respectively over the last 20 years) can at the same time be sustainable. Gore's commitment to solar energy, its steady investment in snowmaking efficiencies, strategic trail work to offset energy use, newly introduced service of locally sourced foods, replacement of traditional lighting with LED, and its environmental education initiatives all contributed to this esteemed award.

NSAA has also chosen Gore for past awards in the specific topics of Visual Resource Management, Environmental Education, and Environmental Group Relations. In addition, the mountain was a finalist for an award in Waste Reduction & Recycling.

Other honors include National Grid's 2014 nomination of Gore Mountain for a national energy conservation award, based on its efficiency upgrades. Demonstrating long-standing leadership in stewardship, Gore was one

of thirty presenters to the Environmental Concerns Task Force at the White House Conference on Travel and Tourism in 1995, and was one of twenty-four parties invited to participate the EPA's Sustainable Industry Mountain Resort Development Stakeholder Meeting in 1999.





GORE
MOUNTAIN



A-222

Appendix 10
DGEIS Public Hearing Transcript

*** Proof of Publication ***

WARREN COUNTY AFFIDAVIT

STATE OF NEW YORK:

County of Warren, ss:

Donna Morehouse _____ being duly sworn,

says that (s)he is an authorized designee for Lee Enterprises, publishers of THE POST-STAR, a daily newspaper published in Glens Falls, Warren County, State of New York, and that the printed notice attached hereto was cut from the said POST-STAR, and that the said notice was published therein, namely

NYS Olympic Regional Development Authority
JANUARY 8, 2018

THE LA GROUP LEGALS
40 LONG ALLEY
SARATOGA SPRINGS, NY 12866

ORDER NUMBER 38724

Signed this 8 day of JANUARY, 2018

[Signature]

Sworn to before me this 8 day of Jan, 2018

[Signature]

PUBLISHED ON: 01/08/2018

TOTAL AD COST: 57.98

FILED ON: 1/3/2018

Notice of SEQRA Public Hearing

The NYS Olympic Regional Development Authority will hold a public hearing on Wednesday January 24, 2018 at 7:00 PM in the Gore Mountain Base Lodge to receive public comment on the 2017 Amendment to the 2002 Gore Mountain Unit Management Plan /Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement (UMP/DGEIS). Copies of the UMP/DGEIS are available for review at Gore Mountain, NYSDEC offices in Warrensburg and in Albany (Lands and Forests), at ORDA's Lake Placid office and at Johnsbury Town Hall in North Creek. The UMP/DGEIS is also available online at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/41866.html>. New actions proposed at Gore Mountain in the 2017 UMP Amendment include the following: construct a new ski trail connecting Burnt Ridge and the Base Lodge, widen Echo and Twister trails, Widen Sunway and other green trails served by Lift 3, add a new triple or quad chair from Northwoods Lodge to Lower Sunway, construct dedicated shuttle lanes, expand the NYSEF building, reconfigure maintenance to place a groomer garage and fueling station adjacent to the Sunway Trail, enlarge the snowmaking reservoir, construct a single-track bike trail loop for the Town trail at the top of Little Gore, and develop a hiking center based out of the Northwoods Lodge.

The purpose and need for the UMP Amendment is the on-going improvement and modernization of facilities at Gore Mountain that will add to the public accessibility, increase user safety and enhance recreational pursuits while simultaneously complying with the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan and Article XIV of the NYS Constitution.

Oral and written public comments will be accepted at the January 24, 2018 public hearing. Written public comments may also be submitted before or after the public hearing until the public comment period closes on February 9, 2018. Written public comments can be submitted via mail to: Olympic Regional Development Authority, 2634 Main Street, Lake Placid, NY, 12946, attn: Department of Environment, Planning & Construction or electronically to: Gore_2017_UMP_comments@orda.org

BRIAN J. CORCORAN

Notary Public - State of New York
No. 01CO6133976

Qualified in Saratoga County

My Commission Expires September 19, 2021

SEQRA PUBLIC HEARING

NYS Olympic Regional Development Authority

January 24, 2018
7:00 p.m.

Gore Mountain Base Lodge
North Creek, New York

Contact: Kevin Franke
The LA Group
40 Long Alley
Saratoga Springs, New York 12866
518-587-8100
kfranke@thelagroup.com

1
2 P R O C E E D I N G S :

3 MR. PRATT: Thanks for attending
4 tonight's presentation. I'm Mike
5 Pratt. I'm the president of the
6 Olympic Regional Development Authority
7 and former manager of Gore.

8 This is a powerful presentation
9 tonight. Our plans here for updating
10 our Unit Management Plan are not
11 traditional. They also include plans
12 to develop lands of the Town of
13 Johnsburg at the North Creek Ski
14 Bowl. So, simultaneously, we're
15 going through the SEQRA process,
16 trying to make amendments to our Unit
17 Management Plan, as well as complete
18 our Section 814 Adirondack Park
19 Agency application so that we gain
20 permits for both projects
21 simultaneously.

22 So we've been working very hard
23 on these projects. Everybody at Gore

1 has been contributing. People at the
2 Olympic Authority have been
3 contributing, and we've been
4 supported by our friends at the
5 LA Group. So right now I certainly
6 would like to thank all the staff
7 people that have been helping us out,
8 and I'll recognize Kevin Franke from
9 the LA Group who will kind of explain
10 the reasons for this public hearing
11 tonight and the SEQRA process.

12 What we're going to have is,
13 after Kevin speaks, Gore's general
14 manager, Bone Bayse, will give a
15 presentation of the plans and we'll
16 certainly give everyone an
17 opportunity to make comments.

18 As part of the SEQRA process,
19 this public hearing is designed for
20 us to accept your comments, not
21 necessarily designed to be a question
22 and answer session, but if there's
23 simple answers we can provide, we're

1 happy to do that. And certainly
2 after the presentation, we'll be
3 around for a little bit if anyone
4 wants one-on-one questions.

5 All right. Kevin Franke.

6 MR. FRANKE: Thanks, Mike. Just
7 a few procedural issues to get out of
8 the way before Bone gives the
9 presentation on the content of the
10 UMP.

11 Tonight's public hearing is
12 being held in accordance with the
13 State Environmental Quality Review
14 Act and Article 8 of the Conservation
15 Law. The document that's been issued
16 today is a Draft Unit Management
17 Plan, Draft Environmental Impact
18 Statement. Comments that we receive
19 tonight and comments that we'll
20 receive throughout the comment period
21 will all be addressed in the Final
22 UMP, Final Environmental Impact
23 Statement.

1 Most of you saw on the way in,
2 there is a sign-up sheet for those
3 who wish to speak. Emily has that.
4 We'll be calling up speakers from
5 that list. We do have a stenographer
6 here tonight to get an accurate
7 record of the hearing, so we'd ask
8 that when you first start your
9 comments that you restate your name
10 so Kelly, our stenographer, can get
11 that down for the record.

12 In addition to the comments that
13 we receive tonight, the public
14 comment period will remain open until
15 February 9th. Written comments can
16 be submitted by e-mail or by regular
17 mail. There are addresses, both
18 written and e-mail, where those
19 comments can be submitted on sheets
20 here on the front table. I believe
21 Emily also has a copy, as well, and
22 that information will also be up on
23 the screen at the end of Bone's

1 presentation.

2 Copies of UMP. Where can I get
3 a copy? There are hard copies in a
4 number of locations. Bone has a copy
5 here at Gore Mountain. There's one
6 down in Town Hall. There's one at
7 the DEC offices, both in Warrensburg
8 and in Albany. And for those who are
9 closer to Lake Placid, there's one at
10 the ORDA offices in Lake Placid.

11 The notice of this public
12 hearing was published in the
13 Environmental Notice Bulletin on
14 January 10th, 2018. There was a
15 legal notice announcing this public
16 hearing that was published in the
17 Post-Star on January 8th, 2018.

18 As part of this procedural
19 matter, I'd just like to read into
20 the record the public notice, and
21 then we'll turn it over to Bone for
22 his presentation.

23 Notice of SEQRA Public Hearing.

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2 Development Authority will hold a
3 public hearing on Wednesday, January
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14 Placid office and at Johnsburg Town
15 Hall in North Creek. The UMP/DGEIS
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2 other green trails served by Lift 3,
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4 Northwoods Lodge to Lower Sunway,
5 construct dedicated shuttle lanes,
6 expand the NYSEF building,
7 reconfigure maintenance to place a
8 groomer garage and fueling station
9 adjacent to the Sunway Trail, enlarge
10 the snowmaking reservoir, construct a
11 single-track bike trail loop for the
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13 of Environmental Planning and
14 Construction, or electronically to
15 Gore.2017_UMP_comments@orda.org.

16 Again, thanks for coming out
17 tonight. We appreciate your interest
18 and your comments. Bone.

19 MR. BAYSE: Thank you, Kevin.
20 Thank you, Mike.

21 Hello everybody and thanks for
22 coming out this evening for tonight's
23 presentation. I'm going to walk you

1 through these slides, and, as both
2 Mike and Kevin had mentioned, at the
3 end, you'll have plenty of
4 opportunity to make comments.

5 So the Master Plan goals for
6 Gore are listed here and what we're
7 trying to do is make our venues more
8 desirable for recreational guests,
9 athlete training and hosting premiere
10 events, modernize the aging
11 facilities and infrastructure,
12 continue energy efficiency
13 improvements, improve operational
14 efficiency, increase competitiveness
15 in our marketplace, explore potential
16 for and increase development of
17 year-round and summer attractions,
18 improve quality and diversity of
19 recreational facilities and attract
20 more visitors, including the younger
21 and the next generation. And so,
22 working off of that master plan is
23 what brings us into those 2017

1 amendments to our 2002 plan.

2 The proposed action overview --
3 this is an overview and we'll keep
4 getting into more details as we go
5 here -- include new trail
6 construction, trail widening, lift
7 improvements, enlarge our snowmaking
8 reservoir, construct an independent
9 shuttle lane -- and that's a
10 modification of an already approved
11 1995 UMP, and build a new grooming
12 garage and fueling station, which is
13 also a modification of an approved
14 1995 UMP, an expansion on the NYSEF
15 building -- that's our race facility
16 here at the mountain.

17 This also includes a request for
18 a land reclassification that involves
19 the Gore Mountain intensive use area,
20 the Vanderwhacker Mountain Wild
21 Forest, and the Siamese Ponds
22 Wilderness. We're also looking to
23 expand summer recreation operations

1 at the North Creek Ski Bowl and that
2 would include a zip coaster, ropes
3 courses, mini golf, hiking and
4 mountain biking at that location.

5 This map right here shows you an
6 overview of the entire facility, just
7 to give you an idea of where we're
8 looking to make these improvements,
9 and then we'll get into some closer
10 slides. But down here you see where
11 our new proposed shuttle lane is, and
12 that's along the access road, and
13 then in through our parking lots into
14 the base area.

15 Lift and trail improvements at
16 our beginner area, which is the
17 Sunway Lift area and the Poma Lift
18 area if you're familiar with skiing
19 here. An intermediate trail -- a new
20 intermediate trail on the Burnt Ridge
21 area of the mountain, an expansion of
22 our snowmaking reservoir, a potential
23 land reclassification -- and I

1 mentioned that a couple moments ago.
2 And that would be, this piece of land
3 here would become wilderness. This
4 here would become part of the
5 intensive use of the ski area. And
6 then this area here, which are the
7 lands of the Town of Johnsbury, the
8 Ski Bowl.

9 Okay. First closeup slide.
10 This is the beginner area where we're
11 looking to do some improvements.
12 Again, if you're familiar with the
13 ski area now Lift 3 or our Sunway
14 Lift terminates right here. We're
15 looking to replace and extend that
16 Sunway Lift to go across the Sunway
17 Trail into that area. We believe
18 this will give us a better experience
19 for our customers, a better unloading
20 area. It gives them an
21 opportunity -- I don't know if you're
22 familiar with beginner skiers, but
23 they can sometimes have a tough time

1 getting their act together. When
2 they get off the lift, they're kind
3 of wobbly. This will allow them to
4 have a better staging area.

5 The green shaded areas are where
6 we're proposing to widen the trails
7 in this area, again, to make a better
8 experience for our beginner skiers.

9 Down here is the Poma Lift, and
10 there's where it currently ends.

11 We're proposing to put a new lift
12 there that would go all the way to
13 the bottom of that lower Sunway area,
14 and that would give a really nice
15 experience, again, for our beginner
16 and advanced beginner skiers.

17 Over onto the Burnt Ridge area.
18 This is the top of the Burnt Ridge
19 Lift for reference. And these shaded
20 areas are previously approved trails,
21 just so you can see what's out there.
22 But what we are proposing is to add a
23 new trail right here. This will give

1 another much needed access to the
2 base area. And when it goes
3 towards -- especially when you're
4 talking about the inner connect from
5 Gore over to the main base area here,
6 the middle part of this proposed
7 trail has already been approved --
8 previously approved where that's
9 shaded. And just this top section
10 and the bottom section are new
11 actions that we're looking to take to
12 get that trail.

13 This slide brings us over to the
14 base area and that's kind of where
15 we -- well, it's definitely where we
16 are right now. And this shows us the
17 proposed shuttle bus lane. And what
18 that shuttle bus lane would do, that
19 would be separate from the general
20 traffic flow. We found that our busy
21 days here continue to get busier and
22 a problem we have is that our shuttle
23 busses get caught in that traffic,

1 people coming up the road and going
2 through the parking lot. So with a
3 dedicated shuttle lane, we feel that
4 we can keep the traffic flow going
5 much smoother and make a much more
6 positive experience for our
7 customers.

8 Also, over here you can see
9 where our new grooming garage is
10 identified, where we would like to
11 put that. In the previous UMP
12 approval, it was to replace the
13 existing grooming garage, so the only
14 change is moving to a different
15 location. And what this will do for
16 us is put the grooming tractors
17 closer to snow. And that will help
18 quite a bit on maintenance, when
19 those machines don't have to come
20 down a gravel dirt road to get into
21 the garage. They'll be able to come
22 right off of the snow into the garage
23 and back out onto the snow.

1 And then the NYSEF building
2 expansion. This is where the NYSEF
3 building is and that's where that
4 would be expanded.

5 This slide shows the request for
6 land reclassification from the Gore
7 Mountain Intensive Use Area to
8 Siamese Ponds Wilderness Area. And
9 we're requesting that this area here
10 be reclassified. And this is
11 currently part of the Vanderwhacker
12 Mountain Wild Forest and we would
13 like to have that reclassified as
14 intensive use area, which is the ski
15 area classification.

16 This slide here shows us our Ski
17 Bowl improvements that we would like
18 to make. This top area, we're just
19 looking at that piece of land that we
20 would like to be reclassified. If we
21 were granted that reclassification,
22 we're proposing to realign the Hudson
23 Chair and have it terminate up here.

1 Currently it terminates down here.
2 That lift would come up here and we
3 would replace that lift with a
4 detachable chair. The shaded areas
5 show previously approved ski trails.
6 The lighter green areas show proposed
7 ski trails that would tie into those
8 previously approved.

9 Up here is our reservoir and the
10 light blue areas show where we are
11 proposing to enlarge the reservoir.

12 Summer and winter operation
13 improvements at the Ski Bowl include
14 a zip coaster, and that's on the next
15 slide. This gives you the overview.
16 Let's just jump to that. There.
17 It's a little bit closer for everyone
18 to see. This zip coaster is in
19 purple. We're proposing to put that
20 in there, along with a high ropes
21 course.

22 We're proposing to extend the
23 Village Chair. Currently the Village

1 Chair ends right there. We're
2 looking to extend that up into this
3 area, which puts it up high on the
4 Moxham Trail. We're looking to
5 extend the lights up there. This
6 will give a much better nighttime
7 skiing experience and it will also
8 give people ski lift access to the
9 ropes courses.

10 Down here we're looking to put
11 summer and winter tubing and a
12 permanent mini golf course. I
13 mentioned in the previous slide about
14 realigning the Hudson Chair. That
15 shows that there again. If that land
16 reclassification was not granted to
17 us, then we would keep the existing
18 alignment of that lift, but still
19 planning on changing the lift from a
20 fixed grip to a detachable chair.
21 The detachable chairs are easier for
22 summer traffic for people to load and
23 offload, as well as mountain bikes.

1 They're easier to load and offload on
2 those. And that would make it a much
3 nicer customer experience in the
4 summer. And if you haven't been to
5 the top of this area, the views of
6 downtown North Creek are spectacular.

7 We're also planning to continue
8 actions approved in previous UMPs.

9 We're going to continue trail
10 development and trail widening, lift
11 improvements, lodge improvements and
12 expansions, parking improvements,
13 snowmaking modernization and energy
14 efficiency improvements,
15 infrastructure modernization and
16 energy efficiency improvements.

17 We're going to continue to
18 improve and develop compatible
19 recreation amenities and public
20 access, and we'll also continue to
21 develop and improve a strong
22 connection between Gore, the Ski Bowl
23 and the Village of North Creek.

1 So that is the presentation in a
2 nutshell. I've shown you all the
3 slides and told you what we're
4 planning on doing. This slide here
5 gives you some more information.
6 Kevin had mentioned where you can get
7 copies of the UMP. It's also
8 available online. This gives you
9 some addresses here if you want to
10 send in written public comment.

11 And so at this time -- we're did
12 Kevin go? There he is. At this
13 time, we would start with the public
14 comment.

15 MR. FRANKE: And I would just
16 remind people, if you are going to
17 speak, please state your name for the
18 record so the stenographer can get
19 that down.

20 FROM THE FLOOR: Can we ask
21 questions first?

22 MR. BAYSE: Let's go through the
23 public comment.

1 FROM THE FLOOR: Hi everyone.
2 I'm Rick Morris. I know most of you.
3 I've skied at Gore for about 40 years.
4 I love Gore. It's my home mountain.
5 I love some of the work that's been
6 done here in the past. Great job for
7 Mike and great job for Bone for
8 keeping it up, and everyone else here.

9 And I also like the existing
10 hiking trails and backcountry ski
11 trails and snowshoe trails in the
12 area, and I've worked hard to help
13 build some of these trails. I've
14 worked hard to help maintain them, as
15 have a lot of other people here. And
16 I would like for Gore to be able to
17 expand as it feels necessary, as well
18 as to protect the existing trail
19 system, which we have for the public
20 to use.

21 The Rabbit Pond Ski Trail gets a
22 lot of use spring, summer, fall and
23 winter. It's an existing trail for

1 quite a while now. And I just think
2 there should be some way to both
3 expand Gore and to protect the
4 existing trail and to protect Rabbit
5 Pond. And that's what I would like
6 to see.

7 And what I have, I have a map
8 here of the proposed expansion of
9 Gore into the Rabbit Pond area and I
10 have a map of the existing trails in
11 the Rabbit Pond area, which I was
12 able to get from North Creek for
13 visitors to North Creek to use. But
14 what I haven't seen, and maybe this
15 is my fault, in the UMP, I haven't
16 seen a map showing both right on the
17 same map and showing how the proposed
18 new development would impact the
19 existing trails. And it seems like,
20 if you're going to put new trails in
21 and have them coexist with existing
22 trails, it would be important to be
23 able to see where they both lie.

1 So that's my comments. Great
2 job to people at Gore. You've done a
3 fantastic job in the past. And I
4 would like to see new development
5 here at Gore, but just to also
6 protect what we already have. Thank
7 you.

8 FROM THE FLOOR: Hi. I'm Dick
9 Carlson. Most people know me. I
10 worked here at Gore for seven years, I
11 would like to say back in the day, on
12 the ski patrol. I worked at Garnet
13 Hill for 25 years and am associated
14 lately with the same group that Rick
15 works with, which is the Siamese Ponds
16 Trail Improvement Society, Upper
17 Hudson Trails Alliance. I work with
18 Adirondack Trecks and so forth.

19 We're concerned with
20 trails-based recreation in the North
21 Creek area. And, you know, I would
22 like to preface my comments by
23 saying, if this is the least of our

1 problems, compared to some of the
2 federal climate change, EPA, National
3 Park Service and a host of other
4 ones, I think we're indeed fortunate.
5 This is not a huge deal in that
6 respect.

7 That said, the Village of North
8 Creek has very few hiking
9 opportunities. And I have to
10 discount hiking on ski trails and
11 hiking on wide areas. There's really
12 three main trails. The Schaeffer
13 Trail, the Rabbit Pond Trail and the
14 Raymond Brook Trail. And to, you
15 know, utilize one little bit of added
16 vertical for those trails that come
17 down from the Rabbit Pond area, I
18 think is misguided, especially if it
19 will eliminate the Rabbit Pond Trail
20 from hiking, snowshoeing and skiing
21 in season. It's really a delightful
22 trail. And it's an intimate hiking
23 trail, like a regular trail you would

1 see in the woods where the trees are
2 quite close to you on both sides. So
3 it's an important consideration, as
4 well.

5 And the Hamlets to Hut
6 Initiative is using the Raymond Brook
7 Trail, which is right adjacent to the
8 Rabbit Pond Trail, for their premiere
9 trip, which is supposed to begin this
10 spring.

11 And, also, the North Country
12 National Scenic Trail is also -- I
13 think the signs are up already. The
14 Raymond Brook Trail is part of that.
15 And, again, the Rabbit Pond Trail
16 teases into all this and to have that
17 not be available anymore would be,
18 again, I think misguided.

19 The question I had, and I know
20 that Crikelair property is some of
21 the Alpine Trails that are proposed
22 that are already approved. And I'm
23 wondering, is this development on

1 Crikelair's property? Is it Town of
2 Johnsburg? Is it going to be ORDA
3 property? How is that all going to
4 work?

5 And I guess that's about all I
6 have, other than the questions.
7 Thanks.

8 FROM THE FLOOR: Thank you,
9 everyone. I'm Jill Broderick. I'm
10 one of twelve members of the ORDA
11 board of directors and I would like to
12 thank everybody for their help putting
13 this plan together. I know -- I've
14 been told it takes a lot of time and
15 it looked like there's 300-some pages
16 that I perused today.

17 So I don't have many notes, but
18 I am very happy with probably
19 80 percent of the plan. And like
20 Rick just said, and Dick just said, I
21 do have my reservations about the
22 Rabbit Pond reclassification of that
23 land, only because it's sensitive. A

1 lot of people enjoy it just the way
2 it is and I don't think it's -- I'm
3 not sure if it's feasible, so -- I
4 haven't seen the numbers and I don't
5 really understand the realignment of
6 the lift. Let me see. I have notes.

7 If I may suggest adding to the
8 master plan goals, I would include to
9 improve and enhance the economy for
10 the host benefit community of the
11 Town of Johnsbury, and to improve the
12 health and wellness for the residents
13 by making recreational activities
14 affordable and accessible.

15 That's all I have. Again, thank
16 you very much.

17 FROM THE FLOOR: I'm Scott
18 Robertson. I've lived here for 35
19 years, taught, skied -- same with
20 everybody else here, probably. And --
21 sorry. Okay.

22 All the comments before, I echo
23 one hundred percent. I really hope

1 you guys can move the trail either
2 back to where you originally had it
3 or put in a trail -- I don't really
4 like this idea too much, but if we
5 have to compromise, maybe put in
6 another trail to move around so we
7 don't lose Rabbit Pond.

8 I've been going to the Huts and
9 Hamlets meetings and doing a lot of
10 these things and there's really
11 exciting stuff going on in the
12 backcountry. And, to be honest with
13 you, that's what I live for and I
14 have a lot of friends and that's what
15 they live for, too.

16 I'd hate to lose this trail. I
17 think it would be a big mistake.
18 What I did, I spent a lot of time
19 using typographical maps and tried to
20 overlay your maps on there to see
21 exactly where the trails went, and it
22 looked to me like we're going to be
23 losing part of the trail. Maybe I'm

1 wrong about that, but if we do the
2 proposal, that's what it looks like
3 to me. And I think that would be a
4 huge mistake, so -- that's it.

5 MR. FRANKE: Anyone else?

6 FROM THE FLOOR: This is quick.
7 I'm Julie West. I live in North
8 River. I've been here for a long
9 time. Skied all over.

10 I have an idea. The summer
11 recreation idea at Little Gore I
12 think is really exciting. And right
13 at Little Gore we have these awesome
14 hiking trails and biking trails, so
15 if you take the portions -- the
16 Rabbit Pond area that the everyone is
17 concerned about and make it a winter
18 area, it kind of takes the glimmer
19 out of the summer recreational
20 opportunities that maybe some of the
21 family could be doing while the
22 others are on the zip lines. Just a
23 thought.

1 My other concern is skier
2 numbers here at Little Gore. Do we
3 need more terrain at Little Gore? I
4 just haven't seen the mountain even
5 open that much because of climate
6 change or whatever. We just don't
7 have the terrain or snow for it.

8 So that's what I wanted to say.
9 Thanks.

10 FROM THE FLOOR: Okay. I'm Kelly
11 Nessle. I really -- this is the first
12 time I've paid any attention to this,
13 so my question -- and it's really more
14 of a question than a statement. We
15 have -- the Town of Johnsburg has
16 received money from the State of New
17 York for a design of trails that
18 leaves from Ski Bowl Park and goes up
19 through to North River and then goes
20 to other parts of the town. And that
21 work is probably going to be starting
22 sometime this year. And what I worry
23 about is a collision between the

1 interests of Gore Mountain and their
2 summer activities and the interests of
3 the Town of Johnsburg with their
4 hiking trails and their biking trails.
5 And I don't want the public that's
6 been coming already from Schenectady
7 and Vermont and everything else coming
8 up here to bike, all of the sudden
9 they can't go on trails that we're
10 making because they are going to be
11 charged. And I don't know if that's
12 in the plans or not, but that would be
13 my concern.

14 MR. FRANKE: Does anyone else
15 have a comment?

16 FROM THE FLOOR: Brandon Himmoff.
17 First of all, I think it's a great
18 plan, and there's a tremendous asset
19 here of, you know, a great mountain
20 and there's a lot of revenue that, you
21 know, that the state and the community
22 will get out of it if the mountain
23 grows.

1 I think that there are a couple
2 issues that I think the mountain is
3 beginning to realize. I thought some
4 of the commentary on like the pump
5 capacity and stuff that I saw on the
6 news was really very interesting.
7 But it seems to me that, like one of
8 the key issues of the mountain is the
9 connectivity of this side of the
10 mountain here and getting to Burnt
11 Ridge, and then using Burnt Ridge
12 maybe as the key to getting down the
13 mountain to the Ski Bowl.

14 The new route really helps a
15 lot, I think, to connect Burnt Ridge
16 back to the main part of the
17 mountain -- or historically the
18 larger part of the mountain. And I
19 wonder if maybe we can address
20 solutions to get to the other side,
21 because I don't think you really
22 increase the skier numbers if the
23 mountain is sort of disjointed. And

1 I think that there's a sort of design
2 issue.

3 I mean, the mountain sort of is
4 as it is. We just need to make
5 trails to connect A to B. And it
6 seems that, unless you kind of create
7 some kind of tunnel going under the
8 races going on at Echo all the time
9 and Twister, which I guess those are
10 certified as race courses and so
11 there's not a whole lot you can do
12 about that, but you still have to get
13 people from one side to the other. I
14 wonder if you could address how the
15 plan can sort of make that happen.

16 And also related to all these
17 expansions, I think the food strategy
18 at the mountain needs to get
19 addressed, because I think in order
20 to address -- I think locals are
21 really interested in, we'll bring a
22 picnic. We know how it is on the
23 mountain. That's not so big an

1 issue. But I think to really attract
2 tourists, you need a little more
3 variety and high-class cuisine, and
4 it's hard to do that under the
5 current state contracts. And I just
6 wonder if that could be addressed
7 somehow.

8 I think that, you know, this
9 idea of sort of improving local
10 recreational health goes well beyond
11 Johnsburg. Certainly, it's over in
12 my area and really beyond that. It's
13 great to get all these kids out
14 here -- and I'm really speaking on
15 behalf of my seven-year-old and
16 nine-year-old who love spending every
17 Saturday and Sunday here whenever
18 there's snow on the ground.

19 So I think the plan is terrific
20 and really critical. And I also just
21 wonder about the time frame of all
22 these plans. There's about 20 years
23 worth of projects probably in that

1 Unit Management Plan and I was
2 wondering if someone can sort of
3 vaguely give their impressions of
4 which things are more of an urgent
5 priority and which things are longer
6 term priorities.

7 I think that's all. Thank you.

8 FROM THE FLOOR: Okay. My name
9 is Bob Nessle. To give you a little
10 perspective, it was exactly 54 years
11 ago in this very room when Gore
12 Mountain Ski Center opened up. It was
13 a terribly miserable day. Cold,
14 windy, wet, icy. There was no snow
15 but there was a lot of ice all over
16 the mountain. Is this still working?
17 And the next day I was hired on as a
18 professional ski patroller and I've
19 been here ever since.

20 Now, just right off the bat, one
21 question about this skiing. I like
22 the idea of the escape route off the
23 top of Burnt Ridge. But how are you

1 going to get over that the rock wall
2 that separates Sagamore and Echo?
3 You're going to blast a tunnel
4 through there? How are you going to
5 get out?

6 MR. BAYSE: I'll tell you all
7 about it after your comments.

8 FROM THE FLOOR: (Mr. Nettle)
9 The other thing is, the Ski Bowl Park,
10 there's no doubt about it that summer
11 activities -- expanded summer
12 activities are going to be fantastic
13 for the community, for the
14 recreational -- or the recreation menu
15 for the southern -- southeastern part
16 of Adirondack Park.

17 However, estimates have been
18 pushing 40,000 participants, and
19 whether that's just going to be
20 summer or summer and winter -- but
21 the word around the skiing industry
22 is that the summer activities at ski
23 resorts is sometimes greater -- in

1 fact, in many areas is greater than
2 the wintertime.

3 Now, over at Ski Bowl Park,
4 supposing you're going to manage
5 30,000 customers from June, when
6 school is out, until say September,
7 and then into the fall period a
8 little bit. Now, how are the
9 infrastructure problems going to be
10 solved? 30,000 people are going to
11 require a very complex and well --
12 and an excellently designed sewer
13 system. Now, there are three town
14 wells within 200 feet of the base
15 area of the Village slopes and the
16 leg up -- the loading area for the
17 Hudson Trail Lift and the new lift
18 and the whole works. So depositing
19 sewage in the aquifer is probably not
20 going to work. I hope -- I certainly
21 hope that it doesn't work. So that's
22 part of the problem.

23 Also, where are all those people

1 going to park and what are they going
2 to do when they come back off the zip
3 line or the zip coaster or on the
4 mountain coaster. And are they going
5 to go to Joe Minder? Are they going
6 to take a break in the pavilion?
7 But, once again, you're dealing with
8 30,000 people over the period of
9 three or four months. That's another
10 problem.

11 So there's still some work to be
12 done, as I can see it, because, once
13 again, we have to remember that Ski
14 Bowl Park is not ORDA Ski Bowl Park.
15 It's Town of Johnsburg Ski Bowl Park.
16 Its basic design and its life since
17 the 1920s has been to provide a place
18 for Town of Johnsburg residents to
19 recreate. And I think there's got to
20 be some way to figure out a peaceful
21 coexistence and take care of the
22 sewage.

23 Thank you.

1 FROM THE FLOOR: Katy
2 Nightengale. I've been working with
3 Gore for a while now updating the town
4 contract, so I've got a lot of
5 background on a lot of this stuff.
6 And I'm for a lot of everything they
7 want to make at the main mountain and
8 at the Ski Bowl, but I have concerns
9 about the land swap.

10 I have skied those trails and
11 they are really awesome. And there
12 are already planned trails in
13 existence to come down from the top
14 of the Hudson Chair. I see economic
15 development from both Gore and what
16 they're doing for us at the main
17 mountain and at the Ski Bowl, but I
18 also see what's becoming this huge
19 backcountry draw to ski backcountry.
20 And I hate to lose those backcountry
21 trails to be not accessible anymore
22 for somebody who wants to ski up to
23 ski down, so -- that's it.

1 FROM THE FLOOR: Peter Bauer.
2 Protect the Adirondacks. So thanks
3 for the opportunity. We've been going
4 through the draft. And just three
5 comments.

6 We, too, have a lot of concerns
7 about the land swap and the Rabbit
8 Pond tract. We're not sure that's
9 the best way to go and we think
10 there's some major issues that need
11 to be looked at that we'll put in our
12 comments.

13 It has to do with backcountry
14 skiing and it has to do with -- we
15 think there's some legal issues
16 there, too, with the land that was
17 designated at the time of the
18 constitutional amendment that wasn't
19 part of it. We're not sure it can be
20 added in. So we think there's some
21 issues to look at with the Rabbit
22 Pond tract.

23 We think the scheduling is

1 important. A lot of the unit
2 management plans for forest preserve
3 tracts that enumerate a bunch of
4 different activities schedule them in
5 five-year plans. ORDA hasn't always
6 done that with detail. DEC's always
7 done that with its unit management
8 plans and that would be very helpful.

9 I think there's an awful lot of
10 good things in this plan to expand to
11 mountain, a lot of upgrades of basic
12 facilities and basic trails that are
13 very important. And, certainly,
14 there's a lot to support in that.
15 But we're concerned about Rabbit
16 Pond.

17 We also would like to see better
18 detail about the amount of acreage
19 here at Gore, and also at White Face,
20 but here at Gore, that has been used
21 pursuant to the constitutional
22 amendment that was approved, because
23 we think you're getting very close to

1 your clearing limits. We would like
2 to see a real good accounting of the
3 methodology that ORDA is using about
4 the cleared areas, the cleared
5 acreage of trails, the width of
6 trails and that sort of thing.

7 We've been looking at it
8 independently and we think that
9 you're getting very close to your
10 limits. So I think that's something
11 you need to be very mindful about, so
12 we would like to see a really good
13 accounting of that. That's not
14 really a unit management plan issue,
15 but we think it's an important issue
16 going ahead because it affects your
17 trail upgrades and your trails.

18 Thank you.

19 MR. BAYSE: Excellent. So if
20 there aren't any other comments, we'll
21 be here for a while if anyone wants to
22 talk personally.

23 I will make a comment about the

1 Rabbit Pond, because I know that
2 seemed to be a resounding concern
3 with folks. Any of the changes that
4 we have in there, the trails do not
5 encroach on the Rabbit Pond ski or
6 hiking trail. And it may be hard to
7 see a little bit on that map, but we
8 feel pretty strongly that this area
9 needs to work in harmony with
10 backcountry access, ski lift access,
11 hiking, mountain biking. It's the
12 only way we can be successful in this
13 community, is to have as much of that
14 stuff offered as possible. So we're
15 not trying to close that out.

16 But, with that comment, thanks a
17 lot, everybody, for coming and we'll
18 be kicking around and hope to meet up
19 with you.

20 MR. FRANKE: Just for the record,
21 the public hearing is closed for
22 tonight, but, just to remind people,
23 the public comment period for written

1 comments is going to stay open until
2 February 9th.

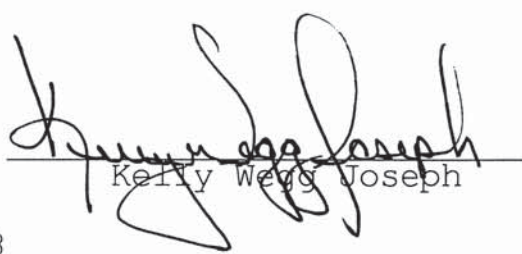
3 Thanks again for coming out and
4 we look forward to getting more
5 comments.

6 (Whereupon, the public hearing was concluded at
7 7:53 p.m.)

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C E R T I F I C A T I O N

I, Kelly Wegg Joseph, Shorthand Reporter
and Notary Public in and for the State of New York, do
hereby certify that the foregoing record taken by me at
the place and date noted in the heading hereof is a true
and accurate transcript of same to the best of my ability
and belief.



Kelly Wegg Joseph

Dated: February 10, 2018

1	address [3] 33/19 34/14 34/20 addressed [3] 4/21 34/19 35/6 addresses [2] 5/17 21/9 Adirondack [4] 2/18 8/22 24/18 37/16 Adirondacks [1] 41/2 adjacent [2] 8/9 26/7 advanced [1] 14/16 affects [1] 43/16 affordable [1] 28/14 after [4] 3/13 4/2 9/6 37/7 again [11] 9/16 13/12 14/7 14/15 19/15 26/15 26/18 28/15 39/7 39/13 45/3 Agency [1] 2/19 aging [1] 10/10 ago [2] 13/1 36/11 ahead [1] 43/16 Albany [2] 6/8 7/12 alignment [1] 19/18 all [21] 3/6 4/5 4/21 14/12 21/2 26/16 27/3 27/5 28/15 28/22 30/9 32/8 32/17 34/8 34/16 35/13 35/21 36/7 36/15 37/6 38/23 Alley [1] 1/19 Alliance [1] 24/17 allow [1] 14/3 along [2] 12/12 18/20 Alpine [1] 26/21 already [7] 11/10 15/7 24/6 26/13 26/22 32/6 40/12 also [23] 2/11 5/21 5/22 7/16 9/5 11/13 11/17 11/22 16/8 19/7 20/7 20/20 21/7 22/9 24/5 26/11 26/12 34/16 35/20 38/23 40/18 42/17 42/19 always [2] 42/5 42/6 am [2] 24/13 27/18 amendment [5] 7/6 7/20 8/16 41/18 42/22 amendments [2] 2/16 11/1 amenities [1] 20/19 amount [1] 42/18 announcing [1] 6/15 another [3] 15/1 29/6 39/9 answer [1] 3/22 answers [1] 3/23 any [3] 31/12 43/20 44/3 anymore [2] 26/17 40/21 anyone [4] 4/3 30/5 32/14 43/21 application [1] 2/19 appreciate [1] 9/17 approval [1] 16/12 approved [10] 11/10 11/13 14/20 15/7 15/8 18/5 18/8 20/8 26/22 42/22 aquifer [1] 38/19 are [40] 2/10 5/17 6/3 6/8 7/10 10/6 13/6 14/5 14/20 14/22 15/10 15/16 18/10 19/21 20/6 21/16 26/1 26/13 26/21 26/22 30/22 32/10 33/1 34/9 34/20 36/4 36/5 36/23 37/4 37/12 38/8 38/10 38/13 38/23 39/1 39/4 39/5 40/11 40/12 42/12 area [38] 11/19 12/14 12/16 12/17 12/18 12/21 13/5 13/6 13/10 13/13 13/17 13/20 14/4 14/7 14/13 14/17 15/2 15/5 15/14 17/7 17/8 17/9 17/14 17/15 17/18 19/3 20/5 22/12 23/9 23/11 24/21 25/17 30/16 30/18 35/12 38/15 38/16 44/8 areas [8] 14/5 14/20 18/4 18/6 18/10 25/11 38/1 43/4 aren't [1] 43/20 around [4] 4/3 29/6 37/21 44/18 Article [2] 4/14 8/23	Article 8 [1] 4/14 as [22] 2/17 2/17 3/18 5/21 6/18 10/1 11/4 17/13 19/23 19/23 22/14 22/17 22/17 22/18 26/3 33/12 34/4 34/10 36/17 39/12 44/13 44/14 ask [2] 5/7 21/20 asset [1] 32/18 associated [1] 24/13 at [52] athlete [1] 10/9 attending [1] 2/3 attention [1] 31/12 Attn [1] 9/12 attract [2] 10/19 35/1 attractions [1] 10/17 Authority [5] 1/6 2/6 3/2 7/2 9/11 available [4] 7/10 7/16 21/8 26/17 awesome [2] 30/13 40/11 awful [1] 42/9
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Appendix 11
DGEIS Written Public Comments

Law Office of Sterling T. Goodspeed

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 11
North Creek, NY 12853
scgstg@gmail.com

Sterling T. Goodspeed, Esq.

Susan C. Goodspeed
Legal Assistant

January 24, 2018

Mr. Mike Pratt
President/CEO
ORDA
2634 Main St.
Lake Placid, NY 12946

Re: Summer Operations/Public Hearing

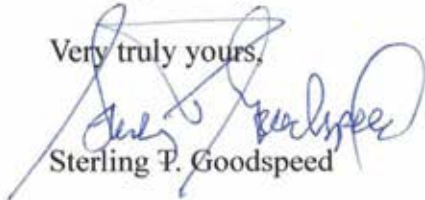
Dear Mike:

We will be unable to attend tonight's public hearing due to a scheduling conflict but wanted to write to you to express our strongest possible support for the ORDA summer operation at the Ski Bowl. Between the two of us, dating back to 1991, we have operated four businesses within the North Creek area. These include a law firm, a newspaper, a grocery store and a laundromat. We are well aware of both the potential our region offers and the challenges doing business here can present.

ORDA's commitment to a summer operation builds on the growing partnership between the Authority, Town government and local businesses. Creating this venue during the summer season will add new vitality to our existing businesses and will likely attract other businesses to open shop. The proposal also builds off the important heritage that the Ski Bowl and North Creek have always shared with regards to the ski industry. It is fitting that summer operation at the Ski Bowl should provide such a crucial element of our long sought goal to become a four season destination community. The project also marks a welcome commitment to permit an ORDA operation on the edge of our Main Street business district and builds on the significance of the interconnect of the mountains completed several years ago.

Thank you for your time and attention in reviewing this correspondence.

Very truly yours,


Sterling T. Goodspeed


Susan C. Goodspeed

Office Location: Pearsall Real Estate Building 2361 State Route 28, Wevertown, NY 12886

Kevin Franke

From: Bob Hammond <BHammond@orda.org>
Sent: Wednesday, January 31, 2018 6:53 AM
To: Mark Taber; Kevin Franke
Subject: FW: Rabbit Pond Trail

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

FYI

Robert W. Hammond
Director of Environmental, Planning and Construction
NYS Olympic Regional Development Authority
(518) 302-5332

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From: Rick and Anne Morse [<mailto:morses2@gmail.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, January 30, 2018 9:42 PM
To: Gore_2017_UMP_comments <Gore_2017_UMP_comments@orda.org>
Subject: Rabbit Pond Trail

I feel that the
proposed
Gore Mountain Amendment to the

UMP does not recognize the
importance of the
Rabbit Pond Trail.

This is a trail which is used by a lot of people during all four seasons. Rabbit Pond is a pristine pond which has not been adversely impacted by human development. I personally worked to build this trail with Steve Ovitt, DEC Forest Ranger. I work to maintain this trail, along with other members of the Siamese Ponds Trail Improvement Society.

Where is there a map in the proposed amendment which shows the location of the Rabbit Pond Trail as well as the location of the proposed Gore ski trails?

Where does the proposed amendment describe how the Rabbit Pond Trail, and Rabbit Pond, will be impacted by the Gore development? What will be the setback of the Gore trail construction from Rabbit Pond?

I oppose the reclassification of the land from wild forest to intensive use unless the Rabbit Pond trail and Rabbit pond are not adversely affected.

Richard Morse

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To: kfranke@thelagroup.com

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From: bhammond@orda.org

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I would like to echo the comments made by several other speakers at the Public Hearing on the 2018 Gore Mountain UMP update. As a hiker and back country skier, I have a great interest in this area. I am the Siamese Ponds Trail Improvement Society trail steward for the Schaefer Trail on Gore (named after my family), and have spent many days clearing trails in the Siamese Pond Wilderness so that they remain open for year round use. As an aside, my father also built and ran the first rope tow in New York State in the Historic Ski Bowl beginning in December 1935. Thus, all can understand my affinity for this beautiful and unique area affected by the plan.

I fully support the intentions of ORDA to increase recreational opportunities on Gore, and see many positive aspects to the plan. If completed there will be an increase in recreational and (much needed) related economic activity. However, I have are two concerns, mostly related to preserving the historic recreational opportunities that currently exist, and coordinating future ones.

The first is the need to keep development away from Rabbit Pond, the Rabbit Pond Trail, and its environs. Besides its historic value as one of the original “Ride Up, Slide Down” trails from the 1930s, this is a beautiful, quiet and pristine area that needs to be preserved. It is used by many and will continue to be a wonderful recreational resource for the town and all outdoor enthusiasts. I have not seen any topographic maps that show definitively where new facilities and trails will be located in relation to the Rabbit Pond trail. This should be a high priority so we can clearly see the plan, and then keep a **substantial buffer zone** between areas. I urge those involved in the planning to produce such a map as soon as possible.

The second concern is that of overall planning:

- Along with the Gore expansion plan, there are already plans afoot to expand hiking/biking trails in the Historic Ski Bowl. How do these fit in?
- The North Country National Scenic Trail now comes through the Bowl. This trail only passes through two towns in the Adirondack Park, and North Creek is one of them. Impact? How do we maximize benefit? How does it fit in?
- There are ongoing plans for Hut to Hut skiing in the area. Impact?
- Raymond Brook BC skiers frequently end their trips in the Ski Bowl on the Connector Trail. Impact?
- A NYS Museum of Skiing is planned for the Bowl. Has this been considered as part of the overall plan?

I have not seen anywhere this **nexus of recreational activity addressed as a whole**. It is a tremendous opportunity for the Town of Johnsburg and the Greater Gore Mountain Region, but the Gore Mountain UMP must completely address these issues for the benefit of all concerned.

Gregory J. Schaefer
North River, NY
518-251-5451

Kevin Franke

From: Bob Hammond <BHammond@orda.org>
Sent: Thursday, February 01, 2018 4:20 PM
To: Kevin Franke; Mark Taber
Subject: FW: Comment on Gore Mt. Unit Management Plan

Robert W. Hammond
Director of Environmental, Planning and Construction
NYS Olympic Regional Development Authority
(518) 302-5332

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From: Richard Salz [<mailto:rfs54@aol.com>]
Sent: Thursday, February 01, 2018 12:47 PM
To: Gore_2017_UMP_comments <Gore_2017_UMP_comments@orda.org>
Subject: Comment on Gore Mt. Unit Management Plan

Dear Sir or Madam:

As an avid cross-country skier and hiker, I am writing to express my concern about the possible adverse impact to the Rabbit Pond Trail as a result of the proposed construction of a new downhill trail adjacent to Rabbit Pond. The draft UMP calling for the reclassification of the Rabbit Pond area from Wild Forest to Intensive Use fails to address the impact that the new downhill trail will have on the Rabbit Pond Trail. In a significant omission, the draft amendment does not even show the Rabbit Pond Trail on any of the maps.

The Cumulative Impact Analysis (Part C, Section III, Subsection K, pp. 6 -7) incorrectly states that "[r]ecreational opportunities could be enhanced at both locations with the implementation of the proposed actions. This will result in a positive cumulative impact." No mention is made of the potential negative impact to the Rabbit Pond Trail or to Rabbit Pond itself by a new downhill trail.

Please note my opposition to the proposed reclassification if this will result in harm to the Rabbit Pond Trail or to Rabbit Pond.

Sincerely,

Richard Salz
171 Van Guilder Rd.
Chestertown, NY 12817

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From: bhammond@orda.org

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Kevin Franke

From: Bob Hammond <BHammond@orda.org>
Sent: Friday, February 02, 2018 2:43 PM
To: Kevin Franke; Mark Taber
Subject: FW: Public Comment on the Gore Mountain UMP Draft Amendments - Rabbit Pond Trail

Follow Up Flag: Flag for follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Robert W. Hammond
Director of Environmental, Planning and Construction
NYS Olympic Regional Development Authority
(518) 302-5332

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From: Roy Keats [<mailto:royskipaddle@gmail.com>]
Sent: Friday, February 02, 2018 12:59 PM
To: Bob Hammond <BHammond@orda.org>
Cc: Keats <royskipaddle@gmail.com>
Subject: Public Comment on the Gore Mountain UMP Draft Amendments - Rabbit Pond Trail

Dear Mr. Hammond,

I feel that the
proposed
Gore Mountain Amendment to the

UMP does not recognize the
importance of the
Rabbit Pond Trail.

This is a trail which is used by many people during all four seasons. It is both a backcountry ski trail and a hiking trail. Rabbit Pond is a pristine pond which has not been adversely impacted by human development. I work to maintain this trail, along with other members of the Siamese Ponds Trail Improvement Society.

The proposed amendment does not have a map showing the location of the Rabbit Pond Trail and the location of the proposed Gore ski trails.

Where does the proposed amendment describe how the Rabbit Pond Trail, and Rabbit Pond, will be impacted by the Gore development? What will be the setback of the Gore trail construction from Rabbit Pond?

I oppose the reclassification of the land from wild forest to intensive use unless the Rabbit Pond Trail and Rabbit Pond are not adversely affected.

Sincerely,

Roy Keats
171 Garnet Lake Road
Johnsburg, NY 12843

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From: bhammond@orda.org

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Kevin Franke

From: Bob Hammond <BHammond@orda.org>
Sent: Tuesday, February 06, 2018 7:28 AM
To: Kevin Franke; Mark Taber
Subject: FW: comment gore mountain unit management plan UMP 2018 Draft Amendment/DGEIS

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Robert W. Hammond
Director of Environmental, Planning and Construction
NYS Olympic Regional Development Authority
(518) 302-5332

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From: Robin Bell [<mailto:robinb@ldeo.columbia.edu>]
Sent: Sunday, February 04, 2018 5:37 PM
To: Bob Hammond <BHammond@orda.org>
Subject: comment gore mountain unit management plan UMP 2018 Draft Amendment/DGEIS

Dear Mr. Hammond,

I am writing in regards to the expansion of the gore mountain ski area to the west.

I frequently ski the schaefer trail from the halfway brook trailhead all the way into town along with a growing group of backcountry skiers. Backcountry skiers of all ages have been enjoying this unique wilderness trail. the land that would be provided in exchange for this is not in anyway comparable. North Creek is beginning to be known as a destination for backcountry skiers. People's eye light up when I describe this backcountry skiing to them. It is an attraction to the region. The loss of this trail would be a setback for the town and the region.

In part to the attraction of the backcountry trails I have purchased land close to Gore and built a ski cabin. There are few wilderness backcountry trails in New York that compare with the Schaefer/Rabbit Pond trails. My children have begun to use this unique resource and I hope my grandchildren will be able to enjoy the North County Wilderness experience.

Sincerely your,

Dr. Robin Elizabeth Bell
37 van houten field

west nyack ny 10994

V 845 - 365 - 8827

F 845 - 365 - 8179

C 845 - 729 - 8697

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To: kfranke@thelagroup.com

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From: bhammond@orda.org

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Kevin Franke

From: Bob Hammond <BHammond@orda.org>
Sent: Tuesday, February 06, 2018 7:31 AM
To: Mark Taber; Kevin Franke
Subject: FW: Comment on the Gore Mountain UMP 2018 Draft Amendment/DGEIS

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Robert W. Hammond
Director of Environmental, Planning and Construction
NYS Olympic Regional Development Authority
(518) 302-5332

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From: Coplan, Prof. Karl S. [<mailto:kcoplan@law.pace.edu>]
Sent: Sunday, February 04, 2018 5:28 PM
To: Bob Hammond <BHammond@orda.org>
Subject: Comment on the Gore Mountain UMP 2018 Draft Amendment/DGEIS

Dear Mr. Hammond:

I submit the following comment on the proposed 2018 Gore Mountain UMP/DGEIS Amendments, specifically in reference to the proposed reclassification of the Rabbit Pond Wild Forest Lands to Intensive Use. As an avid backcountry skier, I oppose the proposed reclassification.

The existing cross country ski trail connecting the Schaefer Trail via Rabbit Pond to the Raymond Brook/ Ski Bowl connector trail is a unique resource, and should be maintained in its current form. The DGEIS improperly discounts the value of this trail by saying that it is merely an "out and back" cross country ski trail. This ignores the potential connections to the Schaefer Trail from the top of the Raymond Brook ski trail. It also ignores the fact that the Rabbit Pond ski trail is not just a typical cross country ski trail - it is one of only a handful of trails in the Southern Adirondacks that has enough pitch to make it a challenging and exhilarating backcountry telemark skiing run. The drops just above Rabbit Pond and below the pond to the intersection with the Raymond Brook trail are the best drops for telemark skiing in the Gore region wild forest area.

Gore Mountain has plenty of groomed downhill trails, and the proposed reclassification would terminate a unique Adirondack wilderness ski opportunity for no apparent reason. A cynic might think that the only purpose of the reclassification seems to be to add monetary value to the private condominium development that would gain a "ski-in, ski-out" lift service. That is not a good reason to destroy a Wild Forest.

I am a regular visitor to the North Creek region, and have recently invested in property in North River specifically because of the backcountry ski opportunities in the region.

My home address is

Karl Coplan
37 Van Houten Fields
West Nyack, NY 10994

I assume that e-mail submission of this comment is sufficient so that it will be included in the record. If you require a paper submission, please advise.

Thank you for your consideration,

Karl Coplan

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To: kfranke@thelagroup.com

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From: bhammond@orda.org

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Kevin Franke

From: Bob Hammond <BHammond@orda.org>
Sent: Tuesday, February 06, 2018 12:40 PM
To: Mark Taber; Kevin Franke
Subject: FW: Comments - Gore UMP

Robert W. Hammond
Director of Environmental, Planning and Construction
NYS Olympic Regional Development Authority
(518) 302-5332

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-----Original Message-----

From: Richard Carlson [<mailto:diccarlson@frontiernet.net>]
Sent: Tuesday, February 06, 2018 12:30 PM
To: Bob Hammond <BHammond@orda.org>
Cc: Johnsbury Supervisor <supervisor@johnsburny.com>
Subject: Comments - Gore UMP

Greetings: These comments are for:

The 2017 Amendment to the 2002 Gore Mountain Unit Management Plan

My chief concern is the land swap - swapping Vanderwhacker Wild Forest Land for an insignificant portion of Intensive Use Land to become part of the Siamese Ponds Wilderness.

The current uses of this Wild Forest Parcel includes an intimate hiking/skiing/snowshoeing trail near Rabbit Pond. Offering the use of the proposed ski trail in the off season for hiking is of no importance since the nature of hiking on wide alpine ski trails is of limited and mostly shunned value. This area has a long history with backcountry skiers and it's loss would be paramount. The gain for increased trail development is minimal. This has no benefit except for the private development at Front Street. That said - this is the 10 year anniversary of "permits in place" for the Front Street development at the Ski Bowl. To date - 4 duplex units have been build with no additional development on the horizon.

The current Hudson (46er) lift has operated sporadically at best during the ski season in the last 10 years and was still not operating for the 2017-2018 season as of this writing. It did operate for a special "History Weekend" last summer as a scenic chairlift ride. It was well received and it could be a cornerstone of Summer Operations - EVEN WITH IT'S EXISTING PLACEMENT and operating constraints (ie running slow to accommodate loading/unloading).

There is a network of multiple use and mt. bike trails on adjacent Town of Johnsbury property. These trails need to operate as is - currently free to users and not be disrupted or displaced by future construction and structures like the zip coaster. The land ownership and lease/lessee structure is incredibly confusing with some of the land owned by the Town of Johnsbury leased to Gore/ORDA, and additional land is owned by Front Street and pending swap deals between the Town and Front Street makes even the best map reader confused.

Gore has had a non-existent to poor off-season profile with incredibly abbreviated lift schedules (just 10 days for 2017 Summer season). This in an environment that sees other Ski Areas garnering up to 40% of revenues in the off season. The chief summer entertainment is scenic chairlift or gondola rides with hiking and biking options if available.

This poor performance for the last 20 years is even more perplexing with one of the state's largest summer tourist venues just 30 minutes away in Lake George.

Quite frankly Gore's poor off-season activity leaves many workers in seasonal limbo seeking additional summer season employment to dovetail with their employment at Gore or leaving the recreation industry entirely for full time work.

Submitted February 6, 2018

Richard Carlson

--

Richard Carlson
PO Box 73
North River, NY 12856
518-251-0829

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To: kfranke@thelagroup.com [Remove](#) this sender from my allow list
From: bhammond@orda.org

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Kevin Franke

From: Bob Hammond <BHammond@orda.org>
Sent: Tuesday, February 06, 2018 12:40 PM
To: Mark Taber; Kevin Franke
Subject: FW: Gore UMP Comments

Robert W. Hammond
Director of Environmental, Planning and Construction
NYS Olympic Regional Development Authority
(518) 302-5332

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From: Brandon J. Himoff [<mailto:brandon@himoff.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, February 06, 2018 11:23 AM
To: Gore_2017_UMP_comments <Gore_2017_UMP_comments@orda.org>
Subject: Gore UMP Comments

As a member of the public, a regional business owner, and a member of our local business organizations, I applaud the strong effort that ORDA is making to keep these valuable assets in terrific condition. As times change, these facilities need to adapt and maintain their attraction. Looking carefully at these plans, I feel that they will significantly improve the potential of Gore to attract tourists. Any revenue brought in to the mountain will be accompanied by a significant multiplier in local spending, boosting and supporting many other local businesses and thereby expanding our local employment base. Especially critical are the season expanders such as the improvements in the ski bowl.

I would suggest that ORDA also consider that these capital investments must be accompanied by additional operating spending. By expanding the pumps, Gore will be able to make more snow which of course requires more groomer hours and more support. More lifts and more connectivity mean that more of the mountain can be operating, requiring appropriate staffing. The additional tourists will not only want more and better skiing, but better amenities on the mountain, especially including better and more diverse food offerings. The current food offerings and dining experience are significant detractors to our tourists, and improvements in this area are some of the most necessary but perhaps easiest to address. A change to the current food contractor and exploration of new vendors that are more appropriate to the desired mountain experience and who would be more accountable to ORDA should be considered.

Brandon Himoff

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From: bhammond@orda.org

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Kevin Franke

From: Bob Hammond <BHammond@orda.org>
Sent: Thursday, February 08, 2018 8:12 AM
To: Kevin Franke; Mark Taber
Subject: FW: Save the Rabbit Pond Area! Crucial to 4-Season Activities in North Creek

Robert W. Hammond
Director of Environmental, Planning and Construction
NYS Olympic Regional Development Authority
(518) 302-5332

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From: Judith Harper [<mailto:juditheharper@gmail.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, February 07, 2018 7:26 PM
To: Gore_2017_UMP_comments <Gore_2017_UMP_comments@orda.org>
Subject: Save the Rabbit Pond Area! Crucial to 4-Season Activities in North Creek

ORDA's move to reclassify and acquire the Rabbit Pond Trail Area for Gore Mountain use jeopardizes North Creek's four-season use of open spaces for hikers and tourists.

North Creek and the town of Johnsbury depend on tourist dollars 12 months of the year. Ski tourism dollars flow in during a very limited number of weeks, and are solely dependent on frigid weather and natural snowfall. Snowmaking is limited, despite what Gore Mountain claims. The statistics show that the most ski dollars flow in when there is the most natural snow. Facts provided by Gore Mountain. (I'm a former employee.)

North Creek and the entire region are in desperate need of FOUR-SEASON, LOW-COST tourist activities. We must maintain as much free, open to all open space as possible in the North Creek region. We don't have much hiking space in North Creek, yet it is the hamlet in Johnsbury which draws the most tourists. Take Note!

Last fall 2017 ORDA totally rejected the Town of Johnsbury what it reasonably requested. ORDA, when pressed, said it would offer ski tickets to residents, although most Johnsbury residents do not ski at Gore. Thanks, but no thanks.

This LAND GRAB is totally unacceptable to me, a 12-year resident of Johnsbury and a former owner of a business in Johnsbury, and a former member of the Chamber of Commerce.

The trails at Rabbit Pond--this pristine "wild" area--is worth far more to North Creek businesses and to Johnsbury residents than additional Gore Mountain trails and chairlifts, etc.

If Gore and ORDA wanted to acquire this land, they could have cooperated with the Town of Johnsbury last fall 2017. ORDA and Gore chose to ignore Johnsbury residents. But Gore Mountain and ORDA have never considered the needs of the residents of this area.

Judith E. Harper
P.O. Box 122
293 Coulter Rd.
Johnsburg, MA 12843
518-251-3006

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To: kfranke@thelagroup.com

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From: bhammond@orda.org

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Kevin Franke

From: Bob Hammond <BHammond@orda.org>
Sent: Thursday, February 08, 2018 8:12 AM
To: Kevin Franke; Mark Taber
Subject: FW: Gore MT UMP comments

Robert W. Hammond
Director of Environmental, Planning and Construction
NYS Olympic Regional Development Authority
(518) 302-5332

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From: Julia West [<mailto:juliawest60@gmail.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, February 07, 2018 9:59 PM
To: Bob Hammond <BHammond@orda.org>
Subject: Gore MT UMP comments

Dear Mr. Hammond,

I'm writing in regard to the proposed 2018 Gore Mountain UMP/DGEIS Amendments, specifically in reference to the proposed reclassification of the Rabbit Pond Wild Forest Lands to Intensive Use. I am in strong opposition to the "land swap" that is being proposed. A large portion of Wild Forest Land would be added onto Gore for the development of trails, in trade for a much smaller portion near the Gore summit that would become part of the Siamese Ponds Wilderness area.

That small parcel is useless for public use, just as it is not useful for Gore to develop on it. It's a bad trade!

I am an avid backcountry skier, hiker, etc. The trail system near North Creek is unique and special, and many people enjoy the opportunity to ski there. It also gets good use as a hiking trail in summer (I've read the trail registers!).

It would be a shame to lose that to development. Hiking on a developed ski trail is just not fun - it's not the intimate woods experience that hikers want. And skiers would be cut off from some of the best backcountry terrain the southern Adirondacks has to offer.

The Hudson chair at "Little Gore" is rarely open. We just don't get enough snow. It has not been open yet this year (possibly today because of the snow), and we are well into February. Why does Little Gore need more trails? I don't see that it would attract more people. The development of Burnt Ridge, which opened a lot of terrain at Gore several years ago, doesn't even get a lot of skiers. To create those trails, a massive amount of clearing (and burying the trees) had to be done on some very beautiful land, destroying the original Schaefer trail that allowed for an incredible nature experience for hikers before it was lost.

The North Creek Ski Bowl does NOT need new trails! This land swap is extremely concerning to me- it is a BAD idea! It would be a real shame to lose that beautiful wilderness terrain.

I live in North River; this is my home. Please do not carry through with this land swap. The other improvements to the existing trails at the main mountain are all excellent ideas. Please keep the focus on improving what is already there, not adding more terrain and wasting my taxpayer dollars.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Julia West
429 Harvey Rd
North River, NY 12856
518-251-3930

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Robert W. Hammond, Director of Planning & Construction
NYS Olympic Regional Development Authority
Olympic Center, 2634 Main Street
Lake Placid, NY 12946
(Via electronic submission)

RE: Draft Amendments to the Gore Mountain and Whiteface Mountain Unit Management Plans

Dear Mr. Hammond,

On behalf of the Adirondack Council, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to offer the following comments on the *Draft Amendments to the Gore Mountain and Whiteface Mountain Unit Management Plans*. We appreciate the Olympic Regional Development Authority's (ORDA) efforts to conduct meaningful public outreach while taking questions and feedback on technical elements for the proposals. Given the important role these recreational facilities play in the Adirondack Park, the Adirondack Council supports ORDA's efforts to modernize the facilities, increase energy efficiency and improve infrastructure reliability, *if the facilities, operations and improvements are legal and environmentally responsible*.

In reviewing the detailed amendments for both the Gore Mountain (Gore Mtn.) and Whiteface Mountain (Whiteface Mtn.) Unit Managements Plans (UMPs), the Council believes that most of the proposed actions are warranted and necessary to maintain these Adirondack Park ski centers as world-class facilities. They need to be updated, funded and protected. As a whole the facilities complement our region's world-class wilderness areas and provide for beneficial recreational opportunities for a wide spectrum of users within our mountain communities. When designed and managed properly these facilities thrive in areas designated for intensive recreation in the largest Wilderness Park in the contiguous United States.

The details of these plans are of critical importance in realizing the recreational and economic benefits of the huge investment of taxpayer dollars in these facilities. The Council is concerned with some of the UMPs' important details that are missing, including: compliance with all constitutional requirements, net positive land reclassifications for Wilderness, regional planning, and other environmental considerations. The following comments note our concerns:

DEFENDING THE EAST'S GREATEST WILDERNESS

Whiteface Mtn. UMP

The Council suggests that select changes be made. Particularly, we request that glades be counted towards the total trail mileage allowed under the constitutional amendment. This would require ORDA to adjust the proposed management actions to adhere to the 25 mile limit. And, we request that an updated, detailed trail mileage calculation be included in the plan to reflect these changes.

Based on Article XIV of the NY Constitution, trail mileage and width requirements are applied to trails that are constructed and maintained. The constitutional amendment language does not exclude glades from the trail mileage calculation as this UMP suggests. Because glade skiing areas are maintained and treated as trails, they should be considered trails and counted towards total trail mileage. Glades are trails for the following reasons:

1. There is physical preparation, such as clearing of brush, or grubbing, and/or cutting of down logs or small growth;
2. Drawing 3 of the draft amendment illustrates where glades and trails less than 30 feet are located. These downhill routes are also advertised as trails available to the public in the map published for Whiteface visitors, serving as an invitation for public use (see map, below);
3. At various times the glades are posted as "open" or "closed;" and,
4. They are patrolled by Ski Patrol.

According to the draft UMP, there are 21.30 miles of currently constructed or approved to be constructed trails for this Intensive Use Area, and with this draft amendment, 0.89 miles of trails are proposed to be constructed. These numbers combined bring the total trail mileage to 22.19 – well within the 25 mile cap. However, according to this draft UMP, this number excludes glades from the total trail mileage, thus excluding 2.86 miles of trail; if the glade mileage is counted, the constitutional cap would be (very slightly) exceeded. There must be a modest change to honor the cap.

The Slides are not counted towards the constitutional limit within this draft. However, the Council believes that if the following criteria are met, a reasonable argument could be made that the Slides should count:

- a. Ski area maps and promotional materials show the slides as skiing terrain (as is currently done), and;
- b. They are listed as "open" or "closed," and/or;
- c. They are patrolled (by ski patrol), and/or;
- d. Access to the slides from the top lift and access from the bottom of the slides to other trails is maintained (cleared, etc.).

The constitutional protections of Article XIV are not such that they must be complied with when convenient and easy. They are not a policy, regulation or law. If there are issues with compliance, and therefore issues with the legality of proposed UMP amendments and ORDA plans, either the plans or the constitution (or both) must be changed.

We ask ORDA to be transparent with its methodology in determining ski trail mileage totals and how they relate to the overall mileage cap. A change in almost three miles of trails between the proposed 2018 and approved 2006 amendments is significant. Although these changes can be

reasonably attributed to improved aerial photos and technology, a map showing where the totals were miscalculated should be included for public review. ORDA should include a detailed account of the calculations it used to arrive at the total trail mileage, including which trails were chosen to be counted as one or two trails where two or more trails merge.

Gore Mtn. UMP

The two land reclassifications proposed in this UMP, though conceptual, raise questions over the amount of land requested for re-classification to Intensive Use or Wilderness. Specifically, the 33 acres of proposed Wilderness is insufficient compared to the 159 acres proposed to be classified as Intensive Use. When looking at past land reclassifications, there is a precedent to re-classify or add Wilderness lands to the Forest Preserve at a two to one, or greater, ratio. As a reference point, the NYCO land swap amendment passed with the state suggesting a ratio of seven to one, committing to add 1,500 to 2,000 acres or more of Wilderness to the Forest Preserve in a swap for 200 acres of Wild Forest coming out of the Forest Preserve. As the Council noted at the January 25th public hearing held for Whiteface Mtn. UMP, state land dedicated for Intensive Use should be combined with expanded Wilderness in the same general area for a net positive for Wilderness. If these reclassifications are pursued in a separate UMP process, a net positive for Wilderness approach should be employed.

Lastly, based on the trail mileage information provided within the Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement, Gore Mtn. is well within its constitutionally allotted 40 miles of trail limit. The Council requests that ORDA clearly outline how it arrived at the listed 32.9 miles of total mileage within this UMP.

Additional Comments

In addition to those above, the Council provides the following comments for both UMPs:

- Compliance with Forever Wild: The facilities on state lands must comply with the strict and not always convenient requirements of the “Forever Wild” clause of the constitution. These requirements include: constitutional amendments that provide for functions and facilities at Whiteface and Gore that would not otherwise be allowed; adherence to the tightly restricted total miles and widths of downhill ski trails; and, no new tree cutting, clearing, disturbance, or expansion to year-round activities beyond what is now allowed without a constitutional amendment. (Under the constitution, all uses must be winter recreation based.)
- Planning Sensitive to other Regional Adirondack Needs: The state lands and operations at Whiteface Mtn. are part of a larger network of state lands, recreational uses, trails, and trailheads within the very popular High Peaks region. As the state looks at making important upgrades to the ORDA facilities, and simultaneously develops plans to manage the overuse of the Rt. 73 corridor and the High Peaks, planning needs to be coordinated. For example, one element of overlap could be relocation of parking for the Cascade and Porter Mountains on popular weekends to the Mt. Van Hoevenberg complex, as was done on an experimental basis on Columbus Day weekend in 2017.

- Climate Smart, Energy Smart Models: Climate change threatens to redefine Adirondack winter recreation as we now know it. The ORDA facilities can and should combat climate change and be showcases for visitors from across the country and around the world for the latest and best in climate smart renewable energy practices. The facilities should support the Governor's renewable energy goals and comply with Adirondack Park Agency policies.
- Additional Environmental Issues: These upgrades provide an opportunity to:
 - Improve protections for fish and wildlife, including the rare Bicknell Thrush on Whiteface and Adirondack trout in the Ausable River.
 - Address light pollution, by protecting rare dark skies and reducing light pollution (at the Mt Van Hoevenberg sliding center, for example).
 - Protect water quality.
 - Expand recycling.

As Intensive Use Areas, Whiteface Mtn. and Gore Mtn. ski centers are integral to the identity and vibrancy of the Adirondack Park. Environmental planning and review of these plans should not be "segmented" from other ORDA facilities. Together these facilities support our region's world class wilderness areas, provide for necessary recreational opportunities across a wide spectrum of users close to or within our mountain communities, and continue to be economic staples for many surrounding communities. The proposed management actions will allow these ORDA facilities to remain competitive and attractive to both professional and amateur users. And while we understand and appreciate the unique nature of these ski resorts, we must not forget that these lands are still Forest Preserve and as such are subject to a level of accountability, protection, and process that make the Adirondacks one of America's true conservation success stories and make our ski centers especially appealing to visitors because of the limited on-mountain development and the exceptional beauty of nature that is part of the skiing experience.

In closing, the Adirondack Council supports legal improvements to ORDA facilities and programs that comply with the constitution, the law and the legal protections which are what keep the Adirondacks a national treasure, a legacy we've inherited, and hold in trust for future generations.

Thank you for reviewing our comments. We appreciate the opportunities to meet leading up to this point, and suggest and hope that we can meet again to review these points and your proposed responses.

Sincerely,



William C. Janeway
Executive Director



Kevin Franke

From: Bob Hammond <BHammond@orda.org>
Sent: Monday, February 12, 2018 6:35 AM
To: Mark Taber; Kevin Franke
Subject: FW: Rabbit pond trail.

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Robert W. Hammond
Director of Environmental, Planning and Construction
NYS Olympic Regional Development Authority
(518) 302-5332

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-----Original Message-----

From: Dspzp [<mailto:dspzp@aol.com>]
Sent: Friday, February 09, 2018 9:44 PM
To: Gore_2017_UMP_comments <Gore_2017_UMP_comments@orda.org>
Subject: Rabbit pond trail.

I am writing in response to the proposed changes to the Rabbit Pond trail expansion.

I am sure many others have written to express their concern in this matter and they have most definitely expressed it better.

My comment is that the Adirondack Park was designated to protect and preserve this wonderful wilderness we call the ADK.

We must all understand that growth will always adversely effect this wilderness. And I feel that there is a greater need to protect and preserve than to continually expand when I believe current facilities are under utilized.

Reclassifying and developing this land will remove one of the more pristine wilderness areas that may be accessed year round. Not just for a single purpose of skiing.

Also, without complete documentation and maps to outline what will actually be done, I can only strongly speak against this plan.

Thank you for your consideration.

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Middlebury College Box 2493
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Middlebury, VT 05753
sferguson@middlebury.edu

February 9, 2018

Michael Pratt
Olympic Center
2634 Main St.
Lake Placid, NY 12946

Dear Mr. Pratt,

Across the country, ski resorts are changing. Lifts are going faster, lodge food is getting better, villages are being developed, and year-round attractions are being built. These changes have helped the ski industry adapt to climate change and maintain corporate profits. As you consider how to develop the Adirondack resorts, I encourage you to also ask the question of to what extent *should* these resorts be developed. Governor Cuomo announced a vast and expensive expansion plan for Whiteface, Gore, and Mt. Van Hoevenberg, and some of these changes, such as updates to base lodge facilities, are long since overdue. Other amenities, however, seem to be unnecessary expansions that have no place within the Adirondacks.

The Adirondack resorts are unique because they are state-owned facilities focused on serving New York residents. They are not private corporations solely focused on increasing profits. In the winter, these resorts attract millions of visitors and are an important part of the Adirondack experience. However, in the summer, these resorts play a secondary role as people come from all over to hike the High Peaks and conquer the 46ers. When considering future developments, it is important that the developments are not seen as an addition to the individual resorts, but as added amenities to Adirondack Park as a whole. Route 73 is already overburdened during the summer months, and adding summer attractions to these ski resorts would increase the strain on the already existent infrastructure.

Specifically, I urge ORDA to consider how the proposed 'mountain coaster' fits within the culture of the Adirondacks. The Whiteface Mountain Unit Management Plan states that "Whiteface development will blend with the Adirondack environment and have minimum adverse impacts on surrounding state lands." The metal track of a mountain coaster would not blend into the Adirondack environment, but instead it would stick out like a sore thumb. The Adirondack environment, and especially publicly owned land, is fundamentally made up of wilderness. Constitutional exceptions already had to be made in order to allow ski resort infrastructure, and adding a mountain coaster would further contradict the 'forever wild' promise. A mountain coaster is a tamed and controlled way to experience nature. Riders would not be exposed to the real Adirondack wilderness, but instead they would glimpse nature from a man-made metal track. Outdoor recreation is an important part of the Adirondacks, but a

mountain coaster is something that belongs in an amusement park, not the Adirondack wilderness.

All this is not to say that Whiteface, Gore, and Van Hoevenberg should ignore profits, but instead of adding unnecessary infrastructure, they should focus on thriving within their ski industry niche. As other resorts continue to develop, Adirondack resorts should fall back on their skiing roots. They are located in a protected wilderness area that will never have the storefronts and commercial villages of Vail and Jackson Hole, yet the ski mountains themselves offer some of the best terrain east of the Mississippi. While a mountain coaster offers tempting profits, I urge you to embrace the ski culture that already exists at these mountains. Keep them as wild mountains nestled in the middle of the Adirondacks, and people will continue to come and enjoy these resorts for what they are—ski resorts where skiing comes first.

Sincerely,

Samuel Ferguson

Kevin Franke

From: Bob Hammond <BHammond@orda.org>
Sent: Monday, February 12, 2018 6:35 AM
To: Mark Taber; Kevin Franke
Subject: FW: Rabbit Pond Trail

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Robert W. Hammond
Director of Environmental, Planning and Construction
NYS Olympic Regional Development Authority
(518) 302-5332

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From: Allison St Pierre [<mailto:allison1@nycap.rr.com>]
Sent: Friday, February 09, 2018 9:31 PM
To: Gore_2017_UMP_comments <Gore_2017_UMP_comments@orda.org>
Subject: Rabbit Pond Trail

Hello,

I am writing in response to the proposal by ORDA to reclassify the Rabbit Pond area from Vanderwacker Mountain Forest Preserve to Gore Mountain Intensive Use. I am in disagreement with this proposal, as it will adversely impact a pristine pond and an area of preserve unnecessarily.

Currently Gore has many underutilized areas, such as trails that do not open for most, or all of the season. Before expanding into lands that should remain protected, Gore Mountain should put those resources into the area's currently delegated for this use.

The public should have access to a map clearly outlining the location of proposed areas to be reclassified. Another concern is how would this expansion be staffed? Additional parking, where would this be? I feel Gore must consider expansion within it's current boundaries, expand existing trails, staff and open all trails, and configure trails to travel around the mountain, prior to impacting protected lands, that are precious to maintaining the integrity of the Adirondack Park Preserve.

Thank you for considering the alternate options.

Kindly,
Allison St. Pierre
Bakers Mills, NY

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Appendix 12
DGEIS Comments and Responses to Comments

Responses to Public Comments Regarding the 2018 Amendment to the 2002 Gore Mountain Unit Management Plan and Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement

Comment Topics

1. Suggested Land Reclassification Including Rabbit Pond Trail
2. Planning for Gore Mountain and North Creek Ski Bowl
3. Management Actions and Goals
4. Constitutional Limits
5. Regional Planning
6. Renewable Energy
7. Project Support

1. SUGGESTED LAND RECLASSIFICATION INCLUDING RABBIT POND TRAIL

(1.A) Richard Morse, January 30, 2018

I feel that the proposed Gore Mountain Amendment to the UMP does not recognize the importance of the Rabbit Pond Trail.

This is a trail which is used by a lot of people during all four seasons. Rabbit Pond is a pristine pond which has not been adversely impacted by human development. I personally worked to build this trail with Steve Ovitt, DEC Forest Ranger. I work to maintain this trail, along with other members of the Siamese Ponds Trail Improvement Society.

Where is there a map in the proposed amendment which shows the location of the Rabbit Pond Trail as well as the location of the proposed Gore ski trails?

Where does the proposed amendment describe how the Rabbit Pond Trail, and Rabbit Pond, will be impacted by the Gore development? What will be the setback of the Gore trail construction from Rabbit Pond?

I oppose the reclassification of the land from wild forest to intensive use unless the Rabbit Pond trail and Rabbit pond are not adversely affected.

Response: The suggested land reclassification cannot take place through the adoption of the proposed Gore Mountain Unit Management Plan Amendment. The following explanation appears on page iii of the Executive Summary of the Draft Unit Management Plan Amendment/DEIS:

“(Note: The Adirondack Park Agency cannot find that a UMP Amendment proposing management actions on lands to be reclassified conforms to the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan (APSLMP) before the land is reclassified. First, the Agency must receive a request to reclassify, accompanied by a UMP for the proposed Intensive Use lands. The Agency must follow SEQRA regulations regarding public notice and comment and must hold hearings inside and outside the Adirondack Park on the request to reclassify, pursuant to the APSLMP. After notice, comment and hearings, the reclassification proposals would be presented to the Agency for a recommendation to the Governor for approval of the classification. The process culminates in the Governor's action on that recommendation. This UMP Amendment does not assume that a reclassification request will be

approved and does not authorize any actions on lands requested to be reclassified, based on a proposed future classification. The actual request for reclassification and a UMP Amendment for those actions on the lands proposed for reclassification would be presented separately from this UMP Amendment. Discussion of actions on those lands in this UMP is conceptual only, and those actions cannot be authorized by this UMP Amendment.)”

The Rabbit Pond Trail was among the early ski trails created in the North Creek/North River area in the 1930's and 1940's. The circa 1940's map on the following page entitled "Precise Ski Data of North Creek, N.Y., A Stone's Throw from Train to Tow" (Figure 1) shows the intermediate Rabbit Pond Trail located at the "Village Slopes". The trail and Rabbit Pond itself also appear on the 1958 USGS map of the area shown on Figure 2.

Figure 3 shows the current mapping of the Rabbit Pond Trail, the 1958 USGS mapping of the Rabbit Pond Trail and the UMP-proposed ski trail. Mapping of the current Rabbit Pond Trail was produced from GPS data collected by Wilderness Property Management Inc. (Steve Ovitt) and mapped by Warren County GIS Department (Ski Bowl Park 2017 Smart Growth Grant Long Trail to Little Gore Summit). Approximately 600 feet of the existing Rabbit Pond Trail would be within or very near the proposed ski trail.

Figure 4 shows how this section of the existing Rabbit Pond Trail could be easily relocated slightly to the north and away from the proposed ski trail where it would pass over terrain similar to what is currently crossed. Figure 4 shows the area within which the trail could be relocated. ORDA will work with NYSDEC, Steve Ovitt and members of the local hiking and backcountry skiing community to select the best Rabbit Pond Trail location within this area, including a location that provides adequate setbacks from the proposed ski trail.

Creation of the alpine trail and relocation of the section of Rabbit Pond Trail are not anticipated to cause any significant adverse impacts to the ecology of Rabbit Pond. Water quality within the pond will not be impacted. Data in previous UMP's have demonstrated that creation of ski trails in previously wooded areas do not impact nutrient and solids levels in nearby receiving waters. Data in previous UMP's have also demonstrated that snowmaking within a drainage basin does not significantly alter rates of stormwater runoff. The pond itself will not be physically affected. The mapping in Figure 4 shows that both the ski trail and the hiking trail will be no closer to the pond than what currently exists.

(1.B) Richard Salz, February 1, 2018

As an avid cross-country skier and hiker, I am writing to express my concern about the possible adverse impact to the Rabbit Pond Trail as a result of the proposed construction of a new downhill trail adjacent to Rabbit Pond. The draft UMP calling for the reclassification of the Rabbit Pond area from Wild Forest to Intensive Use fails to address the impact that the new downhill trail will have on the Rabbit Pond Trail. In a significant omission, the draft amendment does not even show the Rabbit Pond Trail on any of the maps.

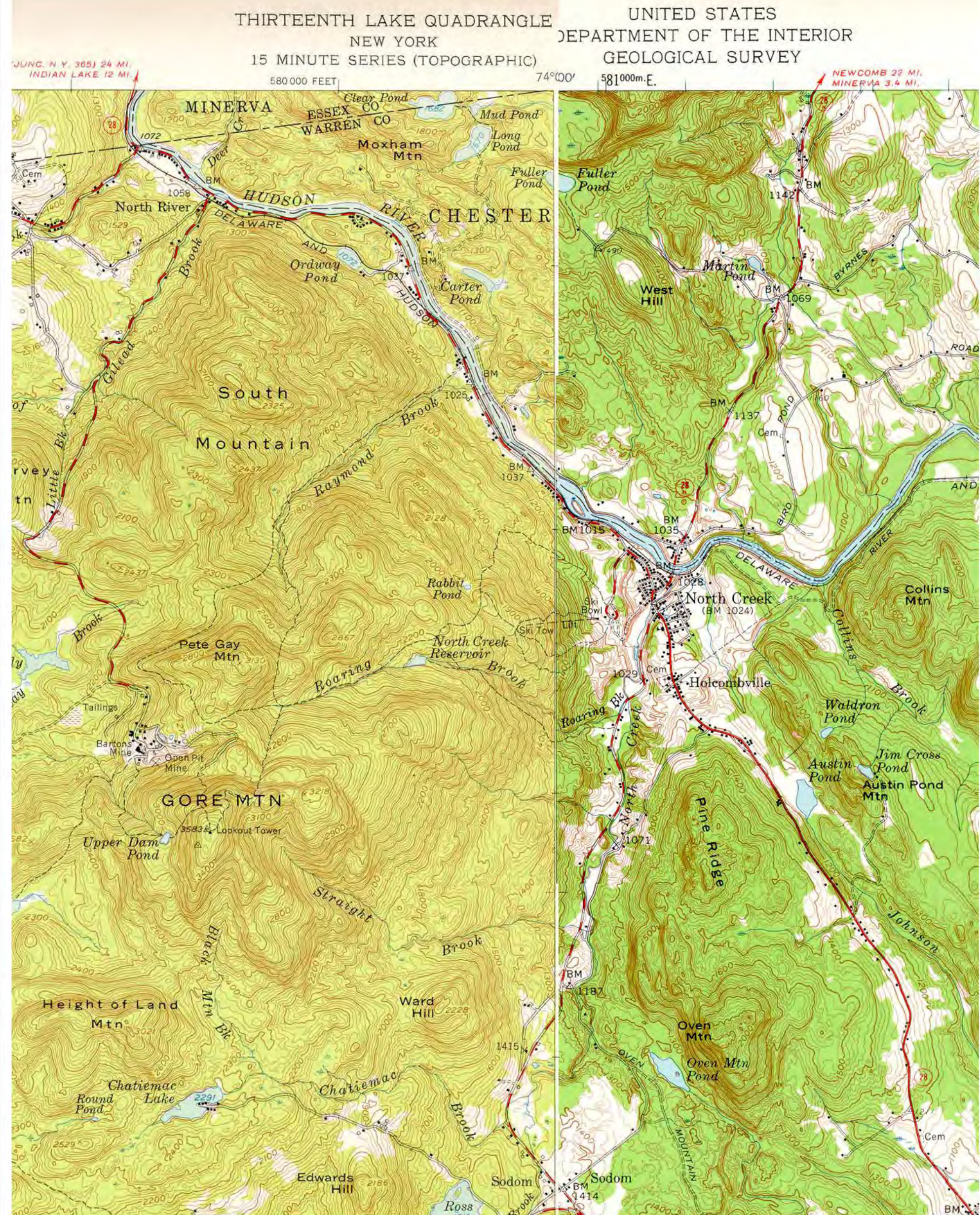
The Cumulative Impact Analysis (Part C, Section III, Subsection K, pp. 6 -7) incorrectly states that "[r]ecreational opportunities could be enhanced at both locations with the implementation of the proposed actions. This will result in a positive cumulative impact." No mention is made of the potential negative impact to the Rabbit Pond Trail or to Rabbit Pond itself by a new downhill trail.



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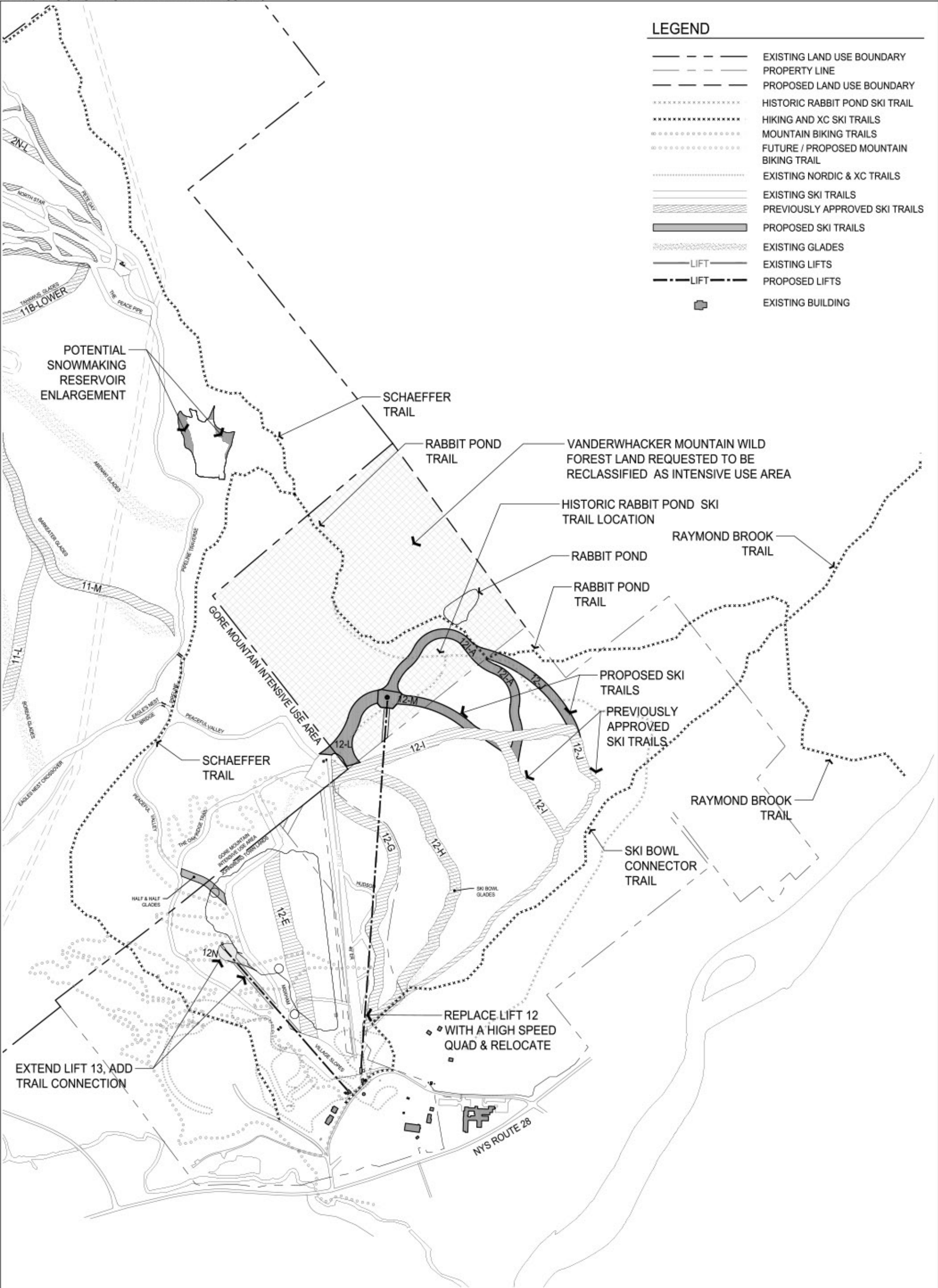


Project Title:
Gore Mountain: 2018 Unit Management Plan Amendment & Final Generic Environmental Impact Statement

Drawing Title
**1958 USGS Map
Gore Mountain Area**

Date: 02/16/2018
Project No: 201537.01

Figure:
2



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OLYMPIC REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Olympic Regional Development Authority
2634 Main Street
Lake Placid, New York 12946

GORE MOUNTAIN
Project Title:
Gore Mountain: 2018 Unit Management Plan Amendment & Final Generic Environmental Impact Statement

Drawing Title:
Ski Bowl Trail Network

0 200 500 1000
SCALE: 1" = 1000 AT 11x17

Date: Feb. 25, 2018
Scale: 1"=1000'
Design: M/T
Drawn: KMK
Checked: KJF
Project No.: 2015037

Drawing No.:
Figure 3

Please note my opposition to the proposed reclassification if this will result in harm to the Rabbit Pond Trail or to Rabbit Pond.

Response: See the response to substantively similar comment 1.A.

(1.C) Gregory Schaeffer, February 1, 2018 (via e-mail)

I would like to echo the comments made by several other speakers at the Public Hearing on the 2018 Gore Mountain UMP update. As a hiker and back country skier, I have a great interest in this area. I am the Siamese Ponds Trail Improvement Society trail steward for the Schaefer Trail on Gore (named after my family), and have spent many days clearing trails in the Siamese Pond Wilderness so that they remain open for year round use. As an aside, my father also built and ran the first rope tow in New York State in the Historic Ski Bowl beginning in December 1935. Thus, all can understand my affinity for this beautiful and unique area affected by the plan.

I fully support the intentions of ORDA to increase recreational opportunities on Gore, and see many positive aspects to the plan. If completed there will be an increase in recreational and (much needed) related economic activity. However, I have are two concerns, mostly related to preserving the historic recreational opportunities that currently exist, and coordinating future ones.

The first is the need to keep development away from Rabbit Pond, the Rabbit Pond Trail, and its environs. Besides its historic value as one of the original “Ride Up, Slide Down” trails from the 1930s, this is a beautiful, quiet and pristine area that needs to be preserved. It is used by many and will continue to be a wonderful recreational resource for the town and all outdoor enthusiasts. I have not seen any topographic maps that show definitively where new facilities and trails will be located in relation to the Rabbit Pond trail. This should be a high priority so we can clearly see the plan, and then keep a substantial buffer zone between areas. I urge those involved in the planning to produce such a map as soon as possible.

Response: See the response to substantively similar comment 1.A, including the accompanying mapping.

(1.D) Roy Keats, February 2, 2018

I feel that the proposed Gore Mountain Amendment to the UMP does not recognize the importance of the Rabbit Pond Trail.

This is a trail which is used by many people during all four seasons. It is both a backcountry ski trail and a hiking trail. Rabbit Pond is a pristine pond which has not been adversely impacted by human development. I work to maintain this trail, along with other members of the Siamese Ponds Trail Improvement Society.

The proposed amendment does not have a map showing the location of the Rabbit Pond Trail and the location of the proposed Gore ski trails. Where does the proposed amendment describe how the Rabbit Pond Trail, and Rabbit Pond, will be impacted by the Gore development? What will be the setback of the Gore trail construction from Rabbit Pond?

I oppose the reclassification of the land from wild forest to intensive use unless the Rabbit Pond Trail and Rabbit Pond are not adversely affected.

Response: See the response to substantively similar comment 1.A, including the accompanying mapping.

(1.E) Robin Bell, February 4, 2018

I am writing in regards to the expansion of the Gore Mountain ski area to the west.

I frequently ski the Schaefer trail from the Halfway Brook trailhead all the way into town along with a growing group of backcountry skiers. Backcountry skiers of all ages have been enjoying this unique wilderness trail. The land that would be provided in exchange for this is not in anyway comparable. North Creek is beginning to be known as a destination for backcountry skiers. People's eyes light up when I describe this backcountry skiing to them. It is an attraction to the region. The loss of this trail would be a setback for the town and the region.

In part to the attraction of the backcountry trails I have purchased land close to Gore and built a ski cabin. There are few wilderness backcountry trails in New York that compare with the Schaefer/Rabbit Pond trails. My children have begun to use this unique resource and I hope my grandchildren will be able to enjoy the North County Wilderness experience.

Response: None of the actions proposed in the 2018 UMP Amendment will affect the Schaeffer trail. See the response to substantively similar comment 1.A regarding the Rabbit Pond Trail.

From the overall perspective of the attractiveness of the area's backcountry character and the benefits that are derived therefrom, ORDA believes that the relocation of +/- 600 feet of one trail within a network that consists of miles of interconnected trails will not cause a significant impact

(1.F) Karl Coplan, February 4, 2018

I submit the following comment on the proposed 2018 Gore Mountain UMP/DGEIS Amendments, specifically in reference to the proposed reclassification of the Rabbit Pond Wild Forest Lands to Intensive Use. As an avid backcountry skier, I oppose the proposed reclassification.

The existing cross country ski trail connecting the Schaefer Trail via Rabbit Pond to the Raymond Brook/Ski Bowl connector trail is a unique resource, and should be maintained in its current form. The DGEIS improperly discounts the value of this trail by saying that it is merely an "out and back" cross country ski trail. This ignores the potential connections to the Schaefer Trail from the top of the Raymond Brook ski trail. It also ignores the fact that the Rabbit Pond ski trail is not just a typical cross country ski trail - it is one of only a handful of trails in the Southern Adirondacks that has enough pitch to make it a challenging and exhilarating backcountry telemark skiing run. The drops just above Rabbit Pond and below the pond to the intersection with the Raymond Brook trail are the best drops for telemark skiing in the Gore region wild forest area.

Gore Mountain has plenty of groomed downhill trails, and the proposed reclassification would terminate a unique Adirondack wilderness ski opportunity for no apparent reason. A cynic might think that the only purpose of the reclassification seems to be to add monetary value to the private

condominium development that would gain a “ski-in, ski-out” lift service. That is not a good reason to destroy a Wild Forest.

I am a regular visitor to the North Creek region, and have recently invested in property in North River specifically because of the backcountry ski opportunities in the region.

Response: See the response to substantively similar comment 1.A that describes the relocation of a small section of the Rabbit Pond Trail. The remainder of the trail would remain unchanged.

Also, see the second part of the previous response regarding the proposed action in the context of the overall area trail network. ORDA believes that the proposed conceptual action will not cause significant economic or experiential issues.

(1.G) Richard Carlson, February 6, 2018

My chief concern is the land swap - swapping Vanderwhacker Wild Forest Land for an insignificant portion of Intensive Use Land to become part of the Siamese Ponds Wilderness.

The current uses of this Wild Forest Parcel includes an intimate hiking/skiing/snowshoeing trail near Rabbit Pond. Offering the use of the proposed ski trail in the off season for hiking is of no importance since the nature of hiking on wide alpine ski trails is of limited and mostly shunned value. This area has a long history with backcountry skiers and it's loss would be paramount. The gain for increased trail development is minimal. This has no benefit except for the private development at Front Street. That said - this is the 10 year anniversary of "permits in place" for the Front Street development at the Ski Bowl. To date - 4 duplex units have been build with no additional development on the horizon.

Response: See the response to substantively similar comment 1.A.

(1.H) Judith Harper, February 7, 2018

ORDA's move to reclassify and acquire the Rabbit Pond Trail Area for Gore Mountain use jeopardizes North Creek's four-season use of open spaces for hikers and tourists.

North Creek and the town of Johnsbury depend on tourist dollars 12 months of the year. Ski tourism dollars flow in during a very limited number of weeks, and are solely dependent on frigid weather and natural snowfall. Snowmaking is limited, despite what Gore Mountain claims. The statistics show that the most ski dollars flow in when there is the most natural snow. Facts provided by Gore Mountain. (I'm a former employee.)

North Creek and the entire region are in desperate need of FOUR-SEASON, LOW-COST tourist activities. We must maintain as much free, open to all open space as possible in the North Creek region. We don't have much hiking space in North Creek, yet it is the hamlet in Johnsbury which draws the most tourists. Take Note!

Last fall 2017 ORDA totally rejected the Town of Johnsbury what it reasonably requested. ORDA, when pressed, said it would offer ski tickets to residents, although most Johnsbury residents do not ski at Gore. Thanks, but no thanks.

This LAND GRAB is totally unacceptable to me, a 12-year resident of Johnsbury and a former owner of a business in Johnsbury, and a former member of the Chamber of Commerce.

The trails at Rabbit Pond--this pristine "wild" area--is worth far more to North Creek businesses and to Johnsbury residents than additional Gore Mountain trails and chairlifts, etc.

If Gore and ORDA wanted to acquire this land, they could have cooperated with the Town of Johnsbury last fall 2017. ORDA and Gore chose to ignore Johnsbury residents. But Gore Mountain and ORDA have never considered the needs of the residents of this area.

Judith E. Harper

Response: See the response to substantively similar comment 1.A.

(1.I) Julia West, February 7, 2018

I'm writing in regard to the proposed 2018 Gore Mountain UMP/DGEIS Amendments, specifically in reference to the proposed reclassification of the Rabbit Pond Wild Forest Lands to Intensive Use. I am in strong opposition to the "land swap" that is being proposed. A large portion of Wild Forest Land would be added onto Gore for the development of trails, in trade for a much smaller portion near the Gore summit that would become part of the Siamese Ponds Wilderness area.

That small parcel is useless for public use, just as it is not useful for Gore to develop on it. It's a bad trade!

I am an avid backcountry skier, hiker, etc. The trail system near North Creek is unique and special, and many people enjoy the opportunity to ski there. It also gets good use as a hiking trail in summer (I've read the trail registers!).

It would be a shame to lose that to development. Hiking on a developed ski trail is just not fun - it's not the intimate woods experience that hikers want. And skiers would be cut off from some of the best backcountry terrain the southern Adirondacks has to offer.

Response: See the response to substantively similar comment 1.A.

Additionally, the land proposed to be added to the Siamese Pond Wilderness Area has high natural resource value with its high elevation spruce fir habitat favored by a number of species including Bicknell's thrush.

(1.J) Edward Cunningham, February 9, 2018

I am writing in response to the proposed changes to the Rabbit Pond trail expansion.

I am sure many others have written to express their concern in this matter and they have most definitely expressed it better.

My comment is that the Adirondack Park was designated to protect and preserve this wonderful wilderness we call the ADK.

We must all understand that growth will always adversely effect this wilderness. And I feel that there is a greater need to protect and preserve than to continually expand when I believe current facilities are under utilized.

Reclassifying and developing this land will remove one of the more pristine wilderness areas that may be accessed year round. Not just for a single purpose of skiing.

Also, without complete documentation and maps to outline what will actually be done, I can only strongly speak against this plan.

Response: See the response to substantively similar comment 1.A including the accompanying mapping.

(1.K) Alison St. Pierre, February 9, 2018

I am writing in response to the proposal by ORDA to reclassify the Rabbit Pond area from Vanderwacker Mountain Forest Preserve to Gore Mountain Intensive Use. I am in disagreement with this proposal, as it will adversely impact a pristine pond and an area of preserve unnecessarily.

Currently Gore has many underutilized areas, such as trails that do not open for most, or all of the season. Before expanding into lands that should remain protected, Gore Mountain should put those resources into the area's currently delegated for this use.

The public should have access to a map clearly outlining the location of proposed areas to be reclassified. Another concern is how would this expansion be staffed? Additional parking, where would this be? I feel Gore must consider expansion within it's current boundaries, expand existing trails, staff and open all trails, and configure trails to travel around the mountain, prior to impacting protected lands, that are precious to maintaining the integrity of the Adirondack Park Preserve.

Thank you for considering the alternate options.

Response: See the response to substantively similar comment 1.A and accompanying mapping regarding the realignment of a small section of the Rabbit Pond Trail. It is not anticipated that the relocation of Lift 12 and the addition of some small sections of ski trail will result in significant increased demands on staffing or for parking.

(1.L) William Janeway (Adirondack Council), February 9, 2018

The two land reclassifications proposed in this UMP, though conceptual, raise questions over the amount of land requested for re-classification to Intensive Use or Wilderness. Specifically, the 33 acres of proposed Wilderness is insufficient compared to the 159 acres proposed to be classified as Intensive Use. When looking at past land reclassifications, there is a precedent to reclassify or add Wilderness lands to the Forest Preserve at a two to one, or greater, ratio. As a reference point, the NYCO land swap amendment passed with the state suggesting a ratio of seven to one, committing to add 1,500 to 2,000 acres or more of Wilderness to the Forest Preserve in a swap for 200 acres of Wild Forest coming out of the Forest Preserve. As the Council noted at the January 25th public hearing held for Whiteface Mtn. UMP, state land dedicated for Intensive Use should be combined with expanded Wilderness in the same

general area for a net positive for Wilderness. If these reclassifications are pursued in a separate UMP process, a net positive for Wilderness approach should be employed.

Response: The referenced past land reclassifications, including the “NYCO land swap”, involved amendments to the NYS Constitution. No such constitutional amendment is required for the land reclassification suggested in the UMP. The referenced NYCO land swap also involved taking lands out of the Forest Preserve. Under the suggested land reclassification, no lands would be taken out of the Forest Preserve.

(1.M) Rick Morris, Public Hearing Transcript pp. 22-23

The Rabbit Pond Ski Trail gets a lot of use spring, summer, fall and winter. It's an existing trail for quite a while now. And I just think there should be some way to both expand Gore and to protect the existing trail and to protect Rabbit Pond. And that's what I would like to see. And what I have, I have a map here of the proposed expansion of Gore into the Rabbit Pond area and I have a map of the existing trails in the Rabbit Pond area, which I was able to get from North Creek for visitors to North Creek to use. But what I haven't seen, and maybe this is my fault, in the UMP, I haven't seen a map showing both right on the same map and showing how the proposed new development would impact the existing trails. And it seems like, if you're going to put new trails in and have them coexist with existing trails, it would be important to be able to see where they both lie.

Response: See the response (and accompanying mapping) to substantively similar comment 1.A.

(1.N) Dick Carlson, Public Hearing Transcript pp. 25-27

The Village of North Creek has very few hiking opportunities. And I have to discount hiking on ski trails and hiking on wide areas. There's really three main trails. The Schaeffer Trail, the Rabbit Pond Trail and the Raymond Brook Trail. And to, you know, utilize one little bit of added vertical for those trails that come down from the Rabbit Pond area, I think is misguided, especially if it will eliminate the Rabbit Pond Trail from hiking, snowshoeing and skiing in season. It's really a delightful trail. And it's an intimate hiking trail, like a regular trail you would see in the woods where the trees are quite close to you on both sides. So it's an important consideration, as well. And the Hamlets to Hut Initiative is using the Raymond Brook Trail, which is right adjacent to the Rabbit Pond Trail, for their premiere trip, which is supposed to begin this spring. And, also, the North Country National Scenic Trail is also – I think the signs are up already. The Raymond Brook Trail is part of that. And, again, the Rabbit Pond Trail teases into all this and to have that not be available anymore would be, again, I think misguided. The question I had, and I know that Crikelair property is some of the Alpine Trails that are proposed that are already approved. And I'm wondering, is this development on Crikelair's property? Is it Town of Johnsburg? Is it going to be ORDA property? How is that all going to work?

Response: See the response to substantively similar comment 1.A regarding the continued use of Rabbit Pond Trail.

The involved areas were shown on Draft UMP/GEIS Figure 2, New Management Actions (North), and are as follows:

- ***Proposed Trail 12-L: currently Wild Forest land connecting to currently Intensive Use land***
- ***Proposed Trail 12-M: currently Wild Forest connecting to currently private land to become Town land***

- ***Proposed Trail 12-A: currently Wild Forest Land***
- ***Proposed Trails 12I-A and 12J-A: currently private land to become Town Land.***

(1.O) Jill Broderick, Public Hearing Transcript pp.27-28

I do have my reservations about the Rabbit Pond reclassification of that land, only because it's sensitive. A lot of people enjoy it just the way it is and I don't think it's -- I'm not sure if it's feasible, so -- I haven't seen the numbers and I don't really understand the realignment of the lift.

Response: See the response to substantively similar comment 1.A.

(1.P) Scott Robertson, Public Hearing Transcript pp. 28-30

I really hope you guys can move the trail either back to where you originally had it or put in a trail -- I don't really like this idea too much, but if we have to compromise, maybe put in another trail to move around so we don't lose Rabbit Pond. I'd hate to lose this trail. I think it would be a big mistake. What I did, I spent a lot of time using typographical maps and tried to overlay your maps on there to see exactly where the trails went, and it looked to me like we're going to be losing part of the trail. Maybe I'm wrong about that, but if we do the proposal, that's what it looks like to me. And I think that would be a huge mistake.

Response: See the response to substantively similar comment 1.A regarding the continued use of Rabbit Pond Trail including a section of relocated trail.

(1.Q) Julie West, Public Hearing Transcript p. 30

The summer recreation idea at Little Gore I think is really exciting. And right at Little Gore we have these awesome hiking trails and biking trails, so if you take the portions -- the Rabbit Pond area that the everyone is concerned about and make it a winter area, it kind of takes the glimmer out of the summer recreational opportunities that maybe some of the family could be doing while the others are on the zip lines.

Response: See the response to substantively similar comment 1.A regarding the continued use of Rabbit Pond Trail.

(1.R) Katy Nightengale, Public Hearing Transcript p. 40

I have concerns about the land swap. I have skied those trails and they are really awesome. And there are already planned trails in existence to come down from the top of the Hudson Chair. I see economic development from both Gore and what they're doing for us at the main mountain and at the Ski Bowl, but I also see what's becoming this huge backcountry draw to ski backcountry. And I hate to lose those backcountry trails to be not accessible anymore for somebody who wants to ski up to ski down.

Response: See the response to substantively similar comment 1.A regarding the continued use of Rabbit Pond Trail.

(1.S) Peter Bauer (Protect the Adirondacks), Public Hearing Transcript p. 41

We, too, have a lot of concerns about the land swap and the Rabbit Pond tract. We're not sure that's the best way to go and we think there's some major issues that need to be looked at that we'll put in our comments. It has to do with backcountry skiing and it has to do with – we think there's some legal issues there, too, with the land that was designated at the time of the constitutional amendment that wasn't part of it. We're not sure it can be added in. So we think there's some issues to look at with the Rabbit Pond tract.

Response: See the response to substantively similar comment 1.A regarding the continued use of Rabbit Pond Trail.

It is not clear from the comment what “legal issues” there may be. Rabbit Pond Trail is located on the east flank of Pete Gay Mountain. Article XIV of the NYS Constitution expressly allows for ski trails “on the slopes of Gore and Pete Gay mountains in Warren County”. The attached Figure 5, Mountains Near North Creek, shows Gore Mountain, Pete Gay Mountain and South Mountain.

2. PLANNING FOR GORE MOUNTAIN AND SKI BOWL

(2.A) Gregory Schaeffer February 1, 2018 (via e-mail)

The second concern is that of overall planning:

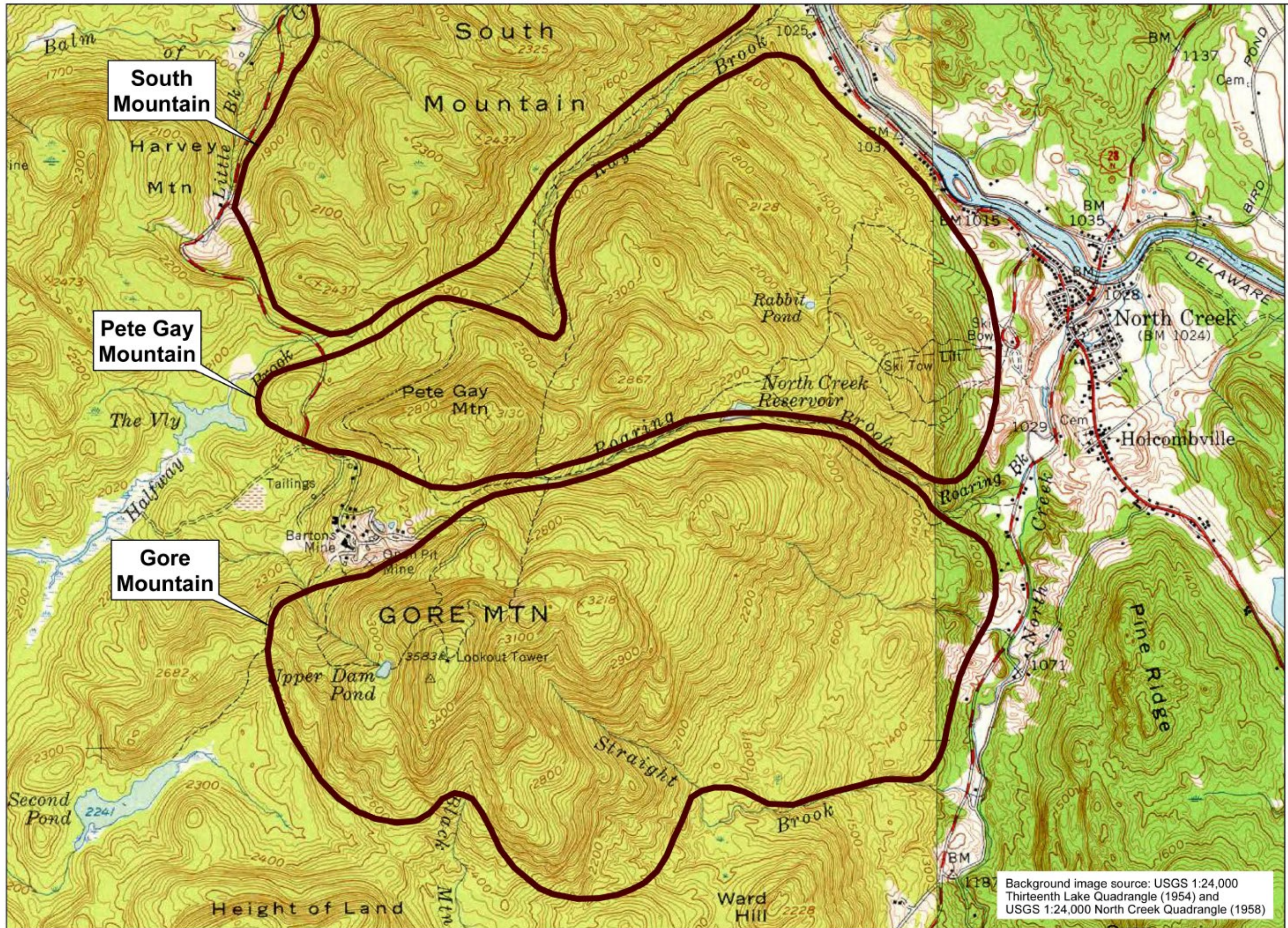
- Along with the Gore expansion plan, there are already plans afoot to expand hiking/biking trails in the Historic Ski Bowl. How do these fit in?
- The North Country National Scenic Trail now comes through the Bowl. This trail only passes through two towns in the Adirondack Park, and North Creek is one of them. Impact? How do we maximize benefit? How does it fit in?
- There are ongoing plans for Hut to Hut skiing in the area. Impact?
- Raymond Brook BC skiers frequently end their trips in the Ski Bowl on the Connector Trail. Impact?
- A NYS Museum of Skiing is planned for the Bowl. Has this been considered as part of the overall plan?

I have not seen anywhere this nexus of recreational activity addressed as a whole. It is a tremendous opportunity for the Town of Johnsburg and the Greater Gore Mountain Region, but the Gore Mountain UMP must completely address these issues for the benefit of all concerned.

Response: All ORDA improvements in Ski Bowl Park will be constructed in accordance with the 2017 Agreement between the Town of Johnsburg and ORDA, a copy of which is included in Section 4 of Part B of the draft UMP Amendment/GEIS. Other than the short section of Rabbit Pond Trail discussed previously, there does not appear to be any conflicts between the currently proposed ORDA development activities and existing and future Town use of Ski Bowl Park.

(2.B) Richard Carlson, February 6, 2018

The current Hudson (46er) lift has operated sporadically at best during the ski season in the last 10 years and was still not operating for the 2017-2018 season as of this writing. It did operate for a special "History Weekend" last summer as a scenic chairlift ride. It was well received and it could be a cornerstone of Summer Operations - EVEN WITH IT'S EXISTING PLACEMENT and operating constraints



Background image source: USGS 1:24,000
Thirteenth Lake Quadrangle (1954) and
USGS 1:24,000 North Creek Quadrangle (1958)

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Project Title
**Gore Mountain: 2018 Unit Management Plan Amendment &
Final Generic Environmental Impact Statement**

Drawing Title
**Mountains Near
North Creek**

0 1,000 2,000
Feet

North Arrow

Date: 02/18/2018
Project No: 201637.01
Drawing No: 5

(ie running slow to accommodate loading/unloading).

There is a network of multiple use and mt. bike trails on adjacent Town of Johnsbury property. These trails need to operate as is - currently free to users and not be disrupted or displaced by future construction and structures like the zip coaster. The land ownership and lease/lessee structure is incredibly confusing with some of the land owned by the Town of Johnsbury leased to Gore/ORDA, and additional land is owned by Front Street and pending swap deals between the Town and Front Street makes even the best map reader confused.

Gore has had a non-existent to poor off-season profile with incredibly abbreviated lift schedules (just 10 days for 2017 Summer season). This in an environment that sees other Ski Areas garnering up to 40% of revenues in the off season. The chief summer entertainment is scenic chairlift or gondola rides with hiking and biking options if available. This poor performance for the last 20 years is even more perplexing with one of the state's largest summer tourist venues just 30 minutes away in Lake George.

Quite frankly Gore's poor off-season activity leaves many workers in seasonal limbo seeking additional summer season employment to dovetail with their employment at Gore or leaving the recreation industry entirely for full time work.

Response: The proposed development activities at the Ski Bowl are geared to greatly enhancing summer visitation. The draft UMP Amendment/GEIS Section 2.B, Purpose and Need, in Part B (page 1) states the following:

"The purpose of the project is to enhance existing recreational opportunities at the Ski Bowl. These enhancements will improve winter recreation. These enhancements, perhaps more importantly, will provide recreational opportunities outside of the ski season.

There is a need for increased economic activity in North Creek outside of the ski season that can be stimulated by increased visitation at the nearby Ski Bowl."

Furthermore the continuing cooperative commitment to improving recreational opportunities in North Creek is evidenced by the Johnsbury Town Board's unanimous November 9, 2017 approval of a new Operating Agreement with ORDA for continued development, operation and maintenance of Ski Bowl Town Park facilities for the next 20 years. Included in the Agreement is a condition that ORDA will "make every effort to operate a vibrant year round operation, with a minimum of 100 days of operation at the Ski Bowl Park between the months of June and October".

(2.C) Julia West, February 7, 2018

The Hudson chair at "Little Gore" is rarely open. We just don't get enough snow. It has not been open yet this year (possibly today because of the snow), and we are well into February. Why does Little Gore need more trails? I don't see that it would attract more people. The development of Burnt Ridge, which opened a lot of terrain at Gore several years ago, doesn't even get a lot of skiers. To create those trails, a massive amount of clearing (and burying the trees) had to be done on some very beautiful land, destroying the original Schaefer trail that allowed for an incredible nature experience for hikers before it was lost.

The North Creek Ski Bowl does NOT need new trails! This land swap is extremely concerning to me- it is a BAD idea! It would be a real shame to lose that beautiful wilderness terrain.

I live in North River; this is my home. Please do not carry through with this land swap. The other improvements to the existing trails at the main mountain are all excellent ideas. Please keep the focus on improving what is already there, not adding more terrain and wasting my taxpayer dollars.

Response: See the response to substantively similar comment 1.A.

(2.D) Julie West, Public Hearing Transcript p. 30

My other concern is skier numbers here at Little Gore. Do we need more terrain at Little Gore? I just haven't seen the mountain even open that much because of climate change or whatever. We just don't have the terrain or snow for it.

Response: Gore communicates the North Creek Ski Bowl as its "Original Base Camp." Thousands of visitors are there each winter, and it is a critical hub of Gore for parking and ticketing. The Ski Bowl's usage has been growing for both alpine and Nordic users. The 2016/2017 season recorded the highest number of lift days (91) at the Ski Bowl in Gore's history. A Thursday/Friday night youth program there has increased in attendance exponentially. During the two seasons that the Nordic Center has been open, the Ski Bowl is attracting large premier race events and increased visits by 117% year over year.

Additionally, the snowmaking improvements contained in this UMP Amendment will enable Ski Bowl terrain to be open earlier and more frequently

(2.E) Bob Nettle, Public Hearing Transcript pp. 38-39

Now, over at Ski Bowl Park, supposing you're going to manage 30,000 customers from June, when school is out, until say September, and then into the fall period a little bit. Now, how are the infrastructure problems going to be solved? 30,000 people are going to require a very complex and well -- and an excellently designed sewer system. Now, there are three town wells within 200 feet of the base area of the Village slopes and the leg up -- the loading area for the Hudson Trail Lift and the new lift and the whole works. So depositing sewage in the aquifer is probably not going to work. I hope -- I certainly hope that it doesn't work. So that's part of the problem. Also, where are all those people going to park and what are they going to do when they come back off the zip line or the zip coaster or on the mountain coaster. And are they going to go to Joe Minder? Are they going to take a break in the pavilion? But, once again, you're dealing with 30,000 people over the period of three or four months. That's another problem.

Response: The 30,000 customers comes from Part B, Section 6, page 4. This is based on estimated peak use numbers of 400 people per day in the spring, 600 per day in the summer and 500 per day in the fall.

During larger events at the Ski Bowl such as nordic competitions, Waynestock, etc., portable toilets are brought into the Ski Bowl. ORDA plans on bringing portable restroom trailers to the site for guests to use. These trailers will not discharge wastewater on the site.

Adequate parking currently exists at the Ski Bowl to accommodate the projected use. Based on numbers in Part B, Section 6, page 4, item 12, 200 cars and 4 buses are expected on weekdays between the peak hours of 10:00 AM and 4:00 PM. This is an average of 33 cars and <1 bus per hour. On weekends between 10:00 AM and 6:00 PM there will be an average of 38 cars and <1 bus per hour. It is estimated that there are currently +/- 190 parking spaces at the Ski Bowl (Part B, Section 6, page 8).

3. MANAGEMENT ACTIONS AND GOALS

(3.A) Brandon Himhoff, February 6, 2018

I would suggest that ORDA also consider that these capital investments must be accompanied by additional operating spending. By expanding the pumps, Gore will be able to make more snow which of course requires more groomer hours and more support. More lifts and more connectivity mean that more of the mountain can be operating, requiring appropriate staffing. The additional tourists will not only want more and better skiing, but better amenities on the mountain, especially including better and more diverse food offerings. The current food offerings and dining experience are significant detractors to our tourists, and improvements in this area are some of the most necessary but perhaps easiest to address. A change to the current food contractor and exploration of new vendors that are more appropriate to the desired mountain experience and who would be more accountable to ORDA should be considered.

Response: The comment is correct that with expanded pumping capability Gore Mountain will be able to make more snow, especially during the increasingly shorter weather windows that seem to have become all too common during our Adirondack winters. Gore Mountain believes that we will ultimately also see energy cost savings as we can better take advantage of those weather windows.

The need for better mountain amenities are certainly something Gore Mountain is aware of. The newly enlarged Saddle Lodge, the new Straight Brook Lodge and Northwoods Lodge expansion are a step in the right direction and have been well received. We are also currently reviewing plans for some renovation and improvements in the base lodge as well. Customer surveys have echoed this comment about food offerings and dining experience. Gore Mountain is working with our food contractor to make improvements in the current food offerings.

(3.B) Samuel Ferguson, February 9, 2018

Across the country, ski resorts are changing. Lifts are going faster, lodge food is getting better, villages are being developed, and year-round attractions are being built. These changes have helped the ski industry adapt to climate change and maintain corporate profits. As you consider how to develop the Adirondack resorts, I encourage you to also ask the question of to what extent should these resorts be developed. Governor Cuomo announced a vast and expensive expansion plan for Whiteface, Gore, and Mt. Van Hoevenberg, and some of these changes, such as updates to base lodge facilities, are long since overdue. Other amenities, however, seem to be unnecessary expansions that have no place within the Adirondacks.

The Adirondack resorts are unique because they are state-owned facilities focused on serving New York residents. They are not private corporations solely focused on increasing profits. In the winter, these resorts attract millions of visitors and are an important part of the Adirondack experience.

However, in the summer, these resorts play a secondary role as people come from all over to hike the High Peaks and conquer the 46ers. When considering future developments, it is important that the developments are not seen as an addition to the individual resorts, but as added amenities to Adirondack Park as a whole. Route 73 is already overburdened during the summer months, and adding summer attractions to these ski resorts would increase the strain on the already existent infrastructure.

Specifically, I urge ORDA to consider how the proposed 'mountain coaster' fits within the culture of the Adirondacks. The Whiteface Mountain Unit Management Plan states that "Whiteface development will blend with the Adirondack environment and have minimum adverse impacts on surrounding state lands." The metal track of a mountain coaster would not blend into the Adirondack environment, but instead it would stick out like a sore thumb. The Adirondack environment, and especially publicly owned land, is fundamentally made up of wilderness. Constitutional exceptions already had to be made in order to allow ski resort infrastructure, and adding a mountain coaster would further contradict the 'forever wild' promise. A mountain coaster is a tamed and controlled way to experience nature. Riders would not be exposed to the real Adirondack wilderness, but instead they would glimpse nature from a man-made metal track. Outdoor recreation is an important part of the Adirondacks, but a mountain coaster is something that belongs in an amusement park, not the Adirondack wilderness.

All this is not to say that Whiteface, Gore, and Van Hoevenberg should ignore profits, but instead of adding unnecessary infrastructure, they should focus on thriving within their ski industry niche. As other resorts continue to develop, Adirondack resorts should fall back on their skiing roots. They are located in a protected wilderness area that will never have the storefronts and commercial villages of Vail and Jackson Hole, yet the ski mountains themselves offer some of the best terrain east of the Mississippi. While a mountain coaster offers tempting profits, I urge you to embrace the ski culture that already exists at these mountains. Keep them as wild mountains nestled in the middle of the Adirondacks, and people will continue to come and enjoy these resorts for what they are—ski resorts where skiing comes first.

Response: Proposed activities at Gore Mountain will not impact NYS Route 73.

There is no mountain coaster proposed.

The proposed zip coaster is proposed in the North Creek Ski Bowl and not on NYS Forest Preserve land.

(3.C) Jill Broderick, Public Hearing Transcript p. 28

If I may suggest adding to the master plan goals, I would include to improve and enhance the economy for the host benefit community of the Town of Johnsburg, and to improve the health and wellness for the residents by making recreational activities affordable and accessible.

Response: The Management Goals and Objectives contained in section III.C of the draft UMP Amendment/GEIS include the following (emphasis added):

Gore Mountain will seek to modernize facilities at Gore in order to enhance the guest experience, improve skier safety, and increase local and regional economic benefits, while maintaining environmental quality.

Gore Mountain will work closely with the North Creek community and Town of Johnsbury to provide information to visitors about the area and to cooperate in the establishment of a shuttle link between the Ski Center and North Creek and a physical ski link to Ski Bowl Park in order that public use may better help promote the economy of the area.

Other local benefits that are included in the 2017 twenty-year ORDA-Town Agreement include the following:

- *ORDA will provide a full season pass for skiing privileges for all students from the Johnsbury Central School or residing in the Town of Johnsbury.*
- *ORDA will also sponsor six tickets for each resident good for winter or summer.*
- *ORDA will assist with finding grants and funding, provide free access one day per week for the Johnsbury Youth Program, and develop a sliding hill.*
- *ORDA will own and operate the Joe Minder Lodge and lease it for \$1 to the Johnsbury Youth Commission between May and October.*
- *ORDA will also include the Town of Johnsbury in marketing and advertising initiatives.*
- *Individual businesses within the Town of Johnsbury will receive a discounted opportunity to market and purchase advertising in ORDA publications.*
- *ORDA will add a feature to its website that portrays the Town of Johnsbury as an authentic ski town.*

(3.D) Kelly Nessel, Public Hearing Transcript pp. 31-32

The Town of Johnsbury has received money from the State of New York for a design of trails that leaves from Ski Bowl Park and goes up through to North River and then goes to other parts of the town. And that work is probably going to be starting sometime this year. And what I worry about is a collision between the interests of Gore Mountain and their summer activities and the interests of the Town of Johnsbury with their hiking trails and their biking trails. And I don't want the public that's been coming already from Schenectady and Vermont and everything else coming up here to bike, all of the sudden they can't go on trails that we're making because they are going to be charged. And I don't know if that's in the plans or not, but that would be my concern.

Response: ORDA does not have the authority to charge a fee for recreational uses on facilities that they do not control. There would be no day use fees for public trails entering and leaving the Ski Bowl.

(3.E) Brandon Himhoff, Public Hearing Transcript pp. 33-34

One of the key issues of the mountain is the connectivity of this side of the mountain here and getting to Burnt Ridge, and then using Burnt Ridge maybe as the key to getting down the mountain to the Ski Bowl. The new route really helps a lot, I think, to connect Burnt Ridge back to the main part of the mountain -- or historically the larger part of the mountain. And I wonder if maybe we can address solutions to get to the other side, because I don't think you really increase the skier numbers if the mountain is sort of disjointed. And I think that there's a sort of design issue. I mean, the mountain sort of is as it is. We just need to make trails to connect A to B. And it seems that, unless you kind of create some kind of tunnel

going under the races going on at Echo all the time and Twister, which I guess those are certified as race courses and so there's not a whole lot you can do about that, but you still have to get people from one side to the other. I wonder if you could address how the plan can sort of make that happen.

Response: *Connectivity from the central part of Gore Mountain to Burnt Ridge and the Ski Bowl already exists, constructed over the last several years as part of a significant improvement effort to re-establish and bolster the connection to the Ski Bowl. Trail connections from the central part of Gore Mountain to Burnt Ridge are available in three general locations. The first is via Twister, over to Echo, then to The Gully and Cedar's Traverse to the base of Burnt Ridge. This is possibly the easiest route from a user's standpoint. However, as noted in the comment, sometimes this route is not available due to ski racing on Twister and/or Echo. A tunnel or a ski bridge to cross over these trails when racing is happening is not a practical alternative. The second route is from the base area to Burnt Ridge via Cedar's Traverse, which is available during days where racing occurs on Twister and Echo. The third route is available from the upper part of Gore Mountain down the North Side via Pipeline Traverse. From the Pipeline trail one can connect to either Burnt Ridge or the Ski Bowl. Given the existing terrain, landform and configuration of the mountain, these are the most viable locations for suitable trail connections from central Gore to Burnt Ridge. Access from the top of Burnt Ridge to the Ski Bowl is currently available via Hedges, then to Pipeline and Peaceful Valley. An additional future ski trail connection is already approved in the vicinity of the Barkeater glade. When constructed, this trail will provide more direct access to the Ski Bowl from Burnt Ridge.*

(3.F) Brandon Himhoff, Public Hearing Transcript p. 35

To really attract tourists, you need a little more variety and high-class cuisine, and it's hard to do that under the current state contracts. And I just wonder if that could be addressed somehow.

Response: *There is a trend in the ski industry of offering more upscale food options. ORDA regularly renews its concessionaire contracts, including food services. See the response to substantively similar comment 3.A.*

(3.G) Brandon Himhoff, Public Hearing Transcript pp. 35-36

I also just wonder about the time frame of all these plans. There's about 20 years worth of projects probably in that Unit Management Plan and I was wondering if someone can sort of vaguely give their impressions of which things are more of an urgent priority and which things are longer term priorities.

Response: *See draft UMP Amendment/GEIS section IV.D, Prioritization of Management Actions (p. IV-11), which lists top, moderate and lower priority management actions.*

(3.H) Bob Nessle, Public Hearing Transcript pp. 36-37

I like the idea of the escape route off the top of Burnt Ridge. But how are you going to get over that the rock wall that separates Sagamore and Echo? You're going to blast a tunnel through there? How are you going to get out?

Response: *The proposed new trail can start a little ways down the Sagamore trail and get around the rock wall referenced. The bottom of the new trail would merge with the last few hundred feet of the Echo trail and continue into the base area. The proposed new trail also shows a slight widening of the*

bottom of the Echo trail on skiers right to allow for this trail merger and to accommodate both public skiers on the new trail and still allow for events on Echo.

(3.I) Peter Bauer (Protect the Adirondacks), Public Hearing Transcript pp. 41-42

We think the scheduling is important. A lot of the unit management plans for forest preserve tracts that enumerate a bunch of different activities schedule them in five-year plans. ORDA hasn't always done that with detail. DEC's always done that with its unit management plans and that would be very helpful.

Response: Most DEC UMP's do not include management actions that require the level of capital expenditures required for many of the management actions undertaken at Gore Mountain such as new ski lifts, major building renovations/expansions, etc. The capital expenditures mean that implementation of management actions at Gore, and at other ORDA venues, is dependent on funding from the NYS budget. For this reason, it is difficult to project an implementation schedule. However, per the response above, proposed management actions were prioritized in the draft UMP Amendment/GEIS.

4. CONSTITUTIONAL LIMITS

(4.A) William Janeway (Adirondack Council), February 9, 2018

Based on the trail mileage information provided within the Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement, Gore Mtn. is well within its constitutionally allotted 40 miles of trail limit. The Council requests that ORDA clearly outline how it arrived at the listed 32.9 miles of total mileage within this UMP.

Response: An accounting of miles is provided on Table 1A in the draft UMP Amendment/GEIS. The methodologies used to calculate mileage is provided in Appendix 5 (Sections 2.0 and 3.2).

(4.B) William Janeway (Adirondack Council), February 9, 2018

- Compliance with Forever Wild: The facilities on state lands must comply with the strict and not always convenient requirements of the "Forever Wild" clause of the constitution. These requirements include: constitutional amendments that provide for functions and facilities at Whiteface and Gore that would not otherwise be allowed; adherence to the tightly restricted total miles and widths of downhill ski trails; and, no new tree cutting, clearing, disturbance, or expansion to year-round activities beyond what is now allowed without a constitutional amendment. (Under the constitution, all uses must be winter recreation based.)

Response: See the substantively similar comment 4.A and the response thereto.

(4.C) Peter Bauer (Protect the Adirondacks), Public Hearing Transcript p. 42-43

We also would like to see better detail about the amount of acreage here at Gore, and also at White Face, but here at Gore, that has been used pursuant to the constitutional amendment that was approved, because we think you're getting very close to your clearing limits. We would like to see a real good accounting of the methodology that ORDA is using about the cleared areas, the cleared acreage of

trails, the width of trails and that sort of thing. We've been looking at it independently and we think that you're getting very close to your limits. So I think that's something you need to be very mindful about, so we would like to see a really good accounting of that. That's not really a unit management plan issue, but we think it's an important issue going ahead because it affects your trail upgrades and your trails.

Response: See the response to substantively similar comment 4.A.

5. REGIONAL PLANNING

(5.A) William Janeway (Adirondack Council), February 9, 2018

- Planning Sensitive to other Regional Adirondack Needs: The state lands and operations at Whiteface Mtn. are part of a larger network of state lands, recreational uses, trails, and trailheads within the very popular High Peaks region. As the state looks at making important upgrades to the ORDA facilities, and simultaneously develops plans to manage the overuse of the Rt. 73 corridor and the High Peaks, planning needs to be coordinated. For example, one element of overlap could be relocation of parking for the Cascade and Porter Mountains on popular weekends to the Mt. Van Hoevenberg complex, as was done on an experimental basis on Columbus Day weekend in 2017.

Response: All ORDA UMP's for their Adirondack venues are prepared in consultation with NYS DEC and in cooperation with NYS APA. This ensures that proper consideration is given to regional planning issues during the preparation of ORDA venue UMP's.

6. RENEWABLE ENERGY

(6.A) William Janeway (Adirondack Council), February 9, 2018

- Climate Smart, Energy Smart Models: Climate change threatens to redefine Adirondack winter recreation as we now know it. The ORDA facilities can and should combat climate change and be showcases for visitors from across the country and around the world for the latest and best in climate smart renewable energy practices. The facilities should support the Governor's renewable energy goals and comply with Adirondack Park Agency policies.

Response: See section X of the draft UMP Amendment/GEIS, Effects on the Use and Conservation of Energy, which states in part:

"Gore is contracting two 25-year solar power purchase agreements, which combine into a massive 5.325 MW system. Using remote net metering, 85% of Gore's electrical is poised to be offset. In cooperation with Borrego Solar, Gore Mountain is efficiently harvesting sunlight for its energy needs, utilizing 14,589 ground-mounted solar panels across 20 acres of otherwise fallow farmland. The electricity generated credits Gore's meter at a rate higher than power that is traditionally produced, while providing a cleaner, more sustainable source of energy to its electric distribution zone. The agreement is projected to save Gore Mountain approximately \$10 million over the life of the contract, while offsetting 113,919 tons of carbon dioxide, 71,634 pounds of nitrogen oxide emissions, and 131,835 pounds of sulfur. Gore's purchase agreement received support from Governor Cuomo's NY-Sun incentive through the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA)."

7. PROJECT SUPPORT

(7.A) Sterling and Susan Goodspeed, January 24, 2018

We will be unable to attend tonight's public hearing due to a scheduling conflict but wanted to write to you to express our strongest possible support for the ORDA summer operation at the Ski Bowl. Between the two of us, dating back to 1991, we have operated four businesses within the North Creek area. These include a law firm, a newspaper, a grocery store and a laundromat. We are well aware of both the potential our region offers and the challenges doing business here can present.

ORDA's commitment to a summer operation builds on the growing partnership between the Authority, Town government and local businesses. Creating this venue during the summer season will add new vitality to our existing businesses and will likely attract other businesses to open shop. The proposal also builds off the important heritage that the Ski Bowl and North Creek have always shared with regards to the ski industry. It is fitting that summer operation at the Ski Bowl should provide such a crucial element of our long sought goal to become a four season destination community. The project also marks a welcome commitment to permit an ORDA operation on the edge of our Main Street business district and builds on the significance of the interconnect of the mountains completed several years ago.

Response: Comment is noted, no response is required.

(7.B) Brandon Himhoff, February 6, 2018

As a member of the public, a regional business owner, and a member of our local business organizations, I applaud the strong effort that ORDA is making to keep these valuable assets in terrific condition. As times change, these facilities need to adapt and maintain their attraction. Looking carefully at these plans, I feel that they will significantly improve the potential of Gore to attract tourists. Any revenue brought in to the mountain will be accompanied by a significant multiplier in local spending, boosting and supporting many other local businesses and thereby expanding our local employment base. Especially critical are the season expanders such as the improvements in the ski bowl.

Response: Comment is noted, no response is required.

(7.C) William Janeway (Adirondack Council), February 9, 2018

In closing, the Adirondack Council supports legal improvements to ORDA facilities and programs that comply with the constitution, the law and the legal protections which are what keep the Adirondacks a national treasure, a legacy we've inherited, and hold in trust for future generations.

Response: Comment is noted, no response is required.

Appendix 13
Errata – Narrative Summary of Changes Made
to the DGEIS in the FGEIS

Errata – Narrative Summary of Changes Made to the DGEIS in the FGEIS

1. The executive summary and section I.E have both been supplemented with descriptions of the additional steps taken in the SEQRA process following the issuance of the Public Draft UMP/DGEIS and leading up to the issuance of this Proposed Final UMP/FGEIS.
2. Section IV.A.8 has been changed to better describe how a new ski trail located in the area of proposed land exchange adjacent to Ski Bowl Park could affect the existing Rabbit Pond Trail. Mapping (figures 27A, 27B, 27C and 27D) is also provided that shows the Rabbit Pond Ski trail history, location and how a +/- 600 feet section of the trail could be rerouted to accommodate the new ski trail while at the same time maintaining the character of the Rabbit Pond Ski Trail and preserving its use for hiking and for backcountry skiing.
3. The following appendices have been added; Appendix 10 DGEIS Public Hearing Transcript, Appendix 11 DGEIS Written Public Comments, Appendix 12 DGEIS Comments and Responses to Comments, Appendix 13 Errata – Narrative Summary of Changes Made to the DGEIS in the FGEIS.

Appendix 14
ORDA SEQRA Findings Statement

State Environmental Quality Review Act

FINDINGS STATEMENT

2018 Amendment to the 2002 Gore Mountain
Unit Management Plan

May 7, 2018

Pursuant to Article 8 – State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQR) of the Environmental Conservation Law and 6 NYCRR Part 617, the NYS Olympic Regional Development Authority (ORDA) as Lead Agency for the 2018 Amendment to the 2002 Gore Mountain Unit Management Plan, makes the following conclusions of fact and law:

Name of Action:

2018 Amendment to the 2002 Gore Mountain (also referred to herein as Gore or Gore Mountain Ski Center or the Ski Center) Unit Management Plan, 793 Peaceful Valley Road, North Creek (Town of Johnsburg), Warren County, NY

Project Sponsor:

NYS Olympic Regional Development Authority

Acceptance Date of Final Environmental Impact Statement:

April 25, 2018

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- 6.0 Facts and Conclusions Relied Upon to Support the Decision
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1.0 Summary Description of the Action

Gore Mountain Ski Center (also referred to herein as Gore or Gore Mountain or the Ski Center) is a New York State-owned facility operated by ORDA to provide the public with an intensive form of recreation for both the spectator and participant in compliance with Article XIV, Section 1 of the New York State Constitution. Gore Mountain, as identified in the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan, is classified as an Intensive Use Area.

Gore Mountain Ski Center is located off NY Route 28, approximately two miles south of the Hamlet of North Creek, and 15 miles northwest of Warrensburg, in the Town of Johnsburg, Warren County, New York.

Gore Mountain provides diverse opportunities for year-round public use including competitive and recreational downhill skiing and cross-country skiing. The summer and fall season program centers around hiking, mountain biking (including mountain bike racing), educational interpretive opportunities and nature-oriented activities. Gore Mountain hosts an annual fall festival.

Section 816 of the Adirondack Park Agency (APA) Act directs the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to develop, in consultation with the APA, Unit Management Plans for each unit of land under its jurisdiction classified in the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan (APSLMP). Pursuant to its enabling law and agreement with the DEC for the management of Gore Mountain, ORDA works with the DEC, in the consultation of the APA, to update and amend the Gore Mountain UMP. The original UMP for Gore Mountain was prepared in 1987. UMP amendments and updates for Gore Mountain were prepared 1995, 2002, and 2005.

The DEC is the statutory custodian of Gore Mountain. ORDA, however, operates and manages Gore Mountain under an agreement with the DEC. Under this agreement, ORDA is to maintain the facility subject to DEC inspections; make capital improvements with DEC's prior written approval; establish a sinking fund for capital improvements; continue the level of prior public recreation; comply with specified prior agreements; and cooperate with DEC in completion of Unit Management Plan Updates and Amendments for the ski area.

In March, 1991, DEC and ORDA consummated an inter-agency Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), superseding a similar 1984 Memorandum, for the continued use, operation, maintenance and management of the ski area by ORDA. This 1991 MOU was incorporated into the current (2013) DEC/ORDA Consolidation Agreement that covers Whiteface, Gore, the Whiteface Memorial Highway and the Olympic Sports Complex at Mount Van Hoevenberg. Section 2 of that Consolidation Agreement provides specifics regarding the preparation of UMPs for ORDA venues, including the following topics:

- UMP Content,
- APSLMP Compliance,

- Consultation with NYSDEC Prior to and During UMP Preparation,
- Procedural Steps for Preparation of Preliminary Draft UMPs, Public Review Draft UMPs, and Final UMP's,
- Consultation with APA,
- APA APSLMP Consistency Review,
- APA Resolution on APSLMP Conformance, and
- Commissioner Approval of UMPs

The 2018 UMP Amendment proposes a comprehensive plan which would allow ORDA to modernize and expand Gore Mountain to address future needs and to increase public safety and enjoyment. See the "2018 Master Plan" plans in Appendix C.

The new management actions identified and analyzed in the 2018 UMP Amendment are the following (Conceptual Actions in the list below will require further SEQRA analysis if they are pursued in the future.):

Trail Construction and Trail Widening

- Construct a new trail at Burnt Ridge that connects to the Base Lodge via the lower portion of Echo
- Convert the existing Half 'N Half glade to an alpine ski trail (portion on Forest Preserve lands)
- Widen the bottom of Echo as it turns toward the base area
- Widen some sections of Twister
- Widen Sunway and other green trails served by Lift 3

Lifts

- Add a new triple or quad chair (Lift 9B) from Northwoods Lodge up Lower Sunway to just past the bend in Lower Sunway

Vehicular Access and Parking

- Modify the 1995-approved shuttle lane separated from and independent of main traffic route and circulation route and parking

Buildings

- Expand the NYSEF building
- Reconfigure the 1995-approved maintenance complex to locate groomer garage and fueling station adjacent to Sunway trail

Snowmaking

- Enlarge the snowmaking reservoir
- Install a new 24 inch water line from the snowmaking reservoir to the pump house

Mountain Biking

- Construct a single-track bike trail for Town trail at the top of Little Gore

Hiking

- Develop a hiking center based out of the Northwoods Lodge.

Requests for Land Reclassifications (Conceptual Action)

- Request a land reclassification from Wild Forest to Intensive Use and from Intensive Use to Wilderness which could allow the historic Rabbit Pond Trail to be used as a trail, if authorized in a subsequent UMP.

See the “2018 Master Plan” plans in Appendix C.

2.0 Public Need

The purpose of the 2018 UMP Amendment is to update the 2002 UMP with regards to the environmental setting, management objectives, and management actions, along with the analysis of the associated environmental impacts of those objectives and actions. The 2018 UMP Amendment document will provide the foundation for ORDA's management decisions and capital expenditures through the year 2023 and beyond. UMP Amendments are to be used as the basis for actions that meet the projected needs of competitive year-round recreational day-use facilities.

Language in the APSLMP that pertains specifically to Gore Mountain states “Existing downhill ski centers at Gore and Whiteface should be modernized to the extent physical and biological resources allow.” The 2018 UMP Amendment presents prioritized management actions to update facilities, lifts, ski trails, management, operations and systems at Gore. Gore Mountain will seek to modernize facilities at Gore in order to enhance the guest experience, improve skier safety, and increase local and regional economic benefits, while maintaining environmental quality. Gore Mountain will seek to develop new summer and fall usage of the Ski Center to provide greater year-round use of the facility by the public, consistent with Article 14 and the APSLMP. Gore Mountain will work closely with the North Creek community and Town of Johnsbury to provide information to visitors about the area and to cooperate in the establishment of a shuttle link between the Ski Center and North Creek and a physical ski link to Ski Bowl Park in order that public use may better help promote the economy of the area.

3.0 Agency Jurisdiction

Local

NYS facilities are exempt from local requirements, although through the NYS SEQRA process local land use regulations are examined. NYS capital infrastructure projects are generally immune from the application of local land use regulations subject to the balancing of the public interest test in the decision of the New York Court of Appeals in *Matter of County of Monroe v City of Rochester*, 72 NY2d 338 (1988).

Warren County

There are no activities associated with County roads which could require Warren County Department of Public Works approval.

Warren County does not have a County Health Department that regulates water supply or wastewater disposal. In Warren County these duties are administered by the NYS Department of Health.

Regional

There are no involved regional agencies. The APA regulates activities within the region, but it is a NYS agency.

State

ORDA

- The Olympic Regional Development Act (Article 8, Title 28, NYS Public Authorities Law)
- 2013 Consolidation Agreement with NYSDEC
- ECL Article 8 (SEQRA) and 6 NYCRR Part 617

APA

- APSLMP Compliance

DEC

- NYS Constitution Article XIV
- ECL Article 9 Part 0903
- ECL Article 8 (SEQRA) and 6 NYCRR Part 617
- ECL Article 17 – SPDES Permit for Construction Activities
- 2013 Consolidation Agreement with ORDA

DOL

- 12 NYCRR Part 32 – Ski Tows and Other Passenger Tramways

Federal

- Enlarging the snowmaking reservoir involves an existing “Waters of the US” which may require US Army Corps of Engineers approval.

4.0 State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR) Process

Under SEQR, ORDA, as lead agency, in making its findings under 6 NYCRR 617.11, must certify that the requirements of Part 617 have been met, and then certify that, consistent with social, economic and other essential considerations from among the reasonable alternatives available, the action is one that avoids or minimizes adverse environmental impacts to the maximum extent practicable, and that adverse environmental impacts will be avoided or minimized to the

maximum extent practicable by incorporating conditions to the decision those mitigation measures that were identified as practicable.

SEQR requires an approving agency to consider fully the environmental consequences revealed in an EIS and to take these consequences into account when reaching a decision whether or not to approve an action. Moreover, the statute authorizes the approving agency to implement measures designed to mitigate the adverse environmental impacts identified, so long as these measures are reasonable in scope and are reasonably related to the adverse impacts identified in the EIS. An agency may impose conditions on a project outside of its traditional area of jurisdiction and may even deny a project if the agency finds it must do so to avoid or mitigate significant adverse environmental impacts.

See Appendix A of Findings for a complete list of reviewed documents.

See Appendix B of Findings for a complete timeline of the SEQRA process.

5.0 UMP Revision Process

The APSLMP directs that “Any material modification in adopted unit management plans will be made following the procedure for original unit management plan preparation.” The new management actions that comprise the “material modification” were listed previously in Section 1.0, Summary Description of the Action.

The 2018 UMP Amendment includes the following components in accordance with the APSLMP:

- Inventories of resources, facilities and public use;
- Assessment of impact on resources, ecosystems and public enjoyment;
- Statements of management objectives as they relate to resources and public use; and
- Prioritization of management action implementation.

6.0 Facts and Conclusions Relied Upon to Support the Decision

6.1 Introduction

The 2018 UMP Amendment proposes a number of new management actions to meet the objectives of modernizing facilities in order to enhance the guest experience, improve skier safety, and increase local and regional economic benefits, while maintaining environmental quality. ORDA may implement the actions set forth in the UMP Amendment, with the exception of those actions identified as Conceptual Actions, as and when approved and subject to available capital, safety and operational priorities and market demands. (Conceptual Actions are subject to future SEQRA analyses should they be pursued in the future.)

6.2 Summary of Potential Impacts

ORDA initially identified potential impacts prior to the preparation of the EIS by completing Parts 1, 2 and 3 of a Full Environmental Assessment Form (FEAF) which was appended to the UMP Amendment. The potential impacts identified through this process, and during the preparation of the EIS, included the following topics.

- Some soils at Gore Mountain have moderate to severe erosion potential. Soil disturbance during construction could potentially result in erosion of soil and sedimentation of dislodged soils.
- Some new Management Actions are proposed in areas with steep topography which increases the potential for impacts associated with stormwater runoff.
- Some areas at Gore Mountain have shallow depth to bedrock. Construction in areas with shallow depth to bedrock could necessitate blasting which has potential for a variety of impacts related to noise, vibration, flyrock, etc.
- Potential impacts to water resources include impacts from soil sedimentation as well as physical disturbance for new management actions proposed in or nearby to surface waters.
- Dust that is generated from construction activities has the potential for causing impacts to local air quality.
- Cutting of trees on Forest Preserve lands is regulated by the NYS Constitution. Construction of new Management Actions will require removal of existing vegetation.
- Higher elevation areas on Gore Mountain, particularly those areas with spruce-fir forest, provide habitat for Bicknell's thrush, a Species of Special Concern in NY State.

Other topics that were fully evaluated, and for which no potential significant impacts were identified included wetlands, unique areas, transportation, community services, aesthetic resources, local land use plans and historical and archeological resources.

6.3 Summary of ORDA Findings – Potential Impacts and Discussion of Findings

6.3.1 Soils

A. Potential Impacts

Soils at Gore Mountain were mapped in EIS Figure 16. Erosion factors (K) for soils mapped in the Intensive Use Area were provided in a Table on page II-2 of the EIS. Erosion potentials were rated as low, moderate or high.

Most of the proposed trail widening, most of the new trail construction and the upper portion of the new lift are proposed in areas with steep slopes in soils with higher erosion potentials. Lower elevation activities, including the shuttle loop, the NYSEF building expansion and the lower portion of the proposed lift will occur in soils have mostly moderate erosion potentials.

Disturbance of areas of steep slopes during construction for ski trails, lifts, etc., can lead to an increased vulnerability of the soils to erosion. Suitable measures must be implemented to first prevent soil erosion and then, second, to make sure that any soils that are eroded are contained and prevented from causing sedimentation in receiving waters.

ORDA is familiar with implementing proper erosion and sediment control practices when undertaking construction practices at their venues that oftentimes involve construction on steep slopes. These proper practices are set forth in the *New York State Standards and Specifications for Erosion and Sediment Control* (last updated November 2016).

These standards and specifications will be used to develop Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plans (SWPPPs) for construction activities at Gore Mountain in accordance with NYSDEC's *SPDES General Permit for Stormwater Discharge from Construction Activity, GP-0-15-002*.

SWPPPS will detail those measures that will be implemented during construction to mitigate potential soil erosion and surface water sedimentation. SWPPP content will include such things as construction sequencing and phasing, temporary and permanent stabilization, structural erosion control practices and vegetative control practices. SWPPS will include provisions for monitoring, inspections, data collection, and compliance documentation.

Mitigation measures that ORDA commonly and successfully employs during ski area construction activities include the following that will be incorporated into Gore Mountain pre-construction SWPPP plans and specifications.

B. Discussion and Findings

Implementation of the following measures will mitigate potential impacts from soil erosion.

Construction Road Stabilization – site access will be achieved using existing work roads, ski trails, driveways and parking areas. At this time, no new disturbance is anticipated for site access, material storage areas or other construction uses.

Concrete Washout – Concrete truck washouts will be provided in existing parking areas located in proximity to the base area.

Protecting Vegetation to Remain – clearing limits will be marked with flagging tape, paint or other suitable means prior to the felling of trees for lift line and ski trail construction. ORDA is particularly sensitive to adhering to clearing limits on the Forest Preserve lands on which they operate their venues.

Runoff Control

- **Water Bars** – Water bars shall be installed during construction of the ski slopes and lift lines. They are to be placed across the slope to reduce the potential for erosion, with diversion into stable vegetated areas or other stabilized outlet. All water bars shall be installed at a 2% slope and particular attention shall be paid to proper spacing specifications as follows:

Slope (%)	Water Bar Spacing (ft.)
<5	125
5 to 10	100
10 to 20	75
20 to 35	50
>35	25

(Source: New York State Standards and Specifications for Erosion and Sediment Control, 2016)

Rock outlet protection using construction-generated rock will be installed at the ends of water bars when natural areas appear not to be adequate.

- **Trench Plugs** – Sand bags or gravel bags will be employed in open utility trenches longer than 300 feet. Compost filter socks of suitable size are an acceptable alternative to sand bags or gravel bags.

Soil Stabilization

- **Temporary Seeding** - Seed and mulch inactive areas with bare soil within 3 days of disturbance unless construction will resume in that area within 2 days. Seed with annual rye mixture at 30 pounds per acre. For late fall or early winter seeding seed with winter rye at a rate of 100 pounds per acre. Mulch areas with straw at a rate of 2 tons per acre.

- **Permanent Seeding and Mulching** - Maintain existing vegetation outside of marked limits of disturbance. Soils disturbed for construction of ski trails and lifts shall be permanently stabilized by successfully establishing an herbaceous ground cover.

Seeding – A commercially available native seed mixture appropriate to the climate shall be used to stabilize disturbed areas to be re-vegetated. Seed may be applied by a number of suitable means including broadcasting, hydro-seeding, or incorporated as part of a geotextile (i.e. Green & Bio Tech SureTurf 1000 and 4000 Seeded Mat System[®], BIOMAT[®] seeded mats).

Mulching – Broadcast seeded areas shall also be mulched. Broadcast seeded areas shall be mulched with invasive species free hay or straw at a rate of 2 to 3 bales per thousand square feet (100-120 bales per acre). Mulch shall be secured in place by either driving over the mulched area with a tracked vehicle or by applying a non-asphaltic tackifier.

Hydro-seeded areas shall contain a mix of wood cellulose mulch applied during the hydro-seeding process. Wood cellulose mulch shall be applied at a rate of 35 pounds per thousand square feet (2,000 pounds per acre). A non-asphaltic tackifier will be included with the hydro-mulch application.

Soil Restoration

As directed by the Qualified Inspector, areas of compacted soils that are to be seeded should be restored to improve the quality of the seed bed. The top four (4) to six (6) inches of soil shall be loosened using hand or mechanical means prior to applying seed. Also, as directed by the Qualified Inspector, finished grades consisting of exposed subsoils may require soil amendment or topsoil in order to provide a suitable seed bed.

Sediment Control

- **Silt Fence** – Where appropriate, silt fence (standard or reinforced) shall be installed along topographic contours. Use of silt fence is appropriate where there is no concentration of water flowing to the barrier and where the drainage area for overland flow does not exceed ½ acre per 100 feet of fence. Additionally, maximum allowable slope lengths contributing runoff to a silt fence shall be as follows:

Slope Steepness	Standard Maximum Slope Length (ft.)	Reinforced Maximum Slope Length (ft.)
<50:1	300	N/A
50:1 to 10:1	125	250
10:1 to 5:1	100	150
5:1 to 3:1	60	80
3:1 to 2:1	40	70
>2:1	20	30

(Source: New York State Standards and Specifications for Erosion and Sediment Control, 2016)

- Silt fence structures should be installed anywhere sediment retention is needed in and around a construction site.
- Perpendicular to slopes or parallel to contour.
- At the toe of highly erodible slopes.
- Around culverts and storm water drainage systems.
- Adjacent to lakes, streams or creeks.

Maintenance – Silt fences should be inspected periodically for damages such as tearing by equipment, animals, or wind and for the amount of sediment which has accumulated. Removal of the sediment is generally necessary when it reaches 1/3 the height of the silt fence. In situations where access is available, machinery can be used; otherwise, it must be removed manually. The key elements to remember are:

- The sediment deposits should be removed when heavy rain or high water is anticipated.
- The sediment removed should be placed in an area where there is no danger of erosion.
- The silt fence should not be removed until adequate vegetation ensures no further erosion of the disturbed slopes. Generally, the fabric is cut at ground level, the wire and posts removed, the sediment spread, and seeding and mulch is applied immediately.

Reinforced silt fence should be installed at the base of temporary stockpiles. The reinforced silt fence is designed to hold heavier loads. Falling debris from stockpiles may be caught by the reinforced silt fence where standard silt fence could fail.

- **Straw Bale Dikes** – Straw bale dikes may be used as a substitute for silt fence ONLY where shallow depth to rock precludes the proper installation of silt fence. Straw bale dikes shall NOT be used where there is concentrated flow. Straw bale dikes shall NOT be used where more than 3 months of erosion and sediment control is required unless

bales are replaced or an additional parallel row of bales is installed prior to the original straw bales being in place for 3 months. Length of slope above the straw bale dike shall not exceed the following:

Slope Steepness	Maximum Slope Length (ft.)
2:1	25
3:1	50
4:1	75

(Source: New York State Standards and Specifications for Erosion and Sediment Control, 2016)

Straw bale dikes require more maintenance and degrade much more rapidly. Straw bale dikes offer a more standalone practice that may be less dependent on the require staking. Staking is required for both silt fence and straw bale dikes. Both practices are required to be buried in the ground, although silt fence is required a six inch burial as opposed to a four inch burial trench for straw bale dikes. If neither application is applicable, sediment may be captured by using aproned Triangular Silt Dikes.

Installation specifications:

- Each bale shall be embedded in the soil a minimum of 4 inches.
- Bales shall be placed in a row with ends tightly abutting the adjacent bales.
- Bales shall be securely anchored in place by stakes driven through the bales. The first stake in each bale shall be driven toward the previously laid bale to force bales together.
- Inspection shall be frequent and repair or replacement shall be made promptly as needed.

Ski Trail Construction

Erosion and sediment control practices for trail construction will be conducted similarly as it has been done in previous trail construction projects with much success. ORDA staff is experienced in ski trail and lift construction including erosion control techniques. They will use the following measures to mitigate the potential impacts of trail construction.

- Limit individual disturbance areas to less or equal to 1 acre at any time.
- Tree trunks will be removed and used on site either as part of trail construction or cut up and used for firewood.
- Logs will be used on constructed trails to create cribbing to help stabilize the down gradient slope.
- Where possible, tree stumps will be cut flush to the ground to minimize the impact to the existing root systems and to allow the quick establishment of vegetation. Emphasis to minimize cutting, filling and grubbing operations on slopes over 25 percent will be made.

- Grubbed stumps will be buried within the trail as part of trail construction (filling low spots, etc.)
- Branches and tops will be chipped with chips broadcast into adjoining wooded areas. Chip piles shall not be created in wooded areas.
- Install sediment and erosion control practices.
- On constructed trails, which involved cut/fill operations, exposed earth areas will be contained by diverting clean runoff from the uphill side with water bars as much as practicable.
- Silt fence and/or chip berms on the downhill side will be utilized to filter the runoff from the raw site.
- During final grading, all water bars will be repaired in order to effectively intercept and divert water from new trails and lift areas.
- Areas where finish grade has been established will be seeded and mulched within 3 days. No areas shall be left with raw earth exposed for more than 7 days.

Lift Terminals Construction

Lift terminal construction will be located in relatively flat to low slope areas and are limited to approximately ¼ acre in size. E&SC practices include silt fence, upgradient water bars, and vegetative stabilization. RECP will be installed on the graded outruns of upper lift terminals.

Lift Line Construction

The scope of lift line construction operations is similar, but less intense, than most trail construction operations. Construction of the lift line corridors will involve:

- Cutting trees to provide a 60 feet wide area with sufficient clearance.
- Stumps are cut flush to the ground.
- Grading operations are limited to the areas immediately around lift tower footings and where vehicle access is required. In these locations E&SC practices include silt fence, upgradient water bars, and vegetative stabilization.
- Ground cover vegetation will be undisturbed to the extent possible.
- Areas requiring site disturbance will be stabilized using practices described above.
- Wooded areas which are cut will be allowed to naturally fill in with brushy type growth where no ski trails or service driveways are to be created.

Linear Utilities

Linear utilities include underground water pipe, air lines, and electric lines. Erosion from pipeline construction will be minimized by limiting the length of the open trench to 1200' for a period not to exceed 10 days. Sand or gravel bags trench plugs will be placed in sloped

trenches at a minimum of 300' intervals to slow the velocity of stormwater runoff that may enter the trench.

Areas where finish grade has been established will be seeded and mulched within 3 days. No areas shall be left with raw earth exposed for more than 7 days.

6.3.2 Geology/Topography and Slope

A. Potential Impacts

There are no unique geological features within the Gore Mountain Intensive Use Area.

The Lyman soils, either alone or in complexes with other soil series at Gore Mountain, have bedrock at or near the ground surface.

Bedrock may be encountered when constructing a portion of the dedicated shuttle lane. There is an area of Lyman-Rock Outcrop soils between parking lot E and the base lodge. It may be necessary to blast some bedrock to create the shuttle lane through this area. It is also possible that blasting may be necessary as part of some of the trail creation (upper portion of trail 11-O) or trail widening management actions. Bedrock may also be encountered when enlarging the snowmaking reservoir which could also necessitate blasting. Hermon-Lyman-Rock Outcrop soils are mapped on the north and south sides of the reservoir.

B. Discussion and Findings

Implementation of the following measures will mitigate impacts associated with any required blasting.

ORDA will employ the services of a professional, licensed and insured blasting company to perform any needed blasting. Blasters in New York State are required to possess a valid NY State Department of Labor issued Explosive License and Blaster Certificate of Competence. The Explosives License permits the licensee to purchase, own, possess or transport explosives. The Blaster Certificate of Competence permits the use of explosives.

If it is determined that blasting will be required, a written blasting plan will be developed by the blasting company and approved by ORDA prior to the commencement of blasting. In general, the blast plan will contain information about the blasting methods to be employed, measures to be taken to protect the safety of the public, and how the applicable rules and regulations will be complied with. If during the evolution of the project there are significant changes in the blast design, a new blast plan will be required.

While each blast plan is tailored to meet the specific needs of a particular project, they all contain certain elements. Typically the general information provided will include the blasting contractor; the project blaster; locations of blasting; the duration of blasting operations;

locations of offsite receptors; location of any nearby utilities; the drill hole pattern; the explosives and detonation systems to be employed; the proposed loading of the holes; the maximum weight of explosives to be detonated in any delay period; measures to be taken to minimize the offsite impacts of blasting; traffic control and warning signs; the sequence and type of blasting warning signals; location of seismographs to monitor blast induced vibrations; what, if any local permits are required; will pre-blast surveys be performed, and if so where; and other information as necessary.

In addition, prior to the commencement of blasting, a pre-blast meeting will be held with the blaster, project manager, and other interested parties.

A record of each blast will be made by the blaster, and a copy provided to and retained by the project, which contains at a minimum the following information:

- Name of the operator and/or contractor conducting the blast.
- The location, date and time of the blast.
- Name, signature and identification number of the blaster (certificate of competency number, as issued by the Department of Labor).
- Type of material to be blasted.
- Diagram of shot including number of holes, depth of holes, diameter of holes, burden, spacing, and face orientation.
- Location and distance of nearest non-company owned structure.
- A record of the shot including amount of subdrilling, decking, stemming height and type, quantity and type of explosive, quantity and type of detonator, weather conditions (including wind speed and direction), type of initiation system and all delay periods progressively, in milliseconds. A drill log reviewed and signed by the licensed blaster and company supervisor including date, time, location, shot number, number of holes, hole depth, average face height, burden, spacing, diameter and any potential problem areas such as seams, cracks, voids and water.

The following techniques and control measures will be considered in blast design to reduce ground vibration:

- Adjusting the blast hole pattern
- Reducing the pounds of explosive per delay:
 - use of smaller diameter blast holes
 - reduce bench height
 - use of decking
- Avoiding overly confined charges (e.g. excessive burden).
- Avoiding excessive subdrilling.
- Strict control over spacing and orientation of blast holes.
- Borehole deviation monitoring.
- If possible, designing the blast sequence to direct vibration away from structures of concern.

A properly designed blast will give lower vibrations per pound of explosive. Close to the blast, the ground vibration character is affected by factors of blast design and geometry, particularly charge weight per delay, delay interval, and to some extent direction of initiation, burden, and spacing.

Additionally, to reduce the public's concern regarding ground vibrations:

- Blasts will be scheduled for the same time of day whenever possible.
- Blasts will be scheduled for periods of high local activity.
- Blasts will not be scheduled for quiet periods.
- Neighbors will be notified of the blast schedule in advance.

6.3.3 Water Resources

A. Potential Impacts

Potential impacts to surface water resources as a result of soil erosion, and suitable measures that will be implemented to mitigate these potential impacts, were discussed in section 6.3.1 above.

Other Identified potential impacts to surface water were increased stormwater runoff with accompanying loadings (nutrients, dissolved solids, etc.), and exposure of disturbed soils in the snowmaking reservoir expansion area along with separating clean inflow waters from the active construction areas during reservoir excavation.

B. Discussion and Findings

Implementation of the following measures will mitigate potential impacts to surface water resources.

The new management actions included only two actions that would introduce significant amounts of new impervious surfaces that would increase stormwater runoff. These are the new groomer garage and those portions of the shuttle lane that will be outside of existing parking areas and drives. A Stormwater Management Report was prepared for these two actions (UMP/EIS Appendix 7).

Stormwater Management

The project was designed in accordance with Chapter 4 of the NYSDEC Stormwater Management Design Manual (SWMDM), and NYSDEC's General Permit GP-0-15-002 for construction activities. Stormwater calculations were performed utilizing widely accepted engineering methodologies, including TR-55, and the stormwater modeling computer program HydroCAD (version 10.00) produced by HydroCAD Software Solutions, LLC.

Under the watershed's proposed condition, all stormwater from the project will continue to discharge to the same point as in the existing condition (Analysis Points 1 & 2). The total watershed has generally remained unchanged. To meet NYSDEC requirements, a bioretention basin and wet swale have been incorporated into the stormwater management design to mitigate the quality and quantity of stormwater runoff discharged from the Project Site.

Snowmaking Reservoir Expansion

First the reservoir will be fully drained. Once the reservoir is drained a haul road stabilized outlet will be created in the southeast corner of the reservoir where remnants of a haul road currently exist. Next, a rip rap stream channel will be constructed to convey water from the main reservoir stream inlet to the outlet structure. The intent is to isolate and pass through reservoir inflow from the inlet while the reservoir is being excavated. Two 24 foot wide haul roads would then be constructed in order to remove excavated materials from the north and south ends of the reservoir. Excavation work will proceed from west to east. Once excavation is complete, the outlet valve will be closed and the reservoir will be allowed to gradually fill. This gradual filling should allow for the settling of solids that become suspended during pond refilling. Exposed soils will be mostly fine sands that will tend not to stay in suspension as compared to silts or clays.

6.3.4 Air Quality

A. Potential Impacts

No new permanent sources of air emissions are proposed as part of this UMP.

Construction activities may result in localized increases in dust levels. However, areas of proposed construction are located within the interior of the Intensive Use Areas, so no offsite areas are expected to be affected.

Many ORDA venues exist within the boundaries of State protected lands and the impact of climate change on our environment is recognized. ORDA will be a leader in environmental stewardship with consistent commitment to sustainability, responsible development practices, and continuous communication with DEC, APA, and other regulatory agencies to ensure we are taking the appropriate measures.

B. Discussion and Findings

No significant adverse impacts have been identified; therefore, no mitigative measures are necessary.

6.3.5 Vegetation

A. Potential Impacts

Tree clearing associated with the new management actions includes 9.4 acres for downhill ski trails, 9.2 acres for trail widening, 3.1 acres for ski lifts, 0.8 acres for the groomer garage, and 6.5 acres for the shuttle lane. An area around maintenance and Lifts 9A and 9B previously approved in 1995 is no longer proposed. The 7.3 acres of clearing in this area is no longer proposed.

Tree cutting data are summarized in the table that follows.

Tree Cutting by Location and Community Type

Location	Community	Action(s)	Acreage	Total Trees
Gore Mtn IUA	B (mixed hardwood)	Burnt Ridge Trail (partial)	4.2	1,565
Gore Mtn IUA	E (mixed hardwood)	Burnt Ridge Trail (partial) + Trails 11A, 1N- P	6.9	4,447
Gore Mtn IUA	Q (pioneer hardwood)	Twister Widening	1.1	415
Gore Mtn IUA	P (northern hardwood)	Various	15.4	3315

A total of 9,742 trees are proposed to be cut on lands that are currently classified as Intensive Use Area. Approximately 25% of these will be 3-4" dbh and the remainder will be >4" dbh. (Gore Mountain UMP documents, starting with Appendix 21 in the 1995 Update and Amendment, have used the 3-4" and >4" breakdown of trees to be cut.)

To put these tree cutting numbers in perspective, the total amount of lands affected in the table above is 10.2 acres in the intensive use area which totals approximately 3,755 acres. The amount of affected land is less than 1% (0.7%).

There is no tree cutting proposed above 2,800 feet in elevation or in any areas of Mountain Spruce-fir forest.

All tree cutting will be done in compliance with the DEC tree cutting policy LF-91-2.

No rare, threatened or endangered plant species will be impacted.

B. Discussion and Findings

Implementation of the following measures will mitigate potential impacts to vegetation.

Only areas absolutely necessary for construction of ski trails, ski lifts, and other proposed improvements will be cleared of vegetation. All other areas will be maintained in a natural state.

Erosion control measures will be used on cleared areas with disturbed soils to avoid affecting adjacent vegetation by erosion or siltation. Erosion-control devices to be used will include filter fabric fences and staked straw bale filters.

Upon the completion of clearing of new ski trails and ski lift corridors, they will be seeded with grass mixtures to promote rapid revegetation. Areas disturbed for any other improvements will also be landscaped and revegetated as soon as practicable.

Plants used to revegetate disturbed areas and planted as part of landscaping will be species indigenous to the region.

No clear-cutting of trees to develop panoramic views is proposed. Views will be framed or filtered by existing vegetation.

Continue to train staff working at Gore Mountain to identify and document the location of key invasive plant species.

Work toward a complete comprehensive inventory of the presence and extent of invasive plants in the unit.

Eliminate any identified populations of invasive plant species that are discovered in the unit. These actions may be carried out by DEC personnel or by members of APIPP or other volunteers under supervision of DEC through an Adopt-a-Natural Resource Agreement.

All equipment brought onto the site for earth moving, grading or excavating shall be washed off-site with high pressure hoses and hot water prior to being brought onto the site. The contractor shall provide Certifications of Washing to the SWPPP Qualified Inspector before such equipment can be used on site. The SWPPP Qualified Inspector will have the authority to refuse the off-loading of any earthwork equipment brought onto the site that they determine to be not sufficiently cleaned.

6.3.6 Wildlife/Critical Habitat

A. Potential Impacts

Adirondack Mountain summits above 2,800 feet in Clinton Essex, Franklin, Hamilton and Warren counties comprise the Adirondack Sub-alpine Forest Bird Conservation Area (BCA).

More specifically, those summits above 2,800 feet with dense subalpine coniferous forests favored by Bicknell's thrush and other neotropical bird species.

Portions of the Gore Mountain Intensive Use Area at elevations above 2,800 feet are potential Bicknell's thrush habitat. Field studies were undertaken by the Wildlife Conservation Society (Saranac Lake) in 2004 and 2005 to determine if ski trail construction on the Bear Mountain portion of the larger Gore Mountain Intensive Use Area could potentially impact Bicknell's thrush. "Surveys involving playbacks conducted in 2004 and 2005 did not detect presence of Bicknell's thrush on Gore Mountain."

An inquiry to NY Natural Heritage Program resulted in a response that identified only Bicknell's thrush as being present at Gore Mountain IUA. In the summer of 2005 Bicknell's thrush was identified in an area of spruce-fir forest located 0.25 miles northeast of the State fire tower. No management actions are proposed in this part of Gore Mountain.

No new management actions are proposed to occur above 2,800 feet in elevation. There will no impact to the Adirondack Sub Alpine Forest Bird Conservation Area.

B. Discussion and Findings

No significant adverse impacts have been identified, therefore, no mitigation measures are required.

6.4 Alternatives

The EIS considered alternative ski trails, alternative ski lifts, alternative parking/circulation, alternative appurtenances and the no-action alternative. The Applicant's preferred alternative avoids or mitigates adverse environmental impacts to the maximum extent practicable.

6.4.1 Alternative Trail Improvements

There opportunities for viable alternatives to the trail construction and trail widening proposed within the UMP Amendment were limited.

When evaluating potential trail connections that would provide an alternative intermediate route from Burnt Ridge back to the Base Area on days when Echo is closed due to ski racing, three (3) separate alternatives were considered before determining the preferred route. The first alternative considered starting the new trail from the top part of Echo on skiers left, then running it generally parallel to Echo before connecting back to Echo at the bottom where the trail turns north into the base area. This alternative was not pursued primarily due to the frequency of steep and difficult terrain. The terrain was not suitable as intermediate terrain and would have resulted in extensive construction efforts to achieve a desired grade and alignment.

The second alternative considered starting the new trail from the top part of Echo, on skier's right at the first bend, then running southeast and connecting to Twister. While the terrain in this area was suitable as intermediate terrain with appropriate construction efforts, the trail would not have been able to be open on days where ski race training was occurring on Twister, which closes Twister to the skiing public. As a result, this trail would not have provided a reliable intermediate connection from Burnt Ridge to the Base Area, and the length of new trail would've been shorter than desired, providing only a short section of new skiing terrain.

The third and preferred alternative connects from the top of Sagamore on skier's right, and continues southeast to the bottom of Echo where it turns towards the base area. This alternative was selected due to the suitability of terrain as intermediate terrain, the ability to connect to and utilize a previously approved trail (not yet constructed), that provides an option to ski back to the bottom of Burnt Ridge, the length of new skiing terrain offered by this alignment, and ability to provide the desired connection from the top of Burnt Ridge back to the base area on days when Echo is closed due to racing.

6.4.2 Alternative Lift Configurations

The expanded beginner terrain could conceivably be served by just the replacement and relocation of the Sunway Lift (lift 3) with the addition of the new lift 9B.

The relocated Sunway lift, in and by itself, could continue to serve the existing beginner terrain along with those beginner trail improvements proposed in this UMP Amendment. However, beginner skiers would still be faced with terrain that they may find too challenging. As discussed previously in this document, skiers that offload at the top of the Sunway Lift, even though it is being relocated primarily for skier safety reasons, need to begin skiing on more challenging (steeper) terrain than what is present lower on the Sunway trails.

By providing the new Lift 9B which offloads lower on the mountain, the beginning skier has the option of choosing this lift as the first one they ride, as opposed to using the Sunway lift. By using Lift 9B and skiing the easier terrain on Lower Sunway, beginning skiers can then gain confidence and experience that they may otherwise need to ski the terrain served by the higher up Sunway Lift.

6.4.3 Alternative Parking/Circulation Improvements

An alternative to the currently proposed shuttle system was proposed in the 2005. The currently proposed shuttle route involves less construction in currently wooded areas and would be less impacting than the alternative proposed in 2005. The 2005 alternative include more "overland" travel between the parking lots and the base lodge than what is currently proposed. The current alternative more closely follows the existing access roads and perimeters of the existing parking lots.

6.4.4 Alternative Appurtenances

The primary new management action appurtenances in this UMP Amendment are the relocated groomer garage and an expanded snowmaking reservoir.

Groomer Garage

The alternative of locating the new garage to the east and downhill of the existing work road, which would place it slightly closer to the existing maintenance complex, was examined. Field study showed that there are wetlands and some surface waters south of the work road which make this alternative location undesirable.

The alternative of locating the groomer garage a little more to the south was also examined in the field. This area has slightly steeper and irregular topography in comparison to the proposed location. This would likely result in a greater area of site disturbance in order to construct the garage. This alternative location would also increase the overall footprint of the maintenance complex which would result in a slight decrease in operational efficiency.

Snowmaking Reservoir

UMP Figures 34 through 39 illustrated the options (alternatives) that were evaluated. Each alternative is described below.

The existing snowmaking reservoir covers approximately 5.2 acres with approximately 19 Mgal of storage.

Alternative 1 involved maintaining the existing 5.2 acre foot print and grading the reservoir sideslopes to all be 3:1. This would increase the storage capacity by 4.5 Mgal to 23.5 Mgal.

Alternative 2 involved the 3:1 slopes from Alternative 1 and expanding the pond to the west in the area of the primary inlet. This would be the one of most “constructable” alternatives. This expansion would have increased the reservoir surface by approximately 2.6 acres and added an additional storage volume of 15.3 Mgal for a total reservoir volume of 38.8 Mgal, close to the desired 40 Mgal. However, this alternative would require some extensive material alteration to the wetlands delineated around the reservoir.

Alternative 3 was a variation on Alternative 2 and would have involved additional expansion in the southwest corner of the reservoir. This alternative would provide to 40.8 Mgal of storage, but would continue to require material alteration of wetlands.

Alternative 4 was another variation on Alternative 2 and would have involved additional expansion in the northwest portion of the reservoir. The results would have been a storage capacity of 39.6 Mgal and material alteration of wetlands.

Alternative 5 was a variation of Alternative 2 that only involved the expansion on the northwest corner of the reservoir. Storage volume would be 33.3 Mgal, it would avoid the wetlands in the

main inlet area, but there are wetlands separate from and to the south of the reservoir that would be affected.

Alternative 6 was a variation on Alternatives 1, 3 and 4. Under this alternative the storage volume would be increased to 30.1 Mgal and material alteration of wetlands is avoided.

6.4.5 The No-Action Alternative

If the no-action alternative were pursued, none of the new management actions proposed in this UMP Amendment would be given consideration. Any management actions approved in earlier adopted UMPs, but not yet constructed/implemented, could remain in effect and can continue to be implemented.

The no-action alternative could mean that the following goals set by ORDA for Gore Mountain may not be attainable:

- Gore Mountain will seek to modernize facilities at Gore in order to enhance the guest experience, improve skier safety, and increase local and regional economic benefits, while maintaining environmental quality.
- Gore Mountain will seek to increase the capacity of the ski area in concert with other modernization objectives in order to provide a higher quality skiing experience.
- Gore Mountain will seek to improve its economic return by making the mountain more attractive to skiers, and thus increasing ticket sales.
- Gore Mountain will seek to improve skier safety and enjoyment by widening certain trails and improving certain trail intersections.
- Gore Mountain will seek to improve trail selection and create a better balance among trails in order to appeal to a greater cross-section of the skiing market by increasing the number of trails for the beginning and advanced skier.
- Gore Mountain will seek to develop new summer and fall usage of the Ski Center to provide greater year-round use of the facility by the public, consistent with Article 14 and the APSLMP.
- Gore Mountain will implement a capital improvements program to achieve the above objectives.
- Gore Mountain will seek to improve infrastructure reliability in order to reduce the high frequency of breakdown, excessive staffing requirements and consequent financial drain.

- Gore Mountain will seek to reduce its operations and maintenance costs by replacing outdated and aged equipment.

6.5 Growth Inducing, Cumulative and Secondary Impacts

The UMP/GEIS evaluated the effects of the proposed ski area improvements as they relate to the potential for such improvements to stimulate secondary impacts including an increase in local population, demand for support facilities and commercial and residential development. These secondary impacts would occur if the economic stimuli from the project generated economic activity that would result in significant growth in local populations, labor pools or demands on local services which is not expected to occur.

While the economic effect of the proposed management actions is expected to be positive, growth-inducing and secondary impacts are expected to be minimal. The proposed management actions are not geared towards significantly increasing attendance at Gore Mountain. Instead, the proposed improvements are aimed retaining existing skiers and at enhancing beginner facilities to introduce more people to skiing and snowboarding and hopefully recruiting new future participants in the sports at Gore Mountain. Other improvements are geared to improving existing guest services and improving mountain operations which are not necessarily intended to cause significant increases in attendance. Spending in the local community by an increased number of patrons will provide a positive economic stimulus, but since most of the skiers will be day-visitors, the level of spending would not result in the increase in local business that occurred after the major expansion from the activities included in the 1995 UMP Amendment.

The proposed project may have some minor influence on the second home market in the nearby towns. The improvements at the Ski Center may improve the desirability of second homes in the area. This increase in desirability may translate to a slight increase in demand for, and price of, vacation homes in the area. However, this increase in demand is expected to be very minor because the Ski Center has already been in operation for many years and the incremental change in recreational facilities as a result of this project will be relatively small.

ORDA is currently proposing simultaneous improvements on Town of Johnsburg owned lands at the North Creek Ski Bowl, outside of the Intensive Use Area. Because these actions are not within the Intensive Use Area, they were not evaluated within the UMP Amendment proper. Instead, these actions were subject to APA review under section 814 of the Adirondack Park Agency Act and also subject to review under SEQRA. In order to make the requisite assessment of cumulative impacts, the UMP Amendment/GEIS was accompanied by two companion documents which were referred to as Part B and Part C (Part A being the UMP/GEIS proper). Part B was the Notice of Intent to the APA required under section 814 APA Act, including accompanying SEQRA documentation. Part C was the cumulative impact assessment of the actions proposed within the Intensive Use Area and the actions proposed at the Ski Bowl. The following are the findings from the Part C evaluation of potential cumulative impacts.

Impact on Land

The new management actions proposed at Gore Mountain Ski Center will; (1) involve construction on slopes that are greater than 15%, (2) will occur in some areas with shallow depth to bedrock, (3) will require removal of more than 1,000 tons of material for the enlargement of the snowmaking reservoir, (4) will likely involve construction that continues for more than one year or in multiple phases, and (5) have the potential to result in increased erosion. See Part A, Sections II.A, IV.A and V.A.

The proposed construction activities at the Ski Bowl will similarly involve construction on slopes greater than 15% and may result in increased erosion. See Part B, Section 2.E.2.

The Draft UMP contain extensive mitigation measures to prevent erosion (Part A, Section V.A.2). Specific measures are provided for activities such as ski trail construction, lift line construction, and utility installations. These measures will be included in stormwater pollution prevention plans (SWPPPs) that will be developed for different construction projects. The NOI for Ski Bowl contains a full SWPPP covering all proposed actions. Suitable measures have been developed to mitigate potential impacts at both locations which will mitigate the potential for cumulative impacts.

Impact on Geological Features

Gore Mountain, including the nearby former Barton Mine, is considered a unique geological feature (Part A, Sections II.A.1.a and V.A.1).

There are no geological features at the Ski Bowl (Part B, Section 2.E.9).

There is no potential for cumulative impacts on geological features.

Impact on Surface Water

Both Gore Mountain and the Ski Bowl are in the North Creek/Upper Hudson watershed.

The primary potential cumulative impact to surface waters is sedimentation from eroded soils. See "Impact on Land" above.

Another potential cumulative impact to surface water is increased hydrologic and contaminant loading from stormwater runoff. See "Impact on Flooding" below regarding potential increases in hydrologic loading. For contaminant loading, the proposed stormwater management practices at Ski Bowl will infiltrate 100% of the water quality volume (WQv) (See Part B, Section 7). Stormwater practices at Gore Mountain, including pollutant removal, have also been designed in accordance with the NYS Stormwater Management Design Manual (See Part A, Appendix 7).

These measures proposed at the two locations will mitigate potential cumulative impacts.

Impact on Groundwater

A new underground diesel fuel tank is proposed near the new groomer garage at Gore Mountain (Part A, Appendix 1).

At the Ski Bowl, no storage of materials that could potentially contaminate groundwater is proposed.

Gore Mountain's potable water is supplied by on-site wells. Peak demands for potable water are not expected to increase significantly as a result of the proposed new management actions.

Ski Bowl is served by municipal water.

No cumulative impacts are anticipated.

Impact on Flooding

Stormwater management practices have been designed to attenuate increases in runoff as a result of the introduction of new impervious surfaces at both locations (See Part A, Appendix 7 and Part B, Section 7) These practices have been designed to reduce stormwater runoff rates to levels that are the same or lower than the rates under existing conditions.

No cumulative impacts are anticipated.

Impact on Air

There will be no new significant sources of air emissions at either location during operations (See Part A, Section V.A.6 and Part B Section 2.E.3).

During construction of proposed management actions on the intensive use area, it is anticipated that dust will be generated in the immediate areas of construction activities which are interior to the site and not near boundaries with adjoining properties. It is not expected that any fugitive dust will occur in the area of the Ski Bowl, so no cumulative impacts are anticipated.

Impact on Plants and Animals

A total of 9,742 trees are proposed to be cut on lands that are currently classified as Intensive Use Area. Approximately 25% of these will be 3-4" dbh and the remainder will be >4" dbh. The total area where trees will be cut is less than 1% of the overall intensive use area. There is no tree cutting proposed above 2,800 feet in elevation or in any areas of Mountain Spruce-fir

forest. All tree cutting will be done in compliance with Article XIV and the DEC tree cutting policy LF-91-2. No rare, threatened or endangered plant species will be impacted. (See Part A, Section V.B.1 and Appendix 8)

Limited tree clearing within the Town Park will be required for the proposed development. Approximately 8.6 acres total will be affected. No rare, threatened or endangered plant species will be impacted.

No rare, threatened, endangered or special concern wildlife species will be impacted at either location.

Bicknell's thrush habitat exists at Gore Mountain at elevations above 2,800 feet. No activities are proposed in Bicknell's thrush habitat (See Part A, Section V.B.2).

No cumulative impacts are anticipated.

Impact on Agricultural Resources

There are no agricultural resources on Gore Mountain or at Ski Bowl Park, so no such resources will be impacted.

Impact on Aesthetic Resources

The Draft UMP describes how the proposed management actions at Gore Mountain are proposed at low elevations on the mountain that are not visible from off-site (Part A, Section V.C.1)

There will be some off-site views into the proposed development at the Ski Bowl, primarily the upper portion of the zip coaster. But these views include existing lifts and trails (See Part B, Sections 2.E.7 and 8).

Ski area development on Gore Mountain Intensive Use Area is generally on southeast facing slopes while the Ski Bowl is situated on an east-northeast facing slope. There are no locations from which the proposed management actions on the intensive use area and at Ski Bowl will both be visible.

Impact on Historic and Archeological Resources

NYSOPRHP has issued correspondence that no historic or cultural resources will be impacted on Gore Mountain or at Ski Bowl Park. Copies of these letters can be found in in the Gore Mountain Draft UMP (Part A, Appendix 3) and the Ski Bowl NOI (Part B, Section 8).

Impact on Open Space and Recreation

The amount of open space will remain the same at both locations and may increase in the future.

A potential land reclassification involving the Gore Mountain Intensive Use Area, Vanderwhacker Mountain Wild Forest and Siamese Pond Wilderness Area is suggested discussed in the Draft UMP (Part A, Section IV.A.8). The actual reclassification cannot be authorized by the adoption of the Gore Mountain UMP however.

At Ski Bowl, an adjoining landowner has been approved to subdivide 3.8 acres of land and provide these lands to the Town as an addition to the Ski Bowl.

Recreational opportunities could be enhanced at both locations with the implementation of the proposed actions. This will result in a positive cumulative impact.

Impact on Critical Environmental Areas

No critical environmental areas will be impacted at either location.

Critical habitat for Bicknell's thrush in the in the intensive use area is discussed in Draft UMP (Part A, Sections II.A.2.b and V.B.2). No such habitat exists at the Ski Bowl.

Impact on Transportation

It is expected that there will be a slight increase in ski season peak hour traffic as a result of the actions in the Draft UMP (Part A, Section V.C.2).

Traffic increase at Ski Bowl as a result of the new development will be the highest from June through October.

No significant cumulative impacts are expected because the increases in trip generation will mostly be happening in different seasons.

Impact on Energy

Gore is contracting two 25-year solar power purchase agreements, which combine into a massive 5.325 MW system. Using remote net metering, 85% of Gore's electrical needs is being offset. See Part A, Section X.

Under the terms of its Agreement with Johnsbury, ORDA will be responsible for all operating costs, including utility costs at the Ski Bowl. See Part B, Section 4.

An incremental increase in the use of energy is expected as a result of the two actions, but the cumulative increase is not anticipated to be significant.

Impact on Noise, Odor and Light

There are no actions proposed at Gore Mountain or at the Ski Bowl that will be significant sources of noise or odors.

Increased lighting is proposed at the Ski Bowl in proximity to the currently lighted areas of nordic and downhill skiing. Gore Mountain does not have night operations, with the exception of trail grooming that doesn't involve separate lighting, so there is not potential for cumulative impacts from light.

Impact on Human Health

Neither action will impact human health. See Part A, Appendix 1 and Part B, Section 5.

Consistency with Community Plans

The actions in the 2018 UMP Amendment are consistent with local planning documents including the 2005 Johnsbury Comprehensive Plan, the 2007 Town of Johnsbury Zoning Law/LLUP and the North Creek Action Plan that serve to guide community planning. See Part A, Sections II.B.3 and V.C.4.

The Ski Bowl actions are consistent with the Community's Plans as evidenced by the 20-year agreement entered into by the Town with ORDA.

There will be no adverse cumulative impacts.

Consistency with Community Character

North Creek's community character has been that of outdoor recreation since the "ski trains" began bringing skiers to the area in the 1930's.

It is still the community's desire to be known for its recreation, as evidenced from this statement from the Town's 2017 20-year Ski Bowl operating agreement with ORDA, "ORDA will add a feature to its website that portrays the Town Johnsbury as an authentic ski town."

Proposed activities at both Gore Mountain and Ski Bowl Park enhance this community character and will produce positive cumulative impacts.

6.6 Social, Economic and Other Essential Considerations

In reaching a decision whether to approve, approve with conditions, or deny, applications for an action which is the subject of an EIS, each involved agency is required to weigh and balance the public need and other social, economic and environmental benefits of the project against identified environmental harm. Thus, for an agency to approve an action with potential to create significant environmental damage, or to adversely affect important environmental resources, the agency must be able to conclude that the action which the agency will approve, including any conditions attached to that approval, avoids or minimizes anticipated impacts to the maximum extent practicable, or that public needs and benefits outweigh the identified environmental harm. Environmental factors are not the sole consideration in agency decision-making where an EIS has been prepared. The purpose of SEQR is to ensure that the environmental impacts of an action are weighed and balanced with social, economic and other considerations so that a suitable balance of social, economic and environmental factors may be incorporated in the planning and decision-making processes of state, regional and local agencies.

From social and economic standpoints, the proposed 2018 UMP Amendment is consistent with the goals and objectives set forth in Local Land Use Plans, the APSLMP and previous Gore Mountain UMPs.

Local Land Use Plans

The actions in the 2018 UMP Amendment are consistent with local planning documents including the 2005 Johnsbury Comprehensive Plan and the 2007 Town of Johnsbury Zoning Law/LLUP that serve to guide community planning. Both documents seek to forge stronger links between the Gore Mountain Ski Resort, the North Creek Ski Bowl, and the hamlet of North Creek, all of which are goals of Gore Mountain, ORDA and the 2018 UMP Amendment.

The UMP Amendment contains specific actions designed to encourage skiers to use both ski areas thereby increasing the overall number of skiers at both Gore Mountain and the Ski Bowl. ORDA has cooperated with North Creek in developing hiking, cross-country ski and mountain bike trails with the goal of connecting Ski Bowl Park and Gore Mountain lands.

The actions on State lands authorized by the UMP Amendment will not have any effects on adjoining or nearby private lands inconsistent with local land use controls such as the Johnsbury Zoning Law and the North Creek Action Plan that serve to guide community planning.

APSLMP

It is stated in Section I of the APSLMP that “In accordance with statutory mandate, all [unit management] plans will conform to the guidelines and criteria set forth in the master plan”

The following is from the Intensive Use Area portion of Section 2 of the APSLMP and includes descriptions of how the 2018 UMP Amendment conforms to the stated guidelines.

Guidelines for Management and Use

Basic Guidelines

1. *The primary management guideline for Intensive Use Areas will be to provide the public opportunities for family group camping, developed swimming and boating, downhill skiing, cross country skiing under competitive or developed conditions on improved cross country ski trails, visitor information and similar outdoor recreational pursuits in a setting and on a scale that are in harmony with the relatively wild and undeveloped character of the Adirondack Park.*

The Gore Mountain Intensive Use Area will continue to provide opportunities for downhill skiing, cross-country skiing and similar outdoor recreational pursuits.

There are no new management actions in the 2018 UMP Amendment that change the current setting or scale of the facilities at Gore Mountain. One ski lift will be slightly relocated and replaced while another lift will be added in the same general area to provide better service on the beginner ski terrain low on the mountain. Selective trail widening will occur on the trails served by these lifts. A single new ski trail is proposed to be constructed in between existing ski trails in order to provide a connection between Burnt Ridge and the Base Area during those times when the Echo trail is being used for ski racing and is not available for public use. Selective trail widening on the Twister trail is limited in nature and is intended to provide a more uniform trail width along its length.

2. *All intensive use facilities should be located, designed and managed so as to blend with the Adirondack environment and to have the minimum adverse impact possible on surrounding state lands and nearby private holdings. They will not be situated where they will aggravate problems on lands already subject to or threatened by overuse, such as the eastern portion of the High Peaks Wilderness, the Pharaoh Lake Wilderness or the St. Regis Canoe Area or where they will have a negative impact on competing private facilities. Such facilities will be adjacent to or serviceable from existing public road systems or water bodies open to motorboat use within the Park.*

All the new management actions proposed in the 2018 UMP Amendment are located low on the mountain where they will not cause a visual impact (see UMP section V.C.I). All actions are located in the interior of the Intensive Use Area removed from adjoining State and private lands. This UMP amendment is not proposing any significant enlargement of the ski area, so there is no potential for adversely affecting lands subject or threatened by overuse or competing private facilities.

3. *Construction and development activities in Intensive Use Areas will:*

-- avoid material alteration of wetlands;

Impacts to wetlands have been avoided (see UMP section V.A.5).

-- minimize extensive topographic alterations;

No extensive topographic alterations are proposed (see UMP section V.A.3).

-- limit vegetative clearing;

Vegetative clearing has been limited and it is well within the limits established by Article 14 of the NYS Constitution (see UMP section V.B.1 and Appendix 5).

and,

-- preserve the scenic, natural and open space resources of the Intensive Use Area.

See items 1 and 2 above.

4. *Day use areas will not provide for overnight camping or other overnight accommodations for the public.*

No overnight accommodations, camping or otherwise, are proposed.

5. *Priority should be given to the rehabilitation and modernization of existing Intensive Use Areas and the complete development of partially developed existing Intensive Use Areas before the construction of new facilities is considered.*

The actions contained in this UMP amendment are for the improvement and modernization of the existing Gore Mountain Intensive Use Area.

6. *Additions to the intensive use category should come either from new acquisitions or from the reclassification of appropriate wild forest areas, and only in exceptional circumstances from wilderness, primitive or canoe areas.*

This UMP amendment suggests land reclassification that would include an addition to the Intensive Use Area from the Vanderwhacker Mountain Wild Forest and an addition to the Siamese Ponds Wilderness Area from the Intensive Use Area (see UMP section IV.8).

7. *Any request for classification of a new acquisition or reclassification of existing lands from another land use category to an Intensive Use Area will be accompanied by a draft unit management plan for the proposed Intensive Use Area that will demonstrate how the applicable guidelines will be respected.*

These same ten Intensive Use Area guidelines from the APSLMP will be examined for the lands requested for reclassification (see UMP section IV.8).

8. *No new structures or improvements at any Intensive Use Area will be constructed except in conformity with a final adopted unit management plan for such area. This guideline*

will not prevent the ordinary maintenance, rehabilitation or minor relocation of conforming structures or improvements.

None of the new management actions contained in the 2018 UMP amendment will be constructed unless and until they are included in the final UMP amendment adopted by NYSDEC.

9. *Since the concentrations of visitors at certain intensive use facilities often pose a threat of water pollution, the state should set an example for the private sector by installing modern sewage treatment systems with the objective of maintaining high water quality. Standards for the state should in no case be less than those for the private sector and in all cases any pit privy, leach field or seepage pit will be at least 150 feet from the mean high water mark of any lake, pond, river or stream.*

No in-ground wastewater treatment is proposed.

10. *Any new, reconstructed or relocated buildings or structures located on shorelines of lakes, ponds, rivers or major streams, other than docks, primitive tent sites not a part of a campground (which will be governed by the general guidelines for such sites set forth elsewhere in this master plan) boat launching sites, fishing and waterway access sites, boathouses, and similar water related facilities, will be set back a minimum of 150 feet from the mean high water mark and will be located so as to be reasonably screened from the water body to avoid intruding on the natural character of the shoreline and the public enjoyment and use thereof.*

No new buildings or structures are proposed anywhere near any shorelines.

UMP Goals

ORDA's central management goal and management philosophy as stated in the 1987 UMP:

"The Olympic Regional Development Authority will continue to provide a safe, quality, recreational experience to the public and promote both local and regional economic benefits through its responsibility to manage and operate the Gore Mountain Ski Center to the highest standard."

ORDA's goals and management philosophy have evolved since its inception following the 1980 Olympic Games. Originally created as a management organization with a priority of providing a safe, quality, recreational experience, ORDA has expanded its operational philosophy to encompass business strategies that are similar to leaders in the ski resort and sports industry. It is recognized that ORDA's unique portfolio of assets have an ability to positively impact the economies in which it operates. In addition, ORDA's sporting events, attractions, and training facilities enhance people's lives.

Today, ORDA continues to build on the foundation of its mission and is deploying a philosophy that will allow the organization to be sustainable long into the future. This will be accomplished through strategic planning and open communication both internally and externally with all constituents. The business priorities are organized into three categories:

- 1.) Revenue Growth and Opportunities
- 2.) Capital Projects and Development
- 3.) Organizational Excellence

Within each of these categories, ORDA's centralized team works with management teams to develop strategic business plans for each venue that are in line with ORDA's goals and objectives.

Revenue Growth and Opportunities

Each year, management teams evaluate short term and long term concepts to increase revenue. Additionally, they explore opportunities in hosting major events, creating new partnerships that amplify ORDA's offerings, and overall, provide guests with the best experience. ORDA measures success through end of the year evaluations in specific revenue segments, visitation numbers, event profit and loss statements, and NPS (Net Promoter Score). (NPS is system utilized by leading resort operators in the industry and has been directly correlated with the ability to increase visitation and revenue.)

- a. Gore Mountain will seek to modernize facilities at Gore in order to enhance the guest experience, improve skier safety, and increase local and regional economic benefits, while maintaining environmental quality.
- b. Gore Mountain will seek to develop new summer and fall usage of the Ski Center to provide greater year-round use of the facility by the public, consistent with Article 14 and the APSLMP.
- c. Gore Mountain will work closely with the North Creek community and Town of Johnsbury to provide information to visitors about the area and to cooperate in the establishment of a shuttle link between the Ski Center and North Creek and a physical ski link to Ski Bowl Park in order that public use may better help promote the economy of the area.

Capital Projects and Environment

Capital projects will be initiated through management and in line with ORDA's strategic plans. General priorities include refurbishment of outdated structures for safety, development or improvement of attractions or infrastructure that enhance the guest experience or allows ORDA to increase visitation and revenue.

Many ORDA venues exist within the boundaries of State protected lands and the impact of climate change on our environment is recognized. ORDA will be a leader in environmental stewardship with consistent commitment to sustainability, responsible development practices, and continuous communication with DEC, APA, and other regulatory agencies to ensure we are taking the appropriate measures.

- a. Gore Mountain Ski Center is a participator in Sustainable Slopes, which is the environmental charter for ski areas compiled by the National Ski Areas Association. Ski areas provide a quality outdoor recreation experience in a manner that complements the natural and aesthetic qualities that draws skiers to the mountains. Gore Mountain Ski Center is committed to improving environmental performance in all aspects of its operations and managing the area to allow for continued enjoyment by future generations.
- b. Gore Mountain will seek to increase the capacity of the ski area in concert with other modernization objectives in order to provide a higher quality skiing experience.
- c. Gore Mountain will implement a capital improvements program to achieve the above objectives. Specific elements are discussed in Section IV below.

Organizational Excellence

ORDA will strive for organizational excellence in every facet of its operation. From financial management, team building, communication, education, strategic planning, to overall safety, organizational excellence is a vision where every employee focuses on ways to improve or positively influence our operations.

- a. Gore Mountain management will seek to establish annual budgets and schedules in support of the proposed capital improvements plan and other management objectives.
- b. Gore Mountain will seek to improve infrastructure reliability in order to reduce the high frequency of breakdown, excessive staffing requirements and consequent financial drain.
- c. Gore Mountain will seek to reduce its operations and maintenance costs by replacing outdated and aged equipment.
- d. Gore Mountain will seek to improve its economic return by making the mountain more attractive to skiers, and thus increasing ticket sales.
- e. Gore Mountain will seek to improve skier safety and enjoyment by widening certain trails and improving certain trail intersections.

f. Gore Mountain will seek to improve trail selection and create a better balance among trails in order to appeal to a greater cross-section of the skiing market by increasing the number of trails for the beginning and advanced skier.

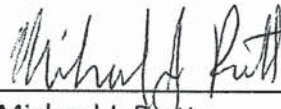
g. Gore Mountain will continue to develop informational and interpretive graphics and displays which will educate the ski center's users to the historical, cultural and environmental conditions in the North Creek area as well as the Adirondack Park in general.

7.0 Certification to Approve

Having considered the Draft and Final EIS and having considered the preceding written facts and conclusions relied upon to meet the requirements of 6 NYCRR 617.11, this Statement of Findings certifies that:

1. The requirements of State Environmental Quality Review (6 NYCRR Part 617) have been met, and;
2. Consistent with social, economic and other essential considerations from among the reasonable alternatives available, the action approved (Final EIS Master Plan) is one which avoids or minimizes adverse environmental impacts to the maximum extent practicable, and that adverse environmental impacts will be avoided or minimized to the maximum extent practicable by incorporating as conditions to the decision those mitigative measure (as set out above) that were identified as practicable.

Dated: May 7, 2018
Lake Placid, NY



Michael J. Pratt
President & CEO
NYS Olympic Regional Development Authority

Appendix A – Lists of Documents Reviewed

Gore Mountain 2018 Amendment to the 2002 Unit Management Plan and Final Generic Environmental Impact Statement

Part B Notice of Intent Submitted Under 814 of the Adirondack Park agency Act for Proposed Development at Town of Johnsburg Ski Bowl Park

Part C Cumulative Impact Analysis for 2018 Amendment to the 2002 Gore Mountain Unit Management Plan and ORDA Development at Town of Johnsburg Ski Bowl Park

1987 Gore Mountain Unit Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement

1995 Gore Mountain Unit Management Plan Update and Amendment and GEIS

2002 Gore Mountain Supplemental Unit Management Plan and GEIS

2005 Gore Mountain Unit Management Plan Amendment and GEIS

2013 ORDA/NYSDEC Consolidation Agreement

Article XIV NYS Constitution

Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan (2016)

2016 Vanderwhacker Wild Forest Unit Management Plan Amendment

2005 Vanderwhacker Wild Forest Unit Management Plan

2005 Town of Johnsburg Comprehensive Plan

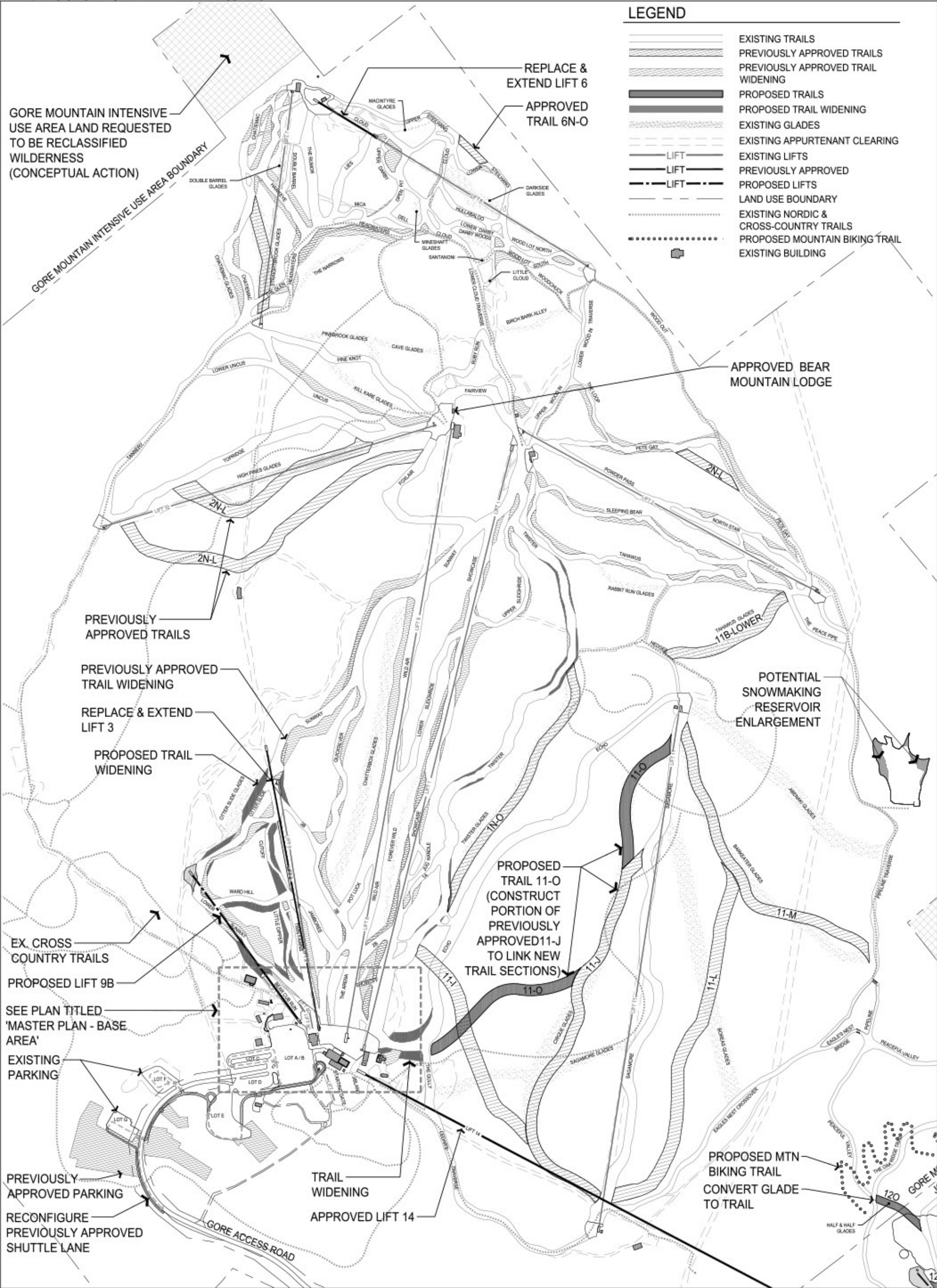
2007 Town of Johnsburg Zoning Law

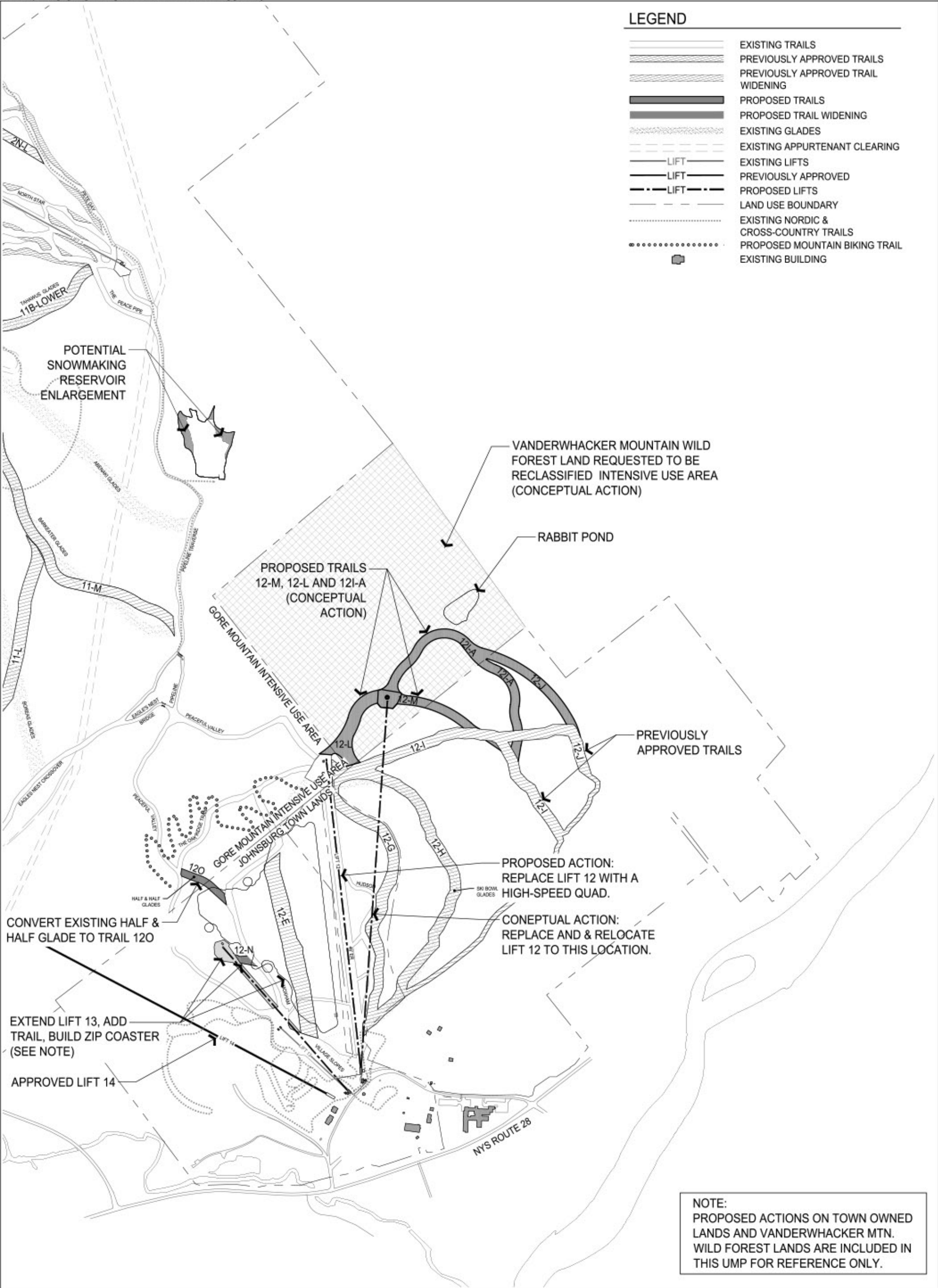
Appendix B - SEQR Process Timeline

December 8, 2017 – ORDA submits Preliminary Draft UMP/DGEIS to DEC and APA
January 3, 2018 – ORDA accepts DGEIS as complete for public review
January 10, 2018 – ENB Notice of DGEIS acceptance and establishment of public comment period
January 10 – February 9, 2018 – SEQR public comment period
January 11, 2018 – Public Draft UMP/DGEIS presented to APA Board
January 24, 2018 – SEQR public hearing
February 26, 2018 – Proposed Final UMP/FEIS filed
March 8, 2018 – Proposed Final UMP/FGEIS presented to APA Board
April 25, 2018 – UMP/FGEIS accepted by ORDA, ENB Publication of FEIS Acceptance

Appendix C – 2018 Master Plan

(see the following pages)





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OLYMPIC REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Olympic Regional Development Authority
2634 Main Street
Lake Placid, New York 12946

GORE MOUNTAIN
Project Title:
Gore Mountain: 2018 Unit Management Plan Amendment & Final Generic Environmental Impact Statement

Drawing Title:
2018 Master Plan - Approved and Proposed Actions (North)
Scale:
1"=1000'
Design:
Drawn:
Checked:
Project No.:
2015037

0 200 500 1000
SCALE: 1" = 1000 AT 11x17

Date: Apr. 26, 2018
Scale: 1"=1000'
Design: M/T
Drawn: KMK
Checked: KJP
Project No.: 2015037
Drawing No.:
Figure ES-2