



Department of
Environmental
Conservation

Division of Lands & Forests

Bureau of State Land Management

**ADDENDUM TO THE
HEMLOCK-CANADICE
UNIT MANAGEMENT PLAN
Public Comments Received
Final**

Livingston County towns of Livonia, Conesus and Springwater
Ontario County towns of Richmond and Canadice

January 2015

NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
Region 8 Sub-Office
7291 Coon Rd.
Bath, New York 14810

NYS Department of Environmental Conservation's Mission

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

PREFACE

It is the policy of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC) to manage state lands for multiple benefits to serve the people of New York State. This Unit Management Plan (UMP) is the first step in carrying out that policy. The plan has been developed to address management activities on this unit for the next 10 year period. Some management recommendations may extend beyond the 10 year period.

Factors such as budget constraints, wood product markets, and forest health problems may necessitate deviations from the scheduled management activities.

Green Certification

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

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

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

State Forests continue to maintain certification under the most current FSC and SFI standards. Forest products derived from wood harvested off State Forests from this point forward may now be labeled as

“certified” through chain-of-custody certificates. Forest certified labeling on wood products may assure consumers that the raw material was harvested from well-managed forests.

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



The mark of
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The Unit Management Planning Process

New York State’s management policy for public lands follows a multiple use concept established by New York’s Environmental Conservation Law. This allows for diverse enjoyment of state lands by the people of the state. Multiple use management addresses all demands placed on these lands, such as: watershed management, timber management, wildlife management, mineral resource management, rare plant and community protection, recreational use, taxes paid, and aesthetic appreciation.

In this plan, an initial resource inventory and other information is provided, followed by an assessment of existing and anticipated uses and demands. This information is used to set goals and management objectives. Management actions tables provide an estimated cost and timetable for accomplishing these objectives.

Prepared by the Hemlock-Canadice Unit Management Planning Team:

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City of Rochester Committee Members:

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Acknowledgments

The Hemlock-Canadice Unit Management Planning Team would like to gratefully acknowledge the efforts of all those who contributed to this plan. We particularly would like to thank the following people for information and review they provided:

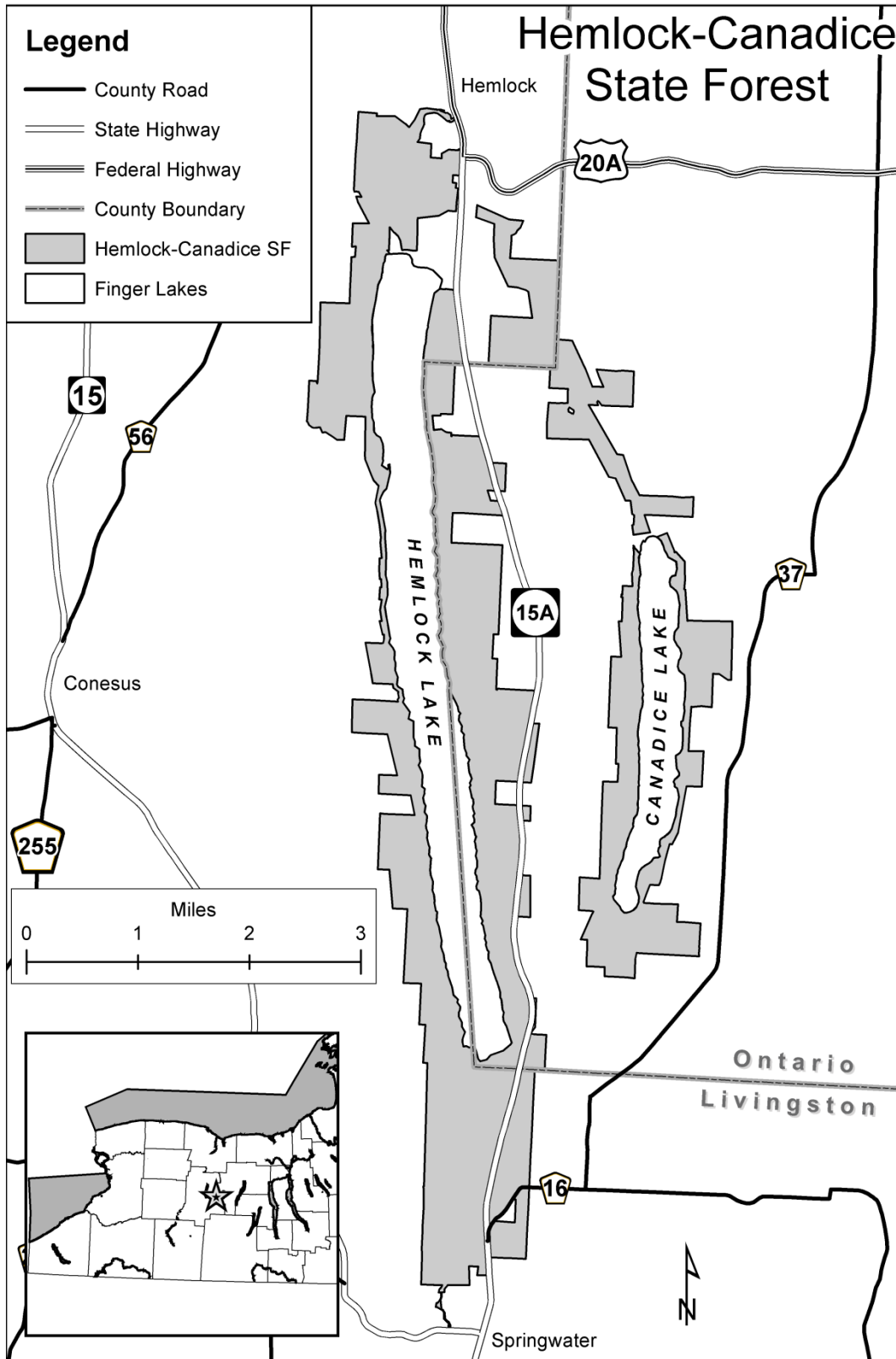
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HEMLOCK-CANADICE UNIT LOCATION MAP



Additional maps are in Appendix M: Maps, of the Hemlock-Canadice Unit Management Plan.

Hemlock-Canadice Unit Management Plan Public Comments – Scoping Public Meeting and Mailing

The following Hemlock-Canadice Unit Management Plan public comments were received as a result of a scoping meeting held **October 26, 2010** at the Springwater Firehall, Springwater, NY. A letter announcing the meeting, and asking for comments, was mailed on **September 28, 2010** to a previously identified audience including adjacent property owners, local government officials, recreational groups, forest industry groups, wildlife groups and other general environmental groups and the local media. A total of 131 people signed in at the meeting, and 97 written comments were received.

Mailed Comments Received

I like the way the area is now. I would like to see more enforcement of the current rules. I mainly fish Canadice and there seems to be large fishing parties. It is not difficult to find campfires, beer bottles, even dirty diapers, plastic bottles, empty cans, etc. It would be nice to have a second boat launch on Canadice Lake. It would be nice to stock both lakes more. Two sides of our twelve acres border the state land. It would be nice (and I don't know how you can do it) if the shotgun deer hunters would be more respectful of private, posted property.

P.S. Bow hunters, turkey hunters, etc. are very respectful.

-Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Ulrich

- Manage property for wildlife/ hunting
- Lease land for maple syrup production
- Use good silvicultural technique
- Maintain no swimming regulations
- Improve trails: Allow fishing, 4 wheel and snowmobile travel

-James Simpson

- Wildlife habitat preservation should take precedence over hunting/fishing demands
- Continued free use with permit
- Invasive plant control

-Keith and Amanda Hatch

- Poor timing for public input, during hunting season
- Our group would like to see Ecosystem Management style used, promoting deer herd, keeping in mind carrying capacity, and age structure of males/females. This can be accomplished with the use of an antler restriction to help protect yearling bucks, also helps with achieving better doe harvest. This results in better control of deer harvested, happier hunters, and healthier ecosystem.

-John Rybinski, C/o Quality Deer Management Assoc.

Hill and Valley Riders, Inc. have already been working with the NYSDEC on an existing trail that leads into Hemlock by the Hemlock Sportsman Club, across rt-15 and into Hemlock. I would like to see further development of snowmobile trails and cross country skiing trails. Limited timber harvest would be ok too. Clear and re-open old lake roads (West Lake road on Canadice).

-Scott Wohschlegal

Limited access to area north of Canadice Lake. Hunting restrictions and awareness of houses bordering now state land. Animal and bird sanctuary north of Canadice Lake.

-Thomas Giancursio

I'd like to see the access roads of the lakes to be added to the snowmobile trails currently maintained by the Honeoye Snowmobile Club.

-Eric Patterson

- Allow 4 wheelers ONLY to retrieve deer
- Allow boats to remain chained and locked
- Allow snowmobiles on property
- Stock more fish in both lakes

-Carl Fisher

I understand NYS will continue to pay the taxes to Livonia, Conesus, and other towns on the acreage now in their ownership. Please continue this!

-William Brown

- Public access and gas leasing could cause controversy
- I would be interested in the final draft (UMP)

-Maynard Kernahan

- Keep all rules and regulations the same as with City or Rochester Watershed
- Patrol the property on occasion to keep violators at bay.

-Charles Maser

Canadice Lake outlet, north end, is very narrow, enclosed on both sides by a steep ravine terrain. Keeping this portion of the Hemlock-Canadice State Forest a very limited access/wildlife preserve area would benefit the area. Roads or improved trails on the north end would be detrimental to the neutral preserve.

-John Carter

As a seasonal residence I would like to see some state land on both lakes restricted for hunting in areas where residents live and recreational parties have cottages/camps. I don't think "all" the land needs to be open for "firearms" hunting due to safety issues. Bowhunting only areas.

-Anthony Finocchiaro

You don't have a plan but you solicit comment?

Why not plan to make a plan? Or better, plan to make a plan to make a plan? Invent more acronyms. Get a swarm of bureaucrats and politicians in on it. Make sure they all have lavish health, dental, optical, vacation and retirement benefits. For their families too.

Solicit public comment. Hold Hearings. Feign concern for the views of the cranks. Then let the free market do its work for the interested parties who can afford lobbyists in Albany. Pave the whole thing.

Here is a comment form an "interested party" regarding your inchoate plan: The fix is on.

The gas wells, the paper mills, the wind mills, the marinas, the casinos and the condos are coming.

-Interested Party

I think for starters that the plan and regulations set forth by the city or Rochester were reasonable. I will attend meetings to learn more about specifics and be part of the input process since I own land adjoining the newly acquired state land.

-Cor Lubberts

- Allow landowners contiguous to the Hemlock watershed and state forest to donate their land in exchange for a tax write off or some other form of tax relief.

- No gas fracking!

-Terry Holbrook

Keep it "forever wild" and the way it is.

-Gabriel Marconi

The walking trail on the west side of Hemlock Lake is lovely. The ravines, unfortunately, make it all too short. Could bridges be made over the ravines to make it longer? Perhaps even have the trails go

parallel for awhile to find a shorter gap. Or making steps down and back up to traverse the ravine? The eastern side could also be made into a hiking trail after the dirt road ends.

-Carol Parisella

- Would like continued prohibition of motorized vehicles on land
- Would like continued restriction on size of boat engines or preferably prohibition all together
- Would prefer that the forest be managed as a wild forest with continued access to hikers
- Would like to end prohibition of swimming, perhaps allow swimming with some restrictions (e.g. not within ½ mile of boat launches)

-Patricia Pielnik

Please consider allowing the construction of a multi-use hiking and mountain biking trail along the hillside on the east side of Hemlock Lake. The shared trail would cost almost nothing to New York State but would allow access to the diverse terrain up the hillside, unlike the short fire roads at the north and south ends. I would love to help organize the volunteer base need to construct and maintain the trail.

-Bruce Kaminsky

- Wildlife management would be great
- No gas leasing
- I would consider signing over property for a trade on a tax break

-Laural Nice

- Maintain horse power limit
- Open north end fishing access

-Anonymous

- Maintain 10hp meter limit
- Remove barrier and open fishing to the entire north end
- Other than possibly improving launches, leave everything else as it has been

-Kevin Armstrong

As homeowners directly across from Hemlock Lake and in front of Canadice Lake, with state land connection our property we have vested interest in this outcome. Please keep us apprised of survey results.

-Andrew & Crystal Dragone

- I would hope this truly unique area would be deserving of the highest level of protection/preservation in your forest categories

- Continue to mow the footpaths currently mowed by Rochester

- Do not allow motorized vehicles on these footpaths or access roads (i.e. access road west side of Candice Lake)

- Prohibit motor boats on one of the two lakes. A unique opportunity to create a “paddle only” lake

- Our land is adjacent to a now “DEC public” parcel that is only 200ft deep. Is that safe for public hunting? Our 50 acres and the 50 acres of our neighbor run from CR 37 to within 200 ft of Canadice Lake Road with Holmes Road on the north. We actually hunt and use the land for recreation. I have always been concerned that the parcel adjacent to is which is essentially 200 ft deep by ½ mile long is open for public hunting. Canadice Lake Road borders this land to the west and our private land to the east.

Is it safe to allow public hunting onto land that is only 200 feet “deep”?

Our boundary is heavily posted, but that does not keep hunters on this 200 deep parcel from shooting uphill on our private land where we are.

-Jim & Sara Kersting

I have lived in my house for 17 years which borders this property. It is truly beautiful and unique. I would like to see it remain as pristine and undisturbed as possible. I believe the state now has the obligation to future organizations to maintain this in a natural state, with minimal public access, much like the present.

-Stephen Carter

Thank you for requesting my input on the development process for the Hemlock Canadice Unit Management Plan (UMP). As one of the many people who actively participated in the activities leading to Hemlock and Canadice lakes being placed under NYS supervision I feel strongly that the future of these lakes are unique and deserved special consideration.

The goal of those of us who participated in preventing the commercial development of the lakes and asking that NYS take over their management was to ensure that the lakes are not further developed. The spirit of the effort was to ensure that these lakes remain as they are in every way or to reduce the amount of current development. The ultimate goal of all of us who worked to preserve these lakes is to see them become more wild and less developed.

With wilderness being the goal, I would like to propose the following:

- No gas leasing in or around Hemlock and Canadice Lake. Even permitting leasing anywhere in the watershed must not be allowed.

- Timber harvesting must not be allowed in the forests surrounding the lakes. No heavy equipment should be allowed in proximity of the lakes.

- Hunting should only be allowed when necessary to reduce abnormally large animal populations to ecologically healthy levels.

- Mining of any kind must be permanently removed from any discussion of the future of the development of the lakes.

- Ideally, boating on the lake should be restricted to canoes, kayaks, and fishing boats with electric motors. The long term goal must include removing motorized access to the lakes for recreation. New

York State has numerous other motor boating opportunities including the nearby finger lakes and Lake Ontario. There is no need to have motor boats on Hemlock and Canadice Lakes.

- New York State has thousands of miles of snowmobile trails, many within a short distance of Hemlock and Canadice Lakes. The environmental risk of having a snowmobile fall through the ice and permanently pollute the lake is too great to permit snowmobiles on or near the lake.

- End the practice of storing boats at the boat ramp locations.

Timber companies, natural gas miners, motor boaters, snowmobilers, and hunters have access to almost all of New York State, Yet nature lovers, birders, wildlife enthusiasts, canoers, kayakers, hikers, and bikers have very few if any places that are designed for their specific needs. I would like to see Hemlock and Canadice lakes development use the St. Regis Canoe Area used as a model from which to create an even wilder recreational resource.

Some key words that should be used in planning the future of Hemlock and Canadice Lakes should be: Quiet, serene, unsullied, wild, wilderness, pollution free, uncontaminated, undeveloped, wildlife friendly, natural, pristine, pure, free, and wildlife.

Words that should not be included as part of future planning of Hemlock and Canadice Lakes include: Mining, drilling, bulldozers, saws, harvesting, timbering, oil, natural gas, commercialization, resource development, speedboats, water ski, snowmobiles, all terrain vehicles, and float planes.

I believe that the goal of the DEC regarding Hemlock and Canadice Lakes should be an experiment extremely minimal intervention. If any intervention or development were considered it should be to return the lakes to a more primitive wilderness-like state.

-Max Lent

Although I attended your event held on October 26th in Springwater, I realized afterward that there was one more item I probably should have addressed. Even though it doesn't seem to apply to the Hemlock-Canadice State Forest, I would like it on record that I am firmly against any hydrofracking- anywhere in the state!

-Carole Koss

Fragmentation and the need to preserve large intact tracts of forest

- I urge the team to consider classifying the majority of the lands acquired under highest protection category for State Forest. I am an environmental educator, naturalist, and botanist and during my 65 years of life in the area, I have seen welcome land purchases and protection by the State and other groups such as Nature Conservancy in Central Western New York State. Unfortunately, as families in the area have grown wealthier, there has been an accelerating fragmentation of wild lands and forests as people purchased lots and built homes or vacation homes throughout the Finger Lakes area. This has reduced the integrity of large tracts of forest and has a negative impact on wildlife and vegetation, especially in two ways. It leads to greater dispersal and introduction of invasive species and disrupts mature wild forest favoring opportunists such as cowbirds which follow humans and then parasitize native warblers. In this case, the result has been a marked collapse of the populations of many warbler species that prefer mature woodland.

Long term goal of acquisitions to link forests

- We can only anticipate that the population of the USA and our area will continue to grow, even gradually, continuing this trend well into the future. With the Canadice/Hemlock forest and lands acquired by the Nature Conservancy, we have an excellent opportunity to preserve this forest and

manage it so those areas that were planted with pine stands for conservation can revert back to a more natural condition. Acquisitions in the future could focus on linking these forests with preserves at the Cumming Nature Center and wildlife management areas south of Honeoye Lake to create an even larger remnant of the original wild forest. This remnant may be able to function as a repository for animal and plant species that gradually disappear in the forest patches elsewhere and provide for easier movement of those species for breeding.

Arguments against selective or sustainable logging

- it has become obvious with the studies in the tropical forests that mature forests maintain many microhabitats that host species of plants, insects, fungi, birds, etc. that disappear in areas where large trees are routinely felled to create openings to spur new growth. Those openings will happen naturally in a mature forest anyway. We have heard about the multitude of new species discovered primarily from studies of the high canopies of tropical forests. In our biome, there are many species of birds that nest in cavities and these tend to be severely reduced in forests managed for sustained yield of lumber, because dead and damaged trees are removed with selective logging to promote growth of young trees. By preserving these areas this way, they will then be the closest natural mature, or old-growth forests of larger size readily accessible to the greater Rochester area population and be valued more and more by those residents as a destination for nature study, relaxation, and pure enjoyment. As far as the argument goes for managing the forests to create habitat diversity, I think the continuing fragmentation as more homes and cottages are built in the area will assure such ecotone habitats without special effort and expense of the State on these lands.

Regulating use continuing the successes achieved by the City

We do not have to ponder how these lands can be managed to preserve their quality and appearance. They already have a beautiful natural look that is prized by most visitors, because these are the only two Finger Lakes left that have been protected. The City of Rochester has, for the most part, monitored use and enforced regulations that have kept the lakes and lands in this condition with the exception of damage done by attempts at so called sustained forestry that were poorly executed. Poor logging practices in 1978 resulted in erosion of logging roads, and sedimentation/turbidity problems in the lakes, which led to a requirement for filtration costing the City millions of dollars. I believe most of the City's policies should be continued since they have worked so well. Maintaining these forests as a preserve, instead of trying to "squeeze" money out of them by logging or "sustainable" forestry would also assure a consistent good quality to the water resources which continue to be a major source of drinking water in the area.

Given the steep slopes on the east and west sides of the lakes, it would be lunacy to permit hydrofracking in any of the watershed lands. The lakes are about 90 feet deep with an unknown thickness of post glacial sediments below the bottom. The bedrock has systems of fractures from past tectonic events and the subsidence beneath the vast weight of the glaciers and since little is known about the positions of these and depth, it would be impossible in my mind to guarantee that the toxic chemicals used in hydrofracking would never leak into aquifers that feed the lakes.

-Peter Debes, Vice Chair, Rochester Sierra Club

We would like to express our desire to have the Hemlock-Canadice State land opened for horseback riding where the terrain is suitable.

As equestrians, we periodically look for new trail systems in our beautiful state to explore. We really enjoy riding at Rattlesnake Hill State Forest. There is a great variety of beginner through difficult marked trails. The Hemlock-Canadice State Forest would be very similar. Although we do take pleasure in visiting Rattlesnake Hill, it is 45 minutes away. Unfortunately, many of the new territories we look into don't allow horses or are hours away. This is a commonly voiced problem among horseback riders in our area. Opening Hemlock-Canadice forest for equestrian activity would bring a sigh of relief for not

only many local residents, but also those in Upstate New York, Northern Pennsylvania, and Eastern Ohio.

Forming a linking trail system is a draw for horseback riding and hiking alike. There are already hiking trails in the area, Like Rob's Trail that connects to the Canadice lake loop. This works out great for those who want more than an hour hike (which is much less time if you are on a horse). In regards to hiking, there are individuals who have health issues, including heart problems and handicaps. These issues don't allow them to physically exert themselves. Horseback riding is a great alternative for these people to get out and enjoy the beauty and nature that they wouldn't otherwise be able to physically manage.

We would love to see another State Forest allow horseback riding. Please take our request into careful consideration.

-Clarence & Susan Travis, Mary Perkins, Deborah Perkins, Joyce Nishet, Rosemary Nishet, Chad Nishet, Matt Nishet, Alex Nishet, Richard Nishet Sr., Tabitha Morris, Rebecca Blakes, Don & Rhonda Stephens

On behalf of Genesee Valley Audubon Society thank you for allowing us the opportunity to voice our opinion about the Hemlock-Canadice Lakes Unit Management Plan. As you well know the area is an Important Bird Are (IBA). Hemlock and Canadice Lakes were designated as an IBA by the National Audubon Society using strict standards, to conserve them.

Our recommendations are as follows:

-This area must be protected to maintain water quality for the residence of Rochester as well as for ecosystems in the area.

- The forest must remain intact. There are few contiguous forests in Western New York for forest birds such as the Scarlet Tanager to escape predators while nesting. At the same time those areas along the road sides that are shrub-scrub habitat should be maintained to keep a variety of habitats.

- The wilderness character of the area should be maintained. One way to achieve this is not allow any new trails with one exception, Rob's Trail from Canadice Lake should be completed from Rt. 15A to Hemlock Lake.

- This area should be patrolled or supervised to protect the area from people who might love it to death. We realize with current staff cuts this will be very difficult. We suggest a program of citizen stewards be organized similar to the Summit Stewards in the Adirondacks and the Dune Stewards at the east end of Lake Ontario.

- Additional lands should be acquired to connect the lakes and enlarge the protected area.

- The area should continue to be managed with the same restrictions that have protected for decades under the City of Rochester codes.

Finally I have been conducting the Breeding Bird Survey Rte. 66-051 for over ten years. This route starts in Mendon, runs along the shore of Canadice Lake and finishes a few miles south of the lake. I want to share with you the neotropical migrants that nest along the east shore of Canadice lake. The list is as follows; Yellow Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Indigo Bunting, Eastern Towhee, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Hooded Warbler, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Veery, Black-throated Green Warbler, Scarlet Tanager, and Olive-sided Flycatcher. These birds need their nesting habitat protected, there is so little of it left in New York State.

-June Summers

The Hemlock Canadice State Forest is a beautiful undeveloped area which has been protected for decades. It is important to protect the forest and the water quality of the lakes. Please continue its current restrictions limiting its use for recreation. It does not need improvements of any kind and should not have new trails, roads or access for heavy equipment. It is valuable in its natural state.

-Carol Hinkelman

We would like to express our desire to have the Hemlock-Canadice State land opened for horseback riding where the terrain is suitable.

As equestrians, we are always seeking new trail systems to explore. We really enjoy riding at Rattle Snake State Forest, Harriett Hollister Park and Letchworth. Rattle Snake has a great variety of marked trails for beginners through advanced riders which are helpful. The Hemlock-Canadice State Forest would be very similar. Although we do love riding at the above parks, each is at least a 45 minute drive from our farm. Unfortunately, many of the new territories we've looked into don't allow horses or are hours away. This is a commonly voiced problem among horseback riders in our area. Opening Hemlock-Canadice forest for equestrian activity would be a great gift for not only many local residents, but also those in the Upstate New York, Northern Pennsylvania, and Eastern Ohio.

Forming a linking trail system would be a draw for horseback riding and hiking alike. There are already hiking trails in the area, Like Rob's Trail that connects to the Canadice lake loop. Horseback riding is a great alternative for people with physical limitations that prevent their hiking so they too can get out and enjoy nature in our beautiful state that they wouldn't otherwise be able to physically manage.

We would love to see another State Forest allow horseback riding. Please take our request into careful consideration.

-Clarence & Susan Travis

We were at the October 26, 2010 meeting in Springwater, NY and met NYSDEC staff and yourself and we have the following comments for scoping-out the areas to be covered in the Unit Management Plan (UMP).

Disability Access to Using Lake and Shoreline- We have some difficulty using the Hemlock and Canadice Lake boat launch areas already, in addition to using the access with my spouses disability. We would like to see the UMP specifically evaluate each existing access area (upland and water access areas) for any needed improvements such as drainage, road and or parking surface and ease of entry and access to the land before the UMP is adopted. We would like to see the UMP have a schedule and description of the specific improvements that will be made over the life of the UMP first planning period so that should money become available projects could proceed on short notice. I was not envisioning structural fills in the lakes, but more toward grading and leveling of larger areas for the launching of boats/canoes/sailboats and kayaks, and for parking improvements and for 2 way traffic for access launch sites. I think the recent road improvements by others at the north end of the Hemlock launch have actually made it more difficult for us to park, backup and walk for purposes of launching.

Boat Storage on State Lands- The UMP should recognize the importance and public need for continued use of the existing and limited areas used for small boat/canoe storage associated with the launch sites and the Canadice Lake canoe /kayak access site. I think the prohibition for using State lands was more for the permanent mobile homes that have at times occupied State land and the hunting and fishing camps that have been on State land. These were real intrusions that affected the quality of the public resource. It is a step beyond reasonableness to suggest a prohibition on boat storage. Please request a waiver or variance through the Commissioner so that this use may continue with controls such as "within 500 feet of the launch sites" and "set back from the waters high water edge by 25 feet", and

make it a specific part of the Unit Management Plan. The continued use is not harmful to the ecology of this area, does not detract from the lake environment on this scale and allows people who would not ordinarily be able to access the lake for use such as young people living in apartments and have no place to store a boat or canoe to access the lake.

Biological Inventory- Our concern is that removal of marketable trees and logging related impacts will affect the biological resource. For example we note that every year for many years in mid to late March (or a more specific date) there is a migration of spotted salamanders across the road to the north at the north west corner of Hemlock Lake at night. Certainly there are some logging activities in this vicinity that could have negative consequences. I would think that just limiting logging activities to certain periods of the year might not be enough of a protective measure to maintain full protection of the biological resource such as for species of salamanders that have migratory paths in the woodland. I think your biological inventory should not be a generalization of what's in the watershed using existing and limited resources for information, but that there should be actual field reconnaissance surveys that are set on a schedule in the UMP.

Campfires -My spouse and I have some difficulty ice fishing and shoreline fishing in inclement weather and at night. The UMP should at least allow a shoreline campfire using dead wood. This use has historically been part of ice and shoreline fishing, does not cause damage to the environment and actually encourages people such as in our situation to make use of our resource. A control to offset concern might be to limit the fire to dead wood, fire to be on the beach area and in a pit of less than 4 feet in diameter along with put it out when getting ready to leave.

Large, Mature Trees -The large mature specimen trees associated with the wetland/upland south east of the Cleary Road/Blank Road intersection should not be considered for harvesting and should be so designated as off limits in the UMP narrative and maps. These specimens are easily viewed by the public and are a natural resource of importance.

Wetlands-The wetlands on all State land should be field inspected for boundary accuracy to see if they were accurately mapped and also to see if changes have occurred in the past 30 years as their extent may have increased. This activity should be done before the UMP is adopted.

Beaver-The UMP should specifically allow no diminishment of the beaver resource on the north side of the dam at Hemlock Lake. Other areas should be considered to allow this wildlife resource to more fully utilize the watershed.

Bald Eagle-The geographic area to protect the bald eagle should be expanded so that there is a 1000 foot setback from the water's edge of both Lakes where logging is to not occur to maintain existing and potential habitat for eagle nesting, perching, resting, observing and other eagle behavior activities. The existing protected areas are inadequate in size and location.

Woodland Management-There should be areas of the woodland management that are set aside so that there is a prohibition on logging, gas well drilling or other similar resource degrading use.

We would like to see the UMP specify a 2 or 5 year public revisit of the UMP, and notice in the local official paper of future meetings related to this UMP proposal. It was quite by accident that we found out about your October 26, 2010 meeting.

-Robert K. Scott & Susan E. Scott

We wrote you a letter November 4, 2010 submitting comments on the above Plan. The following is submitted to supplement the above comments. The comment relates to access and use of State NYSDEC lands for those who are disabled as well as their care givers.

We believe that there should be provision for enhanced access opportunities for the disabled and in particular for lake recreation opportunities. Ice fishing is one of the recreational activities we participate

in and enjoy immensely. However, access to areas of Hemlock and Canadice Lakes are near impossible for us with my spouses disabling Parkinson's disease which affects a persons' mobility. The ability to use an all terrain vehicle or ATV type vehicle would make ice fishing an available opportunity for us. It is requested that the UMP include provision to use ATV's for those in our situation. The use is focused on shoreline access to the lakes in areas where we would otherwise not be able to access and use. Our opinion is that use would not be of a significant environmental impact. We would like to discuss this matter in more detail with you particularly our points of view as to why the use would not impair the natural resource.

-Robert K. Scott & Susan E. Scott

I am writing on behalf of the Finger Lakes Land Trust to comment on the draft strategic plan proposed by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation for the state forest system. The Land Trust is quite concerned about the draft plan's consideration of expanding natural gas development on state forest land.

The draft plan's encouragement of expanded gas drilling is in conflict with the same documents reference to fostering sustainable landscapes that must "have core blocks of minimally fragmented habitat.

Within the 12-county Finger Lakes region, state forests represent some of the largest blocks of intact forest that remain. These forests provide habitat for a diversity of wildlife species, including a number of neotropical songbirds that rely on interior forest for nesting habitat. Increasingly, these same forests are utilized by residents and visitors alike for a variety of recreational activities such as biking, bunting, bird watching, mountain biking, and cross country skiing.

Any expansion of gas drilling on state forest lands within the Finger Lakes region will degrade wildlife and recreational resources directly through habitat lost to the construction of well pads, access roads, and pipelines. Indirect impacts associated with drilling include increased susceptibility to invasion by non native species and greater disturbance of resident wildlife through the creation of corridors that can be subject to use by ATV riders and others.

By allowing the expansion of natural gas development on its forest lands, the state will also be subordinating the important role that these lands play in helping to maintain high quality surface water resources. In Tompkins County, for example, Hammond Hill and Yellow Barn state forests encompass substantial portions of the headwaters fur Six Mile Creek - the source of Ithaca's drinking water supply. By allowing drilling in areas like this, water quality will be diminished, even if safeguards are used.

Impacts associated with any development of natural gas resources on state forest lands are likely to be exacerbated by expected gas development on adjacent private lands. Most state forests are intermingled with private holdings. Based on comments within the State's Supplemental Draft Generic Environmental Impacts Statement for drilling associated with the Marcellus shale formation, it seems likely that almost all private land within the region will ultimately be made available for gas development.

If this occurs, stale forests may represent the only remaining intact forests of any size. Consequently their value for wildlife that depends upon interior forest habitat will only increase. Their value for recreational use will also increase as it will become increasingly difficult for residents and visitors to find landscapes that are not subject to some form of intrusive development.

Thanks to the state's stewardship of its forests, tracts of highly eroded farmland during the 1930's have matured into native forests that harbor black bear, fisher, goshawks, and scarlet tanagers. These lands now provide clean water to many streams that flow into the Finger Lakes as well as the Susquehanna River and ultimately the Chesapeake Bay. Recreational resources such as the Finger Lakes Trail enjoy increasing use as more and more people discover these lands.

The value of maintain these lands in their current condition outweighs any value to be gained from utilizing them for energy development. These lands represent some of our finest remaining forest resources. Allowing their short term exploitation for natural gas extraction will compromise their long term ecological integrity. The residents of the State of New York will derive far greater benefit from these lands if they continue to be managed as working forests with associated recreational, wildlife, and watershed protection benefits.

The Finger Lakes Land Trust was established in 1989 to work cooperatively with landowners and local communities to protect those lands that define the character of the region. To date, the organization has secured more than 11,000 acres through direct acquisition as well as the use of conservation easements. The Land Trust has acquired several parcels on behalf of NYSDEC as additions to state forests and wildlife management areas. The organization also owns land and holds conservation easements that adjoin state forest holdings. The Land Trust is supported by more than 1,900 residents from across the region.

Thanks very much for the opportunity to comment on the draft strategic plan.

-Andrew E. Zepp, Executive Director Finger Lakes Land Trust

I am writing on behalf of the Coalition for Hemlock and Canadice Lakes, an organization founded in 1987 to encourage the acquisition of the City of Rochester's lands by the NYS DEC as a means to permanently protect them from development. We are very pleased that the sale was accomplished.

This letter will become more detailed, but as a preliminary let me share with you two general principles of great importance to us regarding the management of the Hemlock-Canadice watershed lands.

First, protection of water quality in the streams of the watershed and the two lakes should be the highest priority. Several hundred thousand people depend on Hemlock and Canadice Lakes as sources of high quality drinking water, and water quality in the watershed is directly related to the management of watershed land.

Second, every effort should be made to consolidate the forests and to avoid their fragmentation. Large blocks of unfragmented forests are rare in western New York. The wilderness-like experience of being in the woods and on the waters of these two lakes is tremendously valuable and should be protected.

We understand that New York's State Forest lands may be held and managed under several designations. We recommend that the Hemlock Canadice State Forest be designated either a Unique Area or a State Nature and Historic Preserve (or perhaps some combination of the two) based on two unique characteristics: two lakes that serve as drinking water sources located in the center of the forest and habitat suitable for the long-term establishment of breeding bald eagles.

The protection of water quality in forested landscapes requires the use of best management practices during timber harvest. However, there are areas in the Hemlock Canadice State Forest that are too steep and too fragile to harvest even using bmps.

Often we don't learn until too late that these steep areas, if opened up by roads, landings, pipelines, etc. cannot be controlled and become ongoing sources of erosion and sedimentation. Another contributing factor to erosive potential is length-of-slope, and the hills at the south ends of Hemlock and Canadice are long, unbroken slopes. Better to set aside some areas as simply too steep (greater than 15%) to safely access for harvest, etc.

Fragmentation of forested landscapes often begins with the best of intentions. Heavy equipment, whether for timber harvest, wind generation, communication towers, or gas drilling, needs roads for access. Perhaps if these same purposes could be accomplished without roads, we would feel differently

about them, but they cannot, and roads fragment the forest. As you know, roads become the vectors for invasive species, ongoing sources of erosion, and barriers to deep forest loving species.

To the extent possible, use the existing forest road and trail system and do not develop new roads. In areas to be harvested, harvest selectively, enforce the use of bmps, and set long rotations to achieve a mature forest at time of harvest. We believe that the City of Rochester's Forest Management Plan adopted in 1993 has been successful in several objectives: protection of water quality and timber management, including selective harvest, for greater forest health.

We believe that timber harvests in the Hemlock-Canadice watershed have been successfully accomplished because of the application of best management practices and because flexibility in the application of plans and practices was enhanced by the on-site presence of the City's consulting forester and City staff during harvest. We are very concerned that the NYS DEC may not be able to oversee timber harvest adequately. NYS DEC foresters will be crucial not only to see that plans are followed but to adjust plans on the ground as necessary.

The lands now comprising the Hemlock Canadice State Forest are already heavily used for recreation. Seasonally, hunters, fishermen, hikers, boaters and skiers share the lake and land. The re-use of properly sited logging trails as hiking trails in the past two decades has been particularly striking.

Opportunities may arise to expand the Hemlock Canadice State Forest through the purchase of adjacent lands from willing owners. We encourage the State to acquire more land in the watersheds of Hemlock and Canadice Lakes to serve several purposes: for enhanced water quality protection and to protect and link the existing forested land.

Do not allow further fragmentation of the Hemlock Canadice State Forest. It is worth far more to the citizen's of the state in its natural, unbroken condition than as exploited for short-term benefits such as gas exploration or communications and wind towers. These industrial structures, and the roads to serve them, have no place in a State Forest.

Some may argue that access to the Hemlock Canadice State Forest is difficult, but it has been the City's long-term plan to keep access to the lakes and land primitive precisely to protect the wilderness-like feeling of being there. The boat launches and hunting access are definitely limited, but "improving" them would destroy some of the values these undeveloped lands have.

Let the road hunters and the power boaters go elsewhere. Part of the charm of the Hemlock Canadice State Forest is its lack of large parking lots and paved boat ramps

We are aware of letter (enclosed) written on October 24, 2010 by the Finger Lakes Land Trust to address the Strategic Plan for State Forest Management, and we wish to add our endorsement of its arguments for more protection of State Forests from the many intrusive uses currently under consideration. In particular, we believe that the State Forests already perform important functions for the protection of water quality, provision of habitat for valued forest species, and access for recreational users. What the Land Trusts argues for all State Forests, we believe is particularly true of the Hemlock Canadice State Forest.

The creation of a Unit Management Plan for the Hemlock Canadice State Forest is an opportunity to acknowledge the "big picture" aspects of this watershed land and to protect its unique qualities. We ask that protection of water quality, the consolidated nature of the forest, aesthetics, and habitat for signature species be the plan's highest priorities.

- Lewandowski, Chairman Coalition for Hemlock & Canadice Lakes

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) respectfully submits the following comments for consideration as you develop the Hemlock-Canadice State Forest Unit Management Plan (UMP).

-State Forest Land Classification

Over the past 100 years the City of Rochester has done a remarkable job of keeping the last two

remaining undeveloped Finger Lakes in a high protective status by protecting and managing the forest, wetlands, and waters surrounding Hemlock and Canadice Lake with an eye on long-term ecological sustainability, As a result, this landscape now provides unique, even preserve type characteristics, for the people of New York State, TNC urges the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC) to appropriately use the two categories of forest classification at their disposal (Unique Area and State Nature and Historic Preserve) by classifying, if not all, much of this State Forest into one of these two land classifications, NYS DEC is not often presented with this opportunity, and should in no way shy away from the role of insisting on appropriate land classification when it is necessary, TNC would be happy to provide any assistance in this process,

-Forest Management

NYS DEC made it very clear during the process of acquiring this property that they anticipated and were committed to maintaining a management framework similar to what the City of Rochester had instituted over the past few decades, We applaud this commitment and encourage NYS DEC to use the Unique Area and State Nature and Historic Preserve land classifications as the framework under which management can occur to meet this goal For the portion of this State Forest that may not fall under one of the two above classification categories, we understand that sustainable forestry practices will occur. We recognize and encourage the continued use of New York State Best Management Practices for Water Quality field guide as the framework within which all future timber management occurs. In addition, we request that the State consider:

: Establishing broad no forest management buffer zones around all streams and Lake shoreline to protect the freshwater/drinking' water resources of this landscape

: Using existing and suitably placed forest access roads only for any and all timber harvests contemplated, thereby limiting future soil disturbance and reducing potential sedimentation risks to the freshwater resources of the City of Rochester and surrounding communities,

: Managing the Hemlock-Canadice State Forest as an uneven-aged northern hardwood forest, characterized by mature forest conditions for both species composition and overall structure.

-Recreation Management

Hemlock and Canadice Lakes offer unparalleled wilderness-type recreational opportunities for Western New York. We recommend that NYS DEC continue the City's management program, which includes nonintrusive forms of recreation (hiking, Nordic skiing, bird watching, and contained mountain biking), as well as controlled extractive recreation such as fishing and hunting. We strongly discourage opening this land up for swimming, off road vehicular traffic, snowmobiling, and boats with horsepower over the current 10 hp limit. We understand that there is a demand for hiking trails on these two lakes, and recommend that NYS DEC team up with the Conservancy to extend Rob's Trail west to the Hemlock Lake shoreline.

We recognize the enormous burden that this new State Forest places on Regional Forestry and Wildlife staff. Adding to this burden is the recent NYS DEC layoffs and budget cuts. In light of this, we encourage the Region to explore alternative stewardship scenarios, such that they utilize the City of Rochester, local communities, municipalities, and not-for-profits to undertake appropriate tasks so that the overall burden is lessened for State staff. These tasks could include wildlife monitoring, trail maintenance, and citizen enforcement of appropriate regulations. The Summit Steward program in the Adirondacks and Dune Steward program at the eastern end of Lake Ontario offer useful models that could be replicated at Hemlock and Canadice Lakes. We also encourage NYS DEC to continue to contract with the City of Rochester for monitoring and enforcement of recreational use regulations.

-Forest Health and Connectivity

Forest fragmentation and its ensuing negative impacts on biodiversity is a major threat to the Hemlock-Canadice watershed and the broader Western Finger Lakes landscape. NYS OEC is in a unique position of having system based protection in place for a majority of these two lakes and the

surrounding forest communities. However, a critical mass of forestland in these two watersheds is still unprotected. We strongly encourage the NYS DEC to continue their efforts in land and water protection through land and conservation easement acquisition.

The Nature Conservancy recommends additional acquisition to expand the NYS DEC's new Hemlock-Canadice holdings, with a focus on:

- Connective tissue between Hemlock-Canadice and the Bristol Hills
- Reynolds Gully watershed
- Bald Hill
- The south end and east side of Canadice Lake
- Areas where the City's ownership is most narrow

To restate, there are critical decisions to be made in the UMP process, the most important of which is to appropriately classify this land in one of two categories: Unique Area and/or Nature and Historic Preserve. To ignore this is to deprive the future citizens of New York the opportunity to enjoy this land in ways that are not available in other State Forests. The overall management framework can be effectively constructed with an eye on the classification, leading to a wild and natural recreational experience. In addition, the State is in a distinctive position to augment this recreational experience through continued land and conservation easement acquisition.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment. Please feel free to contact us with any questions or comments.

-Jim Howe & Zachary Odell, The Nature Conservancy - Central & Western NY Chapter

The LCWSA Board would like the following comments to be integrated into the development of the unit management plan for Hemlock Canadice State Forest.

Protection of water quality- Livingston County Water and Sewer Authority purchases water from the City of Rochester Water Treatment Plant for residents in the Towns of Livonia, Conesus, Sparta, Geneseo, and Groveland. The following issues should be addressed in the unit management plan:

Protection of water quality

- Adopt rules that will promote the protection from invasive species
- Adopt rules that will promote the protection of the water supply from the pollution from motor craft
- Adopt rules that will promote the continued protection of the watershed
- Adopt rules that will promote the biological diverse ecosystem that creates naturally clean water
- Limit recreational purposes to the ones currently in use.
 - Limited boating
 - Limited hiking and shore fishing
 - No swimming
 - Limited hunting, etc.

-Catherine VanHorne, LCWSA

As new owners of property in Ontario County that abuts the Hemlock-Canadice State Forest (the Forest), we are extremely interested in the management goals and objectives for that land and offer the following comments on the Forest Unit Management Plan (UMP).

We appreciate the vision of the UMP to ensure the biological integrity, improvement and protection of the Forest, wherein particular importance is the protection of Hemlock and Canadice lakes as sources of drinking water for the City of Rochester. We also recognize the need to manage natural vegetation,

including native grasslands and woodlands; control exotic species; preserve historical and archaeological resources as well as provide recreational facilities in serving the people of New York State.

The investment in the passage of time (and money) in getting the Forest to its current status makes it truly unique property and worthy of corresponding protection. In view of these investments, it does not appear that increased utilization would benefit the people of New York State. The existing hiking, fishing, Nordic skiing, contained biking and boating opportunities within the Forest provide the people recreational activities in a remarkable pristine environment. To expand the utilization of the Forest would deprive the Forest of its current status and thus diminish the value of this asset of the state. When balanced against the marginal benefits, particularly in view of the extensive public utilization of neighboring finger-lakes, the costs associated with increased utilization would ultimately diminish the inherent value of the Forest. In fact, we would argue that restricting Canadice lake to non-motorized boating would further enhance the value of this asset. While we realize it is more difficult to remove an existing access than not, Canadice lake is small enough to justify this restriction, especially if the current regulations remain in effect for Hemlock Lake.

When taken in conjunction with the surrounding state lands, the present utilization is a reasonable balance of potentially competing interests. For example the present limited boating access in combination with the existing boating access, fishing and recreational vehicle use at neighboring parks at Conesus, Honeoye and Canandaigua lakes well serves the people – without jeopardizing the accumulated value of the Forest. Uncoupling the access rights of Canadice lake from Hemlock lake supports an even greater variety of recreational experiences on the finger-lakes. That is, the enjoyment of the Forest as close to its natural condition as possible.

We are delighted the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC) plans to continue to ensure the biological integrity of the property and supports the long-term ecological sustainability of this land. We urge the NYS DEC to classify the land in such a way as to continue protection of its natural beauty, as either Unique Areas or State Nature and Historic Preserve.

This land is unbelievably beautiful and provides a perfect environment for non-intrusive forms of recreation. We hope the NYS DEC will not open the Forest up to more intrusive activities than currently allowed.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment. We look forward to reviewing the draft UMP.

-Brian Shaw, Margie Hodges Shaw

Email Comments Received

As a local resident of the Canadice and Hemlock Lake area, I was interested in knowing if there is a “blueprint” of what improvements are planned for Canadice and Hemlock Lakes such as docks parking and picnic areas etc. If so could I get a copy or information on what is planned. I would also be interested in working at the lakes in some form of employment.

-Carl Barth

The only real feedback I have is that the rules should stay very close to what they are today, but perhaps with a provision for limited camping (campfires, etc) in specific places such as the head of Canadice Lake.

-Patrick Freivald

As a fisherman and twenty year resident of the Canadice and Hemlock lake area, I have special interest in the development of an effective management plan. Canadice Lake had been a place of pristine beauty for me. I look forward to each opportunity to fish its waters.

The concerns I have at this time are:

-Education and Launch Courtesy...separate launch areas for trailer boats and canoe/kayak users. Canoe and kayak users "tie up the launch" taking far too long to load and unload. There is designated canoe and kayak launch area at the south end of Canadice Lake, enforcement is not done at this time.

-Building a boat dock would make "boat launch and retrieval" much easier, as we have to "wade in the lake" currently.

-Water depth at the launch: The launch needs to "hogged out" to give access to water deep enough to launch a boat without driving thirty or more feet into the lake to find water deep enough to launch.

-Carl Barth

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the scope of the Unit Management Plan (UMP) for the Hemlock Canadice State Forest. I am writing as a neighbor to these state lands, as a member of the Region 8 Open Space Advisory Committee, and as a sportsman who has enjoyed these land's recreational opportunities for over 25 years. I applaud your efforts in the purchase of these lands from the City of Rochester and trust that despite staffing issues and funding challenges DEC will be able to provide sound stewardship to this area for decades to come.

Some Specific comments regarding the content of the UMP:

Public access and use- It appears that Part 190 NYSCRR covers the gamut of what visitors can/can't do. While I personally may question some regulations (no target shooting, no access to Canadice outlet) I'll accept that they are a given for the time being. Enforcement of these regulations will determine how effective they are, and the UMP should address how enforcement is planned to be carried out-I assume with existing staff of Forest Rangers and ECOs. The existing hiking trails will need periodic maintenance. Boat Launch Road from Rix Hill Road South has been a question in the local area as to responsibility. The City has maintained it in the past, but its status as a town road might need clarification. The boat launch at the south end of Hemlock Lake is unusable for small motorized water craft when lake levels are low. In consultation with the DEC Fisheries folks, perhaps the feasibility of moving this launch north a few hundred yards into deeper water could be explored. This would greatly enhance access to the south end of the lake-great smallmouth bass and trout fishing.

Future land acquisition- Opportunities arise occasionally to acquire parcels of land adjacent to, or nearby, the state forest which would provide enhanced access, eliminate conflicting land uses, protect sensitive habitats, or consolidate public holdings. DEC should consider acquisition of additional lands to the state forest as funding and opportunities permit, and so state in the UMP.

Agricultural uses- There has been a long tradition of farming on portions of the state forest. Particularly on fields north of Hemlock Lake, agricultural use has continued up until last year. These lands are now apparently idle/fallow. Consideration of permitting continued agricultural uses would benefit the local economy and provide some wildlife habitat value. Alternatively, these fallow farm lands may well lend themselves to grassland management which could benefit species of birds which are

in decline statewide. The UMP should address which direction management actions will likely take for these “non-forested” tracts that have been devoted to farming in recent past.

Wetlands- The state forest is blessed (or damned depending on one’s viewpoint) with several hundred acres of wetland of various and diverse types. Some enhancement of these wetlands was done by the City, creating some open water areas in otherwise dense stands of vegetation. These open water areas have proven to be very attractive to both people and wildlife. More could be done as funding allows for additional wetland enhancement and creation. At one time in the distant past, a small dam was located on Hemlock Creek north of the lake that created a shallow impoundment known as Hoppough Lake. This dam eventually washed out (1930’s?) thus draining this impoundment. While this impoundment may be an ambitious project to restore in today’s regulatory climate, this type of management, on a smaller scale, could be very beneficiary to both wildlife and wildlife recreationists. I suggest wetland enhancement and management be addressed in the UMP.

Forest Management- No doubt there will be some environmental extremists who will object to taking a saw to any tree on this state forest. I suggest that the UMP include intent to harvest forest products on this area as one of the primary objectives, taking into consideration this land’s sensitivity regarding water quality in the lakes, significant habitats, and aesthetics. You folks know what you are doing in this regard.

Listed Species- The UMP should identify rare, threatened, and endangered species and habitats present on the state forest and address management actions to protect/enhance these resources. The Natural Heritage Program and other competent sources of information should be consulted.

Thanks again for the opportunity to comment, and I look forward to reading the draft UMP when it becomes available.

-David C. Woodruff

- Passive recreation use only trails, hiking/skiing
- Keep current boating restrictions
- No ATV or snowmobile use
- No public camping, tent/trailer/etc.
- Improve launch sites, ramp would be beneficial, reduce silt/mud entering lake
- Improve parking at launch sites (keep cars off of vegetation)
- Allow discretionary wood cutting (not Old Growth Forest area)
- Hunting: Bow allowed, Gun: Restricted areas only by permit only
- Inventory, would like to see inventory of trees and plants on this site

-Pat Tindale

Please change nothing regarding the area. It is a rare and special place which begs to be preserved in its natural state. More or improved access in any way will only diminish the experience in the area.

-Walt Rogers

RE: Hemlock Canadice Unit Management Plan

The New York State Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation (Chapter) would like to offer the following comments for development of the Hemlock Canadice Unit Management Plan (UMP).

First, our chapter would like to commend the NY State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) in Region 8 for managing of over 6,600 acres of forest resources in the Hemlock Canadice Unit. Our Chapter members in the area have enjoyed excellent turkey hunting opportunities over the years on DEC managed lands within the unit and many hunters travel from other parts of NY to take advantage of what the region's public lands have to offer. Local economies have benefitted from those trips to the region.

The Chapter supports active management of our forest resources on public and private lands. We encourage the DEC staff to continue actively managing the lands within the Hemlock Canadice Unit using a variety of silvicultural techniques used to achieve the long term goals of the Department. The Chapter encourages the use of even-aged forest management with an emphasis on regeneration of aspen stands using short rotations to address the habitat needs of ruffed grouse, American woodcock and numerous other species that utilize this forest cover type that is in very limited supply across the northeastern states. We do not believe that limiting the size of cutting units as a blanket restriction is beneficial and encourage the DEC Wildlife staff to develop cutting unit sizes for even-aged managed stands that will provide the greatest benefits to the wildlife resources.

The Chapter also recommends that DEC staff be able to efficiently manage the lands under their jurisdiction within this unit. We do not support including items in the UMP that would add layers of public input process prior to administering a timber harvest or other activities outlined in the UMP. DEC Foresters are highly trained professionals and should not have to delay responsible management of our forests through multiple layers of public input processes prior to managing a timber stand. The efforts of DEC staff have resulted in all of New York's State Forests being independently certified by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and the sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI). There is no reason to add additional layers of public process before DEC staff are able to administer timber harvesting operations.

The Chapter does not support the designation of any area of the forests within the Unit as a Forest Preserve or similar designation that would prevent active forest management through a Forever Wild type of clause. Such a designation could have long term negative impacts on forest health, local economies, recreation, and wildlife habitat and should not be considered as an option. There are thousands of acres of forests classified as Forever Wild in NY state that provide mature, late seral stage habitats. Land cover trends over the last several decades have resulted in forest succession across the northeast favoring predominantly mature forests. Our Chapter supports efforts to increase the acres and percent of land managed for early/young seral stage cover types which have become a very limited habitat type throughout the northeast.

We encourage DEC staff to not overlook the need to have pre-green up quality nest site habitat available for wild turkey hens given the timing of their egg laying in early-mid April for first nest attempts. As forest stands mature, early nest site quality diminishes and we believe recruitment of wild turkeys has been impacted across the northeast by forest succession. Bowhunter sighting log data from 2006-08 indicate the western 1/3 of NY State has the lowest observation rate of wild turkeys in the state. Forest succession is likely impacting recruitment and an increase in quality nesting cover and brood habitat would benefit wild turkeys and a host of other species.

Our Chapter encourages DEC staff to use logging operations as a means to improve wild turkey brood habitat on logging decks and skidder trails after harvest operations have concluded. Providing quality grass and legume cover in these areas will enhance insect abundance and attract turkey broods during late spring and early summer. During this time, young turkey poults feed almost exclusively on insects. Enhancing logging decks and skidder trails adjacent to areas that will provide thick understory cover and logging slash that will be used as nesting cover by hens will increase turkey brood survival by providing those two cover types in close proximity. This will also enhance forage and cover areas for numerous other species.

Our Chapter encourages DEC staff to inventory stands of apple trees when and where possible and enhance these areas via pruning and releasing. These areas provide excellent food sources for wild turkeys, ruffed grouse, and American woodcock.

The Chapter supports the use of State Forest lands within the unit for hunting and fishing. We will not support any proposal that will decrease the number or percent of acres where fall or spring hunting opportunities on state lands would be reduced.

Our Chapter encourages DEC staff to use as many management tools as possible to responsibly manage the forest resources under their jurisdiction. These tools can include, but are not limited to use of herbicides, prescribed fire, even and uneven aged timber harvest, and forest thinning/ timber stand improvements. Having these options available will allow the Division to respond quickly to issues such as invasive species, fuel load accumulation, wildlife habitat enhancements, forest disease and insect pests.

Our Chapter encourages the DEC staff to establish an easier way to find and navigate Recreation section of the NYS DEC website. This revised website section should simply include downloadable .PDF file type maps of each State Forest, MUA, Wildlife Management Area and other DEC managed lands available for public hunting, fishing and other recreation. Currently, downloadable maps are difficult to find or in many cases do not exist. This makes it difficult for many people to find maps and public areas. In a way, we believe this is indirectly limiting access to DEC managed lands across the state. Many state natural resource agencies have website sections that provide much easier access to their lands and we believe a revision to the NYS DEC to promote these areas and provide updated, easy to read maps showing boundaries, roads, and regulation summaries is long overdue.

Our Chapter encourages DEC staff to allow enhanced/additional access to mobility impaired hunters and fishermen when taking part in a sanctioned NWTF Wheelin' Sportsmen event on DEC managed lands within the Unit. Wheelin' Sportsmen NWTF helps people with disabilities enjoy outdoor activities such as hunting, fishing and shooting through participating in Wheelin' Sportsmen events and by learning how to continue taking part in these activities independently. These events are managed by NWTF Chapter volunteers and one of the more difficult aspects of event planning is securing permission to easily accessible areas on private or public lands. Offering a permit application process where Chapters that are planning an event could apply for enhanced access to areas that might not typically be legal to access by atv or other off-road vehicle could make these events larger and provide more people with limited mobility opportunities through our Wheelin' Sportsmen program.

Yours in Conservation,

-Bret Eccleston President, New York State Chapter National Wild Turkey Federation, David Fanaro, President, Letchworth Chapter National Wild Turkey Federation, Doug Little CWB Senior Regional Wildlife Biologist National Wild Turkey Federation

I own property on the west side of Canadice Lake adjacent to the state forest. The land has been in my family since 1941. I am very interested in your plan. I would like to see the lakes have continued access to boaters with 10hp engines. I also would like to see controlled logging under your supervision to increase the wildlife diversity. I would like to continue the no camping/no fire rules. I would not like to see snowmobiles nor ATV's in the forest. I would like hunting to continue as it is extremely important to control deer population and provide recreational activities for sportsmen. I would be very interested in hearing the results of the informational meetings.

-James Maley

Thank you for the opportunity to provide some comments prior to the preparation of the Hemlock-Canadice Unit Management Plan.

First, we are thrilled that the DEC has assumed stewardship of these lands surrounding the two last undeveloped Finger Lakes.

In addressing the recreational uses of the property, we would like the DEC to consider whether former road beds surrounding the lakes could, in the future, be developed as trails not only for walking but also for bicycling. I admit I am not fully familiar with the condition of the property at this time but would like to suggest that this possibility be considered. I understand that the Town of Livonia has talked informally about creating a trail from the Village to Hemlock Lake. If there were an opportunity to circle the lake, it could make a nice addition and attract even more people to engage in healthy physical activity and experience the natural beauty of these unique lakes. With Canadice, I believe there is already a trail that can be used for bikes, at least partially, along the west side of the lake. Could this be expanded to the east side of the lake?

-Fran Gotcsik, Director of Programs & Policy Parks & Trails NY

Thank you for this opportunity to express my questions and concerns regarding the new Hemlock-Canadice State Forest. We are residence of the Town of Conesus, and use the trails along Hemlock and Canadice Lakes several times a week for exercise and for walking our dogs. We appreciate the beauty and safety of these trails and look forward to many years of walking there, and welcoming friends to join us. I am also on the planning board for the town, and so have an interest in protecting this area for all our citizens.

My questions are:

- What, if any, are the regulations regarding walking pets on the trails in the new state forest? In the past the regulation has been that the dogs must be “controlled” or on a leash. Will the same rules apply? If so, what is your definition of “controlled”? The term means different things to different people and cause friction at times on the trails.

- What will be the regulations regarding hiking off trails, bushwhacking new trails, etc. be?

- What are the regulations regarding camping and making camp fires?

- Will the state continue to enforce the same rules set by the City of Rochester that have applied to the lakes, or will this continue to be up to the City?

- Will the state provide patrolling of the area and enforcement of its regulations for the area?

I do not want to presume that I can anticipate the regulations that the State will put into effect for this forest. However, I do have concerns that I want to be sure these regulations will address:

- Since the area has been kept in as pristine a condition as possible, we would very much like to have this continue. We feel that the only way that this can happen is if camping, campfires, large picnics, bushwhacking, ATV's and snowmobiles are banned in this area.

- The regulations that are currently in effect banning swimming and immersion in the water should continue to be in effect and enforced. Given that this area is so close to populated areas, if swimming were allowed, it would soon lead to many more people in the forest and their trash etc in the area.

- We recommend that signs with the regulations be posted prominently, that permits be resumes under State enforcement, and that they be strictly enforced. New individuals visiting the lakes this summer were not aware of any rules because they were not required to take a permit and did not read the signs. I personally saw a party of individuals that appeared to be canoeing for the purpose of finding a camping spot.

- Finally, there should be strong partnership with the City in protecting the water in the lakes and the watershed from any sources of pollution and in enforcing the existing City rules regarding the water quality in the lakes.

-Tawn R. Feeney

I just have a concern about Hemlock and Canadice Lakes. I am thrilled that the state has taken over these beautiful lakes, and I realize things will take time to adjust. However, I was at Hemlock Lake many times this summer to kayak and noticed a LOT of people swimming and wading. I am concerned that without needing permits anymore, there will be an influx of irresponsible visitors to the lake who do not take the time to find out what the regulations are. Will there be some kind of signs or patrols in the future? I'd hate to see the "bad" ones ruin it for everyone else and have the state forbid usage of the lakes.

-Jill Miller

I am concerned with the land use of Hemlock Canadice State Forest since New York State purchased the land from the City of Rochester. For years I have enjoyed fishing, hiking, canoeing, and more recently kayaking in these wonderful lakes. There is a true feeling of seclusion while padding on these lakes, a wilderness-like feeling. I have seen bald eagles, heron, and all kinds of water fowl. It is imperative that the land that surrounds these pristine lakes is not damaged or compromised by unwise use or foresting. I belong to The Adirondack Mountain Club who's mission statement is "(ADK) is a nonprofit membership organization that protects wild lands and water through a balanced approach of conservation an advocacy, environmental education, and responsible recreation" and Trout Unlimited whose mission is "Conserving, protecting, and restoring North America's coldwater fisheries and their watersheds."

Protecting the quality of water has to be the highest priority for these two watersheds. I have a vested interest in this for many reasons but the foremost one being this is where my water comes from for drinking, bathing, and cooking. Water quality in the watershed is directly related to the management of watershed land. This not only concerns the lakes but the surrounding land and streams that feed these lakes. If roads are allowed to be carved into the surrounding hills and foresting is not contained and strictly managed, the water quality could be compromised. Unfortunately, we often do not find out about poorly managed land use and foresting until it is too late. This cannot be allowed! When timber harvesting is being done it must be managed by an on-site forester who has the best interest of the watershed in mind and not that of those who are harvesting the timber for profit.

I truly like and enjoy the primitive feeling of the land that allows access to the boat launches and the lakes themselves. Keep things as they are, the wilderness-like setting is in the best interest of the lakes and those that access them. There are numerous lakes in the Finger Lakes region that have cement boat launches and amenities for those who don't enjoy the wilderness-like feeling.

I have read recently in the newspaper how gas companies are trying to secure land for "fracking." The Hemlock Canadice State Forest is worth far more to the citizens of the state in its natural state then allowing gas exploration, windmill and communication towers to be installed. Furthermore, there would be the roads necessary to install and service these structures, which further degrade the wilderness-like feeling of these forests and lakes.

My hope is that the creation of a Unit Management Plan for Hemlock Canadice State Forest considers the above mentions and will protect the quality of the water, habitat, and the forests for the benefit of my children as well as my grandchildren and myself.

-Carl M. Palmer

I attended the October 26th meeting and talked briefly with Gretchen. I met Jim Bird, a canoe owner, and we talked about the importance of designing separate launch areas for boats from canoe/kayaks.

Points of concern:

1. Separate boat and canoe/kayak launches

-Canoe/kayak owners need at least 10-15 minutes to “unload” and prepare. Then they need to park their vehicle and then walk back to the launch. Currently, the boat launch at Canadice Lake is not large enough to permit access by more than two vehicles at one time. Separate launch areas and use enforcement to solve this problem. Also, designing a park like setting with picnic tables and chairs at the canoe site will encourage use, creating a family environment and eliminate the sense of being “rushed” at the boat launch.

2. Water depth at the boat launch.

-Currently, launching a boat requires driving at least 30 feet into the lake to reach water deep enough to “float” the boat and remove it from the trailer.

-The shoreline at Canadice Lake needs to be “hogged out” to create a reasonable launch depth within approx 10 feet from the shoreline.

3. Restricting the type of craft and boat size

-Current size and type of “craft” should remain as “No jet ski’s...or water skiing”

I am confident these concerns would apply to Hemlock Lake as well.

-Carl Barth

I’d like to start by saying that I am grateful these Little Lakes have been permanently preserved. During these tough economic times, quite frankly, I didn’t expect the deal to go through. I am most grateful.

The City of Rochester was ahead of its time, in the way they preserved their water supply. The City’s land use rules made these lakes what they are today. I hope the State continues to steward these gems as well as the City did for over a century.

I support preserving the forest by means of no additional roads. Additional roads would fragment the forests, introduce invasive species and have problems with erosion. No more roads would include no gas exploration, no communication towers, no wind mills, etc. I support having an on- site forester knowledgeable with the forest during timber harvest. I would also support acquiring more land or protecting bordering lands through conservation easements. Improvements to the boat launches, for example, would take from the lake’s charm. Basically, please keep the lakes the way they are. Please don’t allow ATV use, horseback riding, swimming, or mountain biking. The recreational use of these lakes is high so keeping the rules a bit tighter might off-set some of that higher, but lighter use.

-Karen Schreiner

Sorry to have missed the open forums recently. I would recommend that the NYS DEC maintain the boat motor restrictions for the lakes, do no improvements at the launch sites, and do not allow overnight use.

I hope to establish a water quality sampling program at both lakes next year through my position as director of the FLCC Muller Field Station located in the nearby southern Honeoye Valley. I have recently completed and published a macrophyte survey for both Canadice and Hemlock lakes, with help provided by Don Root and Lenny Schantz.

It would also be desirable to set aside a portion of the forest as “forever wild.” Perhaps the forest near Mission Point would be suited for this purpose-it is one of the more diverse forests in the new State holdings. A “forever wild” forest could become an important baseline for comparative studies with other

lands managed sustainably. I and my college colleagues would also be interested in participating in pre-Emerald Ash Borer study of forest composition.

-Bruce Gilman, Finger Lakes Community College

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-Karen Schreiner

Thanks for letting me know about the comment on the management plans.

It sounds like most regulations are being kept similar which I support.

I did hear about the inspectors getting out a measuring tape and commenting on the 17 foot rule for length of canoes and kayaks. I am not sure that is true but want to suggest an amendment for the length of canoes and kayaks.

I think 18 foot is an appropriate length for canoe and kayak maximum length. When the regs were originally written, sea or touring kayaks were not even being built yet. Nowadays, an 18 foot max length is not uncommon for a high end performance boat. I see the length of the human powered crafts being set at this length as appropriate for the high end paddling that is currently the norm for today's lengths. Since there is no body contact or no engines involved, this amendment will not in any way affect the water quality. I don't see any controversy around this length.

Thanks for considering this amendment.

Please let me know when I can see a draft of the proposed plan.

-Rick French, President Pack Paddle Ski

Having read about the threat of hydrofracking in Rochester-Finger Lakes region, and drinking Hemlock water gratefully for over seventy years, I must speak up for the protection of the Hemlock-Canadice watershed.

NOT ACCEPTABLE: Logging, drilling and mining in such an area, an important source of fresh drinking water for Rochester and this part of New York State.

Please help us to protect the lands and forest here, as the City of Rochester managed to do for so many years. It managed through investing in the land and paying to see that it was not infringed upon.

Please ensure that the public can continue to access the area for recreational uses such as hunting, fishing, hiking, boating and nature learning.

-Helene V. Case

-Canadice residents since April, 1988

-Substantial common property boundaries at above address and on property between Canadice Lake Rd. and County Rd. 37 just south of Holmes Rd.

Generally, we would like to see no changes from how the City of Rochester has managed the land and the lakes.

-Maintain current limitations on water craft and use of the lakes and land (e.g. no swimming, 10hp or less motors, no motorized vehicles/ATV's/snowmobiles, etc.)

-No further development of facilities (no picnic or camping areas, no new trails or upgrades for existing trails, no upgrades of boat launches or parking facilities)

-Actively maintain existing trails/facilities, including periodic litter pickup.

-Actively manage the forests and allow limited, conservative logging

-No extractive activities (no gas wells, no gravel pits)

-Actively monitor usage by the public. If usage continues to increase then contribute to the local governments' infrastructure maintenance/improvement expenses.

Please keep me on the mailing list.

-Mark & Kathy Malmendier

I am a resident of Hemlock, NY and reside at 4990 Main Street. I have been enjoying these 2 lakes for the past 40+ years of my life. The reason for this letter is to voice my opinion regarding what I would like to see happen with the NYS involvement on the Watersheds of hemlock and Canadice Lakes.

1. Establishment of mooring docks/piers for boaters at the launch sites

a. Benefits include but not limited to the following

i. Reduces motor vehicle contact with watershed whilst retrieving boat

1. I have witnessed vehicle tailpipes submerged as persons try to retrieve their boats

ii. Eliminate persons entering watershed to attach winch cables

iii. Accelerates the launch and retrieval of watercraft

2. Establish a Daily Launch Fee as part of item # 1 to provide income maintenance of launch sites

-Michael R. Gilbert

I was at bench at Canadice Lake, south end, last Friday. The cattails have grown and you can no longer see the lake. I always enjoyed this view very much. I think if the lake was lowered, as it will be during September, I presume, a dozer and/or excavator could be used to reopen this view and it would stay open for many years. The vegetation could be removed. I do not know if a permit(s) would be required. If it is just mowed, I think it will not stay open long. Anyway, let me know what you think.

-Don Root

Comments Received at the Meeting

Figure out how to allow limited primitive camping in certain areas. I'd love to sail across the lake and camp under a full moon.

-tomhyrunial@xxxxxxxxx.com

Improve boat launching sites and road ways to such areas. Allow walleye stocking to allow for a variety of fish available for anglers. Keep fee free.

-Marc Osypiah

- Would like to see hunting and fishing access continued
- Limit development i.e.: not sure an elaborate boat launch is necessary
- I'm sure there is some form of timber management
- Understand there is a "pilot" program for continuation of tax payments...how long will that continue?

-Anonymous

- Improve access roads and launch area for emergency rescue operations at south end of Hemlock Lake. Difficult to get in and maneuver large rescue/emergency equipment.

- Improve boat launch for deep water access at south end of Hemlock Lake for emergency and recreational use.

-Anonymous

- Maintain limit on boat size and motor horsepower as currently listed
- Erosion control a must! Applied to stream and gullies that feed both lakes
- No commercial/charter fishing allowed

-Anonymous

- Would be curious to see more patrols during hunting season. As a hunter, I have seen a lot of illegal activities

- Any planned camping areas?

-Richard Pitt

Please consider elimination of length restrictions on self propelled craft. Many canoes are now in the 18-20' range as well as some touring kayaks and rowing/pulling craft. Also some allowances of minimal

water contact while launching self-propelled craft. Both of these were basically ignored by the City of Rochester security personnel.

-L. David Curtis

Hemlock and Canadice for handicap hunters.

-Bill Nauratil

There is no reason to do anything to the property surrounding the lakes. It should be left forever wild.

-Anonymous

- Allowing horseback riding on certain trails: there are many areas not near the watershed that would be suitable

- Trails can handle multiple uses (e.g. Mendond Park the trails are used for runners, hikers, and horses and all respect each other and are courteous to each other)

-Nancy Pennell

- No engine on Canadice Lake

- Limit engine size to 25hp on Hemlock

- No limit on length of self propelled water craft

-Anonymous

Present an assessment of the ability to maintain the integrity of the lakes as water supplies vis-à-vis the existing lands in the public ownership. Simply put, should there be land acquisition program to acquire lands where holdings are sparse and not sufficient to protect the water resource? Will unique habitats or ecosystems be identified, for instance significant old stands?

What process will be used to identify permitted uses? Will use of the lakes as city water supply remain its primary use? Will plans be developed to ensure water quality and other uses such as recreation are secondary and evaluated as to its impact on the water supply?

-Edward J. Olinger

I presently own one of the largest parcels (218 acres) on the west side of Hemlock Lake, my concerns are:

- Protection of the Bald Eagles nest located 300 yards east of my lake side property line

- Keeping the lake's west shore pristine and "forever wild" some of this area contains "old forest" therefore no logging or log roads or new "dozer created" paths or roads be permitted

- Public access to remain in its current state

- Mineral extraction, drilling, fracturing, and transmission should not be permitted
- Kenneth Kotwas*

- I oppose leasing the land for natural gas drilling, as it leads to fragmentation of the forests
 - I oppose constructing wind turbines on the property
 - No clear cutting of forests should take place
 - Control of invasive species should be part of the management plan
 - The property should be maintained as it was under the City of Rochester ownership
 - Construct foot path/bike path on east side of lake from end to end (no motorized vehicles)
- Wendy Stevenson*

Invasive vegetation management...I'm interested to know how plants like Russian Olive etc. will be controlled.

-Hatch

- I propose a 40-45mph speed limit on Canadice Lake Road. Due to the number of folks walking, horseback riding, biking, running on the road including high school track teams. From Purcell Hill Road to Johnson Hill Road.

- Please allow boats to be left on the points overnight, off shoreline
- We are extremely opposed to hydro fracturing for gas deposits in Canadice due to the many home wells that could be compromised.
- Please open access paths that are presently locked on each point so that handicapped and elderly can enjoy a walk to the water's edge
- Please consider picnic privileges on the points with a take in/take out rule, no trash cans
- We would support all efforts to save our ash trees and our oaks that are being stripped of leaves every year by caterpillars

-Carol Fisher

I would like to keep the guidelines we have now for the use of the lakes. Keep 6NYCRR and 190.26 parts A and B in their entirety. Also, do NOT develop (no restrooms, campsites, etc.)

-Lyndsay Clark and Coby Schultz

- Brochures available at Kiosk, additional Kiosk information stand at south boat launch. New people to area need guidelines clear
- Hiking trails maintained and new trails developed
- Hunters should remove guts; domestic dogs in area can get sick on them
- Separate hunting and hiking trails

- Canadice outlet is in a nature preserve. Rare plants, old foundations and history. Would be helpful to have a rope bridge across creek at old bridge area
 - No snowmobiles on trails. However, would be helpful for cross country skiing to have a few pass through to keep snow packed
 - Volunteer DEC rangers, trained and designate jobs to help maintain forest
 - No hydro fracking in area
 - Please update my book Hiking the "Little Finger Lakes", I have changed ownership and permit information...what else should I add or delete?
- Pam Masterson*

- What improvements (dock, parking, water depth at the launch) will be made to the Canadice and Hemlock Lakes?
 - Will there be a boat and motor size restriction?
 - Will there be a launch fee? How much?
 - Will the separate canoe and kayak area be enforced?
- Anonymous*

Please do not allow snowmobiles in the forest for recreational purposes. Oil spills and muddy trails could jeopardize the water shed and the noise would be distracting from the quiet that has been there for decades. Please do not mow the existing foot trails in the forest. It is an invitation for 4 wheelers and motorcycles to enter. Hikers and hunters can maintain them for foot travel.

-Rick and Ellen Osiecki

Equestrian use. We are trail riders and would love to be able to use the land for this purpose.

-Ken Adams

- I oppose and logging
- I oppose gas leasing
- I oppose building any roads around Hemlock Lake. The public has access to Hemlock Lake from the north and south ends of the lake today, as well as from Marrowback Road and Route 15A
- New York State DEC should preserve and maintain Hemlock and Canadice State Forest in the same way the City of Rochester has for so many years.

- Selectively harvest mature trees and sell timber. Money from sale directly used to improve Hemlock Canadice unit.
- Allow public to cut fallen trees for fire wood. (managed and supervised cut zones)
- Create wildlife safety zones in a few selected areas where hunting pressure and land usage create safety hazards for land owners during deer season
- Aggressively enforce land owners protection from hunters on lands boarding Hemlock Canadice unit

- Allow campfires and camping
- Sam McRae*

- Who will maintain boat launch?
- Boat launch at Canadice Lake
- Motor size, Hemlock and Canadice
- Hunting, should be bow season on both lakes
- Will all state land be marked at intervals for leaving or entering?
- Hiking and walking trails
- Port a potty at boat launch, out house on trail

-Howard E. Ransom

- Restrict sound level of motors
- Increase length of self propelled water craft
- Port a potty at south end launch (same as north launch)

-Carol & Dave Curtis

- Allow horses on certain designated trails
- Many parks (e.g. Mendon, Sugar Hill) and state lands have assigned trails as multiple use; hiking, biking, and horses. There is always consideration and respect shown on these trails by the individuals.
- There are a lot of horse owners in the surrounding area and it would be wonderful to have parts of this forest to ride on.

-Anonymous

- Maintain hunting and fishing without requiring special permits like are needed in some state parks
- Do not put any special hunting or fishing regulations in place other than those already in place to protect public drinking water
- Currently in some state parks such as Letchworth State Park, the turkey season has been shortened. Small game hunting is not permitted and permits are required and limited in number

-Gene Setzer

Rochester has done a very good job over the years of keeping the area usable but as “natural” as possible. I would like to see this type of management continue but where appropriate to promote more multiuse trails and or water access. E.G. It would be great to open the east side of Hemlock from one end to the other. If forestry management is necessary, it would be great to consider “access” as a trail first and foremost. Canadice is in very good shape for access. It is hoped the state can maintain the current trails. Also, if there is any way to put in a bike lane on the east roadside, that would be great.

-Carole Koss

Having enjoyed the “wilderness” of the City of Rochester’s water supply it is my opinion that the best that can happen is modest improvements in the boat launch and parking areas at both lakes. The restriction on larger outboard motors is definitely a keeper. No one wants the 150hp engine with the 89IQ. There are plenty of other water ways in NYS to make big waves. I am not a person that wants every tree on this earth left alone, but I do realize the importance of managed forestry. One must remember that water (rain, snow melt) runs downhill and that is where the drinking water is. It is environmentally responsible to minimize the impact on what goes into the water supply when one starts “improving” the forest. These lakes are truly “the jewels” of western NY. It is imperative that we manage this area in such a way that the balance of the natural beauty is not upset for the benefit of a few capitalists. There is more money made in Africa on game farms with tourists than with poachers shooting the wild game animals.

-Doug Page

Resident of Springwater since 1976; retired DEC R8 Fisheries 2003, worked on the Little FL Area acquisition since early 1970’s.

- All state forests are special...would argue C/H area is extra special because of the two FL’s, undeveloped, and large acreage
 - DEC staff is nearing all time low levels...3800 when I worked, now 3000...headed towards 2800 if firings proceed
 - Will be difficult to provide time this area deserves
 - Suggest a Little Finger Lakes Management Committee to recommend management policy to regional DEC
 - Committee, at a minimum, could consist of: DEC natural resources, City of Rochester, Nature Conservancy, sportsman rep, local town rep, and town/county political rep
 - I feel current 16ft/10hp boat restriction is fitting with character of lakes and history use
 - Urge support for continued hunting
 - Manage most of the timber areas but consider a few, small acreages of “forever wild” forest
- William J. Abraham*

- Hemlock and Candice must be preserved and protected from any and all private development, forever!
- Any allowed human activity must be regulated for absolute minimal impact
- No commercial use may be made of the lands, water, or resources above, upon, or below these current NYS owned or regulated lands
- Camping, swimming, now powered boating, fishing, hunting, hiking, and other recreational activities are to be regulated with the last priority being sustainable preservation of the resource and the natural ambiance of these lakes and the watershed
- Efforts should be made to expand this holding to include greater acreage from the lake edges and other significant watershed lands and features
- To assist the enforcement and education of new regulations the elimination of motorized boating may be a worthy goal
- Primitive camping at least 150 from the lake (similar to some reservoirs) may be permitted

- Improvements should only be to encourage the lowest impact activities such as hiking trail erosion control, fishing boat access, cross country ski trail
- No road building, paving, mowing, pavilions, beach development
- *William & Nancy O' Brien*

I have enclosed a map of a section of our mutual property line. The cross hatched section on the map is not more than 95 yards wide at the widest point and is approximately 5 to 7 acres. In the past, when the City of Rochester owned the property, they allowed hunters and others to access this strip of land. Hunters coming in from the road must shoot towards the west because visibility is very limited to the north and south. Because this strip of land is so narrow, slugs travel into my woods and fields. My major concern is safety for myself and other hunters since my family uses the woods to hunt or get firewood. On occasion, I have observed some hunters sitting along my property line in complete camo and they are impossible to see. It scares me to think I could have easily shot them and never had a clue that any hunters were in my line of fire. I would like to discuss with you some possible ways to improve the safety conditions during deer season. I would also welcome the opportunity to have you walk this property with me and evaluate the safety conditions first hand.

-*Sam McRae*

- Trails: Foot, bike, ski
 - Construct and maintain several loop trails within the unit
 - Various lengths, from 1 to 10 miles
 - Connect both lakes
 - Connect the villages of Springwater, NY and Hemlock, NY
 - Use the Larry Canute Memorial park as the primary trail head
 - Cooperate with the Town of Springwater to allow the mutual connection of trails to enhance the network
 - On Hemlock Lake, the north and south boat launch trails should be connected
 - All trail construction and maintenance will incorporate the use of Best Management Practices
 - There is significant concern about hiking trail damage and noise from any snowmobile or ATV use. If motorized vehicles are allowed in the unit, there should be proper segregation from foot, bike, and ski trails
 - Bike lane on Canadice Lake Road would be beneficial
 - If horses are allowed, horse trails should be segregated from other trails
- Forest Management
 - All logging roads should be retired as hiking trails
 - There should be an invasive plant work plan established to control invasives
- Hunting in the Unit
 - Hunting is not generally consistent with recreational trail use, prohibit hunting within 100 yards of designated trails
- Parking areas and Primitive Camping
 - Accessible parking areas along the lakes with proper signage
 - if primitive camping is permitted, there should be proper law enforcement and maintenance which will not be affected by budgetary concerns. No budget, no camping
- Kayaking/Canoeing

- Accessible rest areas along the shores of both lakes
-Chuck Winship & Dean Faklis

Goal: A working educational forest for members to help manage and enjoy. Approximate size: 100 acres or more.

Approach: Access to forested land where the membership can actively participate management according to a sustainable forest management plan so that their great grandchildren can relive their efforts and make further progress.

The proposed forest is an educational tool where theory is put to practice. It is especially relevant to members that do not own woodlands, their woodlands are not large enough, or where the membership desires a perpetual “home” and legacy forest. This forest is a working forest. There are thoughtful experiments and harvests under the proper direction of an accredited forester. There is planting and pruning. There is work with wildlife habitat, wetlands conservation, and trails. There is a maple syrup program. Among other things, there are deer exclosures and wildlife viewing stations.

The operative word is ACTIVE participation for the purposes of education and sustainability.

Possible avenues that are being explored:

Out-right ownership of forest land

Deeded rights to private lands

Agreement with DEC (perhaps through Adopt-A-Natural-Resource program)

Pro Forma Organization:

Administration team

Responsible for: Acquisition of rights, admin, accounting, etc.

Forest Design Team

Responsible for: Forest management plan, wildlife management plan, outreach efforts, woodswalks, etc.

Forest Construction Team

Responsible for: Trail building, structure building, thinning, etc.

Property Management Team

Responsible for: Property maintenance (trails, grass cutting, fix structures, snow removal, etc.)

Fundraising Team

Responsible for: Fundraising, marketing, public relations, member coordination, etc.

-Dean Faklis

DEC shall maintain existing 7000 acres as a State Forest and should strive to improve conservation to the level of “best practices”

Timber Management

480a Standard

Water Management

Erosion Control

Retention Ponds

Waste water treatment

No gas exploration/operations

Wildlife Management

Deer herd

Bear control

Predatory bird protection

- Eagles
- Hawks
- Song bird protection
- Agriculture
 - Low erosion
 - Minimize fertilizer contamination
- Recreation should be limited, consistent with the purposes of the State Forest (vs. State Park)
- Expand the influence of the existing State Forest (additional 5000-8000 acres) by extending conservation practices to private lands on Bald Hill
 - DEC should be empowered and funded to provide incentives to landowners
 - Development easements
 - Buy out existing gas leases
 - Gas exploration easements
 - Tax benefit for conservation practices (similar to 480a)
 - Right of first refusal for DEC purchase of private land
- Create a “Conservation District” to provide an integrated approach in managing the state forest and its contiguous lands
 - Extent of Conservation District
 - Focus on core: Hemlock – Canadice watershed
 - More expansive?
 - Comprehensive master plan for district
 - Land use designation and zoning - 2 counties and 2 more towns
 - Requirements (as applicable)
 - Woodland Management
 - Water Management
 - Wildlife Management
 - Agriculture Management
 - DEC should be empowered and funded to purchase selected properties of strategic importance that expand the State Forest, so it ultimately connects Canadice and Hemlock lakes.

-Christian & Lars Mazzola

I am Hugh Mitchell, Conservation Chairperson of the Rochester Regional Group of Sierra Club. My comments are strictly preliminary to our positions on the UMP for Hemlock/Canadice-which we will send later in written form.

1. Watershed protection

- NYS forest management plan and other UMP’s have not been written with protection of drinking water as the primary goal
- RRG comments are all related to and based on providing the highest consideration to protection of the water quality of Hemlock/Canadice Lakes as the primary drinking water source for the towns and Rochester City to the north of the reservoirs
- In designing a UMP for this wonderful natural area, which the City has preserved for over 130 years as reservoirs. We must write-in special considerations to protect the Upland Watershed as the source of drinking water for over 200,000 people
- Filtration of Hemlock water by Hemlock plant is not enough to ensure safe, pure drinking water for Rochester in the future. (We only need to look at the NTU rules to understand this)

2. Preservation category- There appears to be only two possible categories in the State Forest policy which can be considered for the Hemlock/Canadice UMP:

- Unique special use area category
- State natural and historical preservation category

- History: City used pure water since 1878. City removed 200 cottages and 4 hotels. City protected Upland Watershed for pure water source for over 130 years. City provided professional staff to monitor and control area. Natural and Historic Preservation Area describes very well the unique nature of the Hemlock/Canadice lands.

3. Rochester city water quality codes should be used as the primary standard for protection and multiple use of the watershed. These include:

4. Active recreation uses

- Boating: canoes, kayaks, no sailboats
- Fishing
 - City regulations limit boat size
 - City regulations regarding boat launches: natural, unimproved
- City regulations regarding no swimming, sailboats, body contact with water
- Machine vehicle use prohibited
 - No ATV= All Terrain Vehicles
 - No OHV= Off Highway Vehicles
 - No snowmobiles
 - Mountain biking permitted only on hard pack trails
- Access limitation: gates and warning signs. New DEC boundary signage signifying the

Forest Protection category

- Hiking trails: no new trails are recommended
- Hunting: Controlled by DEC license. Consider placing area “off limits” to other recreation during hunting season

5. Passive recreation uses

- Picnicking: only in Hemlock North Park
- Protection of the viewscape. No “industrial type” development on watershed lands: cell towers, windmills, radio towers
- Establish and encourage an active nature education for area

6. Protection of the land

- How will Upland Watershed lands be monitored and protected be DEC considering the severe staff cuts: 1,000 jobs since 2008
- Logging and timber harvest issues
- Most UMP’s on State Forest lands appear written to permit timber harvest rather than watershed protection. We should severely restrict logging on Hemlock lands
- History: 1978 City’s history of poor logging practices led to erosion and siltation in lakes, which eventually contributed to requirement for filtration of water. Cost city millions.
- Two possible logging categories
- No logging standard
- Timber harvesting requires logging roads, machine use, general scars on land which last for years. These roads open the area to ATV, OVR, and destructive mountain biking problems
- Timber roads also encourage exploration for gas mining and hydrofracking operations
- Logging with setbacks: Sierra Club proposes a 2000 yard set back from all the lakes and watershed streams and logging slope limits: Sierra club proposes no logging on slopes greater than 10 degrees
- Mining and hydrofracking: No mining, gas exploration or hydrofracking on Hemlock/Canadice watershed lands

7. Future

- Future land acquisitions: The City never fully protected the Hemlock/Canadice areas. More land purchases are particularly needed to the east side of Canadice Lake to protect the water quality and improve bird habitat

- Protecting the Upland Watershed: The State or Citizen Groups need to establish a citizen based Watch Dog Group who can provide stewardship and protection of the area from abuses

-Hugh Mitchell

- No snowmobiles or ATV's

- No snowmobiles or Recreation vehicles

- No snowmobiles

- Please allow me to skinny-dip in Canadice Lake

-Comments written on the large paper on the easels at the meeting

To NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation. Please do not allow Hydrofracturing in the Hemlock-Canadice State Forest. This area was meant to be "Environmentally Conserved". Hydrofracturing would destroy the environment in more ways than we even know. Please do not allow this to happen.

-Suzanne K. Webster

Hemlock-Canadice Unit Management Plan Public Comments – Draft Plan Public Meeting and Mailing

The following written and verbal comments on the Draft Hemlock-Canadice Unit Management Plan were received during the **March 14, 2013** public meeting held at the Springwater Firehall. A letter announcing the meeting, and asking for comments, was mailed on **February 12, 2013** to a previously identified audience including adjacent property owners, other interested parties, local government officials, recreational groups, forest industry groups, wildlife groups and other general environmental groups and the local media.

A total of 250 people signed in at the meeting, 33 spoke publicly at the meeting, and about 430 written comments were received. Written comments were accepted until **April 15, 2013**.

Spoken Comments at the March 14, 2013 Public Meeting

The following comments are approximate transcriptions of the comments made during the public meeting held March 14, 2013 for the Draft Hemlock-Canadice Unit Management Plan.

Robert Scott, reside at ***** in hamlet of Hemlock, town of Livonia. With your forestry and management practices, they could affect the safety of the reservoir or the lakes. It is negligible but you should address your vision in forestry management plan could affect the safety of Hemlock and Canadice Lakes. The Nature Conservancy holds a lot of land in the area and it's a possibility that it could be taken over by state. I would like to see opportunity for public comment and involvement in modification or amendment of future management plans, should you take over those lands. Related to swimming in the lake, I am supportive of contact recreation and incidental contact with water and minimal swimming in the lake. In your report it states that staff identified the need for special regulations prohibiting this. When I read the qualifications of the staff, or staff titles, I see foresters and aquatic biologists. They are well qualified in what you do, but you are not qualified to make determinations on the safety of public water supplies. Restrictions in proposed regulations were enacted before the water filtration plant was placed into use. There might be one error in the document that I read. It states that Hemlock is a direct source of water supply for the city of Rochester and other areas. I don't think it's a direct source. That was the terminology used before there was a drinking water filtration plant. You now have the filtration plant so it is no longer a direct source, as it goes through that sophisticated treatment and it does meet US EPA drinking water standards. It troubles me that there is no scientific basis or rationale to prohibit contact with the water Hemlock in order to meet the drinking water quality. When I look at all the other Finger Lakes I see public water supplies in Hammondsport, coming out of Seneca Lake where all kinds of activities including DEC industrial discharges as well as the drinking water supply in Geneva, public water supplies Hammondsport, the city of Canandaigua, right here in Conesus Lake, all these activities take place in the water yet they are meeting the drinking water quality standards. You should write a letter to the New York State Department of Health Commissioner and request a determination on the need for this part of your regulation just as you're doing with other activities. They are the qualified people. You are not qualified to make that determination.

I am James Bird. I live up in Monroe County, and have been coming down to this lake for 43 years. I'm also president of the Adirondack Mountain Club for the state of New York, Connecticut and a few other places. We have about 30,00 members roughly including at 1,500 in the Rochester area, 1,00 in Buffalo the same number in Syracuse, a number in Binghamton, Ithaca surrounding this area, close to 5,000 members and they are very interested in what goes on. We would like to have this property properly protected. Our principal point is that it should be classified as a unique area under Article 45 of the Environmental Conservation Law of the state of New York. It is what was done with Zoar Valley if anyone is familiar with that. It is south of Buffalo and has done a wonderful job of preserving from just about any of the concerns people are probably here to talk about tonight. We believe that is the best thing to do and we will be pursuing legislation on item. We have a few other comments. We believe that while you have been good about saying said there won't be any drilling on this property, we would like to see it in writing. There should also be no wells, pipelines, compressor stations or other gas extraction infrastructure on the surface or under these lands. You should continue to acquire blocks of land. No ATV use. No off-road vehicles use, no horse trails, not around a water supply. The boat launches should be kept basically as they are, although moving to a place that isn't as dry as it was this fall would be OK. Keep the 10 horsepower motor limitation. Basically keep it the way it is. We strongly support the infrastructure to be sure invasive species are dealt with. Boat washing stations, signage, that sort of thing. No windfarms, power lines, cell towers, or things like that on this property.

My name is Hal Bauer, I own Springwater farms to the west of here. I am also the wilderness and wildlife chairperson of the Sierra Club for the state of New York which has 38,000 members. We're concerned and myself as a former senior scientist for the SUNY research foundation as well as a master's and doctoral researcher at several biological field stations, I find the excessive emphasis on development and multi-use in this document troubling. I would rather see water quality, air quality and soil quality pre-eminent. I would like to see limited activities to human powered transportation and not motorized travel of any sort. The notion of open ended or multi-use suggests the extraction of natural resources rather than conservation and appreciation is the goal. The long term gravity fed water supply for the City of Rochester is of cardinal importance as is environmental conservation. My wife and I were recently paddling and saw a large power boat followed by two swimmers across the lake. We reported that to many people. This notion of recreation, broadly defined, is part of my concern. I am concerned about the excessive reference even though verbally, they said there won't be fracking in this area, I quote, oil and natural gas are valuable resources that provide energy and revenue. In almost all senses, I agree with the former speaker, the chair of the Adirondack Mountain Club.

My name is Vince Burroughs. I live over in York and when I walked in here tonight I thought I knew what I was going to say, but now I'm not so sure. I've talked to a lot of people and apparently some of the things we want to accomplish; there are rules and regs against it. But there are ways as our state government has recently proved, they can do anything they want to do. What we have to do is make them want to do it. Within that UMP there is a statement from The Nature Conservancy. I wholeheartedly support that. The ADK and the Sierra Club said it very well. I think what we need to remember is where this property came from and why we got it in the state and we need to remember that our Lt. Gov. who was then the mayor and Pete Grannis who was later fired for telling the truth, stood up and told us that this property would be protected. There are ways to do it. If you read the UMP, it is

loaded with loopholes, innuendoes and every other method of doing what they want to do. For the note takers this is extremely important. We want to keep this area the way it was when we got it and not mess it up the way we seem to be able to do everywhere else. Whatever we have to do, in legislation, rules and regulations, cultural change or whatever, we need to do it. We got the unique ability, we got a nice little area here that hasn't been fouled up yet and we need to keep it that way.

I'm Jack Schrader, here just representing myself. I first encountered these lakes in 1969 when I came to New York State to go to school. Coming from the mid-west it was an eye opener. I lived that fall on Conesus Lake and I thought here's this beautiful lake surrounded with cottages. It wasn't until midway through that term that I had a chance to drive over to see Hemlock and Canadice and I said to myself these are what the Finger Lakes should look like. I was disappointed that throughout the history of New York State that no one had taken, had had the foresight to look at Canandaigua, Seneca, and all the other lakes and defined as being public land park land, instead of allowing development on there. With Conesus and Hemlock lakes, this is our last chance to preserve a pristine environment in this part of the state. If you look at a map of the United States, you'll find a lot of National parks throughout the west and portions of the far west but in the east, we're very short of those places. Thanks to the state of New York, Letchworth, Zoar Valley and other places, we thankfully have some of those places. I'd love to see Canadice and Hemlock become much like those other places where we preserve the scenery, we preserve the water quality. I have spent the last 40 years living in Rochester, the east side, my water comes from Hemlock Lake. I walk frequently up to the Cobbs Hill reservoir and I can see the fountain that spews the water directly without a pump all the way from Canadice. It is important to me as a home brewer that the quality of this water is preserved.

I am not a home brewer, but I'd like some. Hugh Mitchell, representing the regional Sierra Club. We cover the counties of Livingston, Ontario among other areas. In summary of our documentation and recommendations, in three minutes, I could have had about three hours. The problem we have with this document, despite all the good work that Don and others have done, with the efforts, thank you, was that it's oriented toward commercial uses in a lot of ways. This might be built into the state forest rules. The problem that we also see has come from a shift in our attitudes in that it was reservoir, city water for pure water, but now has shifted over attitudes to recreation. And I understand that it's wonderful to do hiking and boating and fishing and canoeing, but it is a reservoir and these waters need to be protected. If you all are as old as I am, you may remember, extremely bad logging that went on, in 1972 when there was massive silting in the reservoirs which led eventually to a filtration plant that cost the city a lot of money. I would like to see the word reservoir used in this document. I didn't see one reference to the word reservoir. One of the ways the city controlled these waters was, which Don Root remembers, a permit system. You used to have to go to city hall to get a permit I would like to see the permit system re-instituted. That would help us with education and protection of the lakes. The question is obviously economic, you know how the state is always poor. Could we come up with a way to share the costs of the permit system which would pay for staff at least in the warm season to help enforce the permit so we don't get jet-skiing, swimming across the reservoir, boats tipping over, human waste on the shore. We can document a lot of this and other problems. These lands are totally unique and they need to be placed in the highest level of control available in the state code which would be state nature and preserve. Change it from a state forest to a state nature preserve.

Hi, I'm Pete Debes, a lifelong naturalist, botanist and led eco-tourists for a company I started in Rochester for 20 years. I'd like to talk about some aspects that I don't think were considered in this plan. From an airplane, the state looks often deceptively well-forested. There are many plots of stands scattered across the state, but this view is deceptive. Many forest stands are at early stages of regeneration, reduced in diversity because of habitat disturbance. The state is home to a great variety of distinct forest types characterized by the substrates they've drawn and the community of plants they support. Many of these communities have been drastically reduced in size and broken by fragmentation, a condition that affects the ability of some animals to migrate for breeding and can lead to genetic isolation and disappearance of animals and plants. Some of these communities are now refuge for small isolated populations of living things that survive only in these places. Managing a forest to create varying aged stand can lead to an increase in the species due to an edge effect of mixed communities that results in, but...we can see that we already have a great deal of this in the state because of clearing of land and cutting of forest for firewood and lumber that's going on. What we do have less and less and less of and will continue to see even less of as our population grows inexorably is large stands of mature old growth forest and as fuel prices escalate we can expect to see more property owners will be seeking to reduce their heating cost by using wood and smaller owners to use to generate income through their forests through selective logging. I propose that the remaining large stands of forests that are state land that need to be managed with the knowledge that they are now almost the only old growth forest left of extensive size. There are species of plants and animals that seem best adapted to survive in extensive tracts of old growth forests. And such forests will be refuge and ensures their survival. Managing a forest to yield commercial lumber involves extensive intrusion, disruption and interference to a forest. The creatures and plants that benefit from this management will I think be mostly the same that are now benefitting from numerous small unprotected private forests throughout the state. Because of places that are left that are truly forever wild in the state are few, I believe these lands would be better managed by minimal intrusion and not motivated by commercial yield. People in this part of the state deserve wild lands that are not constantly being altered, manipulated by humans to experience wilderness as something approaching us. It is an experience cherished by many. It is important to maintain for future generations, the sense of wonder and nature and wilderness I think these forests should be re-designated to ensure their preservation and protection as a unique area.

My name is Marsha (Flunkie?) I live with my husband on Rt. 15A about two miles south of Hemlock. My concern is while I appreciate the meeting and everything that has been done, I would preferred to have been offered to the opportunity to serve on the committee. The first page of the...everyone that is on the committee seems to be DEC or whatever, it's too late for that, but I would have liked to have seen the citizens that live in the Hemlock Canadice State Forest, an opportunity to actually be on the committee and have an input in the decision. So at this point in time I guess my question would be you know everyone has different areas of interest. My particular interest would be in the hiking trails. I love to walk and bike ride. I'd like to have a little bit of input on what I'd like to see. I'm not convinced 100% that the letter that I write will be considered. I don't know what they will do with the letter or the e-mail and I would just like to sink my teeth into this a little bit more. That's all.

Hello, my name is Chaun Seeny. I am a resident in the town of Conesus on Marrowback Rd which follows the top of the ridge to the west of Hemlock Lake. We chose to move here ten years ago because of its location near the beautiful area that we're talking about tonight. In addition I am a member of the

committee that has proposed zoning changes of the town of Conesus to adhere more closely to our comprehensive plan adopted a few years ago. These zoning changes are currently being considered by the town board and will soon be subject to public hearings. Conesus and other towns that border the Hemlock Canadice lakes watershed take very seriously their responsibility to minimize the human impact on the lakes and the state forest lands and to maintain the rural pristine character of the environmentally pristine area. Conesus has proposed updates the following considerations. Hemlock Lakes is the water supply for many of our northern neighbors and has been for over a century. The town of Conesus is the largest town in area in designation on Hemlock Lake. The town board accepts the responsibility for helping protect this truly unique lake resource. And finally residents as part of our comprehensive plan and also of other neighboring towns and municipalities, demonstrate very strong support for maintaining the natural state of the lakes and surrounding properties. Among the changes in the zoning laws, the proposed unique zone only for the Hemlock Lake watershed to be differentiated from the rest of the town zoning for agricultural rural residential areas. It would increase the minimum lot size, road frontage and setbacks to reduce potential number of residents and resulting runoff due to the steep slope and poor drainage soils that surround the lakes. This reflects the opinions of professional land planners with whom we've consulted. In addition the town takes great care in reducing runoff from its highways through its extensive mitigation efforts and of timber harvesting through careful conservation practices. If our little town takes such great care to minimize the impact of development on the Hemlock watershed, cannot the state of New York do the same? The possibility of extracting mineral resources through whatever manner and certain industrialization of the areas is an abomination and frankly an insult to the residents of our area who have cared for these lakes and watershed for generations.

Good evening, my name is Ed Doherty. I am a resident of Monroe County and I am delighted to be here. This is a very pivotal moment. The development of this unit management plan is the first kid of real effort in a very, very, long time process trying to figure out how to preserve these lakes in perpetuity. It was always the intent and goal of transferring the property from city ownership to state ownership. Under city ownership, the property was managed reasonably well. Under state ownership with the promise of permanent protection. Unfortunately, it appears that the designation as a state forest precludes that permanent ability to the level of protection that many people expected. The suggestion that re-classification as a unique area or a high level of protection is an excellent suggestion. The staff has done a terrific job of developing a plan within the limits of what the state forest regulations permit. No one is saying that they want to do drilling but no one is instituting a plan that will permanently prevent drilling and it is that simple. I also want to remind the DEC that the city of Rochester was authorized to build a treatment plant and was provided a water supply permit amendment to do that. That was specifically predicated on the DEC's insistence that the watershed be protected as the lakes provide an additional barrier of protection to the water quality. It did not say build the treatment plant to prevent against any and all possible threats. This unit management plan of the DEC is in conflict with DEC's own regulatory effort that permitted the treatment plan to be built the way it is. We are in a tough conundrum. What really happened is at the staff level this has been handled really very well. The policy level seems to have failed to create the basic level of protection that we needed. Alternatives are necessary.

My name is Lee Brun. My background with these folks goes way back to the early 50's. I would go up hiking and really enjoying this area. It's really special. My main point is I worked in regulation when the regulation unit first arrived back in the early 70's. I learned by working there that you can't always

trust what goes on there. In fact, as an example, there's always a way to write a permit. Because they consider themselves a permitting agency. There's no desire to re-report a hard and fast pulse of something. As an example, you could get arrested for picking a wild flower, but if you jump through all the hoops, they'll get you a permit to bulldoze 10,000 acres.

I'm William Olene with O-Neh-Da Vineyards. We're the only property that wasn't kicked off Hemlock Lake when acquired by the city. I would like to thank Ed Dougherty, Don Root and the whole city of Rochester team for the tremendous stewardship of the Hemlock Lake-Canadice Lake watershed. Our vineyard set on Hemlock Lake since 1872. It pre-dates the city's purchase of the lakes. And we've always considered ourselves stewards of the land. The land was managed by Christian brothers and the first business of Rochester Forever and now a core of five or six of us consider ourselves the current stewards of the land. We take very seriously our role there and the beautiful natural surrounding that Hemlock-Canadice lakes provide. But there's a real threat to our business too, of any additional forestation or the threat of resources mining. We don't have a water filtration but we do pump our water out of the lake and our claim to fame is that we make pure grade wine for the Catholic church and other churches as well as excellent Finger Lakes wine from all over this region. I just built a new pizza oven so come see us. My concern is I was told by Bob Duffy, a friend of mine, that the land would always be protected and when it was transferred to the state, that they wouldn't be under pressure to log it timber it, take resources out to pay for the management of the land. I read her UMP. The language seemed to allow for anything, any commercial development on state lands. So I want to echo what Ed said, and the president to the ADK and Sierra Club, that this land should be re-classified. It should be not be treated as a state forest. It should have the highest protection. It's always referred to as the jewel of New York State. I want to make sure we don't mess that up.

I'm Jim Howe, Director of the Nature Conservancy of Central and Western New York. I want to thank all my colleagues at the department and the city of Rochester. It wasn't too long ago that we were all sweating whether these lands could be set aside permanently by the state. Three years ago, the state stepped forward with some really important funding to make this happen and thanks to that leadership and that vision we really do have two undeveloped Finger Lakes. TNC was honored to have played a role in that transaction. We really commend you for that vision and perseverance bringing it to a successful conclusion after 20 years of really hard work. We have a number of comments on the UMP. Let me start with the first one. That pertains to the oil and gas issue. You clearly said tonight that based on a number of factors here you have no intention of allowing any sort of drilling in the Hemlock Canadice State forest. We'd like to go a little farther with that. I think the question is, given all the special features and attributes here in this watershed, why not simply state that Hemlock-Canadice State forest will be withdrawn from oil and gas activities. Furthermore, our understanding is that DEC has the ability to do this and in 2006, there was a state forest called Bear Swamp state forest. It adjoins Skaneateles Lake which of course, is the city of Syracuse's drinking water supply. There was an oil and gas re-sale there and a number of state forests across the state after public comments from us and others, the Bear Swamp state forest was actually withdrawn from oil and gas leasing. I think we have a very similar situation here in terms of the special qualities of this forest. Not formally shutting the door on oil and gas activities on Hemlock Canadice really is not keeping with the spirit of the transaction between the state of New York and the City of Rochester which we were part of. So I really would like to see that happen. Our second recommendation from TNC is the classification issues designation issues, I think

that's right. We'd really like to see it set aside classified as a state nature and historic preserve. Our understanding is that gives it a lot more tenure. It would take for example two successive state legislatures if any of these lands were to be traded or sold. I like the idea of unique natural area status as well. That's really important. A third recommendation you heard a little bit about it earlier tonight. We'd like to see the state continue to work closely with the city of Rochester on management and monitoring these lands. The city has a really active presence here. They have, of course, their water treatment plant, at the north end of Hemlock Lake. They are right here. We'd love to see that formal relationship between the city and state. And finally, I'm really pleased to see the UMP highlight the extension of Robb's Trail. I don't know if any of you have hiked Robb's trail, it's one of the Nature Conservancy's preserves. It goes from Bald Hill down to Canadice Lake. We are hoping that we can take that trail and go from Bald Hill west to Hemlock Lake and I think the state is interested in. There's a lot of interest on our part too.

My name is Bob Goode. I'm from Rochester but my wife and I and my family have had lands up on the east side of Hemlock and Canadice Lakes for the last 30 years. There have been a lot of amazing people here tonight. I want to second a lot of their thoughts. The Finger Lakes are unique, not just in the state and not just even in the United States, but in the whole world. They are a unique geographical feature. The Hemlock and Canadice watersheds are unique in the Finger Lakes and there won't be another one, others we've done back that way. This is an incredibly special piece of land as you step back further and further and take it in a macro look. I haven't read all the technical words, but when they talk about the unique categorizations, of the unique nature of a higher level of protection, that's really important. It doesn't appear that the category decide now doesn't have wiggle room in there. There are areas there that really need to be tightened up. I like what Jim Howe said. Just make it clear. Make it permanent. Make it written. Make it absolutely done. Not just the drilling but any after affects, logistics, use of water, supply, any of that stuff, should be permanently written off. There was a great quote on the back on one of things from Ben Franklin that said something like you know the value of water when the well runs dry. I could paraphrase that to say the value of water when the well gets poisoned. It is just as sad. The idea of permanent protection is to protect it for generations. My wife and I bought the property when our two children were one month and 2 ½ years old and they're now adults and I have grandkids. I want to see them and their grandkids have the same protection and beauty of this land that we've grown up with.

I'm Mark Hopkins, president of the Springwater Trail. We're a hiking group and a group dedicated to more trails in this area. We love Robb's Trail. We love walking through these lands and desperately want you to preserve it. We want access to the place and we want it to be the special place it is. We just love the place. Remember that.

My name is Don Coleman and I live in the town of Richmond. I am a member of the town-appointed focus group looking at the problems of high volume hydrofracking. We've been studying this for well over a year and all the studies say this cannot be done safely. I believe that the rank and file at the DEC are all trying to do a good job. I think that their management is not listening to the people of the state of New York. The opening statement says there was no intention of allowing fracking in this forest. As other people have said, let's take that out. Let's make it positive that there will be no gas drilling, extraction in this forest.

My name is Mary Boice. I live in town of Richmond, between Hemlock and Honeoye. We do do some farming, and do it organically. That precludes any type of natural gas drilling. Even though a lot of people have said this it bears reiterating so that DEC hears us. We want specific language in the plan that prohibits not only natural gas drilling, any kind of oil and gas drilling associated activities. We don't want water taken out of those lakes for that use. The forest does not exist in a vacuum. The whole watershed needs to be protected, the same way that the Syracuse watershed is protected and that New York City's watershed is protected. That's what we need.

The suggestion of unique character for this lake and watershed is what it is. With regard to the oil and gas, I want to ask a question. If we prohibit swimming, why, other than historically, do we allow two cycle engines, etc on those lakes?

What are we going to do about this? What can we do about this? We should bring it to a vote, for the people around her to vote on what they want on their own watershed. We're letting it through the town board. We should elect people who are going to view our views. DEC should look into the selling of our fresh water to Pennsylvania to pollute it and drill down in Pa. We have to look into that. If we sell them fresh clean water, they don't bring back polluted, not drinking anything.

My name is Jamie Crustio. I grew up around Hemlock. I want permanent definitive language banning any sort of mineral extraction, anywhere near these lakes, preferably the watershed. I realize this UMP only pertains to the state forest. However, there are many references to the Sgeis regarding hydraulic fracturing in all of New York State and there is completely inadequate protections within that document so I believe this is directly linked to that document. There is 11 pages alone in Hemlock Canadice UMP devoted to the language of oil and gas extraction. Why is that in there if this is not being considered? I would like to express my extreme concern that the governing agency over these lakes is also charged with "the Department of Environmental Conservation to make leases on behalf of the state exploration, production and development of oil and gas on state land." This is a conflicted agency. As of 2011, there are over 44,000 acres under oil and gas lease in New York. This is a direct conflict of interest with a government agency charged with protecting these lakes. There needs to be major changes.

I am a senior in high school. I came because I'm concerned about mineral rights. I'm pleased to know the DEC explained that there's no threat to the lakes, but like other people have said, I would like to see it clearly stated that there will be no gas leasing on the lands.

I'm Steve Lewandowski. I was an organizer for the coalition of Hemlock and Canadice Lakes for over 20 years, trying to steer this land into permanent protection by New York State. I'm disappointed with the draft plan. I'm surprised to find that it contains no topographic information. If clean water is the principal reason for the maintenance of this watershed, protection of this water shed, the whole watershed, topographic information is absolutely necessary and it does not appear in this document. It is amazing that it doesn't. I work in watershed protection. The first document that I would look for if I were working in watershed protection would be topography, how does the land lie, how steep is it? That does not occur in this document. Then the very odd thing for forest management plan to have is you look down on these sheets. The maps that they have provided, the soil maps and so forth, you'd swear this was a flat watershed. How many people here think it is a flat watershed? We know this isn't a flat watershed. We know there are some generally more steep areas, generally sloping areas up above the watershed and some which are very, very steep indeed. Some which you can barely stand up on. They grow trees, but this document has a kind of fetish with access. It's mentioned about 10 times in here, that there isn't enough access in the state forest, not enough access. That seems to pertain only to motorized access. I walk in the watershed a great deal. You can walk most anywhere you want to, so they're really talking about roads. That talk is extremely dangerous because when you have a road, you can do a number of things with it. A lot of them are what people here complain about. I'm going to complain about the possibility of logging areas that have over 15% slope. I worked as a soil conservationist for over 25 years. I do not believe even with this management practices, that good logging can be carried out on steep slopes like we have in this watershed without severely polluting the water with silts and sediments, which is the reason why we have a filtration plant on this lake now. I ask that the lands be re-classified either as a unique natural area or as a state historic and nature preserve so that it has the fullest protection possible.

My name is Bob Thompson. I am a longtime resident of the Hemlock area. I'd like to thank the DEC I think the vast majority of people at the DEC are actually on our side and I congratulate everybody that's here tonight for that. Thank you for coming. Here's a bit of a history lesson. 7% of the world's fresh water and two of those lakes are our lakes. Once these waters are used for hydraulic fracturing, and we know that the door is open, they say they're not, but that puts us in the door right now. Once that water is used, its consumptive use, it can never, ever be replaced and we figured, we did the math and if they drilled in New York State, it would empty five of the western Finger Lakes completely. They would re-fill, but that's the equivalent of how much water would be taken out of our system forever, so, here's a plea for everybody in the room. Power will not yield a thing unless there's resistance. We can't just sit by and let it happen. We have to do the writing. As painful as that is we do have to do the writing to the DEC expressing our concerns. We do have to call Governor Cuomo. There is a great website, FrackFreeGenesee, with a tremendous amount of resources on there. I would ask you to look at that, but we the people in this room, it's up to us to do something to protect our area.

I have to confess that I didn't read all hundred and fifty pages of the UMP or is it 250? But my concern is that there doesn't seem to be anything in there about the water. It's about the forest. Who, I would like to know, is regulating the water, the withdrawal of water, rate and the purity of the water. There seems to be some concern in this plan for preserving the purity of this water, making sure that recreational use on the water and so forth, but there's nothing in there that says a tankard can't pull up and pull out 250,000 gallons and sell it to someone in Pennsylvania for fracking. However, that access would have to be made through state forest lands. I would like to see the state forest UMP say something about restricting water withdrawal from state forest lands.

My name is Dan Desine. This is Owen, my son. I chair the art department at the SUNY Geneseo and am a member of the presidential sustainability commissioner and I have over the last couple of years spent a lot of time studying high volume hydrofracking and I've been down to Pennsylvania a few times. All these things that deal with it are on my radar. When I came into the meeting tonight I expected to talk a lot about it and I was graciously comforted when said there's nothing to worry about. I've learned working at SUNY Geneseo over the last several, about ten years, that when a state official says there's nothing to worry about, there's usually something to worry about. It's actually a little bit insulting especially when I have this document here and excerpt from the UMP that there are 11 pages detailing how and why they would want to do this. One of the reasons they give is oil and natural gas are valuable natural resources which can provide energy and revenue as well as the opportunity for improvements to existing infrastructure of state lands, such as improving safe restricted access to upgrade existing roads, so more roads, culverts, so there's quicker runoff, and gates, for something, and creation of grassy openings to advance habitat diversity. As an earlier speaker said, we have plenty of grassy areas right now. What we don't have a lot of is forest. The idea of getting rid of some of that forest to increase grassy openings seems like a weak excuse to allow an incredibly dangerous industry into our precious landscape that we have very little of, so, I would like to call for a complete ban on hydrofracking or really any gas activities within the state forest. It is a relatively small piece of property in the overall state and the idea that we would need that seems silly to me.

My name is Bob Nelson. I'm usually in the back of the room, running the projector at educational forums on hydrofracking. I grew up bordering the forests. I bought the land from my folks ten years ago to continue living on the land that I grew up on. It's really near to my heart. The reason I'm here is because I got this fact sheet from the DEC a couple of weeks ago and I don't know how many people got it, I talked with a lot of people that didn't get it. It tells you about this meeting tonight and it tells you an overview about the plan and then there's 14 bullet points on the back about some good stuff they're going to do, but not one word about oil and gas development. So, I read it and think alright great, there's nothing to worry about. Then I get a phone call that says there is a lot to worry about, 11 pages. I'd like to read part of what's in the plan here, due to recent drilling and production activity in western New York, New York State DEC may receive requests to nominate lands contained in this unit for oil and gas leasing. In the event of this occurrence, the procedures outlined in mineral resources, section, on page 97 will be used. For further information, contact the DEC's mineral resources staff. So there's money to be made, there's resources, they feel they could be approached and the fact that I'm supposed to trust this agency to protect this land that's been protected for so long, they didn't address this issue once in 14 bullet points on this fact sheet. When I read this I got upset, probably a lot of you did too. There's a Facebook page called protect Hemlock and Canadice Lakes. We sent out some information to alert people to this meeting. If the DEC fails to protect us, I think there's enough people in this room, that we'll protect it ourselves. I have lots of time to volunteer and keep putting into this movement. We need help. We need people to get involved to stay connected. Utilize that Facebook page to protect Hemlock and Canadice Lakes, FrackFreeGenesee and there's tons of other ones out there.

At the beginning of this evening when they were giving their presentation, there were a couple of points made about that there wasn't any actual transcript made tonight. Was there going to be a recording or not? I'm not sure. The purpose of this is to get public feedback. I think it's pretty clear that there's been a lot of public feedback. My question is if there's not really a record, not really a transcript, how well can you categorize that feedback when you go back and say well there was this and there was that rather than, there were a lot of very specific points made by a lot of really amazing people who spoke tonight. Very specific points about the nature of protection, about the need for the higher level of protection, about the need for a very proactive, positive assertive policy about this rather than a wishy washy policy. That set of stuff really needs to be gotten into the record in very clear ways. I know you've gotten the message being here, but somehow that needs to be made official.

Thanks, Dad. My name is Emily Good. I grew up around Canadice and Hemlock. I live in Rochester. When there are millions of people losing their water due to climate change, talking about selling water or importing water is insane. Meetings like this are kinda nice because we get to get together and reinforce the fact that we are opposed to this. But when you step back and look at it, it's completely insane to even consider fracking in any part of the watershed in any part of the state in any part of the earth. I'd like to point out that this is a ten year UMP. In ten years we're going to be seeing climate refugees coming to this region because we're messing up the world with our drilling and with our resource extraction. We need to completely stop it. We need to stop putting roads into the forest because every single scientific survey shows that humans who have needs, and financial investments might benefit, but every other living species on earth is hurt by that road and we need to this is a completely anthropocentric meeting. We're all humans. I'd also like to speak for all the non-humans who don't have a voice who we don't include at all in any of our decision making policies. Voice this insane system that we live in which is this government and capitalism and everything but you might as well throw your voice into the mix, right.

This is a fake wig. My grandmother died last week. The Finger Lakes are unique. That is correct. I have three memories and one thought. I'm Kali, 497 Hudson Rd. Once when I worked on a dairy farm in Dansville, a farmhand said, how can you waste water? It's everywhere. A few years ago I was in a beat up tour bus going through the Nasca desert in Peru. The bus stopped at a small shack with a one spigot of water. We all gathered around and shared the limited drinking water and rinsed our clothes under the faucet. That May, I was home in Springwater and I found myself on front pontoon on this 16 foot catamaran on Hemlock Lake. As I held my eyes close to the water and watched the endless volume of precious clean water race by, I thought to myself, how lucky I am to have all this to myself. And I also thought, I wish I could bring that tour bus here and send that farm land to the middle of the Nasca desert. Often times, it takes a change in perspective and a fake wig; to realize just how great we have it. Let's keep the fresh water fresh.

Good evening, I'm Steve Hill, live up on Bald Hill North. I read the UMP plan and was pretty impressed with the plan. I know a lot of people say it wasn't well written, but the amount of forethought and work that was put into it, I was pretty impressed. I'd like to say that a lot of special interests not take control of what is already, presently ready for us to use as we have right now. And I'd like to leave it in its current and present condition.

Hi, I'm Rod Caster. I'm honored to be in this group of people tonight. I really am. I'm honored the energy here. Two days after Christmas, my wife and my boy and I skied off Robb's Trail and headed down to Canadice off of Robb's Trail. The sun was going down and I can say it was magic. We are so blessed. We get out to several different places and it's amazing how many people live in urban and suburban environment and never get to experience what we have right in our own back yard and everybody being out here tonight tells me you know what we don't take this for granted. There is magic here. It is a gift. You know let's protect it.

Just watched the movie Erin Brockovich, and the scene where they're in the court room, and there's a glass of water in front of the others attorney and she goes to pick it up and Erin says oh we brought that in especially for you from Hinckley. I think those who support fracking should worry about that every single day of their lives, if they allow fracking.

I'm Maryanne Thompson and my husband just spoke, but I can't reiterate strongly enough what he said and Bob Neilson said. We have to write and if any of you were involved with the thirty days of fracking at Christmas, this is a very opportune time. It's really, really important so get your pens out, you know, be heard so that this is protected for us.

Additional Public Comments Received

The following comments were received before or after the March 14, 2013 public meeting on the Draft Hemlock-Canadice Unit Management Plan. The first sub-section consists of comments that had other topics besides High-Volume Hydraulic Fracturing (HVHF) a.k.a. fracking, or that HVHF is a only part of the comment received. The second sub-section consists of comments received with the primary topic of HVHF, and little to no other topic mentioned.

Comments on a Variety of Topics

March 8, 2013

Commissioner Joseph Martens:

On behalf of the City of Rochester and its residents, I am submitting this comment letter in response to the proposed DEC's Hemlock-Canadice Unit Management Plan (UMP).

We wish to start by thanking the staff from the Department of Environmental Conservation's Region 8 office for doing an excellent job in preparing the draft UMP. In particular, we appreciate their

willingness to include three members of the City's Upland Operations Division from start to finish in the development of the Plan.

The City has two comments regarding the draft UMP. First, the final UMP document should include phrasing that states: "All types of gas or oil drilling are prohibited in the Hemlock-Canadice State Forest." Current regulations regarding drilling already make the prospect of drilling extremely unlikely—therefore, why not clearly state what current regulations already prohibit? As you know, Mayor Richards submitted a request to your office to completely ban high-volume hydraulic fracturing in the lakes' watershed (enclosed letters dated Dec. 15, 2011 and Jan. 16, 2013). We plan to continue to pursue this broader action independent of the UMP.

Our second comment relates to future funding for road maintenance and erosion control work in the Hemlock-Canadice State Forest. The City currently has a contract with the State to perform this work, which expires in 2015. However, in the draft Hemlock-Canadice Unit Management Plan, there are no provisions to renew the City's contract, nor provisions to provide adequate funds to continue maintenance activities. We are very concerned that the draft UMP does not provide a clear plan on how to pay for this type of work in the future. Under the current contract between the State and the City, staff from the City's Upland Operations Division is responsible for maintenance work in the Hemlock-Canadice State Forest. This contract was initially set for two years, extendable by an additional three years, with an initial budget of \$182,000. The purpose of this contract was clear and is stated as such in the Scope of Work Contract-C007510: "...maintain the property essentially as is, i.e. similar to conditions maintained under the City's management." To date, the City has submitted invoices for road maintenance and erosion control work totaling \$36,000. This equates to roughly \$15,000 per year for what we would consider a baseline effort for road maintenance and erosion control. Without this minimum level of maintenance, we believe the water quality of the lakes could be jeopardized.

The negative effects of major runoff events will be amplified if culverts and roadways on state lands are not properly maintained.

In closing, we appreciate this opportunity to comment on the draft Hemlock-Canadice Unit Management Plan.

-Respectfully, Paul Holahan Commissioner Dept. of Environmental Services

John,

Attached is a letter that offers additional comments on the proposed Unit Management Plan for the Hemlock/ Canadice State Forest. The letter also addresses the city's questions and concerns about the proposal to change the forest's classification from Reforestation to Unique.

Please feel free to contact us if you have any additional questions.

-Paul Holahan

April 15, 2013

Subject: Additional comments on the Hemlock-Canadice UMP

Dear Mr. Gibbs:

The City of Rochester was pleased to sell its Hemlock / Canadice watershed property to NYSDEC in 2010. The sale was made under these assumptions between the City and NYSDEC:

That water supply protection remain a top priority

That the City's ability to manage the water supply not be impeded

That the property remains undeveloped

That NYSDEC continues to pay property taxes and PILOT's to local entities

That the property continues to be managed "as the City managed it."

The City and DEC have worked cooperatively, and in accord with these assumptions, since the sale. State legislation was passed that allows for compatible recreational opportunities, similar to City's program. DEC Forest Rangers have assumed an active patrol effort, including purchase of a boat. City staff has worked under contract with DEC to perform needed watershed maintenance. City staff has

worked with DEC in developing the Unit Management Plan (UMP) for this State Forest. In the UMP, City and DEC staff agree to work cooperatively in the event of severe weather, or other events that pose an immediate threat to water quality, in order to effectively remediate the situation.

“Keep it as the City managed it” was the overwhelming comment by neighbors, visitors, and environmental groups. However, recent comments on the draft UMP by some seem to be questioning this basic assumption relative to forest management. The City had worked under an active forest management plan adopted in 1993 and updated in 2005. This plan included timber harvests accomplished on 451 acres over 12 years, an average of 38 acres per year. The health and diversity of the forest was improved by these harvests, thus providing a more resistant, resilient forest for greatest long-term quality protection. In 2011, The Nature Conservancy (TNC) stated, “We recognize and encourage the continued use of New York State Best Management Practices (BMPs) for Water Quality field guide as the framework within which all future timber management occurs.” The City concurs. The Coalition for Hemlock and Canadice Lakes noted in 2010 “that timber harvests in the Hemlock-Canadice watershed have been successfully accomplished” due to use of BMPs, flexibility in application of plans and practice, and on-site presence of City’s consulting forester. The City concurs. The Finger Lakes Land Trust (FLLT) stated in 2010, “The residents of the State of NY will derive far greater benefit from these lands (as opposed to using lands for energy development) if they continue to be managed as working forests with associated recreational, wildlife, and watershed protection benefits.” The City concurs.

When the City joined the UMP process we were informed that Reforestation Area was the best classification for this forest. The Reforestation Law of 1929 mandates watershed protection as one of the basic goals of the Reforestation classification. Further, we were informed that this classification was necessary for NYS to make tax and PILOT payments to towns, school districts, etc. Both the City and NYSDEC recognize these payments as critical.

Comments by some propose that the forest, or portions, be classified as Unique Area and / or State Nature and Historic Preserve. On 4-10-13 a teleconference was held to discuss merits of classification change to Unique Area. Participants included staff from DEC Albany, DEC Region 8, City of Rochester, Adirondack Mtn Club, TNC, Sierra Club, Coalition for HC Lakes. According to this discussion, change to Unique Area:

- Will preclude gas / oil exploration or removal from HC State Forest. This is the driving force behind this change, i.e. to provide extra protection from hydrofracking. Note that this is in accord to City’s stated position of prohibiting hydrofracking in the entire watershed.
- Will allow for tax and PILOT payments to continue. Language will be included in legislation to confirm this.
- Will not affect the City’s ability to continue to manage lakes for water supply purposes as done in past. Language will be included in legislation to confirm this.
- Will allow for continued forest management for the health and diversity of the forest.
- Will not have an impact on recreation.

The values of these classifications need to be made clear to the City.

Again, the City believes that a healthy, diverse forest will provide the best long-term water quality protection for the lakes. While significant forest diversity currently exists, the trend is towards less due to fewer stands in early succession. The best tool to promote forest diversity is timber harvest.

I appreciate this opportunity to submit additional comments on the UMP.

-Sincerely, Paul Holahan, Commissioner/DES

Dear Mr. Gibbs, Cordell and Dormer:

I would like to report to you, DEC Ranger Dan Cordell and Pat Dormer, that yesterday, Wednesday, 25 July 2012, in the early afternoon, while my wife and I were sitting on the Western Shore of Canadice Lake, about opposite the Eastern Shore boat ramp, we witnessed something unprecedented.

A large boat with a small motor was put in the Lake. Approximately 5 adult males entered it and proceeded less than a mile north, then crossed to the Western Shore. I assumed they were about to start fishing, until I noticed them pulling two white floats tied together. Then I noticed the unprecedented.

A pair of slow swimmers crossed Canadice Lake with the large boat powered by Evinrude 10 HP in an escort role from the Western to Eastern Shores, then got back in the boat, returned to the ramp, upon which their truck and trailer removed the equipment from the Lake. I was prepared to bird watch with 8 x binoculars, so I was able to observe them closely, once I realized they weren't normal fisherman. They left in at least two vehicles. It seemed a very purposive boating escort role to support the two swimmers, and this wasn't a casual or impulsive swim.

I didn't have the presence of mind to ask them what they were up to, or to record their NYS vehicle plate numbers. I am guessing it was some sort of challenge/contest. The boat was abnormally large for these reserved lakes, and the drag floats might have been used assist the swimmers in larger Finger Lakes. Frankly, I have no idea.

If you know of this activity and approve it, I would like to know why. I once met a helpful DEC officer at the Hemlock Lake ramp. Had I known a DEC officer number to call on my cell phone, I would have.

I also didn't look for or notice the DEC use regulations for the Lakes. What are they? Where are they posted? May I see and review the Hemlock/Canadice Forest Unit Management Plan?

Thanks for any reply, and I recognize your NYS budget has been seriously cut. Our regrets.

If I may be so out there, I would like to propose a volunteer appeal and gradual organization of watershed stewards, who would have approved roles, such as reporting to DEC officers or advising on Zebra Muscle importation, fire and camping, toileting, and other threats to the water supply and public safety. If one is being formed, I would like to apply to take part. Of course many informal well informed guardians would be a wonderful alternative, though appropriate training, consistency and volunteer limits to authority would be important to avoid incident or confusion. These volunteers would either have schedules and routes for observation and recording, and well defined cause and nature of user interaction. Most important would be the sense of community stewardship of a vital resource.

The continued conservation of the wild state of this great watershed is important to me.

Sincerely, Harold Bauer, Ph.D, Wayland, NY, Sparta, NY

I am not able to make the meeting in Hemlock to discuss the Canadice-Hemlock Watershed land as I'll be out of state.

The land must be kept free of motorized vehicles except for maintenance or for handicap access. The greatest asset of this land is the peace and quiet – No ATV's, No snowmobiles!

The land needs a woodland management plan that removes much of the junk trees without taking the productive oaks and other mast crop trees that the loggers would love to cut down – No oaks less than 125 yrs old! After that their acorn production drops. The loggers will want to take anything that is not still growing at a rapid rate because all they care about is timber. It should be about the wildlife first. Thin the old Red Pines. You need new growth. Sponsor some tree seedling plantings with FICC (?) for conservation credits for example.

There is an old apple orchard at the south east side of Canadice Lake. Release these for wildlife food. The grasslands need to be rotated and if you allow farmers to rent they must leave the outside 20 feet for wildlife fringe/food. I do these types of things on my land and the deer/turkeys travel to my property followed by trespassing hunters because the "state land" has horrible habitat in general!

Work with the Ruffed Grouse Society. The north end of Hemlock and south end of Canadice used to have the best grouse population around. Needs work.

-Thank you, Ed Bott

3/13/2013

I skimmed the document at the Wayland public library. Bottom line I am I am pleased. My specific comments are:

Timber sales are fine as long as they are done sustainably and stay away from the steep terrain and those areas that have the non indigenous plantings that Rochester did.

Design log roads to be trails also

Persons with disabilities sounds good

Allowing sap collection is fine as I know there are very few spots where this could happen again due to terrain and access

Your statement on drilling is fine although I know you are going to get a lot of flack. But it must be safe both to humans and the environment Maybe drill pads out side the water sheds but allow the horizontal drilling on the DEC lands.

Parking space is limited today at all access sites and I did not see this addressed.

-Regards, Chuck Winship

Mar 11, 2013

Fellows,

The dead line for comment period Hemlock-Canadice Unit Management Plan (UMP) is April 15th. So that we the Fingerlakes conservation Council can send in comment on this I am suggesting a visit to the lakes this Saturday March 16 by some groups to take pictures and make a report for the NYSCC, FLCC, CFAB.

I have read the report and main things that I think are important are maintaining as much access as currently is available and some stream maintenance to maintain this access.

The draft indicates that Water Quality is Number 1 priority and I have no argument with that.

Then high on the DEC's priorities are Hunting, Fishing, Trapping and access.

This plan looks to keep levels of access at the current level and to the degree of current usage of boats. There is one discussion about one additional launch on Hemlock Lake in the future.

The west side of Hemlock Lake is suggested for forever wild status even though according to the report it does not quite qualify at this time.

I disagree with this status as it rules out future management. Although I agree with the difficulty of managing this portion. I would prefer a lesser restrictive classification that would allow management, work easements from adjacent land holders could possibly be obtained, now or in the future.

The Hemlock-Canadice Unit Management Plan (UMP) covers the 6,684-acre Hemlock-Canadice State Forest located in Livingston and Ontario Counties. (Hemlock Park, the water treatment facilities and parking field for the fairgrounds are not part of the Hemlock Canadice State Forest, and will not be included in this UMP.) In addition, the fishing access sites along the Springwater Creek, Hemlock Outlet Creek, etc., are not included.

The site to get to the plan is listed below.

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/68822.html>

If we could form some teams to investigate and then compile a report that would be the best strategy as this is a big area. Please let me know if you can participate on March 16th, 9:00Am. Place of gathering is yet to be determined. I will develop more details once I know who and how many are interested.

-Sincerely, Glen Adams Le Roy, NY

3/13/2013

I regret that will not be able to make it Saturday, I did review the document and my comments are attached with some of my key points that I am concerned with are:

1. It wasn't clear to me if they were keeping the OB motor limit to 10hp because there were various comments in the document that suggested different. I would like to see a HP limit that prohibits large speedboats on the lake.
2. Oil an Gas leases - I am not in favor of leasing the property for this purpose but if they do I would want the money to go to the Conservation Fund not the General Fund.
3. They are proposing to move the South Boat Launch, Hemlock lake, further north to a deeper water area and closing down the existing South launch. I am in favor of this because some idiots attempt to drive down the shoreline to get to deeper water to launch their boat. So I am in favor of the move to a deeper water launch.
4. I didn't see anything in the document regarding a Forever Wild Area.
5. Selfish me but I am speaking for all mobility impaired people - I am Handicapped and my legs won't get me where they used to but I still enjoy getting out hunting. I have a CP-3 (Persons with disabilities (MAPPWD) permit to drive my atv on designated trails to access State property. Since this is only 6 miles from my camp it would be very desirable for me to be able to access the property to hunt. I have and use access to Hi Tor with my permit, this would be much closer to Rochester.

You will see that I pointed to specific areas of concern in the attached document, including the pages I found the information on.

Thanks for the opportunity to comment on the issues that are important to me and I hope all sportsmen/women.

Please let me know if you have questions or concerns with my comments.

Continued....

This is the results of my review of the Hemlock Canadice Unit Mgt Plan draft

Drilling

- Pg 17 discussed expired Exploration & Drilling 2-5 miles NW *NO IMPACT THAT I CAN SEE*
- Pg 38 Revenues attributable to the sale of oil and gas leases from Wildlife Management Areas are deposited into the Conservation Fund. *Seems to be some confusion see pg 98 & 99 below*
- Pg 98 & 99 Procedures for Oil and Gas Procurement - A public meeting will be held to provide information about natural gas development specific to the Unit and receive comments. A 30-day public comment period will follow. NYS DEC will consider all comments prior to making a decision. *Revenues from State Reforestation Areas and Multiple Use Areas (State Forests) are deposited into the General Fund while revenues from Wildlife Management Areas are deposited into the Conservation Fund. I am not sure where this property falls into so where would the money be deposited, General or Conservation Fund?*

Outboard Motor Restrictions

- Pg 131 said - Having enjoyed the "wilderness" of the City of Rochester's water supply it is my opinion that the best that can happen is modest improvements in the boat launch and parking areas at both lakes. The restriction on larger outboard motors is definitely a keeper. *I am not sure what the restrictions would be, I would like more clarification. Will they keep the 10hp limit or would it be a higher hp and if so what would it be?*

Swimming

- Pg 117 - We strongly discourage opening this land up for swimming, off road vehicular traffic, snowmobiling, and boats with horsepower over the current 10 hp limit. *What does strongly discourage mean, how will it be patrolled and enforced?*

Special Regulation pg 177

- *All-terrain vehicle. I have a special handicap permit to ride my ATV on specific trails in Hi Tor and many other area throughout the state. I would like to see this modified with special provision for people with this special Handicap permit to operate a ATV on this property just as other property.*

ATV Use

- Pg 31 - However, people with qualifying mobility impairments who possess a valid permit from the NYS DEC may operate ATVs on specifically designated and signed accessible trails. See Access for Persons with Disabilities, page 35. *Would this area be added to the list?*

- Pg 35 - While no ATV trails currently exist on this Unit, specific routes may be opened to allow ATV use by permitted persons with disabilities, pursuant to NYS DEC Commissioners Policy #3 (CP-3). This program is known as the Motorized Access Program for People with Disabilities (MAPPWD). A permit must first be obtained from NYS DEC. Individuals with qualifying disabilities may apply for a permit to operate an ATV on trails designated by the NYS DEC. For further information, contact the NYS DEC at 7291 Coon Road, Bath, New York 14810. (See Appendix D: Facilities and Appendix M: Maps of this plan or pages 177 and 178 of the “Strategic Plan for State Forest Management”) *There are access roads on Hemlock and Canadice at this time will they be opened to this permit?*

- Pg 89 - number of factors have contributed to this decision. As stated in NYS DEC’s “Strategic Plan for State Forest Management”, ATV riding is not a program offered on State Forests. The development of ATV access can be considered under this policy if it is necessary to provide access to programs and activities on the Unit. In addition, the special regulations for this unit, 6 NYCRR §190.26, forbid the use of ATV’s. The large amount of current recreational use of many sections of the Hemlock-Canadice State Forest would result in conflict with ATV use. In addition, soil conditions, long linear layout, and steep slopes on this Unit are unsuitable for ATV use. Current illegal ATV activity has occasionally created management and maintenance challenges. *Again I would like this open to mobility imparred for ATV use*

- Pg 90 - Currently no trails on the Hemlock-Canadice Unit are MAPPWD routes. Following the final approval of this UMP the North and South Hemlock Haul Roads will be designated as MAPPWD route and opened for truck/car, but not ATV use, by persons with a CP-3 permit. They will remain gated, but those with a current permit will be able to obtain a key. *I would like to see this open to CP-3 holder for ATV use. Road are already there and it would be no additional work for the state to allow this.*

Taxes Pg 11

- *What changed with this purpose and what does the future hold to minimize the effect on the area taxpayers.*

Fires pg 31 & 32

- Camping and fires are not allowed on Hemlock-Canadice State Forest, as they are allowed on other State Forests. *Why is this? What constitutes camping?*

Pg 86 Hemlock South Boat Launch

- As of the writing of this plan a new location has not been picked. The first step is to scout and see if a better location is available. A good location needs to be far enough north that the water is deeper, has a reasonable grade from road to lake, and enough area of gentle slopes for parking lot(s) and turn around to be constructed. If a reasonable spot can be found, then funding must be secured before construction can begin. If it is moved the old boat launch will be blockaded and allowed to revert back to cattail or other natural vegetation. The adjacent parking lot will remain, but the port-a-john, gate and

kiosk will be moved to the new location. *This is a great idea because this launch is only accessible a couple of months out of the year.*

-Tony Malagisi

3/15/2013

Dear Ms. Cicora,

I have attached the formal comments of the Adirondack Mountain Club (ADK) regarding the Hemlock - Canadice Unit Management Plan. Thank you for the excellent work done by your planning team on this very important land unit. ADK plans to introduce legislation to make the Hemlock - Canadice unit a Unique area under the provisions of Article 45 of the Environmental Conservation Law. Thank you for this opportunity to comment on this well done plan. Many of our nearly 30,000 members live in the Greater Rochester area and actively use this very special unit of state land. ADK strongly opposes any DEC consideration of oil and gas leasing of on or under the Hemlock - Canadice State Forest.

-best regards, Neil

From Adirondack Mountain Club (ADK) March 15, 2013

To: Planning Team,

The staff of the Adirondack Mountain Club (ADK) has had an opportunity to carefully review and analyze the Unit Management Plan (UMP) of the Hemlock-Canadice State Forest (H-D SF). We congratulate the Planning Team on an excellent job in preparing the UMP for such an important state land unit.

ADK's principal point is that the H-C SF should be designated as a "unique" area under Article 45 of the Environmental Conservation Law and included in the State Nature and Historic Preservation under Section 4 of Article 14 of the New York State constitution. ADK believes that this legal designation would forever preclude any use of the lands of the H-C state forest for natural gas or oil exploration and ensure that no forestry activities would degrade or damage the critical lake watershed of the City of Rochester, fragment the unique blocks of contiguous mature forests or detrimentally impact the important bird areas and significant habitat areas.

ADK plans to introduce legislation to designate the lands of the H-C SF as a "Unique" Area under Section 45-0117 of the Environmental Conservation Law. The definition of a qualifying Unique Area is found in subsection (3) of Section 45-0117:

"Lands dedicated to the preserve are declared to be put in their highest, best and most important use and are to be held for one or more of the following purposes: a. As natural areas for maintaining plants, animals and natural communities, including preservation of old-growth forests dedicated to the preserve specifically for that purpose; b. As reservoirs of natural materials and ecological processes that contribute to the state's biological diversity; c. As field laboratories for scientific research and education in the natural sciences, including the fields of biology, conservation, ecology, geology, natural history and paleontology; and d. As places of natural and historical interest and beauty which provide the public with passive recreational opportunities including, where appropriate, fishing, hunting and trapping, or commercial fishing opportunities that are compatible with protecting the ecological significance, historic features and natural character of the area."

The lands, lakes, mature forests, wetlands, plant, animal and natural communities of the Hemlock-Canadice State Forest well qualify for designation as a "Unique Area" and richly qualify to be part of the State Nature and Historic Preservation Preserve under the language of subsection (3) of Section 45-0117 of the Environmental Conservation Law. ADK and its nearly 30,000 members will submit legislation and ask the state legislature and Governor Cuomo for approval of this bill.

ADK comments to the H-C SF UMP by the most significant topics

Oil and Gas Leasing

ADK believes that all references to the possibility of state leases for oil and gas development on the surface and below the surface of the Hemlock-Canadice State Forest should be removed from the UMP. The draft UMP acknowledges on page 98 that “it is NYSDEC policy to recommend excluding (oil and gas) operations in surface areas with sensitive habitats, wetland, steep slopes, rare plant and animal communities or intensive recreational use. DEC continues on page 98: “most of the Hemlock-Canadice State Forest will fall under these exclusion zones, and as a result the Tract Assessment for the entire State Forest will probably to recommend no surface disturbance/entry (natural gas) leasing.”

Ordinary oil and gas leasing on or below the H-C SF would garner so little, if any, revenue for the state in comparison to the surface disturbance, threat to the watershed of the City of Rochester, impairment of public recreational values and harm to existing aquifers that it should be excluded from permissible activities. Marcellus shale high volume hydraulic fracturing (HVHF) is even more destructive of aquifers, unique habitats, topography and watershed. HVHF of the Marcellus shale formation under the H-C SF is also impractical from a gas production or financial standpoint as DEC concedes on page 17 of the H-C SF UMP:

“It is unlikely that drilling for natural gas in the Marcellus Shale will occur in this area because of the limited gas reserve potential due to the thickness (thinness) and much shallower depths 1,000 to 2,000 feet of the formation.”

On March 5, 2013 DEC issued a public statement pertaining to the possibility of hydraulic fracturing on the H-C SF stating:

“The draft SGEIS (Supplemental Generic Environmental Impact Statement) and regulations would not allow high volume fracturing surface drilling on state lands and it is unlikely any other drilling would occur on the lands in the Hemlock-Canadice State Forest given its many unique characteristics, based on these factors, the state has no intention of allowing any sort of drilling in the Hemlock-Canadice State Forest.”

Given the foregoing and the fact that most of the private land surrounding the H-C SF has some of the same unique natural communities, watershed status and aquifers, much of that land has been identified for potential purchase by the state as evidenced by the Region 8 Open Space Plan, the state should not be entering into any lease permitting high-volume fracturing operations on these adjoining private lands. Moreover, ADK will strongly oppose the construction of any oil and gas pipelines in the Hemlock-Canadice State Forest.

In prohibiting oil and gas exploration in the Hemlock-Canadice State Forest, DEC cannot authorize the construction of pipelines for natural gas. The UMP states of page 17 that NYSDEC, pursuant to ECL§9-0507, may lease state lands for the construction and placement of oil and gas pipelines only if a portion of the mineral resources to be transported was extracted from state lands. There are no lands in the Hemlock-Canadice State Forest currently under oil/gas contracts or leases and NYSDEC owns the mineral estate under all areas of the Hemlock-Canadice State Forest. This is another good reason for not opening up the H-C SF to gas or oil exploitation thus avoiding the construction of any oil/gas pipelines over the lands of this State forest.

ADK recommends and will sponsor legislation to designate the Hemlock-Canadice State Forest as a Unique Area under Article 45 of the Environmental Conservation Law and placement in the State Nature and Historic Preserve by virtue of Section 4 of Article 14 of our state constitution. There are many justifications for such an Article 45 designation for the H-C SF.

The H-C State Forest is a principal water supply for the City of Rochester and many of its surrounding suburbs. This surface watershed greatly depends on the unspoiled, undeveloped and undisturbed lands around Hemlock and Canadice Lake. The H-C SF overlies two large aquifers which would also be protected by the ECL Article 45 “unique” designation nature of the H-C SF lands surrounding Hemlock and Canadice Lake. The H-C SF represents one of the largest blocks of intact

mature forests in the 12 county Finger Lakes Region. Intact old growth or mature contiguous forest blocks like those in the H-C SF provide habitat for a variety of wildlife species, including a number of neo-tropical songbirds that rely on the intact interior forests for nesting habitat. The H-C SF is also a critical habitat for breeding bald eagles. Large blocks of unfragmented forests like those present in H-C SF are rare in western New York and would best be preserved by designation of the H-C SF as a "Unique Area". The abundance of sensitive habitats, stream banks, wetlands, steep slopes and rare plants and animal communities also justify a "Unique area" designation.

Finally, the H-C SF offers unequalled wilderness type recreational opportunities rare in western New York. Passive recreational activities such as hiking, Nordic skiing, bird watching, mountain biking on appropriate trails, fishing and hunting would all justify, and benefit from the designation of the H-C SF as a Unique Area under Article 45 of the Environmental Conservation Law.

For all of the foregoing reasons, we ask that NYSDEC support our efforts to secure Unique Area designation for the Hemlock-Canadice State Forest and inclusion in the State Nature and Historic Preservation Preserve.

Land Acquisition

ADK recommends that DEC continue to acquire suitable lands to expand the H-C SF, or hopefully, the Hemlock-Canadice Unique Area. An overarching goal of such land and easement purchases would be to keep intact large contiguous forest blocks and fully protect a greater portion of the Hemlock and Canadice Lakes Watershed. ADK recommends purchase of:

- 1) Forest land and field environments between Hemlock-Canadice State Forest and the Bristol Hill and it's Reynolds Gully watershed;
- 2) Bald Hill;
- 3) Purchase additional land on the south end and east side of Canadice Lake where the state ownership is narrow;
- 4) Adjoining parcels to buffer areas where the State's ownership is most narrow and protect contiguous habitats, and forest communities;
- 5) Purchase selected properties so that state forest land connects Canadice and Hemlock lakes.
- 6) Purchase additional land to the east side of Canadice Lake to protect the watershed and increase/improve bird habitat.
- 7) DEC's goal should be to expand the state forest by 5,000-8,000 acres.

Water Withdrawals

ADK submits that DEC should not allow any water withdrawals for use in high volume hydraulic fracturing or any other high volume industrial use from Hemlock and Canadice lakes and their inflow, creeks, brooks, and streams.

ATV and ORV Use

There are no designated off-road vehicle (ORV) trails in the H-C SF. The New York State Vehicle and Traffic Law prohibits ATV use on State Forest access roads. ADK believes that no ATV use by the public should be permitted in the H-C SF because of steep slopes, poor erosive soils, conflicts with passive recreational users, safety concerns, spread of invasive species, and the high cost of repairing ATV use caused damage to roads and trails. Quite simply, we believe ATV/ORV use by the public is inconsistent with the designation of the H-C SF as a Unique Area that is part of the State Nature and Historic Preservation Preserve.

Boat Launches and Aquatic Invasive Species Control

The H-C SF unit has four unimproved boat launch sites. Three of them can be used for launching small boats from trailers. Currently only boat motors 10 horsepower or less may be launched and only on boats 17 ft. or less in length. ADK submits that boat motors be limited to (4) stroke engines only to preserve the pristine and pure water quality of the two lakes. No two stroke engines should be permitted. One boat launch is a car top boat launch with a short hand carry from the parking area. ADK believes that these boat launches should not be improved or expanded to expand access to larger

boats with more powerful engines. These small lakes could easily be overwhelmed by larger watercraft, conflicting with the user experience of many canoeists, and kayakers. Let's keep these boat launches small and unpaved.

ADK believes that each of these boat launches should have appropriate signage, a lake steward, disposal receptacles, boat and trailer inspections and boat washing equipment so that users can do their part in protecting Hemlock and Canadice Lakes from the many forms of aquatic invasive species found in neighboring Finger Lakes and Lake Ontario.

Boat Launches and Aquatic Invasive Control

ADK endorses the careful wash down and cleaning of all boats, kayaks, and canoes before launch into Hemlock and Canadice Lakes, especially if the boat has been in one of the larger Finger Lakes or Lake Ontario.

Power Lines, Communication Towers, and Windmills

ADK understands that NYSDEC does not have the legal authority under the Environmental Conservation Law (ECL) to lease or license State Forest for the construction and operation of windmills, wind farms, power lines or commercial communications or cellular towers.

Horse Trails and Equestrian Use

Horse use and horse trails are currently forbidden under the Public Health Law and 6NYCRR§190.2. The long linear layout of the H-C SF, steep hillsides, poor erosion prone soils and concentrated places of public use leave little room for a horse trail system. The nearby Six Nations Trail in Schuyler County is much better suited. Horse trails should not be added.

ADK thanks the H-C SF Planning Team for drafting an excellent UMP which well documents the unique and vital resources and features of this state forest. ADK feels the UMP demonstrates well, the case for designation of the H-C SF as a "Unique Area" under Article 45 of the ECL and Section (4) of Article 14 of the State Constitution.

Thank you for giving ADK and its thousands of members in the Rochester area and nearby sections of western New York the opportunity to comment on this most important of Unit Management Plans for Region 8 of DEC.

-Very truly yours, Neil F. Woodworth, Executive Director/Counsel, James Bird, President

3/15/2013

Please keep these natural gifts pristine forever. I walk 3 miles daily at Canadice Lake and the simplicity & tranquility provided by this untouched gem warms my soul.

Thank you in advance for honoring my simple request-

-Kate Hardiman

I am for active forest management. Knowing that this will improve water quality as opposed to doing nothing with the forestland, which over time will decrease water quality. Also, more forest management will create more jobs. I know this firsthand.

-Andrew Hayes, Honeoye Falls, NY

1) I would like to see this property stay as is forever. The beauty of a place like this is incredible and is getting harder to find in this area. It is more common here to see big, empty building then large open spaces.

2) Also is there any way the watershed property in Hemlock, Canadice could be opened to specially trained groups to use for hiking/camping. Groups like the Boy Scouts. We live by the princable of Leave No Trace and would treat this land like our own?

-John F. Miles, Honeoye,

Sir or Madam

Having read the Draft Management Plan for the Hemlock Canadice State Forest I am excited for the future of this unique area of our state. As an Environmental Studies student and as a person with family property bordering the forest, I am excited to see that your plan included extending current hiking trails. I am also excited to see that part of your plan includes thinning out the conifer stands that were planted by the city of Rochester and that some stand will be encouraged to re-grow into woodlands populated with more native trees.

This however brings me to my first concern with the plan. With the planned timber sale and “thinning” of select stands I want to ensure that your plan does not allow for the elimination of woodlands within the state forest as part of “maintaining a balance of vegetative types.” I did not see your plan calling for the creation of new “old field” or open scrubland and I wish that this remains so. I understand that maintaining a wide diversity of habitats is essential but I do not see a need for the creation of new open areas. Also regarding timber sales. I understand that part of thinning out the conifer stands could involve timber sales but as I am certain this has been expressed by others, that the Hemlock-Canadice Forest is no place for commercial scale timber harvesting.

Regarding water resources and fisheries.

I am excited to see that the DEC will continue stocking trout in the waters of Hemlock and Canadice Lakes. As the DEC moves forward with fisheries management in the Hemlock-Canadice state forest I hope that the DEC will keep an eye more towards stocking native fish varieties and not focus as much on simply stocking sporting varieties of fish.

My biggest comments on water management within the forest would be two things. First and most important I would like to see the 10 horse power engine limit enacted by the City of Rochester continue to be enforced. Also I wish that the DEC will continue to allocate resources for the enforcement of these regulations and that DEC staff and rangers be active within the forest and the lakes for the purpose of preventing the transporting of invasive species in to the waters. These issues were also addressed in previous City of Rochester regulations.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter.

-Sincerely, Joseph P. Gleason, Hobart Class of 2015

4/5/2013

Would you please keep the land around Hemlock & Canadice lakes designated as NYS Forest Land. It is very important to the people in the area, that actually use the beautiful land and lakes, to keep it designated as is.

-Frank C. Atkinson, Springwater NY

4-3-2013

Mr. Gibbs,

I wanted to thank you for the community briefing March 14, 2013. I read the DEC UMP and the amount of information and field work required to put this document together was impressive. After the presentation open comments were allowed and some of these have me concerned, as well as some of the perspectives on land use.

I am a 30 year native of Florida who enjoyed all the water sports as well as hunting on Florida's many management lands which makes my perspective of Hemlock and Canadice Lakes unique and objective. I built my home HERE because I wanted to be near protected state land and water like I knew in Fl. These lakes are unlike any in the U.S. and need to be preserved in their current state.

1. No special interest group should control the destiny of this UMP changing the character or the current land use as it is today. If the land is reclassified under article 45, I would be in favor only as long as it does not prevent the current activities allowed now.

2. We all know the fracking issues! No science degree is required but just basic common sense to know you can't poison the water up or down stream, drill under the lakes or allow any accidental surface exposure from chemical spills whether by road traffic or permanent /temporary containment vessels.

3. I suggest that you maintain the no swimming rule, and institute a 5 yr phase out of 2 stroke to four stroke outboards. Four strokes are very quiet and they sip gas. To argue that outboards contribute to horrible water quality can be solved and squelch the idea that boating hasn't merits. Since my kids are grown adults now I can look back in certainty that if you are restricted to kayaks and canoes only, many children will never enjoy seeing the eagles fly or move about freely due to the inherent dangers of capsizing in small craft by inexperienced paddlers. A small skiff of 12-14 feet is stable and will allow those youngsters to really enjoy what these others want as they unload their kayaks/canoes off their gas guzzling SUV's from the surrounding areas.

4. Do not allow any disabled access beyond the yellow gates. If you must, then that hunter who has a disabled permit and passes that gate, does so @ idle speed and can only transport a helper and only his deer carcass. This will prevent the disasters I saw in FL with 10 guys riding into "walk in" only areas killing deer/hogs and having their disabled "buddy" transport them and their deer out. The penalty for this act must be severe for compliance.

5. Grant the Hemlock Fire Dept. a permanent access permit for operational exercises on water/ice as they are the 1st responders for the area.

6. While I have no forester experience, IMHO suggest any trees scheduled for harvest like the older growth pine stand rows that allow no under growth, should leave the last few rows on the down hill side until enough re growth will prevent excessive erosion. I have observed while walking, areas where oaks were clear cut and thinned out with trunk sizes under two feet and it was opened up too much near the pine stands. I would have thought a better plan would have been to cut the arms therefore gaining more forage/top growth and creating less blow downs while allowing the sunlight to still give undergrowth. It's a more time consuming operation but better for older growth. When I first moved to NY I hunted grouse around many areas that were managed for that species though I never saw large numbers except in the Tug Hill area and a few other small concentrations where the strip cutting practices were not used.. The coverts in the surrounding areas of the Hemlock Forest have steadily declined and I refuse to hunt them.

7. I would hope to see the older logging roads mowed by volunteers @ the DEC's direction for hiking purposes. I would help if asked.

8. No use in changing the hemlock south boat ramp. If the water is down and you don't have a tilt trailer then you must launch from the north end. It a non issue for smaller craft.

9. There is no need for any improvements that require maintenance other than what is existing. Not only is there no budget for it, but it is just clutter. If improvements are required then the thought process should be toward a maintenance free engineered design.

There are many folks who are going to request different activity support but this areas draw is for what is here now. I look forward to your final decisions,

-Sincerely, Steve Hills, Hemlock, NY

4/3/2013

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Attached please find our comments on the Proposed Unit Management Plan you developed for Hemlock-Canadice State Forests.

We want to express our appreciation for all the efforts expended on the development of this plan.

Thank you, Wayne and Debra Johnson, Wayland, New York

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

7291 Coon Road

Bath, New York 14810

Re: Review of the UMP for Hemlock and Canadice State forests as presented by DEC

Upon reviewing the UMP as presented by DEC, I would like to submit the following requests for change:

1. There should be permanent special watershed protection like what was done for the New York City and Syracuse watersheds. This way restrictions do not have to be reviewed every 10 years. This classification would be permanent preventing the temptation to allow certain activities that would compromise this land when state budgets are in distress.

2. DEC should prohibit fracking and oil and gas leasing of any kind within the watershed and in addition a 4,000 foot buffer around the watershed. No trucking of water for use in other fracking areas within or outside of the Hemlock-Canadice State Forests.

3. Eliminate the 11 page proposal in the UMP that allows for oil and gas extraction, etc. on State lands.

4. If logging is allowed it should be conservative, well managed logging which takes into consideration steep slopes and possible soil erosion that would pollute water. This has already occurred historically around these lakes with logging efforts by the City of Rochester.

5. No logging should be allowed in virgin forest areas or other areas that have rare and unusual plants and/or wildlife. Consider designating certain areas of the park "Forever wild" so natural progression can result. There should be no clear cutting. There are clear areas in the surrounding areas and between the lakes which are not part of this watershed (privately owned) that provide grazing areas for wild life etc.

6. Keep the present boating limitations that exist now allowing canoeing, kayaking and small motor boats for recreational use.

7. Consider allowing/expanding Horseback riding in certain areas where it would be low impact and would not cause erosion or water pollution.

8. Consider allowing camping even if it is just primitive campsites and is kept in an area where it would have low impact on the environmental surroundings.

9. Expand the current walking trails.

10. If the State cannot afford maintenance of trails or camping areas etc., consider an adopt a trail or camping area system where individuals or groups of individuals can volunteer to help maintain these areas on an agreed upon time frequency between the individuals and the State Park System.

We want to thank all DEC personnel that dedicated many hours of time and effort to come up with this UMP to serve as a basis for the protection of this impressive “one of a kind” primitive area and the mutual ability for the public to enjoy it. Through our joint efforts in finalizing this UMP and obtaining some reclassifications for this “unique area” I think we can all join forces to protect this jewel together forever.

I hope these comments will be helpful.
-Sincerely, Wayne Johnson, Debra Johnson

4/2/2013 7:28 PM
Save this area and others in New York State. This is a protected forest.
- Marie Dartt-Bentley

4/2/2013
Hello,

I have lived next to the watershed property for over 30 years, this property needs to have active forest management work. The property has had little management done in the last 20 years, there is little to no under story to most stands and stagnant growth. Please manage this property to keep a healthy forest and diverse wildlife habitat. Some of the old softwood plantations are collapsing and should be salvaged, some portions should be replanted to spruce planting to keep a softwood component since most are at the end of their life cycle.

Please do not let this become another stagnant park with little wildlife cover and old deteriorating forest stands. Healthy forests are better filters for watersheds that forever wild old growth. The environmentalists preach diversity, but they also say leave everything alone, can't have it both ways. Please give us hunters and wildlife enthusiasts a variety of habitat and a variety of different age stands.

-Thanks Brice June

4/2/2013

Please don't risk our drinking water for any reason! We cannot replace it or clean it, we must be more than careful as safe clean drinking water is more valuable than gold or gas or oil- even allowing limited lumbering must be done safely and that may not be financially valuable. Please realize it could take two generations or more to fix a little mistake!

-Joe Sanders, Rochester, NY

4/2/2013

Please keep our water clean!!

4/1/2013

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Hemlock-Canadice UMP. These views are a product of attendance at the initial scoping, review of the Draft Plan and attendance at the public meeting seeking comment of the plan on March 14, 2013. As well as many years of assisting in the preparation and execution of wildlife species and land area manage plans for Wildlife Mangement, State Forest and Unique areas in New York State as a wildlife biologist. I also have lived with my family immediately adjacent to area since 1979 and am very familiar with seasonal and local changes. I find the plan comprehensive and drafted in a manner that meets a diverse public need. It is also crafted with the wisdom of flexibility to changing times. The creation and review of the document could almost appear the product of two entirely different publics. The scoping meeting and initial written comments come from a diverse group of neighbors and resource users. The 2nd public meeting was dominated by very concerned organizations, individuals, and neighbors with hydrofracking in UMP land area. Overwhelmingly these folks expressed their opposition to the hydrofracking dominating all public comment gathered that evening. I firmly believe the lack of trust expressed for the higher levels of New York highest political offices was heightened by recent knee jerk gun control legislation passed in NY.

The plan is clear that water quality is a most important need to meet in the management plan, but attending folks dont believe the State. Although I never it heard or saw it mentioned in these affairs, Canadice lake lake trout are noted for PCB contamination and bald eagles slid to the edge of extinction at Hemlock lake from DDT. Maybe people remember failed environmental cultural and governmental actions and dont want to go there again. It was suggested this UMP land area, 6684 ac. be removed from the other 760,000 ac. of State forest Land open to such activity and SAY SO IN THE PLAN. Doesnt seem to much to ask. Its a 10 year plan and by that time therisks of such drilling may be better understood.

-Bruce Penrod

3/30/2013

I attended the meeting in Springwater on March 14 and I am very worried about how the state may "use" this area in the future. First, the current proposal language is way too vague and leaves too much open to future interpretation. Second, it appears that "balance" is being used for as code for "open to making money."

When the state took over this area, most people were pleased, I believe. We thought the state would be a good steward of OUR land. Instead, NYS seems bent on using an area that (1) supplies Rochester's drinking water; (2) already provides recreation opportunities; and (3) is just fine as is, in a fairly natural state.

I urge you to close the loopholes in the language of the proposal and keep the last semi-natural area in the Finger Lakes intact & undeveloped! We have an obligation to conserve our natural environment. You are the DEC; make sure the Conservation part of your title means something.

-Leigh O'Brien, Geneseo, NY

4/8/2013

What are our treasures? Are they energy sources and resources that we use in a day, or forests that take millions of years to create a balance? I think they are our forests and our lakes and our air. If this

draft plan does not protect our water and wild areas and air, then why would we do it? A short term gain for a long term loss? Are we at a point where we need these short term gains? Or is this something we don't need?

Why not create a plan that allows only sustainable use of our resources so that the ecosystems are able to remain stable? That will mean using less wood, energy, resources.

But what are our treasures?

-Misha Cohen, Rohester, NY

4/10/2013

I don't have any specific comments, but wanted to congratulate the UMP team on its very informative and well-written plan. Nicely done!

-Thomas D. Wells, Pittsford, NY

4/11/2013

As a NY resident, I pay state taxes to help fund the DEC that has been charged with this Mission:

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

As a Brighton resident and consumer of Hemlock-Canadice water, I am very concerned about the health, protection and management of those lakes and the surrounding 6684 acres of forest.

The UMP has so many pages devoted to logging and forestry that I can't but wonder if in fact the DEC is abiding by its mission statement. Commercial logging around these lakes, which are essentially reservoirs, is not *conserving, improving or protecting the lakes' natural resources* (principally water) and in fact, because of the steep hills, runoff from logging would pollute the lakes. Let's not repeat the incident several years ago that caused the City to have to install a filtration plant.

I strongly urge that the UMP clarify that timber harvesting be strictly limited to protecting the health and integrity of the forests only and not be used for exploitative purposes. With best management practices there should be no need to increase the number or size of roads.

The forests surrounding these lakes really are the only protection for the water until the entire watershed is protected. Every possible means must be employed to keep our most valuable resource, water, pure ***“to enhance the health, safety and welfare of the people of the state.”***

-Sincerely yours, Anna Sears, Co-Founder, R-CAUSE (Rochesterians Concerned About Unsafe Shale-gas Extraction)

4/11/2013

Dear Mr. Gibbs,

Could you please direct me to where the actual contract/agreement can be found on the NY DEC web site so I can comment under SEQRA as to the Compliance of the Draft Hemlock-Canadice Unit Management Plan. I cannot seem to find it.

Without the actual agreement one cannot really input into the intended water protection and land management policies.

If it is not available, then I formally request that the SEQR process be extended until the original contract/agreement is available for public comparison and there is appropriate time for public input into the UMP.

-Respectfully submitted, Dr. Alice Sokolow

4/11/2013

Dear Ms. Diehsner and Mr. Gibbs,

The ENB deadline of April 15, 2013 for the Canadice-Hemlock Unit Management Plan is coming to a close. So far we have tried Monroe County and the City of Rochester to obtain a copy of the original Canadice-Hemlock contract/agreement.

1. There is **no contract /agreement** apparent with of the Draft Unit Management Plan. The public in and around Rochester cannot properly input into the UMP SEQR process without the original agreement.

2. In the ENB of the UMP the following is segmented out: "Hemlock Park, **the water treatment facilities** and parking field for the fairgrounds are not part of the Hemlock Canadice State Forest, and are not included in this UMP." BUT the IMPACT on the water cannot be SEGMENTED out.

3. The public in the City of Rochester and suburbs which receive their drinking water from Canaice-Hemlock Lake were not included in the same manner as was Wayland, Livonia and Honeoye.

I formally request that the SEQR process be extended until:

- a) The original contract/agreement is available for public comparison
- b) The impacts of the UMP are not segmented from the drinking water
- c) The meetings also occur for the public in Rochester and suburbs

d) There is appropriate time for all public input into the UMP including Hemlock Park, **the water treatment facilities** and parking field for the fairgrounds.

-Respectfully submitted, Dr. Alice Sokolow

4/11/2013

Subj: Re: Check out ENB - Region 8 Notices 2/20/2013 - NYS Dept. of Environmental Conse

Good Afternoon Ms. Sokolow,

Regarding our phone conversation from a few minutes ago, I took time to look at the ENB. The ENB contact is John Gibbs, NYS DEC - Region 8 Bath Sub Office, Division of Lands and Forests, 7291 Coon Road, Bath, New York 14810, Phone: (607) 776-2165. If you have specific questions on the ENB process, Ms. Diehsner might be able to help you -

Most Respectfully,

Rudyard Edick

Environmental Analyst II

Major Projects Management

NYS Department of Environmental Conservation

4/15/2013

Dear Mr. Gibbs,

The ENB deadline of April 15, 2013 for the Canadice-Hemlock Unit Management Plan is coming to a close. Please accept this email as my official comments on the Canadice-Hemlock UMP.

1. There is **no contract /agreement** apparent within of the Draft Unit Management Plan. The public in and around Rochester cannot properly input into the UMP SEQR process without the original agreement.

2. In the ENB of the UMP, the following is SEGMENTED out: "Hemlock Park, **the water treatment facilities** and parking field for the fairgrounds are not part of the Hemlock Canadice State

Forest, and are not included in this UMP." **BUT the IMPACT on the watershed cannot be SEGMENTED out.**

3. The public in the City of Rochester and suburbs which receive their drinking water from Canadice-Hemlock Lake were not included in the availability of hearings in the same manner as was Wayland, Livonia and Honeoye. This appears to be a continuation of negativism from past history should be avoided as was the intent. See <http://thelcn.com/2010/08/03/a-forever-wild-legacy-for-hemlock-and-canadice-lakes/>

4. The FOREVER WILD Status of this parkland, as per the agreement, has not been added under Article XIV to date. Since the agreement is not forthcoming, please refer to the Mayor Duffy's State of the City and the City treasurer's State of the Finance for 2010.

<http://www.cityofrochester.gov/sotc2010.aspx>

<http://www.cityofrochester.gov/article.aspx?id=8589942779>

5. The Status of Forever Wild of Canadice- Hemlock is not apparent on the NY DEC web site either. It is not on your map! <http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/55849.html> It has been over two years that the process of completion of the FOREVER WILD Status has been continuing. Surely, one cannot write a 10 year UMP without this status being completed.

6. I did not see any professional consultation for the protection of the watershed; this protection of Rochester's Water source cannot be SEGMENTED out.

I formally request that the SEQR process be extended until:

a) The original contract/agreement is available to the public.

b) The impacts of the UMP are not segmented from the drinking water

c) The meetings also occur for the public in Rochester and suburbs

d) There is appropriate time for all public input into the UMP including Hemlock Park, **the water treatment facilities** and parking field for the fairgrounds.

e) There are water expert testimony and evaluation of SAID UMP upon the Water Quality.

f) The FOREVER WILD designation must be completed before the UMP is written.

Respectfully submitted,

-Dr. Alice Sokolow, Penfield, NY

4/11/2013

Thank you for your work creating the UMP for Hemlock and Canadice Lakes. My comment follows:

"One of North America's most successful conservation stories began in the Finger Lakes. In 1965 the last remaining pair of bald eagles in New York State built a nest in an 80-foot tree at the south end of Hemlock Lake. Amateur naturalist and utility lineman, Tom Rauber, discovered the nest and spent the next 27 years observing and photographing the eagles. In the mid-1970's, Tom began working with NYS DEC eagle expert, Mike Allen."

The Newsletter of the Finger Lakes Museum, 2011

As you know, this nesting pair of Bald Eagles (our National symbol), Tom Rauber's work, and the DEC, helped to restore the Bald Eagle population to its current thriving level. This one surviving pair found the shores of Hemlock to be a safe haven from the ravages of DDT, and thrived on the purity of



their habitat. I don't know if the restoration of the Bald Eagle would have been as successful without this unique environment.

The significant history of this, alone, should be enough to command the highest level of protection the Hemlock, Canadice watershed.

I am requesting that you create an iron clad protection for the Hemlock Canadice watershed from any HVHF related activities by designating this a "Unique Natural Area".

They say a picture is worth a thousand words, so I am sharing with you my heartfelt expression of the significance of the for Hemlock Lake Bald Eagle story. This is a 40x48" pastel painting I created from Tom Rauber's photos of the original nest on the Shagbark Hickory tree, and the couple's first successful hatch in 1973.

Please protect this unique area.

-Sincerely, Gloria Betlem

April 12, 2013

RE: Public Comments on HEMLOCK-CANADICE UNIT MANAGEMENT PLAN

I would like to thank the NYS DEC for writing the very comprehensive Draft HEMLOCK-CANADICE UNIT MANAGEMENT PLAN and for taking the time to read my comments.

As landowners adjacent to the Hemlock – Canadice State Forest, we felt compelled to review the Draft HEMLOCK-CANADICE UNIT MANAGEMENT PLAN (UMP) and provide comments as solicited by the NYS DEC. Our property consists of 121 acres of wooded and abandoned agricultural land located at the South end of Mission Road in Conesus, and is bordered by Bishop Road to the South and Marrowback Road to the West. The property was purchased in 1989 from the Society of the Divine Word and has remained in the family until present.

Our family has resided on this property for twenty-four (24) years, and during that time has enjoyed the serene, remote atmosphere and pristine waters that are unequaled anywhere else in this area of New York State. This is the direct result of the amazing stewardship of these lands for over a century by the City of Rochester. We strongly feel that any changes to the management of these properties would have a negative environmental impact on the area and appears inconsistent with the Environmental Conservation Law 1-0101(1) and the mission of the DEC. The DEC's mission as promulgated in the Draft UMP states:

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

Based upon a review of certain sections of the UMP, we believe that the proposed policies do not serve to conserve, improve nor protect the natural resources of this area and would result in a negative impact on these resources, and in particular the quality of the water in Hemlock and Canadice Lakes.

We respectfully submit comments to the following areas of the UMP; Public Access, Public Recreation and Use, Water Resources & Oil and Gas Leasing, Cultural Resources and Historic Preservation.

Public Access

We believe there is currently adequate access to Hemlock Lake and the State Lands surrounding the lake. The existing park and recreation area at the North end of the lake (although not owned by the State) furnishes residents of the State of New York with the opportunity to enjoy the lake and surrounding countryside. The area offers a host of recreational activities, including but not limited to fishing, sight-seeing, kayaking, canoeing, grilling, hiking and other family recreation activities. This is

evident during all seasons, particularly during the warmer months where a drive past the North end recreational area on Hemlock Lake boasts numerous vehicle and pedestrian traffic.

Page 56 of the Draft UMP states; “The existing public road infrastructure provides adequate public access throughout most of the Unit.” It also states that “...large areas, such as along the west side of Hemlock Lake, have no direct access to a public road.” and that “...The lack of continuous road frontage, or strategic points of access, is a limitation to property management.” However, we feel that this lack of direct access actually helps to conserve and preserve the unique nature of this area, while at the same time furnishes those citizens of the State of NY that embrace the challenge of accessing this area on foot, with the opportunity to experience the tranquil and remote nature of these lands.

The access areas along the West side of Hemlock Lake currently (Blank Road & Mission Road) provide hunters and hikers with ample parking and access to the State Lands. We do not believe that access for hunting should be changed. Hunting is a sport, and analogous to any other sport, has its inherent challenges. It is exactly those challenges that attract that certain demographic of hunter to this area. We believe that changing the existing access for hunting would have the unintended consequence of depriving that demographic to this area.

Public Recreation and Use

We believe the existing policies regarding public recreation in the Hemlock Lake area are adequate and should remain unchanged. Camping, including recreational vehicle access should not be encouraged. Camping would increase the level of refuse and littering of these lands. As a result, the taxpayers of the State of NY would be forced to shoulder the burden of additional property maintenance.

Fishing is a sport, and analogous to hunting also has its inherent challenges. The horse power restriction on boats in Hemlock Lake attracts a certain demographic of fisherman, which is unique in this area of Western, NY. Specifically, the type of fisherman that endeavors to fish from a kayak, canoe, unpowered row boat or horsepower limited watercraft. These fishermen can enjoy their sport without the challenge of competing with larger, higher horsepower watercraft. Changing any of the existing restrictions on the maximum horsepower watercraft would serve to deprive this demographic of enjoying this unique and rare type of fishing. There are numerous lakes within a very short distance where fishing enthusiasts can deploy higher horsepower boats to enjoy their recreation. In fact, I would like to take this opportunity to request that the DEC ensure that the adequate regulatory framework actually exists for limiting the maximum horsepower engine for boats on Hemlock Lake. I am employed by the US Department of Transportation / Federal Aviation Administration, and am currently stationed in the Rochester, NY Field Office. As an investigator, I frequently work with other local and State Law Enforcement agencies in enforcing the Federal Aviation Regulations (CFR). Several years ago, I was contacted by a DEC official regarding an investigation they were conducting of a seaplane utilizing Hemlock and Canadice lakes. He requested that I assist him in preventing the use of the aircraft on the lakes. I explained that although enforcing aviation regulations is the responsibility of the Federal Government, the only laws prohibiting this type of activity would be local or state laws, and that the maximum horsepower limitation would be adequate to prohibit seaplane operations on these lakes. The DEC official indicated that there was actually no such law in existence, and that it had been a long standing policy of the City of Rochester to limit the maximum horsepower of watercraft, and that it was merely tribal knowledge that prevented the operation of such vessels. I suggested that lawmakers endeavor to enact such regulation to ensure the future compliance with this restriction.

Water Resources & Oil and Gas Leasing

We feel that an abundance of evidence exists to support the exclusion of High Volume Hydrofracking (HVHF) in the watersheds of Hemlock and Canadice Lakes. Any such activity within the watersheds would create a soil erosion condition sufficient enough to increase the turbidity levels in the lakes. According to Page 13 of the Draft UMP, the Surficial Geologic Material around the lakes consists of “Glacial Till - Deposition of clays, silts” which combined with the steep topography within the

watershed area, lends itself to an increased runoff and higher high turbidity levels. Hemlock and Canadice Lakes have a very low lake volume to watershed area ratio (dilution ratio) which renders them very susceptible to an increase in turbidity. This would jeopardize the City of Rochester's direct filtration process and potentially become a serious public health issue. Additionally, as mentioned on Page 29 of the Draft UMP, Eagle Crest Vineyard, one of the oldest wineries in Central & Western, NY depends upon Hemlock Lake for its water supply. Any increase in the lake's turbidity would also render their water supply unusable.

An increase in the turbidity levels may also have a negative effect on the marine life and plant life in the lakes. Enhanced suspension of fine-grained sediments can affect water quality in several ways. Resuspension of organically rich sediments can cause increased biological oxygen demand and result in a sag in dissolved oxygen concentration. Also, turbidity reduces light penetration into the euphotic zone causing a reduced rate of photosynthetic production of oxygen. Oxygen production by rooted aquatic plants may be impacted by loss of habitat within the euphotic zone. Subsequent disappearance of submerged aquatic vegetation can drastically lower oxygen levels. Most aquatic species survive better in waters with low turbidity. Suspended solids prevent sunlight from reaching aquatic plants. Without sunlight, photosynthesis cannot take place. When photosynthesis cannot take place, plants cannot produce oxygen. This reduces the concentration of dissolved oxygen in the water. Fish must have dissolved oxygen in order to live. Turbidity will not only bother fish, but it can harm other living organisms. When solid matter settles, it will cover bottom-dwelling plants and animals. This will reduce the survival ability. Any such changes would appear inconsistent with the DEC's mission. Therefore, we feel that any benefit obtained through HVHF would be undoubtedly outweighed by the negative impact such activity would have on the Hemlock and Canadice watersheds. We would request that the UMP be amended to clearly prohibit HVHF activities in the watersheds.

Cultural Resources and Historic Preservation

The Draft UMP identifies the illegal removal or destruction of historic or archaeological resources as a continual problem. We feel that increasing the level of access to State Lands and to these artifacts, such as stone walls, glass bottles or flint arrowheads, would increase the potential for their destruction. Additionally, we feel that the DEC would not have the resources available to enforce the policy of protecting these assets, nor should the taxpayers of the State of NY be responsible for funding this protection.

The Draft UMP makes reference to current known illegal use of the State Lands. Increasing the level of access to this property would certainly lead to an increase in the illegal use of these lands. If access to these lands is increased without a commensurate increase in the law enforcement presence, the likelihood of an increase in illegal activities appears certain. Therefore we would propose that the level of access to the State Lands remain unchanged.

-Sincerely, Guido F. Hassig Brigitte Hassig, Conesus, NY

4/14/2013

To Whom it May Concern,

Reviewing the Unit Management Plan for Hemlock and Canadice Lakes I have concern about the reference to improving roads and adding access/roads. As a resident of the area and someone who values this unique pristine area I do not want more or wider roads in the watershed. This is out of concern for the watershed and the wilderness aspect of the area. I believe wider roads or more roads are for logging which puts more sediment into the lakes. i do not want to see ATVs in this beautiful, quiet, wildlife friendly area. Please change the language of the plan to reflect true protection of this valuable natural wilderness.

-thank you for you time and attention, Audrey Harpe, Hemlock, NY

4/14/2013

Re: Review of the UMP for Hemlock and Canadice State Forest as presented by DEC

Upon reviewing the UMP as presented by DEC, I would like to submit the following requests for change:

1. This parcel should be granted permanent protection as a "Unique Area" or "State Nature and Historic Preserve." Permanent protection for watersheds similar to this were granted for New York City and Syracuse watersheds. With this protection, the restrictions for the parcel do not have to be reviewed every 10 years and will prevent compromising activities to the land in the future, should state budgets etc be in distress. Likewise, permanent protection of the parcel was the understanding when the "people" living in the area fought for the sale of these lands to the state. It was the desire of the people in the area for the sale to go through with this understanding; even the town of Canadice voted for zoning change so the sale to the state would be possible...with the understanding of PERMANANT PROTECTION of said lands. I was there the night these zoning laws were changed.

2. DEC should prohibit fracking and oil and gas leasing of any kind within the watershed and in addition a 4,000 foot buffer around the parcel. No trucking of water for use in other fracking areas within or outside of the Hemlock-Canadice State Forests Should be allowed. Why take such a high risk of dirty trucks, etc contaminating the water for use in other areas??

3. Eliminate the 11 page proposal in the UMP that allows for oil and gas extraction, etc. on this parcel.

4. If logging is allowed within this parcel, it should be conservative, well managed, and of a nature that takes into account the steep slopes and possible soil erosion that would pollute the water. This has already occurred historically around these lakes with the logging done by the city of Rochester and caused the water treatment plant to be built.

5. No logging should be allowed around the virgin forest areas, around the buffers of nesting eagles or other threatened raptors which nest on these lakes. Other buffer zones should be placed around unusual plants, state endangered trees and/or wildlife. Logging should not be allowed in each area until there is a detailed field study in each proposed area for nesting wildlife/plants etc. and the impact to the soil in the area. Consider designating most of the parcel "forever wild." There should not be clear cutting as proposed by the UMP. There are already cleared lands in the surrounding areas and between the lakes in the "private sector" for animals that prefer these habitats. Likewise, DEC talked as if these forests had matured to the fullest and logging had to be done to keep the forest healthy...obviously they have not seen the photos of "real" virgin forests from the past, with trees so large a whole family could stand around them. I highly doubt the forest has matured to this standard and question what standard for wild lands the DEC has in their minds. This is a very unique opportunity to have a "barely touched" and managed as is "needed" area...not manage to other state standards for lands that do not compare to this.

6. Keep the present boating limitations that exist now: allowing canoeing, kayaking, and small motor boats for recreational use.

7. Expansion of walking trails in areas with low wildlife impact is a great idea and would allow people to enter and enjoy this unique parcel. However, I think the building of more roads with the needed drainage ditches, culverts, etc. are a bad idea and will only allow for erosion and drainage of muddy water into the lakes. I would suggest the building of few roads that do not already exist.

8. I have seen individuals train their hunting dogs in the ponds and swamps on the South end of Hemlock lake. I suggest that this activity be limited to the seasons outside of the breeding cycle for the native waterbirds, as I have personally witnessed the abandonment of nest sites due to this activity in spring.

9. If logging becomes needed in a certain area or if a natural disaster (ice storm etc) cleared sections of the forest, I suggest that DEC consider the planting of disease resistant strains of American elm, and American Chestnut back into the parcel. These were historically here and American elm trees were still in the area when my Mother grew up at my current location. There are several disease resistant clones of pure American Elm available now. Likewise, the American Chestnut Cooperators foundation out of Virginia has been working to produce "PURE" resistant American Chestnuts (not hybrids with chinese), and also Syracuse University has produced resistant clones with only one added gene for resistance through tissue culture. This would be a great area for the return of these species in the "purest forms possible."

We would like to thank the DEC personnel that dedicated many hours to come up with this UMP. We do respect all their efforts and hope that they inturn respect the wishes of the people in protecting this one of a kind area forever. As you now have the responsibility to make the decisions regarding this parcel, please know that many of the families have lived next to, enjoyed, raised their children, and found this area something different and in need of being a "Unique Area" with permanant protection (the most it can get). My family has lived boardered by the watershed for over a century (now 4th and 5th generation) at our location on the South end of the Hemlock portion of the State forest. In our joint efforts in finalizing this UMP, we can work together for a common goal in doing the "right thing" and making this area permanantly protected to the highest possible extent that the State of New York can provide it. In doing so, we will have something that my great grandparents would still be proud of when they moved to the area, as well as my children and future generations to come.

-Sincerely, Matthew Johnson, Barbra Johnson, Springwater NY

4/14/2013

To: New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

There has been much discussion in recent years concerning the use of New York State Forest Lands. We have the ability today through gasoline-powered engines to damage the forest environment by both forest harvesting, off-road vehicles, and electric powered gas-well drilling, any of which can easily decimate the environment in which we all live. The area of concern would be from the lake Ontario shore south to the Pennsylvania border.

The area that I refer to is sloping and forested. To begin removing trees, shrubs and turf for logging or "4-wheeler" roadways or deep hydraulic drilling, will disturb this delicate blanket of plant protection. The weathering that will occur due to rain and snow on this naked soil will, in one season, due to its angle-of-repose, end up filling the valleys and streams with loosened soil changing the valley floor and cause the valley streams to become mud-streams. This has been taking place for one-hundred years in many states in the east and is a-priori information.

In the area of deep-drilling commonly called "Fracking" and as a Geology graduate (BS, SUC @ Brockport, NY 1971) it is my personal understanding that, after reading through the mountain of information that has become available (Scientific American, The National Geographic, and numerous papers published by reputable investigators) that this practice must be stopped at once. Throughout the State of New York, vast sums of wealth are targeted toward the implementation of this reprehensible form of mining. All indications, where these practices are in place, are that a tragic occurrence to people thru the loss of their safe water, clean air and the deep release of RADON gas. This has taken place through the inability of the several State Governments to protect these environments.

There will never be reclamation of these lost areas, not in thousands of years. The land and the water will be lost forever, concomitantly, these areas will be lost to both people and animals, let me repeat, forever.

The waste materials are, oils, oil solubles, brackish water and the bringing forth of the radioactive gas RADON from the underground springs. There are at present, maps of New York State with local

measured amounts of normally occurring levels of RADON for all areas for many years. This gas is dangerous. Its half-life is 3.8 days meaning, every 3.8 days its level drops another one-half but a new supply keeps arriving. The danger is from the Alfa-particle it emits. That particle is dangerous upon entering the body through the lungs, the stomach, eyes, ears or any other open orifice or wound. The Alfa-particle is a helium nucleus ejected from uranium ore. Its LET (linear energy transfer) is very high. Meaning, that all of its energy is used to damage surrounding tissue. In a comparison of RADON to X-rays, X-rays pass through you to a photographic film. Very, very, very little is damaging to you as most people are aware and we say that x-rays have a very, very low LET. To be very clear this gas is radioactive and a cause of cancer and other serious health issues. Bringing up this mixture of toxic material is criminal to the health of man, beast, plant, insect and bird. A little science is good. A lot of science is much better.

I urge the members of the Department of Environmental Conservation, the legislators of the State of New York, and the Governor of the State of New York to step forth and rescue the people of this beautiful State from the Sirens-song of pressure of politics and the illusory promise of great money and numerous (long-lasting?) jobs. Save the present State of New York for the people and the animals forever.

-Sincerely, Kermit R. Mercer

4/14/2013

Dear DEC,

O am a resident of Ontario county, on the hill just above Honeoye Lake and Canadice lakes. I am in water sheds of both lakes and am careful about what I do, how I live in regards to the waters that I love and recreate on.

Please help to protect and preserve the Hemlock and Canadice Lakes. Please protect these lakes.

Follow your mission statement and "**...conserve, improve and protect it's natural resources and environment and to prevent, abate and control water, land and air pollution, in order to enhance the health, safety and welfare of the people of the state and their overall economic and social well-being.**"

You are the stewards of this land. Please keep it safe.

-Kala Stein, Springwater, NY

4/15/2013

Hemlock and Canadice Lakes must be raised to the next level of protection. To not do so would be completely irresponsible to the citizens who live by and drink the waters of these beautiful lakes.

-Douglas Hatch

April 15, 2013

Dear Sir/Madam,

Thank you for this opportunity to review the Hemlock –Canadice Management Plan and thank you for your efforts in compiling the plan.

While this area has been saved as a natural area in perpetuity that does not mean that those who follow us will understand the value of this area, therefore, the designation of this State Forest Area

should be changed to “State Nature & Historic Preserve.” The need for natural resources will change over the next decade; the time to protect this area is now.

On the whole the Fish and Wildlife Habitat and Timber and Vegetation Management portions of the plan are written to manage for biodiversity. We were happy to see that efforts will be made to keep grassland and shrub/scrub areas open. While the Bald Eagle is the signature threatened species for this area, more effort needs to be put into smaller, less well known species that are threatened or species of special concern, such as many of the grassland birds and the blue-spotted salamander.

Special efforts should be made to make sure that the hemlock ravines along the lakes stay intact. These are unique ecosystems that add so much to this area.

Thank you again.

-Respectfully, June Summers, President Genesee Valley Audubon Society, Rochester, NY

4/15/2013

To the Department of Environmental Conservation:

I urge the Department of Environmental Conservation to strengthen protection of the Hemlock/Canadice public properties. As indicated in the draft Unit Management Plan, a wide range of commercial uses would be permitted under the plan. While public assurances have been provided by DEC staff, such assurances are not permanent.

The primary goal of transferring these properties from the City of Rochester was to assure permanent protection. These properties represent the only major section of the Finger Lakes that is public ownership. Proper management of these properties provides a critical barrier for the quality of drinking water, and is necessary to provide the City of Rochester with a high quality water supply. Provision of multiple barriers of protection was a condition of the City's water supply permit modification at the time the Hemlock Filtration plant was constructed. That permit allowed the City to build a direct filtration plant, without requiring settling beds. The approach is only possible if the watershed properties receive a high level of protection - much higher than provided for in the draft unit management plan.

I urge the Department of Environmental Conservation to take the steps necessary to create a Unique Area for inclusion in the State Nature and Historic Preserve.

-Thank you, Edward Doherty, Pittsford, NY 14534

Please see attached file.

The text of the file appears below, in case your network mail filters will not accept .pdf attachments.

Thanks,

-Jack Schroeder, Chair, Genesee Valley Chapter, Adirondack Mountain Club, Rochester, NY

April 14, 2013

Re: Comments on Hemlock-Canadice Unit Management Plan

The Genesee Valley Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club (ADK-GVC) is a nonprofit organization headquartered in Rochester, New York. Our parent organization, Adirondack Mountain Club (ADK), has already submitted comments to the DEC setting forth its concerns and recommendations with respect to the Unit Management Plan for the Hemlock-Canadice State Forest (H-C SF). (See ADK's letter of March 15, 2013 to the Hemlock-Canadice Unit Management Planning Team.) Central to those comments is the recommendation that the H-C SF be designated a “unique area” under Article 45 of the Environmental Conservation Law and should be included in the State Nature and Historic Preserve pursuant Section 4 of Article 14 of the New York State Constitution.

ADK-GVC fully supports the recommendations set forth in ADK's comments, as well as the underlying analysis. However, we wish to offer the following additional comments in support of ADK's recommendations:

New York State's acquisition of the H-C SF represented the culmination of many years of advocacy by individuals and organizations dedicated to the preservation of the wild lands and waters of New York State. Prior to the sale of the lands to the State, the City of Rochester was under increasing pressure, due to the financial difficulties that it and other New York municipalities were encountering, to sell or lease all or part of the lands for private development or exploitation.

Those advocating the transfer of the lands to New York State were primarily motivated by two concerns. One was a concern for the potential threat to the health of Rochester's water supply posed by development activity in the lands surrounding the two lakes. The other was a concern that Hemlock and Canadice Lakes and their surrounding forests retain their character as the only remaining pristine lakes in the Finger Lakes Region. These two lakes and their surrounding forests were, and are to this day, the only two of the Finger Lakes that have not been marred by a patchwork of homes along or near their shores, by the clearing of forests for agriculture, or by the building of marinas and other kinds of commercial development.

When the sale of the Hemlock-Canadice lands was finally consummated, the transaction was deemed by the public to be a major victory for those forces that had advocated the preservation of the lakes in the surrounding forests in their present, pristine. It was felt that, once and for all, these magnificent lands would be permitted to remain wild and untouched.

ADK-GVC believes that the UMP as drafted is inconsistent in many ways with the goals for which so many advocated for so long. Rather than focusing on the preservation of the lands and the waters that they protect, the UMP appears to focus on "managing" the lands like any other State forest. We feel that providing for multiple uses and timber harvesting not only creates potential hazards to a vital watershed but also diverges significantly from the purpose behind the State's acquisition of the lands. We note, in this connection that the UMP states as follows:

"This plan strives to manage the diversity of the Hemlock Canadice Unit's biological and social resources for multiple use to serve the needs of the people of New York State. *In order to manage the Hemlock-Canadice Unit for multiple use, NYS DEC must manage the ecosystem in a holistic manner while reconciling the many and sometimes conflicting demands on the ecosystem.* In addition Hemlock and Canadice lakes are a direct source of public water for the City of Rochester and other communities and this will be considered relative to any actions in this Plan. This must be done within the framework of the Environmental Conservation Law (ECL), Rules and Regulations, and NYS DEC policies and procedures....*The ECL dictates that the lands within this unit be managed for "watershed protection, the production of forest products and recreation and kindred purposes". Within these constraints, a need exists for protection, goods, services, safe public water, and the perpetuation of open space.*" [Emphasis supplied.]

ADK-GVC believes strongly that by calling for the management of the H-C SF in a manner that attempts to satisfy the wishes of multiple and sometimes competing users not only creates potential hazards to a vital watershed but also diverges significantly from the purpose behind the State's acquisition of the lands. *Hemlock and Canadice Lakes and the lands surrounding them are a scenic and ecological gem—one that is worth preserving in its present state for the benefit not only of the Rochester residents who drink the waters of Hemlock Lake but for all New Yorkers.*

The best way, indeed the only way, to assure that these lands are protected in the manner envisioned by thousands of New Yorkers who urged the State to purchase the lands is to designate the H-C WF as a "unique area" pursuant to Article 45 of the NYS Environmental Conservation Law and Section 4 of Article 14 of the New York State Constitution. The latter constitutional provision states, in part that, "[t]he legislature shall further provide for the acquisition of lands and waters, including improvements

thereon and any interest therein, outside the forest preserve counties, and the dedication of properties so acquired or now owned, *which because of their natural beauty, wilderness character, or geological, ecological or historical significance, shall be preserved and administered for the use and enjoyment of the people.*" [Emphasis supplied] ADK-GVC believes that the H-C SF falls squarely within this provision.

It is our hope that the New York State Legislature will provide the protection to the H-C SF that these lands so richly deserve.

-Respectfully submitted, Genesee Valley Chapter Adirondack Mountain Club

Comments to Hemlock/Canadice UMP

Plant community - there is a large amount of poison ivy along the south boat launch road and trail. (as well as in many other locations) Can this be eradicated without danger to the water?

Plant community - need to get control of the multi-flora rose as it is taking over the forest. Can chemicals be used to eradicate?

The Springwater Valley following the Springwater Creek and Lime Kiln Creek - there are 4 miles of beautiful wetland that no one can get to - can the creek be cleared as far as possible for kayak/canoeing from south boat launch and if a boardwalk can be constructed it would open up this area to the public to view wildlife. At the least, a trail should be cleared as far as possible along the creeks, not just for fishermen but for hikers.

History of Dixon Hollow mills important - one of Mather mills is still standing on Clay Street and there should be a historical marker. A hiking trail through Dixon Hollow would be interesting but would require crossing the outlet creek. Can a simple bridge be constructed?

What will happen to Hemlock and Canadice lakes if the City of Rochester no longer draws it's water from it? Is there a plan?

What are the plans for exterminating invasive insects - ie. forest tent caterpillar, asian longhorn, hemlock wooly, emerald ash bore. Will air sprays be used. If so, surrounding landowners should be notified.

Bedrock Geology

Old gas wells - can they be reopened if they were plugged and abandoned?

I am opposed to any private or public gas drilling within the areas of the lakes, especially in adjacent town watersheds. Springwater has 5.

Bring back sport fishing on Springwater and lime kiln creek.

The trails along the lake are being used by persons who walk their dogs specifically to go to the bathroom. Can recepticals with bags be provided at the boat launches requesting them to pick up their dog waste

No Primitive camping - danger of fire

Agree to allow swimming on Canadice lake or south end of Hemlock Lake - Clarify wading - does it include walking along the shoreline in the water?

No fires or picnic areas around lake

Keep level of lake low so can walk shoreline - opens up another whole area to explore. When lake is low you can walk from boat launch to boat launch.

Kiosk at entrance to south boat launch in large parking area - this could be a trailhead or tourist stop with a sign regarding the Springwater Valley and the bald eagle - historical marker - Springwater Fiddlers Fair has designated \$1,000 towards this sign.

-Pam Masterson, Hemlock New York

April 12, 2013

Dear Mr. Rob Davies, State Forester:

I am Robert Scott and am an interested party in the Department's decision making process for the planned Hemlock-Canadice Unit Management Plan (UMP). I have reviewed the details of the plan, and in the past have reviewed many applications and issued numerous water supply permits for the NYSDEC relating to the use of water from the Finger Lakes, Lake Ontario and other sources of supply.

The purpose of this letter is to focus only on the issue of the aspect of recreation in the form of human contact with the surface waters of Hemlock-Canadice lakes and the planned NYSDEC/City of Rochester management prohibitions and restrictions as explained in the following.

The background is that in the water supplies contaminated with pathogens have caused human health impairment and death. The upland source was a major and significant improvement to reduce this problem. My understanding is that the upland lakes were a direct source from the lake into a pipe and distributed to customers with chlorination added at some point in time. More recently the upland source of supply was converted from a direct source to a state of the art drinking water filtration plant designed to meet stringent US Environmental Protection Agency and NYS Department of Health (DOH) drinking water requirements. The system acts as a very protective barrier to prevent contamination from entering the distribution system.

It is noted on page 51 (and page 60) that NYSDC states the upland source is a direct source of public water supply, and as a result special regulations for this state forest were written. It is cited that human contact with the water has historically been kept to a minimum and that such concerns dictate that such contact be held to the absolute minimum. However, historically when this restriction was adopted the lakes were a direct untreated source of water, along with chlorination at some point, to the City of Rochester, but now there is a state of the art water filtration plant that acts as a barrier to lake contaminants from entering the public water system. It is also observed that the upland waters are co-mingled in places in the distribution system with treated Lake Ontario waters. At times there are sewage overflows into Lake Ontario along with industrial discharges that reach the lake.

As background it is also noted that numerous other municipal water supplies distribute treated water from surface waters for public consumption where the source has unlimited human contact with the water. These include Watkins Glen and Geneva on Seneca Lake, Hammondsport and Penn Yan on Keuka Lake, the City of Canandaigua on Canandaigua Lake and the Village of Avon on Conesus Lake and several others on Lake Ontario. These sources are all regulated by DOH particularly in respect to drinking water quality.

The UMP team at NYSDEC consists of Fish and Wildlife staff, Forestry staff and Mineral Resources staff and does not include those staff experts in the area of water quality. The team included the City of Rochester Supervisor of Water Supply Maintenance and Manager of Water Production. On the matter of Water Resources on page 43 it is indicated that staff identified the need for the additional special regulations (relating to human contact with surface waters), yet the NYSDEC on the team are not qualified experts to make regulatory determinations relating to water supply and human health, and the City staff on the Committee have a limited and mandated focus solely on water production and cannot possibly represent for dialogue and discussion all of the uses enumerated in the Environmental Conservation Law (ECL) mission statement for forest land uses including recreation.

The prohibitions and restrictions on human contact with the water such as wading, swimming, or the use of shoreline campfires for bullhead fishing and smelting at night have not undergone a scientific analysis or assessment for potential impacts to water quality or the water supply by staff qualified to make determinations based on science. I request that the NYSDEC refer this matter for review to the NYSDOH experts in this area for a qualified determination for health risk. The UMP should be supplemented with this information. The NYSDEC needs to employ management strategies to allow more recreational opportunities with mitigation of human impacts if they are identified. The adoption of

any regulation specific to this unit should have a review under the provisions of the State Environmental Quality Review Act. The results should be presented for public review. At present the UMP document is incomplete in this area and if used in its present form for a decision would result in a faulty decision.

-Robert K. Scott, Hemlock, New York

Attachment

Public Participation – There would have been a more varied base of information and more public confidence in the NYSDEC UMP process if the public was on the Committee including recognized environmental groups.

Waterfowl Hunting – Page 51 presents a justification for the 190.26 regulation to allow dogs in the water relating to hunting geese as this benefits water quality. However, nearly all of the geese I have observed are in a geographically prohibited area at Hemlock Lake and its Town Park where hunting should not take place. This illustrates the fallacy of the NYSDEC justification for this particular use.

3/15/2013

John-

Thanks for talking after the meeting last night. Let me be clear about the topographic information that I think should be part of the plan.

It need not be in the form of topographic maps such as USGS quadrants. Rather, it should be the slope classes (0-8%, 8-15%, 15-25%, 25-40% and 40%+) of the State Forest. And I would hope that this information after being portrayed in the form of a map would be integrated into the charts showing the various timber stands so that appropriate bmps could be attached to actions to access those stands.

Such an approach is necessary to link timber harvest activities with their impact on water quality. I have attached my written comments to this email.

Thanks for listening.

-Sincerely, Stephen S. Lewandowski, Canandaigua, NY

March 14, 2013

Re. Draft Unit Management Plan for Hemlock-Canadice State Forest

Mr. Gibbs:

Thank you for the massive amount of work that went into creating the draft Unit Management Plan for the new Hemlock-Canadice State Forest. Though much is ably covered in the plan, I do have comments and serious concerns. Many of my concerns are the very same communicated to you (letter of November 8, 2010) when the UMP process for Hemlock-Canadice was beginning.

The draft plan lacks topographic data. Looking at the maps provided, one might almost think the forest is flat. There is one fleeting reference to slopes in the text on pg. 28, "Access is also limited by terrain." Actually, access is primarily limited by terrain.

The draft plan makes numerous references to the lack of access (pp. 16, 28, 40, 46, 48, 56 and 96) to forest land. I presume they mean motorized access since the areas they mention are completely accessible on foot. Providing topographic information would demonstrate that the most inaccessible areas are inaccessible because of steep slopes.

The Unit Management Plan should respect existing steep slopes by indicating their class, location, and the difficulties with meeting water quality standards while attempting to install infrastructure on steep slopes.

Different classes of steep slopes require different management practices. Though soil maps are provided with the plan, the slope classifications that accompany these soil designations in the Livingston and Ontario County Soil Surveys have been removed. Providing the basic categories of slope (0-8%, 8-

15%, 15-25%, 25-40% and 40%+) would indicate which proposed stands could be harvested with the least danger to water quality.

Even within a “multiple use plan”, some uses take precedence, for example public drinking water. This forest management plan is actually little more than a timber harvest plan. Pg. 40 of the draft plan invokes an 84 year old statute stating that the “production of forest products” is the principal purpose of State Forests. On page 61, the draft plan states that “The primary method used to influence the timber and vegetation on State land is the commercial sale of timber.” Much has changed in 84 years. The draft plan admits that unique conditions exist in the Hemlock-Canadice State Forest, especially as a source of public drinking water, but ignores that unique condition in its management recommendations.

Public drinking is the highest and best use of the lakes’ waters, and protection of the watershed, especially the H-C State Forest, will prove to be the cheapest and most effective method of securing high quality drinking water. The draft plan states, “Protecting water quality continues as the most important function of this property.”(pg. 4) and yet the plan does far too little to protect water quality.

Seeking to provide motorized access to steeply sloping land (over 15%) for whatever purpose, including gas drilling, tower construction, and timber harvest, will inevitably compromise the water quality goals of this plan.

I ask again that the Hemlock-Canadice State Forest be designated as a State Historic and Nature Preserve in order to protect those values that make it truly unique among State lands.

-Sincerely, Stephen Lewandowski

3/31/2013

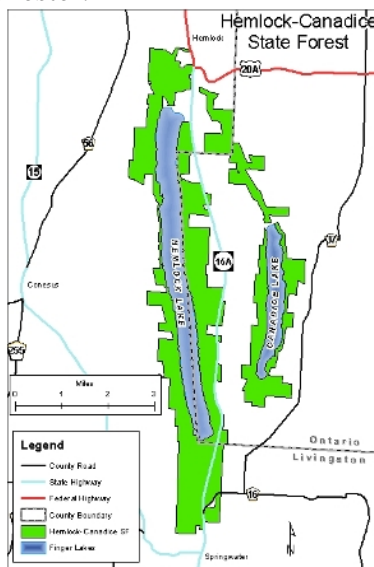
Attached is our review of the Hemlock Canadice UMP. A hard copy will follow.

-Mike Elam, President, Finger Lakes Conservation Council, Inc. Albion, NY

Representing Conservation within Region 8 of New York State

Hemlock-Canadice UMP

The Hemlock-Canadice Unit Management Plan (UMP) covers the 6,684-acre Hemlock-Canadice State Forest located in Livingston and Ontario Counties. Approximately 25 miles south of the city of Rochester.



Hemlock Lake looking south from north end dike.

On Saturday March 16th, 2013 Neil Newton, Marc Osypian and myself (Mike Elam) took a trip to Hemlock and Canadice lakes after reviewing the NYS DEC draft of the Unit Management Plan. Our goal for this trip was to visit some of the sites as mentioned in the draft to formulate a comment to submit to the DEC on behalf of the Finger Lakes Conservation Council. This report is to be sent to the NYS DEC, NYSCC, FWMB and CFAB. In addition Robert Ciecierrega and Antony Malagisi who know this region well submitted comments that I have taken into consideration.

As our group interpreted the NYS DEC draft report we found that maintaining/protecting the Water quality is the number one priority in managing this watershed. These lakes are still the water source for Rochester, NY. The lakes are still owned by Rochester.

High on the DEC's priorities is managing this forest for Hunting, Fishing, Trapping and access.

Fishing; to this end we support the traditional level of boat access with the size limited to 17ft and smaller with a maximum 10 horse power. The Boat launch on Canadice Lake is between Burch Hill Road and Holmes Road along Canadice Lake Road is pretty rough but doable for small boats. This could use some maintenance. The other designated launch on Canadice Lake is for canoe or car top boats and is south Holmes Road and may require minimal maintenance to keep the site open for launching. We support relocating the launch at the south end of Hemlock Lake north to deeper water as proposed in the UMP draft. Incidental contact with the water should be allowed, getting boats launched, fishing in waders. The ban on bathing, scuba diving and swimming should be maintained.

We support the DEC's regulations of sports; we do not think any more restrictive requirements are needed.



Haul road along
east side Hemlock
Lake

South Boat
launch Hemlock
Lake



Both lakes combined have an approximately 14 miles of trail/haul roads along the lakes that should be maintained and kept open for public use and forest maintenance. If more haul roads are opened for foresting purposes they should be assessed as to if they create more access for the public and if so maintained. As addressed in the UMP selective harvesting of wood should be continued on the lands to maintain the forest health, Lake water quality and wildlife Habitat. We also recommend that the haul roads be opened to handicapped individuals with the appropriate, Motorized Access Program for People with Disabilities (MAPPWD), permit for access to enable them to participate in conservation activities. We agree that the haul roads should not be used for general ATV use. We suggest addition of some toilet facilities at access points.

As mentioned in the UMP the City of Rochester mowed the haul roads twice a year and cleaning out a creek at the south end of Canadice Lake, so as to not jeopardize the haul road. This level of maintenance should be planned for, and maintained. The possible reduction of this maintenance level, cutting back from mowing haul road from twice a year to once a year as stated in the UMP, has us concerned about the State's ability to manage the property properly. These haul roads are used by, hunters, trappers, fisherman, hikers and mountain bikes. And will allow for selectively harvesting wood.

We encourage the selective harvest of wood on all areas of this forest, to keep it in good health, and maintain a healthy succession to ensure that the stability of wildlife for this area stays high. We view

the logging as a management tool to regenerate new growth to supply food for our wildlife. Any revenue received from logging, or any other leases, should go to the Conservation Fund.

Currently there are no regulatory documents prohibiting the state from leasing land for the purpose of drilling or fracking, therefore, we would like to see a restriction made for these two areas prohibiting such leases. No drilling should take place in the watershed as the risk is too high should a problem occur and a minimum distance from the watershed of the two locations should be imposed to ensure safety of the water supply.



New Kiosk

We strongly disagree with any lands be classified as Unique Area, Forever Wild, or as State Nature and Historic Preserve. As conservationists, we see this property as a living, changing and renewable resource, that if managed and maintained properly will supply quality water to the city of Rochester, sustain wildlife and give many sporting opportunities to the community for which this property was purchased.

-Sincerely, Mike Elam President, Finger Lakes Conservation Council

4/9/2013

To: New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

From: Peter Debes, Master's Degree in Environmental Education, S.U.N.Y. ESF; Retired Science Resource Teacher for the School of Science and Technology, City School District, Rochester, life-long naturalist, botanist, and eco-tour guide for national and international expeditions for 20 years with Nature Discoveries, Inc., Rochester, N.Y. Has guided groups for nature study in the Finger Lakes region also, including Canadice/Hemlock lakes.

Dear D. E. C. Staff,

The goals of the Unit Management Plan for Canadice and Hemlock lakes appear well formulated according to the guidelines for a State Forest. This proposed management plan is not in the best long-term interest of the State both for the enjoyment of people and protection of natural areas for wildlife. I specifically want to address the need for a vision of preserving extensive tracts of wild lands for preservation of wildlife.

From an airplane, the State often looks deceptively well forested, for there are many stands scattered across the State. The view is deceptive, as many of the forest stands are of early stage regeneration, or reduced in diversity because of continuous habitat disturbance. The State is home to a variety of fairly distinct forest types characterized by the substrates they grow upon and the community of plants they support. Many of these plant communities have been drastically reduced in size and broken by fragmentation, a condition that affects the ability of some animals to migrate for breeding, and can lead

to genetic isolation and disappearance of some animals and many plants. Some of these communities now are refugia for small isolated populations of living things that survive only in these places. Many of these places have been documented by the New York State Floral Association in its scheduled field trips. Managing a forest to create varying aged stands can lead to an increase in the species due to the edge effect of mixed communities that results, yet we already have a preponderance of this in the State because of the steady clearing of land, subdivision for cottages, and cutting of forest for firewood and lumber. What we have less and less of, and will continue to see less of as our population grows inexorably, is large stands of mature and old-growth forest. As fuel prices gradually escalate, more property owners will be seeking to reduce their heating costs by using wood to heat with or to sell to generate income from their forests through selective logging.

I propose that the remaining large stands of forest that are State lands need to be managed with the knowledge that they are now, almost the only old-growth forests left of extensive size. There are species of plants and animals that seem best adapted to survive in extensive tracts of old-growth forest, and such forests will be the refugia that ensures their survival. Managing a forest to yield some commercial timber involves extensive intrusion, disruption, and interference in a forest. The creatures and plants that benefit from this management, will, I think, be mostly the same as are benefitting from the numerous small, unprotected private forests throughout the State.

Because the places that are truly left “forever wild” are few in the State below the Adirondacks, I believe these lands, with the extensive forest they support, would be better managed by minimal intrusion, and not motivated by commercial yield. The Canadice/Hemlock forest lies near extensive forests around Honeoye Lake, the Cumming Nature Center forest, and the Cutler Boy Scout lands, which provides almost, a corridor for wildlife migration.

People in this part of the State deserve wild lands that are not constantly being altered, manipulated by humans, or impacted by recreation with machines. The experience of wilderness or something approaching it is cherished by many and important to maintain for future generations to sense the wonder of nature and wilderness. Yet that experience is getting ever so much harder to get to, as the years pass by.

I recommend that the Canadice/Hemlock lands be re-designated as a “Unique Area” to provide it the protection it deserves.

-Peter Debes, Rochester, NY

4/10/2013

First of all, I would like to congratulate the DEC staff on a thorough and well-informed document.

- The measures on p. 85 to prevent boats from introducing invasive species seem hopelessly inadequate and unlikely to succeed. The only realistic way to prevent the introduction of aquatic invasives is to keep out boats entirely (as well as swimmers and waders).

- Oil and gas drilling and pipelines are not compatible with the primary goal of preserving water quality for the Rochester water supply. Such activities would almost certainly result in water contamination and are a severe risk to public health as well as wildlife habitat. They should be banned.

- I was pleased to see that the DEC recognizes the importance of this area to birds. I would like to echo June Summers in stating that the existing bird habitat must be kept intact, and fragmentation must not be allowed to occur. Also, invasive plant species are potentially a major problem that might require management.

-Jay Greenberg, Rochester, NY

4/9/2013

I am contacting your department regarding the protection and preservation of these beautiful and important lakes.

First:

they are important watersheds to the surrounding towns, villages and city of Rochester.

Second:

Any logging, admitting ATV'S or any other recreational type vehicles will be detrimental to the land, forest, and lake due to erosion issues and damage to existing plant life, animals that live in these forests... Let's face it majority of people are slobs--littering will happen.....

Third:

We need to up the level of protection of these watershed to protect them from Fracking....

Your department of our State is to protect our natural areas, please do not harm them

-Thank you, Lisa Andreotta, Livonia NY

4/11/2013

Gretchen Cicora and John Gibbs,

Attached is a proposed plan from the Hill and Valley Riders Inc. "HVR" snowmobile club to be reviewed and or added into the new Hemlock – Canadice State forest plan "HCSF". The proposed plan outlines HVR's role and also funding information. I apologize for the delay and not getting this to you sooner but wanted to be sure you got this prior to the April 15th date. If you could please look this over and let us know what your thoughts are on this and how we can proceed it would be greatly appreciated.

-Thanks, Clint VanDewark, Funding and Grant Coordinator, Hill and Valley Riders, Inc. Honeoye, New York

April 10th 2013

Dear: *Gretchen Cicora, John Gibbs,*

Currently the hill and valley Riders Inc. "HVR" located in Honeoye NY, maintain and post the current trail identified in the Hemlock – Canadice State Forest plan. This segment of trail is identified as NYS Secondary trail S49. This segment of trail is maintained through the use of snowmobile registration dollars that are run through the NYS Snowmobile Grant-in-aid program by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. These funds that are based off registration dollars are used to maintain this current trails system.

S49 is a key piece in the NYS snowmobile trail system by serving as a feeder trail from the Town of Hemlock for riders to get gas, food, and access to the Main Corridor trail identified as "C4". The C4 trail is the main trail that runs across New York State and a portion of this is maintained by HVR thru the trail grant program. S49 as it currently serves to connect Hemlock and is in the HCSF plan, will also be the future feeder trail for the Town of Livonia. This is only in its beginning stages and HVR is currently working with Livingston County Planning Board to help make this possible in the future. Having S49 run through the northern portion of HCSF as it currently does is a key piece to this system.

To allow S49 to be able to connect into Livonia, HVR is proposing to add an additional segment of trail into the current HCSF plan. This segment will be funded thru the same process and will be identified as S49. HVR would continue its current role by maintaining the trail system. This would include culvert placement or repairs, tree trimming, and brush removal, sign installs and removals as required as well as any trail grooming. The Route of S49 would be run along two currently cleared routes, therefore not requiring any major trail work or land disruption, only continued trail maintenance and marking.

The Trail route would be split to the West side of the Ponds. A small segment of S49 would continue into the town of hemlock, and may change to S49A. With S49 going west over to the current pipe line and head south to Rix Rd. Once at Rix Rd S49 would continue West along the North shoulder of the road to the current Bur Oak Trail. At the Bur Oak Trail S49 would follow this trail North Wes to the intersection of Blank Rd and Cleary Rd. at this location there is a small area to park and is where S49 would currently end until the trail is further developed west on private lands. This would allow riders a safe and marked trail in the future that can be patrolled and maintained with the snowmobile trail funds thru Livingston County and HVR for maintenance along this route. A map of the proposed route has been included with this for reference.

HVR would like to ask to add this into our current trail permit and also add this condition or request into the current HCSF plan.

For any questions please contact the following: Clint VanDewark HVR Funding and Grant Coordinator or Scott Wohlschlegel HVR President

-Sincerely. Clint VanDewark HVR Funding and Grant Coordinator

4/15/2013

I am a resident of Brighton that drinks Hemlock -Canadice water and who canoes on Hemlock Lake. Hemlock and Canadice Lakes have been preserved as a special watershed for over 100 years by the city of Rochester. In buying the land from Rochester the state indicated that it would be preserved as a drinking water reservoir.

The current management plan must reclassify the Hemlock-Canadice property as an Unique Area and a State Nature and Historic Preserve , that will ensure that the entire watershed, is permanently maintained as a drinking water resource.

There should be adequate staff funding for education, protection and enforcement. This precludes logging, gas, oil and mineral exploration and extraction near or under the entire watershed, including the Steuben County headwaters, and leaves recreation use limited to activities that will not diminish its use as a source of drinking water. To avoid its degradation for this purpose, plans for any increases in motorboat size, new trails or boat launches should be cancelled.

-Cenie Cafarelli, Rochester, NY

4/15/2013

These are comments of the Empire State Forest Products Association for your consideration in the final UMP for this forest.

April 15, 2013

On behalf of the Empire State Forest Products Association, and its member companies and the 61,000 people employed in the industry in New York State, we would like to comment on the Hemlock-Canadice Unit Management Plan.

We applaud the department for making this a public process that engages the community impacted by the management of this resource.

The Hemlock-Canadice Unit Management Plan (UMP) covers the 6,684-acre Hemlock-Canadice State Forest located in Livingston and Ontario Counties.

A general concern is the mention of a lack of resources to manage these lands, in terms of staffing and support. Public lands require using limited resources, some which can generate returns such as the sale of forest products and others that require larger capital investments with little return such as public hiking trails, and recreational access. We strongly urge a priority should be to reinvest returns for the

forests to address these needs. Many private forest owners must pay taxes, provide recreational use, and manage for special concerns and do so quite successfully by setting priorities and investing limited revenues from a variety of revenue streams to those priorities. We should be investing in the staff and providing the support needed to manage these lands. This plan mentions acquiring even more lands and we find it a very poor policy to state the lack of resources to manage what we already own and then to state a policy to acquire more lands. We simply cannot be acquiring lands without providing adequate management funding for the lands we already own and must manage.

Our specific comments;

Green Certification-We are supportive of the overall use of green certification systems to validate the sustainable management system meeting these international certifications systems, especially the SFI which our association has supported since its inception . Over the past 20 years these systems have evolved and area an important method for helping local forest managers gauge the incorporation of social, environmental, and economic criteria in this public forest.

Forest Management- We certainly support overall management plan being proposed including the 892 acres of forest stands to be improved through the sales of forest products. Many of the needs of this forest, including habitat, water quality , protecting species of special concern and forest access for the public and especially special needs populations are best accommodated through active forest management. Our industry relies upon these forests to provide our customers and society these products. We would encourage looking at ways to use vegetation management on all the acreage as a tool to accommodate many management needs, rather than creating “hands-off” areas. Invasive species and pests know no such boundaries and forest managers must be vigilant to minimize their impacts and have the flexibility to react to the ever changing conditions of a forest.

We are pleased the plan mentions many invasive species but are dismayed the plan lacks much substance on managing for invasive species. As one example, the emerald ash borer is present in that region and likely to move into this UMP in the near future certainly over the next decade. A more aggressive forest management plan should be considered to harvest mature ash to enable both economic value but also to accommodate habitat needs such as early successional habitat expressed elsewhere in the plan. The State’s SLAM approach is an excellent tool for slowing localized infestations and we encourage its use but combined with a more thoughtful approach to how we view the future forests.

Water supply- We support the use of managed forests for water supply. Our largest city, New York City relies upon a managed forest landscape to meet their drinking water quality standard and other communities such as Rochester can follow that leadership example.

Land Acquisition- It is crucial to have public policy that aggregates open space for managed forests. The best way to manage sustainably is having larger tracts of unfragmented forests. While we support the public acquisition of private lands we want to encourage acquisitions to focus on improving management opportunities by acquiring in holdings to foster better land management while also reviewing the specific need for the existing land holdings. We would also temper those acquisitions to using many tools, such as land swaps, conservation easements to acquire development rights, and other measures. We are concerned the UMP singles out one private land owner, TNC, and states the desire to acquire those lands, without mentioning all the lands needed to improve forest management and considering tools other than acquisition that could accommodate the public’s needs. These include partnerships to provide more developed recreational uses, especially hunting and fishing.

Wildlife Management- We concur that high populations of deer are impacting many longer term needs of the forest, including regeneration and the diversity of the forest. We support the use of even aged management as a tool useful to provide time and regeneration for desired species.

Outreach- One of the most important aspects of public land management is reminding the public how these public lands are being managed. An important component of this UMP needs to be public outreach by various techniques including but not limited to accommodating woods walks, sharing active

management decisions with the public and helping the public to understand the value and importance of the various service providers needed to manage public lands including the presence of a robust forest products industry, recreational equipment providers, even emergency response personnel to provide services for those requiring attention. In many ways these are both state forests and community forests and this unit is both due to unique partnership with the City of Rochester. We encourage more outreach to that urban population to understand the complexities and value of having these forests managed sustainably providing exceptional water supply, water quality, and an abundance of recreational opportunities while providing an important industry, the forest products industry, the wood and other forest products they can transform into the essential needs of our homes, schools, and communities.

Mineral Resources- The UMP plan adopts a new policy for limiting all gas development, something that is part of a very public and multiyear process that is not yet completed. We feel it is premature to adopt policies that are still under consideration. This forest has a history of very limited mineral resource development and we would agree presence of a major city water supply must be a management priority. However, by limiting only surface development, adjoining private lands may be used for development and those lands may actually be more susceptible to erosion and thus potentially impact the public water supply. The plan clearly states there is no indication that past drilling on the forest has impacted this water supply so it's unclear why this draft policy is being implemented.

-Eric Carlson, President CEO, Empire State Forest Products Association, Rensselaer, NY

April 15, 2013

To whom it may concern:

The Nature Conservancy respectfully submits the following comments for consideration on the NYS DEC's draft unit management plan (UMP) for the new Hemlock-Canadice State Forest. As an active partner in the effort to protect these two lakes, we know how hard the State of New York worked with the City of Rochester, The Nature Conservancy, local communities, and others to ensure conservation of the City's watershed lands. We commend NYS DEC for their leadership in protecting these lands and waters.

Here are The Nature Conservancy's recommendations on the UMP:

1) Land Classification

For more than a century, the City of Rochester owned and managed more than 7,000 acres of land and water along Hemlock and Canadice Lakes, ensuring the integrity of these two remaining undeveloped Finger Lakes. As a result, this landscape now provides unique preserve-type characteristics for the people of New York State.

In recognition of the history of these lands, their many special features, and their importance as a drinking water source, The Nature Conservancy urges NYS DEC to classify these lands as both a Unique Area and a State Nature & Historic Preserve. State Nature & Historic Preserve status would provide an extra level of protection for the property should a future state administration consider alienating any of these lands. Unique Area status accords additional restrictions on management and use -- including enhanced protection against extractive activities -- that are in keeping with the historical uses of these very special lands and waters.

In addition to Unique Area status, The Nature Conservancy strongly recommends that these lands -- given their significance as a drinking water source for nearly one-quarter-million people -- be withdrawn from all oil and gas activity, including hydrofracking and conventional drilling. This classification would honor both the historic use of these lands as a watershed, as well as the spirit of the agreement between the City of Rochester and NYS DEC. There is precedent for treating the Hemlock-Canadice lands with environmental sensitivity. In 2006, NYS DEC withdrew Bear Swamp State Forest, which lies in the Skaneateles Lake watershed -- from all oil and gas activity, due to concerns about oil and gas impacts and forest fragmentation in this 3,300-acre state forest.

2) Expansion and Acquisition

Forests filter our water, provide timber and fiber for our homes, and serve as the lungs of the planet by generating oxygen and removing carbon from the atmosphere. Forest fragmentation is a major threat to the Hemlock-Canadice watershed and the broader landscape of the Western Finger Lakes. While much of the forestland around the two lakes is now protected, a critical mass of forestland in these two watersheds remains vulnerable. We strongly encourage NYS DEC to continue their efforts to expand land and water in the Hemlock-Canadice watershed through land acquisition, with a focus on the following geographic priorities:

- Connective corridors between Hemlock-Canadice and the Bristol Hills
- Sub-watersheds in Reynolds Gully, Springwater Creek, and Canadice Inlet
- Bald Hill
- The south end and east side of Canadice Lake
- Areas where the City's ownership is most narrow

3) Recreation Management

Hemlock and Canadice Lakes offer unparalleled wilderness-type recreational opportunities in Western New York. We support the UMP's goal to continue bans on swimming, off-road vehicles, and snowmobiling, and limit boat length and motorboat engines above 10 horsepower.

Furthermore, we recommend that NYS DEC team up with The Nature Conservancy to extend Rob's Trail west to the Hemlock Lake shoreline. Our holdings on NYS Route 15A provide an easily accessible trailhead. Such a trail would provide an incredible recreational, economic, and environmental asset. The Nature Conservancy is willing to enter into a formal partnership with NYS DEC to complete this in a manner that meets state guidelines and protocols.

Finally, a new State Forest of this size and popularity places heavy demands on NYS DEC staff. We encourage NYS DEC to continue its contractual relationship with the City of Rochester, under which the State retains City of Rochester water bureau staff to monitor and manage recreational use and emergency natural resource issues.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment.

-Sincerely, Jim Howe, Executive Director

4/15/2013

Re: Review of the UMP for Hemlock and Canadice State Forest as presented by DEC

Upon reviewing the UMP as presented by DEC, I would like to submit the following requests for change:

1. This parcel should be granted permanent protection as a "Unique Area" or "State Nature and Historic Preserve." permanent protection for watersheds similar to this were granted for New York City and Syracuse watersheds. With this protection, the restrictions for the parcel do not have to be reviewed every 10 years and will prevent compromising activities to the land in the future, should state budgets etc be in distress. Likewise, permanent protection of the parcel was the understanding when the "people" living in the area fought for the sale of these lands to the state. It was the desire of the people in the area for the sale to go through with this understanding; even the town of Canadice voted for zoning change so the sale to the state would be possible...with the understanding of Permanent PROTECTION of said lands. I was there the night these zoning laws were changed.

2. DEC should prohibit fracking and oil and gas leasing of any kind within the watershed and in addition a 4,000 foot buffer around the parcel. No trucking of water for use in other fracking areas within or outside of the Hemlock-Canadice State Forests Should be allowed. Why take such a high risk of dirty trucks, etc contaminating the water for use in other areas??

3. Eliminate the 11 page proposal in the UMP that allows for oil and gas extraction, etc. on this parcel.

4. If logging is allowed within this parcel, it should be conservative, well managed, and of a nature that takes into account the steep slopes and possible soil erosion that would pollute the water. This has already occurred historically around these lakes with the logging done by the city of Rochester and caused the water treatment plant to be built.

5. No logging should be allowed around the virgin forest areas, around the buffers of nesting eagles or other threatened raptors which nest on these lakes. Other buffer zones should be placed around unusual plants, state endangered trees and/or wildlife. Logging should not be allowed in each area until there is a detailed field study in each proposed area for nesting wildlife/plants etc. and the impact to the soil in the area. Consider designating most of the parcel "forever wild." There should not be clear cutting as proposed by the UMP. There are already cleared lands in the surrounding areas and between the lakes in the "private sector" for animals that prefer these habitats. Likewise, DEC talked as if these forests had matured to the fullest and logging had to be done to keep the forest healthy...obviously they have not seen the photos of "real" virgin forests from the past, with trees so large a whole family could stand around them. I highly doubt the forest has matured to this standard and question what standard for wild lands the DEC has in their minds. This is a very unique opportunity to have a "barely touched" and managed as is "needed" area...not manage to other state standards for lands that do not compare to this.

6. Keep the present boating limitations that exist now: allowing canoeing, kayaking, and small motor boats for recreational use.

7. Expansion of walking trails in areas with low wildlife impact is a great idea and would allow people to enter and enjoy this unique parcel. However, I think the building of more roads with the needed drainage ditches, culverts, etc. are a bad idea and will only allow for erosion and drainage of muddy water into the lakes. I would suggest the building of few roads that do not already exist.

8. I have heard of individuals training their hunting dogs in the ponds and swamps on the South end of Hemlock Lake. I suggest that this activity be limited to the seasons outside of the breeding cycle for the native water-birds, as I have personally witnessed the abandonment of nest sites due to this activity in spring.

We would like to thank the DEC personnel that dedicated many hours to come up with this UMP. We do respect all their efforts and hope that they in-turn respect the wishes of the people in protecting this one of a kind area forever. As you now have the responsibility to make the decisions regarding this parcel, please know that many of the families have lived next to, enjoyed, raised their children, and found this area something different and in need of being a "Unique Area" with permanent protection (the most it can get). We have close friends and family that have lived bordered by the watershed for over a century (now 4th and 5th generation) at our location on the South end of the Hemlock portion of the State forest. In our joint efforts in finalizing this UMP, we can work together for a common goal in doing the "right thing" and making this area permanently protected to the highest possible extent that the State of New York can provide it.

-Sincerely, Jason M Cox, Mekka E Cox

April 6, 2013

I am writing to thank you for your continued conservation efforts to protect our wonderful Empire State, despite repeated NYS Legislature and Executive budget cuts.

1) Please find my Springwater Fire Hall DEC Hearing, Hemlock-Canadice UMP testimony as speaker #3.

2) Please find the HC unique natural forest area Atlantic Chapter (NYS) resolution I moved and was approved on 6 Apr2013 by the Sierra Club.

As I said, the unique H.C. watershed stands alone, outside of the Catskill and ADK region of NYS, and must be protected, not accessed, harvested, logged, and HVHFracking. The current UMP is in need of revision to reflect the hundreds of New Yorkers at the Springwater Fire hall DEC hearing who interrupted my presentation with respect of applause. I can help, if you will, so please call 585-905-5794.

-Harold Bauer, PhD, Wayland, NY

Presentation #3, Springwater Fire Hall,
DEC H-C UMP Hearing

My name is Harold Bauer, Ph.D., and we own Springwater Farm, West of here. I am the Wilderness and Wildlife Chairperson for the Sierra Club of the State of NY with 38,000 members, although I speak tonight as a concerned individual. As a former Senior Scientist at SUNY Research Foundation and Masters & doctoral Researcher at several biological field stations in the US and abroad, I find the UMP's excessive emphasis on development, and access roads for development, most troubling, and a reversal of a hundred-year-plus conservation, management program.

Water quality, air quality and soil quality should be most fundamental and universal emphasis. Your categorization of this great land as State Forest for this unique, historical and biologically special water shed is a misnomer. It should be upgraded for conservation and protection, to emphasize its special wilderness and historic status. Outside of the ADK, Allegheny and Catskill Parks, there is no other undeveloped land like this in NYS.

The omission of topography from the Hemlock-Canadice Lake Unit Management Plan is a major flaw that must be corrected, as conservation of water, soil and biome is dependent upon the fact that the surrounding mountains are highly erodible land. Water quality and the unique,

H-C watershed and natural habitat depend upon it.

I would like to see use limited to human powered activities, to maintain the wild character of the area. Fishing, hiking and XC skiing are all possible without noisy, polluting, gasoline motors. No motorized land or water travel except on existing Town and State roads, or access roads would be an improvement. That would mean road access would not be increased, but hiking trails and parking for trail use maintained.

The notion of open ended, 'productive use' and 'multi-use' suggests that extraction of resources by cutting access and logging, and even possibly HVHF, rather than conservation and appreciation is the goal. No resource extraction or transmission activities should be permitted in this unique, natural area.

Long term, gravity fed, water supply is important. I believe our emphasis should be on environmental conservation, not the development of resource extraction, so all references to mining, oil and gas drilling, transmission and related industrial activities, ought to be removed. The logging this unique forest should be a rare, selective event, and not for general commercial purposes.

While paddling Canadice Lake in 2012 we saw a large boat following two swimmers who swam right across the Lake. We notified authorities. Your broadly defined recreational use seems to confuse conservation with power boat and water recreation and entertainment.

I believe our emphasis should be on environmental conservation!

-Dr. H.R.Bauer, Ph.D, Wilderness & Wildlife Chair, NYS Sierra Club Presentation #3, Springwater Fire Hall, DEC H-C UMP Hearing

SIERRA CLUB – ATLANTIC CHAPTER

AGENDA ITEM: Resolution on permanent preservation and use of Hemlock-Canadice State Forest Reservoir Lands.

Date of Meeting: April 6, 2013 – Albany

1.PROPOSED RESOLUTION:

The Atlantic Chapter of Sierra Club supports the creation and dedication of the Hemlock-Canadice State Forest (H-C) lands as a “Unique Area” described in Section 45-0117 of the NYS Environmental Conservation Law under “Nature and Historical Preserve”.

The DEC Unit Management Plan for this area must include reference to the following items:

a) that the central use of the H -C state forest Unique Area shall be as a source, for the provision of pure drinking water for the pre-established and existing reservoirs

b) and further that the final DEC UMP for H-C shall include a plan for the control, legal enforcement and permanent protection for the waters flowing into the reservoirs from the H-C watersheds as described in the Rochester City Water Bureau – Water Record Map 04-2013

c) and further that all mining, commercial logging, hydrofracking, gas drilling and other such commercial uses of this area shall be forbidden

d) and finally that all recreational uses of the H-C state forest areas as described in the draft DEC Unit Management Plan shall be subservient and secondary to the preservation of the area in a natural and undisturbed state.

2. BACKGROUND

In 2009 New York State purchased 6,684 acres of the 7,400 acres of Hemlock – Canadice Lakes “upland watershed” lands from the City of Rochester which the city had owned for over 130 years and used as the primary source for pure drinking water for over 210,000 citizens. On September 27, 2010 the DEC announced their plan to draw up a 10 year Unit Management Plan for the area. DEC Region 8 staff have completed the draft UMP and recently they held a public meeting attended by over 300 citizens. Comments on the draft are to close 4/15/13.

Sierra Club has been a central advocate for the preservation of these rare and beautiful nature lands and the Rochester Regional Group led a strong coalition of environmental and nature groups in advocating for the area to be purchased by NYS rather than be sold commercially as the City was considering. This was a major achievement for Sierra Club but we are disappointed with the draft UMP plan because:

1) it inadequately identifies that the primary use of the area is to serve as a source of pure water for the H-C **reservoirs** (and in fact the word “reservoir” does not appear in the 248 page plan)

2) the UMP fails to recommend adequate protections, legal controls and enforcement for the supervision of these rare forested areas

3) the UMP plan emphasizes the recreational and commercial uses of the lands and *does not rule out the possibility of hydrofracking in or near the broad watershed*

4) the plan makes inadequate recommendations for keeping the area undisturbed by future recreational development.

3. ARGUMENTS

Pro: The Atlantic Chapter has long advocated for the preservation and protection of similar area in the Adirondacks, Catskills and Zoar Valley. The resolution is also being advanced by other environmental groups like the Adirondack Mountain Club.

Con: Sierra Club will be expected to spend political capital involved with a legislative campaign to secure “Unique Area” status. Lobbying and coordination with other environmental groups will be needed.

4. PRIOR CLUB POLICY: As above under Pro.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS: No funds are anticipated as the Rochester Regional Group members will continue to work on this matter without cost to the Chapter.

6. NEXT STEPS TO FOLLOW-UP EXCOM ACTIONS ON RESOLUTION

An active legislative campaign as led by the Adirondack Mountain Club to secure NYS legislative approval for the creation of the Hemlock – Canadice area as a “Unique Area” dedicated as a “Nature and Historical Preserve” as described in Section 45-0117 of the N.Y. Environmental Conservation Law.

Person(s) Responsible: Hugh Mitchell, Rochester, N.Y.

Next Steps: Pass resolution by Atlantic Chapter Ex-Com. The Chapter Conservation Director should work with the Executive Director of the Adirondack Mountain Club.

(Moved by Dr. Bauer and passed; Apr 6, 2013)

April 7, 2013

I am writing to urge you to keep the Hemlock and Canadice State Forests protected. The land around the lakes and lake water is a valuable and irreplaceable feature in New York State. Since the UMP places emphasis on logging in the State Forest, I urge you to make sure the old growth forests are protected from logging and roads.

The watershed and water quality also needs to be protected from gas drilling and leasing. There are other areas that can be drilled, and not the Hemlock and Canadice forests that are the source for drinking water for many Western New York towns.

-Paul Lubberts, Conesus, NY

April 7, 2013

Your draft plan lacks topographic data. From your data it appears the land is flat. Nothing could be farther from the case. The plan talks about increasing “access” and to the “lack of access.” This last is mentioned on pages 16, 28, 40, 46, 48, 56 & 96. All of these sites are already accessible on foot, so you must be talking about motorized access. Providing topographic information will show that **most is accessible** areas are so because with steep slopes. Following this with your emphasis on timber sales, I assume you want these roads to bring in logging trucks, despite slope, possibilities of erosion and consequent damage to the water supplies and overall health of the lakes. This is completely unacceptable. There should be no new access roads, no fragmentation and most of all no commercial logging allowed.

-Judith A. Cortisano, Rochester, NY

4/7/13

Please save our water.

Jonathan Gonzalez

Hemlock, NY

April 7, 2013

Hemlock and Canadice Lakes represent a sacred place in Western NY. The lands surrounding the Lakes offer some of the most undeveloped wilderness experience in the Western Finger Lakes. Many Western New Yorkers have a real spiritual connection to this land. I am writing to urge the State to designate that Hemlock/Canadice State Forest be set aside as a State Historic and Nature Preserve to make it unequivocally clear that hydrofracking and gas development will **never** be permitted in this area.

Furthermore the wealth that we have in rural WNY – in the beauty - in the peace and quiet of our lives can only be qualitatively diminished by allowing this industrial process within our state.

-Richard Castor, Dansville, NY

4/7/13

After attending the DEC's UMP presentation in Springwater it is quite clear that certain technicalities have been overlooked, including, but not limited to:

- 1) Contamination of Hemlock and/or Canadice Lake via HVHF, logging and/or increased roads and pedestrian usage.
- 2) No geologic survey indicating the unique area of this property as indicated by old growth forest, cliff formations, and wildlife habitation – particularly eagles which would all be dramatically impacted by #1.
- 3) Boundaries around lake are not substantial to prevent contamination and disruption of wildlife.

In order to protect the fragile balance of these pristine lakes and the ecosystem they are a part of, I encourage you to review the negative effects of unrestricted access and poorly implemented enforcement of protections by changing the Hemlock/Canadice State Forest to a Unique and historical preserve with increased protections.

-Gloria J. Osborne, Springwater, NY

4/7/13

Hemlock Lake is in my backyard. It is my sanctuary, along with the sanctuary for all the birds and animals and other people who come to drink in its peaceful setting.

Hemlock Lake is God's Lake. The geese, deer, bears, mountain lions, eagles, etc. are God's pets. I am one with God's children. Before you frack on Hemlock Lake, please get permission from God.

One day you will die and go to heaven, where you will have a life review. If you injure one lake and the people and animals that depend on it, you will feel very bad and will have to experience all the feelings of those you hurt. Furthermore, you will not be able to stay in heaven because you will have come back to balance your bad karma. Please leave our lakes alone! May the Saints be with you.

-Love, Mary Grace, Hemlock, NY

April 7, 2013

As a resident of neighboring Hemlock and Canadice lakes and the NYS forest, I strongly urge greater protection for these sites which currently it does not have. This area is open to industrial use and processes that could undermine the natural beauty and quality of life that many generations have enjoyed for years.

By allowing heavy industries, such as logging and fracking, the area will be subjected to degradation of drinking water and forest, as well as recreational enjoyment.

Please, we need to better regulate and enforce laws to protect these areas. Grant the same protection to these lakes as has been given to NY City watershed and Syracuse watershed, and protects the state forest from logging.

-Regina P. Cox, Bloomfield, NY

4/7/13

The area of Canadice and Hemlock State forest needs nothing else done to it except maybe more reclamation of a natural habitat. Making Canadice motor less would be great except NYS would not have its revenue from registrations, etc. Too Bad!!

Quit wrecking everything you acquire! Keep it natural.

-James E. Miller, Springwater, NY

4/7/13

I grew up on the west shore of Hemlock Lake and am thrilled that in 70 years much of the environmental beauty I knew as a child has not been altered – until now it is threatened!! The Hemlock and Canadice lake area is small and nothing you are considering in your “plans” will have any real effect on the economy here (try lowering taxes-that might actually help!) but it will have a profound effect on the quality of life.

Please do not start increasing access to the shoreline of these lakes. They are quite accessible now to those (even the handicapped) who wish to enjoy their pristine beauty. Do not open it up to those with the jet-skis and the need for “trails” on which they can walk in flip-flops, dropping candy bar wrappers along the way.

Do not allow projects that risk affecting the water quality of these small lakes. They are not Lake Superior and the little damage will be permanent and will destroy not only the beauty and recreational uses but the water supply, which in case you do not know is the challenge for the next generations, even here in the East where it has never been a problem yet. I’ve lived out West, they want our water!

P.S. I am NOT a friend of the Sierra “Club, but on this one I agree with them not because it’s “in my backyard” but for once they are right.

-Elizabeth Serrage, Conesus, NY

4/7/13

My name is Melissa.

I have a 6 month old son. He wants me to speak for him, because he cannot speak for himself. He says:

Hi, my name is Noah Chales DeVelder. I am a whole 6-1/2 months old. I like to sleep, play with lots of toys, and eat my mommy’s nutritious breast milk! Mommy has to drink lots of water to keep making me milk. One day I will drink water on my own. Please do everything you can to protect the water at my house and grandma and pops house – so I can grow up healthy and strong.

-Love and Kisses, Noah (and Mommy) Melissa DeVelder, Rochester, NY

April 7, 2013

I walk in the state forest near Hemlock Lake where the outlet from Canadice Lake carves its gorge, singing its clear music. A lovely trail – no logging roads, no stumps of trees from sawing. Wild life – dear, foxes, coyotes, owls, wild turkeys. We need stronger regulation of recreation.

We need no logging.

We need no hydrofracking, no mineral extraction.

Come visit!! And see!
-Mary Lester, Hemlock, NY

4/7/13

I am a citizen of Conesus, NY, and I live on the west side of Hemlock Lake. Decisions made on the use and management of the Hemlock/Canadice State Forest directly affect my family and my community. Serious consideration of the local communities should be taken into account when rulings are made at the state level.

The use of the land around hemlock and Canadice lakes should be left undisturbed as much as possible without denying the use for it for NYS. Fishing, hiking, mountain biking, cross country skiing, bird watching, and hunting, (even though I am not a hunter.) Provide recreation use of this “undisturbed” area. This still allows use of the lakes for drinking water and a “classroom” for biology. Student and teachers can use this area for studying a diverse resource of flora and fauna. Please do not allow fracking in this area and limit the logging to only certain areas if absolutely necessary.

-Per Adamson, Conesus, NY

4/7/13

Dear DEC,

Please help preserve our beautiful lakes. We need pure lakes for beauty and clean water.

Thank you for saving our lakes, both Hemlock and Canadice! You are preserving beauty!

Our quality of life depends on preserving all of nature’s best. Hemlock and Canadice Lake are two beautiful examples! My father’s peace and tranquility were directly due to his visits to these lakes. My father has passed but my brother now has followed my father in his visits. Thank you for your efforts.

C. Kyle, Rochester, NY

April 7, 2013

I am writing to encourage you to continue to protect the Hemlock and Canadice State Forests as well as the entire watershed areas around the lakes. Since the UMP places emphasis on logging in the State Forests, I would urge you to ensure that the old growth forests are protected from logging and roads. There is also a concern about protecting the quality of the water, as it is a supply for several surrounding areas. There is a concern that gas drilling poses unacceptable risks to the environment and human health. New York State has an opportunity to lead the country in prioritizing the quality of its land, air, and water and keeping it clean and free of contaminants.

-Michelle Lubberts, Conesus, NY

4/7/13

I was born in this beautiful region of New York State in the winter of 1991. Growing up I had no concept of the natural bounty that surrounded me in the hills, valleys, and lakes of this wonderful part of the world. As an adult of twenty two years and having amassed what feels like hundreds in terms of experiences, I have come to understand the fragility of this bounty that surrounds us. Few places in the world offer such resources and hydraulic fracturing threatens this delicate ecosystem that we have been

blessed with. As a humble citizen of this region, I ask you to please ensure that future generations are allowed the gift of living and thriving in this magical region,

-Jeremy Carestio, Livonia, NY

4/7/13

This area of the Finger Lakes is untouched by development, untouched by man. There are less and less areas like this around the U.S.

This makes this area unique from the perspective of just the visual content. Just stand on the north end of Hemlock Lake and look at the beauty. Then try to imagine it with Houses and roads around it closer to the lake.

I believe as you do that you and most people would want to preserve this lake with the hills around it in its natural setting, undisturbed and absolutely beautiful – by the hand of God.

-Jay Gunner, Mary Jo Gunner, Conesus, NY

4/7/13

Please take care of our land.

-Manuel Gonzalez, Hemlock, NY

April 7, 2013

Dear Sir,

Me and my family have been walking the woods around Hemlock Lake for over 60 years. Please just leave the land alone. No logging – fracking – road building. We own property on Marrowback Road. The best thing would be leave the woods alone. The forest is finally healing after the logging of the 1890's.

-John Piazza, Rochester, NY

4/9/13

I am writing in response to the DEC plan of use for Hemlock/Canadice Lake and surrounding forests. For the last 14 years I have lived in Conesus five miles from Hemlock Park, get my drinking water from Hemlock, and fish and hike both lakes on a daily basis.

I find it unfathomable that anyone would want to upset such a pristine ecosystem for logging, gas drilling, or any other development. It should be left as its, as was promised when the State took over from the City of Rochester who maintained it that way for the last 50 years!

I also want to say that I must be great duty for the Forest Rangers, zipping down the lake with their 50 h.p. boats, 4 men per, or mountain biking and 4x4 ing down the service roads. One man patrolled it for the City, and I never heard of any problems. Why so many Rangers at taxpayers' expense?

In closing, I won't support any politicians behind these moves, but with all the incompetence and graft in Albany, I'm very worried about the future of all the water and wilderness in N.Y.S.

-Dale Ferrin, Conesus, NY

I am writing to encourage you to put the Hemlock/Canadice State Forest under the “Unique Area” designation.

You can find this under Article 45 of ECL subsection 3, 45-0117.

I am also asking that it be included in the State Nature and Historic Preservation under Article 14 section 4 of the NYS Constitution.

Any drilling for Natural Gas in this area or any area in NYS is a disaster waiting to happen. A disaster that will have devastating consequences for hundreds of years to come.

-Robert Thompson, Livonia, NY

Comments Received on High-Volume Hydraulic Fracturing (HVHF) a.k.a. fracking

3/4/2013

What the hell are you thinking when it comes to entertaining proposals from oil and gas companies interested in drilling on forest land around Hemlock and Canadice Lake.

No! Our drinking water and forests are not worth giving up for some industry to mess up and then move on to some other park.

I realize that you will probably back pedal in a hurry and then try to sneak it through later when the attention dies down, but this is not going to happen this time.

Gov. Cuomo has too much at stake to hear all the anger that is going to be coming his way about this subject.

Please do your best to rethink any opening of our state parks and forests for oil and gas companies to ravage.

-Sincerely, David Puls, Rochester, New York

3/5/2013

To Whom It May Concern:

NO!!!

-Sincerely, Mr. Douglas J. Szymanski, Ontario, NY

Anti Fracking (comment by phone)

-Marlyn Mattson, Honeoye, NY

3/5/2013

After reading through the entire plan my only comment is this....

How can you possibly consider allowing any type of gas exploration after all the information that has been presented showing the negative environmental issues with current methods of extracting natural gas? You simply need to re-read the mission statement of the DEC and hopefully come to your senses and not allow ANY TYPE of gas exploration or extraction on these lands. DO NOT LET THE TEMPTATION OF SHORT TERM GAIN CLOUD THE FUTURE OF GENERATIONS TO COME. This means YOUR children and their children.

-Scott Pieken

3/5/2013

Hello,

I would like to express my deep concerns about allowing ANY fracking done at Hemlock/Canadice Lakes.

Leave the lakes alone! NO FRACKING!!! It is too much of a risk to our groundwater supply and it is not worth it just to create a few jobs.

Let's be a model for others - keep the lakes pristine - there aren't many left that are in great condition like these two. Why spoil it?

Leave the lakes alone, please.

-Amy Stornello

The next four comments were posted on the Democrat and Chronicle website regarding the article on 3/3/13: [State Management Plan Has Anti-Drilling Activists Upset](#) by Steve Orr

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Protect-Hemlock-and-Canadice-Lakes/335270043241688>

-Bob Nilsson

For even thinking about putting these two bodies of water at risk speaks to how greedy and depraved the oil companies are. These two lakes host eagles and bears, and beautiful flocks of migrating waterfowl. They are islands of pristine peace and beauty in an area of encroaching populations. I think the rhetoric of passing debt and energy shortages on to our children is blinding us to the reality of passing a polluted and despoiled environment on for many generations to come. To sell the rights to gas companies for their profits and our short time gain of "cheap" energy, is foolhardy and dangerous. The State not long ago recognized the value of these beautiful lakes, I hope now they remain stewards of this beautiful land.

-Jeannie Nutting

What will the City of Rochester and the Town of Canadice do? I've spoken with City Council members who have refused to call Canadice officials and work with them. I've spoken with Canadice officials who, for 2 years, have given excuse after excuse.

-Brian Kane

School of Hard Knocks, The University of Life
Why not start investing in sun and wind power!

-Maryana White

3/5/2013

Dear People;

It would be extremely disappointing if the DEC allowed drilling on land around the Hemlock-Canadice lake areas. Considering the wildlife, wetlands, recreational opportunities and most importantly clean drinking water for the City of Rochester and other communities, hydrofracking and other drilling should be banned.

Whatever financial gains the State may reap by leasing any part of these lands would not make up for the loss in habitat and fresh water. The access roads that would have to be built, trees taken out, drilling undertaken, water needed (especially for fracking) wildlife destroyed or disrupted, are not worth the slight energy supply gains that might be made.

Thank you for giving the public an opportunity to weigh in on this important decision, one that will affect us for decades.

-Michael McCullough

3/6/2013

To the NY Department of Environmental Conservation:

I'd like to comment on the state DEC management plan for Hemlock-Canadice State Forest.

I strenuously object to the lack of protection from commercial exploitation, particularly for oil and gas exploration and development, provided in the draft management plan. Given that this area includes one of the last remaining old growth forests in the region, contains two pristine lakes, and is a major watershed that is a primary source of the drinking water for the Rochester area, it is essential that it is protected against ALL development and that its natural resources are preserved.

ALL drilling and exploration for fossil fuels in that area or near enough to affect it should be banned! It is unconscionable that to do otherwise is even being considered.

-Sincerely, Jeff Burns, Rochester, NY

3/7/2013

To the NY Department of Environmental Conservation:

I am commenting on the state DEC management plan for Hemlock-Canadice State Forest.

I unequivocally object to the lack of protection from exploitation, especially for "invisible" oil and gas exploration and development, recommended in the draft management plan. There is a glut of natural gas right now, yet the costs to heat our homes is not going down - it is being shipped out of the

country. The ruination of our area's natural resources for profits from abroad is a less visible, but potentially more deadly, form of strip mining.

This forest area includes one of the last remaining old growth forests in the region, with two pristine lakes. It is a major watershed and, most importantly, is a primary source of the drinking water for the Metropolitan Rochester area. My family and I drink it. The area's preservation against any and all development to the detriment of these natural resources is essential.

Deeply troubling is the fact that this and other like projects are being advanced in the face of scientific issues that indicate profoundly negative effects on people and their health and safety. Politics and popularity should never take the place of facts. For example, gravity is not a majority opinion, but a fact of nature.

Exploitation of this area for fossil fuels in that area or near enough to affect it should be banned! It is unconscionable that to do otherwise is even being considered.

-Sincerely, Art North, Rochester, NY

3/7/2013

NY Department of Environmental Conservation:

Regarding the state DEC management plan for the Hemlock-Canadice State Forest, one realizes that you are under considerable pressure from petroleum interests to allow "resource recovery." However, the right of the citizens of New York State to preserve our unpolluted watersheds must be given preference. The petroleum industry has a well-documented and woefully blemished history of overstating benefits and understating harms in their sales pitches. Their raison d'etre? Profit. And we all know that "The love of money is the root of all kinds of evil." Oil and gas companies profit, taxpayers pay for clean-ups and environmental loss, much of it irreparable. If there is objective, disinterested scientific evidence that hydrofracking causes no environmental damage, where is it? There seems to be quite a bit of evidence to the contrary. Please, please, please preserve your integrity and our forests, lakes and watersheds.

-Thank you. Lorna Dawson, Rochester, NY

3/8/2013

Don't mess with the Canadice and Hemlock lake region. They are jewels of nature and deserve to be kept as they are without additional development or raping of their pristine condition.

-Rose Marie Carey, Fairport NY

3/8/2013

I will read the Plan, but I have to say that my first reaction to the news that the Hemlock-Canadice Forest will be developed is a huge sense of betrayal. This land was sold to the State with the intent that it would stay protected and largely **undeveloped** because the lakes are water sources for Rochester and many other areas. Frankly, I've heard of too many cases where Environmental Conservation departments seem to lack an understanding of what "protected" means, and I am afraid of what will happen in this case.

"Optimize the benefits" sounds like a way to disguise that there's money to be made off this development Plan, and people are lining up to take it. There is a threat that pristine forest land will get

developed to the point where there is no habitat for wildlife, and that the waters of these lakes will be fouled by drilling and overuse. Where there is money to be made, it is very hard to control the greed of developers. Why is it so hard to remember that just because you can do something doesn't mean you should. Yes, there is money to be made, but there is a greater good in keeping to the original intent of preserving these lands as they are.

Western New York is so lucky to have the wine country and forest areas both for their beauty and for the income they bring in from tourism. Please do not let this be spoiled. If that happens – where will we find tourists to come and spend their money, and who will buy New York State wines?

Thank you.

-Sincerely, Trish Engert

3/8/2013

Please DO NOT allow any drilling or hydrofracking in New York State.

I am very concerned about the effects that this causes to our physical health. The personal health and well being of our lives is much more valuable than any financial gain.

Please keep our lakes clean and free of potential health risks.

Thank you!

(THIS IS A HANDWRITTEN MESSAGE, WHICH HAS ALREADY BEEN SENT, AND RECORDED HERE, BY EMAIL)

Please do not allow any drilling or hydrofracking in New York State. I am very concerned about the effects this causes to our physical health. The personal health and well being of our lives is much more valuable than any financial gain.

Please keep our lakes and waters clean and free of potential health risks.

-Thank you, Rachel Winkler, Rochester, NY

3/8/2013

Please consider the complete stoppage of hydrofracking in New York State. I don't see why we should take ANY chances with this drilling procedure in New York State. To coin a phrase from my grandfather we would be "Penny wise and Pound foolish." Keeping our environment safe and our personal health, is much more important than a short term financial gain. Please, stop hydrofracking now!! There have been enough studies to drown us. This option is not worth the risk, PERIOD.

-Thank you; James R. Winkler

3/9/2013

I was born and raised in Springwater and although I don't live there anymore I still have family down there. Please continue to protect our pure water. No hydraulic fracturing or drilling should be allowed on the Canadice and Hemlock Lakes area. To little is known about the long term effects and we need to preserve this wonderful resource for future generations to come.

The all mighty dollar isn't the only important thing here. We need to protect our neighborhood and back the DEC on this. Keep our water clean and pure.

-Gail Corbett, Brockport NY

3/10/2013

Most of the tap water for my household comes from Canadice or Hemlock Lake. Any fracking in the watersheds for those lakes would present a threat to those water supplies, because of the dangerous chemicals present in fracking water before and after its use. I suspect that it is possible to hydrofrack safely, if all of the best safety procedures are followed. But human history tells us that people sometimes cut corners, or accidents happen. The stakes are too high in the Candice/Hemlock watershed to take chances with fracking. The hundreds of thousands of people who rely on that water deserve the same protection that is being given to the NYC and Syracuse water supply areas. Please make it clear in the UMP for Canadice/Hemlock that fracking will never be allowed in this watershed.

-Peter Collinge, Pittsford, NY

To Whom It May Concern,

When the Hemlock and Canadice forests were turned over to DEC control, I breathed a sigh of relief as they have been dear to me since I was a child (over 60 years ago), and we were all assured this was the best way to protect and preserve them. Now I understand they are imperiled by the possibility of hydrofracking, oil and natural gas drilling and other threats upstream. Please do everything in your power to strengthen the protections for our drinking water and the priceless natural resource that these two last unspoiled gems of the Finger Lakes represent.

Sincerely,

-Kathleen M. Gill, Ph. D., Pittsford, NY

3/11/2013

THE THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE WHO RELY ON THE QUALITY OF WATER IN THE HEMLOCK-CANDIDICE WATERSHED DESERVE TO A SUSTAINED SUPPLY OF FRESH WATER THEREFROM/. PLEASE DON'T THREATEN THAT WATER SOURCE. THE CITY OF ROCHESTER GAVE ITS RIGHTS TO THAT WATERSHED RELYING ON THE STATE TO PROTECT IT AND NOT TO GIVE IT AWAY TO PRIVATE INTERESTS WHO WILL SURELY DAMAGE IT.

-Thomas N. TREVETT, ROCHESTER, N.Y.

xxxx@packpaddleski.com> 3/11/2013 11:17 PM >>>

Hello:

I have reviewed the draft management plan.

My main area of concern is to whether this plan allows mineral and gas drilling. It appears on page 98, paragraph 3 that likely the area will fall under what is termed an exclusion area in the report. My concern is that at this time it has not yet been identified as one of these exclusion areas. I understand the time and resource constraint so that at this point that exclusion has not been applied to this forest. I would encourage whatever process needs to occur to proceed as rapidly as possible to define this forest as one of the so called Exclusion Areas. I cannot conceive given the proximity and the value of this area to watershed and vital drinking water that there could be another conclusion. However I am also aware of the pressure economically and politically that large corporations can apply that sometimes overrules common sense and environmental concerns.

So, I would strongly encourage the process to continue to declare this an exclusion area which would then make much of the other material around leases null. Having lived for so long in this area, I just can't imagine opening it to drilling of any sort given the risk to the beauty and the economics of the value of the watershed.

-Rick French, President Pack Paddle Ski

Clean air, clean water and lots of it – These are why we moved from Calif. To Rochester years ago. There is a draft mgt plan under review, per D&C of 3/6/13. Please protect Canadice and Hemlock Lakes, & all rivers & lakes here, from pollution of any type. Our quality of life depends on it.

-Sanra Glantz, MSN, FNP, Pittsford, NY

3/13/2013

In the interest of preserving a necessary and valuable water resource for the population of Rochester and the surrounding area, please include protection from horizontal hydrofracking in the Hemlock-Canadice management plan. This should include a reasonable and generous buffer zone around the lakes in which no hydrofracking is allowed. In addition, please do not allow gas companies to take water from these lakes for the hydrofracking process. Hydrofracking requires large volumes of water, which should not be drained from this water supply. With our burgeoning population, water is becoming a more and more precious resource, and we must do all we can to provide good stewardship for the generations to come.

-Patricia Moran, Resident of the Town of Avon

3/14/2013

DEC,

Unfortunately due to obligations to my employer I cannot make it to the session in Springwater tonight on the Hemlock-Canadice Unit Management Plan. It is unfortunate there is not another session closer to Rochester and the majority of citizens who rely on the lakes as a source of water.

My comment is in an attached PDF. A second PDF of a relevant study entitled "Shale gas development impacts on surface water" that was recently released is also attached.

Thank you for your time.

- Robert Maurer, Honeoye Falls, NY

Comment on Draft HEMLOCK-CANADICE UNIT MANAGEMENT PLAN

March 14th, 2013, By Robert Maurer of Honeoye Falls, NY

On July 1st, 2010, after New York State completed the purchase of Hemlock and Canadice, Mayor Robert Duffy said "I want to thank Gov. David Paterson and Commissioner Grannis for their foresight. This is a legacy for future generations of New Yorkers that will ensure that the pristine lakes and lands surrounding them remain undeveloped, protecting Rochester's public water supply and guaranteeing that this jewel is preserved forever wild for the enjoyment of visitors and residents."

Department of Environmental Conservation Commissioner Grannis said, the same day, "This is without a doubt the most important land acquisition project the state has undertaken outside of the Adirondack and Catskill Parks in more than a generation. The watershed will be forever preserved, keeping it in its natural, forested state, and providing a continuous source of clean drinking water and recreational opportunities for residents of Rochester and surrounding communities. It's one of those

win-win-win situations – this project enjoys widespread local support, provides economic assistance to one of the state’s major upstate cites, and ensures permanent protection for a spectacular open space."

Recently published on March 5th, 2013, Emily DeSantis, spokesperson for the state DEC, provided a statement that said "the state has no intention of allowing any sort of drilling in the Hemlock-Canadice State Forest".

Unfortunately the words of Mayor Duffy, Commissioner Grannis, and even the DEC's recent statement are not to be found in practice in the Hemlock-Canadice Unit Management Plan. The plan does state that "current Department policy is to decline any commercial mining application(s) associated with State Forest lands." You might expect it to state something similar for oil and gas extraction as well. (I did.)

On the contrary the plan states "Oil and natural gas are valuable resources which can provide energy and revenue"... "As with any other human activity on State lands, oil and natural gas exploration and development can impact the environment."

It goes on to say "If the NYS DEC were to lease the mineral estate for oil and gas exploration and production, the leases would normally be for a period of five years (primary term) or as long as oil or gas is produced from the property in commercially paying quantities (secondary term)" and "the NYS DEC may receive requests to nominate lands contained in this unit for oil and gas leasing". Etc.

This Unit Management Plan does not say "no intentions". If anything it says "open for business". This is in direct conflict to the trust the City of Rochester and the citizens of this area placed in the DEC.

Resources for the Future, a nonprofit and nonpartisan organization that conducts independent research, just released a study on March 11th, 2013, entitled "Impacts of Shale Gas Development on Rivers and Streams". The study states "The results indicate statistically significant water quality impacts from wastewater sent to treatment plants and runoff from well pad development." "The presence of well pads upstream raised the concentration of TSS (total suspended solids)"... "An additional 18 well pads upstream increases downstream TSS concentrations in a watershed by about 5 percent." In the summary it states "The results highlight the need for further research on the surface water quality impacts of shale gas development."

(See attached PDF, also available at <http://www.pnas.org/content/early/2013/03/06/1213871110.full.pdf>)

The Unit Management Plan does not count out the possibility of extractive processes, and thus this plan puts the quality of our municipal water supply unnecessarily at risk. Mayor Duffy said you would protect "Rochester’s public water supply and guaranteeing that this jewel is preserved forever wild". This plan clearly falls short of that goal and if left unaltered, this plan is an insult to the people of the Greater Rochester Area who will depend on Hemlock and Canadice for high quality water for generations to come. It is especially insulting when the DEC has excluded the entire New York City and Syracuse municipal watersheds from oil and natural gas exploration and development. Certainly the citizens of this area deserve the same protections.

You said “no intentions”, now put it in writing in the plan.

Thank you for your time.

- *Robert Maurer*

3/14/2013

I would like re-enforce the restriction of drilling and support equipment from the Hemlock-Canadice lake state forest and would like see that clearly spelled out in writing in the unit plan.

- *Joe Prato*

3/15/2013

Sent from Windows Mail

please do not allow gas drilling at hemlock or canadice lake thank you

-Mary Catalino

3/15/2013

Hello,

I would like to see the Hemlock/Candice forests remain pristine with no oil or gas rights allowed. Forests not only provide needed nutrients and oxygen, they are aesthetically enjoyable and allow for hiking and in the case of the lakes, fishing and small boating.

There is not enough information concerning the long-term effects of hydro-fracking to risk destroying the forests.

-Thank you, Marilyn Matteson

3/15/2013

"Restorations Systems" is a landscape company from N.C. that has a pending \$2.1 million proposal in Pennsylvania to repair streams and wetland damage caused by Fracking in the Pennsylvania Towanda Creek Watershed. John Skyarl, past CEO of the N.C. company, "Restorations Systems" was quoted in the North Carolina "News and Observer" newspaper (Feb.2, 2013) that their company describes fracking as a "threat" to the ecosystem. "Along with diminished fish populations due to poor stream quality, ...another environmental threat facing the (PA) Towanda Creek Watershed hydraulic fracturing is 'Heavy traffic and lots of dust and organic waste created at natural gas drilling sites which poses a threat to the Towanda Creek Watershed.' "

Gas flaring, leaks from holding ponds, traffic, spills, underground ruptures, pollution and noise from hydraulic fracturing is not something that is needed around the delicate ecosystem of Canadice Lake and Hemlock Lake. Drilling under aquifers and pristine lakes in NY's Finger Lakes threatens to contaminate the waters, forever. Please protect our environment, including wildlife, fish, water, migratory birds, and the health of people, by not permitting the hydralulic fracturing process in, under, or around, Canadice Lake or Hemlock Lake.

-M.J. Watson, Honeoye, NY

3/15/2013

Dear DEC,

I would like to put forth my comments regarding the HEMLOCK-CANADICE UNIT MANAGEMENT PLAN.

I believe it would be a travesty to allow any type of mining in and around the Hemlock Canadice watershed area.

Water is one of the most basic and important of resources that is necessary for survival, and is so easily contaminated.

Allowing drilling or mining in these areas can very easily contaminate the water supply for hundreds of thousands of people.

Too often economic gain is allowed to outweigh the overall good and wellbeing of the public. This cannot happen with the water supply.

Filtration only goes so far, and the full extent of the damage that hydrofracturing can cause has not been fully realized and evaluated, although initial indications do not look good.

There is also a history of increased geologic instability associated with drilling and mining, and with the area located near fault lines it increases the potential for increasing this activity which can cause increased potential for leakage and contamination if drilling and mining were allowed.

I have 2 small children and am on well water, I take the quality of my water very seriously, you have the lives and livelihood of hundreds of thousands in your hands.

Please keep this area pristine and protect our drinking water and one of our best natural resources.

-Thank you, Joe Lomedico & Family, Rush, NY

3/15/2013

The UMP leaves much to be desired. No hydrofracking under any circumstances should be written into the plan. Also, this property needs a higher level of preservation and restriction than State Forest status yields. It should be kept in as close to “wilderness” conditions as possible. No motorized vehicles (boats), minimum access, parking, logging, and other “management” practices. Keep it pristine and undisturbed. No development or exploitation.

- Eric Huppert

3/15/2013

Please consider exempting this forest from any development what so ever. No fracking ,drilling, logging, water extraction for hydrofracking. It is a reservoir for the City of Rochester and should be given the same consideration as any other water supply.

-Thank you, Larry Yoder, Wayland NY

3/15/2013

After reading your draft statement for the Hemlock/Canadice Forest plan, I would point out three facts:

1. You did not mention hydro-fracking in any way except to make open-ended and encouraging statements favoring the practice. I do not know how you can in good conscience finish the draft without taking into account the coming health impact studies ordered by your own DEC organization affecting the entire State.
2. Your inclusion of roads allowing more access to handicapped people is a thinly veiled attempt to reassure the gas/oil industry their interests have not been ignored.
3. You did not mention steep slope protection nor encouragement of old growth timber establishment with its accompanying species diversity that you proudly referenced at the Springwater Public Hearing. Such non-inclusion underlines your continuing policy of collusion with special interests, corporate energy and uninformed if not corrupt appointed officials and elected politicians.

I will close with the reminder that there is a special place somewhere very hot for officials like yourselves who would have the hubris to produce such a document... and that many citizens are not going to stand idly by while you play out your comedy on our stressed environment.

-Sincerely, Judith O. DiRaddo

3/15/2013

To Whom It May Concern,

I am against any and all development on these lakes. They are natural treasures that should not be exploited or molested in any way. Thank you.

-Travis

3/15/2013

Please do not allow them to frack near our drinking water, near the most pristine lakes in the nation!

We've been so thoughtful about preserving Canadice & Hemlock...

To think that anyone would even CONSIDER fracking there is just unreal.

Those that even ponder the thought of allowing that are as guilty as the frackers.

Do not fall prey to the "99.9% pure" red herring...

That .1% of a deadly chemical will kill us.

Thank you for making the responsible decision.

-Chuck

3/15/2013

I am very disappointed that the DEC, even knowing that the water from these precious lakes is used for human consumption, would not include a BAN on the development of the mineral and oil industry in the UMP. It leads me to mistrust you and your motives.

At the very least, you should BAN any industrial development in the area.

Better yet, as Mr. Jim Bird of the Adirondack Mountain Club suggested, classify the Hemlock - Canadice State Forest as a State Nature and Historic Preserve.

We want it kept as pristine as it is right now.

-Susan Englert

3/15/2013

To whom it may concern...Please leave our pristine nature filled area off your plan for any sort of oil drilling. This area is home to such a abundance of wild life, as well as clean water for drinking for thousands of people in the Rochester area, old growth forests, and humans.

Our future of the children in and around this beautiful area is in your hands. Have mercy.

-Sincerely, Susan Wilkins Honeoye, New York

3/15/2013

To the DEC,

This article from 2010 states that the Hemlock Lake and Canadice Lake Watershed "will be forever preserved, which will keep it in its natural, forested state...."

"Hemlock Lake is home to two nesting pairs of American Bald Eagles and supports a coldwater trout fishery."

Heavy industrial hydraulic fracturing of gas in the Hemlock Lake and Canadice Lake area cannot possibly protect and preserve Hemlock Lake and Canadice Lake.

Subject: Hemlock and Canadice Lakes deal is sealed - Livingston County News

<http://thelcn.com/2010/07/24/hemlock-and-canadice-lands-now-belong-to-the-state/#.UUN5Mj10E3Y.aolmail>

-Mary Watson, Honeoye, NY

3/15/2013

The infinite protection of Hemlock-Canadice State Forest is a promise waiting for fulfillment.

When Mayor Duffy talked about handing over this area to the state, it was specifically because the state could protect it better than the city could. The people of this entire region believed the transfer to the state meant total protection FOREVER.

The proposed UMP sounds OK on the surface. And it was the implication that gas/oil drilling was possible in the proposed plan that brought out so many people to Springwater on March 14, 2013. It was scary that the event started off with someone from the state saying no one "intends to allow fracking" around Hemlock-Canadice.

That statement is not a promise and it is not policy written in stone. There was also an implication that the state was very well aware of the uproar about fracking and could have put an early end to so many comments simply by following up with a plan to put a promise to never frack in the UMP. This was never mentioned.

The proposed UMP is far to geared towards updates and "progress" when that may not be needed. The proposed UMP contains information about commercial uses for the trees/lumber contained within the area. This idea needs to be removed. Forestry management is one thing, but the idea of lumbering for any commercial use on land that everyone wants protected is just wrong.

Protection and purity of the water in the lakes must be considered the first priority. Protection of the forest, its plants and animals must be considered the second priority. Recreation should be allowed, but it should be restricted to non-motorized canoes/kayaks.

Any exploration/exploitation of minerals/oil/gas must simply be prohibited totally and forever.

Hemlock-Canadice is a special area and it deserves special protections. It is not like any other area in NY and generic regulations should not be applied to this area.

As I learned from the public meeting, it seems the state forest designation is not good enough for Hemlock-Canadice. Let's make this area a State Nature and Historic Preserve. It's time NY start fulfilling promises. It's time that every one learns that sometimes, "protected forever" can mean something.

There seems to be two kinds of people in the world. There are people who see an area like Hemlock-Canadice and just want to protect it. Then there are those who see undeveloped land and envision bulldozers making way for lakefront condos, hotels and profits. This is one time and this is one area in which the land and water must prevail.

-Thomas R. Janowski, Rochester, NY

3/15/2013

Dear DEC,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the management of Canadice and Hemlock Lake and the surrounding forest land.

I believe that Hemlock and Canadice must be protected from any heavy industry, in this case - hydraulic hydra fracking - that could have a detrimental impact on the water quality. Pure drinking water must be conserved, it is a valuable and irreplaceable resource, and the DEC has a responsibility to protect the water and land that sustains us. Please do the right thing for the future of our Finger Lakes.

-Respectfully, Lee Gratwick

3/15/2013

A few years ago, when the future of our beloved lakes was in doubt, I wrote to Albany, attended the meetings and prayed that our land would be rescued by the great state of New York. At the time I believed that my prayers were answered, the purchase of the Hemlock Canadice forest by the state would guarantee its protection from development. As I recall, that is what Mayor Duffy and Pete Grannis promised when the land came under the jurisdiction of the DEC. After all, The title of your agency, Department of Environmental Conservation, would indicate that your purpose is to preserve and protect the environment for our citizens. After attending last evening's meeting on the draft UMP in Springwater, I am not so confident of your agency's intentions.

Disturbing statements about plans for adding roads, increasing recreational access, foresting timber, selling mineral rights, and worst of all selling water from the lakes to gas companies for the purpose of hydraulic fracturing were put forth by reliable sources. Was this what you had in mind from the start? I cannot help but feel betrayed.

The Hemlock Canadice State Forest is a gem of wilderness in our part of the state. It needs no improvements, enhancements, or exploitation. It is fine just the way it is without kiosks or new boat launches or improved access roads. Please leave well enough alone. The public can continue to enjoy this land as it has for years without your intervention.

-Melissa Cohen, Canadice Resident for 22 years.

3/16/2013

Dear DEC Staff,

I have enjoyed the pristine beauty of Hemlock and Canadice Lakes for over 20 years of canoeing and hiking. We are fortunate that the City of Rochester has been such a good steward of these natural resources. you to amend the UMP for this resource to prohibit mineral extraction activities such as mining, drilling and hydraulic fracturing as these activities are incompatible with the lakes being maintained in a state of wilderness and contradict the goal of keeping these tracts unmarred for generations to enjoy in their natural state. Such extractive processes would also imperil the water quality and safety of the primary drinking water source for the City of Rochester.

-Thank you, Tony Witte, MD, Dansville NY

3/17/2013

" Only when the last tree is cut down, the last fish been caught , and the last stream poisoned, will we realize We cannot eat money." It is our duty to protect these pristine lands from any danger of pollution, be it air, earth or water. There are 29 known carcinogens used in fracking fluids(U.S. House

of Representatives committee on energy and commerce; April 2011),regulated under the Safe Drinking Water Act for their risks to human health or listed as hazardous air pollutants under the Clean Air Act. These 29 chemicals were components of more than 650 different products used in hydraulic fracturing. Under no circumstances should we allow this or laying of any pipeline, under or near the delicate Eco-system of our beloved Hemlock and Canadice state forest land.

-Patricia DeVelder. Conesus, New York

3/17/2013

Members of my family drink and bathe in water from Hemlock/Canadice lakes. I wish to keep it pure for today and for future generations. We are not responsible for the financial straits NYS finds itself in. Please don't allow anyone to hydrofrack to solve economic woes of New York....don't frack it up. Thank you.

In God We Trust

All others, cash only

Make it a great day

-Mike

3/18/2013

While surface disturbance of the kind required for natural gas well pads is generally prohibited in State lands and forests (DEC Rules and Regulations, 6 NYCRR Part 190), this UMP specifically contemplates the (possible) leasing of Hemlock-Canadice land for that purpose. It is difficult to imagine that the City of Rochester would have so happily transferred title to its pristine lakes and main water supply knowing that the State would put them at risk of contamination and allow their lovely vistas to be dotted with gas rigs. Since the likelihood of gas drilling there is allegedly low because of the dubious quantum of reserves (UMP p. 17), it makes sense to prohibit it altogether and relieve the City's water drinkers of a huge new headache.

-Grace van Hulsteyn

3/18/2013

Dear Sir or Madam,

Thank you for the opportunity to attend the March 14th public meeting and to provide my written comments on the proposed Hemlock-Canadice Unit Management Plan.

I urge DEC to consider re-classifying the Hemlock-Canadice State Forest to ensure that it falls under a category that affords it the highest level of protection - either as a Unique Area or a State Nature and Historic Preserve. In the absence of such a re-classification I would suggest the following:

- No gas leasing in or around Hemlock and Canadice Forest. Even permitting leasing anywhere in the watershed must not be allowed. This must be stated explicitly in the Unit Management Plan regardless of the final regulations and recommendations that will be laid out in the SGEIS. Oil and gas production is a highly technical and industrialized activity that is not without dangerous, significant incident as has been seen in parts of Pennsylvania.

· Increased or improved access should not be a major theme/objective of this particular UMP. The DEC should re-frame this plan to place protection and preservation above access to ensure this unique resource receives the protection from human interference it deserves.

-Regards, Jennifer A. Lynch Rochester, NY

3/18/2013

no fracking-

save my grandchildren's NYS future.

send their land greed somewhere else.

-Marcia Walter

They are not making any more of these lakes – all efforts must be utilized in order to keep the watershed in as Pristine a condition as is possible!

-Eric Huppert, Honeoye Falls

I am pleased to hear that no drilling or fracking is planned around these lakes. I would hope they will be kept in the most natural states as possible forever!

-Peggy Wehs, Mendon, NY

ALLOW the forest to be a natural, wild and unmanaged place.

DO NOT ALLOW hydrofracking, motorized vehicles, timber logging or any activity that could threaten the environment of this pristine forest.

-Rick Osiecki, Hemlock, NY

1. Why can my home owners insurance company be allowed to not insure against fracking damage?

2. Why do fracking companies need EPA waiver regarding clean water?

3. Why does Rochester not need same protection as Syracuse & NYC?

4. I bought land to build a home (economic activity). If there is fracking with risks to my well aquifer my home value will decrease, so fracking will dampen economic activity.

5. If fracking company damages aquifer, then declares bankruptcy, what then? No insurance!

-David Rubin, Rochester

Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you about this very important issue. In my statement tonight I wish not only to express my personal concerns about the future of the Hemlock-Canadice State Forest land, but also to share with you the effort that the Town of Conesus has dedicated toward assuring its preservation as an environmental gem.

I am a resident of the Town of Conesus on Marrowback Road, which follows the top of the ridge to the west of Hemlock Lake. In addition, I am a member of the committee that has proposed zoning changes for the Town to adhere more closely to our Comprehensive Plan adopted a few years ago. These zoning changes are currently being considered by the Town Board and will soon be subject to public hearings.

Conesus and other Towns that border the Hemlock-Canadice watershed take very seriously their responsibility to minimize the human impact on the lakes and state forest land, and to maintain the rural, pristine character of this environmentally sensitive area. Conesus has based its proposed zoning updates upon the following considerations:

- (1) Hemlock Lake is the water supply for many of our northern neighbors, including the city of Rochester, and has been for over a century.
- (2) The Town of Conesus is the largest town area designation on the lake.
- (3) The Town Board accepts the responsibility for helping to protect this truly unique lake resource.
- (4) Opinion polls of Conesus residents as part of the Comprehensive Plan and of our neighboring towns and municipalities demonstrate strong public support for maintaining the natural state of the lake and its surrounding properties.

Among the changes in our zoning laws is a proposed unique zone only for the Hemlock Lake watershed, to be differentiated from the rest of the Town's zoning for Agricultural/Rural Residential areas. It would increase the minimum lot size, road frontage, and setbacks to reduce potential numbers of residences and resulting run-off due to steep slopes and poor drainage soils that surround the lakes. This reflects the opinions of professional land planners with whom we consulted. In addition the Town takes great care in reducing run-off from its highways through its extensive mitigation efforts and of timber harvesting through careful conservation practices.

If our little Towns take such great care in minimizing the impact of development on the Hemlock-Canadice watershed, cannot the State of New York do the same? The possibility of hydrofracking, with its potential for water pollution and certain industrialization of the area, is an abomination and frankly, an insult to the residents of our area who have cared for these lakes and their watersheds for generations. We urge you to give our lakes the same protection as the Syracuse and New York City watersheds. They deserve no less.

-Thank you. Tawn R. Feeney, Conesus, NY

3/19/2013

Hello,

Thank you for sharing the UMP with the public in Springwater last week. I found it useful to hear what kind of work has already been done to present. The other citizens present echo many of the same concerns I had and am glad to only have to share some of what I might have missed others say before having to leave or expand briefly one a few points. I have shared the main points given by all present with my husband who agrees with the statements below but could not be physically present.

My largest concern is that our political leaders are not on the same page as the staff that must manage the land on a daily basis nor is interested in building grassroots citizen support for quality land management honoring ecology. This statement is based on the Governors' initial behavior with the industry as well as his work with the President of the U.S. who is promoting erroneously the virtues of natural gas extraction.

The land can be viewed as property as in taxation and liability OR it can be viewed as an asset for health and wellness of all species. That said my husband and I would not be adverse to least intrusive

clean energy resourcing such as solar, small wind turbine, maybe small wave generation, and massive tree reforestation (for well managed resource extraction...this part of the plan needs to be viewed from the lens of Native American tribes who have demonstrated a model plan elsewhere in the U.S.) so long as all environmental factors are considered with a representative group of stakeholders.

I heard a neighbor of the State Forest, who was one of the first seven to speak that night, who rightfully pointed out that the State is ignoring stakeholders in initial work on the UMP who live adjacent to the State property. Anybody of policy worthy of pursuit includes the stakeholders most directly involved. Your agency tried doing this with the meeting last week but goodwill and investment of relationship needs to be developed with those who live adjacent too.

A link to refer you to regarding our point of view is "Wind, Water, and Sunlight Power for NY by 2050...or sooner. It is found in the NY Times (dot earth.blogs.nytimes.com/).

I, Carol, also had the privilege of taking GIS coursework at RIT while pursuing a sustainability degree. While the body I live in could not sustain the level of energy needed to continue learning that way the three classes I took in that concentration taught me about buffer zones. Can buffer Zones be added or clarified in the UMP?

After hearing about the air and water quality problems out west where there is hydrofracking I do not know if even 2500 ft would be sufficient should our political leaders forgo the health concerns and case studies of third parties before allowing high volume hydrofracking here. The process is unsustainable as is...it really is that simple. The companies who cite otherwise are doing so from research work they have funded. We all know that objectivity is lost in that approach.

The State must put in writing the promise made of putting the land in trust in perpetuity. We agree with that sentiment from the UMP meeting completely.

We certainly see the viability of State Forest Managers promoting citizen scientist protocol and volunteerism to reduce costs and protect ecology at the same time. Tax liability strain...Public Radio has a model that could really work to bridge the resources of those who have much and those who have less.

We hope our concerns are stated clearly and are respected with objective research. We hope we have given positive solutions to assist in managing these assets for the long term and future generations who are not stakeholders presently at this table of discussion.

-Sincerely, Scott and Carol Williams

3/19/2013

I am deeply concerned about protecting the untouched nature of this area, unlike any other in the state (in the world?). There already is total access - we walk all over, and roads run on one side of each lake. Increasing access which the DEC says is part of their mission means more roads. Where could they possibly be needed, except if DEC wishes to provide better access to loggers and frackers who wish to suck water from our reservoirs to pump into the ground in PA?

We need a special highly protected designation for this area.

-Sincerely, Laurie Walker, Springwater, NY

ENVIRONMENT

DEC hearing on Hemlock-Canadice forest plan draws concerned crowd

March 21, 2013 by Ben Beagle

A public information meeting on the state Department of Environmental Conservation's draft management plan for the Hemlock-Canadice State Forest did little to ease concerns of environmental advocates and local officials who want stronger assurances that drilling will not be allowed in the forest.

DEC officials have repeatedly stated since releasing the plan in mid-February that it had "no intention" of allowing drilling and that such development was "highly unlikely."

But that wasn't enough for the hundreds of people who filled the Springwater Fire Hall on March 14 to demand DEC not allowing drilling near Hemlock and Canadice lakes, which provide drinking water to many area communities, including the City of Rochester.

"The jury is still out. The DEC did not put its best foot forward," said Steve Barnhoorn, a member of the Richmond Town Board in Ontario County.

Barnhoorn said he attended the meeting out of concern for the plan's statement "Due to recent drilling and production activity in Western New York, the NYS DEC may receive requests to nominate lands contained in this unit for oil and gas leasing."

"The DEC opened the floodgates with those words," Barnhoorn said. "I was flabbergasted. Aren't they supposed to be protecting the environment? A simple sentence to prevent drilling as well as not allowing water to be drawn from the lakes would put a lot of people at ease. As it stands now, the loophole is so big a truck can drive right through it."

About 300 people attended the hearing, with many of them standing in the packed fire hall. Others tried to attend, but discouraged by long lines to enter the fire hall chose to leave rather than wait.

The meeting is part of DEC's effort to solicit comments on the draft plan. Written comments will be accepted until April 15. A final plan is six months to one year away, according to DEC officials.

The plan outlines how DEC will manage its lands around Hemlock and Canadice lakes for 10 years.

The state forest, 20 miles east of Geneseo, covers about 6,700 acres in the towns of Livonia, Conesus and Springwater in Livingston County, and Richmond and Canadice in Ontario County.

Hemlock Lake, in Livingston County, and Canadice, in Ontario County, are the only Finger Lakes with undeveloped shorelines. They have supplied drinking water for Rochester and adjacent communities for more than 100 years.

The plan details multiple uses for the state forest. Management will be considered over a broad geographical area to ensure biological diversity and protection of the ecosystem along with the public benefits the land provides, DEC said.

Benefits such as good water quality, a diverse and healthy wildlife population and recreational enjoyment are ensured by selectively varying the types and growth stages of tree stands within this unit, maintaining and creating grasslands and enhancing wetland areas, DEC said.

The plan offers general information on the unit's history and geology, and an inventory of the unit's resources. It also describes proposed goals and policy considerations for managing the unit.

The plan does not immediately rule out drilling on the property, and says the state would entertain proposals from oil and gas companies interested in drilling on forest land around the lakes, which has raised concerns among area environmental activists who are concerned about the plan's intent in relation to oil and gas development or leasing in the state lands around the lake.

"It seemed like everything the state is saying is mutually exclusive," Barnhoorn said. "On one hand they say they are for protecting the land, but then they talk about other opportunities for the land."

DEC officials said they included the language in the plan in an effort to elicit a wide range of public comment on all possible uses of the state forest land. They have said the final plan could include a ban.

Bob Nilsson of Frack Free Genesee said in an email that gas exploration and drilling is noted on about a dozen pages of the plan.

"The question is why is all of this in the UMP if they do not intend to lease?" Nilsson asked.

"Doesn't this create a conflict of interest for the DEC which now has a reason to green light fracking in New York?"

Cynthia Carestio, in a letter to the editor of The Livingston County News, said at least five sections of the plan are devoted to oil and gas development. She wrote that there is no regulatory document that

prohibits leasing state land for drilling or high-volume hydraulic fracturing, which leaves the Hemlock-Canadice Forest "vulnerable."

"The health and unique character of this remarkable area is at stake," Carestio wrote.

The Canadice Town Board adopted a resolution March 11 seeking changes to the plan. The resolution wants the plan to include a section on maintaining aesthetic resources, setting goals and objectives that are consistent with the original intent of giving DEC title to the property, which was to prevent or severely limit future development, maintain the forest cover and general rural character of the forest; and include objectives in the subsections dealing with resource extraction, especially oil and gas drilling and making protection of drinking water resources "of paramount importance."

"The draft management plan does mention protection of public drinking water resource in the section on the management goals for timber resources, but is curiously silent on this subject in regard to management goals in regard to resource extraction and oil and gas leasing," the resolution said.

The resolution also noted the Town of Canadice's local land use regulation which would not allow resource extraction uses as considered in the draft plan.

A copy of the resolution was sent to DEC and other state officials.

DEC's draft management plan is available for review online at www.dec.ny.gov/lands/68822.html and at:

Wayland Library, 101 East Naples St., Wayland.

Livonia Library, 2 Washington St., Livonia.

Honeoye Library, 8704 Main St., Honeoye.

DEC, 6274 Avon-Lima Rd., Avon; and 7291 Coon Rd., Bath.

Written comments may be sent to r8ump@gw.dec.state.ny.us or NYSDEC, 7291 Coon Rd. Bath, NY 14810.

<http://thelcn.com/2013/03/21/dec-hearing-on-hemlock-canadice-forest-plan-draws-concerned-crowd/>

I attended the meeting @ Springwater fire hall on Thurs 3/14/13.

I agree with Mr. James Bird's comments that the Hemlock-Canadice area should be preserved as a unique area similar to the Zoar area in Cattaraugus County.

I would not now or ever allow any kind of fracking or drilling in or near the area or anywhere in New York State.

-Sharon Casey, Naples, NY

3/21/2013

Thank you for your consideration and anticipated action to ensure the protection and preservation of the Hemlock and Canadice Lakes watershed, which includes management of the forest. This would require a ban on hydrofracking in and under the watershed lands as well as prohibition of any other intrusive industrial activity. Our drinking water supply must be protected. That was the understanding when the land was transferred by the City of Rochester to New York State. Whether or not this assurance was in writing, the promise was the underlying basis of the transfer. I expect that you will honor and formalize this protection and preservation of the area in question.

-Sincerely, Sandra L. Frankel, Former Supervisor, Town of Brighton (1992-2012)

3/21/2013

Dear Sir:

I would like to comment on the draft UMP for the Hemlock-Canadice State Forest. The watershed for the drinking water for Rochester and Monroe County is in this forest area and needs much more protection than what this draft plan is specifying. This area needs to be permanently protected from any mining, drilling, hydro-fracking logging, pipelines or other gas or oil related operations. We cannot chance a spill that would pollute these waters. That should also include the headwaters of Hemlock Lake which are in Steuben County. Recreational uses of the land and the lakes should be limited to uses that will not pollute these waters.

-Carol Hinkelman, Rochester, New York

3/22/2013

Dear Department of Environmental Conservation,

I am writing to urge you to keep hydrofracking out of Hemlock & Canadice Lake.

We have learned from other states where this activity is established that this extreme form of gas drilling poses unacceptable risks to the environment and human health. New York State has an opportunity to lead the country in prioritizing the quality of its air and water and to keep the land that supplies our food, clean and free of contaminants. As the steward of the land for us, we are depending on you to say 'no' to this extreme form of energy extraction in Hemlock and Canadice Lake.

-Sincerely, Matthew Walter

3/22/2013

Please, no fracking here. Keep it forever wild!

-Anne Stewart

3/22/2013

Comments on the DEC's Hemlock-Canadice Unit Management Plan

From the Hemlock-Canadice UMP, p. 16: *"Oil and natural gas are valuable resources which can provide energy and revenue, as well as the opportunity for improvements to the existing infrastructure of State lands (such as improving safe and restricted access through upgrading existing roads, culverts and gates) and creation of grassy openings to enhance habitat diversity. As with any other human activity on State lands, oil and natural gas exploration and development can impact the environment. Most impacts are short term and occur during the siting and drilling phases of a well."*

Each of the 3 sentences in this paragraph fall far short of the kind of scientific assessment that the DEC should be expected to deliver.

1) A (rare!) natural area such as the Hemlock-Canadice State Forest, where wildlife abounds and the imprint of human activity has, so far, remained restricted, will NOT in any way be "improved" by mining operations, especially unconventional high-volume hydraulic fracturing (HVHF). Access should remain restricted and roads as primitive as possible in order to preserve this forest. Certainly, if "habitat diversity" is in need of enhancement, there will be better, safer ways to achieve this than by way of the following:

- bulldozing acres of forest land

- constructing well pads
- paving access roads for the sake of the endless movement of trucks
- injecting millions of gallons of fluids containing toxic chemicals deep into the ground
- accidental release, or flaring, of methane
- accidental spills of toxic chemicals or frack waste
- drilling activities causing the migration and release of methane and radioactive elements
- failure of cement casings leading to the migration of toxic chemicals to the groundwater

The list goes on, but even the DEC must get the gist. In fact, the DEC did. I quote from the SGEIS, where under 560.5(c), the following is stated:

“Non-routine incidents of potential environmental and/or public safety significance may include, but

are not limited to: casing, drill pipe or hydraulic fracturing equipment failures, cement failures, fishing jobs,

fires, seepages, blowouts, surface chemical spills, observed leaks in surface equipment, observed pit liner

failure, surface effects at previously plugged or other wells, observed effects at water wells or at the surface,

complaints of water well contamination, anomalous pressure and/or flow conditions indicated or occurring

during hydraulic fracturing operations, or other potentially polluting non-routine incident or incident that

may affect the health, safety, welfare, or property of any person.”

2) There simply is no other human activity, on State lands or elsewhere, that "can" impact the environment to the extent that HVHF will. In fact, it is not a matter of "can"; HVHF **will** impact the environment, and the only question is, to what extent?

It is not just through the "non-routine incidents" quoted above. I again quote the SGEIS, as follows: (**bold-facing** is mine)

Under: *6.4.4 Impacts to State-Owned Lands*

"Forest Habitat Fragmentation

*As described earlier, large contiguous forest patches are especially valuable because they sustain wide-ranging forest species, and provide more habitat for forest interior species. State-owned lands, by their very nature, consist of large contiguous forest patches. **While some fragmentation has occurred, the level of activity associated with multi-well horizontal drilling (e.g., well pad construction, access roads, pipelines, etc.) would negatively impact the state's ability to maintain the existing large contiguous patches of forest.***

The Department has stated that protecting these areas from further fragmentation is a high priority."

3) Most impacts are definitely NOT short term:

- Very little is known to-date about the long-term consequences of HVHF, since the technology has been developed fairly recently and has had restricted application. Since many of the chemicals used are toxic (carcinogens, endocrine disruptors etc.) it is not known what the public health implications will be within 10, 20, or more years. Suppression of available data has been a problem, as has been the gas industry's penchant for guarding their "secret formulas". In addition, radioactive elements may become a major problem in future decades. Since this area includes 2 lakes—major water resources for nearby towns as well as the City of Rochester—this forms an unacceptable risk. Safeguarding the watersheds of Syracuse and New York City but not of Rochester, Richmond, Canadice etc. is unjust. This is the United States of America and all should receive equal protection under the law!

- The deforestation and loss of habitat would be a major problem for years to come.

Finally, I quote from the Hemlock-Canadice UMP, p.98:

"It is NYS DEC policy to recommend excluding operations in surface areas with sensitive habitats (stream banks, wetlands, steep slopes, rare communities etc.) or intensive recreational use. This tract assessment of Hemlock-Canadice State Forest has not been done as of the writing of this plan. Most of Hemlock-Canadice State Forest will fall under these exclusion zones, and as a result the Tract Assessment for the entire State Forest will probably be to recommend no surface-disturbance/entry leasing. Any proposal for mineral development other than oil and gas would require a full SEQR review."

Since I was unable to attend the recent public meeting in Springwater, I do not know what the status is of the "tract assessment" of Hemlock-Canadice State Forest. It seems odd to me that this was not completed (or updated) in time for the public comment period.

In view of all of the above, I urge the DEC to ban any and all oil/gas drilling (especially HVHF), as well as injection well construction, or oil/gas pipeline development, in the Hemlock-Canadice State Forest.

-Thank you. Cat Cohen, Rochester, NY

3/23/2013

I do not live in springwater or hemlocke or canadice but i fish these 2 lakes on a regular basis. I do not know alot about fracking. I am gonna read up on it so i have an idea what all it entails. I am writing to voice my opinion about the innocence of these 2 lakes. I have fished them since i have been about 3. These lakes are the most peaceful beautiful lakes i have ever fished. My father and i fish these lakes for that reason, its peaceful and you dont have to worry about big speed boats or personal watercraft's zooming around you disturbing the fishing. There is nothing like fishing on a nice summer day on 1 of these lake's watching a bald eagle fly over or even land in a tree near you. I would hope nothing would ever disturb or ruin these lakes and the peacefulness they bring everytime on the water. As i said before i dont know alot about fracking and hey maybe nothing bad will come of it but i personally dont wanna take a chance at ruining something as innocent and peaceful as these 2 lakes. Just please weigh all options and consequences that this will cause. These lakes are really a get away from the stressful thing we call life that alot of people use and its a beautiful thing.

-Jason Cansdale

3/23/2013

Dear Department of Environmental Conservation,

I am writing to urge you to keep hydrofracking out of Hemlock & Canadice Lake.

We have learned from other states where this activity is established that this extreme form of gas drilling poses unacceptable risks to the environment and human health. New York State has an opportunity to lead the country in prioritizing the quality of it's air and water and to keep the land that supplies our food, clean and free of contaminants. As the steward of the land for us, we are depending on you to say 'no' to this extreme form of energy extraction in Hemlock and Canadice Lake.

-Sincerely, Nash Bock

3/23/2013

Dear Department of Environmental Conservation,

I am writing to urge you to keep hydrofracking out of Hemlock & Canadice Lake.

We have learned from other states where this activity is established that this extreme form of gas drilling poses unacceptable risks to the environment and human health. New York State has an opportunity to lead the country in prioritizing the quality of it's air and water and to keep the land that supplies our food, clean and free of contaminants. As the steward of the land for us, we are depending on you to say 'no' to this extreme form of energy extraction in Hemlock and Canadice Lake.

-Sincerely, Gayle Mosher

3/23/2013

Please preserve the area around Hemlock Lake.

-Andy Aligne, Rochester

3/23/2013

Dear Department of Environmental Conservation,

I am writing to urge you to keep hydrofracking out of Hemlock & Canadice Lake.

We have learned from other states where this activity is established that this extreme form of gas drilling poses unacceptable risks to the environment and human health. New York State has an opportunity to lead the country in prioritizing the quality of its air and water and to keep the land that supplies our food, clean and free of contaminants. As the steward of the land for us, we are depending on you to say 'no' to this extreme form of energy extraction in Hemlock and Canadice Lake.

-Sincerely, Clara Mulligan

3/24/2013

Dear Department of Environmental Conservation,

I am writing to urge you to keep hydrofracking out of Hemlock & Canadice Lake.

We have learned from other states where this activity is established that this extreme form of gas drilling poses unacceptable risks to the environment and human health. New York State has an opportunity to lead the country in prioritizing the quality of its air and water and to keep the land that supplies our food, clean and free of contaminants. As the steward of the land for us, we are depending on you to say 'no' to this extreme form of energy extraction in Hemlock and Canadice Lake.

-Sincerely, Linda Jackson

3/26/2013

Hello

I attended the March 14th Springwater meeting. Here are my comments:



1. Drilling should be expressly forbidden vs allowing the proposal to leave the door open. If the verbal statements ‘we have no intention of allowing drilling’ are true, why not just put it in writing and put a ban in place?
2. On the Logging, this should be severely limited and possibly banned in terms of allowing harvest of old growth trees.
3. The path at the northwest side of Hemlock Lake, would like to see it extended and a footbridge put in place over the gully where the current path ends. Installing a hiking path beyond (not a ‘road’) would allow further limited recreational use.

-Thank you. Brad Marshall, Livonia, NY Resident

(Editor’s note: The following is a form letter sent by separate individuals, whose names are listed at the end of the letter. All received March 26, 2013.)

Comments for Hemlock-Canadice Lakes Unit Management Plan

To whom it may concern,

As a resident of Central New York, I would like to submit my comments for the record about the 2013 UMP, Unit Management Plan, for the Hemlock-Canadice Lakes area. This pertains to the public comment period ending April 15, 2013.

I am distressed to learn that although NYSDEC has given repeated verbal assurances that land surrounding Hemlock and Canadice Lakes will not be open to any gas or oil activities, the UMP nonetheless contains eleven pages about how that will happen.

I would, therefore, like to add my voice to those of thousands of other New Yorkers and recommend that Hemlock-Canadice Lakes be closed permanently to all gas and oil extraction activities. The UMP should contain explicit language expressing exactly that.

Further, Hemlock and Canadice Lakes should be named a “State Nature and Historic Preserve,” and be given “Unique Natural Area” status. These are the designations that will assure the protection of the lakes as a supply of clean water for Rochester, and as an unspoiled wilderness. It is my understanding that the precedent already exists for giving this special status to Syracuse’s water supply, Bear State Swamp.

I also recommend that the Hemlock-Canadice lakes area be closed to any logging activities and further development, such as road construction, in order to prevent dangerous runoff and maintain the much needed and rare old growth forests.

Thank you for your consideration on this issue and your assistance in protecting and preserving the precious natural resources of Hemlock and Canadice Lakes. Please let me know whether or not you will implement the above recommendations.

-Respectfully, Gay L. Smith,

-Jennifer Diemer,

-David Hagmier,

-Louise W. Richards,

-Deborah Rodrigues,

-Heather Boyd,

-Sarah E. Diemer,

-Christine L Lass,

-Pastor H __ R (signature illegible),

-Rene J Sch...(signature illegible).

RE: Hydrofracking

Now I'm reading of a DEC draft plan that leaves the "door open" to potential oil and natural gas drilling in the 6,684 acres of the Hemlock-Canadice State Forest! OMG! These two lakes provide drinking water to Rochester and surrounding communities! Please don't tell me that your environmental impact study found hydrofracking in water sheds is a good idea! Use your common sense. Close the door to hydrofracking in the Finger Lakes area. Protect the environment and the people of NYS. That is your job.

-Barbara Hart Guzewicz, Shortsville, NY

I think the Hemlock-Canadice/ Reservoir /State Lands should be categorized as a "unique area". The waterways need to be preserved. As does the forest surrounding these lakes. Mr. Bird, president of the Adirondack Mountain Club made many good points. "Hydro-fracking" should not be allowed. Access to these areas should be controlled and limited to ensure the preservation of these natural wildlife habitats and essential water supplies.

-Joan Schenk, Naples, NY

(Editor's Note: The following is an email form letter with a list of signatures following.)

3/26/2013 or 3/27 or 3/28 or 4/1 or 4/2 or 4/3/13

Dear Department of Environmental Conservation,

I am writing to urge you to keep hydrofracking out of Hemlock & Canadice Lake.

We have learned from other states where this activity is established that this extreme form of gas drilling poses unacceptable risks to the environment and human health. New York State has an opportunity to lead the country in prioritizing the quality of its air and water and to keep the land that supplies our food, clean and free of contaminants. As the steward of the land for us, we are depending on you to say 'no' to this extreme form of energy extraction in Hemlock and Canadice Lake.

Sincerely,

-marcia walter

-John Chiverton

-Wayne Walter

-Dolores Johnson

-Elizabeth Mosher

-Renee Thornton

-Edward Johnson

-Mary Buzard

-Eliza Parker

-Lucas Englehardt

-Darlene Tschorke

-Del and Brenda Meyerhoefer

-Scott Topel

-Lauren Blair

-Tom Thornton

3/27/2013

>There is no greater responsibility than to protect and nurture our children's welfare - for the future - starting now. Hydrofracking is not a key to this goal.

Dear Department of Environmental Conservation,

I am writing to urge you to keep hydrofracking out of Hemlock & Canadice Lake.

We have learned from other states where this activity is established that this extreme form of gas drilling poses unacceptable risks to the environment and human health. New York State has an opportunity to lead the country in prioritizing the quality of its air and water and to keep the land that supplies our food, clean and free of contaminants. As the steward of the land for us, we are depending on you to say 'no' to this extreme form of energy extraction in Hemlock and Canadice Lake.

-Sincerely, Dawn Robinson

3/28/2013

Clearly the consensus of the 350 people who attended the public meeting in Springwater was that the designation of these lands as state forests is a wholly inadequate classification to protect the unique features of this area. Wild undeveloped shorelines as exist here within such close proximity to a large urban area is virtually unheard of in NY State. As water supplies for the city of Rochester and Monroe County, any activity that could threaten the quality of water from these lakes must be prohibited. This includes any type gas drilling, whether through conventional means or hydrofracking, building of support roadways or pipeline infrastructure. Logging on the slopes of these lakes could result in erosion that would add nutrients to these lakes and encourage the growth of algae. These areas need protection similar to the old growth forests of the Zorn Valley or other water supplies throughout the state. In selling these lands to the state, it was the understanding of the people of the city of Rochester that the state would maintain the same level of stewardship exhibited by the city over that last hundred years. A short term economic gain should not supersede, the long term need for clean water and recreational spaces for hiking, canoeing, fishing in an environment not polluted with the sounds of industrialization. Please exercise due diligence in this effort and do what is right for this fragile environment.

-Kevin Fager

Kind people,

with regard to the ten year management plan for hemlock and canadice lakes ... I am not re-assured that the DEC will "probably" not issue any hydrofracking drilling permits in these areas. the city of rochester sold these lands to the state of new York with the implicit understanding that its water supply would enjoy continued protection (as do the watersheds for syracuse and new york city). About one million people rely on these lakes for drinking water as you know. it is a public trust not subject to the hazzards and questionable safety of industrial development. the hemlock and canadice lakes need a protective designation to permanently protect them from this sort of development. It is your job to protect the people of new york by protecting their water and environment. I call upon you to do your job. people's lives and health are at stake.

thank you for your attention

-JOHN KASTNER, Rochester, NY

Dear DEC,

This letter is in response to the 261 pg proposal regarding the Hemlock-Canadice State Forest.

We have never had to wonder what life would be like without water. It's just always there!

This winter, our pipes froze. We had to use bottled water for everything! It was a major inconvenience. It made me think about something I normally take for granted.

We are blessed to live in the middle of the Forest. There are many things to do. Fishing, canoeing, walking.

On Maslous Hierarchy, we need to have our basic needs met before we can go on to enjoy other things. Fresh air & water are the 2 highest basic needs we have. Without them, nothing else matters!

Thank you for saying at the meeting at the Springwater Fire House, that there would be NO FRACKING! I am happy of that. Now all you must do is address those 11 pages that say otherwise & write an addendum that matches what your words say!

There are other things I'd like to see, which include:

Having a special trail designated for dogs to be off their leashes.

Allowing fallen timber to be cut up for firewood to help keep New Yorkers warm.

Allowing residents to be in the decision making processes – proactive instead of reactive –

Allowing canoes & kayaks to be left on the banks

Allowing for a horse trail – they can wear bags to catch their poop BM

Allowing duck hunting & dogs to retrieve (even in the water)

Connect trails

Have periodic meetings

Let us know about the results & OR implementations of our ideas!

The bridge on Rex Hill Rd beside where the lake overflows is crumbling & needs replaced

The deer population needs thinned out

Need walking trails that are not so secluded & woodsy

Citizen's should be given a more active & frequent role in decision making

No fireworks! The residual pollutes the lake

Address businesses within the forest.

Do they need anything from you?

Tourists; how to draw them

Advertisement for the Forest?

What about camping?

What about composing a catalogue for local business info? (directory)

Educational tours?

Forming committees; one for trees, ect.

What are the budget allowances?

Also there are clubs that could appreciate recognition in the directory

Roadside signage would be nice; The ones nailed on the trees are too small to read

Where do we direct any future comments or questions?

More education on hypothermia

What to do if your boat tips over!

What to do if you see a bear

The dialogue between you & the public needs to be ongoing & frequent

And again, NO fracking and do not lease land to frackers!!!!

-Sincerely, Marcia Flemke, Hemlock, NY

Please Protect the Hemlock & Canadice Lakes Forest. Believe me, that the Destruction of Land is So disturbing! Fracking with chemicals can only cause problems with health whether now, or 10 years from now. We were not suppose to Disturb our earth. It amazes me that no one can realize this.

Look to PA and see the destruction of the area. People do not wish to visit areas of PA because of noise pollution, truck traffic and because the scenery has definitely changed!

Please protect what you can now because it will not be there later.

-Sincerely, Christine Lange, Windsor, NY

4/7/2013

To the DEC:

I am writing to protest the current draft UMP for the Hemlock-Canadice State Forest. High volume hydraulic fracturing needs to be specifically banned in this vulnerable area of western NY. The watershed of these two pristine lakes has been protected for more than 100 years; it constitutes the water supply for many hundreds of thousands of people in and around Rochester NY. Just as the watersheds of NY City and Syracuse were exempted from hydro fracking in the current draft SGEIS, the people of Rochester deserve equal protection under the law. As those charged with environmental protection of state owned lands, the DEC has a responsibility to prohibit specifically any future leasing for gas or oil drilling, exploration, pipelines, or HVHF-related activities in this area. The potential for pollution of this historic drinking supply has been clearly demonstrated in Pennsylvania and elsewhere. An equally critical issue is that the current draft UMP says nothing about water extraction, even though hydro fracking uses enormous quantities of water and would seriously jeopardize future supplies of water in this watershed. New York State needs to take the lead in protecting its citizens from the uncertainties of this dangerous practice.

It is totally inappropriate for the DEC, the agency claiming to protect NYS environment, to be advocating for the economic benefits of HVHF as it does on page 16 of the UMP "oil and natural gas are natural resources...habitat diversity." These statements have no place in an environmental plan for this delicate area. Finally, I would urge the DEC to support the designation of the Hemlock-Canadice State Forest as a "State Nature and Historic Preserve" in order to afford it the protection it requires.

Thank you for your serious consideration of these issues.

-Martha L. Sempowski, Lima NY

4/7/2013

To NYS DEC,

In reviewing the language of the sGEIS UMP regarding the Hemlock-Canadice State Forest area, I was shocked to see that there is no out right prohibition against Unconventional High Volume Fracturing. Indeed, the language actually appears to encourages the activity by noting spurious economic arguments. Such statements simply do not balance potential ecological damage with hypothetical economic benefits. There is a real risk for permanent environmental harm.

Thus, I am writing to indicate a high level of concern regrading the language of the sGIES draft regarding the UMP for the Hemlock- Canadice State Forest. and the possible impact of unconventional (Hydro tracking) for natural gas and/or for any other carbon based energy source.

This is a unique State Forest in that it is the primary water supply source for the City of Rochester NY and adjacent environs. NYS has already exempted the water sheds of NY City, Syracuse and other

communities from Unconventional High Volume Fracturing. The Hemlock-Canadice State Forest must also be exempted for obviously similar reasons.

Secondly, the Hemlock-Canadice forest lands historically and currently are of high wilderness, historic, and ecological values, Therefore they should be preserved and protected by being designated as "**Unique Areas**" [ECL 51-0703 (4)] and as "**State Nature and Historic Preserves**" [ECL 45-0117 (3)].

This State Forest area is critically important as a water source, habitat preservation and recreational activities. This is no place for industrial extraction activity.

-John Sempowski, Lima, NY

4/6/2013

CONCERNED RESIDENTS OF MADISON COUNTY
PO BOX xxx—CANASTOTA—NEW YORK 13032

“In the UNITED STATES people have a reasonable expectation that their government will provide a safe and habitable environment. Minimally, it is assumed that government will protect its citizens against polluted water, toxic wastes and excessive radiation.”

-Source: Natural Resources Volume I; Abrasives - General Mining Law of 1872

Subject: DEC hearing March 11th on managing state forests in Cortland and Onondaga Co

http://www.dec.ny.gov/enb/20130220_not7.html

NYS DEC, LAND AND FORESTS
1285 FISHER AVENUE
CORTLAND, NEW YORK 13045-1090

And:

JOSEPH MARTENS, COMMISSIONER OF THE DEC- New York State Department of
Environmental Conservation

625 Broadway
Albany, NY 12233-1010

Re: DO NOT TO ALLOW HIGH-VOLUME HYDRAULIC FRACTURIN IN or UNDER OUR
STATE FORESTS.

April 5, 2013

RE: MINERALS – OIL AND GAS; HYDROFRACKING – STATE LANDS

Subject: DEC hearing March 11th on management plan for state forests in Cortland and Onondaga
Co; Truxton meeting

Source: from the Draft: Mineral Resources Oil and Gas Introduction Section 23-1101 of the
Environmental Conservation Law and State Finance Law authorizes the Department of Environmental
Conservation to make leases on behalf of the State for exploration, production and development of oil
and gas on State lands.

Proposals to lease parcels of NYS DEC administered State lands for this purpose will be considered following public notice in the Environmental Notice Bulletin (ENB), and in local newspapers. As of the writing of this plan, the Revised Draft Supplemental Generic Environmental Impact Statement (SGEIS) on the Oil, Gas and Solution Mining Regulatory Program and the proposed regulations for high-volume hydraulic fracturing (HVHF) are under review, but not yet finalized. When finalized, the new regulations will be followed on this and other State Forests.

From: http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/lands_forests_pdf/hcump2013drafta.pdf

To the NYS DEC and others:

Recently there was a Public Hearing on the DEC drafted management plans for several state forests covering thousands of acres in Cortland and Onondaga counties. Highlights of the plan include new trails, new campsites and other non-controversial improvements to the forests. However, one of the

objectives of the plans is to tap the economic resources of the state forests. Up to this point, this has meant timber, maple syrup, and some shale mining. Now, there are proposals to lease parcels of NYS DEC administered State lands for the purpose of high-volume hydraulic fracturing (HVHF).

One concern is that many private owners border these public lands. With the current "compulsory integration" law in NYS, private owners might have portions of their land "integrated" into a drilling unit along with the state forest land. Compulsory integration could result in private landowners being forced into leasing their mineral rights against their will. They may have purchased their land next to the state forest with the expectation that no development would occur on that land.

Another concern is industrialization of the state forests - Requiring access roads and pipelines follow existing roads and making these roads as narrow as possible may reduce damage, but even with precautions surface disturbance cannot be eliminated. The fact remains that gas drilling is a heavy industrial activity that has destroyed forests in other states such as the Allegheny National Forest in PA.

USGS Study: Marcellus Drilling Fragmenting Forests in PA

<http://marcellusdrilling.com/2013/03/usgs-study-marcellus-drilling-fragmenting-forests-in-pa/>

The U.S. Geological Survey earlier this week released a new report raising concerns about Marcellus Shale drilling in the Allegheny Plateau (pretty much the entire Marcellus region). The 38-page report looks at two counties in particular: Susquehanna County in northeastern PA, and Allegheny County in southwestern PA.

Using a series of maps and data, the authors raise concerns that Marcellus drilling, along with drilling for gas in coal bed methane (a similar process), is leading to "forest fragmentation"—a situation where forested areas get "carved up" with roadways and drill pads that lead to limiting the geographic habitat area for some species of animals.

Industrialization is incompatible with many of the objectives the DEC sets out such as maintaining and improving air and water quality, preserving forest cover as wildlife habitat, reducing invasive plant and animal species, preventing storm water runoff and soil erosion and preserving cultural resources. The forests provide recreational, timber, hunting, fishing and wildlife observation opportunities for local communities. They generate a certain amount of economic benefit from those using the public lands which will be lost upon the allowing of hydrofracking.

The major concern is gas activities draw heavily on fresh water reserves- consuming, diminishing and spoiling aquifers. Reduced oxygen levels, high levels of dissolved solids and pollutants negatively affect aquatic life, including fish. Many species of birds and wildlife are negatively impacted by forest fragmentation, while others like the coyote may benefit. This creates an imbalance in the ecosystem. Access roads and pipelines provide openings for invasive species infestation. Some species will be lost as a consequence of drilling and others may arrive. Hunting, fishing and tourism will all be at risk. No one will want to vacation or live near this industrial activity.

Health concerns from air pollution from ground level ozone and noxious chemical can have serious health impacts. Methane, the principal component of natural gas is as much as 25 times as potent as CO₂. Experts say that during the transport 3-5% of the methane escapes from pipelines and compressor as fugitive emissions. Other health consequences include – noise, light and dust pollution.

Brine from drilling can contain heavy metals and be highly radioactive. Yet, it has been spread on roads as a de-icer. I know this as a fact because under a FOIL – it is documented in 2009 and 2010, Beneficial Use Permits were issued by the DEC for gas well brine spreading in Madison County, New York.

Points to consider before approving any management plan that includes gas drilling/hydrofracking activities:

Wildlife at risk - Drilling waters are toxic. One of the most widespread harm seen in gas drilling is toxic chemical pollution caused by spills. Any contamination of ground water and aquifers is a threat to wildlife - Impacting birds and trout streams.

Habitat at risk – Traditional hunting and fishing spots off-limits due to gas drilling.

Tourism at risk – Increases in Traffic – the DEC estimates between 3850 and 8905 truck trips for each well pad. Increases in traffic lead to more traffic accidents, noise, congestion and chemical spills. People wanting to enjoy the scenic beauty, wineries, fishing, hunting, will not want to drive on busy country roads following diesel frack rigs to vacation in our state forests. We will no longer be the scenic gateway to the beautiful Adirondacks.

The hydrofracking process is noisy scaring off wildlife and deer changing their patterns.

Questions to consider:

Will the gas leases allow for hunting on leased land?

Is it safe to fire a gun in a gas field? - What happens if there's a lease and a gun is fired?

What happens if a bullet hits a well-head or pipeline?

Will drilling put all people involved at risk?

Will gas well drillers wear hunter orange and will they remain in a designated area during deer season for protection?

How vulnerable is game to the pollution that inevitably comes with this heavy industry – spills, blow-outs, mechanical failures, human error, waste pits, air pollution?

How will animals, particularly deer, be protected from consuming poisonous materials at the drill site?

Will it be safe to consume the meat from any wild game if the animal drinks from waste pits or spills?

Will testing for pollutants of venison be required to be done? And paid for by whom?

Who will decide if hunter-harvested game can be consumed if the game is exposed to hydrofracking operations. The DEC? The Department of Health? The individual?

It was reported in August, 2012 – that New York is buying 69,000 acres of land in the Adirondacks for \$49.8 million and the DEC will develop unit “management plans” that will “improve local economies through increased tourism.” My question, will these “management plans” include leasing parcels on behalf of the State for exploration, production and development of oil and gas on this land acquisition as well as other State Forests? And, what will be the cost to the taxpayers for management of our state forests in regard to the damages incurred from this heavy industry of hydrofracking?

I feel along with many other citizens of New York State that the DEC should never allow the heavy industry of hydrofracking on or drill under our public lands. We were shocked when we heard hydrofracking was a component of the DEC management plans for Onondaga and Cortland Counties and that the new regulations will be followed on this and other State Forests.

It is important to mention - to date, no one—not the gas industry, not the DEC, and not the EPA—has provided evidence of any comprehensive, unbiased, scientific studies showing that our water supplies would be safe if drilling were to proceed.

I would like to know who determined that these “management plans” include proposals to lease parcels of NYS DEC administered State lands for the purpose of high-volume hydraulic fracturing (HVHF). And if you do not know – I think it would be incumbent upon you who are given the duty to “protect and conserve” to find out.

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) was created on July 1, 1970. According to their official website, their mission is "To conserve, improve and protect New York's natural resources and environment and to prevent, abate and control water, land and air pollution, in order to enhance the health, safety and welfare of the people of the state and their overall economic and social well-being." And their goal: to achieve this mission through the simultaneous pursuit of “environmental quality, public health, economic prosperity and social well-being, including environmental justice and the empowerment of individuals to participate in environmental decisions that affect their lives”.

In 2006, The New York State DEC, (Environment DEC Archive July 2006), stated, “Oil and Gas Lease in Central New York ... The state will lease oil and gas development rights on 19,250 acres”.

On such an important issue – there should be a clear notice to all: ATTENTION HUNTERS, HIKERS, MOUNTAINBIKE RIDERS, HORSEBACK RIDERS, FISHERMAN, BIRD WATCHERS, AND ANYONE THAT ENJOYS NATURE IN OUR NEW YORK STATE PARKS. THERE IS A LAW BEING PROPOSED to ALLOW THE LEASING OF STATE LAND FOR HVHF.

1) more transparency is needed as to what are included in management plans– no one would even think that the DEC would advance this and hide it in draft plans that contain HVHF.

2) more people should be made aware of these Public Hearings – many do not have computers, do not know how to check the DEC web-site and newspaper coverage is limited.

3) With all of the specific negatives regarding the heavy industry of hydrofracking - clearly hydrofracking on State land or anywhere at this time is not a wise use of our resources because it's simply not safe to our environment.

4) The DEC came out a few years ago that hydrofracking in the NYC, Skaneateles and Syracuse Watersheds won't be done because it's too risky.

5) The gas companies have exemptions all over the place and listed are just a few: The Clean Air and Water Acts, National Environment Policy Act (industry doesn't have to prove safe), Resource and Conservation Act, Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know ACT, Safe Drinking Water Act and the Superfund Program.

6) There have been thousands of incidents of contamination across this country regarding our health, water, air and land. There has also been a deprecation of property values with drilling in the area. Who wants to live near well sites, compressor stations or injections wells, etc?

7) What other information do you need to know that hydrofracking is not safe?

8) The DEC has been entrusted to do its duty and keep a healthy and safe environment for all and for future generations.

9) Also if approved - the gas companies could use compulsory integration to drill under lands that boarder state land even though private landowners don't want any part of hydrofracking.

10) Why are you even considering this in your management plans?

I am asking that you have more public hearings and do the right thing – do not allow gas drilling/hydrofracking under or on our public lands. Thank you.

-Respectfully, Cheryl Cary, Canastota, NY

Subject: DEC hearing March 11th on managing state forests in Cortland and Onondaga Co
http://www.dec.ny.gov/enb/20130220_not7.html

Tell all your friends who hike, bike, fish, hunt, ski, mountain bike and those who never even use our common forests but like to know there are wild protect places nearby.

To Submit Comments:

Public Comment - The public is invited to submit comments on the proposed plan until April 15, 2013. In addition to any comments received during the comment period of the meeting, written comments may be sent to Region 8 UMP email box or NYSDEC, 7291 Coon Rd. Bath, NY 14810. Members of the public may provide DEC with comments or concerns regarding the management of Hemlock-Canadice State Forest. Comments may be general or specific, and will be accepted through April 15, 2013.

Comments will be weighed against law, regulations, Commissioner Directives and other public comments before changes are made to the draft plan. Questions and/or comments made at either of the public meetings will be included in the final UMP. Any comments received after April 15, 2013 will not be included in the final.

The Post-Standard , By Mike McAndrew |

on August 05, 2012 at 2:06 PM, updated August 14, 2012 at 7:13 PM

Syracuse, N.Y. -- New York is buying 69,000 acres of land in the Adirondacks for \$49.8 million, the largest single addition to the Adirondack State Forest Preserve in more than a century, Gov. Andrew Cuomo announced today.

The state will buy 65,000 acres of the former Finch, Pruyn & Co. land and 4,000 acres of other Nature Conservancy lands from The Nature Conservancy to preserve it for public use.

Under the agreement reached today, the property will be sold to the state in a phased five-year contract beginning this year. Using funds dedicated for these purposes in the Environmental Protection Fund, New York will pay \$49.8 million over five years, with \$13 million to be paid in this fiscal year. The balance will be paid in each fiscal year through 2016-17.

The State will pay full local property and school taxes on the land.

The Nature Conservancy purchased 161,000 acres of Adirondack land from Finch, Pruyn & Co. for \$110 million in 2007.

“Adding these properties to the Forest Preserve protects the incomparable and breathtaking natural resources of this region and preserves a significant portion of the Upper Hudson River watershed,” Gov. Cuomo said in a statement issued by his office. “Today’s agreement will make the Adirondack Park one of the most sought after destinations for paddlers, hikers, hunters, sportspeople and snowmobilers. Opening these lands to public use and enjoyment for the first time in 150 years will provide extraordinary new outdoor recreational opportunities, increase the number of visitors to the North Country and generate additional tourism revenue.”

“The future of the Adirondack Park depends upon clean water and air, abundant forests, rivers, streams, wetlands, wildlife and spectacular scenery,” DEC Commissioner Joe Martens said. “Its future is also intertwined with the ability of communities and residents to thrive, and today’s agreement provides for the continued vitality of the park, its communities and residents.”

Martens was president of the Open Space Institute when it loaned The Nature Conservancy \$25 million to purchase the 161,000 acres.

The former Finch lands contain some of the most important recreational and environmental assets in the Adirondack Park which will be opened to public use for the first time in more than 150 years, according to the governor's statement. The lands contain a variety of mountains, cliffs, wilderness lakes, ponds, bogs, fens, swamps, alluvial forests, and flat and white-water rivers. The parcels contain extensive habitat for mammals, such as moose, bobcat and black bear, and aquatic habitat for brook trout, landlocked salmon, and small and largemouth bass.

The 69,000-acre property includes 180 miles of rivers and streams, 175 lakes and ponds, 465 miles of undeveloped shoreline along rivers, streams, lakes and ponds, and six mountains taller than 2,000 feet. It also includes 5 percent of the Upper Hudson River watershed.

The majority of these lands are concentrated within the central lake and tourist region of the Adirondack Park in the towns of Newcomb, Indian Lake, North Hudson and Minerva.

The Adirondack Park Agency will work with DEC to propose land use classifications under the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan. As properties are acquired by the state, DEC will work with local governments and park stakeholders to open these lands for public use.

Cuomo's statement said it is anticipated that the more remote, interior areas suitable for backcountry activities will be classified as wilderness while the more accessible areas appropriate for greater levels of public use, including snowmobiling and vehicular access, will be classified as wild forest.

Public hearings will be held on the draft classifications before they are sent to the governor for approval. Once the classifications are approved, DEC will develop unit management plans that will improve local economies through increased tourism. A public comment period will be held for each management plan.

Contact Mike McAndrew. All rights reserved. cape metrics is also used to quantify these changes and is included in this publication.

4/6/2013

I would like to see the Hemlock Canadice State Forest protected FOREVER from oil/gas drilling and commercial logging. I would like the land's designation changed from state forest to state nature and historic preserve.

-Sincerely, Andrea DiGiorgio, Mendon, NY

4/6/2013

I am concerned about the possibility of fracking in the Rochester area because I fear the possibility of toxic pollution of our water, air and soil. There is NO guarantee there will be NO pollution if fracking is approved. I feel that citizens have the right to clean water, air soil.

-Mary Smith, Rochester NY

4/5/2013

I drink from a well in the town of Canadice. Please prevent fracking in NYS. Please protect the lakes.

-Gordon Dutter, Springwater, NY

4/5/2013 2:43

Hemlock and Canadice Lakes must remain Finger Lakes that are protected from development. They provide and have provided excellent drinking water for the residents and those who work in Rochester NY. Hemlock and Canadice Lakes also provide drinking water to the following municipalities: In Monroe County, Brighton, Henrietta, Mendon, Penfield, Perinton, Pittsford, and Rush. In Livingston County, Livonia and Lima and in Ontario County, Richmond, Victor and West Bloomfield.

In 2010, the City of Rochester sold the surrounding land to the State that turned it into the Hemlock-Canadice State Forest. The state's recently released 10 year draft Unit Management Plan does NOT clearly protect these lakes from fracking related activities, such as, water withdrawal, pipelines, timber harvesting or potentially harmful recreational activities. THE WATER IN THESE LAKES AND THE SURROUNDING LAND MUST BE PROTECTED FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PEOPLE. GOOD DRINKING WATER, LIKE IN NYC IS THE HIGHEST PRIORITY!!!

I am equally concerned about the potential degradation the headwaters of Hemlock Lake could suffer. The headwaters originate in Steuben County. Steuben County is one of the five counties slated to be fracked if there is a health assessment that allows this currently egregious, polluting and climate warming industrial process to deface our lands. If fracking waste should spill into those creeks or streams, our water will become a health hazard for all humans, animals and plants in the surrounding area.

There are several problems with the NY DEC UMP. The land (6,684 acres) is designated as a regular state forest and as such is open to fracking. There are 9 pages regarding fracking, pages 15-17, 46-47 and 97-101. The most frequent comment during the 3/14 DEC meeting in Springwater was the necessity to remove all language that favors oil and gas drilling & related activity. Commercial logging which will lead to sedimentation excessive, weathering and erosion that will require additional

expensive sand filtration systems that the City of Rochester cannot and probably would not be able to afford. see pages 60-71, and 158-163.

Recreation for ATV and other recreation requiring roads that will add to sedimentation, weathering and erosion and degradation of the environment as well as spoiling and/or majorly degrading the quality of the pristine water that is now in Hemlock and Canadice Lakes. This plan is seen by many Rochestarians and people who live in the Finger Lakes, as we do, as a plan that is all about gaining access, FOR WHAT MAY I ASK??? See pp. 16, 28, 40, 46, 48, 56 and 96. These pages imply that more and wider roads are necessary. THESE ROAD PLANS ARE TOTALLY INAPPROPRIATE FOR THIS WATERSHED. The land needs to be designated as a Unique Area and a State Nature and Historic Preserve to provide greater protection to the water. Undeveloped forestland is the most effective and the least expensive method to preserve the quality of this excellent water.

Further, the NY DEC's plan lacks topographic data and consequently does not specify existing steep slopes. Forestry and road construction on these slopes will create siltation, increased concentration of suspended sediments, and increased accumulation of fine sediments on bottoms where they are undesirable. This inattention and disregard for the sensitivity of the area that provides water is a sure way to cause filtration problems.

This plan has too many loopholes and reflects an ignorance of our DEC. regarding environmental concerns, proper water usage for the people and not disrupting what already works well and has worked well since 1876.

Please do the job you were hired for which is to protect the environment, water, land and air from pollution and for the best benefit of NY residents. I fear as I have regarding the whole response from the DEC about fracking in NY State that you are listening only to the voices of the oil/gas corporations who seem to not care at all about the health and well being of the water, land and air of NY State or of the people. Please be a DEC that truly works for the best interest of all of the residents of NY State. We want to be proud of you and Governor Cuomo and want to celebrate your intelligent, courageousness and good environmental care.

-Gloria J. Foster, Canandaigua NY

4/3/2013

Dear NY DEC,

I am writing in regard to the DEC UMP for the Hemlock-Canadice Lakes region. This region is the source of drinking water for much of the Rochester area. It is imperative that the UMP be changed to reflect the importance of keeping these lakes protected from commercial logging activities, correct forestry practices to provide for the health of the plantings is to be advanced. In addition, the UMP does not protect the area from fracking activities such as use of the water for drilling at other sites, or pipelines going through the lakes region. The City of Rochester served as good stewards of these lands for over 50 years and expected the State to continue in the same disposition when the land was sold in 2010 to be turned into the Hemlock-Canadice State Forest. The pristine, undeveloped condition of these lakes needs to be protected and cherished—there are plenty of other State lands that are already available for recreational use or timber harvesting. We need these lakes to continue to provide good, clean drinking water.

-Sincerely, Jody LaRose, Rochester, NY

4/3/2013

To whom it may concern, please do not allow fracking around any of the finger lakes, particularly their watershed areas. We need to keep our water safe..

-Dan Logan.

4/3/2013

1. Your barrier around these two lakes is totally inadequate. Have you studied the topography? There are slopes and ravines that extend far beyond your buffer.

2. We need specific language regarding the banning of HVHF anywhere near the lakes and surrounding regions.

3. Furthermore, we must prohibit roads that will surely bring unwanted motorized traffic and erosion.

4. Lastly, we must ban 4 wheelers and other motorized recreational vehicles that would certainly contribute unwanted noise pollution.

-Sincerely, David Makepeace, Livonia, NY

4/3/2013

Below are my written comments NY on DEC's Draft Unit Management Plan (UMP) for Hemlock-Canadice Lakes State Forest for your consideration.

Mike Rudnick, Pittsford, NY 14534

I've lived in Monroe County with my family of four for 11 years now. Before that, we lived in Beaverton Oregon, a suburb of Portland Oregon.

I've worked most of my live as a professional engineer and hold a PhD in Computer Science and Engineering from the Oregon Graduate Institute (now part of Oregon Health Sciences University). Along the way, I've also taught and/or done research at Willamette University Department of Computer Science, Oregon Graduate Institute in Beaverton Oregon, Seattle University Department of Computer Science and Engineering, Tulane University Department of Computer Science in New Orleans, and Oregon Health Science University Department of Neurology, holding visiting or adjunct faculty appointments at each institution.

Trained as an engineer and scientist, I well understand the need to make tradeoffs between costs, risks, and benefits -- it's an ever-present part of engineering.

I have concerns and objections to DEC's Draft Unit Management Plan for Hemlock-Canadice Lakes State Forest.

A flaw that requires rework, with the resulting/reworked plan then reexamined and re-evaluated concerns road construction. All road construction and related planning must be done considering land slope. Since the current plan appears to lack relevant topological data, it would appear topographic data must be collected and included in the plan, and then relevant parts of the plan must be reworked to use/incorporate that data. At that point the entire plan must be reexamined in light of the changes.

More importantly, the Hemlock and Canadice Lakes area has long been used as an undeveloped area to maintain and preserve water quality in Hemlock and Canadice Lakes. Because these areas are used as a water source for human consumption, water quality must be a central consideration. Of course, the simplest, cheapest, and most reliable (foolproof?) way to maximize water quality is to avoid any and all development and related antithetical usages, including logging and ATV recreational usage.

At this point, I should mention Portland Oregon has long gotten its highest-quality water from the Bull Run reservoir east of Portland in the foothills of the Cascade Mountain Range. Throughout the entire Bull Run upstream drainage, any and all development is prohibited. In fact, even wilderness-area recreational use is totally prohibited. These protections continue to insure Bull Run's pristine water quality is maintained, much to the benefit of Portland residents. I should also mention that Bull Run water is also bottled and sold as premium-quality water.

I believe a wise course for us is to follow Portland's lead by making the Hemlock and Canadice Lakes watersheds a protected area. We can take a big step in this direction by designating the Hemlock-Canadice Lakes State Forest a Unique Area and a State Nature and Historic Preserve.

Another important consideration is banning fracking within the watershed. New York City wisely has its watershed protected. We should now do the same to insure and maintain the area's water quality for human consumption. Are residents of Rochester any less entitled to clean/pure drinking water than residents of New York City?

A central reason why fracking is such a big issue is that nobody really knows its long-term effects on water quality. That said, it is only common sense (all too often not so common in drafting rational public policy) to admit that we don't know, when in fact we don't know. Pumping megatons of highly toxic materials, of mostly unknown composition, into the ground can reasonably be expected to eventually degrade water quality. Because of the magnitude/volume of toxic materials pumped into the Earth during fracking, and because of the depths to which they are pumped, it is reasonable to expect it may take some years, decades, or even centuries, for substantial leakage of these toxins into the surface water aquifer. Do we want to gamble the future health of our children, and their children, and so on for dozens of generations, based upon what we don't currently know? I think not.

-Mike Rudnick

4/3/2013

I write to express my concerns about the issue of allowing high volume hydrofracking in the watersheds of Hemlock and Canadice Lakes. I do not feel that we are fully aware of the long-term consequences of this procedure not only on our water supply, but other environmental issues. I strongly oppose putting our citizens, wildlife and environment at risk and strongly support the ban of hydrofracking in any of New York State areas – especially Hemlock and Canadice Lakes.

-Patricia Hopkins Rochester, New York

4/3/2013

DEC,

I attended the meeting in Springwater concerning the use of language alluding to the DEC, just as the EPA has done, expediting energy extraction from our lands. I have found it remarkable that although we hear both sides of the Fracking issue, we do not hear the proven implications of the effects of fracking on the environment and public health. Although the gas industry has told us repeatedly the practice is environmentally benign I ask any DEC employee to take a day trip to PA just across the border to see the manifest destruction of state forest and BLM land. Speak with a DEP employee there and discover the disgust and frustration I heard from them about the daunting influence of gas company money and how it has made a mockery of the sanctity and importance of un-fragmented and unspoiled ecosystems. Penn State is currently studying the effects of the heavy truck traffic and gas line right of ways required to service well pads and the preliminary results are awful. Huge declines in amphibian populations (in state parks and lands too!), and the constant lessening of bird populations. The hundreds of thousands of truck loads of water off to be mixed with carcinogens and neurotoxins to mitigate

drilling have taken an incredible toll on PA's environment. In Greene County PA, Whitely Creek can be lit on fire because of methane coming up through the bedrock that has been tapped via fracking. <http://www.cleanwateraction.org/feature/creeks-fire-again>

This methane seepage is to be cited in a study spearheaded by Dr. Sandra Steingraber and Anthony Ingrafea of Ithaca College and Cornell respectively that shows insanely high levels of premature births occurring in 'gas patches.'

Fracking wastewater per well is in the millions of gallons and contains neurotoxins, carcinogens and can often be radioactive. This water is either recycled, injected in deep abandoned wells, or is sent to municipal wastewater treatment plants who are only equipped to filter human pathogens yet still release the water into streams and rivers to be utilized downstream for the next towns' water supply which includes drinking water. http://www.marcellus-shale.us/drilling_wastewater.htm

Other means of disposing of the toxic salty water is spraying it on roads to de-ice them, and as anyone could logically surmise, ends up in our wells and watersheds.

http://www.nytimes.com/2011/03/02/us/02gas.html?pagewanted=all&_r=0 This should give us an idea of how concerned the industry is in keeping this practice benign to human health. And, if fracking is safe, why has it been singled out in the 2005 energy bill to be exempt from any environmental law ever democratically enacted in our country? Leading up to the decision by Cuomo, I urge anyone with a mind to get involved with the movement to either halt an industry with all the right connections in expediting their profits from our state, or to at least make honest men and women out of those who bear allegiance to shareholders, not Americans or our health. If they were honest in this, the patriotic economic rhetoric would have evaporated from the onset. I ask you to protect Hemlock and Canadice watersheds. We are sick of agencies that are in place to protect our environment time after time expediting things for industry just because of the money. If you do not, a string of arrests from the public physically trying to stop it will be your press.

-Scott Topel, Mendon, NY

4/2/2013

Dear DEC: I am very concerned about the possibility of hydrofracking in the Hemlock-Canadice Lakes area. There is very much possibility of poisoning the water supply of the Rochester area as has been shown by examples in Pennsylvania, Texas, Wyoming and other places where hydrofracking is taking place. The many hundreds of thousands of gallons of clean, drinkable fresh water are poisoned to be used to frack the rock beneath the surface of the earth. The water is not separated from the underground water systems around it. I am concerned that the water around this area will become poisoned and it will run into wells, the lakes and systems all around New York State. I am thoroughly against the hydrofracking in the area of Hemlock and Canadice Lakes.

1. The drinking water will become undrinkable for persons and animals.
2. The amount of water that is required for hydrofracking is intolerable! Clean water is becoming a shortage world-wide and we cannot afford to waste our water on this activity.
3. I realize that energy is important in New York and the U.S., but until this form of hydrofracking is replaced with a system that is proved safe and will not waste hundreds of thousands of gallons of clean water, the DEC and state of New York should not approve of hydrofracking for natural gas.

-Sincerely, Julia Clayton, Rochester, New York

4/2/2013

Please prevent any fracking in the Hemlock/Canadice Lake vicinity. These protected, pristine waters must be kept free from any activity that could pollute both water and land. Do not allow the lure of the dollar to take precedence over our natural resources.

The Finger Lakes area is a destination for tourism and we must turn away from any money-waving enterprise that wants to put it at risk.

- Donna Edgerton

4/2/2013

Please, PLEASE PLEASE
Prevent fracking at all costs!
Thank you for listening,
-Pat Costigan

4/2/2013

It is wrong for companies to profit by wrecking the environment, polluting our water, and making the earth uninhabitable.

-Judith Overman

4/2/2013

Please protect Hemlock Lake from hydrofracking. We need water to live. If it is polluted; we will all die.

There is nothing safe about hydrofracking. It will make the earth uninhabitable.

Thank you.

-Sincerely, Judith Ann Overman

3/29/2013

To Whom It May Concern:

As a resident of Rochester, New York, I would like to submit my comments for the record about the 2013 UMP, Unit Management Plan, for the Hemlock-Canadice Lakes area. This pertains to the public comment period ending April 15, 2013.

I have several concerns. First, even though you assured us that the state has no intention of allowing fracking and its ancillary activities around these lakes, I am unwilling to accept your assertion without seeing something clearly spelled out in writing. I do not live on assurances. There has been so much secrecy and trickery involved in the SGEIS and DEC rule making process regarding fracking, that I no longer automatically believe anything DEC tells me.

The way I see it is this: Your plan is heavy on the usage and extraction side—extracting timber, killing geese, building roads and so forth and very light on the protection side. Your plan contains numerous pages devoted to oil, gas and mineral extraction. You clearly link what you will do in the future to the SGEIS. If the SGEIS allows fracking, then you will also, from my reading. If you had no “intention” to frack these pristine areas or exploit them for minerals, then why would you have so many pages devoted to just that in your plan?

In addition even if you do not allow fracking to occur, there are always the issues of water extraction and the building of pipelines. In my reading I see your timber cutting and road building plans as a way

to make it easier to bring in trucks to extract water from both Hemlock and Canadice Lakes and/or to allow easier access to pipelines. This is totally unacceptable.

Your plan must state outright that the entire watershed be closed to gas and oil activities of any kind whatsoever, permanently. The Hemlock-Canadice watershed should be named a “State Nature and Historic Preserve” and be given “Unique Natural Area Status” to protect this pristine area from destruction and exploitation. It is my understanding that the precedent already exists for giving this special status to Syracuse’s water supply, Bear State Swamp.

Timber cutting activities should be prohibited. This is what we want—permanent protection for Hemlock-Canadice from fracking and habitat destruction and fragmentation through logging and other invasive human activities.

In an article in MPNnow.com, dated July 2, 2010, former DEC Commissioner Pete Grannis is quoted as claiming the following about the sale of the land around Hemlock and Canadice Lakes to the state: “The watershed will be forever preserved, keeping it in its natural, forested state and providing a continuous source of clean drinking water and recreational opportunities.” This is a promise we expect the DEC to keep.

-Sincerely, Judith A. Cartisano

4/9/2013

Dear DEC, please do not allow any fracking around the Finger Lakes, our source of drinking water. Fracking is dangerous, an uncontrolled experiment that threatens our safety. The Finger Lakes should be protected from chemicals. Thank you,

-Dan Logan, Canandaigua, NY

To Unit Management Plan reviews:

I attended the meeting held in Springwater on March 14, 2013. I was disturbed that the state’s plan involves promotion of multi (including commercial) uses. This area is a watershed for drinking water and should be kept pristine. Instead of a “multi-use area” it should be provided the highest level of environmental protection.

Although not a member of the ADK, I strongly agreed with that speaker’s concerns as well as those expressed by the representative from the Sierra Club. I do not believe that it is healthy for the environment to promote any type of motorized vehicles including ATVs. The creation of roads through logging opens up other perhaps “less legal” usage.

But the speaker who resonated the most with me was a scientist who did not represent a group. As part of my state job, I travel throughout a six-county region. Like him I have noticed that large trees are extremely rare. I see lots of signs of lumbering. I see saplings and trees about the size of poles. Older trees are almost non-existent. The DEC is supposed to be a “conservation” agency. NYS needs to protect the habitat created in forests with old trees. NYS already, unfortunately, allows lumbering on so much of its lands. I dismay over the damage done on Rattlesnake Hill by heavy equipment – not just by lumbering companies. Huge ruts from other uses of heavy equipment on this land, which is frequently wet, have destroyed walking paths. Also, in the past, a friend and I walking on Rattlesnake Hill came across several dead bodies of small rodents on the road. Then we saw a sign indicating there was some “project” going on in cooperation with a turkey hunting organization. I do not see how poisoning fits in with the concept of “conservation”. Nor do I see how frequent lumbering provides a better environment

for wildlife. There has been research out of Ohio indicating that there is more diversity by letting an area go truly wild than along edges of forests deliberately cut to create grassland.

The UMP also did not come out and ban hydrofracking in the entire area of this small forest leaving open the possibility of mineral development. I urge that this forest be granted the same level of protection as the Zoar Valley.

I tried sending via your web site email and again through my own email but it was rejected both times.

-Sincerely, Maryann Roby, Nunda, NY

Dear Sir or Madame:

I am extremely upset that drilling and mining have not been explicitly prohibited in the proposed Hemlock-Canadice Unit Forest Management Plan. These lakes are the source of my drinking water and allowing drilling or mining in the watershed of these two lakes must be forbidden. I strongly urge the DEC to amend the Hemlock-Canadice Unit Forest Management Plan to specifically ban any gas or mineral extraction in the State Forest surrounding these two pristine lakes.

The lack of protection from hydrofracking contamination in the DEC's High Volume Hydraulic Fracturing Proposed Regulations makes explicit prohibition of these activities in the Hemlock-Canadice Unit Forest Management Plan essential. It is illogical that Fracking is prohibited in the Syracuse and New York City Watersheds in the High Volume Hydraulic Fracturing Proposed

Regulations, yet the Hemlock-Canadice watersheds are left unprotected.

Protection of the primary fresh water supply to the Greater Rochester area must have equal protection under the law as those of Syracuse and New York City. The first step in providing this protection is to explicitly ban drilling and mining in the State Forests surrounding Hemlock and Canadice Lakes. Please amend the Hemlock-Canadice Unit Forest Management Plan to protect the purity of our water.

-Sincerely, John Wadach

4/9/2013

To Whom it May Concern,

Hemlock and Canadice Lakes are the only remaining Finger Lakes that have been protected from development and have provided good drinking water to the City of Rochester and beyond since 1876. The headwaters of Hemlock Lake originate in Steuben County, one of the five counties slated to be fracked. If fracking waste should spill into those creeks or streams, our water will be compromised.

I am absolutely NOT in favor of fracking of these lakes. Please do NOT allow fracking of Hemlock and Canadice Lakes.

Thank you for your time and consideration, and for making the ethically correct decision.

-Mirabai Marquardt

4/8/2013

To Whom It May Concern:

The Hemlock-Canadice Lake area needs to be securely protected, in perpetuity, from any entity which may directly, or indirectly, threaten the safety or quality of this most vital source of drinking water for Rochester and those towns that benefit from these lakes.

I am totally against any threat to this water supply due to hydrofracking; waste-water transport; mining; logging; and/or any unclean recreational use of these lakes.

-Sincerely, Irene M. Hartley

4/8/2013

This letter is regarding the plans for the Hemlock-Canadice Forest Preserve.

I attended the March 14th meeting in Springwater, and was pleased to hear there were no plans to allow fracking for gas within these state lands. You will be held to this promise!

Regarding the Southeast end boat launch proposed for Hemlock Lake:

I realize the water can be seasonably shallow at the SE end, I think the 10 mile drive (5 minutes) to the NE boat launch is the best solution when the water is low.

I propose vastly improving the NE boat launch that already exists, creating a 2 lane shorter access road and better parking which would be far more cost effective.

As a canoeist I would prefer the SE boat launch to remain as it is.

Regarding the plans to periodically log:

I was dismayed to hear the comment that these forests have had a 50 year head start in growth, implying that logging is somehow overdue. I realize the monetary value of logging is an attractive way to pay for the new boat launch improvements, and I am not against a sensible selective harvest. I propose letting the west side of Hemlock Lake be off limits to all logging and letting it become an old growth forest. Large rotting trees standing and fallen, are havens for the diversity of flora and fauna that old growth forests require. This "productive decay" is truly rare in Western New York, and our 50 year head start brings us that much closer to a 200 year old mature forest. Creating this parcel would be a wonderful compromise to the logging concession.

I end with a quote from former Professor of Horticulture, then Director and Dean of the NYS College of Agriculture, Liberty Hyde Bailey: "Most of our difficulty with the earth lies in the effort to do what perhaps ought not to be done."

-Sincerely and Respectfully, Brian Manning, Mumford, NY

4/9/2013

Our water supply is precious and with global warming we are never sure that the amount of fresh, drinking water in Hemlock and Canadice Lakes will remain as it is. Therefore the DEC must ensure that no gas drilling is allowed anywhere near Hemlock and Canadice Lakes. Better yet, not in New York State. We have to do everything in our power to stave the devastation that global climate change and gas drilling and hydrofracking can do. We also need to protect the wild character of the Finger Lakes and the recreation inherent in them: hiking, swimming, canoeing, and enjoying nature.

Thank you for listening.

-Ann Marie O'Reilly, Conesus, NY

4/9/2013

"Water, water everywhere, and not a drop to drink". That is the mantra that haunts New York State residents. It is true that our region was indeed blessed with copious supplies of drinkable water, deposited into the Great Lakes and the Finger Lakes and beyond during the glacial retreat of the last Ice

Age. But it is also true that we have become complacent about this treasure and have come to take it for granted. And that it will always be there in its unbounded, unspoiled, pristine and untainted form ready to be consumed without treatment and filtration.

In the 20th century the encroachment of modern industries and their processes consumed much of New York's waters and spoiled our aquifers and streams with their toxic effluents. It called into question this guarantee.

So now in the 21st century, with the impending threat of horizontal hydrofracking (fracking) for natural shale gas, citizens are for the first time confronted with the potential wholesale destruction of this essential element. With the looming prospect of importing bottled water for bathing and consumption, fracking has rightfully set off alarm bells all over NY State. Our history of Love Canal and the acidification of Adirondack lakes that destroyed all aquatic life there were harbingers of the continuous indiscriminate destruction of our natural resources by greedy corporations.

So what are citizens to do? As in any existential threat, we have the right to fight for our survival. And fight we have, and we will continue to fight.

Hemlock and Canadice Lakes are the smallest and only remaining unspoiled Finger Lakes; they also provide drinking water for hundreds of thousands of residents living to the north and east. They are surrounded by a State Forest managed by NYDEC. This land needs to be re-designated as a Unique Area and a State Nature and Historic Preserve to provide greater protection to the water there. It qualifies for the same protections from fracking accorded to the cities of Syracuse and New York that also depend on unfiltered drinking water from their rivers and lakes.

-John Jongen, Citizens' Alliance for a Pristine Perinton (CAPP), Fairport, NY

4/9/2013

I urge you to designate these areas as a Unique Area and a State Nature and Historic Preserver rather than a regular state forest and to protect these lands and the safety of the drinking water in the region by affording them the same protections as the Syracuse and NYC Watershed.

If the DEC truly has no intention of allowing drilling near Hemlock and Canadice Lakes then this should be plainly stated through legal language without loopholes. Currently, the proposed document does not specifically prohibit these activities but does defer regulation to the SGEIS - the document regulation HVHF. This essentially will allow the DEC to profit from its own lease and regulation of this land and is a direct ethical conflict that should be addressed.

When this land was purchased in 2010, Pete Grannis, the director of the DEC stated that "the watershed will be forever preserved, keeping it in its natural, forested state and providing a continuous source of clean drinking water and recreational opportunities." I urge to to ensure this happens and that the lakes which has supplied safe drinking water to the Rochester area for 130 years continue to be a safe an economical source for water in the region. To do so would ensure the DEC's own mission statement is fulfilled:

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

-Sincerely, Stephanie Tolan, Honeoye Falls, NY

4/9/2013

I am very concerned about the future of the state lands surrounding Hemlock and Canadice Lake. These pristine areas have protected the drinking water for thousands for people for years. As state residents who live in the area, we oppose any ruling that will allow any kind of fracking or mining in the woods. Fracking is not safe on many levels. It is probably unlawful for industry to not disclose the chemicals used in fracking, but they still don't. And even if they did disclose some of the chemicals, there is no way to be certain that they would divulge ALL of them. We can live with less natural gas, but we can't live without clean water. Any watershed area must be protected. Even the watershed areas around the Great Lakes need protection since they provide drinking, bathing and irrigation water for millions of US citizens. Many farmers also rely on the Hemlock and Canadice Lakes. Farming is a good industry for NY and we can't afford to put our farmers at risk by fracking. So please do not allow any wording that could allow fracking to take place on public lands. Thank you for your consideration on this issue. Sincerely,

-Judy and Doug Turk Pittsford, NY

4/9/2013

Dear Mr. Gibbs:

Few places in Western and Central New York can match Hemlock-Canadice State Forest for scenic beauty and environmental richness. But these qualities are not merely evidence of the bounty of nature or the wonders of geology; they are also the legacy of more than a century of active restoration and smart regulation – and notably, the general exclusion of extractive uses.

I personally witnessed one episode of inappropriate resource extraction close to the lakes: logging and attendant road construction some years ago, which, though officially “limited,” did visible damage to some steep slopes and caused a great deal of high-silt runoff that in turn threatened the lakes’ water quality. That was indeed a learning experience for us all, and since that time the watershed has been treated with ever greater care.

Now that the former city property is state forest land, we have a special duty to ensure that suitable, permanent protections are adopted. That means, first, explicitly banning any future oil or gas drilling (by any method, most definitely including high-volume hydrofracking) or other mineral extraction; second, severely limiting or even banning timber harvesting and road construction on or near fragile slopes; third, emphasizing access on foot and by non-motorized watercraft, and keeping trails, parking areas and boat launches “undeveloped” (with possible adjustments, only in appropriate locations, for access by people with disabilities).

These principles imply a level of preservation well beyond what’s ordinarily given to a State Forest. So it’s necessary not just to write special protections into any Management Plan – it’s vital that Hemlock-Canadice be granted the status of a State Historic and Nature Preserve.

Thank you for all your work. I look forward to a management plan that includes rock-solid protections – as a first step.

-Sincerely, Jack Bradigan Spula, Rochester, NY

4/5/2013

Would you please keep the land around Hemlock & Canadice lakes designated as NYS Forest Land. It is very important to the people in the area, that actually use the beautiful land and lakes, to keep it designated as is.

-Frank C. Atkinson, Springwater NY

4/9/2013

Dear Dept. of Environmental Conservation,

The first residents of our beautiful Finger Lakes Region were the Seneca whose wisdom advised decision makers to consider the consequences of their decisions on seven generations of their people. Can we pause and consider that fracking is a topic that cries out for this kind of decision making? I am a private citizen who has read many articles and attended many meetings addressing the topic of fracking in New York State and specifically in the areas of the Finger Lakes Region. I believe that water and air belong to the public domain. Perhaps that's not true. I am sure you are better informed of such legalities. Do property owners own the air above their property? Do they own the water in the table below their property if it is also the source of other citizen's drinking water? The water tables below the earth extend across many property lines. Once they are polluted and poisoned by unknown chemicals and possible future leakages, which is responsible for the damage done to innocent non-participants in the money-making private enterprise? Seriously, has this been considered and addressed?

Also, I understand that the fracking process requires huge amounts of fresh water to accomplish. Is this wise usage of fresh water? Are not solar and wind energy sources soon to be more available and economically feasible? Who benefits from fracking short term? A few private citizens and corporations. Who stands to suffer the long term consequences if unforeseen events occur such as earthquakes or leaks? In my opinion, this is the moot question.

I believe I speak for many when I urge you to do what you have to do to keep New York State's water clean and pristine. Especially Hemlock Lake and other lakes which serve as sources of drinking water for hundreds of thousands of people in nearby cities.

Thank you and I pray you consider the Seneca's wisdom.

-Sincerely, Charlotte Clarke, Fairport, NY

4/9/2013

I am writing to urge you to do everything possible to ensure that Fracking does not threaten Rochester's drinking water and the Great Lakes. Until laws ensure that the chemicals used are traceable, and the fracking companies are liable, I am unwilling to risk our water supply.

We are entering an era in which water is the new oil, and we live in a region with the largest reservoir on the planet.

It would be moronic to trade an undeniably valuable resource--fresh water--for fracked hydrocarbons whose value is questionable at best.

-Jon Schull

4/9/2013

To whom it may concern:

I hope you will remove all language permitting any extraction of any resources, including gas and oil, by any means, in the management plan for Hemlock Lake and Canadice Lake. These lands must be kept in as close to pristine state as possible.

-Sincerely, Jill MacKenzie, Rochester NY

4/9/2013

(Note: This is being sent as a "Forward" to merely correct a typo I had in the original email address, which got a "failure to deliver" reply.)

Please allow more time to fully investigate the potential ramifications of fracking on our water supplies and other natural resources, before allowing it in the Hemlock-Canadice Lake areas. We're also expressing concern for prevention of commercial logging or inappropriate recreational uses which would have a negative impact on the surrounding environment.

Thank you.

-Sincerely, Mrs. Susan and Mr. Michael Spinelli, Monroe County residents/homeowners/mother-father/grandmother-grandfather and enjoyers of the many waterways and other natural wonders of our state and beyond

4/9/2013

I am very concerned about the risk fracking poses to our water and environment.

The potential danger to our environment is serious from both the pollution to our ground water and the chemical toxic waste produced in the process of fracking.

Please ban fracking and protect our environment. Water is sacred to life and we need to protect it for ours and future generations.

-Sherri Cromwell, Resident of Brighton, NY

4/10/2013

Hello,

I am writing on behalf of my family and the future of our state's economy. Opening up this forest for sale is a disgrace to the state of NY, that is letting companies whose only intent is on making money\ purchase some of the few green spaces that remain. We need to change\ our action of greed to that of green, for the good of our planet, which is where we live, breathe, drink, eat, work, and play. When you greedy corporations destroy the planet, you are helping to destroy any hope of a healthy future for our generation today and the ones that are coming behind us. Thank you for your time.

-April Williams

4/10/2013

Currently there is no outright prohibition of any or all activities related to HVHF that would protect and preserve the Hemlock and Canadice Lakes administered by the NYSDEC . It is a conflict of interest

for the DEC to make leases for extractive industries on land it is also tasked with protecting. How is it ethical for the DEC to regulate an industry that it also profits from?

-Sincerely, Nancy Donnan Coleman, RN,BSN

4/10/2013

Dear Sir/Madam,

My wife and I are residents of Victor, NY. The village water supply will be affected by The Hemlock-Canadice Unit Management Plan (UMP). The DEC has stated that there are no plans to allow hydrofracking, logging, or other activities that will pollute, silt, or otherwise endanger the water supplied to us. We appreciate that the DEC has as its goal the protection of our water supply. In spite of this however, The Hemlock-Canadice Unit Management Plan (UMP) needs to formally include language that clearly states that activities that may endanger the water supply are prohibited. This language should include not only the lakes and areas around them but also the water sources supplying the lakes.

As a person who has spent most of his adult life in industrial toxicology I am aware that many of the chemicals used in hydrofracking are toxic. Some such as formaldehyde are highly so and carcinogens to boot. I have obtained lists of various hydrofracking formulations and the companies favoring them. It is my belief, born from a lifetime of experience with large corporations and their elected political supporters, that unless the rules are clearly expressed in the management plan the good intentions of today will be overturned by the profit motives of the future.

Please include the protective language in The Hemlock-Canadice Unit Management Plan (UMP) and ensure that the glass of water we drink in the future is not poisoned.

-Robert E. Emmons, Victor, NY

4/10/2013

I am in support of protecting the Hemlock Lake area. Please add me to the group associated with "r-cause" as their campaign represents my sentiments.

I have property in Steuben County adjacent to Cameron State Park and know that the water supply for our area are all truly joined. I wish to express my abhorrence of fracking in any watershed.

-Marie Dartt-Bentley

4/11/2013

I felt that when the land around the lakes (Hemlock & Canadice) were sold to the state of NY by our then Mayor Duffy, that he knew that the land would eventually be sold to developers who would poison the drinking water of the residents in the Upstate New York Area. Now that fear has come true. Leasing or even selling this land to the Gas Industry, knowing from what these companies have done in other State is positive proof that fracking is a dangerous gamble with ALL water. There is no trust in these corporations when they won't even disclose what chemicals they are using to extract the gas, saying that the chemicals are trademarks and secrets of their corporations.

You cannot expect any educated person to think that removing gas by forcing water & chemicals into the ground won't disturb the balance of nature. Rochester area is on a fault line, the earthquakes in Ohio were a direct result of fracking. Are you willing to gamble with the destruction fracking would cause in our area? Sink holes are opening up in record numbers in states where they are removing water underground. You cannot trust corporate, the amount of inspectors needed to keep them honest will be an additional drain on the taxpayers of this state.

When cutting budgets inspectors and regulators are the first the GOP want to eliminate. There will be no protection from corporate and no plans in corporates budgets to repair any accidents they cause. Please, do not allow fracking in New York.

-Catherine Sue Cavalieri, Roch.NY

4/11/2013

I am concerned that this area which has been held safe from pollution and over use by humans is in danger!! Our forests provide us with much needed oxygen--not only do we need to breathe but oxygen helps to counter the carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. Trees remove carbon dioxide from the air.

This land is beautiful, peaceful and allowed to act as nature declares. For the sake of our humanity, we need places that are easily visited, not invaded or "used" or "mined" for anything other than finding peace and healing.

The current regulations do not ensure that they will remain protected. I urge the highest levels of protection be placed on this precious and irreplaceable resource.

Thank you.

-Cecilie Bodnar, Canandaigua, NY

To whom it may concern: first I want to thank all concerned for the efforts dedicated to the preservation of our "tiny little lakes" and the land surrounding them. We are so blessed to have such an area in our state and to have the DEC protecting this environment. I know that we are all on the same "page" and want the land and water to be protected and kept primitive and wild...allowing the public to enjoy the space but protect our resources.

When developing the final management plan please consider:

- 1) **Prohibiting fracking and oil and gas leasing of any kind within the watershed ... There should be no trucking of water from this area to other areas.** The trucking alone takes its toll on the environment. This property should be left "alone"!!!
- 2) **Only well managed logging should be allowed and should be monitored by DEC Staff.** Logging on Rattlesnake hill has made a terrible mess!!!! This should not be allowed to happen here.
- 3) Consider designating some areas "forever wild" – to allow unusual plants to grow and prosper.
- 4) continue to allow canoes, kayaks and small motor/fishing boats on the lakes (nothing larger – no water skiing etc. these lakes are wonderful resources for fishermen, canoeist, kayakers etc.
- 5) Consider a few primitive campsites – perhaps with permits. Do not open areas to large campers, etc. This would ruin the "wild" nature of the area.
- 6) consider developing trails along the lakes and into the surrounding property.

Thank you for your consideration... I know you will make decisions that protect the environment.

-Peg Jacobs, Dansville, NY

Dear NYS Department of Environmental Conservation:

The Interfaith Alliance of Rochester is an organization of people of diverse religious beliefs who share a common value regarding care for the environment. We appreciate the efforts that went into developing the Hemlock-Canadice Unit Management Plan (UMP). However, in reviewing the UMP, we have concerns that it does not sufficiently protect the drinking water of Rochester area residents.

Hemlock and Candice Lakes are a source of high quality drinking water for the city of Rochester and several of its suburbs. In the UMP it is stated that the DEC is authorized by law to issue drilling permits on state lands (p.15). This would leave one to believe that although you have stated that it may be unlikely to have oil and gas drilling activities in the watershed, the state could and would allow such activities in the future if it becomes economically feasible. We cannot afford to let this happen.

As the city of Rochester has pointed out, impurities are removed with a direct filtration system which can be adversely impacted by a significant increase in turbidity caused by drilling activities. It could not protect residents from potential contaminants that may occur from high volume hydraulic fracturing. Further, the City of Rochester has pointed out that compared to Skaneateles Lake the negative effects of oil and gas drilling activities on the Hemlock-Canadice lakes would be greater because the ratio of lake volume to watershed is considerably less. In the revised dsGEIS, High Volume Hydraulic Fracturing was prohibited in the New York City and Skaneateles watersheds. The residents of Rochester and its environs should not be treated as second class citizens. We deserve to have our drinking water protected for the same reasons.

As you mentioned in the section on the history of the watershed, the City of Rochester has been vigilant in keeping the watershed undeveloped in its effort to preserve high quality drinking water and to minimize the cost of water treatment. Now that the state owns the lands, it should continue to do the same. Therefore, along with the City of Rochester and many others, we recommend that a statement prohibiting oil and gas drilling activities in the Hemlock-Canadice Lakes watershed be written into the UMP. Also, in order to protect its undeveloped nature, we recommend that it be designated a Unique Area and a State nature and Historic Preserve.

Sincerely,

-Mary Pizzente-Morich, President The Interfaith Alliance of Rochester

RE: Ontario County Water Resource Council Comments on Canadice Hemlock State Forest Management Plan

To whom it may concern,

The Ontario County Water Resources Council was established and empowered by the Ontario County Board of Supervisors with protecting and striving to improve the water resources in Ontario County. This charge includes both surface and ground water quality and quantity. We have been successfully completing these duties since 1992.

One of our responsibilities is to consider and comment on any potential project occurring in Ontario County that could have a negative impact on our water resources.

Recently, the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) acquired title to 6,684 acres of the former holdings of the City of Rochester in the Hemlock and Canadice Watersheds now known as the Hemlock-Canadice State Forest. The DEC has prepared a draft of the Hemlock-Canadice Unit Management Plan for public review. Once this plan is formally adopted, this Management Plan will guide the DEC's decisions managing the Hemlock Canadice State Forest over the next 10 years.

This Management Plan contains a policy for evaluating and potentially granting leases for resource extraction, including gas and oil drilling employing hydraulic fracturing techniques. Proper management of the Hemlock-Canadice State Forest is vital to the protection of the City of Rochester's public water supply, and in protecting an aesthetic resource of vital importance to the local municipalities and the entire region. In addition, the town of Canadice Master Plan identifies the major role of the Hemlock-Canadice State Forest in establishing and maintaining the rural character of the Town that is of paramount importance to its residents. Furthermore, the Hemlock-Canadice State Forest is an important resource in establishing the regional character of the Finger Lakes Region. Around these two lakes we have watersheds that are recovering from centuries old European settlement. These watersheds today begin to mimic their pre-settlement appearance. Natural processes rather than human

disturbances now dominate in the functioning of these natural communities. This is quite different from the remaining nine Finger Lakes.

New York State has recognized the potential for certain negative impacts and has therefore determined that the watersheds supplying public drinking water supplies to New York City and Syracuse will be exempted from hydraulic fracture mining. The Ontario County Water Resource Council request that the Hemlock-Canadice State Forest be considered for exemption also. This is a watershed of significant importance and any activities that occur within its boundaries; especially those activities mentioned above will have adverse impacts on water quality here in Ontario County.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, we recommend that our request be included in the final unit management plan as a guiding policy in perpetuity for both watersheds.

-Sincerely, John Palomaki-Chairman, Ontario County Water Resources Council

4/11/2013

Dear Department of Environmental Conservation:

I am writing to urge you to keep HVHF out of the Hemlock & Canadice State Forests and remove the language in the UMP which refers to gas drilling and leasing and its associated activities. We have learned from other states where this activity is established that this extreme form of gas drilling poses unacceptable risks to the environment and human health. New York State has an opportunity to lead the country in prioritizing the quality of its land, air and water clean and free of contaminants. The city of Rochester and many local towns rely on their drinking derived from Canadice and Hemlock Lakes, to be safe. The UMP states "Protection of the water quality is the most important function of this property" (pg. 4) and yet the plan does far too little to protect water quality.

As the steward of the land for us, we are depending on you to say 'no' to this extreme form of energy extraction in Hemlock and Canadice Lake State Forests.

I attended the hearing in Springwater where they had to turn people away from attending because of the overflow of interested individuals. All of the people who spoke at the meeting, approximately 35, expressed their concerns about allowing HVHF in this forest despite the DEC statement "they have no intention of allowing fracking", but they would not state that they would **not allow HVHF**.

I am asking that the Hemlock/Canadice State Forest be designated as a State Historic and Nature Preserve in order to protect those values that make it truly unique among State lands.

-Sincerely, Donald E. Coleman

4/11/2013

To Whom It May Concern:

I am **strongly opposed** to oil and gas drilling in the Hemlock-Canadice State Forest area. Ever since I can remember, the pure waters of Hemlock Lake have been a source of pride as well as a supply of excellent drinking water in this area. I currently live in Henrietta, NY. In addition to the effects on the water of Hemlock Lake, gas and oil drilling would cause serious disruptions to the forest and the plants, animals, birds and so on that call it home.

Instead of the current trend toward permitting shale-gas extraction, and creating more and more sites for gas and oil drilling, why can't our focus be on finding NON-disruptive, non-polluting and sustainable sources of energy? We live on a finite planet. We can't continue to hack away at the limited resources of this earth and expect our actions not to have devastating effects for years and generations to

come. I would fully support any initiatives to find and then implement energy sources from wind, sun or other sources that would NOT affect the natural beauty and safety of our lakes and forests.

Please do not go forward with the UMP for Hemlock-Canadice.

-Respectfully, Barbara Healy

4/12/2013

It is absolutely insane to consider any activity that would possibly and most likely compromise the balance of nature and stability and purity of the water at hemlock and canadice lakes. Please protect these areas.

-thank you, Jamiee McFadden

4/12/2013

Dear Sirs I feel that the dirty business of Horizontal Fracking will change the Finger Lakes in New York State forever. Not only will the gas industry destroy the landscape and pollute the air with Methane. Industry standards show in Colorado and Pennsylvania that between 5% and 7% of the total methane captured from the fracking process is lost in the air. Methane is a greenhouse gas that is worse than carbon dioxide. The Cancer causing chemicals that are pumped into the ground will pollute our water, our land and our health. Is that worth it? The gas industry has to find a safer way to extract the shale gas. There will be spills and contamination. Talk to the residents in the states where this is happening. Please make the right decision for the safety and health of the residents of the state of New York.

-Thank you Mark Kachmaryk

4/12/2013

Dear Department of Environmental Conservation:

I am writing to urge you to keep HVHF out of the Hemlock & Canadice State Forests and remove the language in the UMP which refers to gas drilling and leasing and its associated activities. We have learned from other states where this activity is established that this extreme form of gas drilling poses unacceptable risks to the environment and human health. New York State has an opportunity to lead the country in prioritizing the quality of its land, air and water clean and free of contaminants. The city of Rochester and many local towns rely on their drinking derived from Canadice and Hemlock Lakes, to be safe. The UMP states "Protection of the water quality is the most important function of this property" (pg. 4) and yet the plan does far too little to protect water quality.

As the steward of the land for us, we are depending on you to say 'no' to this extreme form of energy extraction in Hemlock and Canadice Lake State Forests.

I am asking that the Hemlock/Canadice State Forest be designated as a State Historic and Nature Preserve in order to protect those values that make it truly unique among State lands.

-Sincerely, Diana Pryntz

4/12/2013

I do not support gas or oil drilling around or near the Hemlock Lake area. We need to find alternatives to drilling for energy. The environment impact of drilling can cause damage which cannot be repaired. Let's stop being selfish. Let's think and plan for the future generations.

-Donald Anderson

4/12/2013

Hello,

I would like to address the hemlock and Canadice watersheds. Like all watersheds for different cities these are no different. All watersheds must be protected from pollution. Hvhf is not allowed anywhere near New York City's watershed and those people are the same as anyone else on earth. New York State has to be very careful. Tributaries to the different watersheds are located in the southern tier as well. This is true of this watershed that I am discussing today. It is foolish for our state to allow any form of pollution from hvhf to enter, by accident or not, the streams and tributaries and underground aquifers that feed these lakes.

I am making my voice heard that the Hemlock and Canadice watersheds need to have heavy industry banned from around them just as the watershed for NYC. If it isn't good for NYC it isn't good anywhere. Let's be fair and responsible.

-Thank you, Evelyn Cronise, Bloomfield, NY

4/12/2013

Dear Department of Environmental Conservation,

I am writing to urge you to keep hydrofracking out of Hemlock & Canadice Lake. As a resident of the city of Rochester, I count on these waters for drinking. I know we have some of the purest water in the world here. I want to keep it that way.

Hydrofracturing will provide jobs for a very few, and perhaps fuel for a couple generations, but destruction for eternity. Soil and ground that has never been disturbed cannot be repaired to virgin quality. Even if accidents never happen, the **construction and drilling will change our land for the worse.**

Please do not let this happen.

We have learned from other states where this activity is established that this extreme form of gas drilling poses unacceptable risks to the environment and human health. New York State has an opportunity to lead the country in prioritizing the quality of its air and water and to keep the land that supplies our food, clean and free of contaminants. As the steward of the land for us, we are depending on you to say 'no' to this extreme form of energy extraction in Hemlock and Canadice Lake.

-Sincerely, Melissa Carlson

4/12/2013

Dear DEC:

I am very concerned about the future for this forest. Simply put, I want it to stay just as it is and just as the City of Rochester has been managing it before you bought it.

Many people in this community drink the water from these lakes. Nothing that compromises the quality of the quality of the water should be allowed to happen on the State Forest land.

There should be NO drilling for gas, oil, or other things; no timber sales except where needed for forest health; no infrastructure building...just maintain the existing boat launches, roads to them, and maybe a portable toilet at the launches; no commercial activities; no other resource extraction.

Just leave it alone!!!

-Thank you, Marian H. Nelson, Fairport, NY

4/13/2013

Dear People of the DEC,

I am writing in regard to the Proposed Unit Management Plan for the Hemlock-Canadice State Forest. I attended the Public Informational Session in Springwater, NY on March 14, 2013. I would like to reaffirm the sentiment of virtually all of the comments from the speakers from the public on that evening. That is - **There should be NO activities associated with Hydraulic Fracturing on, within, under or above the area included in the Hemlock-Canadice State Forest. That would include NO USE OF THE WATER FROM THESE LAKES OR STREAMS FOR FRACKING, NO DRILLING UNDER THESE LANDS OR LAKES FROM DISTANT DRILLING SITES.**

I found it deeply disturbing that an agency which is charged with protecting our environment and our fresh water, considered it appropriate

to include language in the UMP which provides for hydraulic fracturing in pursuit of fossil fuels as stated by your spokesperson, Emily DeSantis. There is no place for this activity where there is any question of contamination of our fresh water and air.

Fresh, uncontaminated water is a resource which has the highest value to the health, welfare and safety to the people of this state, to the people of this planet.

Within the DEC's own regulations, Section 190.26 Hemlock-Canadice State Forest, it is stated: "(b) In the state forest, it is unlawful for any person to:..... (14) commit any act that **MAY** result in contamination of any portion of the lakes or streams. "

This being said, it is clear that this area, known as Hemlock-Canadice State Forest, needs to be preserved in an appropriate way, not using a "cookie cutter" approach, one size fits all - forest management plan.

It is my hope that the status of this forest will be changed to that of a preserve. Until that is achieved, an appropriate management plan should be implemented in order to preserve the nature of this unique area.

-Respectfully, Barry J Carestio, PLS

4/13/2013

I'm in favor of delaying Fracking for the recovery of natural gas in Western and Central New York state until I can be assured that it will not endanger the drinking water or ruin the beauty of that portion of the state. Firth Perryman

"If called by a panther./Don't anther."

-Ogden Nash

4/13/2013

Dear Department of Environmental Conservation,

I am writing to urge you to keep hydrofracking out of Hemlock & Canadice Lake. We have learned from other states where this activity is established that this extreme form of gas drilling poses unacceptable risks to the environment and human health. New York State has an opportunity to lead the country in prioritizing the quality of its air and water and to keep the land that supplies our food, clean and free of contaminants. As the steward of the land for us, we are depending on you to say 'no' to this extreme form of energy extraction in Hemlock and Canadice Lake. Sincerely,

-Kelly Baker

4/13/2013

RE: Protection of Hemlock and Canadice Lake water quality

We are both recreational and consumer (drinking) users of Hemlock/Canadice Lake water and watershed area. We are very determined that this watershed and its lakes be protected from 'fracking' activities as well as any industrial usage.

Given that the state's recently released 10 year draft Unit Management Plan does NOT clearly protect these lakes from fracking related activities (water withdrawal, pipelines, etc), timber harvesting or inappropriate recreational activities, our immediate worry is that the state will allow activities on this land that will have a disastrous and cumulative impact on the water and surrounding watershed area.

We believe that the land needs to be designated as a Unique Area and a State Nature and Historic Preserve to provide greater protection to the water. Undeveloped forestland is the most effective and the least expensive method to preserve water quality.

-Sincerely, John and Mariana Rhoades, Rochester, NY

4/13/2013

April 7, 2013

Dear Mr. D'Amato,

I am writing regarding the need to improve or protect natural resources or the environment or to enhance the safety and welfare of the people of NYS. The HCUMP Draft mentions several times the possibility of bringing gas drilling, pipelines and their ancillary activities and infrastructure to the Hemlock Canadice State Forest.

The DEC's core mission includes the words, "Improve, protect its natural resources and environment.....to enhance the health, safety and welfare of people of the state."

On the contrary, the opposite is the rule, wherever fracking has been allowed, despite the industry's best practices and states' best attempts to regulate high volume hydraulic fracturing (HVHF) gas drilling:

<!--[if !supportLists]-->□ <!--[endif]-->Spills, illegal dumping
<!--[if !supportLists]-->□ <!--[endif]-->Illegal dumping
<!--[if !supportLists]-->□ <!--[endif]--><http://ecowatch.org/2013/fracking-wastewater-dumped-sewer/>
<!--[if !supportLists]-->□ <!--[endif]-->
><http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2011/02/27/us/natural-gas-documents-1.html#document/p1109/a10004>

<!--[if !supportLists]-->☐ <!--[endif]-->http://www.huffingtonpost.com/robert-f-kennedy-jr/petro-plutocracy_b_1498524.html
 <!--[if !supportLists]-->☐ <!--[endif]-->
 ><http://www.propublica.org/article/state-oil-and-gas-regulators-are-spread-too-thin-to-do-their-jobs-1230>
 <!--[if !supportLists]-->☐ <!--[endif]--><http://www.propublica.org/article/pa-officials-issue-largest-fine-ever-to-gas-driller>
 <!--[if !supportLists]-->☐ <!--[endif]--><http://www.propublica.org/article/pa-officials-issue-largest-fine-ever-to-gas-driller>
 <!--[if !supportLists]-->☐ <!--[endif]-->Spills
 <!--[if !supportLists]-->☐ <!--[endif]--><http://triblive.com/state/1944049-74/officials-dep-state-county-spills-spill-department-drilling-notify-public>
 <!--[if !supportLists]-->☐ <!--[endif]--><http://shale.sites.post-gazette.com/index.php/news/archives/24607>
 <!--[if !supportLists]-->☐ <!--[endif]--><http://www.truth-out.org/news/item/15282-thousands-of-gallons-of-pollution-recovered-from-oil-and-gas-spill-in-colorado#.UU7qe8vDJ1Q.email>
 <!--[if !supportLists]-->☐ <!--[endif]-->
 >http://www.denverpost.com/commented/ci_22817087?source=commented-news
 <!--[if !supportLists]-->☐ <!--[endif]-->
 >http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aHoAHQEz5Fk&feature=em-share_video_user

In view of these references, which give sometimes lurid detail of the dire dangers of HVHF operations and ancillary operations and infrastructures, the permitting of gas drilling, the permitting of these are inconsistent not only with usual practice (HCUMP-draft, p47), and viewed as “degrading use” (ibid, p. 41), that the Hemlock Canadice State Forest be managed consistently with watershed protection (ibid, p 42), but with the DEC’s core mission statement (<http://www.dec.ny.gov/25.html>).

All references to gas drilling, pipeline traversal, and ancillary activity and infrastructure should be expunged from the Hemlock-Canadice Use Management Plan, and replaced with an affirmation of their exclusion from this State Forest. You have the power to do so, and the area residents and the citizens of the Greater Rochester metropolitan area, who all depend on the water resources and wild nature of this forest which was committed into your care for proper preservation, not exploitation.

-Sincerely, Dwain Wilder

4/13/2013
 April 7, 2013

Dear Mr. D’Amato,

I am writing regarding the HCUMP’s various mentions of hydraulic fracturing and the possibility of gas pipelines traversing the Hemlock Canadice State Forest.

HVHF brings with it 24hrs. each day, 7 days a week, indefinite duration of heavy industrialization, noise, light and air pollution. These effects are very difficult to live next to:

<!--[if !supportLists]-->☐ <!--[endif]-->http://www.kirsijansa.com/Gas_Rush_Stories.html
 <!--[if !supportLists]-->☐ <!--[endif]--><http://www.wvhostfarms.org/photo-gallery.html>
 <!--[if !supportLists]-->☐ <!--[endif]-->

>http://www.nytimes.com/2011/11/20/magazine/fracking-amwell-township.html?_r=2&scp=14&sq=The%20new%20york%20times%20magazine&st=cse

Many rural people who have leased their land have seen their initial enthusiasm for fracking extinguished by the actual experience of living next to it. A body of legal practice and court judgements have arisen from this leasee disillusionment:

<!--[if !supportLists]-->☐ <!--[endif]-->
 ><https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qoohCRCZvuY>

<!--[if !supportLists]-->□ <!--[endif]--><http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/11345/1196135-503.stm>

<!--[if !supportLists]-->□ <!--[endif]-->
><http://www.theithacajournal.com/article/20120404/NEWS01/204040372/Federal-court-deals-blow-landowners-gas-lease-dispute?odyssey=tab%7Ctopnews%7Ctext%7CFRONTPAGE>

<!--[if !supportLists]-->□ <!--[endif]-->
><http://timesjournalonline.com/details.asp?id=69736>

<!--[if !supportLists]-->□ <!--[endif]--><http://envirolaw.elliott-lawyers.com/>

Furthermore, heavy machinery, traffic, heavy influx of out of state gas industry workers result in severe community impacts:

<!--[if !supportLists]-->□ <!--[endif]-->
>http://www.nytimes.com/2013/01/16/us/16women.html?pagewanted=1&_r=0

<!--[if !supportLists]-->□ <!--[endif]-->
><http://stateimpact.npr.org/pennsylvania/2011/08/17/troy-community-hospitals-report>

<!--[if !supportLists]-->□ <!--[endif]--><http://ecowatch.org/2013/faith-and-fracking-ny>

<!--[if !supportLists]-->□ <!--[endif]-->
>http://statepolitics.lohudblogs.com/2013/01/14/once-a-beneficiary-of-fracking-chemung-county-has-decline-in-sales-tax-revenue/?utm_medium=twitter&utm_source=twitterfeed

<!--[if !supportLists]-->□ <!--[endif]-->
>http://johnhanger.blogspot.com/2013/01/stunning-fact-pa-unemployment-rate.html#comment-form_5810526718446144569

The surrounding community also suffers degradation and challenges to their emergency, health and social services:

<!--[if !supportLists]-->□ <!--[endif]-->
><http://www.pressconnects.com/viewart/20121224/NEWS11/312240043/Gas-field-workers-cited-Pa-hospital-s-losses>

<!--[if !supportLists]-->□ <!--[endif]-->
><http://www.theithacajournal.com/article/20120629/news10/206290374/leaked-documents-show-counties-fracking-concerns?odyssey=tab%7Ctopnews%7Ctext%7Cfrontpage>

<!--[if !supportLists]-->□ <!--[endif]-->
><http://green.blogs.nytimes.com/2013/01/21/taking-a-harder-look-at-fracking-and-health/?ref=science>

This is DEC's core mission statement:

“Chemical and pollution control is at the core of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC) mission, to protect New York's natural resources and our environment. Through the promotion of environmentally sound use of products, including chemicals and pesticides; environmental cleanup and monitoring programs; and *effective laws and regulations, DEC enhances the health, safety and welfare of the people of New York.*” [Emphasis added]

In light of the foregoing citations documenting the socialized cost of hydraulic fracturing and its ancillary operations, permitting fracking in the Hemlock Canadice State Forest is inconsistent with the DEC's mission.

Therefore the following sections should be removed from the HCUMP Draft:

<!--[if !supportLists]-->□ <!--[endif]-->Mineral Resources Oil and Gas, pp 15-18

<!--[if !supportLists]-->□ <!--[endif]-->Mineral Resources, pp 97-100All references to hydraulic fracturing and its associated leasing, infrastructures and ancillary effects, structures and operations, including gas pipeline traversals.

Although regulations and laws permitting any or all these activities are sufficient grounds for opening up State Forests to fracking, they are not requirements, and the use of judgment is to be

expected from those entrusted with the lands in their care, and the waters in those lands which serve as a major metropolitan area drinking water supply.

Exposing these holdings to such dire risk is not consistent with the DEC's core mission (see above). The sections of the HCUMP Draft cited above should be replaced with an affirmation that gas drilling, pipelines, and their associated infrastructures will not be permitted within the Hemlock Canadice State Forest. It is within your power to do so. The people of the area, and the residents of the Rochester Metropolitan area who drink the waters of Hemlock and Canadice Lakes depend on you to have the will and perseverance to do so.

-Sincerely, Dwain Wilder

4/13/2013

April 7, 2013

Dear Mr. D'Amato,

I am writing regarding the proposal to subject the Hemlock/Canadice State Forest to timbering operations. These activities degrade the forest environment (HCUMP Draft, p 47). Not only do the primary operations of timbering degrade the forest, but they also visit specific ills on the forest and the watershed of Hemlock and Canadice Lake, which is a primary aim of the Use Management Plan and its self-identified Best Practices (ibid, "Water Resources" section, p42) .

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

This, and the DEC's own statement of its core mission (<http://www.dec.ny.gov/25.html>) attest to the primacy of conservation required of any DEC action.

In view of the foregoing, taking of timber in considerable quantities should not be undertaken in State Forests, and especially one which includes the drinking water for the surrounding towns and the Greater Rochester Metropolitan Area. You will recall that once before, extensive timbering of these lands was undertaken, to provide funds to the City of Rochester. Subsequently (and proximately), the resulting run-off and siltation required the building of expensive filtration facilities at Hemlock Lake. There is no need to repeat this experiment.

All references to extensive timbering in this Use Management Plan should be expunged and replaced with an affirmation that no such operations other than those consistent with proper conservation goals (as defined in the DEC's core mission and ECL 1-0101(1)) will be permitted within Hemlock-Canadice State Forest.

Furthermore, the taking of timber from the park should be confined to the conservatively calculated minimum to preserve the forest's health. Particularly troubling is the passage in the Use Management Plan devoted to appreciating the value of trees (HCUMP-Draft, p 40, "Vegetation Management" Section). All the processes and effects described are part of the natural cycle of life, and do not need to be "managed" except to protect human and animal life in the case of fire and disease. The rationalization is breath-takingly transparent in its avidity for profit:

Vegetation Management

Plant communities are by nature dynamic and ever changing. Young stands of trees get older, and species composition changes with time. Disturbances from fire, wind, insects, disease, timber harvest, and other land use practices have been an important part of the history of New York forests and have determined the composition and structure of today's forests. By applying different forest management or silvicultural practices, land managers can affect change in vegetative types and stages and associated use by wildlife. The production of forest products is a clearly stated goal in the Reforestation Law of 1929 and is consistent with the proposed management actions in the Hemlock-Canadice Unit.

The demand for forest products has been reflected in a steady increase in prices paid for timber in recent years. This is especially true for hardwood sawtimber and veneer. The value of standing red oak sawtimber, for example, has increased six-fold since 1975. The demand for fuelwood and for softwood sawtimber has remained constant. The demand for pulpwood has never been strong in this part of the state. Hemlock-Canadice Unit needs to be managed to prevent damage from fires, insects and diseases.

In no case should roads be built for the sole purpose of removing trees. Taking of trees for conservation purposes will not result in any appreciable commercial interest, and those few can be removed manually or by animal teams, in short billets with minimal disturbance. In no case should patch clear-cutting of trees be permitted on slopes of greater than 15 degrees.

-Sincerely, Dwain Wilder

4/13/2013

Good Day: Thank you for taking the time to read this. It is imperative the Surrounding land as well as the lakes of Canadice and Hemlock be designated a natural/historic preserve. It is insanity to leave open the risk of irrevocable damage to the land and water so many depend on. No amount of 'potential' monetary gain is worth this very real risk, around any of our fresh water lakes, especially these two.

-sincerely, Jeanne Horning, Livonia, NY

4/13/2013

Please don't allow the DEC to permit oil and gas drilling around the Hemlock-Canadice state forest. We must protect water purity for future generations and a growing population, Also protect the beauty of this unspoiled area. Thank you for considering my comments.

-Barbara Challenger, Brighton (Rochester) NY

4/13/2013

Dear Mr. D'Amato,

Nothing could be more important to the health of us in the Rochester area than protection of our water sources – Hemlock and Canadice Lakes. Sadly, the Draft Unit Management Plan for Hemlock-Canadice State Forest fails to do this adequately. Designation of Hemlock-Canadice State Forest as a State Nature and Historic Preserve will aid the goal of continuing to provide clean water to over 200,000 people.

Two of the contemplated uses of the forest that concern me greatly are gas and oil drilling and commercial logging. Both of these can harm water quality – potentially catastrophically - and negatively impact other uses of the forest, such as wildlife habitat, biological diversity, hunting and fishing, recreation, and communion with nature. Oil and gas drilling and all related activities should be forever banned in the forest as well as in the entire watershed. Commercial logging and other mining activities should not be allowed in the forest either.

While the DEC plan states that protecting water quality is the most important function of this property, it fails to ban vertical and horizontal drilling for natural gas or oil within or underneath the forest, which would pose a great danger to our water.

Under proposed rules, hydrofracking will be banned in New York City and Syracuse's watersheds. Citizens in the Rochester area deserve no less protection.

If vertical or horizontal wells are allowed within or underneath the forest and watershed, they risk contaminating the lakes through drilling and spills. All that comes along with the wells – pipelines, roads, heavy truck traffic, compressors, drilling waste, air pollution, etc. - will fragment and degrade the forest, resulting in erosion, sedimentation, and diminished water quality.

The environmental impact of gas and oil drilling is not like “any other human activity,” p. 16. This heavy industrial process uses massive amounts of precious fresh water, creates huge amounts of toxic waste, releases methane, a potent greenhouse gas, and other air pollutants, and can trigger earthquakes. These are not “short-term impacts.” And if our water supply becomes irreversibly contaminated from drilling activities, this is surely not a short-term impact either.

Also of great concern is commercial logging in the Hemlock-Canadice State Forest. Trees should only be cut down if necessary to preserve the forest - not to make money. Undeveloped forest land is the best and least expensive way to protect water quality. Excessive logging and the addition of new roads will cause erosion, sedimentation, fragmentation of wildlife habitat, and diminished water quality, as well as open the door for invasive species.

Why not keep the forest, as it has been for so many years, unique and undeveloped? Not only will this protect our water quality, it will also provide visitors the rare opportunity to enjoy nature in its purest and most beautiful state. Let the forest continue to serve its original purpose - keeping our water clean - while also providing a needed refuge for state residents and wildlife alike.

-Sincerely, Caroline Zane, Rochester, NY

4/14/2013

I am writing as a concerned citizen of New York State and of the United States of America. The policies and procedures that you allow, regarding the use of our lakes and water systems for things other than preservation and enjoyment directly impact each person, including my family and I. The purification of our lakes and drinking water is crucial for our lifestyle and health.

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

You need to keep the policies in place as they were written for a reason. Land and water are two things that we can never restore once horrific changes are made to them.

Would you want to live in a place where the landscape that you cherish has been demolished by the very people who are supposed to have your best interest in mind? Would you want to live in a place where you can not drink your water because it will directly impact your health? I can assure your answers are no. With that in mind, do what you know is right. Keep our lakes and drinking water as sacred entities of our current life and our future.

I expect you take these words and ensure that only positive changes will come to our land and water.

Thank you for your time,

-Jessica Lynah, Bloomfield, New York

4/14/2013

The following comments are submitted regarding the proposed DEC-Hemlock/Canadice Forest (H/C-F) Unit Mgt. Plan:

1. The Plan lacks definition about the relevance of topographical features to activities within the H/C-F, as well as within the overall watershed.

2. The Plan does not adequately address specific activities affecting the quality of the lakes themselves: fracking, logging, road and trail development, motor-boating, and, additionally, and as important, potential impact of outer perimeter watershed events (activities above the H/C-F itself, but within the H/C watershed). Two examples needing far more detailed treatment: fracking and indiscriminant logging/road-building practices

3. The Plan does not address the potential of the area to be afforded greater protection as a "Unique Area" and/or "State Nature & Historic Preserve".

4. Also, the lakes and the Hemlock/Canadice Forest do not exist in a vacuum. An integrative approach to managing the entire watershed area should be addressed: How the various state (e.g., DEC, DOH-water quality) and local agencies, as well as private landowners can work together for the common and future good.

5. As a last example/question, representative of the above: Why is it that motor-boating (especially with two-cycle engines) is still allowed on the lake ??? (battery-powered motor-boats exist and might provide a suitable alternative.)

- Christopher Giordano

4/14/2013

I support changing the designation of the land surrounding Hemlock and Canadice lakes to a Unique. I attended the recent public meeting that was held in Springwater, NY. Having attended many public meetings, I was surprised that there was not recording made of the comments or a sign-in sheet that indicated the large turnout for this meeting. I have lived in Conesus overlooking Hemlock Lake for over 35 years and have never seen such a huge response from two small communities.

I

4/14/2013

I support changing the designation of the land surrounding Hemlock and Canadice lakes to a Unique status so that this extraordinarily beautiful AND unique land will forever be protected from drilling and damaging harvest of trees.

I attended the recent public meeting that was held in Springwater, NY. Having attended many public meetings, I was surprised AND dismayed that there was not recording made of the comments or a sign-in sheet that indicated the large turnout for this meeting. I have lived in Conesus overlooking Hemlock Lake for over 35 years and have never seen such a huge response from two these small communities. I was very proud to see the turn out and to hear so many people, young and old, express their heartfelt comments regarding protecting this land.

PLEASE change the status to unique and put into writing that drilling of any sort will never be allowed on this pristine property.

-Kathy Giordano, Conesus, NY

4/14/2013

Dear DEC:

I was so happy and encouraged about the formation of Hemlock-Canadice State Forest when that pristine land could have been thrown open to ugly & destructive commercial development after the City of Rochester decided to sell it.

It is now DIScouraging to realize that there is the possibility of oil or gas drilling in the forest & the watershed surrounding this wonderful new parkland.

Please do NOT approve this exploitation of Hemlock-Canadice State Forest! Please DO preserve untouched our land and water source!!

THANK YOU from:

-Roger Nelson, Fairport, NY

April 14, 2013

Attention: Director Paul D'Amato

Reference: Hemlock – Canadice State Forest Management Plan

As a former DEC employee who worked in the Regulations office when environmental review laws were first passed (1969-1973) I found a lot to like in the draft management plan. I appreciate the amount of work that went into preparing the plan.

Based on my experience working for the DEC in Avon I do have some reservations about how this plan will work with regard to resource extraction. Although it has been stated that the plan does not leave an opening for mineral gas extraction development, my reading of the plan does in fact leave the door open. I was involved in writing position reports on development plans in region 8 concerning how the plans would affect the environment. In many cases, when our comments were reviewed by the DEC headquarters in Albany, we were thanked for our input, but then overruled since the development plans were being promoted by other agencies of State Government.

In the case of the possibility that hydraulic fracking might occur within the Hemlock Canadice state forest, my concern is that there are departments even within the Conservation Department itself that are essentially in the business of mineral resource development, and without such mineral development, they are essentially out of a job. My experience with the department educated me in the notion that the State Government is basically a permissive operation whose business is in writing permits for various activities, and writing conditions for the permitted activities. In essence, hydraulic fracking would be a boon for the Conservation Department's own mineral resources division which would see substantial growth if hydraulic fracking is permitted in some form. I fear that there is no stomach in the department for simply saying NO.

Similarly, the forestry division might put too much emphasis on managing the forest for forestry production rather than preserving what could become a rare natural forest in the state, framing the last undeveloped Finger Lakes in a truly sylvan setting. The 1978 forestry operation in the watershed created some erosive scars that are just now healing. The steep banks of these lakes do not take kindly to mechanized extractive forestry operations. Forestry in this forest should concentrate on restoring a natural stabilizing forest with minimal soil disturbance and the preservation of a natural mixed forest landscape.

As someone who has watched the department from both the inside and without, I have little confidence that a bold decision will be made preventing hydro fracking and extractive forestry. The department overstates the definition of Conservation as "wise use" by putting the emphasis on use. Some things really need protection and yes, preservation.

I have lived in the area for most of my 67 years, and have visited the Hemlock-Canadice watershed repeatedly since the '50s. It was in large part that experience that led me to pursue a lifetime involvement with an appreciation of the natural world. I studied Wildlife Management at the University

of Alaska and worked for a time at the DEC in Avon. That was a disappointing period as there did not seem to be a real desire to preserve what was left of the wild. My boss at the DEC, decried the “waste,” as he said, of old trees rotting in the Adirondacks. I went on to work for a guide in Alaska, and “as a Peace Corps Environmental Program volunteer in South America, and finally as an Outdoor Video producer always trying to preserve “The Wild” which I grew up appreciating in the Hemlock-Canadice Forest.

-Thank you, Leland Brun, Penguin Pictures, Honeoye Falls, N.Y.

Attention: Hemlock Canadice Draft Plan Comments

As a former DEC employee who worked in the Regulations office when environmental review laws were first passed (1969-1973) I found a lot to like in the draft management plan. I appreciate the amount of work that went into preparing the plan.

Based on my experience working for the DEC in Avon I do have some reservations about how this plan will work with regard to resource extraction. Although it has been stated that the plan does not leave an opening for mineral gas extraction development, my reading of the plan does in fact leave the door open. I was involved in writing position reports on development plans in region 8 concerning how the plans would affect the environment. In many cases, when our comments were reviewed by the DEC headquarters in Albany, we were thanked for our input, but then overruled since the development plans were being promoted by other agencies of State Government.

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As someone who has watched the department from both the inside and without, I have little confidence that a bold decision will be made preventing hydro fracking and extractive forestry. The department overstates the definition of Conservation as “wise use” by putting the emphasis on use. Some things really need protection and yes, preservation.

I have lived in the area for most of my 67 years, and have visited the Hemlock-Canadice watershed repeatedly since the "50s. It was in large part that experience that led me to pursue a lifetime involvement with an appreciation of the natural world. I studied Wildlife Management at the University of Alaska and worked for a time at the DEC in Avon. That was a disappointing period as there did not seem to be a real desire to preserve what was left of the wild. My boss at the DEC, decried the "waste," as he said, of old trees rotting in the Adirondacks. I went on to work for a guide in Alaska, and as a Peace Corps Environmental Program volunteer in South America, and finally as an Outdoor Video producer always trying to preserve "The Wild" which I grew up appreciating in the Hemlock-Canadice Forest. Thank you,

-Leland Brun, Penguin Pictures

4/14/2013

Dear Department of Environmental Conservation:

I am writing to urge you to take out all language pertaining to gas and oil extraction and leasing in the UMP for the Hemlock /Canadice State Forest. There is currently no outright prohibition of any and all activities related to HVHF in the plan. This type of activity should not be allowed on any State Forest, especially the fragile forests of Canadice and Hemlock Lake. Hemlock Lake provides drinking water to Rochester residents and is a haven for local residents. The Hemlock and Canadice Watershed should be granted the same protection as the Syracuse and NYC Watersheds. The filtration system we have now on Hemlock lake could not treat the water if it were to be contaminated with highly toxic fracking fluids and the radioactive particles that come with flow back!

My family and I have spent a tremendous amount of time on Hemlock Lake over the past 25 years. We live above the lake in the town of Conesus. We hunt, fish, canoe and hike at the lake throughout the year. On page 16 of the UMP it states "...as with any other human activity on state lands, oil and natural gas exploration and development **can** impact the environment. Most impacts are short term and occur during the siting and drilling phases of the well." I find the comparison of human activity defined as permitted uses (hunting, fishing, boating, hiking) with a highly industrial activity such as HVHF an unbelievable insult! You can't compare the massive industrial footprint of HVHF to the footprint of citizens walking along the shores of Hemlock! The severe and immediate impacts of oil and gas extraction are often followed by long lasting cumulative effects as shown by aquifer contamination documented by the EPA in Wyoming and Duke University in Pennsylvania. No impacts from HVHF are minimal or short term. Vehicular disturbance is extensive and requires that the "lines" used in seismic testing be laid based on data regarding geology not along existing roads. This necessitates arbitrary road creation causing further surface disruption, resulting in soil compaction, erosion, invasive species and slow rebound of existing species.

The UMP states that there are no current oil and gas leases on these lands but there are over 5 paragraphs laying out the procedures and policies for procurement of leases, why?

Please refer to the following sites:

<http://wildlandscpr.org/road-riporter/shake-rattle-roll-understanding-seismic-testing>

Drilling Phases of a HVHF well are intensely disruptive and cover a large surface (5-15 acres).

<http://shaleshock.org/drilling-101>

I am also very concerned and feel it is incredibly irresponsible that there is currently no section in the UMP addressing water withdrawal. The fracking industry uses massive amounts of water as seen in PA. A large amount of water is already removed from Hemlock Lake for drinking water. The DEC and management plans are created to PROTECT the natural resources and the people who use them and live near them!

I believe this extreme form of gas drilling poses to many risks to the environment and human health. The people are asking the DEC to say "no" to the development of HVHF on the Hemlock and Canadice

Lake State Forests. I am also asking that these forests be designated as a State Historic and Natural Preserve to protect this land for future generations.

-Sincerely, Patty Darcey-Walsh

4/14/2013

To Whom it may concern,

I have read the Unit Management Plan and feel strongly that the language leaves open the possibility for oil and gas extraction even though verbal comments by the DEC assure us that the area will not be open to such activities. I would like to see the language revised to completely protect this valuable watershed and pristine landscape from oil and gas exploration and extraction.

Thank you for your consideration of this issue,

-Audrey Harpe, Hemlock, NY

4/14/2013

Dear Department of Environmental Conservation:

I am writing to urge you to keep HVHF out of the Hemlock & Canadice State Forests and remove the language in the UMP which refers to gas drilling and leasing and its associated activities. We have learned from other states where this activity is established that this extreme form of gas drilling poses unacceptable risks to the environment and human health. New York State has an opportunity to lead the country in prioritizing the quality of its land, air and water clean and free of contaminants. The city of Rochester and many local towns rely on their drinking derived from Canadice and Hemlock Lakes, to be safe. The UMP states "Protection of the water quality is the most important function of this property" (pg. 4) and yet the plan does far too little to protect water quality.

As the steward of the land for us, we are depending on you to say 'no' to this extreme form of energy extraction in Hemlock and Canadice Lake State Forests.

I am asking that the Hemlock/Canadice State Forest be designated as a State Historic and Nature Preserve in order to protect those values that make it truly unique among State lands.

-Sincerely, Holly Adams

4/14/2013

Dear NY DEC,

I am writing to urge you to reconsider changing the Hemlock & Canadice State Forest to the status of a Special Use Area or perhaps a State Historic Site. Having a State Forest designation for this unique watershed area is a mistake.

With this designation come the possibility of HVHF and similar activities taking place within one of the most pristine and sensitive sites in our region. No matter how safe your "experts" claim HVHF is, it should not take place within this watershed.

By changing the designation to something other than a State Forest you may more easily assure the public that the watershed will be completely protected.

Thanks for your consideration.

-Sincerely, Michael Walsh, Conesus, NY

4/14/2013

Dear New York State Department of Environmental Conservation:

Following are my comments on the Region 8 Unit Management Plan for Hemlock and Canadice Lakes and surrounding area:

There need to be precise and specific language in the R8 UMP that strictly prohibits gas and oil development, and anything associated with the drilling process, including high volume hydraulic fracturing from this pristine area that is termed Region 8 UMP. If, as we have been told at the public hearing, the DEC does not intend to develop this pristine water supply for gas and oil, then it needs to exempt it specifically, with clear language.

Currently, the Hemlock-Canadice UMP contains at least 11 pages devoted to mineral exploration and development including gas and oil exploration and drilling, pipelines, leasing, and procurement. There is also language stating gas and oil "are valuable resources which can provide energy". This needs to be removed from the document, and replaced with language stating how these waters are valuable drinking water supplies for the people of Livingston and Monroe counties that need to be forever protected.

Hemlock and Canadice are unique, pristine, undeveloped lakes. The Lt. Governor stated this property would be protected when the City of Rochester sold it to the State. This is a reservoir, a word that does not appear once in your document. This water reservoir is the drinking water supply for the City of Rochester, and as such needs to be forever protected for the people. There are alternatives to gas and oil. There is no alternative to fresh water.

According to the most recent TIME magazine, 1/6 of the world's people lack access to fresh drinking water supplies. I recently visited with people in 6 different townships in Susquehanna County, Pennsylvania. These people provided me copies of letters from the Pennsylvania DEP stating, "The Department investigation indicates that gas drilling has impacted your water supply." They cannot drink their water. Their wells have to be vented to prevent methane from building up to dangerous, explosive levels. They have been provided with "water buffalos" by the gas industry. A local store was forced to post signs warning customers that the arsenic level in their water exceeded safe drinking water standards, also due to gas drilling. We must not allow such to be the case here in NYS.

This geographic area needs to be classified as a "unique area", and forever protected. New York City watershed has been protected by the State, along with Syracuse. The people of Rochester need to have their drinking water protected. It needs to be in writing that there will be no wells, no gathering lines, no water withdrawals for fracking, no compressor stations, no pipelines. Withdraw it from gas and oil development, as was Bear Swamp. Gas and oil development is completely incompatible with protecting fresh, pristine water supplies. We cannot drink money. The resource we most need is clean air and water.

Thank you.

-Sincerely, Holly Adams, Hunt NY

4/14/2013

Dear DEC,

The Hemlock and Canadice Watershed should be granted the same protection as the Syracuse and NY City Watersheds.

There is currently NO OUTRIGHT PROHIBITION of any or all activities relating to HVHF that would protect and preserve the Hemlock-Canadice Forest (and lakes) administered by the NYS DEC. There should be.

Please help to preserve our pure waters.
-Kala Stein, Springwater, NY

4/14/2013
To The DEC,

Hemlock and Canadice are a wilderness treasure that needs the strongest protection available to keep it an area to be enjoyed by New York citizens forever. It deserves at the least, the same protections that the New York City watershed enjoys. Why would you even consider licensing gas or oil exploration or extraction in an area that is a reservoir? Gas and Oil industries are exempt from the Clean Air and Clean Water Acts. Why would they need these exemptions if their methods were safe? Protect the Hemlock Canadice watershed. Include in the UMP a prohibition of all mineral exploration or extraction. Thank you.

-Phillip Schedlbauer, Livonia, NY

4/14/2013

Consistent with NYS health professionals' letter to Governor Cuomo, I affirm the importance of explicit language in the management plan for the lakes to be protected from all drilling/mining activities including HVHF methane extraction, water withdrawal or disposal in the watershed, pending the completion and review of an impartial scientific survey of potential health and environmental impacts.

There is no hurry. This matter requires unmixed attention.

-Coby Schultz and Lyndsay Clark

4/15/2013

Regarding the Canadice-Hemlock UMP,

I am writing to express my concern over the numerous references to Natural Gas exploration, leasing, siting, drilling and infrastructure in the Hemlock-Canadice Unit Management Plan. Mr. D'Amato asserts the conviction that HVHF will not be conducted in this forest, however the UMP for the Hemlock-Canadice Forest does not prohibit this activity. On the contrary, the UMP devotes numerous sections to the subject of natural gas extraction and leasing.

The NYS DEC's mission statement alone (pp1 of Canadice-Hemlock UMP) asserts:

A. "The quality of our environment is fundamental to our concern.....overall social and economic well-being." HVHF brings with it continuous, daily noise, light and air pollution, heavy machinery, traffic and industrialization for an indefinite duration. (*1)

B. "Improve, protect its natural resources and environment.....to enhance the health, safety and welfare of people of the state.'

The process and consequences of HVHF does nothing to improve or protect natural resources or the environment or *to enhance the safety and welfare of the people of NYS*. On the contrary, the opposite is the rule: Spills, illegal dumping (*2), methane migration, radioactive, carcinogenic and toxic frack fluid and waste water (*3) Habitat fragmentation due to clear cutting for pipelines and access roads, compressor stations and well pads (*4) Negative impacts to landscape and destruction of rural character for tourists and recreational activities (hiking, paddling, fishing, hunting) (*5) Communities in which HVHF is permitted, experience a Boom/Bust economic cycle as is true historically, with extractive

industries. The boom is unsustainable. The cost of renting sky-rockets, emergency services are overburdened, as are schools due to the influx of out of state workers (comprise 70% of gas industry workers) Rural roads and infrastructure are stressed and damaged due to gas drilling vehicles (*6)

Clearly, the DEC by virtue of this mission statement alone, is not accurately addressing the need to omit any and all language condoning or elaborating on the role of mineral extraction and leasing in the Hemlock-Canadice Unit Management Plan. It is my desire that the Unit Management Plan explicitly prohibit Natural Gas Drilling, its ancillary activities and leasing.

-Sincerely, Cynthia Carestio

Pge 1

*1 http://www.kirsijansa.com/Gas_Rush_Stories.html

<http://www.vvhostfarms.org/photo-gallery.html>

*2 <http://ecowatch.org/2013/fracking-wastewater-dumped-sewer/>

<http://www.truth-out.org/news/item/15282-thousands-of-gallons-of-pollution-recovered-from-oil-and-gas-spill-in-colorado#.UU7qe8vDJ1Q.email>

*3. http://www.nytimes.com/2012/06/21/us/an-energy-boom-in-western-pennsylvania.html?_r=1&emc=tnt&tntemail1=y

<http://thetimes-tribune.com/news/gas-drilling/are-leaking-wells-letting-methane-get-into-dimocks-water-1.1381012>

*4. <http://teeic.anl.gov/er/oilgas/impact/drilldev/index.cfm>

<http://rockymountainwild.org/newsroom/for-immediate-release-fossil-fuel-development-taking-a-toll-on-sage-grouse-and-other-wildlife>

<http://fuelingextinction.org/index.php/component/content/article?id=70>

<http://ecowatch.com/2012/fracking-flyover-part-two/>

*5 http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/environment/cdc-scientist-proposes-wide-testing-on-gas-drilling-safety-to-humans-animals-environment/2012/01/04/gIQAanL4aP_story.html

*6 <http://www.rochestercitynewspaper.com/news/letters/2012/02/ENVIRONMENT-Frackings-effect-on-roads/>

<http://www.damascuscitizensforsustainability.org/2012/01/frack-truck-convoys/>

http://www.star-telegram.com/2012/07/02/4075195/drilling-trucks-have-caused-an.html#disqus_thread%23storylink=cpy

Pge 2

4/15/2013

Regarding the Hemlock-Canadice Unit Management Plan,

It seems to me to be a conflict of interest for the DEC, as the regulatory agency tasked with the protection of the environment to also be the facilitator of an environmentally damaging industry such as HVHF. This contradiction is clearly magnified by this section of the Hemlock-Canadice Forest UMP:

2 Mineral resources, continued (Page 16 of UMP)

Oil and natural gas are valuable resources, which can provide energy and revenue, as well as the opportunity for improvements to the existing infrastructure of State lands (such as improving safe and restricted access through upgrading existing roads, culverts and gates) and creation of grassy openings to enhance habitat diversity.

...as with any other human activity on State lands, oil and natural gas exploration and development can impact the environment. Most impacts are short term and occur during the siting and drilling phases of a well.

I feel it is unethical to generate revenue from an industry that is very destructive to the natural environment. It is not in keeping with the character of this particular forest to upgrade existing roads. It is desirable for the quality and integrity of the forest to be preserved intact with minimal changes to infrastructure. "Creating grassy openings for habitat diversity" The disruptive, damaging nature of

HVHF leaves the Hemlock-Canadice Forest vulnerable to the degradation of wildlife and recreational resources and increased susceptibility to invasion by non-native species, diminished water quality and fragmentation of the forest.

Public uses (permitted uses) can not accurately be compared to the massive industrial footprint of oil and gas development. The severe immediate impacts of oil and gas extraction are often followed by the cumulative, long term effects as shown by aquifer contamination documented by the EPA in Wyoming and Duke University in Pennsylvania. The long range carbon footprint of natural gas extraction is worse than coal burning as shown initially by Cornell researchers Howarth and Ingrafea, and most recently by the USGS in Colorado.

Lastly, siting and drilling phases of a HVHF well site are not impact minimal or short term as stated in the Hemlock-Canadice Forest UMP. Vehicular disturbance is extensive and requires that the "lines" used in seismic testing be laid based on data regarding geology not along existing roads. This necessitates arbitrary road creation causing further surface disruption, thus resulting in soil compaction, erosion, invasive species proliferation and slow rebound of existing species.

I am personally invested in the preservation and wise stewardship of the Canadice-Hemlock Forest. I enjoy this area on a weekly basis. I hike the trails and gullies, paddle the lake and simply enjoy the view from Hemlock Park on the north shore of Hemlock Lake. We will all be poorer if the DEC does not realize the value of these gems that are Canadice and Hemlock Lakes and the beautiful, natural, undisturbed habitat that surrounds them. Please include language in the Canadice-Hemlock UMP that forever prohibits gas drilling or natural gas infrastructure in this forest and watershed.

<http://www.scribd.com/doc/119646013/The-Division-of-Mineral-Resources-as-a-Foreign-Body>
<http://www.wildlandscpr.org/road-riporter/shake-rattle-roll-understanding-seismic-testing>

*Drilling Phases of a HVHF well are intensely disruptive and cover a large surface footprint (5-15 acres).

<http://shaleshock.org/drilling-101/>

**HVHF is an intensive, industrial activity

-Sincerely, Cynthia Carestio

4/15/2013

April 14, 2013

Regarding the Hemlock-Canadice Unit Management Plan,

It seems to me to be a conflict of interest for the DEC, as the regulatory agency tasked with the protection of the environment to also be the facilitator of an environmentally damaging industry such as HVHF. This contradiction is clearly magnified by this section of the Hemlock-Canadice Forest UMP:

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resources and increased susceptibility to invasion by non-native species, diminished water quality and fragmentation of the forest.

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-Sincerely, Cynthia Carestio, Livonia, NY

4/15/2013

To NY DEC:

I moved to Livingston County from Westchester County in 1978 to attend SUNY Geneseo. I stayed in the general area because of its natural beauty. I have spent many days hiking around, canoeing on or fishing in Hemlock Lake. It is one of the most pristine places that I know of. I strongly oppose any changes in regulations that would increase the likelihood of any negative impacts on this unique area. It is drinking water to many, and a rare natural treasure. I urge the DEC to forbid oil and gas exploration and mineral extraction for the same reasons that the watersheds for NYC drinking water are protected.

-Sincerely, Mary Krywe, Arkport, NY

4/15/2013

Please do all that is in your power to preserve and protect Hemlock and Canadice Watersheds.

Please save these pristine areas for years to come and save our clean waters within them.

I am against granting land use in the watershed and adjoining areas for resource extraction including fracking of any nature. I am for protection of our waters.

-Thank you, Kitty Hatch Springwater NY

4/15/2013

RE: Public Comment to Hemlock-Canadice Unit Management Plan Draft

Thank you for this opportunity to provide input to the draft of the Hemlock-Canadice Unit Management Plan. Comments are hereby submitted regarding the following issues:

1) Process : Section: Public Involvement

The citizen participation activities failed to include the constituency most affected by the most significant purpose for the unit – watershed management. Hemlock-Canadice State Forest was created in large part from the land transferred to the State by the City of Rochester for the purpose of perpetual preservation of this important water supply for the city and many other local towns. Yet there was insufficient notice to Rochester citizens about the initial mailing, the second mailing or the public meetings. It was only through the efforts of local environmental groups that Rochester citizens learned of the process, very late in that process.

Rochester citizens should have been included in this process from its initiation. It was not the responsibility of these organizations to inform Rochester citizens of this process, it was the responsibility of the DEC. Watershed management is a major element of the Unit Plan and no group is more affected by the plan than Rochester citizens, yet they were excluded from the process.

This process is irreparably flawed and should be re-initiated with proper notice to all significant constituencies to obtain input. “Interested industry groups” should not have received preferential treatment to the citizens of Rochester. The citizens of Rochester were denied an opportunity to provide initial comments and see if the draft was responsive to their concerns, thereby building credibility. Thus credibility, transparency, and accountability have yet to be proven. To correct this oversight, an updated draft should be issued and publicized through the local media in the Rochester Metropolitan Area with a public meeting held close enough for Rochester citizens to attend, including low- income citizens who depend on the quality of the public water supply for their drinking water without costly additional filtering or treatment.

At minimum, the plan should explicitly acknowledge the flawed process and include a mandate that all future plans and actions affecting management of this unit for which citizen input is sought or required, including public hearings, must include the citizens of Rochester, beginning with initial contact for input. Reasonable efforts must be made to give notice to “local media” in Rochester, including providing notices and a copy of any draft plans to the Rochester Public Library, as was done to other libraries.

2) Oil and Gas Exploration : Section : Mineral Resources

Under the section for Mineral Resources, provision is made for parties to request lands to be nominated for leasing for oil and gas exploration and production, including pipeline development. At the last public meeting about this unit plan, DEC staff stated there is no current intention to allow oil and gas activity. There is clearly a significant danger that such activity would irreparably damage the water supply for a major metropolitan area and many rural communities. Until such danger can be reasonably completely averted, there is no reason to make a provision to receive and process such applications for oil and gas activity. There is no known way currently to avert this danger and all of the potential dangers have yet to be even evaluated.

At least, two significant problems arise from the inclusion, even if it is currently intended to not be applicable. First, its inclusion creates ambiguity about the intention not to allow such activity. Inclusion reasonably implies intention. It is unreasonable to include an option that is not intended as a true option. Therefore, the inclusion creates a risk that a court, or others, interpreting the plan could infer that the DEC did intend for oil and gas activity to be a possibility for the Hemlock-Canadice unit, even though, it was clear that such activity could jeopardize the water supply for many communities.

Second, it creates a process (to review requests) that will cost taxpayer money and DEC resources for what the DEC is currently saying is a foregone decision - denial. There is no benefit to New York to create a costly process, or any process that will automatically result in a denial. Creating the process must imply that approval is possible, contrary to what DEC staff are saying to the public.

The plan should explicitly prohibit gas and oil exploration in the Unit for the protection of the watershed. A clean water supply is more precious than any amount of oil and gas and cannot be replaced.

Thank you for your attention to comments submitted on this plan. And thank you also for your commitment to preserving this precious and irreplaceable natural resource.

-Sarah Yaworsky, Rochester, NY

4/15/2013

Regarding the Hemlock-Canadice Unit Management Plan (UMP):

I enjoy Hemlock Lake water both at my Henrietta residence and at most of the businesses and venues I frequent throughout the City of Rochester and towns from Brighton to Victor. Being my ubiquitous source of water, that makes me at least 60% Hemlock Lake water by weight!

The citizens and leaders of Rochester have invested and worked diligently for over 100 years to protect this source of drinking water by **preserving the upland forest, preventing development, and strictly limiting usage** – to the point of requiring those launching a canoe to keep their bare feet out of the water. When the City of Rochester had an opportunity to transfer their lands to the state, this sale had broad citizen support, including my support, because we believed that the New York State would have even a better authority & resources to protect these drinking water reservoirs – reservoirs which provide drinking water to several towns in Ontario County and Livingston County, 38% of the drinking water in Monroe County, and almost of the City of Rochester. Hemlock & Canadice Lakes are the only two Finger Lakes undeveloped lakes, with the undeveloped banks and upland forests natural filtration capability resulting in some of the best drinking water in the world by keeping out docks, buildings, erosion from development, and runoff of chemicals or fertilizers.

The draft UMP is insufficient to continue to protect these lakes primarily as pristine drinking water reservoirs. I urge the NYS DEC to **designate the Hemlock-Canadice lands as a “Unique Area” or “State Nature and Forest Preserve”** because the “State Forest” designation does not adequately protect the primary purpose of these lakes – invaluable sources of very high-quality fresh drinking water for a region of over 1 million people. The drinking water of New York City is largely protected on a watershed basis with most of that watershed being protected in the New York State Constitution as New York Forest Preserve. Why should our citizens in Monroe, Livingston and Ontario County, who have meticulously protected this drinking water source, deserve less protection?

I am concerned that the draft UMP and the “State Forest” designation are insufficient to protect our drinking water source for a number of reasons, including:

1. Over and over, the UMP (pages 15-17, 46-47 and 97-101) indicates the possibility of allowing **mining, drilling and even hydraulic fracturing** for oil, gas and other resources. Even if it is unlikely that mining and drilling would be approved, **those activities should be completely and explicitly banned** from these lands, as both the nutrient loading from the erosion of building the infrastructure and the risk of leaking and spilling hazardous chemicals, heavy metals and radiation, would harm the water quality irreparably. The Syracuse and New York City drinking water lakes, streams and aquifers will be protected by a ban on hydraulic fracturing. Our city and region deserves the same protection.

2. Over and over, the UMP (pages 16, 28, 40, 46, 48, 56 and 96) indicates the need for better access to support logging operations and other opportunities. The trees surrounding the lakes are providing a very economical filtration process. Logging revenue is not one of the purposes of those lands. **Logging should be explicitly stated to be done only to protect or improve the quality of the water**, not to generate income, local industry, nor even to increase quantity of water quickly entering the lakes with reduced filtration time.

3. The NYS Division of Water (DOW) states that it uses a watershed management approach to guide decisions, because what happens in one part of a watershed affects the rest of the watershed. I call upon you to apply the wisdom of that policy and **apply a watershed management approach to protecting these waters**. The draft UMP focuses on the lands as a parcel of lands, and fails to address these lands as part of a watershed, effectively resulting in segmentation from the rest of the watershed which

extends to Steuben County, and even from the treatment plant, town park and parking area on the outlet shores of the Hemlock Lake. As part of a watershed management approach, I call upon the NYS DEC and the NYS DOW to **explicitly ban hydraulic fracturing and similar activities from the entire Hemlock-Canadice Lake watershed as part of its watershed management**, even if it is beyond the scope of this UMP.

4. I see no reference to Environmental Justice (EJ), nor application of NYS DEC Policy 29 in this draft UMP document. It appears that **Environmental Justice Policy 29 needs to be explicitly applied to this plan** because these lakes supply the essential element of life, drinking water, to **nearly all of the areas identified as EJ areas in both Livingston and Monroe Counties** by NYS DEC EJ maps (<http://www.dec.ny.gov/public/899.html>). These are areas in which a significant percentage of the population are minority groups and/or below the federal poverty level. These are neighborhoods and regions with concentrations of vulnerable populations who probably will never have the luxury of hiking or fishing at beautiful Hemlock Lake, who don't have the luxury of the time or resources to drive out to Springwater to voice their opinions about protecting their drinking water, but who would be extremely harmed if the quality of their water declined or the price increased. Environmental Justice Policy needs to be part of all decisions about this land. The current draft UMP, which will be used to make decisions, thoroughly addresses the needs for recreation, logging and mining – but does not mention the need its largest percentage of its water customers – poor and vulnerable populations. We have seen in Detroit, Michigan, a city on the shores of a Lake Erie, what happens when the consumer water prices jumped in the last 10 years – an estimated 70,000 poor & vulnerable customers could not pay their bills (including backlogged bills for water leaked from delivery pipes before it reached their homes), had their water shut off, and in some homes had their children taken away by social services due to the lack of running water in the home. Let us do the right thing for current and future populations, and change the designation of these lands, ban activities which put at risk the water quality, address Environmental Justice Policy 29, and to continue to protect these lakes primarily as the pristine drinking water reservoirs that they are.

-Respectfully submitted by: Sally S. Howard, A coordinator of the Rochester CARE Collaborative and Federation of Monroe County Environmentalists Named one of the Elizabeth Thorndike Environmental Leadership Awardees in 2012 by the Center for Environmental Initiatives

Dear Mr. D'Amato and the NYS DEC,

Attached are two written comments I am submitting here to you about the Hemlock - Canadice Unit Management Plan.

Thank you. Lisa Woodhams, Conesus - on - Hemlock Lake, New York

April 15th 2013

Dear Mr. D'Amato,

I am writing you today to comment on the proposed DEC's Hemlock-Canadice Unit Management Plan. (UMP)

As a resident of the Hemlock – Canadice watershed I implore you to remove the language in the UMP which refers to gas drilling and leasing its associated activities including but not limited to: water removal for any drilling uses, spreading of drilling products and or waste and processed waters on the road ways in the watershed areas.

I am asking you to replace it with a greater protection for the watershed by designating it as a State Historic and Nature Preserve.

Hemlock Lake in its pristine, uninhibited, natural, *current* state is home to New York States oldest Bald Eagle nests. ALL the Bald Eagles that currently live in NYS came from here. Giving merit to awarding this land a State Historic and Nature Preserve protected status.

I have heard and read comments from the DEC that they have no plans to allow HVHF on and around the watershed. I am asking you to put it in writing, protecting this land and its water for our children's children.

Thank you for your consideration in keeping this very special land and watershed forever protected.
-Sincerely, Lisa Woodhams, Conesus on Hemlock Lake, NY

April 15th 2013

Dear Mr. D'Amato,

I am writing you today to comment on the proposed DEC's Hemlock-Canadice Unit Management Plan. (UMP)

I am requesting that you place a ban on all gas drilling and resource extraction from the Hemlock – Canadice watershed area.

The NYS DEC concluded in its decision to Ban HVHF in the Skaneateles and New York City watersheds due to the fact that significant HVHF activity in a watershed area has the potential to increase erosion and increase the turbidity in the lake

With the same soil composition and an even steeper slope than Skaneateles Lake, Hemlock – Canadice Lakes should also have a permanent ban on HVHF just as Skaneateles does. Furthermore there should be a ban on All activities that could pose a risk to increasing the turbidity of the lakes. Such as but not limited to: gas drilling, logging, creation of new roads and adding more “access”.

The City of Rochester uses a direct filtration process which requires low turbidity in the water. If the turbidity goes up due to any number of mineral and natural resource extractions stated in the UMP the entire plant and the water quality supplied to the City of Rochester and 43 other pipelines connected to other communities along the way would be at risk.

The UPM states “Protection of the water quality is the most important function of this property” (page 4) Please stand true to this statement and give the Hemlock – Canadice watershed the same protection as NYC and Skaneateles.

Thank you for your time and consideration to my request.

-Sincerely, Lisa Woodhams, Conesus on Hemlock Lake, NY

4/15/2013

Dear Region 8 DEC staff,

Embedded and attached are my comments concerning the Hemlock-Canadice Unit Management Plan.

-Nedra Harvey

April 9, 2013

RE: Hemlock-Canadice Draft Unit Management Plan

I appreciate the opportunity to submit written comments regarding the draft Unit Management Plan for the Hemlock-Canadice State Forest. It is obvious that creating such a lengthy, detailed and informative document required an enormous amount of hard work and long hours. I wish to thank the DEC staff for their efforts on compiling the draft and for hosting the Springwater informational meeting as well, which my husband and I attended.

Having lived in Rochester for more than forty years, we've always felt fortunate to have the benefit of drinking water from pristine Hemlock Lake. Over the years, we've had confidence in the City of Rochester's management of the property and understood that by transferring it to the state that the DEC

would provide the highest level of protection for all future generations. So we were literally stunned to read in the UMP that oil and gas drilling was even mentioned as an option. We fervently believe that no drilling or ancillary activities should be permitted in the forest or anywhere within the watershed. The industrialization of that area would undoubtedly create unnecessary disturbance, destruction and contamination of the land, air and water.

The UMP features numerous activities that rightly are either prohibited or restricted in order to protect both the forest and the drinking water: leaving rubbish, cutting, moving or destroying trees, building campfires, disallowing ATV's and swimming, and forbidding the excavation and removal of archaeological/historic artifacts, to name just a few.

Since these activities are benign compared to those of the gas industry intrusion absolutely no justification exists for the permitting of any oil and gas activity.

Therefore all language intended to facilitate oil and gas activity must be expunged from the document. Instead, wording should plainly state that no heavy industry of any kind will be permitted, including other forms of mining and logging. Instead, we urge that this unspoiled haven be given the highest level of protection by designating as a Unique place. To do otherwise puts at risk the drinking water of tens of thousands of people in the city of Rochester, as well as other towns in Monroe, Livingston and Ontario Counties.

Failure to confer the highest safeguards to the Hemlock-Canadice State Forest and Watershed constitutes a threat to our water-- the very lifeblood of our region---and a betrayal of the people who depend on government to protect them.

Thank you again for your time and preparation of the UMP. Please take seriously our comments to protect the remarkable Hemlock-Canadice State Forest and watershed.

-Sincerely, Nedra Harvey, Co-Founder, R-CAUSE (Rochesterians Concerned About Unsafe Shalegas Extraction)

4/15/2013

Dear DEC:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide input in this matter. I would like to comment in regard to two issues:

(1) Process: Section: Public Involvement

It seems that the citizen participation process did not take due account of a segment of the population that would be very significantly, if not most significantly, affected by any decision taken here: users/consumers of water by the people for whom Hemlock and Canadice Lakes constitutes the drinking water supply.

This State Forest was created in significant part from land transferred to the State by the City of Rochester, for the purpose of perpetual preservation of our water supply. And yet, the notice to Rochester citizens was spotty and insufficient. It was only through the efforts of local environmental groups that Rochester citizens learned of the process, and even then it was very late in the process. Rochester's citizens should have been included in this process from the beginning. Inasmuch as the process was irreparably flawed, it should be re-initiated, with adequate notice to all concerned. The way it was handled, "interested industry groups" seem to have received preferential treatment.

(2) Oil and Gas Exploration: Section: Mineral Resources

Under the section for Mineral Resources, provision has been made for parties to request lands to be nominated for leasing for oil and gas exploration and production, including pipeline development. At the last public meeting about this unit plan, DEC staff stated that *there is no current intention to allow oil and gas activity*. And yet, provision is made for them to apply for that very thing. Not only does this

allow for an eventuality that could prove disastrous to our drinking water supply, but the inconsistency also raises red flags about the Department's intentions, and furthermore weakens its credibility. "No gas or oil exploration or production is contemplated; but, go ahead and apply to do it" seems to be the message. It is so evidently self-contradictory that I need not belabor the point here.

Thank you for your attention. Thanks also for your commitment to preserving this precious and irreplaceable natural resource.

-Very truly yours, Michael J. Yaworsky Rochester NY

4/15/2013

To Whom it May Concern:

I am the Supervisor of the Town of Brighton, Monroe County, New York. I wish to add my comments to those of the many other people with concerns about the Draft UMP for the Canadice and Hemlock Lake watersheds. I appreciate the effort that has gone into the development of the UMP, and I recognize the mandate for State Forest land to provide for multiple uses, including watershed management, but for the reasons set forth in this letter, I believe the UMP remains insufficient to protect the watershed. Specifically, I wish to address the failure of the UMP to address the impact of water withdrawal from those lakes, if hydrofracking were to be allowed in New York, or for that matter, if efforts continue to use New York sites water through purchase to facilitate hydrofracking in Pennsylvania, as was recently the case in the Village of Painted Post. I also wish to address my concerns, as a consumer of Hemlock Lake sourced water, and the leader of a community that derives water from Hemlock Lake, that hydrofracking in the Hemlock Lake watershed headwaters in Steuben County would risk devastating impacts to Brighton's water supply that are not adequately addressed in the UMP. Thus, because of the importance of this land, the mission of multiple use management for State Forests, including not only watershed management but also mineral resource management, is not appropriate for the magnitude of risk that hydrofracking could cause to watershed management of the area, and the only appropriate response is to designate these areas as Historic and Nature Preserve.

The Painted Post litigation shows the tremendous potential negative impact of massive water purchases. In that case, Judge Fisher determined that the SEQRA review of a railroad spur and the actual water sale were impermissibly segmented for purposes of SEQRA review. Judge Fisher's decision, and the efforts by the Village of Painted Post to sell off so much of its water without adequate environmental review, shows how various actions that appear on their face to be unrelated, are in fact very much related, and can impact the environment in a holistic way. If the draft UMP were to go into effect, and massive purchases of water for hydrofracking support purposes were allowed, the impact on these lakes would be devastating. One million gallons of water per day, over a five year period, from a single village, to support out of state hydrofracking. Multiply these sales by many other municipalities, add additional water demand from potential New York hydrofracking, and the impact on aquifers, and on these two lakes could be devastating. The UMP does not adequately address this risk, and for that reason, the draft UMP is insufficient to protect this area and our watershed.

In addition, the headwaters of Hemlock Lake, in Steuben County, are within the area being considered for fracking in Steuben County. The Town of Brighton receives water, through the Monroe County Water Authority, from Hemlock Lake. The UMP suggests that hydrofracking in the Hemlock Lake watershed is unlikely, but it gives no authoritative basis for such opinion or suggestion. The UMP does not adequately address the necessary protections for the watersheds from fracking. In fact, it appears to me that the UMP implicitly recognizes that hydrofracking spills or other ancillary impacts caused by increased hydrofracking activity in the area WOULD negatively impact the watershed and that there is no adequate means of protecting the area; hence no clear mitigation is suggested by the draft UMP.

Based on these and other concerns, which have been addressed by other commenters, I respectfully request that the Hemlock-Canadice State Forest be designated as a State Historic and Nature Preserve, in order to truly recognize that the watershed use is truly the highest and best use for the area, and to effectively protect those areas and those of us who depend on water from the area.

-Sincerely, William W. Moehle, Supervisor, Town of Brighton, Rochester, New York

4/15/2013

Dear DEC

When the City of Rochester turned over Hemlock Lake and Canadice Lake to the state a few years ago, the purpose was to protect the pristine quality of these lakes, which provide drinking water to many of us in the Rochester area.

I was surprised to find out that this does not include protection from the possibility of oil and gas drilling in the forest area surrounding these lakes. It has taken much consideration and hard work to maintain the quality of these areas, and it would be a mistake to subject them to drilling or any other activities that would threaten the safety of these precious water sources.

The most important resource of this property is drinking water. The only good way to protect the lakes that provide that water is to protect the entire area that helps maintain water purity.

I urge you to designate the Hemlock-Canadice State Forest as a State Forest and Nature Preserve. Please change the UMP to reflect this much-needed change.

-Sincerely, Audrey Newcomb, Rochester, NY

April 15, 2013

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to you on behalf of the Finger Lakes Land Trust to comment on the proposed Unit Management Plan for the Hemlock-Canadice State Forest.

The Land Trust strongly supported the State's acquisition of this land from the City of Rochester and the organization holds conservation easements on four properties that are located within the watershed of these two lakes.

Given the unique nature of these lands, which encompass the only two undeveloped Finger Lakes, we feel the designation as a State Unique Area is more appropriate than their current designation as a State Forest. Protecting the sites' unique character and the lakes' water quality should be given utmost priority. This would best be served through the Unique Area designation.

In addition, these lands should not be made available for oil and gas development. Their unique ecological, educational, and recreational values far outweigh the value of any energy resources they might contain.

The Land Trust applauds the State's acquisition of these lands. We now request that the NYSDEC take the steps necessary to insure their future. These steps are not clearly indicated in the draft Unit Management Plan.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to comment on the proposed Unit Management Plan.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

-Sincerely, Andrew Zepp, Executive Director, Abbey Chernela, Office Manager, Finger Lakes Land Trust, Ithaca, NY

4/15/2013
April 15/2013

Comments on the Draft Management Plan, Hemlock State Forest

I spoke at the open forum in Springwater, and this letter will briefly reiterate some of those comments. Firstly, it is imperative that any language related to the possible use or lease of parcels in this area for development of mineral resources/mining/oil or gas extraction, clearly and unequivocally state that this will never take place. Language must be inserted to that effect.

Secondly, the water in Canadice and Hemlock Lakes must also be protected from any attempt to use that water for the purpose of unconventional natural gas drilling, and the land surrounding the lakes, including the State Forest, must also be protected from ancillary activities. This specifically refers to waste storage, waste transportation and transportation of natural gas or other fuels.

Thirdly, to accomplish this, the State Forest should, in my opinion be granted a higher level of designation due to its fragile and unique ecosystem. I believe it is a conflict of interest, in fact, for DEC to be an environmental conservation and protection agency that is also allowed to lease protected areas for oil and/or gas extraction.

The Hemlock/Canadice watershed system deserves at least the same protection as do the NYC and Syracuse systems. Our population (both human and wildlife) needs to be protected.

-Mary Boite, Hemlock NY

4/15/2013

To whom it may concern,

I would respectfully like to add my voice to the many people who spoke in Springwater at the public meeting for the UMP for Canadice - Hemlock Watershed/ Forest. I agree with the sentiment that with the new designation of State Forest the DEC is conflicted in its role to manage and use the natural resources and to encourage recreation while at the same time protecting the wilderness. I request that the forest be given a Unique Nature Status giving it a higher level of protection. Protection of the drinking water resources is of the utmost importance. It should be stated that it will be protected in regard to management goals for resource extraction and oil and gas leasing. No water should be taken out and sold for use in the gas/oil industry. The forest is a unique and special place in our state and should not be exploited for resources, wood or mineral. Future development should be limited maintaining the forest cover and rural character of the forest. The entire watershed should be protected and mentioned in the UMP.

Please protect our water and forests....put it in writing.

-Thank you, Carol O'Brien, Naples, NY

4/15/2013

Hello,

I am a Canadice resident and am very concerned about the language in the plan regarding the possibility if not probability of hydrofracking in the state forest land around the watershed. I strongly believe that this area should be designated a unique area and protected for future generations like Zoar Valley has been protected. We cannot trust anyone saying that fracking will not happen, if it is possible that it could and the plan does not specifically prevent it.

-Thank you, Robin Whiteman, Springwater, NY

4/15/2013

I know that fracking is probably not gonna happen at Canadice/Hemlock, but I have to write this because you guys have left the door open. There should be no fracking on ANY DEC land, nor should fracking be allowed anywhere in New York state until fracking fluid itself is safe enough to drink. At that point, if the owner of a company that wants to frack is willing to down a pint, then by all means let him frack anywhere he pleases.

-John O'Brien, Springwater, NY

4/15/2013

Dear Department of Environmental Conservation,

I am writing to urge you to keep hydrofracking out of Hemlock & Canadice Lake.

We have learned from other states where this activity is established that this extreme form of gas drilling poses unacceptable risks to the environment and human health. New York State has an opportunity to lead the country in prioritizing the quality of its air and water and to keep the land that supplies our food, clean and free of contaminants. As the steward of the land for us, we are depending on you to say 'no' to this extreme form of energy extraction in Hemlock and Canadice Lake.

-Sincerely, Tessah Webb

4/15/2013

As owners of property in Ontario County that abuts the Hemlock-Canadice State Forest (the Forest), we are extremely interested in the management goals and objectives for that land and appreciate the opportunity to comment on the New York State (NYS) Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC) draft Unit Management Plan (UMP).

First, we agree with the public comments during the public informational session on March 14, 2013 that the NYS DEC must continue to protect this land and watershed. As a result of over a hundred and fifteen years of careful stewardship, Hemlock and Canadice Lakes offer a unique natural environment. The investment in the passage of time (and money) in getting the Forest to its current status makes it truly unique property and worthy of corresponding protection. It is essential that the NYS DEC protect the watershed and honor the historical uses of the land. We believe this land should remain "forever wild."

Specifically, the NYS DEC needs to protect this land from all oil and gas activity, including hydrofracturing, conventional drilling, and any other method of extraction. As Jim Howe, the representative from the Nature Conservancy, pointed out at the public informational session, the NYS DEC took this safety precaution with the Skaneateles Lake watershed in 2006 by withdrawing the Bear Swamp State Forest from all oil and gas activity. The City of Rochester watershed deserves the same protections.

In addition, we share the concerns raised in the public informational session by the speaker who addressed concerns with the logging of lands with significant slope and the likely resulting damage to the watershed. While we understand the NYS Forests are managed for multiple uses and benefits, the NYS DEC needs to protect what it recognizes as "[t]his unique condition [that] offers a serene atmosphere, with their steep forested shorelines guarding the deep clear water..." and reserve timber harvesting to lands that are less environmentally sensitive.

This land is unique and provides recreational opportunities unlike any of the other Finger Lakes. The existing hiking, fishing, Nordic skiing, contained biking and boating opportunities within the Forest provide the people recreational activities in a remarkably pristine environment. To expand the utilization of the Forest would deprive the Forest of its current status and thus diminish the value of this asset of the state. We support the UMP's proposal to continue to ban swimming, off road vehicles, snowmobiles, and motors over 10 horse power. In fact, we would go farther and argue that restricting Canadice Lake to non-motorized boating would further enhance the value of this asset. We were not persuaded that the existence of the abutting road and resulting engine noise is a compelling argument to not ban motors. Moreover, uncoupling the access rights of Canadice Lake from Hemlock Lake supports an even greater variety of recreational experiences on the Finger Lakes.

Finally, we urge the NYS DEC to classify the land in such a way as to continue protection of its natural beauty, as both Unique Areas and State Nature and Historic Preserve.

-Sincerely, Brian and Margie Shaw

4/15/2013

Over one hundred years ago our forefathers in the City of Rochester were wise enough to purchase the land around Hemlock and Canadice Lakes to preserve and protect the water supply for the City of Rochester. What a wonderful thing they did back then. And now there are few such lakes in the entire United States, only 5 such lakes exist.

A few years ago the City of Rochester sold this lake to the State of New York and entrusted that this land would continue to be preserved and cherished by our state. Rochester still gets its water from these 2 lakes and they need to be preserved for this function.

Now the DEC has developed a management plan for this land. It doesn't talk about the lakes themselves and the importance of preserving these lakes and the water in them, but it talks about managing this land for a profit. The plan would allow logging, road construction and open the usage to ATV's and other vehicles and does not eliminate the possibility of opening this land for fracking in the future.

All of these usages are contrary to the intention of preserving the water supply for the city of Rochester.

This land needs to be protected.

The land (6,684 acres) is designated as a regular state forest and as such is open to:

- Fracking (there are 9 pages devoted to fracking - see pages 15-17; pages 46-47; pages 97-101).

The most frequent comment during the 3/14 DEC meeting in Springwater was the necessity to remove all language that favors oil and gas drilling & related activity.

- Commercial logging which will lead to sedimentation requiring additional expensive sand filtration systems that the City of Rochester can ill afford. see pages 60-71, and 158-163.

- Recreation for ATV and other recreation requiring roads that will add to sedimentation and degradation of the environment. As one person said, the Plan seems to have a "fetish with access" (pp. 16, 28, 40, 46, 48, 56 and 96) implying more and wider roads, inappropriate for this watershed.

The land needs to be designated as a Unique Area and a State Nature and Historic Preserve to provide greater protection to the water. Undeveloped forestland is the most effective and the least expensive method to preserve water quality. This is what our forefathers wanted. This is what we are residents on Livingston County want. This is what our children and grandchildren need for the future.

Please make changes to the proposed plan and protect the lands around Hemlock and Canadice forever.

-Thank you Sandra J. Eleczko, DDS, Livonia, NY

This letter is regarding the plans for the Hemlock-Canadice forest preserve. I attended the March 14th meeting in Springwater, and was pleased to hear there were no plans to allow fracking for gas within these state lands. You will be held to this promise!

Regarding the Southeast end boat launch proposal for Hemlock Lake:

I realize the water can be seasonably shallow at the SE end, I think the 10 mile drive (5 minutes) to the northeast boat launch is the best solution when the water is low.

I propose vastly improving the NE boat launch that already exists, creating a 2 lane shorter access road and better parking which would be far more cost effective.

As a canoeist I would prefer the SE boat launch to remain as it is.

Regarding the plans to periodically log:

I was dismayed to hear the comment that these forests have had a 50 year head start in growth, implying that logging is somehow overdue. I realize the monetary value of logging is an attractive way to pay for the new boat launch improvements, and I am not against a sensible selective harvest.

I propose letting the west side of Hemlock Lake be off limits to all logging and letting it become an old growth forest. Large rotting trees standing and fallen, are havens for the diversity of flora and fauna that old growth forests require. This "productive decay" is truly rare in Western New York, and our 50 year head start brings us that much closer to a 200 year old mature forest.

Creating this parcel would be a wonderful compromise to the logging concession.

I end with a quote from former Professor of Horticulture, then Director and Dean of the NYS College of Agriculture, Liberty Hyde Bailey: "Most of our difficulty with the earth lies in the effort to do what perhaps ought not to be done."

Sincerely and Respectfully,

-Brian Manning, Mumford, NY 14511

Dear Sir or Madam:

Please do not allow oil & gas drilling in the Hemlock-Canadice forest that would permanently threaten the health & welfare of many thousands in exchange of financial gain for others. Please resist these evil plans.

Thank you

-The Mouy Family

Dear DEC,

As citizens of Springwater, NY, Livingston County, we need you to protect and forbid hydrofracking or any other invasive drilling, mining, wind turbines and industrial construction in the Fonger Lakes Region.

You should extend a ban to the ability of your jurisdiction. The Finger Lakes and Little Finger Lakes Region are a national treasure and should be preserved as such with protection from any profiteers.

It is a shame that we should even have to write a letter of this nature when we trust the management of our natural resources to the DEC.

We trust you will do what we are strongly asking.

-Thank you. Sue and Bob Conge

(Editor's note: The following form letter was addressed to Paul D'Amato, dated April 6 and 7, 2013. Names and additional comments are listed underneath.).

Dear Department of Environmental Conservation:

I am writing to urge you to keep HVHF out of the Hemlock & Canadice State Forests and remove the language in the UMP which refers to gas drilling and leasing and its associated activities. We have learned from other states where this activity is established that this extreme form of gas drilling poses unacceptable risks to the environment and human health. New York State has an opportunity to lead the country in prioritizing the quality of its land, air and water clean and free of contaminants. The city of Rochester and many local towns rely on their drinking derived from Canadice and Hemlock Lakes, to be safe. The UMP states "Protection of the water quality is the most important function of this property" (pg. 4) and yet the plan does far too little to protect water quality.

As the steward of the land for us, we are depending on you to say 'no' to this extreme form of energy extraction in Hemlock and Canadice Lake State Forests.

I am asking that the Hemlock/Canadice State Forest be designated as a State Historic and Nature Preserve in order to protect those values that make it truly unique among State lands.

Sincerely,

Additional comment:

Name	Town/State	Additional Comment:
<i>Alice A Rohan</i>	<i>Wayland, NY</i>	The DEC has no " <u>right</u> " to profit from the distruction for our natural resources by "selling out" to big interests.
<i>Alice A Rohan</i>	<i>Wayland, NY</i>	You promised to preserve & protect this land! Remember that!
<i>Alison Moore</i>	<i>Naples, NY</i>	Please reconsider your choice about fracking. It will ruin the beautiful ecosystem!
<i>Allyson Auburn</i>	<i>Hemlock, NY</i>	I was given the impression that when the state took over Hemlock & Canadice Lakes, it was to protect our waters?? Once again New York - <u>please</u> protect our water!
<i>Alysher Baier</i>	<i>Conesus, NY</i>	As a local resident, I value our local conservation and protection of our state for forests and outstanding water supply.
<i>Andrea Green</i>	<i>Macedon, NY</i>	Protect and preserve the birds, wildlife and beauty of this wild place. The Native Americans were here for hundreds of years and did not destroy this area. May we follow their example.
<i>Anna Sears</i>	<i>Rochester, NY</i>	"...unique among State lands." and a unique area -
<i>Annamarie Ludwig</i>	<i>Livonia, NY</i>	I live 10 minutes from this lake and I enjoy coming to this lake because of it's beauty and calmness. Please do not destroy it.
<i>Arlene Leach</i>	<i>Rochester, NY</i>	Water is life; protect the land. <u>NO fracking!</u>
<i>Ashley Serafini</i>	,	I don't like fracking.
<i>Bill Culley</i>	<i>Rochester, NY</i>	Should be subject to clean water act.

Addendum To The Hemlock-Canadice Ump

Name	Town/State	Additional Comment:
<i>Bruce Auburn</i>	<i>Hemlock, NY</i>	Isn't Hemlock lake the largest body of undeveloped water in U.S.? It is so unique. In transferring the stewardship for the City of Rochester to NYS I never dreamed we would be dealing with this. Do what's right for the land!
<i>Chad Curtis</i>	<i>Conesus, NY</i>	Hemlock and Canadice are unique and priceless - visit them for yourself and see. <u>Any</u> industrial intrusion <u>will</u> disrupt it's pristine state, and is unacceptable. Please make the responsible decision.
<i>Charles D Wesler</i>	<i>Conesus, NY</i>	I believe this also devaluates home values.
<i>Chris Routier</i>	<i>Dansville, NY</i>	Please do not let greed make you blind to the devastating long term effects of fracking. Our future generations deserve these beautiful lands as they are!!
<i>Colleen Culley</i>	<i>Rochester, NY</i>	Our lakes are the center points of our communities - they have been for many generations & will be for many generations to come. Please recognize the preference for long term health over short-term profit. Our environments are forever - PROFITS are not.
<i>Corrine Robinson</i>	<i>Springwater, NY</i>	This area is overused already and a threat to the exhisiting (sic) ecosystem/animals
<i>Daniela Gonzalez</i>	<i>Hemlock, NY</i>	Please save the animels (Sic) in the water. P.S. I am a kid.
<i>Dante DiProsa</i>	<i>Rochester, NY</i>	Thank you.
<i>Dr.C Henry Hirsley EdD</i>	<i>Rochester, NY</i>	Please do not allow access to our drinking water and the watershed. People of this region value clean drinking water and the currently pristine Hemlock & Candadice Lakes trails & surrounding area.
<i>Edgar A Brown</i>	<i>Naples, NY</i>	HVHF for natural gas in the Finger Lakes, or any part of NYS is unconscionable. I love New York!
<i>Edgar A Brown</i>	<i>Naples, NY</i>	HVHF for natural gas in the Finger Lakes, or any part of NYS is unconscionable. I love New York!
<i>Edgar A Brown</i>	<i>Naples, NY</i>	HVHF in Canadice & Hemlock watersheds will adversely affect the quality of life, agriculture, & tourism in one of the Finger Lakes most scenic areas. I (heart) NY Frack Free!
<i>Edgar A Brown</i>	<i>Naples, NY</i>	HVHF in Canadice & Hemlock watersheps (sic) will adversely affect the quality of life, agriculture, & tourism in one of the Finger Lakes most scenic areas. I (heart) NY Frack Free.
<i>Edgar A Brown</i>	<i>Naples, NY</i>	HVHF is not an appropriate use of NYS natural resources. I love NY Frack Free!
<i>Edgar A Brown</i>	<i>Naples, NY</i>	HVHF is not an appropriate use of NYS natural resources. I love NY Frack Free!
<i>Edgar A Brown</i>	<i>Naples, NY</i>	It is a direct conflict of interest for the DEC to make leases for destructive extractive industries on land it is also tasked with protecting. I love NY Frack Free!

Name	Town/State	Additional Comment:
<i>Edgar A Brown</i>	<i>Naples, NY</i>	It is a direct conflict of interest for the DEC to make leases for destructive extractive industries on land it is also tasked with protecting. I love NY Frack Free!
<i>Edgar A Brown</i>	<i>Naples, NY</i>	The Hemlock and Canadice watersheds should be granted the same protection as the Syracuse & NYC watersheds!
<i>Edgar A Brown</i>	<i>Naples, NY</i>	The Hemlock and Canadice watersheds should be granted the same protection as the Syracuse & NYC watersheds. I (heart) NY frack free!
<i>Elizabeth Wolfe</i>	<i>Penn Yan, NY</i>	There are some things more important than money - the beauty of our lakes and our health is #1. Fracking causes all sorts of problems noise pollution, traffic, social upheaval & polluting our resources.
<i>Francis Goss</i>	<i>Wayland, NY</i>	Remember " <u>Pure</u> Genesee Beer from <u>Pure</u> Hemlock Lake???"
<i>Gail Woodhams</i>	<i>Wayland, NY</i>	So many people depend on these lakes for their water supply. It needs to be safeguarded and protected for all our sakes!
<i>Gary R Honeyford</i>	<i>Livonia, NY</i>	Help us save our wonderful natural resource, <u>clean water!!</u>
<i>Gloria Osborne</i>	<i>Springwater, NY</i>	Until a geologic survey has been completed, the uniqueness of the property cannot be determined. However the history of logging which precipitated the need for a filtration system due to increased sediment in the lake is a good example of why this is needed. This area also includes old growth forest & eagle nesting sites which are some of the oldest in N. America - both prior to & following their near extinction.
<i>Grace Turner</i>	<i>Caledonia, NY</i>	With the development on the other lakes Hemlock and Candice (sic) are the nicest ones to go paddle on
<i>Griffin Brown</i>	<i>Naples, NY</i>	I live 12 miles from where you are going to frack. And you will destroy evrything (sic) nature has to offer in that area.
<i>H Weed</i>	<i>Dansville, NY</i>	I am glad to be a part of this.
<i>Helena Listowski</i>	<i>Rochester, NY</i>	Keep our lakes clean!
<i>James E Miller</i>	<i>Springwater, NY</i>	Leave it alone, the area is already over used!
<i>Jeanne Calloway</i>	<i>Conesus, NY</i>	There are many questions regarding water quality that need to be further addressed & more information. More input from local individuals. Questions of land use such as logging, etc.
<i>Jennifer Stoltman</i>	<i>Conesus, NY</i>	We are organic farmers ... we feel STRONGLY about this!
<i>Jim Southall</i>	<i>Bergen, NY</i>	Reinforce my opinion that the "DEC" stands for "Dept. of Environmental Conservation" and not "Dept. of Environmental (cash, corruption, collusion). Do what's right. Health before wealth.
<i>Jody Sidlauskas</i>	<i>Hemlock, NY</i>	I have lived in this area my entire life (54 yrs). I could have moved many times but chose to stay to live as close as I could to Hemlock and Canadice Lakes. Please, please, please grant these lakes the protection they need to preserve these precious watersheds!

Addendum To The Hemlock-Canadice Ump

Name	Town/State	Additional Comment:
<i>John Curci</i>	<i>Livonia, NY</i>	Although I am not an anti-fracking activist it seems to make common sense to protect our drinking water by taking proper precautions when it pertains to any activity!
<i>Jolynn Joy</i>	<i>Conesus, NY</i>	There is no single issue greater, than this at hand!!
<i>Joni Nilsson</i>	<i>Hemlock, NY</i>	The future of our planet depends on the decisions we make today! Please protect our land and our waters for our children and our children's children.
<i>Joseph Cicero</i>	<i>Rochester, NY</i>	Improve and protect the natural resources of the Hemlock and Canadice Lakes environment.
<i>Judith A Cicero</i>	<i>Rochester, NY</i>	Clearly, this magnificent lake, land and resource needs to be protected in whatever way possible from the toxic destruction of this area. Rochester has done a wonderful job for so many years in its protection. Please do everything in your power to maintain its pristine state. Our health, safety and welfare depends on it!!
<i>Kala Stein</i>	<i>Springwater, NY</i>	The Hemlock and Canadice Watershed should be granted the same protection as the Syracuse and NY City watersheds.
<i>Katherine L Bailey</i>	<i>Rochester, NY</i>	Once our water is polluted, it weill <u>never</u> be the same. We only get one earth, please consider the future impacts of hydrofracking.
<i>Kathleen Fortin</i>	<i>Canandaigua, NY</i>	Moved to the Finger Lake area for pristine beauty of the area - need to look at the whole picture - not just immediate return - will not be able to go back.
<i>Kathleen VanBuskirk</i>	<i>Livonia Center, NY</i>	My family is from Pennsylvania and have experienced fracking in their communities. It does not have a positive effect other than putting money in the oil & gas companies pockets.
<i>Kelly Marciniak</i>	<i>Avon, NY</i>	There are many reasons to protect Hemlock and Canadice Lake. The top priorities being drinking water, and I believe the eagles there should be protected as well. Please keep this area undeveloped and natural!
<i>Kevin Schenk</i>	<i>Fairport, NY</i>	I have concerns about gas released which isn't captured and resulting air polution and water shed contamination.
<i>Laura Canfield</i>	<i>Dansville, NY</i>	Temporary jobs are not worth the long term hard that would come from fracking.
<i>Marchell Diehl</i>	<i>Coudersport, PA</i>	They have been doing fracking around my area & the trucks like convoys 24-7, & the water used makes me worried. It is a LOT of water pumped each day for this fracking, and within a year 3/4 of a mountain was taken away for the shale. Such a shame for the distruction.(sic)
<i>Mary Ann Thompson</i>	<i>Livonia, NY</i>	Please go the extra mile needed to change this designation - it is a special area and should be preserved.

Name	Town/State	Additional Comment:
<i>Mary Watson</i>	<i>Honeoye, NY</i>	The Hemlock/Canadice Lake State Forests ecosystem is cherished by the residents in the Hemlock/Canadice Lake area as well as the finger Lakes and we do not want our beautiful area compromised by HVHF.
<i>Maryann Glende</i>	<i>Henrietta, NY</i>	Please preserve our water and natural forest lands. This is one very important gift we can pass onto our children. Let's not give them Methane, migration, radioactive, carcinogenic & toxic frack fluid!! Thank you, Maryann Glende
<i>Maryanna Mueller</i>	<i>Pittsford, NY</i>	Protect our waters!
<i>Megan Eicher</i>	<i>Conesus, NY</i>	I feel that fracking <u>will</u> slowly destroy our ecosystem. Fracking also take more natural energy from us. The waste of that energy pollute our environment and take away so much!
<i>Mitchell Baader</i>		I live near where they want to frack and I don't want them there.
<i>Monica Simons</i>	<i>Bergen, NY</i>	I don't live <u>in</u> Hemlock, but I live near enough to be concerned! All of New York State, all of this nation, is threatened by this thoughtless destruction of our land and air and water and wildlife and future.
<i>Nedra Harvey</i>	<i>Rochester, NY</i>	Contamination caused by gas & oil drilling would ruin the water of Rochester and all other towns served by Hemlock Lake
<i>Noreen Riordan</i>	<i>Pittsford, NY</i>	I wish every citizen of the rochester area could experience what I have been repeatedly blessed to experience - spending the day in a kayak, unmolested by truck noise or emissions, power boats, crowds of people.... The absolute peace of Hemlock & Canadice Lakes & state forests are valuable beyond words and we need to wake up to how little of nature we have left and protect it. Thank you!
<i>Paul McHague</i>	<i>Wayland, NY</i>	Keep the Frack out of Livingston County
<i>Rhonda Leonard</i>	<i>Geneseo, NY</i>	The water quality and protection of the land is crucial to human and wildlife survival. Fracking disturbs (sic) ground beneath the land disrupting natural water flow, causing contamination and subsidence. I've seen first hand the long term damage from a salt mine collapse - not to mention the damage of fracking. Don't forsake our most valuable resources.
<i>Richard E Folwell</i>	<i>Honeoye, NY</i>	My family has owned property here for more than 60 years. We depend on ground water for all our needs and are very concerned about its remaining drinkable.
<i>Robert M Turner</i>	<i>Caledonia, NY</i>	These Pristine Lakes should not be Compromised
<i>Robert S Thompson</i>	<i>Livonia,</i>	"Unique Area" is under Section 45-0117 of ECL subsection (3) of section 45-0117

Addendum To The Hemlock-Canadice Ump

Name	Town/State	Additional Comment:
<i>Ronald A Fortin</i>	<i>Canandaigua, NY</i>	Gas drilling/leasing is a fundamental and profound violation of the welfare of the beauty and natural resources of this area, the very reason for my relocation to this region. For once, let's make profit a <i>ontant</i> (?) second consideration to the primary goal of natural preservation. If we lose on this issue, we all lose for keeps...
<i>Ruthi Holbrook</i>	<i>Conesus, NY</i>	I don't like fracking.
<i>Ryan Marciniak</i>	<i>Avon, NY</i>	There should have never been and (sic) option to develop a watershed that supplies so many people with drinking water. Please do the right thing.
<i>Sally McMaster</i>	<i>Dansville, NY</i>	Keep the lakes pure!
<i>Scott Topel</i>	<i>Bloomfield, NY</i>	We demand, as residents and people who have lived their lives connected to this watershed, to ban HVHF or <u>any</u> extraction process or road construction from this watershed.
<i>Sharon A Gendreau</i>	<i>Livonia, NY</i>	Habitat fragmentation due to clear cutting for pipelines and access roads, compressor stations, and well pads. The air quality from these stations and well pads also create toxic emissions that harm wildlife and the general quality of the air.
<i>Steven Smith</i>	<i>Wayland, NY</i>	keep natural save the fish
<i>Timothy Brol</i>	<i>Springwater, NY</i>	I have seen 1st hand what this has done in PA our neighbor to the south. It is <u>not</u> good!
<i>Valerie Honeyford</i>	<i>Livonia, NY</i>	I feel that the risk is too great-yes it may create jobs-but the repercussions from fracking if your wrong could be devastating to the Finger Lakes Area & to me it's not worth doing, not only for now but future generations.
<i>Valerie Reagan</i>	<i>Hemlock, NY</i>	We really believe in saving our lakes and forest!
<i>Valerie Rice</i>	<i>Rochester, NY</i>	We are so fortunate to have such a great drink water supply. We must do everything to safeguard it.
<i>Vicky Southall</i>	<i>Bergen, NY</i>	I am a canoe puaddler and have spent many lbeautiful hours on Hemlock and Canadice Lakes. I am a member of the Adirondack Mountain Club and wholeheartedly support the comments made by our president Jim Bird at the DEC hearing. The Hemlock and Canadice Watershed should be granted the same protection as the Syracuse and NYC Watersheds. Our current filtration systems cannot remove the contaminants that can be the results of HVHF. I believe that Hemlock and Canadice should have the designation and protection of a Unique Wilderness Area.
<i>William P VanBuskirk</i>	<i>Livonia Center, NY</i>	I walk the access road at Canadice at least 3 times a week. I have no interest in seeing the fracking drill sitting on top of the hills. I grew up in PA and am saddened when driving through all the little towns and see the energy Co. signs.
<i>Aaron Lubberts</i>	<i>Conesus, NY</i>	

Name	Town/State	Additional Comment:
<i>Abbey Northrup</i>		
<i>Adam Duerr</i>	<i>Liverpool, NY</i>	
<i>Alana M Weed</i>	<i>Livonia, NY</i>	
<i>Alex Carlin</i>		
<i>Alex Baader</i>		
<i>Alexa Dengos</i>	<i>Buffalo, NY</i>	
<i>Alexandria Dengos</i>	<i>Buffalo, NY</i>	
<i>Alexandria Stoltman</i>	<i>Henrietta, NY</i>	
<i>Alexis Ingraham</i>	<i>Naples, NY</i>	
<i>Alicia Quarterman</i>	<i>Middlesex, NY</i>	
<i>Alison Thompson</i>	<i>Livonia, NY</i>	
<i>Alyssa Gondoli</i>	<i>Fairport, NY</i>	
<i>Andrew Bell</i>		
<i>Anne Francis</i>	<i>Livonia, NY</i>	
<i>Anneshia VanBortel</i>	<i>Canandaigua, NY</i>	
<i>Annie O'Reilly</i>	<i>Conesus, NY</i>	
<i>Ashton Kastner</i>	<i>Wayland, NY</i>	
<i>Austin Snyder</i>	<i>, NY</i>	
<i>Barb Hawks</i>	<i>Naples, NY</i>	
<i>Ben Chaffer</i>	<i>Naples, NY</i>	
<i>Ben Shelkey</i>	<i>Rochester, NY</i>	
<i>Beth Standish</i>	<i>Livonia, NY</i>	
<i>Bill Murphy</i>	<i>Canandaigua, NY</i>	
<i>Bridget A Vinci</i>	<i>Victor, NY</i>	
<i>Bruce A Hapeman</i>	<i>Livonia, NY</i>	
<i>Bruce L Bock</i>	<i>Dansville, NY</i>	
<i>Caleb Marsland</i>	<i>Dansville, NY</i>	
<i>Carol M Thompson RN</i>	<i>Leicester</i>	
<i>Cheyenne Lubberts</i>	<i>Conesus, NY</i>	
<i>Chloe Shearing</i>	<i>Naples, NY</i>	
<i>Colleen Clark</i>	<i>Dansville, NY</i>	
<i>Cynthia L Bailiy</i>	<i>Rochester, NY</i>	
<i>Dan Robinson</i>	<i>Naples, NY</i>	
<i>Daniel Bock</i>	<i>Hemlock, NY</i>	
<i>Daniel Pashihar</i>	<i>Rochester, NY</i>	
<i>Daniel Wasser</i>	<i>Rochester, NY</i>	
<i>Darlene Necaster</i>	<i>Livonia, NY</i>	
<i>Dawn Snowden</i>	<i>Canadic, NY</i>	

Addendum To The Hemlock-Canadice Ump

Name	Town/State	Additional Comment:
<i>Denise Wheaton</i>	<i>Naples, NY</i>	
<i>Devon Pernicone</i>		
<i>Don Pease</i>	<i>Honeoye, NY</i>	
<i>Donna E Spillman</i>	<i>Conesus, NY</i>	
<i>Dorothy Schiavi</i>	<i>Dansville, NY</i>	
<i>Edward E Johnson</i>	<i>Springwater, NY</i>	
<i>Elizabeth Funner</i>		
<i>Elizabeth Reinhart</i>	<i>Geneseo, NY</i>	
<i>Elizabeth Serrage</i>	<i>Conesus, NY</i>	
<i>Erik Kastner</i>	<i>Wayland, NY</i>	
<i>Francis Northrop</i>	<i>Cohocton, NY</i>	
<i>Gary Weaver</i>	<i>Livonia, NY</i>	
<i>George W Peck</i>	<i>Bergen, NY</i>	
<i>Greg Knapp</i>	<i>Victor, NY</i>	
<i>Gus Masotti</i>	<i>Rochester, NY</i>	
<i>Hannah Dellgotto</i>	<i>Naples, NY</i>	
<i>Jack Fay</i>	<i>Livonia, NY</i>	
<i>Jake Cratsley</i>	<i>Naples, NY</i>	
<i>James Ludwig</i>	<i>Livonia, NY</i>	
<i>Jill Bowser</i>	<i>Naples, NY</i>	
<i>Joan DuRoss</i>	<i>Dansville, NY</i>	
<i>Joan Newell</i>	<i>Rochester, NY</i>	
<i>Joelle Frifa</i>		
<i>John Emmerling</i>	<i>Livonia, NY</i>	
<i>John Piazza</i>	<i>Rochester, NY</i>	
<i>John Stein</i>	<i>Livonia, NY</i>	
<i>John W Clark</i>	<i>Dansville, NY</i>	
<i>Judith A Cartisano</i>	<i>Rochester, NY</i>	
<i>Judy Miller</i>	<i>Naples, NY</i>	
<i>Justin Nilsson</i>	<i>Hemlock, NY</i>	
<i>Kathleen Wahl</i>	<i>Livonia, NY</i>	
<i>Kathy Bruder</i>	<i>Bloomfield, NY</i>	
<i>Katie Herman</i>	<i>Canandaigua, NY</i>	
<i>Kim Raup</i>	<i>Wayland, NY</i>	
<i>Kingdon Barrett</i>	<i>Rochester, NY</i>	
<i>Lauren VanDercef</i>	<i>Canandaigua, NY</i>	
<i>Lesah McMuller</i>	<i>Naples, NY</i>	
<i>Linda Groves</i>	<i>Rochester, NY</i>	

Name	Town/State	Additional Comment:
<i>Linda Groves</i>	<i>Seneca Falls, NY</i>	
<i>Lindsen Weed</i>	<i>Rochester, NY</i>	
<i>Lisa Treble</i>	<i>Avon, NY</i>	
<i>Ludolph Duyssen</i>	<i>Canandaigua, NY</i>	
<i>MaCanles Kastner</i>	<i>Wayland, NY</i>	
<i>Madison Metz</i>		
<i>Marian Peck</i>	<i>Bergen, NY</i>	
<i>Martha Ronsheim</i>	<i>Dansville, NY</i>	
<i>Mary Alice Goering</i>	<i>Conesus, NY</i>	
<i>Mary Ann Piazza</i>	<i>Rochester, NY</i>	
<i>Mary Knapp</i>	<i>Victor, NY</i>	
<i>Mary Lynne Bement</i>	<i>Geneseo, NY</i>	
<i>Mary Thiele</i>	<i>Livonia,</i>	
<i>Matt Frahm</i>	<i>Naples, NY</i>	
<i>Matt Wurtenberg</i>	<i>Hemlock, NY</i>	
<i>Melissa Price</i>	<i>Dansville, NY</i>	
<i>Mike Barnard</i>	<i>Livonia, NY</i>	
<i>Miriam DaBramo</i>	<i>Geneseo, NY</i>	
<i>Nancy Pease</i>	<i>Honeoye, NY</i>	
<i>Nicolette Spehar</i>	<i>San Gabriel, CA</i>	
<i>Nikki Spehar</i>		
<i>Noah Carlin</i>		
<i>P Giovine</i>	<i>Naples,</i>	
<i>Pat Quinn</i>	<i>Hemlock, NY</i>	
<i>Patricia DeVelder</i>	<i>Conesus, NY</i>	
<i>Patrick Frievelde</i>	<i>Springwater, NY</i>	
<i>Paul Frazer</i>	<i>Naples, NY</i>	
<i>Paul Reagan</i>	<i>Geneseo, NY</i>	
<i>Phil Recchio</i>	<i>Livonia, NY</i>	
<i>Philip Bariteau</i>	<i>Naples, NY</i>	
<i>Raymond Murray</i>	<i>Conesus, NY</i>	
<i>Richard Castor</i>	<i>Dansville, NY</i>	
<i>Richard Harvey</i>	<i>Rochester, NY</i>	
<i>Rick French</i>	<i>Conesus, NY</i>	
<i>Robert M Green</i>	<i>Macedon, NY</i>	
<i>Russell B Cragg</i>	<i>Rochester, NY</i>	
<i>Sally G Fox</i>	<i>Geneseo, NY</i>	
<i>Sara Castner</i>	<i>Hemlock , NY</i>	

Name	Town/State	Additional Comment:
<i>Savannah Lubberts</i>	<i>Conesus, NY</i>	
<i>Sharon Radar</i>	<i>Canandaigua, NY</i>	
<i>Shirley Cox</i>	<i>Geneseo, NY</i>	
<i>Stephanie Kayser</i>	<i>Fairport, NY</i>	
<i>T Savard</i>	<i>Hemlock, NY</i>	
<i>Tim Stoltman</i>	<i>Conesus, NY</i>	
<i>TJ Kayser</i>	<i>Fairport, NY</i>	
<i>Tyler Nagel</i>	<i>Springwater, NY</i>	
<i>Zach Tyree</i>		
<i>Zack Ryan</i>		

Dear Department of Environmental Conservation:

I am writing to urge you to keep HVHF out of the Hemlock & Canadice State Forests and remove the language in the UMP which refers to gas drilling and leasing and its associated activities.

According to the NYS DEC’s Mission statement (Page I of Canadice-Hemlock Forest UMP), “The quality of our environment is fundamental to our concern for the quality of life.”

The city of Rochester and many local towns rely on their drinking derived from Canadice and Hemlock Lakes, to be safe. The UMP states “Protection of the water quality is the most important function of this property” (pg.4) and yet the plan does far too little to protect water quality. Quality of life is based on our most basic need – safe water.

The Hemlock and Canadice Watershed should be granted the same protection as the Syracuse and NY City Watersheds.

As the steward of the land for us, we are depending on you to say ‘no’ to this extreme form of energy extraction in Hemlock and Canadice Lake State Forests.

I am asking that the Hemlock/Canadice State Forest be designated as a State Historic and Nature Preserve in order to protect those values that make it truly unique among State lands.

-Sincerely, Clara Mulligan, Avon, NY

April 9, 2013

Dear Mr. D’Amato:

The large, drive-chemicals-for-fracking-through-it size hole in the DUM plan is offensive and unacceptable. That is written in the DUM needs to correspond with the verbal reassurances of DEC officials’ public comments about “no fracking or drilling,” not contradicting them. This literally puts the DEC in the spotlight as (another) government agency on the brink of acting like birds that foul their own nest. After all, you like to drink water too, I assume. Is not DEC aware of what the story is planet wide on fresh, potable water?

The current and looming shortage of good water is a consideration that far outweighs the potential for quick profits in the small areas of the lakes.

It is pretty obvious that the corporate driven world we now live in is hard at work blindly working to foul an earth sized nest. Citizens are awakening to all this and it is high time that governmental agencies charged with protecting, not exploiting, the environment begin to act responsible on their behalf. Enough of chumminess with the really bad gas and oil guys.

Being a charitable person, I assume that Rochester sold these areas to New York State under a presumption that they would be immune to the kind of abuse that is still written in to the DUM. The City has managed to protect these lakes and forests for more than a century and it is a dismal commentary indeed that as state forests this is now entirely open to question.

Mr. D'Amato, it simply will not do to wave such "remote" or "hypothetical" threats away but literally write them into the public record and public law. Please do the necessary remediation to the DUM.

-Sincerely, Michael D. Connelly, Rochester, NY

April 9, 2013

Dear Department of Environmental Conservation:

I am writing to you to urge you to protect the Hemlock and Canadice State Forests from any increased development. This area is a watershed for us and must be protected from fracking and other industrial processes. The pristine nature of the area must be protected by not allowing logging of the old forests or the building of any new logging roads.

I also ask that the same stringent rules that currently apply to the recreational use of the area by (sic) maintained and strictly enforced and that proper funding be allotted for this enforcement.

-Sincerely, Carol Hacknauer, Canandaigua, NY

Dear Mr. D'Amato,

I am writing to request that the Hemlock and Canadice Watershed be designated as a Unique and Historic area, and that High Volume Hydraulic Fracturing (HVHF) be prohibited.

As the Hemlock and Canadice Watershed provides the fresh drinking water for the city of Rochester, and provides a multitude of recreational opportunities, and is home to vast wildlife including bald eagles, it is imperative that HVHF be prohibited.

Thank you for your attention to this vitally important issue.

-Yours truly, David Thompson

Dear Mr. D'Amato:

I do not believe the DEC's draft Supplemental Generic Environmental Impact Statement (dSGEIS) ADEQUATELY PROTECTS Rochester's water supply from the potential negative impacts of high-volume hydrofracking (HVHG). Specifically, the setback proposed in the dSGEIS for HVHF adjacent to a public water supply is inadequate for Rochester's water supply.

The Hemlock and Canadice Watershed should be granted the same protection as the Syracuse and NY City Watersheds. There is currently NO OUTRIGHT PROHIBITION of any or all activities relating to HVHF that would protect and preserve the Hemock (sic)-Canadice Forest (and lakes) administered by the NYS DEC.

-Sincerely, Frank J. Regan, Resident of Monroe County and the City of Rochester, NY

Dear Mr. D'Amato:

Please include in the new regulations governing the Hemlock/Canadice State Forest that no hydrofracking or activities related to it such as water withdrawal and pipelines be allowed in the area.

My drinking water comes from this source and fracking in or near this area could endanger my health due to the dangerous chemicals used in the process. Fracking should also be forbidden in Steuben County because streams in that area feed into the lakes.

I have hiked and canoed in the Forest with groups that took care not to harm the fragile environment. I want it preserved for future generations to study the unique flora and fauna found there.

Therefore, commercial logging should not be allowed and access should be limited as it is now or with even stricter regulations. In fact, the area should be declared a State Nature and Historic Preserve.

Thank you for attending to my thoughts.

-Very truly yours, Ruth E Hyde

April 12, 2013

Dear Mr. Rob Davies and UMP Committee Members:

After attending the March 14, 2013 meeting and reviewing the draft UMP I submit the following comments.

The public's presentation at the 3/14 meeting was focused on 3 topics:

1. You can't trust the government.
2. Fracking should be banned.
3. Designation of Forests not protective enough for Hemlock-Canadice Lakes/Forest.

So my comment:

It seems clear that if the UMP had been classified most protective level available prohibiting any drilling there would be no discussion around fracking and the public would not have the "feeling" the NYSDEC is trying to put one over on them.

As the forest ranger commented in this opening statement he generally does't have this many (300+) people turn out for a UMP review.

I would suggest that this turn out, citizens, environmental groups, the Sierra Club and the Nature Conservancy speaks to the 'very special' nature of Hemlock-Canadice lakes.

This unit should have a designation that shall not allow drilling and protects the lakes, keeping as we know them today.

-Susan E. Scott, Hemlock, NY

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am strongly opposed to oil and/or gas drilling in the forest and surrounding watershed of Hemlock & Canadice Lakes.

-Sincerely, Meredith J. Svensen

April 12, 2013

Dear Mr. Gibbs:

Thank you for creating the draft Unit Management Plan for the new Hemlock-Canadice State Forest. There are some additional concerns we have that we would like to have expanded in the UMP.

Since the Hemlock-Canadice State Forest is the source for public drinking water, special care must be taken in any use that will affect the quality of the water. This characteristic makes it unique among state forests, as you acknowledged in the draft plan. Since we are residents of Rochester, depending on the source of water, it is very important to us that our water supply be protected. Providing motorized access to the steeply sloped land, for whatever purpose, will compromise the water quality goals of this plan. We request that the Hemlock-Canadice State forest be designated as a state Historic and Nature Preserve in order to protect those values and make it unique amount state lands.

It should have the same protection as Syracuse and NYC water supplies. Rochester's city leadership and area citizens have worked diligently since the late 1800's to protect these water sources. Building roads for hydraulic fracturing would increase the sedimentation enough to require multi-billion dollars of sand filtration plants to be built.

Some of the additional issues that need to be addressed are:

- More protection from effects of hydrofracturing, logging and recreation – all of which would threaten water quality or the public drinking water supply.
 - No logging in old growth trees on the State Land. These very old trees are smaller diameter than foresters may expect for old growth, because the trees have grown slowly due to the challenging growing conditions and the thick canopy which reduces sunlight in these areas.
 - More specific language to strictly limit logging practices to prevent degradation to water quality that would result from increased sedimentation and reduction in natural filtration provided by the forest.
 - Stronger or more specific language and policies to restrict recreational use that would impact water quality. Boat launches should never be improved to hard pack because it would encourage bigger and more boat usage.
 - Invasive species cleaning stations and signage need to be installed at every boat launch site.
- Sincerely, Susan Stinson on behalf of the Rochester Regional Sierra Club Great Lakes Committee*

4/14/2013

Dear Department of Environmental Conservation,

I am writing to urge you to keep hydrofracking out of Hemlock & Canadice Lake.

We have learned from other states where this activity is established that this extreme form of gas drilling poses unacceptable risks to the environment and human health. New York State has an opportunity to lead the country in prioritizing the quality of it's air and water and to keep the land that supplies our food, clean and free of contaminants. As the steward of the land for us, we are depending on you to say 'no' to this extreme form of energy extraction in Hemlock and Canadice Lake.

-Sincerely, Audrey Harpe, Hemlock, NY

April 12, 2013

RE: Public Comment to Hemlock-Canadice Unit Management Plan Draft

Thank you for this opportunity to provide input to the draft of the Hemlock-Canadice Unit Management Plan. Comments are hereby submitted regarding the following issues:

- 1) Process: Section: Public Involvement

The citizen participation activities failed to include the constituency most affected by the most significant purpose for the unit – watershed management. Hemlock-Canadice State Forest was created in large part from the land transferred to the State by the city of Rochester for the purpose of perpetual preservation of this important water supply for the city and many other local towns. Yet there was insufficient notice to Rochester citizens about the initial mailing, the second mailing or the public meetings. It was only through the efforts of local environmental groups that Rochester citizens learned of the process, very late in that process.

Rochester citizens should have been included in this process from its initiation. It was not the responsibility of these organizations to inform Rochester citizens of this process, it was the responsibility of the DEC. Watershed management is a major element of the Unit Plan and no group is more affected by the plan than Rochester citizens, yet they were excluded from the process.

This process is irreparably flawed and should be re-initiated with proper notice to all significant constituencies to obtain input. “Interested industry groups” should not have received preferential treatment to the citizens of Rochester. The citizens of Rochester were denied an opportunity to provide initial comments and see if the draft was responsive to their concerns, thereby building credibility. Thus credibility, transparency, and accountability have yet to be proven. To correct this oversight, an updated draft should be issued and publicized through the local media in the Rochester Metropolitan Area with a public meeting held close enough for Rochester citizens to attend, including low-income citizens who depend on the quality of the public water supply for their drinking water without costly additional filtering or treatment.

At minimum, the plan should explicitly acknowledge the flawed process and include a mandate that all future plans and actions affecting management of this unit for which citizen input is sought or required, including public hearings, must include the citizens of Rochester, beginning with initial contact for input. Reasonable efforts must be made to give notice to “local media” in Rochester, including providing notices and a copy of any draft plans to the Rochester Public Library, as was done to other libraries.

2) Oil and Gas Exploration : Section : Mineral Resources

Under the section for Mineral Resources, provision is made for parties to request lands to be nominated for leasing for oil and gas exploration and production, including pipeline development. At the last public meeting about this unit plan, DEC staff stated there is no current intention to allow oil and gas activity. There is clearly a significant danger that such activity would irreparable damage the water supply for a major metropolitan area and many rural communities. Until such danger can be reasonably completely averted, there is no reason to make a provision to receive and process such applications for oil and gas activity. There is no known way currently to avert this danger and all of the potential dangers have yet to be even evaluated.

At least, two significant problems arise from the inclusion, even if it is currently intended to not be applicable. First, its inclusion creates ambiguity about the intention not to allow such activity. Inclusion reasonably implies intention. It is unreasonable to include an option that is not intended as a true option. Therefore, the inclusion creates a risk that a court, or others, interpreting the plan could infer that the DEC did intend for oil and gas activity to be an possibility for the Hemlock-Canadice unit, even though, it was clear that such activity could jeopardize the water supply for many communities.

Second, it creates a process (to review requests) that will cost taxpayer money and DEC resources for what the DEC is currently saying is a foregone decision – denial. There is no benefit to New York to create a costly process, or any process that will automatically result in a denial. Creating the process must imply that approval is possible, contrary to what DEC staff are saying to the public.

The plan should explicitly prohibit gas and oil exploration in the Unit for the protection of the watershed. A clean water supply is more precious than any amount of oil and gas and cannot be replaced.

Thank you for your attention to comments submitted on this plan. And thank you also for your commitment to preserving this precious and irreplaceable natural resource
-Sarah Yaworsky, Rochester, NY

Town of Canadice

Town Board

Resolution Number 17 of 2013

March 11, 2013

COMMENTING ON THE HEMLOCK-CANADICE DRAFT UNIT MANAGEMENT PLAN

WHEREAS, The NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) acquired title to 6,684 acres of the former holdings of the City of Rochester in the Hemlock and Canadice Watersheds now known as the Hemlock-Canadice Forest; and

WHEREAS, the DEC has prepared a draft of the Hemlock-Canadice Unit Management Plan for public review; and

WHEREAS, Once adopted, said Management Plan will guide the DEC's decisions managing the Hemlock-Canadice Forest over the next 10 years; and

WHEREAS, Said Draft Management Plan contains a policy for evaluating and potentially granting leases for resource extraction, including gas and oil drilling employing hydraulic fracturing techniques; and

WHEREAS, Proper management of the Hemlock-Canadice Forest is vital to the protection of the City of Rochester's public water supply, and in protecting an aesthetic resource of vital importance to the local municipalities and the entire region; and

WHEREAS, The Town of Canadice's Master Plan identifies the major role of the Hemlock-Canadice Forest in establishing and maintaining the rural character of the Town that is of paramount importance to its residents; and

WHEREAS, The Hemlock-Canadice Forest is an important resource in establishing the regional character of the Finger Lakes Region; and

WHEREAS, New York State has recognized the potential for certain negative impacts and has therefore determined that the watersheds supplying public drinking water to New York City and Syracuse will be exempted from hydrofracking mining; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Board makes the following comments on the Draft Hemlock-Canadice Unit Management Plan:

- 1) The Needs, Issues, and Policy Constraints section of the plan should be revised to include a discussion of
 - a) the importance of the Hemlock-Canadice Forest as a local and regional aesthetic resource. The Forest is of prime importance in establishing the rural character of the Town of Canadice and in this region of the Finger Lakes.
 - b) the intent of the City of Rochester and the local municipalities in agreeing to transfer ownership of this property to DEC was to continue in perpetuity the type of management that had been performed by the City of Rochester. Specifically, the intention was to prevent or severely limit future development and maintain the forest cover and general rural character of the Forest.
 - c) the Town of Canadice's local land use regulations which were in place prior to the DEC's acquisition of the Forest limit the use of this and similar property to public or private parks, not to include camping, public educational interpretive centers, watershed and forestry management, public and private water supply/sewage disposal systems, and timber harvesting (subject to the special requirements). In short, neither the town's comprehensive plan nor zoning would allow resource extraction uses as contemplated in the Draft Unit Management Plan.

- 2) The Goal and Objectives Section should be revised to
 - a) include a section on the maintenance of aesthetic resources. The importance of maintaining mature forest cover, of ensuring that any extractive industries, communication towers, wind mills for electric generation, drilling rigs, and land clearing activities associated with such uses are not visible and do not impact the rural character of the locality and region should be noted as being of paramount importance. None of these resource extractive uses, communication towers, or wind mills are allowed under the Town of Canadice’s zoning.
 - b) include objectives in the subsections dealing with resource extraction, especially oil and gas drilling, making protection of the drinking water resources of paramount importance. The draft Management Plan does mention protection of public drinking water resource in the section on the management goals for timber resources, but is curiously silent on this subject in regard to management goals in regard to resource extraction and oil and gas leasing.
 - c) include goals and objectives related to being consistent with the original intent of the parties involved when DEC acquired title to the Forest. Specifically, to minimize deviations from the City of Rochester’s historical activities and policies in managing this property. The City of Rochester would not have allowed the introduction of resource extractive uses on this property; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a certified copy of this resolution be sent by the Clerk of this Board to NYSDEC, 7291 Coon Rd. Bath, NY 14810; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be sent to DEC Commissioner Joseph Martens, State Senator Michael F. Nozzolio, State Senator Ted O’Brien, Assembly Minority Leader Brian M. Kolb, Ontario County Board of Supervisors, Ontario County Planning Department and the Towns of Richmond, Springwater and Livonia.

I hereby certify that I have compared the preceding copy of a Resolution with the Original thereof, duly adopted by the Town Board of such Town at a regular meeting of such Board, held on the 11th day of March, 2013, and that the same is true and correct copy of such Resolution and of the whole thereof.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Seal of said Town this 19th day of March, 2013.

-Eileen Schaefer, Town Clerk, Town of Canadice, CANADICE TOWN HALL

4/7/13

I’m simply a student of Naples High School, but also a frequent water user. I swim in it, drink it and if you continue to do this all of that will be gone. Water is one of the many things needed for survival. But it’s not just us, it’s everyone and everything plants, animals, all of those things...alive. And if you frack you will kill most of the life in that area. Animals, plants, water, air all stale and dying because you fracked up our land. This qualifies as stabbing Mother Nature in the back, literally. You’re not only killing animals and plans but also you’re harming little kids. Innocent kids whose lives you’re ruining. Just do us a favor. When you’re about to destroy this land, look around at the land the tree’s the lake and if you can, the animals and horses. Make the right choice.

-Griffin Brown, Naples, NY

4/7/13

Someone much wiser than I said that continuing to try something that doesn't work is the definition of insanity.

Why then is it sane to continue to exploit fossil fuels when we know their use is poisoning the environment. Even if hydraulic fracturing were completely safe, which it isn't, the use of the natural gas is still toxic.

In the name of sanity, may I urge you to forbid energy development which is not renewable or at least is only hydrogen based.

-Peter Nilsson, Hemlock, NY

7April2013

~The "finger lakes region" is one of the most beautiful, precious, and booming economic areas in the state and USA.

~Hydrofracking or any other issue that could negatively affect the "environmental wellness" of the area SHOULD BE STOPPED!!!

~Please consider my request.

~Do the right thing for the environment and the Finger Lakes Region.

~Please keep your word and promise to protect the Finger Lakes Region.

~No HVHF and all the devastation that will occur to the environment directly and indirectly related to hydrofracking.

~Please do the right thing and protect the F. L. Region.

-Mary Lynne Bement, Geneseo, NY

4/7/13

I am writing in response to the present proposed management plan for Hemlock & Canadice Lake forest/the Rochester watershed. The language in this plan is concerning to me, especially in the 11 pages on potential gas/oil procurement. Favorable, the UMP states "protection of the water quality is the most important function of this property" (Pg. 4) Bearing this in mind, it seems antithetical to allow the potential for industrial development in this area. The installation of further access roads, whether for hydro-fracking, logging, or other use, causes erosion which pollutes the water (hence the filter that has been put into place) and destroys natural habitats while further disrupting the area. The pristine state of this park is something to honor, not to capitalize on in any way. New York State, in protection this area, can be a forerunner in moral management. I would like to see a reclassification of the area that will increase protection.

-Joshua Murphy, Mt. Morris, NY

4/7/13

I am writing to urge you to keep high volume hydraulic fracturing out of the Hemlock & Canadice State Forests and to remove the language in the UMP which refers to gas drilling and leasing and its associated activities. I am concerned that although Paul D'Amato claims there is "no intention of drilling in the Hemlock-Canadice State Forest" there is no explicit restriction of oil and gas development. State land should be responsibly environmentally managed and short-term profits should not supersede conserving water quality, habitat protection and decreasing our carbon footprint. I am concerned that the roads will be damaged by high traffic imposed by oil and gas exploration. Using the term "human

activity” to permit uses like hunting, fishing, boating and hiking is too ambiguous. Clearly industrial development for gas extraction does not fall into this category, but it should be explicitly clarified for the sake of our water, environment and the character of our beautiful area, I urge you to restrict all forms of HVHF on the Hemlock and Canadice State Forests.

-Kristen M Balschunat, Geneseo, NY

4/7/13

Please ensure the safety of our lands, wildlife and waters in the Canadice-Hemlock Lake watershed! Please take every measure to ensure the safety of our natural wonders and resources of Conesus, Canadice, Hemlock, Canandaigua and all of our beautiful Finger Lakes, all of NY lands!

Please prevent fracking in and around our Finger Lakes!

Please use every effort to maintain safe waters and lands in our beloved Finger Lakes!

Please use every effort to maintain the health and welfare of our wildlife, forests, lakes and fishes – prevent fracking in our Finger Lakes!

-Maryanna Mueller, Pittsford, NY

4/7/13

The lakes in this region are majestic. Please don't destroy them.

This lake is beautiful and serves as a source of inspiration to me. This will negatively affect us in an extreme way. We want to preserve our drinking water and wildlife, Hemlock Lake.

NO DRILL NO SPILL!

-Alexa Dengos, Buffalo, NY

4/7/13

I have witnessed the process of extracting natural gas in State Park lands all over the country, especially PA. From the workers themselves, and from my own observations, this process cannot be done sustainably, safe, or environmentally conscious. In the Hemlock/Canadice Watershed I do not want to see any more roads, any clearer cutting and I want to see clear language from the DEC stating a permanent ban on HVHF in this watershed. This would serve as a clear statement of the truth: that NY residents do not want HVHF in our state or our watersheds specifically. We will stand in the way of the DEC expediting processes for heavy industry.

-Scott Topel, Bloomfield, NY

4/7/13

I am writing to urge you to prohibit HVHF in the Finger Lakes region. While I understand the need to explore new sources of energy, it needs to be done in a safe, responsible and sustainable manner. The current methods utilized in HVHF present enormous risks, i.e. requiring millions of gallons of fresh water (of which we do not have an unlimited supply) and leaving huge volumes of contaminated water for which there is no plan of what to do with.

The Finger Lakes area is a precious gem in NYS and must not be jeopardized.

New York is historically a leader in the US in promoting the health and safety of its citizens. Please continue to do so by prohibiting HVHF in NYS.

-Carol M. Thompson, RN, Leicester, NY

April 6, 2013

I am writing as a concerned resident of New York State. I feel it is unethical and counterproductive to introduce the industry of HVHF to the Finger Lakes region of our beautiful state. Just the knowledge that so many dangerous chemicals, cancer causing chemicals, all used in the process should alert any compassionate, caring human being, that this is the wrong way to access our natural supply of energy beneath the surface. The destruction of pristine land, forest, woods, the negative effect on wildlife, is profound!

I am asking that the Hemlock/Canadice State Forest be designated as a State Historic and Nature Preserve, so that the values that make it so unique, be forever preserved.

-Cynthia L. Bailey, Rochester, NY

4/7/13

Fracking has proven to be disruptive, damaging nature leaving forests vulnerable to increased susceptibility to invasion by non-native species, damages water quality and fragmentation of the forest.

It means new road creation, resulting in soil compaction, erosion, etc. This whole process isn't worth the long term damage just so as create more jobs. These jobs are disruptive and do more harm than good. People need to realize this!!!

-Joey Newell, Rochester, NY

4/7/13

The UMP leaves the area around the Hemlock-Canadice Lakes open to fracking. In order to protect the drinking water, which should be your priority, you must prohibit fracking on and near the lakes, that is, the entire watershed. Despite your assurances to the contrary that fracking will not be allowed, your UMP contains some 9-11 pages on fracking. If you don't intend to frack, why are these pages in the UMP. We need written assurances of no fracking.

The entire area should be designated as a Unique Area in order to make certain no fracking will take place.

-Judith A. Cartisano, Rochester, NY

4/7/13

Regarding pipeline activity – please ensure that no pipelines for oil and gas will ever be permitted in the Hemlock and Canadice State Forests. It's unimaginable that land could or would ever be cleared and pipelines constructed in this sacred and valuable area.

Regarding mineral resources – please ensure that the integrity of the Hemlock and Canadice Forest take precedent over exploration and development for oil and gas. The destruction these methods would cause in the forest would be permanent and unbelievably disruptive. Let's lead the nation in striving to protect our peace and quiet, our clean water and at the very least, protect the wildlife and eco-system of the few wild areas we've left intact in this state.

Regarding protection of the quality of our environment – please ensure that the temptation to exploit our natural environment on the Hemlock-Canadice Forest be rejected. New York State must conserve and protect the natural areas that remain. What have we done to this state?! Please change the wording to make it crystal clear that no drilling, dumping, clearing or destruction of our valuable forest and lakes for HVHF or anything that might come up in the future will take place!!

Regarding leasing by the DEC for exploration of oil and gas on state lands – please ensure that this activity NEVER take place on the Hemlock-Canadice State Forest or any other state forests in New York State!

Regarding the acquisition of the Hemlock-Canadice State Forest by New York State – Please ensure that both lakes and the watershed be afforded the same protection as the Syracuse and New York City watersheds.

Regarding the UMP – please ensure that the entire Hemlock-Canadice watershed be forever protected against hydrofracking and logging. Please protect this watershed from the creation of new roads for logging. Please ensure that the pristine old growth forest is protected forever.

Regarding water withdrawal and the UMP – It is most frightening that wording to address this issue was left out of the UMP. Please ensure that water NOT be withdrawn from Hemlock or Canadice lakes to support something as ridiculous as hydrofracking! This incredibly valuable gift of clean water should be used as a basic human right of consumption to sustain life. Not to be laced with chemicals and injected into the earth!

-Noreen Riordan, Pittsford, NY

4/7/13

I am writing to urge you to keep HVHF out of the Hemlock and Canadice State Forests and remove the language in the UMP which refers to gas drilling and leasing and its associated activities.

Due to the massive amounts of water already consumed by the fracking industry in PA and the large amount of water already removed from these lakes for drinking water, it's incredibly irresponsible for this issue to be left out of the UMP.

The water resources in these lakes, and for that matter, in the state of NY, should be preserved with the utmost care. We are not able to let our body parts even touch the water on the shores of these lakes – our personal bodies would actually pollute the water much less that activity to withdraw it from its shores, or, than what HVHF would create.

-Sharon A. Gendreau, Livonia, NY

7April2013

The Finger Lakes Region is the wrong place for fracking. It serves as an important water resource, is a heavily populated region and is a major agricultural center.

Allowing fracking in this area would be a major mistake.

-Charles Francis, Rochester, NY

4/7/13

I'm writing you because of my concern with the process of hydraulic fracking. I'm very concerned about the environmental impact, as I've seen video and testimony about the negative impact it has had on people's water, as well as the land on which these wells lie. I'm not against any practice of drilling if

it can't be proven to be safe for human beings, and safe for the environment. Based on what I've seen it is not safe for either category, and until there is a safe way of practicing drilling I demand an end to hydraulic fracking. Until there is a campaign of no-partial straightforward facts based on intensive and prolonged research we cannot allow ourselves to jump into this process. Let's be patient. Let's get the real facts. Let's be overly-conscious of the welfare of human beings and the environment. Let's not drill.

Thank you for your time.

The proposed protection of our last 2 Finger Lakes, Hemlock and Canadice is wholly inadequate. We must completely exclude any activities related to hydro fracturing from these delicate areas. Furthermore, we must severely limit access by noisy three and four wheel vehicles and intrusion if new roads that will bring unwanted vehicle traffic.

The band of protection proposed by the DEC is too narrow and must be expanded drastically to guarantee protection for our lakes. These areas are in and of themselves powerful economic stimuli that far outweigh the short term and ugly and dirty energy provided through current fracking methods.

I insist that the DEC address these concerns! A thorough health analysis needs to be done, and regardless of its content, these lakes must be thoroughly protected.

-David Makepeace, Livonia, NY

April 7, 2013

I urge you on behalf of not only the citizens of upstate New York but the environment to reconsider changing the law to allow fracking on Hemlock/Canadice park region. Nature is our legacy and in many ways it is our duty to protect it for future generations. Please do not sell nature for a "deplete-able" resource, especially when renewable ones are widely available.

In many ways we are judged (or even defined) by what we leave on this world after we die. As such, the preservation of our environment should be a top priority as we enter an increasingly modern society. While jobs that may result from fracking this region is certainly tempting, the depletion and irreparable damage to our environment will linger long after the benefits of these temporary jobs have vanished.

I strongly support energy independence but do not believe this is the proper direction. Creation of other jobs through investment in solar, wind or (most hopefully) NUCLEAR energy will prove to have a longer term benefit on both man and nature.

-Benjamin Shelkey, Rochester, NY

4/7/13

I walk these cherished lands with my dogs every day. I kayak the crystal clear waters of Canadice and Hemlock lakes 3 seasons of the year. I fish and hunt and I hike these "gifts" constantly. I meet great folks on the trails all the time.

DO THE RIGHT THING – PROTECT THIS "FOREST CHURCH".

-Paul Reagan, Geneseo, NY

4/8/13

I am concerned about the UMP for Hemlock and Canadice State Forest. It needs to be strengthened by wording that specifically prohibits HVHF.

The abundance of fresh water in these two lakes (as well as in the entire Finger Lakes region) is considerably and needs the protection of a well written UMP.

The Hemlock and Canadice watershed should be granted the same protection as the Syracuse and NYC watershed.

It is a direct conflict of interest for the DEC to make leases for extractive industries on land that it is also tasked with protecting.

Strengthen the language in the UMP to provide complete protection against HVHF.

I am writing to express my concern over the language used in the UMP for Canadice and Hemlock State Forest.

I am deeply concerned about the possibility of HVHF on the lands and the potential for groundwater contamination.

Although there are no current oil and gas leases, the DEC lays out in depth in over 5 paragraphs on page 17 of the UMP the procedures and policies for procurement of leases.

The UMP must clearly state that leasing of the Hemlock and Canadice State Forest for the purpose of HVHF shall be prohibited.

The water quality must be preserved, and the environment surrounding this land and within this forest needs complete protection specifically banning HVHF.

I am writing in regards to the UMP for Hemlock and Canadice Lakes which needs to be strengthened in order to adequately protect the water quality from the possibility of detrimental effects of HVHF. The city of Rochester and many local towns rely on their drinking water from these lakes.

The UMP must clearly state that energy extraction using HVHF shall NOT be allowed because it poses unacceptable risks to the environment and human health.

New York State has the opportunity to lead the country in prioritizing the quality of its land, air, and water to be clean and free of contaminants.

We are depending on you to strengthen the UMP for Hemlock and Canadice State Forest and remove the language which refers to gas drilling and leasing and its associated activities.

-Daniel Bock, Hemlock, NY

7April2013

Please consider the consequences of allowing HVHF in our wonderful state. Potential for cancerous pollution. Communities destroyed by dust, noise, light. Most economic benefits go to out-of-staters.

In case you haven't kept up on the news, many states are running out of water.

After the short-lived boom, home and business values will go down.

We can learn from the damage down in Pennsylvania and elsewhere.

At the very, very least – please wait to see the long-term results of this process. It might even be made safer and more economical in years to come.

-Michael DaBramo, Geneseo, NY

4/6/13

As Livonia Town Supervisor from 1998-2005, I did all I could to protect our Finger Lakes, including being a part of the Conesus Lake Watershed Committee. From that I learned how important it was to limit development.

Fracking would be horrible to have in our watershed. Please do not allow it there or actually anywhere in NY. Yes, some winners, but more losers.

-Tim Wahl, Livonia, NY

4/7/13

My name is Courtney and I have lived by Hemlock Lake my whole life. I am 23 years old and I want to enjoy living here! I work at Eagle Crest Vineyards (located on Hemlock Lake). If fracking comes to Livingston County – and pollutes the water in any way, we can't make our wine! And I won't have a job. I understand money and resources, and that everyone needs a job! There has to be another way! If there are people against what fracking means and does to the land, people, animals, water! Then there is a problem. I know it is hard to change opinions but how are people going to live here if we can't farm, drink the water, lose jobs. And enjoy this beautiful land and share what we have to share if we don't have anything.

-Courtney Stewart, Lakeville, NY

April 7, 2013

I am writing to urge you to keep HVHF out of the Hemlock and Canadice State Forests. As you likely know, 7% of the world's fresh water is found in the Finger Lakes. Water is a precious resource that needs to be protected. The Hemlock and Canadice Watershed should be granted the same protection as the Syracuse and New York City watershed.

As a public health practitioner, I strongly feel that this extreme form of gas drilling poses an unacceptable risk to human health. Many people in the City of Rochester and other local towns rely on the waters from hemlock and Canadice lakes for clean, safe drinking water. HVHF endangers the health of the residents who rely on this water and so I strongly urge you to say no to this extreme form of energy extraction in Hemlock and Canadice Lake State Forests.

I ask you to designate the Hemlock/Canadice State forest as a State Historic and Nature Preserve.

-Onolee Stephan, MPH, Hemlock, NY

4/8/13

I am writing in regards to UMP for Hemlock and Canadice Lakes. On page 17 is the discussion of oil and gas pipelines developed on this state forest. I would like to see language that would exclude transportation of gas extracting using HVHF. The risk of contamination to water and land from the chemicals and radiations is not being considered a risk to the environmental health of the lands and underground/surrounding water when there should be a leak or break in the pipeline.

What guarantees do we have that these pipelines will not leak or break? What consideration is being given to the rest of contamination? Until the time when the water and land can be protected 100% I would like to see language added to exclude gas from HVHF be excluded from this use.

I am write to request the UMP for the Hemlock & Canadice State Forest be change to make this land and 2 lakes become protected, especially in regards to HVHF, that this water is the source of drinking water for many people including the City of Rochester.

The mining technique named HVHF is a risk to health of people who live in the area and drink the waters from the lakes and aquiphires. The chemicals used to in the mining process and the release of radiation from the fracturing of rock poses a tremendous risk to community health and the cost of that may too great for us as a state to take on.

I am writing to ask for the removal of HVHF from the Ump for the Hemlock & Canadice State Forest. To instead add language that would protect these 2 lakes. They are the water source for the City of Rochester and several other towns. This water needs to be protected to continue to be a water source for generations to come. What we do, must keep the water safe for the futures. So far, HVHF poses the

greatest risk to contamination to these two lakes and the aquifers below. Not just considering the possibility of spills but also the degeneration of wells In future years. I am asking you, the DEC, to protect our water now and for the future.

-Lydia Edland, Hemlock, NY

4/7/13

I write to express my surprise and outrage that page 16 of the UMP is included in your comprehensive report. It is unethical and counterintuitive to generate revenue from an industry that is, in its essence, destructive to the natural environment. Please explicitly state that NO HVHF be permitted, and protect the values that you are charged to protect! Designate Hemlock/Canadice State Forest as a State Historic and Nature Preserve.

I write to thank you for your mission of preserving the quality of life in the state of New York. I moved to this state in 2003 from Colorado. I have been blessed to discover the beauty of this Western/Finger lakes region – an area I had never travelled through or known before. The Hemlock and Canadice State Forests have been places of wonder and discovery for me. Therefore, it shocks me that you would devote eleven pages of the UMP to the possibility of engaging many gas drilling or leasing. Even the st----- (illegible) road building associated with this highly industrial process would greatly compromise not only these precious public lands, but also make a laughing stock of the DEC's mission. Please don't go the way of my home state, CO, which has endangered public land through allowing gas drilling. Please designate the Hemlock/Canadice State Forest as a State Historic and Nature Preserve.

-Rev. Laurel Nelson, Dansville, NY

April 7, 2013

It is a direct conflict of interest for you, the NYS Department of Conservation to make leases for extractive industries on land that it is also tasked with protecting. SHAME ON YOU! No good can come from drilling near lakes! We as taxpaying citizens of NYS relay on you in those positions to be the care takers who make the right decisions for protecting these increasingly diminishing natural resources for our generations that follow.

The natural beauty of our area generates tourist and income. That is the key to our success, not destroying it.

-Jody Treble, Hemlock, NY

4/7/13

I have lived at the north end of Canadice Lake for the past 22 years. I know how the underground springs on one parcel of land can affect the water quality on a different parcel of land. If you ruin our water you will ruin us, our land and our abundant wildlife. No dollar amount is worth losing our environment. If we do not have clean, good quality water we can't live. If we can't live, what good will the money be!!

-Dawn C. Snowden, Canadice, NY

4/7/13

With the DEC's regulations on water withdrawals, it would leave Hemlock and Canadice Lakes wide open for consumptive industries like Hydraulic fracturing.

Due to the massive amounts of water already being consumed by the fracking industry in PA and the large amount of water already removed from these lakes for drinking water is its incredibly irresponsible for this issue to be left out of the UMP.

-Patricia DeVelder, Conesus, NY

4/7/13

Stay out of the lakes! We need to have some areas free from encroachment of civilization! This will lead to habitat fragmentation for wildlife-pressuring animals which are already strapped to carve out a niche for themselves.

Already many areas are over hunted due to loss of habitat from urban dwellers moving to the country. People build palatial estates on rural roads and then post the land against any conservational efforts. The use of Candice Hemlock lands for HVHF will increase the amount of people moving into the area and jeopardize the already fragile ecosystem.

-Corrine Robinson, Springwater, NY

4/7/13

It is great to have natural resources and strive to be independent from imports. We know we have an abundance of the shale gas.

We also know we cannot safely extract it at this time without corrupting the other natural resources.

My 4-year-old grandson can put a straw in a cup of milk and "inject" air to the bottom and watch it quickly rise to the surface.

Chemical pollution, traffic pollution, overuse of existing infrastructure and now – earthquakes. Fracking on an industrial level is destruction of our natural resources.

Act responsibly for me, my children and grandchildren. Yours too!

-Michael Carroll, Avon, NY

4/7/13

I am writing to urge you to include the watersheds of Hemlock and Candice in the protection that you are currently giving to Watersheds in the Syracuse and NY City areas. There needs to be emphasis on preserving this land not destroying it! This land is a pristine land that provides water to many areas, is a recreation area for many people and is beautiful in its own right! Regulations for use of this land should be tightened.

It is important to preserve all this land against fracking!

-Shirley Cox, Geneseo, NY

April 7, 2013

Thank you so much for inviting comments on the NYS DEC's Unit Management Plan for Hemlock and Canadice Lakes and Forests.

I am one of several concerned local residents who were horrified a couple years ago when the possibility of developers purchasing these lands around the pristine waters of Candice and Hemlock lakes. We were very happy to learn that NYS had purchased the area but now are dismayed that the lands might not be properly protected from forces that would compromise the pristine forest and watershed.

Please grant the Canadice/Hemlock Lake watershed “unique” status, the same protection as the Syracuse and NY City Watersheds enjoy.

Please prohibit any and all activities relating to HVHF and so protect and preserve the Hemlock-Canadice Forest (and lakes) administered by the NYS DEC.

My step grandfather Louis Green, used to love to come to Hemlock and Canadice lakes fishing. His buddies and he would spend hours of peaceful time enjoying the pristine atmosphere to be found here. They even left their boats in the woods, just tied not locked. They all respected each others’ space. He always told my grandmother not to worry about him because if he was fishing, he was happy and he would always say “If I die fishing on Hemlock or Canadice Lake, know that I died happy.” He must have been prophetic, because that is indeed what happened. He had a heart attack and died while fishing on Hemlock Lake!

Please respect Louis’ memory by helping to preserve and protect these lakes for generations to come.

Please make the language in the UMP stronger to guarantee preservation and protection from future misuse at the hands of fracking, logging and extended recreation interests. Thank you for listening.

I am writing to you to BEG you to strengthen the language in the Management Plan for the Hemlock and Canadice Forests and lakes. Please make the language strong enough to prohibit any activity that would compromise the precious ecosystems of these two of the western most Finger Lakes. Activities like leasing this land for the construction and placement of oil and gas pipelines would be detrimental to the delicate balance of nature that exists here. Please leave these lands and lakes alone and let them continue as pristine and beautiful as they are today! Our children and grandchildren deserve to have the same beautiful lakes that we have today.

-Thank you, Sally Leeson, Wayland, NY

April 7, 2013

Please protect our land, air, and water resources by clearly and definitely refusing HVHF in the entire Hemlock and Canadice Watershed. It is crucial to our well-being, not just by our health but by our happiness. Enjoying our environment is a strong part of whom we are and why we live here. We want what brings life to the area, and that doesn’t just mean more people – all life. HVHF does not prove to be a thriving environment. Rather, the opposite. The risks are numerous, and chronic, and not worth the gas that might be extracted. My friends at Eagle Crest Vineyards will be severely impacted by the decision, and all of my friends and family that use the lakes for drinking water, hiking, camping, and fishing. Please protect us.

-Haley Pasquale, Livonia, NY

4/7/13

In order follow the DEC’s own value and high regard for the Hemlock and Canadice Lakes, it is critical for the hydrofracking and drillings language be removed from the management plan.

HVHF is entirely incompatible with the purpose and value and the state lands intended to forever protect the drinking water of our region. These two lakes are symbolic of our ability to be good stewards of priceless natural resources, and staying out of the business of exploiting the land for profit – at least in one important area that we depend upon and use regularly both for water and for free access to the natural world. This resource is a primary reason I live in New York State

-Dr. Christopher Henry Hinesley (and daughter Maria, age 7), Rochester, NY

4/7/13

I am very concerned with any hydrofracking occurring in the area of the Finger Lakes, particularly since these lakes provided the water supply for the large Rochester-Geneseo area.

While appreciating the economic advantages, this area has already suffered from the unforeseen mining of salt.

This area is just too important for the health and well being of Rochester area and Livingston County.

-Anne Francis, Rochester, NY

April 7, 2013

Water is a precious resource that cannot be reproduced by man. Seven percent of the world's fresh water is contained in the Finger Lakes. We must protect this valuable resource.

The UMP states "Protection of the water quality is the most important function of this property" but the plan does little to protect our lakes. HVHF needs to be kept out of the Hemlock and Canadice State Forests. We love our lakes and want to keep them as they are. Please listen to the people who care! Do not allow HVHF in New York.

-Janis Weaver, Livonia, NY

April 7, 2013

Did you realize that Canadice and Hemlock Lakes are the only 2 undeveloped Finger Lakes? They are! This is important for a number of reasons: 1) The city of Rochester and surrounding towns rely on their drinking water from these two pristine lakes; 2) The beauty of the Finger Lakes would be compromised by allowing extreme gas drilling (aka hydrofracking). One of the main sources of revenue for this area is tourism. By allowing hydrofracking the character of the landscape would be negatively affected; 3) It is unethical to generate revenue from an industry that is destructive to the natural environment. The environment needs to be protected for future generations; 4) We, as a society, need to find ways to use and NOT abuse our natural resources to benefit humans and the earth.

Page #2

Did you know that Candice and Hemlock Lakes are the only 2 undeveloped Finger Lakes? They are! Why is this important?

1) The city of Rochester and surrounding towns get their drinking water from these two pristine lakes.

2) The Unit management plan for Hemlock and Canadice Forests does not address the impact of logging nor does it address protection of old growth forests.

3) High volume hydrofracking has been proven to have long term environmental impacts that are not at all positive. I am all for having power, gas, etc, but not at the expense of our planet.

4) Clean water is essential for life – all life. Regulations need to be put in place to ensure clean water for generations to come.

Page #3

Did you know that Canadice and Hemlock lakes are the ONLY 2 undeveloped Finger Lakes? Well, they are!

This is important for a variety of reasons:

- 1) The city of Rochester and surrounding towns rely on their drinking water from these two pristine lakes.
- 2) The beauty of the area would be severely compromised if unregulated, unsafe, and unlimited gas drilling is allowed.
- 3) I have a very personal interest in both Canadice and hemlock Lakes. I grew up on Old Bald Hill Road which overlooks Hemlock Lake and is a short bicycle ride away from Canadice Lake. The area is spectacularly beautiful in the undeveloped state it is today. Bald eagles, fox, deer, black bear, chipmunks, etc. all live peacefully with humans in this natural setting. Please, please, please DO NOT allow industrialization of “my” lakes!!

Page #4

Did you realize that Canadice and Hemlock Lakes are the only two undeveloped Finger Lakes? They are! This is important for a number of reasons:

- 1) The city of Rochester and surrounding towns rely on their drinking water from these two pristine lakes.
- 2) By allowing unregulated and unlimited High Volume HydroFracking you are doing nothing to improve or protect our natural resources. The potential for spills and illegal dumping will negatively impact humans, animals, and the planet.
- 3) While it may appear that hydrofracking will help local economies the opposite is true over the long term. The cost of renting, cost of goods, and services increases and makes it difficult for local residents to live.
- 4) The "siting" and drilling phases of hydrofracking are NOT short term! Damage to roads, forests, and wildlife is long term.

-Alexandria Leto, Atlanta, NY

4/7/13

I am extremely concerned about the language used in the UMP referring to gas drilling and leasing and associated activities! I am writing to urge you to keep HVHF out of the Hemlock/Canadice State Forests. I feel that NYS has the opportunity to lead the country in truly prioritizing the quality of its land, air, water, keeping it clean and free of contaminants.

Some of my major concerns are in regards to quality of life. We have learned from other states where HVHF is established that it poses unacceptable risks to the environment and to human health. HVHF brings with it 24 hrs/day, 7 days a week, indefinite duration of heavy industrialization, noise, light and air pollution, heavy machinery, traffic and a heavy influx of out of state gas industry workers (70%).

In reference to “improving and protecting its natural resources and environment”, the process of HVHF does nothing to improve or protect natural resources or environment or to enhance the safety and welfare of the people of NYS. In fact, as a rule, quite the contrary due to circumstances such as spills, illegal dumping, methane immigrations, radioactive, carcinogenic and toxic frack fluid and waste water flow back. Not to mention the habitat fragmentation due to clear cutting for pipelines and access roads, compressor stations and well pads. I feel quite certain that by allowing HVHF, it will have a negative

impact on the landscape and a destruction of the rural impact to the landscape and a destruction of the rural character for tourism and recreational activities (hiking, paddling, fishing, hunting.) The rural roads and infrastructure will be stressed and damaged.

I feel that it is a direct conflict of interest for the DEC to make leases for extractive industries on land that is also tasked with protecting. How is it ethical for the DEC to regulate an industry that it also profits from?

As the steward of the environment (land & water) for us, we are depending on you to NO to this extreme form of energy extraction in Hemlock and Canadice Lake State Forests. I am asking that the Hemlock/Canadice State Forest be designated as a State Historic and Nature preserve in order to protect those values that make it unique among state lands.

-Lauren Sherwood, Naples, NY

April 7, 2013

Regarding the Unit Management Plan for Hemlock and Canadice Lakes:

Our Hemlock /Canadice watershed needs the utmost protection – as afforded to the Syracuse and NYS watersheds

Absolutely no drilling on any kind should occur in this forest to preserve our drinking water supply. Also our forest needs to be protected from spills, leaks, dumping, and not turned into an industrial use area-which is what fracking does.

The forest needs to be managed for drinking water first and always. No logging, no recreational in areas that adversely affect water quality.

Please designate this land as special use special/unique area and protect it completely!

-Valerie Rice, Rochester, NY

4/7/13

Dear DEC,

Please preserve two beautiful pieces of nature. Hemlock and Canadice Lakes are near and dear to the area and provide valuable drinking water. Please halt the alteration of any piece of this area.

Please don't tamper with Hemlock and Canadice lakes.

It is a conflict to make leases for extractive industries on land that is also tasked with protecting.

Please, the Hemlock and Canadice Watershed should be granted the same protection as the Syracuse and NY City Watershed!

I am writing to urge you to keep HVHF out of the Hemlock and Canadice State Forests and remove the language in the UMP which refers to gas drilling and leasing and its associated activities.

My father would visit Hemlock and Canadice lakes regularly for peace and to enjoy the beauty of these lakes. Please keep the State Forest a Nature Preserve!

-Kind regards, Cindy Kyle, Rochester, NY

4/7/13

I am writing you because I am strongly against fracking and hope that you can help us stop it from coming to my/our home. I have grown up and still live 1-1/2 miles from Hemlock Lake, it's where I will always call home and hope it can remain safe from the dangers of fracking.

It is known that 6% of well fail immediately, when that happens, risk to the land, water and people is in stake. I would be one of those people and so would my family and friends. Why put people's lives in danger when you don't need to.

New York is a great state that could be a wonderful example for the rest of the U.S. Please help us set a good example by putting our people and our land and clean water first. Let's keep Hemlock/Canadice State Forest a Nature Preserve at its finest.

-Alison Thompson, Livonia, NY

April 7, 2013

I am writing to you to urge that any high volume hydraulic fracking be banned and kept out of or near Hemlock and Candice State Forests. Also any language in the Unit management Plan which refers to gas drilling and leasing and its associated activities must be removed to protect this precious watershed and forest. I know from hydraulic fracturing in other states that this type of gas drilling poses unacceptable risks to the environment and human health. I hope that the DEC will help lead New York State in prioritizing its quality of land, air and water and keep all free of contaminants. The City of Rochester and many local towns rely on this drinking water derived from these lakes.

I am also asking that Hemlock/Canadice State Forest be designated as a State Historic and Nature Preserve in order to protect those values that make it truly unique among State lands.

It was said by DEC at the March 14, 2013 meeting they you have "no intention of allowing fracking in the Hemlock/Canadice State Forest." You must make it so.

-Elizabeth Reinhart, Geneseo, NY

4/7/13

After reviewing the way the paperwork of the Hemlock and Canadice State Forests I believe the water (drinking) is in trouble! Please Please Please no drilling, no roadwork around this area.

Keep the environment natural – it is the most cost effective way of protecting our drinking water.

Please make Hemlock Canadice State Forest be designated as a State Historic and Nature Preserve so we can protect those values that make this area unique and safe.

-M. Curci, Livonia, NY

April 7, 2013

This lake is very important and serves as an inspiration to me. I know that this will greatly affect me and my family. I want to know that I had a positive effect. NO DRILL NO SPILL!

-Nicolette Spehar, San Gabriel, CA

April 6, 2013

This should be so obvious. Do not mess with this pure goodness. There are so many other places that are already being utilized for development. This area has been cleared of development already, for the good of many. Why take steps backward?

-Valerie Reagan, Geneseo, NY

4/7/13

The purpose of this letter is to state my opposition to fracking on the state forest lands of Hemlock and Canadice.

As a resident for m30 years, we were drawn to this area for its beauty and peacefulness. We were very optimistic when the State purchased this land just recently. I'm appalled to see the wording that the DEC has in its management plan for the State Forest in the possibility of changing this beautiful land in any way to make a profit.

Please remove this working from your management document and prove to use that you are sincere in your recent words of "no fracking" plans.

-Delores A. Johnson, Springwater, NY

4/7/13

Fracking would only be a short term solution to the energy crisis. I'll save your time; you have a lot of letters to read.

-Jacob Auburn, Hemlock. NY

4/7/13

It sounds convincing that the natural gas trapped within the Marcellus shale formation could provide energy to meet current and future energy demands for another 60 to 100 years. That sounds enticing, but I must ask you now, what about after those 60 years? Shale gas is a finite resource, and why should you have the right to put our watershed's ecological integrity at stake? Don't you understand that horizontal fracking will introduce unforeseen consequences to our drinking water and forests, and it will be MY GENERATION that will have to clean up your mess. I am an Environmental Science major, and I care too much about the future, that the short-term economic boom and bust cycle is just plain foolhardy, when if you look at the advances in clean, renewable technology such as solar and wind, why would hydrofracking even be considered?

Hemlock Lake and Canadice Lake are far too valuable in terms of ecological and inherent value. There is so much primary productivity in these lakes and such diversity of mussels and fish that harmful drilling activities would take away. We only get one earth, please consider the future.

-Katherine L bailey, Rochester, NY

4/7/13

I have read and seen a DVD "Gasland" that has given me so much information

Yes there will be more jobs available – but really most of those jobs will be held by the industries employees.

Yes the land owners whose property will be leased will make money and this is especially attractive to our people who currently are suffering financially. But – this is short lived and they (land owners) are left with useless land for animals feed or crops.

Our roads, clean water and landscape will be destroyed so that, once again, big industry will make money.

Please save our waterways and precious land from money mongers.

-Most Sincerely, Maryann Glende, Henrietta, NY

4/7/13

Since the Hemlock and Canadice lakes provide clean drinking water for Rochester and many other communities, I feel that they should be protected and safeguarded against contamination that would be caused by land development and fracking near them. I hear that the Syracuse and NY City watersheds have been granted protection. Therefore, the ones here at Hemlock and Canadice are no less important and vital to our welfare, and should also be protected and preserved.

-Gail Woodhams, Wayland, NY

4/7/13

In addition to now fracking will have a horribly negative effect on our environment, and potentially contaminate our water supply, the economic (long term) effect could be detrimental as well.

Brining companies in to collect our natural resources could be temporary good for our local economy, but 30 years later, once the site has been fracked to its fullest potential, no jobs, and a mess of a site would be left behind, leavening nothing but waste and economic troubles behind.

So, to the argument of local fracking having some advantage to our area would be insufficient.

I see nothing good coming out of fracking in our region.

-Alysha Baier, Conesus, NY

4/7/13

My concerns regarding Canadice and Hemlock lakes are related to the risks to the environment and human health.

I am concerned that the same agency (DEC) are both the power that decides the perimeters that are acceptable and those that will reap the benefits from hydrofracking.

Also, in the Finger Lakes Region we rely heavily on tourism and I feel this may also jeopardize tourism industry.

We live in a beautiful place; let's make sure to protect it!

-Mary Turner, Honeoye, NY

7APR2013

Contamination of drinking well water is an issue with me; I use our well for drinking water, clothes washing and dish washing. If my well was contaminated with natural gas or any other chemical, I would be fighting mad.

Please take this comment under consideration for I think this concern is very important. Thank you.

-Joseph L. Snowden, Canadice, NY

April 7, 2013

HVHF is inconsistent with the DEC's Mission Statement, which clearly states that your purpose to "conserve, improve and protect its natural resources and environment, etc." I guess it all depends on your definition of "improve" I hardly think that HVHF operating 24/7 will "improve" anything. Instead it will destroy the forests through spills, illegal dumping, methane migration, radiation, habitat fragmentation and so forth.

Thus to prevent even the remotest possibility that fracking will occur, we need to see a written guarantee, not vague, verbal "promises" The Hemlock-Canadice lakes, forest and waters must be designated as a "Unique Area" under Article 45, section 45-0117 of the State Constitution, Article 4, article 14.

There is a major difference between commercial logging and maintenance of the forests by removing invasive species or dead wood. Yet you make claims to be able to proceed with commercial logging based on an 84 yr. old statute. I would suggest that your emphasis on road creation is your means to bring in logging trucks. You make a disingenuous argument that there are no old growth trees to concern ourselves with. On page 40, you make your intentions clear by waxing eloquent about the monetary value of trees and specifically mention red oak as valuable. This exploitation is inconsistent with your own statement of purpose. Maintenance is fine but logging for commercial purposes is not.

-Judith A. Cartisano, Rochester, NY

April 7, 2013

I am concerned about waste water disposal from hydrofracking, especially in the Canadice-Hemlock-Honeoye water shed areas. I know we can use the gas but at what price to the environment. I do not believe the rewards outweigh the risks.

-Don Turner, Honeoye, NY

4/7/13

I am writing to state that it is most urgent to protect Hemlock and Canadice and designate them as a Historic and Nature Preserve. Among the Finger Lake region these lakes are truly UNIQUE both as in their undeveloped nature and their use as a CLEAN water supply. Please preserve these lakes for future generations.

As for fracking in the Finger Lakes region – their industrial use is NOT a fit for this area. Many use the watershed for their drinking water and tourism and truck traffic and boom town tendencies would ruin this up late "paradise" – voted a few years ago in a national poll as one of the top 10 places to live!

-Marcia Mundrick, Honeoye, NY

4/7/13

I am writing to voice my concern about gas drilling in the Hemlock and Canadice State Forests. The mountain of evidence arguing fracking severely disturbs the natural habitat that's been drilled in should already be enough proof to ban fracking in our beautiful home of Hemlock. So much of the economy here is based on eco tourism. People come here for the pristine clean, beautiful and quiet state parks. But more of that concerns me as much as the risk of an accident happening during drilling the gases that can seep into the underground water supply will cause a plethora of EXTREMELY serious health hazards for

the people and animals in the area. Protect us from danger, please! It is your job to keep us and the environment safe and healthy.

-Lauren Von Deroef, Canandaigua, NY

4/7/13

I have reviewed your unit management plan for the Canadice/Hemlock Park. It needs to clearly protect the lakes surrounding timber, and wildlife from any commercial pursuits such as fracking and timbering.

The lake has been a refuge and sanctuary of sorts for me, allowing access to a unique wilderness not found in many places. I love these lakes. I count on you to use much more clear language in you UMP to protect them, now and in protect our water and our communities.

-Arlene Leach, Rochester, NY

April 7, 2013

I am writing with great urgency to voice my strictest and unequivocal opposition to the process of fracking and all that encompasses. It is my position that fracking, however defined is irreparably toxic and destructive to ALL living things. This is not merely an opinion but a well considered and qualified stance based on both qualitative and quantitative research.

When you and others charged with authority and governance over the common good and public land make decisions – know this: the Canadice and Hemlock Lakes must be protected to the absolute highest degree. It is not enough to claim “no intention to frack.” You must honor the trust placed in you and act to preserve our vital water, the surrounding trees, wildlife, and communities. There may be claims that fracking is both safe and economically lucrative. This is bogus. Any economic gain can be considered short term, as well as short term.

Profit does not matter when our Earth is poisoned. Simply put, do not sanction fraction by leaving any possibility for its future, or none of us have a future.

Thank you for reading my concerns; I hope you take them to heart and afford Hemlock Canadice the strictest protection, do not allow the use or sale of our water for any fracking related activities, do not lumber our forests.

-With hope, Arlene Leach, PhD, Rochester, NY

4/7/13

My intent is to ensure that the Hemlock/Canadice State Forest be designated as a State Historic and Nature Preserve forever. It would be unfathomable to this community to not think otherwise on this matter. We as a community love this land! And by allowing gas drilling and leasing of this land would ruin it forever. Not just for future generations, but for me now! I live here! I am asking the NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation to say “no” to this extreme form of energy extraction in Hemlock and Canadice Lake State Forests.

-Jolynn Joy, Conesus, NY

2013-04-07

The Hemlock Lake region should not be subject to drilling, fracking, or any other kind of industrialization or development. It is a beautiful, untouched land and deserves our protection. It is the major source of drinking water for Rochester, my city, and any plans that might affect the area should be heavily scrutinized.

Your department has the power to continue the protection of this region. Please stand by the words of Environmental Conservation Law 1-0101(1):

“...the policy of the State of New York [is] to conserve, improve and protect its natural resources and environment...”

Please, do not develop or industrialize this area.

-Steve Horner, Rochester, NY

4/7/13

I am writing today with concerns over gas drilling and land leasing in the Hemlock and Canadice State Forests. The lake and its lands were recently sold to the state by the city of Rochester. The lake is the primary source of water for all of the greater Rochester area and I am concerned that the practices of hydrofracking will have a detrimental effect on the environment and is a potential hazard for those who must bath in and drink this water. I understand as an engineer that natural gas is a stepping stone to get to better forms of energy but it should not be implemented in such a location until the technology and industry can evolve to meet more stringent standards that are not as hazardous. Additionally, NY State tax payers will not benefit from the development. Out of state workers will flood the state instead of employing many locals. Additionally the large gas trucks and heavy machinery will destroy our roads and NY State is very much struggling already in necessary repairs. Allowing fracking here is irresponsible and I hope your department takes these letters from concerned citizens into account and make the correct decision.

-Walter C. Bergstrom, Ithaca, NY

April 7, 2013

I am writing to insist the immediate stop in the hydro-fracking in the Hemlock-Canadice Conesus areas. The DEC claimed they had no intention to proceed in these areas, alas the UMP defer regulations to the SGEIS, a document specifically tasked with regulating HVHF. Not only are you making horrible decisions on the ethical treatment of the earth, but you are doing a terrible job at keeping us blindly faithful to your word. The planet we inhabit is nonrenewable such as the resources upon it. We cannot leave. This method is quite asinine. The only thing you can renew at this point is the functioning, community you are pushing around. Stop being total idiots.

-Maurene Vanderwall, Rochester, NY

There needs to be precise and specific language in the R8UMP that strictly prohibits gas and oil development, or anything associated with the drilling process, including high volume hydraulic fracturing. If the DEC does not intend to develop this pristine water supply for gas and oil, then it needs to exempt it specifically with clear language. Currently the Hemlock-Canadice UMP contains at least 11 pages devoted to mineral exploration and development including gas & oil drilling, pipelines, leasing, and procurement. This geographic area needs to be classified as a “unique area,” and forever protected. It needs to be in writing that there will be no wells, no gathering lines, no compressor stations, no water

withdrawals for drilling and fracking. This is the drinking water for many in western NY and must be kept pristine forever.

-Holly Adams, Hunt, NY

4/10/13

As an adult who moved to the Finger Lakes because of the pristine lakes and beautiful environment, I am very sad to think that fracking would be allowed.

I know that both sides of these fracking issues have pros and cons, but it just seems to me that the cons of fracking will have such a negative effect to our local watershed that it is common sense to just say NO!!

Please help protect the future of this beautiful area.

-Linda Eames, Canandaigua, NY

4/9/13

Please prohibit fracking our beautiful Finger Lakes.

-Paul Topel, Bloomfield, NY

4/9/13

Please take into consideration the impact on this pristine, beautiful area of the Finger Lakes. The consequences of fracking would be detrimental and would ruin this environment. Keep our area as nature intended.

-Barbara Topel, Bloomfield, NY

4/19/13

I believe that the Canadice Hemlock watershed should have the same protection as those of Syracuse and NYC.

In addition to the above, logging on the hillside, of these lakes have been tried and resulted in unacceptable turbidity of the water. The city of Rochester blamed the turbidity of the water on excretion of gypsy moths which was joke as I could see the mud flow from where the [logging had been] done.

Let's not use this pristine land as a part of a business plan. We have pure water and old forest to protect.

Please live up to your name.

-Edward E. Johnson, Springwater, NY

I believe that the Hemlock and Canadice Lakes area deserves the highest environmental protection. I am a member of the Adirondack Mountain Club and support the position stated at the DEC Hearing in Springwater by our president Jim Bird. Hemlock and Canadice should be given the designation of a Unique Area.

In reference to mineral resources (pg. 16 of UMP) it is unethical to generate revenue in this pristine area from an industry (gas) that is very destructive to the natural environment. It is not fitting to the character of this forest to upgrade existing roads.

It is desirable for the integrity of this forest to be preserved intact with minimal changes to infrastructure creating grassy openings for habitat diversity “due to the disruptive, damaging nature of HVHF leave the Hemlock-Canadice forest vulnerable to the degradation of wildlife and recreational resources.

-Vicky Southall, Bergen, NY

April 9, 2013

I am writing to protest ANY and ALL HVHF potentially planned for the Hemlock Lake area. The Hemlock Lake, as you know, supplies the city of Rochester with drinking water and is a precious resource for citizen, wildlife and forest health. The entire Finger Lakes region should be protected from fracking due to the sensitivity of watersheds. Our economy depends on the health of this environment. We do not need the pollution, road abuse, noise and habitat fragmentation that fracking creates.

Just as NYC and Syracuse watersheds are protected, so must all other watersheds, including Hemlock Lake.

-Mrs. Maureen Russell, Canandaigua, NY

April 9, 2013

I am writing to you as a seventh grader in Naples. The topic of my concern is the fracking that will be taking place in Hemlock and Canadice. Both of these towns are only 12 miles away from our town of Naples. If you frack in Hemlock and Canadice it will mess up the Ecosystem and it will most likely decrease the amount of ground water and it will leak into all the water systems nearby it. This will also affect both Canadice and Hemlock lakes. The Forest is also near that area and it would affect the natural beauty if provides. I feel that fracking in the area of Hemlock and Canadice is cruel and it would take a heartless person to take away the beauty which Hemlock and Canadice lakes hold. Please reconsider fracking before you make a rational decision and ruin a whole ecosystem.

-Annamarie Dallas, Naples, NY

For Additional Information Contact:

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This plan will be located at: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/68822.html>