

Conceptual Plan for a Hut-to-Hut Destination-based Trail System for the Five Towns of Long Lake, Newcomb, Indian Lake, Minerva, and North Hudson

December 2015



**Prepared For the
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation**

BY:

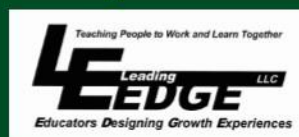
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Preface

Although this project has the complexity of a long-term project, our work has been conducted over a relatively short four-month time frame. Attempts were made to reach out to as many stakeholders as possible. In spite of the fact that we traveled many existing trails in the process of exploring potential routes, it was impossible to explore all of these to our desired level of detail.

Our task was to propose routes in the Five Towns region of the central Adirondack Park that will comprise part of a parkwide hut-to-hut destination-trail system. It is important to keep in mind two things: the proposed routes are conceptual in nature, with proposed strategic locations for lodging and suggestions for new sections of trail; and, our directive was to “think out of the box” regarding what might be required to make the destination trails and lodging system a reality. While we think exploring the use of temporary lodging on Forest Preserve lands is a legitimate exercise given the current permitted use of temporary hunting camps, we recognize the need to ensure that all the concepts shared in this report are consistent with Article XIV. In addition, we must ensure that these concepts adhere to pertinent rules and regulations or recognize that, perhaps in some cases, existing regulations may need to be modified.

Lodging proposed on private land as an integral component of any of the proposed routes will only be implemented based on the interest and cooperation of willing landowners. Again, it is essential to keep in mind the conceptual nature of the routes, including proposed locations for lodging. For a multi-day route that connects communities, with each day’s itinerary a comfortable distance of 8 to 12 miles for an average hiker, strategic general locations for lodging – usually not specific parcels – were identified along each destination trail. The identification and availability of specific parcels is only the first step in a long process of determining the suitability of a site as a lodging location.

This report would not have been possible without the support of town supervisors Clark Seaman of Long Lake, Brian Wells of Indian Lake, George Canon and Wester Miga of Newcomb, Steve McNally of Minerva, Ron Moore of North Hudson, and especially Bill Farber, chairman of the Hamilton County Board of Supervisors.

We are extremely grateful to the many private landowners and business owners who talked with us, allowed us to visit their property, and showed interest in this project. We would like to thank Walt Linck of the Adirondack Park Agency for his support and insights, and we also appreciate the support of the following NYSDEC staff: Marc Gerstman, Rob Davies, Karyn Richards, Bob Stegemann, Jim Sessions, Josh Clague, Tom Martin, Kris Alberga, Rob Daley, Tate Connor, Corrie O’Dea, Allison Buckley, Ben Thomas, and Tracy Prawdzik.

We appreciate the opportunity to work with Brian Houseal, Colin Beier, Abbie Larkin, and Dan Rockefeller of SUNY-ESF and are grateful for their help and support.

Finally, we are indebted to Steve Ovitt of Wilderness Property Management in Johnsbury for his expertise, and to Stacey Allott and Polly Kelting of Geomatics Land Surveying in Saranac Lake for producing our maps.

Introduction

Our task was to design a conceptual destination-trail system that will provide a four-season, hut-to-hut recreation experience and link communities in the Five Towns of Long Lake, North Hudson, Newcomb, Indian Lake, and Minerva.

This project grew out of the Adirondack Community-based Trails and Lodging System initiative, an ongoing project funded by the NYS Department of State (DOS). The Five Towns project, funded through the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), seeks to build on the ACTLS initiative by providing “fast track” recommendations for destination trails in the Five Towns.

Our methodology included meeting with all five town supervisors, both as a group and individually, to solicit their ideas and thoughts as well as tap into their knowledge of existing trails and lodgings in their communities.

Our work included:

- Talking with over forty various stakeholders, including lodging owners/managers, private landowners, DEC field personnel, local and regional government officials, representatives of environmental organizations, and others, to gain their knowledge and perspectives
- Conducting approximately twenty reconnaissance trips, some with NYSDEC staff, private landowners, and other interested parties
- Creating a GIS inventory of existing lodging by utilizing information available on town websites, the Regional Office of Sustainable Tourism’s (ROOST) database, and other sources
- Identifying, based on our research, more than twenty conceptual routes that connect communities, and over thirty strategic locations for lodging along those routes

The Adirondack Community-based Trails and Lodging Concept

A lodging and trails system that improves and diversifies the outdoor recreation experience of Adirondack Park visitors by implementing regional networks throughout the Park, eventually linked together in a parkwide system, will:

- Create regional tourism destinations and more sustainable communities by expanding the tourist-based economy and increasing multiple overnight stays
- Provide physical fitness and other wellness opportunities for tourists and residents alike

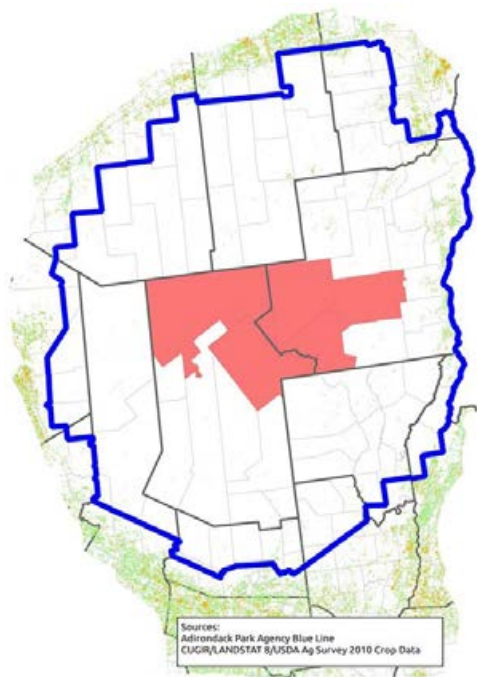


Figure 1. Five Towns
(Map adapted from A. Arthur)

- Promote conservation by broadening the demographic constituency for protecting the Adirondacks, focusing backcountry camper impact and modeling green building practices
- Increase international awareness of the Adirondack Park
- Utilize existing and new lodging about 8-12 miles apart that is connected by trails

Hut Systems Worldwide

Many valuable lessons can be learned from existing destination-trail (hut to hut) systems around the world, such as Europe's E-paths, Scotland's Great Trails, the UK's National Trails, and New Zealand's Great Walks. The evidence is clear that hut-to-hut trails internationally are economic game changers with a tremendous positive impact.

Hut Systems in the United States

Much also can be learned from other hut-to-hut trails in the United States. The 10th Mountain Division Hut Association manages a system of 34 backcountry huts in Colorado for skiers, snowboarders, snowshoers, cyclists and hikers. The Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC) has operated its hut system in New Hampshire's White Mountains for over 125 years. The following results from a June 2014 to May 2015 economic study by the AMC showed spending by out-of-state overnight guests at their huts and lodges supported \$17.9 million in economic activity throughout the state of New Hampshire, and 73 percent of that impact benefited businesses other than AMC. AMC guest spending supported 191 jobs in the state, and, according to the study, 64 percent benefitted businesses other than AMC. In February 2008, the Maine Huts & Trails Association officially began operating a huts and trails system in Western Maine. Among its goals, first imagined in the 1970s, were creating a world-class destination, stimulating nature-based tourism, and promoting healthy outdoor recreation. In just seven years, the organization has built 80 miles of multi-use trails and four eco-lodges, hosted over 35,000 overnight guests, and spurred 25 million dollars of economic growth (mainly in two counties).

An Adirondack Hut System

Building on the unique characteristics and values of New York State's Forest Preserve, the "hut to hut" concept in the Adirondack Park will be a hybridization of various hut-to-hut systems throughout the world. For some, the term hut invokes images of backcountry skiing trips to quaint log cabins in the wilderness; for others, hut implies a "primitive" type of lodging. Although some huts around the world are remote rustic cabins with room for as little as six people, others are 300-bed upscale lodges with restaurants, bars, and other amenities.

Three important observations about an Adirondack Park hut-to-hut, destination-trail system can be made from the outset:

1) Owing to the wilderness preservation movement's roots and unique history in the Adirondacks, and to the Forest Preserve's significant qualities and legal safeguards, the Adirondack Community-based Trails and Lodging System likely will be, in design and implementation, unlike other existing hut-to-hut, destination-trail systems.

2) While we have endeavored to provide a clear vision of what this system *could* look like, it is virtually impossible at this stage to say with any certainty what it finally *will* look like upon implementation.

3) Taking into account the economic impact of other systems, the economic impact to communities in the Adirondack Park clearly will be transformative. The AMC, operating only eight huts on fifty-six miles of trail, and Maine Huts, currently operating only four huts on a portion of a 120-mile route, have an established track record of benefitting outdoor recreation tourism, as described above. The Maine “huts” are million-dollar eco-friendly lodges with corporate support from companies such as L. L. Bean and New Balance shoes. The vast, six-million acre Adirondack Park – with its peaks and valleys, summits and fire towers, lakes and ponds, trails and forest tracts, rivers and streams, bustling villages and quiet hamlets, all spread throughout its patchwork quilt of public and private land – could have scores of lodgings linked to hundreds of miles of community-based trails. Imagine the possibilities!

The system will utilize existing lodging whenever possible to create a spectrum of lodging, from primitive, yet upscale, platform tents and yurts, to existing rental cabins and bed & breakfast accommodations, to eco-lodges and five-star hotels. It will range from low-cost, hostel-type lodging to expensive, amenity-rich, upscale lodging. Some lodgings will be self service, where visitors prepare their own meals, while other lodgings will be full service and provide meals.

An Adirondack Hut system will be designed to accommodate visitors year round. The winter season frequently is cited as the season with the biggest tourism growth potential in the Adirondacks. Lodging that provides a warm, comfortable place to stay and accommodates skiers and snowshoers will attract people from around the world.

Destination Trails: Circuits, Traverses, and Spur Trails

The destination trails or routes making up a successful Adirondack hut-to-hut system will be a network of *traverse*, *circuit*, and *spur* trails, with strategically located quality lodging, that intersect with communities.

- A *traverse* is a destination trail or route through the backcountry that begins in one community and ends in another community.



Figure 2. Traverse - North Creek/Indian Lake



Figure 3. Circuit - North Creek

- A *circuit* is a destination trail or route through the backcountry that begins and ends in the same community.

- A *spur trail* (sometimes called a linking or access trail) is a side trail of a circuit or traverse that connects a long-distance route to a community, or to a cultural, historic, or scenic destination (campsite, fire tower, historic building or site, overlook, summit, waterfall, etc.).



Figure 4. Spur - Long Lake

Lodging

What is the ideal lodge for a hut-to-hut system?

Around the world, huts vary greatly in terms of size (mostly in terms of sleeping capacity), physical structure and environmental impact, and means of access.

Huts in the United States range from six beds to ninety in sleeping capacity, while some in Europe have a sleeping capacity of over 300. We believe an ideal lodging capacity in the Adirondack Park to be 24-36 beds. It provides for a reasonable return on investment and sustainability, yet does not have too large a footprint.

The ideal Adirondack lodge on private land will be “energy plus” (it produces more energy from renewable energy sources, over the course of a year, than it uses) and/or LEED certified. As much as possible, it will have a small physical footprint and an aesthetically appealing look that is visually screened. Any lodging on state land, should it be permitted, will meet similar criteria, except that it will be temporary in nature, off the grid, and removed for portions of the year.

Around the world, some huts are truly backcountry; you can only hike to them, and supplies or waste must be transported in or out by helicopter. Others can be reached by motor vehicle for supply and maintenance. In the Adirondack Park, we envision vehicle access for most, if not all, backcountry lodges.

Where will lodging facilities be located?

Due to the unique nature of the Adirondack Park and its mix of private and public land, coupled with the protections granted to the NYS Forest Preserve, we will prioritize the siting of *permanent* lodging on private land and explore the possibilities for siting *temporary* lodging on state land. We have identified and prioritized five different types of strategic locations for lodging. The highest preference is utilizing existing, or creating new, lodging on private land. Second is creating new lodging on conservation easement parcels when such development is consistent with the terms of the conservation easement. Third is using existing buildings or temporary lodging (platform tents, yurts, or something similar) on state land classified as Intensive Use. Fourth is using existing buildings or temporary lodging (platform tents, yurts, or something similar) on state land classified as Historic. Fifth, and least desirable, will be temporary lodging (platform tents, yurts, or something similar) on other parcels of state land.

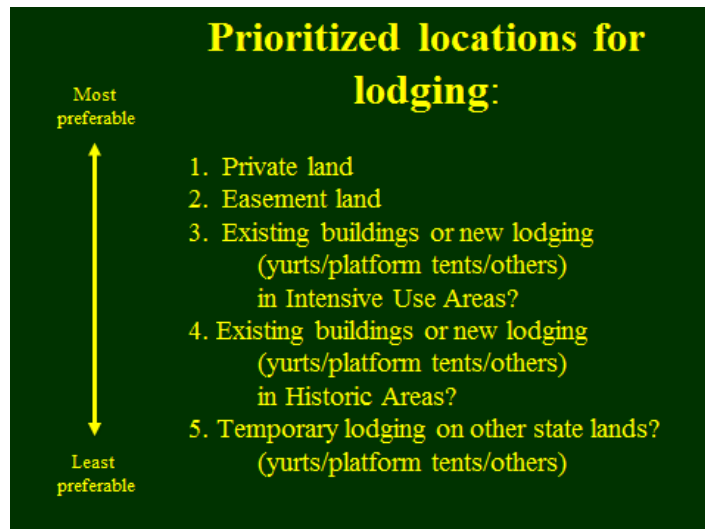


Figure 5. Lodging Prioritization

Lodging Criteria

No matter where the lodging is located, a number of criteria are critical for the success of this system. The following considerations will contribute to successful lodging:

- Sleeping space (at minimum, a bunk with mattress)
- Either a self-service kitchen with stoves and fuel, full-service meals, or nearby restaurants
- Well maintained
- Staffed at all times
- Toilets
- Insect free
- Dry
- Clean
- Warm in winter
- Single-night room availability
- Willingness to be part of a parkwide reservation system
- High-quality customer service
- Eco-friendly (zero-energy or energy-plus buildings, LEED certified, etc.)
- Luggage transfer and pick-up transfer options
- Drying rooms
- Public/private transportation and shuttle services

Keys to Success

Lodging

Newly constructed lodging facilities will be built to conform to the criteria listed above. Efforts will be made to assist lodging owners with improvements and upgrades to existing facilities, possibly through grants and other programs.

Trails

Trails that are part of the Adirondack Community-based Trails and Lodging System will be appealing destination trails, user friendly, and sustainable. Destination trails incorporate natural and cultural features, as well as opportunities for quiet and solitude. A user-friendly trail, while perhaps physically challenging, is a well-designed route that: minimizes boulder-strewn pathways; provides dry, well-drained, well-marked routes with moderate grades; and uses switchbacks where appropriate. A sustainable trail is durable and designed for high levels of use with minimal maintenance.

Public and Private Collaboration

For success, a coordinated, cooperative effort by business owners, nonprofits, and government agencies will be needed that models best practices with respect to: development, implementation, and marketing of routes; trail design, construction, and maintenance; and lodging design, construction, operation, and management.

Transportation Infrastructure and Services

An improved and expanded public transportation infrastructure is a good example of a cooperative effort by state, county, and local governments – and the business community – that will contribute to the success of an Adirondack destination-trail system.

Ideally, destination-trail users that are overseas visitors, or traveling by air, bus, or rail from other parts of the United States and Canada, will be able to reach Adirondack Park communities using public transportation, without needing to rent a car. A shuttle service, transporting travelers (if necessary) back to the community in which their trek started, will take advantage of both private and public transportation options.

Other services, such as luggage transfer and pick-up transfer, are more specific to successful destination trails. Although travelers can make their own arrangements for these services as well as their overnight accommodations, it is often more convenient and cost effective for all arrangements to be made by a business (or nonprofit organization) that operates a reservation (booking) service.

- **Luggage (Baggage) Transfer Service:** One of the most appealing aspects of destination trails is the opportunity for people to travel light, carrying only a day pack. A luggage transfer service ensures the safe and timely arrival of a traveler's other clothing and gear – usually one simple duffel bag, limited to a certain weight – at a place of lodging at the end of each of the route's daily stages. Sometimes the luggage is transported by local taxis, although successful businesses have been started to perform this service along popular routes. On occasion, though rarely, this service is provided by a public transportation service, such as a train or bus.
- **"Pick-up Transfer" Service:** Another service that could be provided by entrepreneurial lodging owners is a pick-up transfer service, enabling those interested in completing some routes to stay at one accommodation on successive nights where there is a gap in lodging along a route. At least four of Scotland's Great Trails depend for their feasibility on a pick-up transfer service.

Proposed Conceptual Routes

1. The Process

The following routes (see 2. below) have been created, mapped, and described in detail. “Natural Features & Attractions” have been cataloged, with many links provided to more information on the Internet. “Highlights & Attributes” are noted and briefly discussed, as are “Challenges” that might affect implementation. For each route, other issues related to implementation have been noted in an “Observations & Questions” section. Finally, “Desirability” and “Feasibility” ratings are provided for each route.

We believe that each proposed conceptual route has merit for implementation and is ultimately feasible, based on our criteria and professional judgment.

It is important to keep in mind that the destination trails described and illustrated below are conceptual in nature; although we provide as much detail as possible, each description best represents, as a starting point, our idea or vision of the proposed route. These ideas will need further refinement and development before implementation; we don’t necessarily expect the routes to be implemented exactly as proposed.

To emphasize one of our prime directives - to create community-based trails - and to encourage and reinforce the concept of destination-trail users spending their first and last nights in an Adirondack village or hamlet, routes are described as having more nights than days (for example, a 5-night, 4-day trip). We have conceptualized these routes to encourage trekkers to celebrate the successful completion of a circuit or traverse with dinner and an overnight stay in the community where their Adirondack adventure reaches its successful and memorable conclusion.

As an evaluation tool, a matrix with a weighted list of criteria (below) was developed and each route was scored, resulting in the prioritized list of proposed routes. Further evaluation is suggested to determine which routes to implement first. It is important to note that, in some cases, the implementation of one route completes another; for example, Route #07 is simply one part of Route #01.

Prioritization Criteria:

- Comprehensive route & lodging experience
- Highlights & attributes
- Lodging in place
- Trails in place
- Legal hurdles
- Range of types of users (difficulty)
- Range of types of uses (multi-use)
- Perceived economic impact
- Perceived government & public support

2. Prioritized List of Routes

- 01 Indian Lake / North Creek Circuit w/Rafting Trip
- 02 Newcomb / Keene or Lake Placid Traverse
- 03 Long Lake NPT (Northville-Placid Trail) Spurs
- 04 Blue Mountain Lake NPT (Northville-Placid Trail) Spurs
- 05 Blue Mountain Lake / Long Lake Hiking & Paddling Circuit
- 06 Blue Mountain Lake / Long Lake Water Trail
- 07 Indian Lake / North Creek (South Traverse)
- 08 Blue Mountain Lake / Long Lake Hiking Circuit
- 09 Minerva / North Creek Traverse
- 10 Newcomb / Long Lake Traverse
- 11 Dix Mountain Wilderness Circuit
- 12 Historic Great Camp Circuit
- 13 Newcomb / North Hudson Traverse
- 14 Indian Lake / Newcomb Traverse
- 15 Grand Siamese Ponds Circuit
- 16 Indian Lake / Blue Mountain Lake Traverse
- 17 Newcomb / Long Lake Circuit
- 18 Newcomb / Tahawus to Boreas Circuit
- 19 Newcomb / Minerva Traverse
- 20 Minerva / North Hudson Traverse via North Country National Scenic Trail
- 21 Grand Central Adirondack Circuit
- 22 Grand High Peaks Circuit
- 23 Indian Lake / North Creek Hudson Gorge Traverse (North Traverse)
- 24 Indian Lake / North Creek Circuit
- 25 Newcomb / Long Lake Traverse Via Fishing Brook Range
- 26 Snowy Mountain Circuit

3. Route Descriptions & Maps:

Route #01: North Creek / Indian Lake Circuit with Hudson Gorge Rafting Trip

Description:

This 5-night, 4-day Indian Lake / North Creek Circuit combines a traverse from North Creek to Indian Lake (Route #07) with a world-class whitewater rafting trip in the scenic Hudson River Gorge. The route begins in the village of North Creek as hikers trek westward to lodging near Thirteenth Lake and the Siamese Ponds Wilderness Area. On the second day, the route traverses the Siamese Ponds Wilderness Area to the Chimney Mountain trailhead with a possible side trip to the cave near the mountain's summit. On the third day, hikers reach the quiet village of Indian Lake and enjoy a good night's rest and relaxation before the fourth and final day's rafting adventure and the circuit's completion in North Creek.

Natural Features & Attractions:

- Village of North Creek/[Town of Johnsburg](#)
- [North Creek Depot Museum](#)
- Optional hike: [Gore Mountain](#)
- Optional hike: [Balm of Gilead Mountain](#)
- [Barton Mines](#)
- [Thirteenth Lake](#)
- [Siamese Ponds Wilderness Area](#)
- Optional hike: [Peaked Mountain](#)
- [Chimney Mountain](#) & cave
- [King's Flow](#)
- [Lake Abanakee](#)
- [Village of Indian Lake](#)
- [Movie theater in Indian Lake](#)
- [Town of Indian Lake Museum](#)

Highlights & Attributes:

1. The combined experience of three days of hiking plus a rafting trip makes this route unique.
2. Travelers will spend one night in a community along the route in addition to the first and last nights.
3. Options exist for hikes to several summits with views: Gore, Peaked, and Balm of Gilead mountains.
4. Users will experience backcountry travel in the Siamese Ponds Wilderness Area.
5. Chimney Mountain's summit and cave are an inviting destination along this route.
6. The route is family friendly.
7. Lodging currently exists at all the strategic locations.

Challenges:

1. Some owners of existing lodges currently don't offer by-the-night lodging.
2. Completion of a hiking route is necessary from the Chimney Mountain trailhead into the Village of Indian Lake to avoid approximately 3.2 miles of road walking.

Observations & Questions:

1. Lodging owners in the communities need to be approached and presented with the benefits of being part of the destination-trail system.
2. Rafting trip reservations will have to be incorporated into a reservation system, or made by the individuals or groups planning to complete this circuit well in advance of their trip.
3. For the ambitious and fit, a round-trip hike of 6 miles up Gore Mountain from the Raymond Brook will be an option; construction of a connector trail will be necessary.
4. Peaked Mountain is an optional day hike; however, to incorporate this summit into the route, a trail connecting the Peaked Mountain trail to the Hour Pond trail west of Thirteenth Lake will allow hikers to summit Peaked Mountain. This alternate route will make the second day's travel longer, as well as increase the day's elevation gain by nearly 1,000 feet.
5. A licensed guide could provide trekkers with a guided trip to explore the cave near the summit of Chimney Mountain.

6. For hikers “exercising” the options to climb Gore and Peaked mountains, the route’s total mileage will increase from about 28 to over 38 miles, with a daily average of almost 13 miles.
7. Peaked Mountain and/or Balm of Gilead Mountain could be hiked on a layover day at Thirteenth Lake.
8. Based on our knowledge of the area, some portions of this route may need to be brought up to world-class standards.

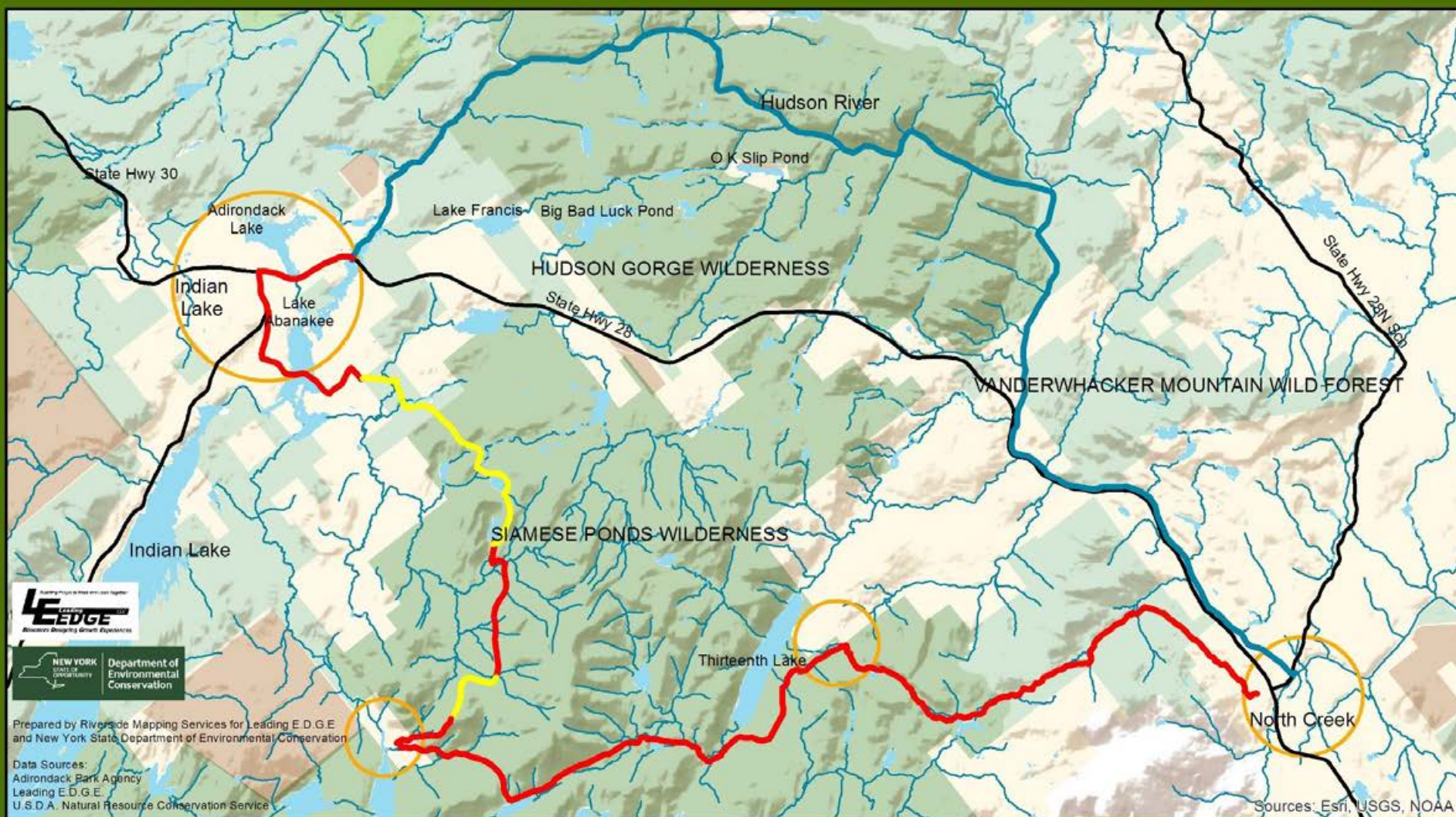
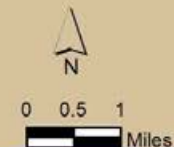
Desirability & Feasibility (1 = Low, 5 = High):

Desirability: 5

Feasibility: 4

- Existing Trail
- Proposed Trail
- Water Trail
- Road
- Strategic Lodging Location
- Private
- Wilderness
- Primitive
- Wild Forest
- DEC Easements 2015

Route #01: Indian Lake/North Creek Circuit with Rafting Trip **November 2015** **Concept Plan for a Destination-Based Hut to Hut Trail System** **for the Five Towns of** **Long Lake, Newcomb, Indian Lake, Minerva, and North Hudson**



Daily Stages - Route #01: North Creek / Indian Lake Circuit with Hudson Gorge Rafting Trip

	Daily Stage Destination	Lodging in Place (1 = yes, 0 = no)	New Trail Needed, Approx. # of Miles	Difficulty Rating by Daily Stage	# of Miles	Elev. change (feet): Up Down Net
First Night	North Creek	1				
Day 1	Thirteenth Lake	1	0	3	8	+2002 -1148 +845
Day 2	King's Flow	1	0	2	8	+1084 -1280 -196
Day 3	Indian Lake	1	4.5	3	11	+1939 -1950 -11
Day 4	North Creek - rafting	1	0	1	23	-450
	Lodging Facilities in Place	5				
	Lodging Facilities Needed	0				
	Total New Trail, Approx. # of Miles		4.5			
	Overall Difficulty Rating			2.25		
	Total Miles				27/23	
	Ave. Miles Per Day				9/23	
	Total Elevation Change - Feet					+5025 -4828 -638

Route #02: Newcomb / Keene, or Lake Placid, Traverse

Description:

The Newcomb / Keene, or Lake Placid, Traverse is a 6-night, 5-day trip that begins in Newcomb, utilizing the carriage road to reach a place of lodging near Camp Santanoni. On day two, hikers reach a place of lodging near Henderson Lake in Tahawus; an afternoon paddle awaits with spectacular views of the High Peaks Wilderness Area. On day three, the longest at 11.5 miles, hikers travel through the heart of the Adirondack High Peaks with views of some of New York's highest peaks en route to a lodging facility near Heart Lake. The next day, hikers traverse Mount Van Hoevenberg, site of the Olympic bobsled and luge tracks as well as the Olympic cross-country ski trails, to one of several nearby places of lodging. The final day's trek on the Jackrabbit Ski Trail leads north of Pitchoff Mountain to a place of lodging near or in the Village of Keene, or in a northwesterly direction to the Village of Lake Placid. This traverse has it all: history, spectacular views, Olympic venues, and a range of lodgings that aim to please.

Natural Features & Attractions:

- [Village of Newcomb](#)
- [Adirondack Interpretive Center \(AIC\)](#)
- [Camp Santanoni Historic Area](#)
- [Henderson Lake](#)
- [Tahawus Blast Furnace](#)
- [Lake Colden & Flowed Lands](#)
- [High Peaks Wilderness Area](#)
- [Village of Lake Placid](#)
- [Avalanche Pass](#)
- [Henderson Monument](#)

Highlights & Attributes:

1. This route is a "low hanging fruit." It needs minimal amount of work to bring it to reality.
2. It travels through and utilizes the Camp Santanoni Historic Area.
3. A place of lodging near Henderson Lake in Tahawus will provide an opportunity to paddle on Henderson Lake with outstanding views of the High Peaks.
4. The route traverses the spectacular High Peaks Wilderness Area.

Challenges:

1. It requires the following:
 - a. A community trail along the south side of Newcomb to the Camp Santanoni Historic Area's parking lot
 - b. The development of lodging in the vicinity of Camp Santanoni
 - c. A new trail from Camp Santanoni to Henderson Lake
2. It will probably contribute to increased use of the High Peaks.
3. Some sections of trail probably need to be brought up to world-class standards.
4. The lodging facility at the eastern terminus of the Jackrabbit Ski Trail is not in a community, but is 3.5 miles from the center of the hamlet of Keene.

Observations & Questions:

1. Lodging owners in the communities need to be approached and presented with the benefits of being part of the destination-trail system.
2. Is the Jackrabbit Ski Trail open for public use year round?
3. There are numerous potential routes to Lake Placid from Heart Lake.
4. The Jackrabbit Ski Trail is an existing route from Mount Van Hoevenberg to Lake Placid.
5. Is there a possible trail route from the (easternmost) summit of Pitchoff Mountain to the eastern terminus of the Jackrabbit Ski Trail? It would be much more interesting than walking the Old Mountain Road.

6. Would it be feasible to build a trail, or does one exist, from the west end of the Old Mountain Road to the trail that goes from North Country School to the boulders at the west end of Pitchoff?
7. What is the possibility of connecting places of lodging near the Lake Placid Olympic Sports Complex at Mount Van Hoevenberg to the Cascade trailhead and the western Pitchoff trailhead utilizing the Olympic cross-country trails?
8. Is there merit to having the route continue from the eastern terminus of the Jackrabbit Ski Trail into the village of Keene?
9. The route from Camp Santanoni Historic Area to Henderson Lake is based on DEC Forester recommendations.

Desirability & Feasibility (1 = Low, 5 = High):

Desirability: 5

Feasibility: 5

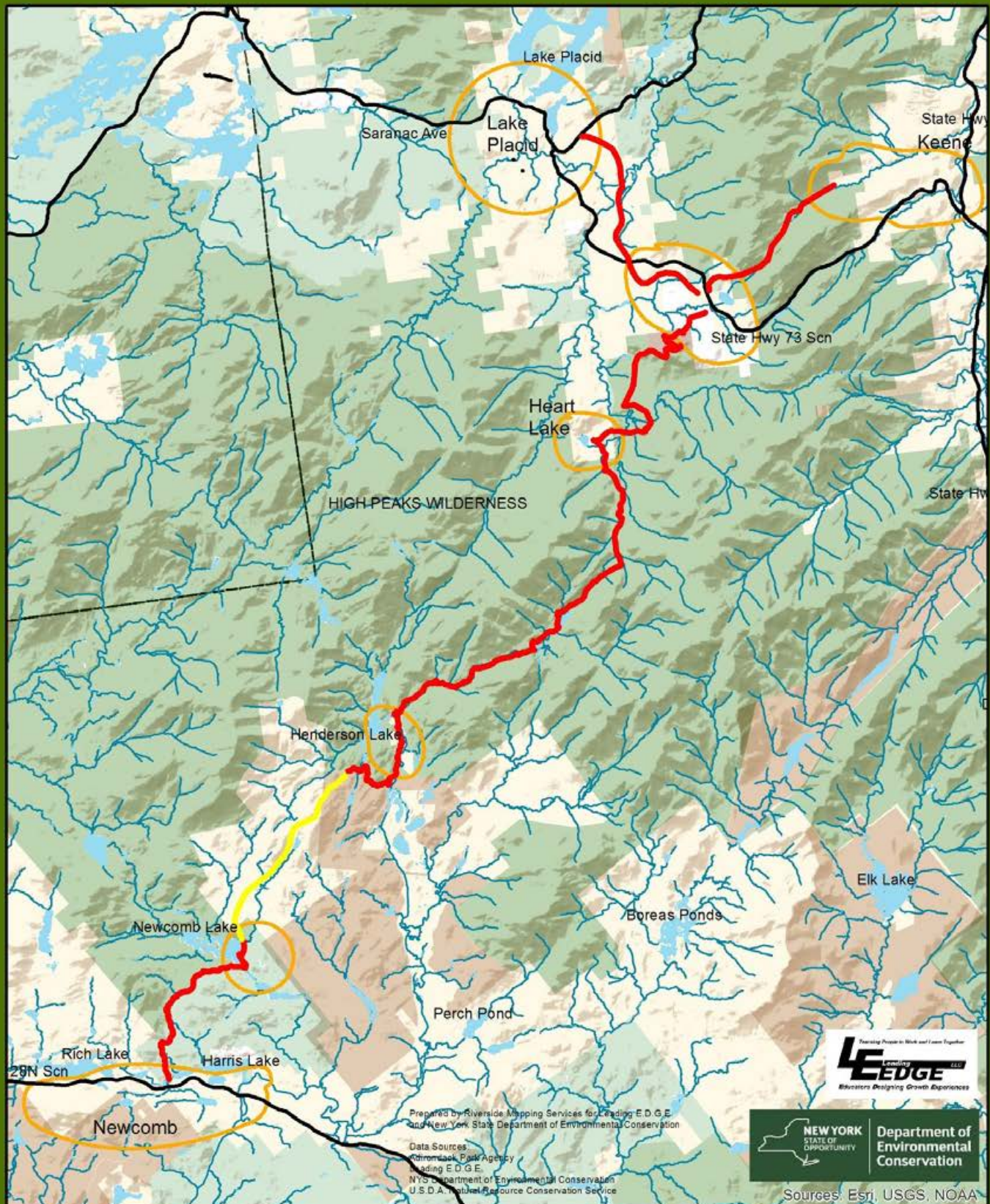
- Existing Trail
- Proposed Trail
- Road
- Strategic Lodging Location
- Private
- Wilderness
- Primitive
- Wild Forest
- DEC Easements 2015

Route #02: Newcomb/Keene or Lake Placid Traverse November 2015

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for the Five Towns of
Long Lake, Newcomb, Indian Lake, Minerva, and North Hudson



0 0.5 1 2 3 Miles



Daily Stages - Route #02: Newcomb / Keene, or Lake Placid, Traverse

	Daily Stage Destination	Lodging in Place (1 = yes, 0 = no)	New Trail Needed, Approx. # of Miles	Difficulty Rating by Daily Stage	# of Miles	Elev. change (feet): Up Down Net
First Night	Newcomb	1				
Day 1	Near Camp Santanoni	0	0	1	6	+670 -520 +150
Day 2	Near Henderson Lake, Tahawus	1	6	2	7	+1335 -1397 -62
Day 3	Near Heart Lake	1	0	4	12	+1924 -2340 -416
Day 4	Olympic Sports Complex at Mount Van Hoevenberg	1	0	3	7	+1314 -1213 +101
Day 5 Alt 1	Eastern Terminus of Jackrabbit Ski Trail, Keene	1	0	2	5	+958 -506 +452
Day 5 Alt 2	Lake Placid	1	0	1	6	+940 -782 +158
	Lodging Facilities in Place	5				
	Lodging Facilities Needed	1				
	Total New Trail, Approx. # of Miles		6			
	Overall Difficulty Rating			2.3		
	Total Miles				37/38	
	Ave. Miles Per Day				7.5/7.5	
	Total Elevation Change - Feet					+7141 -6758 +383

Route #03: Long Lake Northville-Placid Trail Spurs

Description:

The Long Lake - Northville-Placid Trail (NPT) Spurs provide three alternatives for leaving and returning to the NPT, thus providing easier access to the overnight accommodations and other amenities in the Village of Long Lake.

- Alternative 1 provides a route that allows people to leave and return to the trail at the same point (for those dedicated thru-hikers that may want to hike every foot of the trail).
- Alternative 2 provides the shortest route from the NPT to the village for those coming from the south.
- Alternative 3 provides the shortest route from the village back to the trail for those heading north.

Highlights & Attributes:

1. These trails provide an option for hikers to hike into Long Lake to:
 - a. get provisions
 - b. get a hot meal
 - c. get mail
 - d. spend a night and get a hot shower
 - e. enjoy a scenic float plane ride
2. Two of the alternatives are either on state or town land.
3. The third alternative, from the Dock Road to the Jim Bird Road, already exists as a snowmobile trail.

Challenges:

1. Two of the three spur trails need to be constructed.

Observations & Questions:

1. It is important for the NPT to be maintained as a wilderness trail with an option to hike into the community rather than to relocate it through the community. Some people we talked with were very passionate about their desire to preserve the original design of the NPT as a wilderness trail that bypasses communities.
2. An option to leave and return to the NPT from the same point is important for some end-to-end hikers who want to say they hiked the trail's entire length.
3. Additional field checking should be done to catalog any Natural Features & Attractions, such as the views from Mt. Sabattis, along all three routes.
4. Development of all three trails will provide residents, as well as day and overnight visitors to Long Lake, with some valuable new options for local hikes, thus contributing to the wellness goals of the destination-trail system.
5. It is likely that two, if not all three, of the spur trails will be utilized as integral components of the destination-trail system to connect communities.

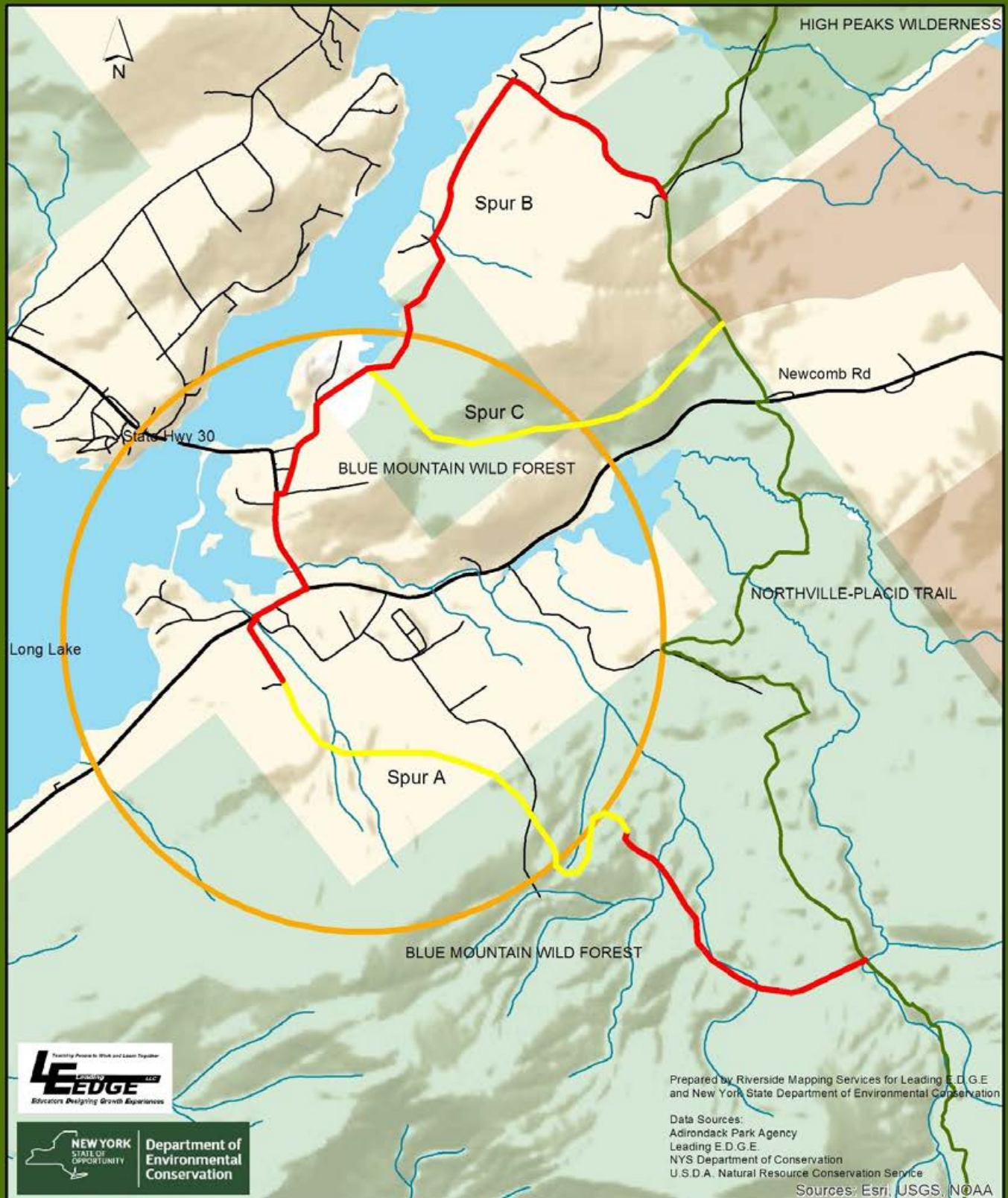
Desirability & Feasibility (1 = Low, 5 = High):

Desirability: 5

Feasibility: 5

Route #03: Long Lake/Northville Placid Trail Spur November 2015

Concept Plan for a Destination-Based Hut to Hut Trail System
for the Five Towns of
Long Lake, Newcomb, Indian Lake, Minerva, and North Hudson



Route #04: Blue Mountain Lake Northville-Placid Trail Spurs

Description:

The Blue Mountain Lake Northville-Placid Trail (NPT) Spurs provide three alternatives for leaving and returning to the NPT, thus providing easier access to the overnight accommodations and other amenities in the Village of Blue Mountain Lake.

- Alternative 1 (Spur C) provides a route that allows people to leave and return to the NPT at the same point (for those dedicated thru-hikers that may want to hike every foot of the trail).
- Alternative 2 (Spur A) provides the shortest route from the NPT to the village for those coming from the south.
- Alternative 3 (Spur B) provides the shortest route from the village to the NPT for those heading north.

Highlights & Attributes:

1. These trails provide an option for hikers to hike into Blue Mountain Lake to:
 - a. get provisions
 - b. get a hot meal
 - c. get mail
 - d. spend a night and get a hot shower
2. Two of the alternatives already exist; alternative 1 follows the existing snowmobile route and Alternative 2 is the trail from Cascade Pond.

Challenges:

1. One of the three spurs needs to be constructed (Alternative 3).
2. Alternative 3 crosses private land and will require permission.

Observations & Questions:

1. It is important that the NPT not be relocated through the community but to provide thru-hikers with the option to hike into the community. Some people we talked with were very passionate about their desire to preserve the original design of the NPT as a wilderness trail that bypasses communities.
2. An option to leave and return to the trail from the same point is important for some end-to-end hikers who want to say they hiked the trail's entire length.
3. Alternative 1 utilizes the existing snowmobile trail. It has not been field checked. There are alternative routes should the snowmobile trail not be suitable for a hiking trail.
4. Some research (field checking) should be done to catalog any Natural Features & Attractions along all three routes, such as the optional hike over Blue Mountain.
5. Development of all three trails also will provide residents, as well as day and overnight visitors to Blue Mountain Lake, with some valuable new options for local hikes, thus making a great contribution to the wellness goals of the destination-trail system.
6. It is likely that two, if not all three, of the spur trails will be utilized as integral components of the destination-trail system to connect communities.

Desirability & Feasibility (1 = Low, 5 = High):

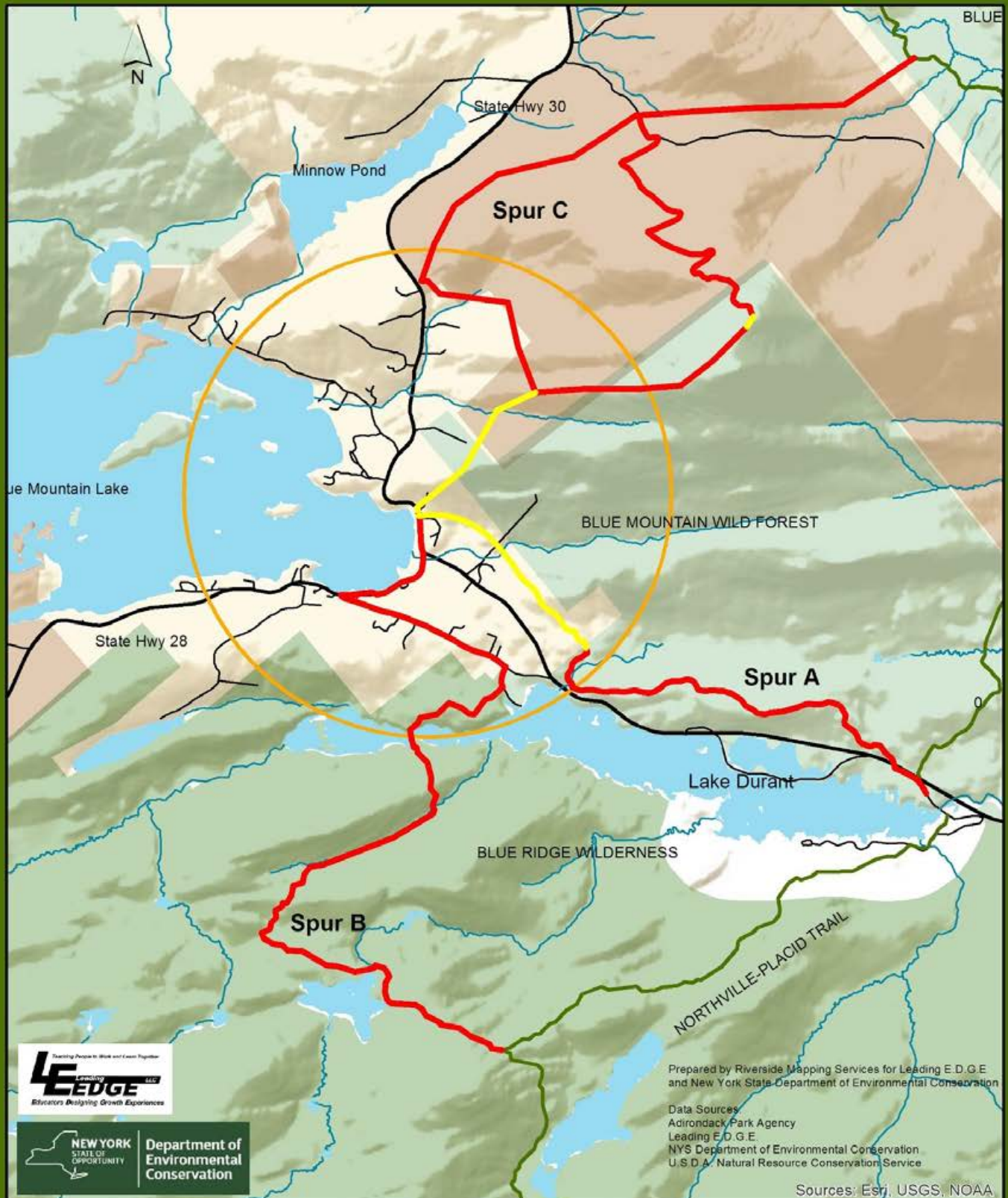
Desirability: 5

Feasibility: 4



Route #04: Blue Mountain Lake/Northville Lake Placid Trail November 2015

**Concept Plan for a Destination-Based Hut to Hut Trail System
for the Five Towns of
Long Lake, Newcomb, Indian Lake, Minerva, and North Hudson**



Prepared by Riverside Mapping Services for Leading E.D.G.E. and New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

Data Sources:
Adirondack Park Agency
Leading E.D.G.E.
NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
U.S.D.A. Natural Resource Conservation Service

Sources: Esri, USGS, NOAA

Route #05: Long Lake / Blue Mountain Lake Hiking & Paddling Circuit

Description: The Long Lake via Blue Mountain Lake Hiking & Paddling Circuit, 6 nights and 5 days, begins with a hike along part of the almost 100-year-old Northville-Placid Trail (NPT). After leaving the Village of Long Lake and traveling east to join the NPT, hikers will turn south to reach a backcountry lodge (proposed) near Salmon Pond. The second day's travel leads south with the option of taking the Tirrell Pond trail and an old road to reach the summit of Blue Mountain, or staying on the NPT and reaching the Village of Blue Mountain Lake via a spur trail (the snowmobile trail) parallel to Route 28 near Lake Durant. Whichever route is chosen, travelers will enjoy a night in the lovely Village of Blue Mountain Lake, the first place electric lights were used in a hotel in the United States.

The next part of the journey is a "water trail" (see Route #06) that provides a three-day paddling excursion back to Long Lake via Raquette and Forked lakes and the Marion and Raquette rivers. In addition to paddling a section of the historic "90-Miler" route, paddlers may enjoy a sunset or dinner cruise on Raquette Lake, a hike up Castle Rock or West Mountain, and a visit to Buttermilk Falls on the Raquette River.

Natural Features & Attractions:

- [Village of Long Lake](#)
- [Mount Sabattis Park and Pavilion](#)
- [Northville-Placid Trail](#)
- Optional hike: [Blue Mountain](#)
- Village of Blue Mountain Lake
- [Adirondack Museum](#)
- Optional hike: [Castle Rock](#)
- Railroad & [Adirondack Great Camp](#) history
- [Marion River](#)
- Raquette Lake cruises on [WW Durant](#)
- Historic 90-miler paddling route
- Optional hike: [West Mountain](#)
- Optional hike: [Buttermilk Falls](#)
- Optional hike: [Owl's Head](#)
- [Village of Long Lake](#)

Highlights & Attributes:

1. Hikers will experience traveling on the Adirondack Park's almost 100-year-old long-distance route, the Northville-Placid Trail.
2. A hike up Blue Mountain is an option for the second day's travel.
3. About midway on the trip, travelers can enjoy a visit to the Adirondack Museum, a hike up Castle Rock, and an extra night in the Village of Blue Mountain Lake.
4. Paddlers can choose a canoe or kayak for the paddling section of this trip, from Blue Mountain Lake to Raquette Lake via the Marion River, then across Raquette and Forked lakes, with a portage in between, to the Forked Lake Campground.
5. The final leg of the trip is on the Raquette River past Buttermilk Falls and north to Long Lake.
6. Near the Village of Long Lake, hikers can hike to a summit with a fire tower, Owl's Head.

Challenges:

1. A spur trail will be needed from the NPT to Long Lake Village through Mount Sabattis Park.
2. Lodging will need to be built along the Northville-Placid Trail (NPT) near Salmon Pond that is consistent with the terms of the conservation easement.
3. A spur trail from the center of Blue Mountain Lake (intersection of routes 28 and 30) to the Blue Mountain trail will need to be built.
4. Lodging will be necessary at the Forked Lake Campground, or somewhere close by on private land.

Observations & Questions:

1. Lodging owners in the communities need to be approached and presented with the benefits of being part of the destination-trail system.

Desirability & Feasibility (1 = Low, 5 = High):

Desirability: 4

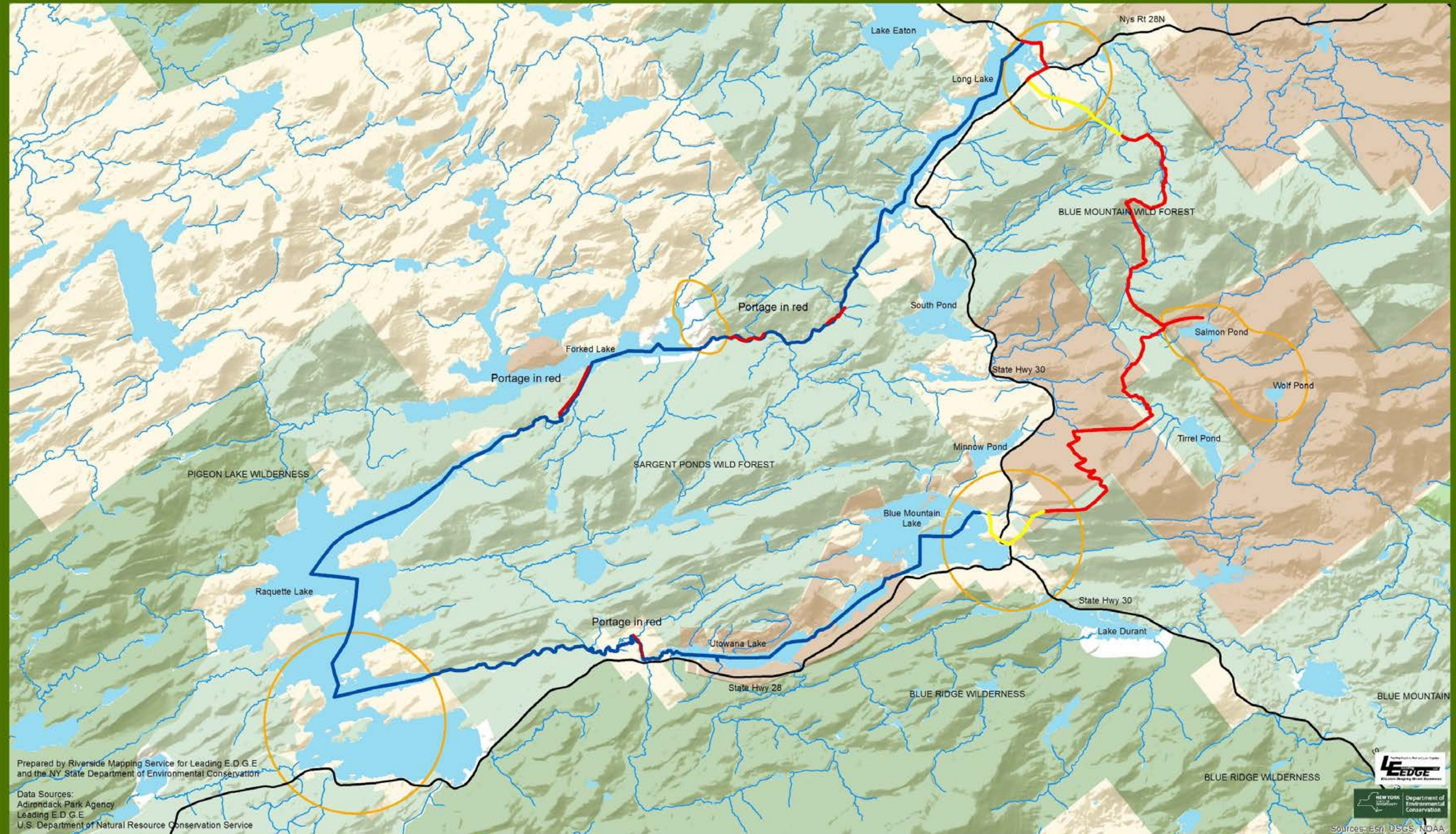
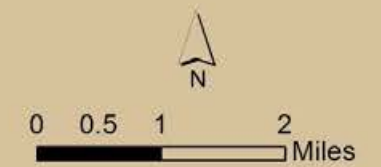
Feasibility: 5

Concept Plan for a Hut-to-hut Destination-based Trail System
for the Five Towns of Long Lake, Newcomb, Indian Lake, Minerva, and North Hudson
Prepared by Leading E.D.G.E. for the NYSDEC

- Existing Trail
- Proposed Trail
- Water Trail
- Strategic Lodging Locations
- Private
- Wilderness
- Primitive
- Wild Forest
- DEC Easements 2015

Route #05: Blue Mountain Lake/Long Lake Hiking and Paddling Circuit November 2015

Concept Plan for a Destination-Based Hut to Hut Trail System
for the Five Towns of
Long Lake, Newcomb, Indian Lake, Minerva, and North Hudson



Prepared by Riverside Mapping Service for Leading E.D.G.E. and the NY State Department of Environmental Conservation
Data Sources:
Adirondack Park Agency
Leading E.D.G.E.
U.S. Department of Natural Resource Conservation Service

LEEDGE
NEW YORK
Department of Environmental Conservation
Sources: Esri, USGS, NOAA

Daily Stages - Route #05: Long Lake / Blue Mountain Lake Hiking & Paddling Circuit

	Daily Stage Destination	Lodging in Place (1 = yes, 0 = no)	New Trail Needed, Approx. # of Miles	Difficulty Rating by Daily Stage	# of Miles	Elev. change (feet): Up Down Net
First Night	Long Lake	1				
Day 1	Near Salmon Pond & the NPT	0	2.5	3	7	+1158 -1153 +405
Day 2	Blue Mountain Lake	1	1.5	2	6	+701 -988 -287
Day 3	Raquette Lake	1	0	2	13	+237 -204 +33
Day 4	Forked Lake Campground	0	0	2	9	+162 -255 -93
Day 5	Long Lake	1	0	3	12	+50 -72 -22
	Lodging Facilities in Place	4				
	Lodging Facilities Needed	2				
	Total New Trail, Approx. # of Miles		4.0			
	Overall Difficulty Rating			2.4		
	Total Miles				13/34	
	Ave. Miles Per Day				6.5/11	
	Total Elevation Change - Feet					+2308 -2672 +36

Route #06: Blue Mountain Lake / Long Lake Water Trail

Description:

The Blue Mountain Lake to Long Lake Water Trail region provides paddling enthusiasts the opportunity to start a 4-night, 3-day trip in the picturesque and historic village of Blue Mountain Lake, where electric lights were first used in a hotel in the U.S., and continue to Long Lake via Raquette and Forked lakes and the Marion and Raquette rivers. In addition to paddling a section of the historic "90-Miler" route, paddlers may enjoy a sunset or dinner cruise on Raquette Lake, a hike up Castle Rock or West Mountain, and a visit to Buttermilk Falls on the Raquette River. Before the trip starts, travelers could hike up Blue Mountain or spend a day at the Adirondack Museum in Blue Mountain Lake.

Natural Features & Attractions:

- Village of Blue Mountain Lake
- [Adirondack Museum](#)
- History of Blue Mountain Lake
- Railroad & [Adirondack Great Camp](#) history
- Raquette Lake cruises on [WW Durant](#)
- 90-miler paddling route
- Optional hike: [Blue Mountain](#)
- Optional hike: [Castle Rock](#)
- Optional hike: [West Mountain](#)
- Optional hike: [Buttermilk Falls](#)
- [Marion River](#)
- [Village of Long Lake](#)

Highlights & Attributes:

1. Blue Mountain Lake and Raquette Lake are rich in history, from Great Camps to train and steamboat travel.
2. Paddlers will enjoy part of the historic "90-miler" route through the Adirondacks.
3. Opportunities for swimming abound along the way.
4. Scenic cruises are offered in Blue Mountain Lake.
5. The W.W. Durant offers various cruises on Raquette Lake.
6. Tioga Point on Raquette Lake is an excellent spot for lunch and another swim.
7. Optional hikes along the way include Blue Mountain, Castle Rock, West Mountain, and Owl's Head.
8. This trip takes you by Buttermilk Falls on the Raquette River.

Challenges:

1. The length and condition of carry trails will affect the route's difficulty rating. Some portages may need to be brought up to world-class standards.
2. Paddling on large lakes will affect the route's difficulty rating and may be challenging for novices.

Observations & Questions:

1. Lodging owners in the communities need to be approached and presented with the benefits of being part of the destination-trail system.
2. Although some form of lodging, perhaps temporary or removable, will need to be approved and implemented at or near the Forked Lake Campground, this route will be very quick to put in place.

Desirability & Feasibility (1 = Low, 5 = High):

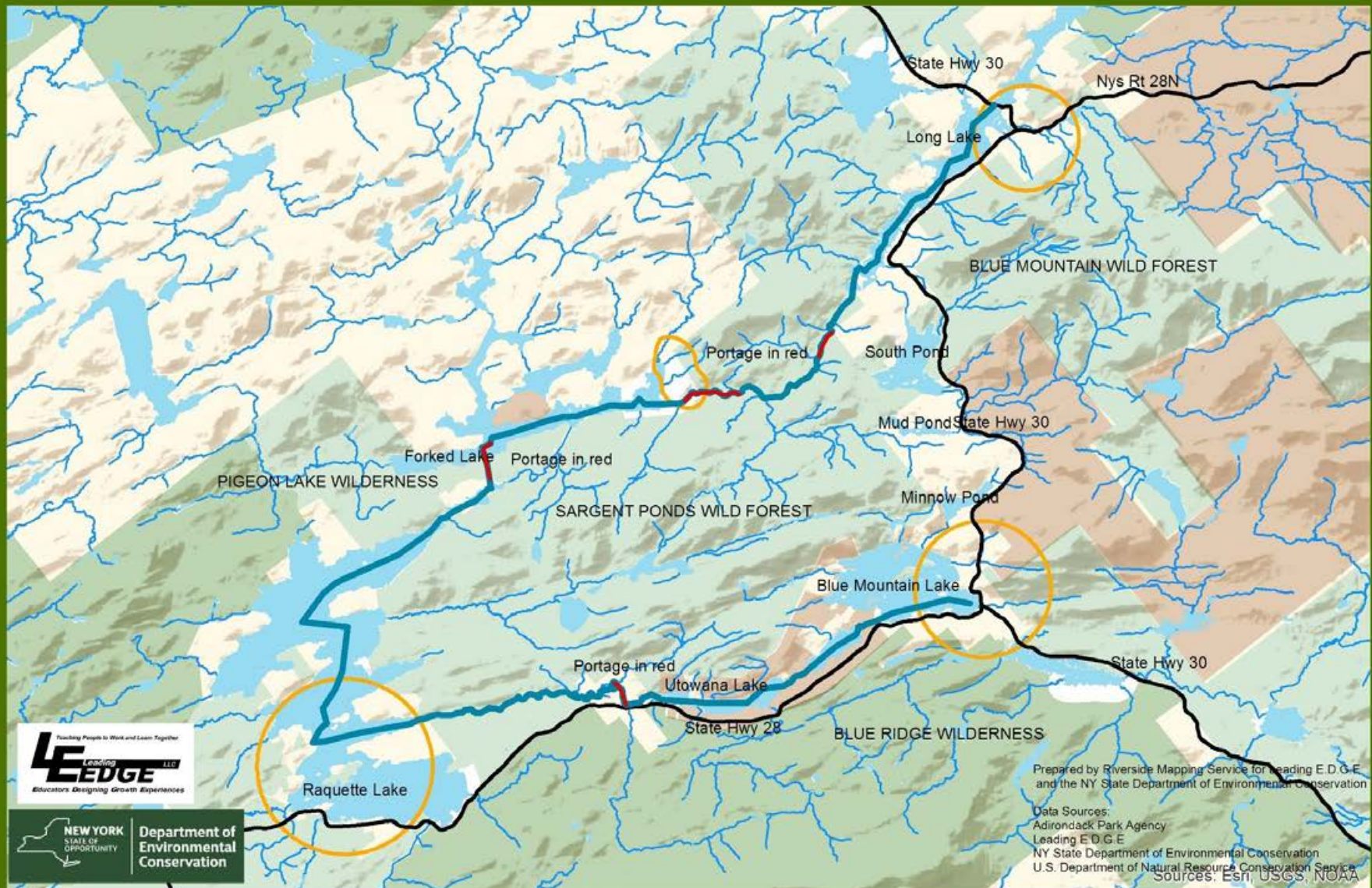
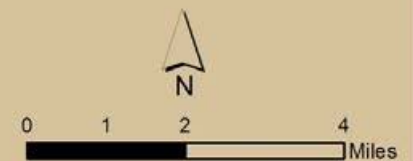
Desirability: 5

Feasibility: 5

Route #06: Blue Mountain/Long Lake Paddling Water Trail November 2015

Concept Plan for a Destination-Based Hut to Hut Trail System for the Five Towns of Long Lake, Newcomb, Indian Lake, Minerva, and North Hudson

- Water Trail
- Road
- Strategic Lodging Location
- Private
- Wilderness
- Primitive
- Wild Forest
- DEC Easements 2015



Prepared by Riverside Mapping Service for Leading E.D.G.E. and the NY State Department of Environmental Conservation
Data Sources:
Adirondack Park Agency
Leading E.D.G.E.
NY State Department of Environmental Conservation
U.S. Department of Natural Resource Conservation Service
Sources: Esri, USGS, NOAA

Daily Stages - Route #06: Blue Mountain Lake / Long Lake Water Trail

	Daily Stage Destination	Lodging in Place (1 = yes, 0 = no)	New Trail Needed, Approx. # of Miles	Difficulty Rating by Daily Stage	# of Miles	Elev. change (feet): Up Down Net
First Night	Blue Mountain Lake	1				
Day 1	Raquette Lake	1	0	2	13	+237 -204 +33
Day 2	Forked Lake Campground	0	0	2	9	+162 -255 -93
Day 3	Long Lake	1	0	3	12	+50 -72 -22
	Lodging Facilities in Place	3				
	Lodging Facilities Needed	1				
	Total New Trail, Approx. # of Miles		0			
	Overall Difficulty Rating			2.3		
	Total Miles				34	
	Ave. Miles Per Day				11.0	
	Total Elevation Change - Feet					+449 -531 -82

Route #07: North Creek / Indian Lake Traverse

Description:

The North Creek to Indian Lake Traverse is a 4-night, 3-day trip begins in North Creek and leads westward to the first night's lodging near Thirteenth Lake. On the second day, the route traverses the northern portion of the Siamese Ponds Wilderness area to the Chimney Mountain trailhead and King's Flow. On the third and final day, travelers go up and over Chimney Mountain (utilizing a newly proposed trail on the northeast side of the mountain), around John and Clear ponds, and into Indian Lake via existing and proposed trail and the Lake Abanakee Causeway. This route provides optional side trips to the summits of Gore, Balm of Gilead, and Peaked mountains, and to the cave near the Chimney Mountain summit.

Natural Features & Attractions:

- Village of North Creek/[Town of Johnsbury](#)
- [North Creek Depot Museum](#)
- Optional hike: [Gore Mountain](#)
- Optional hike: [Balm of Gilead Mountain](#)
- [Barton Mines](#)
- [Thirteenth Lake](#)
- [Siamese Ponds Wilderness Area](#)
- Optional hike: [Peaked Mountain](#)
- [Chimney Mountain](#) & cave
- [King's Flow](#)
- [Lake Abanakee](#)
- [Village of Indian Lake](#)
- [Movie theater in Indian Lake](#)
- [Town of Indian Lake Museum](#)
- Rafting trip in [Hudson River Gorge](#)

Highlights & Attributes:

1. Options exist for hikes to several summits with views: Gore, Peaked, and Balm of Gilead mountains.
2. Users will experience backcountry travel (skiing, snowshoeing, or hiking) in the Siamese Ponds Wilderness Area.
3. Chimney Mountain's summit and cave are an inviting destination along this route.
4. This is potentially a good cross-country ski route (particularly from west to east).
5. The route is family friendly.
6. Lodging exists at all the strategic locations.

Challenges:

1. Some owners of existing lodges currently don't offer by-the-night lodging.
2. Completion of a hiking route is necessary from the Chimney Mountain trailhead into the Village of Indian Lake, avoiding approximately 3.2 miles of road walking.

Observations & Questions:

1. Lodging owners in the communities need to be approached and presented with the benefits of being part of the destination-trail system.
2. For the ambitious and fit, a round-trip hike of 6 miles up Gore Mountain from the Raymond Brook Trail will be an option; construction of a connector trail will be necessary.
3. Peaked Mountain is an optional day hike; however, to incorporate this summit into the route, a trail connecting the Peaked Mountain trail to the Hour Pond trail west of Thirteenth Lake will allow hikers to summit Peaked Mountain. This alternate route will make the second day's travel longer, as well as increase the day's elevation gain by nearly 1,000 feet.
4. A licensed guide could provide trekkers with a guided trip to explore the cave near the summit of Chimney Mountain.
5. For hikers "exercising" the options to climb Gore and Peaked mountains, the route's total mileage will increase from approximately 28 to over 38 miles, with a daily average of almost 13 miles.

6. Peaked Mountain and/or Balm of Gilead Mountain could be hiked on a layover day at Thirteenth Lake.
7. Based on our knowledge of the area, some portions of this route may need to be brought up to world-class standards.

Desirability & Feasibility (1 = Low, 5 = High):

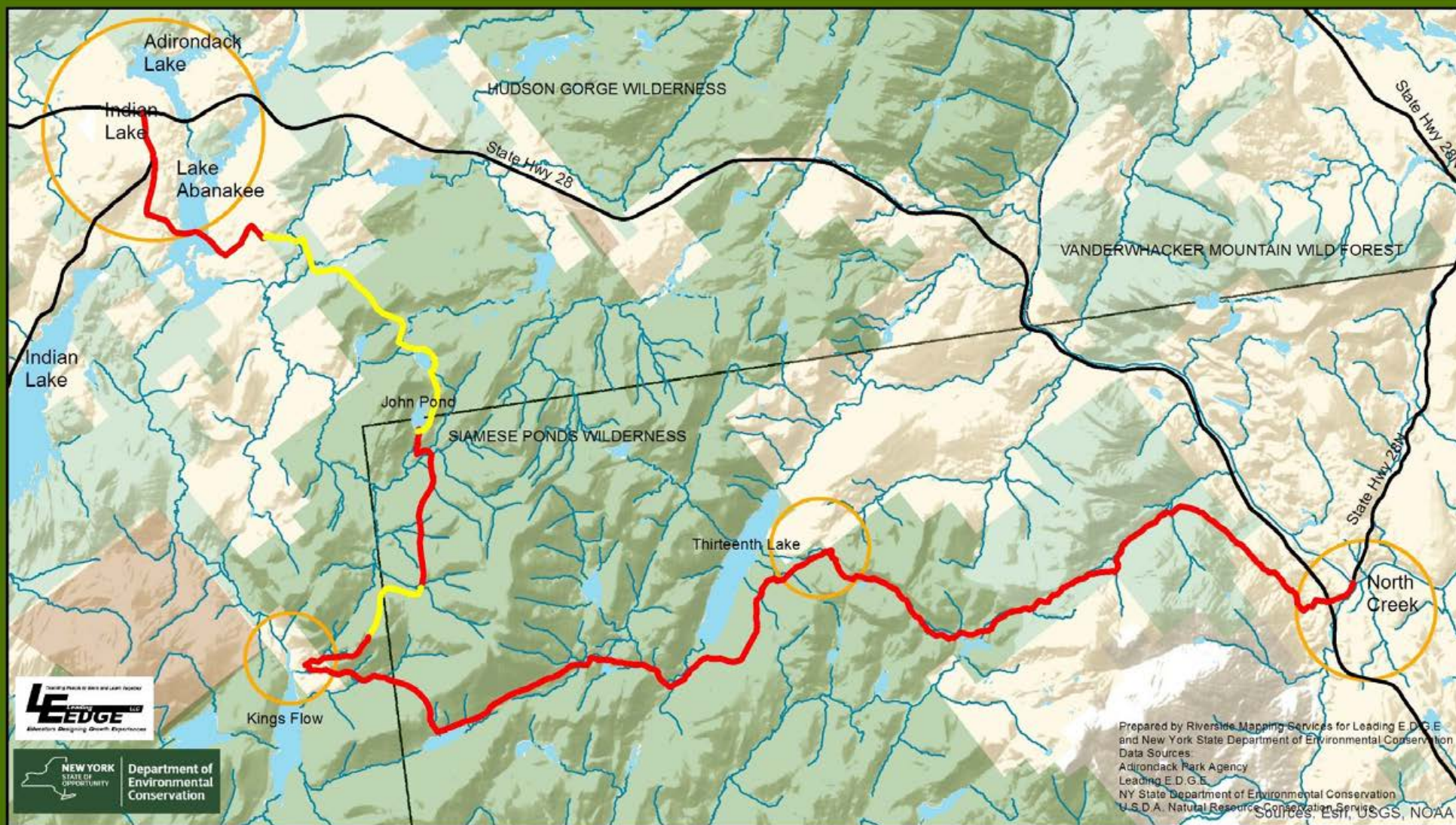
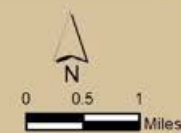
Desirability: 4

Feasibility: 4

- Existing
- Proposed
- Major Road
- Strategic Lodging Locations
- Private
- Wilderness
- Primitive
- Wild Forest
- DEC Easements 2015
- World Terrain Base

Route #07: North Creek/Indian Lake Traverse November 2015

Concept Plan for a Destination-Based Hut to Hut Trail System for the Five Towns of Long Lake, Newcomb, Indian Lake, Minerva, and North Hudson



Prepared by Riverside Mapping Services for Leading E.D.G.E. and New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
Data Sources:
Adirondack Park Agency
Leading E.D.G.E.
NY State Department of Environmental Conservation
U.S.D.A. Natural Resource Conservation Service
Sources: ESI, USGS, NOAA

Daily Stages - Route #07: North Creek / Indian Lake Traverse

	Daily Stage Destination	Lodging in Place (1 = yes, 0 = no)	New Trail Needed, Approx. # of Miles	Difficulty Rating by Daily Stage	# of Miles	Elev. change (feet): Up Down Net
First Night	North Creek	1				
Day 1	Thirteenth Lake	1	0	3	8	+2002 -1148 +845
Day 2	King's Flow	1	0	2	8	+1084 -1280 -196
Day 3	Indian Lake	1	4.5	3	11	+1939 -1950 -11
	Lodging Facilities in Place	4				
	Lodging Facilities Needed	0				
	Total New Trail, Approx. # of Miles		4.5			
	Overall Difficulty Rating			2.7		
	Total Miles				27	
	Ave. Miles Per Day				9	
	Total Elevation Change - Feet					+5025 -4378 +638

Route #08: Blue Mountain Lake / Long Lake Hiking Circuit

Description:

The Blue Mountain Lake to Long Lake Hiking Circuit, 5 nights and 4 days, starts in Blue Mountain Lake near the intersection of routes 28 and 30 on a proposed spur trail that connects to the trail up Blue Mountain. Trekkers will have the option of reaching the Northville-Placid Trail near Tirrell Pond by going to the mountain's summit and descending the north side on an old road, or by using the Tirrell Pond trail from Route 30. After a night's lodging in the backcountry near Salmon Pond (proposed location), hikers will continue north until reaching a spur trail (proposed) leading west into the Village of Long Lake via Mount Sabattis Park, with some nice views on the descent into town. After spending a night in Long Lake, the route will continue on the west side of the lake to the Owl's Head trailhead, where hiking to the summit and fire tower will be an option. The main route continues south on a route to the Forked Lake Campground with an optional side trip (proposed) to Buttermilk Falls on the Raquette River. After a night at the campground, the final day's trek leads south to the shores of Upper Sargent Pond, then east to Castle Rock (great views) and the Village of Blue Mountain Lake.

Natural Features & Attractions:

- Village of Blue Mountain Lake
- Optional hike: [Blue Mountain](#) & fire tower
- [Northville-Placid Trail](#)
- [Mount Sabattis Park & Pavilion](#)
- [Village of Long Lake](#)
- Optional hike: [Owl's Head](#) & fire tower
- Optional hike: [Buttermilk Falls](#)
- [Forked Lake State Campground](#)
- [Sargent Ponds Wild Forest](#)
- [Castle Rock](#)

Highlights & Attributes:

1. Travelers can enjoy a visit to the Adirondack Museum before or after their hiking trip.
2. A hike up Blue Mountain is an option for the first day's travel.
3. Hikers will experience traveling on the Adirondack Park's almost 100-year-old long-distance route, the Northville-Placid Trail.
4. About midway on the trip, hikers will have a night in town, in the Village of Long Lake.
5. Hikers can take advantage of another hike to a summit, Owl's Head, this one with a fire tower.
6. An optional spur trail could go to Buttermilk Falls on the Raquette River, and return hikers to their route without need of backtracking.
7. The route from Forked Lake Campground will take hikers along Upper Sargent Pond and over Castle Rock, with lovely views of Blue Mountain Lake, before returning to the circuit's starting point and another night in the village.

Challenges:

1. A spur trail from the center of Blue Mountain Lake (intersection of routes 28 and 30) to the Blue Mountain trail will need to be built.
2. Lodging will need to be built along the Northville-Placid Trail (NPT) near Salmon Pond that is consistent with the terms of the conservation easement.
3. A spur trail will be needed from the NPT to Long Lake Village through Mount Sabattis Park.
4. A route will need to be established from Long Lake Village to the Owl's Head Mountain trailhead.
5. A trail will need to be built from the col between the north and south summits of Owl's Head in a southeasterly direction to intersect with existing trails, including the trail that leads south to the Forked Lake Campground. We have not scouted this trail and there are conflicting reports as to what portions of this trail exist.
6. To provide access to Buttermilk Falls as a destination, a spur trail leading to the river then back to the

main trail by another route will have to be built.

7. Lodging will be necessary at the Forked Lake Campground, or somewhere close by on private land.
8. New trail will have to be built from Forked Lake Campground to the existing trail just east of Upper Sargent Pond.

Observations & Questions:

1. Lodging owners in the communities need to be approached and presented with the benefits of being part of the destination-trail system.
2. Spur trails between the Northville-Placid Trail and the villages of Blue Mountain Lake and Long Lake need to be routed and built.
3. Some maps show a trail from just east of Owl's Head going south to the Forked Lake Campground, but the condition of the route is unknown at this time.
4. A trail will be needed from the Forked Lake Campground to the trail just east of Upper Sargent Pond.
5. Feasibility is lower due to the need for lodging facilities (2) and new sections of trail.

Desirability & Feasibility (1 = Low, 5 = High):

Desirability: 4

Feasibility: 3

- Existing Trail
- Proposed Trail
- Road
- Strategic Lodging Locations
- DEC Easements 2015
- Private
- Wilderness
- Primitive
- Wild Forest

Route #08: Blue Mountain Lake to Long Lake Circuit
November 2015

0 0.5 1 2
 Miles

Concept Plan for a Destination-Based Hut to Hut Trail System
for the Five Towns of
Long Lake, Newcomb, Indian Lake, Minerva, and North Hudson



Prepared by Riverside Mapping Service for Leading E.D.G.E.
 and the NY State Department of Environmental Conservation

Data Sources:
 Adirondack Park Agency
 Leading E.D.G.E.
 U.S. Department of Natural Resource Conservation Service

LEADGE
 BLUE RIDGE
 Adirondack Geographic Data Services

NEW YORK
 Department of
 Environmental
 Conservation

Sources: Esri, USGS, NOAA

Daily Stages - Route #08: Blue Mountain Lake / Long Lake Hiking Circuit

	Daily Stage Destination	Lodging in Place (1 = yes, 0 = no)	New Trail Needed, Approx. # of Miles	Difficulty Rating by Daily Stage	# of Miles	Elev. change (feet): Up Down Net
First Night	Blue Mountain Lake	1				
Day 1	Near Salmon Pond & the NPT	0	1.5	3	8	+976 -708 +268
Day 2	Long Lake	1	2.5	3	7	+1130 -1582 -452
Day 3	Forked Lake Campground	0	3.0	4	11	+2108 -2021 +87
+Day 4	Blue Mountain Lake	1	3.0	3	11	+1194 -1096 +98
	Lodging Facilities in Place	3				
	Lodging Facilities Needed	2				
	Total New Trail, Approx. # of Miles		10.0			
	Overall Difficulty Rating			3.3		
	Total Miles				37	
	Ave. Miles Per Day				9	
	Total Elevation Change - Feet					+5408 -5407 +1

Route #09: North Creek / Minerva Traverse

Description:

The North Creek to Minerva Traverse, a 3-night, 2-day trip, takes hikers from the quaint village of North Creek upriver on the Hudson's east side, utilizing a ferry service to reach a place of lodging on the opposite shore in North River. A ferry trip back across the river begins this short route's final day's journey to Minerva; however, a highlight of this route, and not to be missed, is an optional 5.4-mile round-trip hike up 2464-foot Moxham Mountain, which affords great views of the region.

From Minerva, hikers can get a shuttle or retrace their route back to North Creek; or, hikers can extend their journey by continuing toward Newcomb, or traveling east on the proposed North Country Scenic Trail to North Hudson.

Features & Amenities:

- Village of North Creek/[Town of Johnsburg](#)
- [North Creek Depot Museum](#)
- [Tannery Pond Community Center](#)
- [Hudson River](#)
- [Moxham Mountain](#)
- [Village of Minerva](#)

Highlights & Attributes:

1. Most of the pieces for this route are in place. It is our understanding that discussions are ongoing regarding public use of River Road and accessing the state land across the river from North River.
2. The hike along the river with a ferry across to a place of lodging will be unique.
3. Moxham Mountain has a splendid, gradually ascending trail with great views.
4. This route will be a natural connection from North Creek to Minerva.

Challenges:

1. There may be an existing trail from 14th Road to Sporty's Iron Duke Saloon in Minerva, but this needs to be confirmed. This trail will connect near the general store to nearby places of lodging. Permission needs to be acquired to cross Sporty's property.
2. Arrangements need to be made for a ferry service across the Hudson River at North River.

Observations & Questions:

1. Lodging owners in the communities need to be approached and presented with the benefits of being part of the destination-trail system.
2. A spur trail from the south or southwest that intersects the Moxham Mountain trail will minimize backtracking and make it easier for travelers on this route to reach this summit and enjoy the spectacular views.
3. A number of alternative routes could be explored from North Creek over Moxham Mountain to Minerva.
4. This route requires a ferry service, perhaps operated by one or more of the rafting companies or a lodging owner, to transport hikers across the Hudson River and back to lodging in the hamlet of North River.

Desirability & Feasibility (1 = Low, 5 = High):

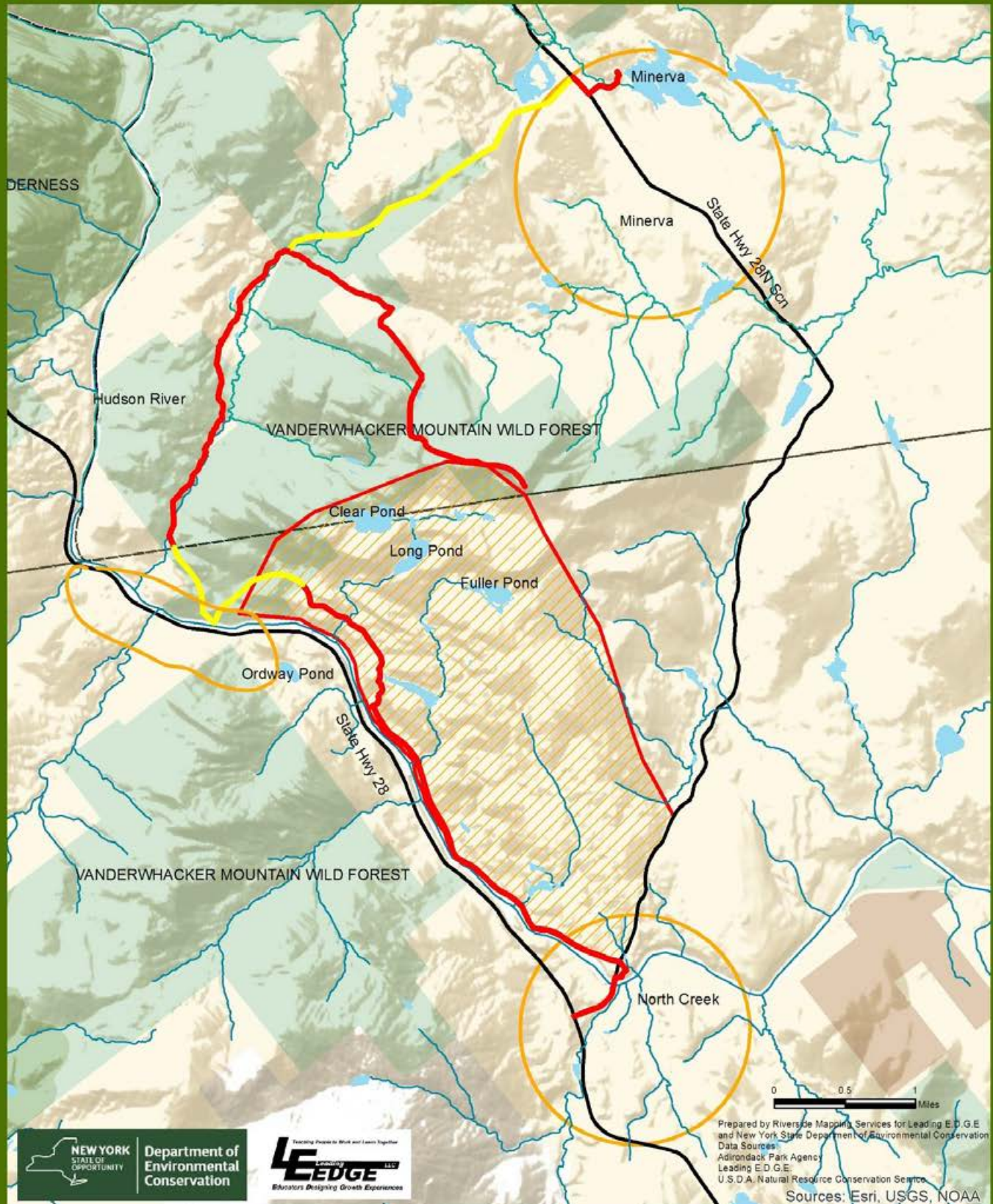
Desirability: 4

Feasibility: 5

- Existing Trail
- Proposed Trail
- Road
- Lodging_Area
- Opportunity_of_Trail
- Private
- Wilderness
- Primitive
- Wild Forest
- DEC Easements 2015

Route #9: North Creek/Minerva November 2015

**Concept Plan for a Destination-Based Hut to Hut Trail System
for the Five Towns of
Long Lake, Newcomb, Indian Lake, Minerva, and North Hudson**



Daily Stages - Route #09: North Creek / Minerva Traverse

	Daily Stage Destination	Lodging in Place (1 = yes, 0 = no)	New Trail Needed, Approx. # of Miles	Difficulty Rating by Daily Stage	# of Miles	Elev. change (feet): Up Down Net
First Night	North Creek	1				
Day 1	North River	1	1.5	1	5	+614 -605 +9
Day 2	Minerva	1	0.5	4	12	+2673 -2489 +184
	Lodging Facilities in Place	3				
	Lodging Facilities Needed	0				
	Total New Trail, Approx. # of Miles		2.0			
	Overall Difficulty Rating			2.5		
	Total Miles				17	
	Ave. Miles Per Day				8.5	
	Total Elevation Change - Feet					+3287 -3094 +193

Route #10: Newcomb / Long Lake Traverse

Description:

The five-night, four-day Newcomb / Long Lake Traverse starts in the village of Newcomb and takes travelers to historic Camp Santanoni and a nearby place of lodging. On day two, hikers travel to Shattuck Clearing and the site of a former DEC Ranger Station, then down to a potential lodging location northwest of Deer Pond on the edge of SUNY-ESF property. Day three takes hikers up to the Northville-Placid Trail (NPT) and a potential lodging location on private land south of Plumley Point on Long Lake. The final day takes you into Long Lake, where a variety of lodging options exist, on a section of the NPT.

Natural Features & Attractions:

- [Village of Newcomb](#)
- [Adirondack Interpretive Center \(AIC\)](#)
- [Camp Santanoni Historic Area](#)
- [Shattuck Clearing](#) on the [Cold River](#)
- Eastern shore of Long Lake
- [Northville-Placid Trail](#)
- [Village of Long Lake](#)

Highlights & Attributes:

1. It travels through classic areas of the western High Peaks Wilderness Area, including:
 - a. Shattuck Clearing
 - b. Calahan Brook
 - c. Long Lake
2. No new trails need to be developed for this traverse.

Challenges:

1. Hiking from the Santanoni Lodge to a potential lodging location on SUNY-ESF land is nearly 14 miles.
2. Lodging needs to be located near:
 - a. Camp Santanoni
 - b. Deer Pond (SUNY-ESF)
 - c. The northeast shore of Long Lake

Observations & Questions:

1. Lodging owners in the communities need to be approached and presented with the benefits of being part of the destination-trail system.
2. These routes have not been field checked.
3. New lodging options on private lands have not been discussed with landowners.
4. Some sections of these trails may need to be brought up to world-class standards.
5. This traverse is part of Route #17: Newcomb / Long Lake Circuit, which includes this leg of the circuit as a hiking route and the other leg as a possible mountain biking route.
6. This route requires more research and field checking.

Desirability & Feasibility (1 = Low, 5 = High):

Desirability: 3

Feasibility: 3

Existing Trail

Private

Road

Wilderness

Strategic Lodging Locations

Primitive

DEC Easements 2015

Wild Forest

Route #10: Newcomb to Long Lake Traverse

November 2015

Concept Plan for a Destination-Based Hut to Hut Trail System

for the Five Towns of

Long Lake, Newcomb, Indian Lake, Minerva, and North Hudson

0 1 2 4 Miles

Map of Route #10: Newcomb to Long Lake Traverse, November 2015. The map shows a proposed trail system (red line) connecting various lakes and ponds in the Adirondacks. Key locations include Long Lake, Round Pond, Deer Pond, Moose Pond, Wolf Pond, Newcomb, Rich Lake, Flatts Lake, and Newcomb. The map also shows State Hwy 28, Vanderwhacker Mountain Wild Forest, and various land ownership types (Private, Wilderness, Primitive, Wild Forest).

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 Department of Environmental Conservation

Prepared by Riverside Mapping Service for Leading E.D.G.E. and the NY State Department of Environmental Conservation
 Data Sources:
 Adirondack Park Agency
 Leading E.D.G.E.
 U.S. Department of Natural Resource Conservation Service
 Sources: ERI, USGS, NOAA

Daily Stages - Route #10: Newcomb / Long Lake Traverse

	Daily Stage Destination	Lodging in Place (1 = yes, 0 = no)	New Trail Needed, Approx. # of Miles	Difficulty Rating by Daily Stage	# of Miles	Elev. change (feet): Up Down Net
First Night	Newcomb	1				
Day 1	Near Camp Santanoni	0	0	1	6	+670 -520 +150
Day 2	Near Deer Pond	0	0	4	14	+1583 -1657 -74
Day 3	Northeast shore of Long Lake	0	0	2	8	+691 -747 -56
Day 4	Long Lake	1	0	2	8	+985 -1014 -29
	Lodging Facilities in Place	2				
	Lodging Facilities Needed	3				
	Total New Trail, Approx. # of Miles		0			
	Overall Difficulty Rating			2.3		
	Total Miles				36	
	Ave. Miles Per Day				9	
	Total Elevation Change - Feet					+3929 -3938 -9

Route #11: Dix Mountain Wilderness Circuit

Description:

A demanding route for fit and experienced hikers, the 6-night, 5-day Dix Mountain Wilderness Circuit starts in North Hudson, first taking hikers over the summits of Nippletop Mountain (Town of North Hudson), Old Far, and Little Far mountains, then to a proposed lodge in the vicinity of Jug Mountain. On the second day, the trail continues north over Buck and Saunders mountains, along Lindsey Brook, and through a short but spectacular canyon to a proposed place of lodging in the vicinity of Underwood and routes 73 and 9. On day three, the route becomes considerably more challenging as it climbs the Spotted Mountain ridge en route to the summits of Grace Peak, South Dix, Macomb, and Hough (four 46ers) before going up and over Dix Mountain (a 46er) and down to a place of lodging in St. Hubert's. On day four, hikers again test their stamina by heading up Bear Den and Dial (a 46er) to Nippletop (another 46er), then descending and climbing yet again to the summits of Mount Colvin and Blake Peak (both 46ers) and the Pinnacle before dropping into the spectacular Elk Lake basin and a place of lodging near Elk Lake. A layover day is recommended to take advantage of the opportunity to paddle Elk Lake, and just kick back and enjoy the sublime views. The fifth and final day takes hikers past Clear Pond, then back to the hamlet of North Hudson.

Natural Features & Attractions:

- [Town of North Hudson](#)
- [Adirondack 46ers](#)
- Nippletop Mountain (North Hudson)
- Old Far & Little Far mountains
- Jug Mountain
- Buck Mountain
- Saunders Mountain
- Canyon near Underwood
- Spotted Mountain
- [Grace Peak](#)
- South Dix
- Macomb Mountain
- Hough Peak
- Dix Mountain
- [Dix Mountain Wilderness](#)
- St. Huberts
- Bear Den Mountain
- Dial Mountain
- Nippletop (46er)
- Elk Pass
- Mount Colvin
- Blake Peak
- Lookout Rock
- Pinnacle

Highlights & Attributes:

1. This route takes hikers up and over nine 46ers, as well as nine other peaks, many of which are rarely climbed.
2. The route also takes hikers through a deep canyon in the landscape near Underwood, with rock walls reaching upwards of 200 feet on both sides.
3. Travelers will enjoy a stay near stunning Elk Lake.

Challenges:

1. The Dix Mountain Wilderness Unit Management Plan (UMP) designates the southeast portion of the Dix Wilderness as trailless; changes will be needed to the UMP to accommodate trails along this part of the route. A fair amount of trail building will be required, but it may be possible to take advantage of herd paths in some places.
2. Lodging will need to be located near the intersection of routes 73 and 9 and Underwood, as well as near Jug Mountain.
3. Lodging capacity is limited near Elk Lake; this might limit the number of hikers that the entire route can accommodate at any given time.

Observations & Questions:

Concept Plan for a Hut-to-hut Destination-based Trail System
for the Five Towns of Long Lake, Newcomb, Indian Lake, Minerva, and North Hudson
Prepared by Leading E.D.G.E. for the NYSDEC

1. Lodging owners in the communities need to be approached and presented with the benefits of being part of the destination-trail system.
2. This hike is for expert and fit hikers only. The possibility exists for some hikers to overestimate their fitness and ability.
3. This challenging world-class alpine route will appeal to peak-baggers from across the globe and put North Hudson “on the map,” greatly contributing to its tourism economy.
4. Because this entire route is part of the conceptualized Grand High Peaks Circuit (GHPC), the development of the trail and lodging infrastructure will do much to contribute to the realization of the GHPC.

Desirability & Feasibility (1 = Low, 5 = High):

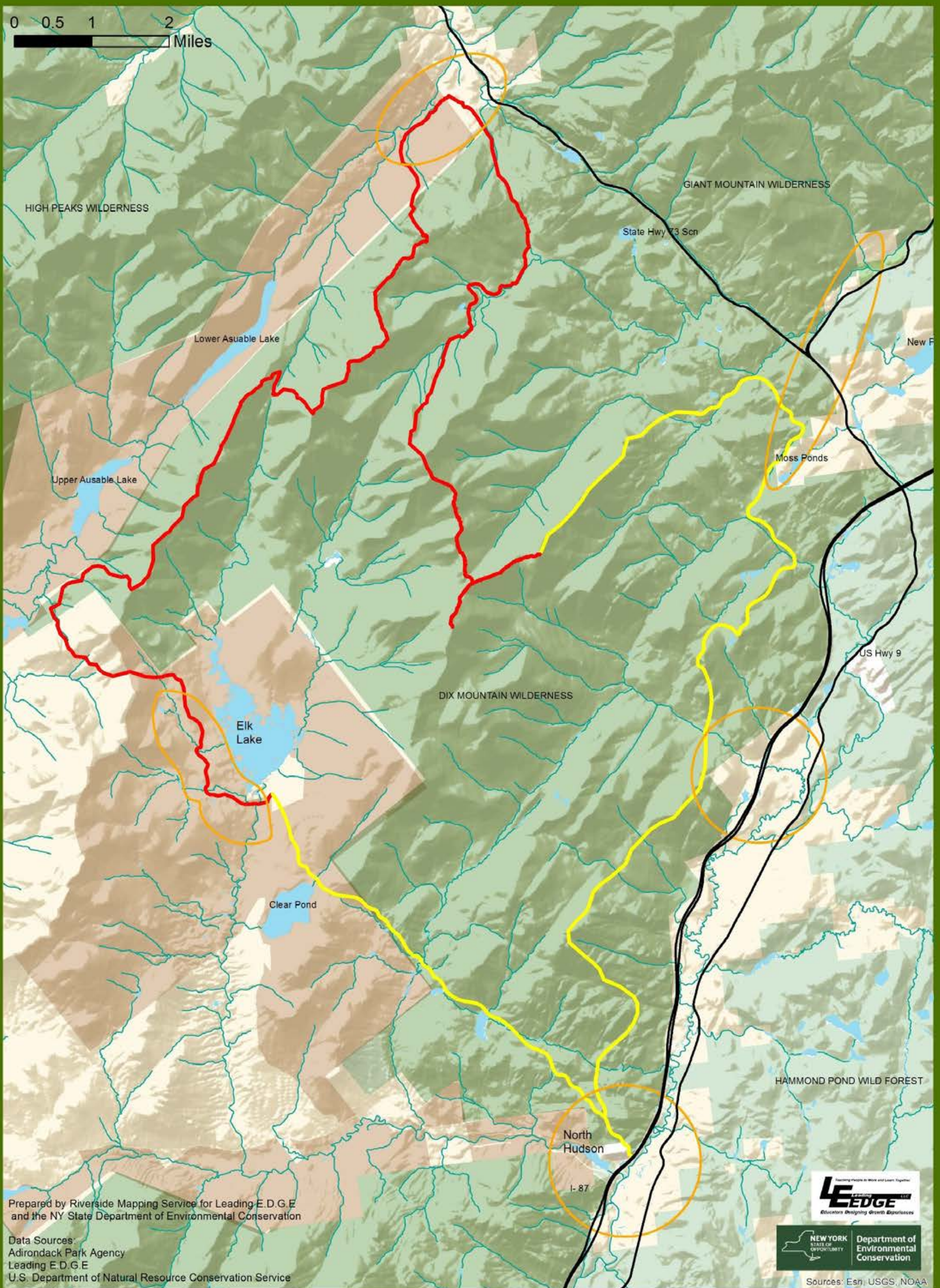
Desirability: 5

Feasibility: 3



Route #11: Dix Mountain Wilderness Circuit November 2015

Concept Plan for a Destination-Based Hut to Hut Trail System for the Five Towns of Long Lake, Newcomb, Indian Lake, Minerva, and North Hudson



Daily Stages - Route #11: Dix Mountain Wilderness Circuit

	Daily Stage Destination	Lodging in Place (1 = yes, 0 = no)	New Trail Needed, Approx. # of Miles	Difficulty Rating by Daily Stage	# of Miles	Elev. change (feet): Up Down Net
First Night	North Hudson	1				
Day 1	Near Jug Mountain	0	7.0	5	7	+3160 -2512 +648
Day 2	Near routes 73/9 & Underwood	0	7.0	5	7	+2082 -1835 +247
Day 3	St. Huberts	1	5.5	5	17	+5902 -6132 -230
Day 4	Near Elk Lake	1	0	5	20	+6937 -6082 +855
Day 5	North Hudson	1	6.5	3	9	+1369 -2563 -1194
	Lodging Facilities in Place	4				
	Lodging Facilities Needed	2				
	Total New Trail, Approx. # of Miles		26.0			
	Overall Difficulty Rating			4.6		
	Total Miles				60	
	Ave. Miles Per Day				12	
	Total Elevation Change - Feet					+19450 -19124 +326

Concept Plan for a Hut-to-hut Destination-based Trail System
for the Five Towns of Long Lake, Newcomb, Indian Lake, Minerva, and North Hudson
Prepared by Leading E.D.G.E. for the NYSDEC

Route #12: Historic Great Camp Circuit

Description:

The Historic Great Camp Circuit, 6 nights and 5 days, goes north from the village of Raquette Lake to the summit of West Mountain, then descends on a proposed trail to a place of lodging (proposed) on Outlet Bay. On day two, hikers walk along North Point Road to a trail through the Sargent Ponds Wild Forest, linking to a trail that leads east to Castle Rock, with its views of Blue Mountain Lake, then into the village of Blue Mountain Lake (where a layover day is suggested to visit the Adirondack Museum to learn more about the history of Great Camps). On day three, hikers head south on the Cascade Pond Trail and continue to the Northville-Placid Trail, continuing to a place of lodging (proposed) near Wakely Dam and the Cedar River Flow. On the fourth day, hikers ascend Wakely Mountain and climb one of the state's tallest fire towers for spectacular views of the central Adirondacks; from the summit, a proposed trail will go to Cellar Pond, then around Bradley Mountain and Green Top, with a memorable overnight stay near Sagamore Lake. On the fifth and final day of the trek, hikers visit the beautiful stream that becomes South Inlet before returning via a proposed trail to the village of Raquette Lake.

Natural Features & Attractions:

- [Village of Raquette Lake](#)
- Raquette Lake
- Raquette Lake cruise aboard the [WW Durant](#)
- [West Mountain](#)
- [Sargent Ponds Wild Forest](#)
- [Castle Rock](#)
- Village of Blue Mountain Lake
- Blue Mountain Lake
- [Adirondack Museum](#)
- [Cascade Pond](#)
- [Northville-Placid Trail](#)
- [Cedar River Flow](#)
- [Wakely Mountain](#) & fire tower
- [Cellar Pond](#)
- [Great Camp Sagamore](#)

Highlights & Attributes:

1. This route provides travelers with the opportunity to experience the natural beauty and cultural history of both Raquette Lake and Blue Mountain Lake (e.g., a dinner cruise on Raquette Lake and a visit to the Adirondack Museum). This loop provides a good mix of Adirondack Park backcountry and frontcountry experiences.
2. There are great views from Castle Rock and the Wakely Mountain fire tower, as well as good views from West Mountain.
3. On this route, hikers stay near Sagamore Lake and Great Camp Sagamore, a National Historic Landmark and a classic example of Adirondack Great Camp architecture that was once the wilderness retreat for the Vanderbilt family.
4. The trail takes hikers past several classic Adirondack ponds and to the scenic Cedar River Flow.
5. Hikers get the chance to hike a portion of the Northville-Placid Trail.

Challenges:

1. This route requires a fair amount of trail building.
2. Lodging is needed on the northern part of Raquette Lake at a distance that is reasonably equidistant from the villages of Raquette Lake and Blue Mountain Lake. Lodging, which could be utilized by hikers on the Northville-Placid Trail and other routes, is proposed in the vicinity of Wakely Dam.

Observations & Questions:

1. Lodging owners in the communities need to be approached and presented with the benefits of being part of the destination-trail system.

2. Travelers who arrive in Raquette Lake early enough on the day before their hike can enjoy a cruise on Raquette Lake aboard the WW Durant.
3. The terrain here is mostly family friendly, but the distances between some proposed places of lodging require day hikes that may be too long. Additional places of lodging on both private and public land could be considered to ensure the route's appeal to families.
4. With a vehicle shuttle, the entire circuit could be completed in two segments, a Raquette Lake to Blue Mountain Lake Traverse via West Mountain, the Sargent Ponds Wild Forest, and Castle Rock, and a Blue Mountain Lake to Raquette Lake Traverse via the Northville-Placid Trail.
5. This route requires considerably more field checking.

Desirability & Feasibility (1 = Low, 5 = High):

Desirability: 4

Feasibility: 4

Existing Trail

Proposed Trail

Street

Strategic Lodging Locations

DEC Easements 2015

Private

Wilderness

Primitive

Wild Forest

Route #12: Historic Great Camp Circuit

November 2015

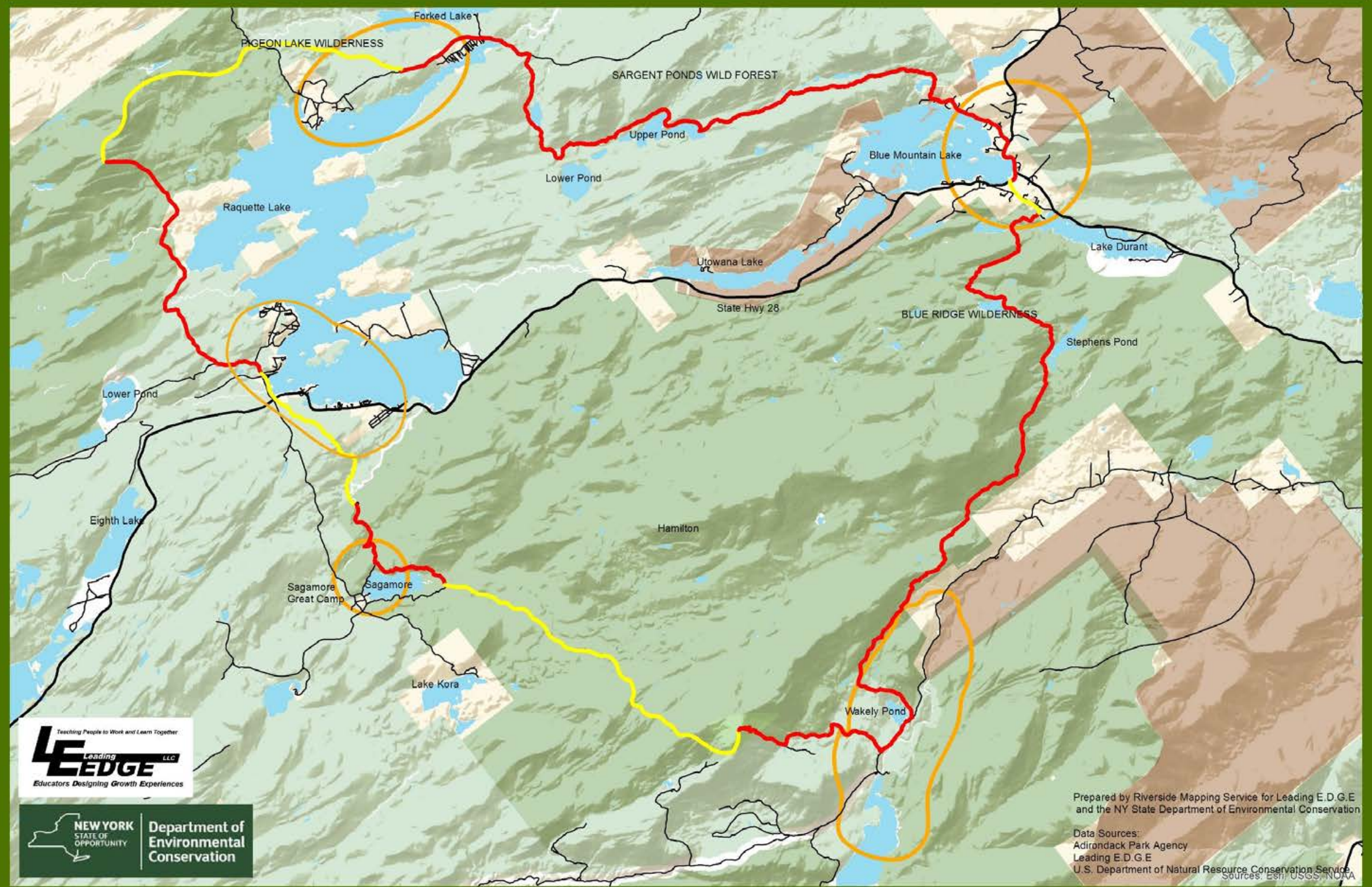
Concept Plan for a Destination-Based Hut to Hut Trail System

for the Five Towns of

Long Lake, Newcomb, Indian Lake, Minerva, and North Hudson

N

0 1 2 4 Miles



Prepared by Riverside Mapping Service for Leading E.D.G.E. and the NY State Department of Environmental Conservation

Data Sources:
 Adirondack Park Agency
 Leading E.D.G.E.
 U.S. Department of Natural Resource Conservation Service
 Sources: Esri, USGS, NOAA

Daily Stages - Route #12: Historic Great Camp Circuit

	Daily Stage Destination	Lodging in Place (1 = yes, 0 = no)	New Trail Needed, Approx. # of Miles	Difficulty Rating by Daily Stage	# of Miles	Elev. change (feet): Up Down Net
First Night	Raquette Lake	1				
Day 1	North shore of Raquette Lake	0	3.5	4	12	+2030 -1983 +47
Day 2	Blue Mountain Lake	1	1.5	4	15	+1255 -1205 +50
Day 3	Near Wakely Dam	0	0	4	13	+1727 -1422 +305
Day 4	Near Sagamore Lake	1	7.0	4	12	+2277 -2442 -165
Day 5	Raquette Lake	1	2.0	1	5	+532 -665 -133
	Lodging Facilities in Place	4				
	Lodging Facilities Needed	2				
	Total New Trail, Approx. # of Miles		14.0			
	Overall Difficulty Rating			3.4		
	Total Miles				57	
	Ave. Miles Per Day				11	
	Total Elevation Change - Feet					+7821 -7717 +104

Route #13: North Hudson / Newcomb Traverse

Description:

The North Hudson to Newcomb Traverse is a 5-night, 4-day trek that starts on a proposed trail just beyond the I-87 (Adirondack Northway) overpass in North Hudson, past Big and Little Marsh ponds and Clear Pond to Elk Lake Lodge. On the second day, hikers reach a lodging located somewhere between the northeast side of the Boreas Ponds basin and private land west of Walter Coon Brook by either going over Boreas Mountain with its great views or around Lightning Hill to the north on the Elk Lake-Marcy Trail before dropping southward into the basin on a proposed trail. On day three, depending on the lodging location, hikers can opt to travel around Boreas Ponds south of the North River Mountains or traverse the proposed challenging trail over Cheney Cobble and Rist Mountain. The trail on the fourth day takes hikers over the Hudson River and meanders its way around Beaver Flow and Beaver Brook into Newcomb.

Natural Features & Attractions:

- [Hamlet and Town of North Hudson](#)
- [Elk Lake Lodge](#) & Elk Lake
- [High Peaks Wilderness Area](#)
- Cheney Cobble & Rist Mountain
- [Boreas Mountain](#)
- The upper [Hudson River](#)
- [Boreas Ponds](#)
- Logging & mining history
- [Lake Harris Campground](#)
- [Village of Newcomb](#)
- [Adirondack Interpretive Center \(AIC\)](#)

Highlights & Attributes:

1. The route will provide spectacular views of the High Peaks from a southern vantage point.
2. It will be a world-class route due to its scenery and lodgings.
3. One of two possible routes will traverse the summit of Boreas Mountain.
4. It will provide access to the soon-to-be-acquired Boreas Ponds tract.
5. Hikers could choose to hike Cheney Cobble and Rist Mountain on a proposed trail.
6. The route will cross the upper Hudson River.

Challenges:

1. The following trail sections have to be constructed:
 - a. From North Hudson, a connecting trail to Elk Lake
 - b. From the summit of Boreas Mountain west to the Gulf Brook Road
 - c. From the Gulf Brook Road around the base of the North River Mountains to the bridge crossing the Hudson River south of Sanford Lake
 - d. From Route 25 to the Harris Lake Campground
2. Our knowledge of the area indicates that some existing trails may have to be brought up to world-class standards.
3. Developing lodging near the Boreas Ponds will be challenging.

Observations & Questions:

1. Lodging owners in the communities need to be approached and presented with the benefits of being part of the destination-trail system.
2. Done well, this will be a top-rated, world-class route.
3. It is preferable for this route to be a 5-night, 4-day route with a place of lodging near Boreas Ponds and another place of lodging between Rist Mountain and Perch Pond. This will provide travelers with a shorter hike on the final day to Newcomb while also giving them time to enjoy the Boreas Ponds region for a longer time. This option requires temporary lodging near Boreas Ponds; without a lodging option at Boreas, this trip will be shortened by a day.

4. Alternative routes might be found from the Boreas tract to the Hudson River, but they must utilize one of the two bridges that cross the Hudson River.
5. Lodging options near Elk Lake need further exploration.
6. We have talked to the proprietors of the lodging facilities in Newcomb; they are all interested in being part of the lodging-and-trails system.
7. We have not talked to lodging owners in North Hudson, but Internet research indicates availability of rental cabins and yurts.
8. Winter lodging currently is not available at Elk Lake, thus limiting the potential for winter use of this route at this time.

Desirability & Feasibility (1 = Low, 5 = High):

Desirability: 5

Feasibility: 2

Existing Trail

Proposed Trail

Road

Strategic Lodging Area

Private

Wilderness

Primitive

Wild Forest

DEC Easements 2015

Route #13: Newcomb/North Hudson Traverse

November 2015

Concept Plan for a Destination-Based Hut to Hut Trail System

for the Five Towns of

Long Lake, Newcomb, Indian Lake, Minerva, and North Hudson

N

0 1 2 4

Miles

The map displays a proposed trail system (yellow line) and existing trails (red line) connecting Newcomb and North Hudson. Key geographical features include Newcomb Lake, Rich Lake, Harris Lake, Beaver Flow, Perch Pond, Boreas Pond, Elk Lake, and Clear Pond. The Hudson River is shown flowing through the area. Land management designations include High Peaks Wilderness, Dix Mountain Wilderness, Vanderhack Mountain Wild Forest, and various Wild Forest and Primitive areas. Strategic lodging areas are marked with orange circles. The map also shows roads, including State Hwy 28N Scn, and private land. The trail system is designed to traverse these diverse landscapes, providing a destination-based hut-to-hut experience.

Prepared by Riverside Mapping Service for Leading E.D.G.E. and the NY State Department of Environmental Conservation

Data Sources:
 Adirondack Park Agency
 Leading E.D.G.E.
 U.S. Department of Natural Resource Conservation Service
 Sources: Esri, USGS, NOAA

Daily Stages - Route #13: North Hudson / Newcomb Traverse

	Daily Stage Destination	Lodging in Place (1 = yes, 0 = no)	New Trail Needed, Approx. # of Miles	Difficulty Rating by Daily Stage	# of Miles	Elev. change (feet): Up Down Net
First Night	North Hudson	1				
Day 1	Near Elk Lake	1	6.5	3	9	+1905 -777 +1128
Day 2	Near Boreas Ponds (Alternative 1: over Boreas Mtn)	0	2.0	4	12	+2575 -2557 +18
Day 2	Near Boreas Ponds (Alternative 2: northern route)	0	1.5	3	8	+1459 -1347 +112
Day 3	Over Rist Mountain (Alternative 1)	0	9.5	5	11	+4397 -4116 +281
Day 3	South of Rist Mountain (Alternative 2)	0	2.5	3	5	+975 -643 +332
Day 4	Newcomb	1	8.5	4	15	+1333 -1586 -253
	Lodging Facilities in Place	3				
	Lodging Facilities Needed	2				
	Total New Trail, Approx. # of Miles		26.5/19			
	Overall Difficulty Rating			4/3.3		
	Total Miles				47/37	
	Ave. Miles Per Day				12/9	
	Total Elevation Change - Feet					+12644 -11026 +1618

Route #14: Indian Lake / Newcomb Traverse

Description:

The Indian Lake to Newcomb Traverse, a 4-night, 3-day trip, leaves Indian Lake on Pelon Road then parallels the scenic Cedar River for 3 miles to Elm Island. A new spur trail along the route to Elm Island will provide an optional hike to the summit of an unnamed peak (2234 feet/681m) for expansive views to the south. From Elm Island, the route takes travelers to proposed lodging near the historic Outer Gooley Club farmhouse, with views of the Hudson River. Day two of travel goes north along the Hudson River then traverses Big Pisgah Mountain (proposed) with views to the south. After crossing the Cedar River, the trail follows the river west before traversing Bonnie Mountain (proposed), with views from the upper ledges, then descends to Third Lake. Trekkers continue between Fourth and Fifth lakes and around the northern shore of Fifth and Sixth lakes to a proposed lodge near Goodnow Flow. On the final day, the trail takes trekkers east along the Goodnow River, then north along the Hudson River (proposed) and into the village of Newcomb.

Natural Features & Attractions:

- [Village of Indian Lake](#)
- [Movie theater in Indian Lake](#)
- [Town of Indian Lake Museum](#)
- [Blue Mountain Wild Forest](#)
- [Pine Lake Primitive Area](#)
- [Cedar River](#)
- Historic Outer Gooley Club
- Confluence of [Indian & Hudson rivers](#)
- [Essex Chain Lakes Complex](#)
- [Hudson River](#)
- [Village of Newcomb](#)
- [Adirondack Interpretive Center \(AIC\)](#)
- Newcomb Historical Society

Highlights & Attributes:

1. The Essex Chain Lakes Complex, opened to the public in 2014, provides hikers and skiers the opportunity to travel through this region that was the location of the Gooley Club, one of the oldest sportsmen's groups in the Adirondacks.
2. It provides travelers with the opportunity to travel along sections of NYS-designated Scenic and Wild rivers, the Cedar and the Hudson, respectively.
3. It provides opportunities along a family-friendly route for scenic views from three small mountains, currently trailless: an unnamed peak (2234 feet/681m), Big Pisgah, and Bonnie.
4. The trail can be designed to serve as an excellent intermediate ski route, providing backcountry skiers the opportunity to ski hut to hut.
5. The trail provides access to the Essex Chain Lakes and will contribute to the economic benefits of this recent addition to the NY State Forest Preserve.

Challenges:

1. This route requires the following:
 - a. Temporary lodging near the Outer Gooley Club farmhouse and also, preferably, the Inner Gooley Club on Third Lake
 - b. Construction of the planned bridge over the Cedar River
 - c. Construction of a new trail north of the Cedar River bridge over the summits of Big Pisgah and Bonnie mountains
 - d. Purchase or construction of a quality (ideally waterfront) lodging facility on Goodnow Flow that is amenable to neighbors and members of the Goodnow Flow Association
 - e. A trail from the Polaris Bridge north along the Hudson River to Newcomb (where only a herd path now exists)
 - f. A community trail south of Newcomb that will allow travelers to access amenities

- g. Amendments to the draft Essex Chain Lakes Primitive Area UMP
- h. A trail up a nameless peak that is 2234 feet in elevation
- i. Construction of new trail along the Cedar River

Observations & Questions:

1. Lodging owners in the communities need to be approached and presented with the benefits of being part of the destination-trail system.
2. More field checking needs to be conducted to confirm the routes along the Cedar River and over the unnamed peak (2234 feet in elevation), and Pisgah and Bonnie mountains.
3. The general location of the Inner Gooley Club will make for an excellent strategic location for lodging. This will make the traverse one day longer, and the daily mileage considerably shorter.
4. The road from Route 30 to the Outer Gooley Club could be used in place of the trail along the Cedar River and eliminate the need for 4.4 miles of new trail; however, this option will involve walking along Route 30 for approximately 1.3 miles and walking the Outer Gooley Club Road for about 4 miles, as opposed to an extended walk along the Cedar River. In the winter, this will mean that cross-country skiers will share the road with snowmobiles.
5. This route has potential for excellent hut-to-hut skiing.
6. Stretches of the trail for skiing may require intermediate or above skiing ability; in these locations, the snowmobile trail provides an alternate route.
7. Alternative routes from the Outer Gooley Club exist with routes on trails proposed by the draft UMP, but the route proposed and described here deviates on occasion from the UMP route and provides more variation in terrain, as well as the opportunity to realize views from two different summits.
8. Development of this route requires completion of the bridge over the Cedar River and allowance for temporary lodging on Forest Preserve land.

Desirability & Feasibility (1 = Low, 5 = High):

Desirability: 4

Feasibility: 3

Existing Trail

Proposed Trail

Road

Strategic Lodging Locations

DEC Easements 2015

Private

Wilderness

Primitive

Wild Forest

Route #14: Indian Lake/Newcomb Traverse

November 2015

Concept Plan for a Destination-Based Hut to Hut Trail System

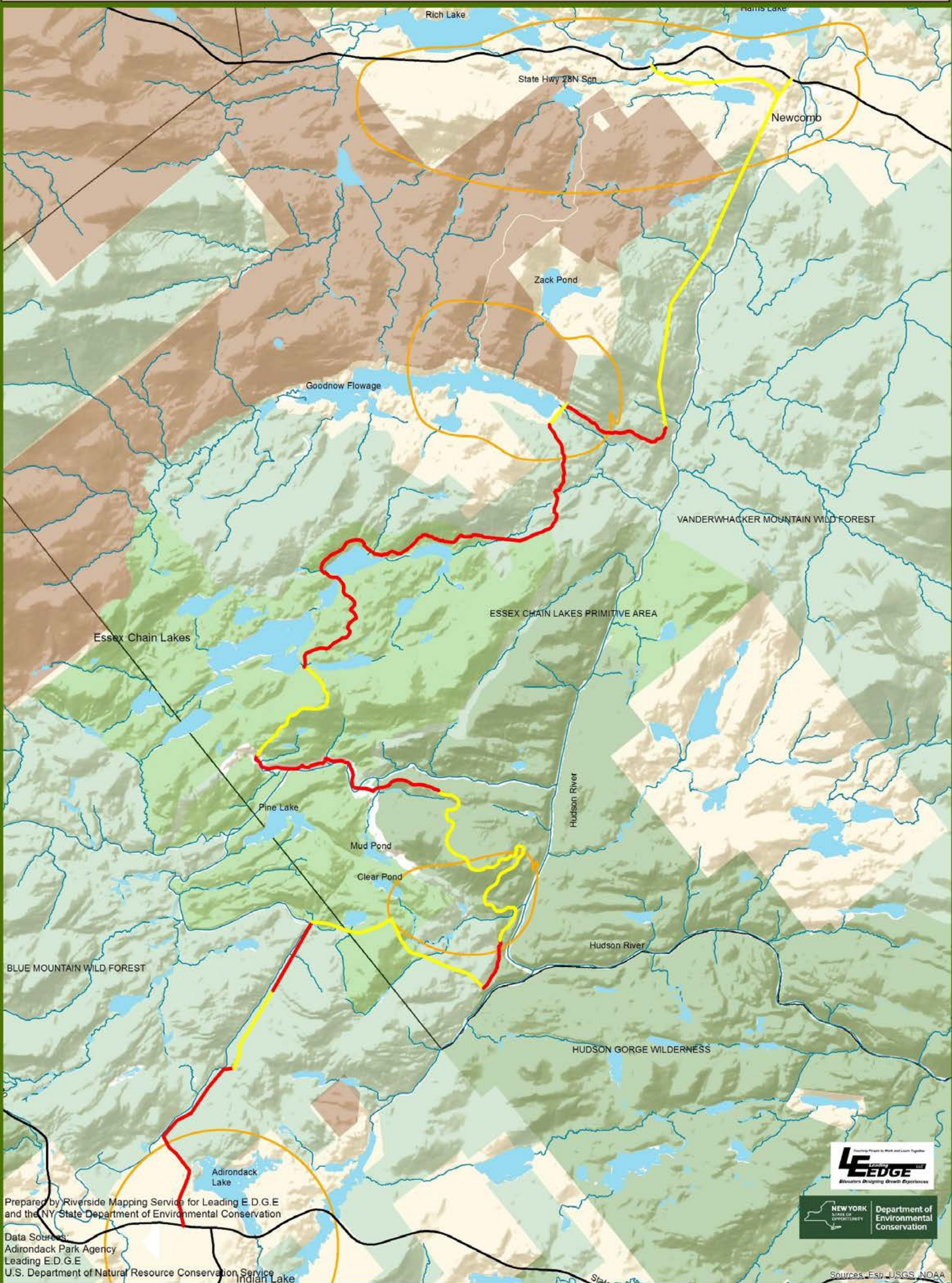
for the Five Towns of

Long Lake, Newcomb, Indian Lake, Minerva, and North Hudson

N

00.512

Miles



Prepared by Riverside Mapping Service for Leading E.D.G.E. and the NY State Department of Environmental Conservation

Data Sources:
Adirondack Park Agency
Leading E.D.G.E.
U.S. Department of Natural Resource Conservation Service



Sources: Esri, USGS, NOAA

Daily Stages - Route #14: Indian Lake / Newcomb Traverse

	Daily Stage Destination	Lodging in Place (1 = yes, 0 = no)	New Trail Needed, Approx. # of Miles	Difficulty Rating by Daily Stage	# of Miles	Elev. change (feet): Up Down Net
First Night	Indian Lake	1				
Day 1	Near Outer Gooley Club farmhouse	0	3.5	2	7	+594 -846 -252
Day 2	Near Goodnow Flow	0	4.0	3	13	+2218 -2102 +116
Day 3	Newcomb	1	4.5	2	7	+1117 -1204 -87
	Lodging Facilities in Place	2				
	Lodging Facilities Needed	2				
	Total New Trail, Approx. # of Miles		12.0			
	Overall Difficulty Rating			2.3		
	Total Miles				27	
	Ave. Miles Per Day				9	
	Total Elevation Change - Feet					+3929 -4152 -223

Route #15: Grand Siamese Ponds Circuit

Description:

The 11-night, 10-day Grand Siamese Ponds Circuit begins in Indian Lake, going east along Route 28 then south over McGinn Hill on a proposed trail, past Clear and John ponds, and over Chimney Mountain via a proposed trail en route to the first night's lodging at Kings Flow. On the second day, hikers travel east through the Siamese Ponds Wilderness Area to a place of lodging near Thirteenth Lake. On day three, the trail heads east along the Raymond Brook Trail to a place of lodging in North Creek, with an optional hike to the summit of Gore Mountain along the way. From North Creek, a proposed trail passes Chatiemac Pond en route to some sites of historic interest - Mateskared, where Howard Zahniser wrote the Wilderness Act, and the former home of Adirondack conservationist and wilderness advocate Paul Schaefer - before continuing over Eleventh Mountain to a place of lodging (proposed) along Route 8. On the fifth day, a proposed spur trail passes Kibby Pond to connect with the Bartman Trail, which hikers follow south to overnight accommodations (proposed) near Baldwin Springs. Day six takes hikers northwest on the Oregon Trail before heading southwest to Griffin and a night's lodging (proposed) along the East Branch of the Sacandaga River. On the seventh day, the route passes Auger Falls Rapids and Austin Falls before proceeding on a proposed trail across easement land and into Speculator for the next night's lodging. A layover day is suggested here for travelers to enjoy mountain biking or boating, or just to relax on the shore of Lake Pleasant. From Speculator, hikers take the Elm Lake Road north on day eight to its terminus and a place of lodging (proposed) near the Kunjamuk River. On the ninth day, hikers follow the Rock Pond - Long Pond Trail and the John Mack Pond Trail to the shore of Indian Lake, then head north on a proposed trail along the eastern shore of beautiful Indian Lake to that night's proposed lodging just off the Crotched Pond Trail. On the trek's tenth and final day, hikers continue along the eastern shore of Indian Lake on a proposed trail to Norman's Cove, ascend the Baldface Mountain trail for spectacular views to the west, then descend on a proposed trail north to County Road 18, the causeway over Lake Abanakee, and into Indian Lake.

Natural Features & Attractions:

- [Village of Indian Lake](#)
- [Siamese Ponds Wilderness Area](#)
- Clear & John ponds
- [Chimney Mountain](#) & cave
- [Kings Flow](#)
- Puffer & Hour ponds
- Optional hike: [Peaked Mountain](#)
- [Thirteenth Lake](#)
- Optional hike: [Gore Mountain](#)
- Village of North Creek/[Town of Johnsburg](#)
- Historic [Zahniser](#) cabin
- Historic [Schaefer](#) cabin
- Eleventh Mountain
- [Wilcox Lake Wild Forest](#)
- East Branch Sacandaga River
- [Auger Falls](#)
- [Austin Falls](#)
- [Village of Speculator/Town of Lake Pleasant](#)
- Rock, Long, & John Mack ponds
- [Baldface Mountain](#)
- [Lake Abanakee](#) causeway

Highlights & Attributes:

1. The route passes through the northern portion of the Siamese Ponds Wilderness Area.
2. This route provides hikers with the opportunity to climb three modest peaks with spectacular views, with optional hikes up Peaked and Gore mountains.
3. Arrangements with a guide service can be made to facilitate a day exploring the Chimney Mountain cave.
4. The route connects three Adirondack villages.
5. A number of classic Adirondack ponds are along the proposed route, as are tranquil King's Flow and

Thirteenth Lake.

6. The trail passes close by Mateskared, the Zahniser family cabin where Howard Zahniser drafted the Wilderness Act.
7. The trail also passes the cabin of Adirondacker Paul Schaefer, who was a key player in the protection of the Adirondack Forest Preserve.
8. The trail goes past scenic Auger and Austin falls.
9. The route goes along the shore of Indian Lake for several miles, where hikers can swim and enjoy the lakeside scenery.

Challenges:

1. This route requires a considerable amount of trail construction.
2. Location of trails and lodging, if on easement land, will be consistent with the terms of the conservation easement.

Observations & Questions:

1. Lodging owners in the communities need to be approached and presented with the benefits of being part of the destination-trail system.
2. The Speculator to Indian Lake stretch of this route could be connected to the Indian Lake to Newcomb Traverse and the Newcomb to Lake Placid Traverse to create the Speculator to Lake Placid Traverse, an alternative to the north-south Northville-Placid Trail that could be combined with the NPT to create another “grand circuit.”
3. This proposed route purposefully avoids the trailless area established by the Siamese Ponds Wilderness Area UMP.
4. This route integrates the village of Speculator into the destination-trail system.

Desirability & Feasibility (1 = Low, 5 = High):

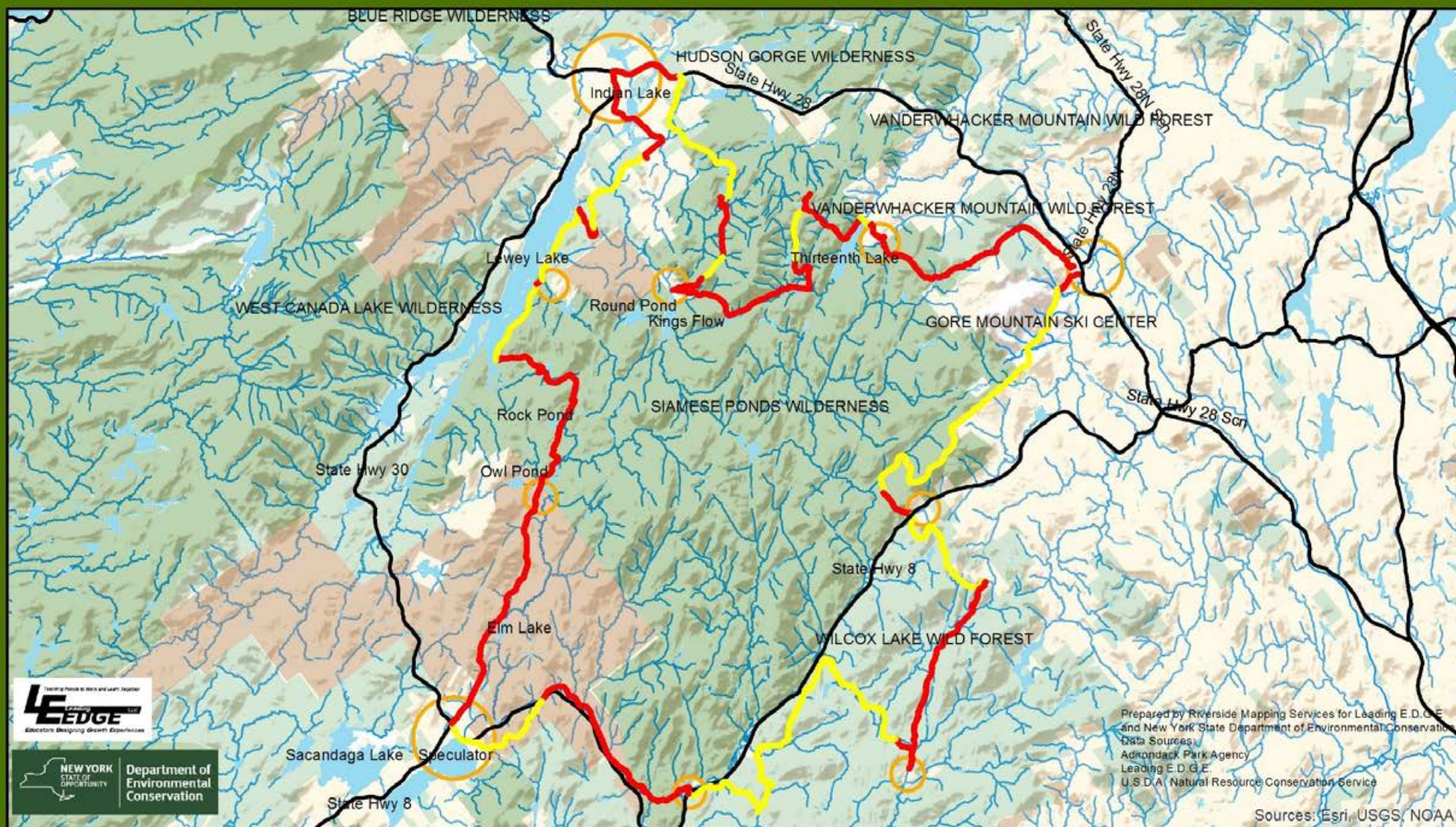
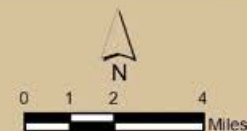
Desirability: 5

Feasibility: 3

- Existing Trail
- Proposed Trail
- Major Road
- Strategic Lodging Locations
- Private
- Wilderness
- Primitive
- Wild Forest
- DEC Easements 2015

Route #15: Grand Siamese Ponds Circuit November 2015

Concept Plan for a Destination-Based Hut to Hut Trail System for the Five Towns of Long Lake, Newcomb, Indian Lake, Minerva, and North Hudson



Prepared by Riverside Mapping Services for Leading E.D.G.E.
and New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
Data Sources:
Adirondack Park Agency
Leading E.D.G.E.
U.S.D.A. Natural Resource Conservation Service

Sources: Esri, USGS, NOAA

Daily Stage - Route #15: Grand Siamese Ponds Circuit

	Daily Stage Destination	Lodging in Place (1 = yes, 0 = no)	New Trail Needed, Approx. # of Miles	Difficulty Rating by Daily Stage	# of Miles	Elev. change (feet): Up Down Net
First Night	Indian Lake	1				
Day 1	Kings Flow	1	5.5	3	11	+1816 -1829 -13
Day 2	Thirteenth Lake	1	2.0	4	13	+1324 -1103 +221
Day 3	North Creek	1	0.0	2	8	+994 -1838 -894
Day 4	Near Eleventh Mountain	0	11.0	4	13	+3587 -2871 +716
Day 5	Near Baldwin Springs	0	3.5	3	11	+1570 -1822 -252
Day 6	Griffin	0	0	4	14	+1927 -2081 -154
Day 7	Speculator	1	2.5	3	10	+1105 -617 +488
Day 8	Northern terminus of Elm Lake Road	0	0.0	2	8	+580 -552 +28
Day 9	Near Crotched Pond Trail	0	3.0	3	11	+1374 -1296 +78
Day 10	Indian Lake	1	6.0	3	11	+344 -274 +70

	Lodging Facilities in Place	6				
	Lodging Facilities Needed	5				
	Total New Trail, Approx. # of Miles	33.5				
	Overall Difficulty Rating		3.1			
	Total Miles				110	
	Ave. Miles Per Day				11	
	Total Elevation Change - Feet					+14621 -14283 +288

Route #16: Blue Mountain Lake / Indian Lake Traverse

Description: This 3-night, 2-day trip from Blue Mountain Lake to Indian Lake begins on a proposed section of trail connecting the village center with the existing trail to the summit of Blue Mountain, then down the north side of Blue Mountain, along the western shore of Tirrell Pond, and over Barker Mountain to lodging (proposed) on Barker Pond. On the second day, hikers cross the Rock River, traverse Stark Hills and Ledge Mountain, with good views to the south, then cross the Cedar River. Upon reaching the terminus of Benton Road, hikers proceed directly into the village of Indian Lake and can reward themselves with dinner, and popcorn and a movie at the cozy Indian Lake Theater.

Features & Amenities:

- [Village of Blue Mountain Lake](#)
- [Adirondack Museum](#)
- [Blue Mountain Lake Scenic Boat Tours](#)
- [Blue Mountain](#) & fire tower
- [Barker Mountain](#)
- [Stark Hills & Ledge Mountain](#)
- [Village of Indian Lake](#)
- [Movie theater in Indian Lake](#)
- [Town of Indian Lake Museum](#)

Highlights & Attributes:

1. This route provides travelers with the opportunity to combine a short, family-friendly backcountry overnight hike with a visit to Blue Mountain Lake and the Adirondack Museum.
2. This trip visits a classic Adirondack fire tower atop Blue Mountain, with great 360-degree views.
3. The route also proposes a new trail up and over Barker Mountain, Stark Hills, and Ledge Mountain, each of which provides good views to the east and south.

Challenges:

1. This route will require a fair amount of new trail construction, including a bridge over the Rock River.
2. Location of trails and lodging, if on easement land, will be consistent with the terms of the conservation easement.

Observations & Questions:

1. Lodging owners in the communities need to be approached and presented with the benefits of being part of the destination-trail system.
2. Can the service road to the summit of Blue Mountain be utilized as an officially designated public hiking and skiing trail?
3. This route is family-friendly.
4. A proposed new trail will go east from the village of Blue Mountain Lake through a minor pass to the Northville-Placid Trail (NPT) just north of O'Neil Flow. This trail will provide families and others going to Indian Lake the opportunity to bypass the summit of Blue Mountain on their way to Barker Pond; this proposed connector trail also will provide an alternative route for NPT hikers to access the village of Blue Mountain Lake and skiers looking to complete a loop from Tirrell Pond back into the village.
5. Construction of this route with its trail and lodging infrastructure will contribute to the completion of the Grand Central Adirondack Circuit.
6. A winter option will provide good cross-country skiing and snowshoeing opportunities.
7. This route provides a family-friendly, overnight backcountry experience connecting the communities of Blue Mountain Lake and Indian Lake.

Desirability & Feasibility (1 = Low, 5 = High):

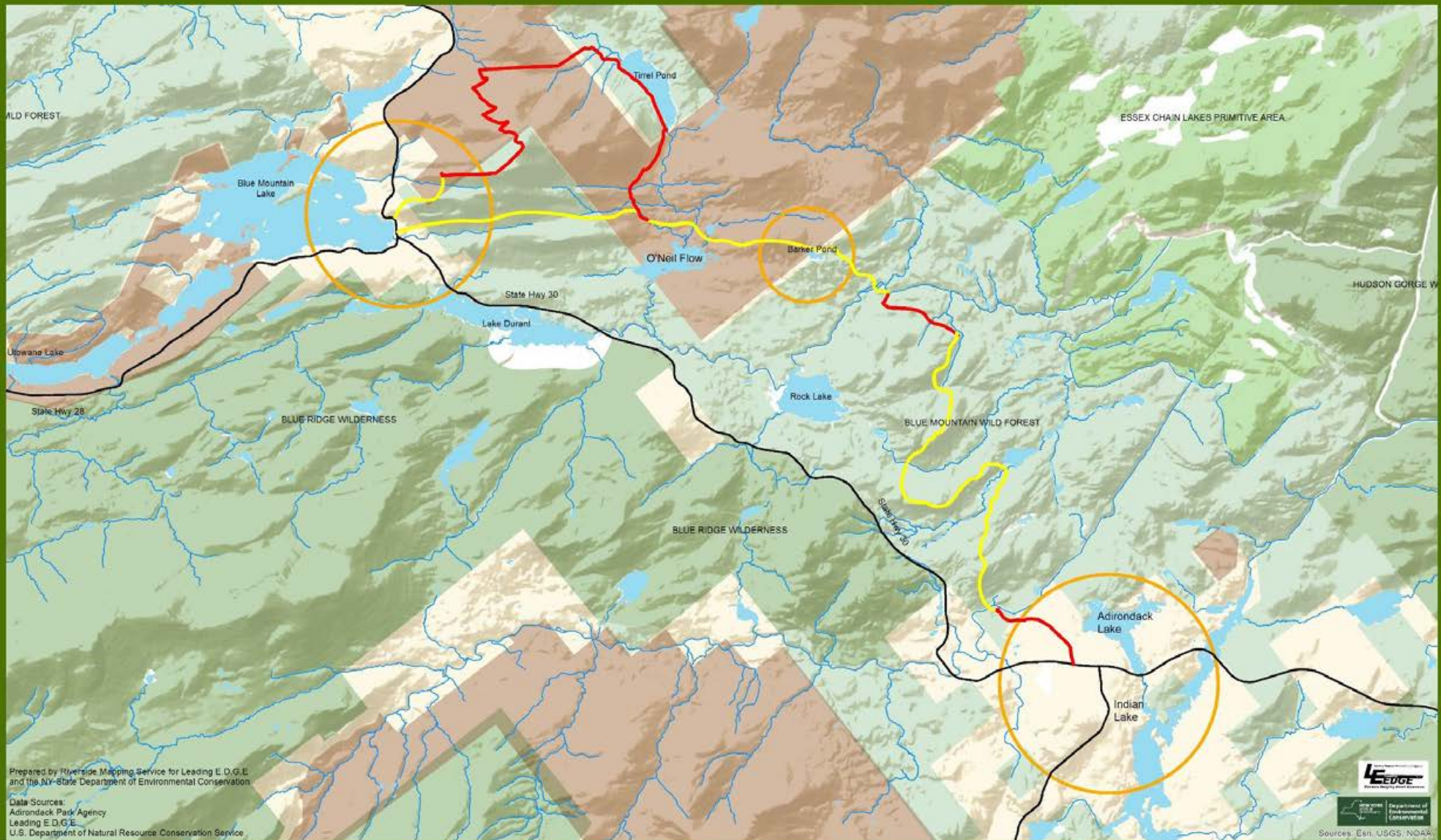
Desirability: 4

Feasibility: 4

- Existing Trail
- Proposed Trail
- Road
- Strategic Lodging Locations
- DEC Easements 2015
- Private
- Wilderness
- Primitive
- Wild Forest

Route #16: Blue Mountain Lake to Indian Lake Traverse November 2015

Concept Plan for a Destination-Based Hut to Hut Trail System
for the Five Towns of
Long Lake, Newcomb, Indian Lake, Minerva, and North Hudson



Prepared by Riverside Mapping Service for Leading E.D.G.E. and the NY State Department of Environmental Conservation
Data Sources:
Adirondack Park Agency
Leading E.D.G.E.
U.S. Department of Natural Resource Conservation Service

LEEDGE
LEADING ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION
Department of Environmental Conservation
Sources: Esri, USGS, NOAA

Daily Stages - Route #16: Indian Lake / Blue Mountain Lake Traverse

	Daily Stage Destination	Lodging in Place (1 = yes, 0 = no)	New Trail Needed, Approx. # of Miles	Difficulty Rating by Daily Stage	# of Miles	Elev. change (feet): Up Down Net
First Night	Blue Mountain Lake	1				
Day 1	Near Barker Pond	0	3.0	4	10	+2730 -2668 +62
Day 2	Indian Lake	1	6.0	3	9	+2093 -2229 -136
	Lodging Facilities in Place	2				
	Lodging Facilities Needed	1				
	Total New Trail, Approx. # of Miles		9.0			
	Overall Difficulty Rating			3.5		
	Total Miles				19	
	Ave. Miles Per Day				10	
	Total Elevation Change - Feet					+4823 -4897 -74

Route #17: Newcomb / Long Lake Circuit - North

Description:

The Newcomb and Long Lake Circuit is a 7-night, 6-day circuit starting and finishing in the village of Newcomb. From Newcomb, hikers trek to the historic Santanoni Lodge. Day two goes up to Shattuck Clearing, the site of a former DEC Interior Ranger Station, then down to a proposed lodging facility at a location northwest of Deer Pond on the edge of SUNY-ESF property. Day three takes hikers up to the Northville-Placid Trail (NPT) to a potential lodging location on private land south of Plumley Point on Long Lake. Day four leads to Long Lake on a section of the NPT, where a variety of lodging options exist. To return to Newcomb from the village of Long Lake via foot or mountain bike, this route utilizes an existing snowmobile trail parallel to route 28N through Upper Hudson Woodlands ATP lands to a strategic lodging location near Pickwacket Pond. From there, the route continues east toward Newcomb, continuing roughly parallel to Route 28N and north of Fishing Brook. After an enjoyable hike or bike from Long Lake, travelers enjoy a night's lodging in Newcomb, "The Heart of the Adirondacks."

Natural Features & Attractions:

- [Village of Newcomb](#)
- [Adirondack Interpretive Center \(AIC\)](#)
- [Camp Santanoni Historic Area](#)
- [Shattuck Clearing on the Cold River](#)
- [Northville-Placid Trail](#)
- Family-friendly bicycling
- [High Peaks Wilderness Area](#)
- Eastern shore of Long Lake
- Working forests
- Pickwacket Pond
- [Village of Long Lake](#)

Highlights & Attributes:

1. It travels through classic areas of the western High Peaks Wilderness Area, including:
 - a. Shattuck Clearing
 - b. Calahan Brook
 - c. Long Lake
2. No new trails need to be developed for this circuit.
3. It utilizes a portion of the Northville-Placid Trail (NPT).
4. The route will utilize Upper Hudson Woodlands ATP lands that largely have not been accessible to the general public.
5. A portion of this circuit (UHW ATP lands) could be a very attractive, family-friendly, bicycle route.

Challenges:

1. Hiking from the Santanoni Lodge to a potential lodging location on SUNY-ESF land is nearly 14 miles.
2. Lodging needs to be located:
 - a. Near Santanoni Lodge
 - b. Near Deer Pond (SUNY-ESF)
 - c. On the northeast shore of Long Lake
 - d. Somewhere around Pickwacket Pond
3. Location of trails and lodging, if on easement land, will be consistent with the terms of the conservation easement.
4. The existing trail on UHW ATP lands will have to be developed for year-round use.

Observations & Questions:

1. Lodging owners in the communities need to be approached and presented with the benefits of being part of the destination-trail system.
2. New lodging options on private lands have not been discussed with landowners.

3. The opportunity for lodging near Pickwacket Pond has not been researched.
4. A hiking and mountain biking circuit will combine a hike from Newcomb to the Village of Long Lake, then travel by mountain bike back to Newcomb. Outfitters could be utilized to rent and/or shuttle bikes.
5. Route #24: Newcomb / Long Lake via the Fishing Brook Range is an adventurous alternative to this route.
6. Some sections of these trails may need to be brought up to world-class standards.
7. This circuit requires more research and field checking.

Desirability & Feasibility (1 = Low, 5 = High):

Desirability: 4

Feasibility: 2

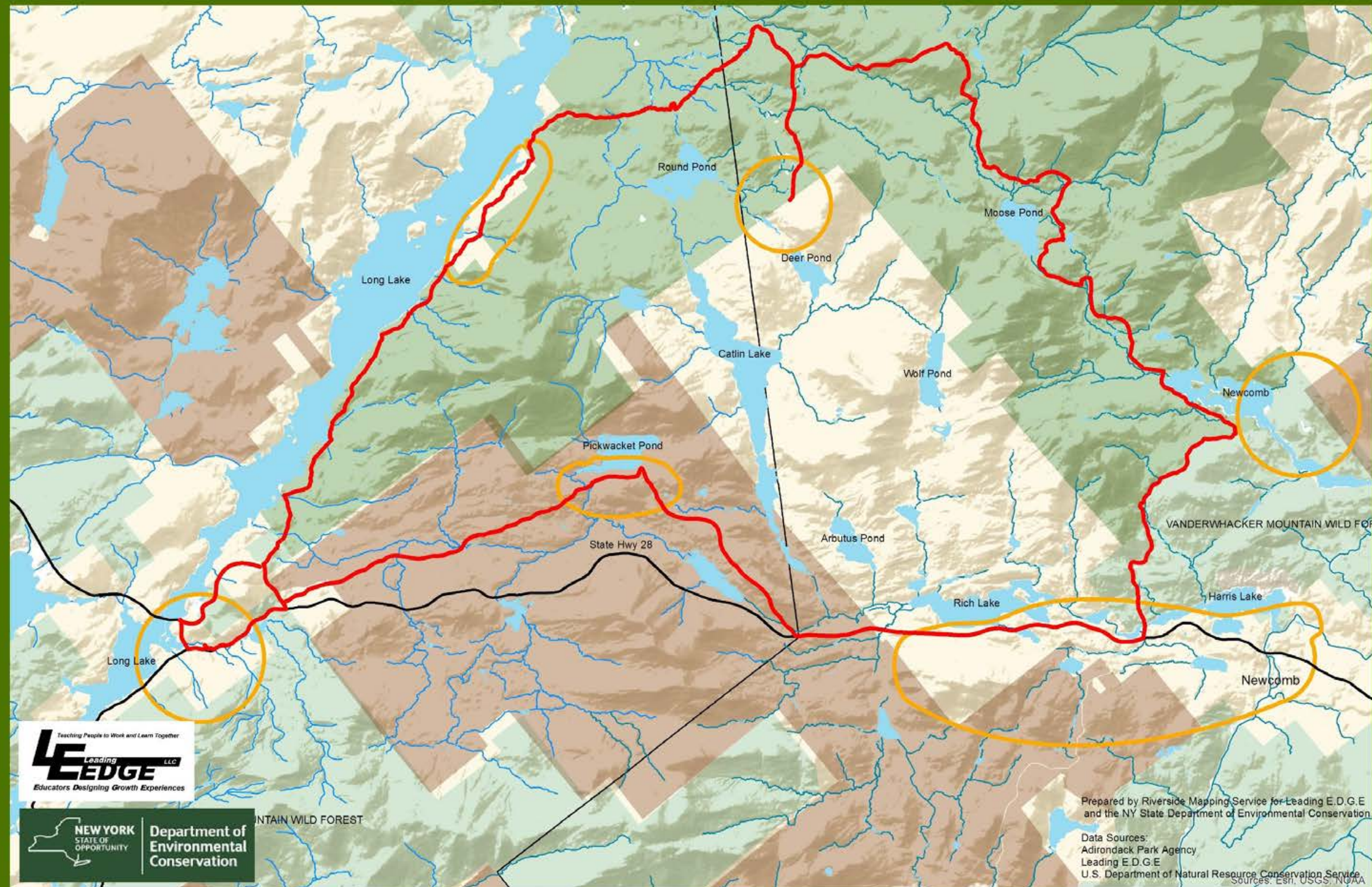
- Existing Trail
- Road
- Strategic Lodging Locations
- DEC Easements 2015
- Private
- Wilderness
- Primitive
- Wild Forest

Route #17: Newcomb to Long Lake Circuit November 2015

Concept Plan for a Destination-Based Hut to Hut Trail System for the Five Towns of Long Lake, Newcomb, Indian Lake, Minerva, and North Hudson



0 1 2 4
Miles



Daily Stages - Route #17: Newcomb / Long Lake Circuit - North

	Daily Stage Destination	Lodging in Place (1 = yes, 0 = no)	New Trail Needed, Approx. # of Miles	Difficulty Rating by Daily Stage	# of Miles	Elev. change (feet): Up Down Net
First Night	Newcomb	1				
Day 1	Camp Santanoni	0	0	1	6	+670 -520 +150
Day 2	Deer Pond	0	0	4	14	+1583 -1657 -74
Day 3	Northeast shore of Long Lake	0	0	2	8	+691 -747 -56
Day 4	Long Lake	1	0	2	8	+985 -1014 -29
Day 5	Near Pickwacket Pond	0	0	2	7	+618 -432 +186
Day 6	Newcomb	1	0	2	9	+829 -1074 -245
	Lodging Facilities in Place	3				
	Lodging Facilities Needed	4				
	Total New Trail, Approx. # of Miles		0			
	Overall Difficulty Rating			2.2		
	Total Miles				52	
	Ave. Miles Per Day				9	
	Total Elevation Change - Feet					+5376 -5444 -68

Route #18: Newcomb / Tahawus / Boreas Circuit

Description:

The 6-night, 5-day Newcomb / Tahawus / Boreas Circuit begins on the Newcomb Lake Road through the Camp Santanoni Historic Area, and the first night's lodging will be located near this historic Adirondack Great Camp. On the second day, hikers travel north along a proposed trail past quiet Lake Andrew to a place of lodging near Henderson Lake. The third day's route heads southeasterly past the Tahawus mining operation and Lake Sally, then through the pass between Allen Mountain and Cheney Cobble on a proposed trail and down to a place of lodging near Boreas Ponds. The fourth day takes hikers on a proposed trail up and over rugged Cheney Cobble and Rist Mountains, although hikers not able or inclined to tackle the more strenuous route can choose a less-challenging proposed trail; lodging is proposed near a ridge southwest of the North River Mountains, high above Perch and Trout Ponds. On the fifth and final day, hikers travel west back toward Newcomb, crossing the Hudson River and passing Beaver Flow on their return.

Features & Amenities:

- [Village of Newcomb](#)
- [Adirondack Interpretive Center \(AIC\)](#)
- [Camp Santanoni Historic Area](#)
- Lake Andrew
- [Henderson Lake](#)
- [Upper Works in Tahawus](#)
- [McNaughton Cottage](#)
- [McIntyre Blast Furnace](#)
- [Boreas Ponds](#)
- Cheney Cobble & Rist Mountain

Highlights & Attributes:

1. This route provides travelers with the opportunity to experience some of the Adirondack's rich Great Camp and mining history.
2. Wildlife viewing could be premium around Boreas Ponds, an area noted for moose sightings.
3. The hike over Cheney Cobble and Rist Mountain on a proposed trail will provide a hearty challenge and splendid views.
4. Local guide services can take advantage of the opportunity to provide canoes, kayaks, and associated gear, as well as guided trips, at Henderson Lake and Boreas Ponds.

Challenges:

1. Lodging will be needed in four locations:
 - a. Near Camp Santanoni
 - b. Near Henderson Lake
 - c. Northeast of the Tahawus Club
 - d. Near North River Mountain
2. This route requires considerable trail building, especially challenging where the route traverses Cheney Cobble and Rist Mountain. The route could take advantage of some old logging roads.
3. Permission from private landowners will be needed to locate a trail that connects to and uses a bridge that goes over the Hudson River to the Tahawus Road.

Observations & Questions:

1. Lodging owners in the communities need to be approached and presented with the benefits of being part of the destination-trail system.
2. Layover days along this route will allow visitors to take advantage of unique opportunities to: canoe or kayak on Henderson Lake, and to visit the Upper Works in Tahawus, the McNaughton Cottage, and the McIntyre Blast Furnace; and/or, to arrange with an outfitter to canoe or kayak on Boreas Ponds.
3. This route has the potential to provide an excellent intermediate backcountry ski route.

4. This route, in combination with several others, will help establish Newcomb and North Hudson as top-notch outdoor recreational destinations by encouraging visitation to the Route 28N/Blue Ridge Road corridor.
5. Incorporation of Adirondack history will further public support for the preservation of the particular historic buildings and sites along this route, as well as others in the Adirondack Park.
6. This route has potential for a high-quality backcountry ski trip, and subsequent economic benefits to Newcomb and North Hudson.

Desirability & Feasibility (1 = Low, 5 = High):

Desirability: 5

Feasibility: 3

Existing Trail

Proposed Trail

Strategic Lodging Locations

Road

Private

Wilderness

Primitive

Wild Forest

DEC Easements 2015

Route #18: Newcomb/Boreas Circuit

November 2015

Concept Plan for a Destination-Based Hut to Hut Trail System

for the Five Towns of

Long Lake, Newcomb, Indian Lake, Minerva, and North Hudson

0

1

2

4

Miles

N

Henderson Lake
 Harkness Lake
 Lake Sally
 Lake Andrew
 White Lily Pond
 Boreas Pond
 Santanoni
 Newcomb Lake
 Beaver Flow
 Rich Lake
 Harris Lake
 Newcomb
 HIGH PEAKS WILDERNESS
 UNCLASSIFIED
 VANDERWHACKER MOUNTAIN WILD FOREST

State Hwy 28N Scn
 State Hwy 28N Scn

Prepared by Riverside Mapping Service for Leading E.D.G.E. and the NY State Department of Environmental Conservation
 Data Sources:
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 Leading E.D.G.E.
 U.S. Department of Natural Resource Conservation Service

Teaching People to Work and Learn Together
Leading E.D.G.E. LLC
 Educators Designing Growth Experiences

NEW YORK STATE OF OPPORTUNITY
 Department of Environmental Conservation

Sources: Esri, USGS, NOAA

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NEW YORK STATE OF OPPORTUNITY
Department of Environmental Conservation

Sources: Esri, USGS, NOAA

Daily Stages - Route #18: Newcomb / Tahawus / Boreas Circuit

	Daily Stage Destination	Lodging in Place (1 = yes, 0 = no)	New Trail Needed, Approx. # of Miles	Difficulty Rating by Daily Stage	# of Miles	Elev. change (feet): Up Down Net
First Night	Newcomb	1				
Day 1	Near Camp Santanoni	0	0	1	6	+670 -520 +150
Day 2	Near Henderson Lake	1	6	2	7	+1335 -1397 -62
Day 3	Near Boreas Ponds	0	2.5	3	11	+1541 -1356 +185
Day 4	Near power line / Perch & Walter Coon brooks	0	9.5	5	11	+4397 -4116 +281
Day 5	Newcomb	1	8.5	4	15	+1333 -1586 -253
	Lodging Facilities in Place	3				
	Lodging Facilities Needed	3				
	Total New Trail, Approx. # of Miles		24.5			
	Overall Difficulty Rating			3		
	Total Miles				50	
	Ave. Miles Per Day				10	
	Total Elevation Change - Feet					+9276 -8975 +301

Route #19: Newcomb / Minerva Traverse

Description:

The Newcomb to Minerva Traverse is a 5-night, 4-day trek that heads south out of Newcomb along the western shore of the Hudson and northeast along the Goodnow River to lodging (proposed) near Goodnow Flowage. On the second day, hikers cross the Hudson on the Polaris bridge and head east on a proposed trail to a place of lodging (proposed) at the southern base of Vanderwhacker Mountain in the vicinity of the Moose Pond Club. On the third day, hikers could opt to ascend Vanderwhacker Mountain before continuing eastward, utilizing a proposed trail parallel to the Moose Pond Club's access road and connecting to an existing trail west of Route 28N near Aiden Lair, the site of proposed lodging. After crossing Route 28N, a short section of road walking on Hewitt Road on the fourth day leads to an existing trail on the west side of Hewitt Pond, then to Barnes and Stony ponds, along part of the proposed North Country Scenic Trail, and into the village of Minerva.

Natural Features & Attractions:

- [Village of Minerva](#)
- Minerva Lake
- Big Sherman, Little Sherman, Stony, Center, Barnes & Hewitt ponds
- [Aiden Lair](#)
- [Boreas River](#)
- [Vanderwhacker Mountain](#)
- [Hudson River](#)
- Goodnow Flowage
- [Village of Newcomb](#)
- [Adirondack Interpretive Center \(AIC\)](#)

Highlights & Attributes:

1. The route provides the opportunity for hikers to learn about the history of Teddy Roosevelt in the Adirondacks through the proposed lodging at Aiden Lair.
2. The trail parallels the NYS-designated Scenic Boreas River for a short distance.
3. The route provides hikers with the opportunity to summit Vanderwhacker Mountain, with great vistas from a fire tower.
4. The route crosses the Hudson River and follows along its western shoreline for several miles into Newcomb.

Challenges:

1. Proposed lodging at Aiden Lair will need to be built.
2. Proposed lodging will need to be developed near the Moose Pond Club property.
3. A trail will need to be built from the Polaris Bridge to the Vanderwhacker Mountain trail.

Observations/Questions:

1. Lodging owners in the communities need to be approached and presented with the benefits of being part of the destination-trail system.
2. This route presumes the continued existence of the Polaris Bridge. The trail will need considerable rerouting if the Polaris Bridge was removed.
3. On day two, an alternative route could cross the Hudson on the Polaris Bridge, then head south along the river's eastern shore to proposed temporary lodging on state land at the confluence of the Indian and Hudson rivers (outside the wild river buffer). This proposed route will then continue along the range of mountains on the northern rim of the Hudson Gorge to a proposed place of lodging near where the Northwoods Club Road crosses the Boreas River. From here, travelers will head north along the western shore of the Boreas River on a proposed trail to proposed lodging near the Moose Pond Club. This route will add a day to the traverse but have considerable appeal to backcountry recreationists.

4. If the area between the Polaris Bridge and Vanderwhacker Mountain is too wet, the route's first day of travel could utilize a former snowmobile trail east of the Hudson River to the proposed lodging near the Moose Pond Club. Trail routing also will depend on routing of a snowmobile trail.

Desirability & Feasibility (1 = Low, 5 = High):

Desirability: 4

Feasibility: 3

Existing Trail

Proposed Trail

Road

Strategic Lodging Locations

Private

Wilderness

Primitive

Wild Forest

DEC Easements 2015

Route #19: Newcomb/Minerva Travers

Concept Plan for a Destination-Based Hut to Hut Trail System

for the Five Towns of

Long Lake, Newcomb, Indian Lake, Minerva, and North Hudson

N

0 1 2 4 Miles

Rich Lake

Harris Lake

State Hwy 28N Scn

Newcomb

Goodnow Flowage

Hudson River

Moose Pond

Balfour Lake

Hewitt Pond

Wild Forest

Minerva

State Hwy 28N Scn

State Hwy 28

HUDSON GORGE WILDERNESS

VANDERWHACKER MOUNTAIN WILD FOREST

Prepared by Riverside Mapping Service for Leading E.D.G.E. and the NY State Department of Environmental Conservation

Data Sources:
Adirondack Park Agency
Leading E.D.G.E.
U.S. Department of Natural Resource Conservation Service

Teaching People to Work and Learn Together
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Educators Designing Growth Experiences

NEW YORK STATE OF OPPORTUNITY
Department of Environmental Conservation

Sources: Esri, USGS, NOAA

Daily Stages - Route #19: Minerva / Newcomb Traverse

	Daily Stage Destination	Lodging in Place (1 = yes, 0 = no)	New Trail Needed, Approx. # of Miles	Difficulty Rating by Daily Stage	# of Miles	Elev. change (feet): Up Down Net
First Night	Newcomb	1				
Day 1	Near Goodnow Flowage	0	4.5	2	7	+1204 -1117 +87
Day 2	Near Moose Pond Club	0	2.0	2	9	+955 -622 +333
Day 3	Aiden Lair	0	1.0	1	7	+471 -799 -328
Day 4	Minerva	1	2.0	2	9	+1173 -1623 -450
	Lodging Facilities in Place	2				
	Lodging Facilities Needed	3				
	Total New Trail, Approx. # of Miles		9.5			
	Overall Difficulty Rating			1.8		
	Total Miles				32	
	Ave. Miles Per Day				8	
	Total Elevation Change - Feet					+3803 -4161 -358

Route #20: Minerva / North Hudson Traverse via North Country National Scenic Trail

Description:

The 4-night, 3-day Minerva to North Hudson Traverse will be the “middle leg” of a circuit connecting the communities of Newcomb, Minerva, and North Hudson. A spur trail from Minerva leads hikers west to a junction with the proposed North Country Scenic Trail (NCST); the route continues north and east into the Hoffman Notch Wilderness and a place of lodging near the Hoffman Notch trailhead. On the second day, hikers will travel north along a short section of the Hoffman Notch trail before turning east on the NCST’s proposed route to eventually cross the Adirondack Northway and the Schroon River, with a place of lodging near Route 9 and Schroon Falls. The next day’s walk is a shorter day that includes a proposed spur trail connecting the NCST to North Hudson, where an overnight stay gives travelers the opportunity to rest if they will be completing the circuit by journeying to Newcomb through the Elk Lake and Boreas Ponds region.

Natural Features & Attractions:

- [Town of Minerva](#)
- [Vanderwhacker Mountain Wild Forest](#)
- [Stony Pond](#)
- [Cheney Pond - Irishtown Trail](#)
- [Hoffman Notch Wilderness](#)
- [Big Pond](#)
- [Schroon River / Schroon Falls](#)
- [Hammond Pond Wild Forest](#)
- [Town of North Hudson](#)

Highlights & Attributes:

1. Hiking a section of what will be the nation’s longest National Scenic Trail will be appealing to many travelers.
2. The route will traverse the Vanderwhacker Mountain Wild Forest, the Hoffman Notch Wilderness, and the Hammond Pond Wild Forest.

Challenges:

1. A specific route for the North Country Scenic Trail has not been proposed or implemented through a number of sections where the maps indicate a “corridor of opportunity.”
2. Lodging facilities will likely be needed at three locations along this route.

Observations & Questions:

1. Lodging owners in the communities need to be approached and presented with the benefits of being part of the destination-trail system.
2. The trail will provide a second link to two communities on the eastern “fringe” of the Five Towns - Minerva and North Hudson - in addition to eventually linking those communities and the Five Towns’ system to Schroon Lake and Crown Point (and other communities in the eastern Adirondack Park).
3. At this time, this route has not been adequately researched and explored (field checked).
4. The natural features have not been well researched or documented.
5. How will travelers cross the Northway and the Schroon River on the NCST?
6. Could this be a hiking and paddling route if travelers could pick up canoes or kayaks at the Schroon River and proceed south/downriver at least as far as the Village of Schroon Lake or the south end of Schroon Lake, or all the way to Warrensburg?
7. This route will contribute to the completion of the NCST in the Adirondack Park.
8. An optional inner circuit utilizing the Hoffman Notch trail and the Irishtown-Cheney Pond trail could more directly connect Minerva to the Boreas Ponds tract and the High Peaks Wilderness.

Desirability & Feasibility (1 = Low, 5 = High):

Desirability: 5

Feasibility: 3

Concept Plan for a Hut-to-hut Destination-based Trail System
for the Five Towns of Long Lake, Newcomb, Indian Lake, Minerva, and North Hudson
Prepared by Leading E.D.G.E. for the NYSDEC

Existing Trail

Proposed Trail

Road

Strategic Lodging Locations

DEC Easements 2015

Private

Wilderness

Primitive

Wild Forest

Route #20: Minerva/North Hudson Traverse

November 2015

Concept Plan for a Destination-Based Hut to Hut Trail System

for the Five Towns of

Long Lake, Newcomb, Indian Lake, Minerva, and North Hudson

N

0

1

2

4

Miles

Prepared by Riverside Mapping Service for Leading E.D.G.E. and the NY State Department of Environmental Conservation

Data Sources:
 Adirondack Park Agency
 Leading E.D.G.E.
 U.S. Department of Natural Resource Conservation Service
 Sources: Esri, USGS, NOAA

Daily Stages - Route #20: Minerva / North Hudson Traverse via North Country Scenic Trail

	Daily Stage Destination	Lodging in Place (1 = yes, 0 = no)	New Trail Needed, Approx. # of Miles	Difficulty Rating by Daily Stage	# of Miles	Elev. change (feet): Up Down Net
First Night	Minerva	1				
Day 1	Near Hoffman Notch trailhead	0	6.5	3	13	+2291 -1843 +448
Day 2	Near Schroon Falls & Route 9	0	5.0	3	10	+1114 -1869 -755
Day 3	North Hudson	1	6.0	2	6	+1100 -1144 -44
	Lodging Facilities in Place	2				
	Lodging Facilities Needed	2				
	Total New Trail, Approx. # of Miles		17.5			
	Overall Difficulty Rating			2.7		
	Total Miles				29	
	Ave. Miles Per Day				10	
	Total Elevation Change - Feet					+4505 -4856 -351

Route #21: Grand Central Adirondack Circuit

Description:

The Grand Central Adirondack Circuit combines 6 of the Adirondack Community-based Trails and Lodging traverses into a 17-night, 16-day adventure. The route, comprised of 6 sections with nights in each of 6 Adirondack villages, takes hikers along 4 major Adirondack rivers, including the wild Hudson, up and over more than 10 mountains, including 4 summits with fire towers, and to 2 of the finest waterfalls in the state. Starting in Newcomb, the first section follows the Newcomb / Long Lake Traverse via the Fishing Brook Range (see Route #25), taking three days to journey over four peaks and into the village of Long Lake. Section two follows a portion of the Blue Mountain Lake to Long Lake Hiking Circuit (see Route #08); hikers depart the Village of Long Lake on a two-day trek along the east shore of Long Lake through the Sargent Ponds Wild Forest to the village of Blue Mountain Lake. From Blue Mountain Lake, section three follows the Blue Mountain Lake to Indian Lake Traverse (see Route #16) over two days, traveling through the Blue Mountain Wild Forest, then across the Cedar River and into the village of Indian Lake. The fourth and most ambitious section follows the Indian Lake to North Creek Traverse (see Route #23), taking hikers on a four-day hike from the village of Indian Lake into the Hudson Gorge Wilderness Area along the Hudson River and to OK Slip Falls, New York State's highest cataract, then on to the village of North Creek. The fifth section of this circuit is the North Creek to Minerva Traverse (see Route #09), which follows the Hudson River and includes a hike up Moxham Mountain. The sixth and final stage follows the Newcomb to Minerva Traverse (see Route #19), taking travelers over two days through the Vanderwhacker Mountain Wild Forest, across the Hudson River, and back to the village of Newcomb.

Natural Features & Attractions:

- [Village of Newcomb](#)
- [Adirondack Interpretive Center \(AIC\)](#)
- [Goodnow Mountain](#) & fire tower
- Fishing Brook Range
- Dun Brook Mountain
- Salmon Pond
- [Northville-Placid Trail](#)
- [Village of Long Lake](#)
- [Owls Head & fire tower](#)
- [Buttermilk Falls](#)
- [Castle Rock](#)
- Village of Blue Mountain Lake
- [Blue Mountain](#) & fire tower
- [Barker Mountain](#)
- [Stark Hills & Ledge Mountain](#)
- [Village of Indian Lake](#)
- [Lake Abanakee](#)
- [Indian River](#)
- Confluence of Indian & Hudson rivers
- [Hudson River](#)
- [Blue Ledge](#)
- [OK Slip Falls](#)
- Village of North Creek/[Town of Johnsburg](#)
- [Moxham Mountain](#)
- [Hamlet and Town of Minerva](#)
- Big & Little Sherman ponds
- Stony & Hewitt ponds
- [Aiden Lair](#)
- [Boreas River](#)
- [Vanderwhacker Mountain](#) & fire tower
- [Kettle Mountain](#)
- Goodnow Flowage

Highlights & Attributes:

1. This circuit is a world-class route that provides a great mix of natural and cultural history, mountain views, and travel along wild and scenic rivers.
2. The route will take travelers into six different Adirondack villages.
3. The trail also will take hikers to four fire towers and the summits of more than 10 peaks, most with great views.
4. This route takes hikers to two of the finest waterfalls in New York State.

5. The route provides the opportunity for hikers to learn about the history of Teddy Roosevelt in the Adirondacks.

Challenges:

1. Location of trails and lodging, if on easement land, will be consistent with the terms of the conservation easement.
2. A site for lodging will need to be identified near OK Slip Pond and Route 28.
3. A site for lodging will also need to be identified near the junction of the Northwoods Club Road and the Boreas River.
4. This route requires a considerable amount of trail building.
5. Permission from the railway will need to be granted for the construction of a cantilevered walkway that will allow human-powered travelers to use the railway trestle bridge to cross the Hudson River just above the confluence of the Hudson and Boreas rivers.

Observations & Questions:

1. Lodging owners in the communities need to be approached and presented with the benefits of being part of the destination-trail system.
2. This route over time will garner considerable national and international acclaim as a world-class destination trail, thus generating much attention and tourism revenue to four of the “Five Towns” and to six villages in the Central Adirondacks. Hikers could complete this route in sections over a longer period of time in much the same way hikers complete the Northville-Placid Trail and other similar trails in segments.
3. Additional alternatives for this route are found in the individual route descriptions.
4. What permission from the railway owners/DOT/DEC/APA will be needed to allow a hiking trail in the rail corridor?
5. All “backcountry” lodging along this route could be serviced by an adjacent road.
6. The completion of this “grand” circuit will be achieved through the collective implementation of other routes.

Desirability & Feasibility (1 = Low, 5 = High):**Desirability:** 5**Feasibility:** 2

Existing Trail

Proposed Trail

Road

Strategic Lodging Locations

DEC Easements 2015

Private

Wilderness

Primitive

Wild Forest

Route #21: Grand Central Adirondack Circuit

November 2015

Concept Plan for a Destination-Based Hut to Hut Trail System

for the Five Towns of

Long Lake, Newcomb, Indian Lake, Minerva, and North Hudson

N

0 1 2 4 Miles

The map displays the Grand Central Adirondack Circuit (Route #21) through five towns: Long Lake, Newcomb, Indian Lake, Minerva, and North Hudson. The circuit is composed of existing trails (red lines) and proposed trails (yellow lines). Strategic lodging locations are marked with orange circles. The map also shows various land management areas, including Blue Mountain Wild Forest, Sargent Ponds Wild Forest, Blue Ridge Wilderness, Hudson Gorge Wilderness, and several other wild forests and primitive areas. Major roads like State Hwy 28, State Hwy 30, and State Hwy 28N are shown. The map includes a legend, a scale bar (0 to 4 miles), and a north arrow. The map is prepared by Riverside Mapping Service for Leading E.D.G.E. and the NY State Department of Environmental Conservation. Data sources include the Adirondack Park Agency, Leading E.D.G.E., and the U.S. Department of Natural Resource Conservation Service. The map is dated November 2015.

Prepared by Riverside Mapping Service for Leading E.D.G.E. and the NY State Department of Environmental Conservation

Data Sources:
 Adirondack Park Agency
 Leading E.D.G.E.
 U.S. Department of Natural Resource Conservation Service

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NEW YORK
 DEPARTMENT OF
 ENVIRONMENTAL
 CONSERVATION

Sources: Esri, USGS, NOAA

Daily Stages - Route #21: Grand Central Adirondack Circuit

	Daily Stage Destination	Lodging in Place (1 = yes, 0 = no)	New Trail Needed, Approx. # of Miles	Difficulty Rating by Daily Stage	# of Miles	Elev. change (feet): Up Down Net
First Night	Newcomb	1				
Day 1	Near Goodnow Mountain	0	3.5	2	6	+1461 -1303 +158
Day 2	Near Salmon Pond	0	10.0	4	12	+4171 -3771 +400
Day 3	Long Lake	0	2.5	3	7	+1149 -1569 -420
Day 4	Forked Lake Campground	0	3.0	4	11	+2293 -2177 +116
Day 5	Blue Mountain Lake	1	3.0	3	11	+1182 -1120 +62
Day 6	Near Barker Pond	0	3.0	4	10	+2750 -2707 +43
Day 7	Indian Lake	1	6.0	3	9	+1445 -1563 -118
Day 8	Near Carter Pond/OK Slip Pond/Route 28	0	7.0	4	12	+1388 -1265 +125
Day 9	Near Boreas River & Northwoods Club Road	0	10.0	5	15	+3603 -3802 -199
Day 10	North River	1	4.0	3	7	+1229 -1903 -674

Day 10	North Creek	1	2.5	1	5	+1050 -1165 -115
Day 11	Minerva	1	4.0	3	12	+2609 -2354 +255
Day 12	Near Aiden Lair	0	2.0	2	9	+1668 -1189 +479
Day 13	Near Moose Pond Club	0	1.0	1	7	+1956 -1643 +313
Day 15	Near Goodnow Flow	0	2.0	2	9	+662 -1011 -349
Day 16	Newcomb	1	4.5	2	7	+1069 -1153 -84
	Lodging Facilities in Place	7				
	Lodging Facilities Needed	10				
	Total New Trail, Approx. # of Miles		68.0			
	Overall Difficulty Rating			2.9		
	Total Miles				148	
	Ave. Miles Per Day				9	
	Total Elevation Change - Feet					+29685 -29695 -10

Route #22: Grand High Peaks Circuit

Description:

This world-class route will be fully conceptualized as part of the ACTLS NYS DOS parkwide project. The Grand High Peaks Circuit will be 18-23 days in length, connecting the Adirondack Park communities of Newcomb, Lake Placid, Keene Valley, St. Huberts, and North Hudson. The route will provide ambitious travelers an opportunity to climb half of the 46 Adirondack High Peaks and paddle three of the Park's more scenic lakes.

Route #23: Indian Lake / North Creek via Hudson Gorge Traverse (North Traverse)

Description:

The Indian Lake to North Creek Traverse, a 5-night, 4-day trip, leaves the Village of Indian Lake along the Chain Lakes Road, crossing the Indian River on a walkway (proposed) at the Lake Abanakee dam; utilizing existing and proposed trails, the route parallels the Indian River to its confluence with the Hudson and meanders to the scenic Blue Ledge in the Hudson Gorge en route to lodging in the vicinity of OK Slip Pond and Route 28. Day two's challenging route first takes hikers to scenic OK Slip Falls before continuing on proposed and existing trails to the Hudson River shoreline, where hikers utilize the rail corridor along the river, crossing the rail trestle bridge on a proposed walkway; a proposed trail then crosses Forks, Pine and Kettle mountains, with views of OK Slip Falls and the Hudson Gorge from the latter, and then along Northwoods Club Road on its way to proposed lodging near the Boreas River. On the third day, hikers go south along the Boreas River, with an optional side trip up Venison Mountain, then along a spectacular ridge to the summit of Moxham Mountain; from here, hikers return to the Hudson River and a proposed ferry to lodging in North River. On the fourth and final day, travelers are ferried back across the river and proceed into the village of North Creek.

Natural Features & Attractions:

- [Village of Indian Lake](#)
- [Lake Abanakee](#)
- [Indian River](#)
- Confluence of the Indian & Hudson rivers
- [Hudson River](#)
- [Blue Ledge](#)
- [OK Slip Falls](#)
- [Kettle Mountain](#)
- [Boreas River](#)
- Venison Mountain
- Optional hike: [Moxham Mountain](#)
- Ferry across the Hudson River
- Hamlet of North River
- [Vanderwhacker Mountain Wild Forest](#)
- Village of North Creek/[Town of Johnsburg](#)

Highlights & Attributes:

1. This route provides travelers with the opportunity to travel along and cross three major Adirondack rivers: the Indian, the Hudson, and the Boreas.
2. Trekkers have the chance to visit OK Slip Falls, one of the highest waterfalls in New York State.
3. Views of OK Slip Falls and the Hudson River will be possible with construction of a proposed trail over Kettle Mountain.
4. Optional side hikes up Venison (proposed spur trail) and Moxham mountains provide great views to the south.
5. Travelers will have the chance to cross the Hudson River via a unique ferry to their place of lodging in the hamlet of North River.

Challenges:

1. This route requires the building of a walkway at the Lake Abanakee dam (due for replacement) so that travelers can cross the Indian River.
2. New trails will need to be built for a considerable portion of this route, although a portion of the trail from the Northwoods Club Road bridge over the Boreas River to 14th Road, then down to the Hudson River, will utilize the North Country National Scenic Trail (as proposed).
3. A cantilevered walkway needs to be constructed that will allow human-powered travelers to use the railway trestle bridge to cross the Hudson River just above the confluence of the Hudson and Boreas rivers. Lodging will be needed in the vicinity of OK Slip Pond and Route 28, as well as near where the Northwoods Club Road bridge crosses the Boreas River and skirts Venison Mountain.

4. This route requires a ferry service, perhaps operated by one or more of the rafting companies or a lodging owner, to transport hikers across the Hudson River and back to lodging in the hamlet of North River.
5. Lodging will be needed in the vicinity of OK Slip Pond and Route 28, as well as near where the Northwoods Club Road bridge crosses the Boreas River and skirts Venison Mountain.

Observations & Questions:

1. Lodging owners in the communities need to be approached and presented with the benefits of being part of the destination-trail system.
2. There are two options to consider for trail routing here:
 - a. It may be more desirable to route the trail leading out of Indian Lake along Pelon Road and onto the Elm Island trail, where a new connector trail could be built to Bull Pond. Trekkers could take the Bull Pond trail to the Chain Lakes Road, then across the Lake Abanakee dam on a proposed walkway. A trail that connects the end of Pelon Road to Bullhead Pond could also contribute to the realization of a 3-night, 2-day (if users spend the first and last night in Indian Lake) ski loop that goes out along the Elm Island trail from Pelon Road to a place of lodging in the vicinity of the Outer Gooley farmhouse. The return leg of the trip could connect the Outer Gooley farmhouse to Bullhead Pond, and then back to the village of Indian Lake via Pelon Road.
 - b. If it is not possible to construct a cantilevered walkway along the railway trestle over the Hudson River (near the confluence of the Hudson and Boreas rivers), the trail from OK Slip Falls that comes down along Griffin Brook to the Hudson River could veer to the right and follow the rail line south along the Hudson to North River. This option will be less desirable than the proposed route, which will provide hikers the opportunity to travel north parallel to the Hudson River over Forks, Pine, and Kettle mountains, with the latter providing a spectacular view of the Hudson River and a distant view of OK Slip Falls on the valley's opposite side. The proposed route also provides hikers the option of enjoying lodging near, and travel along, the Boreas River, and the opportunity to hike Venison and Moxham mountains as side trips.

Desirability & Feasibility (1 = Low, 5 = High):

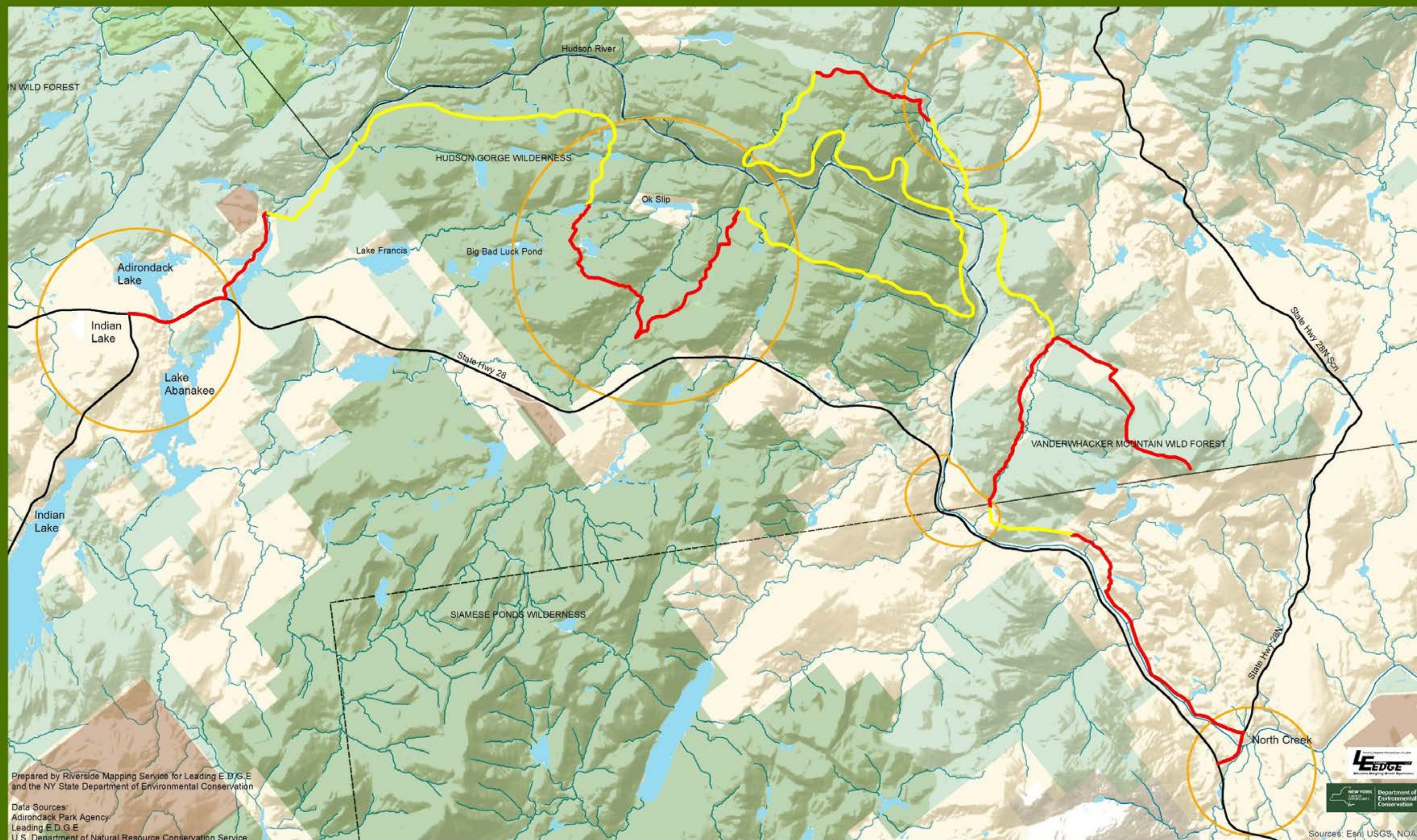
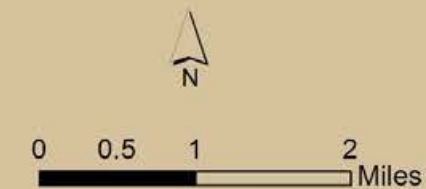
Desirability: 5

Feasibility: 2

- Existing Trail
- Proposed Trail
- Road
- Strategic Lodging Locations
- Private
- Wilderness
- Primitive
- Wild Forest
- DEC Easements 2015

Route #23: Indian Lake/North Creek - Hudson River Gorge Traverse (North) November 2015

Concept Plan for a Destination-Based Hut to Hut Trail System
for the Five Towns of
Long Lake, Newcomb, Indian Lake, Minerva, and North Hudson



Prepared by Riverside Mapping Service for Leading E.D.G.E. and the NY State Department of Environmental Conservation

Data Sources:
Adirondack Park Agency
Leading E.D.G.E.
U.S. Department of Natural Resource Conservation Service



Sources: Esri, USGS, NOAA

Daily Stages - Route #23: Indian Lake / North Creek via Hudson Gorge Traverse (North Traverse)

	Daily Stage Destination	Lodging in Place (1 = yes, 0 = no)	New Trail Needed, Approx. # of Miles	Difficulty Rating by Daily Stage	# of Miles	Elev. change (feet): Up Down Net
First Night	Indian Lake	1				
Day 1	Near OK Slip Pond & Route 28	0	7.0	4	12	+1388 -1265 +123
Day 2	Near Boreas River	0	10.0	5	15	+3603 -3802 -199
Day 3	North River	1	4.0	3	7	+1229 -1903 -674
Day 4	North Creek	1	1.0	1	5	+1050 -1165 -115
	Lodging Facilities in Place	3				
	Lodging Facilities Needed	2				
	Total New Trail, Approx. # of Miles		22.0			
	Overall Difficulty Rating			3.3		
	Total Miles				39	
	Ave. Miles Per Day				10	
	Total Elevation Change - Feet					+7270 -8135 -865

Route #24: North Creek / Indian Lake / Hudson Gorge Circuit

Description:

The Indian Lake / North Creek Circuit is a multi-day trip that combines the North Creek / Indian Lake Traverse (see Route #07, Page 23) with the Indian Lake / North Creek via the Hudson Gorge Traverse (see Route #23, Page 65) to create a circuit.

For another circuit that incorporates a water trail, see Route #01: North Creek / Indian Lake Circuit w/Rafting Trip (page 12).

- Existing Trail
- Proposed Trail
- Major Road
- DEC Easements 2015
- Strategic Lodging Locations
- Private
- Wilderness
- Primitive
- Wild Forest

Route #24: Indian Lake/North Creek Circuit November 2015

Concept Plan for a Destination-Based Hut to Hut Trail System
for the Five Towns of Long Lake, Newcomb, Indian Lake, Minerva, and North Hudson



Route #25: Newcomb / Long Lake Traverse via the Fishing Brook Range

Description:

The Newcomb / Long Lake Traverse via the Fishing Brook Range is a 4-night, 3-day trip in the central Adirondacks that begins in the village of Newcomb, first taking trekkers up Goodnow Mountain to a lodge (proposed) on its western ridge. On day two, travelers go southwest over the Fishing Brook Range and Dun Brook Mountain to a lodge on Salmon Pond (proposed). On day three, hikers journey north along the Northville-Placid Trail to Long Lake, connecting with the Village of Long Lake on a proposed spur trail.

Features & Amenities:

- [Village of Newcomb](#)
- [Adirondack Interpretive Center \(AIC\)](#)
- Goodnow Mountain
- [Blue Mountain Wild Forest](#)
- Fishing Brook Range
- Dun Brook Mountain
- Salmon Pond
- [Northville-Placid Trail](#)
- [Village of Long Lake](#)

Highlights & Attributes:

1. The route connects with the Northville-Placid Trail and could readily connect with other proposed routes.
2. The route travels over the little-used Fishing Brook Range and Dun Brook Mountain.
3. Variations of this route could take you to Blue Mountain Lake or Indian Lake.
4. The route utilizes large areas of the Township 19 Easement.

Challenges:

1. The route requires construction of considerable miles of new trails.
2. The route requires building two new lodges on F&W-managed lands.
3. Location of trails and lodging, if on easement land, will be consistent with the terms of the conservation easement.

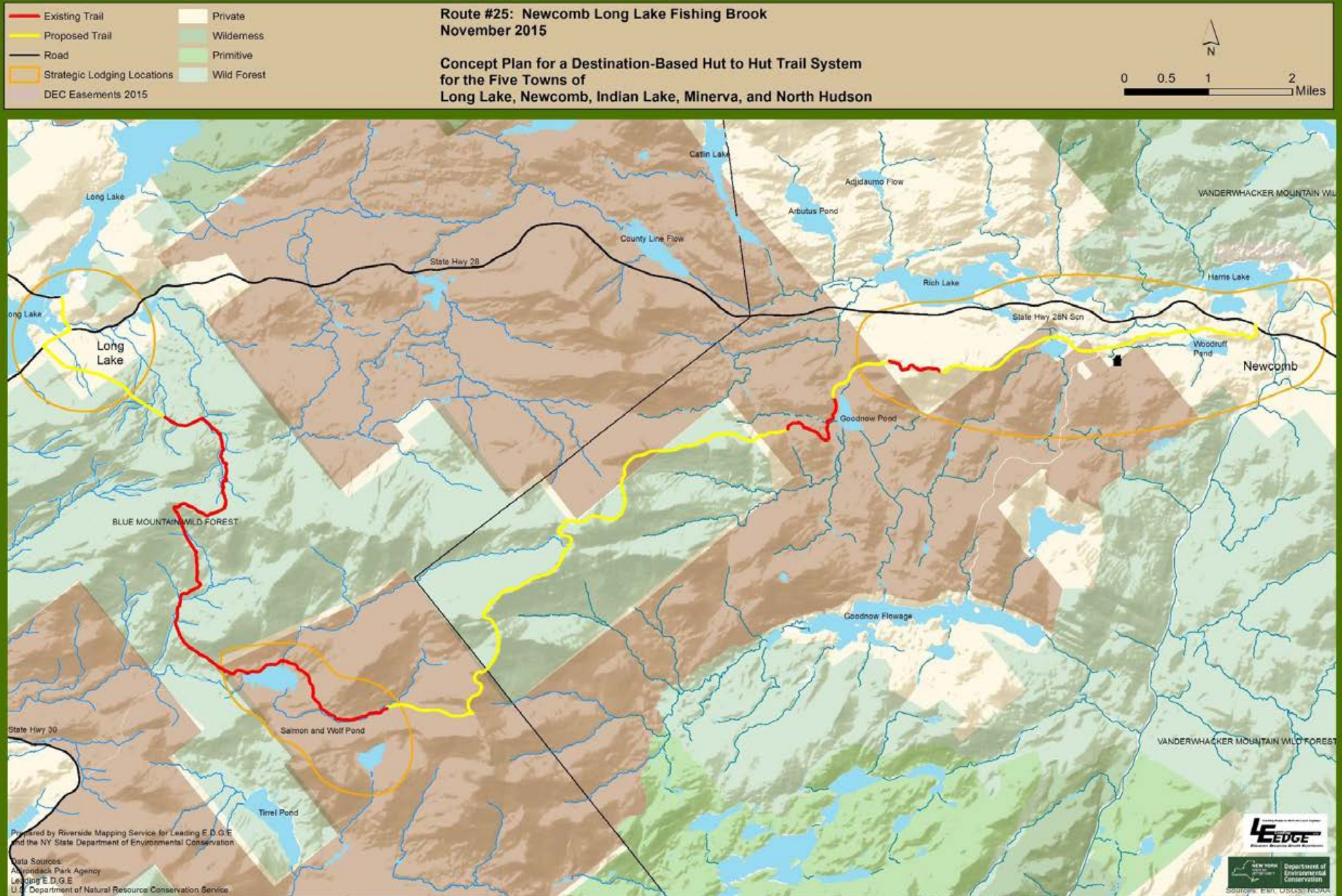
Observations/Questions:

1. Lodging owners in the communities need to be approached and presented with the benefits of being part of the destination-trail system.
2. Some trail portions of this route may need to be brought up to world-class standards.
3. This traverse could be part of the Grand Central Adirondack Circuit.

Desirability & Feasibility (1=Low, 5 = High):

Desirability: 4

Feasibility: 3



Daily Stages - Route #25: Newcomb / Long Lake Traverse via the Fishing Brook Range

	Daily Stage Destination	Lodging in Place (1 = yes, 0 = no)	New Trail Needed, Approx. # of Miles	Difficulty Rating by Daily Stage	# of Miles	Elev. change (feet): Up Down Net
First Night	Newcomb	1				
Day 1	Near Goodnow Mountain	0	3.5	2	6	+1500 -1260 +240
Day 2	Near Salmon Pond	0	10.0	4	12	+3890 -3630 +260
Day 3	Long Lake	1	2.5	3	7	+1460 -1870 -410
	Lodging Facilities in Place	2				
	Lodging Facilities Needed	2				
	Total New Trail, Approx. # of Miles		16.0			
	Overall Difficulty Rating			3		
	Total Miles				25	
	Ave. Miles Per Day				8	
	Total Elevation Change - Feet					+6850 -6760 +90

Route #26: Snowy Mountain Circuit

Description:

This 3-night, 2-day excursion begins in the village of Indian Lake and takes hikers up to the summit of Crow Hill along a proposed trail where there are great views of the High Peaks to the north. The proposed trail then descends Crow Hill, crosses Bear Trap Brook, and follows a ridge up and over Burgess and Panther mountains to the summit of Buell Mountain; from Buell, the proposed trail drops steeply into the ravine below its eastern flank to a proposed lodge. On day two, the proposed trail climbs steeply to the summit of Snowy Mountain and its fire tower for great views in all directions. The proposed trail descends Snowy Mountain to the north, dropping along the “Little Great Range” with occasional good views before reconnecting with itself and going up and over Crow Hill and returning to the village of Indian Lake.

Natural Features & Attractions:

- [Village of Indian Lake](#)
- Crow Hill
- Burgess, Panther, & Buell mountains
- [Snowy Mountain](#) & fire tower
- Little Great Range

Highlights & Attributes:

1. This route provides a short but intense 2-day circuit up one mountain ridge and down another.
2. There are great views from several summits.
3. The ravine between Buell and Snowy mountains provides a unique setting for a place of lodging at a relatively high elevation.

Challenges:

1. This entire route requires considerable new trail construction.
2. Location of trails and lodging, if on easement land, will be consistent with the terms of the conservation easement.
3. Lodging will be required in the area of the ravine between Buell and Snowy mountains.

Observations & Questions:

1. Lodging owners in the communities need to be approached and presented with the benefits of being part of the destination-trail system.
2. This route is attractive because it provides a short, weekend-friendly circuit anchored by the village of Indian Lake.
3. An alternate route that includes Timberlock Lodge could be very attractive.

Desirability & Feasibility (1 = Low, 5 = High):

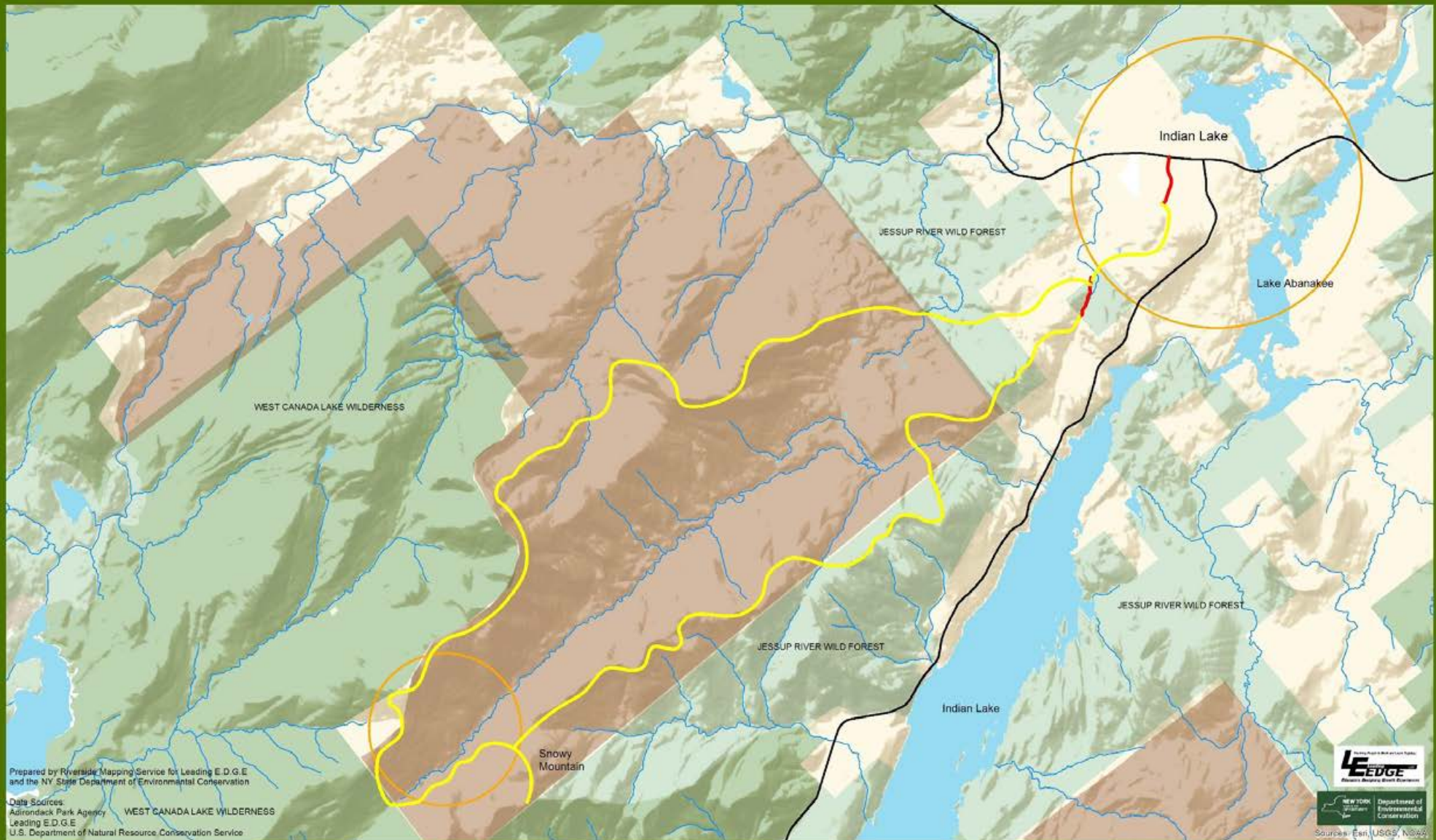
Desirability: 4

Feasibility: 3

- Existing Trail
- Proposed Trail
- Road
- Strategic Lodging Locations
- Private
- Wilderness
- Primitive
- Wild Forest
- DEC Easements 2015

Route #26: Snowy Mountain Circuit November 2015

Concept Plan for a Destination-Based Hut to Hut Trail System
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Long Lake, Newcomb, Indian Lake, Minerva, and North Hudson



Daily Stages - Route #26: Snowy Mountain Circuit

	Daily Stage Destination	Lodging in Place (1 = yes, 0 = no)	New Trail Needed, Approx. # of Miles	Difficulty Rating by Daily Stage	# of Miles	Elev. change (feet): Up Down Net
First Night	Indian Lake	1				
Day 1	Between Buell & Snowy mountains	0	12.0	5	13	+4403 -3446 +957
Day 2	Indian Lake	1	11.0	5	12	+3747 -4861 -1114
	Lodging Facilities in Place	2				
	Lodging Facilities Needed	0				
	Total New Trail, Approx. # of Miles		23.0			
	Overall Difficulty Rating			5		
	Total Miles				25	
	Ave. Miles Per Day				13	
	Total Elevation Change - Feet					+8150 -8307 -157

General Recommendations

1. **Temporary Revocable Permits (TRPs):** Based on existing policy and practice pertaining to Temporary Revocable Permits (TRPs), permits can be issued “for the temporary use of state lands and conservation easement lands only for activities that are in compliance with all constitutional, statutory and regulatory requirements...”, we recommend that efforts be made to determine whether permits for temporary lodging for a destination-trail system could be issued and administered with a similar policy. In addition, given the existing policy and practice pertaining to hunting camp permits, we recommend that efforts be made to explore the potential of seasonal lodging permits to allow for the use of temporary lodging for a destination-trail system.
2. **Adirondack Park Eco-lodges:** The concept of “Zero Energy” or “Net Zero” (and Energy Plus) lodging is relatively new. Existing regulations fail to recognize and accommodate the value and importance of encouraging such construction. We recommend exploring what can be done to allow and encourage this type of construction.
3. **Public Transportation:** We recommend that expansion of public transportation services, public or a joint public-private venture (like Acadia National Park’s buses), be explored to help accommodate and facilitate an expected increase in demand from users of the destination-trails system. Individuals and groups may want to utilize public transportation at either end of their trip, or at some point along the way to access a particular destination for recreation, sightseeing, shopping, etc.
4. **Start Points and End Points:** We recommend that communities where routes begin and/or end have a centrally located trailhead that will serve as both “start point” and “end point.” A highly visible and easily accessible location is desirable, such as a park, with an interpretive sign that features a map and description of the route - a place where hikers can commemorate the trip’s start and celebrate the trip’s successful completion. A larger monument with the name of the route could provide the perfect backdrop for selfies and group photos.
5. **Oversight and Management of a Destination-Trails System:** We recommend that a nonprofit organization be identified or created to oversee and manage this system. This nonprofit will partner with New York State to: set criteria for affiliation; manage a common reservation system; market the program; and operate select huts within the system.
6. **Funding Considerations**

While this project’s scope did not include a financial analysis, the following aspects likely will require the commitment of funds, both long term and short term:

 - Construction of new trails
 - Rehabilitation/upgrading of existing trails
 - Increased workload for DEC Forest Rangers and Environmental Conservation Officers
 - Construction of new lodging and renovation or expansion of existing facilities
7. **Postage Stamp:** We suggest a shift in paradigm regarding the sale of private lands that will affect the approach of landowners and land conservancies, as well as New York State's negotiation of future land purchases. Prior to the State acquiring and protecting future

lands, consideration should be given to an option that allows for additional lands to be added to the New York State Forest Preserve but also provides an opportunity for willing landowners to create inholdings in strategic locations for a “postage stamp,” a small parcel to be made available to a local municipality or a nonprofit as a lodging site. This practical approach will permit the permanent protection provided by future purchases while simultaneously creating new opportunities for communities to benefit from these land purchases. In addition, these backcountry lodging facilities will likely attract a new constituency whose positive experiences will raise their awareness of the Adirondack Park, as well as increase their willingness to help conserve and protect the Park.

- 8. Quality Hospitality:** Hut-to-hut adventure travel operations, as with the tourism industry generally, are fundamentally people-oriented businesses. Their success in offering quality experiences is as much dependent on how they offer those experiences as what they offer in terms of the actual experiences. Central to the quality of how those experiences are offered is the quality of the customer service provided to the paying clients. The overall quality of a visitor’s hut-to-hut experience, quality trail and lodging included, could be magnified or tainted depending on the quality of the interaction between the lodging service providers and the guests they serve. We recommend the inclusion of hospitality training for all service providers who participate in providing hut-to-hut experiences as a critical piece in the implementation of a successful destination-trail system and operation. We also recommend the creation of effective quality control mechanisms that will ensure the deliverance of consistent and high quality customer service at every point-of-service, provider-guest interaction.
- 9. Marketing:** The successful implementation of a destination-trail system in the Adirondacks is also reliant upon an effective marketing plan containing strategies, tactics, and target market profiles informed by research on trends in adventure travel, tourism, and outdoor recreation. The marketing plan will help develop branding, messaging, and a responsive website for the lodging and trails operation. It will also initiate public relations and social media tactics, search engine marketing, and strategic paid media.
- 10. Education:** With anticipated increased use of the Forest Preserve, this will be an ideal time to institute an Adirondack Forest Preserve Education Program that will ensure that the recreating public has basic knowledge about the Adirondack Park, and about protecting the Park and themselves.

Summary

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Prepared by Leading E.D.G.E. for the NYSDEC

In conclusion, we would like to highlight and reinforce several important aspects of this proposed destination-trail system. It is important to keep in mind the conceptual nature of the routes. We expect the report to elicit a broad range of reactions. Some routes may be generally agreed upon as is, and others may invite further discussion and research. We look forward to a fruitful discussion that contributes additional ideas, generates momentum, and helps advance the project.

The following tables provide further insights into the conceptual routes and strategic lodging locations.

- Table 1 lists the number of proposed routes that start or finish in, or intersect, a particular community.
- Table 2 shows the number of miles of existing trails and proposed trails that will need to be planned and constructed, if all the conceptual routes are developed.
- Table 3 lists the number of proposed lodging facilities, both frontcountry and backcountry, that will be found in each township if all the routes are developed.
- Finally, Table 4 shows what type of land ownership exists for each of the strategic lodging locations. The map shows all the conceptual routes, the proposed strategic locations for lodging, and our inventory of existing lodging.

Hamlet	Number of Routes that Start, Finish, or Intersect
Newcomb	10
Indian Lake	9
Long Lake	8
Blue Mountain Lake	7
Minerva	4
North Hudson	4
Raquette Lake	3

Table 1: Hamlets & Routes

Trails (all distances approximate)	Miles	%
Existing trails	381	64
New proposed trails	213	36
Total miles of trails in proposed system	594	100

Table 2: Trail Mileage

Lodgings by Township

Town	# of Lodges
Indian Lake	8
Long Lake	6
Newcomb	7
North Hudson	5
Minerva	5
Outside the Five Towns	18 in 8 Townships

Table 3: Lodgings by Township

Proposed Lodging Locations	Number
Private/Nonprofit	34
Easement	7
Forest Preserve	2
Undetermined	6

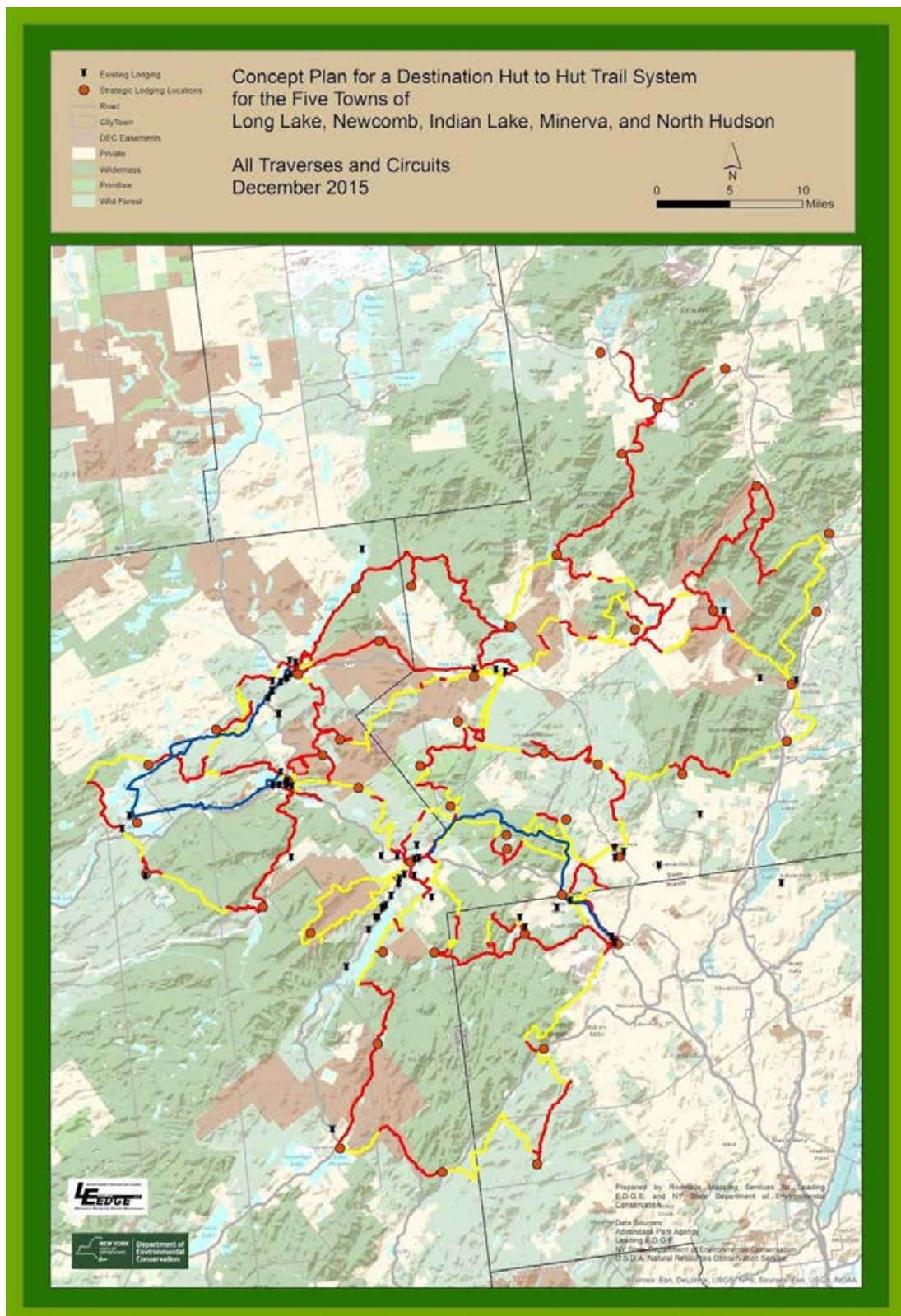
Table 4: Proposed Lodging Locations

Our research indicates that the destination trails proposed in this report are particularly appealing to those over fifty years old (particularly women), families, and those in middle- and upper-income brackets. These groups do not want an experience that is disorienting and stressful and, generally speaking, the demographic attracted to these types of routes are people who are not looking for high-risk adventures. Opportunities offered by the proposed destination-trail system to experience both the natural environment and the region's cultural history also will appeal to twenty- and thirty-somethings.

The proposed routes are designed to start and finish in communities. By creating an expectation that visitors will spend those extra nights in one of the Adirondack Park's hamlets, significant potential economic benefits are incorporated into the overall design of the destination-trail system.

Our research also indicates that people are seeking beautiful scenery and an unspoiled natural environment, a sense of regaining physical well-being and fitness, opportunities for discovery, and a chance to see and experience an authentic “way of life.” The Adirondacks can fill those expectations easily, but the research is equally clear that a trip becomes undesirable if an area has not been developed for that purpose. Travelers have high expectations; they want a range of types of trips, maps and itineraries, high-quality accommodations, dining options, transportation, luggage transfer, and, in many cases, guides. In order for this trails-and-lodging system effort to succeed in the Adirondacks, entrepreneurs will need to step forward, and local and state government will need to support all of the strategic elements of the destination-trail system.

Many argue that the jury is still out on whether the Adirondack Park experiment has been a success. We believe that a world-class community-based trails-and-lodging system will be a major contribution to ensuring a favorable outcome for this grand experiment by balancing economic needs with environmental protection. This conceptual destination-trails plan has the potential to have a dramatic impact on the recreation-based economy of the Adirondack Park. The next step is to develop an implementation strategy for bringing the Adirondack Community-based Trails and Lodging System to reality.



Map of all routes with existing and proposed lodging locations.

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APPENDICES

A. Glossary of Terms

Introduction – ACTLS is using the following definitions for our work in the Adirondack Park. These definitions are designed, to the greatest extent possible, to be user friendly and easy to understand by the recreating public. This glossary is a dynamic document where terms will be added as required.

Accessible – describes a facility or trail that complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Accessibility Guidelines and can be approached, entered, and used by people with disabilities.

Accommodations (Full Service, Limited Service, and Self Service) – Full-service accommodations: all meals provided or available at the lodging facility; limited-service accommodations: breakfast provided, trail lunches either included or available at extra cost; self-service accommodations, such as a hostel (see **Hostel**): overnight visitors provide and prepare their own meals. (Some facilities may provide all of these options.)

Adventure Tourism – travel with three main components: 1) physical activity, 2) takes place in the natural environment, and 3) recognizes and appreciates the local culture.

Adventure Travel – exploration or travel with perceived (and possibly actual) risk that potentially requires specialized skills and physical exertion.

Backcountry – lands that are, though generally undeveloped and difficult to access, open to the general public for specific human-powered uses and not accessible by motorized vehicles to the general public, with the possible exception of snowmobiles; backcountry may include some conservation easement lands which, though still in private ownership, are open to some public use for recreation (see **Conservation Easement**).

Circuit – a destination trail or route through the backcountry that begins and ends in the same community.

Conservation Easement – a legally binding agreement limiting development or certain uses on a particular property in perpetuity for as long as the land is in private ownership. The easement, either voluntarily donated or sold by the landowner, protects the property's resources while allowing the owner to retain many private property rights and potentially receive tax benefits. In the Adirondack Park, some easements include public access rights, others do not. [APA]

Corridor of Opportunity – (as used by the NYSDEC on maps of the North Country National Scenic Trail's proposed route through the Adirondack Park,) it indicates a general location through which a final route for a trail is yet to be determined.

Daily Stage (or Stage) – a widely used term (in Europe, the UK, and New Zealand) to describe the portion of a long-distance, destination trail completed comfortably by the average user in one day.

Destination Trail – a community-based, backcountry route that is a "world class" multi-day route (either a circuit or a traverse) whose quality, location, and amenities make it a destination for tourists; the trail itself is often the primary reason for the visit or trip, and the route's amenities (natural and aesthetic setting, wildlife, scenery, historical and cultural attributes, lodging, terrain, hotels, restaurants, etc.) add to the trail's attraction.

Drying Room – for outdoor clothing and boots, and hand-washed clothing items; it is a common amenity in many lodging facilities along world-class destination trails.

Ecohostel (see Ecolodge)

Ecolodge – a hotel or accommodation that has made important environmental improvements to its structure and practices in order to minimize its impact on the environment; in other words, it is an environmentally-responsible lodging facility that adapts green practices and is certified green by an independent third party or a government agency.

Ecotourism – "responsible travel to natural areas that conserves the environment, sustains the well-being of the local people, and involves interpretation and education."

Frontcountry – any location that the general public can readily access by motorized vehicle.

Glamping – a portmanteau of glamour and camping, it describes a style of camping with amenities and, in some cases, resort-style services not usually associated with "traditional" camping; glamping has become particularly popular with 21st-century tourists seeking the luxuries of hotel accommodation alongside the escapism and adventure recreation of camping.

Greenway – a corridor of open space managed for recreation and conservation purposes.

Hostel – an inexpensive overnight accommodation with bunkrooms or smaller, shared rooms that, although originally frequented by students, is today used by a variety of travelers; overnight guests usually have access to a kitchen in which to prepare their own meals; upscale, "boutique" hostels are a growing trend worldwide.

Hut to hut – a multi-day travel experience on a route or destination trail with overnight stays in full-service (meals provided) or self-service (visitors bring and prepare their own food) lodging facilities; huts in the Adirondacks refer to a range of lodging from temporary and rustic platform tents and yurts to eco-lodges, bed and breakfasts, and established cabins, motels and hotels.

Human-Powered – the transport of a person, or persons, and/or goods using human muscle power; modern technology has allowed machines to enhance human-power.

Kiosk – a signboard that provides information to trail users, usually found at trailheads.

Link / Linking Trail (or Access Trail) – connects destination trails (see **Destination Trail**) to each other and to communities, providing pedestrian-level transportation routes to lodging facilities, restaurants, stores, schools, village and town facilities, and other amenities.

Lodging Opportunity Spectrum (LOS) – like the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS), which helps guide resource managers as they seek to provide recreational opportunities for a wide range of users, the LOS will guide the development and implementation of a lodging plan for the Adirondack Community-based Trails and Lodging System.

Luggage (Baggage) Transfer Service – provides a fee-based service of transporting luggage from one accommodation to the next along a long-distance route.

Multi-use (Shared-use) Trail – allows several uses, such as mountain biking, hiking, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing (see **Human-Powered**), and often restricts or bans other activities like snowmobiling or horseback riding.

Packaged Booking Service (UK) / Packaged Reservation System – usually a for-profit business, it makes all the lodging and baggage transfer reservations necessary along a long-distance route for individuals or groups.

Pick-up Transfer (Service) – provides transportation to and from a place of lodging when either the overnight accommodations are not close enough to the route or overnight guests must stay more than one night at a particular facility due to unavailability of lodging at the end of a daily stage.

Platform Tent – as a working definition at this time, we are using one developed by the National Park Service, which defines a tent platform as "a structure, usually made of manufactured timber products, constructed to provide a solid, level floor for a tent, with or without partial walls not exceeding three feet in height above the floor, and having only the tent fabric, the ridge pole and its support poles extending higher than three feet above the floor."

Postage Stamp – for the purposes of the Adirondack Community-based Trails and Lodging System, it is an inholding that is a small parcel of private land surrounded by state land, a parcel which could be used as a site for a backcountry lodging facility.

Proposed Route – as used by the NYS DEC on maps of the North Country National Scenic Trail (see **Corridor of Opportunity**), it indicates where the state agency plans to locate the trail within the Adirondack Park.

Route – a community-based, “world-class” multi-day destination trail, either a circuit (see **Circuit**) or a traverse (see **Traverse**), whose quality, location, and amenities make it a destination for tourists; the trail itself is often the primary reason for the visit or trip, and the route’s amenities (natural and aesthetic setting, wildlife, scenery, historical and cultural attributes, lodging, terrain, hotels, restaurants, etc.) add to the trail’s attraction.

Self-powered (see Human-powered)

Spur Trail (sometimes called a Linking or Access trail) – a side trail of a circuit or traverse that connects a long-distance route to a community or a cultural, historic, or scenic destination (campsite, fire tower, historic building or site, overlook, summit, waterfall, etc.); it may or may not return by the same route (such as the Appalachian Trail’s side trails to some of the summits of the Presidential Range of the White Mountains in New Hampshire).

Strategic Location for Lodging – a site in the backcountry or frontcountry along a route or destination trail where a lodging facility needs to be identified or developed (see **Destination Trail**).

Sustainable Trail – “a trail that, as the result of good design or rehabilitation, is able to endure its designed usage and is resistant to the degradation of normal environmental factors, with only minimal effort required to maintain it.” (C.L. Dundas; May 8, 2007, West Virginia Trails Conference)

Trailhead – an official trail access point that usually includes signage, parking, and a trail register.

Trail Intersection – a junction point where two or more trails meet.

Trail Network – as it applies to the Adirondack Park, a trail network consists of local and regional routes that, when interconnected, create a parkwide trail system.

Trail Network Plan – highlights existing and proposed trails that collectively create a complete and integrated trail network; the plan is based on three key principles: 1) It purposefully focuses on establishing the circuits and traverses of the destination trail network; 2) It uses spur trails as a means to connect to destinations and link destination trails; and 3) It is ambitious, yet realistic and achievable; a parkwide series of networks create a parkwide trail system.

Trail Town Program – for more information, visit: <http://www.trailtowns.org/>.

Traverse – a destination trail or route through the backcountry that begins in one community and ends in another community.

Water Trail – sometimes called a blueway or paddling trail, it is a route on navigable waterways, such as rivers, lakes, and ponds, for people using small, human-powered, non-motorized boats such as canoes, guide boats, and kayaks.

Yurt – traditionally, it is a “circular tent of felt or skins on a collapsible framework, used by nomads in Mongolia, Siberia, and Turkey”; contemporary yurts are made of synthetic fabrics with a wood lattice support frame and may include insulation, windows, doors, and skylights; these structures can be dismantled and transported as needed.

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