

State Land/Easement Project Work Plan
for
Construction of New Facilities and Expansion or
Modification of Existing Facilities
Fiscal Year 2022

Project # Click or tap to enter Project Number (leave blank if not applicable)

<u>Region</u>	<u>Project Title</u>
5	Horseshoe Pond Dam Removal

<u>Project Type</u>	<u>Town(s)</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Management Unit</u>
Modification of Existing Facility	Schroon	Essex	Vanderwhacker Mountain Wild Forest

Project Description/Desired Condition(s):

Horseshoe Pond Dam, a structure constructed around 1930, was originally intended to provide a water source for the Town of Schroon Lake, is located on Forest Preserve. The Town no longer uses this as a water source and relinquished its rights April 14, 2014 through Town Resolution #89. DEC is responsible for the maintenance of the dam and there is no longer a need to maintain it. The dam removal project will lower the pond back to its original natural elevation and will remove any hazard associated with the dam.

To facilitate the planned removal of the dam, the construction area must be cleared of vegetation. To minimize disturbance and tree cutting, care was taken to keep the construction site as small as possible to remove the structure and stabilize the outlet and stream banks. This work plan proposes to cut 153 trees greater than 1" dbh in the construction site footprint of the planned Horseshoe Pond Dam removal project. The combined area between the access path, laydown area and dam site is .53 acres. The construction drawings and photos attached show the three zones and what the vegetation appears like in each. The access road photo shows the route to the dam that was likely used initially for construction and has been used for maintenance over past years. The laydown area photo shows an area selected near the site that will be needed for material and equipment storage during the construction. The laydown site was chosen due to its proximity to the worksite, the small number of mature trees and because this area appeared to have been used for similar purposes in the past, as there is a pile of decomposing logs (likely a result of previous dam maintenance). The spillway and dam photo shows the stone lined spillway in the foreground, concrete spillway crest in the center of the photo and the earthen dam area on the left side of the photo.

The dam is an earthen embankment structure approximately 120' long and was constructed around 1930. Removal of the constructed structure and re-naturalization of the pond and outlet will lower the water elevation of Horseshoe Pond approximately 5 feet and the overall footprint of the pond will be reduced to +/-36 acres from +/-40 acres. No net loss of wetlands is anticipated from the project as wetlands are expected to emerge in and around the shoreline of the pond. This process will be expedited by the planting of native wetland herbaceous plant species to help propagate a healthy and prolific wetland ecosystem.

Trees to be Removed:

153

Earthwork and Disturbance, Including Identification of Work Outside Trail Corridor:

Construction site will involve removal of the earthen dam and associated concrete components, grading of a new stream channel outlet and installation of natural stream related step pool structures. There will be approximately 570 cubic yards of material removed from the area of the dam.

Analysis of Project Location and Design Alternatives:

The project site is a fixed location and involves removal of a previously constructed dam structure. The design process revealed structural issues at the dam, so the no-action alternative would result in the further degradation of the dam over time and pose a risk of failure which would be detrimental to life and property as well as the ecosystems in and around Horseshoe Pond, especially in the occurrence of a major storm event. Repairing the deficiencies and committing to maintaining it as a dam would result in long-term costs associated with maintenance, inspection and monitoring requirements, maintaining the potential risks to downstream property or persons, and retaining a structure on the Forest Preserve. Furthermore, maintaining the dam would also require a similar number of trees be removed. Due to the dam no longer serving as a secondary water source, the original intent and purpose of the dam has become obsolete; therefore, removal was determined the best alternative. The goal of the project is to ensure that the resulting site will be stable, re-naturalize and provide improved aquatic connectivity and stream restoration.

Description of Measures Taken to Mitigate Impacts on Vegetation, Water Quality, Wild Forest Character and the Aesthetics of the area:

Most work will be taking place on previously disturbed areas in an effort to bring the entire pond back to its natural state. Removal of the dam will create temporary visual impacts after drawdown and during and post construction. This will be mitigated by restoration activities proposed at the dam site and the seeding of a wetland seed mix between the elevations of 1250.0' and 1255.5' at the northern area of the pond. To facilitate dam removal, the pond will initially be drawn down below the proposed final pond elevation. Additionally, coinciding with drawdown there will be a mussel survey and relocation performed to minimize impacts to the mussel population as a result of this project.

Identification of Rare, Threatened or Endangered Species:

No rare, threatened or endangered species, plant communities or habitats have been identified within ¼ mile of the proposed project area.

Description of Use of Motorized Equipment and/or Motor Vehicles, if any:

Heavy construction equipment will be utilized at the construction site over the course of this project. It may consist of excavators, dump trucks, bulldozers, pickups, pumps, chainsaws etc. No motorized equipment will be used in the northern area of the pond during seeding and mulching.

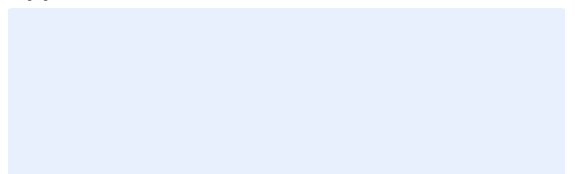
Other Relevant Considerations:

Click or tap to enter other relevant considerations

Prepared by (Name & Title): Ben Thomas, Forester 2
Phone: (518) 623-1268

Date: 9/23/2022

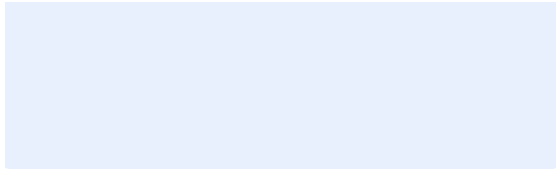
Approvals:



Comments:

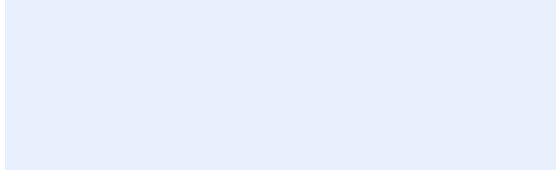
Regional Forester

Date: Click or tap to enter a date.



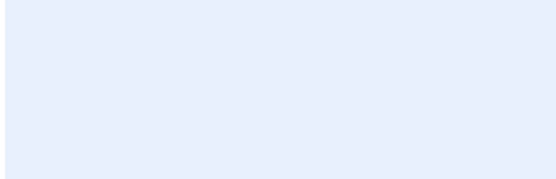
Regional Supervisor of Natural Resources

Date: Click or tap to enter a date.



Regional Director

Date: Click or tap to enter a date.



Division Director

Date: Click or tap to enter a date.

REGULATORY CLEARANCE CHECKLIST – STATE LANDS and CONSERVATION EASEMENT PROJECTS

PROGRAM	PERMIT	REQUIRED		SECURED BY	COMMENTS
		YES	NO	(NAME)	
Air Resources	Restricted Burning	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Mineral Resources	Mining	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Materials Management	Solid Waste Mgt. Fac.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Water	Dam Safety Review	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Erin Donhauser, DEC R5	
	Const. in Flood Hazard	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
	Public Water Supply	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
	SPDES	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Spills Management	Petro. Bulk Storage	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Lands and Forests	Unit Management Plan	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
	Tree Cutting	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
	Protected Native Plants	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
	Historic Preservation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Michael Lynch, OPRHP	
Fish and Wildlife	Freshwater Wetlands	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
	Wild Scenic & Rec. River	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Compliance Services	Other Protection of Waters	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
	EAF	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
	Negative Declaration	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
	Env. Impact Statement	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
	Water Quality Cert.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Erin Donhauser, DEC R5	
DEC (other)	CP-17	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
	Commissioner (aircraft, motorized equipment)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
	Flight Request	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
	Contract Clearance Sh.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
	DOB Exemption	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Other Agencies	APA MOU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
	APA Wetlands Permit	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Robert Lore, APA	
	Corps. of Engineers	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
	Building Permits	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
	Local Permits	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
	Easements	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
	Highway Enter DOT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
	Wastewater Disposal	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		