

Forest Preserve Work Plan
for
Construction of New Facilities and Expansion or
Modification of Existing Facilities
Fiscal Year 2023
Project # **2023-NV-007: CO-WP302**

<u>Region</u> 5	<u>Project Title</u> Wilson Ridge Trail Bridge Project
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<u>Project Type</u> New Construction	<u>Town(s)</u> Arietta	<u>County</u> Hamilton	<u>Management Unit</u> Moose River Plains Wild Forest
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Description of Desired Condition(s) for Project:

The Wilson Ridge Trail combines with the Otter Brook Truck Trail to form a 15-mile Wild Forest corridor managed for non-motorized recreation. The trail corridor was established entirely on former logging roads and was designated for mountain bike use in the 2011 Unit Management Plan (UMP) for Moose River Plains Wild Forest (MRPWF). Two stream crossings at former culvert locations require trail bridge installations. Details of each bridge installation are further described in the sections below.

The 2011 UMP for MRPWF authorizes construction of trail bridges to protect natural resources and maintain trail connections. Mountain bike trail guidelines listed in the UMP indicate “Bridges may be used where steep banks prevent normal stream crossings.” (2011 MRPWF UMP Appendix 11, page 337). The objective of this project is to provide safe and adequate stream crossings at the Silver Run and Little Moose Lake Outlet. The desired condition is to maintain the trail connection at these locations with trail bridges that protect water resources while providing a stable tread surface compatible with mountain bike use.

Use of the Wilson Ridge Trail is currently low and likely attributed to the broken trail connection at the Little Moose Lake Outlet. Use is expected to increase as trail improvements are implemented including the bridging of the outlet.

Description of Project Specifications:

This project is intended to facilitate stream crossings at two locations along the Wilson Ridge Trail:

Site 1: Silver Run

Immediately upon accessing the Wilson Ridge Trail from the trailhead off Limekiln Lake Cedar River Road users must ford the Silver Run. A sizeable road culvert once located at this crossing either washed out or was removed after State acquisition. The absence of the culvert creates a sizeable gully with sandy banks on either side. Log corduroy and natural debris placed in the stream by users routinely wash downstream after high rainfall events. This work plan seeks approval to construct a 35-foot bridge over the stream at the height of the former roadbed. A bridge is seen as necessary to provide for adequate crossing of the Silver Run while also preventing erosion and sedimentation from occurring in the classified trout stream.

Site 2: Little Moose Lake Outlet

Little Moose Lake forms the headwaters for the South Branch of the Moose River. The Wilson Ridge Trail crosses a man-made earthen dam at the outlet of the lake. A large road culvert at this location washed out and remains on site a short distance downstream (see attached photo). The outlet is plugged by an old beaver dam that has been well entrenched for many years. Users must walk over the narrow 30-foot dam to continue along the trail. Crossing the dam is difficult especially for those carrying a mountain bike. This work plan seeks approval to install a 40-foot trail bridge over the Little Moose Lake Outlet. The bridge will be cribbed up to avoid impacts from beaver activity and allow the drainage to continue unimpeded. This action is necessary to maintain the trail connection and provide adequate crossing.

Description of Measures Taken to Avoid, Mitigate and Minimize Impacts to Natural Resources:

Both bridge installations will occur entirely within the trail corridor and will be built on or above the height of the former road bed.

A.) Trees to be Removed:

No tree cutting is required for any action involved in this project.

B.) Earthwork & Disturbance:

Only a minor amount of earth work will be needed for each bridge installation. This will involve the leveling of the bridge sills and cribs associated with each bridge abutment. This impact will be minimal due to the generally level ground conditions at each project site.

Additional disturbance involves the sourcing and relocation of rocks to be used in the armoring of stream banks at both project sites. To minimize this disturbance rock selection will be dispersed to avoid excessively impacting one area.

C.) Impacts to Streams, Waterbodies, and Wetlands:

Adirondack Park Agency (APA) staff review of this project resulted in a determination that no wetland impacts are involved with the activities as proposed. Both bridge installations will occur on the hardened road surface that the trail corridor now occupies. Due to the compacted soils at both project sites, erosion and sedimentation into each stream will be minor and will primarily be attributed to foot traffic while working on the streambanks during bridge construction.

To minimize future impacts, the streambanks at both sites will be armored with stone taken from around the project areas. This armoring will help to contain the sandy stream bank soils to reduce erosion and sedimentation. Rock selection will be dispersed to avoid excessively impacting one area in particular.

The longstanding beaver dam at the Little Moose Lake Outlet will not be disturbed. The bridge at this location will be cribbed up to avoid impacting the drainage. The natural flow that the dam has established will be allowed to continue unimpeded.

D.) Identification of Rare, Threatened, or Endangered Species:

A search of available GIS databases yielded no known occurrences of RTE species at or within ¼ mile of the project area.

Analysis of Project Location and Design Alternatives:

Both project locations are located within a wild forest corridor surrounded by designated wilderness areas. The improvements proposed in this work plan are designed with mountain bike use in mind. Alternatives involving rerouting the trail outside of the wild forest corridor are not possible due to restrictions listed in the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan that prohibit mountain bike use in wilderness areas. Because of this restriction, re-routing or alternative bridge locations outside the wild forest corridor were not considered.

Alternative bridge designs were considered and include a sleeker profile bridge built at the trail height as opposed to atop it. This option would require less building materials and would provide a smooth and seamless stream crossing. However, the height of the structure would be closer to the water flow and more vulnerable to damage that may occur from high water events. This option is also not feasible at the Little Moose Lake Outlet site as it would require the removal of the entrenched beaver dam. Due to the age of the dam, retaining it and allowing the natural flow of the drainage is preferred.

The no action alternative would keep current conditions as they are. Sedimentation into the Silver Run stream will continue to occur with each passing user. Crossing the Little Moose Lake Outlet atop the beaver dam would continue to be a safety concern and, in most cases, remain a break in the trail connection.

As has been described throughout this work plan, the trail corridor is located along a former roadbed and the site of each stream crossing once had a large road culvert. Road building techniques used during the construction of the roadway prior to State acquisition have provided compacted surfaces at each project location. Fill that was applied to raise the roadbed at each stream approach still remains today. This provides a hardened raised surface to build a bridge

upon; allowing the trail connection and all recreational use to occur above the streams with adequate clearance. For this reason, the preferred alternative is bridge construction as proposed.

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

Site 1 is located directly adjacent to the Limekiln Lake Cedar River Road and is accessible by motor vehicle. Poles and lumber will be transported to the Wilson Ridge Trailhead by motor vehicle. Building materials will be short hauled by hand from the trailhead a short distance to the project site. Poles will be set in place using log carriers and hand tools.

Site 2 is an interior location, approximately 5 miles from the nearest vehicular access point. Transportation of poles and lumber to the project site will require the use of motorized equipment. Use of equipment will be kept within the wild forest corridor along the former roadbed. An ATV and trailer will be used to transport the materials under suitable ground conditions. If use of an ATV causes excessive trail damage, an alternate means of transportation will be used. Should this need arise, snowmobiles and lumber sleds will be used for transportation under frozen ground conditions.

Chainsaws and a gas-powered auger drill will be used during bridge construction. ATV transportation of personnel and tools into Site 2 will occur through the wild forest corridor. This use will be limited to the minimum extent needed to complete the project and only under suitable ground conditions to avoid trail impacts.

All motorized equipment use will be done in accordance with the CP-17 policy.

Description of Applicable Standards for Accessibility by People with Disabilities: This project is a modification of an existing facility that is currently not built to ADA standards. The trail corridor leading to both project sites does not possess the required average slope needed to be in compliance with ADA specifications. Due to these factors the project will not incorporate ADA design features.

Other Relevant Considerations: The washed-out steel culvert located a short distance downstream of the Little Moose Lake outlet crossing will be cut into transportable pieces and properly disposed of off-site. Transportation of the metal pieces out of the site will occur by ATV while exiting the project site during bridge construction. Any remaining materials will be staged out of sight off trail and will be removed periodically in conjunction with trail clearing and routine maintenance trips that occur over time.

Prepared by (Name & Title): Jonathan DeSantis
Phone: (518) 863-4545 ext. 3005

Date: 2/9/2023

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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
	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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	NYSDEC	Activity allowed per UMP
	Tree Cutting	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
	Protected Native Plants	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
	Historic Preservation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
	Negative Declaration	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
	Env. Impact Statement	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
	Water Quality Cert.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
DEC (other)	CP-17	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jonathan DeSantis	Approval will be obtained prior to project start up
	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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jonathan DeSantis	SL2022-0022
	APA Wetlands Permit	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
	Corps. of Engineers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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"/>		

State Land Consultation

File Number:



**Adirondack
Park Agency**

KATHY HOCHUL
Governor

TERRY MARTINO
Executive Director

STATE LAND PROJECT CONSULTATION FORM

Completion of this form is required to receive a determination of Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan (APSLMP) and/or Unit Management Plan compliance and wetland jurisdiction for all DEC State land projects from the Agency. A site visit by Agency staff may be required depending on the complexity of the project, the natural resources involved and the level of documentation provided.

Part 1

(To be completed by DEC staff)

A. Project Identification

Project Name:

DEC Contact Person:

Telephone:

Email:

B. Project Location and Other Information

State Land Unit:

Region:

Town:

County:

Is a UMP for this unit completed and approved? Yes No

(If yes, please attach a copy of the cover page and all pages relevant to this project.)

Is the proposal to replace an existing structure? Yes No

If yes:

a) When was the structure constructed?

b) Will the new structure be the same size and located in the same place?

Yes No (Describe in the narrative, section D.)

C. Prior Agency Contact

Has there been prior contact (including any wetland delineation work) with the Agency regarding this project? Yes No

If yes, name of contact person(s) and date(s) (approximate, if not known):

Contact person:

Date:

D. Project Description

Provide a brief, narrative description as precisely as possible with any additional location information necessary. Include/attach map(s), photograph(s) and plan(s) whenever possible. (attach another sheet if needed)

If the proposed project is determined to be compliant with the APSLMP but jurisdictional for wetlands, the Agency can determine if the project qualifies for *General Permit 2005G-1R* or if an individual Article 24 Freshwater Wetlands permit will be required. If either of these wetlands permits is applied for, additional information about the project will likely be requested. Agency staff can provide the appropriate permit application form with the return of this completed State Land Consultation Form, if requested.

Submitted by:

Date:

Return this form to the Agency (preferably electronically) for APA staff completion of Part 2.

Part 2

(To be completed by APA staff)

ADIRONDACK PARK STATE LAND MASTER PLAN COMPLIANCE REVIEW

Planning Status (check one)

- A) The project, as planned, is described sufficiently in an approved UMP and does not require additional consultation with APA State land staff before being undertaken.

- B) The project is proposed in insufficient detail in an approved UMP and so does require additional consultation with APA State land staff before being undertaken.

- C) The project is not proposed in an approved UMP and – via this submission - is the subject of consultation with APA State land staff to determine if it may be undertaken, as per Section V of the DEC/APA MOU.

DEC/APA Consultation Guidelines

Planning Status “A” Projects:

- The proposed project has been determined by the APA Board, via approval of a UMP, to conform to APSLMP guidelines and criteria in all respects other than potential wetland impacts.

- IF the result of the “Preliminary APA Wetlands Jurisdiction Assessment” (page 6) is an APA staff conclusion that jurisdictional wetlands:
 - WILL NOT be involved or affected by the proposed project, THEN, the project may be undertaken.

 - MAY BE involved or affected by the proposed project, THEN, the Agency can determine if the project qualifies for *General Permit 2005G-1R* or an individual Article 24 Freshwater Wetlands permit and may request additional information.

Planning Status “B” Projects:

- The proposed project, via review and approval of a UMP, has received conceptual approval by the APA Board but must still be reviewed by APA State land staff in sufficient detail before it may be determined to conform to APSLMP guidelines and criteria in all respects other than potential wetland impacts.
- IF the result of the “Preliminary APA Wetlands Jurisdiction Assessment” (page 6) is an APA staff conclusion that jurisdictional wetlands:
 - WILL NOT be involved or affected by the proposed project, THEN, the project may be undertaken.
 - MAY BE involved or affected by the proposed project, THEN, the Agency can determine if the project qualifies for *General Permit 2005G-1R* or an individual Article 24 Freshwater Wetlands permit and may request additional information.
- IF the result of the “APSLMP Compliance Review” is a conclusion that the proposed project:
 - DOES NOT CONFORM to APSLMP guidelines and criteria regardless of wetland impacts, THEN, the project should not be undertaken by DEC staff.

Planning Status “C” Projects:

- The project has NOT been proposed within a UMP approved by the APA Board, and so it has not been determined to conform to APSLMP guidelines and criteria. It must therefore be determined by APA State land staff to meet the definition of “ordinary maintenance,” “rehabilitation” or “minor relocation” of conforming structures or improvements as per Section V of the DEC/APA MOU if it is to be undertaken without being included in such a UMP.
- IF the result of the determination is that the proposed project:
 - CANNOT BE so defined, THEN, the project should not be undertaken by DEC staff at this time.
 - CAN BE so defined, THEN, the Agency can determine if the project qualifies for *General Permit 2005G-1R* or an individual Article 24 Freshwater Wetlands permit and may request additional information.
- IF the result of the “Preliminary APA Wetlands Jurisdiction Assessment” (page 6) is an APA staff conclusion that jurisdictional wetlands:

- WILL NOT be involved or affected by the proposed project, THEN, the project may be undertaken.
- MAY BE involved or affected by the proposed project, THEN, the Agency can determine if the project qualifies for *General Permit 2005G-1R* or an individual Article 24 Freshwater Wetlands permit and may request additional information.

APA State Land Staff Determination Regarding Consistency with the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan

Staff have determined the proposed project – in all respects other than potential wetlands impacts – conforms _____, does not conform _____, to the guidelines and criteria of the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan.

Deputy Director, Planning or designee

Date

Rationale for Determination

PRELIMINARY APA WETLANDS JURISDICTION ASSESSMENT

1) Is the proposed project located in a wetland?	Yes	No
2) Does the project involve any of the following activities whether or not it is located in a wetland?	Yes	No
Discharge of liquid wastes into (or so as to drain into) a wetland, including sewage treatment effluent within 100' of a wetland?	Yes	No
Any other form of pollution of a wetland?	Yes	No

Any activity that may substantially
impair the functions served by, or the
benefits derived from, wetlands?

Yes

No

**APA RASS Staff Preliminary Assessment Regarding Adirondack Park Freshwater
Wetlands Jurisdiction**

Staff have determined that wetlands subject to the review jurisdiction of the
Adirondack Park Agency may , will not , be involved or affected by the proposal.

Supervisor, Natural Resource Analysis or designee

Date

Rationale for Determination

If the project is determined to be jurisdictional for wetlands, the Agency will determine if the
project qualifies for *General Permit 2005G-1R* or an individual Article 24 Freshwater
Wetlands permit and may request additional information.

Form completed by APA State Land member:

Completion Date:

Distribution:

DEC Contact:

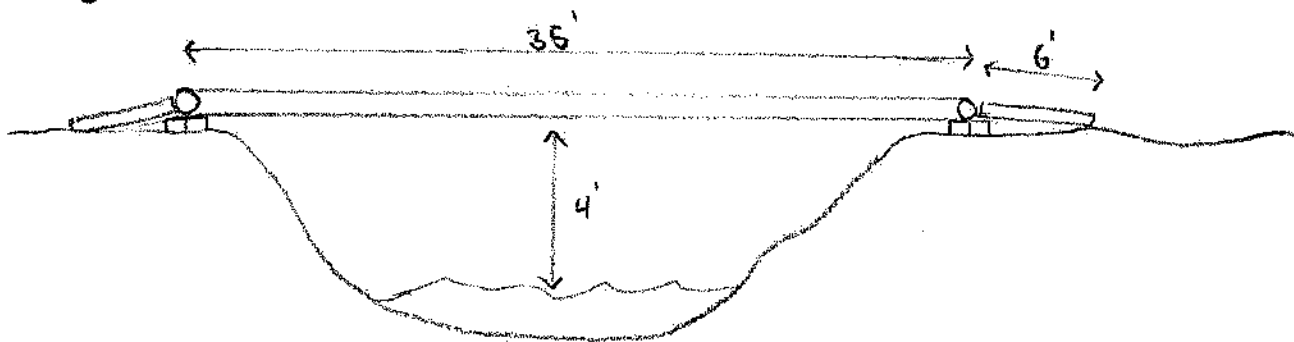
Regional Forester:

Natural Resources Supervisor of Region:

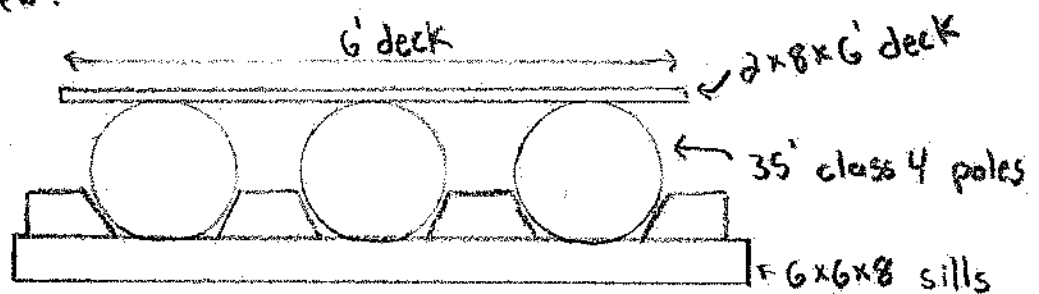
Forest Preserve Coordinator, Central Office:

Silver Run Trail Bridge Design

Side view:



Cross Section View:



- Note:
- $\frac{1}{2}$ " spacing on deck
 - spike poles into sill
 - chuck poles w/ 6x6
 - rebar sills into ground
 - 6' ramp on either approach

Materials:

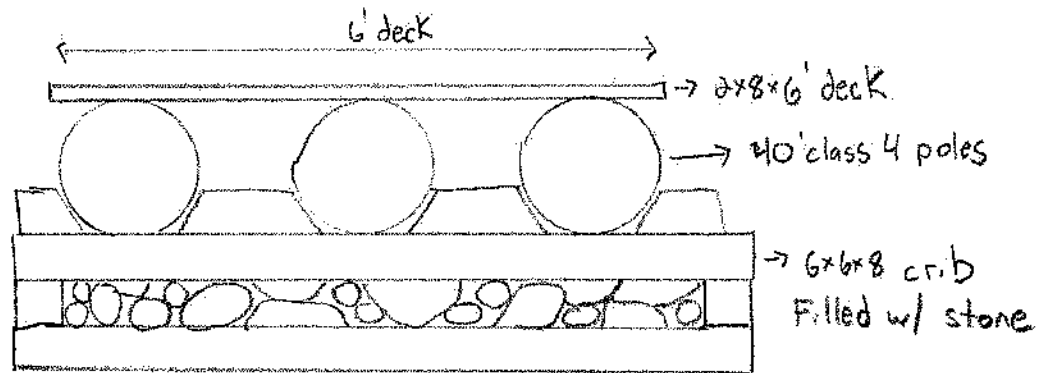
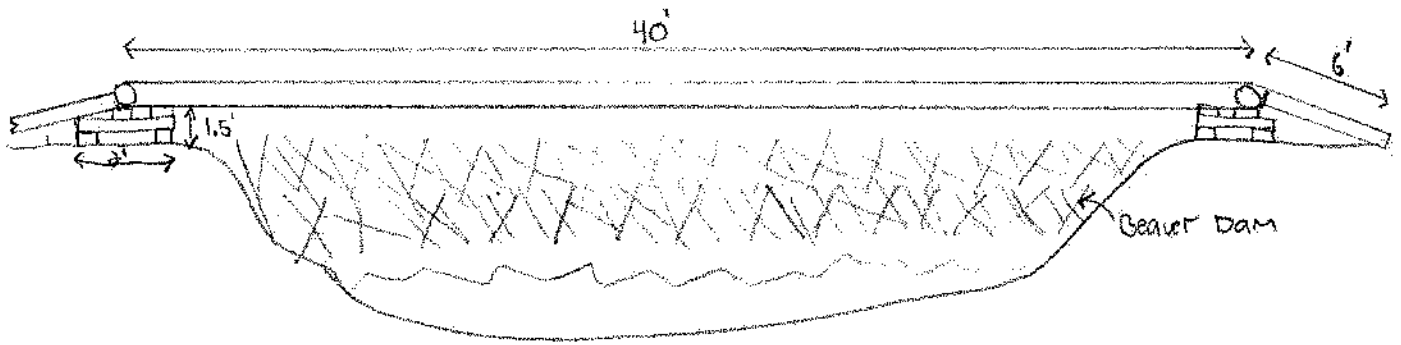
- Stringers - (3) 35' class 4 treated poles
- Sills - (4) 6x6x8'
- Deck - (27) 2x8x12' cut in half
- Ramps - (9) 2x8x12' "

Hardware:

- (50ct) 10" Timberlock screws
- (20lbs.) 16D galvanized nails
- (6) 12" spikes

JVD 2/00

Little Moose Outlet Bridge



- Note:
- 1/2" spacing on deck
 - Rebar bottom sill into ground
 - Fill crib w/ stone
 - 6' ramp on approaches
 - Do not remove Beaver Dam

Materials:

- | | | | |
|-----------|------|-----------|-------------|
| Stringers | (3) | 40' poles | |
| crib | (10) | 6x6x8' | |
| Deck | (30) | 2x8x12' | cut in half |
| Ramps | (9) | 2x8x12' | " " |

- Hardware:
- 1d" spikes
 - 1d" Timberlocks
 - 16d gal. nails

JVD 2/22

Wilson Ridge Trail Foot Bridge Project Location Map

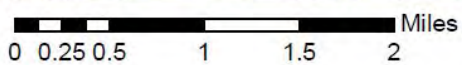
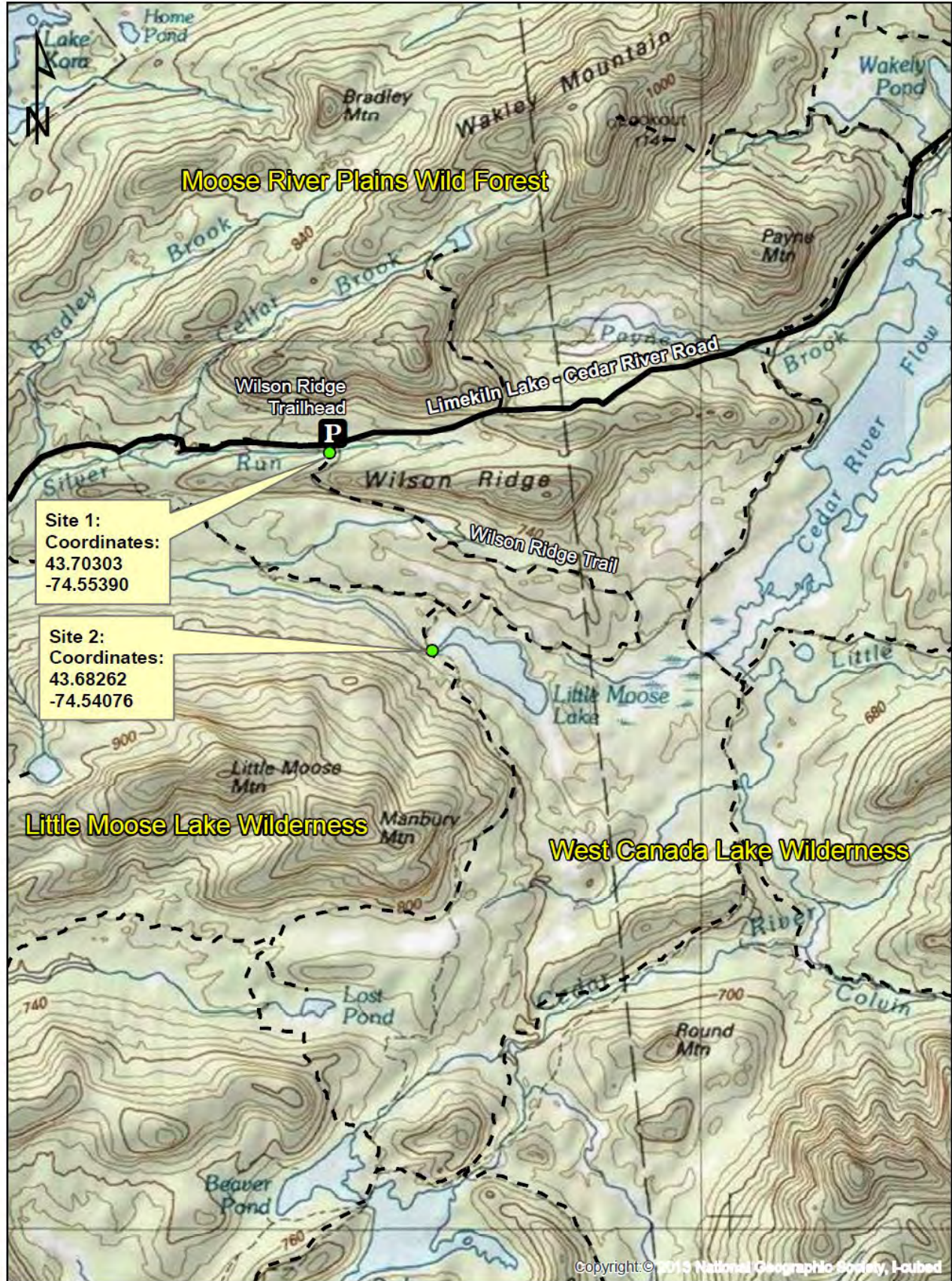


Photo 1: View standing on the Wilson Ridge Trail looking south at the crossing of the Little Moose Lake Outlet. Most users turn back at this crossing rather than attempt to cross atop the depicted beaver dam.



Photo 2: View from trail looking west. Steel road culvert washed downstream will be cut up and taken off site to be properly disposed of.



Photo 3: Silver Run in low water. Sandy stream banks on either approach

