

Target shooting

Intentional tree destruction at Three Rivers WMA





Target shooting at Three Rivers

Putnam, Michael L. (DEC)

Fri 3/11/2016 4:19 PM

To: Joule, Steven J (DEC) <steven.joule@dec.ny.gov>; Bishop, Daniel (DEC) <daniel.bishop@dec.ny.gov>; Lynch, Kenneth (DEC) <kenneth.lynch@dec.ny.gov>;

1 attachment (2 MB)

Target Shooting off of Potter Rd.pdf

attached map: Target Shooting...RD_2

Hi guys,

Two days ago, Mr. Tom Carrolan from Liverpool, stopped in the office to inform me of bullets passing near his head (stated that he heard them "wiz" by) while he was hiking. Mr. Carrolan was walking along Bud's Pond Dike (attached map) and had a couple of rounds pass near his head and some hit the vegetation around him. He asked that I inform the shooters that there is a path down range of their targeting area and request that they find another area to shoot. After my discussion with Mr. Carrolan, I traveled to the stick pond parking area and noticed two individuals target shooting. I parked the state truck and started to walk out onto the dike when ECO Sherman pulled in and parked next to my truck. Both ECO Sherman and I approached the shooters and informed them of my discussion with Mr. Carrolan. They had thought that the two 6"x6" posts that were joined together and standing approximately 15"-24" tall was an adequate back stop. However, I pointed out to them that this was an insufficient backstop for the empty shotgun shells and plastic bottle that they placed on top of this structure to shoot at. They were surprised of the public use of the area down range, and asked for a safe place on the WMA to target practice. Both ECO Sherman and I informed them that there is no official targeting area on the WMA and that they should pursue joining a local gun club. The shooters thanked us, picked up their spent casing, and left the WMA.

Today, I had a visit from Mr. Thomas Saylor who is the Environmental and Building Maintenance Manager for Paper Works Packaging. Mr. Saylor came to inform me of the various bullets which have struck and penetrated the roof on their building which is located to the south of the WMA (see attached map). Evidently, this is an ongoing issue that they would like to have addressed.

We currently have no regulation on the books that would prohibit this activity on the WMA however, I would like to post signage at this field location stating that the area is off limits to target shooting. We have addressed this issue in our Part 51 re-write however, I do not know when those regs will be approved. Thoughts?

attached map: Target Shooting...RD

Aftermath of dog trials : Three Rivers WMA.



Mountain bikes, off-road bikes, fat-bikes, e-bikes...

Saratoga County WMAs (Parcel 45, Saratoga Sand Plains)



7PM CAMERA 1



Snowmobiles: Happy Valley, Little John, Three Mile Bay, Tioughnioga, Pharsalia, Connecticut Hill, Owasco Flats...



The problem: 6 NYCRR Part 51 Public Use of State Wildlife Management Areas is very limited and does not allow us to regulate some of the activities that can be problematic.

6 CRR-NY I G 51 Notes

s 51.1 Hunting, trapping and fishing.

s 51.2 Boating.

s 51.3 Camping.

s 51.4 Roads and parking areas.

s 51.5 Structures.

s 51.6 General provisions.

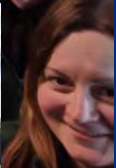
s 51.7 Waivers.



The solution:

Amend 6 NYCRR Part 51 to be able to better regulate and enforce WMA rules to prevent dangerous situations and conflicts with WMA goals and other users.





Thank you,
The Land Management and Habitat
Conservation Team



**Department of
Environmental
Conservation**

State Forest Action Plan 2020

Division of Lands and Forests

March 28, 2019

NEW YORK STATE
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
FOREST RESOURCE
ASSESSMENT & STRATEGY
2010 - 2015

Keeping New York's Forests as Forests

What is a Forest Action Plan?

A 10-year strategic plan for DEC Lands & Forests and New York's forestry community.

Under the federal Farm Bill, every 10 years each state must submit a Forest Action Plan to the US Forest Service in order to qualify for federal funding.



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Components of the Forest Action Plan

Assessment:

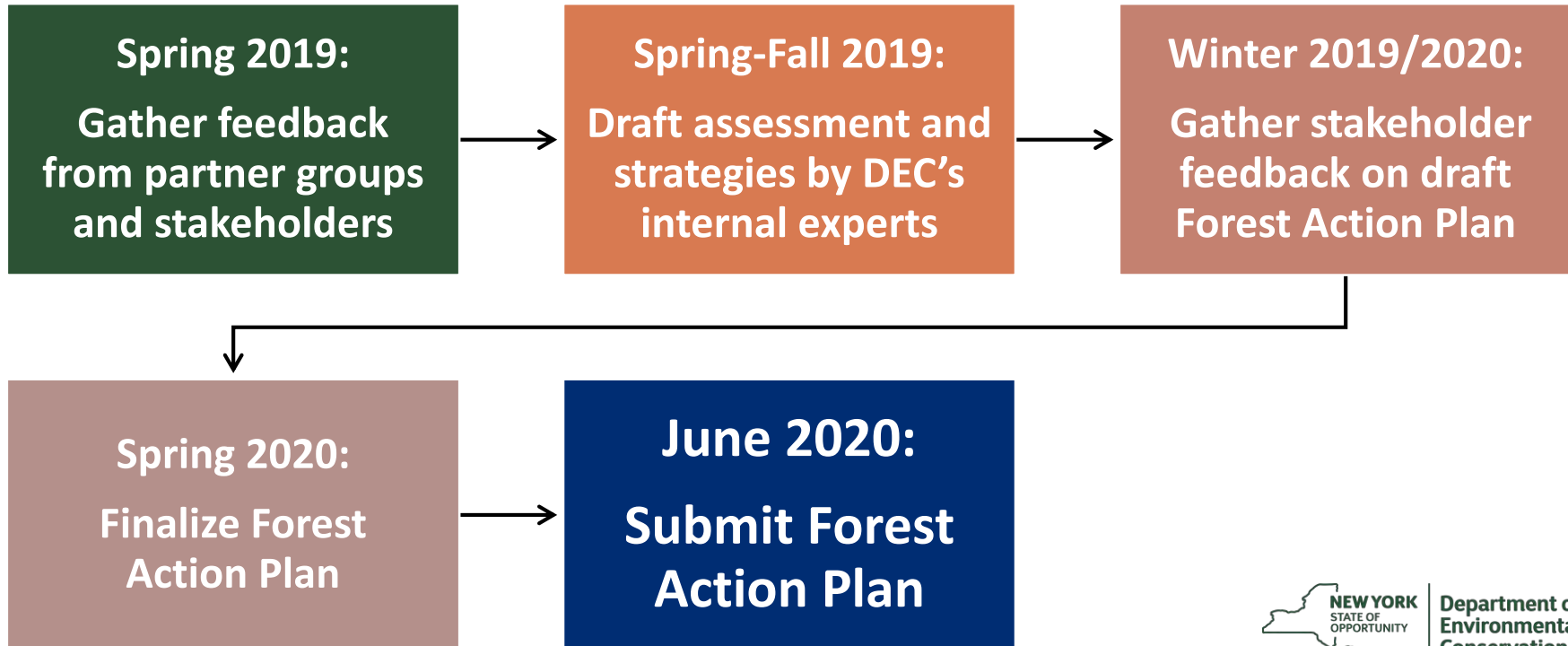
- Current conditions & trends
- Known threats
- Priority landscapes
- Focus areas

Strategies:

- Long term strategies
- Resources necessary
- Connect to national priorities

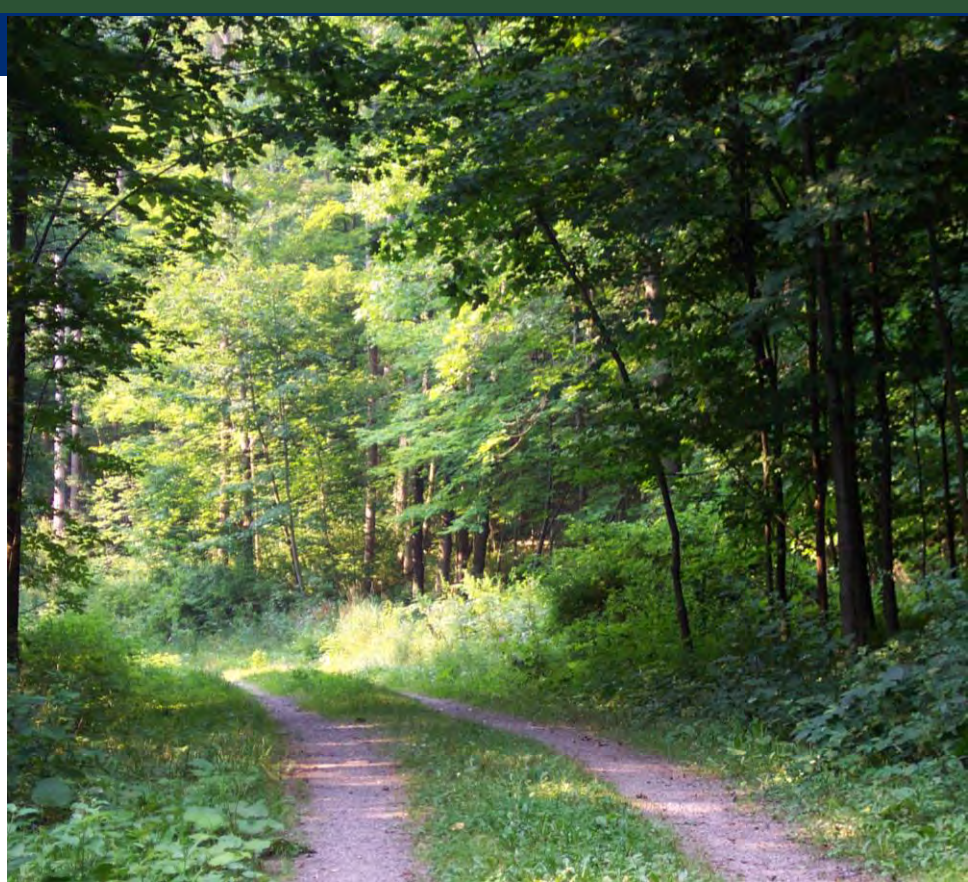
Coordinate with stakeholders and incorporate other plans

Forest Action Plan Steps and Timeframe



How can the forestry community use the Forest Action Plan?

- Help NY focus on the most important work or programs
- Identify specific regions or issues that could benefit from targeted attention
- Help DEC and its partners determine their role in addressing the strategies in the Forest Action Plan



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How can you stay informed?

We look forward to working with you and the entire forestry community on the development of this Plan, and to the engagement that will occur along the way.

This is a wonderful opportunity for us to think collectively about what New York's forests mean to us.

Robert Davies

Director

Division of Lands and Forests

ForestActionPlan@dec.ny.gov

robert.davies@dec.ny.gov

(518) 402-9405

You can find up-to-date information on the 2020 Forest Action Plan here:

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/60829.html>.

Thank you for your commitment to sustainable forestry in New York!



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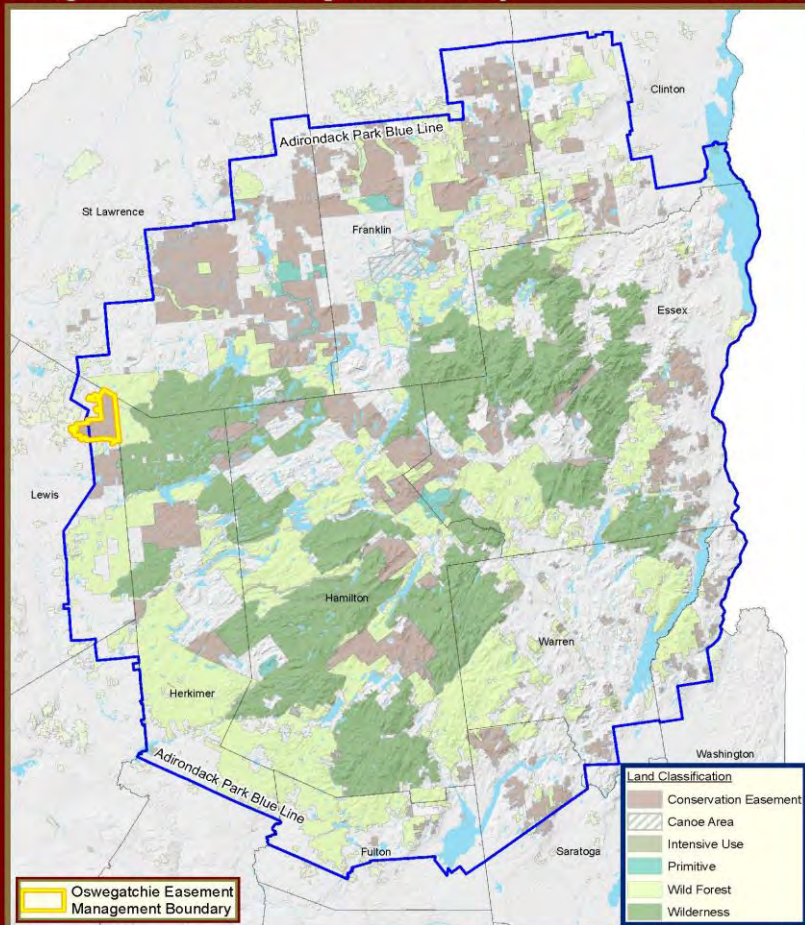


**Department of
Environmental
Conservation**

Oswegatchie Conservation Easement

Recreation Management Plan

March 2019



Property Overview

- Blue Swamp & Bald Mountain Tracts
- Towns of Croghan & Diana; Lewis County
- 16,929 acres located partially within the Adirondack Park
- 9.6 miles of boundary shared with forest preserve, 0.6 miles shared with state forest
- Contains 3.5 miles of the Middle Branch of the Oswegatchie River (Scenic River)



*OCE serves as the primary access to portions of Aldrich Pond and Watsons East Triangle Wild Forests

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DEC Management Plans

- Aldrich Pond Wild Forest UMP (1995) included recreation management proposals for portion of the Property north of the Middle Branch of the Oswegatchie River
- RMP addresses recreation throughout the entire Property and replaces all proposals in the 1995 UMP

Ownership & Public Rights

- The Oswegatchie Conservation Easement is privately owned:
 - It is managed to produce forest products
 - Camp structures on the Property are leased.
- Public use is limited to rights purchased through the conservation easement.



Affirmative Recreation Rights

Motorized Access

- **Passenger vehicles & ATVs:** May use existing roads, DEC may construct new roads up to ½ mile length (longer requires landowner permission)
- **Snowmobiles:** May use existing roads, DEC may construct new trails subject to RMP

Bicycles

- All existing roads at time CE granted, new trails subject to RMP

Hunt/Fish/Trapping

- **Fishing/Trapping:** Year-round subject to applicable seasons.
- **Hunting:** January-August through 2019. Starting in 2020 year-round subject to applicable seasons.



Affirmative Recreation Rights

Foot Access: Activities including hiking, snowshoe, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, horseback riding, photography, bird watching, wildlife observation, picnicking

- Entire Property
- DEC may construct new non-motorized trails subject to RMP

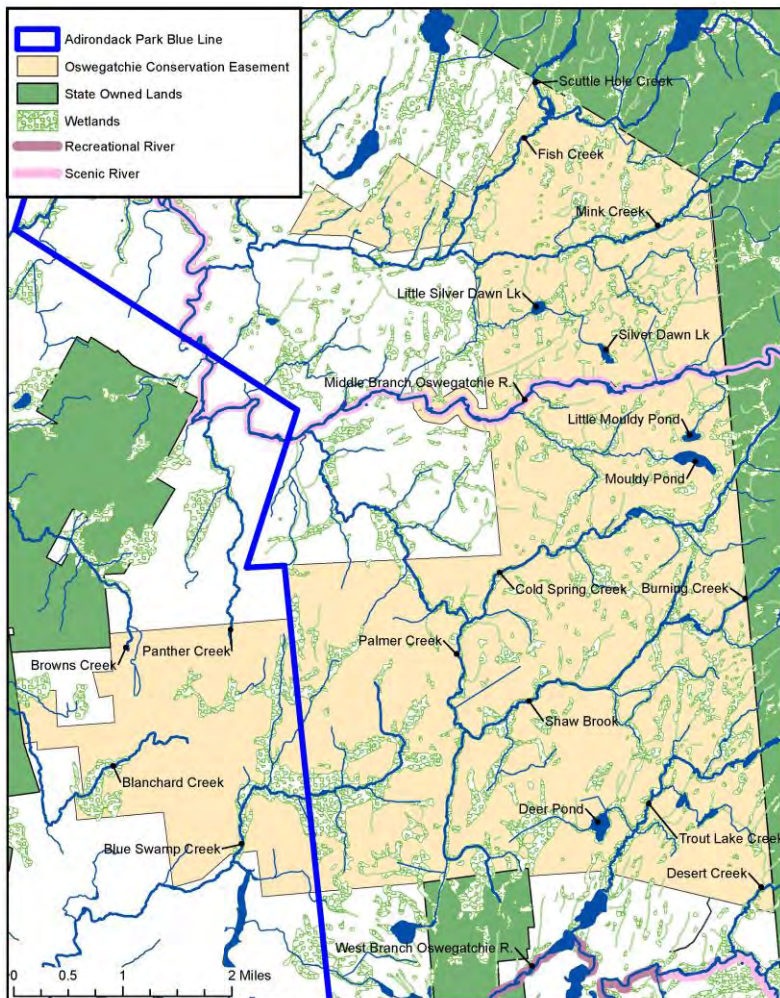
Camping

- Permitted same as occurs on forest preserve lands

Paddling

- Permitted on all waterbodies on the Property
- Motor vehicle access over Bryant Bridge Road Right-of-Way





Oswegatchie Conservation Easement Water Bodies



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Wetlands depicted inside the Adirondack Park have been identified by the Adirondack Park Agency.
Wetlands depicted outside the Adirondack Park are NYS Regulatory Freshwater Wetlands.

Fish Species Identified within the OCE

Water Body	DEC Survey	ALSC*
Cold Spring Creek	Brook Trout, Creek Chub, Brown Bullhead	-
Deer Pond	Brook Trout, Brown Bullhead, Creek Chub, White Sucker	-
Little Mouldy Pond	-	Brown Bullhead
Little Silver Dawn Lake	Brook Trout	Brook Trout, Northern Redbelly Dace
Mouldy Pond	-	Brown Bullhead
Palmer Creek	Brook Trout	-
Silver Dawn Lake	Brook Trout	Brook Trout

**Adirondack Lakes Survey Corp*



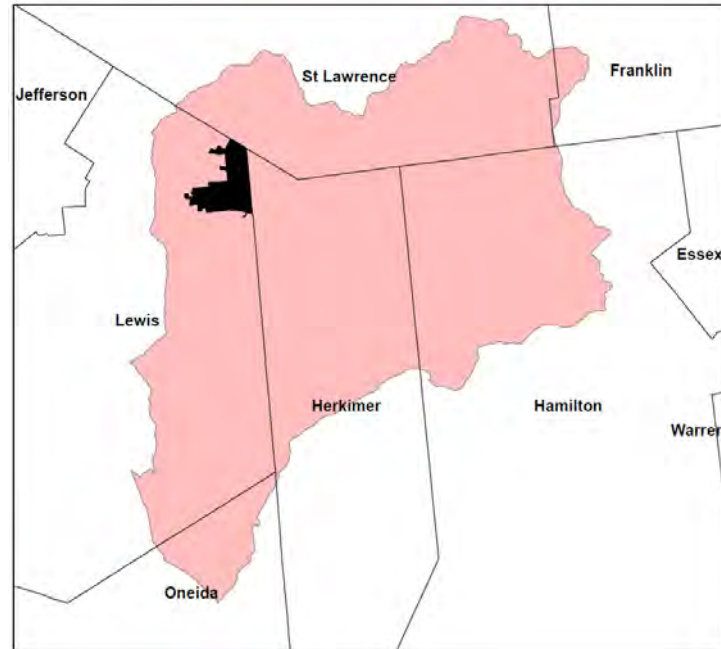
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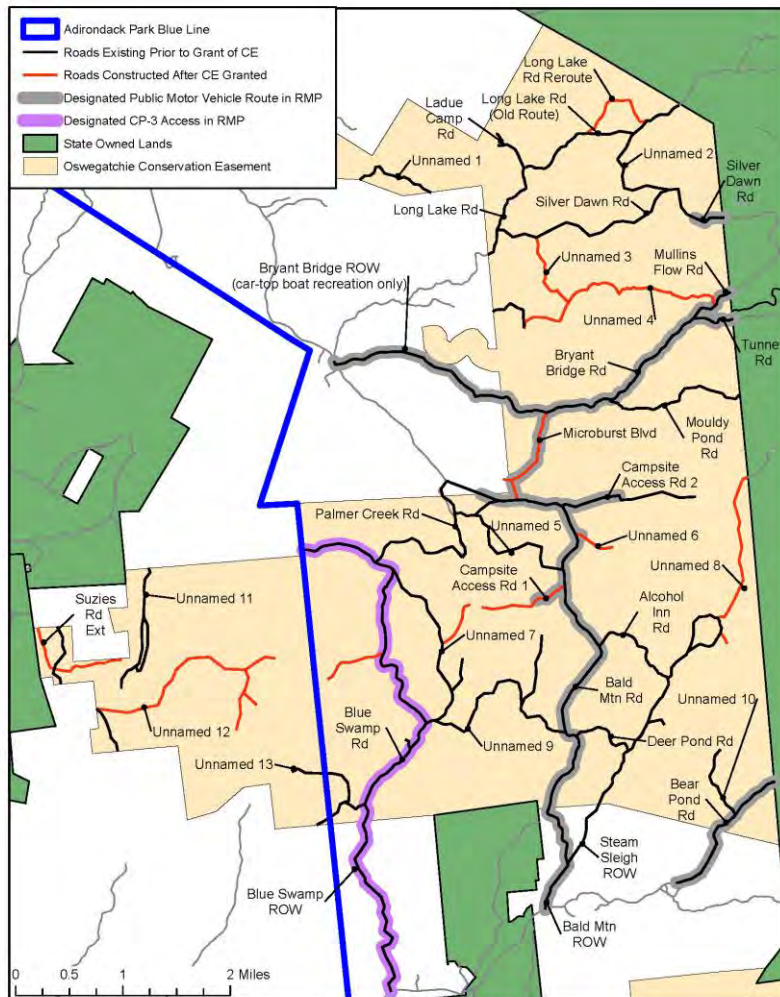
Wildlife

- WMU 6J
- Deer, Bear, Turkey, Furbearer Harvests are summarized in plan; managed by Division of Fish and Wildlife

Sensitive Species

- Breeding Bird Atlas Block: Species of Special Concern: Cerulean Warbler, Common Loon, and Sharp-shinned Hawk
- Herp Atlas: Species of Greatest Conservation Need: Smooth Green Snake





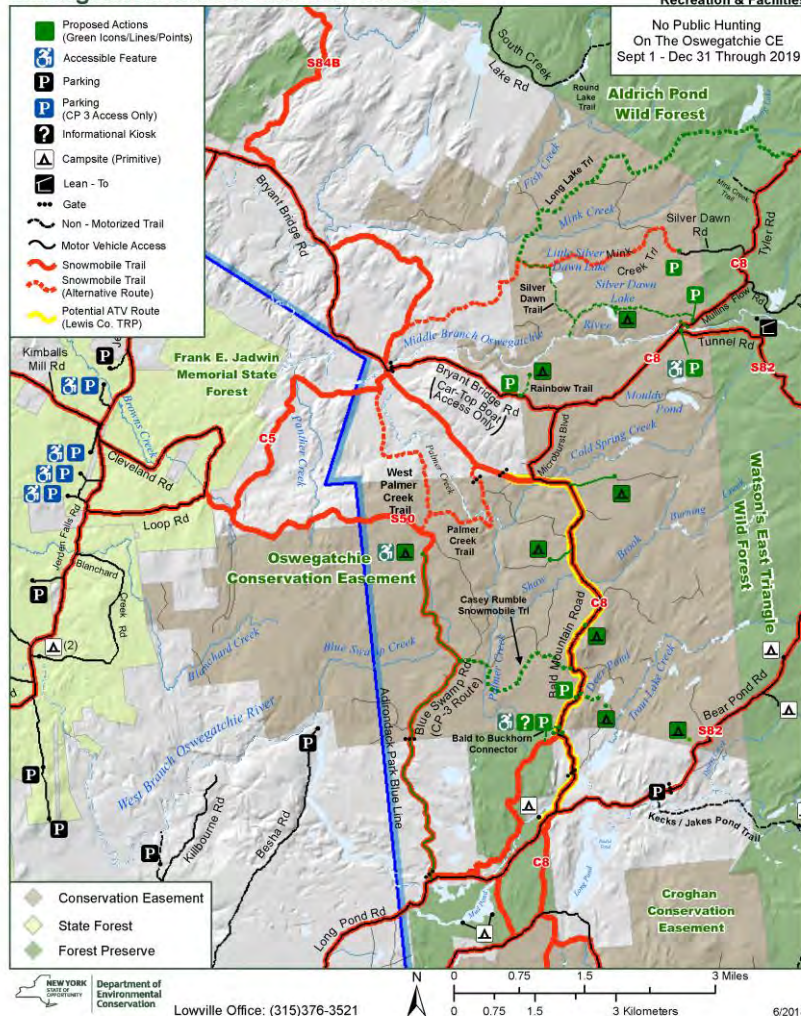
Depicted roads vary greatly in condition. Road conditions are summarized in Appendix I.

Oswegatchie CE Roads

- Gray highlight shows roads proposed to be open
- Purple highlight shows CP3 roads proposed to be open
- Bryant Bridge Road ROW is for car-top boat recreation only



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Proposed Recreation Management Summary

- 12.7 miles of road for general public access
- 5.7 miles of road under Motorized Access Program for People with Disabilities (CP3)
- 6 Parking Areas
- 17.6 miles of primary snowmobile routes, 6.7 miles designated as alternative routes
- 6.1 miles of foot trail
- 8 Campsites (4 car/truck access, 3 walk-in only, 1 universal access)
- Public fishing/trapping subject to applicable seasons.
- Public hunting January – August. Year-round after 2019.



Public Comments

Public Draft 1: Comments accepted 11/30/2016 – 2/1/2017

Revisions were made to the RMP.

Adirondack Park Agency issued an 814 Order relating to revisions on August 20, 2018.

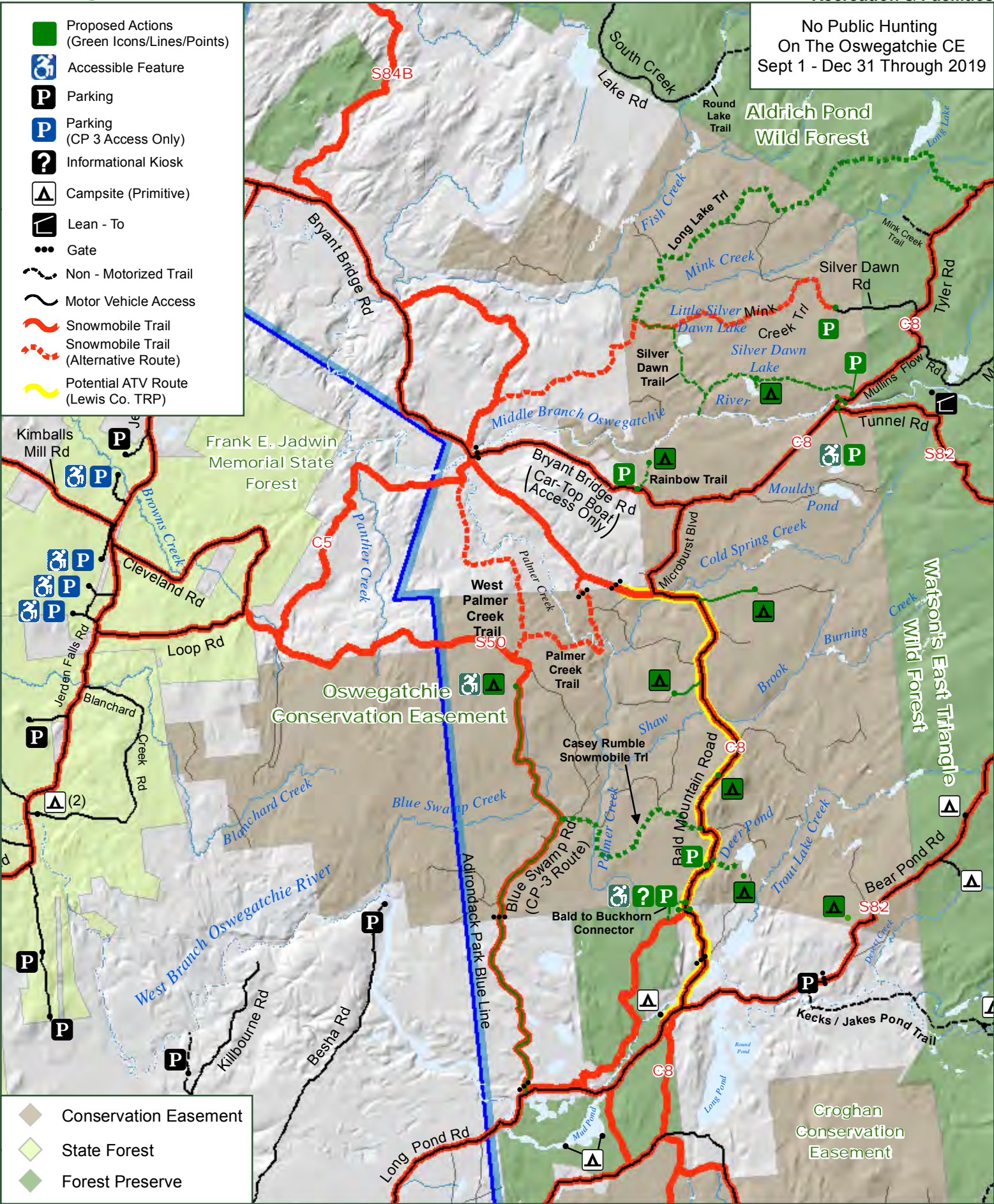
Public Draft 2: Comments accepted 11/21/2018 – 12/21/2018

Note: A summary of public comment and Department responses will be included as an appendix in the final plan



Oswegatchie Conservation Easement

Existing & Proposed
Recreation & Facilities





NYFOA

New York Forest Owners Association

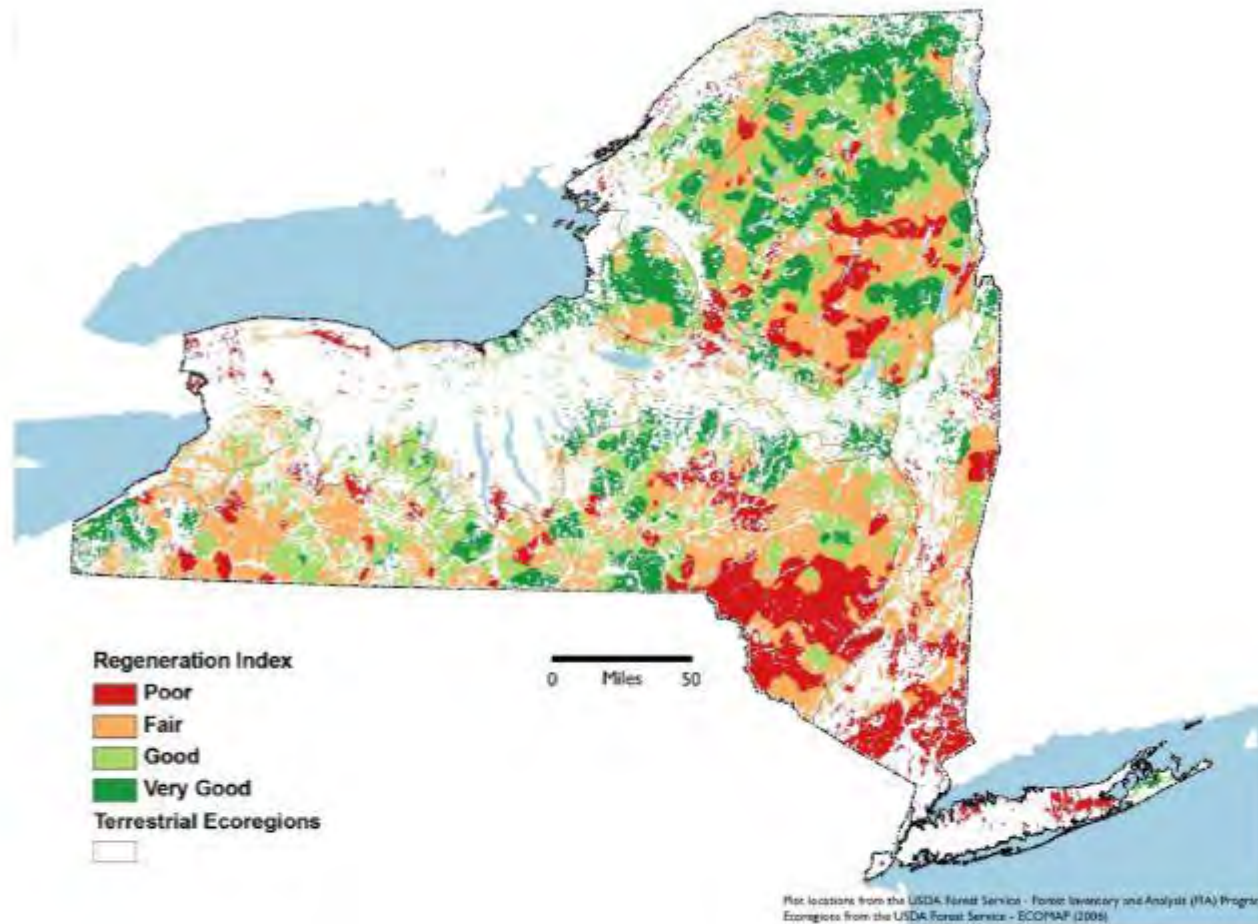


Figure 6. Predicted values for Regeneration Index of desirable timber species in New York State.



PROGRAMS – 2013-14

- . CHAPTER WOODSWALKS
- . MAGAZINE ARTICLES, WEBSITE
- . CORNELL ForestConnect, Webinars
- . FORESTER WORKSHOPS, SAF/Cornell
- . NRCS OUTREACH
- . DEMO. DEER EXCLOSURE GRANTS

PROGRAMS – 2015-17

- ORGANIZED FOREST STAKEHOLDER COALITION
- 2015 SYMPOSIUM “NY FORESTS AT RISK”
- PROPOSED STEWARDSHIP COST-SHARE
- ADVOCATED “EMPIRE FORESTS FOR THE FUTURE INITIATIVE”





The Elephant In The Room Is The Deer In The Woods

- A matter of life or death for the third generation forest.

FOREST STAKEHOLDERS FOR REDUCING DEER IMPACTS

PARTNERS

- NY Forest Owners Association
- Audubon NY
- Catskill Forest Association
- Empire State Forest Products Assn.
- NY Conservation Council
- NY Farm Bureau
- NY Maple

PARTNERS

- NY Tree Farm
- Society of American Foresters
- The Nature Conservancy
- Watershed Agriculture Council

- OTHER SUPPORTERS:
 - Cornell, SUNY ESF, Land Trust Alliance
 - Wildlife Society, Rensselaer Plateau All.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Prioritize forest ecosystem health in deer management decisions.
- Selectively accelerate herd reduction.
- Increase yield from DMP & DMAP.
- Reduce barriers to hunting access.
- Promote culling to eliminate sanctuaries.
- Consider additional research needs.
- Communications





NYFOA

New York Forest Owners Association



NEW YORK
STATE OF
OPPORTUNITY

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Cornell University
Cooperative Extension

Using Citizen Science to Assess Vegetation Impacts from Deer (AVID)

Paul Curtis, Peter Smallidge, and Kristi Sullivan

New York State Forests

- New York State is 63 percent forested -- forests cover 18.9 of the 30 million total acres
- The forest industry employs more than 60,000 people and directly contributes some \$4.6 billion to the state's economy each year
- Biodiversity is essential to the health of New York forests to support ecosystem functions



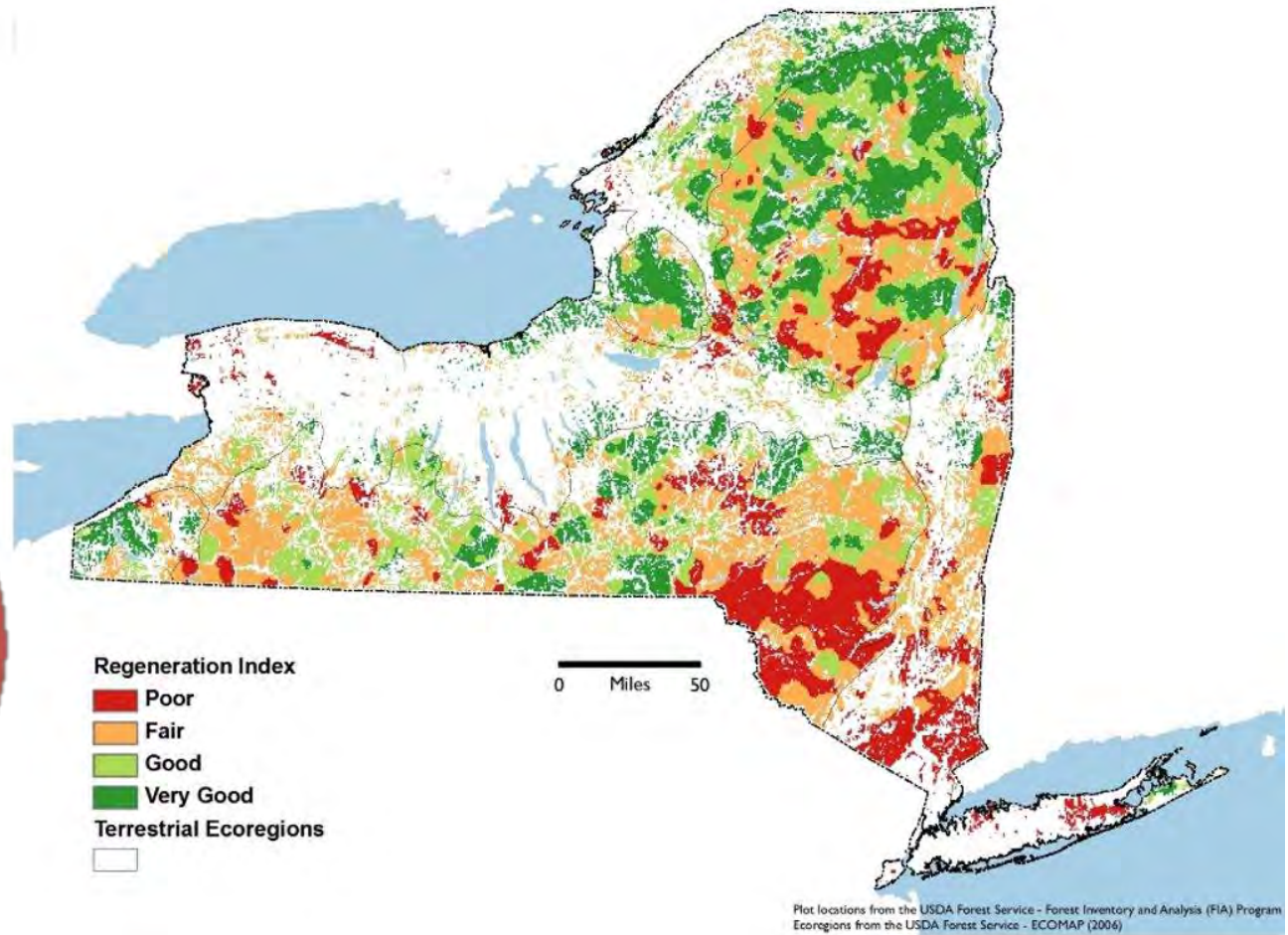


Figure 6. Predicted values for Regeneration Index of desirable timber species in New York State.

DEC Deer Management Objectives

Objective 5.1. Maintain deer impacts on forested ecosystems at levels that support sustainable forest habitats.

Strategy 5.1.1: Evaluate the use of USDA Forest Inventory and Analysis data to **classify the regeneration status of canopy-tree species** within each WMU aggregate.

Strategy 5.1.2: Identify and incorporate an **index of deer impact on forests into deer population objective setting** and management decision making for each WMU aggregate.

Strategy 5.1.3: Develop a simple and effective **protocol for conducting an inventory of deer impacts** on state lands.





Assessing Vegetation Impacts from Deer (AVID)



- Objective is to assess deer impacts on forest regeneration when setting deer management goals.
- Currently little “on the ground data” are available.
- DEC has funded CCE to develop a citizen-science program to better understand impacts of deer browsing.

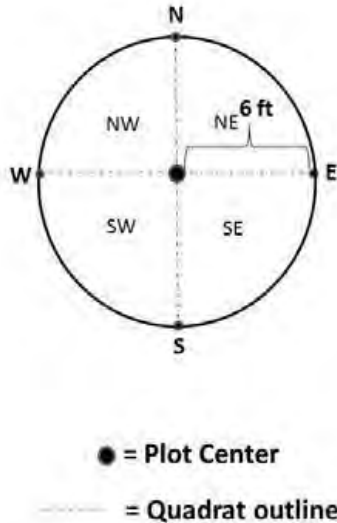


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Cornell University
College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

Plot Establishment

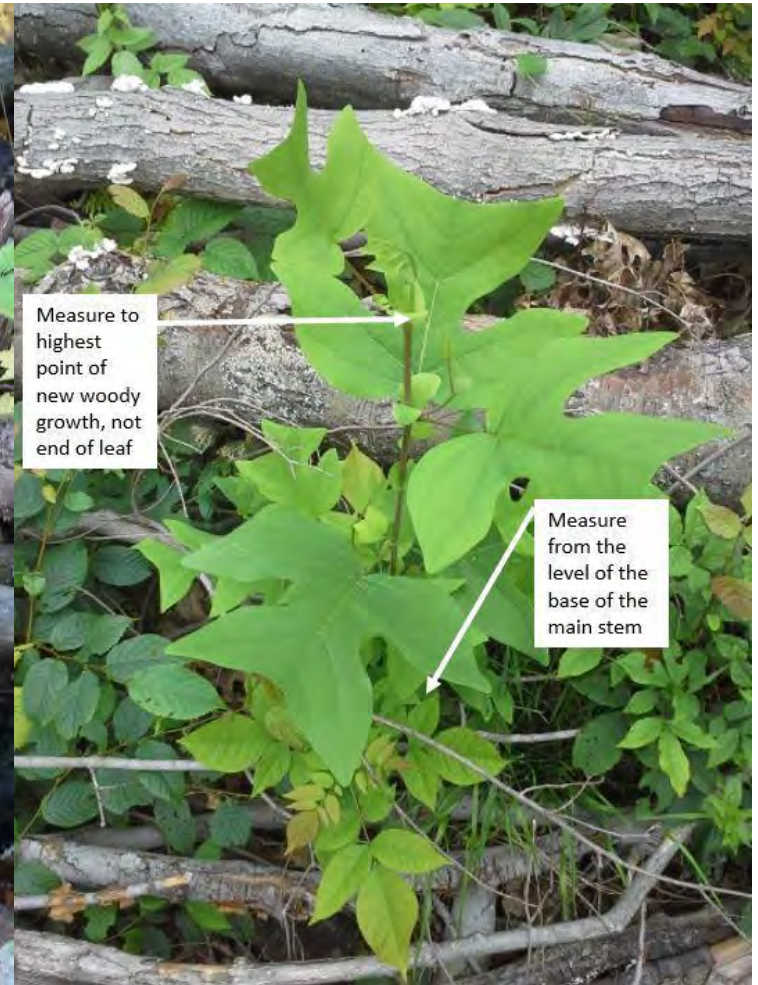


- Establish 6 plots total
- Record canopy cover, ground cover, dominant species



Tag and measure
height of 5 individual
seedlings from each
species

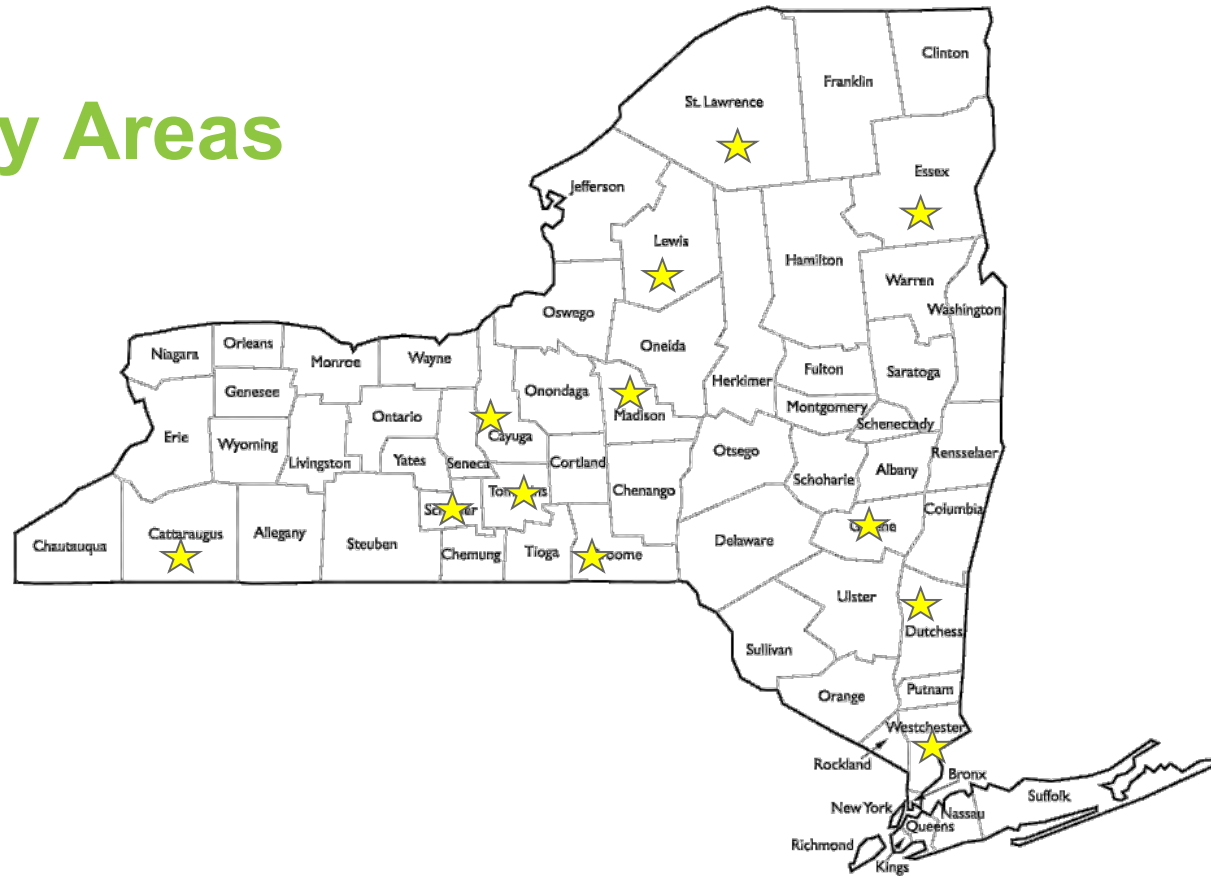
6 plots x 5 seedlings =
30 seedlings per site





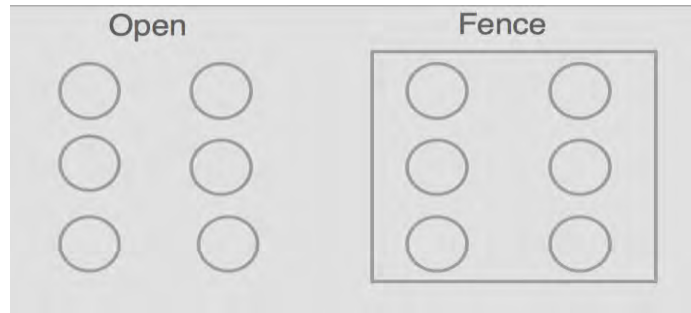
Study Areas

- AVID plots currently at 43 active sites
- 25 sites have been measured consecutively for 3 years



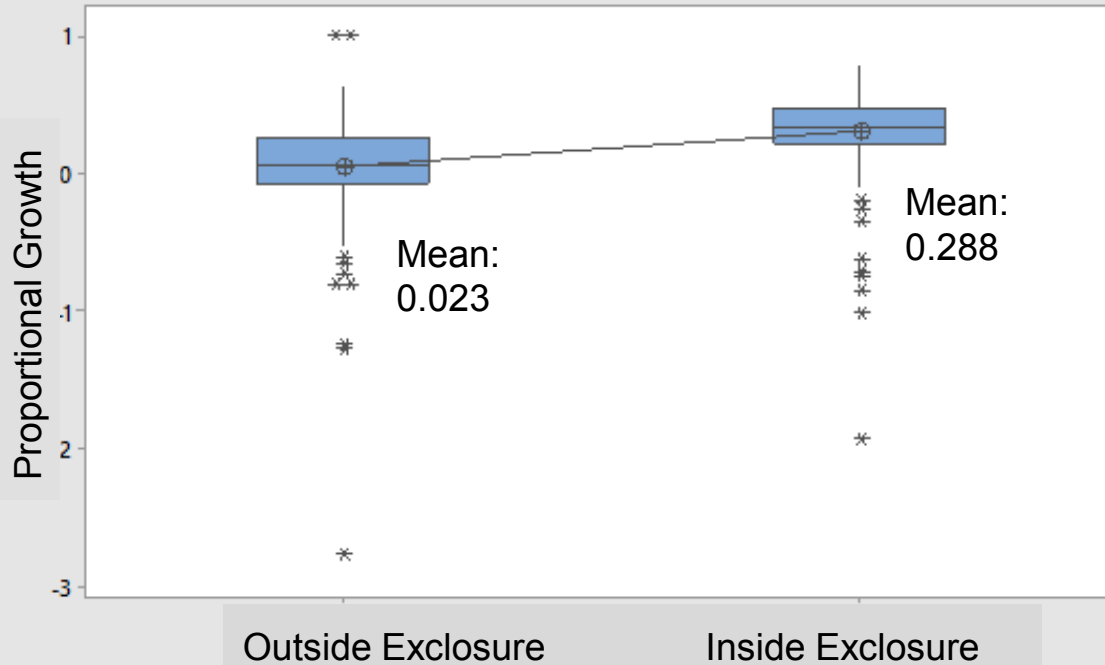
Deer Exclosures

- ③ Deer exclosures prevent deer browse
- ③ Plots were paired inside and outside exclosures with similar tree species
- ③ Helps to assess differences in growth with and without exposure to deer browsing



Results - All species

Proportional Growth from 2016 to 2018



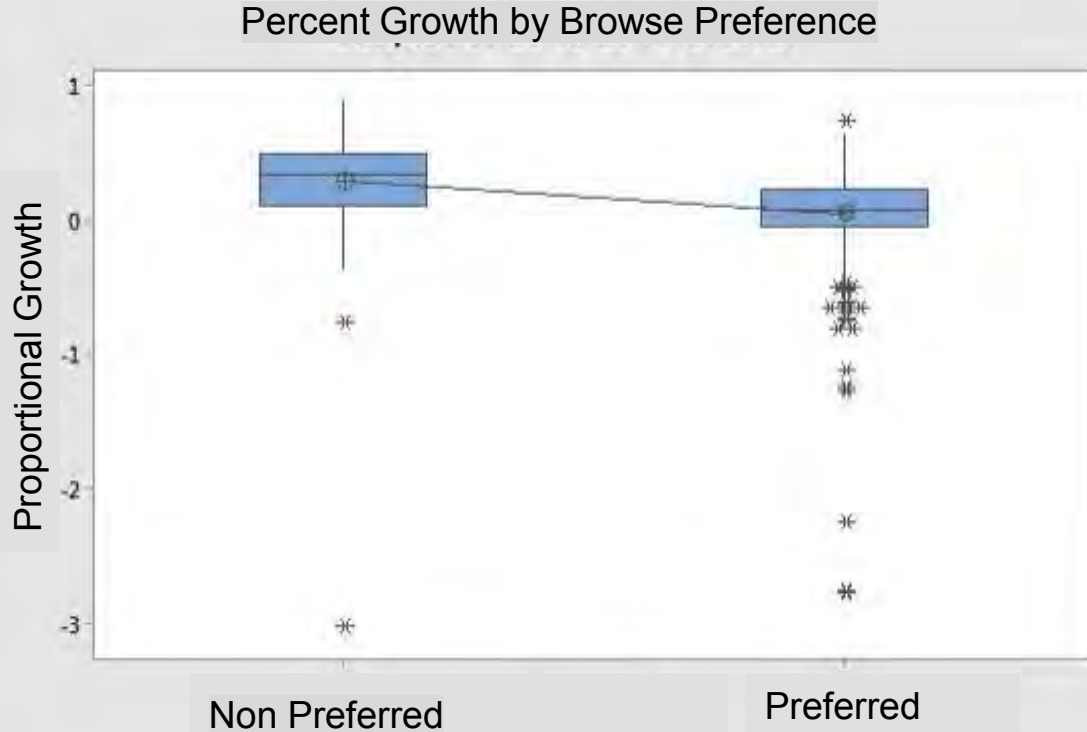
T value: -6.99
P Value: 0.000

Growth between Preferred and Non-preferred Species

<u>Preferred species</u>	<u>Non-preferred species</u>
Aspen	American Beech
Cherry	American Hornbeam
Oak	Hop hornbeam
Red Maple	Sassafras
Sugar Maple	Spicebush
White Ash	Striped Maple
Yellow Birch	



Difference in Height from 2016-2018 in Preferred vs. Non-preferred Species



Preference	Mean growth
Preferred	0.0473
Non-preferred	0.2879

T Value	-7.96
P Value	0.000



Mean Seedling Growth (in.) by Preferred Species from 2016 to 2018

Species	Mean growth OUTSIDE exclosures
Aspen	41.9
Cherry	-1.0
Oak	-0.3
Red Maple	1.9
Sugar Maple	-0.2
White Ash	0.6
Yellow Birch	4.8

Mean Seedling Growth (in.) by Non-Preferred Species from 2016 to 2018

Species	Mean growth OUTSIDE exclosures
American Beech	14.0
American Hornbeam	2.2
Hop hornbeam	3.3
Sassafras	1.2
Spicebush	2.6
Striped Maple	1.9



Mean Seedling Growth (in.) by Species from 2016 to 2018

Species	Mean growth OUTSIDE exclosures	Mean Growth INSIDE exclosures
Cherry	-0.9	-2.3*
Oak	-0.3	0.7
Red Maple	1.9	6.3
Sugar Maple	-0.2	3.3
White Ash	0.6	5.0

AVID Next Steps

- Goal: 100 sites / WMU Aggregate = 2,300 sites
- Workshops and training volunteers
- Mobile App – full process
- User engagement



AVID Next Steps

Mapping function:

- Ability to display locations where participants have collected data (by county, by WMU aggregate)

Simple data outputs:

- Average seedling growth by species for individual participant
- Average seedling growth by species by county and WMU
- Most commonly selected species being monitored

