

ATTACHMENT D
APSLMP AREA DESCRIPTIONS
(COMPARISON SHOWING CHANGES FROM
OCTOBER 2011).

HUDSON GORGE

This ~~Primitive Wilderness~~ Area is in the ~~Town~~ Towns of Newcomb and Minerva, Essex County, and the Town of Indian Lake, Hamilton County. It encompasses the wildest and most remote section of the Hudson River, as well as a spectacular white water gorge.

There are two ~~designated~~ foot trails within this area that have long been designated for public use by the Department. From the south, a trail leads from Route 28 to Whortleberry Pond, with short spur trails to Ross and Big Bad Luck Ponds. From the north, a trail begins on Northwoods Club Road and ends at Blue Ledge on the Hudson River. There are no public roads or other access routes to this section of the Hudson River. In the past relatively few people were successful in navigating the waters by canoe, boat or raft. These factors had served to retain this portion of the river and its immediate surroundings in a near wilderness condition. River access has significantly increased with the development of commercial rafting since the early 1980's.

Although ~~there are~~ no established foot trails ~~that~~ parallel this section of the Hudson River, the two above-mentioned trails, particularly the Blue Ledge Trail, ~~receives~~ receive considerable use.

~~Private~~ There is also a trail network on the recently acquired lands ~~border about two miles,~~ developed by previous landowners, that may be designated in whole or in part for public use, including trails to OK Slip Falls.

~~Unlike the majority of the approximately ten-mile river section included~~ Adirondack Park, ~~much of the underlying bedrock~~ in this area-

~~is calcareous, which is reflected by the species and natural communities that occupy these lands and waters. The river has furnished some excellent fishing corridors along the Hudson and Cedar Rivers, along with limey cliffs and wetlands, feature a diversity of bryophytes and vascular plants that may be unmatched in the Park. In addition to this, the public is attracted to the scenic biological diversity. Blue Ledge provides dramatic cliffs enjoyed by those who run the river or hike to the ledges. Opportunities for good brook trout fishing are available along the river and~~ at several interior ponds.

The distance between Newcomb and North River is the most dramatic white water trip in the Adirondacks, if not the State as a whole, and one of the most demanding and hazardous. Since the early 1980's, commercial white water rafting, utilizing a release from the Lake Abanakee dam which permits rafts to gain access via the Indian River, has increased dramatically on the lower portion of this route. This type of use has reached about the maximum level consistent with the carrying capacity of the resources of the river banks and wild character of the river and care should be taken not to exceed present use levels.

~~Non-conforming uses that were closed include 2.5 miles of jeep trails and 2.3 miles of snowmobile trails.~~

~~The~~
~~This area is was originally~~ classified as Primitive because of ~~the~~ substantial amount of private ~~land that intrudes in~~holdings in the vicinities of the ~~area~~confluence with the Indian River and Blue Ledge and the critical relationship of ~~that land~~those lands to the river gorge. ~~This~~The area ~~should be~~was upgraded to Wilderness ~~as soon as in 2013 after most of~~ the private lands ~~can be~~ including their entire river frontage – were acquired ~~or their uses limited by conservation easement so as to be compatible with the adjacent State lands. Pursuit of these acquisitions or easements should be a matter of highest priority.~~

~~The Department developed an Interim Access Plan for this area in June 2013.~~

This area does not yet have an adopted Unit Management Plan.

Hudson Gorge area statistics:

| | | | |
|----------------------|----------------|--------|-----------|
| State Lands | 16,517 | 23,518 | Acres |
| Bodies of Water (29) | 352 | 25 | 314 Acres |
| Foot Trails | 6.67 | | Miles |
| Non-conforming Uses: | | | None |

WILDERNESS STATISTICAL TOTALS:

| | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| State Lands | 1,122,319 | Acres |
| Private Inholdings (32) | 21,530 | Acres |
| Bodies of Water (-982) | 19,295 | Acres |
| Foot Trails | 780 | 787 Miles |
| Horse Trails | 75 | Miles |
| Lean-tos | 151 | |
| Impoundments | 5 | |
| Non-conforming Uses: | | |
| Ranger Cabins* | 2 | |
| Telephone Lines | 4 | Miles |
| (on the ground) | | |
| Roads (public) | 2.73 | Miles |
| Steel Bridge | 1 | |
| Suspension Bridge | 1 | |
| Gravel Pit | 1 | |
| Powerline Power Line | | 0.6 Miles |

*Non-conforming uses whose removal cannot be scheduled by a fixed deadline.

ESSEX CHAIN LAKES

This area was classified in 2013 and is located in the Towns of Newcomb and Minerva in Essex County and the Town of Indian Lake in Hamilton County. The dominant feature of the landscape is the Essex Chain Lakes, a series of eight interconnected lakes. Together with nearby ponds, this tract has eleven lakes and ponds that are interconnected or within portaging distance of each other to provide a six- to seven- mile canoe route.

Significant wetlands surround many of the water bodies and are also found throughout the upland area. Both emergent marshes and deepwater marsh wetlands border the Essex Chain Lakes. These wetlands provide nesting habitat, food and cover for wildlife, stabilize lake sediment and cycle large quantities of nutrients. Deepwater marsh wetlands provide valuable fish spawning and nursery habitat and are a food source for waterfowl and other wildlife. Several emergent and deepwater wetland plants are found in the channels which connect the lakes, including two state protected species.

Rivers in the unit include portions of the Cedar and Rock Rivers. The Rock River is designated Scenic and the Cedar River is designated Wild from the southeast edge of the area to its confluence with the Rock River, at which place its designation changes to Scenic.

There are permanent restrictions on the land that preclude Wilderness classification. Prior to transferring these lands to the State, The Nature Conservancy granted easements to the Towns of Minerva and Newcomb over portions of the Essex Chain Lakes Tract that will allow for, as permitted by DEC, float plane access to First and Pine Lakes. The easement also grants the Towns access to, and use of materials from, two gravel pits located on the periphery of the property in order to provide gravel to maintain roads, trails and other infrastructure in this Area that may be open for motorized use. These activities would be nonconforming in lands classified as Wilderness. Even across adjacent lands and waters, such as the Essex Chain Lakes other than First Lake, the activities of float plane use in such close proximity to the lakes would significantly detract from the sense of remoteness expected in Wilderness.

The Department developed an Interim Access Plan for this area in June 2013.

This area does not yet have an adopted Unit Management Plan.

Essex Chain Lakes area statistics:

| | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| <u>State Lands</u> | <u>6,914 acres</u> |
| <u>Waterbodies (14)</u> | <u>620 acres</u> |
| <u>Non-conforming Uses:</u> | |
| <u>Camps</u> | |
| <u>Roads (private)</u> | <u>indeterminate mileage</u> |
| <u>Float Plane Access*</u> | <u>1 lake.</u> |

OK SLIP POND

Located in the Town of Minerva, Essex County, this area includes a 2.6-mile long segment of road that crosses the Hudson Gorge Wilderness and leads to a private inholding surrounding OK Slip Pond. The area includes the road, the distribution power line that serves the inholding and an 11-acre parcel abutting State Route 28 that is occupied by a transmission power line. This road is not open to the public. Should the private inholding ever be acquired by the State, the road should be closed to all motorized use and the lands of this Primitive corridor and the inholding should be classified as Wilderness.

The Department developed an Interim Access Plan for this area in June 2013.

This area does not yet have an adopted Unit Management Plan.

OK Slip Pond area statistics:

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------|
| State Lands | 30 acres |
| <u>Non-conforming Uses</u> | |
| Road (private)* | 2.6 miles |
| Powerlines* | 2 |

PINE LAKE

This area is located in the Towns of Newcomb and Minerva in Essex County and the Town of Long Lake in Hamilton County. This area was classified in 2013 and includes lands from the TNC/Finch acquisition and a portion of the Blue Mountain Wild Forest that was reclassified. The eastern boundary follows the Cedar River north to a point where a bridge once crossed the river. The boundary then follows, but does not include, the western edge of the Cornell Road (South).

Prominent features of this area include Pine Lake and Mud, Clear and Corner Ponds. The easements held by the Towns of Minerva and Newcomb for float plane landings on Pine Lake prevent this area from being designated as Wilderness or Canoe, but it offers a rare and remote recreational opportunity and its natural resources are sensitive, which requires wilderness management.

Pending resolution of legal and regulatory issues concerning potential recreational uses and resource impacts of a potential Wild Forest corridor, the unclassified lands between this Primitive Area and the Essex Chain Lakes Primitive Area may be classified Primitive. If this Wild Forest Corridor is not established, the two Primitive Areas will be merged as the Essex Chain Lakes Primitive Area.

The Department developed an Interim Access Plan for this area in June 2013.

This area does not yet have an adopted Unit Management Plan.

Pine Lake area statistics:

| | |
|----------------------|-------------|
| State Lands | 2,793 acres |
| Waterbodies (4) | 147 acres |
| Non-conforming Uses: | |
| Floatplane access* | 1 Lake |

POLARIS MOUNTAIN

This area is located on the east side of the Hudson River in the Town of Newcomb, Essex County, including the waters of the river directly adjacent to this land. Although the land is owned by the State, the lessees of these camps have exclusive use of the existing roads and one-acre parcels surrounding each camp until October 1, 2018. One year following termination of the camp leases, no later than October 1, 2019, this area will automatically and without further Agency action be reclassified as Wilderness and added to the Hudson Gorge Wilderness.

The Department developed an Interim Access Plan for this area in June 2013.

This area does not yet have an adopted Unit Management Plan.

Polaris Mountain area statistics:

| | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| State Lands | 964 acres |
| Waterbodies (1) | 18 acres |
| Non-conforming Uses | |
| Camps | |
| Roads (private) | indeterminate mileage |

PRIMITIVE AREA STATISTICAL TOTALS:

| | | |
|---|---|---------------------------|
| State Lands | 45,385 <u>32,567</u> | Acres |
| Private Inholdings | (3) <u>107</u> | Acres |
| Bodies of Water | (40) 811 <u>34</u> <u>1,282</u> | Acres |
| Foot Trails | 19.8 | Miles |
| Non-conforming Uses: | | |
| Roads (public)* | 7.85 | Miles |
| Roads (private)* | 63.43 | Miles |
| Roads (State-owned with private access) | | <u>undetermined Miles</u> |

| | |
|--------------------|-----------|
| Snowmobile Trails* | |
| Public | 6 Miles |
| Private | 2.3 Miles |

| | |
|----------------------------|----------------|
| Fire Towers* | 1 |
| Observer Cabins* | 1 |
| Ranger Cabins* | 1 |
| Lighthouse* | 1 |
| House and Outbuildings* | |
| Railroad* | 2 Miles |
| Railroad Station | 1 |
| Camps | 4 |
| Dams | 2 |
| Steel Bridge | 1 |
| <u>Power Lines*</u> | <u>2</u> |
| <u>Float Plane Access*</u> | <u>2 Lakes</u> |

*Permanent non-conforming uses or non-conforming uses whose removal cannot be scheduled by a fixed deadline.

BLUE MOUNTAIN

This area is located in Hamilton and western Essex counties. It is generally bounded by Route 30 on the west and south, the Indian River and Hudson River on the east and Route 28N on the north.

The terrain varies from gentle around the easily accessible and popular Rock Lake to extremely steep and rugged in the remote Fishing Brook Range.

The 3,759-foot Blue Mountain dominates the landscape for some distance around, offering wide ranging views in all directions for those willing to make a short but steep hike to the summit from the picturesque hamlet of Blue Mountain Lake. Tirrell Pond nestlesis nestled to the northeast of Blue Mountain and, due to relatively easy access, affords an excellent opportunity for day use or primitive camping. Opportunities for more remote and rugged explorations through some truly wild back county are afforded by long, lower segments of the Rock and Cedar Rivers – designated Scenic and Wild, respectively – just upriver of where they reach the Essex Chain Lakes and Pine Lake Primitive Areas.

~~—With the exception of a crossing of the Northville-Lake Placid trail, the ridge from East Inlet Mountain to the Fishing Brook Range represents a wild, unbroken ten mile block of Forest Preserve,~~

In 2013, with the addition of the Nature Conservancy/Finch land acquisition, some existing portions of the northeastern section of this unit near the Essex Chain Lakes were reclassified to Primitive and added to the Essex Chain Lakes and Pine Lake Primitive Areas. At the same time, a major block of the newly acquired lands north of the lakes, extending from the Cornell Road in the west, eastward to the Hudson River and northward toward Newcomb, was classified as Wild Forest and added to the area. Wild Forest access along the Boots to Cornell Road to the south shore of Fifth Lake was established for the purpose of Universal Access only.

Further south, additional land from the Indian River Tract west of the Chain Lakes Road (South) was added to this unit, including the road itself from the edge of the unit northwest to the old boundary of the Essex Chain Lakes Tract. Also in 2013, a 1/10-mile wide corridor following and including the old Camp 6 Road from its beginning at Drakes Mill Road to the north, south to its end at the Cedar River, was classified Wild Forest and added to the area. This corridor separates the Essex Chain Lakes Primitive Area from the northernmost reaches of the Hudson Gorge Wilderness and may allow for certain mechanized or motorized uses along it.

In the event the Pine Lake Primitive Area is merged into the Essex Chain Lakes Primitive Area, the corridor of Wild Forest in this area south of First Lake and north of Pine Lake will be reclassified to Primitive from the old boundary of the Essex Chain Lakes Tract to the confluence of First Lake outlet ("The Chain Drain") with the Rock River.

Consistent with Master Plan guidelines for Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers, the waters of the Hudson River in this area shall be free from motorized activity.

A Unit Management Plan was adopted for this area in 1995.

VANDERWHACKER MOUNTAIN

This area is located in the Towns of Chester, Johnsbury, Keene, Minerva, Newcomb, North Hudson, and Schroon in Essex and Warren Counties. It is generally bounded on the south by the Siamese Ponds-Hudson Gorge Wilderness and State Route 8; on the west by the Hudson River and the Hudson Gorge Primitive Area; on the east by State Route 9 and Schroon Lake; and on the north by State Route 28N and the High Peaks Wilderness.

The three primary attractions of the area are the lakes and ponds, the Hudson and Boreas River Rivers and Vanderwhacker Mountain. The latter, by virtue of its isolated location, provides perhaps the best view of the High Peaks from the south in the Park. From the summit of Vanderwhacker Vanderwhacker Mountain-It, it is also possible to trace the course of the Hudson River and gain an appreciation of that river's magnificancemagnificence.

The Hudson River and the Boreas River, a within this area are designated scenic river, is one of the most beautiful Adirondack Scenic rivers. White water stretches, interspersed with stillwaters, provide a variety of scenes to hold one's appreciation. The Wolf Pond, Durgin Brook and Lester Flow sections of the Upper Boreas are well known to bird clubs. There are plant and birdlife communities of unusual interest, particularly thethose featuring boreal species.

Consistent with Master Plan guidelines for Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers, the waters of the Hudson River in this area shall be free from motorized activity.

A Unit Management Plan was adopted for this area in 2005.

STATE ADMINISTRATIVE AREAS

Lands included in the State Administrative classification:

CLINTON

Ausable -- Maintenance Area, Rt. 9N-I-87 - DOT
Dannemora -- Correctional Facility - Dept. of Correctional Services
Dannemora -- Correctional Facility – DCS
Dannemora -- Clinton East Annex - DCS
Dannemora -- Surplus Property - OGS
Dannemora -- Adk. Correctional Treatment & Evaluation Center
Dannemora -- ROW- SH 5186, Vacant Land - DOT
Saranac SH -- 1398 Moffittsville/Franklin, Maintenance Area – DOT
Saranac -- Vacant, Rt. 3/Saranac River – DCS
Saranac – Cemetery, Douglas Rd. –DCS
Saranac – Cemetery, Ryan Rd. –DCS
Saranac – Vacant, West side of Picketts Corner Rd. – DCS
Saranac – Vacant, East and West sides of Picketts Corner Rd. – DCS
Saranac – Vacant, Picketts Corner Rd. at Barnham Brook Rd. - DCS

ESSEX

Crown Point – Maintenance Area, Factoryville Rd. – DOT
Chesterfield – Maintenance Area, Rt. 22 - DOT
Elizabethtown -- Rt. 9N - Essex County Stonehouse Maintenance Area – DOT
Keene – Route 73, Essex County Sub-headquarter - DOT
Lewis -- West of Exit 32, Maintenance Area - DOT
Minerva -- Maintenance Area, Rt. 28N – DOT
[Minerva – One acre gravel pit along Chain Lakes Road \(South\)](#)
[Newcomb – One acre gravel pit along Chain Lakes Road \(North\)](#)
[Newcomb – One acre gravel pit north of Deer Pond](#)
North Elba -- Camp Adirondack - DCS
North Elba -- Ray Brook State Office Complex
North Hudson -- Maintenance Area, Exit 30 - DOT
Schroon -- Schroon Lake Sewage Treatment Plant - EFC
Schroon -- Horseshoe Brook Pumping Station, Utility - EFC
Schroon -- Int. Rts. 9, 73/Maintenance Area, Residency Office - DOT
Severance -- Maintenance Area - Int. Rts. 9 & 73 - DOT
Stowerville -- Maintenance Area - 2 mi. west of I.87 - DOT
Ticonderoga -- 315 Champlain Ave., State Armory, Div. Military, Naval Affairs
Underwood -- Maintenance Area - Rt. 9 - DOT
Westport-- N. Main Street, Sewage Treatment Plant - EFC
Westport -- Pumping Station No. 1, Washington Avenue - EFC

Westport -- Pumping Station No. 2, S. Main Street - EFC
Wilmington -- Atmospheric Sciences Research Center

FRANKLIN

Duane -- Maintenance Area Rt. 458, "Meacham Lake" - DOT
Franklin -- Maintenance Area Rt. 3, Vermontville - DOT
Harrietstown -- State Armory
Harrietstown -- Maintenance Area Rt. 86, Lake Clear Jct. – DOT & DEC
Harrietstown -- Wawbeek Maintenance Area - DOT
Santa Clara -- Adirondack Fish Hatchery
Tupper Lake -- Sunmount Developmental Center - DMH

FULTON

Northampton -- Maintenance Area SH 362 - DOT
Northampton -- DEC, Northville - DEC
Rockwood 29 -- DOT

HAMILTON

Arietta -- Maintenance Area - Rt. 10, 1.5 mi. north of Fulton County - DOT
Indian Lake -- Maintenance Area, Residency - DOT
Hoffmeister -- Maintenance Area, Rt. 8 – DOT
Long Lake -- Maintenance Area, Rts. 28N, 30 - DOT
Long Lake -- Maintenance Area Rt. 28, Raquette Lake Patrol
Long Lake -- Maintenance Area SH 5189, Long Lake Patrol
Long Lake -- Little Tupper Lake Headquarters, Rt.10, 4 mi. west of Rt. 3
Long Lake – Raquette Lake Water Supply – DEC
Long Lake – Maintenance Area, Sagamore Road - DOT
Wells -- Hamilton County Sub-headquarters

ST. LAWRENCE

Colton -- Town of Colton Maintenance Area-Rt. 3 - DOT
Colton – Cranberry Lake Maintenance Center - DEC
Fine -- St. Lawrence Power Radio Tower
Fine -- Radio Tower Site – PASNY
Fine -- Ranger School – SUNY ESF
Hopkinton -- White Hill Radio Towers

WARREN

Lake George -- Residential Bldg. Location/I-87 - DOT
Chester SS -- Rt. 8, Maintenance Area – DOT

Chestertown -- Maintenance Area-I-87, Exit 25 on Rt. 8 – DOT
Johnsburg – Maintenance Area, Peaceful Valley Road -DOT
Warrensburg -- Parking Lot SH 5157 Warrensburg-Chestertown - DOT
Warrensburg -- Maintenance Area near I-87/Lake George-Warrensburg - DOT
Warrensburg -- Warren County Storehouse Site
Warrensburg -- DEC Office-DEC Warrensburg-Warren County Residency on Rt. 9
Queensbury -- DOT properties - DOT