 <p><b>Adirondack Park Agency</b></p> <p>P.O. Box 99 • Ray Brook, New York 12977 • (518) 891-4050 · Fax; (518) 891-3938 www.apa.ny.gov</p>	<p><b>APA Project Permit 2015-76</b></p>
<p>In the Matter of the Application of</p> <p><b>MWF ADIRONDAKS, LLC and THE MOLPUS WOODLANDS GROUP, LLC</b></p> <p>for a permit pursuant to §809 of the Adirondack Park Agency Act</p>	<p>Date Issued:</p>
	<p>To the County Clerk: This permit must be recorded on or before _____ . Please index this permit in the grantor index _____ under the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>1. MWF Adirondacks, LLC</b></li><li><b>2. The Molpus woodlands Group, LLC</b></li></ol>

**SUMMARY AND AUTHORIZATION**

This permit authorizes a proposed clearcutting of a single unit of land of more than 25 acres in size in an area classified Resource Management by the Official Adirondack Park Land Use and Development Plan Map in the Town of Piercefield, St. Lawrence County.

This permit shall expire unless recorded in the St. Lawrence County Clerk's Office on or before \_\_\_\_\_, in the names of all persons listed above and in the names of all owners of record of any portion of the project site on the recordation date.

The project shall not be undertaken or continued unless the project authorized herein is in existence within four years from the date the permit is recorded.

The project shall be undertaken in compliance with all conditions stated herein. Failure to comply with this permit is a violation and may subject the permittee, successors, and assigns to civil penalties and other legal proceedings.

Nothing contained in this permit shall be construed to satisfy any legal obligations of the permittee to obtain any governmental approval or permit from any entity other than the Agency, whether federal, State, regional or local.

## **PROJECT SITE**

The project site is a 495±-acre portion of the 2,249 acre “Dead Creek” Conservation Easement, located north of Conifer Road in the Town of Piercefield, St. Lawrence County, in an area classified Resource Management on the Adirondack Park Land Use and Development Plan Map. The site is identified on Town of Piercefield Tax Map Section 207, Block 4 as Parcel 6.11, and is described in a deed from Rayonier Forest Resources, L.P to MWF Adirondacks, LLC, dated December 23, 2013, and recorded January 3, 2014 in the St. Lawrence County Clerk's Office under Instrument Number R-2014-00000065.

## **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The project as conditionally approved herein involves timber harvesting on 495± acres, within the 2,249 acre “Dead Creek” Conservation Easement. The area proposed for treatment were last harvested with a shelterwood establishment treatment approximately 15 years ago by a previous owner. The shelterwood establishment has been successful, and now an overstory removal harvest is proposed for the entirety of the project site. All stems six inches diameter at breast height (dbh) and greater will be removed to release the regeneration that has grown in the understory. The regeneration is very well established at approximately 5,500 stems per acre, and is composed of a desirable species mix throughout the project site.

The harvest will be undertaken using standard mechanized logging equipment. Felling will be done using a tracked feller buncher. A grapple skidder will transport logs to the landing. Pulp wood will be chipped on-site and transported off-site by truck.

No new roads are proposed. Minor maintenance is required to prepare the existing log roads and existing stream and wetland crossings. Two existing landing areas will be re-established and widened for use in the proposed harvest. Skidder trails will be established in accordance with New York State Best Management Practices for Water Quality, and Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) certification standards.

The project site is shown and described in the following documentation:

- A harvest plan map entitled “Carriage Road Clearcut APA Permit Tax Map, “ prepared by Nate Dickerson and dated April 10, 2015;
- A three page harvest plan entitled “Harvest Prescription Fact Sheet,” ( “timber harvest plan”), prepared by Jeff Denkenberger and stamped as received by the Agency on May 12, 2015.

A copy of the harvest plan map is attached as a part of this permit for easy reference. The original maps and plans described in this paragraph are the official plans for the project, with copies available upon request from Adirondack Park Agency headquarters in Ray Brook, New York.

### **AGENCY JURISDICTION**

The project requires an Agency permit pursuant to §§ 809(2)(a) and 810(1)(e)(11) of the Adirondack Park Agency Act [Executive Law, Article 27], because it involves timber harvesting that includes a proposed clearcutting of a single unit of land of more than 25 acres on Resource Management lands.

### **CONDITIONS**

#### **THE PROJECT IS APPROVED SUBJECT TO THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS:**

1. The project shall not be undertaken until this permit has been recorded in the St. Lawrence County Clerk's Office.
2. This permit is binding on the permittee, all present and future owners or lessees of the project site, and all persons undertaking all or a portion of the project, for as long as the activities described herein continue on the site. Copies of this permit and the harvest plan shall be furnished by the permittee to all persons undertaking any of the activities authorized herein.
3. In addition to complying with all terms and conditions of this permit, all future activities on the project site shall be undertaken in compliance with the requirements of New York State's Adirondack Park Agency Act, Freshwater Wetlands Act [Article 24 of the Environmental Conservation Law], and the Adirondack Park Agency's implementation regulations [9 NYCRR §§ 570-588].

#### **Forest Certification Standards**

4. Authorization for the proposal described herein shall only remain valid so long as the permittee maintains a current Sustainable Forestry Initiative Certification.

#### **Forest Management Plan, Timber Harvest Plan and Best Management Practices**

5. The harvests described herein shall be undertaken under the supervision of a professional forester. The professional forester shall ensure that the permittee and all contractors undertake the project in accordance with the timber harvest plan, and that, where applicable, the standards contained within the "New York State Forestry Best Management Practices for Water Quality" are incorporated.

#### **Post-Harvest Assessment**

6. Within six months of completion of the timber harvesting proposal described herein, the permittee shall submit to the Agency a post-harvest assessment report, documenting compliance with the timber harvest plan and applicable best management practices.

## **FINDINGS OF FACT**

### **Background/Prior History**

1. The property is subject to the conditions of a New York State Sustainable Forestry Conservation Easement, administered by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. The property is also certified to the Sustainable Forestry Initiative forest management standard. The current Sustainable Forestry Initiative certification is valid until August 2017.
2. The Agency recognizes that compliance with the Sustainable Forestry Initiative certification program requires landowners to meet strict standards for forest management that include assured regeneration of harvested areas, establishment and maintenance of sustainable harvest yields, protection of soil and water resources including establishment of riparian buffers, attention to aesthetic impacts, conservation of biological diversity, and protection of species and habitats of concern.
3. The New York State Sustainable Forestry Conservation Easement allows for recreational use by the public, but clearly establishes sustainable forestry as the primary use of the encumbered lands, allowing for compatible private recreation so long as those uses do not interfere with forest management activities. Area closures will be used during the harvest operation.
4. The Molpus Woodlands Group, LLC conducts forest management for the lands of MWF Adirondacks, LLC. These lands include approximately 273,000 acres within the Adirondack Park. The project site is situated within the 2,249 acre "Dead Creek" Conservation Easement.

### **Project Site**

5. The project site is accessed via a private access road from Conifer Road, approximately 2 miles west of New York State Route 3, and approximately 6 miles west of the Village of Tupper Lake.
6. The Dead Creek Primitive Area, public lands owned by the State of New York, is to the north. Other adjacent properties are non-residential, open-space recreational use, or managed forest lands.

### **Vegetation**

7. The areas proposed for treatment were last harvested with a shelterwood establishment treatment approximately 15 years ago by a previous owner. Overstory health in the hardwood stands is poor. Crown decline is evident in most sugar maple and many black cherry stems. General decline and mortality is evident in most American beech stems due to Beech Bark Disease. Healthier stems of red maple and birch are generally reaching or exceeding financial maturity.

Regeneration is abundant, consisting of a mix of northern hardwoods saplings, predominately sugar maple, red maple, and black cherry, with pockets of northern hardwood poles. The area to be treated has approximately 5,529 stems per acre of desirable regeneration. The prescription for full removal of the overstory trees is intended to release the established regeneration.

### **Water Resources**

8. There are several small unnamed streams on the project site. These will be crossed with temporary bridging. The existing haul road uses several existing culvert crossings.

### **Wetlands**

9. Portions of the project site are located adjacent to wetlands, but the harvest boundary has been delineated to exclude these. No operations are proposed within wetlands.

### **Wildlife/Habitat**

10. Mapping from the New York State Natural Heritage Program (NHP), indicates there are no rare plants, rare animals, or natural communities currently being tracked by the NHP on the project site. Immediately to the north, within the Dead Creek Primitive Area, the NHP is tracking populations of Spruce Grouse.

### **Pesticide and Herbicide Use**

11. No pesticide or herbicide use is proposed and no such use is authorized herein.

### **Hazardous Materials**

12. Hazardous materials, including fuel, oil, and hydraulic fluid, will be managed in accordance with the New York State Forestry Best Management Practices for Water Quality, and New York State Department of Environmental Conservation regulations. This includes proper techniques for storage and disposal of hazardous materials, and appropriate response to spill remediation.

### **Soils**

13. Detailed soils mapping characterizes the soils on the project site as well drained to moderately well drained within the Potsdam, Crary and Tunbridge soil series.

### **Slopes**

14. A low ridge runs east to west across the project site. Slopes are generally moderate, with limited areas of steeper grades.

### **Historic Sites or Structures**

15. There are no structures greater than 50 years old on or visible from the project site, and the site is not within an archeologically sensitive area as mapped by the Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation.

### **Economic/Fiscal Factors**

16. The resource extraction industry is an integral sector of St. Lawrence County's economy. 3.0% of all workers in the county are employed in the agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining industries. This is about five times as many people employed in this industry than a typical New York region.
17. The forestry industry supplies raw materials to many State value-added producers including the paper, wood pellet, wood chip, and furniture manufacturing industries.

### **Invasive Species**

18. No invasive species are known in the sale area, nor were any invasive species identified during the sale layout process. The permittee conducts invasive species monitoring, management and eradication protocol in accordance with an invasive species management policy.

### **Public Notice and Comment**

19. The Agency notified all adjoining landowners and other parties and published a Notice of Complete Permit Application in the Environmental Notice Bulletin, as required by the Adirondack Park Agency Act. **[No comments have been received as of June 3, 2015. Public comment period to end on June 10, 2015].**

### **Impairment of Rights**

20. This permit does not convey any right to trespass upon the lands or interfere with the riparian rights of others in order to undertake the authorized project, nor does it authorize the impairment of any easement, right, title or interest in real or personal property.

### **PROJECT IMPACTS**

#### **Visual**

21. The harvest area is situated within 2,249 acres of actively managed industrial timberlands. Potential visual impacts of the proposed harvest are consistent with existing visual impacts on these and nearby managed lands.
22. Due to intervening topography and vegetation, the project site is not visible from nearby offsite locations. Portions of the project site may be visible from heights of land in the vicinity, such as Mt. Arab.
23. The existing regeneration, exceeding 5,000 stems per acre, will provide for immediate green-up and continuity of forest coverage across the harvested area.

#### **Habitat/Wetlands**

24. Wildlife and snag trees will be retained, so long as they are not deemed by the logging crew to pose a hazard to operations. Inoperable terrain and streamside management zones will serve as overstory retention patches and will aid in maintaining vertical canopy diversity within the harvest area, and will ensure that a minimally disturbed zone for wildlife access is maintained.
25. The harvest boundary has been field delineated to exclude adjacent wetlands from the operations area. Riparian Management Zones, wherein cutting and operation of machinery is limited, will be established and maintained. The applicant also applies the NYS Forestry Best Management Practices for Water Quality within these zones.

### **Soils/Surface Waters**

26. Erosional impacts to soils and impacts to surface waters will be minimized through application of the NYS Forestry Best Management Practices for Water Quality where applicable across the project site. Establishment of Riparian Management Zones wherein cutting and operation of machinery is limited will minimize impacts to sensitive lowland soils and water quality.
27. Extensive rutting from machinery activity is unlikely given the well-drained and moderately well-drained soils on the project site, and avoidance of wetland areas in establishment of the harvest boundary.
28. The stumps of removed trees will remain in place, providing soil retention and runoff protection.

### **Historic Sites or Structures**

29. The project will not cause any change in the quality of "registered," "eligible," or "inventoried" property as those terms are defined in 9 NYCRR § 426.2 for the purposes of implementing § 14.09 of the New York State Historic Preservation Act of 1980.

### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

The Agency has considered all statutory and regulatory criteria for project approval set forth in the Adirondack Park Agency Act and 9 NYCRR Part 574 and part 573.7. The Agency hereby finds that the project authorized as conditioned herein:

- a. will be consistent with the land use and development plan;
- b. will be compatible with the character description and purposes, policies, and objectives of the Resource Management land use area;
- c. will be consistent with the overall intensity guidelines for the Resource Management land use area;
- d. will comply with the shoreline restrictions of § 806 of the Adirondack Park Agency Act; and
- e. will not have an undue adverse impact upon the natural, scenic, aesthetic, ecological, wildlife, historic, recreational or open space resources of the Park or upon the ability of the public to provide supporting facilities and services made necessary by the project, taking into account the economic and social benefits that might be derived therefrom.



PERMIT issued this        day  
of                   , 2015.

ADIRONDACK PARK AGENCY

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Richard E. Weber, III Deputy Director  
(Regulatory Programs)

STATE OF NEW YORK)  
                          ) ss.:  
COUNTY OF ESSEX )

On the        day of                    in the year 2015, before me, the undersigned, a Notary Public in and for said State, personally appeared Richard E. Weber, III, personally known to me or proved to me on the basis of satisfactory evidence to be the individual whose name is subscribed to the within instrument and acknowledged to me that they executed the same in their capacity, and that by their signature on the instrument, the individual, or the person upon behalf of which the individual acted, executed the instrument.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public

REW:ACZ:SB:mlr

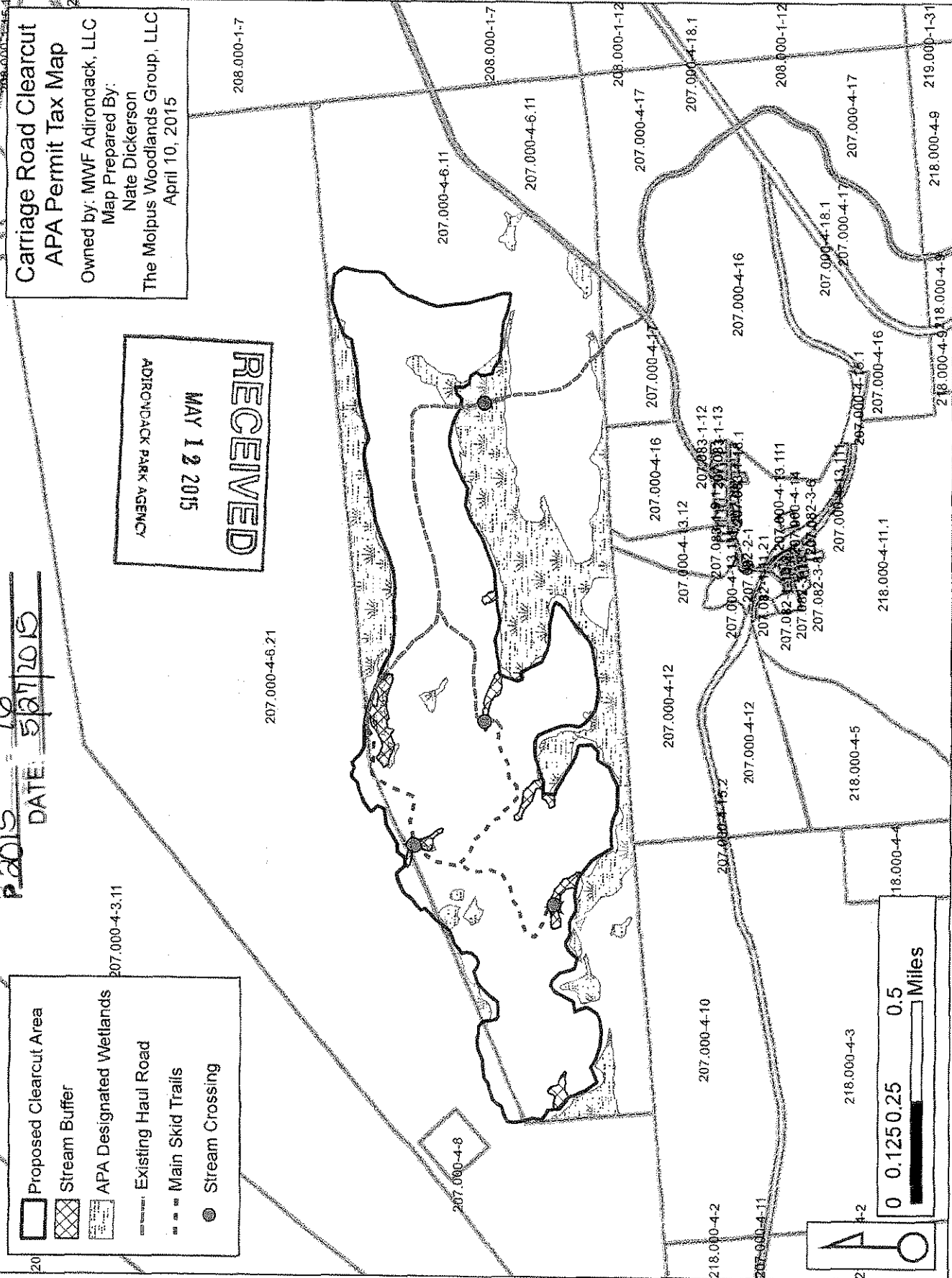
**FINAL PLANS**  
**ADIRONDACK PARK AGENCY**

DATE: 5/27/2015  
7/8

	Proposed Clearcut Area
	Stream Buffer
	APA Designated Wetlands
	Existing Haul Road
	Main Skid Trails
	Stream Crossing

**Carriage Road Clearcut**  
**APA Permit Tax Map**  
 Owned by: MWF Adirondack, LLC  
 Map Prepared By:  
 Nate Dickerson  
 The Molpus Woodlands Group, LLC  
 April 10, 2015

ADIRONDACK PARK AGENCY  
**RECEIVED**  
 MAY 12 2015



0 0.1250.25 0.5 Miles

A north arrow is located at the top of the scale bar. The scale bar is marked with 0, 0.1250, and 0.5 miles.