



RESOLUTION

**ADOPTED BY THE ADIRONDACK PARK AGENCY
WITH RESPECT TO
2013 CLASSIFICATION PACKAGE**

WHEREAS, the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan (Master Plan) adopted pursuant to Section 816 of the Adirondack Park Agency Act (Executive Law, Article 27) provides guidelines for classifying lands acquired within the Adirondack Park by the State of New York, and directs that once new lands have been acquired, the Master Plan and map are to be amended to classify the newly acquired lands; and

WHEREAS, the Adirondack Park Agency (the Agency) and the Department of Environmental Conservation (the Department) have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding providing procedures for annual consultation and recommendations regarding classification of newly acquired lands, and any other Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan (Master Plan) amendments relating to classification and map boundary delineation; and

WHEREAS, the Department has acquired four (4) parcels totaling an estimated 22,142 acres of land, including the Essex Chain Lakes Tract, the Indian River Tract, the OK Slip Falls Tract, and the Open Space Conservancy ("OSC") Tract; and

WHEREAS, the Agency has consulted with the Department as required by the Memorandum of Understanding Concerning the Implementation of the State Land Master Plan last revised March 2010; and

WHEREAS, a Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (DSEIS) was accepted by the Agency on May 10, 2013 pursuant to the State Environmental Quality Review Act and 6 NYCRR 617 and 618 with respect to the proposed classifications and amendments to the Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Agency held public hearings in Ray Brook, Newcomb, Indian Lake, Minerva, Lake George, Albany, Rochester and New York City between June 12, 2013 and July 2, 2013; and

WHEREAS, the Agency accepted public comment on the DSEIS and seven alternatives for classification and reclassification of the newly acquired lands and existing state lands from May 10, 2013 through July 19, 2013; and

WHEREAS, a Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (FSEIS) proposing a Preferred Alternative was presented to the Agency on December 11, 2013 pursuant to the State Environmental Quality Review Act and 6 NYCRR 617 and 9 NYCRR 586 with respect to the proposed classifications and amendments to the State Land Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, the OK Slip Falls Tract lies within the Hudson Gorge Primitive Area and is the inholding referred to in the existing Area Description for the Hudson Gorge Primitive Area; and

WHEREAS, the Master Plan provides that upon the acquisition of the OK Slip Falls Tract, the Hudson Gorge Primitive Area will be reclassified as Wilderness; and

WHEREAS, the State acquired the Essex Chain Lakes Tract and Indian River Tract subject to conditional easements for floatplane use on First Lake and Pine Lake, several rights-of-way, and a conditional easement for gravel pits held by the Towns of Minerva, Newcomb and Indian Lake to maintain infrastructure on the tracts, subject to DEC permits and oversight; and

WHEREAS, there are existing leasehold interests reserved on the Essex Chain Lakes Tract until October 1, 2018, including the right to motorized access, to be exercised in accordance with the terms of each lease and Reservation and Leasehold Estate and Management Agreement; and

WHEREAS, The Nature Conservancy has a reserved right to access the Essex Chain Lakes Tract and the Indian River Tract by motorized means until October 1, 2019; and

WHEREAS, the Chain Lakes Road (South) and the Chain Lakes Road (North) were once connected by a bridge over the Cedar River, which the Agency is informed washed out in the 1960's; and

WHEREAS, during the public comment period, many local residents and snowmobilers expressed support for connecting the communities of Indian Lake, Newcomb and Minerva by rebuilding the bridge over the Cedar River which connected the Chain Lakes Road (South) and the Chain Lakes Road (North); and

WHEREAS, the Chain Lakes Road (South) is an improved gravel road from the Indian River Tract to the Cedar River; and

WHEREAS, the condition of the existing Chain Lakes Road and Camp 6 Road indicates that the underlying land has the capacity to withstand human use including without limitation, hunting, horse and wagon riding, All-Terrain Bicycling, snowmobiling and other uses allowed in Wild Forest; and

WHEREAS, the portion of the Cedar River within the Essex Chain Lakes Tract has been designated by the legislature as a Scenic River under the Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers Act, ECL Article 15, Title 27 (Rivers Act); and

WHEREAS, the Department administers the Rivers Act on state lands within the Adirondack Park and has promulgated regulations applicable to state lands within the Adirondack Park and to all lands outside the Adirondack Park, found at 6 NYCRR Part 666; and

WHEREAS, the Department has committed to consider whether existing Part 666 authorizes the construction of a snowmobile bridge over the Cedar River Scenic River and, if it does not, to consider making appropriate revisions to 6 NYCRR Part 666 to allow such a bridge; and

WHEREAS, to allow for a structurally safe crossing of the Cedar River at the location of the previous bridge while maintaining a park-like setting, the Agency has committed to considering a revision of the Master Plan Wild Forest guideline that currently would require that this bridge must be constructed of natural materials to allow a bridge containing non-natural materials at the crossing of the Cedar River; and

WHEREAS, the condition of the existing four-season roads on the Essex Chain Lakes Tract indicates that the underlying land has the capacity to withstand human use including All-Terrain Bicycles, also referred to as mountain bikes; and

WHEREAS, the public comment indicated a desire for the use of All-Terrain Bicycles on the existing roads on the Essex Chain Lakes Tract and the Indian River Tract; and

WHEREAS, the Agency has committed to consider a revision of Master Plan guidelines for Primitive Areas to allow for the use of All-Terrain Bicycles on appropriate all-season roads able to withstand such use on the Essex Chain Lakes Tract west of the Hudson River that could otherwise be designated as truck trails

were they to be used by the Department to reach and maintain structures and improvements within the unit; and

WHEREAS, the Preferred Alternative will create a Wild Forest corridor on the Chain Lakes Road (North) and Camp 6 Road to the Cedar River; and

WHEREAS, the proposal will leave two corridors unclassified until the Department has authorized the construction of a snowmobile bridge over the Cedar River and the Agency has considered revisions to the Master Plan to allow for the construction of a bridge over the Cedar River with other than solely natural materials; and

WHEREAS, once the Department has authorized construction of a snowmobile bridge over the Cedar River and the Agency has revised the Master Plan to allow for the construction of a bridge over the Cedar River with other than solely natural materials, the lands pending classification containing a section of the Chain Lakes Road (South) in the Essex Chain Lakes Tract will be classified Wild Forest and the unclassified corridor north of the Cedar River will be classified Primitive, the Wild Forest corridor in the Blue Mountain Wild Forest running east-west south of the current Essex Chain Lakes Primitive Area will be reclassified as Primitive, and the Primitive Area will comprise approximately 9,940 acres and be named Essex Chain Lakes Primitive Area; and

WHEREAS, if the Department has not authorized construction of a snowmobile bridge over the Cedar River, the unclassified corridor north of the Cedar River will be classified Wild Forest and the section of the Chain Lakes Road (South) in the Essex Chain Lakes Tract will be classified Primitive, and two large Primitive Areas will be created, the northern one will comprise approximately 6,955 acres and will be named Essex Chain Lakes Primitive Area and the southern one will comprise approximately 2,912 acres and will be named Pine Lake Primitive Area; and

WHEREAS, the proposal will create the new Hudson Gorge Wilderness Area combining the current Hudson Gorge Primitive Area with a small portion of the Blue Mountain Wild Forest and newly acquired lands composed of portions of the Indian River Tract and the Essex Chain Lakes Tract; and

WHEREAS, the proposal will create a new Primitive Area to be named the Polaris Mountain Primitive Area composed of portions of the newly acquired Essex Chain Lakes Tract surrounding the camps leased by the Polaris Club until October

2018 with an extended leasehold interest held by The Nature Conservancy until October 1, 2019; and

WHEREAS, the Polaris Mountain Primitive Area will automatically and without further Agency action be reclassified to Wilderness and become part of the Hudson Gorge Wilderness Area upon expiration of the reserved leasehold rights on October 1, 2019, or such earlier date if relinquished or otherwise acquired by the State; and

WHEREAS, the proposal will classify portions of the Essex Chain Lakes Tract as Wild Forest to be added to the Vanderhacker Mountain Wild Forest and to the Blue Mountain Wild Forest; and

WHEREAS, Agency staff have also proposed the reclassification of approximately 2,868 acres of State Land within the Blue Mountain Wild Forest Area to Primitive; and

WHEREAS, during the public comment period there was strong support for resource protection, community connectivity and recreational access and the Preferred Alternative in the FSEIS addresses these public interests; and

WHEREAS, the proposed action balances the environmental impacts, facts and conclusions discussed in the FSEIS with the related social and economic considerations.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Adirondack Park Agency recommends that the classifications and reclassifications described in the FSEIS Preferred Alternative dated December 5, 2013, and Attachment A (Description of proposed State land classification and reclassification action related to the Essex Chain Lakes Tract, Indian River Tract, Blue Mountain Wild Forest, Hudson Gorge Primitive Areas), Attachment B (Summary Table), Attachment C (Map) and Attachment D (Area Descriptions), be approved by the Governor; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Agency staff are hereby directed to commence the process which will enable the Agency to determine whether to amend the Master Plan to allow the bridge over Cedar River to be constructed with other than solely natural materials; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Agency respectfully requests the Department consider whether existing Part 666 authorizes the construction of a snowmobile bridge over the Cedar River Scenic River and, if it does not, consider making

appropriate revisions to 6 NYCRR Part 666 to allow such a bridge; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the proposed action will protect the natural resources of the Essex Chain Lakes Tract, the Indian River Tract, the OK Slip Falls Tract, and the OSC Tract and is consistent with the social, economic and other essential considerations from among the reasonable alternatives available, and which avoid or minimize adverse environmental impacts to the maximum extent practicable, and that adverse environmental impacts will be avoided or minimized to the maximum extent practicable by incorporating as conditions to the decision those mitigative measures that were identified as practicable; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the requirements under the State Environmental Quality Review Act and implementing regulations, 9 NYCRR Part 586 and 6 NYCRR 617, have been met; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all classifications and reclassifications and amendments are consistent with the guidelines of the State Land Master Plan and the Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement - Guidelines for Amending the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan filed in 1979; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement dated December 5, 2013 with minor and technical corrections approved by the Agency on December 13, 2013 be accepted by the Agency; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Agency authorizes and directs the Executive Director, in consultation with Counsel, to make non-substantive technical corrections to the FSEIS, to publish notice of the acceptance of the Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement in the Environmental Notice Bulletin, and to issue a Findings Statement and Decision in conformance with this Resolution; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, agencies and the public shall be afforded with an opportunity to consider the Final Environmental Impact Statement consistent with the requirements of 6 NYCRR 617.11(a) and this decision will not be effective until ten (10) calendar days from the date that Agency staff published the notice of completion of the final environmental impact statement in the Environmental Notice Bulletin (see 6 NYCRR 617.12[c]) and satisfies the applicable filing and distribution requirements in 6 NYCRR 617.12(b); and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Agency Chairwoman is authorized to forward the recommendations for classification and reclassification to the Governor for his approval.

Ayes: Ulrich, L. - Chairwoman
Booth, R.
Craig, S.
Feldman, K
Lussi, A.
Thomas, W.
Valentino, W.
Wilt, D.
Austin, B. (DED)
Scozzafava, D. (DOS)
Stegemann, R. (DEC)

Nays: None

Abstentions: None

JTT:EAP:mp

List of Attachments

Attachment A (Description of proposed State land classification and reclassification action related to the Essex Chain Lakes Tract, Indian River Tract, OK Slip Falls Tract, Open Space Conservancy Tract, Blue Mountain Wild Forest, and Hudson Gorge Primitive Area)

Attachment B (Summary Table)

Attachment C (Map)

Attachment D (Area Descriptions)

ATTACHMENT A
DESCRIPTION OF ACTION

Attachment A

Description of proposed State land classification and reclassification action related to the Essex Chain Lakes Tract, Indian River Tract, OK Slip Falls Tract, Open Space Conservancy Tract, Blue Mountain Wild Forest, and Hudson Gorge Primitive Area

Description of Action:

The action involves the proposed classification and reclassification of State lands and waters in the vicinity of the Essex Chain Lakes and Hudson Gorge Primitive Area in Essex and Hamilton Counties within the Adirondack Park. The action involves eight State land classification proposals totaling approximately 22,142 acres and three (3) State land reclassification proposals ranging from an estimated 20,216 to 20,261 acres. Total acreage involved in the proposal ranges from approximately 42,372 to 42,417 acres. A summary table and map outlines the scope of all the proposals within this classification package.

This action only involves the classification and reclassification of State lands according to the provisions of the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan ("Master Plan") and related additions and revisions to the Area Descriptions for the areas to be classified. The action has been reviewed according to the guidelines and criteria of the Master Plan and the Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement: Guidelines For Amending the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan (1979). A Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement was accepted by the Adirondack Park Agency on May 10, 2013. The proposed action does not authorize the development of new structures or improvements without prior, additional SEQRA assessment by the Department of Environmental Conservation and/or the Adirondack Park Agency.

The Agency authorized its staff to proceed to public hearings and to receive written comments from the public until July 19, 2013 on the classification and reclassification proposals contained in the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement. The proposed classification and reclassifications presented seven

alternatives which had been prepared after consultation with the Department of Environmental Conservation as required by a Memorandum of Understanding Regarding the Implementation of the State Land Master Plan for the Adirondack Park.

Staff has evaluated the alternatives presented in the public hearings and recommends the following series of individual classification and reclassification proposals as the preferred alternative. The proposals are described in a more detailed narrative below and in the adjoining map and summary table. The components of the action include 12 basic parts:

- Classification of the northeastern portion of the recently acquired Essex Chain Lakes Tract east of the center line of the Hudson River and north of and including the Iron (Polaris) Bridge for inclusion in the Vanderhacker Mountain Wild Forest;
- Classification of the northern portion of the recently acquired Essex Chain Lakes Tract west of the center line of the Hudson River and north of and including the Iron (Polaris) Bridge for inclusion in the Blue Mountain Wild Forest;
- Classification of the eastern portion of the recently acquired Essex Chain Lakes Tract into a new Polaris Mountain Primitive Area;
- Reclassification of the Hudson Gorge Primitive Area to become the Hudson Gorge Wilderness Area;
- Classification of newly acquired lands within the Hudson Gorge Primitive Area known as the OK Slip Falls Tract to Wilderness and to be added to the Hudson Gorge Primitive Area;
- Classification of the southeastern portion of the recently acquired Essex Chain Lakes Tract near the confluence of the Cedar and Hudson Rivers as Wilderness to be added to the Hudson Gorge Wilderness Area;
- Creation of two Primitive corridors in the Hudson Gorge Wilderness Area for private access to an

inholding and for a powerline in the vicinity of State Route 28;

- Classification of the eastern portion of the recently acquired Indian River Tract between the Chain Lakes Road (South) and the Hudson River as Wilderness to be added to the Hudson Gorge Wilderness Area.
- Classification of the western portion of the recently acquired Indian Lake Tract including the Chain Lakes Road (South) as Wild Forest to be included in the Blue Mountain Wild Forest;
- Reclassification of a portion of the Blue Mountain Wild Forest lying between the recently acquired Indian Lake Tract and the Essex Chain Lakes Tract from Wild Forest to be part of a new Primitive Area;
- Reclassification of a portion of the Blue Mountain Wild Forest along the western boundary of the recently acquired Essex Chain Lakes Tract from Wild Forest to be part of a new Primitive Area; and
- Classification of a large portion of the recently acquired Essex Chain Lakes Tract as a new Primitive Area or Areas.

Reclassification of the Hudson Gorge Wilderness Area:

This component of the proposed action creates a Wilderness Area of approximately 23,494 acres in the 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. 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 above the Hudson River. There are no public roads or 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 Blue Ledge Trail receives considerable use. There is an existing trail network on the lands acquired which had been developed by previous landowners, including trails to OK Slip Falls.

Unlike the majority of the Adirondack Park, much of the underlying bedrock in this area is calcareous which is reflected through the species and natural communities that occupy these lands and waters. The river corridors along the Hudson and Cedar Rivers, along with limey cliffs and wetlands, feature a large diversity of bryophytes and vascular plants. In addition to its biological diversity, Blue Ledge provides dramatic cliffs enjoyed by those who run the river or hike into the ledge. Opportunities for good fishing are available along the river and at several interior ponds.

The river trip from Newcomb to North River is the most dramatic white water run in the Adirondacks. Commercial white water rafting has increased dramatically on the lower portion of this route since the early 1980's with the support of releases from Lake Abanakee Dam on the Indian River. This use is now close to the maximum carrying capacity of the river and present use levels should not be exceeded.

This area had been classified as Primitive because of the substantial amount of private land in the area and the critical relationship of that land to the river gorge. The Master Plan provides that the area should be upgraded to Wilderness as soon as the private lands are acquired or their uses limited by conservation easement so as to be compatible with the adjacent State lands. This area is now proposed for reclassification as Wilderness because the private lands were acquired.

Expansion of the Vanderhacker Mountain Wild Forest:

This component of the proposed action involves an addition of approximately 1,023 acres of newly acquired land from the Essex Chain Lakes Tract to the Vanderhacker Mountain

Wild Forest in the Town of Newcomb in Essex County. The addition to Vanderwhacker Mountain Wild Forest is bounded on the west by the centerline of the Hudson River, on the south by the Hudson Gorge Wilderness and the Polaris Mountain Primitive Area (to and including the Iron (Polaris) Bridge), and on the North by private lands. It includes a corridor between the Hudson Gorge Wilderness and the Polaris Mountain Primitive Area to the Cedar River.

The Hudson River is a designated scenic river. White water stretches, interspersed with still waters, provide a variety of scenes to hold one's appreciation. Consistent with the Master Plan Guidelines for Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers, the waters of the Hudson River shall be free from motorized activity.

Proposed creation of a new "Polaris Mountain Primitive Area":

This new Primitive Area consists of 953 acres of land on the east side of the Hudson River in the Town of Newcomb, Essex County purchased by the State in 2013. Although the land is owned by the State, the lessees of these camps have exclusive use of a one acre parcel surrounding each camp until October 1, 2018. Following the termination of the lease and the removal of the structures, this area will be reclassified as Wilderness and added to the Hudson Gorge Wilderness.

Proposed additions to the Blue Mountain Wild Forest Area.

This existing Wild Forest area is located in Hamilton and western Essex counties. It is bounded by Route 30 on the west and south, the Indian River and the Chain Lakes Road (South) on the east and Essex Chain Lakes Primitive Area on the northeast.

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 will be 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 centerline of the Hudson River and northward from and

including the Iron (Polaris) Bridge toward Newcomb, will be classified as Wild Forest and added to the unit. Wild Forest access along the Boots to Cornell Road to the south shore of Fifth Lake will be possible for the purpose of Universal Access only.

A 1/10 mile wide corridor extends from the southeast edge of the Unit south following the Camp 6 Road to the Cedar River. This corridor divides the Essex Chain Lakes Primitive Area and the Hudson Gorge Wilderness. An additional 452 acres of land from the Indian River tract west of the Chain Lakes Road (South) will be added to this unit at the same time, including the road itself from the edge of the Unit northwest to the Essex Chain Lakes Tract boundary.

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.

Proposed creation of a new Primitive Area to be known as the Essex Chain Lakes Primitive Area.

This 6,955-acre¹ area 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 waterbodies and are also found throughout the upland area. 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 time its designation changes to Scenic.

¹ This area will be 9,940 acres in size if the Pine Lake Primitive Area is merged with the Essex Chain Lakes Primitive Area.

Prior to transferring these lands to the State, The Nature Conservancy granted an easement to the Towns of Minerva and Newcomb over portions of the Essex Chain Lakes Tract which will allow, as determined by DEC, for 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 on lands classified as Wilderness. Even on adjacent lands and waters, such as the Essex Chain Lakes other than First Lake, the presence of float planes in such close proximity to the Chain Lakes would remove the sense of remoteness expected in Wilderness.

Proposed creation of a new Primitive Area to be known as the Pine Lake Primitive Area.

This 2,912-acre area is located in the Towns of Newcomb and Minerva in Essex County and the Town of Long Lake in Hamilton County. This area includes lands from the TNC/Finch acquisition and a portion of the Blue Mountain Wild Forest that is being reclassified. The western 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 Chain Lakes Road (South).

Prominent features of this area include Pine Lake and Mud, Clear and Corner Ponds. The reserved rights held by the Towns for float plane landing on Pine Lake prevent this area from being designated as Wilderness or Canoe, but the sensitive natural resources require wilderness management.

Upon resolution of legal and regulatory issues concerning potential recreational uses and resource impacts of a potential Wild Forest corridor, the unclassified lands along the Chain Lakes Road (South) to the east of this area will be classified as Wild Forest, the unclassified corridor north of this area will be classified as Primitive, a corridor in the Blue Mountain Wild Forest will be reclassified Primitive and these Primitive areas (Pine Lake and two corridors) will be merged with the Essex Chain Lakes Primitive Area to the north, to create a larger Essex Chain Lakes Primitive Area of 9,940 acres. If the Wild Forest Corridor along Chain Lakes Road (South) is not

created, the unclassified corridor north of this area will be classified as Wild Forest and added to the Blue Mountain Wild Forest, the unclassified corridor east of the Pine Lake Primitive Area will be classified Primitive, and the corridor of Wild Forest east of the Pine Lake Primitive Area will be reclassified Primitive.

ATTACHMENT B
SUMMARY TABLE

Summary Table
Attachment B

	<u>Option1</u> One Primitive Area (approximate acres)	<u>Option 2</u> Two Primitive Areas (approximate acres)
Total Acreage in Area of Action	47388	47388

Wilderness	23494	23494
Primitive	10923	10850
Wild Forest	12968	13041
State Administrative	3	3

Hudson Gorge Wilderness	23494	23494
Essex Chain Lakes Primitive Area	9940	6955
Polaris Mountain Primitive Area	953	953
Pine Lake Primitive Area	0	2912
OK Slip Pond Primitive Area	30	30
Added to Blue Mountain Wild Forest (from new acquisitions)	6985	7013
Added to Vanderwhacker Mountain Wild Forest (from new acquisitions)	1023	1023
State Administrative	3	3
<i>Total</i>	42428	42383
<i>Total Classification of New Acquisitions</i>	22167	22167
<i>Total Reclassification</i>	20261	20216

Existing Wild Forest in Area of Action That Was Not Reclassified	4960	5005
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ATTACHMENT C
MAP OF PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

ATTACHMENT C Preferred Alternative



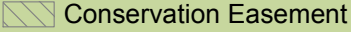
NEW STATE LANDS CLASSIFIED PRIMARILY AS PRIMITIVE WITH WILD FOREST AND WILDERNESS AREAS ALONG THE HUDSON RIVER AND WILD FOREST CORRIDOR BETWEEN THE WILDERNESS AND PRIMITIVE AREAS

Legend

New Acquisitions

-  Chain Lakes Tract
-  Indian River Tract
-  OK Slip Falls Tract
-  OSC Tract

Hamlets

-  Hamlets
-  Other Private Land
-  Conservation Easement

State Land Classifications

(including a sample list of conforming recreational uses)

Wilderness

- Hiking, Snowshoeing, X-C & Back-Country Skiing
- Canoeing, Kayaking, Rowing, Rafting
- Lean-to & Tent Camping
- Mountaineering, Rock & Ice Climbing
- Fishing, Hunting, Trapping
- Horse & Horse-and-Wagon Riding
- Snowmobiling (within 500' of a highway/Wilderness Area boundary)

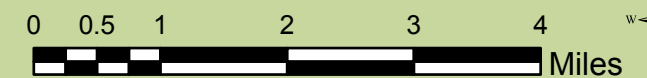
Primitive

- Hiking, Snowshoeing, X-C & Back-Country Skiing
- Canoeing, Kayaking, Rowing, Rafting
- Lean-to & Tent Camping
- Mountaineering, Rock & Ice Climbing
- Fishing, Hunting, Trapping
- Horse & Horse-and-Wagon Riding
- Mountain Biking (on public & DEC administrative roads)
- Snowmobiling (within 500' of a highway/Primitive Area boundary)

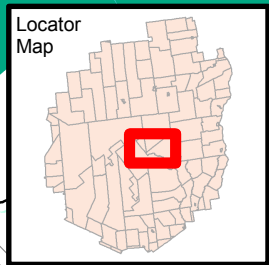
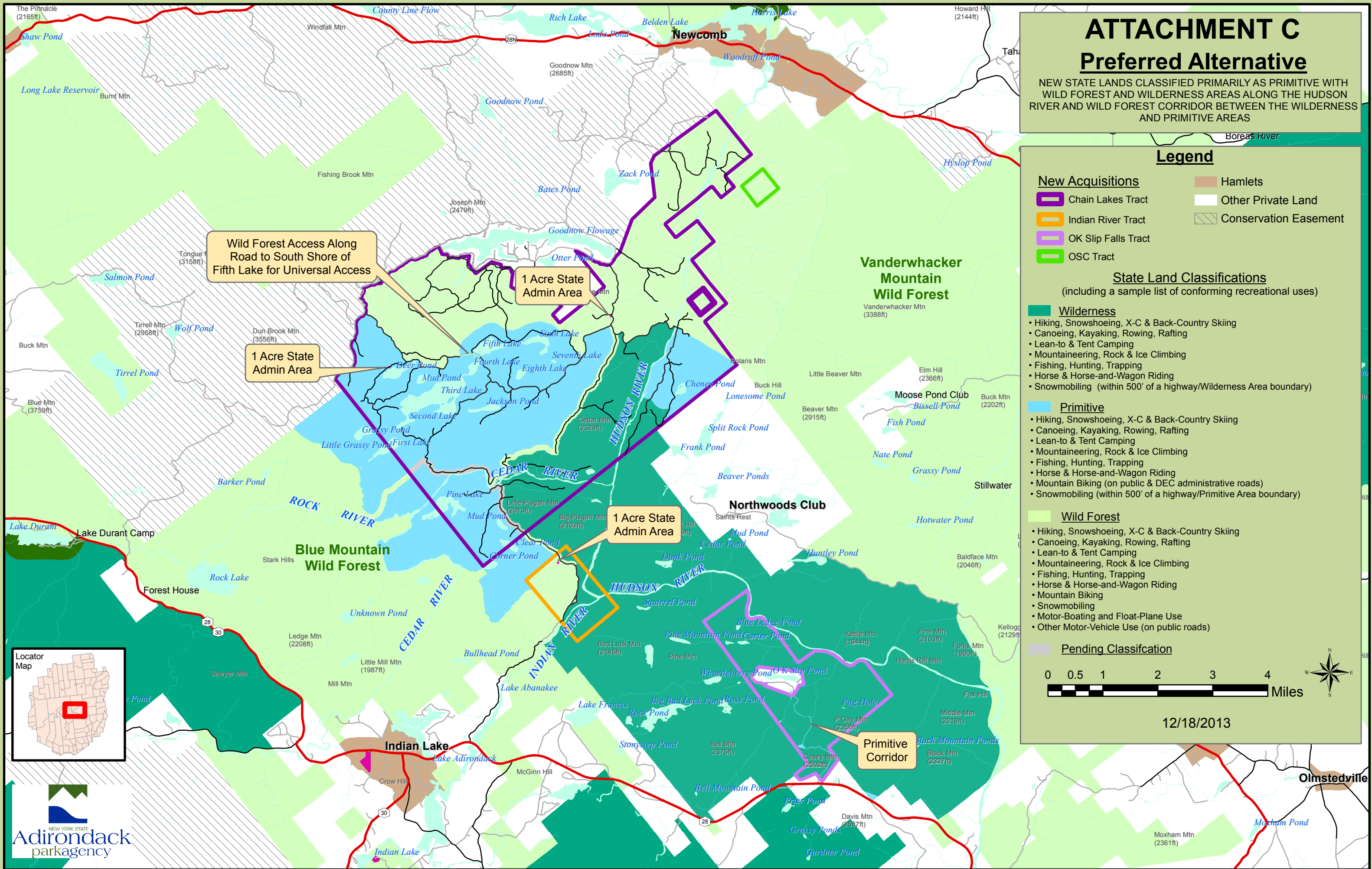
Wild Forest

- Hiking, Snowshoeing, X-C & Back-Country Skiing
- Canoeing, Kayaking, Rowing, Rafting
- Lean-to & Tent Camping
- Mountaineering, Rock & Ice Climbing
- Fishing, Hunting, Trapping
- Horse & Horse-and-Wagon Riding
- Mountain Biking
- Snowmobiling
- Motor-Boating and Float-Plane Use
- Other Motor-Vehicle Use (on public roads)

Pending Classification



12/18/2013



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

ATTACHMENT D
State Land Master Plan Area Descriptions

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 lands border about two miles~~ 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 scene~~ its biological diversity, Blue Ledge- provides dramatic cliffs enjoyed by those who run the river or hike to the river or 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 of the Hudson and

Indian Rivers, 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	<u>16,517</u> <u>23,494</u> Acres
Bodies of Water (29)	352 <u>25</u> <u>314</u> Acres
Foot Trails	<u>6.67</u> Miles
Non-conforming Uses:	None

WILDERNESS STATISTICAL PARK WIDE TOTALS:

State Lands	<u>1,122,319</u> <u>145,837</u> Acres
Private Inholdings (3233)	21,530 <u>700</u> Acres
Bodies of Water (982)	1,007 <u>19,295</u> <u>609</u> Acres
Foot Trails	<u>780</u> <u>787</u> 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
<u>Powerline</u> <u>Power Line</u>	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.

The northern boundary of the area generally follows the Boots-to-Cornell Road east from its beginning to a point ¼ mile from the west end of Fifth Lake, continuing east from there generally ¼ mile north of Fifth and Sixth Lakes to the Chain Lakes Road (North), then along it to Camp 6 Road. The eastern and southern boundary is the 1/10th- mile wide corridor of Wild Forest and lands pending classification, which follows the former Camp 6 Road south to the Chain Lakes Road (North) and along it before leaving the road and continuing west to the outlet of First Lake. The western boundary of the area follows the outlet of First Lake and an unnamed stream and drainages north to Little Grassy Pond and the boundary of private lands; from there it continues northeast to the beginning of the Boots-to-Cornell Road.

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 southwest edge of the Primitive Area to the Essex County line, 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.

Upon resolution of legal and regulatory issues concerning potential recreational uses and resource impacts involving the crossing of the Cedar River with a snowmobile trail, the corridor of Wild Forest and lands pending classification between the Essex Chain Lakes Primitive Area and the Pine Lake Primitive Area will be classified Primitive and the two primitive areas will be merged into the Essex Chain Lakes Primitive Area. If these issues are not resolved so as to allow for such a trail crossing the Cedar River, the lands of the corridor pending classification will be classified as Wild Forest and these two primitive areas will remain as separate areas.

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>6,955 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 (First 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:

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

PINE LAKE

This area is located in the Towns of Newcomb and Minerva in Essex County. It was classified in 2013 and includes lands from the TNC/Finch acquisition and a portion of the Blue Mountain Wild Forest that was reclassified and added to this area. The northern boundary follows the 1/10th-mile wide corridor of Wild Forest and lands pending classification eastward towards and along the Cedar River to where a bridge once crossed the river. The eastern boundary then follows a 1/10th-mile wide corridor of lands pending classification and Wild Forest to the

northern boundary of the former Indian River Tract. The southern boundary is the northern boundary of the former Indian River Tract and unnamed streams leading west and north to the Cedar River. The western boundary follows the Cedar River to its confluence with the Rock River and then the Rock River to the 1/10th-mile wide Wild Forest corridor.

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.

Upon resolution of legal and regulatory issues concerning potential recreational uses and resource impacts involving the crossing of the Cedar River with a snowmobile trail, the potential Wild Forest corridor and the unclassified lands between the Pine Lake Primitive Area and the Essex Chain Lakes Primitive Area will 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:

<u>State Lands</u>	<u>2,798 acres</u>
<u>Waterbodies (4)</u>	<u>147 acres</u>
<u>Non-conforming Uses:</u>	
<u>Floatplane access*</u>	<u>1 Lake (Pine Lake)</u>

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. When the State acquired this land, it took title subject to a reserved leasehold until October 1, 2019. Although the land is owned by the State, the lessees have exclusive motorized use of the existing roads in this area and one-acre parcels surrounding each camp building 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:

<u>State Lands</u>	<u>953 acres</u>
<u>Waterbodies (1)</u>	<u>18 acres</u>

Non-conforming Uses

Camps

Roads (private) indeterminate mileage

PRIMITIVE AREA STATISTICAL

PARK WIDE TOTALS:

State Lands 45,385 56,121 Acres

Private Inholdings (3) 107 Acres

Bodies of Water (40) 81159 1,596 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) undetermined Miles

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

Power Lines* 2

Float Plane Access* 2 Lakes (First and Pine Lakes)

*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 country 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, and then to the south shore of Fifth Lake was established for the sole purpose of providing access to persons with disabilities.

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 former Camp 6 Road from its beginning at Drakes Mill Road in 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.

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 boundary of the former Essex Chain Lakes Tract to the outlet of First Lake.

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, Johnsburg, 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 Adirondaack~~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