



**Adirondack
Park Agency**

2023 State Land Classification Package

**Draft Supplemental
Environmental Impact Statement**

October 11, 2023

Presentation Outline

- Revisit summary of classification action & classification considerations
- Discuss procedures under SEQRA
 - Parcels warranting environmental review & alternative classifications
 - Type II parcels
- Summarize potential environmental impacts
- Share opportunities for public engagement
- Answer questions from board members
- Board may authorize public hearings and comment period

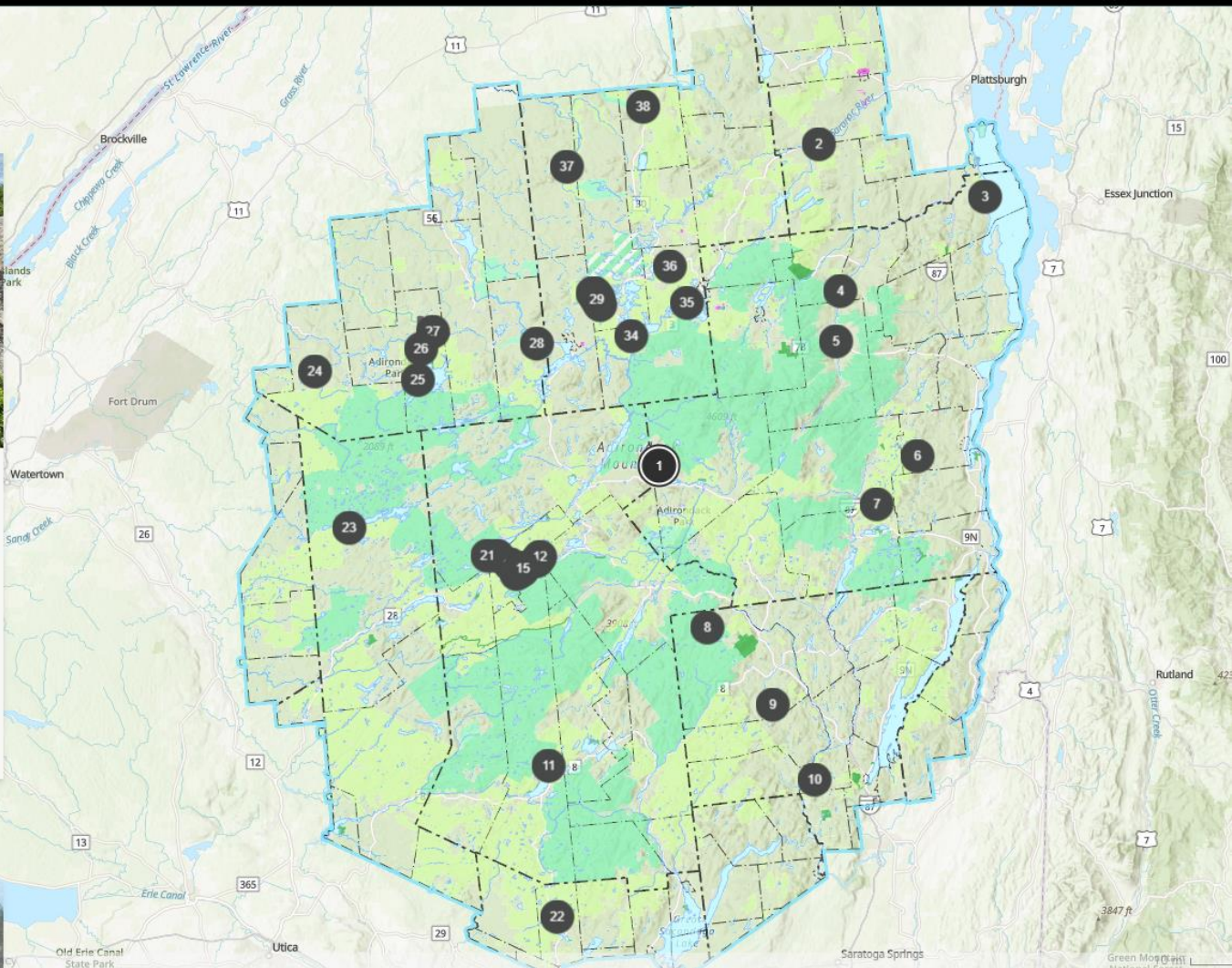
Summary of the Action

- Acquisitions, corrections, and reclassifications
 - Acquisitions – 19
 - Corrections – 6
 - 25 classification proposals totaling approximately 5,800 acres*
 - Reclassifications – 11
 - totaling approximately 250 acres*



Adirondack Park

The Adirondack Park was created in 1892 by the State of New York amid concerns for the water and timber resources of the region. Today the Park is the largest publicly protected area in the contiguous United States.



<https://tinyurl.com/landclasstorymap>



**Adirondack
Park Agency**

State Land Classification

Master Plan Guidelines & Criteria for Classification

Criteria for Classification

Physical

Soils, slope elevation, water

Biological

Sensitive habitat, wetlands, wildlife

Intangible

Remoteness, views, ruggedness

Existing Uses

Existing roads, buildings, uses

Area Classification

Wilderness

Primitive

Canoe

Wild Forest

Intensive Use

Historic

State Administrative

Decision in the context of the Master Plan's "Unifying Theme"

Classification Considerations (Revisited)

ACQUISITIONS:

- “In most instances, recent acquisition classification is a simple matter as the parcel lies surrounded by or immediately adjacent to previously classified state land. The acquisition would then be classified the same as the adjacent state land” (FPEIS, p. 24)
- Small tracts of state land surrounded by private lands should generally be classified Wild Forest

RECLASSIFICATIONS:

- Additions to Intensive Use should come from new acquisitions or from reclassification of existing Wild Forest areas
- Only in exceptional circumstances should lands presently classified as Wilderness, Primitive or Canoe be reclassified to Wild Forest – this should occur only if there is a mapping error or the existence of a previously unrecognized non-conforming use of a permanent nature
- Reclassification from Intensive Use to any other classification would result in added protection

State Environmental Quality Review Act - SEQR

Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement
Guidelines for Amending the Adirondack Park State
Land Master Plan (1979) (FPEIS)



Draft Supplemental Environmental
Impact Statement

Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (DSEIS)

- DSEIS is a supplement to the Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement – Guidelines for Amending the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan
- Type I vs Type II actions (from FPEIS and regs):
 - Type I actions include, but are not limited to:
 - Classification of any new acquisition to wilderness, primitive or canoe if the parcel is 5,000+ acres and/or contains extensive facilities
 - **Reclassification from a more restrictive classification to a less restrictive classification**
 - Designation of a new travel corridor
 - Material changes to the guidelines applicable to each classification
 - Type II actions include:
 - Any amendments to the APSLMP not listed as a Type I action in APA regulations (9 NYCRR 586.5(a)(6)(i))


Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (DSEIS)

- 8 reclassification proposals from a more restrictive to a less restrictive land classification
 - 4 parcels – Wild Forest to Intensive Use
 - FR-6-A, FR-6-C, FR-6-D (Rollins Pond)
 - HA-6-A (Golden Beach)
 - 1 parcel – Wilderness to Intensive Use
 - HA-6-B (Golden Beach)
 - 3 parcels – Wild Forest to State Administrative
 - FR-1 (Horseshoe Pond)
 - FR-3 (DEC Storage Area)
 - FR-4 (DEC Housing)

FR 1 - Horseshoe Pond/DOT Facility Aerial Map



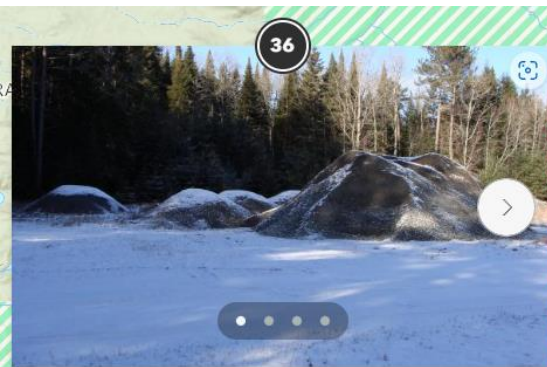
Proposed Classification Action

 State Administrative

0 0.1 0.2 Miles

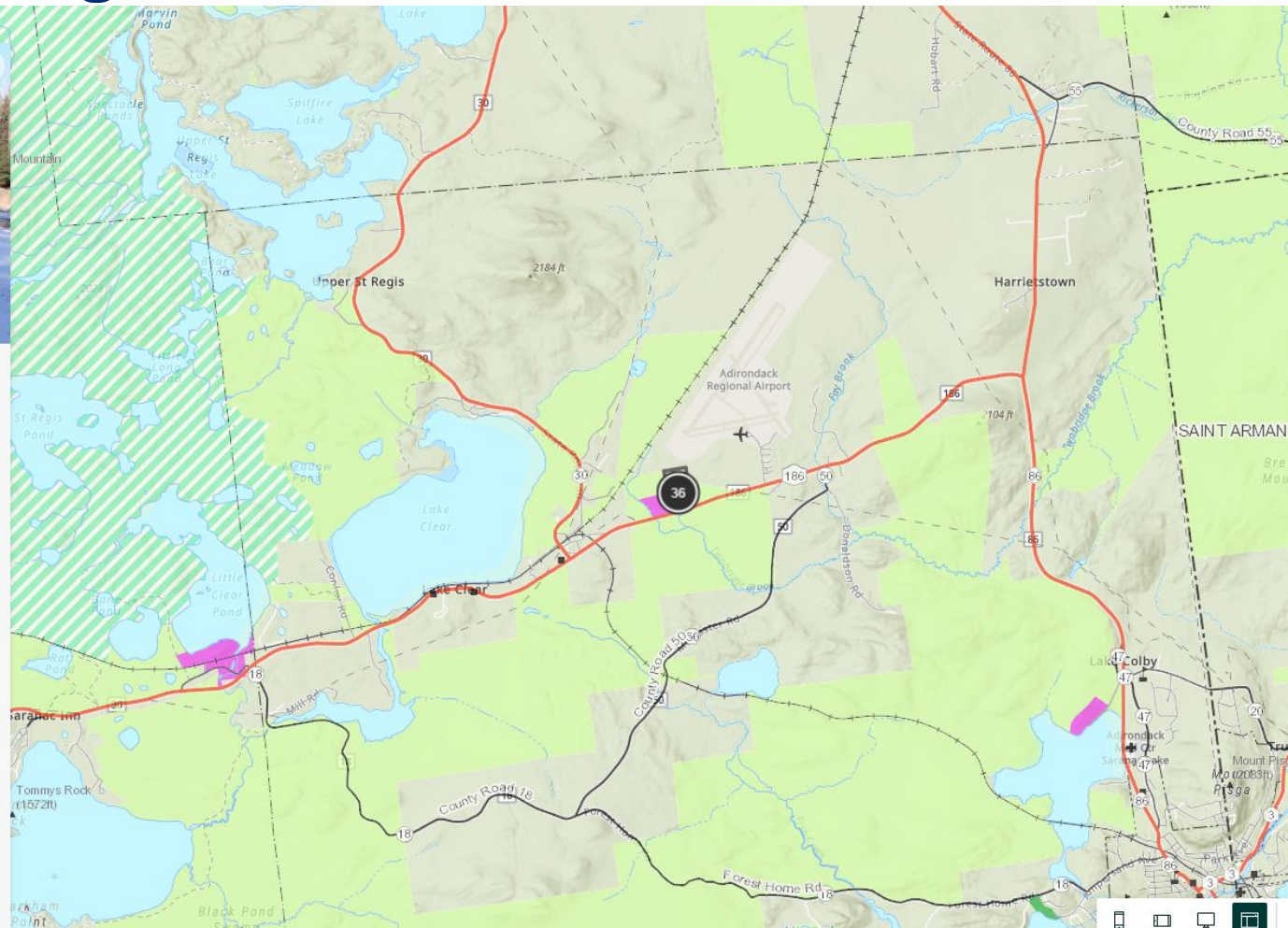


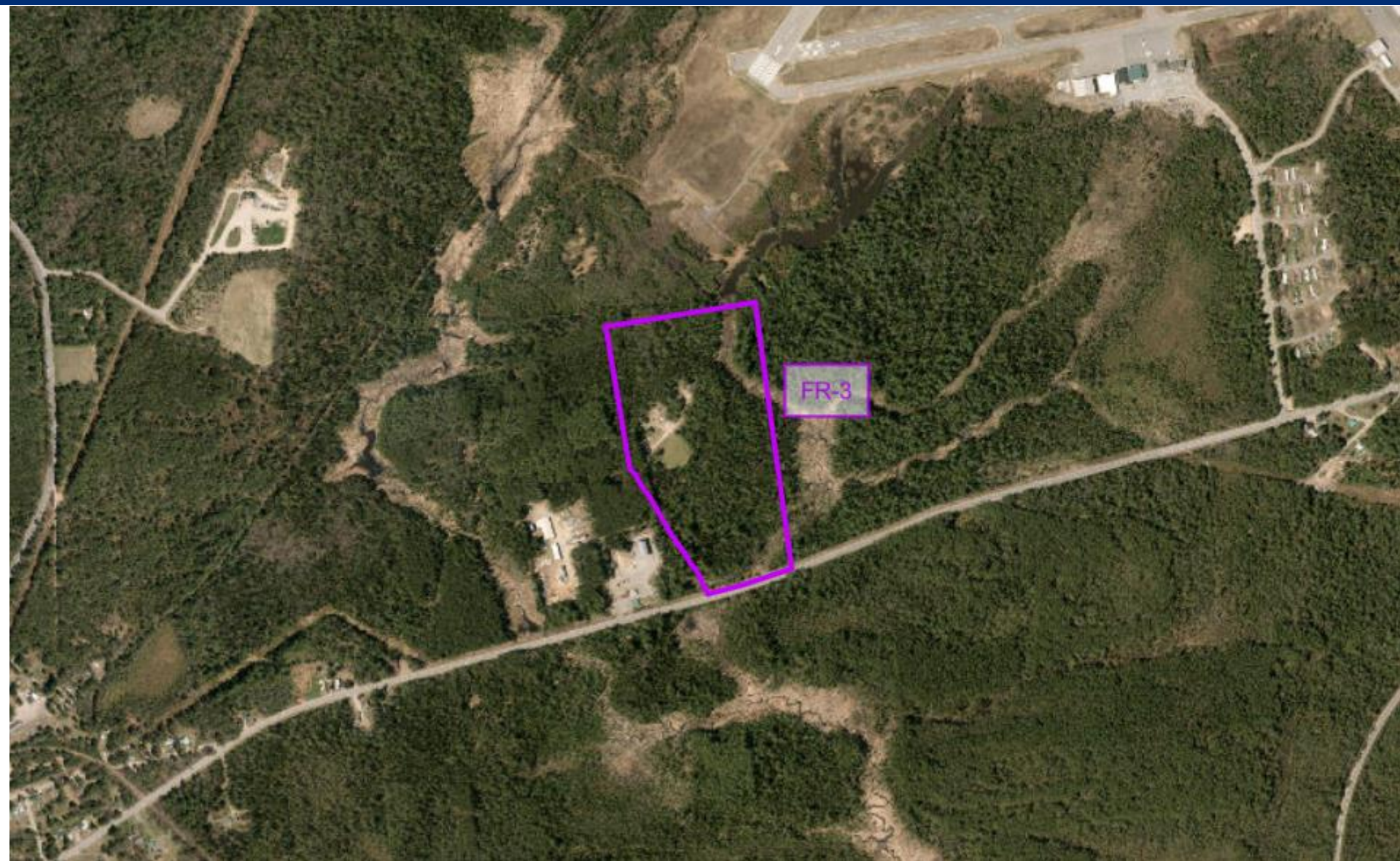
FR-3 DEC Storage Area

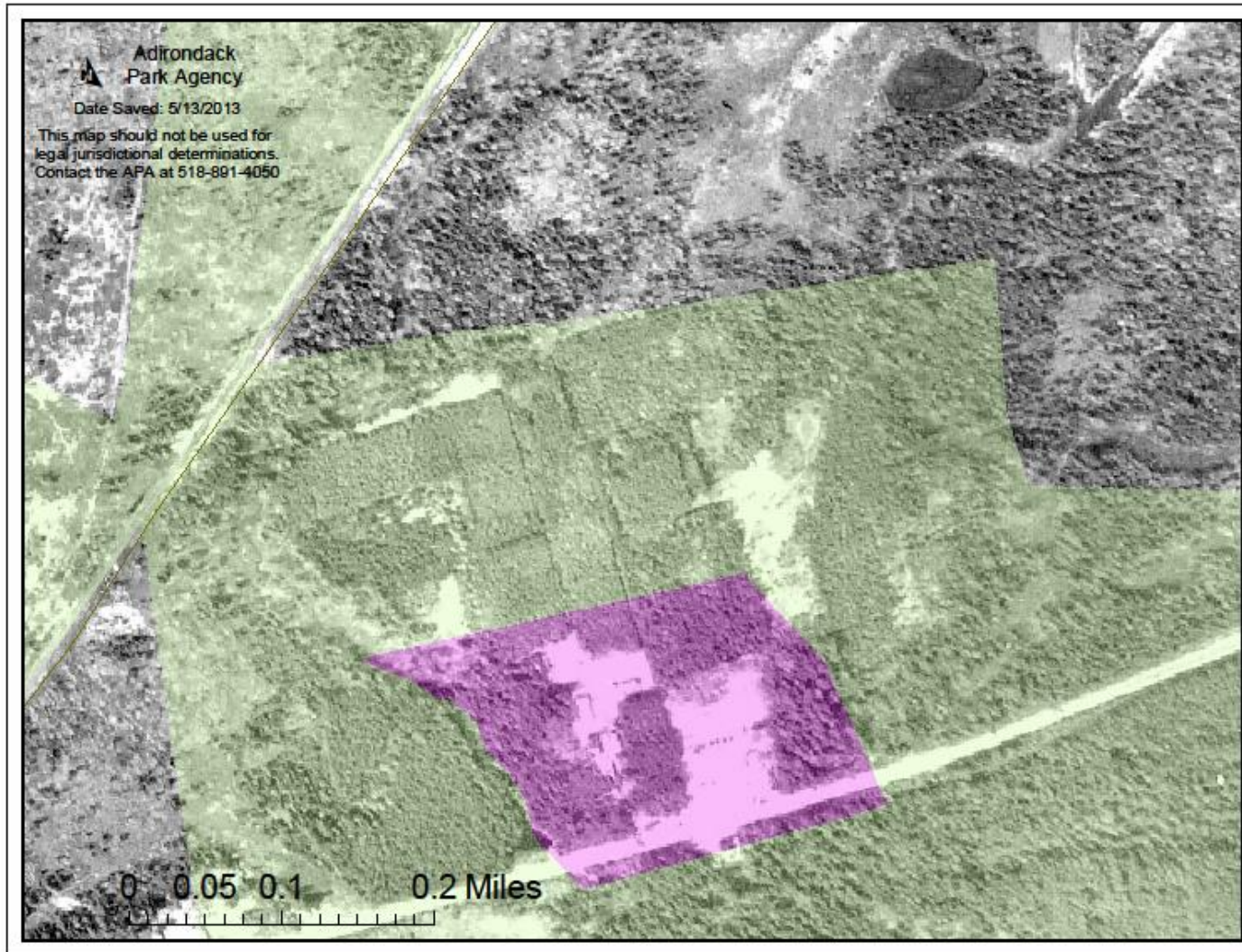


DEC Storage Area (FR-3)

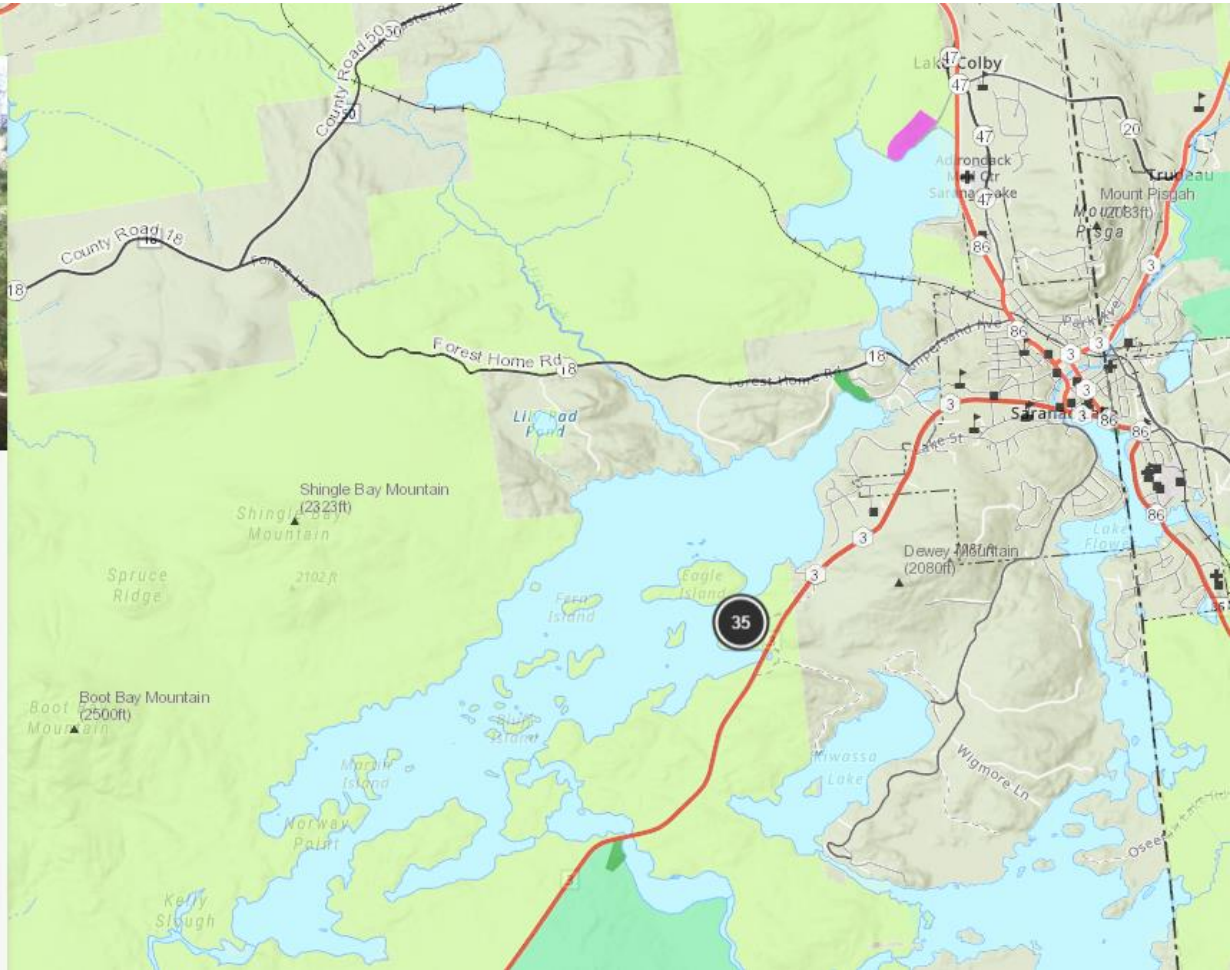
This 31.9-acre parcel requires a map correction. Previous APA maps show the parcel as Wild Forest but it has historically been used by DEC for administrative purposes, including storage of vehicles and materials. In addition, DEC used this area as a landfill; the landfill has been capped and is no longer in use. The parcel is located in the Town of Harrietstown, Franklin County. Approximately 20 acres mapped wetlands are within the proposed boundary. The parcel is bounded on the south by NYS Rt. 186, state lands classified as Wild Forest and administrative on the west and east, and







FR-4 DEC Staff Housing

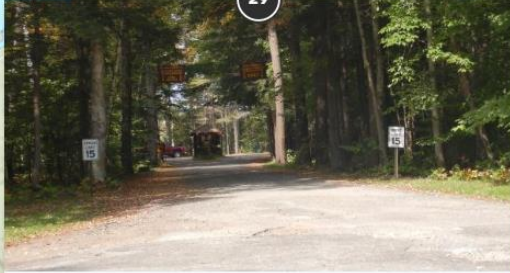


DEC Staff Housing (FR-4)

This one-acre parcel is in the Town of Harrietstown, in Franklin County. Located between Crescent Bay and Lonesome Bay on Lower Saranac Lake are several administrative buildings known as the Facility Supervisor's Seasonal Headquarters at Crescent Bay. This parcel requires a map correction. Previous APA maps show the parcel as Wild Forest but it has historically been used by DEC for

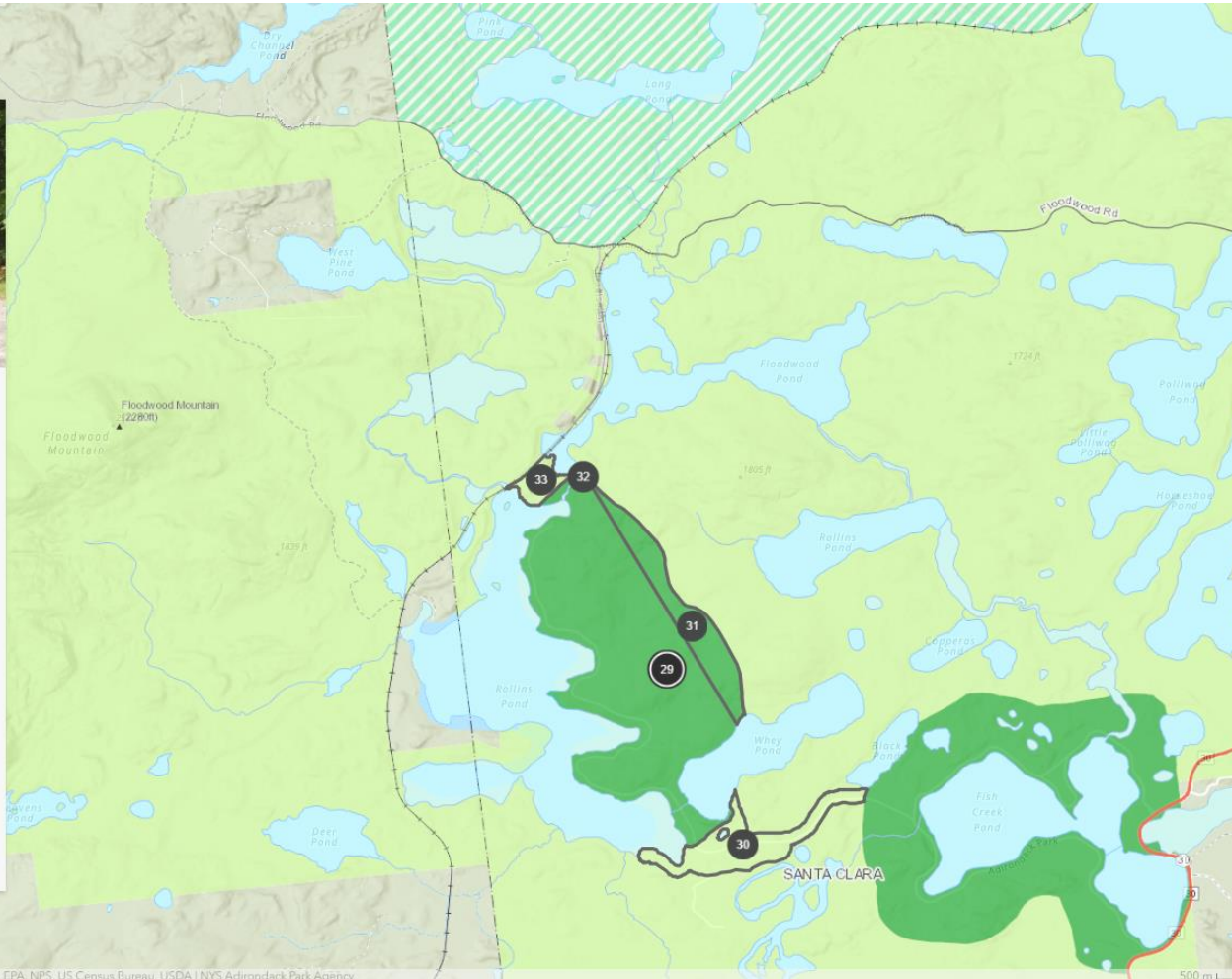


FR-6 Rollins Pond



Rollins Pond Campground FR-6-A, B, C, D

The draft Rollins Pond Campground and Day Use Area Unit Management Plan proposes the reclassification of four areas in the vicinity of the campground. When taken together, the reclassification actions are meant to reflect the existing use of the area, the character of the land, and its capacity to withstand use. A summary of each of the changes are described in more detail below. Collectively, 89.7 acres are proposed to be reclassified from Wild Forest to Intensive Use. 74.4 acres are proposed to be reclassified from Intensive Use to Wild Forest.



FR-6-A Rollins Pond



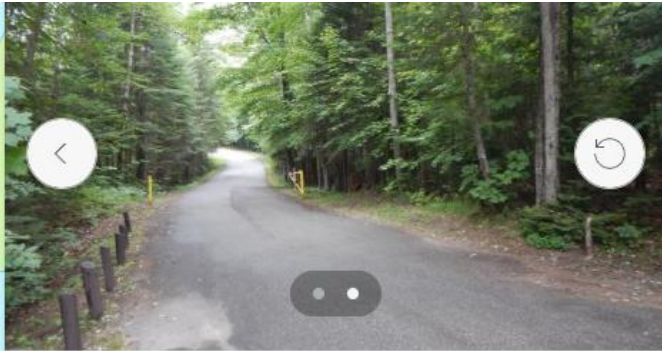
Rollins Pond (FR-6 A)

On the south end of the Rollins Pond Campground lies 71.9 acres of land currently classified as Wild Forest that is proposed to be reclassified as Intensive Use. These lands include most of the Campground's Loop A with all its appurtenant improvements such as two bathrooms, twenty campsites and the access road between Fish Creek and Rollins Pond. Also included is a former gravel pit now used for storage of materials, a former administrative road leading to a capped landfill, the entrance booth, a caretaker cabin, a firewood storage building, and a trailer dumping station. These campground improvements pre-date the development of the APSLMP.

FR-6-C and FR-6-D Rollins Pond

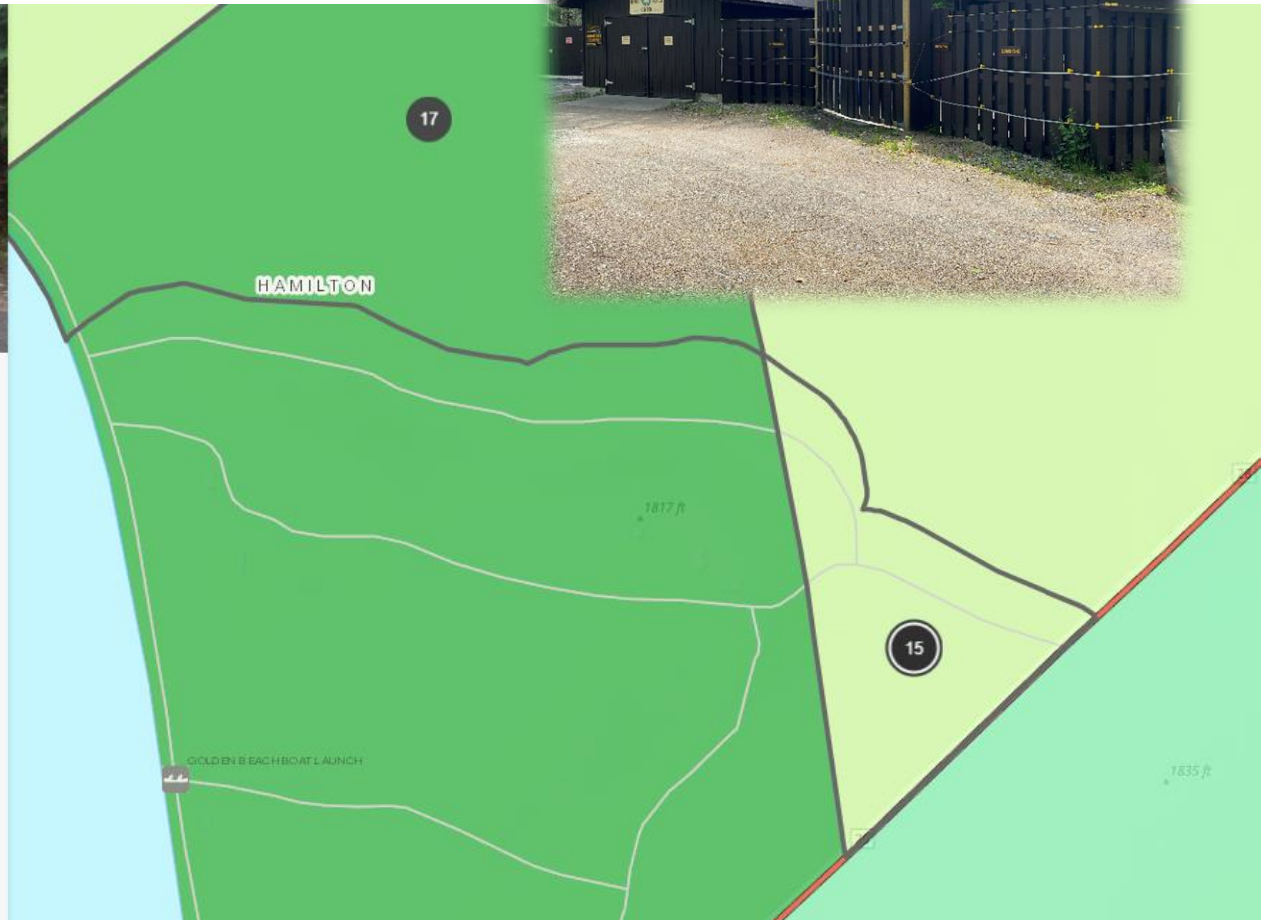


HA-6-A Golden Beach

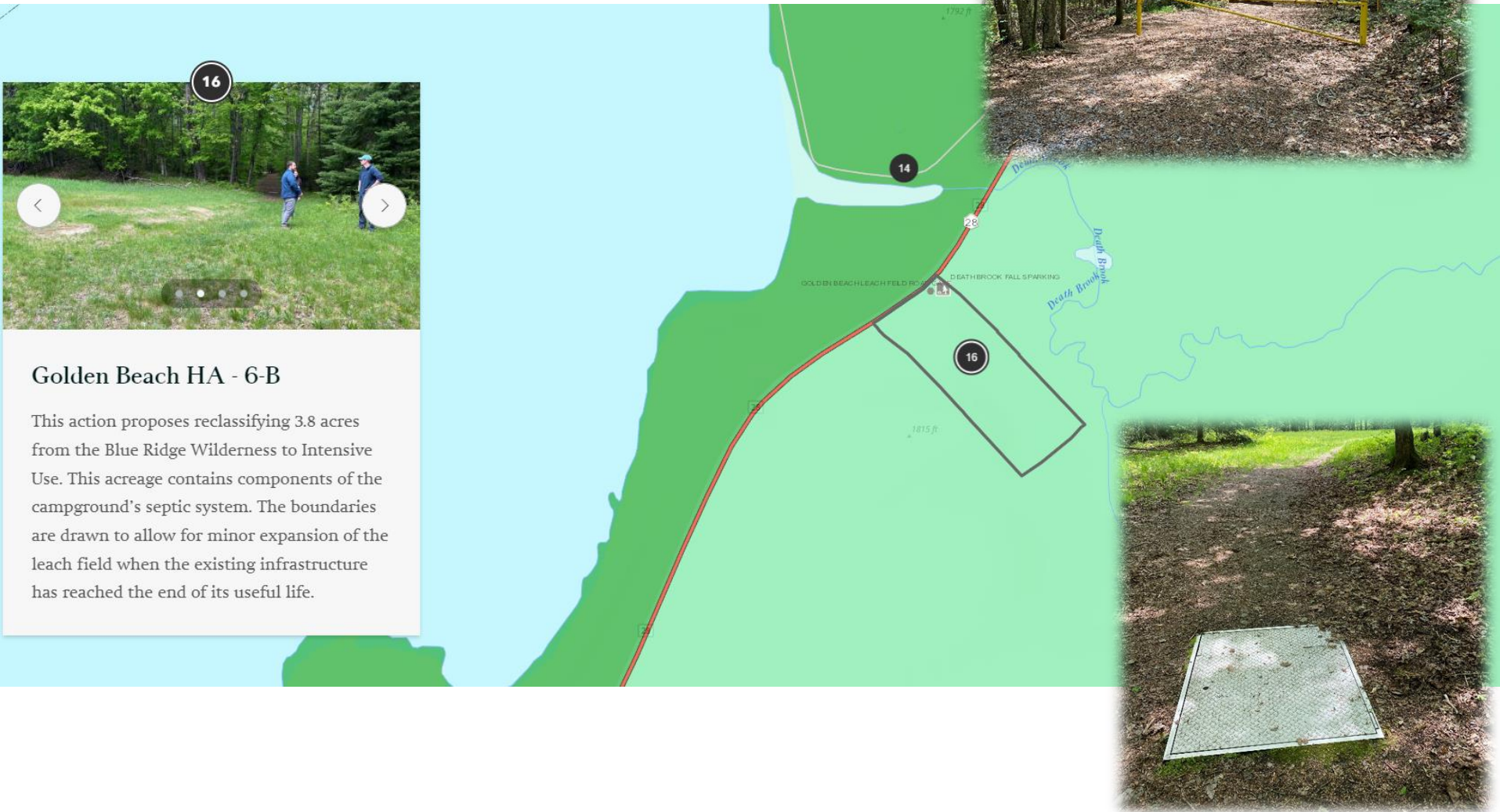


Golden Beach HA - 6-A

This action proposes reclassifying 5.7 acres from the Sargent Pond Wild Forest land to Intensive Use. The purpose for this is to reclassify areas that contain pre-existing campground infrastructure such as the entrance road, ticket booth, and caretaker's cabin. The northern boundary follows a 100-foot setback from the campground entrance road and the road to campsites 122 - 156.



HA-6-B Golden Beach



Environmental Impacts

- The DSEIS finds that the action as proposed will not have significant adverse impacts
- Application of APSLMP guidelines through the classification and UMP process should prevent significant adverse environmental impacts caused by types or levels of use
- Any new structure or improvements in an Intensive Use Area must be planned for through the UMP process
- Any construction activities occurring in Intensive Use Areas and State Administrative areas must “avoid material alteration of wetlands, minimize extensive topographic alterations, limit vegetative clearing, and preserve the scenic, natural and open space resources” of these areas (APSLMP, p. 41-42, p. 47)

Alternatives Analysis

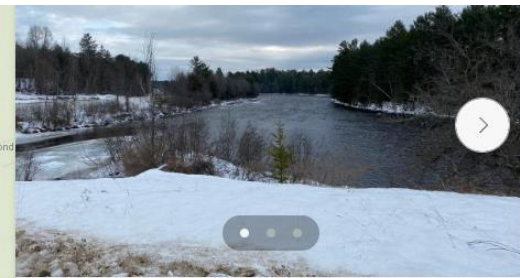
- **No action** – non-conforming uses and improvements must cease or be removed
- **Alternative boundaries** – boundaries may be drawn differently, preference is to follow natural features or existing lot lines
- **Alternative classifications** – determine the appropriateness of other state land classifications, if applicable

Additional Parcels

- We have just covered the 8 parcels that involved reclassifying lands from a more restrictive to a less restrictive classification
- These 8 parcels warranted environmental review under SEQRA
- The entire package contains 36 parcels total and nearly ~6,000 acres
- The story map covers everything!

<https://tinyurl.com/landclassstorymap>

CL-1 Saranac Riverfront

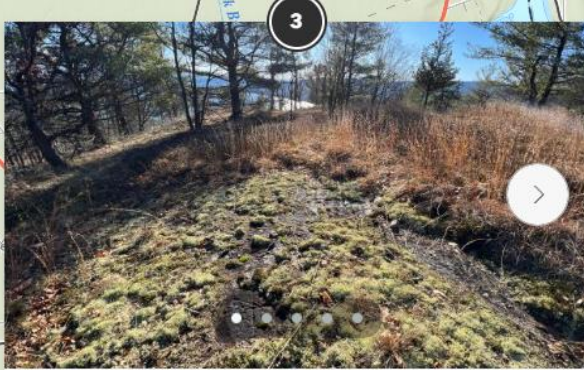


Saranac Riverfront (CL-1)

This elongate, narrow 3.1-acre parcel is sandwiched between NYS Route 3 and the Saranac River, with its western terminus at NYS Route 1/Silver Lake Road. The acquisition is located in the Town of Saranac, Clinton County, and the proposed classification for this parcel is Wild Forest. The parcel is currently unclassified and being classified as part of this classification action. There is significant road noise that prevents this parcel from offering a sense of remoteness. There is a private business across NYS Route 1, as well as existing parking nearby for at least 5 vehicles to access the Saranac River catch and release area. The parcel to the east is in private ownership (classified as Low Intensity Use) and does not appear to be developed. Other neighboring private land is also

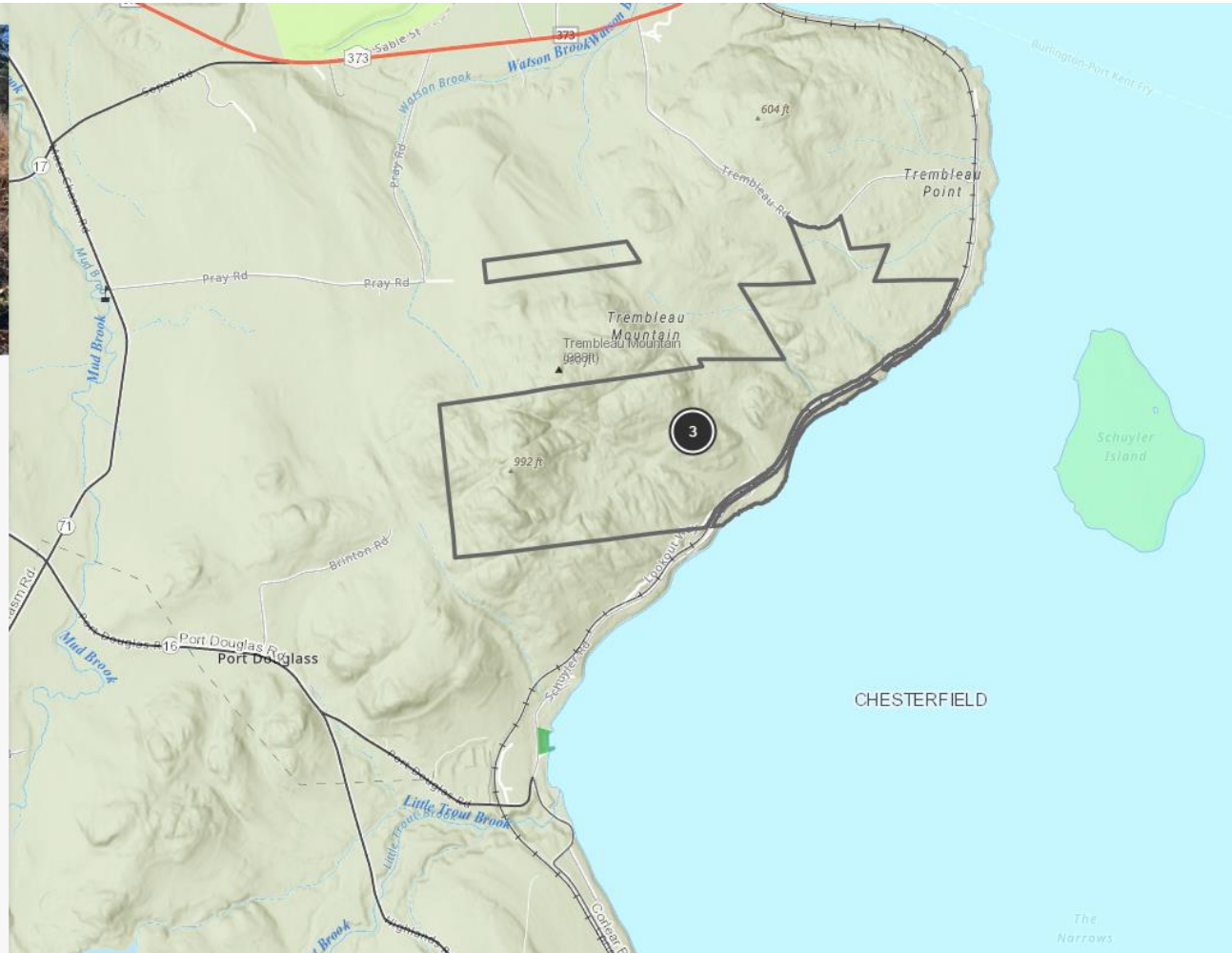


ES-1 Champlain Valley Hills



Champlain Valley Hills (ES-1)

The 610.6-acre acquisition, located in the Town of Chesterfield, Essex County is isolated from other Forest Preserve lands. The parcel includes many defining features, including spectacular views of Lake Champlain from Mt. Trembleau, a variety of vegetation types, wildlife and Lake Champlain shoreline. Soils here are rocky and well drained with bedrock exposed on summits. A Pitch pine-oak-heath rocky summit ecological community is found on the summit of Mt. Trembleau and other dry, rocky outcrops. Tree species especially abundant in this community include pitch

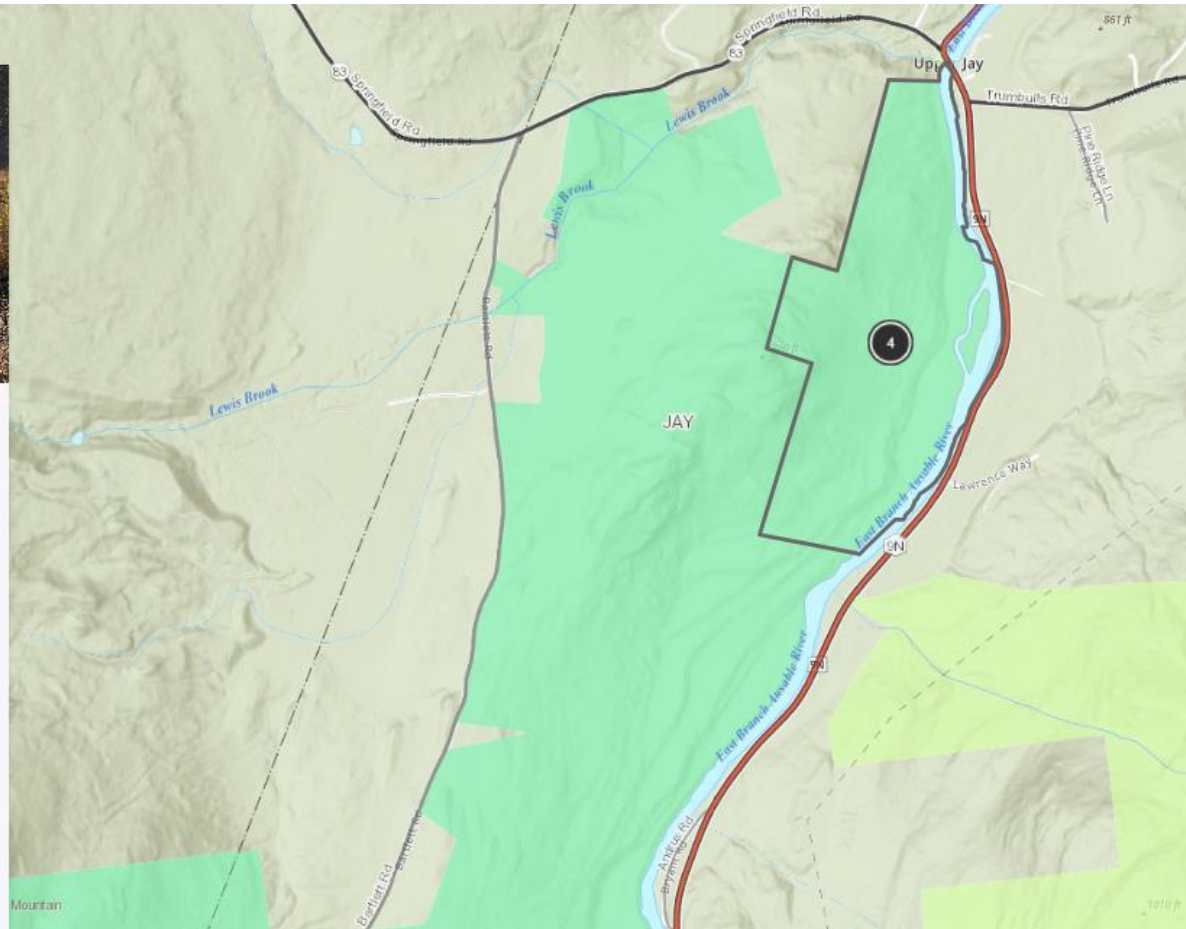


ES-2 East Branch Ausable - Jay



East Branch Ausable - Jay (ES-2)

This 149.1-acre map correction is located in the Town of Jay, Essex County. The proposed classification for this parcel is Wilderness. The parcel is bounded to the east by lands classified as Wilderness (part of the Sentinel Range), to the northwest by private lands classified as Resource Management, and to the west by the East Branch of the Ausable River (a designated Recreational River within the Wild, Scenic, and Recreational Rivers system). There are mapped APA-jurisdictional wetlands proximate to the river. The entirety of the parcel may provide habitat for a state threatened pollinator species. There is an old road bed evident from the Bartlett Road access to this parcel, and



ES-3 East Branch Ausable – Hulls Falls



East Branch Ausable - Hulls Falls (ES-3)

This 3.8-acre acquisition is located along a meander of the East Branch of the Ausable River in the Town of Keene, Essex County. The parcel is bordered by the river, private lands classified as Resource Management, and Hulls Falls Road to the west; and by existing state lands classified as Wild Forest to the east. The parcel's proposed classification is Wild Forest as it is contiguous with existing Wild Forest classified acreage and is not of the size or character to warrant a more restrictive classification. The parcel is currently unclassified and being classified as part of this classification action. The entire parcel is within the East Branch Ausable Recreational River buffer. In terms of winter resources, the

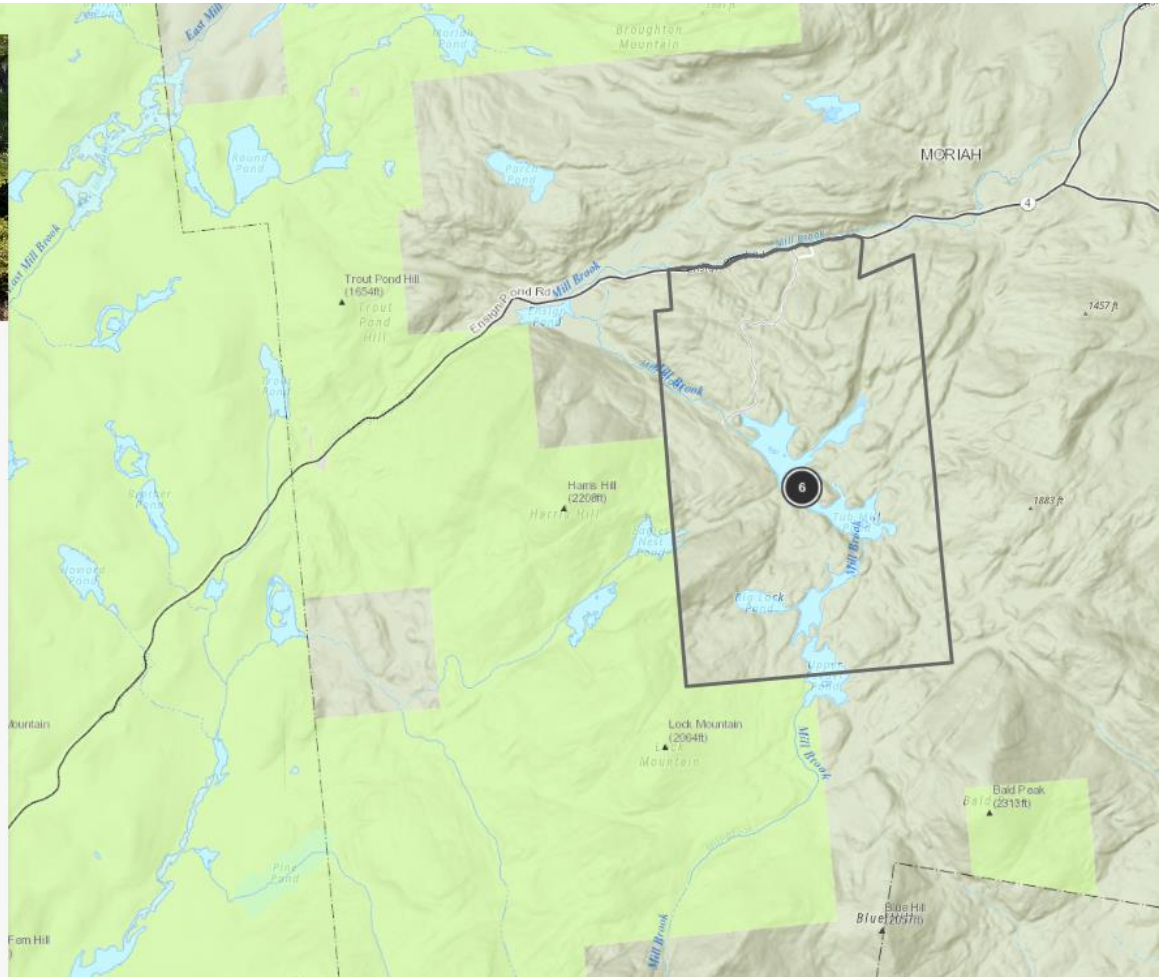


ES-4 Tub Mill Pond



Tub Mill Pond (ES-4)

This 1,200-acre acquisition lies on the western edge of the Lake George/Lake Champlain watershed in the Town of Moriah, Essex County. It includes five lakes and ponds with 2.6 miles of shoreline and a combined surface area of 112 acres. A recently reconstructed dam on Mill Brook impounds 57-acre Tub Mill Pond. Topographic relief between 1,200' and 1,800' elevation includes steep rugged slopes interspersed with timber management roads and a gravel surfaced service road leading from Ensign Pond Road to the dam. Approximately 54 acres of mapped wetlands are present on the parcel as well as several C(T) protected streams ([Water Quality Standards and Classifications - NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation](#)). Soils on the parcel are well drained, rocky and bouldery. Terrestrial communities on the parcel include hemlock northern hardwood forests and pine northern hardwood forests. The southwestern corner of the parcel abuts Forest Preserve



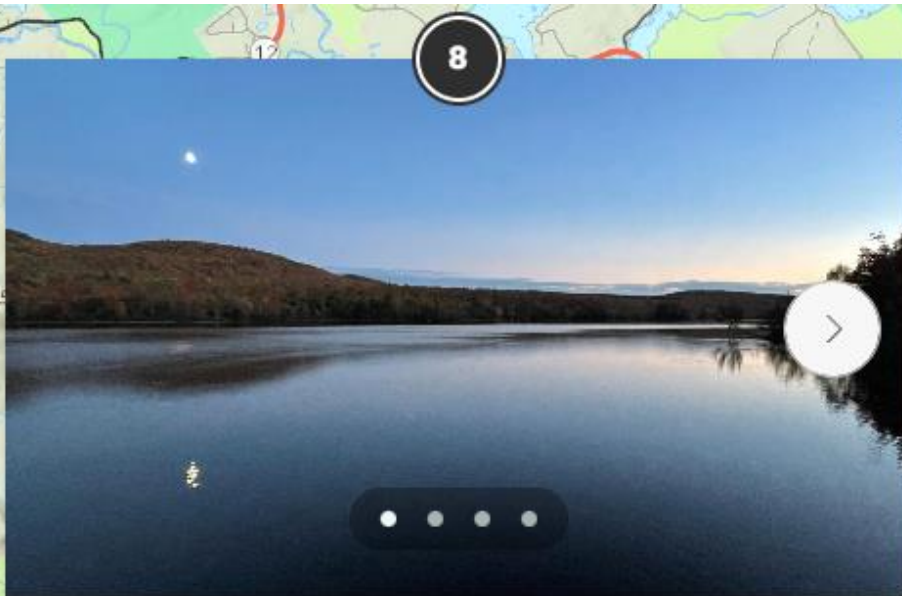
ES-5 Johnson Pond

Johnson Pond (ES-5)

This 0.1-acre parcel is in the Town of North Hudson, Essex County and entails a map correction to ameliorate an error that displayed this parcel as private land (classified as Rural Use). According to tax parcel information, this parcel belongs to the State of New York. The proposed classification for this parcel is Wild Forest. The parcel is relatively flat and is covered in its entirety by APA-jurisdictional wetlands. Soils on the parcel are comprised of a fine sandy loam that are moderately well drained.

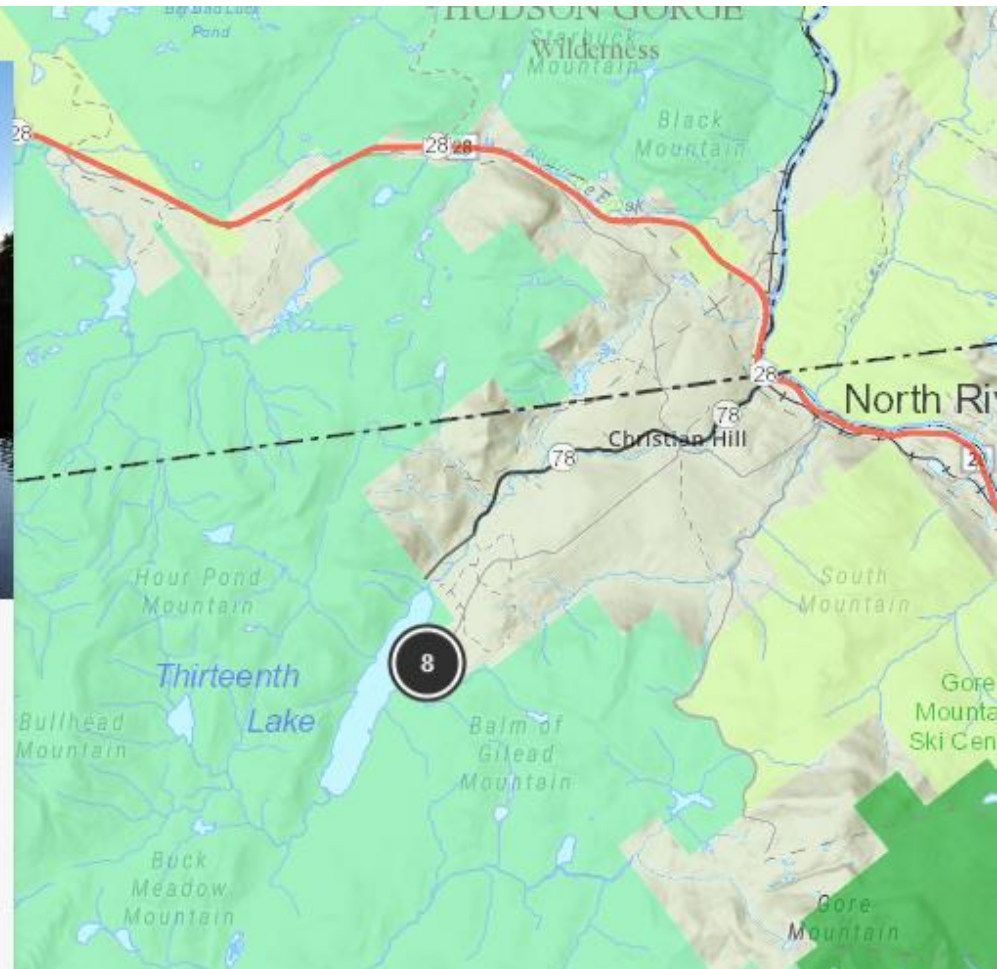


WR-1 Thirteenth Lake Shoreline

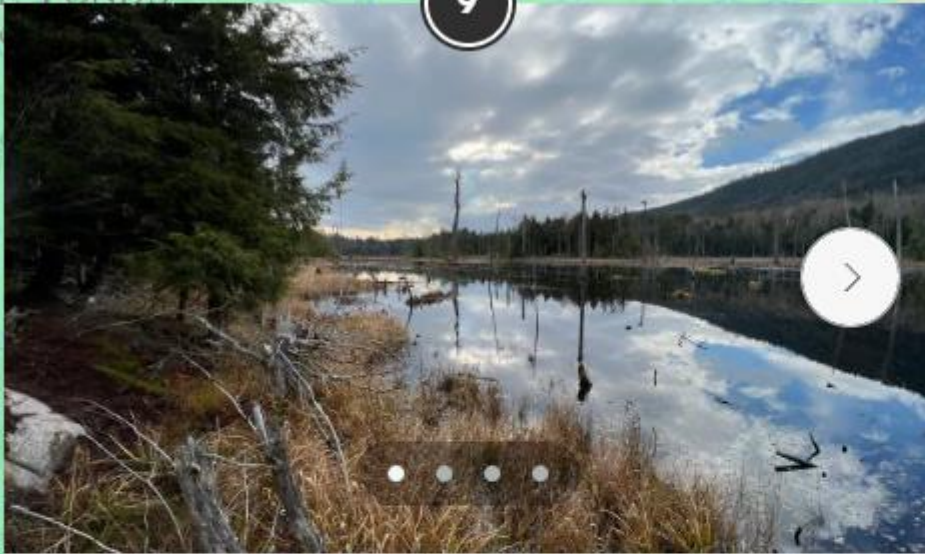


Thirteenth Lake Shoreline (WR-1)

This 17.9-acre acquisition is in the Town of Johnsburg in Warren County. The proposed

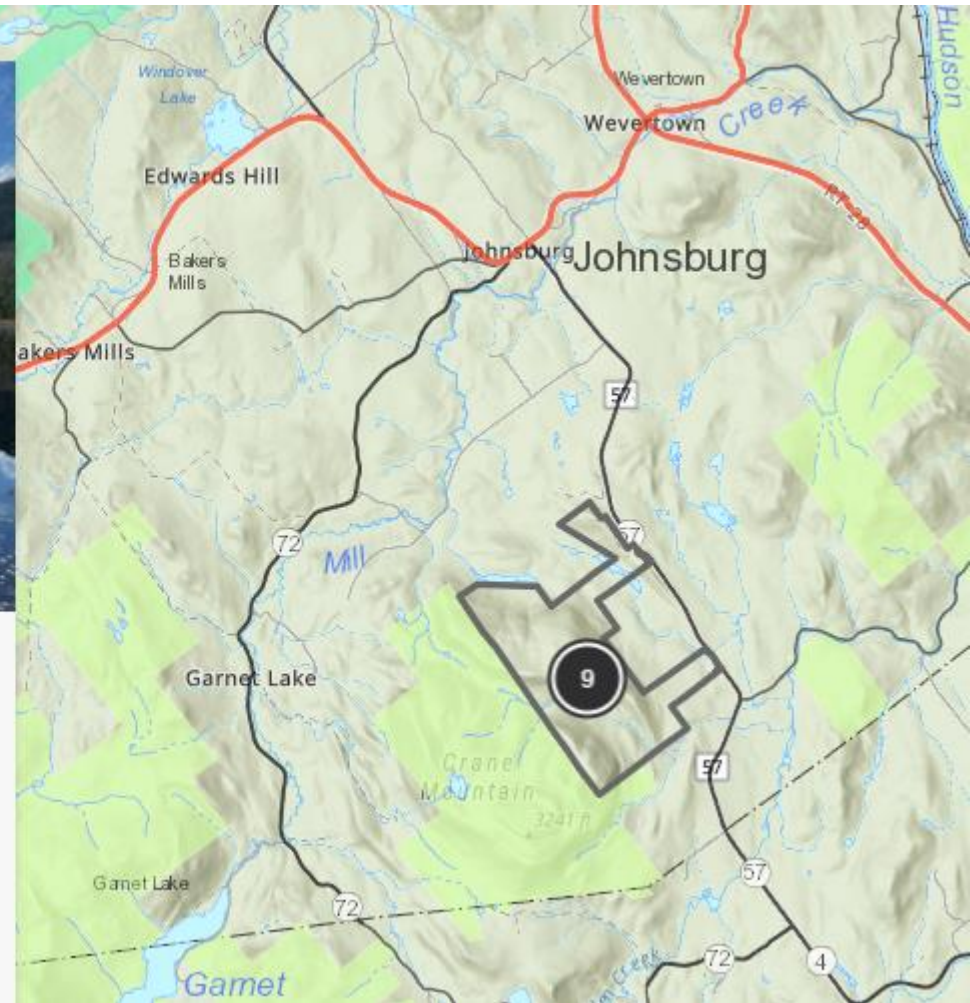


WR-2 Huckleberry Mountain - Johnsburg



Huckleberry Mountain - Johnsburg (WR-2)

This 1276.2-acre acquisition is located in the Town of Johnsburg, Warren County. It abuts

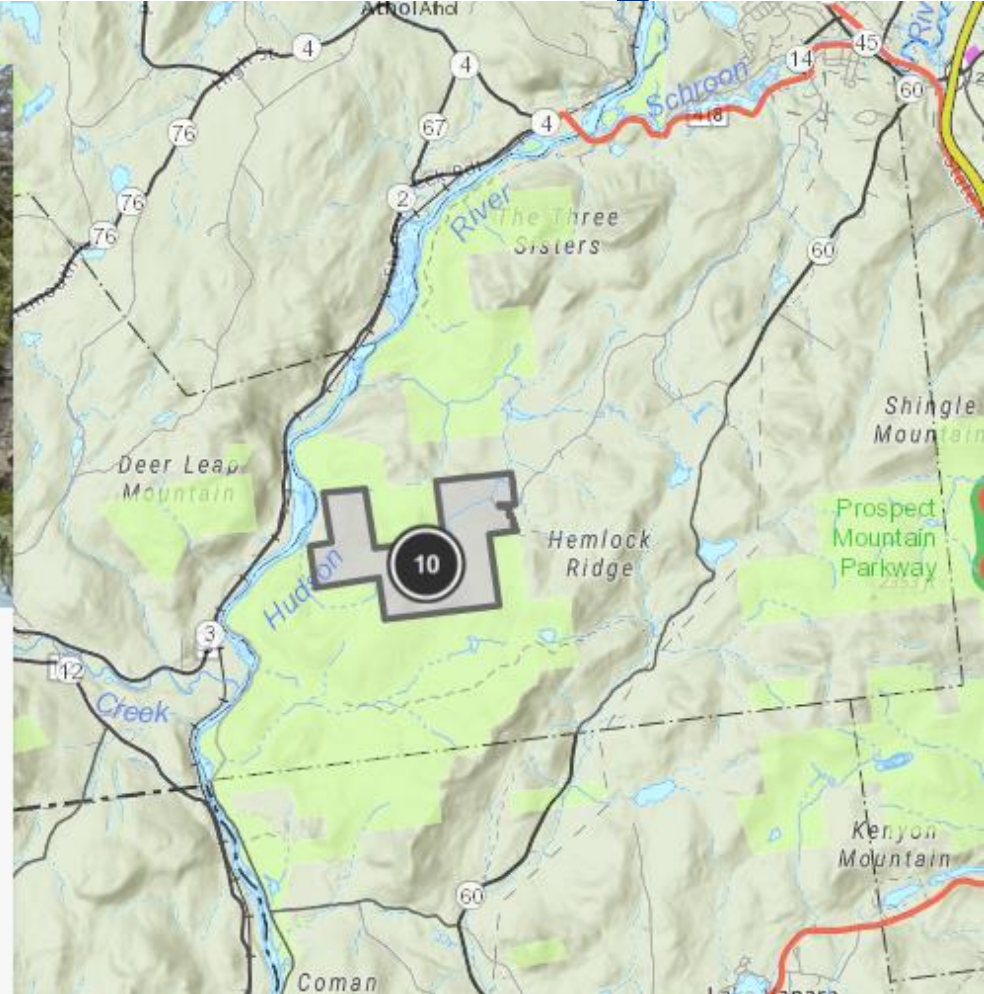


WR-3 Huckleberry Mountain - Warrensburg

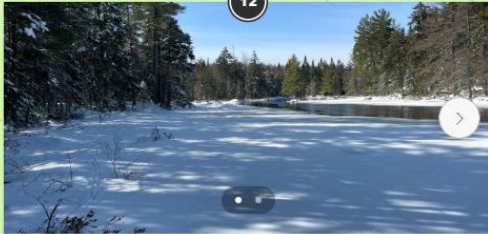


Huckleberry Mountain - Warrensburg (WR-3)

This 837-acre acquisition abuts existing Wild Forest lands part of the Lake George Wild

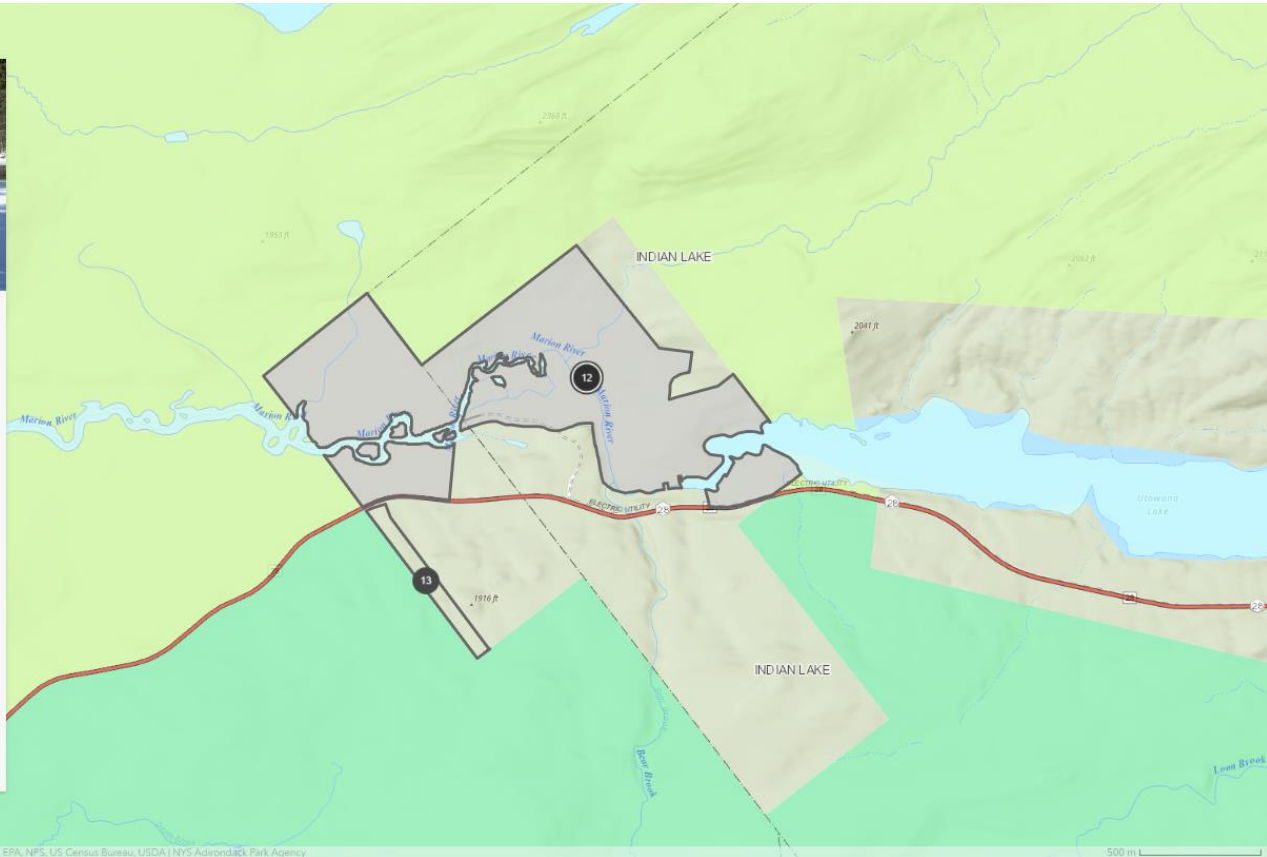


HA-1 Marion River - Arietta

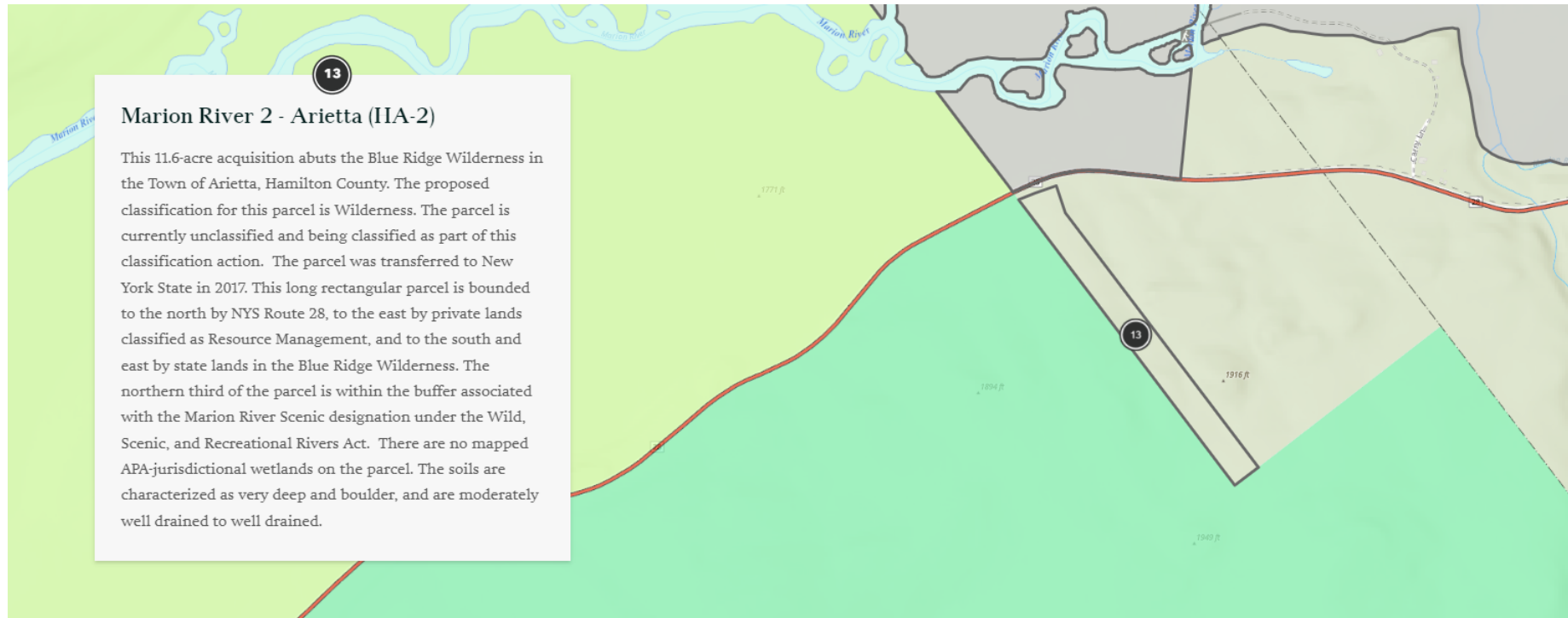


Marion River - Arietta (IIA-1)

This 266.8-acre parcel was transferred to New York State in 2017. The acquisition is located in the Towns of Arietta and Indian Lake in Hamilton County. The parcel includes a canoe carry that is part of one of the most popular Adirondack canoe routes; the carry provides a connection between Raquette Lake and Blue Mountain Lake. The portage is used to carry boats around rapids in the Marion River. Mapped wetlands cover much of the parcel. The section of the Marion River that runs through the parcel is classified as Scenic under the state's Wild Scenic and Recreational Rivers Act. The parcel includes the remnants of a former rail line built by William West Durant in 1899. The parcel is currently unclassified and being classified as part of this classification action. The proposed classification for this parcel is Wild Forest.



HA-2 Marion River 2 - Arietta



HA-6-C Golden Beach

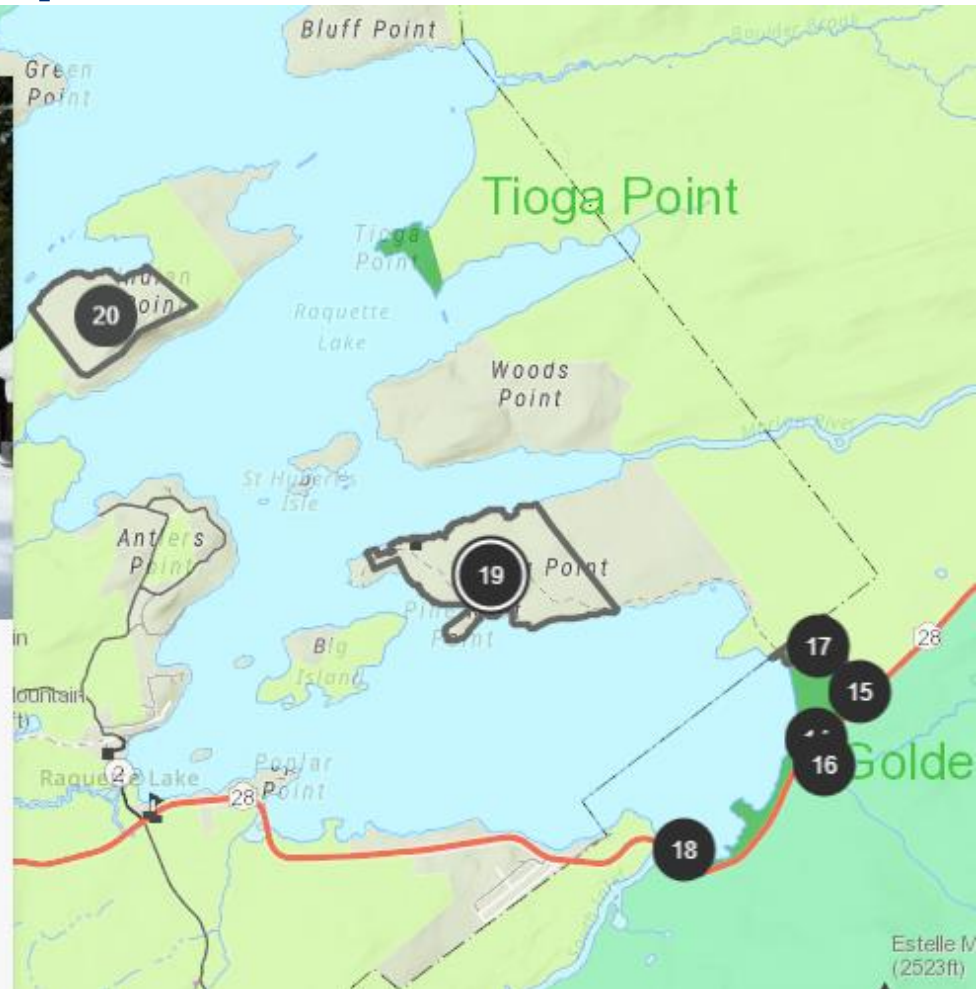
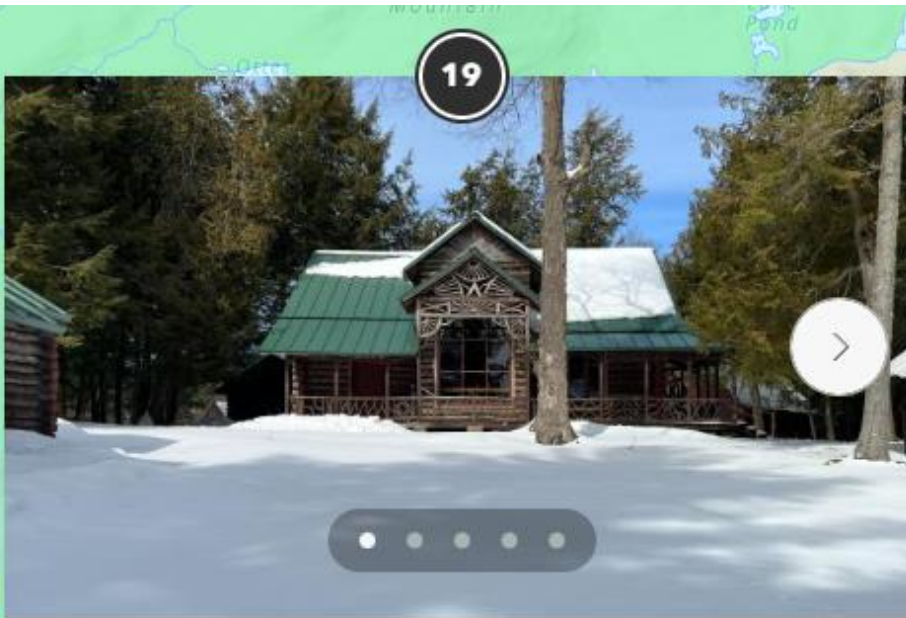
17

Golden Beach HA - 6-C

This action proposes reclassifying 22.9 acres from the existing Intensive Use area to be added to the Sargent Pond Wild Forest. This area to the north of the campground loop is characterized by freshwater forested and shrub wetlands, therefore future developments allowable in an Intensive Use area would not be appropriate on this acreage. This boundary is drawn with a 100-foot setback from the road.



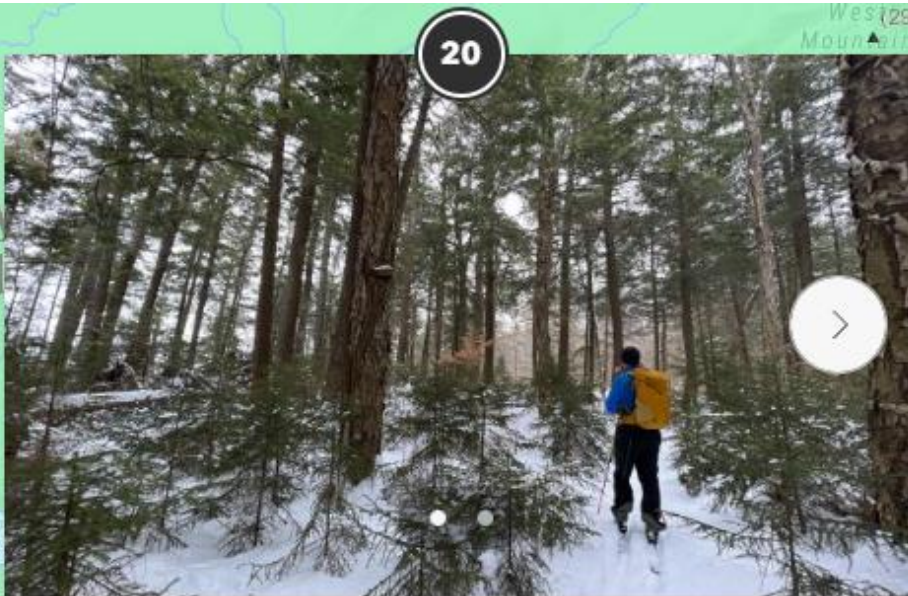
HA-3 SUNY Cortland Camp Pine Knot



SUNY Cortland - Camp Pine Knot (HA-3)

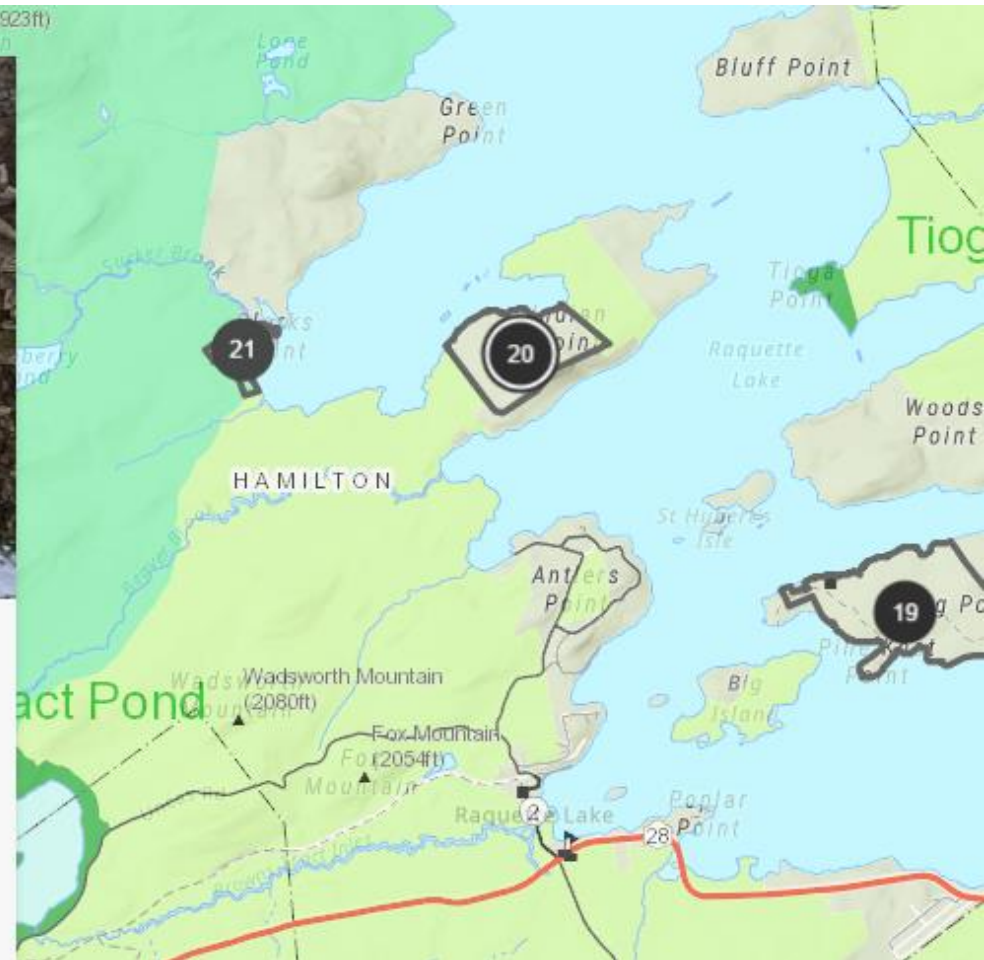
The 208.5-acre property is administered by State University of New York (SUNY) Cortland

HA-4 Sucker Brook Bay



Sucker Brook Bay - Raquette Lake (HA-4)

This 117.3-acre parcel includes over 3,000 feet of shoreline on Raquette Lake in the Town of

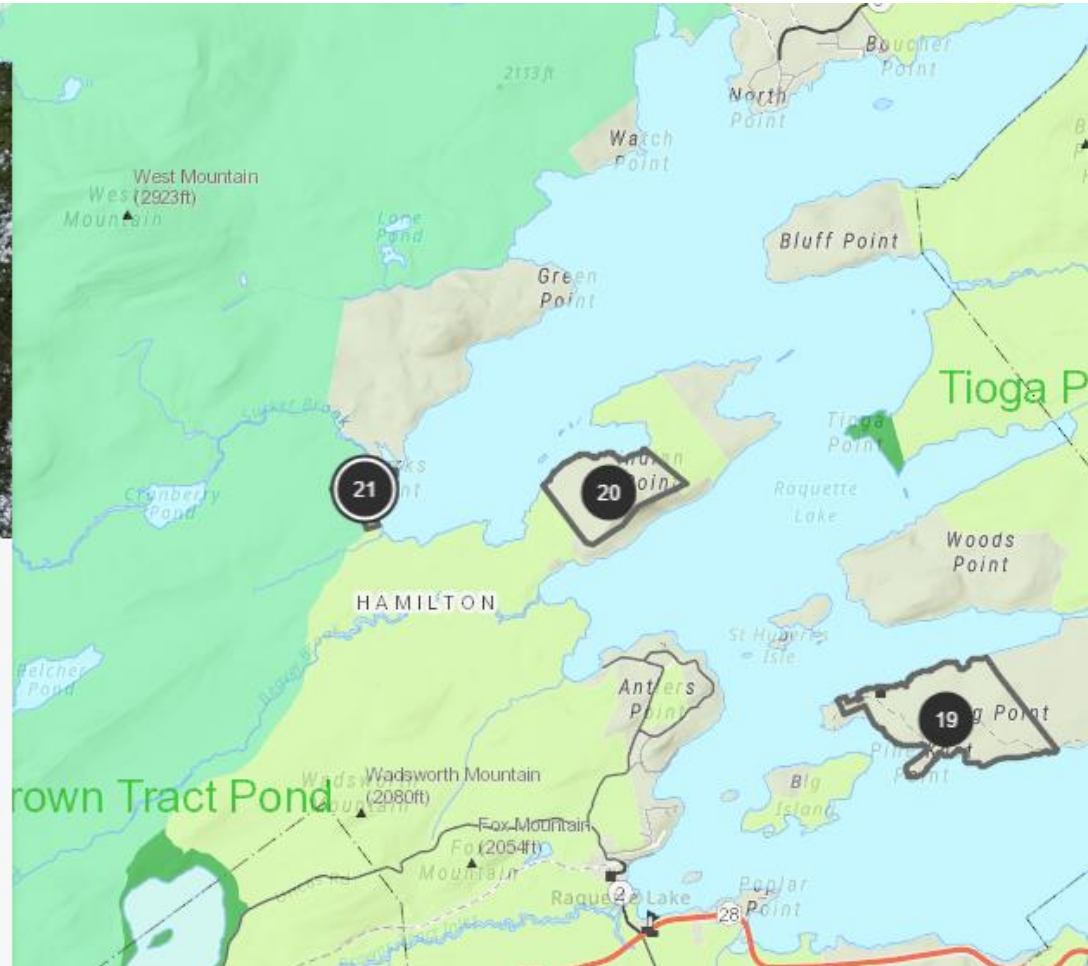


HA-5 Sucker Brook Bay 2



Sucker Brook Bay 2 - Raquette Lake (HA-5)

This 18.2 acre parcel is a combination of a 10.1-acre parcel and a 8.1-acre parcel divided by private property. Both parcels abut the Pigeon Lake Wilderness on the west and

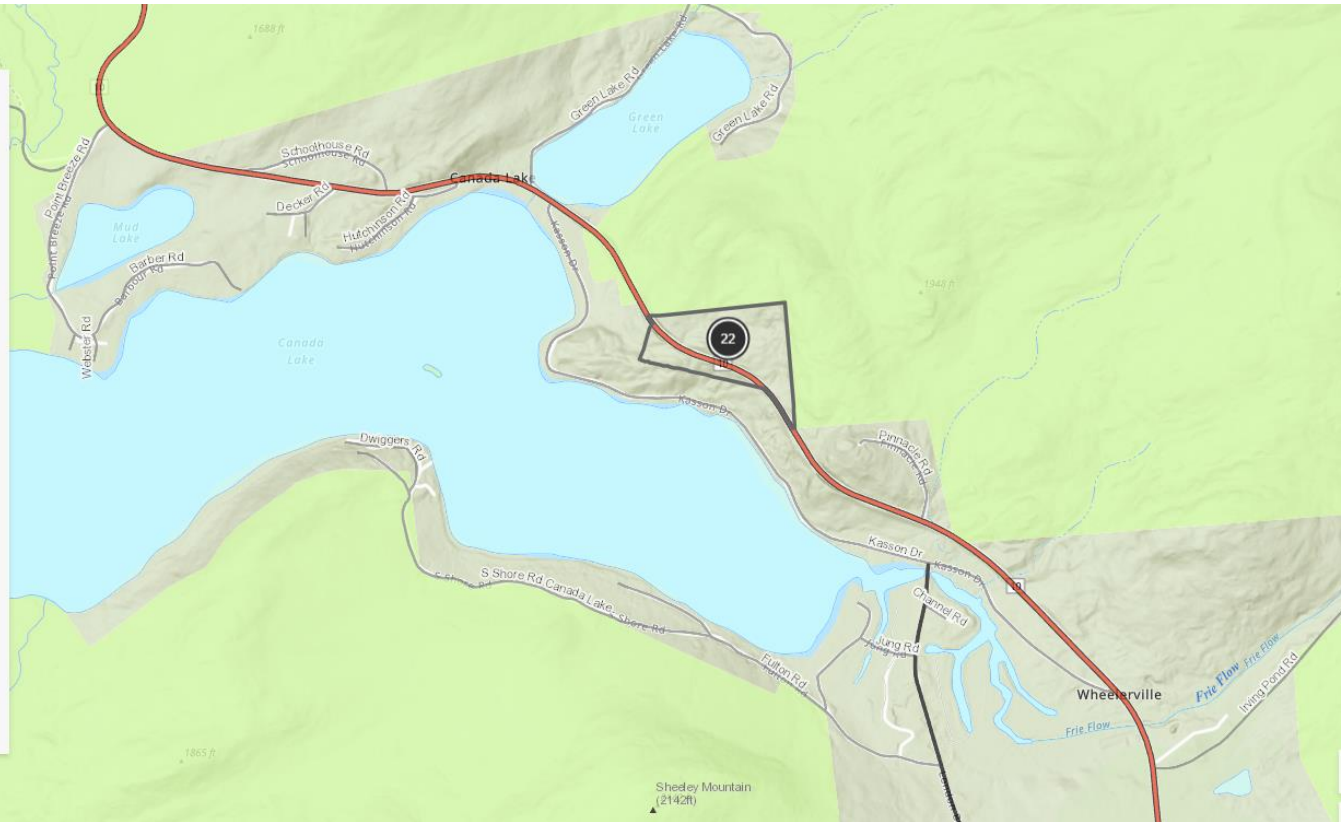


FL-1 Route 10 Canada Lake

22

Route 10 Canada Lake (FL-1)

This 18.8-acre acquisition is in the Town of Caroga in Fulton County. The proposed classification for this parcel is Wild Forest. The parcel is currently unclassified and being classified as part of this classification action. It is bounded to the north and east by lands in the Shaker Mountain Wild Forest, and is bounded by private lands classified as Low Intensity Use to the south and west. There is a species of fern ranked by the NY Natural Heritage Program as "S1" (5 or fewer occurrences in the state, very few remaining individuals, especially vulnerable) in the area. Soils on the parcel are mostly comprised of a well drained sandy loam, occurring on 15-35% slopes.



HR-1-A & HR-1-B Stillwater Reservoir

23



Stillwater Reservoir (HR-1A and HR-1B)

There are two parcels totaling 3.7 acres to be classified in the Town of Webb in Herkimer County, both of which are map corrections. The first, HR-1-a, is 3.2 acres in size and contains the Hudson River Black River Regulating District's Stillwater Reservoir field

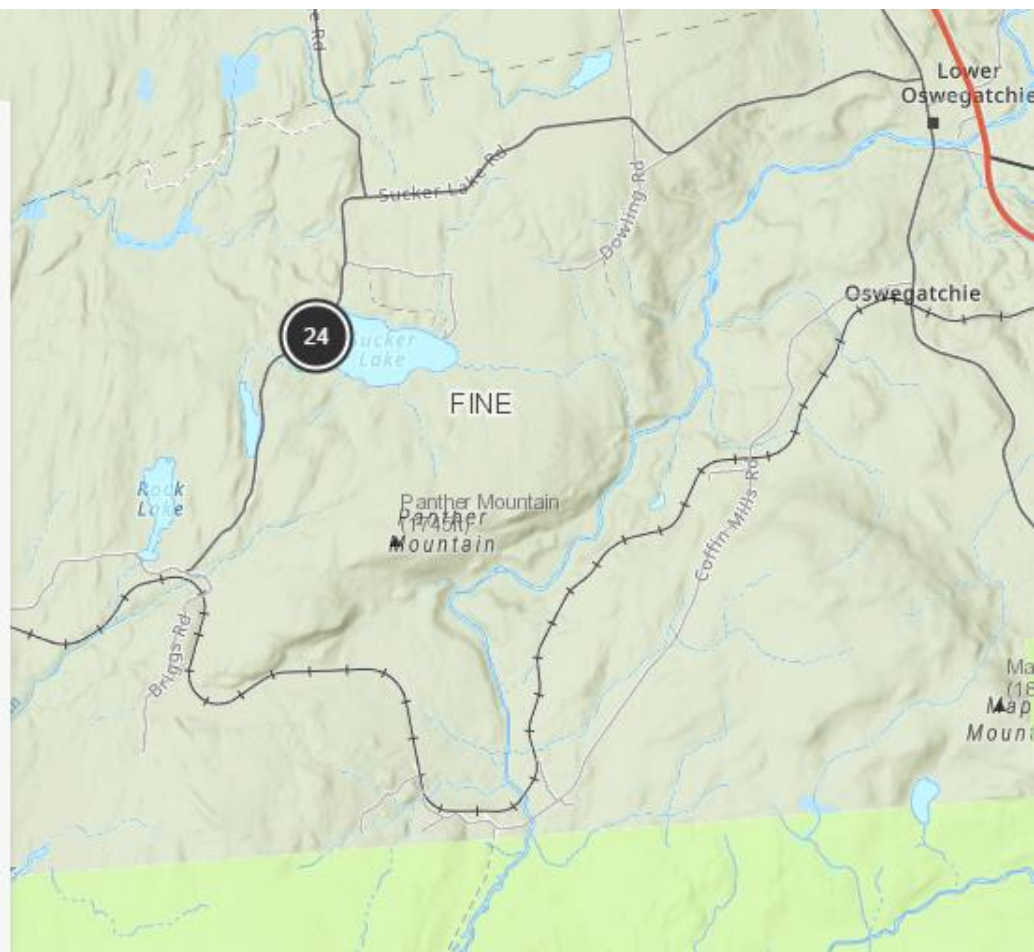


SL-1 Sucker Lake Shoreline

24

Sucker Lake Shoreline (SL-1)

This 86-acre parcel includes 82 acres of the bed of Sucker Lake and four acres are upland area near Sucker Lake Road. The parcel is located in the Town of Fine, St. Lawrence County and abuts the Sucker Lake Road. The southern side of Sucker Lake is under conservation easement. The parcel requires a map correction. Previous APA maps show the parcel as private land, but it is owned by New York State. The proposed classification for this parcel is Wild Forest.

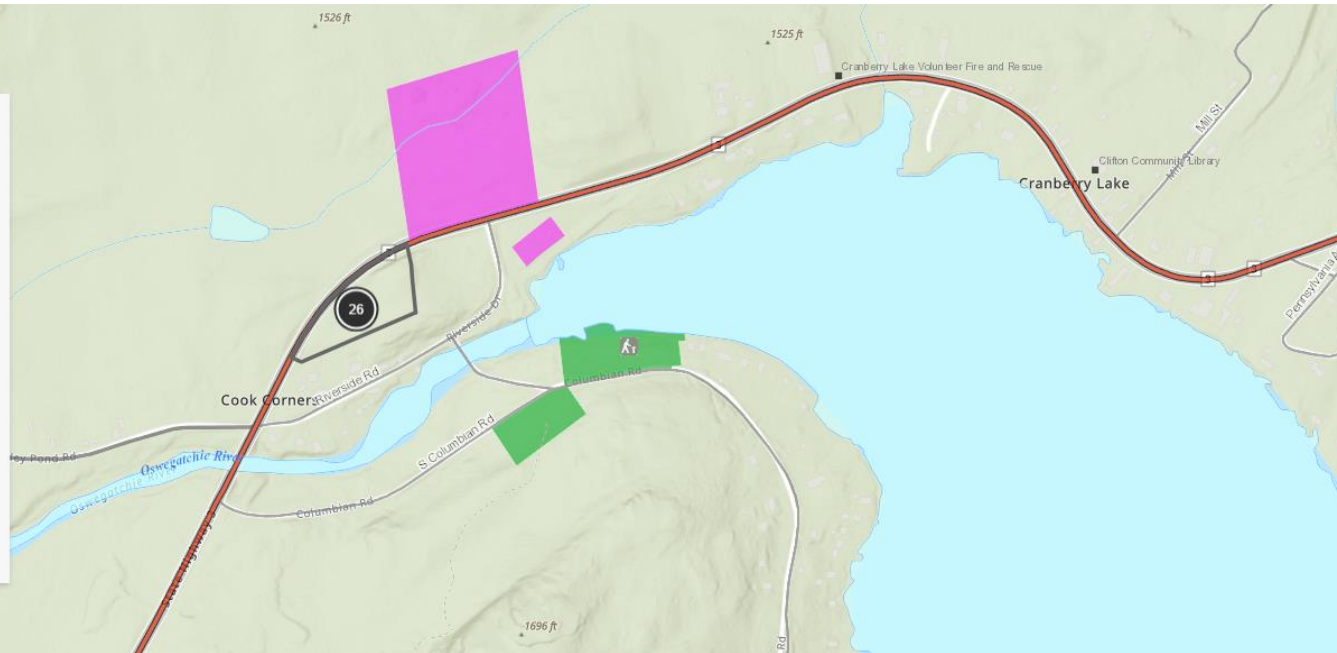


SL-3 Cranberry Lake

26

Cranberry Lake - Clifton (SL-3)

This 2.4-acre wooded acquisition is bounded on the north by State Route 3 and private land to the south. It is in the Town of Clifton, St. Lawrence County. No structures or improvements are currently on the parcel. No mapped wetlands are found on the parcel. The parcel is currently unclassified and being classified as part of this classification action. The proposed classification for this parcel is Wild Forest.

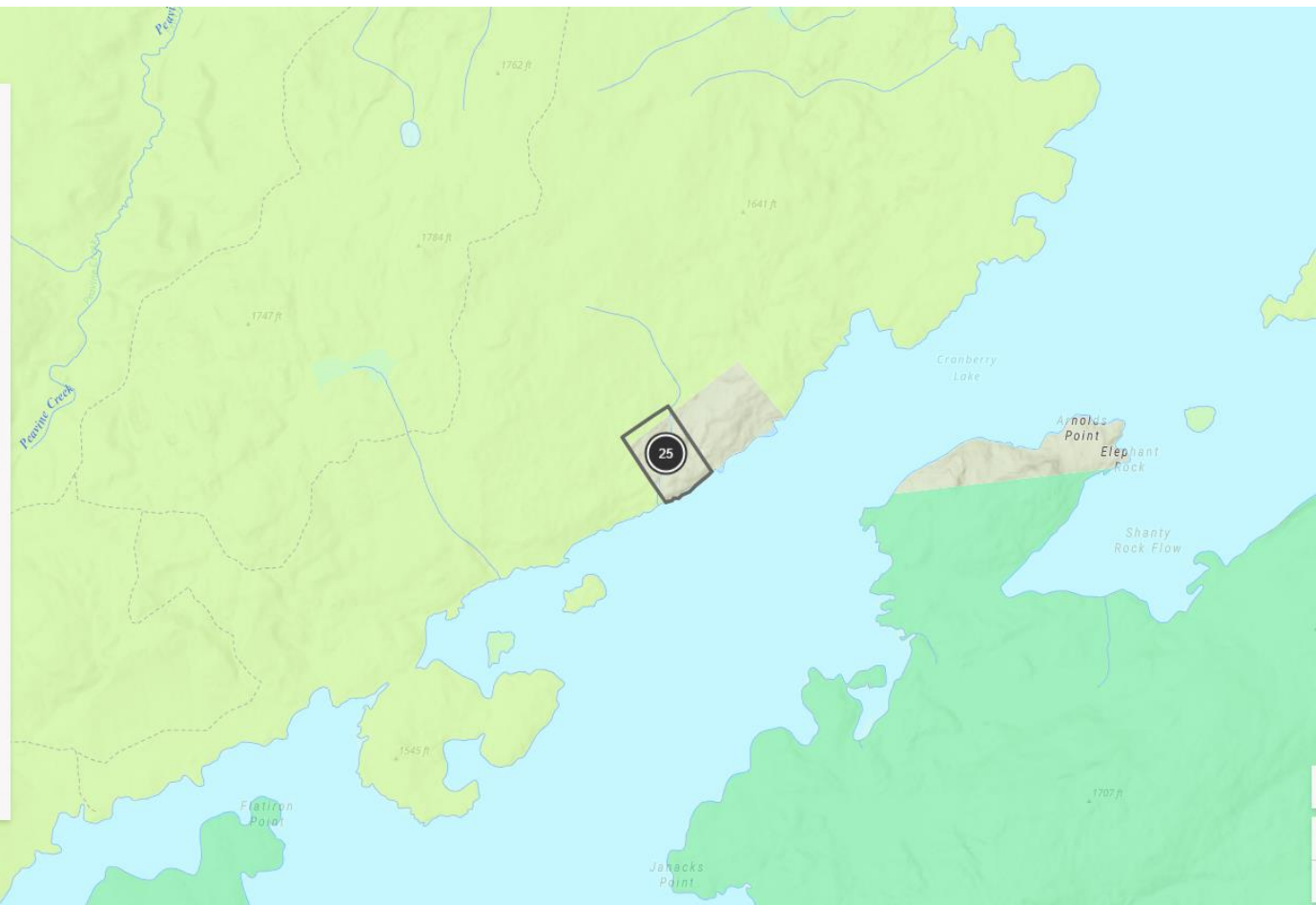


SL-4 Cranberry Lake 2

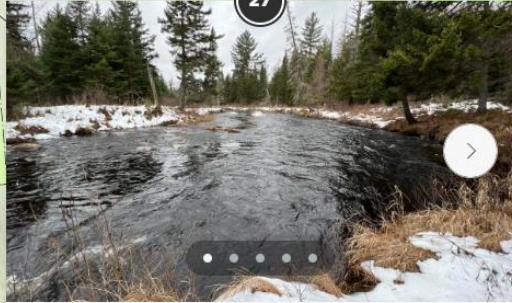
25

Cranberry Lake 2 - Clifton (SL-4)

This 11-acre acquisition is in the Town of Clifton, St. Lawrence County, and the proposed classification for this parcel is Wild Forest. The parcel is currently unclassified and being classified as part of this classification action. The parcel is bounded to the north and west by state lands in the Cranberry Lake Wild Forest, to the east by private lands classified as Resource Management, and to the south by Cranberry Lake. There are no mapped APA-jurisdictional wetlands on the parcel. The soils are moderately deep, rocky, and well drained with slopes ranging from 15-35%. An unnamed stream traverses the parcel flowing from the northeast corner to the southwest corner of the parcel, ultimately emptying into Cranberry Lake on adjacent state lands.

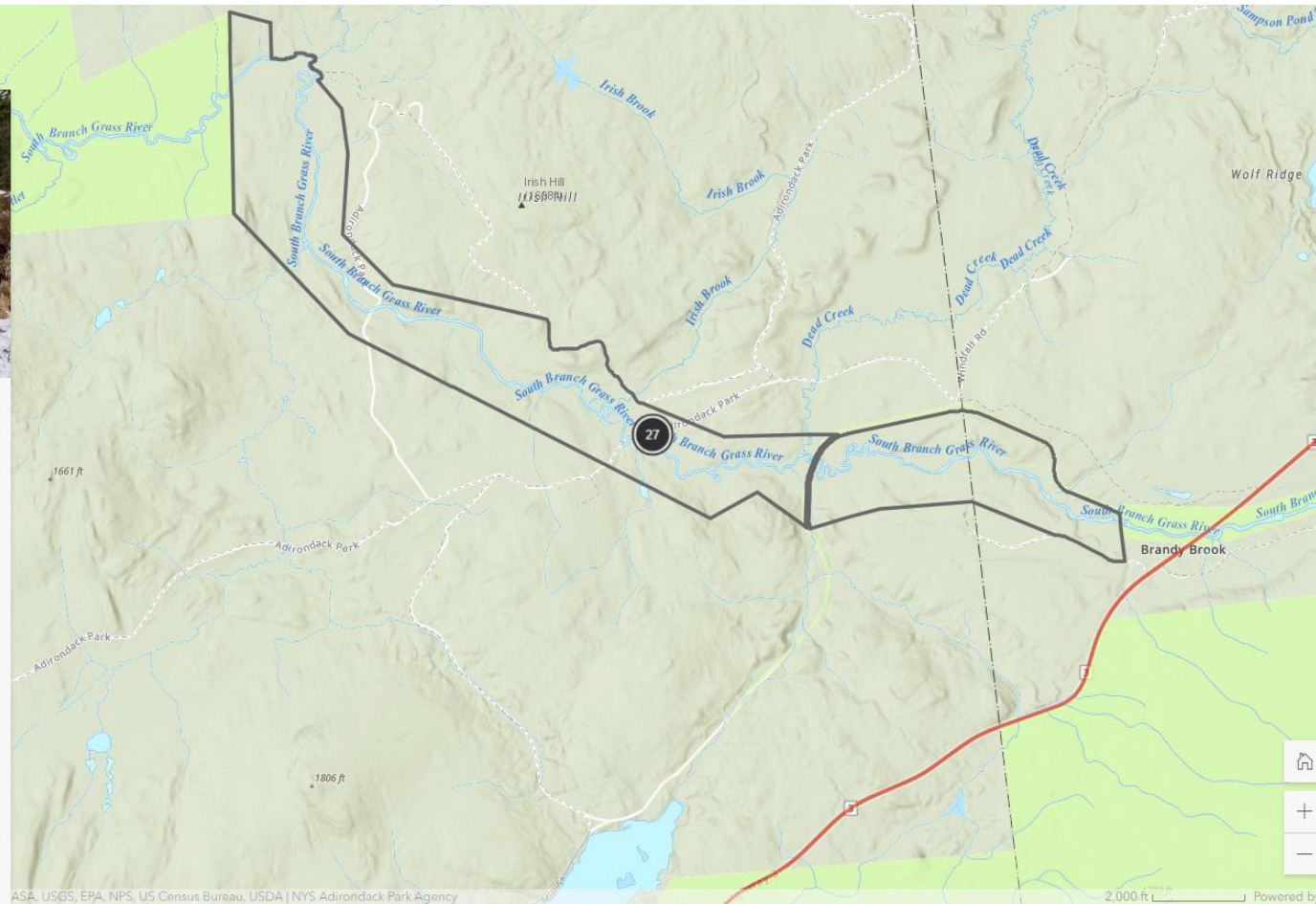


SL-2 Grass River Corridor



Grass River Corridor (SL-2)

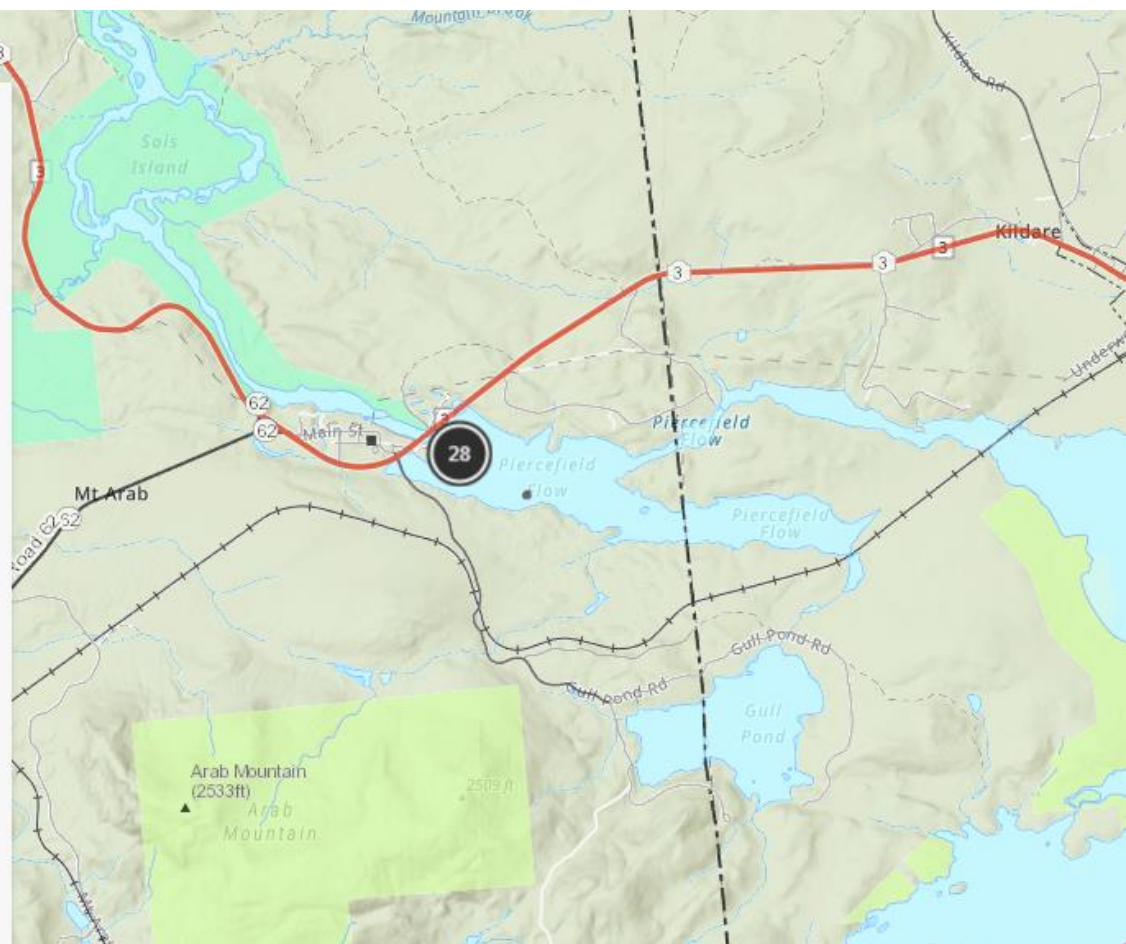
This 948-acre acquisition is in the Towns of Colton and Clifton, St. Lawrence County. It was purchased by New York State in 2021. The parcel parallels the South Branch of the Grass River (designated Scenic River under the Wild, Scenic, and Recreational Rivers Act). The river meanders as it makes its way through the parcel and includes several oxbows. Wetlands buffer the river and the uplands. Approximately 130 acres of mapped wetland can be found here. Remnants of the former resource extraction pepper the landscape, including old roads and stumps. The remains



SL-5 Piercefield Flow Islands

Piercefield Flow Islands (SL-5)

This 0.8-acre acquisition is in the Town of Piercefield, St. Lawrence County, and the proposed classification for this parcel is Wild Forest. The parcel is currently unclassified and being classified as part of this classification action. The land acquired is comprised of islands within the Piercefield Flow, which is an impoundment created by a hydroelectric dam. The parcel is within the buffer of the Raquette River, which is designated as Recreational under the Wild, Scenic, and Recreational Rivers Act. Private lands adjacent to the Piercefield Flow include lands classified as Moderate Intensity Use,

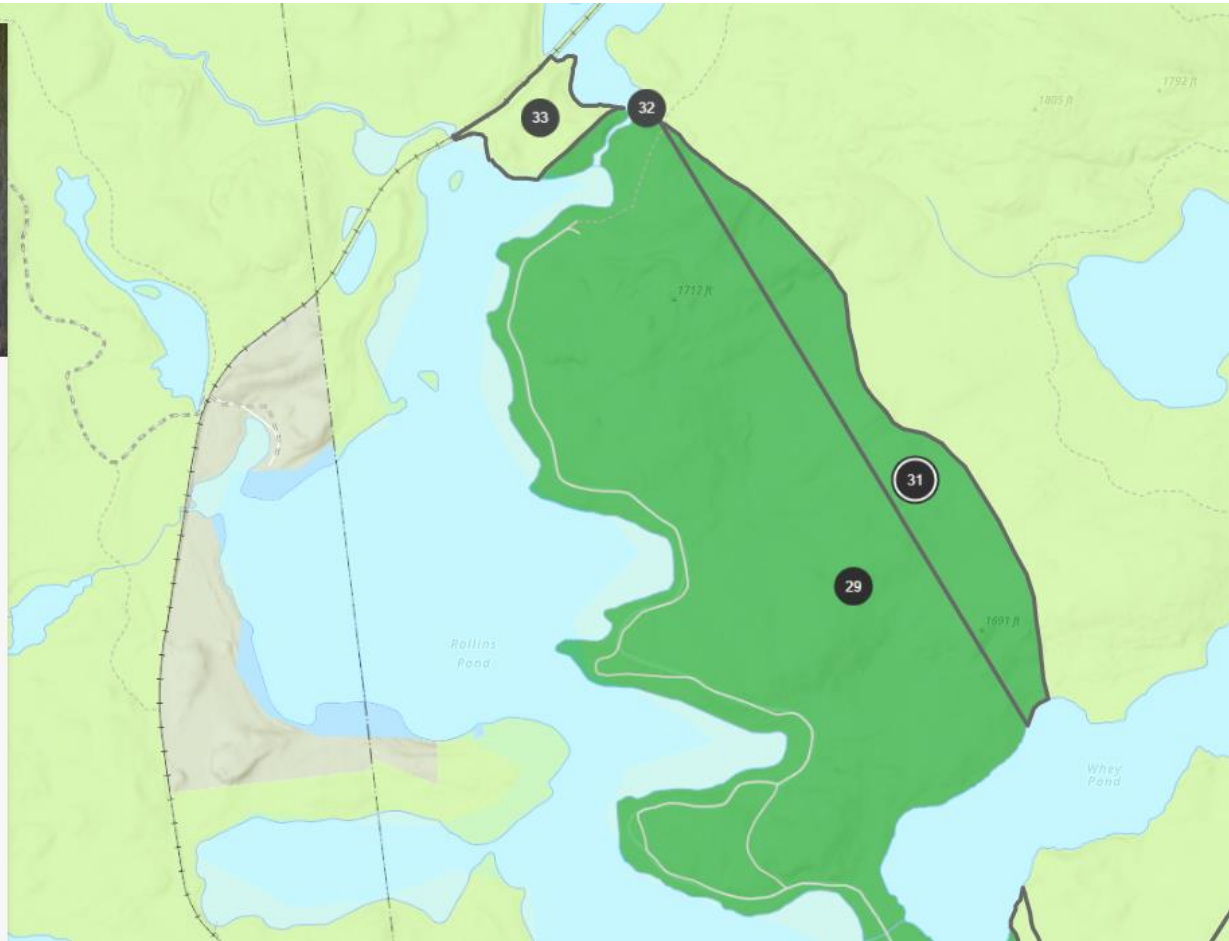


FR-6-B Rollins Pond

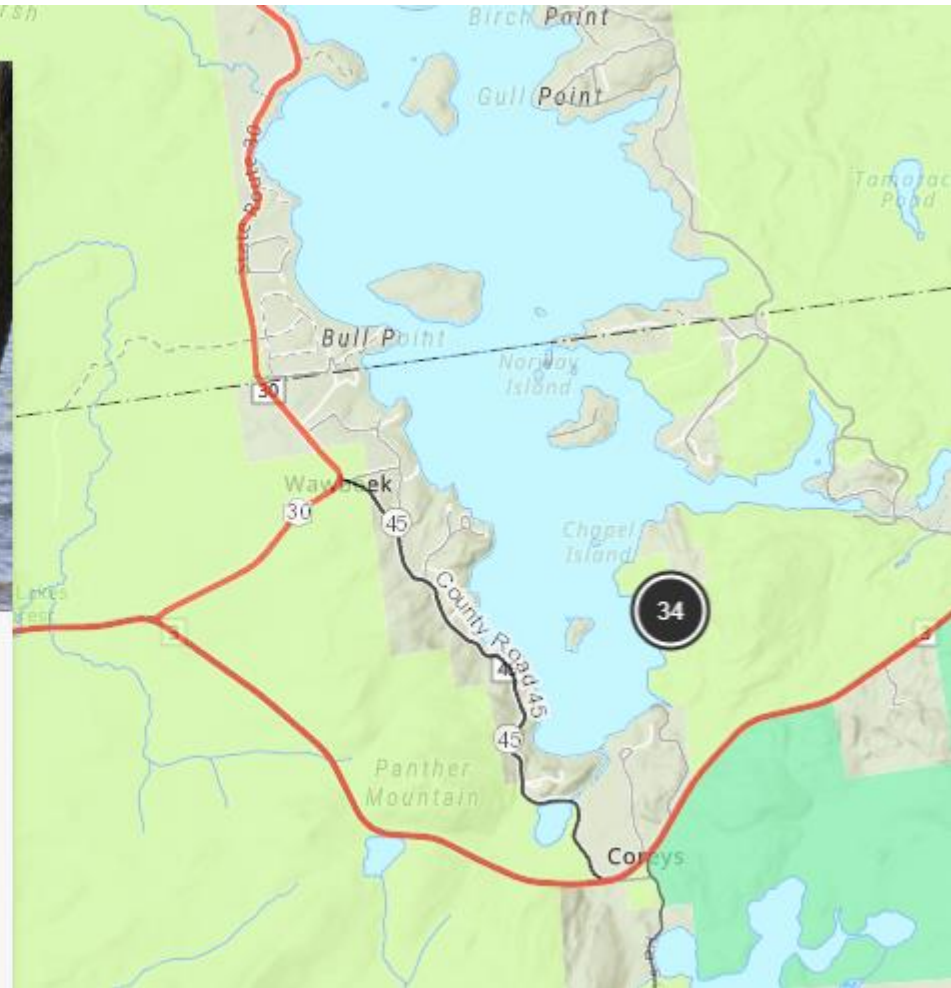
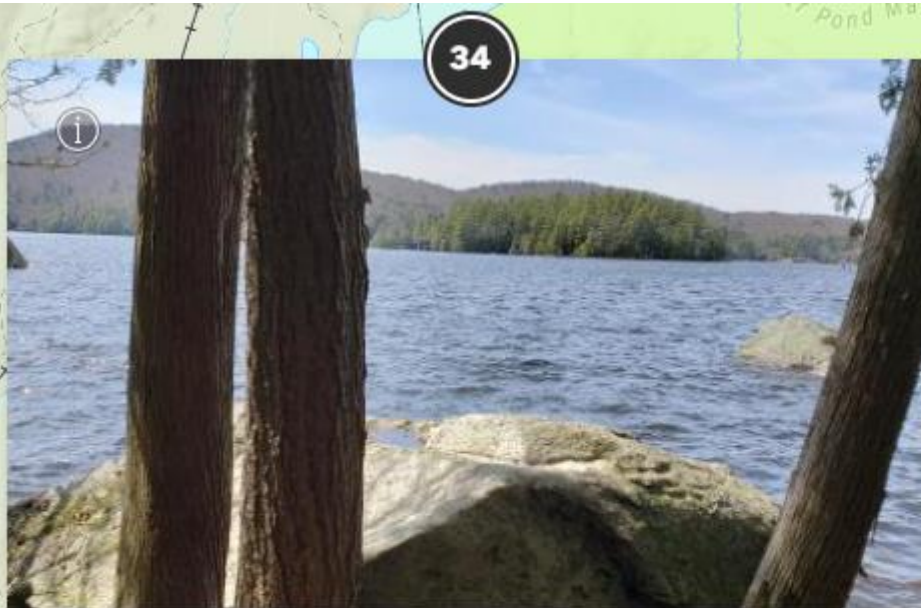


Rollins Pond (FR-6 B)

The northeastern boundary of the Rollins Pond Intensive Use area lies between $\frac{1}{4}$ and $\frac{1}{2}$ mile away from the closest campground improvements. This relatively remote part of the Intensive Use area is undeveloped for recreational access apart from faint herd paths on the shore of Whey Pond and the Otter Hollow Foot trail which leaves from the north end of the campground into Saranac Lakes Wild Forest. To more clearly define the boundary between the Intensive Use Area and the adjacent Wild Forest while simultaneously reclassifying the most remote and undeveloped lands from Intensive Use to Wild Forest, a new straight point-to-point boundary is



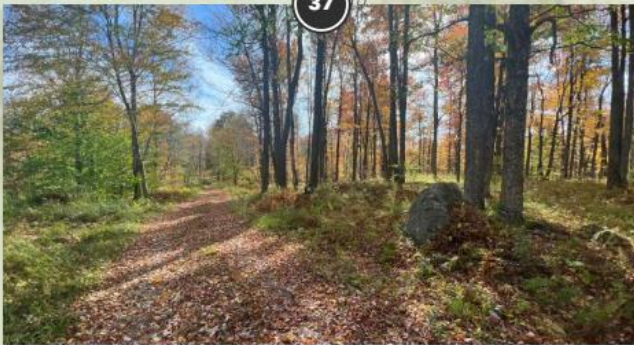
FR-5 Upper Saranac Shoreline



Upper Saranac Shoreline (FR-5)

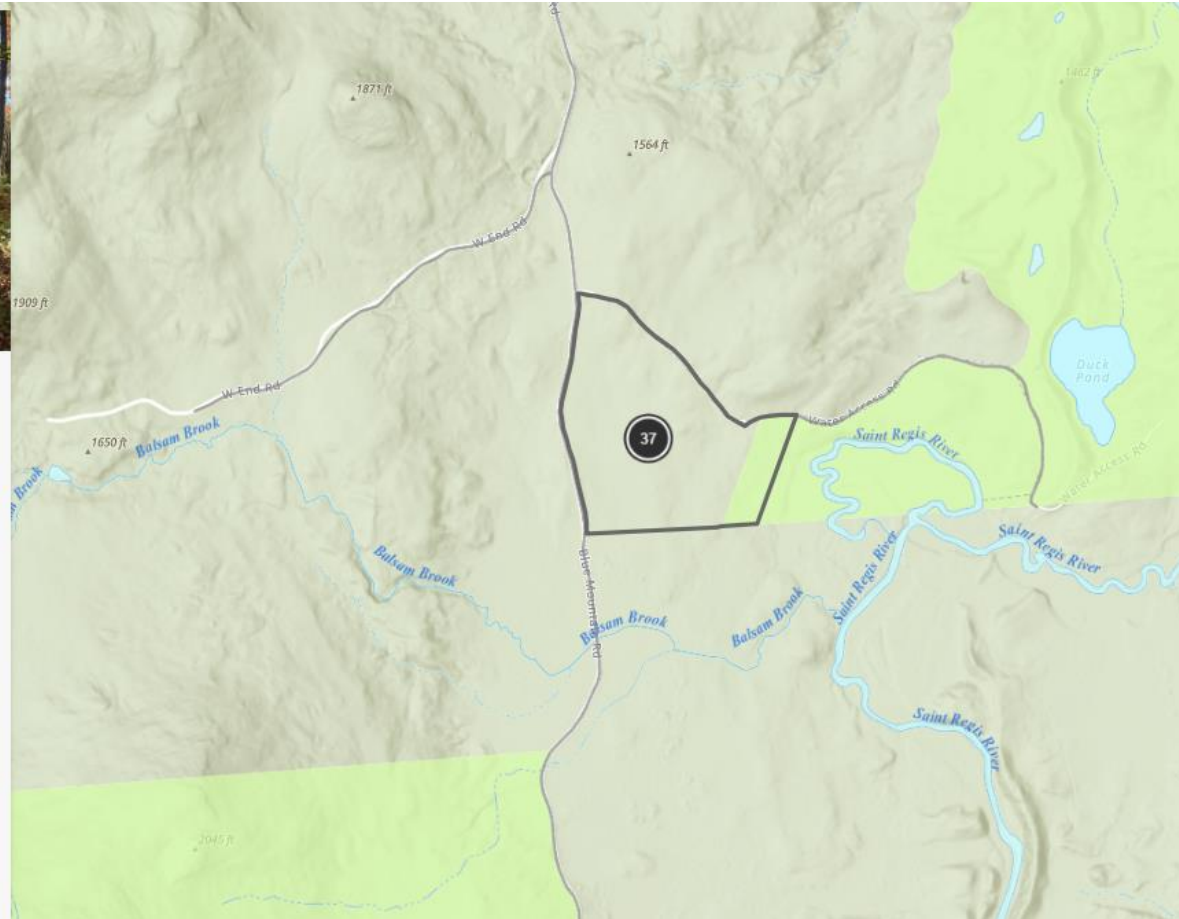
This 4.3-acre acquisition is in the Town of Harrietstown, Franklin County and the proposed classification for this parcel is Wild

FR-2 Blue Mountain Road - Waverly



Blue Mountain Road - Waverly (FR-2)

This 59.7-acre acquisition in the Town of Waverly, Franklin County is bounded on the west by the Blue Mountain Road and the North by the Four Mile Road. The eastern boundary is lands within the Debar Wild Forest, and the southern boundary is held by a private hunting club on lands classified Resource Management. This parcel was acquired by New York State as a part of the Champion lands Northern Flow River Corridors Project. Terrestrial resources on the site include upland mixed hardwood forests on moderately well drained soils.



Public Engagement Opportunities

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

November 1, 2023 – 9:30am-11:30am
Virtual Hearing

<https://tinyurl.com/APAClassPkg>

1-518-549-0500 Access code: 2331 477 3001

November 1, 2023 – 5:30-7:30pm
Adirondack Park Agency Board Room
1133 NYS Route 86
Ray Brook, NY 12977

November 13, 2023 – 5:00-7:00pm
Dept. of Environmental Conservation
Public Hearing Room, 1st Floor
625 Broadway
Albany, NY 12233

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:

October 13 – November 27, 2023

Megan Phillips
NYSAPA

Deputy Director, Planning
PO Box 99

1133 State Route 86

Ray Brook, NY 12977

Email: SLMP_UMP_Comments@apa.ny.gov
(underscores between words)



**Adirondack
Park Agency**

Questions & Discussion

