THIS IS A TWO-SIDED DOCUMENT



Adirondack Park Agency

P.O. Box 99, 1133 NYS Route 86 Ray Brook, New York 12977 Tel: (518) 891-4050 www.apa.ny.gov APA Permit **2024-0178**

Date Issued: September 13, 2024

In the Matter of the Application of

THE NEW YORK STATE
DEPARTMENT of ENVIRONMENTAL
CONSERVATION
Permittee

for a permit pursuant to § 809 of the Adirondack Park Agency Act and 9 NYCRR Part 578

To the County Clerk: Please index this permit in the grantor index under the following names:

- 1. NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
- 2. MWF Adirondacks, LLC

SUMMARY AND AUTHORIZATION

This permit authorizes the installation of a timber snowmobile bridge in an area classified Resource Management on the Adirondack Park Land Use and Development Plan Map in the Town of Clare, St. Lawrence County.

This authorization shall expire unless recorded in the St. Lawrence County Clerk's Office within 60 days of issuance of a signed and notarized permit. The signed and notarized permit shall be recorded 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 five years of the date the permit is recorded in the St. Lawrence County Clerk's Office. The Agency will consider the project in existence when the authorized structure has been constructed.

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.

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.

Nothing contained in this permit shall be construed to satisfy any legal obligations of the permittee to comply with all applicable laws and regulations or 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 an existing skid road used as a snowmobile trail crossing Gulf Brook located off NYS Route 56, Gleason Road and Dean Road in the Town of Clare, St. Lawrence County, in an area classified Resource Management on the Adirondack Park Land Use and Development Plan Map. The site is located at 44°24'37.6"N, 74°56'43.8"W within Tax Map Section 149, Block 1, Parcel 5. The project site is owned by MWF Adirondacks, LLC and part of the Grasse River Conservation Easement.

The project site contains riverine wetlands associated with Gulf Brook. Additional wetlands not described herein or on the Project Narrative may be located on or adjacent to the project site.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project as conditionally approved herein involves installation of a 16-foot-long by 12-foot-wide timber bridge on an existing skid road for a snowmobile trail. Access to the project site is from existing skid trails.

The project is shown and described in a narrative titled, "supplement to Grass River CE APA Permit Application – 704 Culvert Installation," received by the Agency July 2, 2024 (Project Narrative) and on a plan titled, "Forest Preserve Snowmobile Bridge," prepared by State of New York Department of Environmental Conservation, Division of Operations, Bureau of Design & Construction, dated June 8, 2006 (Project Plan).

The Project Narrative and a reduced-scale copy of the Project Plan is attached as a part of this permit for reference.

AGENCY JURISDICTION

Pursuant to Section 809(2)(a) of the Adirondack Park Agency Act and Adirondack Park Agency regulations at 9 NYCRR Part 578, a permit is required from the Adirondack Park Agency prior to any activities involving wetlands in the Adirondack Park.

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 authorized structure remains on the site. Copies of this permit shall be furnished by the permittee to all subsequent owners or lessees of the project site prior to sale or lease, and by the permittee and/or any subsequent owner or lessee to all persons undertaking any development 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, and the Adirondack Park Agency's implementing regulations [9 NYCRR §§ 570-588].
- 4. All deeds conveying all or a portion of the lands subject to this permit shall contain references to this permit as follows: "The lands conveyed are subject to Adirondack Park Agency Permit 2024-0178, issued September 13, 2024, the conditions of which are binding upon the heirs, successors and assigns of the grantors and all subsequent grantees."
- 5. This permit authorizes the installation of a timber bridge in the location shown and as depicted on the Project Plan and described in the Project Narrative. Any change to the location, dimensions, or other aspect of the authorized structure shall require prior written Agency authorization.
 - 6. Prior to construction, including clearing and grubbing, temporary erosion and sediment control measures shall be installed and maintained as necessary. All silt fence shall be properly installed with the bottom buried at a depth of at least 4 inches. Once the site has been stabilized, silt fence and any other temporary erosion and sediment controls shall be completely removed.
- 7. All site restoration activities shall be implemented within three days of project completion, and in accordance with the approved implementation schedule.
- 8. The permittee shall notify the Agency in writing within five business days after the work authorized by this Permit has been successfully completed. Written notification shall include color photographs which clearly show the completed work and site restoration and identify the date and location that the photographs were taken.
- 9. The authorized work shall be scheduled and conducted during drier periods (not during major storm events, spring runoff, and thawing conditions) to avoid and minimize erosion of soils and to prevent silting and muddying of wetlands or surface waterbodies.
- 10. No mechanized equipment shall be driven in wetlands unless expressly authorized herein. Every effort shall be made to work from upland areas and to minimize disturbances to areas adjacent to wetlands. Only tracked equipment shall be used in wetlands. Vehicular access in wetlands shall be under frozen conditions when possible. If work cannot be performed under frozen conditions, timber mats shall be used for access in wetlands, to be removed within three days of project completion and areas beneath timber mats restored to preconstruction condition. No temporary access structures shall be located within a wetland for more than 30 days.
- 11. Wetland disturbance including grading and grubbing of stumps and roots shall be limited to the area described in the Project Narrative.

- 12. No waste disposal, material or excavation stockpiling, or dewatering discharge shall occur in or within 100 feet of wetlands unless specifically authorized herein.
- 13. When brought from off-site, all equipment, including but not limited to trucks, excavators, tractors, etc., and hand excavation tools such as shovels, rakes, and picks, to be used on the project site shall be clean and free of soil, mud, or other similar material. If washed on the project site, equipment shall be washed in one location to prevent the distribution of propagules among different wash sites. All construction equipment and vehicles operating in areas that may contain existing invasive species shall be thoroughly cleaned prior to moving to other areas.
- 14. Any tree cutting and/or vegetation removal necessary for the bridge installation shall be limited to within 25 feet of the authorized structure. All cut vegetation shall be immediately removed from the wetland and adjacent area upon completion of the activity.
- 15. Except as specifically authorized herein, the undertaking of any activity involving wetlands shall require a new or amended permit.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The Agency has considered all statutory and regulatory criteria for project approval set forth in the Adirondack Park Agency Act, the Freshwater Wetlands Act and 9 NYCRR Part 578, and 9 NYCRR Part 574. 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;
- 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;
- f. will secure the natural benefits of wetlands associated with the project, consistent with the general welfare and beneficial economic, social, and agricultural development of the state; and
- g. will result in minimal degradation or destruction of the wetland or its associated values, and is the only alternative which reasonably can accomplish the applicant's objectives.

PERMIT issued this 13th day of September, 2024.

ADIRONDACK PARK AGENCY

BY:_

David J. Plante, AICP CEP

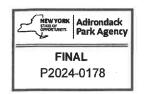
Deputy Director, Regulatory Programs

STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF ESSEX

On the day of section in the year 2024, before me, the undersigned, a Notary Public in and for said State, personally appeared David J. Plante, 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

Stephanie L Petith
Notary Public, State of New York
Reg. No 01PE6279890
Qualified in Franklin County
Commission Expires April 15, 20





Supplement to Grass River CE APA Permit Application – 704 Culvert Installation

This project entails the installation of one (1) snowmobile bridge (pre-approved Forest Preserve design) on an existing skid trail to establish the reroute of a snowmobile trail. The proposed project site is located within a mapped APA Wetland.

The snowmobile trail reroute utilizes the footprint of several existing skid trails installed during a recent harvest to limit the impact of trail establishment. Certain sections of these skid trails presented complications when planning the best path for the reroute ranging from steep sections with ensuing erosion concerns to sections dotted with large hazardous stumps and stones. The best route identified contains a section of skid trail transected by a mapped APA Riverine Wetland. The intermittent stream connects an APA Wetland southwest of the project site to a large APA Wetland to the northeast.

Installation of this bridge will facilitate the relocation of the current snowmobile trail while also reducing erosion events, maintaining stream flow, and improving access. The work to install this bridge will be conducted such that impacts to the areas are minimized (see below). The bridge will be constructed to current Department understanding of and plans for climate change adaptation. As such, this application seeks to install a 16' long and 12' wide bridge to accommodate predicted and more frequent rain events and to decrease the need to replace and/or maintain undersized facilities. The bridge will be constructed to the preapproved design specifications of a Forest Preserve snowmobile bridge included in the permit attachments below.

We propose the following actions:

Project Site: install a 16' long and 12' wide bridge perpendicular to the flow of the current stream bed. The bridge will be constructed onsite, dragged across the stream, and placed such that it lies in the center of the trail and at a height that will accommodate fluctuating water levels. The initial installation will inevitably create some disturbance to the stream banks and bed but will not introduce any fill or impoundment to the current flow of water. This one-time pass through the streambed will resemble current forestry management activities. The pre-approved bridge design will rest directly atop the road's surfaces above the stream and does not require the installation of abutments or any further incursion into the stream/wetland itself. All work will be conducted as to keep equipment and materials out of the surrounding wet areas.

The work will be conducted at the lowest water level period possible and conform to established erosion control methods and BMPs. Equipment will stay out of wetland areas and be confined to the established footprint of the existing trail(s). Silt fencing may be utilized to minimize siltation of the stream and surrounding wet areas during work. Weather and precipitation prior to and after the installation and maintenance of the culverts will be monitored, so that work may be done in a relatively dry period to promote low water levels. Proper placement and installation of the proposed bridge is important to maintain the integrity of the road, surrounding waterbodies, and the stream. If possible, the installation of the bridge will be completed in one day to minimize negative impacts and restore optimal flow as quickly as possible.

