

## BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR DESIGN AND LAYOUT OF PRIMITIVE TENT SITES IN THE ADIRONDACK FOREST PRESERVE

**TASK:** To develop interagency guidelines for managing primitive tent sites in the Adirondack Forest Preserve (outside of Intensive Use Areas). These Best Management Practices (BMPs) will conform to the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan and reflect current Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC or Department) policy related to Primitive Tent Sites (PTS) and conform to associated accessibility standards set out by the US Access Board.

**BACKGROUND:** The Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan (APSLMP or Master Plan) allows for primitive tent sites to be designated in Wilderness, Primitive, Canoe and Wild Forest areas that are out of sight and sound and generally one-quarter mile from any other primitive tent site or lean-to. In Wild Forest areas, the APSLMP allows for small groupings of primitive tent sites, widely dispersed (generally a mile apart) and located in a manner that will blend in with the surrounding environment and have a minimum impact on wild forest character and natural resource quality of the area.

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requires that programs (e.g. camping) are readily accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities. The Department's goal is to create enough accessible PTS so accessible sites do not have to be designated and reserved for exclusive use by individuals with disabilities.

**BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES:** These BMPs address Roadside Camping as it pertains to Walk-in sites, and Walk-in sites with a Single Lane Parking Area (SLPA). These BMPs also address large groups at PTS, Camping permits, PTS size limits, PTS improvements, and regulation changes. The BMPs outline a method for determining if picnic tables are a suitable management tool at primitive tent sites, on a site-specific basis. They also provide a series of tables outlining the Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC) standards for management of primitive tent sites. Additionally, this guidance provides the accessibility standards that apply to PTS. All referenced materials are listed in Appendix E.

Key numbers: Roadside camping is defined as within 200' from roads; primitive tent sites shall generally be located 100' from parking areas; a single lane parking area (SLPA) shall generally not exceed 150' in length; Group sites: 12 person maximum for water access tent sites, 20 person maximum for land access tent sites; Primitive Tent site size limits: not to exceed 1200' sq. ft. (individual site), 1600' sq. ft., (water access) and 2400' sq. ft. (land access).

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PTS should be identified through the UMP process. When planning for PTS, Department staff are encouraged to create primitive tent site management zones (“zones”) to help verify compliance with the requirements of the ADA.

PTS management zones, planners should take into account the geographic locations, number of sites and the varying types of PTS. Some UMPs may have multiple zones and others may only have one zone. The number of sites in each zone will determine the number of accessible sites needed in each zone (see appendix C for ratios).

When creating a new PTS, or altering an existing PTS, the new construction or elements being altered must conform to accessibility standards (see Appendix C). All primitive tent site zones will have at least the minimum number of designated accessible sites. If a site or facility is unable to meet the accessibility standards, documentation is required.

**I. Roadside Camping**

- Roadside camping is defined as camping at primitive tent sites within 200 feet of a road;
- Some of these sites may have an associated “Single-Lane Parking Area” (SLPA).

**A. Walk-in sites (all land classifications)**

- May have motor vehicle parking near or adjacent to a road. These parking areas will provide accessible parking spaces;
- Tent sites will be located a minimum of 100 feet from the parking area unless the site has effective vegetative and/or topographic screening permitting a shorter distance;
- Parking areas associated with individual walk-in sites may be utilized for camper/RV camping during big game hunting season under permit from the Department;
- Sites which do not conform to the above design standards shall be redesigned, closed or relocated.

**B. Walk-in sites with a Single Lane Parking Area (Wild Forest only)**

- A SLPA is:
- A linear parking area wide enough to accommodate one motor vehicle. If the site can be developed to meet accessibility standards, the parking needs be accessible parking (see Appendix C);
- Has no provision for a vehicle turn-around at its terminus;
- Generally no more than 150 feet in length;
- Long enough to effectively screen vehicles (car, trailer, RV) from the road.

- A tent site will be located a minimum of 100 feet from the parking area unless there is an effective vegetative and/or topographic screening, permitting a shorter distance;
- Limited to parking and sleeping in camper/RV only, all other camping activities will occur at the designated tent site;
- Tents, fires and, where appropriate, picnic tables are limited to the designated tent site;
- Signage at the head of the SLPA will include 1) “No Tenting,” 2) one each of “Tent Site” and “Fire Ring,” and 3) “Accessible”, when applicable, with an arrow directing visitors to the tent site.

## II. Large Group Camping at Primitive Tent Sites

### Wild Forest

- Groupings of primitive tent sites (per the APSLMP) are for groups camping under a permit from the Department;
- Groups larger than eight (8) are required to have a Department issued camping permit: there will be a twelve (12) person maximum per grouping if traveling by water, a twenty (20) person maximum if traveling by land;
- Permits for groupings of primitive tent sites will be issued by the land manager or designee for a specific area and for a specific time period. The number of permits issued will not exceed the number of large group sites available for each specific area.

### Adirondack Canoe Routes

- A study group will be convened to assess canoe route management.

## III. Primitive Tent Site Size Limits

- Each primitive tent site (with space for up to three tents) shall not exceed 1,200 square feet in size;
- Grouping of primitive tent sites primarily accessed from water bodies shall not exceed 1,600 square feet in size;
- Grouping of primitive tent sites primarily accessed by land shall not exceed 2,400 square feet in size;
- Campsite assessments will be conducted based on protocols provided in Dawson’s *Wildland Campsite Impact Monitoring Manual* (Appendix A).

## IV. Primitive Tent Site Improvements

### All Land Classifications

- PTSs may have (as per the APSLMP) associated pit privies, box toilets and fire rings. A few additional, rustic improvements may – primarily for resource protection purposes – be provided as follows:
  - Raised earthen tent pads that may be supported or delineated by logs or stone material found on or near the site;

- Stone stair cases at shoreline access points or at other locations where foot traffic threatens or is causing serious erosion;
- Sitting logs (both hewed and not hewed).
- All new construction or alterations on a PTS will meet accessibility standards or at least comply with minimal requirements; general maintenance is not included. If a site or facility is unable to meet the accessibility standards (see appendix C for standards), documentation stating the reason(s) why is required.

#### Wild Forest Only

- These guidelines are to assist land managers in determining when the use of picnic tables is acceptable, as a management tool, at Wild Forest primitive tent sites. Generally, the use of picnic tables at primitive tent sites would be to draw users to a desired location to conduct such activities as cooking, eating and socializing. This may be done to protect resources such as water or vegetation or to protect the visual aesthetics, especially for water sites. The placement of picnic tables at primitive tent sites should be utilized only for resource protection reasons and not for user convenience. When adding or replacing a picnic table, the new one must be accessible (See Appendix D).

**Step 1** – Describe the situation that may prompt an action and describe how the action will address a problem or issue. This description should include current conditions on the site, impacts to resources such as water bodies or wetlands, impacts to visitor experience, etc.

**Step 2** – List and describe alternative measures that could be undertaken to resolve the issue(s). Alternatives may include closing/relocating sites where practical, use of native materials to draw use to desired locations etc.

**Step 3** – If step 2 identifies the use of a picnic table as the minimum tool needed to address the issue, explain the rationale behind the decision.

**Step 4** – List management requirements for minimizing effects of this action (placements, screening. etc.)

**Step 5** – Describe future monitoring schedules to determine if action has led to a desired outcome.

**Step 6** – Picnic tables not contributing to resource protection shall be removed.

This provision will not restrict the placement of picnic tables at sites currently managed by the Division of Operations.

## V. Proposed ECL Regulation Changes

- (190.3(b))- Camping is prohibited within 150 feet of any road, trail, *designated tent site, lean-to*, spring, stream, pond or other body of water, except at camping areas designated by the Department.
- *In Wild Forest areas, no person shall erect a tent or other shelter within the single-lane-parking area (SLPA) of a designated tent site. Except slip-in campers, RV's, wheeled and legally registered camper trailers.*
- *(190.4(a))- Temporary camping in one location for four nights or more is prohibited except under permit. Except during the period from October 15 through December*

15 of each year, no temporary camping permit will be issued to any person for a period in excess of fourteen (14) consecutive nights. No temporary camping permit may be renewed, or a new permit issued, to the same person for the same location in the same calendar year.

- (190.4(e))- No group of nine (9) or more individuals may camp on State lands at any time except under permit.

## VI. Accessible Sites Signage and Designation

- PTS that are built to accessibility standards will be identified on maps, kiosks and with appropriate signs at the site.
- Accessible sites are identified in the field so individuals with disabilities can easily locate them. The sites are not for exclusive use by individuals with disabilities, but are available on a first-come, first-serve basis like all other sites.
- The Department may designate and reserve accessible sites for exclusive use if it is found that individuals with disabilities are regularly unable to find and utilize open accessible sites in a given area.
- A group may stay at a site designated for individuals with disabilities as long as an individual with a disability is part of the group. All other regulation apply.

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## Wildland Campsite Impact Monitoring Manual

**Introduction:** The objective of developing this Wildland Campsite Impact Monitoring Manual is to provide a consistent process for monitoring campsites in wildland recreation areas on NYSDEC Forest Preserve lands. The most common and potentially important types of impacts have been identified for wildlands unique to New York State and are included in this protocol. Due to differences in ecosystems and other parameters, not all sites will have all indicators, however, this protocol provides instructions on monitoring all indicators. Managers or field technicians should determine which indicators are appropriate for the particular campsite or group of campsites being monitored.

Wildlands are considered any parcel of New York State land designated as wilderness, wild forest, primitive area, or canoe area as defined by the Adirondack Park and Catskill Park State Land Master Plans (NYSDEC, 2001; NYSDEC, 2008). The State Land Master Plans provide campsite standards for each designation. Only primitive tent sites, as defined by the master plans, are allowed in Wilderness, Primitive, and Canoe Areas. Only primitive tent sites and small clusters of primitive tent sites are allowed in Wild Forest areas.

According to the Adirondack Park and Catskill Park State Land Master Plans, a “primitive tent site is defined as a designated tent site of an undeveloped character providing space for not more than three tents, which may have an associated pit privy and fire ring, designed to accommodate a maximum of eight people on a temporary or transient basis, and located so as to accommodate the need for shelter in a manner least intrusive on the surrounding environment” (NYSDEC, 2001, p. 18).

**Sampling Plan:** According to the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan, all Unit Management Plans must include an inventory of public use, an assessment of areas threatened by overuse, and an assessment of carrying capacity (NYSDEC, 2001). While a census of this information is necessary and preferred to completely understand visitor use, budgets, staff shortages, and time often prevent complete censuses from being collected. In order to comply with the state land master plans, a sampling plan needs to be developed to collect data that contains a representative sample of the parameters of interest. “Sampling is the systematic strategy by which data are to be collected” (Watson et al., 2000, p. 43). All impact monitoring and visitor use estimation systems require a well-developed sampling plan because proper sampling techniques ensure that the data are representative of the larger population from which they are drawn (Cole, 1989; Watson et al., 2000). Monitoring is meant to measure the conditions of resources affected by recreational use and visitor experiences but it is not the same as a maintenance assessment that searches for problems (although both can be done during the same field work).

**The steps for developing a sampling plan for campsite impact monitoring are:**

### **Step 1: State Objectives**

Objectives state the justification or outline the reasons for collecting management related information. In other words, it is a statement of why monitoring is to be performed. The objectives need to be stated clearly because they direct the course of the monitoring by determining the general types of information to be collected and the purpose for which it is collected. Objectives include the identification of a specific management problem in terms that attempt to address the problem and should be taken from a UMP or developed following a unit management planning process.

The statement of objectives for a campsite impact monitoring procedure does not need to be long and should be straightforward. It should include the following information:

1. Participants – This includes all the individuals and groups associated with the monitoring procedure. This will include at least the unit manager and the individuals conducting the monitoring.
2. Goals – This is defined in terms of what is to be obtained. For campsite monitoring, this may include an inventory of campsites and/or monitoring trends in resource conditions.
3. Practical Application – The context in which the information will be used should be clearly stated. For campsite monitoring, the application may include complying with a UMP objective or a recommended management activity.
4. Scope – The scope describes the extent to which the results can be applied and the future implications of the results. The scope of a campsite impact monitoring procedure may be limited to the unit where the campsites are located.

### **Step 2: Identify Variables to be Sampled**

Once the objectives are clearly stated, the investigator must decide on the kinds of measurements and observations to be made. Certain attributes of campsites have been identified by the literature as significant for monitoring impacts to the resource (Frissell, 1978; Cole, 1989; Marion, 1991; Watson et al., 2000). These attributes are listed and described in the **Monitoring Procedures**.

### **Step 3: Define Sampling Unit**

To define the sampling unit for a campsite impact monitoring procedure, the population and sampling frame need to be defined. The population will consist of all the campsites in a particular area. The sampling frame will be the designated boundary of that particular area or UMP. The sampling unit is an individual campsite.

### **Step 4: Choose Appropriate Sampling Design**

A sampling design is the method by which an investigator selects potential participants from the population and can be statistical and non-statistical. Examples of statistical sampling designs include random, systematic, stratified, or cluster sampling. Convenience or judgment sampling are considered non-statistical sampling designs. Statistical sampling designs are preferred for studies that involve making an inference about the population as whole. If a representative sample of

campsites is desired for monitoring, than a statistical procedure can be used to randomly select campsites to monitor. For examples of statistical sampling designs see Cole, 1989 or Watson et al., 2000. If a complete inventory of campsites is desired, then a sampling design is not necessary.

#### **Step 5: Select the Sample Size**

When using a statistical sampling design, the sampling size cannot be determined without an estimate of the variability of the response variable. Estimates of variability can be obtained with an estimated population standard error from preliminary data or from previous studies. When using a sampling design that randomly or systematically selects a large percentage of the campsites, sample size is not a concern because sampling error is minimized.

Campsite impact monitoring procedures typically measure all campsites or large proportions of the campsites (e.g., 50%) within a unit management area because measuring the conditions is often done at the same time as maintenance assessments of campsites. For example, if a complete inventory is required, the sample size will be all of the campsites within a given management unit. Time and resources also influence the sample size. If only one field season is available for sampling or if personnel are limited, the sample size may be restricted to the number of campsites that can be monitored within a given time.

#### **Step 6: Complete the Field Sampling Strategy**

The field sampling strategy includes when, where, and how the sampling will be conducted. Campsite impact monitoring is usually conducted during mid to late summer because that is when campsite impacts are most easily observed in typical condition following some use. Weekends are typically busier than weekdays which may result in more occupied campsites; weekdays may be better time to sample because more campsites will be available to measure. The time of year may vary depending on what specific impacts are being measured (e.g., end of season total impacts).

The sampling frame sets the boundaries within which the sampling will be conducted; this is typically a unit management area. Which campsites are selected depends on the monitoring objectives. For monitoring impacts to campsites, trained field technicians are sent to campsites with a set of instructions, forms, and tools for measuring and monitoring campsite impacts. Instructions are detailed in the **Monitoring Procedures**.

#### **Preparations**

- Identify locations of all campsites on a map and develop a plan to visit all sites including campsites along off-trail routes.
- Gather the following tools, equipment, and materials:

Tools, Equipment, and Materials	
<input type="checkbox"/> This Manual	<input type="checkbox"/> Measuring Wheel (for distances over 100ft.)
<input type="checkbox"/> Field Forms	<input type="checkbox"/> Compass
<input type="checkbox"/> Maps of the management unit	<input type="checkbox"/> Stakes (2)
<input type="checkbox"/> Driving Maps to get to the unit	<input type="checkbox"/> Pencils
<input type="checkbox"/> Clipboard	<input type="checkbox"/> Camera to document site condition
<input type="checkbox"/> Tape Measure (100ft)	<input type="checkbox"/> GPS Unit

## Monitoring Procedure

Record the following information on the Campsite Impact Monitoring Form:

### General Campsite Information

1. **Site Location:** Record the general name for the management (UMP) area (e.g., St. Regis Canoe Area).
2. **Site ID Number:** Assign each site a unique identification number within the management (UMP) area. Refer to maps and forms to see if the site has been previously surveyed. If not, assign a new unique number.
3. **Campsite Reference Point Coordinates:** Select a campsite reference point which is preferably: (a) visible from the entire campsite boundary, (b) close to and easily referenced by distinctive permanent features such as boulders or trees, (c) at least six feet away from fire grates or anything that would affect compass readings, and (d) in a spot where a stake can be placed and photographed. Record the east and north (UTM) coordinates using a GPS device. Locate and label the campsite on a map as accurately as possible
4. **Photograph Information:** Photograph the campsite and reference point using a temporary stake placed in the ground by the field technician. Select a vantage point that provides the best view of the campsite and reference point. Try and select a point that clearly shows the reference point location in relation to nearby trees or boulders. Take a separate reference point photograph from a closer location that helps to clarify the point location. Make sure the stake is visible in the photographs. Take photos with the camera pointed down to include as much campsite groundcover as possible. Record the photograph numbers from the camera and any information necessary that will allow someone to recognize and label the photo. Record the compass bearing and distance from the reference point to the vantage point for the initial campsite photo.
5. **Date:** Record the day, month, and year the campsite was surveyed.
6. **Inventoried By:** Identify the field technician surveying the site.
7. **Describe Location:** Describe the campsite location including unique geographic features, and severe or unique visitor or natural impacts.

## Campsite Boundaries and Satellite Areas

8. **Campsite Boundaries:** Use the Radial Transect Technique to identify the campsite boundaries and the area of the campsite. The area of the campsite will not be calculated in the field. Record this information on the Campsite Impact Monitoring Form.

**Radial Transect Technique:** Standing directly over the reference point, identify and record the compass bearing (azimuth) and distance to the campsite boundary working in a clockwise fashion. The Campsite Impact Monitoring Form has provided 16 azimuths to use. If a large feature such as a tree or boulder prevents you from using one of the provided azimuths, adjust the azimuth so that the distance from the reference point to the campsite boundary is uninterrupted and note the change in azimuth.

9. **Satellite Campsite Areas:** Identify the number of disturbed satellite areas outside the campsite boundaries. Satellite areas are nonconforming, recreationist created improvements to the land for purposes of primitive camping or cooking. Satellite areas are not part of the original DEC designated site; not identified with yellow *camp here* discs, closer in proximity to the designated site than allowable by wilderness guidelines; connected to the DEC designated site via social trails; and exceed the number of allowable tents in the site when added to the designated site. Record the total number of satellite areas in the Campsite Impact Monitoring Form.

## Inventory/Impact Indicators

10. **Distance to Formal Trail:** Record the appropriate category for campsite distance from the reference point to the nearest formal (designated) trail. Record *not applicable* if site is only accessible by water. Water is considered any river, stream, lake or pond as defined by the Adirondack and Catskill Park State Land Master Plans.
11. **Distance to Waterfront:** Record the appropriate category for campsite distance from the reference point to nearby waterfront. Record *not applicable* if site is not within several hundred feet of waterfront. Water is considered any river, stream, lake or pond as defined by the Adirondack and Catskill Park State Land Master Plans.
12. **Distance to Next Campsite:** Record the appropriate category for campsite distance from the campsite boundary to the nearest other campsite boundary.
13. **Shore Disturbance:** If the site is accessible by water or has a shoreline, categorize the condition of the shore as one of the following classes. Record *not applicable* if site does not border water. Water is considered any river, stream, lake or pond as defined by the Adirondack and Catskill Park State Land Master Plans.
  - **None:** no shore disturbance.
  - **Slight:** minimal physical change, small amount of ground vegetation wore away.
  - **Moderate:** ground vegetation completely wore away, some soil erosion, tree roots exposed on the surface.
  - **Severe:** soil erosion obvious, tree roots completely exposed.

14. **Waterfront Access Difficulty:** If the site is accessible by water, categorize the difficulty of access the site from the put-in/take-out as one of the following classes. Record *not applicable* if site is not accessible by water. Water is considered any river, stream, lake or pond as defined by the Adirondack and Catskill Park State Land Master Plans.
- ***Easy:*** Site is at approximately the same elevation as the put-in/take-out and requires no additional effort to access.
  - ***Intermediate:*** Site is at a slightly higher elevation than put-in/take-out and requires some additional effort to carry gear up a slight bank.
  - ***Difficult:*** Site elevation is significantly greater than put-in/take-out and requires significant additional effort to carry gear up a steep bank.
  - ***Most Difficult:*** Site elevation and steepness of bank make site nearly impossible to access without significant additional effort.
15. **Lean-to:** If there is a Lean-to record yes (Y); if not record no (N)
16. **Campsite Screening:** Categorize the level of vegetative screening between sites as one of the following classes. Stand in the campsite and determine if other shelters or nearby campsites, which if occupied, are visible.
- ***None:*** If occupied, nearby campsites are completely visible.
  - ***Partial:*** If occupied, nearby campsites are partially visible.
  - ***Complete:*** If occupied, nearby campsites are not visible.
17. **Formal Trail Screening:** Categorize the level of vegetative screening from the nearest formal (designated) trail as one of the following classes. Stand at the nearest formal trail and determine if the campsite were occupied if it would be visible from the formal trail.
- ***None:*** If occupied, campsite is completely visible from formal trail.
  - ***Partial:*** If occupied, campsite is partially visible from formal trail.
  - ***Complete:*** If occupied, campsite is not visible.
18. **Water Screening:** If site is accessible by water, categorize the level of vegetative screening from the water as one of the following classes. From a boat in the water, determine if the campsite were occupied, if it would be visible from the water. Record *not applicable* if site is not within several hundred feet of the waterfront. Water is considered any river, stream, lake or pond as defined by the Adirondack and Catskill Park State Land Master Plans.
- ***None:*** If occupied, campsite is completely visible from water.
  - ***Partial:*** If occupied, campsites are partially visible from water.
  - ***Complete:*** If occupied, campsite is not visible from water.
19. **Vegetative Ground Cover (On-site):** Estimate the percentage of live non-woody vegetative ground cover within the campsite boundaries (e.g., herbs, grasses, and mosses but not saplings or tree seedlings).
20. **Vegetative Ground Cover (Control Site):** Estimate the percentage of live non-woody vegetative ground cover in an adjacent but largely undisturbed control site. The intent is to locate an area which would closely resemble the campsite area had the site never been used.

21. **Exposed Soil (On-site):** Estimate the percentage of exposed soil defined as soil with very little or no organic litter (partially decomposed leaf, needle, or twig litter) or vegetation cover within the campsite boundary. Dark organic soil (the decomposed product of organic litter) should be assessed as bare soil when its consistency resembles that of peat moss. If there are few thin patches of organic litter, assess the entire area as bare soil.
22. **Exposed Soil (Control site):** Estimate the percentage of exposed soil in an adjacent but largely undisturbed control site. The intent is to use the same control site as you selected for #20 above.
23. **Tree Damage:** Categorize the live trees (DBH > 1 inch) within or on the campsite boundary as one of the following classes. Do not count tree stumps as tree damage.
  - ***None:*** no tree damage other than from natural causes.
  - ***Slight:*** nails, nail holes, small branches cut off or broken, small superficial trunk scars.
  - ***Moderate:*** large branches cut off or broken, trunk scars and mutilations that may be numerous but do not total more than one square foot of area.
  - ***Severe:*** Trunk scars that total more than one square foot of area or completely girdling of the tree.
24. **Root exposure:** Categorize the live trees (DBH > 1 inch) within or on the campsite boundary as one of the following classes.
  - ***None:*** no root exposure.
  - ***Slight:*** 0-1.5 feet of root sticks out at least one inch above the ground surface.
  - ***Moderate:*** 1.6-3 feet of root sticks out at least one inch above the ground surface.
  - ***Severe:*** more than 3 feet of root sticks out at least one inch above the ground surface.
25. **Tree Stumps:** Record the number of tree stumps (Diameter > 1 inch and less than 4.5 feet tall) within or on campsite boundary. Do not include wind thrown trees with their trunks still attached or cut stems from multiple-stemmed trees.
26. **Fire Sites:** Count and record each fire site within the boundary of the campsite including satellite sites.
27. **Social Trails:** Count and record all trails leading away from the campsite boundary. Do not count extremely faint trails that have un-trampled tall grasses or vascular plants in their tread.
28. **Human Waste:** Follow all social trails and count and record the number of individual human waste sites along the trails and near or in the campsite in separate locations with human feces present.
29. **Trash/Garbage:** Follow all social trails and count and record the number of pieces of trash left in the campsite and along the trails.

30. **Tents:** Count and record the number of 2-person tents (8x10 ft) that could be set up and comfortably used in the campsite including satellite sites. Do not included places where rocks or roots would prevent an individual from using a tent.
31. **Condition Class:** Record a campsite condition class using the five condition class descriptions below (Frissell, 1978):

Class 1:	Ground vegetation flattened but not permanently injured. Minimal change except for possibly a simple rock fireplace.
Class 2:	Ground vegetation worn away around fireplace or center of activity.
Class 3:	Ground vegetation lost on most of the site, but humus and litter still present in all but a few areas.
Class 4:	Bare mineral soil widespread. Tree roots exposed on the surface.
Class 5:	Soil erosion obvious. Trees reduced in vigor or dead.



<b>Inventory/Impact Indicators</b>					
9. Distance to Formal Trail (ft.)	<input type="checkbox"/> 0-50	<input type="checkbox"/> 51-100	<input type="checkbox"/> 100-150	<input type="checkbox"/> 151 or more	<input type="checkbox"/> n/a
10. Distance to Waterfront	<input type="checkbox"/> 0-50	<input type="checkbox"/> 51-100	<input type="checkbox"/> 100-150	<input type="checkbox"/> 151 or more	<input type="checkbox"/> n/a
11. Distance to Next Campsite	<input type="checkbox"/> 0-50	<input type="checkbox"/> 51-100	<input type="checkbox"/> 100-150	<input type="checkbox"/> 151 or more	<input type="checkbox"/> n/a
12. Shore Disturbance	<input type="checkbox"/> None	<input type="checkbox"/> Slight	<input type="checkbox"/> Moderate	<input type="checkbox"/> Severe	<input type="checkbox"/> n/a
13. Access Difficulty	<input type="checkbox"/> Easy	<input type="checkbox"/> Intermediate	<input type="checkbox"/> Difficult	<input type="checkbox"/> Most Difficult	<input type="checkbox"/> n/a
14. Lean-to:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No			
15. Campsite Screening	<input type="checkbox"/> None	<input type="checkbox"/> Partial	<input type="checkbox"/> Complete		
16. Formal Trail Screening	<input type="checkbox"/> None	<input type="checkbox"/> Partial	<input type="checkbox"/> Complete		
17. Water Screening	<input type="checkbox"/> None	<input type="checkbox"/> Partial	<input type="checkbox"/> Complete	<input type="checkbox"/> n/a	
18. Vegetative Ground Cover (On-site)	<input type="checkbox"/> 0-25%	<input type="checkbox"/> 26-50%	<input type="checkbox"/> 51-75%	<input type="checkbox"/> 75-100%	
19. Vegetative Ground Cover (Control Site)	<input type="checkbox"/> 0-25%	<input type="checkbox"/> 26-50%	<input type="checkbox"/> 51-75%	<input type="checkbox"/> 75-100%	
20. Exposed Soil (On-site)	<input type="checkbox"/> 0-25%	<input type="checkbox"/> 26-50%	<input type="checkbox"/> 51-75%	<input type="checkbox"/> 75-100%	
21. Exposed Soil (Control Site)	<input type="checkbox"/> 0-25%	<input type="checkbox"/> 26-50%	<input type="checkbox"/> 51-75%	<input type="checkbox"/> 75-100%	
22. Tree Damage	<input type="checkbox"/> None	<input type="checkbox"/> Slight	<input type="checkbox"/> Moderate	<input type="checkbox"/> Severe	
23. Root Exposure	<input type="checkbox"/> None	<input type="checkbox"/> Slight	<input type="checkbox"/> Moderate	<input type="checkbox"/> Severe	
24. Tree Stumps	<input type="checkbox"/> None	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-5	<input type="checkbox"/> 6 or more		
25. Fire Sites	<input type="checkbox"/> None	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 or more		
26. Social Trails	<input type="checkbox"/> None	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4-6	<input type="checkbox"/> 7 or more	
27. Human Waste	<input type="checkbox"/> None	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4-6	<input type="checkbox"/> 7 or more	
28. Trash/Garbage	<input type="checkbox"/> None	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4-6	<input type="checkbox"/> 7 or more	
29. Tents	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4 or more	
30. Condition Class	<input type="checkbox"/> Class 1	<input type="checkbox"/> Class 2	<input type="checkbox"/> Class 3	<input type="checkbox"/> Class 4	<input type="checkbox"/> Class 5
<b>Accessibility Indicators*</b>					
31. Clear Space Firm and Stable	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	When Wet	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
32. Clear Space Obstacles	<input type="checkbox"/> None	<input type="checkbox"/> Rocks	<input type="checkbox"/> Roots	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruts/Dips	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
33. Clear Space Obstacles >1" Height	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No		Number:	
34. Clear Space Slope	<input type="checkbox"/> 0-5%	<input type="checkbox"/> >5%		Slope:	
35. Clear Space Area (no obstacles)	<input type="checkbox"/> 0-480ft <sup>2</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> >480ft <sup>2</sup>		Area:	

36. Access Route Width	<input type="checkbox"/> 0-35"	<input type="checkbox"/> >35"		Width:	
37. Access Route Slope	<input type="checkbox"/> 0-5%	<input type="checkbox"/> 5.1-8.33%	<input type="checkbox"/> 8.4-10%	Slope:	Length:
38. Fire Ring Height	<input type="checkbox"/> 0-18"	<input type="checkbox"/> >18"		Height:	
39. Fire Surface Height Inside Ring	<input type="checkbox"/> 0-8"	<input type="checkbox"/> >8"		Height:	
40. Clear Space Around Fire Ring	<input type="checkbox"/> 0-4'	<input type="checkbox"/> >4'		Area:	
41. Privy Type	<input type="checkbox"/> Box	<input type="checkbox"/> Walled	<input type="checkbox"/> Box/ADA	<input type="checkbox"/> Walled/ADA	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
42. Route to Privy	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	Width:	Length:	Slope:
43. Parking Area - Width	<input type="checkbox"/> 0-192"	<input type="checkbox"/> >192"		Area:	

\* See appendix C for standards

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Appendix B. Limits of Acceptable Change Standards

LAC Standards for Primitive Tent Sites in the Adirondack Forest Preserve

Standards for Campsite Conditions	Management Area				
	Un-designated	Designated Primitive Tent Sites	Designated Waterway group sites (12 persons)	Designated Wild forest group sites (20 persons)	Moose River Plains Camping Area Sites
Size of Campsite (sq. ft.)	NA	1200	1600	2400	1200
Acceptable Mineral Soil Exposure <sup>1</sup> (sq. ft.)	0-25%	0-50%	0-50%	0-50%	0-50%
Acceptable Vegetative ground cover (onsite) <sup>2</sup>	75-100%	25-75%	25-50%	25-75%	25-50%
Condition Class <sup>3</sup>	1 or <	3 or <	3 or <	3 or <	4 or <

*The above standards apply to all primitive tent sites within the Adirondack Park.*

1. **Exposed Soil (On-site):** Estimate the percent difference of exposed soil on-site versus the adjoining off-site control area. Exposed soil is defined as soil with very little or no organic litter (partially decomposed leaf, needle, or twig litter) or vegetation cover within the campsite boundary. Dark organic soil (the decomposed product of organic litter) should be assessed as bare soil when its consistency resembles that of peat moss. If there are few thin patches of organic litter, assess the entire area as bare soil.
2. Estimate the percentage of live non-woody vegetative ground cover within the campsite boundaries (e.g., herbs, grasses, and mosses but not saplings or tree seedlings) as compared to surrounding off-site control area.
3. **CONDITION CLASS DEFINITIONS:**  
**Class 1:** Recreation site barely distinguishable; slight loss of vegetation cover and/ or minimal disturbance of organic litter.  
**Class 2:** Recreation site obvious; vegetation cover lost and/ or organic litter pulverized in primary use area.  
**Class 3:** Vegetation cover lost and/ or organic litter pulverized on much of the site, some bare soil exposed in primary use areas.  
**Class 4:** Nearly complete or total loss of vegetation cover and organic litter, bare soil widespread.  
**Class 5:** Soil erosion obvious, as indicated by exposed tree roots and rocks and/or gullyng.

**Desired Future Conditions for  
Primitive Tent Sites in the Adirondack Forest Preserve<sup>4</sup>**

Desired Future Conditions	Management Area			
	Undesignated	Designated Primitive Tent Sites	Designated Waterway Group Sites (12 persons)	Designated Wild Forest Group Sites (20 persons)
General Description	Unaltered natural condition	Slight to moderately altered condition	moderately altered condition	Moderately altered natural condition
Ecological Conditions	Not measurably affected by visitor use	Some areas may be moderately affected by visitor use	Some areas may be moderately affected by visitor use	Most areas may be moderately affected by visitor use
Frequency and Duration of Impacts	Minimal, sites recover in short period of time	Moderate, impacts to some areas persist year to year	Moderate to high impacts to some areas persist year to year	Moderate to high impacts remain year to year
Visual Impacts	Low, but may be apparent to some visitors	Moderate, but some may be apparent to most visitors	Moderate, but some may be apparent to most visitors	Moderate to high, some impacts apparent to most visitors
Social Impacts	Outstanding opportunity for solitude	High opportunity for solitude	Moderate to low opportunity for solitude	Low opportunity for solitude

<sup>4</sup> The desired future conditions listed in the table above should be used as a guide for future management actions. Proposed management actions should be aimed at bringing sites closer to the desired conditions. Where the desired conditions cannot be met a rationale as to why they cannot be met should be provided in the UMP for that area.

## LAC Standards for Social Conditions for Primitive Tent Sites in the Adirondack Forest Preserve<sup>5</sup>

Standards for Social Conditions at campsites	Management Area			
	Undesignated	Designated Non-Road Side Sites	Designated Road Side and Group Sites	Moose River Plains Camping Area Sites
Frequency of contact with other parties while camping	Rare to nonexistent (0-1/day)	Low (1-2/day)	Moderate (2-3/day)	High (>5/day)
Degree of challenge	Very high	High to moderate	Moderate to low	Low
Opportunity for solitude or unconfined recreation	Very high	High to moderate	Moderate to low	Low

<sup>5</sup> Social conditions may vary from unit to unit and even within a single unit, therefore each ump may have different standards based on the characteristics of that unit.

## Appendix C. Accessible Guidance for New or Rehabilitated Camp Sites

When creating a new facility or alternating and existing facility, the Department will use standards found within the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 (ABA). An alteration is defined as remodeling, renovating, rehabilitating, reconstructing, changing or rearranging structural parts or elements, changing or rearranging plan configuration of walls and full-height or other fixed partitions, or making other changes that affect (or could affect) the usability of the facility. DEC recognizes that the U.S. Access Board intends to create standards that will apply to lands not covered by these regulations and will make appropriate changes to this document based on those future standards. Therefore, the purpose of this guidance is to give direction to Department staff on how to make campsites and associated outdoor facilities accessible.

When PTS in a given area have been grouped together during the UMP process, not all of the sites in a zone need to be made accessible, though it is encouraged. Single sites, however, should be developed to meet the accessible standards and designated as such.

During the designation time of a new area for a PTS, the designer should do his or her best to select an area that can be easily made accessible. If there are no places where a site could be made fully accessible, an exemption form must be completed and the reasons for the decision must be documented. The purpose of this form is to exempt certain aspects of a site and should be rarely used to exempt a whole PTS. Designers are encouraged to make everything in the program as accessible as possible.

In order to comply with U.S. Access Board standards, the facility needs to meet the following criteria:

- 1) A designated parking spot that has an accessible route to the desired program or service
- 2) An accessible bathroom, if public bathrooms are provided
- 3) Signage indicating accessibility

To ensure the entire program and not just the tent site is accessible, the guidelines provided below should be used. Project designers are encouraged to exceed the minimal requirements set forth in this guidance.

Parking:

Vehicle Parking Standards	
Parking space (signage needed) 1 car parking space width	192" (96" Car space, 96" Aisle Space)
Van (labeled "van accessible") Width	132" or 96" if beside an access aisle of 96"
Vertical clearance	98"
Signage (appropriate accessibility symbol)	60" - 84" above ground
Recreational vehicle width	20', 16' if 2 adjacent
Access aisle (labeled with no parking)	
Width	96"
Slope	<2.08%
Vertical clearance	98"

There will be the appropriate amount of accessible parking spaces when a parking lot is provided. The slope of the surface of parking spaces and pull-up spaces shall not be steeper than 1:48 in any direction. Exception, where the surface is other than asphalt, concrete, or boards, slopes not steeper than 1:20 shall be permitted when necessary for drainage.

Outdoor access routes will then lead from the parking lot to a campsite. The vehicle overhangs will not obstruct the clearance width of accessible routes: this can be achieved by using wheel stops.

Accessible Parking Spaces needed:

Total Number of parking spaces:	Minimum number of required accessible parking spaces including van space:	Minimum number of required van accessible parking spaces:
1 to 25	1	1
26 to 50	2	1
51 to 75	3	1
76 to 100	4	1
101 to 150	5	1

Outdoor Access Route Standards:

Outdoor Access Route Standards	
Minimum tread width Except where 36" not possible	36" 32" for a distance of no more than 24" (no less than 48" between exceptions)
Passing spaces (when clearance width <60", at intervals of 200')	60"x60" or "T" with 48" extensions
Maximum slope	5% for any distance, resting intervals every 200' 5-8.33% for no more than 50' 8.33-10% for no more than 30'
Cross slope Concrete, asphalt, boards Other surfaces	2.08% 5%
Minimum turn radius Around element <48"	60" 48" clearance width
Obstacles Concrete, asphalt, boards Other surfaces	½" 1"
Maximum protrusion for objects with leading edges 27-80" above the ground	4"
Openings (in surface)	<½"

When the width of the access route is less than 60", a passing space will be provided every 200 ft. For trails that are connected to a motor vehicular way, a clear passage space of 32" shall be provided around or through the roadway barriers. If an obstacle will cross the full width of the access route, staff should try to separate the two by at least 48".

Campsites:

Tent pads	
Tent pad Dimensions	
Width	144"
Length	144"
Tent platform dimensions	
Width	144"
Length	168"
Height	<19"
Clear space around pad and platform	48"
Slope surface	
Asphalt, concrete, boards	2.08%
Other surfaces	5%

<b>Camp shelter</b>	
Parallel clear ground space	36"×48"
Slope surface	
Asphalt, concrete, boards	2.08%
Other surfaces	5%
Height	<19"
Turning space	
Circular	60" diameter
T-Shape	60" square with 36" arms and base. 12" of clear space around. 24" for base (minimum)
<b>Fire rings</b>	
Size on all usable sides of ring	48"×48"
Ring size	36-48"
Fire building surface height	9"
Depth raise edges	<10"

The ground surface should be firm and stable, but allow for a stake and other securements to puncture the ground. When applicable, one full side of clear ground, that is not obstructed, should adjoin or overlap with a recreational access path or space. For campsites that are accessible and have driveways leading to them, the driveway shall not exceed an 8.33 percent grade for a distance of more than 50 feet. A 10 percent slope for 30 feet is acceptable, while the same slope over a length of 50 feet is only permissible if a pre-existing driveway is being altered. If campsites are being designated through the use of a zone, the minimal number of accessible campsites must be developed, but staff is encouraged that exceed the minimum requirements and try to make all sites as accessible as possible. When a site has been made fully accessible, it will be identified on maps, kiosks, the Department website, and with proper signage at the site. These sites will be identified so individuals with disabilities can easily locate them. The sites will not be designated for exclusive use by individuals with disabilities, but instead will be available on a first-come, first-serve like the rest of the sites. The Department can designate and reserve accessible sites for exclusive use if it is found that individuals with disabilities are regularly unable to find and utilize open accessible sites in a given zone. Once a site has been designated for exclusive use, 6 CRR-NY Section 190.3(f) states that only an individual with a disability is allowed to use that site.

Accessible Campsite needed:

Total number of camping sites provided in facility	Minimum number of accessible camping sites required.
1	1
2 to 25	2
26 to 50	3
51 to 76	4
76 to 100	5
101 to 150	7
151 to 200	8
Over 200	8, plus 2 percent of the number of sites over 200

Accessible Privies:

Accessible Pit Privies	
Privy Structure Width	60"
Length	66"
Turning Space Arm	60" x 36"
Base	36" x 24"
Grab Bars Diameter	1.25 " – 1.5 "
Space between bar and wall	1.5 "
Grab bar behind water closet Length	36" min.
Height above floor	33" – 36"
Grab bar to side of water closet Length	42" min
Height above floor	33" – 36"
Seat Center line	16" – 18"
Height	17" – 19"
Length	28"
Width	18"
Toilet paper dispenser	19" min (from ground)
Door Door Width	3'

Door way clear opening	32"
Door opening (leads to landing)	90°
Door level landing	
Door pull (on the inside by the hinges)	5'x5' 8" from door edge, 36" above floor
<b>Primitive Privies</b>	
Pit frame	
Length	52"
Width	28"
Privy Box	
Height	18"
Width	25"
Length	28.5"
Rails	
Back (total length)	39.5"
Extension from frame	10"
Side (total length)	58"
Extension from frame	12"
Seat	
Handle	2" x 2" x 22"
Space between handle and seat	1"

When a privy is connected to an accessible route, a 60 in. x 60 in. clear space shall be provided. The incline to the landing shall be within regulations and all normal requirements for a privy shall be met along with the above dimensions.

In cases where there is a zone of Pit Privies, 5 percent, but in no case less than one, will comply with the dimensions set forth in the above chart.

## Appendix D. Accessible Guidance for Picnic Tables

When adding or replacing a picnic table on a campsite, accessibility needs to be considered. Not all picnic tables need to be accessible when there are more than two campsites located next to each other. In these cases, two must be accessible and then 20 percent of any additional picnic tables must be accessible. If the campsites are not within a zone, each site must have an accessible table.

Picnic Table	
Wheelchair Space	30" x 48" min.
Knee Space	
Width	30" min.
Depth	19"
Space between the bottom of the table top and ground/floor	28" min. – 34" max.
Toe Clearance (beyond knee space depth)	5" min.
Clear Space	
Clear space surrounding the table	36" min.
Forward maneuvering	36" x 48"
Parallel maneuvering	30" x 60"
Ground surface slope	
Asphalt, Concrete, or Boards surface	2% max.
Other surfaces	5% max.

Accessible Picnic Tables and Wheelchair Spaces needed:

Table length	Number of wheelchair spaces
≤9 ft	1
10-20 ft	2

## Appendix E. References and Bibliography

Cole, D. N. (1989). *Wilderness Campsite Monitoring Methods: A Sourcebook*. General Technical Report INT-259. Ogden, UT: USDA Forest Service, Intermountain Research Station.

This document provides step-by-step instructions for monitoring impacts to wilderness campsites including evaluating system needs and constraints to management applications. Also, it includes examples of different procedures used to monitor wilderness campsites.

Frissell, S. S. (1978). Judging recreation impacts on wilderness campsites. *Journal of Forestry*, 78 (8), 481-483.

This article provides a simple and easily applied condition classification system to aid in the inventory and management of campsites. The condition class system outlined has been adopted and applied in a number of different settings.

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Roadside camping on forest preserve lands in the Adirondack Park: A qualitative exploration of place attachment and resource substitutability. In: Fisher, Cherie LeBlanc; Watts, Clifton E., Jr., eds. *Proceedings of the 2010 Northeastern Recreation Research Symposium*. Gen. Tech. Rep. NRS-P-94. Newtown Square, PA: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Northern Research Station: 205-213.

Hinds, Jim; Milanowski, Norma; Kari, Robert; Lukas, Luke. 1996.

*The Boundary Water Canoe Area Wilderness Campsite and Portage/Trail Monitoring Manual*. USDA Forest Service and Vermillion Community College, Ely MN.

Marion, J. L. (1991).

*Developing a Natural Resource Inventory and Monitoring Program for Visitor Impacts on Recreation Sites: A Procedural Manual*. Natural Resources Report NPS/NRVT/NRR-91/06. USDA National Park Service, Denver, Colorado.

This document provides step-by-step instructions for developing a monitoring program including how to initiate and document monitoring protocols and how to conduct field work. An explanation of why monitoring programs are needed is included.

Minnowbrook Conference Center DEC Staff Discussion Notes. January 18, 2005.

*Camping on the Forest Preserve Wilderness, Primitive, Canoe and Wild forest Areas Adirondack and Catskill Parks*.

National Park Service. *Backcountry and Wilderness Management Plan, Shenandoah National Park*. 1998.

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC). (2001). *Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan*. Ray Brook, New York.

This document provides definitions and guidelines for management and use of wilderness, primitive, wild forest, and canoe areas in the Adirondack Park. Also, it includes the legislative mandates and

support for the document. The master plan was used to guide the development of NYSDEC campsite, trail, and visitor use monitoring procedures.

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC). (2008). *Catskill Park State Land Master Plan: Revised Draft*. Albany, New York.

This draft document provides definitions and guidelines for management and use of wilderness, primitive, wild forest, and canoe areas in the Catskill Park. Also, it includes the legislative mandates and support for the document. The master plan was used to guide the development of NYSDEC campsite, trail, and visitor use monitoring procedures.

Van Valkenburgh, Norman. 1986.

Forest Preserve Policy Manual: Primitive Camping Sites in Wilderness, Primitive, Canoe and Wild forest Areas. New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

Watson, A. E., Cole, D.N., Turner, D. L., & Reynolds, P. S. (2000).

Wilderness Recreation Use Estimation: A Handbook of Methods and Systems. General Technical Report RMRS-GTR-56. Ogden, UT: USDA Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station.

This document provides estimation techniques and procedures that are essential to appropriately and accurately measure visitor use-related characteristics and conditions. It provides relevant information regarding developing a sampling plan.