



**Adirondack
Park Agency**

Debar Mountain Complex

Proposed Reclassification and
UMP Development

December 9, 2020

SEQRA: Setting the Stage for Action

APA and DEC are acting as Co-Leads for SEQRA purposes. Why?

- The SLMP requires that proposals for new Intensive Use classified lands must be accompanied by a draft UMP.
- The Development of a new UMP is a type 1 action pursuant to SEQRA.
- The Classification action and the UMP rely on each other to make sense.
- SEQRA requires that significant actions are not “segregated”.
- Changing the lead Agency during review of the action could cause unnecessary confusion.

Why is the Draft EIS for this action “Generic”?

- Certain types of projects with significant inter-related actions are best addressed with a generic EIS.
- Reclassification and development of a new UMP are inter-related actions.

6 CRR-NY 617.10 Generic environmental impact statements.

“(a) Generic EISs may be broader, and more general than site or project specific EISs and should discuss the logic and rationale for the choices advanced. They may also include an assessment of specific impacts if such details are available. They may be based on conceptual information in some cases. They may identify the important elements of the natural resource base as well as the existing and projected cultural features, patterns and character. They may discuss in general terms the constraints and consequences of any narrowing of future options. They may present and analyze in general terms a few hypothetical scenarios that could and are likely to occur.”



How are public comments on the Scoping Document used?

- Scoping is required by SEQRA
- Understanding public perception and interest in the action
- Identifying potential impacts that are considered to be significant
- Shaping the EIS to address concerns raised during the scoping period

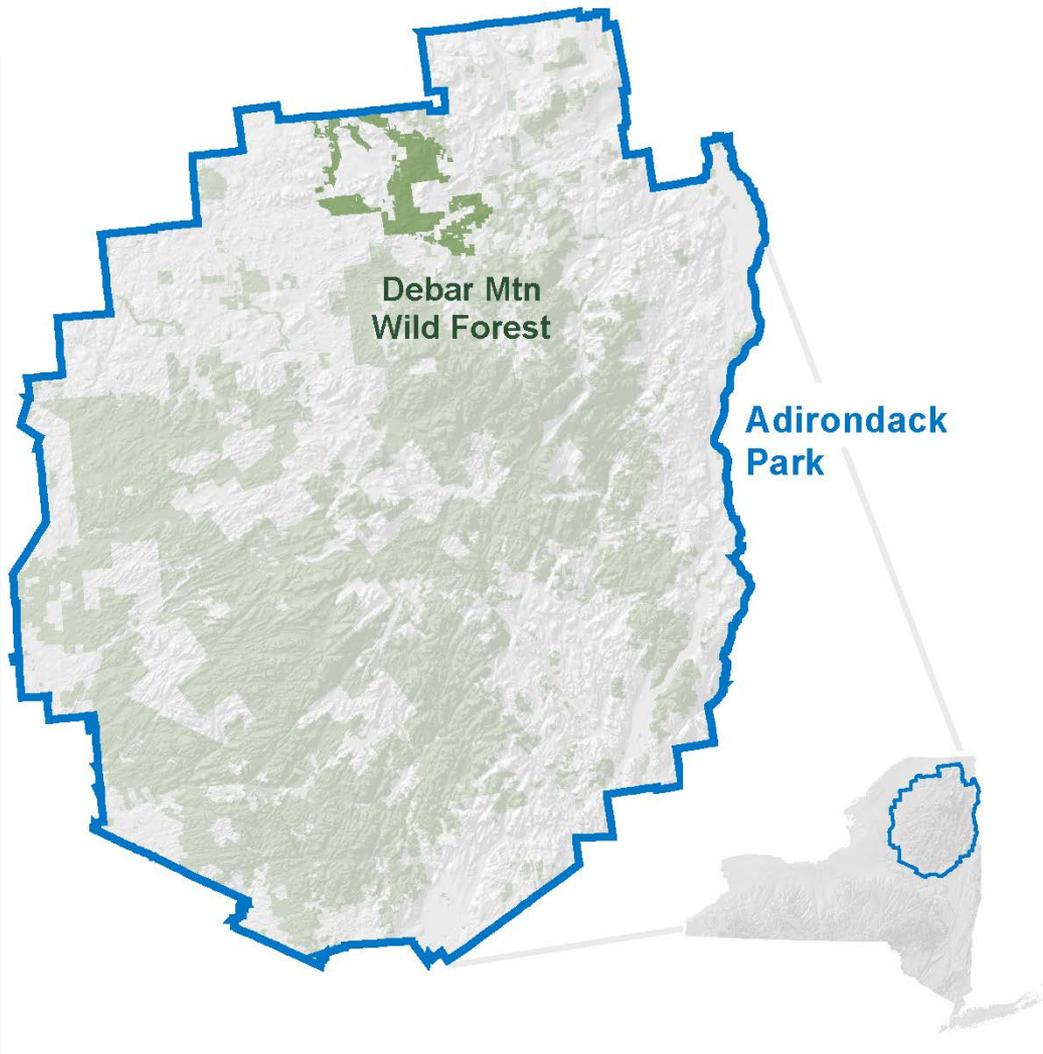


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Debar Mountain Complex

Draft Unit Management Plan

December 10, 2020



Natural Features in the Unit

- Key summits are Loon Lake, Debar, and Azure mountains.
- 72 waterbodies that cover 4,570 acres.
- Wetlands cover 17,400 acres.
- More than 200 miles of rivers and streams.



Debar Mountain From Deer River Flow

UMP Highlights

- Climate change section is included.
- Addresses invasive species threat.
- Focuses on carrying capacity and monitoring of impacts.
- Includes proposals to improve access for persons with disabilities.



Parking Areas and Roads

Roads

- Currently:
 - 10.6 miles of DEC roads in wild forest
 - 0.5 miles of DEC roads in primitive.
- Proposal:
 - Close Coal Hill Road (0.1 miles in wild forest and 0.4 miles in primitive).
 - Address impacts and problem locations.



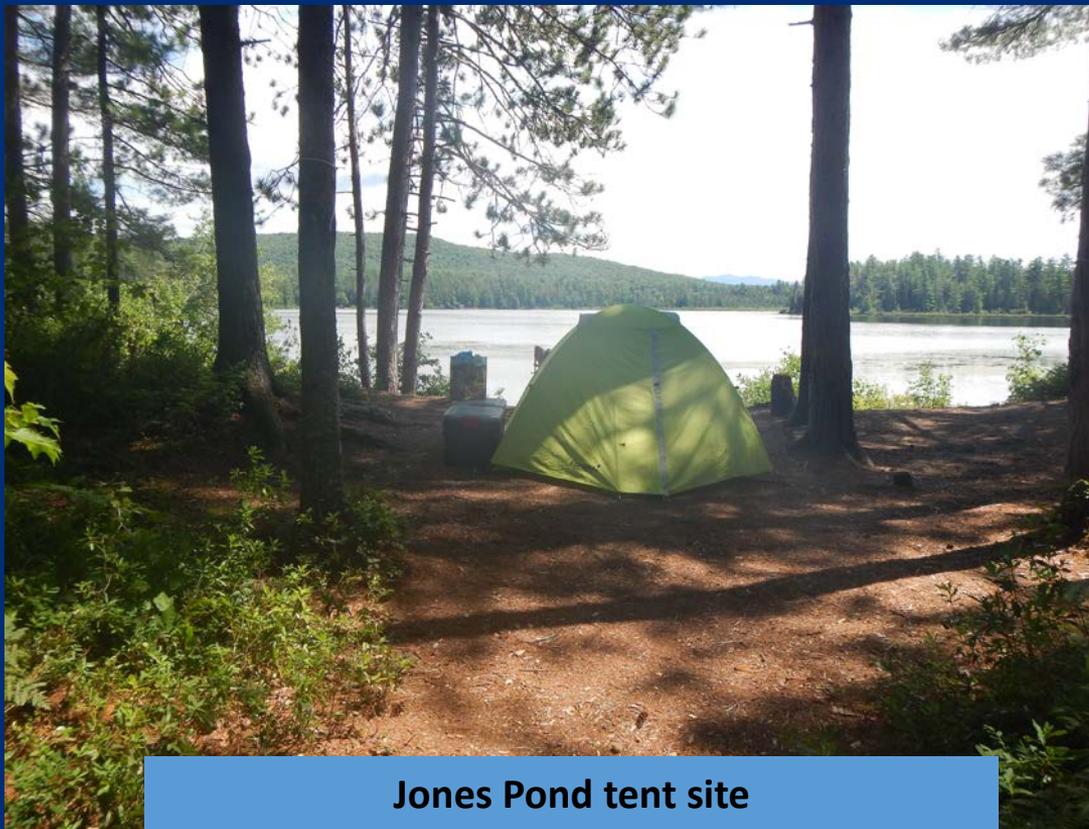
Parking

- Currently 21 parking areas.
- Improve 11 parking areas.
- Build 8 new parking areas.



Primitive Tent Sites

Current Conditions



Jones Pond tent site



Roadside Primitive Tent sites



Lake Kushaqua tent site



Proposals

- Close 9 primitive tent sites and 1 lean-to
- Create 26 new primitive tent sites and up to 6 lean-tos
- Bring sites into compliance with management guidelines.



Fishing and Waterway Access Sites and Dams

Two Types of Water Access Facilities in APSLMP

Boat Launch

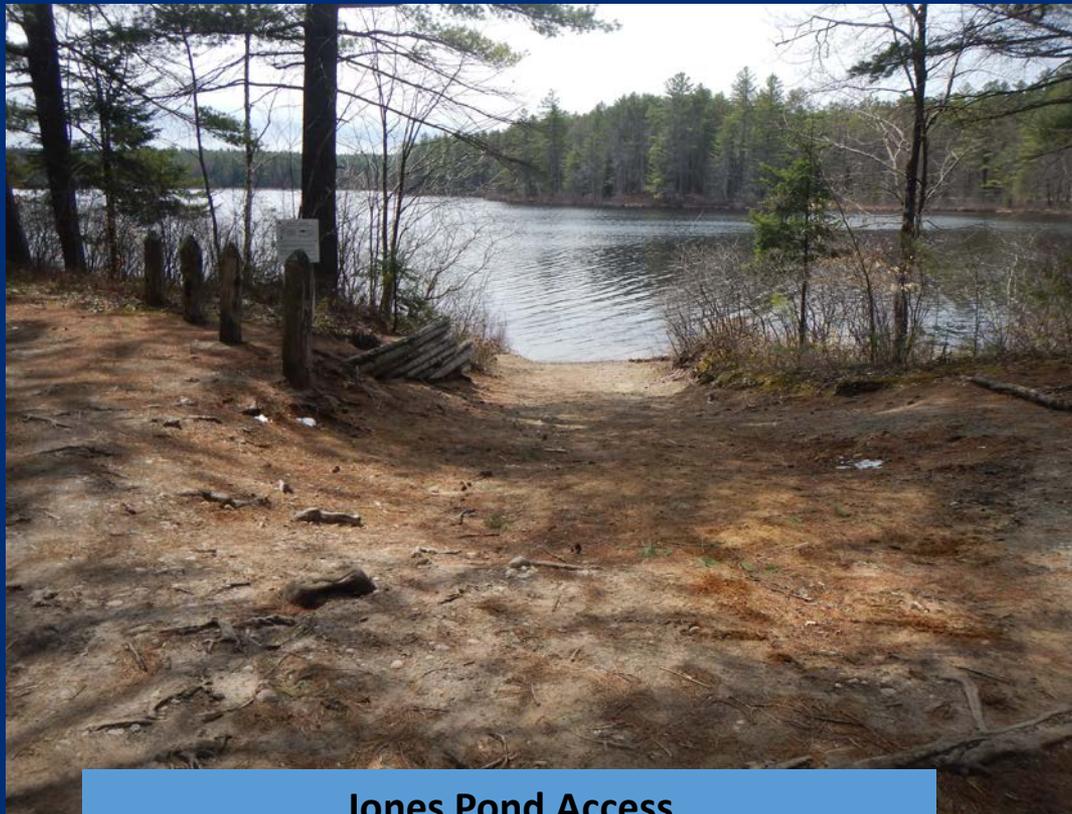
- Allows the launching of trailered boats.

Fishing and Waterway Access Site

- Does not permit the launching of trailered boats.
- Does not contain a ramp.



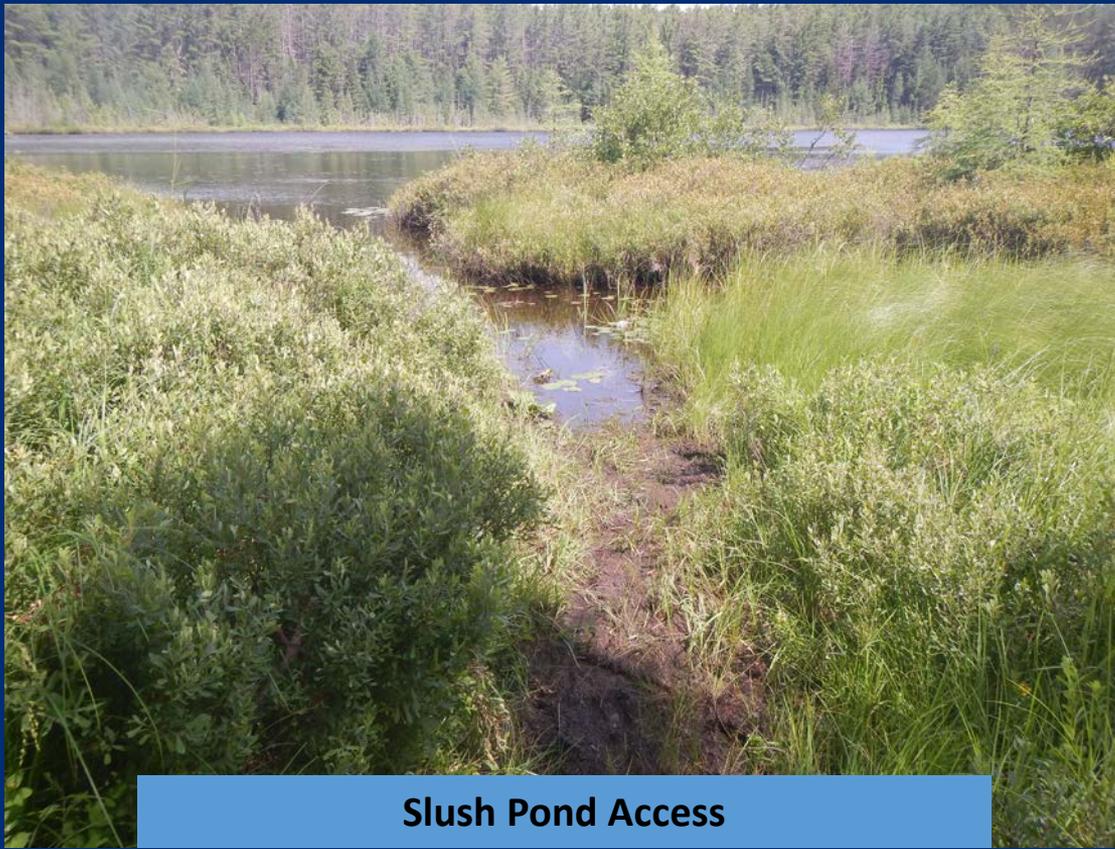
Developed Water Access Sites



Jones Pond Access



Informal Water Access



Slush Pond Access



Dams



Madawaska Pond Dam



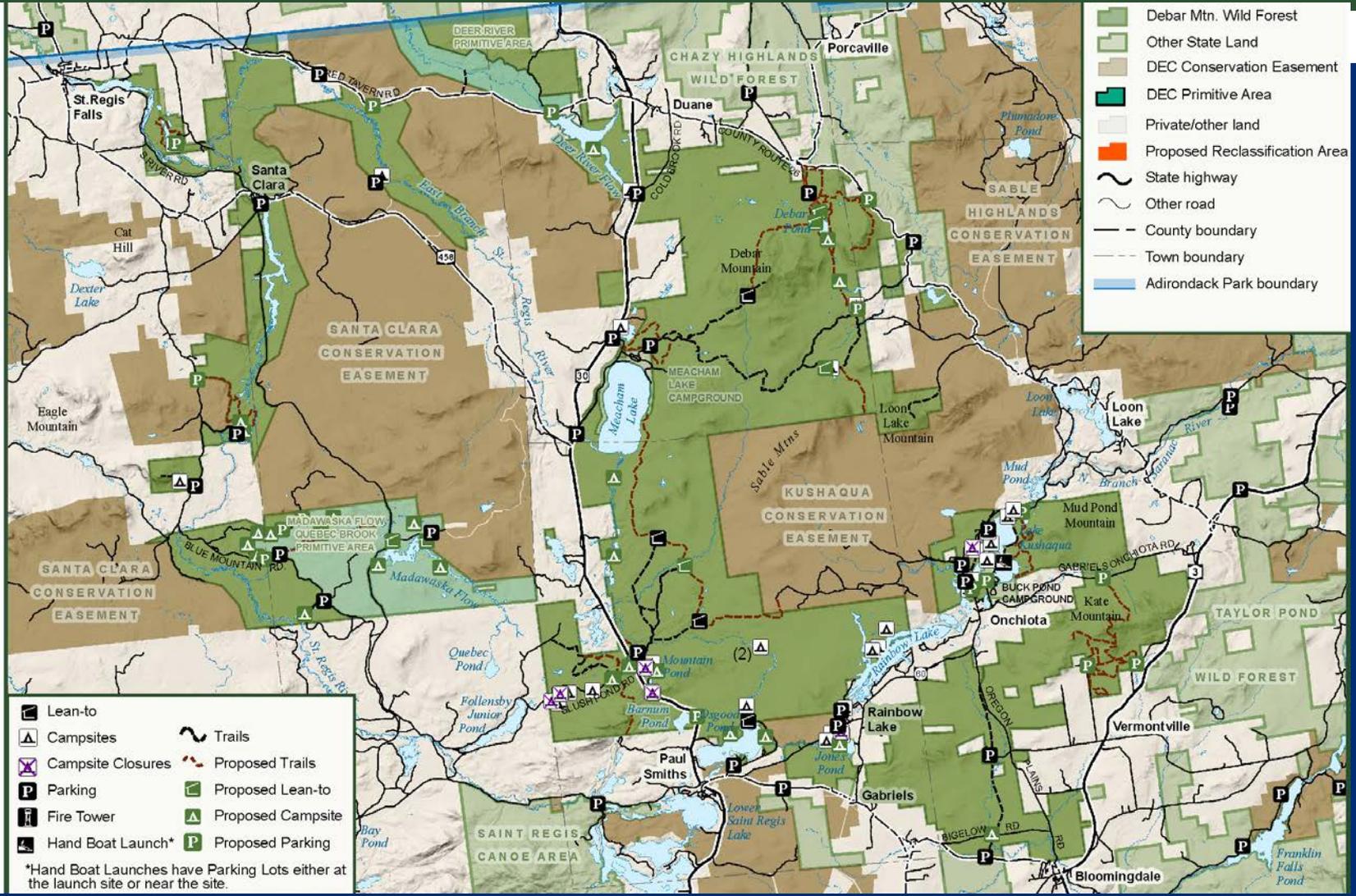
Santa Clara Dam

Trail Usage

Trail Proposals

- Proposal to build 53 miles of new trails, including 40 miles of multiple use trails open to mountain bikes.
- Snowmobile trails: close 9.3 miles of trails and build 2.9 miles of new trails.







Debar Lodge Day Use Area



Debar Pond





Debar Lodge



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Alternatives Considered

- Create an intensive use campground.
- Manage Debar Lodge as a historic area.
- Use Debar Lodge for administrative purposes.
- Retain the area as wild forest.

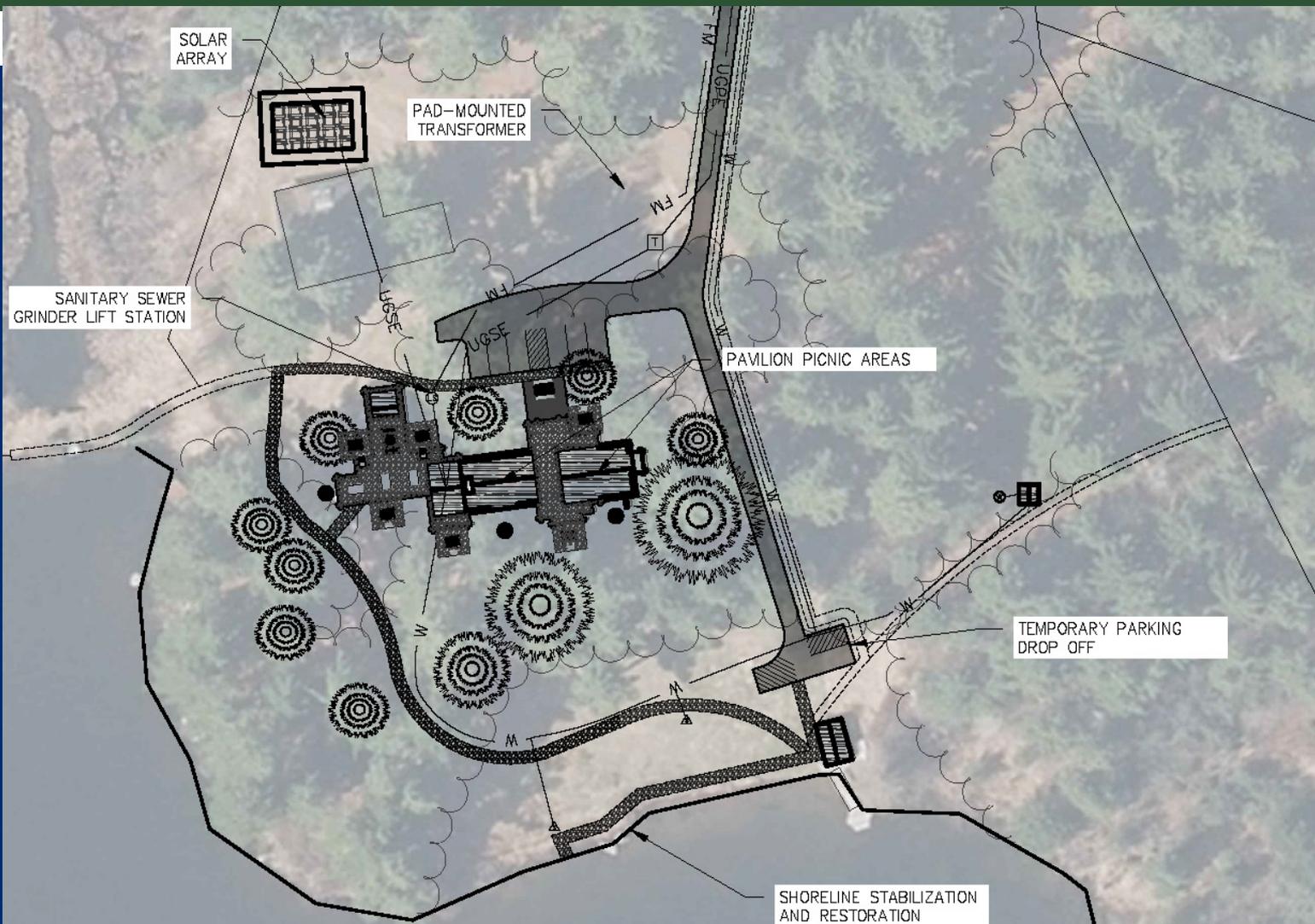


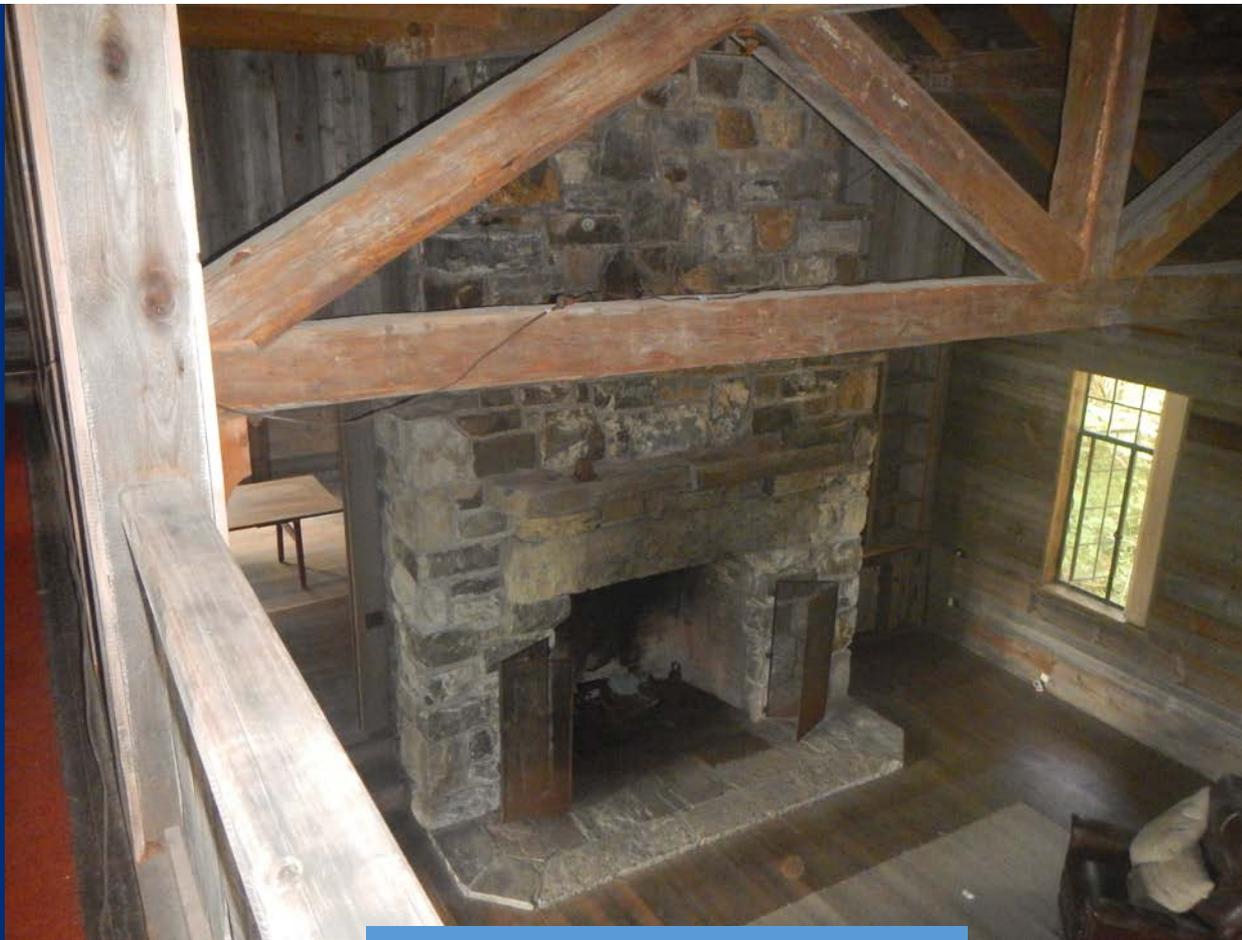
Description of Proposal



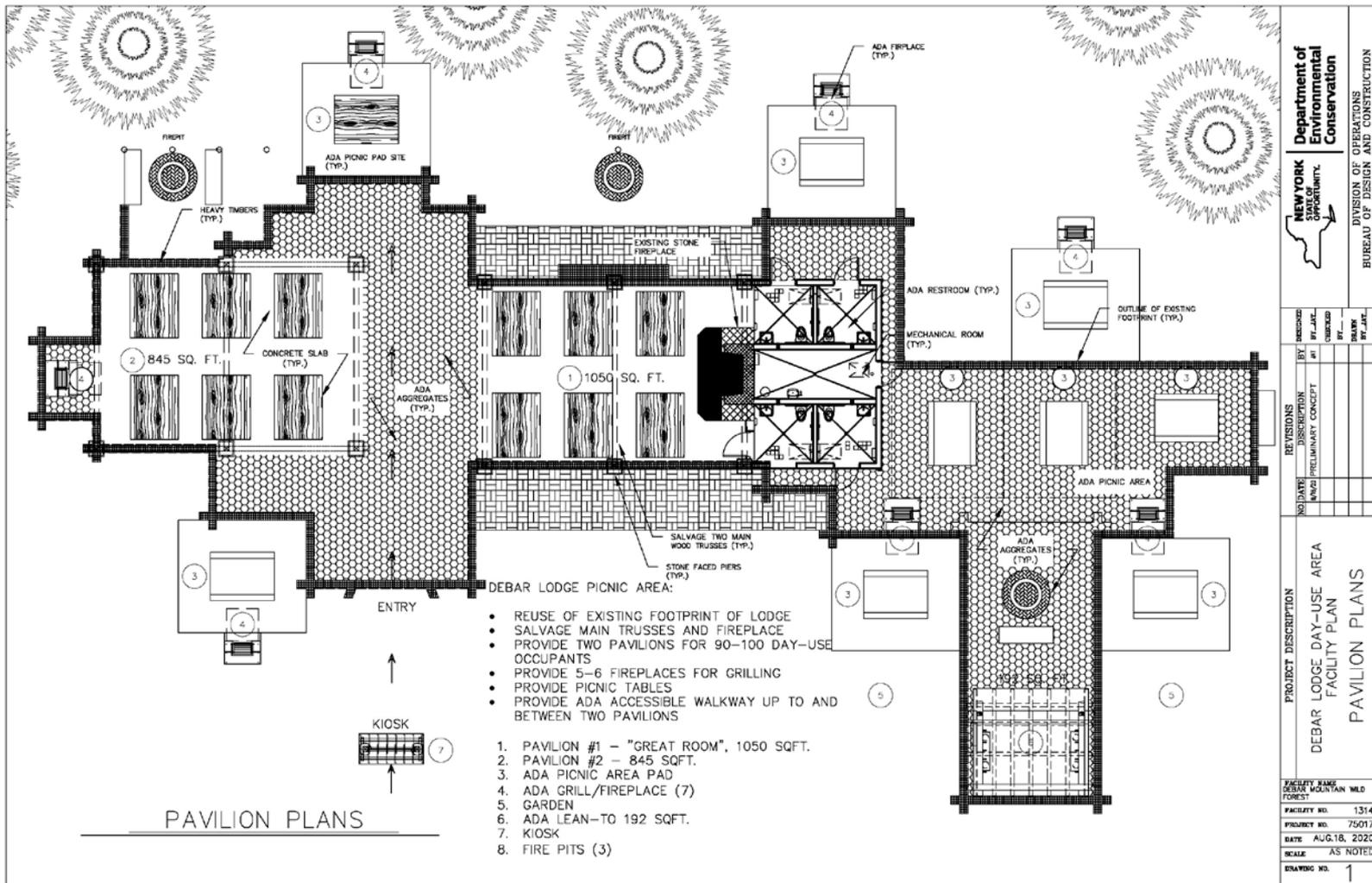
Former air field







Debar Lodge Fireplace





Debar Lodge Grounds



Debar Lodge Site Reclassification

SLMP unifying theme:

that the protection and preservation of the natural resources of the state lands within the Park must be paramount. Human use and enjoyment of those lands should be permitted and encouraged, so long as the resources in their physical and biological context as well as their social or psychological aspects are not degraded.



Debar Pond from Debar Pond Dam. Photo Credit: Dustin Ulrich

State Land Classification Master Plan Guidelines and Criteria for Classification

Lands are classified according to “their characteristics and capacity to withstand use”

Criteria for Classification

Physical

Soils, slope, elevation, water

Biological

Sensitive habitat, wetlands, wildlife

Intangible

Remoteness, views, ruggedness

Existing Uses

Existing roads, buildings, uses



Morning mist and Baldface Mountain at Debar Pond. Photo Credit: Dustin Ulrich

How are Land Classification Alternatives Developed?

- Classification categories provide a framework to work within
- Where there are multiple reasonable Alternatives within a single classification, they've been sub divided accordingly (IU1, IU2)
- Not all classifications will be considered due to site characteristics
- Eleven total Alternatives are considered(Two IU, Two H, Four A, Three WF)
- A proposed boundary for IU1 has been developed

“The Intensive Use classification permits a wide range of concentrated recreational activities which may require elaborate structural facilities. The resource characteristics must be unusually capable of withstanding such intensive use with little or no degradation in natural or scenic resource quality. New intensive use areas should not be located in areas where private recreational facilities open to the public are adequate to meet recreation demands in that local area.” PEIS, pp.25





“Design details will include the repurposing of certain components of the lodge such as the chimney, and the footprint of existing buildings will be carefully repurposed to assure that site disturbance and vegetation removal is minimized wherever possible. New structures will be designed to reflect the aesthetic of the historic lodge, and motor vehicle access will be planned in a manner that minimizes earth disturbance and the possibility of visual impacts observed from the water.” Alternative IU1, DGEIS pp. 9

Public Hearings

Hearings by video and telephone will be held at the following times:

Tuesday, January 19, 2021, from 1:30 pm to 4:00 pm

Tuesday, January 19, 2021, from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm

For further information on attending the remote hearings, visit the APA website: <https://www.apa.ny.gov>



How To Make Written Comments

Written comments may be submitted until February 12, 2021 by email or by mail.

Send written comments by mail to: Steven Guglielmi, NYS DEC, 1115 NYS Route 86, PO Box 296, Ray Brook, NY 12977-0296

Email comments to: DebarComment@apa.ny.gov

