



**2018 Amendment to the 2002 Gore Mountain
Unit Management Plan
and
Final Generic Environmental Impact Statement**



**Olympic Regional
Development Authority**

May 2018

Lead Agency and Prepared by:

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Date of Public Hearing: January 24, 2018

Date of Close of Comment Period: February 9, 2018

Date of Acceptance of FGEIS: April 25, 2018

Submitted: May 2, 2018

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Record

FROM: Basil Seggos

SUBJECT: Gore Mountain Intensive Use Area Unit Management Plan Amendment

The Unit Management Plan amendment for the Gore Mountain Intensive Use Area has been completed, and the Adirondack Park Agency has found the Plan to be in conformance with the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan.

The Plan is consistent with Environmental Conservation Law, and Department Rules, Regulations and Policies and is hereby approved and adopted.



Basil Seggos

Commissioner

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

Date: _____

7/9/18



Adirondack Park Agency

SHERMAN CRAIG
Chairman

TERRY MARTINO
Executive Director

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE ADIRONDACK PARK AGENCY WITH RESPECT TO THE GORE MOUNTAIN SKI CENTER INTENSIVE USE AREA UNIT MANAGEMENT PLAN AMENDMENT

May 10, 2018

WHEREAS, section 816 of the Adirondack Park Agency Act (APA Act) directs the Olympic Regional Development Authority (ORDA) and the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to develop, in consultation with the Adirondack Park Agency (Agency), individual management plans for units of land classified in the Adirondack Park State Land Master (APSLMP) and requires such management plans to conform to the guidelines and criteria of the APSLMP; and

WHEREAS, in addition to such guidelines and criteria, the APSLMP prescribes the contents of unit management plans and provides that the Agency will determine whether a proposed individual unit management plan complies with such guidelines and criteria; and

WHEREAS, ORDA prepared a unit management plan for the Gore Mountain Intensive Use Area in 1987 that was updated in 1995 and 2002 (2002 Plan), and amended in 2005; and

WHEREAS ORDA has prepared a second amendment to the 2002 Plan, dated May 2018 (Proposed Final 2018 Amendment), and

WHEREAS, the Proposed Final 2018 Amendment to the 2002 Plan proposes to widen or extend certain ski trails, construct new ski trails, construct a new ski lift, modify vehicular access and parking, enlarge the reservoir and install a new water line for snowmaking, expand and reconfigure buildings, construct a single-track bike trail, and develop a hiking center; and

WHEREAS, this action is a Type I action pursuant to 6 NYCRR Part 617 and 9 NYCRR 586 for which ORDA is the lead agency and the Department of Environmental Conservation is an involved agency; and

WHEREAS, ORDA prepared a positive declaration and a Generic Environmental Impact Statement (GEIS) for the Proposed Final 2018 Amendment; and

WHEREAS, ORDA has filed a Notice of Intent with the Agency to undertake new land use and development on lands adjacent to the Gore Mountain Intensive Use Area

owned by the Town of Johnsbury, known as Ski Bowl Park, pursuant to section 814 of the APA Act, which is attached to the GEIS as Part B; and

WHEREAS, ORDA prepared a cumulative impacts analysis addressing the cumulative impacts of the proposed land use and development on Ski Bowl Park pursuant to the Notice of Intent and the actions proposed in the Gore Mountain Intensive Use Area, pursuant to the Proposed Final 2018 Amendment, which is attached to the GEIS as Part C; and

WHEREAS, ORDA declared the Draft GEIS to be complete for public review on January 3, 2018 and presented the Draft GEIS and the draft unit management plan amendment to the 2002 Plan for information to the Agency on January 11, 2018; and

WHEREAS, ORDA held a public hearing on the Draft GEIS and the draft unit management plan amendment to the 2002 Plan on January 24, 2018 and accepted public comment until February 9, 2018, after notice published in the Environmental Notice Bulletin, pursuant to the State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR) Act, Article 8 of the Environmental Conservation Law, and regulations, 6 NYCRR Part 617; and

WHEREAS, on March 8, 2018, ORDA presented the Proposed Final 2018 Amendment and the Final GEIS to the Agency; and

WHEREAS, the Agency established a public comment period on conformance of the Proposed Final 2018 Amendment with the APSLMP, which ran from March 12, 2018 through March 26, 2018; and

WHEREAS, the Agency received three written comments during the public comment period regarding the Proposed Final 2018 Amendment; and

WHEREAS, two public comments generally supported the proposals described in the Proposed Final 2018 Amendment and one comment addressed the APSLMP's requirement that unit management plans provide appropriately detailed inventories of natural resources and facilities for public use, particularly in relation to ski trail mileage, and expressed concern regarding the conceptual discussion of reclassification of 159 acres of State land currently classified as Wild Forest to Intensive Use and reclassification of 33 acres of State land currently classified as Intensive Use to Wilderness; and

WHEREAS, ORDA has revised the Proposed Final 2018 Amendment to update the ski trail mileage statistics and related statements regarding the calculation of ski trail mileage under Article XIV of the New York State Constitution; and

WHEREAS, the proposed conceptual reclassification of State lands is not properly considered part of the Proposed Final 2018 Amendment, inasmuch as the

APSLMP prohibits a unit management plan from amending the APSLMP itself, which includes reclassifying state lands; and

WHEREAS, ORDA has revised the Proposed Final 2018 Amendment to clarify that the discussion of State land reclassification is conceptual only and that the Proposed Final 2018 Amendment does not authorize reclassification or any actions on State lands in the Vanderwhacker Mountain Wild Forest; and

WHEREAS, the Agency has considered the foregoing recitals, the Proposed Final 2018 Amendment including Parts B and C, the May 2, 2018 Memorandum from Kathy Regan to Terry Martino, Agency staff's May 10, 2018 presentation, public comment, and the deliberations of Agency Board Members and Designees at the Agency's May 10, 2018 meeting.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that pursuant to Section 816 of the Adirondack Park Agency Act, the Adirondack Park Agency finds the Proposed Final 2018 Amendment to the 2002 Gore Mountain Unit Management Plan, dated May 2018, conforms with the guidelines and criteria of the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Adirondack Park Agency authorizes its Executive Director to advise the Commissioner of Environmental Conservation and the President and Chief Operating Officer of the Olympic Regional Development Authority of the Agency's determination in this matter.

Ayes: Sherman Craig, Chad Dawson, John Ernst, Karen Feldman, William Thomas, Dan Wilt, Brad Austin, Matthew Tebo, Robert Stegemann

Nays: None

Abstentions: Arthur Lussi

Absent: None

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

I. INTRODUCTION

This 2018 Unit Management Plan (UMP) Amendment has been prepared in accordance with the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan (APSLMP), addresses changes to the 2002 UMP and the 2005 UMP Amendment thereto, and adds several new management actions. This 2018 UMP Amendment lists and reviews the status of the 1995, 2002 and 2005 management actions and identifies those management actions that have been completed, those which are pending, and those that are modified or abandoned within this 2018 UMP Amendment. Previous UMP documents are incorporated by reference into this document.

Since the completion of the last UMP Amendment, Gore Mountain has received recognition from the Ski Industry and the press for, not only its quality skiing experience, but also for its environmental stewardship. In May 2016, Gore Mountain was awarded the esteemed Golden Eagle for Overall Environmental Excellence by a ski area from the National Ski Areas Association. The Golden Eagle is the industry's most prestigious award for sustainability and Gore's broad range of environmental stewardship across several areas of its operation was integral to its win.



Gore Mountain successfully demonstrated that a growing resort¹ can at the same time be sustainable. Projects that contributed to this award were Gore's contracting of two 25-year solar power purchasing agreements, strategic trail modifications to increase uphill operational efficiency, energy-saving snowmaking, creative repurposing of buildings, the redevelopment of historic trails, various education efforts and Gore's increased provision of locally sourced food.

II. 2018 UMP AMENDMENT MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

New management actions are identified and analyzed in this 2018 UMP Amendment. The potential environmental impacts and the attendant proposed mitigation measures for any new or modified management actions are also identified and discussed. The potential impacts and

¹ Gore's acreage and uphill capacity have increased 131 percent and 142 percent respectively over the past 20 years.

the identified mitigation measures for the previously approved UMP management actions remain in effect and will not be repeated here, but are incorporated by reference.

The following lists the New Management Actions that are the subject of this UMP Amendment and that can be undertaken after the UMP Amendment is adopted. The suggested land exchange included below is a conceptual action at this time. Conceptual actions are subject to future SEQRA analyses should they be pursued in the future. See **Figure ES-1, 2018 Master Plan (South)** and **Figure ES-2, 2018 Master Plan (North)**.

Trail Construction and Trail Widening

- Construct a new trail at Burnt Ridge that connects to the Base Lodge via the lower portion of Echo
- Convert the existing Half 'N Half glade to an alpine ski trail (portion on Forest Preserve lands)
- Widen the bottom of Echo as it turns toward the base area
- Widen some sections of Twister
- Widen Sunway and other green trails served by Lift 3

Lifts

- Add a new triple or quad chair (Lift 9B) from Northwoods Lodge up Lower Sunway to just past the bend in Lower Sunway

Vehicular Access and Parking

- Modify the 1995-approved shuttle lane separated from and independent of main traffic route and circulation route and parking

Buildings

- Expand the NYSEF building
- Reconfigure the 1995-approved maintenance complex to locate groomer garage and fueling station adjacent to Sunway trail

Snowmaking

- Enlarge the snowmaking reservoir
- Install a new 24-inch water line from the snowmaking reservoir to the pump house

Mountain Biking

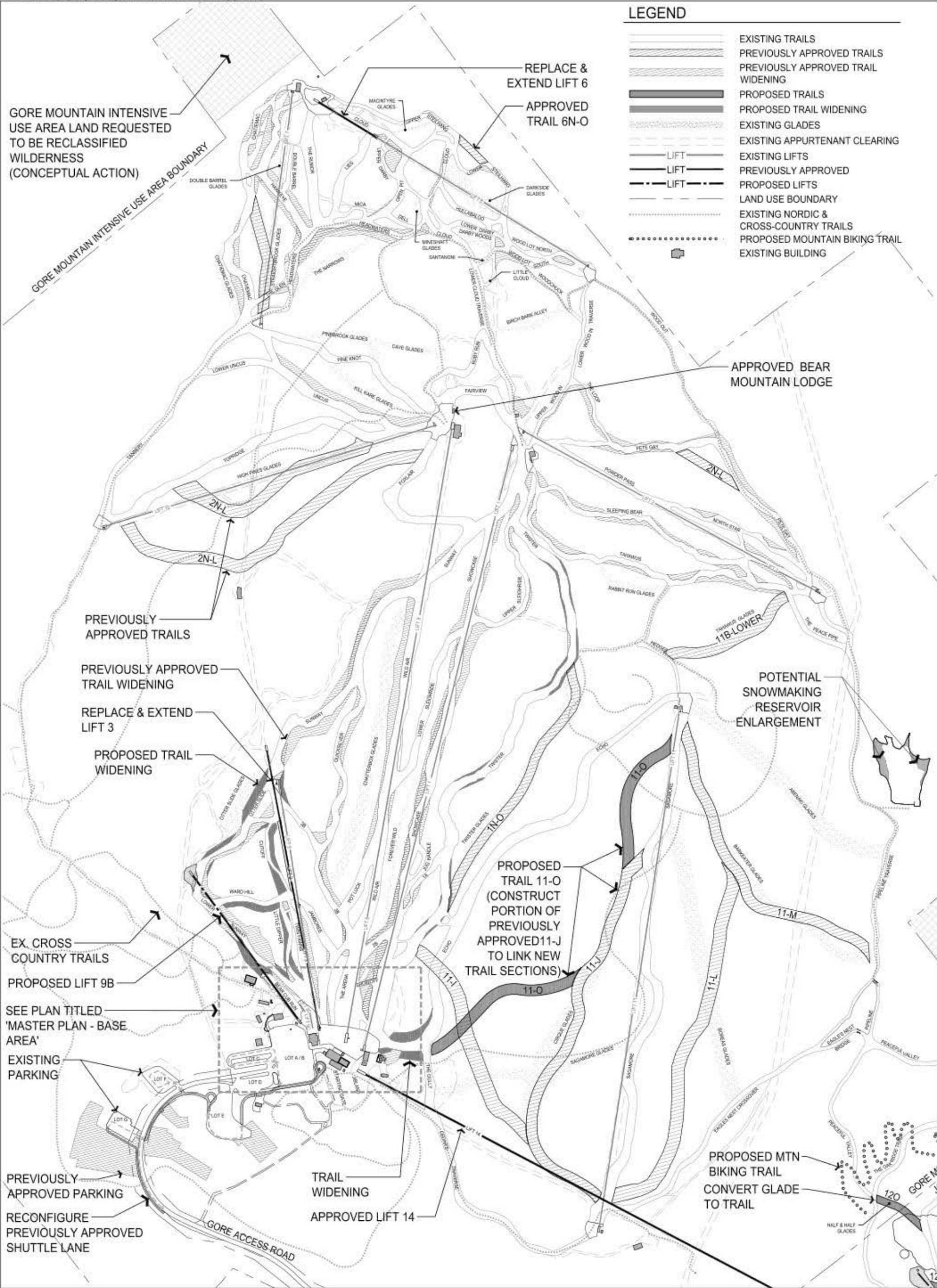
- Construct a single-track bike trail for Town trail at the top of Little Gore

Hiking

- Develop a hiking center based out of the Northwoods Lodge.

Requests for Land Reclassifications (Conceptual Action)

- Request a land reclassification from Wild Forest to Intensive Use and from Intensive Use



to Wilderness which could allow the historic Rabbit Pond Trail to be used as a trail, if authorized in a subsequent UMP.

(Note: The Adirondack Park Agency (APA) cannot find that a UMP Amendment proposing management actions on lands to be reclassified conforms to the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan (APSLMP) before the land is reclassified. First, the Agency must receive a request to reclassify, accompanied by a UMP for the proposed Intensive Use lands. The Agency must follow SEQRA regulations regarding public notice and comment and must hold hearings inside and outside the Adirondack Park on the request to reclassify, pursuant to the APSLMP. After notice, comment and hearings, the reclassification proposals would be presented to the Agency for a recommendation to the Governor for approval of the classification. The process culminates in the Governor's action on that recommendation. This UMP Amendment does not assume that a reclassification request will be approved and does not authorize any actions on lands requested to be reclassified, based on a proposed future classification. The actual request for reclassification and a UMP Amendment for those actions on the lands proposed for reclassification would be presented separately from this UMP Amendment. Discussion of actions on those lands in this UMP is conceptual only, and those actions cannot be authorized by this UMP Amendment.)

These management actions are discussed in the context of existing resources, facilities and use (Section 3) and ORDA's Management and Policy relating to the Gore Mountain Intensive Use Area (Section 3). The management actions themselves are described in detail in Section 4.

An introductory section (Section 1) first gives an overview of project purpose, a general facility description, the history of the ski area, a description of the UMP/GEIS process and a summary update of the status of actions contained in previous UMPs.

III. SEQRA PROCESS

ORDA, as the Agency responsible for undertaking the actions in this 2018 UMP Amendment/FGEIS, completed a New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) Full Environmental Assessment Form (FEAF) Parts 1, 2, and 3 (See Appendix 1). Based on the analysis in Part 3 of the FEAF, ORDA determined that the Project may result in one or more significant adverse impacts on the environment and this Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) must be prepared to further assess the impacts and possible mitigation and to explore alternatives to avoid or reduce these impacts.

The SEQRA aspects of this document are presented as a Generic Environmental Impact Statement (GEIS). A Generic EIS may be used to assess the environmental effects of a sequence of actions contemplated by a single agency or an entire program or plan having wide application (6NYCRR 617.10(a)(2) and (4)). They differ from a site specific EIS in that it applies to a group of common and related activities which have similar or related impacts. It is the intent of this GEIS to provide sufficient, site-specific information for all aspects of this UMP Amendment. In conformance with SEQRA, these related actions are being considered in this FGEIS. No additional SEQRA analyses are anticipated to be required for any

management action in this UMP, provided that such actions are carried out in accordance with the recommendations of this document. Conceptual actions are subject to future SEQRA analyses should they be pursued in the future.

A preliminary version of the UMP Draft Amendment/DGEIS was provided to NYSDEC and to the APA for their review on December 8, 2017. Comments from these agencies were received by ORDA, and ORDA revised the preliminary document accordingly. ORDA then declared that document to be complete for public review on January 3, 2018. Notice of ORDA's acceptance of the DGEIS, establishment of the public comment period, and directions for accessing the Public Draft UMP Amendment/DGEIS were published in the January 10, 2018 issue of the Environmental Notice Bulletin. The Public Draft UMP Amendment/DGEIS was presented to the APA at their January 11, 2018 Agency meeting.

The Draft 2018 UMP Amendment/DGEIS was open for public comment until February 9, 2018 including a SEQRA public hearing held at 7:00 PM on January 24, 2018 at the Gore Mountain Base Lodge. Responses were prepared to comments received at the public hearing and to written comments submitted during the public comment period. A transcript of the public hearing, copies of written comments and responses to comments are included in this FGEIS. Also included in this FGEIS is an errata section that summarizes the changes that were made to the DGEIS when preparing this FGEIS. ORDA, as the SEQRA Lead Agency, accepted this FEIS on April 25, 2018.

Part 3 of the FEAF identified those topics for which additional information was required within the GEIS. Primary concerns include steep slope soil erosion and water quality, water quality impacts associated with enlargement of the snowmaking reservoir, and potential impacts to the Bicknell's thrush, a species of special concern in New York State. Potential impacts and mitigation measures for these topics and a range of other topics are discussed in detail in Section 5 of this UMP/FGEIS.

Section 6 considers alternatives to the new management actions including alternative trail improvements, lift configurations, parking and circulation and appurtenances.

ORDA is currently contemplating simultaneous improvements on Town of Johnsbury owned lands at the North Creek Ski Bowl, outside of the Intensive Use Area. Because these actions are not within the Intensive Use Area, they are not covered within this UMP Amendment. Instead, these actions will be subject to APA review under section 814 of the Adirondack Park Agency Act and also subject to review under SEQRA. In order to make the requisite assessment of cumulative impacts, this UMP Amendment/GEIS is accompanied by two companion documents which will be referred to as Part B and Part C (Part A being the UMP/GEIS). Part B is the Ski Bowl Notice of Intent to the APA required under section 814 and accompanying SEQRA documentation. Part C is a cumulative impact assessment of the actions proposed within the Intensive Use Area and the actions proposed at the Ski Bowl.

IV. CONFORMANCE WITH THE APSLMP

It is stated in Section I of the APSLMP that “In accordance with statutory mandate, all [unit management] plans will conform to the guidelines and criteria set forth in the master plan”

The following is from the Intensive Use Area portion of Section 2 of the APSLMP and includes descriptions of how this UMP Amendment conforms to the stated guidelines.

Guidelines for Management and Use

Basic Guidelines

1. *The primary management guideline for Intensive Use Areas will be to provide the public opportunities for family group camping, developed swimming and boating, downhill skiing, cross country skiing under competitive or developed conditions on improved cross country ski trails, visitor information and similar outdoor recreational pursuits in a setting and on a scale that are in harmony with the relatively wild and undeveloped character of the Adirondack Park.*

The Gore Mountain Intensive Use Area will continue to provide opportunities for downhill skiing, cross-country skiing and similar outdoor recreational pursuits.

There are no new management actions in this UMP Amendment that change the current setting or scale of the facilities at Gore Mountain. One ski lift will be slightly relocated and replaced while another lift will be added in the same general area to provide better service on the beginner ski terrain low on the mountain. Selective trail widening will occur on the trails served by these lifts. A single new ski trail is proposed to be constructed in between existing ski trails in order to provide a connection between Burnt Ridge and the Base Area during those times when the Echo trail is being used for ski racing and is not available for public use. Selective trail widening on the Twister trail is limited in nature and is intended to provide a more uniform trail width along its length.

2. *All intensive use facilities should be located, designed and managed so as to blend with the Adirondack environment and to have the minimum adverse impact possible on surrounding state lands and nearby private holdings. They will not be situated where they will aggravate problems on lands already subject to or threatened by overuse, such as the eastern portion of the High Peaks Wilderness, the Pharaoh Lake Wilderness or the St. Regis Canoe Area or where they will have a negative impact on competing private facilities. Such facilities will be adjacent to or serviceable from existing public road systems or water bodies open to motorboat use within the Park.*

All the new management actions proposed in this UMP Amendment, and that can take place after the adoption of this UMP Amendment, are located low on the mountain where they will not cause a visual impact (see UMP section V.C.I). All actions are located

in the interior of the Intensive Use Area removed from adjoining State and private lands. This UMP amendment is not proposing any significant enlargement of the ski area, so there is no potential for adversely affecting lands subject or threatened by overuse or competing private facilities.

3. *Construction and development activities in Intensive Use Areas will:*

-- *avoid material alteration of wetlands;*

Impacts to wetlands have been avoided (see UMP section V.A.5).

-- *minimize extensive topographic alterations;*

No extensive topographic alterations are proposed (see UMP section V.A.3).

-- *limit vegetative clearing;*

Vegetative clearing has been limited and it is well within the limits established by Article 14 of the NYS Constitution (see UMP section V.B.1 and Appendix 5).

and,

-- *preserve the scenic, natural and open space resources of the Intensive Use Area.*

See items 1 and 2 above.

4. *Day use areas will not provide for overnight camping or other overnight accommodations for the public.*

No overnight accommodations, camping or otherwise, are proposed.

5. *Priority should be given to the rehabilitation and modernization of existing Intensive Use Areas and the complete development of partially developed existing Intensive Use Areas before the construction of new facilities is considered.*

The actions contained in this UMP amendment are for the improvement and modernization of the existing Gore Mountain Intensive Use Area.

6. *Additions to the intensive use category should come either from new acquisitions or from the reclassification of appropriate wild forest areas, and only in exceptional circumstances from wilderness, primitive or canoe areas.*

This UMP amendment suggests land reclassification that would include an addition to the Intensive Use Area from the Vanderwhacker Mountain Wild Forest and an addition to the Siamese Ponds Wilderness Area from the Intensive Use Area (see UMP section IV.8).

7. *Any request for classification of a new acquisition or reclassification of existing lands from another land use category to an Intensive Use Area will be accompanied by a draft unit management plan for the proposed Intensive Use Area that will demonstrate how the applicable guidelines will be respected.*

These same ten Intensive Use Area guidelines from the APSLMP will be examined for the lands requested for reclassification (see UMP section IV.8).

8. *No new structures or improvements at any Intensive Use Area will be constructed except in conformity with a final adopted unit management plan for such area. This guideline will not prevent the ordinary maintenance, rehabilitation or minor relocation of conforming structures or improvements.*

None of the new management actions contained in this UMP amendment will be constructed unless and until they are included in the final UMP amendment adopted by NYSDEC.

9. *Since the concentrations of visitors at certain intensive use facilities often pose a threat of water pollution, the state should set an example for the private sector by installing modern sewage treatment systems with the objective of maintaining high water quality. Standards for the state should in no case be less than those for the private sector and in all cases any pit privy, leach field or seepage pit will be at least 150 feet from the mean high water mark of any lake, pond, river or stream.*

No in-ground wastewater treatment is proposed.

10. *Any new, reconstructed or relocated buildings or structures located on shorelines of lakes, ponds, rivers or major streams, other than docks, primitive tent sites not a part of a campground (which will be governed by the general guidelines for such sites set forth elsewhere in this master plan) boat launching sites, fishing and waterway access sites, boathouses, and similar water related facilities, will be set back a minimum of 150 feet from the mean high water mark and will be located so as to be reasonably screened from the water body to avoid intruding on the natural character of the shoreline and the public enjoyment and use thereof.*

No new buildings or structures are proposed anywhere near any shorelines.

V. IMPACT ANALYSIS

A. Geology

Bedrock is at or near the ground surface in many locations in the Gore Mountain Intensive Use Area.

Bedrock may be encountered when constructing a portion of the dedicated shuttle lane. There is an area of Lyman-Rock Outcrop soils between parking lot E and the base lodge. It may be necessary to blast some bedrock to create the shuttle lane through this area. It is also possible that blasting may be necessary as part of some of the trail creation or trail widening management actions. Bedrock may also be encountered when enlarging the snowmaking

reservoir which could also necessitate blasting. Hermon-Lyman-Rock Outcrop soils are mapped on the north and south sides of the reservoir.

As described in UMP Section II.A.1.a, the landform that is Gore Mountain, including the Barton garnet mine that is located on the north side of the mountain, is considered a unique geologic feature because of the nearby garnet deposits (<http://www.dec.ny.gov/permits/53858.html>). These deposits will not be affected by the construction activities associated with the shuttle lane or the snowmaking reservoir which are both located at low elevations on the mountain.

ORDA will employ the services of a professional, licensed and insured blasting company to perform any needed blasting. Blasters in New York State are required to possess a valid NY State Department of Labor issued Explosive License and Blaster Certificate of Competence. The Explosives License permits the licensee to purchase, own, possess or transport explosives. The Blaster Certificate of Competence permits the use of explosives.

If it is determined that blasting will be required, a written blasting plan will be developed and approved prior to the commencement of blasting. In general, the blast plan will contain information about the blasting methods to be employed, measures to be taken to protect the safety of the public, and how the applicable rules and regulations will be complied with. If during the evolution of the project there are significant changes in the blast design a new blast plan will be required. A test shot will be required for the first shot after the approval of each blast plan.

See Section V.A.1 for a full description of all of the measures ORDA will implement to mitigate potential impacts from any blasting that may be required.

B. Soils

Soil Erodibility (K) Factors are discussed in Section 2.A.1.b of the UMP. “K” is one factor used to calculate potential soil loss using the Revised Universal Soil Loss Equation (RUSLE). Other factors in RUSLE include slope length (L) and slope steepness (S).

Construction of most new Management Actions is proposed on soils with an “E” slope category. E soils are described as steep. Some new management actions are proposed on soils with a “C” slope category. C soils are described as sloping.

Disturbance of areas of steep slopes during construction can lead to an increased vulnerability of the soils to erosion. Suitable measures must be implemented to first prevent soil erosion and then second to make sure that any soils that are eroded are contained and prevented for causing sedimentation in receiving waters.

ORDA will implement proper erosion and sediment control practices when undertaking construction practices at their venues that oftentimes involve construction on steep slopes. These proper practices are set forth in the New York State Standards and Specifications for

Erosion and Sediment Control (last updated November 2016). These standards and specifications will be used to develop Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plans (SWPPPs) for construction activities in accordance with NYSDEC's SPDES General Permit for Stormwater Discharge from Construction Activity, GP-0-15-002.

SWPPPs will detail those measures that will be implemented during construction to mitigate potential soil erosion and surface water sedimentation. SWPPP content will include such things as construction sequencing and phasing, temporary and permanent stabilization, structural erosion control practices and vegetative control practices. SWPPPs will include provisions for monitoring, inspections, data collection, and compliance documentation.

Section V.A.2 provides a lengthy and detailed description of mitigation measures that ORDA commonly and successfully employs during ski area construction activities that will be incorporated into pre-construction SWPPP plans and specifications, and installed, monitored and maintained during construction until soils become stabilized.

C. Topography and Slope

Very limited grading is required for new ski trails, trail widening or ski lifts. Trails are laid out to follow natural fall lines. Lift grading is limited to the upper and lower terminals and at the lift tower foundations.

Grading will be required to create the building pad for the groomer garage as well as for sections of the shuttle lane. Significant grading (excavation) is proposed for the enlargement of the snowmaking reservoir.

Impacts associated with grading involve erosion and sediment control (see the previous section) and protection of water resources (see the following section).

D. Water Resources

Identified impacts to surface water are (1) sedimentation of eroded soils, (2) increased stormwater runoff with accompanying loadings (nutrients, dissolved solids, etc.), and (3) exposure of disturbed soils in the snowmaking reservoir expansion area along with separating clean inflow waters from the active construction areas during reservoir excavation.

Those measures that will be implemented to prevent erosion and subsequent sedimentation were described previously in the Soils section.

The new management actions include only two actions that will introduce significant amounts of new impervious surfaces that will increase stormwater runoff. These are the new groomer garage and those portions of the shuttle lane that will be outside of existing parking areas and drives. A Stormwater Management Report has been prepared for these two actions. See UMP Appendix 7.

The Project has been designed in accordance with Chapter 4 of the NYSDEC Stormwater Management Design Manual (SWMDM), and NYSDEC's General Permit GP-0-15-002 for construction activities. Stormwater calculations were performed utilizing widely accepted engineering methodologies, including TR-55, and the stormwater modeling computer program HydroCAD (version 10.00) produced by HydroCAD Software Solutions, LLC.

Under the watershed's proposed condition, all stormwater from the Project will continue to discharge to the same point as in the existing condition (Analysis Points 1 & 2). The total watershed has generally remained unchanged, as is shown on the drawing "W-2 Proposed Conditions Watershed Map" contained in Appendix 7. To meet NYSDEC requirements (see Section 5.0, NYSDEC Design Criteria in Appendix 7) a bioretention basin and wet swale have been incorporated into the stormwater management design to mitigate the quality and quantity of stormwater runoff discharged from the Project Site.

For the snowmaking reservoir expansion, first the reservoir will be fully drained through its drain valve. Once the reservoir is drained a haul road stabilized outlet will be created in the southeast corner of the reservoir where the remnant of a haul road currently exists. Next, a rip rap stream channel will be constructed to convey water from the main reservoir inlet to the outlet structure. The intent is to isolate and pass through reservoir inflow from the inlet while the reservoir is being excavated. Two 24 foot wide haul roads would then be constructed in order to remove excavated materials from the north and south ends of the reservoir. Excavation work will proceed from west to east. Once excavation is complete, haul roads would be removed and removed material would be stabilized, the outlet valve will be closed, and the reservoir will be allowed to gradually fill. This gradual filling should allow for the settling of solids that become suspended during pond refilling. Exposed soils will be mostly fine sands that will tend not to stay in suspension as compared to silts or clays.

E. Wetlands

None of the new management actions proposed in the UMP Amendment will impact wetlands. Avoidance of wetland impacts in the areas of the groomer garage, the shuttle lane and the snowmaking reservoir was accomplished by field evaluation for the presence of wetlands and then designing these components to avoid wetlands. Periphery wetlands at the snowmaking reservoir will experience temporary hydrological alteration when the reservoir is emptied. This will not significantly impact wetlands since the effects will be temporary and since these wetlands have persisted when the reservoir has regularly been emptied in the past for inspection and maintenance purposes. Additional information regarding wetland avoidance can be found in UMP Section 6, Alternatives.

F. Climate and Air Quality

No new permanent sources of air emissions are proposed as part of this UMP.

Gore Mountain Ski Center has a current NYSDEC Air Quality Permit for which they are compliant.

Construction activities may result in localized increases in dust levels. However, areas of proposed construction that can take place after this UMP Amendment is adopted are located within the interior of the Intensive Use Areas, so no offsite areas will be affected.

Many ORDA venues exist within the boundaries of State protected lands and the impact of climate change on our environment is recognized. ORDA will be a leader in environmental stewardship with consistent commitment to sustainability, responsible development practices, and continuous communication with DEC, APA, and other regulatory agencies to ensure we are taking the appropriate measures.

G. Vegetation

Tree clearing associated with the new management actions includes 18.1 acres for downhill ski trails (9.4 on the current Intensive Use Area lands and 8.7 acres in the lands that could be added from the VMWF reclassification (conceptual action)), 9.2 acres for trail widening, 3.1 acres for ski lifts, 0.8 acres for the groomer garage, and 6.5 acres for the shuttle lane. An area around maintenance and Lifts 9A and 9B previously approved in 1995 is no longer proposed. The 7.3 acres of clearing in this area is no longer proposed.

The numbers of trees proposed to be cut are summarized in the Table below.

Tree Cutting by Location and Community Type

Location	Community	Action(s)	Acreage	Total Trees
Gore Mtn IUA	B (mixed hardwood)	Burnt Ridge Trail (partial)	4.2	1,565
Gore Mtn IUA	E (mixed hardwood)	Burnt Ridge Trail (partial) + Trails 11A, 1N-P	6.9	4,447
Gore Mtn IUA	Q (pioneer hardwood)	Twister Widening	1.1	415
Gore Mtn IUA	P (northern hardwood)	Various	15.4	3315
			SUBTOTAL	9,742
Land Reclassif. (conceptual)	E (mixed hardwood)	Lift 12 and Trails 12	10.2	6,574
			TOTAL	16,316

A total of 9,742 trees are proposed to be cut on lands that are currently classified as Intensive Use Area. Approximately 25% of these will be 3-4" dbh and the remainder will be >4" dbh.

The area of Gore Mountain tree cutting is less than 1% of the size of the Intensive Use Area which fits within the capacity of the natural resources to absorb the impact.

There is no tree cutting proposed above 2,800 feet in elevation.

All tree cutting will be done in compliance with the DEC tree cutting policy LF-91-2.

No rare, threatened or endangered plant species will be impacted.

Only areas absolutely necessary for construction of ski trails, ski lifts, and other proposed improvements will be cleared of vegetation. All other areas will be maintained in a natural state.

Erosion control measures will be used on cleared areas with disturbed soils to avoid affecting adjacent vegetation by erosion or siltation. Erosion-control devices to be used will include filter fabric fences and staked straw bale filters.

Upon the completion of clearing of new ski trails and ski lift corridors, they will be seeded with grass mixtures to promote rapid revegetation. Areas disturbed for any other improvements will also be landscaped and revegetated as soon as practicable.

H. Wildlife

The actions proposed in this UMP are expected to have minimal impacts on wildlife. Proposed management actions are spread over the landscape of the existing developed ski trails and lifts. New management actions are proposed at low elevations on the mountain.

Trail widening projects, including the green trails, involve existing trails. This will result in the loss of some currently treed areas along the edge of existing ski trails and move most of the forest edge slightly outward.

Replacing and relocation the Sunway Lift will occur in the immediate vicinity of the existing lift.

The new lift 9B will parallel the existing Lower Sunway trail and much of it will occur in an already cleared area.

Enlarging the snowmaking reservoir will entail converting 1.6 acres of shoreline wooded areas to open water.

The new groomer garage will require some tree removal in an area that has existing work roads on two sides and an existing ski trail on a third side.

The NYSEF building expansion will occur in a grassy area immediately adjacent to the existing building.

The improvements associated with the dedicated shuttle lane take place in and around existing parking areas and the existing access road and will have minimal wildlife habitat impact.

I. Fisheries

The only proposed management action that involves aquatic resources is the expansion of the snowmaking reservoir. Significant adverse impacts to fisheries resources are not expected to occur as a result of reservoir drawdown for construction of the expansion. There may be some temporary short-term impacts to the fisheries resource within the reservoir proper, but these resources have developed and persisted while the reservoir is regularly drained for inspection and maintenance activities.

See the earlier section entitled Water Resources for a description of how the flow of clean inflow through the reservoir and downstream in Roaring Brook will be maintained in the snowmaking reservoir during the expansion process. The same section describes how the reservoir will be allowed to fill gradually after expansion is complete in order to allow for settling out of suspended solids within the reservoir before the reservoir begins to flow over the spillway.

J. Unique Areas

There are no unique biological areas present.

K. Critical Habitat

No new management actions are proposed to occur above 2,800 feet in elevation. There will no impact to the Adirondack Sub Alpine Forest Bird Conservation Area. Any carryover actions from previous UMPs that require construction activities above 2,800 feet in elevation will not commence prior to August 1 of any year.

L. Visual Resources

The actions proposed in this UMP are expected to have minimal visual impacts. The existing ski area is already visible from some area roadways. Proposed actions are spread across the landscape of the existing developed ski trails and lifts. New management actions are proposed at low elevations on the mountain.

Trail widening projects involve existing trails. For any trails that are currently visible from off site, the visual effect of minor widenings will be essentially imperceptible.

Replacing and relocating the Sunway Lift will occur in the immediate vicinity of the existing lift.

The new lift 9B will be low on the mountain and will parallel the existing Lower Sunway trail. The widening of the green trails will occur at low elevations not visible from off site.

The snowmaking reservoir is not visible from outside the Intensive Use Area.

The new groomer garage will be located in a low elevation wooded area. Although it will be visible on-site, it will not be visible from off site

The NYSEF building is not visible from off site.

The improvements associated with the dedicated shuttle lane take place in and around existing parking areas and the existing access road that are not visible from off site.

The suggested land reclassification (conceptual action) itself would not result in any changes to the site.

M. Transportation

The proposed management actions do not include any significant expansion of mountain facilities, such as the addition of a new pod of ski trails, that would result in significant increases in peak hour traffic generation.

N. Community Services

The project primarily involves improvements to existing facilities designed to retain the existing skier base and increase the future number of skiers, hikers and bikers at Gore Mountain. It is anticipated that there will be a minor incremental increase in demand for community services such as fire, police, rescue, solid waste and health care due to the gradual increase in the number of visitors to the mountain. Many of the improvements are designed to build visitation during the off-seasons of spring, summer and fall thereby distributing the potential impacts over a 12-month period. The Ski Center presently makes very little demand on most services and the increase in such demand is anticipated to be small and can be accommodated by the service providers.

The North Creek Health Center was developed, and the Warrensburg Health Center was recently expanded to respond to the growing need for services in local communities and businesses in the region. The potential long-term and incremental increase in visitors may increase the demand for medical care slightly and these facilities are capable of meeting any increased demand. The Glens Falls Hospital is also prepared to handle a minor increase in patients to the emergency room.

The extra revenue derived from EMS calls from skiers, hikers and mountain bikers helps offsets the year-round costs and therefore has a positive impact on the people who live and pay taxes in Johnsbury.

O. Local Land Use Plans

The actions in the UMP Amendment are consistent with local planning documents including the 2005 Johnsbury Comprehensive Plan and the 2007 Town of Johnsbury Zoning Law/LLUP that serve to guide community planning. Both documents seek to forge stronger links between the Gore Mountain Ski Resort, the North Creek Ski Bowl, and the hamlet of North Creek, all of which are goals of Gore Mountain, ORDA and this UMP Amendment.

The UMP Amendment contains specific actions designed to encourage skiers to use both ski areas thereby increasing the overall number of skiers at both Gore Mountain and the Ski Bowl. ORDA has cooperated with North Creek in developing hiking, cross-country ski and mountain bike trails with the goal of connecting Ski Bowl Park and Gore Mountain lands.

The actions on State lands authorized by the UMP Amendment will not have any effects on adjoining or nearby private lands inconsistent with local land use controls such as the Johnsbury Zoning Law and the North Creek Action Plan that serve to guide community planning.

P. Historical and Archaeological Resources

Appendix 3 of the UMP Amendment contains a November 9, 2017 letter from NYS Office of Parks Recreation and Historic Preservation stating that there will be no impacts to archeological or historic resources.

VI. ALTERNATIVES ANALYSIS

Section 6 of the UMP contains an analysis of alternatives to the proposed management actions. Alternatives were examined for trail improvements, lift configurations, parking and circulation improvements, appurtenances (including the snowmaking reservoir) and the no-action alternative. Information is provided as to why the proposed management actions are the preferred alternatives from a ski area operations standpoint, while at the same the proposed actions have avoided significant adverse environmental impacts as compared to other alternatives considered.

**Gore Mountain
2018 Amendment to the 2002 Unit Management Plan and
Final Generic Environmental Impact Statement**

NYS DEC 2018 UMP Amendment Approval Memo

NYS APA 2018 UMP Amendment APSLMP Compliance Memo

Executive Summary

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List of Abbreviations

APA – Adirondack Park Agency

APSLMP – Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan

DGEIS – Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement

FEAF – Full Environmental Assessment Form

FGEIS – Final Generic Environmental Impact Statement

LLUP – Locally Approved Land Use Program

Mgal – million gallons

NYSDEC – NYS Department of Environmental Conservation

ORDA _ NYS Olympic Regional Development Authority

SEQRA – (NY) State Environmental Quality Review Act

UMP – Unit Management Plan

VMWF – Vanderwhacker Mountain Wild Forest

SECTION I INTRODUCTION

A. Project Purpose

The Olympic Regional Development Authority (ORDA), in conjunction with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), is amending the 2002 Unit Management Plan (UMP) and Generic Environmental Impact Statement (GEIS) for Gore Mountain Ski Center in North Creek, Town of Johnsburg, Warren County, New York. This document serves as an amendment to that 2002 UMP. As an amendment to the 2002 UMP, this document will discuss changes to actions which have been previously approved, will include any new information relating to changes such that it satisfies State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) requirements, and will refer to the previously accepted and approved EIS for sections which have not changed as a result of this UMP Amendment. The document is organized so that it follows the sequence of the 2002 UMP.

ORDA's goals for Gore Mountain will be advanced through the actions contained in this UMP Amendment. Included in these goals are the following:

- modernize facilities in order to enhance the guest experience, improve skier safety, and increase local and regional economic benefits, while maintaining environmental quality,
- develop new summer and fall uses of the Ski Center to provide greater year-round use of the facility by the public, consistent with Article 14 and the APSLMP,
- work closely with the North Creek community and Town of Johnsburg to provide information to visitors about the area and to cooperate in the establishment of a shuttle link between the Ski Center and North Creek and a physical ski link to Ski Bowl Park in order that public use may better help promote the economy of the area,
- improve environmental performance in all aspects of its operations and managing the area to allow for continued enjoyment by future generations,
- seek to increase the capacity of the ski area in concert with other modernization objectives in order to provide a higher quality skiing experience,
- improve infrastructure reliability in order to reduce the high frequency of breakdown, excessive staffing requirements and consequent financial drain,
- seek to reduce its operations and maintenance costs by replacing outdated and aged equipment,
- improve skier safety and enjoyment by widening certain trails and improving certain trail intersections, and

- improve trail selection and create a better balance among trails in order to appeal to a greater cross-section of the skiing market by increasing the number of trails for the beginning and advanced skier.

B. Brief Overview

The following lists the New Management Actions that are the subject of this UMP Amendment and that can be undertaken after the UMP Amendment is adopted. **Figures 1 and 2**, 2018 UMP New Management Actions (North and South), show the locations of the actions.

Trail Construction and Trail Widening

- Construct a new trail at Burnt Ridge (11-0) that connects to the Base Lodge via the lower portion of Echo
- Convert the existing Half 'N Half glade to an alpine ski trail (portion on Forest Preserve lands)
- Widen the bottom of Echo as it turns toward the base area
- Widen some sections of Twister
- Widen Sunway and other green trails served by Lift 3
- Reestablish alpine skiing on a portion of Rabbit Pond Trail (conceptual action)

Lifts

- Add a new triple or quad chair (Lift 9B) from Northwoods Lodge up Lower Sunway to just past the bend in Lower Sunway

Vehicular Access and Parking

- Modify the 1995-approved shuttle lane separated from and independent of main traffic route and circulation route and parking

Buildings

- Expand the NYSEF building
- Reconfigure the 1995-approved maintenance complex to locate a groomer garage and fueling station adjacent to Sunway trail

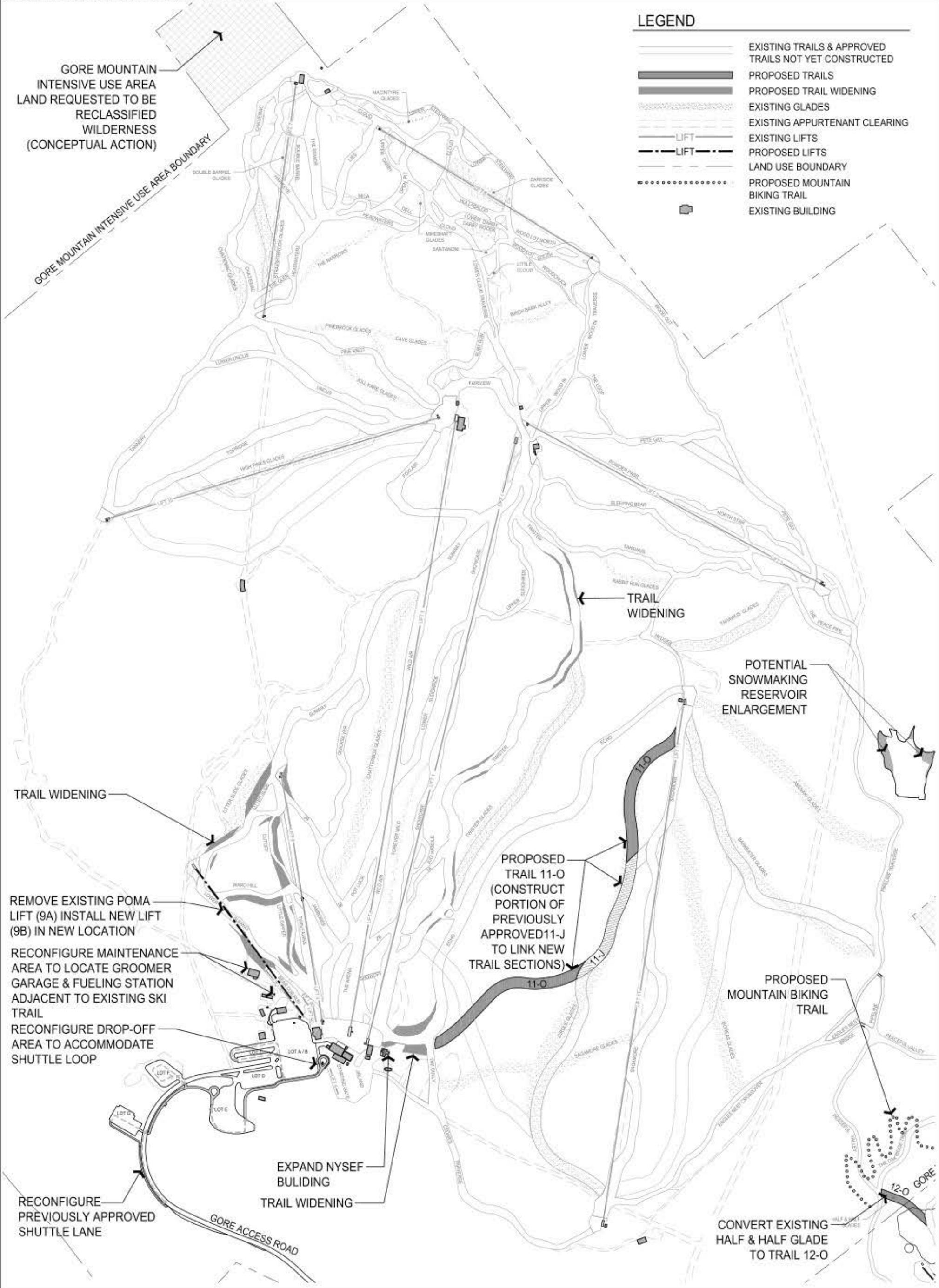
Snowmaking

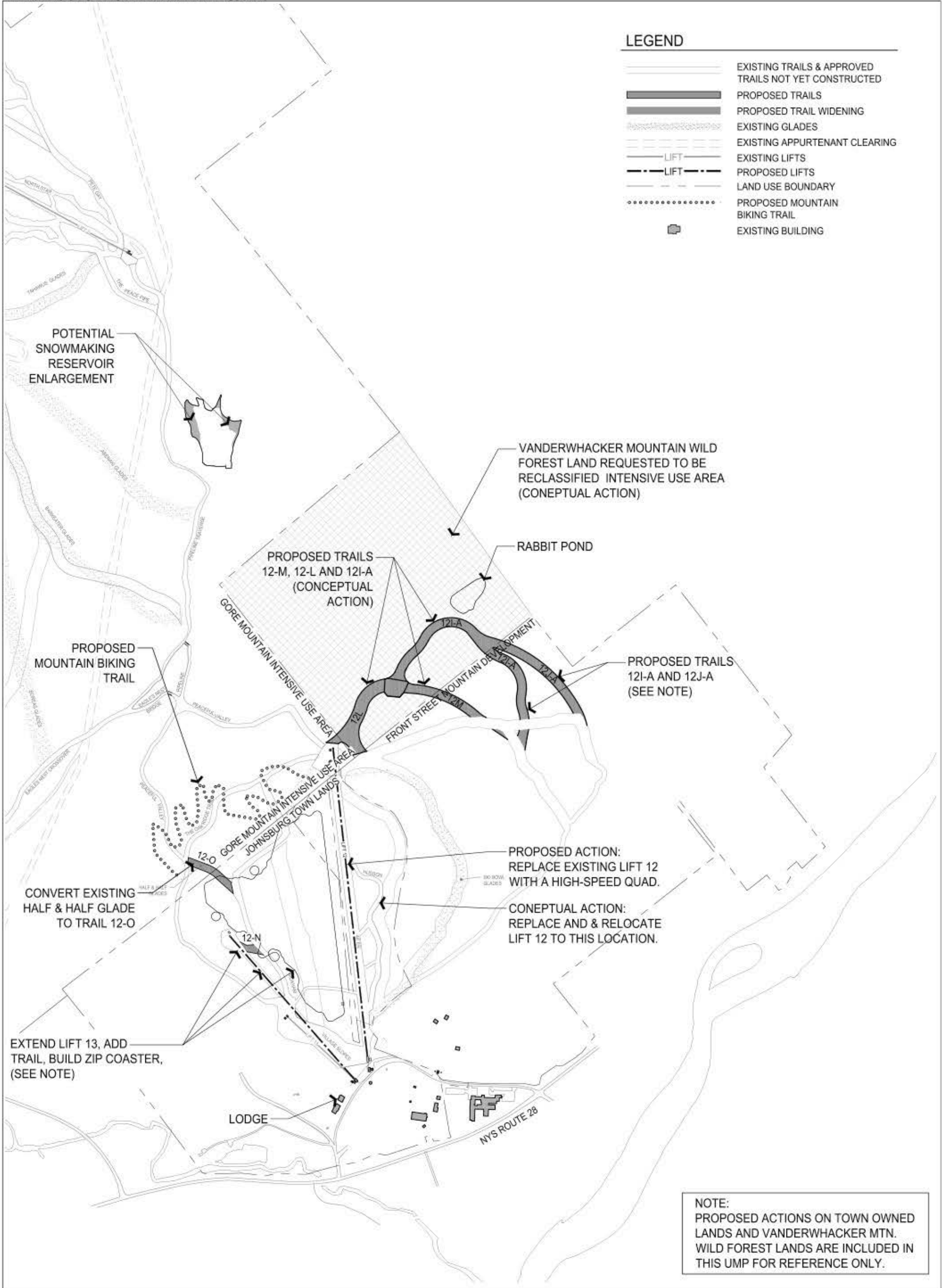
- Enlarge the snowmaking reservoir
- Install new 24-inch water line from the snowmaking reservoir to the pump house

Mountain Biking

- Construct a single track bike trail that connects to an existing trail on Town of Johnsbury lands, and ends at the top of Little Gore

Hiking





NOTE:
PROPOSED ACTIONS ON TOWN OWNED
LANDS AND VANDERWHACKER MTN.
WILD FOREST LANDS ARE INCLUDED IN
THIS UMP FOR REFERENCE ONLY.

- Develop a hiking center at the Northwoods Lodge

Land Reclassification (Conceptual Action)

- Request land reclassification from Wild Forest to Intensive Use and From Intensive Use to Wilderness which could allow the historic Rabbit Pond Trail to be reclaimed and used winter and summer if authorized in a subsequent UMP.

(Note: The Adirondack Park Agency cannot find that a UMP Amendment proposing management actions on lands to be reclassified conforms to the APSLMP before the land is reclassified. First, the Agency must receive a request to reclassify, accompanied by a UMP for the proposed Intensive Use lands. The Agency must follow SEQRA regulations regarding public notice and comment and must hold hearings inside and outside the Adirondack Park on the request to reclassify, pursuant to the APSLMP. After notice, comment and hearings, the reclassification proposals would be presented to the Agency for a recommendation to the Governor for approval of the classification. The process culminates in the Governor's action on that recommendation. This UMP Amendment does not assume that a reclassification request will be approved and does not authorize any actions on lands to be reclassified, based on a proposed future classification. The actual request for reclassification and a UMP Amendment for those actions on the lands proposed for reclassification would be presented separately from this UMP Amendment. Discussion of actions on those lands in this UMP is conceptual only, and those actions cannot be authorized by this UMP Amendment.)

C. General Facility Description

1. Location Description

Gore Mountain Ski Center is located off NY Route 28, approximately two miles south of the Hamlet of North Creek, and 15 miles northwest of Warrensburg, in the Town of Johnsburg, Warren County, New York. A paved access road approximately one and one-half miles in length leads from County Route 29, Peaceful Valley Road, to the base lodge and parking areas. See **Figure 3**, "Regional Location Map," and **Figure 4**, "Site Location Map," for site location and regional travel routes. Gore Mountain Ski Center is State Land classified as "Intensive Use" under the APSLMP. The APSLMP identifies the specific boundaries of the ski center. The ski area's holdings encompass slopes of two mountains, Gore Mountain and Pete Gay Mountain, with approximately 3,755 acres of land. See **Figure 5**, "Intensive Use Area Boundary," for the delineation of the area boundaries.

Adjoining lands are a mix of State lands and private lands. Gore Mountain Ski Center is bordered to the north by a portion of the Vanderwhacker Mountain Wild Forest. The Siamese Ponds Wilderness Area adjoins the Ski Center to the west.

Private land borders the ski area lands to the north, south, east and west. According to the Adirondack Park Land Use and Development Plan Map, lands to the north and west are



**Gore Mountain
Intensive Use Area**

12/26/2017
Project No. 201537

Drawing No. 3

Regional Location Map

0 15 30
Miles

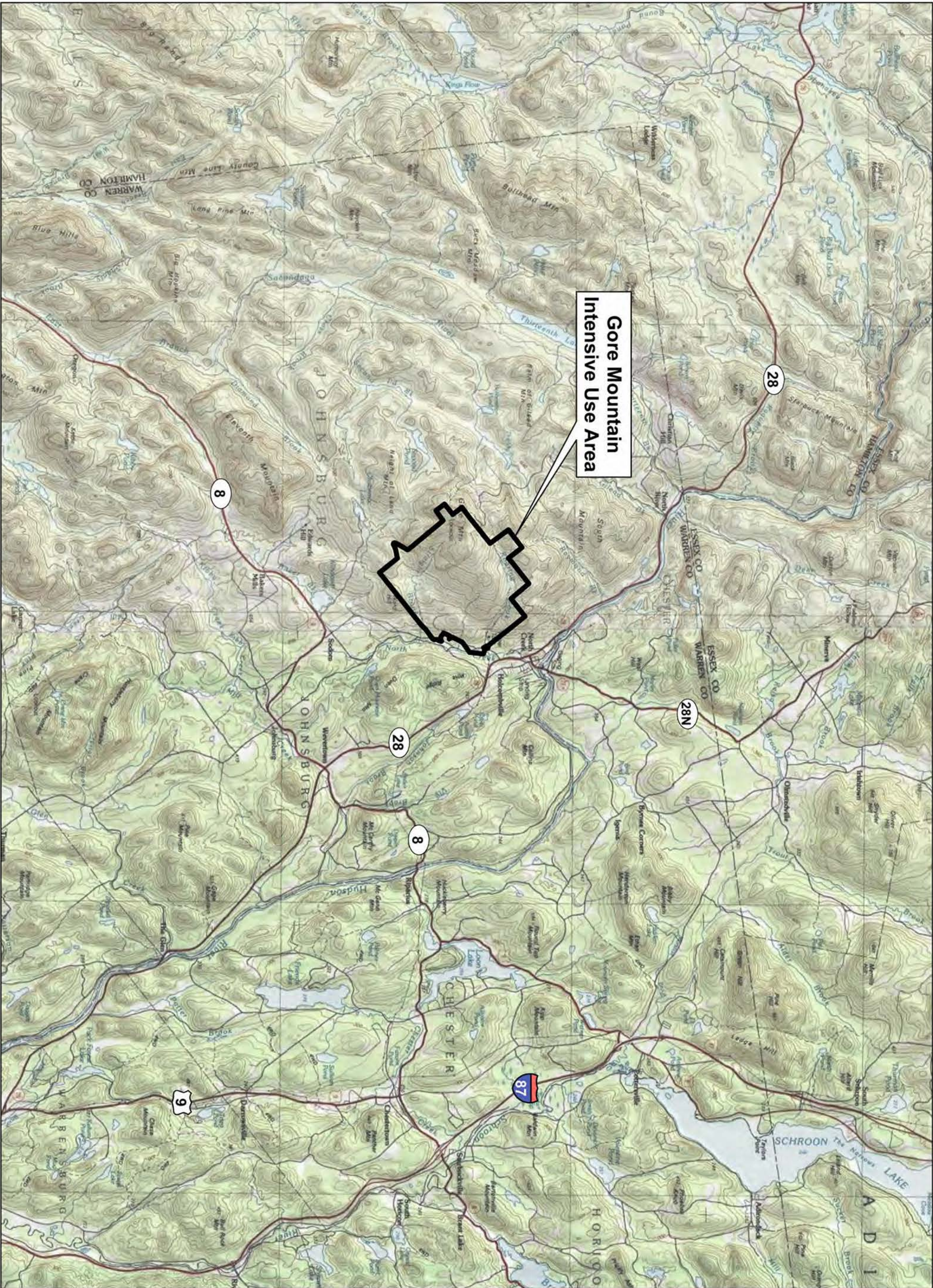
GORE MOUNTAIN

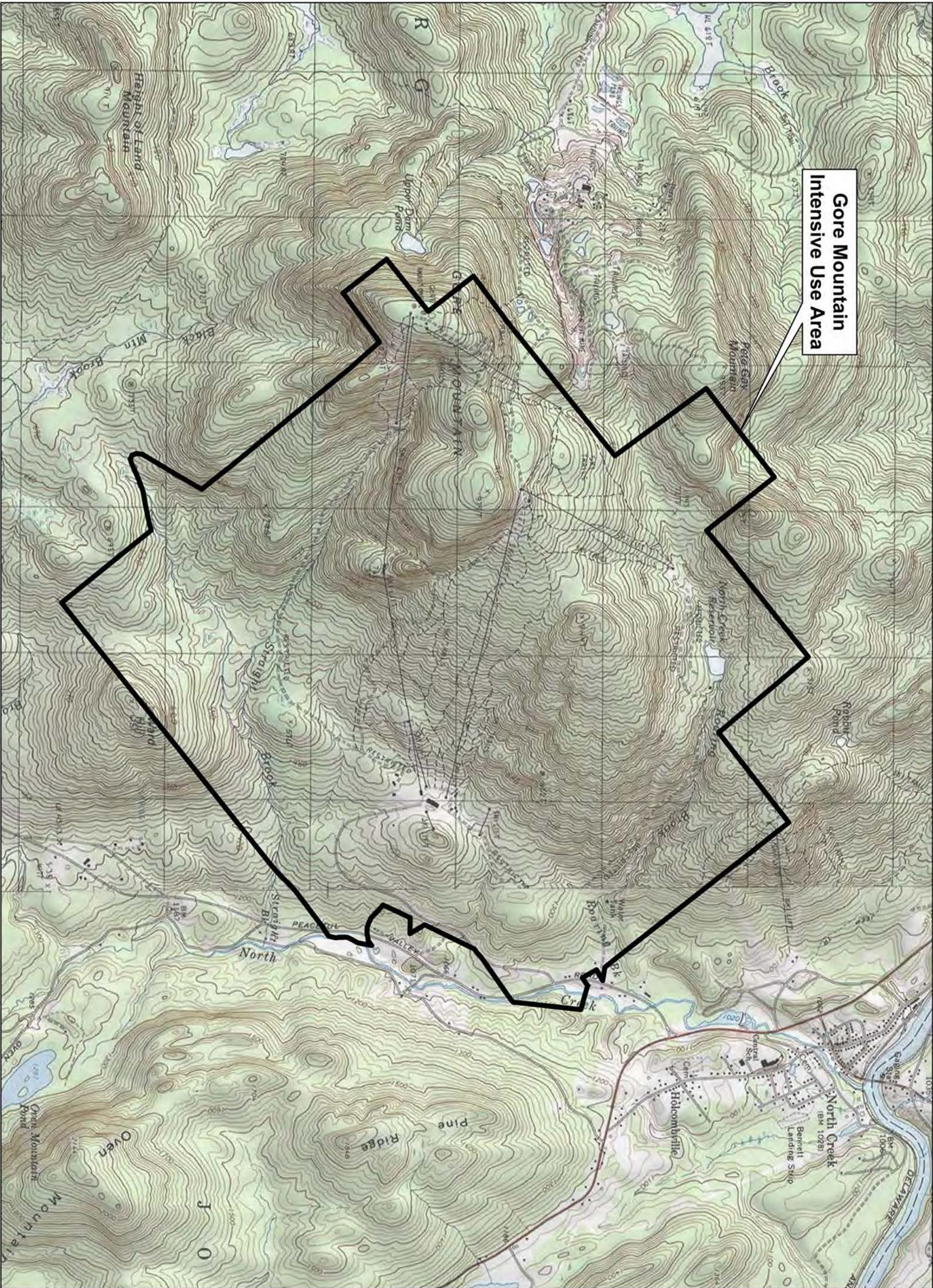
Project Title:
**Gore Mountain: 2018 Unit Management Plan Amendment &
Final Generic Environmental Impact Statement**

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Gore Mountain
Intensive Use Area

classified as "Resource Management" and "Industrial," to the east as "Low Intensity Use," "Hamlet," and "Moderate Intensity Use," and to the south as "Moderate Intensity Use" and "Rural Use," as shown on **Figure 6**, "Surrounding Land Use Classification."

The industrial use lands are under the ownership of the Barton Mines Corporation. The corporation has been in operation, mining garnet for use as coated abrasives, since 1878. Operations by Barton Mines at Gore Mountain were ceased in the late 1970's, and the corporation is now actively mining at Ruby Mountain.

2. Property Description

The facility is classified as an "Intensive Use Area" under the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan. Gore Mountain targets winter sports enthusiasts for downhill and cross-country skiing. It includes 27.4 miles of constructed alpine ski trails, 14.6 miles of Nordic ski trails, 11 ski lifts, a ski school program, a ski racing program, three lodges, a nursery program and a cocktail lounge/restaurant. There are eight parking lots for cars and buses. See **Figures 7 and 8**, Existing Conditions (South and North), and **Figures 9 and 10**, Existing and Approved Hiking and Biking Trails (South and North)

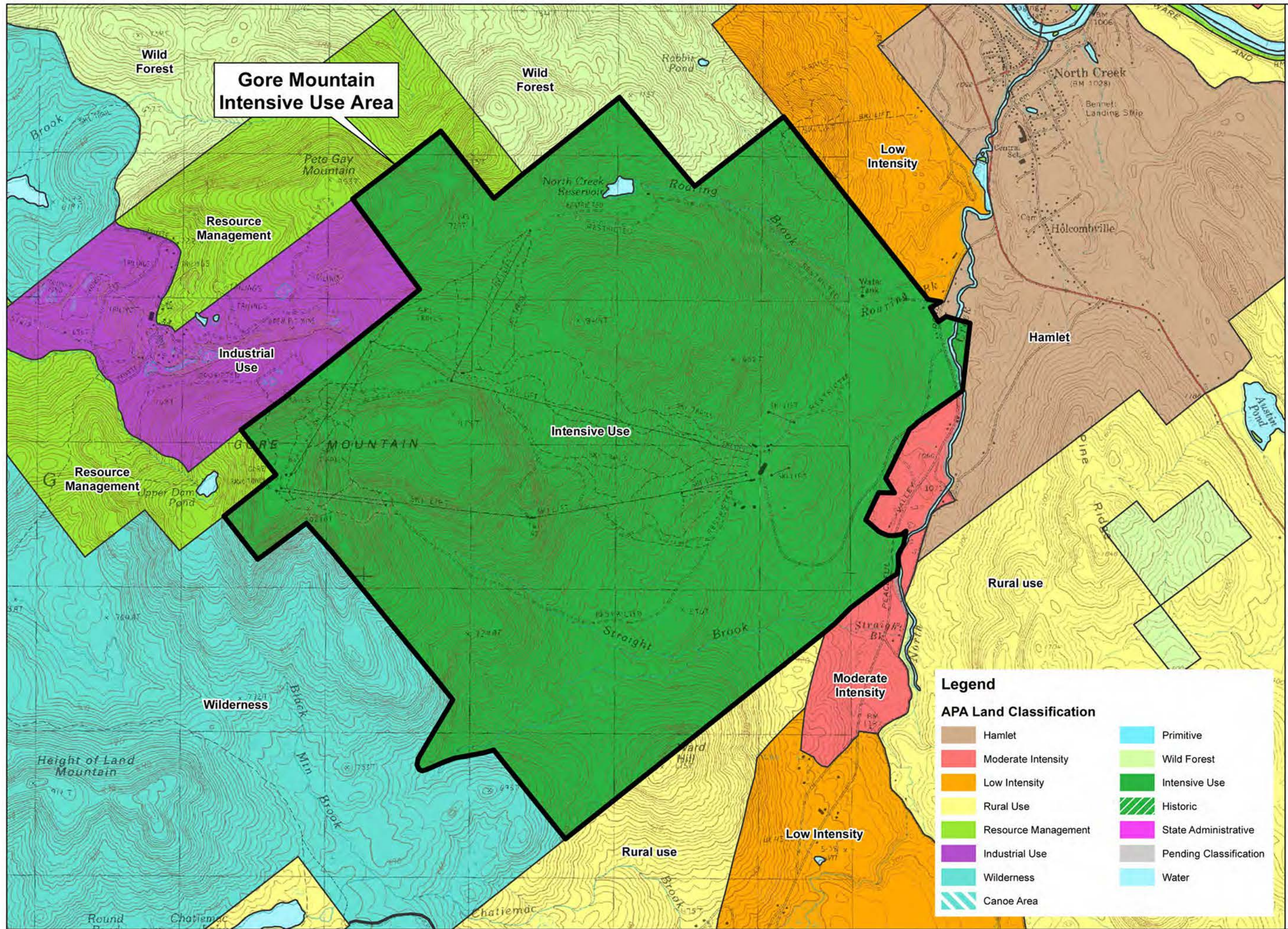
The summer and fall season program centers around hiking, mountain biking (including mountain bike racing), educational interpretive opportunities and nature-oriented activities. Gore Mountain hosts an annual fall festival. The gondola is operated as a tourist attraction year-round. Hunting, trapping and fishing are prohibited at the Gore Mountain Ski Center. Only non-consumptive use of wildlife resources is permitted on Ski Center lands. Current annual non-winter usage was approximately 8,500 people in 2016-2017 and has been as high as almost 13,000 people within the last 5 years.

D. History of the Ski Area

Gore Mountain Ski Center was built in the early 1960's and was first opened to the public in 1964. Early management was under the direction of the Bureau of Winter Recreation, Conservation Department (now known as the Department of Environmental Conservation). On April 1, 1984, management was delegated to the Olympic Regional Development Authority (ORDA) through an agreement with DEC, authorized by Chapter 99 of the Laws of 1984 (Article 8, Title 28, Section 2614, Public Authorities Law).

This agreement transferred to ORDA the use, operation, maintenance and management of the ski area. DEC remains the statutory custodian of the state-owned ski area. Under the agreement, ORDA is to maintain the facility subject to DEC inspections; make capital improvements with DEC'S prior written approval; establish a sinking fund for capital improvements; continue the level of prior public recreation; comply with specified prior agreements; and cooperate with DEC in completion of a Unit Management Plan for the ski area.

In 1991 DEC and ORDA entered into a Memorandum of Understanding superseding a 1984



**Gore Mountain
Intensive Use Area**

Legend

APA Land Classification

	Hamlet		Primitive
	Moderate Intensity		Wild Forest
	Low Intensity		Intensive Use
	Rural Use		Historic
	Resource Management		State Administrative
	Industrial Use		Pending Classification
	Wilderness		Water
	Canoe Area		

Date: 12/28/2017
Project No: 201537

Drawing Title: Surrounding Land Use Classification

Drawing No: 6

1 inch = 2,000 feet
0 1,000 2,000 Feet

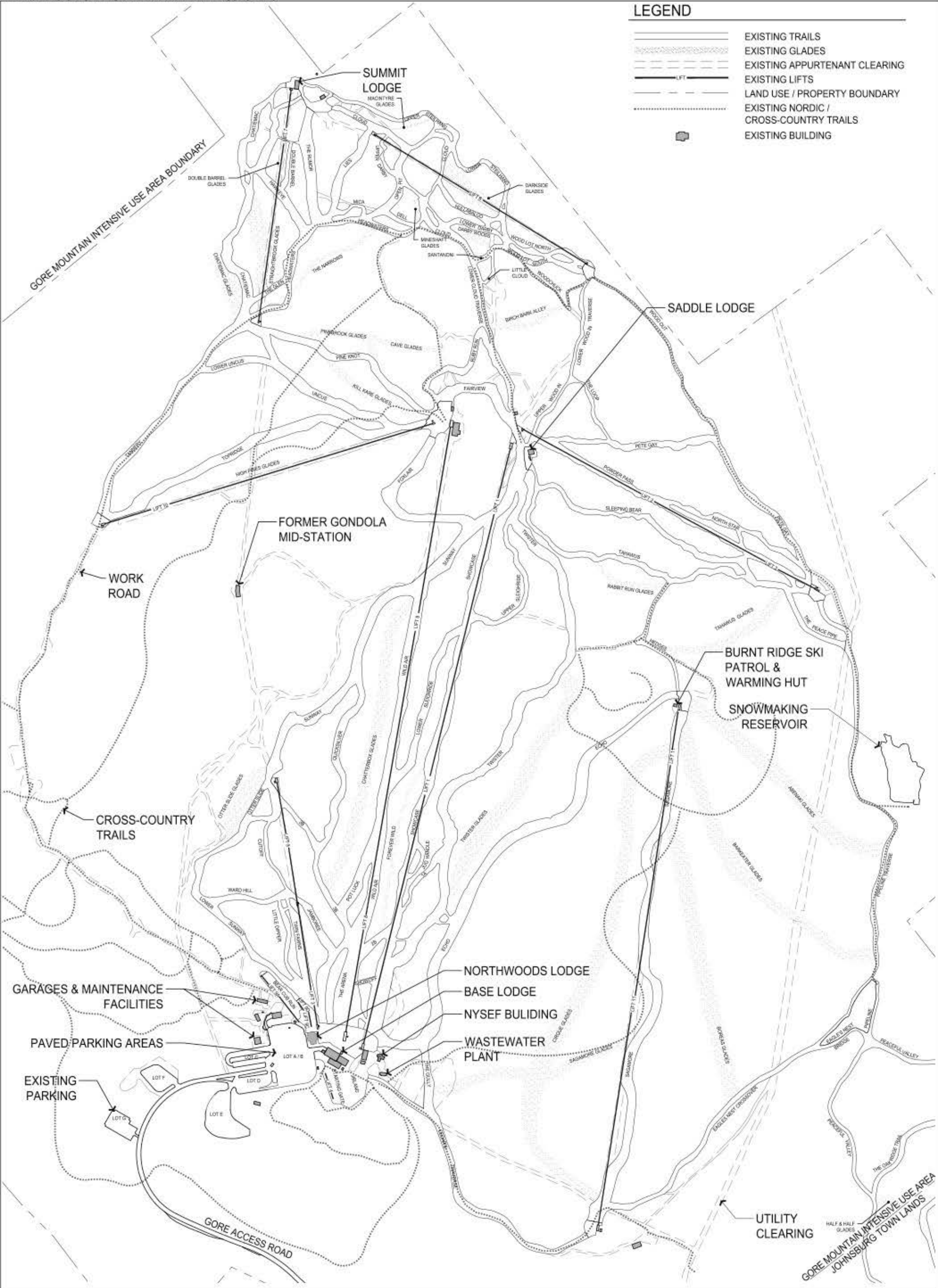
GORE MOUNTAIN

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memorandum between the parties, establishing methods and procedures by which managerial requirements contained in the underlying DEC/ORDA management agreements are to be complied with, and setting forth requirements for the operation of ORDA facilities and detailing procedures on how Unit Management Plans for each of the ORDA facilities are to be implemented. In 2013 ORDA and DEC executed a Consolidation Agreement that incorporated the 1991 MOU. A copy of the Consolidation Agreement is in **Appendix 2**.

E. Description of UMP/GEIS Process

Section 816 of the Adirondack Park Agency Act directs the DEC to develop, in consultation with the Adirondack Park Agency (APA), Unit Management Plans (UMPs) for each unit of land under its jurisdiction classified in the APSLMP. Pursuant to its enabling law and agreement with the DEC for the management of Gore Mountain, ORDA works with the DEC, in the consultation of the APA, to update and amend the Gore Mountain UMP. The original UMP for Gore Mountain was prepared in 1987. UMP Amendments for Gore Mountain were prepared 1995, 2002, and 2005.

Specific requirements pertaining to the development of UMPs for ORDA venues was specified in the March 9, 1991 DEC/ORDA MOU and were then expounded upon in the November 2013 DEC/ORDA Consolidation Agreement. Section 2 of the Consolidation Agreement (copy in **Appendix 2**) provides specifics regarding the preparation of UMPs for ORDA venues, including the following topics:

- UMP Content,
- APSLMP Compliance,
- Consultation with NYSDEC Prior to and During UMP Preparation,
- Procedural Steps for preparation of Preliminary Draft UMPs, Public Review Draft UMPs, and Final UMP's,
- Consultation with APA,
- APA APSLMP Consistency Review,
- APA Resolution on APSLMP Conformance, and
- Commissioner Approval of UMPs

The Generic Environmental Impact Statement (GEIS) included in this document in prepared in accordance with the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA, 6 NYCRR Part 617 and Implementing Regulations). The March 9, 1991 DEC/ORDA MOU, which is now incorporated as part of the November 2013 DEC/ORDA Consolidation Agreement states, "ORDA will normally serve as lead agency for State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR) and the Department and the Agency will participate in the SEQRA process as involved agencies."

ORDA, as lead agency, completed a SEQRA Full Environmental Assessment Form (FEAF) Parts 1, 2, and 3 (See **Appendix 1**). Based on the analysis in Part 3 of the FEAF, ORDA determined that the Project may result in one or more significant adverse impacts on the environment and that

an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) must be prepared to further assess the impacts and possible mitigation and to explore alternatives to avoid or reduce these impacts.

The SEQRA aspects of this document are presented as a Generic Environmental Impact Statement (GEIS). A Generic EIS may be used to assess the environmental effects of a sequence of actions contemplated by a single agency or an entire program or plan having wide application (6NYCRR 617.10(a)(2) and (4)). They differ from a site specific EIS in that it applies to a group of common and related activities which have similar or related impacts. It is the intent of this GEIS to provide sufficient, site-specific information for all aspects of the UMP. In conformance with SEQRA, these related actions are being considered in this FGEIS. No additional SEQRA analyses are anticipated to be required for any new management action in this UMP, provided that such actions are carried out in accordance with the recommendations of this document. Any conceptual actions will require additional review under SEQRA should they be pursued in the future.

A preliminary version of the UMP Draft Amendment/DGEIS was provided to NYSDEC and to the APA for their review on December 8, 2017. Comments from these agencies were received by ORDA, and ORDA revised the preliminary document accordingly. ORDA then declared the Public Review UMP Draft Amendment/DGEIS to be complete for public review on January 3, 2018. Notice of ORDA's acceptance of the EIS, establishment of the public comment period with a public hearing, and directions for accessing this document was published in the January 10, 2018 issue of the Environmental Notice Bulletin. The Public Draft of this document was presented to the NYS APA at their January 11, 2018 Agency meeting.

The 2018 UMP Draft Amendment/DGEIS was open for public comment until February 9, 2018 including a SEQRA public hearing that was held at 7:00 PM on January 24, 2018 at the Gore Mountain Base Lodge. Following the completion of the public comment period, ORDA, in consultation with NYSDEC and in cooperation with the APA, prepared this FGEIS in accordance with the requirements of SEQRA. Responses were prepared to comments received at the public hearing and to written comments submitted during the public comment period. A transcript of the public hearing, copies of written comments and responses to comments are included in this FGEIS. Also included in this FGEIS is an errata section that summarizes the changes that were made to the DGEIS when preparing this FGEIS. ORDA accepted this FEIS on April 25, 2018.

F. Status of Previous UMP Updates and Amendments

See **Figure 7**, Existing Conditions (South) and **Figure 8**, Existing Conditions (North). These are the facilities that currently exist on the Gore Mountain Intensive Use Area.

There are a number of management actions that were approved for Gore Mountain in earlier UMPs that have yet to be constructed. These actions remain in effect as approved and continue to be proposed. See **Figure 11**, Previously Approved Actions, Not Yet Constructed (South) and

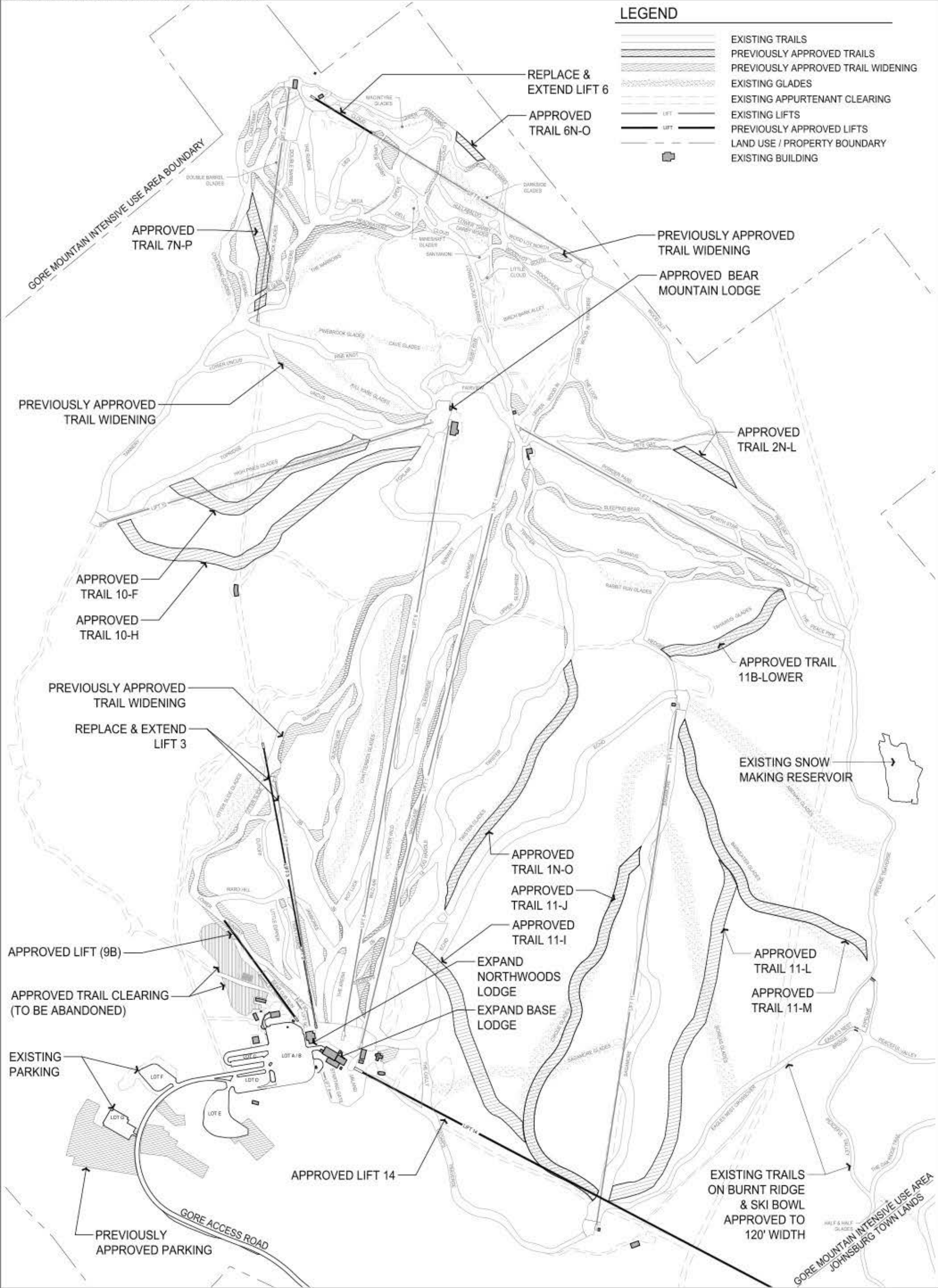
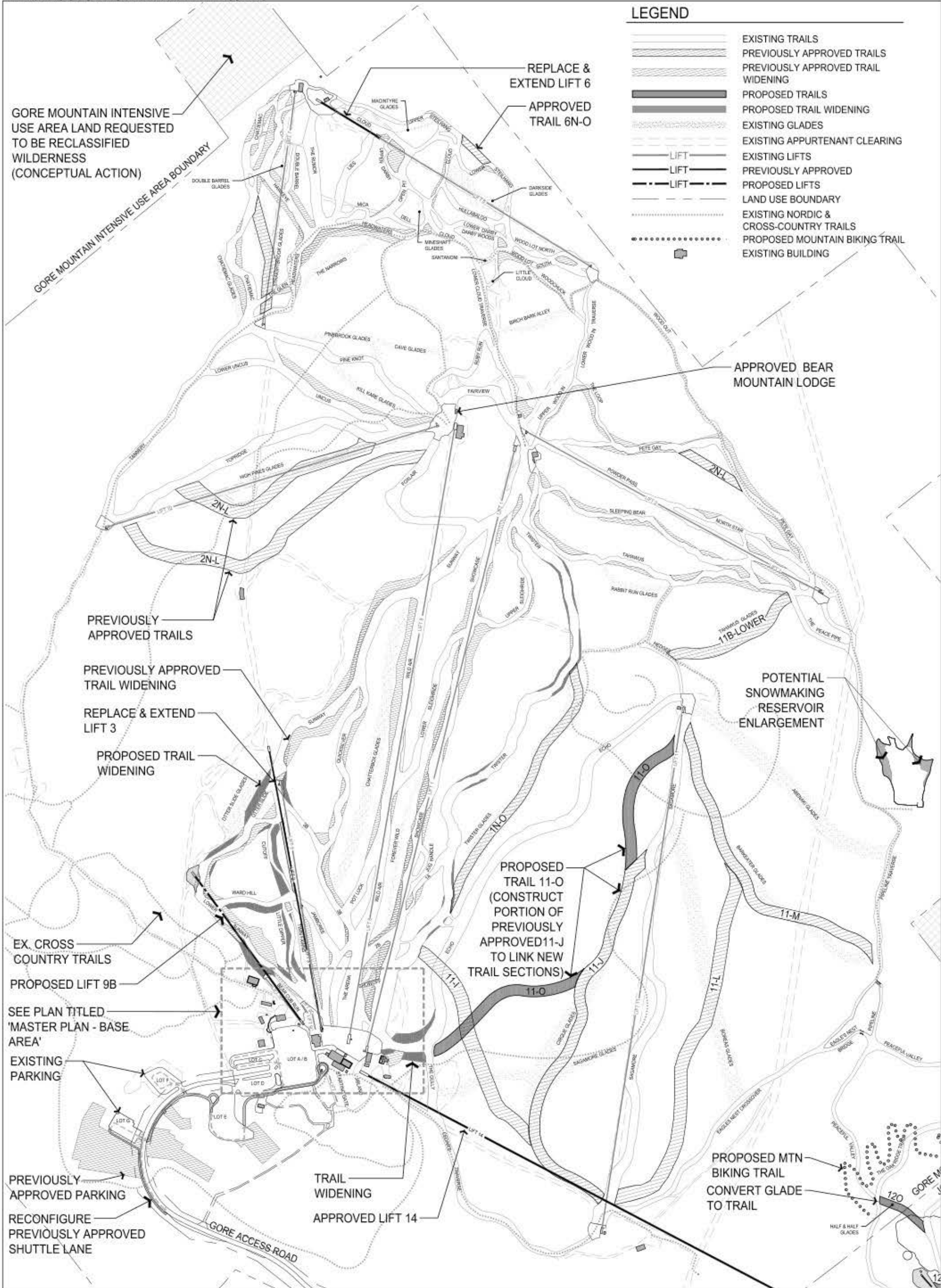


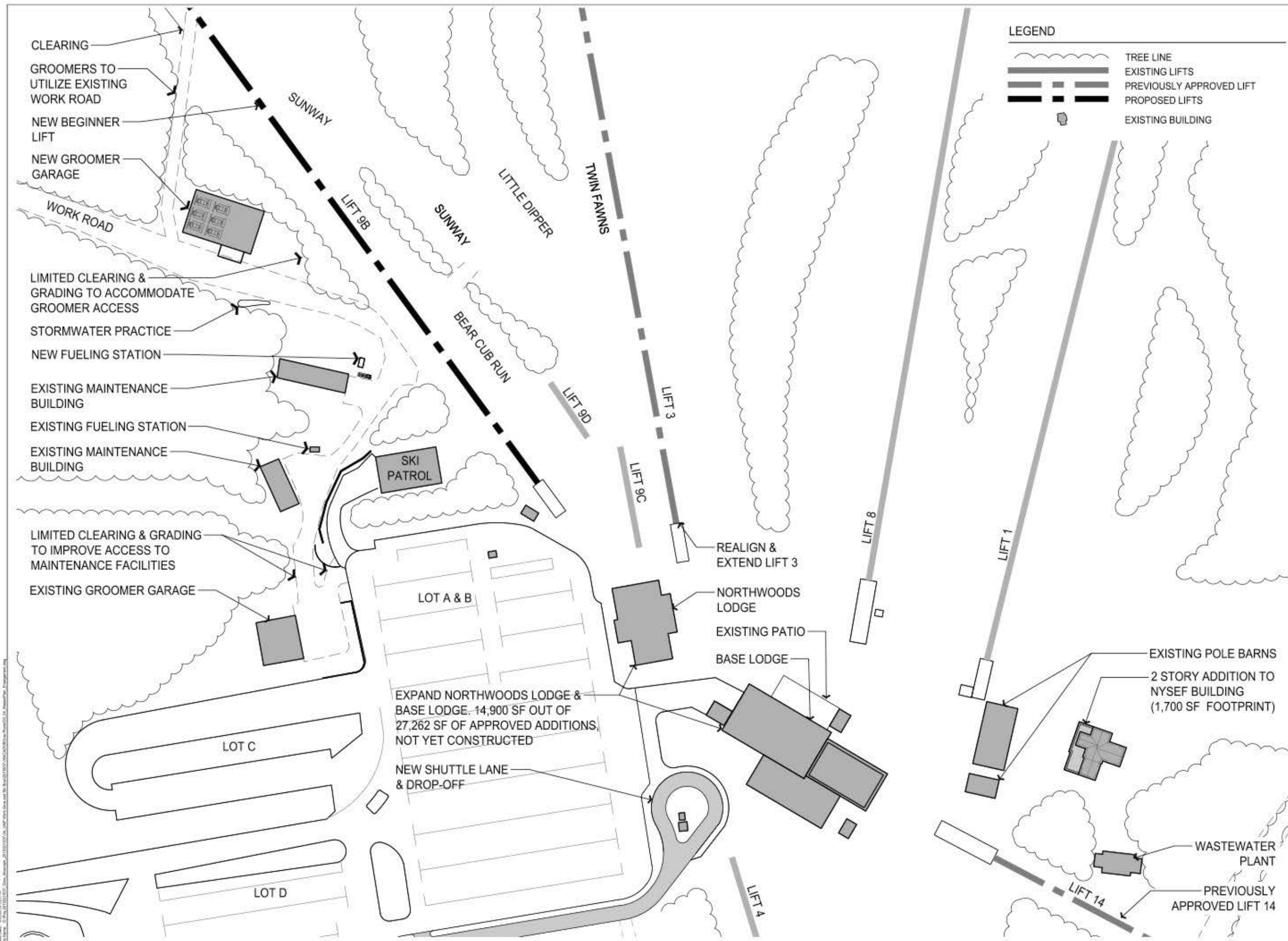
Figure 12, Previously Approved Actions, Not Yet Constructed (North).

Figures 1 and 2 referenced previously show the new management actions that are proposed in this 2018 UMP Amendment.

Together, the previously approved, but not yet constructed actions, combined with the 2018 new management actions, constitute the proposed Master Plan for Gore Mountain. Master Plans for the southern part of the Intensive Use Area, the base area, and the northern part of the Intensive Use Area are shown on **Figures 13, 14 and 15** respectively.

Table 1 below indicates which management actions approved in previous UMPs are completed, partially completed, pending construction, modified in this 2018 UMP Amendment, or are abandoned altogether.





Date:	Apr. 26, 2018
Scale:	1"=50'
Design:	MIT
Drawn:	KAR
Checked:	KIT
Project No.:	2015007

2018 Master Plan - Approved and Proposed Actions (Base Area)



**Gore Mountain: 2018 Unit Management Plan Amendment &
Final Generic Environmental Impact Statement**

2034 Main Street
Lake Placid, New York 12946



Table 1
2018 UMP Amendment and Status of 2005 UMP Actions
(with carry over 1987, 1995, and 2002) Actions

Item #	Facility	Management Action / Improvements	Current Status					
1	Ski Trails							
	Trail # (By Pod)	Trail Name						
	1F	Twister	Build on previously approved widening efforts and widen portions less than 120' wide to 120' width to achieve consistent width along entire trail.	New Management Action, 2018 UMP amendment				
	11A, 1N-P	Echo	Widen bottom to 120' to accommodate new trail connection and existing ski racing on Echo	New Management Action, 2018 UMP amendment				
	1C (1C-1A), 3A	Sunway	Widen and re-grade bottom portion to 120' width for use as primary beginner trail accessed by new Lift 9B	New Management Action, 2018 UMP amendment				
	3B	Ward Hill	Widen to 120' width and grade for increased ski ability / safety for beginner-intermediate skier	New Management Action, 2018 UMP amendment				
	3C-UP	Cutoff	Widen to avg. 100' width and grade for increased ski ability / safety for beginner-intermediate skier	New Management Action, 2018 UMP amendment				
	3C-LOW	Little Dipper	Widen to avg. 100' width and grade for increased ski ability / safety for beginner-intermediate skier	New Management Action, 2018 UMP amendment				
	3I	Otter Slide	Widen to 120' width to alleviate congestion at intersection at Sunway and accommodate new Lift 3 terminal location.	New Management Action, 2018 UMP amendment				
	9A		Abandon clearing proposed in 1995 but never undertaken	New Management Action, 2018 UMP amendment				
	11-O	New Trail	New downhill trail 11-O on Burnt Ridge, as additional intermediate trail connection from Burnt Ridge to Base Area	New Management Action, 2018 UMP amendment				
	12O	New Trail	New Downhill Trail from the intersection of Peaceful Valley and The Oak Ridge Trail connecting to Moxham, replacing the Half 'N Half Glade.	New Management Action, 2018 UMP amendment				
	12L	New Trail	New Downhill Trail from top of New Lift 12, connecting to Ski Bowl Trails and Burnt Ridge	Ski Bowl				
	12M	New Trail	New Downhill Trail from top of New Lift 12, connecting to Ski Bowl Trails	Ski Bowl				
	12I-A	New Trail	New Downhill Trail from top of New Lift 12, providing access to Rabbit Pond area, Ski Bowl Trails	Ski Bowl				
	Previously Approved Action - Ski Trail Construction			Action Approved In	Action Completed	Partially Completed (% complete)	Approved, Not Yet Started	Action Abandoned
	1N-O			1995			X	
	1N-P	Echo (Lower)		1995	X			
	2N-L			1995			X	
	6N-O			1995			X	
	7N-P			1995			X	
	9A Upper			1995			X	
	9B			1995			X	
	10B-UPPER			1995				X (05)
	10D			1995				X (05)
	10F			1995			X	
	10G Lower			1995				X (05)
	10H			1995			X	
	11A	Echo (Upper)		2002	X			
	11B-UPPER	Hedges		2002	X			
	11B Lower			2002			X	
	11C			2002				X (05)
	11D			2002				X (05)
	11E			2002				X (05)
	11F			2002				X (05)
	11G			2002			X	
	11M			2002			X	
	11L			2005			X	
	11I			2005			X	
	11J			2005			X	
	11K	Sagamore		2005	X			
	11N	Eagle's Nest Crossover		2005	X			
	12A	Peaceful Valley (Lower)		2005	X			
	12B	The Oak Ridge Trail		2002	X			

Item #	Facility		Management Action / Improvements	Current Status				
	12C	Peaceful Valley (Upper)		2005	X			
	12D	Moxham		2002	X			
	12E			2002			X	
	12F	46ER		2005	X			
	12G Upper			2005			X	
	12G Lower	Hudson		2005	X			
	12H			2005			X	
	12I			2005			X	
	12J			2005			X	
	12K			2002				X (05)
	12L			2002				X (05)
	12M			2002				X (05)
	15A			2002				X (05)
	C5			1995				X (05)
	C7	Ruby Run		2005	X			
	Previously Approved Action - Ski Trail Widening			Action Approved In	Action Completed	Partially Completed (% complete)	Approved, Not Yet Started	Action Abandoned
	1H	1A		1995			X	
	1E	2B		2002			X	
	3F, 3H	3B		1995,2002			X	
	9A Lower	Bear Cub Run		1995		X		X (2018)
	7A	Chatiemac		1987		5		
	6B-UP, 2K	Cloud		1987,1995		50		
	7B	Hawkeye		1987,2002			X	
	7F	Headwaters		1987,2002			X	
	3G	Jamboree		2002			X	
	3C-LOW	Little Dipper		1995,2002			X	
	6G	Lower Darby		1995			X	
	6F	Lower Steilhang		1995			X	
	3A	Lower Sunway		87,95,02			X	
	2D	North Star		1995			X	
	6E, 7N-O	Open Pit		2002			X	
	2E UP, LOW	Pete Gay		1995,2002		5		
	2C	Powder Pass		1995			X	
	1B	Quicksilver		1987			X	
	1C (1A-1D), 1D	Showcase		1987,2002		5		
	1K	Showoff		1995			X	
	2B, 2I	Sleeping Bear		1987			X	
	1C (1C-1A), 1A	Sunway		87,95,02		15		
	2A	Tahawus		1995			X	
	C1	Tannery		1995	X			
	1C (FROM 1NR)	The Arena		2002			X	
	7H	The Glen		1987			X	
	2F (2J-2E)	The Loop		2002			X	
	3E	Twin Fawns		2002			X	
	1F	Twister		1995	X			
	10C-UP	Uncas		2002			X	
	6D	Upper Darby		1995			X	
	1G	Upper Sleighride		1995			X	
	6C	Upper Steilhang		1987			X	
	2F (TO 2J)	Upper Wood In		2002			X	
	1N-Q-1NR, 1N-R	Wildair		2002			X	
	6J	Wood Lot North		1995			X	
	6B-LOW(FROM 6K)	Wood Lot South		1987			X	
2	Ski Lifts							
	Lift 9b	New Lift	Add new triple or quad chair (Lift 9B) from Northwoods Lodge up Lower Sunway to just past the bend in Lower Sunway.	New Management Action, 2018 UMP amendment				
	Lift 12	Hudson Chair	Replace, re-align and extend Lift 12 to location north of existing top terminal, to enhance access to Rabbit Pond area for both Winter and Summer recreation	Ski Bowl				
	Previously Approved Action - Lift Installation			Action Approved In	Action Completed	Partially Completed (% complete)	Approved, Not Yet Started	Action Abandoned
	Lift 1 (Replace)	Adirondack Express II		1987	X			
	Lift 3 (Re-Locate)	Sunway Chair		2002			X	
	Lift 4 (Relocate)	J-Bar		2002			X	
	Lift 6 (Extend)	High Peaks Chair		2002			X	
	Lift 9b	Beginner Triple		2002			X	
	Lift 9c	Surface-Magic Carpet		2002	X			
	Lift 9d	Surface-Magic Carpet		2002	X			

Item #	Facility		Management Action / Improvements	Current Status				
	Lift 11	Burnt Ridge Quad		2005	X			
	Lift 12	Hudson Chair	Ski Bowl	2002	X			
	Lift 13	Village Chair	Ski Bowl	2002	X			
	Lift 14	Base to Base Gondola	IUA and Ski Bowl	2005			X	
3	Buildings							
	NYSEF Building		Expand NYSEF building	New Management Action, 2018 UMP amendment				
	Base Lodge		Incorporate Hiking center into Main Lodge	New Management Action, 2018 UMP amendment				
	Previously Approved Actions			Action Approved In	Action Completed	Partially Completed (% complete)	Approved, Not Yet Started	Action Abandoned
	Base Lodge and Northwoods Lodge (Former Gondola Building)		Renovation/Expansion	1995		55%		
	Saddle Lodge		Renovation/Expansion/Ski Patrol	1995	X			
	Bear Mtn. Lodge		Build Lodge	1995			X	
			Wastewater Line to Saddle Lodge	1995			X	
	NYSEF Building		Addition/Expansion	2005	X			
	Summit Lodge		Build Summit Lodge	1987		X		
	Sand Shed		Build Sand Shed in existing parking lot	2002				X (2005)
4	Snowmaking							
	North Creek Snowmaking Reservoir		Increase reservoir capacity to improve snowmaking efficiency and operational flexibility.	New Management Action, 2018 UMP amendment				
	Overall Snowmaking Capacity		Permit withdrawal Capacity	Previously Approved Action. 4,400 GPM completed, 6,800 GPM Approved				
	Distribution Lines		Install Distribution Lines on New Trails	Previously Approved Action, ongoing				
	Diesel Air Compressors		Create area for Diesel Air compressors with Fuel	Previously Approved Action, partially completed.				
5	Maintenance Facility							
	Groomer Garage		Re-Configure approved maintenance complex to locate new groomer garage and fueling station adjacent to existing ski trail, to improve efficiency and functionality of operations	New Management Action, 2018 UMP				
	General Buildings		Relocate Buildings, renovate, add garages	Approved in 1995, not yet constructed. (Reconfiguration is 2018 Management Action)				
	Fuel		Install additional fuel storage	Approved in 1995, partially completed				
6	Parking / Circulation							
	Shuttle Lane		Update 1995-approved shuttle lane to conform to current conditions, and provide service separated from and independent of primary traffic circulation	New Management Action, 2018 UMP amendment				
	General Parking		Construct New Lots	Action approved in 1995, 50% completed				
	Drop Off Area		Reconfigure entry lane and drop off area	Action approved in 1995, 50% completed				
	Shuttle Lane		Build independent Shuttle Lane	Action approved in 1995, not yet constructed (Reconfiguration is 2018 Action)				
	Bus Parking Lot		Built new Bus Lot	Conceptual Action in 2005				
7	Backcountry Trail Network							
	Hiking and X/C Ski Trails		Trail Construction	Approved in 1995, partially completed.				
8	Miscellaneous							
	Land Use Reclassification		Suggested land reclassification involving Gore Mountain IUA, Vanderwhacker Mtn. WF and Siamese Ponds Wilderness Area which could allow the historic Rabbit Pond trail to be reclaimed and used winter and summer	Conceptual Action, 2018 UMP amendment				
	Interpretive Systems		Interpretive Systems installed	Approved, 25% completed				
	Sand Pit Reclamation		Re-claim sand pit area	Approved, partially completed				

Table 1A that follows is derived from Table 1 above and provides the amounts of ski trails at Gore Mountain that (1) currently exist, (2) were previously approved but have not yet been constructed, and (3) are proposed in this UMP Amendment. Locations of trails are shown on

Figures 13 and 15. Detailed information on the inventory of Gore Mountain ski trails in contained in Appendix 5.

Table 1A
Ski Trails at Gore Mountain

Trail Length Data				
	Trail Pod #	Trail Name	Trail Length on Intensive Use Area Lands	Trail Length on Town Lands
Existing Trails				
	1H	1A	825	0
	1E	2B	357	0
	3F	3B	1952	0
	12F	46ER	0	3260
	9A Lower	Bear Cub Run	608	0
	WORKRD	Cedar's Traverse	3514	0
	7A	Chatiemac	3119	0
	6B-UP, 2K	Cloud	3486	0
	N/A	Crystal	157	0
	3C-UP	Cutoff	922	0
	7E	Dell	344	0
	7N-Q(b)	Double Barrel (Looker's Right)	780	0
	11N	Eagle's Nest Crossover	4082	0
	11A, 1N-P	Echo	5735	0
	C4	Farview	965	0
	10G-Upper, C6	Foxlair	1870	0
	7B	Hawkeye	1939	0
	7F	Headwaters	2740	0
	11B-UP, M8	Hedges	1489	0
	12G Lower	Hudson	0	2403
	6H	Hullabloo	1173	0
	3G	Jamboree	1619	0
	N/A	Jibland	318	0
	N/A	Jug Handle	434	0
	7N-M	Lies	1109	0
	6K	Little Cloud	364	0
	3C-LOW	Little Dipper	993	0
	N/A	Little Gore Crossover	0	770
	2K	Lower Cloud Traverse	655	0
	6G	Lower Darby	1019	0

Trail Length Data				
	Trail Pod #	Trail Name	Trail Length on Intensive Use Area Lands	Trail Length on Town Lands
	1C (1D-1NR)	Lower Sleighride	1817	0
	6F	Lower Steilhang	1246	0
	3A	Lower Sunway	3769	0
	10C-LOW	Lower Uncus	794	0
	2J-UP	Lower Wood In Traverse	1115	0
	M2	Mica	444	0
	12D	Moxham	368	2509
	2D	North Star	1803	0
	6E, 7N-O	Open Pit	972	0
	3I	Otter Slide	407	0
	12C, 12A	Peaceful Valley	3173	2837
	2E UP, LOW	Pete Gay	3976	0
	10A, 10B LOW	Pine Knot	2455	0
	N/A	Pipeline Traverse	5419	0
	1C (1NR-3F)	Pot Luck	723	0
	2C	Powder Pass	3580	0
	1B	Quicksilver	2036	0
	C7	Ruby Run	2563	0
	11K	Sagamore	6037	0
	6B-LOW (2K-6K)	Santanoni	133	47
	1C (1A-1D), 1D	Showcase	5928	22
	1K	Showoff	188	0
	2B, 2I	Sleeping Bear	2796	0
	N/A	Starting Gate	359	0
	1C (1C-1A), 1A	Sunway	5047	0
	2A	Tahawus	4184	0
	C1	Tannery	2768	0
	1C (FROM 1NR)	The Arena	991	0
	7H	The Glen	433	0
	N/A	The Gully	730	0
	2F (2J-2E)	The Loop	850	0
	12B	The Oak Ridge Trail	1984	0
	N/A	The Peace Pipe	918	0
	7N-L	The Rumor	1260	0
	10E	Topridge	3900	0

Trail Length Data				
	Trail Pod #	Trail Name	Trail Length on Intensive Use Area Lands	Trail Length on Town Lands
	1K	Tower 6	118	0
	3E	Twin Fawns	1094	0
	1F	Twister	6603	0
	N/A	Twister's Little Sister	121	0
	10C-UP	Uncas	1833	0
	12c	Eagles Nest Bridge	620	0
	6D	Upper Darby	808	0
	1G	Upper Sleighride	1727	0
	6C	Upper Steilhang	1739	0
	2F (TO 2J)	Upper Wood In	973	0
	13A	Village Slopes	0	1260
	3B	Ward Hill	874	0
	1N-Q-1NR, 1N-R	Wildair	4980	0
	6J	Wood Lot North	924	0
	6B-LOW(FROM 6K)	Wood Lot South	1163	0
	2J (FROM 6B)	Wood Out	2340	0
	M1	Woodchuck	1163	0
		Totals (LF)	144,814	13,108
		Totals (MILAGE)	27.43	2.48
Trails Approved, Not Yet Constructed				
	1N-O	Approved, not yet constructed	2,850	0
	2N-L	Approved, not yet constructed	600	0
	6N-O	Approved, not yet constructed	362	0
	7N-P	Approved, not yet constructed	1170	0
	9A Upper	Approved, not yet constructed	925	0
	9B	Approved, not yet constructed	1,250	0
	10F	Approved, not yet constructed	2,345	0
	10H	Approved, not yet constructed	3,848	0
	11B Lower	Approved, not yet constructed	1,480	0
	11G	Approved, not yet constructed	1,720	0
	11M	Approved, not yet constructed	1,925	0
	11L	Approved, not yet constructed	4,095	0
	11I	Approved, not yet constructed	2,495	0

Trail Length Data				
	Trail Pod #	Trail Name	Trail Length on Intensive Use Area Lands	Trail Length on Town Lands
	11J	Approved, not yet constructed	4,085	0
	12E	Approved, not yet constructed	0	1,605
	12G Upper	Approved, not yet constructed	0	1,580
	12H	Approved, not yet constructed	0	3,067
	12I	Approved, not yet constructed	0	6,410
	12J	Approved, not yet constructed	0	2,140
		Totals (LF)	29,150	14,802
		Totals (MILAGE)	5.52	2.80
Trails Proposed in 2018 UMP				
	11O	Proposed	3,415	0
	12L	Proposed (Conceptual Action)	1,210	0
	12M	Proposed (Conceptual Action)	340	1,035
	12I-A	Proposed (Conceptual Action)	1,520	1,223
	12J-A	Proposed (Conceptual Action)	100	1,235
	12N	Proposed	0	600
	12O	Proposed	305	280
		Totals (LF)	6,890	4,373
		Totals (MILAGE)	1.30	0.83

Summary of Totals	(In Miles)
Total Existing Trails on Intensive Use Lands	27.43
Total Approved/Not Constructed Trails on Intensive Use Lands	5.52
Total Existing and Approved Trails on Intensive Use (IU) Lands	32.95
¹ Total Proposed Trails on Intensive Use Lands	1.30
Total Existing/Approved and Proposed Trails on IU Lands	34.25
Constitutional Trail Mileage Limit	40.00
Total Existing Glades on IU Lands	7.89
² Total Glades within footprint of Existing/Approved Trails	3.04
Net Calculated Glade Length	4.85
² Total Glades within footprint of Proposed Trails	0.35
Net Calculated Glade Length	4.50
Total Existing/Approved and Proposed Trails on IU Lands	34.25
Net Calculated Glade Length	4.50
Total Existing/Approved and Proposed Trails and Glades on IU Lands	38.75

¹ Includes Conceptual Trails

² If including the glades in a comparison against total trail mileage, these lengths must be subtracted from the total length of glades on IU Lands, since these lengths are already included under the "Approved, Not Yet Constructed" and "Proposed" trail length categories.