

11 May 2017

Allison Buckley
NYSDEC
PO Box 1316
Northville, New York 12134
Via Email: r5.ump@dec.ny.gov

RE: Speculator Tree Farm and Perkins Clearing Interim Recreation Management Plan (IRMP)

Dear Allison,

One of the most important objectives of the Recreational Management Plan for a conservation easement that is surrounded by units of the Forest Preserve is to ensure that the activities permitted on the conservation easement do not adversely impact the solitude, sense of wilderness, and remoteness of adjoining Wilderness Areas. In the case of the Perkins Clearing Conservation Easement, there is an excellent example of this relationship between **the state's management of two adjoining land units**.

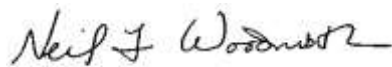
Before the Perkins Clearing land exchange in 1979, the Spruce Lake and West Canada Lakes areas of the West Canada Lakes Wilderness were very remote. Backpackers had to hike 10-20 miles in any direction to reach these very special wilderness locations. This situation changed when the International Paper Company opened over 9 miles of the Jessup River Road west from the Old Military Road to a parking area at the very west end of the Perkins Clearing Conservation Easement. This allowed the public to drive to a parking area about a mile from the Northville-Placid trail a point 7 miles north of Haskells Road, in Piseco and only 2.5 miles south of Spruce Lake. Without this public road access through this parking lot at the west end of the Perkins Clearing Conservation Easement, it would be nearly a 10-mile hike from the nearest parking area in Piseco.

We hope that the Adirondack Park Agency and Department of Environmental Conservation will evaluate whether the sense of solitude and remoteness of the West Canada Lakes Wilderness would be better protected by closing the Jessup River Road to public motor vehicle use at the junction with the Old Military Road. This means of enhancing the wilderness character of the West Canada Lakes Wilderness should be carefully evaluated by Department of Environmental Conservation as it prepares

the Recreational Management Plan for the Perkins Clearing Conservation Easement. Special accommodations could be made for groups doing stewardship work and trail maintenance in the adjoining parts of the West Canada Lake Wilderness.

Thank you for considering the above comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Neil F. Woodworth". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Neil F. Woodworth
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