

The Great Divide Unit Management Plan (UMP)

Draft Plan Presented for Public Comment



Department of
Environmental
Conservation

Public Information Session and Comment Period

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) is holding a public information session seeking public comment on a draft Great Divide Unit Management Plan (UMP).

The public is invited to the Horseheads Free Library, 405 S. Main St, Horseheads, NY 14845 beginning at 5:00 pm on July 16, 2025.

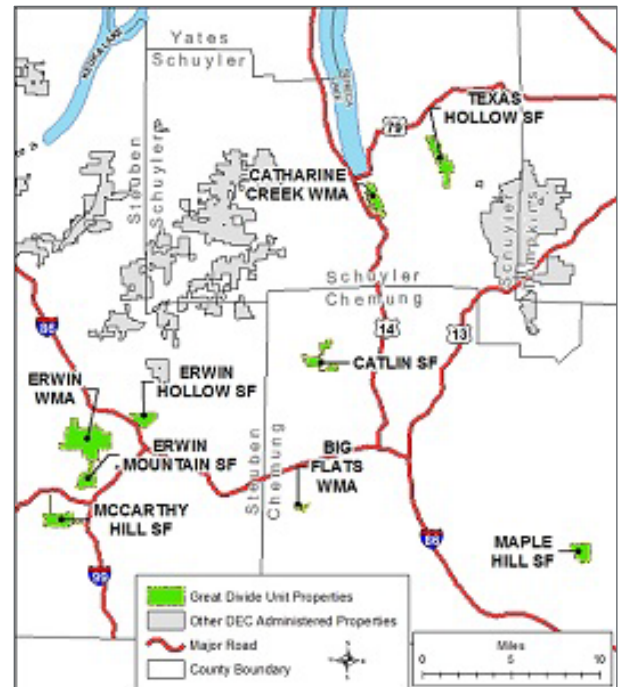
A short presentation on the draft plan will begin at 5:15 pm, followed by a question-and-answer period. The library is wheelchair accessible.

Mail written comments to: NYSDEC, Attn: UMP, 7291 Coon Rd. Bath, NY 14810, or email: r8.ump@dec.ny.gov.

The deadline to submit comments is **August 18, 2025**

The draft UMP is currently available online at [Recreation And Unit Management Plans - NYSDEC \(https://dec.ny.gov\)](https://dec.ny.gov)

Hard copies are available for viewing at the DEC Bath Sub-office, the Horseheads Free Library, the Watkins Glen Public Library, and the Corning Library.



Map of lands included in the Great Divide Unit.

Plan Summary

The Great Divide UMP includes the properties covered in the original Great Divide Unit (2006) plus the former Erwin Unit Management Plan (2008). It provides a long-term vision for the management of 7,308 acres of State Forests (SF) and Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) located in Chemung, Steuben and Schuyler counties. The UMP establishes management goals and objectives, and addresses management activities on this Unit for the next ten years. Factors such as budget constraints, wood product markets, and forest health problems may necessitate deviations from the scheduled management activities during the ten-year-period.

Public involvement is an important component to the UMP process. We invite the public to comment or express concerns regarding the past or future management of any of the DEC properties included in this UMP. Your comments may be general or specific and will be accepted for inclusion to this UMP until **August 18, 2025**.

Comments will be weighed against law, regulations, DEC Commissioner's directives and other public comments before changes are made to the draft plan. Public questions and/or comments will be included in the Final UMP.

The Department manages State lands for multiple benefits such as good water quality, a diverse and healthy wildlife population, and recreational enjoyment. The plan offers general information on the Unit's history and geology, and an inventory of the Unit's resources, such as vegetative types and stages, fish, wildlife, and habitat. It also describes the proposed goals and objectives along with policy considerations for managing the Unit.

Property Name	Webpage	Acres	Total Rec. Trails
Big Flats WMA	https://dec.ny.gov/places/big-flats-wildlife-management-area	136	0 mi.
Catharine Creek WMA	https://dec.ny.gov/places/catharine-creek-wildlife-management-area	643	2.3 mi.
Catlin SF	https://dec.ny.gov/places/catlin-state-forest	613	0.1 mi.
Erwin Hollow SF	http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/38903.html	529	3.3 mi.
Erwin Mountain SF	https://dec.ny.gov/places/erwin-hollow-state-forest	502	0 mi.
Erwin WMA	https://dec.ny.gov/places/erwin-wildlife-management-area	2,506	23.3 mi.
Maple Hill SF	https://dec.ny.gov/places/maple-hill-state-forest	595	0 mi.
McCarthy Hill SF	https://dec.ny.gov/places/mccarthy-hill-state-forest	799	6.5 mi.
Texas Hollow SF	https://dec.ny.gov/places/texas-hollow-state-forest	985	5.1 mi.

Objectives of the Great Divide UMP

Enhance and monitor wildlife species diversity and protect rare and endangered species of plants and animals. Create a balance of vegetative types and stages by the sale of timber resources, creation and maintenance of grassland and wetland habitats. Monitor for and remove invasive exotic plants and animals.

Comply with Americans with Disabilities Act guidelines for any future increase in recreational facilities. Including all new and replacement gates will be constructed in the saloon style, with a minimum gap of 36 inches.

Best Management Practices for water quality will be used on timber sales, and any other construction activities.

Maintain all parking lots, roads, and related infrastructure, including hazard tree removal.

Translation Available

Interpreter services shall be made available to deaf persons, and translator services shall be made available to persons with limited English proficiency, at no charge for either service, upon written request. Requests must be received July 3, 2024, and directed to the NYS DEC - Division of Communication, Education, and Engagement, 625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233-4500, Phone: (518) 402-8044, E-mail: language@dec.ny.gov.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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