



Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection



Salmon River State Forest: Blackledge Block Grayville Section Recreational Planning Hebron, CT



Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection

Purpose of this meeting

- Deliver information regarding the trail planning process within Salmon River State Forest: Blackledge Block
- Multiple Use Trail Policy for DEEP Properties Policy # 310 (2019)

Forest Management Planning

- Blackledge Block of Salmon River State Forest
<https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Forestry/Management-on-State-Lands/Forest-Management-on-State-Lands>

“...parks, forestry and wildlife divisions of DEEP will partner during the early years of this management plans lifespan to authorize an agreed upon trail system that balances the recreational needs with the conservation of the forests natural resources.” (Mgt. Plan, pg. 42).

Management Plan Goals

Salmon River State Forest: Blackledge Block

- Create a designated trail head with a kiosk where all applicable notices can be posted for recreationalists to view
- Stop the creation of additional trails that are constructed against DEEP general regulations
- Reduce trail density to minimize recreational pressure on wildlife
- Designate authorized trails and close non-authorized trails
- Take measures to stabilize authorized trails. Stabilization measures will include avoiding sensitive wet and riparian areas, reducing steep grades by installing additional switchback turns, constructing bridges over unavoidable wet areas and/or streams and putting in water bars to divert water off trail to prevent erosion and sedimentation
- Create a plan to maintain the authorized trail system and enforce violations.

(Mgt. Plan, pg. 42)

Public Land Designation

- Parks
- Wildlife Management Areas (WMA's)
- Natural Area Preserves
- Forestland

Pillars of State Forestland Management

1. Forest Resource Management
2. Wildlife Habitat Management
3. Public Access

Trail Density

- Low 0 – 3 km/sqkm (1.8 miles/ 247 acres)
 - Moderate 3-6 km/sqkm (1.8 to 3.7 miles/247 acres)
 - High 6 – 9 km/sqkm (3.7 to 5.6 miles/247 acres)
 - Excessive – Greater than 9 km/sqkm
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- Trail density as it relates to land designation

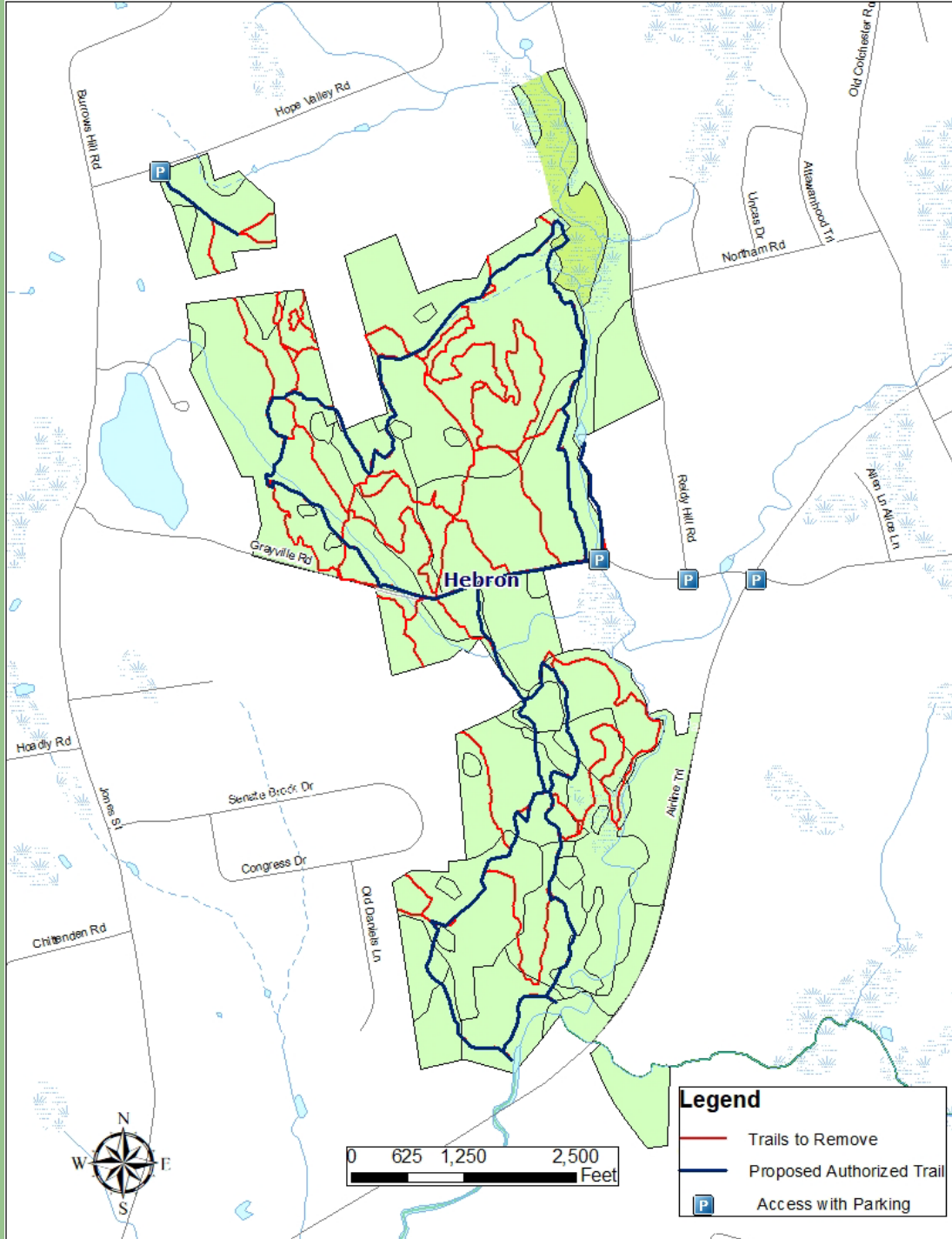
Trail Impacts on Forestland

- Silvicultural Management Limitations
 - Habitat enhancement, age class diversity, forest resilience, forest health, biodiversity
- Introduction of invasive plant species
 - Forest health concerns/displacement of native vegetation
- Wildlife Impacts
 - Corridor of Influence
- Soil Impacts
 - Erosion, Compaction & Sedimentation

Trail Network Option # 1

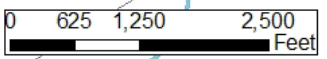
- Moderate Trail Density
- 6 miles in length
- Includes multiple loops that bring trail users through key historical/cultural and scenic features of the property
- Recommended trail system by DEEP staff

Discussion



Legend

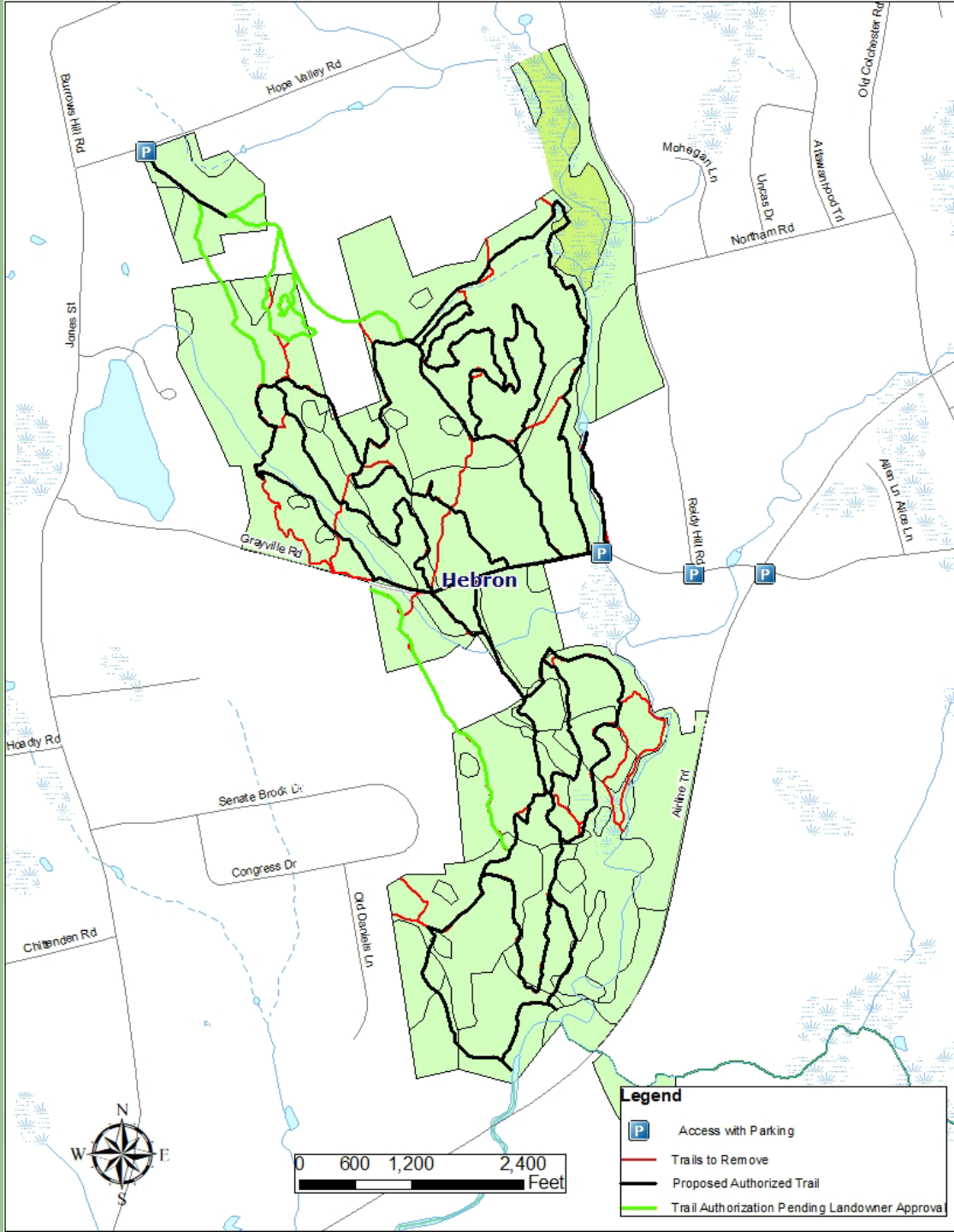
- Trails to Remove
- Proposed Authorized Trail
- Access with Parking



Trail Network Option # 2





- High Trail Density
- 11 miles in length
- Includes multiple loops and connector trails that bring users through key historical/cultural and scenic features of the property
- Trail network design submitted through the trail request process

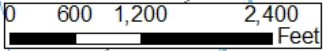
Discussion



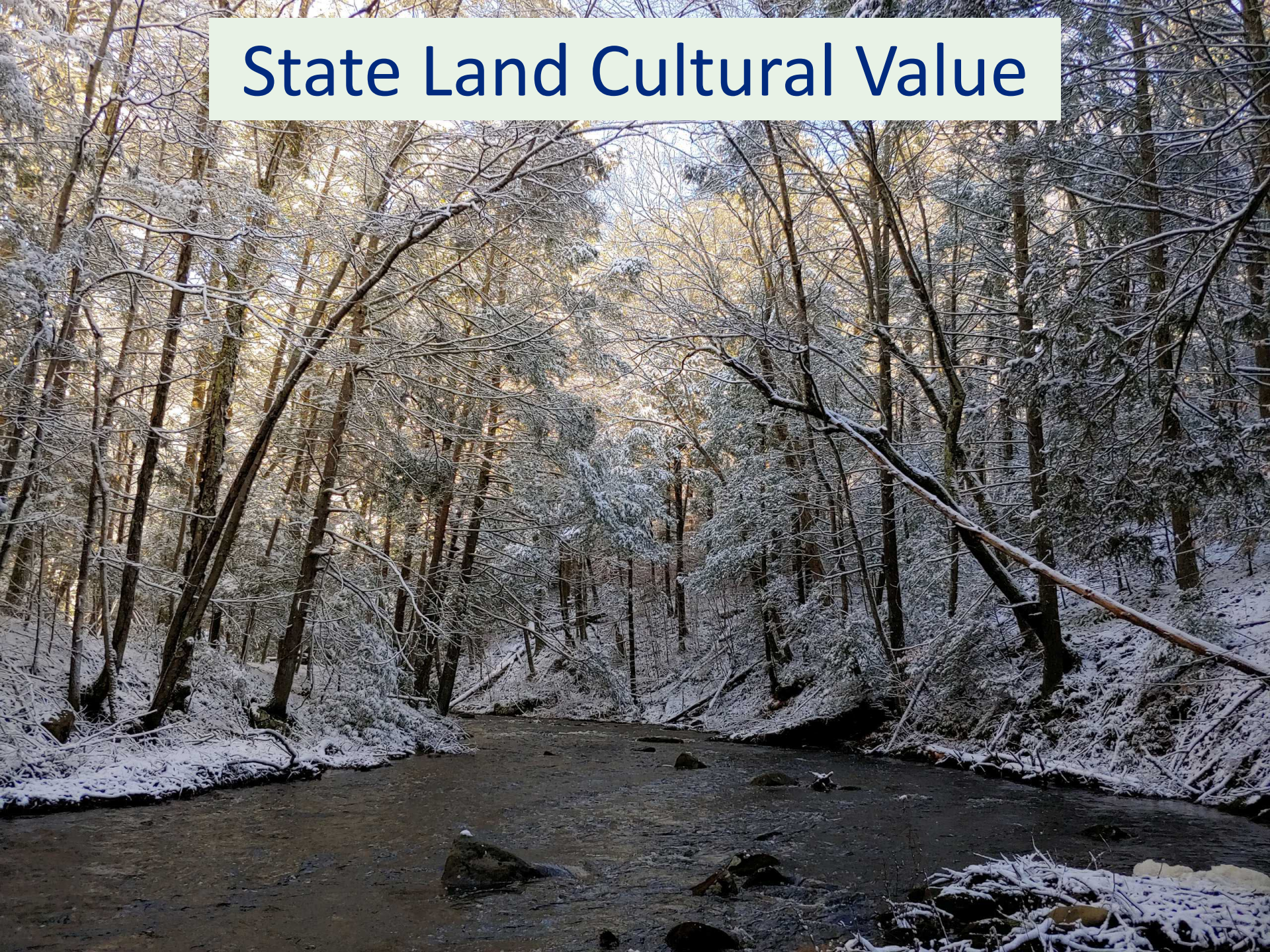
Hebron

Legend

-  Access with Parking
-  Trails to Remove
-  Proposed Authorized Trail
-  Trail Authorization Pending Landowner Approval



State Land Cultural Value



Public Forum

Comments can be directed to:

Salmon River State Lands Forester – Nathan Piche

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Public Comment Deadline: February 17, 2022



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