

TWIN SHEDS UNIT MANAGEMENT PLAN MEETING

Meeting Planned for February 11, 2010

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation is developing a unit management plan for Hammond Hill and Yellow Barn State Forests called “Twin Sheds.” Unit Management Plans assess the natural, physical, social and recreational resources of the landscape and provide a solid foundation for the development of long term land management goals, objectives and actions. A recently completed UMP can be viewed at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/49834.html>

The Department recognizes that public participation is very important and is asking for public comments and ideas as the plan is developed. The DEC depends on volunteers to help maintain the 22 miles of recreational trails on the unit. A valuable tool for the public and the DEC, the planning process helps build and strengthen partnerships with volunteers and other stakeholders. As such, the public is invited to share their ideas and learn more about the plan at an informational meeting being held on **Thursday, February 11** in the Forum room on the Tompkins-Cortland Community College main campus in Dryden, New York. The meeting room will be open at 6:30 p.m. and a brief presentation about the unit management planning process will be provided by DEC staff at 7 p.m. Directions to Tompkins-Cortland Community College are available at http://www.tc3.edu/about_tc3/directions.asp In the event of inclement weather, the meeting will be held at the same location on March 11, 2010.

Located in New York’s Central-Southern Tier region, the Twin Sheds Unit includes both the Hammond Hill and Yellow Barn State Forests. Together, both State Forests cover over 5,000 acres of land in Tompkins County. Because of their collective size and proximity to Cortland, Cornell University, Ithaca, Ithaca College and SUNY Cortland, the forests are highly valued for the many recreational services they provide to the public.

Unit management plans are developed to address both short and long term land management opportunities and needs on State Forests. Unit management plans provide a framework to address the past, present, and future management of forest ecosystems, wildlife habitat and recreational trails. Unit management plans also provide strategies to conserve, protect, and enhance the many values, products, and ecosystem based services that State Forests provide to the public.

The unit is called “Twin Sheds” because it is divided by the Valley Heads Moraine, a moraine built by the Laurentide Ice Sheet. The moraine dammed the southern ends of the Finger Lakes and formed an east-west drainage divide (it is often called a continental divide). The northern part of the unit flows north into the Greater Lake Ontario basin, and the southern portion flows into the Susquehanna River basin. At the landscape level, the unit drains into 5 smaller watersheds totaling about 304,592 acres, or 476 square miles. For additional information, please contact: Senior Forester **John Clancy, NYS DEC, Division of Lands and Forests, 1285 Fisher Ave. Cortland, NY 13045-1090; (607) 753-3095 ext. 258, or jmclancy@gw.dec.state.ny.us**