

For Release: IMMEDIATE
Tuesday, February 2, 2010

Contact: Diane Carlton
315-426-7403

**PLANNING UNDERWAY FOR NEW "TWIN SHEDS" UNIT
IN TOMPKINS COUNTY
Meeting Planned for Feb. 11 at Tompkins-Cortland Community
College**

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Regional Director Ken Lynch today announced the beginning of the development of the new Twin Sheds Unit Management Plan (UMP). Unit Management Plans assess the natural, physical, social and recreational resources of the landscape and provide a foundation for the development of long-term land management goals, objectives and actions.

The proposed Twin Sheds Unit includes both Hammond Hill and Yellow Barn State Forests, which are located in the towns of Dryden and Caroline. Together, the two state forests cover more than 5,000 acres of land in Tompkins County. Because of their collective size and proximity to Cortland, Cornell University, Ithaca, Ithaca College, Tomkins-Cortland Community College, and SUNY Cortland, the forests are highly valued for the many recreational services they provide to the public.

The unit is called "Twin Sheds" because it is divided by the Valley Heads Moraine, a moraine created by the Laurentide Ice Sheet. The moraine dammed the southern ends of the Finger Lakes and formed an east-west drainage 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 five smaller watersheds totaling about 304,592 acres, or 476 square miles.

In addition to DEC management actions, the agency depends on volunteers to help maintain the 22 miles of recreational trails throughout Twin Sheds. DEC recognizes the importance of public participation in the unit management planning process and is asking for comments and ideas as the plan is developed. To learn more, an informational meeting is being held on **Thursday, Feb. 11**, in the Forum room of the Tompkins-Cortland Community College main campus in Dryden.

The meeting room will be open at 6:30 p.m. DEC staff will present a brief overview about the unit management planning process 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.

(MORE)

-2-

"The Twin Sheds Management Plan is being developed to address both short- and long-term land management opportunities and needs on these state forests," Regional Director Lynch said. "Unit management plans provide a framework to address the past, present, and future management of forest ecosystems, wildlife habitat and recreational trails. Through the process, the state aims to develop strategies to conserve, protect and enhance the many values, products, and ecosystem-based services that state forests provide."

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. Written comments can also be submitted to those addresses by March 15, 2010, for consideration in the development of a draft UMP.

###

10-17