



Public Meeting

Kaaterskill Clove Visitor Use Management Project

May 10, 2023

CATSKILL PARK ► KAATERSKILL CLOVE
VISITOR USE MANAGEMENT



Welcome!

Susan Hayman, Ross Strategic (Otak Team)

McCrea Burnham, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

Meeting Purpose

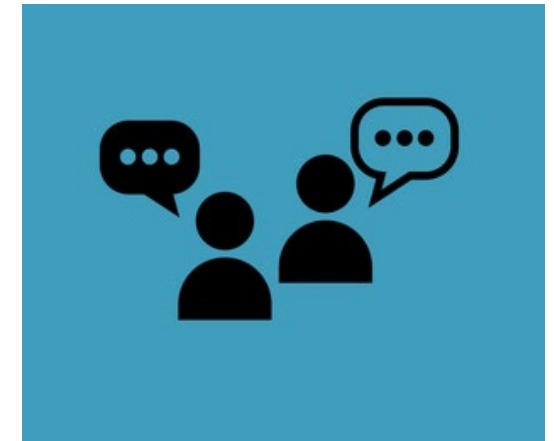
- Provide foundational information to increase public understanding of the project goals and timeline, and build a shared understanding of how the Visitor Use Management (VUM) Framework will be applied in the Kaaterskill Clove area.
- Share perspectives about current and desired future conditions for the Kaaterskill Clove area regarding amounts and types of visitor use, the quality and character of visitor experiences, and public safety considerations.

Meeting Overview

Time	Topic/Speakers
5:30 pm	Gathering—Susan Hayman, Facilitator; McCrea Burnham, NYS DEC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome and purpose for the meeting Meeting overview, introductions
5:45 pm	Foundational Information <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project overview—McCrea Burnham Visitor use management framework overview—Abbie Larkin, Otak Q&A
6:30 pm	Break
6:45 pm	Public Perspectives—Discussion Groups
8:10 pm	Reflections
8:25 pm	Closing—Susan, McCrea
8:30 pm	Adjourn

For Tonight

1. Assume good intent from others
2. Be respectful and kind when speaking
3. Actively participate and share your perspectives
4. Actively listen -- make space for others to be heard
5. Follow guidance from the facilitator



Foundational Information

McCrea Burnham, NYS DEC

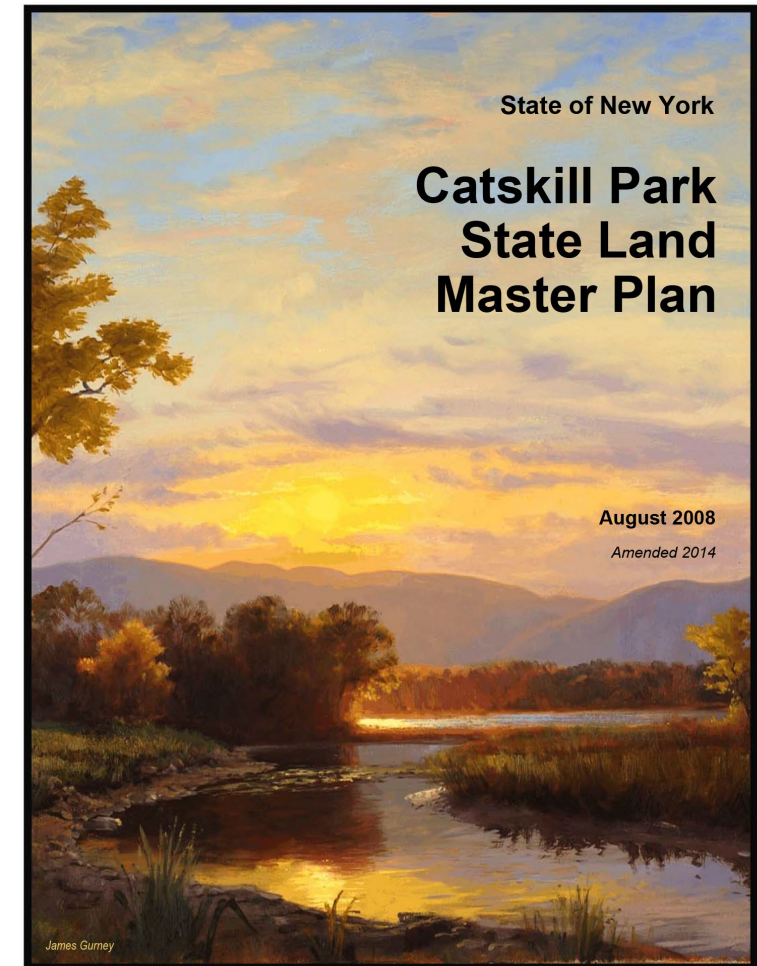
Abbie Larkin, Otak

Background

"...an assessment of physical, biological, and social carrying capacity...with particular attention to portions of the area threatened by overuse in light of its resource limitations and its classification under the Master Plan."

*"An evaluation and plan to implement the Limits of Acceptable Change model by **employing carrying capacity concepts** as a prescription of the desired resource and social conditions that should be maintained to minimum standards, regardless of use."*

- CPSLMP

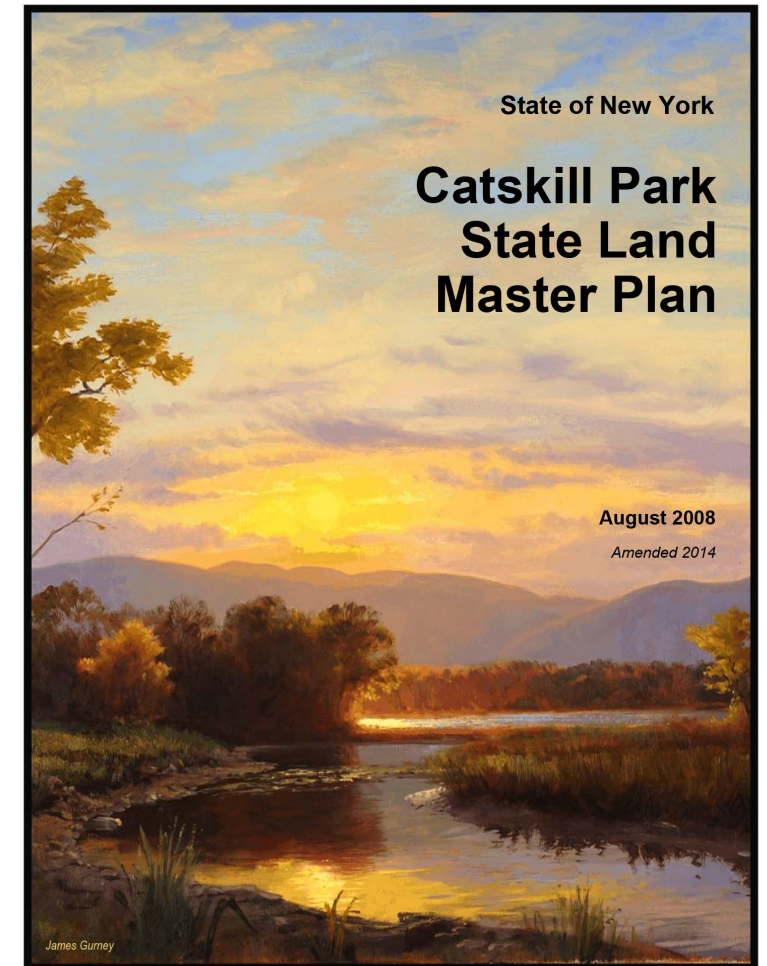


Background

UMPs must include:

"... an assessment of the physical, biological, and social carrying capacity of the area ..."

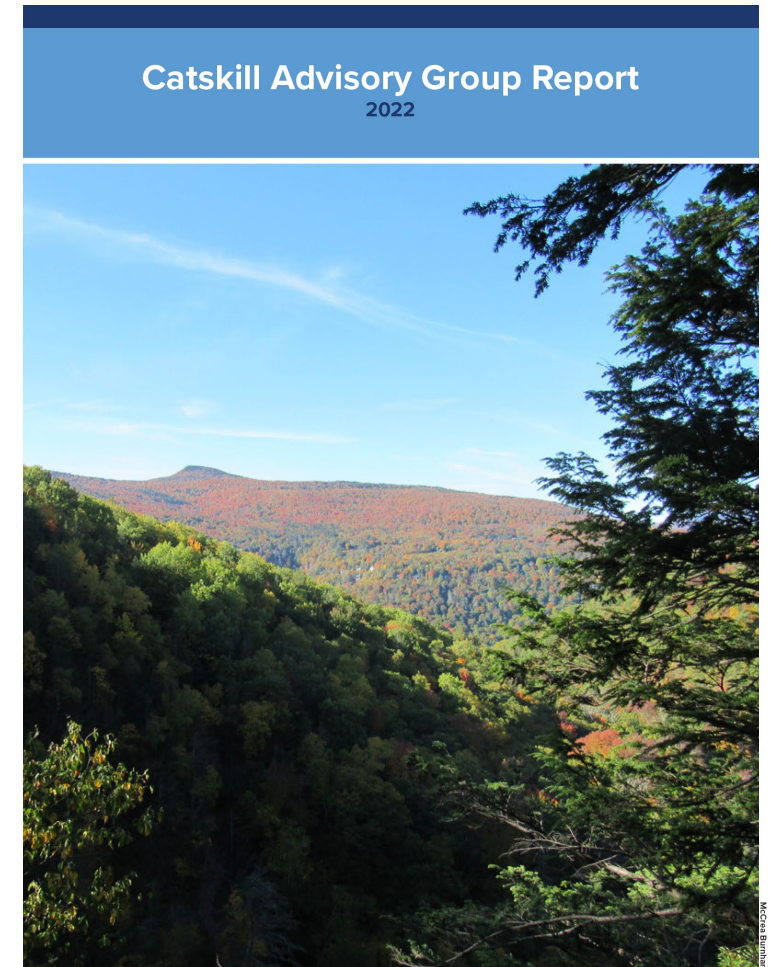
- CPSLMP



Background

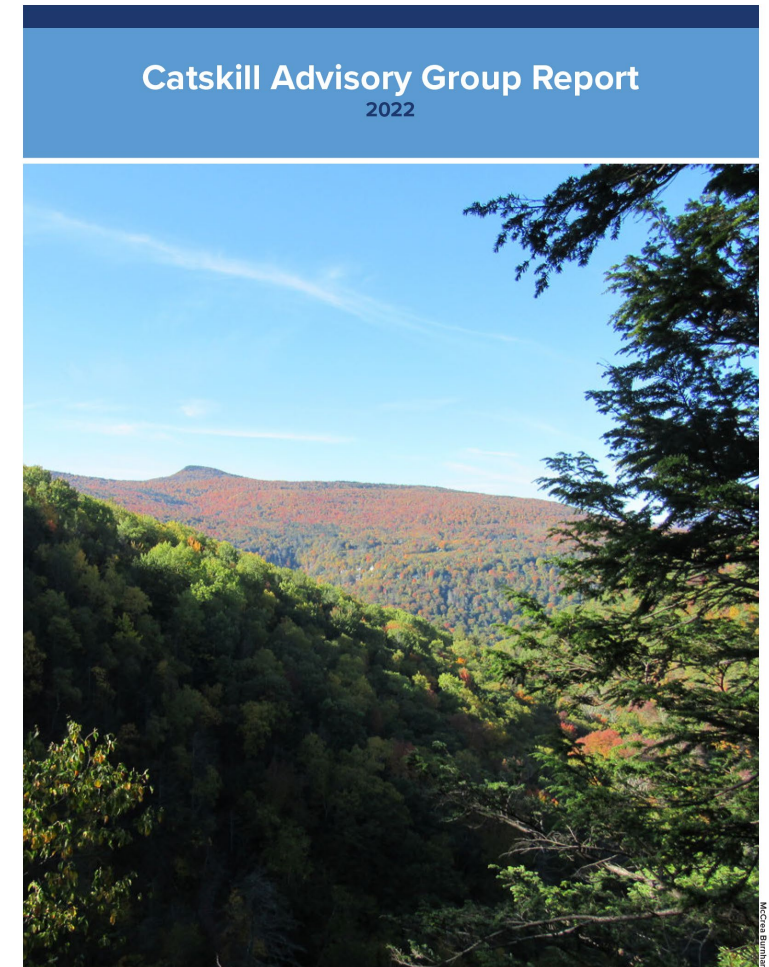
*“The state should move quickly to adopt the Federal Interagency Visitor Use Management Council’s **Visitor Use Management Framework** (VUMF) as its core management tool. VUMF utilizes robust data collection to implement management actions on public lands.”*

- Catskill Advisory Group Report, 2022



Background

- *Identify areas that can accommodate high use or lesser volumes of use;*
 - *Establish parking limits and carrying capacities for trails, waterfalls, swimming areas, and other locations;*
 - *Identify the infrastructure that is necessary to accommodate visitor experience and volume of use; and*
 - *Make management decisions that will prevent the degradation of natural resources.*
- Catskill Advisory Group Report, 2022



Background

- 2021 High Peaks Advisory Group Final Report
- 2022 State Budget included line for "comprehensive planning"
- DEC Commissioner announced VUM projects in both ADKs and Catskills
- Request for Proposal (RFP)
- Contract award to Otak

Project Purpose

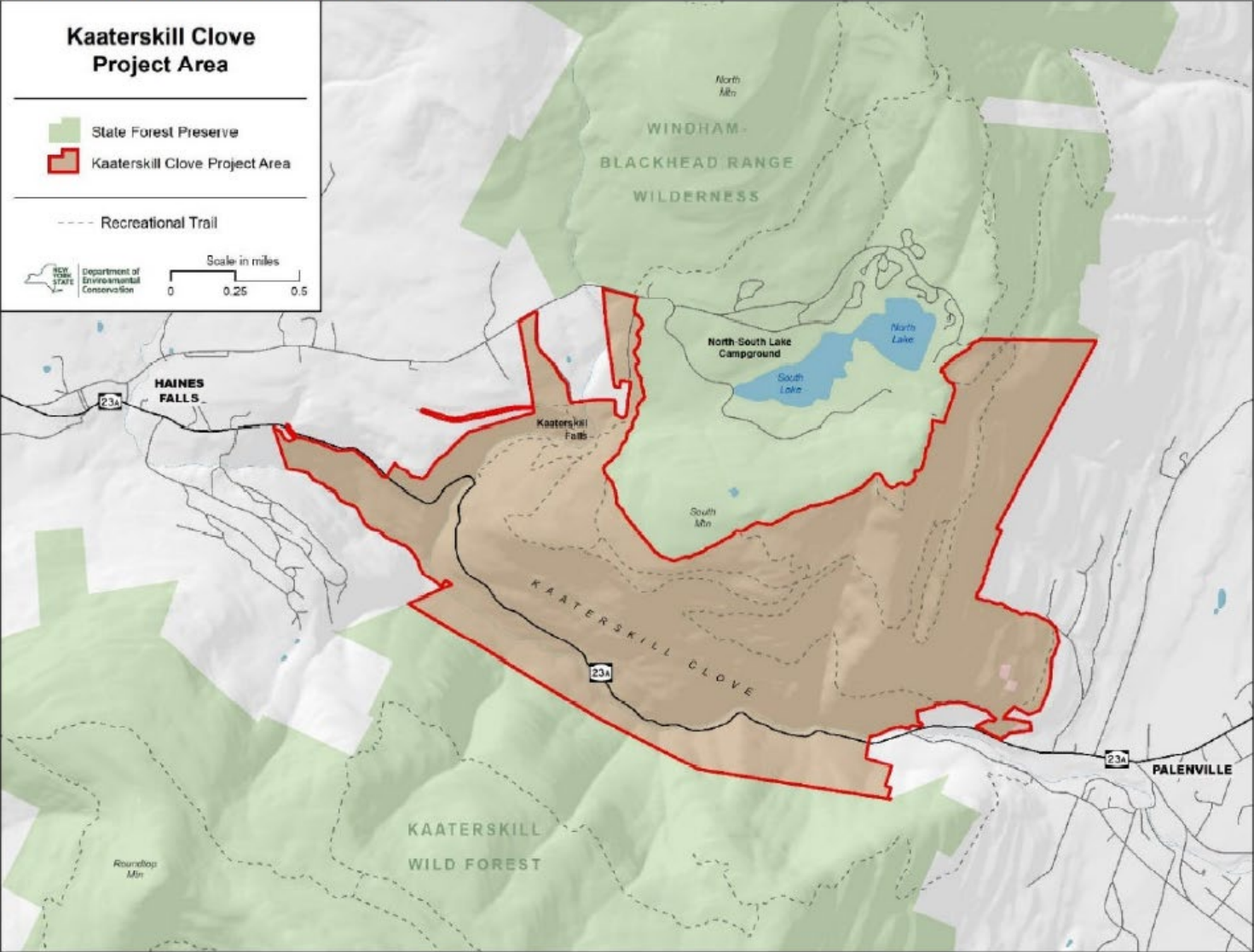
Implement the VUMF and conduct a visitor use management planning process, with a focus on experiential, social, and public safety elements of visitor use management and visitor capacities, to promote sustainable visitor use.

Other Data Collection Efforts

- Physical condition monitoring for trails and tent sites
- Formerly Trail-less Peaks Condition Monitoring

Kaaterskill Clove Study Area (Catskill Park)

Figure 2 – Kaaterskill Clove Project Area



State Project Team

- Forestry / land management (Regional)
- Forest Rangers (Regional)
- Operations (Regional)
- Forest Preserve program administration (Albany)
- Adventure NY / Outdoor Recreation program (Albany)

State Project Team Workshop #1

FEBRUARY 2023

State Project Team Workshop #2

MAY 2023

Stakeholder Engagement
ONGOING

Spring
2023

Public Meeting #1

MAY 2023

Summer
2023

Data Collection
MARCH–AUGUST 2023

State Project Team Workshop #3

OCTOBER 2023

Fall/Winter
2023

Data Analysis
SEPTEMBER 2023–MAY 2024

State Project Team Workshop #4

MAY 2024

Spring
2024

Public Meeting #2

MARCH 2024

Summer
2024

Public Comment
SUMMER–FALL 2024

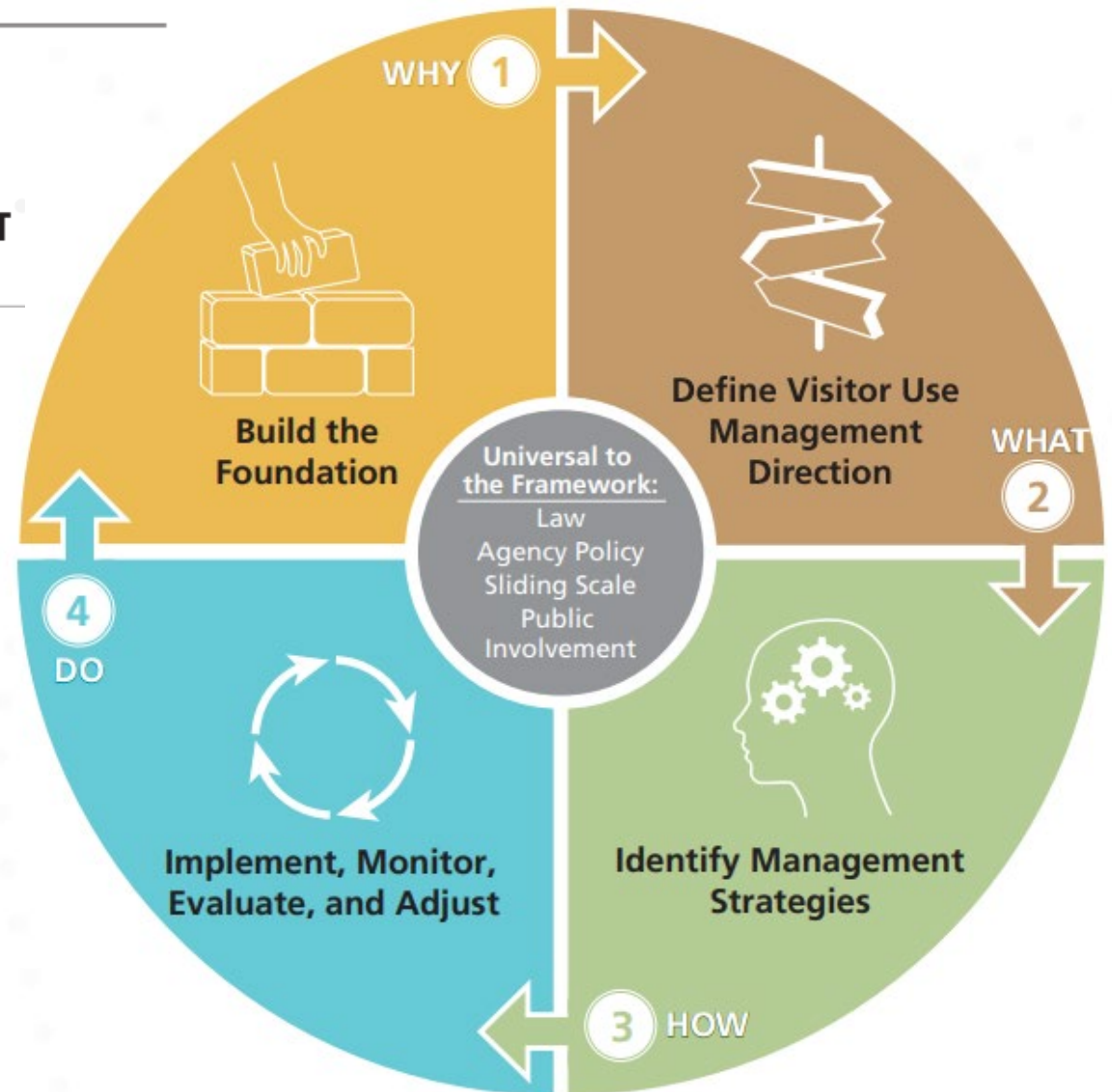
Fall
2024

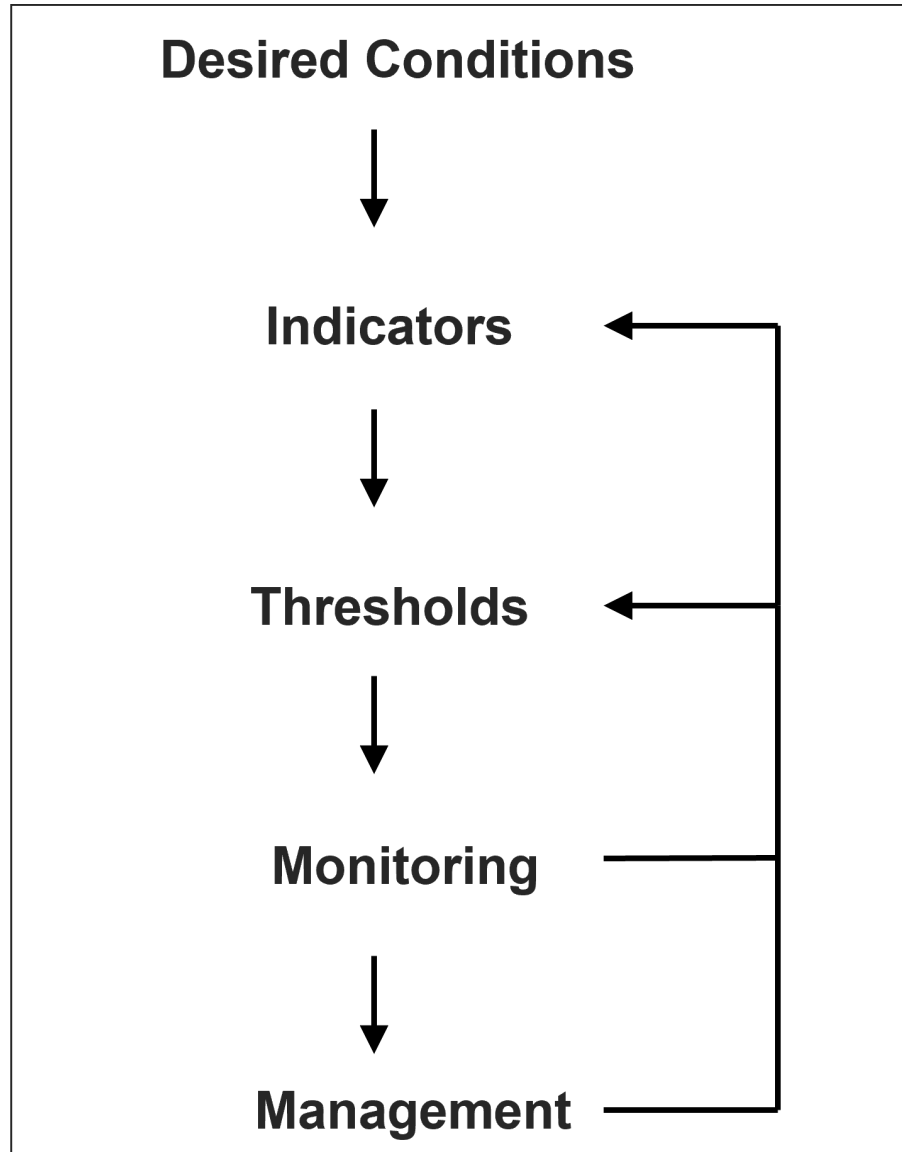
Report & Monitoring Plan

Overview of the Visitor Use Management Framework

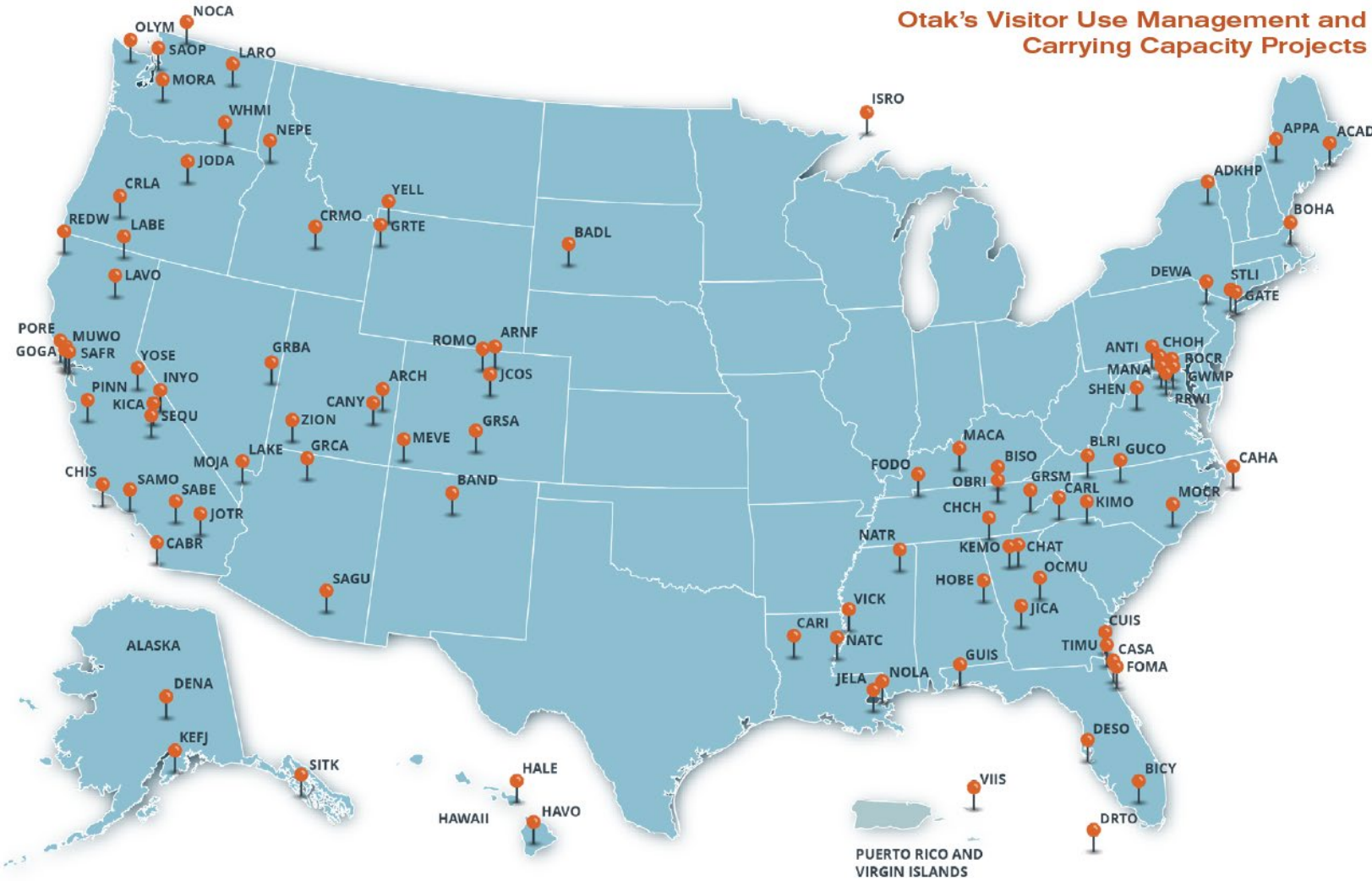


INTERAGENCY
VISITOR USE MANAGEMENT
COUNCIL





Otak's Visitor Use Management
and Carrying Capacity Projects



ACADIA NATIONAL PARK



SHENANDOAH NATIONAL PARK



INYO NATIONAL FOREST



ARCHES NATIONAL PARK



MOUNT RAINIER NATIONAL PARK



ZION NATIONAL PARK

Questions?

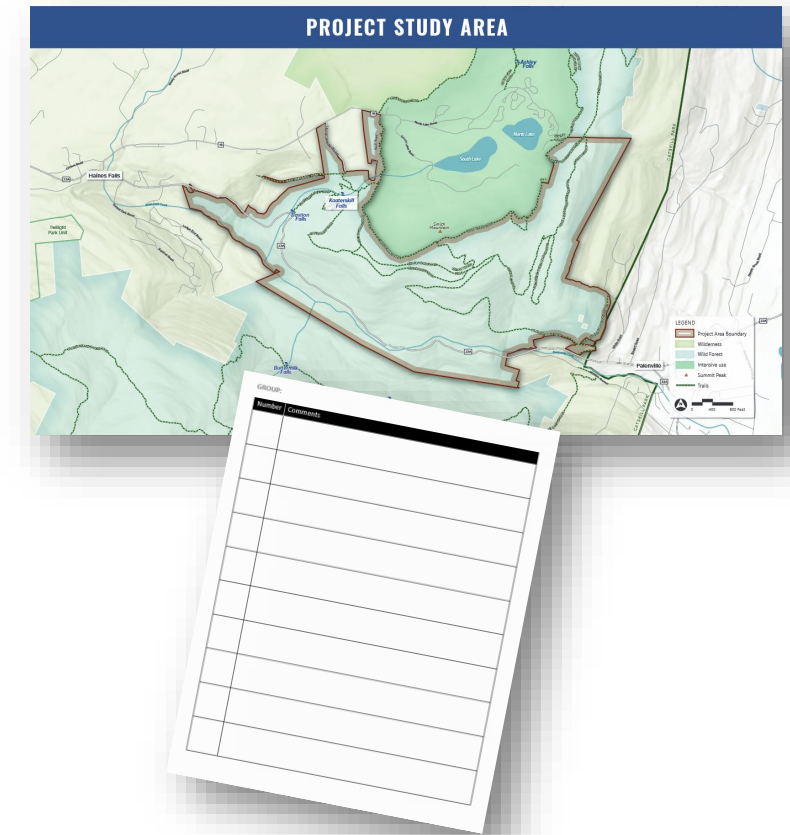
Public Perspectives

Facilitated Discussion Groups

Discussion Group Process

Two Rounds: Current Conditions, Desired Future Conditions

1. Self-select a discussion group (distribute from same organization)
2. Consider prompts in handout--reflect on those of greatest importance to you
3. Place numbered stickers where you'd like to add a comment
4. Add your **Group #** to your worksheet, add **sticker number** and **brief corresponding comments**
5. Facilitator reconvenes group to share comments and discuss
6. Hand in your worksheet to your facilitator before returning to the plenary seating



Discussion Group Process (cont'd)

Two Rounds: Current Conditions, Desired Future Conditions



GROUP: A

Number	Comments
10	This is my comment about sticker #10...
11	This is my comment about sticker #11...
12	This is my comment about sticker #12...
	ETC.

Reflections

Next Steps

Next Steps

- Meeting synthesis
- Website updates as information becomes available
- Summer data collection



More Thoughts to Share?

Comments are welcome throughout the process and may be submitted in the following ways:

1. By email to: vum-facilitators@rossstrategic.com
2. Through the project website at: <https://www.kaaterskillclovevum.com/>
3. No internet access? Send written comments to:

McCrea Burnham
625 Broadway, 5th Floor
Albany, NY 12233-4254

Closing Remarks

Susan Hayman
McCrea Burnham

Thank you for participating!

For more information, visit our project website:

<https://www.kaaterskilleclovevum.com/>

**CATSKILL PARK ► KAATERSKILL CLOVE
VISITOR USE MANAGEMENT**

