

From: T Murray [REDACTED]

Sent: Friday, January 19, 2024 6:20 PM

To: NYFO, FW5ES <fw5es_nyfo@fws.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] NRDAR for Onondaga Lake - Section 10 Tully Land acquired by Onondaga Nation

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I am commenting on this section of the NRDAR in Tully which will soon pass to the Onondaga Nation.

I am a part of the Concerned Citizens for Fellows Falls group formed in 2018 when not long after the NYState DEC was going to manage the land as a conservation area. Now we sincerely hope there will be a way to work with the Trustees and the Onondaga Nation to create an eco friendly trail that will lead to a beautiful space for all to enjoy. We do respect the Nation's wish to nurture the spirit of a sanctuary within this gorge as well, and hope to assist in making this happen.

It hasn't always been such a pristine area as there used to be a former gun club, a road and bridges that led to the base of the falls from Tully Farms Road, then of course, the salt mines. But nature, in her infinite ability to forgive and resuscitate, has given us a chance to do this right - to set up guidelines and signage that can convey the respectful use of this pretty gorge.

Many know what a beautiful place it is. We (Onondaga Nation included) discovered an access that would not be near any homes with viable off street parking. And it would be a quiet, peaceful trail that meanders through an open woods (a former road actually).

And a trail would limit access to one entry point. I have experienced former access points that are overgrown, yet passable if you're determined. Some are not safe. And some back up to homes on Hidden Falls Road. One known trail would eliminate others from venturing where they should not be. Having no access will not keep others from venturing in, and patrolling could be a challenge. A trail with moderate use will be self patrolled and along with trail maintenance, could be part of a collaborative initiative?

As a community we would very much like to work with the Onondaga Nation to create a trail together to be shared by all, and respect and nurture the land surrounding it.

Terri Murray - [REDACTED]

--

And let there be Peace throughout the land...

From: mary kuhn [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 1, 2024 6:07 PM
To: NYFO, FW5ES <fw5es_nyfo@fws.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Addendum to Onondaga Lake Restoration

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To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in support of the trustee's decision to return a little over 1,000 acres of land in the Tully Valley (the Tully Property) to the Onondaga Nation (Project 10 in the Addendum). The Tully Property falls within the ancestral lands of the Onondaga Nation and was historically used for brine mining by Honeywell and its predecessors, but contains large sections of reforested areas and clean stretches of Onondaga Creek. As noted in the Addendum, the Nation will hold the property for the primary purpose of ecological healing and long-term caretaking of the land.

Mary Kuhn
[REDACTED]

From: Ruth Cooper [REDACTED]

Sent: Friday, February 2, 2024 1:11 PM

To: NYFO, FW5ES <fw5es_nyfo@fws.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Attn. Amy Roe re Fellows Falls access to the public post property transfer

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Ms. Roe: I am writing to encourage consideration be given to providing public access to Fellows Falls, an area in the Tully, NY, that is in the process of being transferred to the Onondaga Nation. Immediate property owners and Tully locals for decades have made individual and family pilgrimages to this area. I was shown the area by my son many years ago. The falls site is a gem of a hidden environmental beauty. If anything could be done to provide public access via a walking path and a small parking area, I would be grateful; and I believe many, Central New Yorkers would be grateful as well.

Thank you for your time and consideration

Ruth Fish-Cooper: An [REDACTED] CNY area resident for over 45 years.

From: Stuart Gruskin [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 8, 2024 9:00 AM
To: NYFO, FW5ES <fw5es_nyfo@fws.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Comments re: Onondaga Lake Draft RP/EA Addendum

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Onondaga Lake Draft RP/EA Addendum.

These comments are submitted on behalf of The Nature Conservancy in New York, which is a division of the world's largest conservation organization. Our mission is to conserve the lands and waters on which all life depends. We work in all 50 states as well as in 79 countries and territories to protect nature for the benefit of people today and future generations. In New York, in addition to implementing a wide variety of conservation programs throughout the state, we steward 136 preserves and on a daily basis we work with all levels of governments, community groups, industry, and other stakeholders locally in New York and around the world to secure a more sustainable future.

We have reviewed the RP/EA Addendum and wish to express our strong support for the carefully considered revisions proposed by the Trustees. We appreciate the adaptive, pragmatic, and thoughtful approach reflected in the Addendum, which is consistent with and supports the intentions and rationale underlying the NRD settlement. As indicated in the Addendum, The Nature Conservancy has participated in the Wetland Conservation Project (section 2.2.2, project 5), and we are proud to have played a part in achieving the goals of that conservation initiative.

In addition, we enthusiastically support the revisions to the Tully Recreational Area and Nature Preserve Project (section 2.2.2, project 10). The revisions provide a path forward that is consistent with and achieves the purposes of the 2018 CD, with added benefits resulting from the Onondaga Nation's ownership of the Preserve. The revised plan for this parcel

comprehensively advances a number of important ecological interests, addresses the community interest in the Fellows Falls area, and advances conservation by reconnecting the Onondaga Nation with spiritually important territorial lands. The Trustees have crafted a well-considered, thoughtful approach with the Onondaga Nation to this historically and culturally significant property that, consistent with the 2018 CD, conserves important ecological resources, and sets a path forward for actions that will comprehensively protect ecological values, restore wetlands, uplands, streams, and species habitat. It also provides for appropriate public recreational uses, and importantly takes advantage of the cultural and spiritual connections between the land and the Onondaga Nation. We are particularly impressed with the joint development of a Healing and Caretaking Plan – The Nature Conservancy fully supports and endorses this multi-faceted approach toward comprehensive restoration and rehabilitation, and appreciates the time, effort, and thought the Trustees and the Nation have put into developing a plan consistent with the 2018 CD that achieves these multiple benefits.

The Nature Conservancy accordingly fully supports the revisions and looks forward to the implementation of the plan for the Tully Recreational Area and Nature Preserve Project as set forth in the Addendum.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Stuart F. Gruskin
*Chief Conservation and
External Affairs Officer*
The Nature Conservancy New York



[nature.org](https://www.nature.org)

From: Blauvelt, Shane [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, February 9, 2024 4:56 PM
To: FW5ES_NYNYFO@fws.gov; Roe, Amy [REDACTED]
Cc: Kerry.Dziubek [REDACTED]; McDonald, Michelle (CSW)
[REDACTED]; cmilburn [REDACTED]; Arrigo, Mark
[REDACTED]
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Onondaga Lake NRDAR Site - RP/EA Addendum

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

Amy,

Please see the attached comment letter concerning the Natural Resource Damage Assessment Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment Addendum for Onondaga Lake for your consideration.

Thank you,
Shane

Shane Blauvelt

Senior Remediation Manager

Honeywell

Remediation and Redevelopment Group

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

www.Honeywell.com



HONEYWELL

Syracuse, NY 13212
www.honeywell.com

February 9, 2024

VIA EMAIL: FW5ES_NYNYFO@fws.gov

Amy Roe
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
3817 Luker Road
Cortland, NY 13045

RE: Onondaga Lake NRDAR Site – RP/EA Addendum

Dear Ms. Roe:

Honeywell International Inc. is respectfully submitting these comments concerning the Draft Natural Resource Damage Assessment Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment Addendum for Onondaga Lake (the “Addendum”), which was published on January 12, 2024 for public notice and comment.

Honeywell has appreciated the opportunity to implement the 19 restoration projects described in the 2018 Consent Decree, and the guidance and responsiveness from the Trustees Council in addressing the occasional revisions to the projects that were necessary to address technical and other challenges to implementing the projects, which the Trustees discussed in the Addendum. We are fully committed to meeting Honeywell’s obligations for the implementation, monitoring and maintenance components of the restoration projects, and realizing the ecological and recreational benefits that those projects provide to the community around and near Onondaga Lake.

We note the following comments for consideration as we work to complete the remaining project components:

- Comment 1: The discussion of the Deepwater Fishing Pier Project (Project 13) should define deeper water as greater than 20 feet (not 50 feet), which is consistent with the project design and implementation.
- Comment 2: The discussion of the Ninemile Creek and Hudson Farms Fishing Access Project (Project 16) should indicate that the parking lot at the Hudson Farms property will be transferred to New York State as a fishing access lot, rather than being transferred to The Wetland Trust. Honeywell will be transferring to The Wetland Trust the remainder of the Hudson Farms property *other* than the parking lot area. Honeywell looks forward to completing discussions with the involved stakeholders to effect these transfers.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


Shane Blauvelt, PE
Senior Remediation Manager

ec: Kerry Dziubek, Arnold & Porter

From: John Bishop [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, February 9, 2024 1:09 PM
To: NYFO, FW5ES <fw5es_nyfo@fws.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Comments on Section 10 NRDAR Onondaga Lake Project

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Hello,

Hopefully this letter is arriving at the proper email location. My name is John Bishop and I live adjacent to the 1023 acres of land currently owned by Honeywell Corp. located in Tully Valley, Tully NY. This letter is concerning the transfer of this land to the Onondaga Nation for their care. I am a lifelong neighbor to this property, growing up here in the early 60's with very fond memories of the Fellows Falls area which is directly downstream from my property at 915 Woodmancy Rd. here in Tully. My family members and ancestors have long had close ties to this beautiful location as the Woodmansee's, Burroughs and Bishop's were all early settlers of this area coming from New England in the very early 1800's and settling in spots above the Falls. All three names are from my direct family tree. I began hiking these waterways before the age of ten and remember fondly the visits to the base of Fellows Falls when the Tully Rod and Gun club still existed and had a pavillion located near the base of the falls. The American Legion held steak roasts there too if I remember correctly. In those days the access roads were well maintained by Allied Chemical and you could drive a school bus to a parking area just below the waterfall which Tully School did on occassion for science class trips. One of my first cub scout hikes was with the scouts to the falls. I had a few relatives that were employed by Allied, and family reunions always meant a trip down to the brine reservoir to get brine for cooking salt potatoes. My last trip driving to the Falls was back in the late 70's or early 80's driving a firetruck there as the pavillion had caught fire.

One of my dreams for the last 50 plus years is that someday there would again be some public access to the area as it is just so beautiful. I have met numerous times with both Joe Heath, his wife, and some of the leaders of the Nation to help guide them on ways to access the Falls areas. I understand the concerns of privacy that some of my neighbors have so I most recently offered a hike that puts the parking are away from the Hidden Falls development, at a location of the now abandoned Allied road leading to Tully Farms rd. off Woodmancy Rd. There are a series of old logging roads that follow a gentle grade down to the lower falls area. Hopefully, this could be a solution that works for all. I am always open for sharing more of my memories and historic knowledge of the area.

Respectively,

John Bishop

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: Stephanie Johnson [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, February 9, 2024 10:18 AM
To: NYFO, FW5ES <fw5es_nyfo@fws.gov>
Cc: Ed Michalenko [REDACTED]
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Comment on the Onondaga Lake NRDA Restoration Plan Addendum

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Good Morning,

On behalf of the Onondaga Environmental Institute (OEI) and Ed Michalenko (OEI President), please find attached a letter of public comment on the Onondaga Lake NRDA Restoration Plan Addendum. Our comments pertain specifically to Project #10 in the addendum, the "Tully Recreational Area and Nature Preserve Project". Should you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact me at your convenience.

Thank you,
Steph

Stephanie Johnson, PhD
Project Manager
[REDACTED]
Syracuse, NY 13206





6493 Ridings Road, Suite 100
Syracuse, New York 13206
[REDACTED]
outreach@oei2.org

Ms. Amy Roe
US Fish & Wildlife Service
3817 Luker Road
Cortland, NY 13045

Re. Public comment on the Draft Onondaga Lake Natural Resource Damage Assessment Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment Addendum

Dear Ms. Roe,

The Onondaga Environmental Institute (OEI) appreciates the USFWS allowing public comment on the ***Draft Natural Resource Damage Assessment Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment Addendum for Onondaga Lake, in Syracuse, NY***. OEI is submitting this letter in support of the revisions made to Project 10 in Section 2.2.2. of the Addendum, "Tully Recreational Area and Nature Preserve Project".

The return of more than 1000 acres of land to the Onondaga Nation in the upper Onondaga Creek watershed is an important and momentous step in reclamation of their ancestral lands. OEI has been studying the upper Onondaga Creek watershed for over two decades and has long recognized the ecological significance of this area, containing pristine streams and ecologically valuable species, such as brook trout. The recovery of this land (referred to as "the Preserve" in the Addendum) to the Onondaga Nation, who are profoundly linked to this watershed, would not only revitalize their cultural, spiritual, and ecological connections to this land, but it would ensure the stewardship and protection of this area in perpetuity. As part of the recovery of the Preserve, OEI strongly supports the Nation's development of a Healing and Caretaking Plan (HCP). We feel that such a plan is vital to better understanding the natural resources in the Preserve and developing the strategies that will best heal and protect the area; all within the lenses of Traditional Ecological Knowledge and long-term stewardship. Without first completing the HCP, uninformed plans for public access and recreation could have irreparable damage to the natural resources in the Preserve, and thus, ultimately harm meaningful, quality engagement for the public. This would be inherently incompatible with the primary conservation, restoration, and stewardship goals of the establishment of the Preserve. OEI would advocate for the funds no longer being used for the construction of parking lots (as detailed in the Addendum) be reallocated for completing the HCP and supporting the necessary research, conservation, restoration, and education / outreach projects that would benefit the Preserve, the Onondaga Nation, and the broader public.

Thank you for taking this comment into consideration. Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ed M. Michalenko". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Edward M. Michalenko, PhD, President

From: Stuart Gruskin [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, February 9, 2024 1:57 PM
To: NYFO, FW5ES <fw5es_nyfo@fws.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Comments to Onondaga Lake Draft RP/EA Addendum

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Thank you for the opportunity to submit the attached comments.

Stuart F. Gruskin
*Chief Conservation and
External Affairs Officer*
The Nature Conservancy New York



[nature.org](https://www.nature.org)

These comments are submitted on behalf of The Nature Conservancy in New York, which is a division of the world's largest conservation organization. Our mission is to conserve the lands and waters on which all life depends. We work in all 50 states as well as in 79 countries and territories to protect nature for the benefit of people today and future generations. In New York, in addition to implementing a wide variety of conservation programs throughout the state, we steward 136 preserves and on a daily basis we work with all levels of governments, community groups, industry, and other stakeholders locally in New York and around the world to secure a more sustainable future.

We have reviewed the RP/EA Addendum and wish to express our strong support for the carefully considered revisions proposed by the Trustees. We appreciate the adaptive, pragmatic, and thoughtful approach reflected in the Addendum, which is consistent with and supports the intentions and rationale underlying the NRD settlement. As indicated in the Addendum, The Nature Conservancy has participated in the Wetland Conservation Project (section 2.2.2, project 5), and we are proud to have played a part in achieving the goals of that conservation initiative.

In addition, we enthusiastically support the revisions to the Tully Recreational Area and Nature Preserve Project (section 2.2.2, project 10). The revisions provide a path forward that is consistent with and achieves the purposes of the 2018 CD, with added benefits resulting from the Onondaga Nation's ownership of the Preserve. The revised plan for this parcel comprehensively advances a number of important ecological interests, addresses the community interest in the Fellows Falls area, and advances conservation by reconnecting the Onondaga Nation with spiritually important territorial lands. The Trustees have crafted a well-considered, thoughtful approach with the Onondaga Nation to this historically and culturally significant property that, consistent with the 2018 CD, conserves important ecological resources, and sets a path forward for actions that will comprehensively protect ecological values, restore wetlands, uplands, streams, and species habitat. It also provides for appropriate public recreational uses, and importantly takes advantage of the cultural and spiritual connections between the land and the Onondaga Nation. We are particularly impressed with the joint development of a Healing and Caretaking Plan – The Nature Conservancy fully supports and endorses this multi-faceted approach toward comprehensive restoration and rehabilitation, and appreciates the time, effort, and thought the Trustees and the Nation have put into developing a plan consistent with the 2018 CD that achieves these multiple benefits.

The Nature Conservancy accordingly fully supports the revisions and looks forward to the implementation of the plan for the Tully Recreational Area and Nature Preserve Project as set forth in the Addendum.

Stuart F. Gruskin

Chief Conservation Officer, The Nature Conservancy in New York



From: Dave Perkins [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, February 10, 2024 2:33 PM
To: NYFO, FW5ES <fw5es_nyfo@fws.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Urgent: Access for Hiking at Fellows Falls

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Dear Amy,

I am writing to you about Fellows Falls, a stunning piece of land soon to be under the ownership of the Onondaga Nation. It holds the potential to become a shared treasure for both the Onondaga Nation and our community. And hopefully a way to bring the two communities closer together and spread the native knowledge of the area, the tribe, and nature in the area.

We believe that creating public access to this natural beauty is not only a privilege but also a responsibility. As a member of the Tully Rotary club, I'd like to offer our club's assistance in designing and maintaining the area to be a treasure for the community. My family lives just up the road from the falls and our family has enjoyed many trips through the area.

Fellows Falls is not only a breathtaking locale but also an opportunity to foster unity and collaboration between our community and the Onondaga Nation. We have identified an access point that avoids proximity to residential areas and allows for convenient off-street parking, ensuring minimal disruption to the local residents.

As a community, we are enthusiastic about the prospect of working closely with the Onondaga Nation to establish a shared hiking trail that honors the natural surroundings and reflects our commitment to responsible land stewardship. We believe that such a trail will not only provide recreational opportunities for our residents but also strengthen the bonds between our communities.

We understand the importance of striking a balance between public access and environmental conservation. We are committed to collaborating with the Onondaga

Nation to create a trail that respects and nurtures the land around Fellows Falls, ensuring its preservation for future generations.

We kindly request an opportunity to discuss this matter further with you and explore how we can work together to make Fellows Falls a cherished space for everyone.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We look forward to the possibility of positive collaboration.

Best regards,

Dave Perkins
Otisco NY

From: [Eva O Legge](#)
To: [NYFO, FWSES](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RP/EA Addendum: Onondaga Lake Damage Assessment
Date: Saturday, February 10, 2024 4:55:22 PM

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Dear Amy Roe of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service,

I am writing in reference to the RP/EA Addendum to the Onondaga Lake Natural Resource Damage Assessment Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment. I'd like to express my sincere support in the trustee's decision to return a little over 1,000 acres of land in the Tully Valley to the Onondaga Nation (Project 10 in the Addendum). I believe the Nation should rightly hold the property for the primary purpose of ecological healing and long-term caretaking of the land.

Sincerely,

Eva Legge

From: [Jade Haumann](#)
To: [NYFO, FWSES](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RP/EA Addendum: Onondaga Lake Damage Assessment
Date: Saturday, February 10, 2024 4:33:41 PM

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Subject: RP/EA Addendum: Onondaga Lake Damage Assessment

Dear Amy Roe of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service,

I am writing in reference to the RP/EA Addendum to the Onondaga Lake Natural Resource Damage Assessment Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment. I'd like to express my sincere support in the trustee's decision to return a little over 1,000 acres of land in the Tully Valley to the Onondaga Nation (Project 10 in the Addendum). I believe the Nation should rightly hold the property for the primary purpose of ecological healing and long-term caretaking of the land.

Sincerely,

Jade Haumann

From: Justin Herne [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, February 10, 2024 5:12 PM
To: NYFO, FW5ES <fw5es_nyfo@fws.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RP/EA Addendum: Onondaga Lake Damage Assessment

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Dear Amy Roe of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service,

I am writing in reference to the RP/EA Addendum to the Onondaga Lake Natural Resource Damage Assessment Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment. I'd like to express my sincere support in the trustee's decision to return a little over 1,000 acres of land in the Tully Valley to the Onondaga Nation (Project 10 in the Addendum). I believe the Nation should rightly hold the property for the primary purpose of ecological healing and long-term caretaking of the land.

Seriously, do better for Indigenous Peoples.....

Sincerely,

Justin T. Herne
Mohawk Nation
Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe

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From: Kathy Moser [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, February 10, 2024 11:13 AM
To: NYFO, FW5ES <fw5es_nyfo@fws.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Open Space Institute comments on Draft Onondaga Lake Natural Resource Damage Assessment Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment Addendum

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The Open Space Institute is attaching its comments to the [Draft Onondaga Lake Natural Resource Damage Assessment Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment Addendum](#).

Thank you for the opportunity to remark on this work.

Sincerely – Kathy Moser

Kathy Moser, Chief Conservation Officer (she/her)
Open Space Institute

[REDACTED]
Albany, NY 12203

[REDACTED]
openspaceinstitute.org





OPEN SPACE INSTITUTE

These comments are submitted on behalf of The Open Space Institute (OSI), a regional land trust based in New York. OSI protects land for people and for wildlife, working from Eastern Canada to Florida. We also partner with state park agencies to improve access to open space through the design and construction of trails, parking lots, trailheads and interpretive signage/exhibits.

OSI has reviewed the RP/EA Addendum and wish to express our organization's support for the revisions proposed by the Trustees. We appreciate the adaptive, pragmatic, and thoughtful approach reflected in the Addendum, which is consistent with and supports the rationale underlying the NRD settlement. OSI has an interest in this action due to our own work with the Stockbridge-Munsey Community and our transfer of the Papscanee Island Preserve to this indigenous community in 2021.

In addition, we also approve of the revisions to the Tully Recreational Area and Nature Preserve Project (section 2.2.2, project 10). These changes specify a path forward that is consistent with and achieves the purposes of the 2018 CD, with added benefits resulting from the Onondaga Nation's ownership of the Preserve. The revised plan for this parcel comprehensively advances a number of important conservation interests, addresses the community interest in the Bellows Falls area, and significantly provides an opportunity to reconnect the Onondaga Nation with spiritually important territorial lands. The Trustees have crafted a well-considered, thoughtful approach with the Onondaga Nation to this property that, consistent with the 2018 CD, conserves important ecological resources. The approach outlines actions that will comprehensively protect ecological values, restore wetlands, uplands, streams, and species habitat. It also provides for appropriate public recreational uses, and importantly recognizes the cultural and spiritual connections between the land and the Onondaga Nation. We appreciate the time, effort, and thought the Trustees and the Nation have put into developing a plan consistent with the 2018 CD that achieves these multiple benefits.

The Open Space Institute fully supports the revisions and looks forward to the implementation of the plan for the Tully Recreational Area and Nature Preserve Project as set forth in the Addendum.

Kathy Moser
Chief Conservation & Policy Officer
Open Space Institute
[REDACTED]

From: [Al Stevens](#)
To: [NYFO, FWSES](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RP/EA Addendum: Onondaga Lake Damage Assessment
Date: Sunday, February 11, 2024 1:25:17 PM

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Dear Amy Roe of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service,

I am writing in reference to the RP/EA Addendum to the Onondaga Lake Natural Resource Damage Assessment Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment. I'd like to express my sincere support in the trustee's decision to return a little over 1,000 acres of land in the Tully Valley to the Onondaga Nation (Project 10 in the Addendum). I believe the Nation should rightly hold the property for the primary purpose of ecological healing and long-term caretaking of the land.

Sincerely,

Alison (Al) Stevens
she/her/hers
Graduate Student - M.S. Conservation Biology
Dept. of Environmental Biology - SUNY ESF

From: Joseph Ralbovsky [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, February 11, 2024 4:33 PM
To: NYFO, FW5ES <fw5es_nyfo@fws.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] NRDAR comments

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Hello.

Thank you for your work involved in tabulating responses to / comments on the Addendum.

I'm writing in support of proposed item #10. TULLY RECREATIONAL AREA AND NATURE PRESERVE PROJECT.

Thank you,
Joe Ralbovsky

From: Maria Loughran [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, February 11, 2024 4:07 PM
To: NYFO, FW5ES <fw5es_nyfo@fws.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] URGENT: RP/EA Addendum: Onondaga Lake Damage Assessment

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

Dear Amy Roe of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service,

I am writing in reference to the RP/EA Addendum to the Onondaga Lake Natural Resource Damage Assessment Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment. I'd like to express my sincere support in the trustee's decision to **return a little over 1,000 acres of land in the Tully Valley to the Onondaga Nation** (Project 10 in the Addendum). I believe the Nation should rightly hold the property for the primary purpose of ecological healing and long-term caretaking of the land. This nation is severely behind the global tide on this endeavor, and the Nation must be considered when managing these natural resources.

Sincerely,
Maria Loughran

From: Marianne Ralbovsky [REDACTED]

Sent: Sunday, February 11, 2024 4:24 PM

To: NYFO, FW5ES <fw5es_nyfo@fws.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fellowes Falls, etc

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We are not members of the Onondaga nation, but are residents of Tully NY, whose property abuts the territory affected by the Addendum. We are writing in support of proposed item #10 (title).

We hope any trail access will be limited to the area of the the largest of the falls and below, away from the [REDACTED] neighborhood and above. We are grateful this land is being returned to those who are its rightful stewards.

Respectfully,

Marianne and William Ralbovsky

[REDACTED]

Tully, NY 13159 Phone [REDACTED]

You can email: FW5ES_NYFO@fws.gov

"I am not a member of the Onondaga nation, but am a resident of Tully NY, whose property abuts the territory affected by the Addendum. I am writing in support of proposed it" I am not a member of the Onondaga nation, but am a resident of Tully NY, whose property abuts the territory affected by the Addendum. I am writing in support of proposed

From: Catherine L Landis [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, February 12, 2024 8:07 PM
To: NYFO, FW5ES <fw5es_nyfo@fws.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RP/EA Addendum: Onondaga Lake Damage Assessment

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

Dear Amy Roe,

I am writing in reference to the RP/EA Addendum to the Onondaga Lake Natural Resource Damage Assessment Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment. I support:

- Full and timely transfer of the Tully Valley land (Project #10 in the Addendum) to Onondaga Nation;
- Indigenous led conservation, and the development of the Healing and Caretaking Plan (HCP) by the Nation;
- Onondaga control over public access based on TEK and the HCP;
- This includes access to Fellows Falls.
 - The decisions here, as elsewhere in the property, should come primarily from the Nation. Maybe they will want to restrict access, or limit seasonally in order to protect sensitive biota & habitats, for example.
- No public fishing access unless called for in the HCP.
- The 4 potential restoration projects listed in the document (p. 15) sound commendable.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,
Catherine

Catherine Landis
Science Advisor
Center for Native Peoples and the Environment
SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry

[REDACTED]
Syracuse, NY 13210
[REDACTED]

From: Joshua Del Rio [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, February 12, 2024 6:01 PM
To: NYFO, FW5ES <fw5es_nyfo@fws.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RP/EA Addendum: Onondaga Lake Damage Assessment

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

Dear Amy Roe of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service,

I am writing in reference to the RP/EA Addendum to the Onondaga Lake Natural Resource Damage Assessment Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment. I'd like to express my sincere support in the trustee's decision to return a little over 1,000 acres of land in the Tully Valley to the Onondaga Nation (Project 10 in the Addendum). I believe the Nation should rightly hold the property for the primary purpose of ecological healing and long-term caretaking of the land.

Sincerely,

Joshua Del Rio

From: Jean Kayira [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, February 12, 2024 9:17 AM
To: NYFO, FW5ES <fw5es_nyfo@fws.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RP/EA Addendum: Onondaga Lake Damage Assessment

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Dear Amy Roe of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service,

I am writing in reference to the RP/EA Addendum to the Onondaga Lake Natural Resource Damage Assessment Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment. I wish to express my strong support in the trustee's decision to give back 1,023 acres of land in the Tully Valley to the Onondaga Nation (Project 10 in the Addendum). I believe that the Nation should rightly hold the property for the primary purpose of ecological healing and long-term caretaking of the land.

Sincerely,

Jean Kayira

Jean Kayira, PhD (she/her/hers [why pronouns matter](#))

Associate Professor

Dept. of Environmental Studies

[REDACTED]

SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry (ESF)

Email: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

Recent Publications:

[Forest Bathing Increases Adolescents' Mental Well-Being: A Mixed-Methods Study](#)

[Responsibilities to Decolonize Environmental Education: A Co-Learning Journey for Graduate Students and Instructors](#)

[Land-Based Environmental Education as a Climate Change Resilience: A Learning Experience from a Cross-Cultural Community Garden](#)

"The idea that one's view of reality is the only reality is the most dangerous of all delusions." A. Hunter (1983: 243)

From: [Joshua Rogers](#)
To: [NYFO, FWSES](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RP/EA Addendum: Onondaga Lake Damage Assessment
Date: Monday, February 12, 2024 8:17:23 AM

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Dear Amy Roe of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service,

I am writing in reference to the RP/EA Addendum to the Onondaga Lake Natural Resource Damage Assessment Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment. I'd like to express my sincere support in the trustee's decision to return a little over 1,000 acres of land in the Tully Valley to the Onondaga Nation (Project 10 in the Addendum). I believe the Nation should rightly hold the property for the primary purpose of ecological healing and long-term caretaking of the land.

Sincerely,

Joshua Rogers

From: Kyle Artelle [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, February 12, 2024 1:49 PM
To: NYFO, FW5ES <fw5es_nyfo@fws.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Draft Onondaga Lake Natural Resource Damage Assessment Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment Addendum

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

Dear Amy Roe and colleagues

I am writing to express my full support for the return of approximately 1,000 acres of land to the Onondaga Nation (as described as project 10 in the Addendum - in the Tully Valley). The stewardship of these lands and waters by the Onondaga Nation provides one of the most exciting contemporary opportunities in the region for truly redefining what restoration can entail. I look forward to the good work that will come out of this for the sake of the lands themselves and the peoples so closely connected to them. With my professor hat on, I am also excited for the educational opportunities this historical step towards mending the harms of the past (and present) might provide - both in terms of opportunities for current and future ESF students working with, and in support, of the Nation in this restoration work (upon invitation by the Nation, if or when that is deemed appropriate), and in the classroom with courses I teach, to be able to illustrate to students how cutting-edge examples of both ecological restoration and reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples is not just something that happens elsewhere, hundreds or thousands of miles away, but is instead something excitingly happening right here.

I do hope that this can happen in a timely manner and that it truly honors the key pieces described in the addendum - specifically, that the work and decision-making is led by the Onondaga Nation, who are best situated to know what is needed on these lands and waters in terms of restoration activities, access, and other governance considerations, and who are best positioned both to lead the HCP and to adjust it based on their own knowledge and governance systems as needed through time.

Thank you for supporting this good work moving forward!

Thanks kindly,
-Kyle

Kyle A. Artelle (he/him)

Assistant Professor
Department of Environmental Biology, and Center for Native Peoples and the Environment
State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry (SUNY-ESF)

From: Lloyd Withers [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, February 12, 2024 5:23 PM
To: NYFO, FW5ES <fw5es_nyfo@fws.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] NRDAR Comment

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Dear Ms. Roe,

Onondaga County, Honeywell, and the other responsible parties that have combined to injure Onondaga Lake, Onondaga Creek, and the surrounding land with its massive amounts of unchecked deposits of toxic industrial waste, and pollutants at levels never seen before, should be made to focus reparations to primarily benefit the Onondaga Nation. The Onondaga Nation has been most harmed by the long and shameful history of willful destruction of their territory, and the neglect of their religious, cultural, and historic connections to this area. I support any effort to heal the injuries to the Onondaga Nation, and to hold those responsible to their obligations to correct, whenever possible, their destructive legacy.

I have personally worked for over fifteen years as an advocate for the return of clean Onondaga Lake shoreline to the Onondaga Nation. This advocacy began during County Executive Pirro's administration. It was then that our efforts targeted a small parcel of undeveloped Onondaga Lake shoreline as a potential candidate for Onondaga County to return to the Onondaga Nation. The parcel, Murphy's Island, was a badly polluted, but still undeveloped site that, if cleaned, would become a valuable parcel to return. I garnered the support of others who also believed in this just cause and gained media attention when the County Executive floated the concept of giving the parcel to a nearby mall developer, an outcome we successfully blocked. Soon after, a new County Executive, Joanie Mahoney was elected. She pledged support for our cause but did nothing to effectuate the parcel transfer. It was the Onondaga County Legislature that passed the Memorializing Resolution 452 to return a parcel of Onondaga Lake shoreline to the Onondaga Nation, and directed CE Mahoney to take all necessary steps to see to the transfer. Again, there was no action, and in fact, CE Mahoney personally urged the legislature to reverse their support of returning land because she understood the cost to clean Murphy's Island was more than what the responsible parties were willing to spend. However, the legislature recognized their commitment

and passed a subsequent resolution committing them to find another Onondaga Lake shoreline parcel to return in place of Murphy's Island. This history culminated with the promise by County Executive J. Ryan McMahon to return Maple Bay, a clean parcel of Onondaga Lake shoreline. CE McMahon met on multiple occasions with me, and with members of the Onondaga Nation, and their counsel to lay out the necessary legal steps to fulfill the county's long overdue promise. We are still waiting for this to happen.

I encourage the Onondaga Lake NDAR Trustees to engage with us to return Maple Bay to the Onondaga Nation.

Point 10 of the recent Draft Onondaga Lake NRDAR Addendum, the "TULLY RECREATIONAL AREA AND NATURE PRESERVE PROJECT Creation of Approximately 1,023 Acres of Nature Preserve and Natural Resource Restoration Area; Install Streambank Enhancements; Establish Opportunities for Compatible Cultural, Educational, and Recreational Public Use" is wholly in keeping with our efforts. It is a very good step. The same approach should be taken at Maple Bay so that this parcel can be returned to its rightful owners.

Yours truly,
Lloyd M. Withers
Onondaga Shoreline

Lloyd M. Withers

[REDACTED]

Clayton, NY 13624

Mob. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: Madeline Nyblade [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, February 12, 2024 8:09 AM
To: NYFO, FW5ES <fw5es_nyfo@fws.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RP/EA Addendum: Onondaga Lake Damage Assessment

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Dear Amy Roe of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service,

I am writing in reference to the RP/EA Addendum to the Onondaga Lake Natural Resource Damage Assessment Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment. I sincerely support the trustee's decision to return a little over 1,000 acres of land in the Tully Valley to the Onondaga Nation (Project 10 in the Addendum). I believe the Nation should rightly hold the property for the primary purpose of ecological healing and long-term caretaking of the land.

Specifically, I support the full and timely transfer of the Tully land to the Onondaga Nation, as well as conservation, healing, and caretaking led by the Nation for this land. As an essential part of this conservation, I support Onondaga's control over public access, including Fellows Falls and fishing access, based on their traditional ecological knowledge and healing and caretaking plan.

Sincerely,
Madeline Nyblade

[Dr. Madeline Nyblade](#) (she/her/hers)

Assistant Professor

Department of Environmental Studies and the Center for Native Peoples and
the Environment

State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry (SUNY ESF)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED], Syracuse, NY 13210

From: Tusha Yakovleva [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, February 12, 2024 7:34 PM
To: NYFO, FW5ES <fw5es_nyfo@fws.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RP/EA Addendum: Onondaga Lake Damage Assessment

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Dear Amy Roe of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service,

I am writing in reference to the RP/EA Addendum to the Onondaga Lake Natural Resource Damage Assessment Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment. I'd like to express my sincere support in the trustee's decision to return a little over 1,000 acres of land in the Tully Valley to the Onondaga Nation (Project 10 in the Addendum). I believe the Nation should rightly hold the property for the primary purpose of ecological healing and long-term caretaking of the land.

Sincerely,
Tusha Yakovleva