



*"The view northward was beautiful, the cluster of high peaks surrounding Mt. Marcy, sharp in outline, were whitened, as with snow, and between us and them was stretched a dark billowy sea of lesser mountains, among which we detected familiar mountain landmarks, from here appearing changed and new. At the east our more southern stations were visible – Van de Whacker Mountain and the Chain Lakes – and southward, through a long lane cut in the timber, Snowy Mountain, our discovery of last season, was seen, and the level here showed, as we had previously proved, that it was indeed higher than Mt. Emmons."*

Verplank Colvin's panoramic description from the Summit of Blue Mountain in 1873

**BLUE MOUNTAIN WILD FOREST  
UNIT MANAGEMENT PLAN**

**May 1995**

**New York State Department of Environmental Conservation**

**GEORGE E. PATAKI**  
*Governor*

**MICHAEL D. ZAGATA**  
*Commissioner*





STATE OF NEW YORK  
DEPARTMENT OF  
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION  
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12233-1010

MICHAEL D. ZAGATA  
COMMISSIONER

MEMORANDUM

APR 5 1995

TO: The Record  
FROM: Michael D. Zagata  
SUBJECT: Unit Management Plan (UMP)  
Blue Mountain Wild Forest

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Gary Spaulding'.

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The Unit Management Plan for the Blue Mountain Wild Forest has been completed. The Plan is consistent with the guidelines and criteria of the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan, the State Constitution, Environmental Conservation Law, and Department rules, regulations and policies. The Plan includes management objectives for a five-year period and is hereby approved and adopted.



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#### MAP INSERTS

- 1-Topographic Map
- 2-Water Resources Map
- 3-Existing Facilities Map
- 4-Existing and Proposed Facilities Map
- 5-Geological Map
- 6-Significant Areas and Wetlands Map
- 7-Trails in the Blue Mountain Lake Region Brochure
- 8-Adirondack Park Map

**BLUE MOUNTAIN WILD FOREST UNIT  
STATISTICS**

State Land			37,800 acres
Bodies of Water:	Interior	21	568 acres
	Adjacent#	<u>11</u>	<u>1164</u> acres
	TOTAL	32	TOTAL 1732 acres
Elevation:	Minimum (Benchmark-Chain Lakes Rd.)		1542 feet
	Maximum (Blue Mt. Summit)		3759 feet
Foot Trails, Marked (5)			24.4 miles
Snowmobile Trails, Marked (10)			17.5 miles
Nordic Ski Trail, Marked (1)			2.5 miles
Leantos			2
Fire Tower (1)			Blue Mountain
Trailheads, Developed			6

# While a small portion of Long Lake is included in the Blue Mt. Unit the acreage and management of this waterbody will be addressed in a separate management plan.

**REGION 5 PLANNING TEAM:**

Unit Management Planning  
Coordinator: Thomas Kapelewski, Sr. Forester

Area Manager: John English, Supervising Forester

Lands & Forests: Greg George, Forest Ranger  
Bruce Coon, Forest Ranger  
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Brian Finlayson, Cartographic Tech. II

Fisheries: Richard Preall, Sr. Aquatic Biologist

Wildlife: Kurt Armstrong, Sr. Wildlife Biologist

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Tom Wahi-Regional Forester, Delos Mallette-Associate Forester (retired), Gary Roberts-Lieutenant, Adelbert Young-Land Surveyor, Tom Atwell-Cons. Op. Supv. II, Jeff Meuwissen-Sr. Forester, Joe DeMatties-Sr. Forester, Rick Fenton-Sr. Forester and Walt Sabin-Sr. Wildlife Biologist.

## PREFACE

Blue Mountain, long recognized by its peculiar misty blue color, dominates the local landscape and is the namesake for the wild forest lands that lie adjacent to this popular scenic attraction. The terrain varies from gentle in the Rock Lake area to steep and rugged from East Inlet Mountain to the Fishing Brook range. This ridge in the northern portion of the unit represents a wild block of forest preserve, unbroken for over ten miles except for a crossing of the Northville-Lake Placid Trail.

The Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has prepared a unit management plan\* (UMP) for the Blue Mountain Wild Forest Area (BMWF) as required by the Adirondack State Land Master Plan (ASLMP), Section 816 of the Adirondack Park Agency Act (Article 27 of the Executive Law). This document provides an inventory of the natural, scenic, cultural, fish, wildlife, and other appropriate resources of the unit. In addition all facilities for public or administrative use are identified. This UMP is to guide the preservation, management, and use of State lands, waters, and biological resources within the unit. The plan establishes long-term goals and objectives while detailing management needs and strategies. Ordinarily, the plan will be revised on a five-year cycle, but may be amended when necessary in response to changing resource conditions or administrative needs.

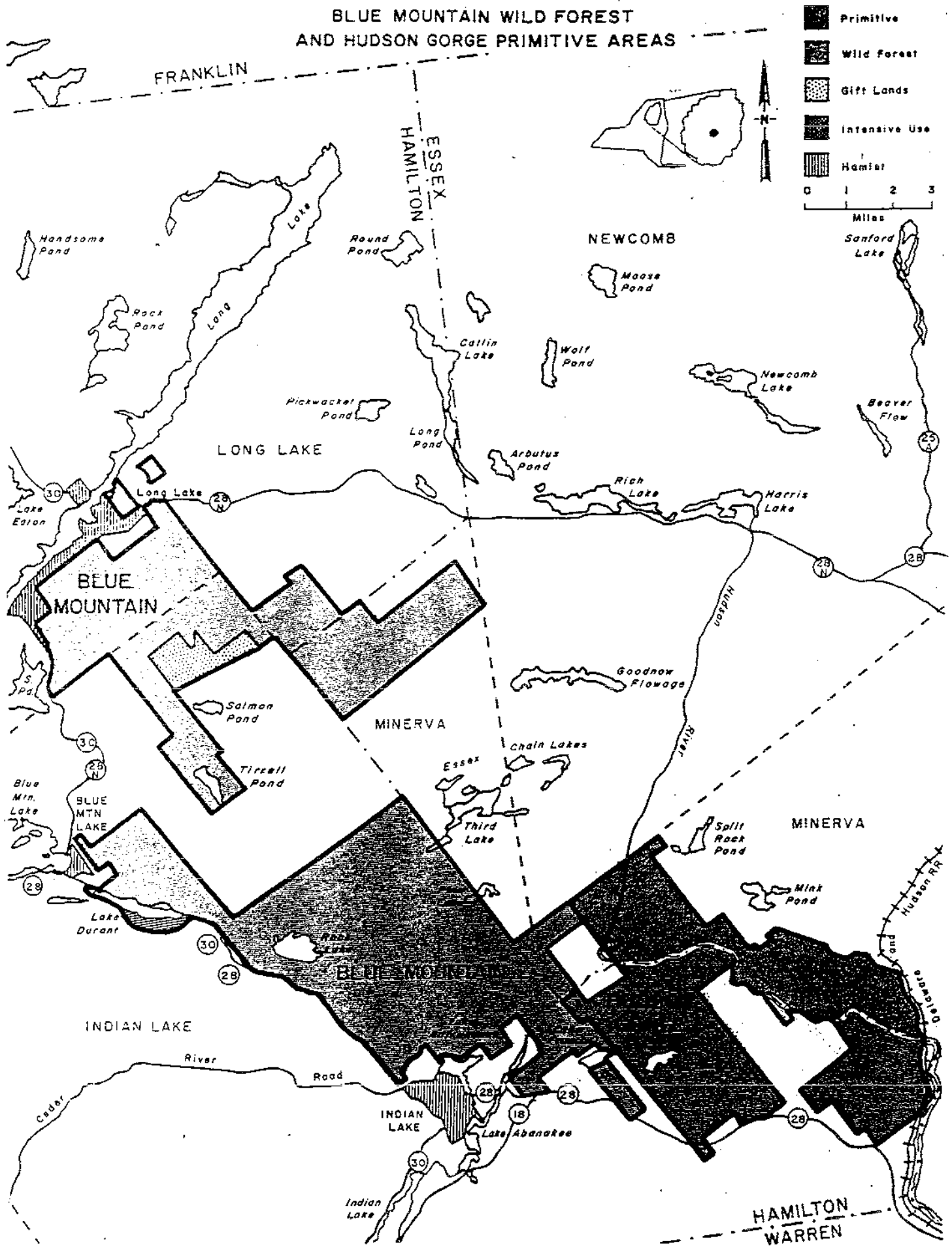
Although much of the information contained within this text was developed by DEC staff, public input via advisory committees, meetings, and general correspondence was important during several stages of the planning process. In 1986, the DEC appointed a citizen advisory committee to review specific issues and concerns for the Blue Mountain-Hudson Gorge Units. A listing of the committee members along with a summary are included in Appendix 1.

Completion of the various management actions outlined within this UMP will be dependent upon adequate manpower and funding. Where possible the DEC will work with volunteer groups, local communities, town and county governments; and pursue alternative funding sources to accomplish some of the proposed projects or maintenance.

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\*This UMP is the end product after DEC examination of public comments and input on the November, 1993 Draft Unit Management Plan. The original document was modified through this review process, resulting in the compilation of this Final Plan.

# BLUE MOUNTAIN WILD FOREST AND HUDSON GORGE PRIMITIVE AREAS



## I. UNIT DESCRIPTION

### A. Area Overview

The Blue Mountain Unit is composed of State lands classified as wild forest located in the heart of the Adirondack Park. This unit consists of five separate tracts situated between the communities of Indian Lake, Blue Mt. Lake, Long Lake, and Newcomb. One administrative (forest ranger headquarters) and two intensive use areas (Long Lake Boat Launch and Lake Durant Campground) adjoin the unit. A separate management plan will be written for the campground facility.

The area is located east of Sargent Ponds Wild Forest and Blue Ridge Wilderness, north of Jessup River Wild Forest, west of Hudson Gorge Primitive Area and Vanderwacker Mt. Wild Forest, and south of the western High Peaks Wilderness Area.

### B. Unit Geographic Information (See Appendix 27)

The wild forest lands within the unit are situated in the towns of Indian Lake and Long Lake, Hamilton County, and Minerva, Essex County. Within the unit there are no private inholdings completely surrounded by wild forest classified land.

The lands involved include State-owned portions of Townships 15, 16, 17, 19, 20, 21, 22 and 34 of the Totten and Crossfield's (T&C) Purchase. Two separate tracts in Township 19, T&C Purchase, totalling 2,620 acres were gifted to the State of New York as "non-forest preserve" lands. This acreage is described later in the plan (Sections II-A-4-d and IV-E).

### C. General Location (See Map Insert 8)

The Blue Mountain Unit is centrally located within the Adirondack Park, generally bounded by NYS Route 28N on the north, the Hudson River on the east, NYS Route 28 on the south and NYS Route 30 on the west. The actual unit boundaries follow public roads, water courses, lakes and individual property lines. State boundaries, where surveyed, are marked with yellow blazes and posted with "Forest Preserve" signs. USGS 15 minute topographic maps required to cover this unit include the Blue Mountain and Newcomb quadrangles.

D. Acreage

The Blue Mt. Unit contains approximately 37,800 acres. These State lands comprise only a small amount of the total land base in Hamilton and Essex Counties. The following chart lists approximate unit acreage by town and county:

<u>COUNTY</u>	<u>TOWN</u>	<u>TOTAL ACRES#</u>	<u>UNIT LANDS##</u>	<u>PERCENTAGE</u>
Essex	(All Towns)	1,055,000	4,900	less than 1%
	Minerva	103,600	4,900	5%
Hamilton	(All Towns)	1,160,200	32,900	3%
	Indian Lake	170,100	25,900	15%
	Long Lake	289,000	7,000	2%

# Geographic Information System (1986) data from the Adirondack Park Agency.

## BMWF lands including interior waters. Acreage estimated by planimeter from 15' USGS quadrangles.

E. Access

Most of the NYS lands and waters within the Blue Mt. Unit are easily accessible to the public with approximately 14 miles of public roads adjacent to the wild forest lands. The majority of potential access along with developed trailheads occur along NYS Routes 28N and 28/30. Secondary roads (Chain Lakes Road, Pelon Road, Benton Road, Durant Road, Tarbell Hill Road and segments of Old Route 30 and Old Route 28) provide additional points of entry. Major trailheads are located on both State and private lands and are further described in the man-made facilities section.

1. Public Easements (See Section II; B and E-8)

Some large parcels of private land contain sections of popular hiking trails that either terminate on or pass through forest preserve lands. In 1994 a Forest Legacy project (See Section VIII-F) was completed providing public access to Bullhead Pond. Marked trails within the unit that traverse other private lands include:

<u>Trail Name</u>	<u>Color</u>	<u>Pvt. Lands</u>	<u>NYS Lands</u>	<u>Total#</u>
Tirrell Pond	Red	3.0	.3	3.3
Blue Mt.	Red	1.6	.6	2.2
Northville-Lake Placid##	Blue	3.1	11.6	14.7##

# Total mileage figures determined by field measurements.

## Section from the NYS Route 28/30 to NYS Route 28N

Permission for trail construction and maintenance has been granted with deeded public easement for the sections of the Northville-Lake Placid Trail and Tirrell Pond Trail within the unit. There is no secured easement for the first 1.6 miles of the Blue Mt. Trail. Public access is allowed by verbal agreement between the private landowner and DEC but cannot be taken for granted.

The majority of the snowmobile trails within the unit traverse State land with segments crossing private property. Public access and use by snowmobilers on these private lands occurs along marked trail corridors and is subject to the owners' discretion and is not guaranteed.

The Town of Indian Lake provides an undeveloped trailhead area near the Indian Lake landfill (Pelon Road). This allows public access to marked DEC Nordic ski and snowmobile trails on NYS lands. The town also leases (annually) a parking facility and snowmobile trails on nearby private lands. This permits adequate parking and helps link snowmobile trails in the Blue Mt. Unit with the snowmobile trails in the Moose River Plains.

## 2. Water Access

Water access is possible from both lakes (Long Lake, Lake Adirondack, Lake Durant and Lake Abanakee) and rivers (Cedar and Indian). The DEC provides public boat launch facilities on Lake Durant and Long Lake. Aerial flights provide entry into some of the more remote locations.

## 3. Administrative Easements

### a. Blue Mt. Tower Road

NYS has an easement for an access road across private lands from NYS Route 28N/30 to the state land boundary near the Blue Mt. Summit. The perpetual easement and right of way consists of a strip of land 50' in width containing 13.21 acres of land, more or less. The easement and right of way is for the right to construct, maintain, repair, operate, patrol, replace and/or remove the access road, telephone and electric power lines and cables, water lines, sewer lines, and a drainage ditch in, upon, over, under and across the 13.21 acre parcel of land. Together with the right to trim, cut, fell and remove therefrom all trees, underbrush, obstructions or obstacles in the right of way.

### b. Long Lake Reservoir Road

Section 2 of Article XIV of the State Constitution permits the use of NYS lands for reservoirs in association with municipal water supplies. Under the terms of this provision permits for water supply purposes have been granted to the Long Lake Water District.

A restricted access service road traverses Blue Mt. Unit lands for 1.1 miles to the reservoir enclosure. Access by the town is allowed for normal required maintenance on the facilities to insure an adequate and safe water supply.

4. NonPublic Woods Roads (Private Easements: See Also II-D-2-a, IV-D-3, and VIII-I-1)

a. Status Unknown

- (1) Clear Pond Road: This road crosses forest preserve lands in the northerly half of Lot 3, Township 16, of the Totten and Crossfield's Purchase. These lands were acquired as forest preserve by tax sale in 1890. Old USGS topographic maps (Newcomb, Oct. 1901 edition) show a woods road east of Clear Pond. This road continued northerly crossing the Cedar River and ending at buildings near Third Lake. It is believed this road originally provided access to private lands in Township 17, T&C Purchase at the turn of the century. There is no record of temporary revocable permits (TRP's) having been issued for use or maintenance of the section of road over NYS lands.

b. Status Under Investigation

- (1) Salmon Pond Road: This road crosses forest preserve lands in Lots 19 and 20, Township 19, Totten and Crossfield's Purchase. The lands were acquired between 1881 and 1890. It is believed the road has existed since the turn of the century. TRP's have been issued for this road allowing use only for the purpose of administering or removal of forest products from the adjoining private lands.

c. Status Resolved Under Judgement of Consent\*

- (1) O'Neil Flow Road: This road crosses Lots 10 and 11 of Township 19, and Lot 39, Township 17; Totten and Crossfield's Purchase and is believed to have provided access into Twp 19 in the late 1800's. Lot 29 was purchased in 1900. Lots 10 and 11 were purchased in 1906 and 1908, and acquired by tax sale in 1905. This road has been used annually by the adjoining private landowner under the terms of a TRP issued for this road; allowing use for the purpose of administering or removal of forest products. The private landowner now has a valid easement for access and egress.
- (2) Tyrrell (sic) Pond Road: This historic road has been abandoned for years and currently serves as the section of the Northville-Lake Placid Trail between Lake Durant and Tirrell Pond. Trail relocations have deviated from the original road in some locations. This abandoned road is mentioned here because it is a deeded Right-of-Way to private lands in the vicinity of Tirrell Pond.

5. Temporary crossing of NYS lands regulated by DEC Permit (See Appendix 20)

a. Transportation of materials across State lands using existing roadways.

- (1) Salmon Pond Road (Access to private land)

b. Short-term ingress and egress to private property across State lands using existing roadways.

- (1) Blue Mt. Tower Road (Access to private mountaintop facilities)

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\*These roads have been the subject of a legal discussion concerning private access rights. The DEC has concluded that the landowner has a prescriptive easement over the road leading to its lodge on the O'Neil Flow. This legal right was negotiated under a Judgement on Consent which describes the location of the easement and identifies the use to be made of the road. The Judgement was signed by all parties to the lawsuit, a Supreme Court Justice has reviewed and signed the Judgement, and the Judgement and Map was filed in the Hamilton County Clerk's Office on August 1, 1994. In consideration of DEC consenting to the Judgement, the private landowner agreed to the dismissal of its lawsuit regarding the Tyrrell (sic) Pond Rd.



F. History (See also Section II-A-4)

The history of the area is not unlike that of the rest of the Adirondacks. Due to its rugged terrain and climate, with harsh winters and a short growing season, settlement has been sparse and slow to develop. With the difficulty of travel, making trade nearly impossible, settlers were dependent on the local resources for food and income.

Acquisition of lands in this unit began in 1877 with transfer of title through tax sales on several lots in Township 16 and 21. Between 1877 and 1900 the bulk of Blue Mt. Unit lands were acquired by the State. This included popular areas like the summit of Blue Mountain, Tirrell Pond, Rock Lake, and a portion of the Indian River. Acquisition efforts in the early 1900's occurred mainly in Township 19 and 20. More recently in 1956 portions of lots 20-24 were gifted to NYS (See Section IV-E). Purchases in 1964 in the northwest corner of Great Lot A, Township 20 and lot 72, Township 22 (Camp St. Mary-east of Tarbell Hill Rd.) finalized acquisitions within the unit to the present day.

A comprehensive treatment of the interesting history of the area is not practical here. Consult the Bibliography for additional sources of historical information. Relevant historical events that directly affected these lands are as follows (Aber & King, 1965; Hochschild, 1952):

- 1772 Survey of the Totten and Crossfield's Purchase was begun. All of the existing State lands in the Blue Mt. Unit lie within the T&C Purchase.
- 1813 The Fox Brothers held log drives on the Rock River by accumulating water at the 34th Flow reservoir (since named Lake Durant) and dams on Rock Lake outlet and Tirrell Pond.
- 1836 Blue Mountain was named Mount Clinch in honor of Charles Powell Clinch, a member of the State Assembly.
- 1851 Tirrell Pond was settled by a group of Irish immigrants from Ticonderoga, led by Father Olivetti, pastor of a church in Whitehall. The settlement consisted of sixteen log homes and a church. It lasted for about two years before being abandoned. The pond was named after Pat Tirrell, Father Olivetti's foreman.
- 1871 Chauncey Hawthorn built a guest house on Tirrell Pond.
- 1871 The opening of Dr. Thomas C. Durant's Adirondack Railroad, Saratoga to North Creek. This permitted access to the southcentral Adirondacks and enabled the development of stagecoach routes to hotels and resort accommodations in the communities of Indian Lake, Blue Mountain Lake, and Raquette Lake.
- 1878 Introduction of a stage line from North Creek to Blue Mt. Lake. Blue Mt. Lake reached its height of popularity between 1878 and 1900. During this period, it was probably the most fashionable resort area in the northeast.

- 1908 The last major forest fire.
- 1911 Construction of the Blue Mountain Fire Tower.
- 1913 Constitutional amendment passes allowing 3% of the Forest Preserve to be used for "the construction and maintenance of reservoirs for municipal water supply, State canals, and to regulate the flow of streams".
- 1917 Henry La Prairie's Inn at Tirrell Pond was a favorite stopping place for sportsmen. This illegal structure was burned by the local forest ranger on the grounds that the La Prairie family were occupying state land and had failed to leave on warning.
- 1923 The Northville-Lake Placid Trail was completed.
- 1931 Dam for Lake Byron, since renamed Lake Adirondack, was completed.
- 1931 Construction of Long Lake Reservoir on Sandy Creek.
- 1935 The Civilian Conservation Corps (C.C.C.) constructed a dam at 34th Flow for recreational purposes and as a water storage system for Blue Mt. Lake.
- 1936 34th Flow was christened as "Lake Durant" by the widow of William West Durant (railroad magnate).
- 1939 C.C.C. crews begin construction of Lake Durant Campground. A work camp was located on the site of the present forest ranger's headquarters.
- 1948 Lake Durant Campground opened to the public.
- 1950 Hurricane force winds cause severe damage and blowdown. Fire hazard reduction projects removed some of the salvageable trees in the vicinity of Salmon Pond, Tirrell Pond, Lake Adirondack, and Mt. Sabattis.
- 1951 Dam was completed for Lake Abanakee.
- 1955 Completion of a paved road (Route 30), from the southern end of Hamilton County, near Northville, to the Town of Indian Lake, opening the area for easy north-south travel.
- 1962 NYS Route 30 officially named the Adirondack Trail by the State Legislature.
- 1965 Forest Ranger Headquarters established at Lake Durant.
- 1972 The Blue Mountain Wild Forest was created as a legal entity as a result of the completion of the State Land Master Plan by the Adirondack Park Agency in consultation with the Department of Environmental Conservation.
- 1972 Creation of a wild, scenic, and recreational rivers system on both State and private lands. Included in this system are the Cedar, Rock and Indian Rivers.
- 1976 Completion of a ten mile reconstruction of Route 28 and 30 between Indian Lake and Blue Mt. Lake. A paved bicycle path, the first of its kind in the Adirondack Park, adjoins the regular road pavement. Public parking areas were developed for the Rock Lake and Rock River trails.

## II. RESOURCE AND PUBLIC USE INVENTORY OVERVIEW

### A. Natural Resources

#### 1. Physical

##### a. Geology (See Appendix Map 5)

The Adirondacks are a roughly domical uplifted region where erosion has cut through younger, flat-lying sedimentary rocks to expose extremely deformed metamorphic rocks over one billion years old.

These rocks are a southeasterly extension of the Grenville Province of the Canadian Shield.

The Blue Mountain Unit is located within the central highlands region of the Adirondack Mountains. The bedrock comprises both metamorphosed igneous rocks, principally granitic and syenitic gneisses, and metamorphosed sedimentary and volcanic rocks of the "Grenville Series" including marbles, quartzites, amphibolites, and assorted mica-quartz-feldspar gneisses, locally with abundant garnet. The metamorphosed sedimentary rocks tend to be softer than their igneous counterparts, and more readily removed by erosion, which accounts for much of the topographic relief in the area. An example of this is Blue Mountain, a mass of resistant igneous rock that rises 2,000 feet above the less resistant metamorphosed sedimentary rocks underlying the surrounding area.

The rocks of the Grenville Series were deposited between 1,300 and 1,150 million years ago, and intruded by the igneous rocks between 1,150 and 1,100 million years ago. Both were metamorphosed at temperatures on the order of 1,300-1,400 degrees F, and pressures about 7,000-8,000 times atmospheric. These conditions were necessary to form the minerals now found in these rocks, and the fact that these rocks are now exposed at the surface indicates that over 15 miles of overlying rocks have since been removed by erosion.

Excepting the glacial and postglacial deposits, all the rock formations in the Blue Mt. Unit are of Precambrian age. Given in the regular geologic order (youngest to oldest), they are as follows:

Glacial and postglacial deposits: Till, moraines, erratics, kames, and lake deposits can be found throughout the general area. Along the road between Long Lake and Deerland, kame deposits are visible along the eastern side of the valley. An esker of stratified sands and gravels occurs near Old Route 30, north of Lake Durant.

Pegmatite: Cutting nearly all types of the older rocks, including the gabbro; nonmetamorphosed.

Gabbro: Occasionally occurring as dikes or small stocks; more or less gneissoid; intrusive into the older rocks.

Syenite and Granite: These are the most widespread rocks of the area. A large, bare ledge of quartz syenite on Blue Mountain (visible from the south), appears like a snow bank in midsummer. In the bed of the Rock River, approximately one mile below the outlet of Rock Lake, large exposures show masses of granitic and syenitic rocks intruding a variety of older gneisses.

Grenville series: Prominently developed only in the southern half of the Unit; thoroughly crystalline stratified rocks, including various gneisses, marbles, and quartzite.

An important Grenville area extends up the Cedar River Valley. The most abundant rock appears to be coarse, crystalline, graphitic marble with closely associated hornblende and pyroxene gneisses. Exceptions occur 1 to 1-1/2 miles north and northwest of the community of Indian Lake and 3/4 of a mile southwest of Pine Lake, where the rock is largely a white feldspar-quartz gneiss.

Another prominent Grenville belt extends from Pine Lake through the valley of the Rock River to Lake Durant. Within this belt, marble exposures occur on both the Rock River about a mile below the outlet of Rock Lake and northeast of Unknown Pond. A large road cut on the north shore of Lake Durant exposes diverse, layered metamorphic rocks including pink and greenish gneisses, marble, and calc-silicate rocks. The intrusive nature of marble can be readily observed. Hornblende-garnet gneisses are frequently found in contact with marble, as evidenced in a test mining pit located approximately 1/2 mile east of Bullhead Pond.

Good exposures of the Grenville rocks also occur on Ledge Mountain, southwest of Unknown Pond. For about a mile, the top of this fire swept mountain is an almost continuous, barren rock ledge in which a type of mixed gneiss is beautifully exhibited. Pink, medium-grained, biotite granite intrudes white gneiss and light-gray, feldspar-quartz-garnet gneiss, these gneisses usually occurring in wavy, disconnected, thin layers throughout the granite. Farther down, on the south face of this mountain, large masses of dark, rusty-looking, Grenville gneisses occur in the granite.

The mountain directly south of Unknown Pond consists mostly of pink granite with numerous streaks or layers (sometimes 10 to 20 feet thick) of Grenville hornblende gneiss. Quartzites, while not prominently developed in the Grenville of the Blue Mt. Unit, can be observed in the ridge just north of Pine Lake.

Natural forces (glaciers, erosion, etc.) have influenced some of the topography of the Blue Mountain area. Ice erosion appears to have modified the relief to a minor extent only. Mountain masses may have been somewhat rounded off, while glacial till often created lakes and ponds in the lowlands. Sections of Blue Mountain were stripped of rock and have since been only slightly modified by postglacial weathering while the pronounced asymmetry of Stark Hill and Ledge Mountain demonstrates glacial scour and plucking. The steep mountainsides northeast of Tirrell Pond and west of Salmon Pond show evidence of the splitting off of large rocks due to exfoliation.

Geological information for this section was obtained from NYS Museum bulletins published in 1916 and 1932 for the Blue Mountain and Newcomb 15 minute USGS quadrangles, along with assistance from the New York State Geological Survey Unit.

b. Soils

The present day soils of the Blue Mt. Unit were formed as a result of extensive alteration of preglacial soils, topography, and drainage by glaciation during the Pleistocene Epoch. General soils maps and information provided by the Hamilton and Essex County Soil and Water Districts were used to document 13 broad soil associations within the unit. Examples of the most frequently encountered associations are:

(1) Deep Soils with Fragipans Developed in Glacial Till

This group is the predominant one for the area consisting of five associations within the unit. Derived mainly from granitic material, the soils are deep and vary from well-drained to poorly drained, with gently sloping to steep slopes. The most frequently encountered associations are:

- (a) Becket-Canaan: Well-drained and coarse textured upland soils; the landform is sloping to moderately steep with many stones and boulders on the surface.
- (b) Becket-Peru: Well-drained and medium textured upland soils; the landform consists dominantly of sloping hillsides that contain areas of broad flats and few depressions. There are many stones and boulders on the surface.

(2) Moderately Deep and Shallow Soils

Only one soil association in this group is on bedrock-controlled landscape within the Blue Mt. Unit. Derived from granitic material, these soils are typically shallow, well-drained to somewhat excessively drained and medium textured. Slopes range from gently sloping through steep.

- (a) Canaan-Rock Outcrop: Exposed bedrock, developed in a thin mantle of glacial till; this association occupies the mountain tops with the dominant landform of moderately steep hillsides with smaller areas of steep hillsides.

(3) Deep Soils Developed in Organic Deposits

This is the least common group within the unit. They are nearly level, very poorly drained soils.

- (a) Greenwood-Cathro: level bogs and swamps in glaciated upland till plains, lake plains, and outwash terraces; extreme acidity and high water table characterize these areas with a slow rate of organic decomposition (Northwest end of Tirrell Pond).

(4) Non-Soil Areas

This group consists solely of the Rock Outcrop-Canaan association and occurs mainly in the higher elevations of the unit. Rock outcrop, exposed rocks and boulders are typical. A thin (10 to 20 inches deep) layer of soil may have developed over bedrock. Slopes are generally very steep.

- (a) Rock Outcrop-Canaan: very steep, shallow, moderately coarse textured soils, excessively drained. Bare rock is the dominant feature of the landscape (Blue Mountain Summit).

SUMMARY

Soils provide the basic support, nutrient, and water reservoir for the plant and animal communities within the Blue Mt. Unit. Physical features such as drainage, slope, vegetative cover, etc., influence the degree of soil disturbance, especially compaction created through public use. Site specific soil surveys of popular recreational areas have not been conducted within the unit. Additional information on area soils may be obtained in the Soil Reports for Essex and Hamilton Counties (APA, USDA Soil Conservation Service and Cornell University 1973, 1982).

c. Terrain (See Appendix Map 1)

The topography of this unit varies from gentle, rolling hills in the southern portion of the area to steep, rugged mountains to the north. The lands adjacent to Rock Lake, Tirrell Pond and along the major river drainages contain scattered small ponds and wetlands separated by rolling hills. The differences in relief are generally less than 500 feet. This contrasts sharply with the steep ruggedness of the northern portion of the unit having differences in elevation exceeding 1,000 feet.

Of the 11 named elevations within the unit three are included within the Adirondack Mountain Club's 100 Highest Mountain Peaks' list. Blue Mountain, with a summit elevation of 3,759 feet, dominates the landscape as it towers almost 2,000 feet over nearby Blue Mountain Lake. Fishing Brook Mt. (3,420 ft.) and Fishing Brook Range (3,480 ft.) represent additional elevations over 3,000 feet.

There is no prevalent trend of mountain masses, as compared with the eastern and southeastern Adirondacks, although there are some suggestions of the usual northeast-southwest strike. The remarkably straight channels of the Indian and Hudson Rivers are almost certainly developed along a fault believed to be a continuation of the Indian Lake Fault.

The lowest recorded elevation within the unit is documented with a bench mark at 1,542 feet on the Chain Lakes Road. The Indian River is approximately 30 feet lower as it leaves the unit entering private lands in the vicinity of the Gooley Club. Detailed information on area topography can be found on the Deerland, Blue Mountain Lake, and Dutton Mt. 7.5 X 15 minute USGS maps.

d. Water (See Appendix Map 2)

The water resources are an important component of the natural ecosystem within the Blue Mt. Unit providing a wide range of aquatic environments along with a variety of opportunities for public recreation.

An important division of drainage between the Raquette and Hudson River watersheds occurs within the unit with the boundary located along the Fishing Brook Range, and summits of Dun Brook, Buck, and Blue Mountains. The extensive land area in the Raquette watershed contains only two, small, unnamed ponds. The majority of ponded waters in the unit are part of the Upper Hudson watershed.

(1) Ponded Water

More than 32 ponds and lakes occur within the unit, of which 19 are named on USGS 7.5 minute topographic maps. Most of these waters have all or a majority of their shoreline within the wild forest boundaries. Eleven unit waters, including Lake Abanakee, Lake Adirondack, Lake Durant, First Lake, Pine Lake, Lake Francis, Barker Pond, Corner Pond, and Clear Pond, have sections of their shoreline in private ownership. The interior waters are almost entirely located in the southern portion of the unit and range in size from less than an acre to 253-acre Rock Lake. Some of the more popular BMWF waters include: 361-acre Lake Abanakee, 293-acre Lake Durant, 198-acre Lake Adirondack, 146-acre Tirrell Pond, 91-acre Pine Lake, 51-acre First Lake of the Essex Chain, 23-acre Clear Pond and 19-acre Bullhead Pond.

(2) Watercourses

In addition, the area contains approximately 40 miles of small, coldwater streams. Named streams include: East Inlet Brook, Sandy Creek, Tirrell Pond Outlet, Salmon River, and Dun Brook.

The Blue Mountain Unit also contains portions of the Indian, Rock and Cedar rivers. Segments of these rivers are classified under the Adirondack State Land Master Plan and Article 15-2711 of the Environmental Conservation Law as wild, scenic or recreational.

CLASSIFICATION# (See Section VIII-D, Appendices 22-24)

<u>RIVER</u>	<u>WILD</u>	<u>SCENIC</u>	<u>RECREATIONAL</u>
Cedar	7.0		1.2
Indian			1.6
Rock		6.9	1.2

#Approximate miles adjacent to NYS land within the unit.

(3) Recreation Potential

Flatwater recreational opportunities tend to be limited to the larger interior waterbodies and lakes that adjoin the wild forest area. With the exception of Tirrell Pond, these waterbodies and watercourses occur in the southern portion of the unit.

Larger waterbodies (greater than 10 acres) located adjacent to the wild forest boundaries that have a portion of Forest Preserve shoreline within the Blue Mt. Unit include:

<u>WATERBODY</u>	<u>SURFACE ACRES</u>	<u>SHORELINE (MILES)#</u>
Clear Pond	23	.1
Corner Pond	20	.3
First Lake	51	.9
Lake Abanakee	361	.6
Lake Adirondack	198	.8
Lake Durant	293	2.2
Lake Francis	106	.6
Long Lake##	4071	.4
Pine Lake	91	.8

# Approximate measurement of forest preserve shoreline scaled from 7.5 minute maps.

## Only a small fraction of Long Lake's shoreline is included in this unit.

In addition, sections of watercourses can provide seasonal recreational (fishing, day hiking, etc.) opportunities. Portions of the Cedar and Indian Rivers provide whitewater recreational opportunities during certain portions of the year.



The following table is derived from Appalachian Waters 2: The Hudson and Its Tributaries

(Burmeister, 1974), with river class based on the International scale of difficulty:

WHITEWATER RESOURCES:

<u>River</u>	<u>Section</u>	<u>Distance</u> (miles)	<u>Drop</u> (feet)	<u>Gradient</u> (ft./mile)	<u>Class##</u> (Int'l Scale)
Cedar	NY 28/30 bridge to Hudson River	14	190	13.6	III
Indian	Lake Abanakee Dam to Hudson River	3	160	53.3	III-IV
Rock	NY 28/30 bridge to Cedar River	10#	202	20.2	III-IV

#Circuit of Rock Lake would add 2 miles.

## Class rating is dependent on suitable water levels, typically medium high.

(4) Waterbody Narratives

Section VII-D Fisheries, lists the major ponded waters in the Blue Mountain Wild Forest with a brief narrative statement pertaining to their important features, including past and current management, accessibility, size, water chemistry, and fish species composition. Appendix 2 provides additional statistical information about ponded waters of the area, including watershed, fisheries management classification and depth. The most recent biological/chemical data are summarized in Appendix 3.

e. Wetlands (See Appendix Map 6)

A wetland is defined as any land that is annually subject to periodic or continual inundation by water and commonly referred to as a bog, swamp or marsh, which is one acre or more in size or located adjacent to a body of water with which there is a free interchange of water at the surface.

Wetlands are inventoried, mapped and protected under the 1975 NYS Freshwater Wetlands Act by the Adirondack Park Agency (APA). Wetland maps were promulgated pursuant to Article 24 of Environmental Conservation Law by the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Conservation. Final maps for Hamilton County (1986) and Essex County (1990) were completed with coverage of the Blue Mt. Unit on the following 7.5 minute inventory sheets: Deerland, Dun Brook Mt., Blue Mt., Rock Lake, and Bad Luck Mountain.

Wetlands within the unit are primarily concentrated in the southern portion, along the Rock and Cedar River drainages and in association with many area lakes and ponds. Among the numerous wetland values are erosion and flood control, nutrient cycling, fish and wildlife habitat, in addition to

providing open space and areas for public use and recreation.

Wetland vegetation can be variable and may include trees and shrubs along with bog, emergent, and aquatic vegetation. The most common wetland types (Wetlands Guide, 1985) along with specific plant species that may be encountered in each type of wetland are listed below:

<u>WETLAND TYPE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
Deep Water Marsh	Wetlands with significant portions of open water. Dominant plants consist of free floating vegetation, rooted vegetation with floating leaves, or submergent vegetation with pondweed, duckweed, and wild celery important for waterfowl. Shallow water areas are valuable for fish spawning and nurseries.
Deciduous Swamp	Tree-dominated wetlands consisting of live deciduous trees over 20 feet in height that are seasonally or permanently flooded. Important habitat for waterfowl nesting and a great variety of birds and wildlife.
Bog	A closed wetland with poor drainage commonly characterized by a floating base mat of peat moss ( <u>Sphagnum</u> spp.). Bogs are communities of very specialized, generally acid-tolerant, plants.
Kettlehole Bog	A bog with several vegetative cover-types in rings. The central area has open water with acidity less than Ph 5.0, low oxygen level, and water colored dark brown from decaying matter.
Coniferous Swamp	Wetland where a significant part of the vegetational community consists of live coniferous trees over 20 feet in height. Important as deer wintering areas and effective in flood control.
Emergent Marsh	Shallow wetlands flooded with standing or running water much of the year. The vegetational community consists of herbaceous plants such as cattails, bulrushes, pickerel weed, loosestrifes, and arrowheads.
Shrub Swamp	Wetland where woody shrubs (predominantly alders) less than 20 feet in height dominate the vegetative community.
Wet Meadow	Vegetative cover primarily composed of sedges, rushes, and coarse grasses. Soils tend to be saturated due to the presence of groundwater at or near the surface. Wet meadows are often found in flood plains and abandoned beaver flowages.

Wetland areas with standing water contain an array of shrub and herbaceous species. Species found in shallow-water perimeters of some unit waters include:

Bog rosemary	Northern pitcher plant
Labrador Tea	Speckled Alder
Laurel, sheep	Spiraea
Laurel, pale	Swamp candles
Leatherleaf	Wild raisin

#### (4) Forest Health

A combination of many factors can influence the health of a plant community. Physical factors tend to be weather related with notable examples being lightning fires, ice damage, severe winds, and flooding. Pockets of the Blue Mt. Unit were severely impacted by the "Blowdown of 1950". Mudslides on the south slopes of Blue Mountain still occur today. Biological factors are variable and include the effects of disease, insects, and wildlife (beaver impoundments and deer wintering areas) on the forest environment.

Two major forest insects and two major diseases have had a significant effect on this area (DEC- Forest Health Reports, personal communication - Joseph DeMatties).

Blister Rust: White pine blister rust, caused by the introduced fungus Cronartium ribicola, is a major disease affecting white pine. A control program to reduce the number of alternate hosts (currants and gooseberries) was initiated in the 1930's and discontinued in the mid 1970's. Since that time there has been an increase of blister rust occurrence with consequent white pine mortality both in the Blue Mt. Unit and adjoining private land.

Beech Bark Disease: Beech bark disease is an important insect-fungus complex that has caused extensive mortality of American beech throughout portions of the Adirondacks. The primary vector, a scale insect, Crytococcus fagi, attacks the tree creating entry sites for the fungus, Nectria coccinea var. faginata. Changes in the percent of beech in the cover type can stimulate shifts in animal populations that utilize beech most extensively as a food source. On the other hand, dead and/or dying beech trees may benefit other wildlife species by providing abundant nesting, feeding, and potential den locations.

Spruce Budworm: The spruce budworm, Choristoneura fumiferana, is considered to be one of the most destructive conifer defoliators in North America. Host species include balsam fir in addition to red, white, and black spruce. The last significant incidence of this pest within the Adirondack Park occurred in the mid 1970's. Populations of this insect, while currently not a problem, are being monitored throughout the northeast. One permanent pheromone sampling plot is located in the northern portion of the Blue Mt. Unit.

Forest Tent Caterpillar: The forest tent caterpillar, Malacosoma disstria, a native insect, may be found wherever hardwoods grow. Outbreaks have occurred at 10 to 15 year intervals with the last widespread outbreak in the late 1970's. Favored hosts are sugar maple and aspen with birch, cherry, and ash also being utilized.

In addition to the major insect and disease problems listed above, Eastern Spruce Bark Beetle, Dendroctonus rufipennis, along with various forest declines, has shown noticeable effects on the vegetation within the unit and the surrounding areas.

b. Wildlife

Comprehensive field inventories of wildlife species have not focused specifically on the Blue Mountain Unit. Various publications and field observations along with the Natural Heritage Program's Vertebrate Characteristic Abstract Data Base were used to develop species list's for the area. This unit is located within the Adirondack Mountain ecological zone of the State.

(1) Birds (See Appendix 5 and 6)

Numerous species of birds may be present in the unit during one or more seasons of the year. In addition to direct observation, several other sources of information were used to develop a list of birds present. Sources include Birdlife of the Adirondack Park by Bruce Beehler (1978), Birds of New York State by John Bull (1974), birds listed during the five-year Breeding Bird Atlas Project, and knowledgeable people.

Birds associated with marshes, ponds, lakes, and streams are numerous including the common loon, pied-billed grebe, great blue heron, green-backed heron, American bittern, and a variety of waterfowl. The most common ducks include the mallard, American black duck, wood duck, hooded merganser, and common merganser. Birds of prey common to the area include the barred owl, great horned owl, eastern screech-owl, northern goshawk, red-tailed hawk, sharp-shinned hawk, and broad-winged hawk.

A variety of song birds such as woodpeckers, flycatchers, wrens, thrushes, vireos, warblers, blackbirds, finches, grosbeaks, and sparrows can be found among the various habitats present in the area. Cooperators working with the NYS Breeding Bird Atlas have identified 83 species as confirmed breeders within this area. The Atlas block numbers in relation to the boundaries of the Blue Mt. Wild Forest Area can be found in Appendix 7.

(2) Mammals (See Appendix 8)

Important big game species within the area include the white-tailed deer and black bear. Generally, white-tailed deer can be found throughout the unit. However, the topography and forage conditions are more favorable for deer in the southern portion of the unit. Black bears are essentially solitary animals and tend to be dispersed throughout the unit. Occasionally, individuals congregate around

f. Climate

The Adirondack region climate is characterized with short cool summers and long cold winters. Elevation differences produce considerable variation in climate and wide ranges in both daily and annual temperature. Annual total precipitation averages range from 48 to 50 inches per year. Of this precipitation, snowfall normally averages between 140-180 inches annually and covers the ground from December through March.

Climatological factors, such as snow cover and rain affect seasonal use trends, trail locations, accessibility and public use management. The amount of snowfall and length of snowcover have a direct bearing on public use of snowmobile and cross country ski trails in the unit.

2. Biological

a. Plant Life

The lands within the Blue Mt. Unit are almost entirely forested. Plant communities vary depending on differences in site factors, including soil type, soil moisture, and climatic conditions determined by elevation, slope, and aspect. The unit falls within the temperate deciduous forest biome. This biogeographical classification is characterized by a moderate climate and dense forests.

The influence of logging during the nineteenth century along with a number of natural forces have wrought visible effects on the vegetative cover of the unit. Major wildfires in 1903 and 1908 have impacted portions of the Blue Mt. Unit.

(1) Vegetative Cover Types\*

The predominant, broad vegetative types occurring within the Blue Mt. Unit are northern hardwoods, mixed woods, pine, and upper spruce slopes. Information on wetland covertypes (hardwood and coniferous swamps, bogs, etc.) and common associated plants was covered in Section II-A-1-e.

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\*At present no detailed inventory or vegetative mapping is available for the Blue Mountain Wild Forest Area. The names of the plant communities were drawn from the vegetative cover-types identified in Twenty/Twenty Vision, 1988; along with information by Carol Reschke of the New York State Natural Heritage Program from Ecological Communities of New York State, 1990.

The Northern Hardwood type, occupying the rich, well-drained soils up to approximately 2,500 feet, consists predominantly of a climax association of sugar maple, American beech, and yellow birch. Associated species include white ash, black cherry, and scattered conifers. White pine occurs on the drier sites, with red spruce and hemlock more common in damp locations. The hemlock component is characteristic of north facing slopes and cool areas along streams, narrow valleys, ponds, and lakes. Pioneer hardwoods (aspen, pin cherry, and paper birch) are often found in early successional stages associated with old burns, blowdowns, and other areas of forest disturbance. The ground cover is composed primarily of maple and beech seedlings with scattered shrubs and herbaceous plants.

The Mixed Woods type occurs on the moist, lower slopes, generally between the coniferous swamps and northern hardwoods. Predominant species include red spruce, balsam fir, red maple, and yellow birch. Scattered individual white pine trees tower above the forest. Ground cover can be profuse, often consisting of viburnum and dogwoods, along with various ferns, grasses, and wildflowers.

The Pine forest cover type characterizes the less fertile dry, sandy soils. Individual trees are often of the same age, seeding in after a natural or man-made catastrophe such as fire or windthrow. White pine is a major species with undergrowth limited to a few ferns, herbs, and scattered shrubs.

There are scattered plantings of red pine, Scotch pine and Norway spruce in the southern portion of the unit (Rock Lake Area). These plantations were established by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the early 1930's. Shade-tolerant species such as red spruce, sugar maple and American beech are slowly becoming established in the understory of these plantations and will eventually take over the site.

The Upper Spruce Slopes begin at approximately 2,500 feet in elevation. These forests are dominated by balsam fir and red spruce. Ground cover is sparse, primarily due to the dense shading and harsh growing conditions. Club mosses and lichens occur on exposed ground and near rock outcrops (Blue Mt. Summit). As one travels down the slope, red spruce replaces the balsam fir and sugar maple, yellow birch and American beech can be found. Continuing lower in elevation, red spruce becomes a minor species and gradually disappears as the northern hardwood type dominates the site.

## (2) Rare Plants and Ecological Communities

A recent review of the Natural Heritage Program files (Larry Brown, 1992) did not reveal the presence of any threatened or endangered plant species within the unit. However, a historical record identified Clinton's Clubrush (Scirpus clintonii), last observed in 1952, as potentially within the area. The Blue Mt. Unit does not contain any known exemplary vegetative communities (Twenty/Twenty Vision, 1988).

## (3) Unforested Areas

A few areas comprising limited acreage are unsuitable for the growth of trees due to exposed bedrock, shallow infertile soils, ledge areas, etc. These locations (Blue Mt. Summit, etc.) support limited plant species with fragile patches of moss and lichens.

local landfills or during the mating season. Other larger mammals known to inhabit the area include beaver, river otter, fisher, coyote, bobcat, raccoon, red fox, gray fox, pine marten, muskrat, striped skunk, porcupine, and snowshoe hare. A variety of small mammals can be found in the unit, including a number of species of shrews, bats, moles and mice, along with the short-tailed and long-tailed weasel, mink, eastern chipmunk, and red squirrel.

The deer population size can be directly correlated to habitat conditions. From early spring (April) to late fall (November), deer are distributed generally throughout this area on their "summer range". When snow accumulates to depths of 20 inches or more, deer travel to their traditional wintering areas. This winter range is characteristically composed of lowland spruce-fir forests.

Most of the wildlife species are distributed evenly throughout the unit with populations of weasel, mink, muskrat, otter, and beaver concentrated near water. Snowshoe hare and red squirrel are mostly confined to stands of spruce and fir. Harvest records are collected for several wildlife species by town and/or wildlife management unit. This information can be useful for estimating population levels and is discussed in Section II-F-2 of this plan.

(3) Amphibians and Reptiles (See Appendix 9)

According to the observations of DEC Wildlife staff, and information obtained from "A Field Guide to Reptiles and Amphibians" by Roger Conant (1975), three species of turtles, eight species of snakes, eight species of salamanders, one species of toad, and six species of frogs are believed to be residents of the Blue Mt. Unit.

(4) Endangered, Threatened, Species of Special Concern and Other Unique Species of Wildlife

The following section indicates the protective status of some vertebrates that may be in the Unit:

Endangered: any species that is either native and in imminent danger of extirpation or extinction in New York; or is listed as endangered by the US Department of Interior. Except for seasonal migrants, there are no known historical reports of species recognized as endangered (bald eagle, peregrine falcon, and Indiana bat) residing in the unit.

Threatened: any species that is either native and likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future in New York; or is listed as threatened by the US Department of the Interior. Among the threatened species of wildlife that may be residents of the area are the osprey and red-shouldered hawk. Osprey nesting activity has been observed on neighboring Blue Mt. Lake and South Pond.

Of Special Concern: native species not yet recognized as endangered or threatened, but for which documented concern exists for their continued welfare in New York. Unlike the first two categories, they receive no additional legal protection under the Environmental Conservation Law; but, they could become endangered or threatened in the future and should be closely monitored. Species of special concern that may be present include the spotted salamander, wood turtle, common loon and raven. The common loon has been observed on Rock Lake, Tirrell Pond and Third Lake. Ravens have been seen in the Blue Mountain Area.

There are a number of wildlife species found in New York State whose habitat requirements include extensive areas of forest relatively undisturbed by human development. Often these are northern species that find the habitat conditions of the Central Adirondacks similar to the boreal spruce-fir forests of Canada. A list of species whose range in New York is generally confined to the Adirondacks and may be found within the unit include:

Birds

Osprey  
Northern Raven  
Ruby-crowned Kinglet  
Mourning Warbler  
Rusty Blackbird  
Evening grosbeak

Mammals

Black Bear  
Fisher  
Marten

(5) Extirpated Species (See Section III-A-2-d)

The moose, timber wolf, cougar, Canada lynx, bald eagle, golden eagle, and peregrine falcon all inhabited the Adirondacks at one time. All of these species disappeared from the Adirondacks, mostly as a result of the unregulated harvest and habitat destruction during the nineteenth century. More recently some birds fell victim to the widespread use of DDT. Within the last decade a small moose population has regained a foothold within the Adirondack Park and projects to reestablish the peregrine falcon, bald eagle, and Canada lynx have been implemented.

Moose occasionally have migrated from the north and east into the Adirondack region for decades. Since 1980, they have arrived in numbers that may lead to establishment of a scattered resident population. Recent estimates range between 25 and 30 individuals.

Canada lynx have been released into the Adirondack park by the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry as a part of their Adirondack Wildlife Program. Several releases, totalling 83 animals, have been made between 1989 and 1991. Wide dispersal from the release area has been



observed and mortality has been high, especially mortality caused by vehicle collision.

Efforts to reestablish the peregrine falcon and the bald eagle through "hacking" programs began in 1981 and 1983, respectively. Some of these restoration efforts were successful in portions of the Adirondacks.

(6) Significant Habitats

The Significant Wildlife Habitat Unit and NY Natural Heritage Program files were reviewed (Larry Brown, 1992) for biological information on the Blue Mt. Unit. The DEC Bureau of Wildlife identified these sensitive areas:

(a) Deer Wintering Areas (See Appendix Map 6)

Deer populations fluctuate annually with winter starvation losses representing the most significant mortality factor. When snow depths accumulate to 20 inches or more, deer congregate in specific wintering areas. These sites are used typically every winter and are usually areas of spruce-fir forest. The carrying capacity of deer wintering areas essentially controls the carrying capacity of their entire annual range.

Six deer wintering areas are wholly or partially contained within the unit, mostly identified by the watersheds with which they are associated:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ID NUMBER</u>	<u>TOWN</u>
Cedar River	DC 16-229	Newcomb
Lake Durant	DC 21-142	Indian Lake
Tirrell Pond	DC 21-143	Indian Lake
Little Mill Mountain	DC 21-147	Indian Lake
Moose Island	DC 21-103	Long Lake
Pickwacket Pond	DC 21-113	Long Lake

(b) Common Raven Nesting Sites

The raven generally is confined to the more remote areas of the Adirondack Park. It is a mountain bird, favoring areas with cliffs and crags suitable for nesting locations. While ravens have been seen in the Blue Mt. area and nested at the Blue Ledge (south side of the Hudson River) in the 1970's, specific nest sites have not been documented within the unit. The numerous rock outcrops and mountain ledges within the unit offer potential nesting sites.

(c) Waterfowl Nesting Areas

Shoreline characteristics of certain waters (Tirrell Pond, Rock Lake, etc.) can provide suitable nesting areas for loons and other waterfowl.

(d) Raptor Nesting Areas

While osprey nesting has occurred adjacent to the unit (Blue Mt. Lake and South Pond), nesting activity has not been documented within the Wild Forest Area. The following raptors were confirmed breeders in the unit: Northern Harrier, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Great Horned Owl, and Barred Owl.

(e) Heron Rookery

A great blue heron rookery is located east of Rock Lake. Such rookeries are uncommon in the Adirondacks.

c. Fisheries (See Appendix 4-Classification of Fish Fauna)

The aquatic communities of the Adirondacks are a result of geological and human influences. Prior to human influences relatively simple fish communities were common. Human caused changes in habitat and introduction of fishes have altered those natural communities. Nonnative fishes are now widespread and many native species are more widely distributed than historically. Other natives, notably brook trout and round whitefish, have declined.

Geological History

The Fishes of the Adirondack Park, a DEC publication (August 1980) by Dr. Carl George of Union College, provides a summary of geological events which influenced the colonization of the Adirondack ecological zone by fishes. A limited number of cold tolerant, vagile, lacustrine species closely followed the retreat of the glacier. Such species presumably had access to most Adirondack waters. About 13,000 B.P. (Before Present), glacial retreat exposed much of the southern Adirondacks. Formation of glacial Lake Albany and inundation of the great falls at Cohoes, Glens Falls, Hudson Falls and other barriers resulted in recolonization of the Upper Hudson watershed by cold-tolerant Atlantian and eastern Boreal fishes. Around 12,000 B.P. the St. Lawrence Valley and the Laurentian

Corridor opened for recolonization of the Adirondacks via the Raquette River. Barriers and high gradient streams kept some lowland boreal species, such as northern pike, lake whitefish and burbot from colonizing the area. In general, waters low in the watersheds would have the most diverse communities. The number of species present would have decreased progressing towards headwater, higher elevation sections. Chance and variability in habitat would have complicated the trends. Consequently, a diversity of fish communities, from no fish to monocultures to numerous species, occurred in various waters.

### Human Influences

Detailed documentation of the historic fish communities in the Blue Mountain Wild Forest is not available. Extensive fishery survey data was first collected in the 1930's, decades after the massive stockings and introductions of the late 1800's. Reviewing work by Mather (1884) and others from the late 1800's, George (1980) has summarized what is known. Appendix 4 presents information on species known to be native, native-but-widely-introduced (NBWI), and non-native.

Brook trout, however, were particularly successful at colonizing and thrived in the relative absence of competing and predacious fishes. George (1980) states:

"Under primeval conditions, the brook trout was nearly ubiquitous in the Adirondacks. Its agility, great range in size and facility in rapidly flowing water allowed it to spread widely, perhaps even concurrently with the demise of the glaciers, thus explaining its presence in unstocked waters above currently impassible waterfalls."

### Acid Precipitation

Acid precipitation is a serious threat to the aquatic communities of certain areas of the Adirondacks, but does not appear to be a problem in the BMWF. In the 19 ponds with chemistry data, Ph values range from 5.7 to 7.85 and most ponds have a pH more than 6.0. The two waters having pH's below 6.0 (Stonystep Pond and Unknown Pond) contain at least 6 fish species each. Acid sensitive minnow species such as blacknose dace, cutlips minnow and pearl dace (Gallagher and Baker, 1990) have disappeared in some BMWF ponds. However, the affected ponds all have pH's above 6 and their native fish communities have been impacted by the introduction of nonnative species. Thus, it is unclear whether acid precipitation has contributed to the disappearance of sensitive minnow species.

### Brook Trout Distribution

Brook trout fisheries occur in eight BMWF ponds including Tirrell Pond, Grassy Pond, Little Grassy Pond, Bullhead Pond, Pine Lake, Barker Pond, First Lake, and Unknown Pond. Clear Pond is an example of a water in the BMWF in which interspecific competition has eliminated a formerly good brook trout fishery. Marginal trout populations in Lake Durant, Rock Lake and Unnamed Pond (UH-P635) may also have been lost due to interspecific competition from NBWI and nonnative species.

### Fish Distribution (other than brook trout)

Lake trout occur in three BMWF waters. Occasionally, lakera are caught in Lake Abanakee, but these fish are emigrants from Indian Lake. They survive in a deep basin near the mouth of the Indian River at the southern end of the lake. Clear Pond has a small lake trout population which was not reported in a 1932 survey. Accidental stocking of the species sometime prior to 1965 probably established the population. First Lake of the Essex Chain has a naturally reproducing lake trout population. This water was privately owned for many years and it is not known whether lake trout were introduced to the system.

### Streams

A 1.6-mile segment of the Indian River below the dam on Lake Abanakee lies within the BMWF. This river stretch has been designated as "recreational" (See Section VIII-D). The Indian River aquatic ecosystem is affected by water level fluctuations related to:

- (1) Water level control on Indian Lake by the Hudson River-Black River Regulating District (HRBRRD). Particularly fall drawdowns of Indian Lake and spring flood control measures.
- (2) Water level control on Lake Abanakee by the Town of Indian Lake, often in response to measures undertaken upstream at the Indian Lake dam by HRBRRD.
- (3) Water released from Lake Abanakee by the Town of Indian Lake to supplement flows for rafting purposes in the spring and fall months.

A stream survey conducted on this stretch of the Indian River in 1962 documented the adverse effects of severe water level fluctuations on the invertebrate populations in the river. Noted in particular was the stranding and desiccation of thousands of larval caddisflies. Such losses degrade the overall productivity of the river. This section of the Indian River is annually stocked with brown trout

and supports emigrant rainbow trout stocked into the Hudson River downstream. A good fishery exists for both salmonid species when river flows are low enough in the late spring to permit angling. Occasionally, brook trout are also caught, but these are probably emigrants from the tributary system. Smallmouth bass are present in good numbers, but seldom reach 12 inches in length.

About 8.6 miles of the Cedar River lies within the Blue Mountain Wild Forest (from river mile 2.2 to river mile 10.8). Approximately seven miles of this stretch has been designated as "wild", while the remaining mileage is designated "recreational" (See Section VIII-D).

The Cedar River has dark, stained water and a normal summer flow of 200 cubic feet per second. The river varies between 100-200 feet wide and changes in character from slow-moving with deep pools at the upstream end to sections of rapids and boulders farther downstream. Discharge is too low in the summer months for dependable canoeing. Rafting is limited to a few weeks in the spring. Brown trout are stocked in the upstream end of the section and provide a fair spring and fall fishery. The few brook trout caught in the river originate in the tributary system. Summer water temperatures can be too warm for trout in the Cedar River. A July 1970 survey found trout congregated near the mouths of cool tributaries and no trout in the main river (which was 80°F). Smallmouth bass, fallfish, creek chub, common shiner, blacknose dace, longnose dace, cutlips minnow and northern sculpin were also caught in the 1970 survey. Habitat limitations and a marginal temperature regime limit the potential of this river as a trout fishery.

The Rock River is a tributary of the Cedar River. Virtually its entire 8.1 mile watercourse lies within the unit. Most of the river is designated as "scenic" (Section VIII-D). The Rock River is the outlet stream for Lake Durant and effectively originates at the dam on that waterbody. Rock Lake lies in the course of the stream about 2.3 miles downstream of Lake Durant. The stream averages 30-70 feet wide during normal summer flows and has a mixed substrate of sand, rubble and boulders. Its water is lightly stained. Flows can be very low during the summer, which contributes to water temperatures that commonly exceed the range required by trout. A brook trout stocking policy was canceled in 1973 after an electrofishing survey confirmed these features. Survey biologists captured

or observed smallmouth bass, pumpkinseed, blacknose dace, cutlips minnow, longnose dace, creek chub, stonecat, central mudminnow, golden shiner and white sucker. Tiger muskellunge emigrating from Lake Durant utilize the Rock River to reach Rock Lake.

### 3. Visual/Scenic Resources

Blue Mountain, rising directly from the eastern shore of Blue Mountain Lake, dominates the area rising to an elevation of 3,759 feet above sea level. This mountain has been one of the most frequently climbed Adirondack peaks for over a century. A trip to the summit is well worth the short, fairly steep, 2.2 mile hike. Partial views are possible from the flat-topped summit, but the spectacular scenery of this unit and the neighboring area are best seen from the Blue Mt. fire tower. From the observation booth numerous lakes and ponds are visible as well as a panorama of the High Peaks to the northeast, including Mt. Marcy, highest peak in the State, and Snowy Mountain, highest peak in Hamilton County, to the south.

Until recently this State-maintained facility was manned from late spring until fall. The fire tower observer would educate the public in addition to other job responsibilities. Since 1991 this position has not been funded. See Sections VIII-C and VII-C-2-a-(1).

There are no maintained scenic vistas within the Blue Mt. Unit. Aesthetic observation points are isolated and may require a bushwack to achieve, with numerous rock outcrops affording fine views. In addition, NYS Routes 28 and 30 represent major scenic travel corridors. The following locations provide good viewpoints of the wild forest interior and adjoining areas:

- a. Blue Mountain Summit
- b. Mallard Point Overlook
- c. Mt. Sabattis
- d. McGinn Mountain

### 4. Unique and/or Historical Areas

#### a. Unique Natural Areas

- (1) Sand Beaches - northwest shoreline of Tirrell Pond, small sections of Rock Lake.

- (2) Islands - several small islands in Lake Durant, Lake Francis, Rock Lake, Lake Adirondack, Pine Lake, Rock River, and Elm Island on the Cedar River.
- (3) Waterfalls - Pasley Falls on the Cedar River.
- (4) Gorge - Cedar River.

b. Historical Areas

Generally, the lands within this unit have been primarily used for forest-oriented recreational or logging purposes. There were a number of logging and/or hauling camps built in the area, particularly in the vicinity of Tirrell and Salmon Ponds. These buildings were temporary in nature with evidence of their existence generally disappearing a few years after their use ceased. No historic structures listed at the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) or National Register were identified within the unit. Areas with a unique history are few; however, the most notable include (Aber and King, 1965):

- (1) Tracy Shanty Clearing
- (2) Blue Mountain was called To-War-Loon-Da by the Indians, meaning "Hill of Storms". It was later named Mt. Clinch after a state assemblyman and Mt. Emmons in honor of Professor Ebenezer Emmons, an eminent geologist who explored many of the Adirondack ranges. It was from the summit of Blue Mt. that Verplank Colvin and his crew, in 1876, set off bright explosions at 9:00 p.m on clear evenings. This permitted triangulation by Adirondack survey crews.
- (3) Rock Lake was previously named Lake Maria and described by Emmons in his fifth annual report:

"It is a beautiful sheet of water with a island which we named Pine Island, and on which we encamped for a few days, while we explored its neighborhood. Northwest from this lake and at the distance of five or six miles is Mount Emmons. This name I find necessary to adopt in consequence of its having become current, and in use by those who have occasion to pass through the wilderness. The inlet and outlet of this lake is to the west or southwest of Pine Island, and in close proximity."

Rock River has been called the Canonquet or Connetquet River and was used by Indians travelling between the Hudson and St. Lawrence Valleys.

- (4) Log driving had its origin in the Adirondacks. Within the Blue Mt. Unit lumbermen brought logs from the surrounding areas to 34 Marsh that served as a banking ground. After the logs left 34 Dam,

they travelled down upper Rock River into Rock Lake, thence down lower Rock River to its confluence with the Cedar River and along the Cedar River to its confluence with the Hudson. This segment of about 12 miles was known as Ordway's Rock River drive. In the 1880's along this drive there were three shanties in which the camp crews slept and ate. The first was located at 34 Dam, the second at the outlet of Rock Lake, and the third at the mouth of the Indian River. Another camp was located at the mouth of Dun Brook on the Rock River. In 1936, 34th Flow was renamed Lake Durant and a plaque was dedicated, bearing the inscription:

Lake Durant  
Named In Honor Of  
William West Durant  
1850-1934  
Who devoted much of his life to  
developing the Adirondacks and making  
known their beauty.

- (5) At Tirrell Pond, there was an early Irish settlement (1853) and early guest house (circa 1890). Clearings can still be observed. The 2-acre Irish immigrant settlement is listed under the DEC Forest Preserve inventory of historic areas. Portions of the LaPrairie guest house foundation are still evident.
- (6) In 1878, a road connecting Indian Lake to Blue Mt. Lake was improved and made passable for stage-coaches. The Adirondack Stage Company ran covered coaches with four horse teams from North River to Blue Mt. Lake. This route was advertised as:

"Exceeded by none on the American continent for the boldness and magnificence of its mountain views, the domes of Marcy, Skylight, Haystack, McIntyre, and many others nearly their equals, rising in plain view at several points on the stage road."

The present day State Route 28/30 from Indian Lake to Blue Mt. Lake follows, for a large part, this historic travel corridor. A few sections of this old roadway are still in evidence today within the Blue Mt. Unit. An excerpt from Township 34 (Hochschild, 1952) further describes portions of the existing old road (based on Route 28/30 as it was prior to new construction completed in 1961):

"The original road left State Route 28/30 about two miles southeast of the present Forest House, skirted the eastern and northern shores of Rock Lake and rejoined the present Route 28/30 at a point one mile above the Forest House and four miles east of Blue Mountain Lake. For the next one and three-tenths miles, the original road followed the present route to a point which, from 1935 to 1938, was the site of a Civilian Conservation Corps camp, about one-quarter mile northwest of the dam at the foot of Lake Durant. There the road turned northwest, ran along the base of a slope of Blue



Mountain, and rejoined the present Route 28/30, approximately one mile east of the community of Blue Mountain Lake. This old road along the slope now makes a pleasant trail or bridle path through the forest."

c. Archaeological Areas (See Section VII-A)

A site file search was conducted at the NYS Museum for archaeological sites located within the Blue Mt. Unit. One site is reported in the southern portion of the unit, with two additional sites located adjacent to the State land within the unit. According to an evaluation of archaeological sensitivity for prehistoric (Indian) sites there is a mixed probability of the existence of prehistoric cultural material within the study area. This rating is based on the physiographic characteristics of the unit. Areas in the vicinity of streams and swamps in the study area would suggest a higher than average probability of prehistoric occupation or use. These would have been potential food and water sources for prehistoric people who may have inhabited the area. Areas of steep slope would suggest a low probability of prehistoric occupation or use, except in exposed rock faces which could have functioned as rock shelters.

A site file search was also conducted at the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (Julia Stokes, 1992). An additional prehistoric site was identified within the southern portion of the unit. Objects such as projectile points, chert flakes and other stone tools were found. Information for this section was obtained with the assistance of Frank Schieppati, Cultural Resources Section (1989) and Karen Hartgen, New York Archaeological Council (1992). Specific site locations are confidential.

d. "Non Forest Preserve" Lands (See Appendix 10)

Certain unit lands administered by DEC that were gifted to NYS for other than Forest Preserve purposes include:

<u>Town/County</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Authority</u>
GIFT [A]: Indian Lake/ Hamilton	Township 19 T&C Purchase	1,251	1956	Sub. 7, Sec.50 Conservation Law
GIFT [B]: Indian Lake/ Hamilton	Township 19 T&C Purchase	1,369	1962	Sub. 2, Sec. 361 Conservation Law

**B. Man-Made Facilities (see Appendix-Existing Facilities Map 3)**

Pt: Indicates all or a portion of facilities on [Private lands]

**1. Barriers (Permanent-P, Administrative-A, Controlled Access-C)**

**a. Road (4)**

(1) A pipe gate (C) on O'Neil Flow Rd. at NYS Route 30

(2) A pipe gate (C) on Salmon Pond Rd. (west gate)Pt

(3) A pipe gate (C) on Salmon Pond Rd. (east gate)Pt

(4) A pipe gate (C) on Long Lake Reservoir Rd.

**b. Waterway Access Site (1)**

(1) Rock barrier (P) on the Indian River put-in site

**c. Fencing (1)**

(1) Long Lake Reservoir

**d. Boom (1)**

(1) Floating Log Boom - Adirondack Lake, (This Town-maintained facility is allowed (under temporary revocable permit) to anchor on State land in order to prevent small, floating bogs from entering the navigable portion of the lake.)

**2. Bridges/Trail Hardening Facilities**

(■-Facilities constructed and inventoried by the Adirondack Mountain Club, N/A-information not available)

**a. Foot Bridges (7)**

(1) On the Northville-Lake Placid Trail across Sandy Creek between Long Lake/Route 28N Trailhead and the Long Lake Reservoir Rd., 30'x4'

(2) On the Northville-Lake Placid Trail across Shaw Brook, 10'x3'

(3) On the Northville-Lake Placid Trail across a stream between Tracy Shanty Clearing and the Salmon Pond Rd., 35'x4'

(4) On the inlet at the north end of Tirrell Pond crossing between the leanto area and the beach, 30x4'

(5) On the Rock Lake Trail across a small tributary of Johnny Mack Brook, 6'x4'

(6) Across the outlet of Pine Lake, 12'x3'

(7) On the Northville-Lake Placid Trail across Sandy Creek, upstream from the Long Lake Reservoir, 35'x8'

b. Boardwalks

- (1) Walkways on the Northville-Lake Placid Trail across tributaries of O'Neil Flow, 90'x4', 30'x4'Pt
- (2) Walkways on the Northville-Placid Trail in the vicinity of Sandy Creek, N/A

c. Drytread (■)

- (1) Blue Mt. Trail, 286'Pt
- (2) Northville-Placid Trail (Salmon Pond Area), N/A

d. Ditching (■)

- (1) Blue Mt. Trail, 89'Pt
- (2) Northville-Placid Trail (Salmon Pond Area), 650'Pt

e. Step Stones (■)

- (1) Blue Mt. Trail, 17Pt
- (2) Northville-Placid Trail (Salmon Pond Area), 15Pt

f. Rock Stairs (■)

- (1) Blue Mt. Trail, 7Pt
- (2) Northville-Placid Trail (Salmon Pond Area), 16Pt

g. Waterbars (■)

- (1) Blue Mt. Trail: Rock,9; Wood,1Pt
- (2) Northville-Placid Trail (Salmon Pond Area), N/A

h. Road Bridges Covered by Temporary Revocable Permit (2)

- (1) On the Salmon Pond Rd. across the Salmon River, 43'x10'
- (2) On the O'Neil Flow Rd. across the Rock River, 45'x10'

i. Snowmobile Bridges (9)

- (1) Across Johnny Mack Brook, 6'x36'
- (2) Three snow support bridges on the trail south of Rock Lake.
- (3) Between Unknown Pond and the Rock River Trail, 10'x6'
- (4) Between Unknown Pond and the Cedar River, 8'x5', 8'x5'

(5) On the Rock River Trail before the junction with the Rock Lake section, 12'x6'

(6) Across a feeder stream of Rock Lake, 15'x5'

3. Camping Sites (Primitive Tent) (36 sites)

(Partial information from 1984 Campsite Inventory-Amy Smith)

- a. Bullhead Pond, 3, non-designated
- b. First Lake, 2, non-designated
- c. Indian River, 5, non-designated
- d. Lake Durant, 3, non-designated  
Lake Durant, 2, designated [Old Route 30]
- e. Northville-Lake Placid Trail; Salmon River, 1, non-designated
- f. Northville-Lake Placid Trail; Sandy Creek, 1, non-designated
- g. Northville-Lake Placid Trail; Shaw Brook, 1, non-designated
- h. Northville-Lake Placid Trail; Tracy Shanty Clearing, 1, non-designated
- i. Northville-Lake Placid Trail; Old Stage Road, 1, non-designated
- j. Northville-Lake Placid Trail; North of Route 28/30, 1, non-designated
- k. Pine Lake, 2, non-designated
- l. Rock Lake, 5, non-designated
- m. Rock River, 1, non-designated
- n. Tirrell Pond, 6, non-designated
- o. Unknown Pond, 1, non-designated

4. Communication Facility

The summit of Blue Mountain is the site of radio communications facilities serving NYS (Department of Environmental Conservation, State Police, Department of Transportation), the Hamilton County Sheriff, Emergency Medical Service and Highway Departments, and a public radio station (WSLU). Facilities include equipment affixed to the fire tower (repeater incorporated in the base of the tower) and a separate antenna tower with associated buildings also housing repeater equipment. The site is served by a 12,000 foot access road and power/telephone lines.

5. Dams (1 existing, Lake Durant Dam is not addressed in this UMP)
  - a. Long Lake Reservoir
  - b. Rock Lake (remains of old wooden dam)
  - c. Tirrell Pond (remains of old logging dam)
6. Docks (4) - user created
  - a. First Lake, 2
  - b. Pine Lake, 2
7. Fireplaces (3)
  - a. O'Neil Leanto
  - b. Tirrell Pond Leanto
  - c. Benton Road/Cedar River area (1)
8. Gravel Pit
  - a. Ball Diamond Area - Closed
  - b. Tarbell Hill Road - Closed
9. Historic Locations, Memorials, and Plaques
  - a. W. Durant Plaque/NYS DOT Parking Area, Route 28/30, Blue Mountain Lake, Education Department
  - b. Aluminum Plaque at the mouth of Dunn Brook in honor of Paul Regan, killed in a hunting accident at that site.
10. Leantos (2)
  - a. O'Neil Flow, south end of Tirrell Pond - Built 1937
  - b. Tirrell Pond, north end - Rebuilt 1987
11. Pit Privies (5)
  - a. Ball Diamond, 2
  - b. Lake Durant, [Old Route 30], 1
  - c. Tirrell Pond, (associated with leantos), 2

12. Roads

a. Public Road (## State Land adjacent to highway)

(1) Maintained - 13.2 miles

<u>NAME</u>	<u>JURISDICTION</u>	<u>APPROX. MILES##</u>
BENTON ROAD	TOWN OF INDIAN LAKE	.2
CHAIN LAKES ROAD	TOWN OF INDIAN LAKE	1.5
ROUTE 19 (Durant Rd.)	HAMILTON COUNTY	.2
ROUTE 28N	NYS	.5
ROUTE 28/30	NYS	10.3
OLD ROUTE 28	TOWN OF INDIAN LAKE	.1
TARBELL HILL ROAD	TOWN OF LONG LAKE	.4

(2) Limited maintenance - 1.0 mile

OLD ROUTE 30	TOWN OF INDIAN LAKE/NYS	.8
BLUE MT. LAKE CEMETERY RD.	NYS	.2

b. Motor Vehicle Trail (Roads over NYS lands that originate from old logging roads, access ways and abandoned roads. Occasionally semi-improved.)

(1) Open Trail (Public motor vehicle use permitted)

(a) Blue Mt. Lake Cemetery Road - .2 mi.

This road runs south from Hamilton County Route 19 at Blue Mt. Lake along the edge of the cemetery and continues to Lake Durant.

(b) Old Route 30 - .8 mi.

(2) Closed Trail (Public motor vehicle use prohibited)

(a) Clear Pond Road (Right of Way over NYS land needs to be determined) - .7 mi.

(b) Salmon Pond Road (Right of Way over NYS land under investigation, limited use by TRP) - .9 mi.

(d) Tyrrell (sic) Pond Road

c. Private Road (Legally maintained by private individuals, public motor vehicle use prohibited)

(1) Easement Road

(a) Long Lake Reservoir Road (Town of Long Lake) - 1.1 mi.

(b) O'Neil Flow Road\* (Legal Right of Way over NYS land) - .8 mi.

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\*This easement consists of two separate sections of road. A map showing a survey of this road as traverses State lands was prepared by DEC and filed with the Judgement on Consent.

13. Trail Signs

There are numerous signs and trail markers within the unit with major DEC trailhead identification signs located at the Northville-Lake Placid and Blue Mountain trailheads. Additional NYS Department of Transportation signs along State Route 28/30 indicates the opportunity for hiking and snowmobiling on unit trails in the vicinity of Rock Lake.

14. Trail Facilities (Current Status; See Appendix 12 for additional information)

Trails within the unit are marked with round discs, three inches in diameter, in red or blue colors.

Four inch orange markers designate snowmobile trails.

a. Trails (+ 44.4 miles - marked) [See Section I-E ]Pt

(1) Foot (+ 29.9 miles)

Trails are classified based on present condition and level of use. Categories of trails range from Type-I (Unmarked Route) to Type-V (Trunk Trail). See Appendix 11 for trail standards.

(a) Marked (+ 24.4 miles)

1. Northville-Lake Placid Trail (Type-V, Blue markers)- total of 15.2 mi.Pt

From the outlet of Lake Durant across NYS 28/30 to the NYS 28N parking area; From the Tarbell Rd. trailhead turning easterly to High Peaks Wilderness Area boundary (Lot 61, Township 22). An additional .7 of a mile of this trail is along the public highway (Tarbell Hill Road).

2. Tirrell Pond Trail (Type-IV, Red markers) - 3.3 mi.Pt

From NYS 28N to the Northville-Lake Placid Trail intersection.

3. Blue Mt. Trail (Type-V, Red markers) - 2.2 mi.Pt

From NYS 28N to the 3759' summit.

4. Rock Lake Trail (Type-IV, Blue markers & Snowmobile) - 0.7 mi.

From NYS 28/30 to Rock Lake.

5. Rock River Trail (Type-III, Blue markers & Snowmobile) - 3.0 mi.

From NYS 28/30 to the Rock River.

(b) Unmarked (Approx. 5.5 miles - scaled from USGS maps)

Includes the following major trails: Barker Pond from O'Neil Flow Road, Stony Step Pond from Old Route 28, First Lake to Grassy Pond, Old Stage Road, and Pine Lake to the Rock and Cedar River confluence.

(2) Snowmobile ( $\pm$  17.5 miles - scaled from USGS maps)

Trails are classified based on present condition, level of use, and relationship to adjacent trail sections, communities or facilities. Categories of trails on NYS lands range from Type-B to Type-D (See Appendix 11; OPRHP, Snowmobile Trail Plan). Sections that have been groomed (G) are identified.

- Also marked as a foot trail

(a) Marked ( $\pm$  17.5 miles)

1. Lake Durant-Rock Lake Trail (G, Type-B/C) - 3.0 mi.  
From Lake Durant Campground to Rock River Trail.
2. Rock Lake Trail (Type-C) - 0.5 mi. •  
From NYS Route 28/30 to Rock Lake (West of Johnny Mack Brook).
3. Rock River Trail (G, Type-C) - 3.0 mi. •  
From NYS Route 28/30 to the Rock River.
4. Unknown Pond Trail (Types-C/D) - 5.5 mi. Pt  
From Rock River Jct.-Unknown Pond (G, Type-C/D) - 3.0 mi.  
From Unknown Pond to Cedar River (G, Type-C) - 2.0 mi.  
Indian Lake Landfill-Cedar River (G, Type-C) - 0.5 mi. Pt

(A combination of rocks, poor topography, and trail flooding limits the ability to groom or improve this section of trail.)

5. Elm Island Trail (G, Type-C) - 3.6 mi. Pt  
From the Indian Lake landfill to Elm Island.
6. Unnamed Spur Trail (G, Type-C) - 0.7 mi. Pt  
From the Adirondack Lake Rd. to Elm Island Trail.
7. Unnamed Spur Trail (G, Type-C) - 0.2 mi.  
From Elm Island Trail to Adirondack Lake.
8. Benton Road Trail (G, Type-B/C) - 0.5 mi.  
From Benton Rd. to NYS boundary. Additional trail segments cross private lands from the landfill to the golf course and NYS 28/30 crossing.
9. Powerline Trail East Inlet Mt. Section (G, Type-B/C) - 0.5 mi.  
From NYS Route 28/30 to Mt. Sabattis, mostly on private lands. Pt

(b) Unmarked ( $\pm$  4 miles)

Including snowmobile activity on Rock Lake, Old Route 30, Lake Durant, and the Blue Mt. Lake Cemetery and Benton roads.



(3) Nordic Ski Trail (+ 2.5 miles - scaled from USGS maps)

(a) Marked

1. Pasley Falls Trail - 2.5 mi.Pt

From Pelon Rd.-Elm Island Snowmobile Trail Jct.

(4) Horse Trails

There are no officially designated horse trails in this unit.

b. Trailheads (major)

(1) With Maintained Parking (6)

(a) Route 28/30 at the beginning of the Rock River Trail (vehicle capacity: 6)

(b) Route 28/30 at the beginning of the Rock Lake Trail (vehicle capacity: 6)

(c) Route 28/30 at the crossing of the Northville-Lake Placid Trail, northside (vehicle capacity: 6), southside (vehicle capacity: 6)

(d) Route 28N at the crossing of the Northville-Lake Placid Trail (vehicle capacity: 12)

(e) Tarbell Hill Road - This section of the Northville-Lake Placid Trail enters the High Peaks Wilderness Area (vehicle capacity: 12)

(f) Route 28/30 at the beginning of the Blue Mountain and Tirrell Pond trails (vehicle capacity: 20)Pt

2) Without Maintained Parking

(a) Blue Mt. Cemetery Road on the northwest side of Lake Durant (serves the Cascade Pond Trail within the Blue Ridge Wilderness Area)

(b) The following locations are where snowmobile trails cross public roads and, although they provide access to State land, they are not designed primarily for that purpose:

1. Adirondack Lake Road Pt

2. Route 28/30 at Lake Durant

3. Indian Lake Landfill [Town of Indian Lake]Pt

4. Benton Road

5. Route 30 at Deerland

c. Registers (6)

(1) Northville-Lake Placid Trail (northside of Route 28/30)

(2) Northville-Lake Placid Trail (Tarbell Hill Road)

- (3) Northville-Lake Placid Trail (Route 28N)
- (4) Rock Lake Trail (Route 28/30)
- (5) Blue Mountain Trail (Route 28N/30)Pt
- (6) Waterway Access Site (Chain Lakes Road)

d. Trail/Recreational Easements (3)

- (1) Easement over private lands situated in Lot 18, Township 19, Totten and Crossfield's Purchase, Town of Indian Lake. This easement is over a part of the Northville-Lake Placid Trail. Recorded in the Hamilton County Clerk's Office, December 30, 1969, in Book 148 of Deeds at page 358.
- (2) Easement over private lands situate in Lots 7, 8, 9, 13, 14, 15, 16, and 17, Township 19, Totten and Crossfield's Purchase, Town of Indian Lake. This is an easement over the red trail from a point on Route 30, at the height of land between Blue Mountain Lake and Deerland, to the northerly end of Tirrell Pond. The remainder of the trail easement is over a part of the Northville-Lake Placid Trail from the outlet of Tirrell Pond crossing Lots 7,8, and 9 to lands of the State in Lot 10 near the northerly edge of O'Neil Flow. Recorded in the Hamilton County Clerk's Office, December 30, 1969, in Book 148 of deeds at page 354.
- (3) The former Rocco Denino property located adjacent to the Indian River Waterway Access Site, was sold in 1994 to the Federal Government and the Town of Indian Lake. A right-of-way 25 feet in width and a conservation easement on 141 acres of land were conveyed to the United States under a Forest Legacy\* project. The Town acquired 17 acres to be used for parking, camping, and picnicking in addition to a staging area for whitewater users. The Town has underlying fee title and timber rights to the remaining 141 acres with the exception of certain rights (development and recreational) on the parcel. NYS is granted the stewardship and administration of the 141 acre conservation easement by the Federal Government as a result of this proposal. Use of the easement area by the public is described in Appendix 28.

A forest stewardship plan was prepared by DEC (Jeff Meuwissen, 1993; See Appendix 26). This plan details management recommendations for the natural resources and recreational potential of the area.

15. Towers and Appurtenances (Fire and Radio)

a. Blue Mountain Fire Tower

This 35 foot high tower was built in 1917. The steel structure encloses the 9'x 9' Hamilton County radio and generator building at its base. The large L-shaped foundation at the foot of the tower was the site of a radar station used during the Cold War. The three slabs are where the emergency generators were in case the power went off. The rusted disc was the base of the antenna mast which was higher than the tower.

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\*The Forest Legacy Program was authorized in the 1990 Farm Bill. The Program was designed to protect and manage important forest areas that are threatened by conversion to nonforest uses through conservation easements. It is strictly a volunteer program; States must want to participate and landowners must voluntarily offer to sell their land or interests in land to the program..

b. Blue Mountain Radio Tower

A separate radio tower is located in the vicinity of the summit with an associated 12'x 18' cement block building.

c. Other Facilities

The small square foundation on the opposite side of fire tower was the site of the original small observer cottage. The "new" observer's cabin was built in the 1970's.

Small iron disks are benchmarks for surveying. The original benchmark was put in by Verplank Colvin in the 1890's. It is approximately 75 feet north of the tower. The benchmark at the foot of the tower was put in during the 1942 survey and marks the "official" summit of the mountain. Other benchmarks are scattered on the mountaintop with arrows pointing to the summit. An access road with NYSEG electric poles and line, and DEC telephone wire are also located in the summit area.

16. Waterway Access Site

a. Chain Lakes Road - provides access to the Indian and Hudson Rivers for recreational purposes.

SIGNAGE:

<u>Location</u>	<u>Size</u>	<u>Wording</u>
Side of Chain Lakes Road near Lake Abanakee Dam	2'x 4'	DANGER WATER RELEASE 10AM TO 12AM DAILY

<u>Location</u>	<u>Size</u>
Indian River Waterway Access Site	2'X 3'

Wording

Indian River Waterway Access Site  
CAUTION!  
DANGEROUS RAPIDS DOWNSTREAM  
If you are unsure of your ability, or your watercraft,  
you should utilize the services of a river outfitter.  
A list of river outfitters is available  
at the Indian Lake Town Hall.  
PLEASE REGISTER

17. Water Supply (See Section II-D-2-d)

a. Town of Long Lake Reservoir on Sandy Creek.

(1) Pipeline, 10 inch cast iron buried in Right-of-Way, 1.2 acres

(2) Reservoir enclosure, 1.5 acres

(3) Access road Right-of-Way, 1.3 acres

18. Water/Fisheries Structures

a. Fish Barrier Dam, Bullhead Pond, reconstructed 1991.

## C. Cultural

The past cultural resources within the Blue Mt. Unit were limited to early travel routes, logging history, and the establishment of a number of hunting camps and "inns", along with a short lived settlement on Tirrell Pond. Many of these locations were identified in the previous history sections (I-F and II-A-4-b). Physical evidence of past use in these areas has faded with time, but sections of an old stage road are still evident north of Lake Durant and in the vicinity of Rock Lake. An examination of the library at the OPRHP indicates that no cultural resource surveys have been conducted within the unit (Karen Hartgen, 1992).

### 1. Land Ownership Patterns and Tax Base

The State lands within the unit are located in three towns in Hamilton and Essex Counties. These towns represent a total land area of approximately 1/2 million acres. Blue Mt. Unit lands comprise only seven percent of the combined township acreage. The State of New York pays funds to localities in lieu of town, county, and school taxes.

### 2. Land Use Regulations

#### a. Local Land Use Controls

Zoning, subdivision regulations, and historic district laws can directly and indirectly protect open space and historic structures. The Town of Indian Lake has enacted a zoning ordinance while the Town of Long Lake is still in the process of developing a zoning plan. Land use ordinances affect private land uses and any associated impacts to adjacent NYS lands and waters.

#### b. State Administered Land Use Controls

State administered environmental and land use controls including the regulations of the Adirondack Park Agency, Freshwater Wetlands Act, and Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers programs require setback of development from important environmental resources thus protecting open space.

## D. Economic and Physical Impacts

### 1. Impact of State Ownership on Adjacent Private Lands

The economic base of the general area that includes the Blue Mt. Unit is influenced to a large degree by tourism, outdoor recreation, and forestry. The early settlers were attracted to the area by its natural beauty and abundant fish and wildlife resources. Some individuals capitalized on these natural assets by providing services to the "tourists" who followed. This business has been an important part of the

local economy ever since and is dependent, in part, on nearby undeveloped State lands.

Various local businesses such as motels, gas stations, restaurants, food stores, and establishments which sell or rent goods or services benefit from the influx of white water rafters, hikers, campers, hunters, fishermen and other recreationists attracted by nearby State lands and waters.

a. Land Resources

To date there have been few economic studies on the impact of State ownership as it affects adjacent private lands or local communities. In many cases, property values of private land next to State holdings are increased by advertising the many benefits of forest preserve lands (Kay, 1985). Landowners seeking privacy and solitude have protection from development of adjacent NYS lands. State lands also provide the unique opportunity of having a "backyard" with no maintenance costs or taxes but with access to various recreational experiences.

Attractions such as the Blue Mt. Trail, Northville-Lake Placid Trail and Lake Durant Campground draw numbers of people into the nearby communities. Public purchase of local goods and services generates recreation dollars whose multiplier effect is felt throughout the surrounding area.

Some negative situations do exist occasionally where private lands adjoin State lands. Noise pollution, trespass, and littering are annoyances that may occur where trailheads and parking lots are in close proximity to private holdings.

b. Wildlife

The economic importance of the game portion of New York's wildlife resources is reflected in the expenditures of sportsmen, the income from furs and hides, and the meat value of game. Additional nonconsumptive use of wildlife (photography, bird watching, etc.) can augment recreational dollars spent in the local area.

c. Fisheries

Quantitative angler use estimates and their economic impact for the Blue Mountain Wild Forest are not available. Angling-related expenditures contribute to the economy of the area and have probably remained stable or increased in the last decade. Pine Lake, First Lake, and Tirrell Pond are popular

fly-in lakes for bush pilots. To date, the Northwoods Club and the Gooley Club, which own or lease portions of the shorelines of Pine Lake and First Lake, have not objected to angler use.

d. Water Resources

Within the Blue Mt. Unit, the most significant water related activity consists of commercial whitewater rafting during the spring and fall seasons. This form of recreation attracts large numbers of people to the local area.

The put-in point for rafting is in the Blue Mt. Unit (Chain Lakes Rd.), while most of the thrill and beauty of the trip occurs on the Hudson River as it flows through the adjacent Hudson Gorge Primitive Area. The financial impacts on the economy of Indian Lake, North Creek, and other nearby communities can be significant. In recent years as many as 22 companies at one time have operated on the route beginning at the Lake Abanakee dam and passing through the Hudson Gorge, conducting between 10,000 and 12,000 customers down the river each year. In 1993, customers paid as much as \$80 each for a trip. Currently, up to 1,000 commercial customers (rafters per day) utilize the area primarily on weekends during April to early June. A survey of rafting customers revealed that, on the average, 1-2 days are spent in the area in the course of taking a rafting trip.

The Town of Indian Lake receives revenues from the rafting companies to cover expenses of operating the dam and for insurance coverage. Local people are hired and trained to work as rafting guides, as well. Lake Abanakee shore owners have asserted that water level fluctuations associated with rafting have damaged waterfront property. Local sportsmen complain that northern pike fishing has diminished in Lake Abanakee since the advent of rafting. They blame low water levels in the spring for stranding pike spawn (See Section IV-C-2-b). Rafting is discussed in more detail within the Hudson Gorge Primitive Area Unit Management Plan.

In addition selected waterbodies provide important landing and drop off locations for the float plane pilots in the area. See Section II-E-6-d.

Long Lake Reservoir\*: The reservoir site, pipeline and access roadway encumbers approximately four acres of Forest Preserve lands. An annual rental charge is applied to the Long Lake Water District. Ownership of the underwater land and access road is with the State of New York. Any improvement or rehabilitation requires a DEC permit.

## 2. Impact of Adjacent Private Lands on State Holdings

### a. Land Resources

The private sector's lack of intensive development and commercialism have posed few if any conflicts with nearby State land. Approximately 75 miles of boundary line (50 miles adjacent to one landowner) within the unit abuts private land. Adequate marking on a 5-10 year schedule is necessary in order to prevent timber trespass or illegal structures and roads. An additional 20 miles adjoins public highways or waters and requires forest preserve signage.

Three roads exist over BMWF lands that provide access to adjacent private lands. Use of the Salmon Pond Road has been allowed by DEC under the terms and conditions of a TRP\*\*. Permission has been granted for vehicular use strictly for the ingress and egress of Company officials, employees and duly authorized representatives acting in an official capacity for the purpose of administration of the forest resources or for the removal of timber products from these private lands. A portion of the Clear Pond Road crosses NYS lands and is maintained and utilized by the adjoining private landowner and members of the Gooley Club. Additional information on these roads can be found in Section IV-D-3.

The Adirondack Museum, a nationally acclaimed regional museum of history and art is visited by approximately 100,000 people a year. The close proximity of the Blue Mt. and Tirrell Pond trailhead to this local attraction may encourage increased use of these marked hiking trails.

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\*Section 15-1509 of the Environmental Conservation law calls for an annual payment based on a charge of 6% per annum on the value of the State owned lands and rights used. This value to be determined by the DEC and redetermined at ten year intervals. This charge is in addition to an annual charge paid to the State as a reasonable return for services rendered.

\*\*Pursuant to Section 9-0105, Subsection 15, of the Environmental Conservation Law, the DEC can issue temporary revocable permits (TRP's) for the use of forest preserve land for a limited length of time. This landowner has filed a suit-of-action to establish a right-of-way over the Salmon Pond Road.

Several trails within the unit originate on and/or cross private lands. Cooperation with private landowners has resulted in public parking areas with deeded trail easements for certain trails crossing their lands and appropriate public use on trails not covered by easement.

b. Wildlife

Changes in wildlife habitats occur constantly due to natural processes such as succession, blowdown, and disease or human activities such as logging and residential development. These events can impact wildlife species both within and adjacent to the unit.

c. Fisheries

A portion of the trail leading to Bullhead Pond originally crossed posted private land. In 1994 a Forest Legacy project (See Section VIII-F) was completed providing public access to Bullhead Pond.

d. Water Resources

Private land uses on waterfront adjacent to State lands may impact the aquatic resources and water quality of a few lakes within the unit. Problems such as excess weed and algae growth, erosion, sewage, and conflicts between different types of recreational use need to be addressed.

(1) Long Lake Reservoir

The Long Lake Reservoir is located on NYS land in the northern portion of the unit, northwest of Burnt Mt. in the Sandy Creek drainage. This reservoir, under Section 15, Article 1509 of the Environmental Conservation Law, is a legally defined public water supply for the Hamlet of Long Lake. It services approximately 800 people.

This 1.5-acre reservoir is fence-enclosed and includes a cement shelf and dam with water line controls. Ten foot right-of-ways (ROW) exist for the water pipe line (5,225 feet) and access road (5,825 feet) as they cross NYS land.

(2) Lake Abanakee Dam

The dam at Lake Abanakee is operated and controlled by the Town of Indian Lake. Unpredictable releases of water are made in spring and fall months in response to upstream releases of water from the Indian Lake dam by the Hudson River-Black River Water Regulating District. Scheduled releases of water are also made in the spring and fall to accommodate whitewater recreation. Either type of release can dramatically raise water levels in the Indian River and to a lesser extent, in the Hudson River. Sudden increases in water levels may negatively impact stream invertebrate populations and can pose a safety concern for wading anglers.

(3) Lake Adirondack

A local ordinance prohibits the moving of bog mats on Lake Adirondack except to place them behind the log boom (anchored to NYS land under a TRP) in the northwest portion of the lake.



## E. Public Use

The proximity to major corridors (Route 28, 30, etc.), central location within the Adirondack Park, and general attractiveness of the area have all contributed to promote public use of the Blue Mt. Unit. A wide variety of recreational opportunities exist with intensity of use dependent on both the type of activity and season of the year.

There are five register booths that sample public use within the Blue Mt. Unit. These facilities are located along two major highways (NYS Route 28/30 and 28N) and are adjacent to marked hiking trails with the exception of the register at the Indian River put-in site. An additional register booth (Tarbell Hill Road) collects information primarily for the High Peaks Wilderness Area.

Public use statistics have been collected from these booths for several years. Although this is the best source of information currently available, register figures tend to be inaccurate due to the reluctance of some users to sign in at trailhead locations. Voluntary trail register compliance percentages can vary depending on register location, time of visit (season, day of week), entry hour, length of stay and group size. The following chart was developed from register logs of the past seven years and provides the only documented use figures. Actual use## is not known.

<u>Marked Trail</u>	<u>Register Location</u>	<u>1987</u>	<u>1988</u>	<u>1989</u>	<u>1990</u>	<u>1991</u>	<u>1992</u>	<u>1993</u>
Northville-Lake Placid	NYS 28N	780	732	691	612	351#	877	721
Blue Mt.	NYS 28N	8595	8696#	6022#	9663	11,013	11,917	11,021
Rock Lake	NYS 28/30	1985	1262	1319	1990	2361	2276	2062
Northville-Lake Placid	NYS 28/30	1349	1026	1040	1329	1400	1574	1465

#This information is incomplete due to missing register pages.

##There are numerous access points along the perimeter of the unit with no accurate way to measure public use via unmarked trails, waterways, bushwhacking, etc.

In the past, the majority of recreational activity occurred in the spring, summer and fall. More recently the area receives use throughout the year as more people enjoy snowmobiling, cross-country skiing and other winter activities.

## 1. Land Resources

With the exception of the Northville-Lake Placid Trail and the Tirrell Pond area the northern portion of the unit receives only minimal use due to a combination of limited access, rugged terrain, and lack of waterbodies. Public use is primarily concentrated in the southern portion of the unit where most of the facilities are located. The marked and maintained trails receive varying amounts of use depending on the season, day of the week, etc.

## 2. Wildlife

Data regarding public use of the wildlife resource within the Blue Mt. Unit is generally lacking. This use can be described in two categories; consumptive use in the form of harvest for meat or fur by hunters and trappers, and nonconsumptive use in the form of observations associated with hiking and photography.

Species of wildlife that may be hunted and/or trapped are identified in the Environmental Conservation Law (ECL), Section 11-0903 and 11-0908. The DEC has been given the authority to set season dates and bag limits for all species that may be taken legally. Antlerless deer harvest is prohibited during the regular firearm season but is permitted during the archery season and muzzleloading special season.

With the exception of early bear season and the more readily accessible areas, the northern portion of the unit is not as heavily used by sportsmen during the hunting and trapping seasons. However, the southern portion, with its easier topography and abundance of waters and wetlands, is utilized more consistently every year by people who own camps nearby or by parties that camp in the interior.

Information on harvest is collected for deer, bear, and selected furbearers (beaver, bobcat, coyote, fisher, marten and otter). Appendix 13 lists harvest records for these eight species by township and county. The percentage of Blue Mt. Unit lands within each respective township can be found in Section I-D, Acreage. Since the distribution and abundance of wildlife is habitat related, harvest figures by town are generally not representative of actual harvest or use within the unit. The posting of adjacent private lands would encourage use of nearby public lands.

Past studies by DEC indicate that few sportsmen stop at trailhead registers. This, combined with the fact that many hunters and trappers traditionally use unmarked trails, waterways, float planes, bushwacking, etc., to enter state lands, prevents an accurate estimate of total visitor use. Information regarding non-consumptive use of wildlife is generally lacking. For the most part, observations of wildlife enhance the recreational experience of the general public.

### 3. Fisheries

Information about the numbers of anglers who visit the waters of the BMWF is not currently available. However, it is known that fishing ranks as one of the more popular activities in selected waters. Fishing pressure is generally higher on the more readily accessible water bodies with angler use of the unit's streams estimated to be light. The majority of stream fishing activity occurs on the Indian River.

After the trout season opens on April 1, fishing pressure typically peaks in intensity in May when trout can still be found in the cool water near the surface of a pond. Fishing activity declines from late spring through the summer due to formation of a thermocline which causes fish to move to deeper water. The decline of fishing activity which occurs as the summer progresses coincides with an increase in pond use by hikers and campers. Angling on brook trout ponds ceases altogether after the trout season closes on September 30. Warmwater angling on Lake Durant, Lake Adirondack, Lake Abanakee, Lake Francis and Rock Lake peaks in July-August. Ice fishing for tiger muskellunge is practiced on Lake Durant and Rock Lake. Northern pike and yellow perch are sought in the unit's other warmwater lakes during the winter months.

### 4. Water Resources

Public use of this resource consists of numerous activities that occur throughout the year. The aesthetic qualities of some of interior water bodies (Tirrell Pond, Rock Lake, etc.), along with established tent sites, contributes to the popularity of swimming and camping opportunities during the summer and fall seasons. Watercraft recreation (canoes, boats, etc.) occurs within the unit, with the more readily accessible lakes and ponds (Lake Durant, Lake Adirondack, and Lake Abanakee) generally

receiving the greatest variety and amount of use. The frozen water surface of Lake Durant, Rock Lake, and Lake Adirondack are utilized by snowmobilers for access to the snowmobile trail system.

a. Flatwater

Except for Tirrell Pond, the southern portion of the Blue Mt. Unit contains all the potential recreational water bodies. Current limitations on public use of the forest preserve waters within the unit include the prohibition of mechanically propelled vessels on Rock Lake and Tirrell Pond, storage of personal property (boats, etc.) on State lands, along with other applicable rules and regulations.

Public use information regarding flatwater recreation within the unit has not been collected by DEC. Numerous sites for hand-launching are available on the more popular waters adjacent to the unit (Lake Durant, Lake Abanakee, and Lake Adirondack), with a developed public boat launch site at the Lake Durant Campground (day use fee). Additional use from adjacent private landowners or leasees contributes to the overall use of ponds and lakes within the unit.

b. Whitewater (Additional information in Section VIII-D)

Two watercourses in the southern portion of the unit offer seasonal whitewater recreational opportunities:

(1) Cedar River

Only a portion of this watercourse traverses the unit between the NYS 28/30 bridge to the State boundary near Pine Lake. This river drops 190 feet in its fourteen mile descent to the Hudson River. There are Class III rapids after the junction of the Rock River. Private lands in Essex County along with the lack of a suitable take out point limits the overall recreational potential of this river. The end of the Benton Road can be used for a take-out site for individuals that entered the river from NYS lands adjacent to the Cedar River Road approximately 1.5 miles upstream from the NYS 28/30 bridge. The end of the Benton Road could also serve as a parking area and put-in for a Class III whitewater trip downstream into the Hudson River.

(2) Indian River/Hudson Gorge (From HGPA Draft UMP, 1993).

A vertical drop of more than 500 feet over the 16-mile ride yields class III, IV, and V rapids. With its rare combination of challenging white water and spectacular scenery, this river corridor now attracts customers from several surrounding states and Canada.

Use of the Blue Mt. Unit by commercial rafting outfits is incidental as the wild forest lands and Indian River only provide access to their goal, the Hudson Gorge. For several years, the Town of Indian Lake has kept detailed records of the number of rafting customers who have entered the Hudson Gorge from the waterway access site. According to those figures, use levels peaked in 1986 at more than 12,000 for the year. Since then use has declined slightly and has leveled out between 9,000 and 11,000 customers per year.

The number of customers in a raft on a weekend day averages around seven or eight. Therefore a daily use level of 1,000 people, the maximum allowable under the terms of the current agreement between the Town and DEC, translates to a maximum of about 120 rafts. Commercial use occurs primarily from April through early June on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday corresponding with a two hour water release. Over the spring rafting season, when use levels are much higher than in the fall, weekday use levels seldom exceed 100 customers per day, while on weekend days the average is much higher. On Saturdays the maximum daily limit of 1,000 is often reached, while Sunday levels are usually between one-half and two-thirds the Saturday numbers.

In step with the rise of commercial rafting, the use by privately-owned canoes, kayaks, and rafts continues to increase. After early June, when the Town no longer makes scheduled dam releases, private craft account for nearly all river traffic until scheduled releases begin again in the fall.

The intensity of the use of the area by rafters is largely a matter of access. Of the sites open for public use, the one most easily accessible from a public highway is located off the Chain Lakes Road within the Blue Mountain Wild Forest Area. Although a long stretch of the Indian River is accessible from this town road, the site currently in use is the most practical one and has been designated a waterway access site in accordance with ASLMP guidelines. The Town of Indian Lake manages the waterway access site under a written agreement with DEC (Appendix 14). The Town of Indian Lake purchased 17 acres of land adjacent to the access site for developed public parking and a whitewater staging area. The Town assures that privately-owned river craft may be launched at any time between commercial rafts.

The only other access site used by rafters entering the Indian River is located near the public site on land which is owned by one of the major outfitters. This outfitter launches all his rafts from this private land site. Access to the Hudson River is also possible from Newcomb.

The following chart was developed from register sheet information and official town records for the past six years:

	<u>1987</u>	<u>1988</u>	<u>1989</u>	<u>1990</u>	<u>1991</u>	<u>1992</u>
Commercial use	10,171	10,658	9,672	10,927	10,616	10,512
Other use#	376##	471	354	##	##	##

#Approximately 30% of recorded use is from other recreational uses not dealing directly with whitewater trips. Fishing was popular during the spring and summer seasons with day hiking and camping occurring predominantly in the summer and fall. The number of private watercraft is not included in the limit of 1,000 people per day allowed by the Town in accordance with their agreement with DEC.

##This information is incomplete due to missing register pages and/or lack of data.

## 5. Length of Stay

### a. Day Use

Day hiking, picnicking and sightseeing are some of the most popular activities within the unit. Day use can be significant with the greatest amount of activity occurring on the Blue Mt. Trail and along the Indian River during whitewater rafting seasons. The popularity of snowmobile use has declined on some area trails due to the lack of trail grooming recently due to weather and trail conditions (rough rocky sections, flooding from beaver activity, etc).

### b. Overnight Use

The majority of camping activity within the unit consists of small groups and occurs at popular waterfront locations; primarily on summer and fall weekends. An additional portion of public camping activity is regulated by DEC permit. An accounting of this overnight use includes:

#### (1) Group Camping Permits (within the Blue Mt. Unit)

Groups of ten or more camping on State land one or more nights, are required to obtain a camping permit. These permits for the 1989\* camping season are summarized below:

Number of Groups (Permits Issued): 13

Number of Visitors: 152

Duration of Stay: Range: 1-39 nights  
(Stays exceeding 14 days occurred in the fall.)

Group Size: Range: 10-16 individuals

Permits are issued by individual ranger districts on a first come, first served basis. Forest rangers direct groups to camp in specific areas where they will impart the least environmental impact. Interior group campsites are few in number and limited by useable terrain. Regional policy limits group size in wild forest areas to no larger than 20 individuals. Occasional requests from larger groups will be addressed under a TRP.

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\*Overall, group camping occurred mainly in the summer and was concentrated near Tirrell Pond. The majority of this use was from Deerfoot Lodge, a youth camp.

(2) Individual Camping Permits (within the Blue Mt. Unit)

Small groups (less than ten individuals) camping in the same location four or more consecutive nights also require a Department permit. In 1989\*, 14 individual camping permits were issued.

Popular camping locations included:

<u>PONDS</u>	<u>LAKES</u>	<u>RIVERS</u>
Corner Tirrell Pine Lake Rock Lake	Lake Durant First Lake	Indian Rock

6. Recreational activities (See Level of Use Section; Additional public use involving the fish, wildlife and water resources was discussed in the previous sections)

a. Hiking/Backpacking

This activity is fairly popular with marked trails in both portions of the unit. The greatest amount of use occurs on the Blue Mt. Trail; with additional use on portions the Northville-Lake Placid Trail, Tirrell Pond Trail, and the Rock Lake Trail.

b. Snowmobiling

With the exception of a small segment of trail near Deerland, public snowmobiling on State land is limited to the southern portion of the unit where the marked trails are located. Parts of the existing trails have rocky sections and places with steep grades. Over the last few years, this combination of rugged trail conditions, poor snowfall, and flooding from beaver activity has limited the grooming activity by the Town of Indian Lake. The lack of maintenance has discouraged public use with only a small number of snowmobilers estimated to use the main trail segment from Indian Lake to Lake Durant. Registered use statistics are not available due to the lack of registration booths in the Indian Lake or Lake Durant areas.

c. Nordic Skiing

The only marked cross-country ski trail within the unit begins in the vicinity of the Indian Lake

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\*The majority of these permits occurred in September, October and November, the months of the early black bear and regular big game seasons.

Landfill and ends below the summit of McGinn Mountain. The lack of adequate maintenance (blowdown removal, missing markers, poor location, etc.) on sections of this trail has tended to discourage use. Additional skiing activity occurs on the hiking and/or snowmobile trails in the vicinity of Rock Lake, Blue Mt., and the Cedar River.

d. Float planes

Many of the remote waterbodies within the Blue Mt. Unit receive virtually no foot traffic due to their distance from public roads. Aircraft can provide an alternate type of entry into these otherwise inaccessible areas. Float plane use occurs predominantly during the spring fishing and fall hunting seasons on Tirrell Pond, Pine Lake, and First Lake.

Commercial float plane operators in the Adirondack Park have a good reputation for encouraging their passengers to be respectful of the environment. The majority of this use is from local bush pilots who provide outfitter service, but some private aircraft utilize the area. The presence of float planes can aid in detecting forest fires and dealing with other emergencies in situations where land vehicles are useless. They are also utilized on a contractual basis in the maintenance of remote facilities and to fly aerial fire detection flights when necessary.

e. Other Uses

There are no marked horse trails within the unit, with trail riding (snowmobile trails, old roads, unmarked paths) occurring infrequently in the southern portion of the unit. The rugged topography and the lack of suitable trails in the northern portion of the unit has discouraged public use by both horseback and/or all terrain bicycle riders.

7. Level of Use

As compared to overall public use within the Adirondack Park, intensity of use within the unit can best be described as light to moderate. An examination of level of use within the unit follows.

a. Areas sustaining apparent low use include:

- (1) Fishing Brook Range
- (2) East Inlet Mt. Range



b. Areas sustaining apparent light to moderate use include:

(1) Northville-Lake Placid Trail (NYS 28/30-Tarbell Hill Rd.)

This section of trail follows stream courses, lake basins and steep ridges. Approximately 12% of this "long trail" traverses the Blue Mt. Unit. A combination of steep rugged terrain, limited access, and lack of lakes and ponds may explain the overall low public use of this trail section. The majority of use consists of day use, with some overnight camping occurring in the vicinity of Tirrell Pond. It is estimated that between 200 to 400 people hike through the unit on the trail annually.

(2) Lake Durant Area (Old Route 30, Ball diamond area)

These areas within the unit in close proximity to Lake Durant have been popular locations for camping and day use activities. Car top launching of watercraft also occurs.

(3) Chain Lakes Road

Seasonal camping activity occurs on primitive tent sites located between the road and the river. Fishing activity is also popular in the spring and early summer.

(4) Benton Road Day Use Area

Overnight camping is prohibited in this area. See Section V-1-b-(1). Current use of the area consists of picnicking, swimming, and other day use activities.

(5) Ponds along the Essex/Hamilton County line

First Lake, Pine Lake, and Grassy Pond are not accessible from any marked trails or public highways. Float plane flights enable public recreation to occur on these remote NYS lands and waters.

(6) Pelon Road (Indian Lake Landfill)

The lack of public use data regarding access via town and private lands prevents an accurate estimate of use from this location. The majority of use occurs in the winter on the marked snowmobile and Nordic Ski trails. Public use to the north is affected by the unbridged crossing of the Cedar River.

c. Areas sustaining apparent moderate to heavy use include:

(1) Blue Mt. Summit (Data from 1987 register sheets, more recent information was incomplete or not available for examination.)

An examination of the register pages for the Blue Mountain Trail indicated that at least 8595 people utilized this trail in 1987. The prime season extended from 6/1/87 through 10/1/87 and accounted for 80% of the yearly use figure. Overall, day-use figures for this 120-day season were low in early summer with the greatest use occurring on the weekends and holidays. Upwards of 300 individuals signed in on peak days. Actual use on these popular days may have ranged from 500 to 600 people. Information from Chris Saunders (1994 Blue Mt. Summit seasonal Intern/Guide) documented that most visitors arrive between 11 am and 2 pm with Friday, Saturday and Sunday being peak days. People from every state except Alaska were observed along with several nationalities; especially Canadians. Approximately 80% of visitors were tourists, 17% summer people and 3% locals.

(2) Tirrell Pond

This area is a popular swimming, camping, fishing, and hiking location. The concentration of public use particularly at the north end of this pond results from the combination of attractive natural setting and developed facilities. Several primitive tent sites are located near the water with leantos on both the north and south sides of the pond.

The area receives use not only from hikers on the Northville-Lake Placid and Tirrell Pond trails, but recreationists from nearby camps on private land in addition to float plane trips.

(3) Rock Lake

Access to this large interior waterbody is readily available by either a .7 or 1 mile hike from NYS Route 28/30 via the Rock Lake Trail or the Rock River Trail respectively. Several primitive tent sites can be found.

(4) Indian River (seasonal)

While camping activity occasionally occurs on the primitive tent sites near the Chain Lakes Road, the area adjacent to the put-in site receives the greatest public use activity due to commercial rafting.

8. Public Easements

Public use of some adjacent private lands is provided through easements and is limited to specific trail corridors. In addition, certain activities such as camping, building of fires, fishing, and hunting are not permitted on these lands.

The easements are subject to the landowners right to:

"use the premises at any and all times for the purpose of conducting logging or lumbering operations for the removal of logs and wood from the premises" or to suspend the easement "during any period of time when the exercising thereof shall unduly subject the forests, thru which the said described trail passes, to danger from destruction by fire."

Upon notification of forest harvesting activity signs are erected on these trails to inform the public.

SUMMARY

Determination of public use is based upon a combination of register information, camping permits, and field observations. Information collected for 1993 indicated that over 15,000 people registered for some type of activity within the unit. An additional 10,000 are known to have utilized the Indian River either on commercial rafting trips or private recreational activity. Actual use within the Blue Mt. Unit may approach upwards of 50,000 individuals per year.

## F. Capacity of the Resource to Withstand Use

Carrying capacity is defined as (Hendee, 1990): "The amount, kind, and distribution of use that can occur without leading to unacceptable impacts on either the physical and/or biological resource or the available experience."

This capacity of the resource to withstand use is very much site related and is dependent on a variety of factors (type and intensity of use, physical conditions, biological resources, etc.) at any specific location. The presence of trails, bodies of water or waterways, and scenic qualities tend to concentrate use within a given area of land. Evidence of extensive litter, erosion, compacted soils, obliterated ground cover or the absence of certain wildlife and fish species, all signs of overuse or improper use, are generally lacking within the unit.

One or more such conditions have been identified in some of the more popular locations. However these impacts tend to be limited to small areas. It can be concluded that, with few exceptions, the level of use within the Blue Mt. Unit is not presently exceeding the capacity of the natural resources to withstand use.

### 1. Land Resources

Public use and associated impacts over the total acreage of State lands within the unit is minimal.

Potential problem areas include:

#### (1) Blue Mountain

A combination of factors (lack of parking, private land conflicts, etc.) resulted in a trail relocation for the beginning portion of the Blue Mt. Trail in 1983. The natural process of erosion was aggravated by soil compaction and disturbance due a combination of insufficient drainage control and increasing public use on the thin soils. The volume and velocity of water runoff quickly damaged portions of the trail treadway. Recent trail stabilization and reconstruction efforts in 1988 and 1989 has helped mitigate these resource impacts.

Vandalism to the observer's cabin and firetower occurred in 1992. DEC presence at the summit has been limited in recent years due to the lack of funding for a firetower observer position. In 1994 a student intern worked from July 5 through August 21 as a summit guide on Blue Mountain.

#### (2) Tirrell Pond

Natural sand beach areas tend to attract both campers and day users to the northwest portion of the pond. The pond is utilized by large groups camping in the area throughout the summer. Human waste disposal is a concern at this location, with minimal suitable camping or privy locations available nearby. Problems such as loss of vegetation, soil compaction, and illegal tree cutting occur in the vicinity of both leantos. There is also concern over illegal camping and fires on the beach area at the north end of the pond.

(3) Rock Lake

Easy access, attractive setting, and a good fishery have encouraged public use of this waterbody. Resource impacts have been minimal.

(4) Indian River Put-in Site

Under current conditions, the only area within the unit impacted by rafting activity which is susceptible to physical damage is the launch site on the Chain Lakes Road. Because it is the only practicable public launch site, it sustains heavy use. The Town of Indian Lake manages the site under agreement with DEC and is authorized to maintain it against erosion by applying wood chips and/or installing water bars. Current use of the access site appears to be within the ability of the resource to withstand use.

In the past commercial rafting customers were bussed to the launch site to assure that no parking problem developed near the access site. The few shoulder parking areas available were utilized by the private boat owners who must also use the same access site. On busy weekends as many as 50 vehicles have been parked along Chain Lakes Road at one time. The availability of safe parking was limited and did not accommodate use levels. The recent acquisition of 17 acres by the Town of Indian Lake across from the access site will provide suitable facilities for public parking.

(5) Lake Durant Area

Of some concern is the increasing use of the old highway section on the north shore of Lake Durant. Existing water levels and wetlands adjacent to both sides of the road, limit any appropriate pit privy locations. Designation of primitive tent sites has controlled some past problems associated with overnight use of the area.

(6) Benton Road Day Use Area

The prohibition of overnight camping has eliminated most of the past problems associated with improper use of the area. Minimal maintenance has contributed to the deterioration of the pit privy and fireplaces. There continues to be a concern over litter at this location.

2. Wildlife

The impact of public use on most wildlife species within the unit is unknown. While impacts appeared to be minimal for the handful of game species monitored, some wildlife species can be vulnerable to disturbance associated with public recreational activity. One species in this category is the common loon.

Nests along shore or on islands are more susceptible to human disturbance if boats or canoes can be carried readily into lakes occupied by loons. Nests along shore are more susceptible to human disturbance where trails follow the shore of a lake (Titus, 1978). However, nest desertion or mortality of newly hatched young will only occur when the incubating adult is forced to leave the nest or newly hatched young are inconsiderately harassed by people. At present, loons are known to nest on Rock

Lake and Third Lake. Feeding adults are sometimes observed on other ponds in the unit.

The Bureau of Wildlife monitors the populations of game species partly by compiling and analyzing harvest statistics, thereby quantifying the effects of consumptive wildlife use (Appendix 13). The narrow range of variation in annual harvest numbers, along with regular season regulations (bucks only), demonstrate little impact on the reproductive capacity of a deer population. Overall, deer populations within the unit are capable of withstanding current and anticipated levels of consumptive use. An analysis of black bear harvest figures, along with a study of the age composition of harvested bears, indicates that hunting has little impact on the reproductive capacity of the bear population. Under existing regulations, the unit's bear population is capable of withstanding current and anticipated levels of consumptive use.

Several legislative changes have occurred during the past several years that likely have had impacts on use of the area by hunters. Both hunting of bears by using bait and by using dogs have been prohibited, probably lowering use by bear hunters. Use by deer hunters probably has increased because of two legislative changes, one allowing successful archers to purchase a second tag for use during the regular firearms season and similar legislation allowing successful muzzleloader hunters the same privilege.

The Bureau of Wildlife monitors furbearer harvest by requiring trappers to tag the pelts of beaver, bobcat, coyote, fisher, marten, and otter. Beaver and fisher can be susceptible to over-harvest to a degree directly related to market demand and ease of access.

While detrimental impacts to game populations over a large area is unlikely, wildlife biologists continually monitor harvests, with special attention to beaver, fisher, and marten. Specific regulations are changed when necessary to protect furbearer populations.

### 3. Fisheries

DEC angling regulations are designed to preserve fish populations in individual waters by preventing over exploitation. In addition to angling regulations, factors at work in the BMWF which serve to limit use include the remoteness of ponds from roads and the seasonal nature of angling in cold-water ponds.

The abundance of competing and predacious fish species has limited natural brook trout production in some BMWF waters (see Section II-A-2-c). Tirrell Pond, Grassy Pond, and Little Grassy Pond are the only waters in the unit with sufficient natural reproduction to maintain viable brook trout populations. Under existing angling regulations, the trout populations of stocked and NSA ponds are capable of withstanding current and anticipated levels of angler use.

The warmwater species found in the unit have proven to be able to sustain themselves under existing regulations without the need for stocking, except for tiger muskellunge in Lake Durant.

DEC monitors the effectiveness of angling regulations, stocking policies and other management activities by conducting periodic biological and chemical surveys. Based on analysis of biological survey results, angling regulations may be changed as necessary to protect the fish populations of the BMWF.

#### 4. Water Resources

In addition to the social and economic impacts, physical changes due to fluctuating water levels, sewage problems, and excessive weed or algae growth can impact the biological component of this natural resource. A genuine need exists to safeguard this resource by insuring that the scale and intensity of water-oriented uses are within the capabilities of the resource to withstand this use. Appropriate sections and corridors of wild, scenic, and recreational rivers within the unit will be managed in accordance with ASLMP guidelines.

##### a. Flatwater

The socially acceptable "carrying capacity" of a body of water is that point, beyond which the number of boats on the water's surface, on an instantaneous basis, begins to degrade the aesthetic qualities of the boating experience for all.

Actual carrying capacity varies with the biological capabilities, environmental setting, adjacent land uses, user characteristics, and management intent of each waterbody. In the absence of an analysis of these factors a minimum of five to 10 acres per craft (Wenger, 1984) will be used as a guideline for

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\*Various State and National studies indicate that the boating experience begins to degrade from an acceptable level with a range of boat densities from one craft for each seven and one-half to 20 acres of water surface (Draft EIS and UMP; Broadalbin Boat Launch Facility, 1989).

waters in a forested setting that share mixed recreational use. This guideline allows for safety, while minimizing user conflicts and shoreline impacts.

(1) Lake Durant

The shoreline of this lake is state owned with portions of the lake containing numerous small wild forest islands. The southern shoreline is classified as wilderness on the west and intensive use (Lake Durant Campground) on the east. Assuming an acceptable level of boat density of one watercraft per ten acres of water surface (Wenger, 1984), the carrying capacity for Lake Durant (293 acres) would be approximately 29 boats. Present observed use has been lower than this level, with the majority of boat entry from the adjacent state campground. Use of the developed boat launch is subject to a service charge when the campground is in operation. Numerous small islands, submerged rocks, stumps, etc., and other navigational hazards limit the safe use of larger boats and motors in this lake.

Specific carrying capacities have not been determined for the other larger waterbodies that adjoin the Blue Mt. Unit. The shorelines of Lake Abanakee and Lake Adirondack are mostly privately owned, with water-oriented recreation generally regulated by local ordinance and zoning.

b. Whitewater

Impacts associated with rafting on the physical resources of the Indian and Hudson river corridor, and on the wild character of the area have become subjects of controversy. A permitted maximum of 1,000 rafting customers per day was established in 1985. See Section III-A-4-b.

(1) Indian River/Hudson Gorge

The areas along Chain Lakes Road and the Indian River receive heavy seasonal day use from whitewater recreationists. The daily release of water from the Lake Abanakee dam which occurs during the spring and fall rafting seasons may also impact the ecology of the river corridor, affecting shoreline plants, fish populations and the safety of fishermen.

Because the dam releases only last for two hours, the entire daily river traffic of up to 1,000 customers is confined to that time. While such concentration of use maximizes the rate at which rafts pass a given point on the river, it also confines raft encounters to a limited time, so that except for the occasional passage of individually owned craft, the river returns to normal after the bubble following the dam release subsides.

(2) Lake Abanakee

Local sportsmen have blamed springtime-rafting water releases for ruining the northern pike fishery on Lake Abanakee. A 1992 DEC fisheries survey of Lake Abanakee does not support this contention. However, regional fisheries staff are opposed to any extension of the current rafting season because bass and sunfish spawning may be impacted (See Section IV-C-2-b).

## 5. Length of Stay

The following assumptions and calculations were made to obtain an approximation of public use capacity within the Blue Mt. Unit. Day use and overnight activity were used as the major indices.

### a. Day Use Capacity

Unlike overnight capacity, the ASLMP has no guidelines for day use activities. Day use generally does not impact an area at the same level as overnight use. However, specific areas close to access points and popular physical attractions can be significantly impacted. Signs of overuse include overcrowded parking, widespread litter and trampled vegetation. Within the unit, the trail to the Blue Mountain Fire Tower and the summit itself; along with the Indian River put-in site receive the heaviest day use. Both areas have received management attention to stabilize the resource to accommodate use.

### b. Overnight Capacity

The overnight capacity of the unit is almost entirely water related and has not been inventoried. A calculated inventory follows:

- (1) Small bodies of water, here defined as less than 100 surface acres in size, had hypothetical camping sites assigned, taking into account total surface acreage, shoreline irregularity and campsite location practicality, usually relating to site wetness.
- (2) Large bodies of water, 100 surface acres or more in size, were assigned hypothetical camping sites utilizing the ASLMP guidelines.
- (3) Hypothetical camping sites were assigned along suitable shoreline areas of the Indian, Rock and Cedar Rivers.

Using these procedures, 30 bodies of water and three rivers were evaluated taking into account the two existing lean-to sites. A total of 60 potential primitive campsites were hypothetically identified. The Adirondack State Land Master Plan definition for primitive tent sites limits camping groups to a maximum of eight people per tent site. These sites can be grouped to accommodate for a maximum of 20 individuals in suitable locations. If a full complement of 8 people camped overnight on all the hypothetical tent sites, a total of 480 individuals could be accommodated in the Blue Mt. Unit on any



given night. However, when one considers specific sites and average group sizes of three to four individuals, the expected overnight use for this area would be reduced.

The majority of general overnight use within the unit occurs on summer weekends. The area also receives significant camping activity mid-week by organized youth groups such as Deerfoot Lodge.

The most popular location is Tirrell Pond.

## 6. Recreational activities

### a. Hiking/Backpacking

Intensive trail maintenance facilities (bog bridging, dry tread, etc.) on problem areas enable this activity to occur on marked DEC trails with few if any environmental impacts.

### b. Snowmobiling/Nordic Skiing

The carrying capacity for snowmobile trails is more subjective. Within the unit the present observed snowmobile use on the 17.5 miles of marked trails is well below use in neighboring areas like Speculator, Long Lake, etc. The majority of this use is by local residents and landowners. The lack of use has been due in part to the current trail conditions (rocky, beaver activity, poor snowfall) discouraging grooming activity by the town. The lack of grooming has subsequently lowered snowmobile use on specific trail sections within the unit.

A cushion of snow tends to prevent resource degradation, with snowmobile impacts generally limited to sociological factors such as improper use, noise, safety, and conflicts with other recreational activity (cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, etc.).

### c. Float plane Use

The use and management guidelines (ASLMP) allow appropriate float plane use in wild forest areas. Negative impacts such as noise pollution tend to be minor and of short duration. The limited number of local float plane pilots along with a selection of suitable waterbodies in other units tend to prevent overuse of any specific water.

d. Rafting/Angler Interaction

Although anglers reported being surprised by rapid rises in river level when the Town began making regular dam releases to accommodate rafting, most fishermen have adapted to the predictable rises in river level during the rafting season. In addition, the town has posted a warning sign on Chain Lakes Road for the benefit of fishermen and others who would enter the unit.

e. Other Uses

The number of horse and/or all terrain bicycle\* users is not known, but is estimated to be small. Although the number of individuals participating may be insignificant in terms of total visitor use, resource impacts and/or user conflicts can be proportionately high when compared to other recreational activities.

### III. MANAGEMENT PHILOSOPHY

Since the creation of the Forest Commission in 1885, the Adirondack Forest Preserve has been administered by the predecessors of the Department of Environmental Conservation. Within the Preserve, the activities of this succession of State agencies included protection against forest fires and timber trespass, management of fish and game, and the development of recreational facilities such as trails and lean-tos.

The current management of the natural resources within the Blue Mt. Unit must conform to a number of constitutional, legislative, and policy constraints affecting the Forest Preserve in general and designated "wild forest"\*\*\* areas in particular.

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\*The quality and suitability of ATB use (Kellogg, 1991) relates to resource impacts, safety, and user conflicts. Potential environmental damage can occur on susceptible soils or on slopes in excess of 15 percent. Of some concern is the effect of lineal tracks which can lead to increased channelling and water runoff. Safety may be a concern where trails are steep, winding, or have limited visibility. User conflicts can occur on popular trails utilized by other recreationists.

\*\*\*With the passage of the Adirondack Park Agency Act in 1971, the Adirondack Park Agency was authorized to classify state lands and establish management guidelines for each particular classification. APA is responsible for reviewing unit management plans prepared by the DEC for compliance with Adirondack State Land Master Plan guidelines.

- [1] Section one of Article XIV of the NYS Constitution
- [2] The New York State Environmental Conservation Law and associated rules and regulations
- [3] The Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan
- [4] Established DEC policies and procedures
- [5] The State Environmental Quality Review Act

#### A. Past and Present Management

##### 1. Land Resources

The initial management activities undertaken by the DEC in this area were to protect the Forest Preserve from fire and trespass. The fire observation tower on the summit of Blue Mountain was constructed in 1917 as the DEC improved its forest fire suppression activities with early detection capabilities.

Recreational management soon followed as the Adirondack Mountain Club, in 1922 or 1923, laid out and marked the Northville-Lake Placid Trail, a portion of which crosses this unit. The original trail through this section went along the unpaved, dusty road from Blue Mt. Lake to Long Lake. When the road was paved, the present trail was developed. Trail work was done by the Boy Scouts of the Schenectady Council under the supervision of the Conservation Department (Now the DEC). The two original lean-tos, one on either end of Tirrell Pond, were erected in 1937. The lean-to on the north end was replaced in 1987.

The 1950 blowdown, which created severe fire danger conditions, led to an attorney general's opinion that the down material could be sold to lessen the fire hazard. This opinion gave rise to Chapter 6 laws of 1951 allowing controlled salvage of wind damaged trees. Construction of low standard access roads in the vicinity of Salmon Pond, Tirrell Pond, Lake Adirondack and Mt. Sabattis followed. These roads were utilized for blowdown removal and subsequently were closed. Evidence of these roads along with changes in vegetative cover types where the blowdown created large openings are still visible in the area.

In 1957, the US government appropriated Forest Preserve lands\* on the summit of Blue Mountain to construct a radar facility used in the national defense. This facility was closed and the lands returned to the State in 1968. The improvements were removed and the site was converted to a communications facility presently used by DEC Law Enforcement, Fire Management, and Administration, the Division of State Police, Department of Transportation, the Hamilton County Sheriff, Emergency Medical Services\*\*, and Highway Departments and a public radio station WSLU.

Snowmobiling became popular in the early 1960's and trails were soon laid out and marked for this use. As recreational use grew, parking became a problem and informal parking areas developed through use. Developed locations were later constructed as follows:

Route 28/30 (3) - 1976

Blue Mountain - 1984

Tarbell Hill Road - 1978

Route 28N - 1978

A DEC brochure (Trails in the Blue Mountain Lake Region) was developed and recently updated (December, 1991). This publication (See Appendix Insert 7) identifies some unit trails along with facilities on adjacent NYS land.

#### Interior Maintenance

Traditionally, monitoring, management and enforcement of DEC rules and regulations, and the maintenance of interior facilities had been the responsibility of the forest ranger force. Reorganization of the Conservation Department in 1972 created the DEC with all maintenance and rehabilitation projects then transferred to the new Department's Division of Operations.

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\*One parcel of .22 acre was used for the radar installation, and another two acres included the road and right-of-way for access. The adjoining landowner deeded a perpetual easement and right-of-way from Route 10 to the NYS lands. The station was under the jurisdiction of 764th Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron, St. Albans Air Force Station, St. Albans, Vermont. The lands and right-of-way over the private landowner were later transferred to NYS.

\*\*A TRP was issued in 1992 to allow for the installation of an emergency medical service radio repeater on the DEC radio tower. This temporary permit is contingent upon the completion of a tower loading study to assess any impacts to the structure or interference with existing communication equipment.

The Division of Operations continues its maintenance responsibilities for the Blue Mt. Unit from a work center in Indian Lake. Budget constraints and manpower restrictions have limited maintenance in recent years to necessary repairs or replacement of leantos, pit privies and bridges, along with the brushing and signing of trails.

Volunteer trail work has been accomplished at various times in the past. Recent work projects by the Adirondack Mountain Club have occurred on the Blue Mountain Trail (1988 and 1989) and the Northville-Lake Placid Trail (1990, 1991 and 1993). In 1990 both leanto's within the unit were placed in the ADK Adopt-a-leanto program. In addition the towns of Indian Lake and Long Lake (under a TRP) have performed limited maintenance and grooming on some area snowmobile trails.

## 2. Wildlife

The foundation for wildlife management in New York is embodied in Article 11 of the Environmental Conservation Law. Article 11 authorizes DEC to insure the perpetuation of wildlife species and their habitats and to regulate hunting and trapping through the issuance of licenses, the establishment of hunting and trapping seasons and manner of taking, and the setting of bag limits. On Forest Preserve lands, natural processes alone may determine the characteristics of wildlife habitat; therefore, the only wildlife management activities which may be conducted are: (a) regulation of hunting and trapping; (b) control of nuisance wildlife; (c) surveys and inventories; and (d) species reintroduction.

### a. Hunting and Trapping Regulations

Regulations controlling season dates, method of taking, and bag limits for wildlife have been the principal wildlife management techniques applied to unit lands. Early regulations were written consistent for all of northern New York (equivalent to the Northern Zone). More recently, DEC has subdivided the state into numerous Deer Management Units (DMU) for big game and Wildlife Management Units (WMU) for small game and furbearers. Each unit was defined according to its distinctive ecological and social characteristics. The Blue Mt. Unit lies within DMU 28 and 22 and WMU 24. Decisions concerning wildlife management are ordinarily based upon these management units which are typically larger than individual forest preserve units. The Blue Mt. Unit occupies a

relatively small portion of the larger forest stands and landforms within DMU 28 and 22 and WMU 24.

Waterfowl seasons are largely established by Federal authority, but states have some flexibility for season modifications within the Federal framework.

b. Nuisance Wildlife Policy

The Bureau of Wildlife investigates nuisance wildlife complaints on a case-by-case basis. However, the DEC does not actively control nuisance wildlife except when the behavior of wildlife is deemed to threaten the lives of visitors.

No major conflicts between visitors to the unit and resident wildlife have been reported. Beaver activity occasionally floods trails in the unit. Visitors must find suitable routes around obstructed trails.

c. Surveys and Inventories

Over the years, both game and non-game species of wildlife and significant wildlife habitats have been the subjects of various surveys and inventories conducted by DEC and others.

Annual flights through the Adirondacks to inventory active osprey nests and to determine nesting success are conducted by the Bureau of Wildlife. Periodically, DEC and private agencies have surveyed common loon populations in the State. DEC's last loon survey was completed in 1985.

A cumulative effort from 1980 to 1985 conducted by numerous individuals resulted in the compilation of The Atlas of Breeding Birds in New York State.

Maps showing the locations of rare species and exemplary natural communities have been created and are continually updated by New York's Natural Heritage Program. Significant habitats within the unit are described in Section II-A-2-b-(7).

d. Species Restoration

A number of wildlife species once native to the Adirondacks were extirpated either directly or indirectly as a result of human activities. In recent years, recognizing the desirability of at least partially restoring the composition of wildlife species originally present in the Adirondacks, DEC and others have launched projects to reintroduce the peregrine falcon, bald eagle, and Canada lynx.

DEC began an effort to reintroduce the peregrine falcon to the Adirondacks in 1981 by implementing a method of artificially rearing and releasing young birds to the wild called "hacking." Between 1983 and 1985, 55 bald eagles were also hacked within the Adirondack region. No nesting activity by either species has been discovered within the unit since the start of the hacking program.

The SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, through the Adirondack Wildlife program, has initiated an experimental project to reintroduce the Canada lynx to the Adirondack High Peaks region. Lynx were first released in 1989; with a total of 83 animals released by the spring of 1991.

### 3. Fisheries

Fish management in the BMWF has emphasized brook trout restoration through reclamation and stocking programs.

Blue Mountain Wild Forest waters have been subject to the general angling regulations of the state. The use of fish as bait has been prohibited in area trout ponds to minimize the likelihood of bait pail introduction of competing and/or exotic fish species. Bullhead Pond was reclaimed with rotenone in 1951 and 1991. No unit waters have been limed. Five named ponds in the BMWF were surveyed by the Adirondack Lake Survey Corporation in 1987. Additionally, the DEC surveyed 10 waters in 1991. Historical data is available for 16 waters in the unit. Section VII-D and Appendices 2 and 3 present pond-specific survey and management data for all BMWF waters.

Very little active fishery management has been undertaken on streams within the BMWF other than stocking of the Indian and Cedar Rivers. Few streams in the unit have received biological surveys.

### 4. Water Resources

In the late 1960's, the New York State Water Resources Commission sought to construct dams; Gooley No. 1 near the confluence of the Indian and Hudson Rivers, and Kettle Mountain Dam, a few miles downstream. These dams would have flooded approximately 14,500 acres of land, including 30 miles of the Hudson River, and portions of the Town of Newcomb, to provide water for the New York City area. This proposal was defeated and Article 15 of the Environmental Conservation Law now

prohibits the construction of any dams on the upper Hudson :

"...no reservoirs for any purpose shall hereafter be constructed on the Upper Hudson River in the Adirondack Park between Luzerne and the river's source, the Boreas River from its mouth to Durgin, the Indian River from its mouth to Abanakee Dam, and the Cedar River from its mouth to the Cedar River Flow, by the State or by any river regulating board".

a. Flatwater

Several waterbodies within the Blue Mt. Unit are the result of man made impoundments. In 1931, a reservoir to supply the village of Long Lake was established. Dams were also constructed on Lake Adirondack and Lake Durant in the 1930's, while the dam at Lake Abanakee was not finished until 1951. Lake Abanakee was developed by the Town of Indian Lake for water supply and recreational use with the dam located approximately one mile north of NYS Route 28.

b. Whitewater (Information from 1992 Draft HGPA-UMP, Rick Fenton)

People in rubber rafts began braving the Hudson River Gorge as early as the 1950's. The popularity of white water boating did not blossom until, in 1979, a rafting company from Maine turned the thrill of riding the springtime rush of the Hudson River\* into a paying proposition. From then on the guided white water rafting business grew into one of the area's major tourist businesses. In 1985, 22 companies with headquarters as far away as Virginia, Pennsylvania, Maine, and Canada conducted more than 10,000 people on the 16-mile trip from the Indian River to the hamlet of North River.

The Town of Indian Lake operates a dam on the Indian River which impounds Lake Abanakee. The Indian River flows into the Hudson River three miles from the dam. Originally the Town made periodic releases from the dam as necessary to regulate the level of Lake Abanakee in coordination with releases from the Indian Lake dam upstream. After the first rafting companies approached the Indian Lake Chamber of Commerce, the Town agreed to schedule daily dam releases to accommodate the rafting business.

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\*As the early river drivers knew, the natural flow of the Hudson River in the spring is powerful and unpredictable. The early spring flows are too dangerous to be attempted by watercraft of any kind. However by late spring, the water level can be too low. Because large rafting companies rely upon customer reservations often made months in advance, the unregulated Indian/Hudson Rivers probably could not have supported this business. Fortunately for the rafting companies, a solution to the problem of fluctuating water levels was found.



In the spring of 1980 the Town began opening the flood gates on weekends for a period of two hours each morning, creating a "bubble" which increased the water level of the Indian River about two feet and raised the Hudson River about six inches. Rafting companies could now rely on a schedule of daily flow levels sufficient for rafting, allowing them to book trips far in advance. As word spread and the popularity of rafting on the Hudson River increased, more rafting companies arrived to share in the business. Increasing business led to greater competition between companies over the order at the "put-in" site during the two-hour release period, and increased pressure on the Town to keep the dam open longer.

In 1981 the rafting outfitters, the Town of Indian Lake, and DEC met to discuss rafting issues. As a consequence the outfitters voluntarily joined to form the Hudson River Professional Outfitters Association, cooperating to set training standards for white water guides, establishing the order of entry at the put-in site, and setting a limit for each member outfitter. The Association paid the Town for operating the Lake Abanakee dam. Despite these early cooperative efforts, some conflicts and congestion occurred at the put-in\*, compelling the Town to move for regulating access to the river.

After meetings and discussions between 1982 and 1985 including DEC, the Town, and the rafting companies, a number of additional actions were taken in an effort to improve the management of rafting activity. In 1982, DEC issued a temporary revocable permit granting the Town authority to control the use of the access site. In 1985, the launch site (Lot 132, Township 17, T&C Purchase) was officially designated a waterway access site (Appendix 14) in order to allow it to be better managed and regulated.

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\*The most practical launch site; the one at which virtually all traffic enters the Indian River, is located on Blue Mt. Wild Forest lands. The Town expressed interest in exercising control over the use of the launch site. This was due to the fact that the Town operated the Lake Abanakee Dam. Indian Lake also benefits by the influx of rafters directly by collecting fees from the rafting companies and indirectly in the increased trade which rafting customers generated for local businesses.

In 1985, DEC authorized the Town's control of the waterway access site under the terms of a written agreement. The current agreement\* between the Town and DEC does not discuss the length of the spring and fall rafting seasons. The agreement between the outfitters and the Town does specify a spring season lasting until the third weekend in June and a fall season beginning the first week in September. The outfitter/Town agreement has varied over the years and is renegotiated every three years. Some outfitters have expressed a desire to extend the rafting season throughout the summer months. DEC does not support such an extension due to deleterious effects this may have on late-spring/early-summer spawning fish populations (See Section IV-C-2-b).

#### 5. Citizens' Advisory Committee

In 1986 a citizens' advisory committee composed of up to 13 members representing a wide variety of interest groups met several times to discuss the Blue Mountain Wild Forest and the Hudson Gorge Primitive Area. The two units were joined due to their geographical proximity and because the major launch site for Hudson Gorge rafting trips is located on lands within the Blue Mountain Wild Forest Area. The committee was charged with identifying issues needing management action and making management recommendations to the DEC. A listing of the committee recommendations follows:

- a. Establish a cross-country ski trail in the vicinity of the Northville-Lake Placid trailhead on Route 28N. Construct a leanto at the southern end of the proposed trail.
- b. Provide information and education facilities in conjunction with the Blue Mt. Trail.
- c. Acquire permanent easements on all trails crossing private lands.
- d. Investigate the possibility of handicapped facilities at Rock Lake and Lake Durant.

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\*The agreement set forth a limit of 1,000 rafting customers per day. In that year the Town passed an ordinance, tied to DEC's authorization of Town control, requiring rafting outfitters to abide by restrictions on the use of the access site. As a result the Town has entered into an agreement with each rafting company which formalizes the responsibilities of both parties, including the results of the annual allocation of customer "slots" to each company. The allocation system is similar to the one originally devised voluntarily by the rafting companies and is based upon a desire to distribute business fairly and to prevent one or a few companies from monopolizing the business. See Appendix 15.

A daily total of 1,000 rafting customers was chosen as a reasonable maximum number that could be accommodated by the two-hour dam release bubble and would limit physical impacts along the river corridor. Two hours was determined to be the longest release period which would maintain the water level at least one inch above the spillway of the Lake Abanakee dam. This was necessary to protect the rights of waterfront property owners and to insure continued flow to the Indian River.

- e. Provide for continued float plane use on Tirrell Pond, Pine Lake, and First Lake. Clarify rules and regulations.
- f. Investigate trophy fishing on sections of the Cedar River.
- g. Improve existing cross-country facilities in the Indian Lake area adjacent to the Cedar River.
- h. Insure private river users appropriate access to the put-in site on the Indian River during commercial rafting seasons.
- i. Provide for continued use of the "ball diamond" area on Lake Durant by designating sites and improving parking facilities.
- j. Consider use of electric motors on Tirrell Pond.
- k. Continue to maintain all existing snowmobile trails and investigate relocation of the trail between Rock River and the Durant Road.
- l. Improve and maintain existing Department marked foot trails in the area.
- m. Investigate the possibility of controlling public use at the Old Route 30 area adjacent to Lake Durant.

6. Additional Public Input

The Draft UMP was distributed in the winter of 1993-1994 to the APA, the Forest Preserve Advisory Committee, local governments, various interest groups or organizations, and individuals. A DEC News Release was sent to various newspapers to advertise a public meeting scheduled for January 27, 1994. The meeting was held in two sessions and was attended by a total of 30 people. Written comments were received until February 28, 1994.

The draft plan was amended as a result of comments from the meeting and correspondence from the public. A summary of the public comments on the draft plan can be found in Appendix 1. This comment and response section was developed to address specific concerns or to clarify answers to questions that were brought up at the public meeting or through letters to the DEC. In some cases, this public input resulted in the proposal of new facilities within the unit, that were not identified in the draft document.

## B. Goals

### 1. Land Resources

- a. Preserve and protect the natural resources in accordance with Article 14 of the NYS Constitution and the ASLMP.
- b. Provide for a variety of outdoor recreational opportunities without impairing the wild forest character.
- c. Improve public access where necessary.

### 2. Wildlife

- a. Perpetuate indigenous wildlife as part of the various ecosystems within the unit to assure that all wildlife populations are of appropriate size to meet all the demands placed upon them.
- b. Provide the opportunity for the diversified utilization and enjoyment of the wildlife resources to assure that the public desire to use wildlife for hunting, trapping, and observation is met.
- c. Manage the wildlife resources so that their numbers and occurrences are compatible with the public interest to assure that people are not caused to suffer from wildlife or the users of wildlife.
- d. Assure that the public's desire for information about wildlife and its conservation, use and enjoyment is met, together with their desire for understanding the relationships among wildlife, humans and the environment.
- e. Preserve and protect unique, critical and significant wildlife habitats essential to the perpetuation of wildlife.

### 3. Fisheries

- a. Perpetuate and enhance a diverse, high-quality fishing experience in accordance with sound biological management practices.

### 4. Water Resources

- a. Preserve and protect water quality and associated aquatic resources within the unit.
- b. Improve public access where necessary.

## C. Objectives

### 1. Land Resources

- a. Maintain boundary lines to identify public ownership and discourage trespass on forest preserve lands.
- b. Adequately identify through signing; important trailheads, access and easement locations, day-use areas, and other special management areas. Continue to maintain area identification signs showing NYS ownership along public highways and waterways.

- c. Reduce soil erosion and/or stream siltation occurring from lack of proper trail maintenance by preparing and analyzing a trail inventory and developing a plan for trail maintenance; and prioritizing, scheduling, and budgeting for trail maintenance and/or rehabilitation in the future.
- d. Promote camping within the unit and designate primitive tent sites where necessary to manage public use and reduce resource degradation.
- e. Mitigate soil compaction and/or vegetative loss at primitive tent sites during the next five years.
- f. Attempt to acquire or secure easements on adjacent private lands in compliance with the Open Space Plan and Region 5 Land Acquisition Advisory Committee. This will consolidate State holdings and provide improved public access or otherwise enhance the area.
- g. Develop a combined brochure for this unit and the adjoining Hudson Gorge Primitive Area.
- h. Continue to monitor the intensity and type of public use within the unit. Obtain more comprehensive use data by installing additional trail registers.
- i. Develop a location and inventory record of rare and endangered species of plants or unique communities as they are found within the unit.
- j. Maintain all existing facilities in the time frame and manner outlined in Section VII of this plan.

## 2. Wildlife

- a. Re-establish self-sustaining wildlife populations of species that are extirpated, endangered, threatened or of special concern in habitats where their existence will be compatible with other elements of the ecosystem and human use of the area.
- b. Prevent the establishment of wildlife species in habitats where their existence will be incompatible with other elements of the ecosystem.
- c. Maintain and perpetuate annual hunting and trapping seasons as legitimate uses of the wildlife resources compatible with outdoor recreation.
- d. Control nuisance species, as required, to prevent unreasonable damage to man's interests.
- e. Review and analyze proposals for major actions likely to alter natural habitats in order to minimize adverse effects and maximize benefits for wildlife and the users thereof.
- f. Provide technical advice and consultation to individuals, organizations or agencies interested in wildlife management or whose programs affect the wildlife resources.
- g. Regulate the recreational and commercial use of wildlife to assure that such uses are compatible with the capacity of the wildlife resource to withstand use.
- h. Provide optimum access for public use of the wildlife resources consistent with the management of the area and the ability of the resource to withstand use.
- i. Identify and publicize public opportunities for hunting, trapping and enjoyment of the wildlife resource.

- j. Maintain maximum beaver population levels compatible with range carrying capacity and land uses for associated recreational, economic, and ecological benefits.
- k. Control nuisance wildlife only when necessary, feasible, and when it is the most effective alternative to prevent unreasonable damage to the public interest.

### 3. Fisheries

- a. Maintain and enhance the diversity of coldwater and warmwater fish populations in the unit.
- b. Maintain the populations of wild, self-sustaining brook trout in Grassy Pond and Little Grassy Pond.
- c. Restore brook trout populations to Tirrell Pond and Pine Lake. Reclamation will eliminate competitive nonnative and native-but-widely-introduced (NBWI) fish species and enhance fishing opportunities for quality brook trout within a wild forest unit.
- d. Maintain the population of wild, self-sustaining lake trout in First Lake.
- e. Encourage and promote angler use of the waters in the unit through routine fish management practices including hotlines, correspondence, and contact with the public by Department staff.
- f. Maintain brook trout populations in Barker Pond and Bullhead Pond. Reclaim ponds if additional nonnative or NBWI fish species establish and negatively impact the trout populations.

### 4. Water Resources

- a. Monitor public use of popular shoreline camping locations to prevent overuse and subsequent shoreline degradation.
- b. Ensure that commercial rafting in the Indian River corridor is consistent with the wild forest character of the lands and does not unduly impede non-commercial river use.
- c. Monitor the biological impacts and angler concerns of the fluctuating water levels on Lake Abanakee and the Indian River.
- d. Change regulation prohibiting use of mechanically propelled vessels on Tirrell Pond to allow use of electric motors of 5 hp or less.

#### IV. UNIT ISSUES AND CONCERNS

The following list of issues was developed as a result of the meetings of the citizens' advisory committee, deliberations of DEC staff, and additional public input.

##### A. Access

Most state lands and water bodies within the unit are within three miles of a road and are generally accessible by the public. Exceptions include the Fishing Brook Range which is mostly surrounded by private lands and ponds in the vicinity of the Essex chain of lakes (accessible primarily by float plane flights). The lack of a bridge over the Cedar River hampers access to NYS lands northeast of the Pelon Road.

##### B. Trespass\*

Some NYS property lines have not been painted or resurveyed in recent years resulting in some indistinct boundary lines. In an effort to make all State boundaries readily identifiable the condition of existing lines within the Unit was investigated. Known areas where painting and/or surveys are necessary include but are not limited to the locations near the Blue Mt. Lake Cemetery, Blue Mt., Corner Pond, Clear Pond, Cedar River, Salmon Pond and the Indian Lake landfill.

In the past efforts were made to survey those lands where the potential for timber trespass was likely to occur. To assist forest harvesting operations on private land, real property staff surveyed the western line of Great Lot A along the Hamilton/Essex county line. More recently, in 1994 the south and west sides of Lot 81, Township 17, T&C Purchase were surveyed. Problems with windblown garbage from the Indian Lake landfill and wooden docks on Lake Adirondack were observed along the western line of Lot 81. Building and driveway encroachments, underground oil tank, and dug well were found on NYS lands along the southern line of Lot 81 and 94. A survey map documenting these encroachments has been turned over to the Regional Attorney for resolution.

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\*In some cases privately constructed structures of a more temporary nature are found on NYS land. These illegal structures (docks, tree stands, hunting camps, etc.) deny free use by the public and constitute a taking, and are therefore unconstitutional.

## C. Environmental Concerns

### 1. Wildlife

Impoundments created by beaver activity can have both positive and negative impacts on outdoor recreational activities. Expansive flooded areas have aesthetic values while public trails that are inundated with water are often difficult or inconvenient to traverse. Although few such problems were detected during the inventory of this unit, area streams will be monitored and any problems will be handled according to existing Division of Fish and Wildlife policies.

### 2. Fisheries

#### a. Acid Precipitation\*

At the present time, the phenomenon of acid ion deposition, popularly known as "acid rain", has had little discernable impact on the fisheries resources of the unit. Liming is not proposed for any waters in the BMWF.

#### b. Lake Abanakee water level fluctuation

Region 5 Fisheries staff conducted a survey of Lake Abanakee in 1992. This survey was scheduled because local sportsmen have complained that northern pike fishing has diminished in Lake Abanakee since the advent of rafting. They blame low water levels in the spring for stranding pike spawn (See Section II-D-1-d). Results of the 1992 survey were compared to a similar study conducted in 1975, prior to rafting's surge in popularity. In both studies, northern pike younger than age 3 were not caught. Water levels in the impoundment have always fluctuated dramatically in the spring due to the nature of water releases from the Indian Lake dam. The slow growth of adult pike in Lake Abanakee further suggests that food (not reproduction) is limiting in the lake. The 1992 survey captured few soft-rayed forage fishes, such as golden shiner and white sucker, of a size suitable as forage for pike. Good pike fishing experienced during the late 1950's and early 1960's can be attributed to nutrients released

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\*In 1989 a TRP was granted to Queen's University Dept. of Biology; Kingston, Ontario to place sediment traps in several Adirondack waters (Rock Lake included) to collect phytoplankton remains and test the use of such traps in the long term monitoring of waters. Data will be used to enhance existing models for lake acidification.



after the impoundment was created in 1951. This "bloom" effect is typical for new impoundments. Lake Abanakee now resembles a typical low productivity Adirondack lake. There is no reason to expect that a cessation of rafting activities in the spring would enhance the northern pike population in Lake Abanakee.

The 1992 survey of Lake Abanakee captured significantly more largemouth bass than the 1975 survey. Largemouth bass are now the dominant gamefish in the lake. Bass spawn sometime between early-June and mid-July in Lake Abanakee at depths of 2-8 feet. Redbreast sunfish and pumpkinseed spawn around the same time in depths as shallow as six inches. The current rafting agreement specifies that rafting can extend through the third week in June and begin again in early September. This season minimizes the effects of water level changes on spawning bass and sunfish. DEC regional fisheries staff do not support further extensions of the spring rafting season to late-June or July, as has been requested by some outfitters. Such an extension would jeopardize several fish populations in the lake. Discharge and refill rates can be slow during summer low-flow conditions, thus water releases for rafting would have prolonged effects on spawning fish and newly hatched fry.

### 3. Water Resources

#### a. Floating Bogs/Vegetation

Floating bogs and aquatic weeds in Lake Adirondack have been troublesome to area residents since the 1950's. The shallowness of the lake combined with underlying organic, bog type soils contribute to the development of these problems. Lakeshore residents documented these concerns and other problems (mucky bottom, stumps, etc.) associated with this man made waterbody. An Aquatic Weed Management Plan (Myers and Peverly, 1989) was prepared by the Soil Conservation Service and Cornell University. This plan identifies existing aquatic vegetation, management needs, and environmental concerns for the lake.

A floating log boom is maintained by the Town of Indian Lake under a TRP. This facility is anchored to State land and prevents small, floating bogs from entering the navigable portion of the lake.

b. Water Quality

Highway sand/salt applications in areas where roads are located adjacent to waterbodies may have negative impacts on the water resources. Data documenting the stresses imposed on the aquatic ecosystem is generally lacking. A list of highway segments where sanding practices affect stream and river sections as a result of sedimentation from road runoff was developed by DEC for some counties. Within the Blue Mt. Unit, Lake Durant was identified (The Adirondacks in the Twenty-First Century Technical Reports, Volume One) as an impacted waterbody, with a portion of NYS 28/30 (County Route 19 junction to Rock River Bridge) affecting the lake.

D. Adjacent Land Use and Access

1. Old Route 30

In the early 1960's, the highway from Blue Mt. Lake to Indian Lake was improved and widened. This project utilized a majority of the old road bed. However, certain sections were relocated to eliminate curves or problem areas. These portions of the old road were later abandoned by the State with title being transferred to the town. One such section is located along the north shore of Lake Durant and has been a popular camping, picnicking, and day use area for many years. The road (.8 miles) is scenic and provides ready access to the lake. Current facilities consist of primitive tent sites and one pit privy. Major concerns and problems associated with the area include human waste disposal, litter, and overcrowding. Noise related to camping in this area sometimes conflicts with the solitude of the nearby Lake Durant Campground users.

2. Indian Lake Landfill\*

The town of Indian Lake operates a consolidation landfill at the end of the Pelon Road. A portion of the landfill is adjacent to the northwest part of NYS lot 81, Township 15, Totten and Crossfield's Purchase. Occasionally litter is windblown onto this adjacent State land. Any such garbage or debris

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\*The Indian Lake landfill is serving as a consolidation landfill site for the towns of Indian Lake, Long Lake, and Inlet until a county landfill is on line or other countywide disposal plan developed. The landfill has been operating under a modified Order on Consent since June 17, 1994. This Order provides that the town must operate its landfill in conformance with the requirements set forth in 6 NYCRR Part 360 to the fullest extent practicable and fully comply with the deadlines and requirements of the Order.

will be removed by the town.

Another concern at this location is the lack of a parking facility on NYS land. Users of the marked trails originating from this location currently park on the road shoulder.

3. Private Land Access Rights (See Section VIII-I-1)

A large adjoining private landowner has proven a prescriptive easement over the O'Neil Flow Road. See Section I-E-4-c. The terms of the Judgement on Consent clarify that the use of the roadway is not limited to logging purposes. No TPR is required for the use or maintenance of the road, but will be required for tree cutting or for bridge repairs. The status of Salmon Pond Road is being investigated. Use and maintenance of the Clear Pond Road needs to be resolved.

E. Non Forest Preserve Lands (See Appendix 10 for detailed map)

[A] These lands are steep and were gifted to the State for forestry purposes in 1956, prior to the passing of Section 361, Sub. 2 (now 11-2103, Sub 2) of the Conservation Law.

[B] These lands were gifted to the State for silvicultural research and fish and wildlife management. Prior to granting this area in 1963, the private landowner harvested many of the accessible portions. The cutting was heavy, resulting in a very low stocking level. The forest cover is northern hardwoods with areas of white pine and scattered red spruce. Steep areas were generally not cut. Old logging roads interlace the area with the Northville-Lake Placid Trail crossing in the northwest corner on one of these roads. Vehicular access to the area is limited to a road, which crosses private lands (northwest corner of Township 19) and State lands in the vicinity of Salmon Pond.

Descriptions of these lands were presented in the previous Sections I-B, II-A-4-d. Additional information and excerpts from McKinney's Consolidated Laws of New York covering these lands can be found in Appendix 18. Section 9-0107 allows the DEC to accept gifts of lands for silvicultural research. This allows forest practices when such activities are "beneficial to the economy of the State and the health, welfare, and comfort of the people".

The grant or deed to the State of any such lands must recite that it is given for acceptance under the provisions of this subdivision and section.

"Property so accepted shall be under the jurisdiction of the Commissioner and his successors in office and, until otherwise provided by law, shall be dedicated for use only for the purposes of silvicultural research and experimentation in the science of forestry, including purposes incidental thereto, under the care, custody, control and management of the department and its successors in office and shall not become a part of the forest preserve. Under such conditions as it may deem consistent with the purposes aforesaid, and upon such terms as it may deem to be in the best interests of the state, the department may sell trees, timber and other products on any such lands."

Article XIV of the New York State Constitution states:

"The lands of the State, now owned or hereafter acquired, constituting the Forest Preserve as now fixed by law, shall be forever kept as wild forest lands. They shall not be leased, sold or exchanged, or be taken by any corporation, public or private, nor shall the timber thereon be sold, removed or destroyed."

These legal sources seem to be a contradiction in terms. The gift land law has existed for some thirty years and may be sufficient for managing these lands and others, under the guidelines stipulated in the gift language. The precedence of the Constitution or the law in this matter needs to be legally determined if the purposes stated in the acquisition transaction are to be realized to the fullest. The question to be answered is: exactly what is the Forest Preserve "as now fixed by law"? Is it lands acquired for addition to the Forest Preserve or is it all State lands acquired inside the Park boundary?

The relevance of the purpose of acquisition was addressed by the Court in Matter of Indian Lake, et al. v. State Board of Equalization and Assessment, 257 NYS 2d 301 (S. Ct., Albany Co. 1965), aff. 271 NYS 2d 501 (3d. Dept. 1966). The question before the Court was whether two parcels within the Forest Preserve counties were part of the Forest Preserve and, therefore, should be included in the list of State-owned lands on which the State was liable for taxes. The first parcel (Symbol A, 1251 acres) was acquired under a statute permitting the Conservation Department to acquire land in furtherance of any of its purposes. The second parcel (Symbol B, 1369 acres) was acquired under a statute permitting the acquisition of land for fish and wildlife purposes and silvicultural research. The deed for the second parcel specifically stated that the land was being acquired for such purposes.

The lower court ruled that the statutes under which the parcels in question were acquired did not change the definition of Forest Preserve in the law. Therefore, the court ruled that the parcels were part of the Forest Preserve. The Appellate Division, however, reversed the decision of the lower court with respect to the parcel acquired for silvicultural research on the basis of the specific statements in the statute excepting parcels acquired thereunder from the Forest Preserve. The Appellate Division affirmed the inclusion of the first parcel in the Preserve because of the failure of the deed to indicate the specific purpose for which the parcel was acquired as the statute required.

The summary of a paper entitled Article XIV by Ralph Semerad, Professor of Law in Albany N.Y. suggests that:

"Article XIV has been construed as permitting uses of the preserve that are not accompanied by substantial destruction of its physical features, that do not effect any change in its wild character and that are not consistent with that character. Borderline situations should be resolved against the use and in favor of the strict mandate of Article XIV, which was designed to protect the preserve against all activity that might destroy it. Only a constitutional amendment should change that mandate."

Excerpts from the "Future of the Adirondack Park" (Temporary Study Commission-1970) concerning these lands are as follows:

"The Conservation Law gifts present a different problem. There are those who argue that the gift sections are unconstitutional. Constitutionality aside, the gift sections provide a useful acquisition tool. They also allow the Department to practice silvicultural, fish and wildlife research that can contribute to scientific knowledge. As long as such acquisitions are confined to gifts, there is a place for them in the Adirondack Park."

The controversy and debate over the constitutionality of non-forest preserve lands is beyond the scope of this management plan. Until this classification is further clarified or management policies addressed, no management projects involving silvicultural research or fish and wildlife management\* will occur on these lands during the next five years. Additional research by the Albany Office (DEC - Legal Affairs) will be essential in determining the constitutionality of these gifts and any future implications thereof. By acceptance of the court rulings of the mid 1960's, only the second parcel (Map Symbol B - 1369 acres) should be regarded as non-forest preserve land (in regards to NYS payments in lieu of taxes) within the Blue Mt. Unit.

If the constitutional issue is resolved favoring the Environmental Conservation Law, this unit plan should be amended to allow the marking of boundary lines around the gift lands. A forest inventory would also be necessary prior to any other future management considerations. This inventory would assure that vital information is available for making sound management decisions and aid in the development of short and long range management strategies.

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\*In an area characterized by mature forest with a closed canopy, openings created by manipulation of forest stands would create greater diversity of plant species and habitats which in turn would benefit many wildlife species. Possible vertebrates that would benefit would be snowshoe hares, red foxes, coyotes, white-tailed deer, black bears, ruffed grouse, and a variety of songbirds and small rodents.

## V. RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND CONSTRAINTS

The Blue Mountain Wild Forest Area will be managed to allow visitors to enjoy all appropriate forms of outdoor recreation with as few restrictions as possible. When unacceptable impacts resulting from public use are discovered, the least restrictive management actions necessary to reverse the impacts will be applied.

### A. Management Strategies

In the performance of its obligation to provide for recreational pursuits within the Constitutional limitations relating to the Forest Preserve, the DEC with the advice of the Attorney General has evolved a recreational management policy based on the following premises:

- [1] No one shall have exclusive use of any portion of NYS land.
- [2] No one shall be allowed to claim any particular tent site or leanto from year to year.
- [3] State property shall not be used for commercial purposes or private profit.

#### 1. Land Resources

##### a. Site Designation

All camping will be addressed by 6NYCRR 190.3(b), which states, "camping is prohibited within 150 feet of any road, trail, spring, stream, pond or other body of water except at camping areas designated by the DEC". Historical overnight use along popular waterfront locations has led to established camping areas that are often in violation of this rule. Sites that have been established through repeated use will be evaluated in terms of screening from trails and bodies of water, distance between sites, and the level of impact on vegetation and soils. As a result of the evaluation, these sites will either be (1) officially designated, (2) closed and replaced by properly located sites, or (3) closed and not replaced.

Closed sites will be rehabilitated by breaking up the soil, fire rings, and revegetating to discourage future use. New primitive tent sites will be created in conjunction with the closure of an existing site or where appropriate to direct additional camping use to desirable locations. Areas where site degradation has occurred or is likely to occur will be closed to overnight use through appropriate signage.

This system of site designation (See Appendix 12) will be instituted where public overnight camping use is significant enough to demand it. The management of these camping areas will comply with ASLMP guidelines for primitive tent sites. All new primitive tent sites will be located so as to be reasonably screened from trails and bodies of water and, unless impractical because of severe terrain restrictions, at least one-quarter mile from adjacent sites.

Overnight camping (less than ten individuals) will be allowed in most locations as long as the "150 foot" rule is observed. This will accommodate occasional overflow camping away from the shoreline, trails, and waters during peak weekends and holidays. The following chart depicts the more heavily used camping areas with the current and projected status of existing sites over the next five years:

PRIMITIVE CAMPING SITES

<u>Location</u>	<u>Existing</u>	<u>Close</u>	<u>To Designate</u>	<u>Marked##</u>
Tirrell Pond	6	2	6	-
Rock Lake	7	1	6	-
Chain Lakes Rd.	5	3	2	1
Lake Durant	7	2#	5	2

# Forest Ranger, Greg George closed two of these sites in 1992.

## Forest Ranger, Greg George designated these sites in 1992.

Small groupings of primitive tent sites designed to accommodate a maximum of 20 people per grouping are allowed under group camping conditions at carefully selected locations in wild forest areas, even though each individual site may be within sight or sound and less than approximately one-quarter mile from any other site within such grouping. Efforts will be made to locate suitable group sites in the unit.

(1) Old Route 30

The majority of overnight camping occurs directly on the Town-owned scarified road bed and adjoining right of way. This activity should occur only at designated sites. The management of this aesthetic corridor involves cooperation between the Town of Indian Lake and DEC. New pit privy locations in combination with current enforcement efforts in the area will prevent overcrowding and future resource degradation.

b. Day Use Areas

(1) Cedar River Area (Benton Rd.)

This location (Lot 56, Twp. 17, T&C Purchase) has been a public picnicking, camping, canoeing, and swimming area for many years. Recently, some individuals have created frequent disturbances at this site along with illegal tree cutting and littering.

In 1988, at the suggestion of town officials, the site was closed to overnight camping. This restriction eliminates the major amount of abuse caused by overnight parties, while still allowing day use and maintaining the essentially wild character of the site.

(2) Lake Durant Islands

Several small islands are located in Lake Durant. Some of these islands are too close to the adjacent Lake Durant Campground and would be poor locations for primitive camping.

The small size of the islands, along with the lack of suitable sanitation sites, combine to limit appropriate public use to day activities. This will maintain the wild character of these islands and eliminate potential conflicts with nearby campground users.

(3) Blue Mt. Summit Area

The summit of Blue Mountain is located entirely on State land and is listed as a special management area (scenic) in the ASLMP. The aesthetic values of this area should receive appropriate publicity with particular attention given to interpretive signing.

Overnight camping will be prohibited in the vicinity of the tower and summit area. This action will help prevent vandalism and potential conflict with day users; while preserving the scenic qualities in this heavily used portion of the unit.

(4) Other Locations

Enforcement of the 150 foot rule in conjunction with "no camping" signs will control problems associated with public activity in a few specific locations. The beach area on the north end of Tirrell Pond and the north side of Rock Lake will be closed to camping and fires. The area near the Indian Lake landfill will be posted against camping.



c. Public Easements

Trail easements across adjoining private lands were identified in Section II-B-14-d. The public may use the trail corridor but camping, building of fires, fishing, trapping, and hunting are not permitted on the private lands. Public use of the conservation easement lands is discussed in Section VIII-I-3-a.

d. Group Use and Camping Policy

In the past, any large group of 10 or more, could obtain a camping permit as required by DEC rules and regulations prior to overnight use on NYS lands. A DEC review of overnight group use was initiated in 1992 and a policy is being developed to regulate group use in accordance with the guidelines of the Adirondack State Land Master Plan.

Group camping activity will still be allowed in wild forest areas, but permits will not be issued for groups of more than 20 persons. These groups will only be allowed to camp at designated group camping sites or at other locations deemed suitable by the area forest ranger.

e. Facilities and access for mobility impaired persons\*

The ASLMP has a policy statement which recognizes:

"...the identification of measures that can be taken to improve access to and the enjoyment of these lands, and associated structures and improvements, by the physically handicapped."

In 1986 the Adirondack Council recommended the construction of a handicapped access/self-guiding interpretive trail to Rock Lake. In 1988 a portion of the trail and Lake Durant Campground were examined. Dan McLain, a consultant from the Resource Center for Independent Living, Inc., suggested that use of the current site and facilities at Lake Durant be monitored and the suitability of additional accessible fishing sites be investigated in the area.

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\*Some roads and designated trails within the unit may provide mobility impaired persons facilitated access to NYS lands. During the next five years DEC will examine unit facilities to determine the suitability and potential for access by the physically impaired. Current policy (NR-94-1) may allow a certified mobility impaired person (non-ambulatory, except with the use of a mechanized aid or is permanently unable to move except short distances without assistance from another person or an artificial aid) to use a motor vehicle (including ATV's) as an aid in access to NYS land. This use will only be allowed on roads and established trails where such use will not have a deleterious effect on the road or trail or the area's natural resource values or will not unnecessarily conflict with other uses. Terrain constraints, private land crossings, and wild river classification eliminate from consideration many of the trails within this unit.

f. Temporary Revocable Permits

In order to standardize and facilitate the issuance of these permits a DEC policy and procedure for TRP's was developed. These permits provide for temporary use of State lands within stated guidelines and legal constraints, while protecting such lands and associated resources against damage or inappropriate use. Information on activities or uses which may be permitted or are specifically prohibited can be found in Appendix 20.

2. Wildlife

a. Rare and Endangered Species

The DEC will work closely with the New York Natural Heritage Program to locate and protect the occurrences of rare, threatened, and endangered species. If necessary, public use will be diverted to less environmentally sensitive areas.

3. Fisheries

a. Signing\*

Most BMWF trout ponds are closed to bait fishing with the use of minnows. Forest Rangers and fisheries personnel will be asked to post and check signage reflecting the no bait fish regulation during routine visits to trout waters.

b. Fishing Use

Fishing pressure on BMWF waters is average for Adirondack lakes due to ease of access on warmwater lakes and the frequency of float plane trips made to Pine Lake and First Lake. Some trout ponds receive only light pressure due to remoteness. Native fish populations are not threatened by over-exploitation from sportsmen, rather, they are endangered by the presence of nonnative and NBWI competing species. Bait fishing with minnows is already illegal in most BMWF trout ponds, but such regulations should be reinforced in the minds of the public.

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\*Conservation law enforcement is critical to the successful implementation of fish and wildlife regulations. Environmental Conservation Officers and Forest Rangers should routinely patrol area waters, particularly waters with recent management actions. Enforcement officials should be kept abreast of management actions and be fully informed of the ecological/social reasons for such actions and for the regulations they enforce.

#### 4. Water Resources

Commercial rafting is a unique recreational activity within the Adirondack Forest Preserve. In consideration of the substantial economic benefits to the local economy conferred by the rafting industry, as well as the rare opportunity for rafting customers to experience a wild and scenic area of the Forest Preserve, the Indian River corridor within the unit will be considered a special recreational opportunity zone. Visitors should expect a relatively high frequency of interpersonal encounters with other recreationists.

Commercial whitewater recreation will continue to be considered a legitimate activity within the unit and the adjoining Hudson Gorge Primitive Area. The level of use will continue to be limited to the current maximum of 1,000 rafting customers per day during the spring and fall rafting seasons. The DEC will encourage the Town and outfitters to maintain the current seasons for rafting and avoid extending rafting into the summer months. Individual boaters who wish to use the waterway access site will be allowed access to the river at any time. DEC will monitor use levels and will require detailed annual use summaries from the Town.

##### a. Indian River (Put-in site)

This waterway access site receives considerable public use, most notably in the spring commercial rafting season. The put-in site is located on a sheltered section of the Indian River where natural river conditions are ideal for whitewater access. Overnight camping will be discouraged (enforcement of the 150 foot rule) at this location, with suitable primitive tent sites located along the nearby Chain Lakes Road or on adjacent town land.

##### b. Use Constraints

###### (1) NYS Rules and Regulations

Pursuant to Section 196.5 of NYS Rules and Regulations, no person shall operate a mechanically propelled vessel on Tirrell Pond and Rock Lake. DEC will seek to change the regulation pertinent to Tirrell Pond to permit the use of electric motors of 5 hp or less. Since float planes can and do land on this waterbody it is illogical to bar electric motors. The regulation change complies with the

wishes of the Citizen's Advisory Committee and is consistent with permitted uses on all other unit lakes.

(2) Environmental Conservation Law (Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers Act)

Within the Adirondack Park DEC is responsible for administering this Act for rivers which flow on NYS lands. In the administration and enforcement of this Act, primary emphasis shall be given to the protection and enhancement of the natural, scenic, ecological, recreational, aesthetic, botanical, geological, hydrological, fish and wildlife, historical, cultural, archaeological and scientific features of designated rivers and river areas.

(3) Adirondack State Land Master Plan (Guidelines for management and use)

Wild Rivers: Wild rivers and their river areas will be managed in accordance with the guidelines for wilderness areas except that no new, reconstructed or relocated structures or improvements will be permitted other than: foot and horse trails, foot trail bridges constructed of natural materials, primitive tent sites with fire rings, and pit privies. Public use of motor vehicles, motorized equipment, and aircraft is prohibited on those portions of the Cedar River and river area classified as wild.

Scenic Rivers: The use of motorboats or aircraft is not normally permitted but may be allowed by DEC, where such use is already established, is consistent with the character of the river or river area, and will not result in any undue adverse impacts upon the natural resources of the area. Currently the use of motorboats is prohibited on Rock Lake and portions of Rock River.

Recreational Rivers: The use of motorboats on recreational rivers may be permitted as determined by DEC.

Additional information on these designated rivers can be found in Section VIII-D.

## VI. PROJECTED USE\*

In order to predict future public use of the Blue Mt. Unit it is helpful to analyze general trends in outdoor recreation. Future projections forecast an increase in outdoor recreational activities in New York State. The demand for hiking will increase as the median age of the population increases. All terrain bicycling has become popular in recent years with Nordic skiing and snowshoeing also growing in participation. Snowmobiling is expected to grow slightly with increasing use on the improved and groomed trail systems. The NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation is currently coordinating efforts to revitalize snowmobile use in New York State (Snowmobile Trail Plan, 1989).

An overall increase in recreational activity directly associated with water is projected by the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation in its 1983 New York Statewide Comprehensive Recreation Plan. The plan forecasts increased interest in sail rather than power, as well as vessels suitable for "week-ending". According to the NYS Whitewater Affiliation, recreational paddling has become more popular as the skill and equipment have permitted use of a wider spectrum of waterways.

### 1. Increased Demand for Recreation

Visitor use information for the Blue Mt. Unit, over the last seven years, was summarized in the previous Public Use Section. Trends show a slight increase on area trails. Improved maintenance on existing trails will tend to encourage and provide for safer and more enjoyable trails. Commercial rafting within the unit is restricted by water levels and established maximum limits. Snowmobiling is a major recreational industry in the nearby communities of Indian Lake and Long Lake. Snowmobile use in the past has been primarily concentrated on the Elm Island, Benton Road, and Powerline trails due to active trail maintenance and grooming activities by the respective town.

The closure of sections of a few area snowmobile trails is discussed in Section VII-B. The DEC construction and marking of proposed new trails within the unit will promote use on these developed facilities.

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\*Information for this section was derived from the Multi-Purpose Recreational Trail Feasibility Study (Fulton County 1978), NYS Comprehensive Recreation Plan (1983), and A Profile of Outdoor Recreation Opportunity in the Adirondack Park (Tom Cobb; Technical Report 9, 1990).

## 2. Change in Type of Recreation

### a. Snowmobiling

Most of the snowmobile trails within the unit were developed in the 1960's when snowmobiles were narrower in width and capable of traversing more rugged terrain. The trails that were constructed on State lands were generally narrower than those on private lands, requiring slower speeds and more conservative driving styles. Insufficient staffing and funds has led to a lack of maintenance and deterioration of some area snowmobile trails.

The larger size and weight of today's machines cause them to get stuck easily once off the groomed surface. This is especially true for older family members and children. Public use and grooming activity over the years has led to some barking of trees on the inside corners or sharp curves, areas of side hill, and constrictions in the trail. In some cases pieces of reflectors or other snowmobile parts are found next to these problem locations. In many parts of the groomed trail there is insufficient room for a snowmobile to pull off the groomed trail to allow a snowmobile travelling from the opposite direction to pass by safely. This combination of deteriorated trail conditions and change in snowmobile size has created a safety hazard on some sections of trail.

With the technological advances to the snowmobile, many existing NYS trail systems fail to meet the demand for extended snowmobile trips. Comprehensive trail systems\* are being planned in New York State that place emphasis on corridor trails, as well as nearby support facilities.

### b. All Terrain Bicycles

The use of all-terrain bicycles (ATB's) has become an increasingly popular recreational activity in portions of the Adirondack Park. Recent regulatory changes prohibit bicycle use in wilderness, primitive, and canoe areas. In wild forest areas ATB's are permitted on all unposted roads or trails.

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\*The state legislation of 1985 mandated that the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation establish a statewide plan for the development and maintenance of snowmobile trails and facilities in the various counties of the state. The goal is to provide a statewide snowmobile trail system for the enjoyment of snowmobile owners, while protecting the environment and properly addressing the concerns of the non-snowmobiling public. A corridor trail system would encourage tourism by providing easy access from other states or Canadian Provinces (State of New York Snowmobile Trail Plan, 1989).

## **VII. FACILITIES MAINTENANCE, REHABILITATION AND DEVELOPMENT\***

### **A. Maintenance and Rehabilitation of Facilities**

#### **1. Bridges and Dry Tread**

Existing structures will be maintained in a safe, usable condition. The use of pressure treated lumber will be preferred over untreated lumber in recognition of its capacity to remain sound for more than 30 years in service and in light of the ASLMP guideline directing that structures be designed to require minimal maintenance. Bridges will be either replaced or removed before they deteriorate to the point of becoming unsafe. Individual review will document the need for the structure either to protect the resource or to provide necessary public safety.

Two sections of halfround drytread in the vicinity of O'Neil Flow on the Northville-Lake Placid Trail (total of approximately .1 mile) can be slippery when wet. Wood planking (2"x10") will be nailed to the surface of the drytread in order to provide a safe level walking surface.

#### **2. Leantos\*\***

These facilities receive heavy seasonal use and are located adjacent to the Northville-Lake Placid Trail. The two leantos in this unit range from fair to very good structural condition. Tirrell Pond leanto is located on the north end of Tirrell Pond approximately 125 feet from the inlet to the pond and was replaced in 1987. O'Neil leanto is situated approximately 25 feet from water's edge at the southern end of the pond. This leanto is approximately 50 years old and is starting to deteriorate. The structure will need to be replaced and relocated.

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\*The New York State Archaeological Site Locations Map indicates that archaeological resources may be present in the Blue Mt. Unit. Prior to site disturbance for construction of any facility affiliated with this UMP, the nature and extent of archaeological resources in the project area, if any, will be investigated. If it appears that any aspect of the project may or will cause any change, beneficial or adverse in the quality of any historic or archaeological property, all feasible and prudent alternatives will be considered together with plans to avoid or mitigate adverse impacts on such property.

\*\*Since 1990 volunteers in the Adopt-a-leanto program have helped maintain the leantos within the unit. "Adopters" are responsible for basic annual maintenance but not major repairs. An individual, family, or group can adopt a leanto. Responsibility lasts for a year, but can be renewed annually.

### 3. Tower and Appurtenances (Fire and Radio)

These facilities are maintained jointly by DEC and various agencies\*. Existing communication structures service both governmental (Hamilton County, Department of Transportation, DEC, State Police) and North Country Public radio needs. Additional background information and DEC mountaintop policy can be found in Appendix 16.

The observer's cabin will be maintained for the term of this UMP. The status of this structure along with other mountaintop recreational facilities is being reviewed. A steering committee composed of representatives from DEC, non-profit groups, concerned individuals, and the local towns was formed in 1993 to address restoration efforts\*\* on Blue Mountain. The recommendations of this committee will assist in guiding the management of this unique mountaintop.

### 4. Pit Privies

The Old Route 30 segment is situated between Lake Durant and a beaver marsh/wetland complex to the north. These site conditions prevent the placement of pit privies any reasonable distance from water.

Forest preserve policy states:

"sanitary facilities be located a minimum of 150 feet from any lake, pond, river, stream, spring, or wetland; and shall be screened from view of campers and hikers in the area".

The lack of screening and 150 feet requirement would limit any pit privy locations to a section of NYS land to the east. All other pit privies will be relocated as needed.

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\*Each of these parties respectively agree and will equally share the cost and expenses for the maintenance of the access road and electric service to the summit of Blue Mountain. The emergency power plant is maintained by Hamilton County. The repair and maintenance of these facilities are allowed under a temporary revocable permit. Occupancy is addressed under a use and occupation agreement. Repairs are conducted when necessary. See Appendix 16.

\*\*The Blue Mountain Firetower Restoration Committee includes representatives from the Adirondack Museum, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Adirondack Ecological Center, Adirondack Mountain Club, Adirondack Architectural Heritage, Town of Indian Lake and DEC. Additional assistance has been provided by the Forest Fire Lookout Association and the NY Conservation Council. The goal is to repair and renovate the historic firetower and develop an interpretive program for visitors to the summit.



5. Trails\* (See Appendix 12 for trail designation signage)

Upon implementation of this plan unsuitable area trails or sections of trail will be phased out and replaced with new and/or relocated facilities. Trails within the unit will be maintained according to a simple classification system. This will allow intensive management on the trunk trails serving as main corridors, while less intensively maintaining the secondary and primitive trails that provide access to more remote locations. All marked trails will be inspected with minor maintenance (blowdown removal, brushing, etc.) conducted as the need occurs. In order to assure that trail surfaces remain durable, problem sections of corridor and/or secondary trails will be improved with trail hardening techniques or relocated where necessary. Standard trail markers and signage meeting DEC specifications will be placed where appropriate.

Budgeting and manpower constraints require a priority system for scheduling trail maintenance. Trails and/or trail segments in this unit will be maintained\*\* according to the following priority (See Appendix 11 for trail standards):

A "primitive use trail" is a trail designated for use by hikers, Nordic skiers, and snowshoers only. This type of trail is marked with hiking and/or ski trail markers.

<u>PRIMITIVE TRAIL</u>	<u>TYPE</u>	<u>CLASS</u>
Blue Mt. Trail	Trunk Trail	V
Northville-Lake Placid Trail	Trunk Trail	V
Rock Lake Trail#	Secondary Trail	IV
Tirrell Pond Trail	Secondary Trail	IV
Rock River Trail#	Primitive/Secondary Trail	III
Unknown Pond Trail	Primitive Trail	III
Pasley Falls Trail	Nordic Ski Trail	S
Elm Island Trail##	Nordic Ski Trail	S

# These trails are multiply marked and may be suitable for a variety of recreational activities.

## A 2.5 mile section of this previous snowmobile trail will be changed to a Nordic Ski Trail.

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\*The wild river designation and ASLMP classification of the Cedar River does not allow the use of all terrain bicycles within the river corridor.

\*\*The section of the Northville-Lake Placid Trail and Blue Mountain Trail within this unit are in the Adopt-a-Trail program. Volunteers remove blowdown, clean drainage, sidecut brush, and report trail problems to the DEC. This trail maintenance activity is conducted under an agreement between DEC and the Adirondack Mountain Club.

A "multiple use trail" is designated to allow for snowmobiling, horseback riding, and/or all terrain bicycling in addition to primitive uses. This type of trail is marked with snowmobile, horse trail, and/or in limited instances foot trail markers. The DEC may close "multiple use trails" to horseback riders and all terrain bicyclers during muddy periods of the year, especially in the spring.

<u>MULTIPLE USE TRAIL</u>	<u>TYPE</u>	<u>CLASS</u>
Powerline Trail segment	Snowmobile, Corridor	B/C
Benton Road Trail segment	Snowmobile, Corridor	B/C
Lake Adirondack Trail#	Snowmobile, Secondary	C
Lake Durant-Rock Lake Trail	Snowmobile, Secondary	B/C
Rock River Trail	Snowmobile, Secondary	C
Unnamed Spur Trail	Snowmobile, Secondary	C
Rock Lake Trail	Snowmobile Spur, Secondary	C
Cedar River Trail##	Snowmobile, Corridor	B/C

# This new trail utilizes a portion of the previous Elm Island snowmobile trails. See Section VII-B.  
 ## This new trail will replace the previous Unknown Pond Trail. See Section VII-C.

a. Snowmobile trail concerns

DEC's efforts will concentrate on improving suitable trails to safely accommodate snowmobile usage in accordance with established policies. Trails will be maintained according to their classification. This will permit the removal of obstructions (rocks, stumps, and brush) from the trail surface to insure that the average snowmobile operator can safely negotiate the trail with little difficulty and experience a ride that is interesting and safe. Existing problems associated with some unit trails include:

(1) Trail width (DEC snowmobile trail standards are listed in Appendix 11)

Prior to the development of a UMP for the area, trail maintenance within the unit; on other than steep grades was limited to the guidance provided by an old interior manual (C-11-2) restricting the clearing of a existing trail to a five feet wide tread. Side pruning of branches or cutting of brush was allowed up to 1 1/2 feet on each side of the trail for a total width of eight feet. A more recent 1986 snowmobile trail policy guides future development and maintenance of snowmobile trails. This policy allows the widening and upgrading of existing trails through an approved unit management plan.

Hazard and problem tree removal will be conducted as routine maintenance projects in conformance with the LF-91-2 Cutting and Removal of Trees in the Forest Preserve Policy.

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\*Due to private land crossings, user conflicts, and terrain constraints ATB use will be allowed only on certain designated trails. See Section VII-C-1-d.

## (2) Trail grooming

Today's snowmobiles are generally heavier and wider and are much more dependent on a groomed trail surface. Touring sleds designed for travel on trails can be 45 inches in width and exceed 500 pounds in weight. These modern machines require wider groomed trails for their safe operation. In addition the type of grooming equipment has changed over the years. The size of machinery has varied from home-made equipment (snowmobile dragging bed springs) to larger twin-tracked units with a hydraulic controlled groomer. The smaller of modern day groomers may exceed 25 feet in length and 6,000 pounds in weight. It is important to remove trail constrictions or widen narrow bridges to accommodate appropriate grooming for safe trails.

## 6. Trailheads

All developed trailheads will be maintained in a neat, litter free condition. Necessary signs and registers will be maintained as needed.

## 7. Fish Management Facilities

The fish barrier dam on the outlet of Bullhead Pond will be inspected annually and repaired as necessary. The water retention dam on Lake Durant should be maintained in good repair. Water retention dams on Lake Abanakee and Lake Adirondack are owned by the Town of Indian Lake.

## 8. Boundary Line maintenance

A draft DEC policy concerning boundary line maintenance (NR-91-2) was formalized in 1992. DEC has a responsibility to the general public and private landowners to make State boundaries readily identifiable. Well marked boundary lines enable the public to more fully utilize NYS land, without trespassing on private lands. In addition, it should bring an end to unintentional trespass on State land.

Several sections of boundary line within the Blue Mountain Wild Forest Area need to be painted and/or surveyed. Regular maintenance will help eliminate the need for costly resurveys. Information regarding the current status of all lines will be investigated during the term of this UMP. The land manager will determine which lines need maintenance in priority order and will budget for projects through annual workplans.

## B. Facilities Removal

### 1. Snowmobile Trails

#### a. Remove the snowmobile trail designation from the end of the Elm Island Trail

The existing Elm Island snowmobile trail starts in the vicinity of the Indian Lake landfill and terminates at Elm Island on the Cedar River. This dead end secondary trail was only moderately used and a portion of the trail will be closed to snowmobiles in Year 1 of the plan. The section of trail east of the four way intersection enters the Cedar River "wild river" corridor where motorized uses are not legal. This action also complies with DEC policy which discourages short dead end trails:

"existing snowmobile trails less than five miles in length, or otherwise inappropriate for snowmobile use, should be converted to ski touring trails."

The 2.5 mile section of trail between the four way intersection to Elm Island will be changed from a snowmobile to a cross country ski trail. Snowmobilers will still be able to ride from the Indian Lake landfill to the four way intersection and continue to the Adirondack Lake Road.

#### b. Remove the snowmobile trail designation from the Unknown Pond Trail

This 5.25 mile section of existing snowmobile trail between the NYS boundary near the Cedar River to the junction of the Rock River Trail will be phased out due to a major trail relocation. This action is the result of the numerous public complaints and maintenance problems associated with the Unknown Pond Trail. A more suitable new trail to replace the existing route will be constructed from the Benton Road to Rock Lake. See Section VII-C-1-b (Cedar River Trail). Snowmobiles will still be able to ride the Unknown Pond Trail until completion of this new trail.

### 2. Benton Road Day Use Area

Vandalism of existing facilities (pit privy, fireplace, and picnic tables) and occasional littering have occurred at this readily accessible location. These facilities will not be replaced. See Section VIII-D on wild, scenic, and recreational rivers.

C. Facilities Development (See Appendix Map 4)

The wild forest classification permits a higher degree of public use within the confines of the constitution and the carrying capacity of the resource. The following facilities (with the exception of the North Country Trail) will be scheduled for completion during the term of this plan:

1. Trails

a. Foot

(1) North Country National Scenic Trail\* (See Appendix 17)

In New York, a broad corridor concept for a trail originating at Crown Point and traveling in a southwesterly direction to enter Pennsylvania in the vicinity of Allegany State Park has been proposed. This corridor would traverse the Blue Mt. Unit from Long Lake to Lake Durant. Initially, the corridor would cross private lands in the vicinity of Newcomb until entering State lands near Long Lake (High Peaks Wilderness Area). Once the trail enters the unit in the vicinity of the Tarbell Hill Road, it would follow sections of the Northville-Lake Placid Trail past Tirrell Pond utilizing both private and NYS lands, before leaving the unit in the vicinity of Lake Durant.

Since this section of the proposed trail follows existing designated trails, additional construction of facilities will not be necessary. The original route has been re-evaluated in light of the findings of the High Peaks Wilderness Advisory Committee. A southern New York route terminating at the Appalachian Trail and alternative routes avoiding the High Peaks Wilderness Area are under consideration. These options would avoid BMWF lands. The actual trail designation is contingent upon a final route and completion of unit management plans for all forest preserve lands involved.

(2) Stonystep Pond/Lake Francis Trail

An existing .3 mile herd path starts on Old Route 28 and provides access to Stonystep Pond. The potential exists to develop a trail continuing to the north to provide access to Lake Francis and

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\*The North Country National Scenic Trail is a proposed interstate trail system extending 3,200 miles from the vicinity of Crown Point, New York, through the states of New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, Wisconsin, and Minnesota, eventually joining the Lewis and Clark Trail at Lake Sakakawea, North Dakota. The United States Department of Interior is the main administering agency for this facility.

possibly canoeing opportunities into Big Bad Luck Pond. The need and suitability for a trail in this area will be investigated during the term of this plan.

(3) Unknown Pond Trail

This existing snowmobile trail will be redesignated a foot trail pending completion of the Cedar River Trail. Due to the unbridged river crossing and rugged nature of the trail, DEC maintenance will only be to primitive trail standards.

(4) Bullhead Pond Trail

Bullhead Pond has had a reputation as an excellent producer of brook trout, and has undergone fisheries management activities consisting of annual stocking and reclamations occurring in 1951, 1967, and 1991. Traditional access to this pond has been across private lands to the south which has been posted in recent years. This posting adversely affected public use of this recreational fishery. While access to this waterbody was possible from the adjacent NYS lands the easiest route to the pond was from the old woods road on private lands. The completion of a Forest Legacy Project\* (See Section II-B-14-d) in 1994 greatly enhanced public access to Bullhead Pond.

The Town of Indian Lake owns fee title to these lands subject to a conservation easement on 141 acres. This easement allows for public access and use consistent with the provisions and purposes of the easement and the applicable regulatory and land management authorities of the US Department of Agriculture, Forest Service. See Appendix 28.

In cooperation with the Town of Indian Lake, a foot trail will be marked along this existing road beginning at the Chain Lakes Road and terminating at the southern shoreline of Bullhead Pond. Total trail length will be approximately .6 of a mile with the last .1 of a mile of trail on forest preserve lands between the private land boundary and the pond. The marked trail will end at the south end of the pond where the topography is suitable for hand launching of watercraft.

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\*In 1994 the Town of Indian Lake acquired two parcels of land in Lot 119, Township 17, Totten and Crossfield's Purchase. Parcel I contains 141.33 acres and is subject to a Conservation Easement. Parcel II contains 17 acres and is subject to a 25 foot wide right of way.

b. Snowmobile

Snowmobiling is a major recreational industry in NYS attracting many users to areas with suitable snow cover within the Adirondack Park. The basis for long-term, quality snowmobiling is a well designed, constructed, and maintained trail system. Trails should be located and maintained with consideration given to user safety, reduction of conflicts, and aesthetics, while minimizing any environmental degradation. The snowmobile trails within the unit cross both state and private lands, in addition to utilizing portions of town roads. While DEC snowmobile trails do not cross frozen waters a few of the lakes in the area are utilized by snowmobilers to access the marked trails. In such cases the public must determine if the ice is safe.

Any new snowmobile trails will to the greatest extent possible utilize old logging or carriage roads existing in the area. In the portions that require new trail layout, efforts will concentrate on locating the trail on suitable terrain, taking into account existing forest cover. These new trail sections will contain some curves with the idea of limiting the number of trees to be cut to provide for a safe and enjoyable trail. All cutting, removal, or destruction of trees and other vegetation is to be performed under approved DEC policy.

The final location of these snowmobile trail improvements will be the responsibility of DEC personnel with assistance from the respective Town. Necessary permission to cross private lands will be the responsibility of the Town. Whenever possible the DEC will work with volunteer groups, local communities, town and county governments; and pursue alternative funding sources to accomplish necessary facilities maintenance or project construction. Actual construction will not be initiated until each trail project has been completely located and any necessary permissions to cross private land obtained. Prior to any construction a site-specific work plan covering the project will be forwarded to the APA for their review and appropriate SEQR or permit requirements will be obtained.

High priority trail problems within the unit were identified and will be corrected within the next five years by the following snowmobile trail projects.

(1) Indian Lake-Blue Mountain Lake Snowmobile Trail (See Appendix 21)

The longest snowmobile route within the Blue Mountain Unit runs from the community of Indian Lake to the "ball diamond area" on Lake Durant, a distance of approximately 12 miles. This existing route has numerous problems associated with it (hazard trees, steep rocky sections, trail flooding, etc.) on both the eastern and western ends. These conditions have contributed to make portions of the trail unsuitable for modern snowmobile usage. In addition a few incidents of snowmobilers breaking through the ice on Lake Durant have been reported to have occurred within recent years. Concerns over the Lake Durant and Route 28/30 crossings, rough trail conditions, and improved accessibility of the Indian Lake trail system for the residents of Blue Mt. Lake has prompted an examination of the current snowmobile trail system and suitable alternatives to provide for safe enjoyable recreation.

It is important that the whole trail between Indian Lake and Blue Mountain Lake be addressed in its entirety as this is the only corridor trail with the potential to provide opportunities to snowmobile between these two Hamlets. DEC policy and ASLMP guidelines provide for new snowmobile trails adjacent to but screened from public highways to facilitate access between communities. In keeping with this philosophy and to address safety concerns a comprehensive approach to identify solutions to problems associated with the entire trail was initiated. A section on the history and background of this snowmobile route follows.

(a) Unknown Pond Trail (History and Background)

The existing trail between the Cedar River and the Rock River Trail was constructed in 1973. The trail was located to follow the path of least environmental impact and tree cutting, but unfortunately included areas with drainage and topographical problems. Since its inception, numerous public complaints were received concerning the difficulty of the trail. Low snowfalls and poor trail conditions (flooding, hazardous rocks, etc.) over the last few years have prevented grooming activity on this section of trail. The lack of grooming has subsequently limited public use of this trail. Field trips in 1992 revealed the deteriorated condition of the eastern portion of the trail in the vicinity of Stark Hills. Efforts to rehabilitate this portion of trail were not



considered practical, due to the amount of trail obstacles, improper trail location and the inability to build a snowmobile bridge due to the "wild river" classification.

Efforts were made to find a suitable relocation for the Unknown Pond Trail. As a result of field examinations a marked trail will be developed from the Benton Road Trail proceeding northerly to a sharp bend in the Cedar River. It will be necessary to construct a snowmobile bridge at this location where the Cedar River is classified as a "recreational river". The total bridge length will be approximately 70 feet and will utilize old bridge abutments. From the bridge a trail will be developed to the northwest roughly paralleling NYS Route 28/30 and to the west of Mill and Ledge mountains. This trail will be approximately 2.5 miles in length (See Appendix 21). Until a bridge is constructed temporary crossing on the frozen river surface will be allowed. The NYS boundary line along the western sides of lots 56 and 57, Township 17, Totten and Crossfield's Purchase needs to be established to insure that the trail is located on NYS lands.

This trail relocation will replace the Unknown Pond Trail that will be abandoned for use by snowmobiles. This will bypass the rocky, flooded section of existing trail that travels a circuitous route around Stark Hills and will eliminate concern over the unbridged "wild river" crossing.

(b) Lake Durant Area (History and Background)

Recommendations from the 1986 Citizen's Advisory Committee included maintaining all existing snowmobile trails and to investigate the relocation of the trail between Rock River and the Durant Road. Various polls and petitions were conducted in 1988 to find out public opinion on improving and possibly extending the existing snowmobile trail between Indian Lake and Blue Mountain Lake. A meeting in 1989 between DEC, the Town of Indian Lake, and interested individuals discussed the current snowmobile trail situation and possible alternatives. Safety concerns (road crossings, unsafe lake crossing, etc.) and trail improvements were discussed in addition to the possibility of utilizing the "Old Stage Road". A field trip was conducted later that year to determine the feasibility of the project. Numerous public responses both in support and opposition to the extension of the snowmobile trail were received at the DEC office.

Since the UMP for this area was already underway, it was decided that this project would be best addressed during the planning process. These trail proposals were identified in the Draft UMP. The Town of Indian Lake passed a resolution relating to these snowmobile trails at the January 10, 1994 meeting of the Indian Lake Town Board. This resolution recognized the need for a suitable snowmobile route between Indian Lake and Blue Mt. Lake which does not require hazardous passage over Lake Durant. It was also recommended that the Draft UMP be amended to provide for the implementation of the snowmobile trail project in the first year, with clear definition of the trail extension to the vicinity of the property of Cedric Gates on NYS Route 28/30.

The safety of water crossings has been questioned in recent years with several reported incidents of snowmobiles going through the ice on Lake Durant. It is the duty of the State in its exercise of its police powers to protect people from unusual hazards existing upon or because of use of State property. A new trail is needed to provide a safe alternative to either the crossing of Lake Durant or hazardous road shoulder\* riding of NYS Route 28/30 to access the hamlet of Blue Mt. Lake.

A new snowmobile trail will be marked starting at the Route 28/30 highway trail junction continuing westerly within the road ROW to Old Route 30 and terminating at the DOT picnic area. A culvert extension or bridge structure will be necessary in order to cross the Rock River. Until the Rock River crossing project is completed a temporary trail will be marked from the Lake Durant Campground across the dam and continuing on the old road behind the forest rangers house. This trail would intersect Route 28/30 and continue for .2 of a mile within the highway ROW until reaching Old Route 30. It would then follow Old Route 30 and end at the DOT parking area.

The proposal to extend the trail into Blue Mountain Lake received the largest number of letters and public comment (See Appendix 1). The potential impacts to the natural resources, open space and recreation, noise levels, and economic factors were considered. Extension of the trail along with increased use due to improvements of existing trails will have both beneficial and potential

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\*Snowmobiles are legally permitted to ride the outside scraper banks along NYS highways pursuant to Parks and Recreation Law, Article 21).

adverse impacts. The positive aspects include providing a safer land based trail, additional improved recreational opportunities for the public, and increased economic benefits for the local communities. The primary adverse impact would include disturbance to some residents from increased noise levels. There was some concern over snowmobilers damaging private property or riding into the Hamlet and/or on Blue Mountain Lake itself. As stated previously, snowmobilers can legally enter the Hamlet currently by riding the outside snowbanks of NYS Route 28/30. DEC attempts to relocate snowmobile use from highway ROW's due to the possibility of an accident with automobiles and to prevent disturbance to road traffic from the "bobbing headlights" of snowmobiles. Careful planning in the location, development, and operation of area snowmobile trails will mitigate adverse impacts while accommodating the needs of concerned citizens.

Additional new trail construction and development beyond the DOT parking area may be allowed after the trail problems at the eastern end of the trail system are resolved. DEC will extend the snowmobile trail\* into Blue Mountain Lake only under the following conditions:

- A trail will not be established on adjacent private holdings without the prior written agreement of all landowners involved.
- A suitable public parking area will be provided in the Hamlet of Blue Mountain Lake. This parking lot will be open to the general public with no fee for parking.
- The Town shall not require the possession of a snowmobile use fee permit for use of area trails.
- The development and use of the portion of trail on private land will be subject to local zoning restrictions and the Town of Indian Lake Ordinance regulating the uses and operation of snowmobiles.

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\*This proposed trail would continue to the north of Route 28/30 road ROW just west of the Northville-Lake Placid Trail crossing. This section of trail would utilize an old roadbed locally referred to as the "Old Stage Road". The proposed trail would follow this roadbed, roughly paralleling Route 28/30 for approximately 1.5 miles. Leaving the roadbed, a new 1/4 of a mile section of trail would be developed northwesterly to the NYS boundary line. The trail would continue through private lands to a terminus at a public parking area in the hamlet of Blue Mt. Lake. All necessary permission to cross private lands will be the responsibility of the Town of Indian Lake. In the event that necessary permission to cross private lands cannot be obtained the snowmobile trail will officially end at the NYS Route 28/30 DOT picnic/parking area.

(2) Long Lake-Newcomb Trail

The Town of Long Lake, in an attempt to enhance access to the Newcomb snowmobile trail, requested that the DEC examine a proposal to provide a land-based route using existing town roads\* and State forest preserve lands east of the Boat Launch. While this trail proposal was not in the Draft Blue Mountain Wild Forest Unit Management Plan, the Town of Long Lake desired to include the trail in the final revision of the document since all new facilities or proposed activities to occur on these NYS lands during the next five years must be included in the unit management plan.

The primary reason for this trail would be to eliminate the crossing of Long Lake from the public beach area across the main channel. This area may be hazardous at various times during the winter. DEC policy also requires that snowmobile trails be located so as to avoid crossing bodies of water when ever possible. There have been cases of snowmobile operators drowning after having gone through unsafe ice, and we wish to eliminate such problem areas wherever possible. The development of a new trail on NYS lands adjacent to Long Lake would meet the policy goal with little if any adverse impacts on the forest preserve lands involved. Use of the lake would probably continue, however the land-based route would be available early and late in the snowmobile season when the ice could be unsafe.

A new trail approximately .5 of a mile in length is needed from the end of the Town Dock Road (vicinity of the Long Lake Boat Launch) to the end of the Jim Bird Road. This trail allows snowmobilers from the Hamlet of Long Lake to proceed to the Tarbell Hill Road and the Newcomb Trail. The construction of the trail on NYS lands is contingent on the Town obtaining written permission to cross adjoining private lands. Actual construction of the trail if approved, would only be initiated after the final UMP is completed and a site-specific work plan is developed.

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\*All Town roads in Long Lake are open to snowmobiles.

### (3) Future Trails

The potential for a snowmobile trail connection between the communities of Long Lake and Indian Lake will also be investigated during the term of this plan. Since this route is only in the early planning stages all alternatives are being considered. The development of such a trail would involve negotiations between the towns, DEC, and private landowners (See Section VIII-F).

#### c. Nordic Ski

To facilitate this popular sport, a new trail will be developed, an existing trail will be rehabilitated, and a previous snowmobile trail section will be designated for Nordic Ski use.

##### (1) Long Lake Trail (See Appendix 19)

The proposed trail will begin at the DEC parking area on Route 28N east of the hamlet of Long Lake. Utilizing the Northville-Lake Placid Trail for the first mile, the ski trail would continue for 1.5 miles in a southwesterly direction intersecting the hiking trail in the vicinity of the Sandy Creek bridge. The majority of the proposed ski trail would traverse old logging roads on the east side of Mt. Sabattis. This trail would be rated novice to intermediate. A round trip ski loop of approximately five miles is possible by returning to the trailhead via the Northville-Lake Placid Trail.

The actual location of this trail will be the responsibility of DEC personnel. By utilizing old skid roads, construction costs will be minimized with only limited tree cutting and brushing necessary. Use of this trail will be monitored following construction to determine amount of use and type of activity. The feasibility of adding a short spur trail (approximately one mile) will be considered to provide steeper slopes for the intermediate and expert skier.

##### (2) Cedar River Nordic Ski Trail (Rehabilitation)

The existing Nordic Ski trail begins at the Indian Lake Landfill and utilizes a snowmobile trail/woods road on private land for the first 1/4 mile before entering NYS lands next to the Cedar River. The trail parallels the river for approximately one mile, passing a small gorge and waterfall (Pasley Falls). The trail originally continued along the river northeasterly to Elm Island. Lack of maintenance and poor trail layout encouraged many users to utilize a herd path to the south to intersect

the snowmobile trail north of Adirondack Lake.

This existing trail\* needs brushing, a few bridges and some minor relocation. These improvements along with annual maintenance are necessary to accommodate public use. A 1/2 mile new trail will be marked as a Nordic Ski trail to the four way intersection. This trail can provide users with a short loop by utilizing the existing snowmobile trail to return to their vehicles at the trailhead.

The end of the previous Elm Island snowmobile trail will be reclassified to a Nordic Ski Trail in Year One of the plan. The existing trail will allow skiers to continue from the four way intersection northeasterly to Elm Island.

d. All Terrain Bicycle

The ASLMP permits all terrain bicycles in wild forest areas on trails deemed suitable for such use as specified in individual UMP's. Even in this land classification, certain constraints limit the opening of all trails within the unit to ATB's. Factors such as private land crossings, topography, drainage, and impacts to other recreational activities were considered in identifying possible ATB trails within the Blue Mountain Wild Forest Area. High public use, terrain constraints, and private land restrictions limit the suitability of the Northville-Lake Placid Trail, Tirrell Pond Trail, and Blue Mountain Trail for bicycle use. Portions of the existing Elm Island and Unknown Pond Snowmobile trails, and Pasley Falls Nordic Ski trail are located in a "wild river" corridor. This river classification requires that the corridor be managed in accordance with the guidelines for wilderness areas which would prohibit ATB use. Other portions of snowmobile trail within the unit have potential for future use ATB use if permission to cross private lands\*\* can be obtained. These landowners have allowed snowmobile use during the winter but in many cases have not permitted other trail uses. Efforts to negotiate with these private landowners will occur within the next five years and may result in additional ATB trail mileage.

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\*DEC maintenance and trail construction within the "wild river" corridor will be in accordance with the ASLMP guidelines for wilderness areas.

\*\*DEC cannot allow public ATB use on trails that either begin or cross private land where permission for such use is not in the original trail agreement.

The following existing trails are located entirely on NYS lands and can be used by all terrain bicycle riders:

- (1) Rock River Trail (I-3.0 mi.) From the NYS Route 28/30 trailhead to the Rock River.  
This marked snowmobile trail contains sections of steep trail with some sharp turns and wet areas.
- (2) Lake Durant-Rock Lake Trail (I-3.0 mi.) From NYS Route 28/30 to junction of Rock River Trail.  
This marked snowmobile trail contains sections with rocks, wet areas, and exposed roots.
- (3) Unknown Pond Trail (A-3.5 mi.) From the junction with the Rock River Trail to Unknown Pond.  
This trail is narrow with steep sections, rocky stretches, and wet/flooded areas.
- (4) Old Route 30 (B-.8 mi.)  
This section of old highway is a scenic loop adjacent to NYS Route 28/30.

The proposed new snowmobile trail facilities will provide additional future ATB opportunities.

Riders are urged to use good judgment as trail conditions can vary or be impassable at certain times. Difficulty ratings from Adirondack North Country Association guidelines:

- Beginner (B) - generally dirt roads with relatively smooth riding surfaces and gentle terrain.  
Intermediate (I) - generally single-track trails with variable riding surfaces and moderate hills.  
Advanced (A) - generally challenging single-track trails with difficult terrain and steep hills.

## 2. Trailhead and Informational Facilities

Area trailheads can be an important management tool to educate the public before they enter State lands. Directional signs shall be erected informing the user of the place or places to which the trail goes and the distance given in miles. On popular trails a trail register will be located a short distance from the parking area in order to reduce vandalism. Additional facilities such as display cases and bulletin boards may be located in open front trailhead shelters. Messages will focus on appropriate public use without trying to overwhelm the visitor with too much information.

### a. Foot (2)

#### (1) Blue Mt. Trail and Summit Area

Except for seasonal whitewater activity on the Indian River, the Blue Mt. Trail and summit area receives the greatest amount of public day use within the unit. In order to more effectively communicate with and educate this large number of individuals a trailhead shelter with bulletin board will be constructed in the vicinity of the existing parking area. A display panel will be constructed

at the summit area in the vicinity of the firetower. The design of these facilities will be flexible enough to allow information materials to be changed and updated with the season.

Trailhead signing will stress the relative difficulty of the ascent up Blue Mountain, especially when the trail is wet, and the need for proper apparel and footwear. The shelter will not dispense large quantities of pamphlets or other materials that will pose a litter problem; but will provide a list of available literature and contact sources for that information. The phone numbers of area forest ranger and DEC dispatch will be provided in the event of an emergency. The bulletin board will exhibit a topographic map detailing area trails and approximate State land boundaries. The public would be notified of private land (the first 1.6 miles of this trail) restrictions and pertinent rules and regulations.

The development of a self-guiding nature trail and trail guide for the Blue Mountain Trail will provide the public with information on Adirondack ecology and history. The signing of specific locations along the trail and development of the interpretive guide will be conducted by volunteers under the guidance of SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry staff and overseen by DEC personnel. The placement of an interpretive display near the summit would direct positive public education efforts towards curtailing such problems as improper human waste disposal, vandalism, and littering. This facility would encourage interested individuals to become more familiar with historical, geological, and natural resource information specific to Blue Mountain and the surrounding area. This self help approach is valuable when there is no DEC staff or summit stewards at the tower.

b. Nordic Ski (1)

An informational signboard will be erected at the trailhead when the proposed Pelon Road parking area is developed.

c. Snowmobile (1-proposed on private land)

A large parking facility on private land is available to the public (leased by the Town of Indian Lake) on the Benton Rd. This parking area along with the plowed trailheads along NYS Route 28/30 provide adequate access to NYS snowmobile trails in the area. The development of a parking area in Blue Mt. Lake is proposed (See Section VII-C-1-b).



d. Register Boxes (3)

Trail registers enable the DEC to monitor public use from a particular location. Date of entry, party size, destination, and visitor residence can be important information. Statistics may be summarized to estimate monthly or yearly trends. While not all users will register, this has proven to be a cost efficient method for monitoring use as well as a valuable resource in search and rescue efforts.

- (1) Install register on Pelon Road Trailhead.
- (2) Install register on the Tirrell Pond Trail.
- (3) Install register on the Bullhead Pond Trail.

e. Trailhead Parking Development and Signage (4)

(1) Town of Indian Lake landfill - Pelon Road

A suitable parking area is not provided for users of NYS lands at the end of the Pelon Road. Vehicles park either along the road shoulder or on the town land inside the gate. A small, five car parking area will be developed wholly on NYS lands after closure of the landfill.

(2) Blue Mt. Lake Cemetery Road

Improve existing shoulder pullout by constructing a three car parking area to serve the Cascade Pond Trail.

(3) Benton Road

This town road ends on NYS lands next to the Cedar River. While overnight camping is prohibited in this day use area, undeveloped shoulder parking is available for the public. Appropriate signage will inform the user of recreational opportunities in the area along with DEC rules and regulations.

(4) Chain Lakes Road

The Town of Indian Lake owns full fee title to a triangle of land 17 acres in size north of the Chain Lakes Road. A parking facility will be developed by the Town on this parcel to accommodate both whitewater rafters and/or canoers and other land based recreational activity in the area.

### 3. Fish Management Facilities

The outlet earth/log dam on Tirrell Pond will need to be repaired prior to reclamation. A barrier dam may need to be constructed on the outlet of Pine Lake prior to its reclamation.

#### D. Fish and Wildlife Management Programs

##### 1. Fisheries

Unit inventory data for the BMWF indicates that brook trout have declined since the 1930's. Stocking is now required to sustain brook trout in unit waters. Nonnative and NBWI fish species have impaired native fishes in most unit waters and have displaced brook trout in Lake Durant, Clear Pond, Rock Lake and unnamed pond UH-P 635.

Reclamations are the only practical technique available to reduce or eliminate the nonnative and native-but-widely-introduced (NBWI) fishes and thus achieve the low levels of competition necessary for viable brook trout populations. Nonnative fish populations have become established in Tirrell Pond and Pine Lake to the detriment of brook trout. Reclamation of these two waterbodies will enhance their trout populations and compensate, within the unit, for the several trout fisheries lost over the years due to interspecific competition.

The trout populations in Barker Pond and Bullhead Pond are vulnerable if additional nonnative or NBWI species become established. If future survey work documents the decline of brook trout in these ponds reclamations will be conducted to restore a brook trout population.

Retreatments of reclaimed ponds are not automatically scheduled or planned. Retreatment needs, if any, will be based on biological surveys.

*Note: For purposes of this plan, only waters officially recognized (those with P numbers) by the NYS Biological Survey are included. The Blue Mountain Wild Forest contains at least 8 small (less than 1 acre), wetland/beaver ponds which have not been assigned P numbers. In some years these pond-wetland complexes may be a nearly dry wetland, while during some wet years or during years when beaver are active they contain a small impoundment. These pond/wetlands will be managed to preserve the existing fish communities for their intrinsic value.*

## **Individual Pond Descriptions**

The following is a brief description of each pond in the BMWF. Definitions of fisheries management classifications referred to in this section of the unit management plan are noted below:

**Adirondack Brook Trout Ponds** - Adirondack Zone ponds which support and are managed for populations of brook trout, sometimes in company with other salmonid fish species. These waters generally lack warmwater fishes but frequently support bullheads.

**Coldwater Ponds and Lakes** - Lakes and ponds which support and are managed for populations of several salmonids. These waters generally lack warmwater fishes but frequently support bullheads.

**Other Ponds and Lakes** - Waters containing fish communities consisting of native and nonnative fishes which will be managed for their intrinsic ecological value without any new species introductions.

**Two-Story Ponds and Lakes** - Waters which simultaneously support and are managed for populations of coldwater and warmwater gamefishes. The bulk of the lake trout and rainbow trout resource fall within this class of waters.

**Unknown Ponds and Lakes** - Waters which could not be assigned to the subprogram categories specifically addressed in this document due to a lack of or paucity of survey information. These waters usually contain native and nonnative nongame fishes which will be managed for their intrinsic ecological value without any new species introductions.

**Warmwater Ponds and Lakes** - Waters which support and are managed for populations of warmwater gamefishes and lack significant populations of salmonid fishes.

### **Barker Pond (UH-P 636)**

Barker Pond, like First Lake (UH-P 625) and Pine Lake (UH-P655), is half privately owned and half public. Public access to Barker Pond (8 acres) is gained via a 2.0 mile herd path (from the O'Neil Flow Rd.) which parallels the unit boundary with private lands. The pond is located 1.4 miles north of Rock Lake (UH-P 637). Barker Pond was not studied in 1932, but a game protector did report that brook trout were present. A 1956 survey reported the pond had excellent fishing for large brook trout, but caught only brown bullhead. Surveys in 1979 and 1987 caught both species in good numbers. Barker Pond has a pH of 6.42, ANC of 36.7 ueq/liter, silica of 0.9, maximum depth of 13 feet, mean depth of 6 feet, and a flushing rate of 5.1 times/year. Its substrate is 40% rock and 60% muck. Barker Pond is an excellent reclamation candidate with small wetland areas and an outlet having a very steep gradient. Nonnative fish species introductions have not been a problem in Barker Pond.

Barker Pond will be managed as an Adirondack brook trout pond. It will be reclaimed to enhance and restore a native fish community if additional species become established and the brook trout population is threatened by increased interspecific competition.

**Management Class:** Adirondack Brook Trout

#### **Bullhead Pond (UH-P 582)**

Bullhead Pond is a 19-acre Adirondack brook trout pond that was first surveyed in 1932. Biologists noted in the first survey that Bullhead Pond was formerly an excellent brook trout water, but their netting did not capture the species. Two nonnative species, yellow perch and golden shiner, were caught along with the native-but-widely-introduced (NBWI) creek chub, pumpkinseed and brown bullhead. Native species caught in the 1932 survey were white sucker, northern redbelly dace, blacknose dace, blacknose shiner, cutlips minnow, and redbreast sunfish. In 1937, the nonnative smallmouth bass was captured. Smallmouth were probably introduced by the Conservation Department. Bullhead Pond was reclaimed in 1951 and stocked with brook trout. A 1965 survey captured brook trout, brown bullhead and goldenshiner. By the time of a prereclamation survey in 1990, white sucker, creek chub and northern redbelly dace had also reestablished in the pond. The barrier dam on the outlet of Bullhead Pond was refurbished and the pond was reclaimed in 1991. Bullhead Pond has a Ph of 6.88 and an acid neutralizing capacity (ANC) of 245 ueq/liter. A 0.5-mile trail from the Chain Lakes/Gooley Club road provides access. Bullhead Pond is located about 1.5 miles north of the village of Indian Lake. It's proximity to the village results in relatively heavy fishing pressure.

Bullhead Pond will be managed as an Adirondack brook trout pond. It will be reclaimed to enhance and restore a native fish community if competing species become established and the brook trout population is threatened by interspecific competition.

**Management Class:** Adirondack Brook Trout

#### **Clear Pond (UH-P 616)**

Clear Pond is a 23-acre coldwater lake which has only 20% of its shoreline in the BMWF. The pond lies 1.5 miles northwest of the confluence of the Indian and Hudson Rivers. When first surveyed in 1932, Clear Pond had a fish community consisting of brook trout, golden shiner (nonnative), redbreast sunfish, blacknose dace, northern redbelly dace, creek chub (NBWI), and a hybrid of northern redbelly dace x finescale dace. Lake trout were stocked sometime prior to 1932 and were reported to be rare. Clear Pond was surveyed in 1965 after complaints of poor brook trout fishing. This survey found that lake trout were now abundant and of large size. Large rainbow trout and brown trout were also captured, along with brook trout, redbreast sunfish, creekchub and golden shiner. The poor brook trout fishing was attributed to predation by the lake trout and the stocking policy was switched to rainbow trout yearlings. The most recent biological and chemical survey of Clear Pond occurred in 1980. Brown trout, originating from a stocking error made in 1977, dominated the catch. Rainbow trout, lake trout, brown bullhead (NBWI), golden shiner, pumpkinseed (NBWI) and creek chub were also caught. Clear Pond has a maximum depth of 40 feet. Its substrate is 85% muck/silt, 10% boulder/rubble and 5% sand. The surface pH in 1980 was 6.2, but this improved to 7.3 at 33 feet. Total alkalinity was 173 ueq/l at 3 feet and specific conductivity was 25. A 1991 survey of Clear Pond determined that a barrier dam could not be built due to its wide, diffuse outlet. The likelihood of a successful reclamation on Clear Pond is therefore negligible.

Clear Pond will be managed as a coldwater pond to preserve its native fishes in the presence of historically associated and nonnative species.

**Management Class:** Coldwater

### **Corner Pond (UH-P 659)**

Corner Pond is a 20-acre, warm, shallow pond which lies about 0.3 miles southwest of Clear Pond (UH-P 616). Corner Pond derives its name from the fact that it lies across a sharp-angled boundary between state land and a large private tract of property. About 40% of the pond's shoreline is in the BMWF, the rest of the shoreline is privately owned. The only biological survey of this pond occurred in 1957. Prior to the survey, the pond had been stocked with brook trout, but investigators captured only brown bullhead in 1957 and the policy was canceled. Corner Pond has a maximum depth of 4 feet, a 100% muck bottom, and a swampy shoreline. The pond's pH was 6.6 and water samples had a heavy odor of hydrogen sulfide. Corner Pond drains into the Cedar River near the bend at Elm Island.

Corner Pond will be managed to preserve its native fish community for its intrinsic value.

Management Class: Other

### **First Lake (UH-P 625)**

First Lake (51 acres) is part of the Essex Chain of Lakes. About 40% of the lake's shoreline is in the BMWF. First Lake is bisected by the Hamilton/Essex county boundary with the Hamilton county portion comprising all the public lands. The Gooley Club partially posts the remaining shoreline. First Lake has been a popular fishery for many years and has been surveyed numerous times. When first studied in 1952, the lake had NSA populations of brook trout and lake trout. Redbreast sunfish and golden shiner (nonnative) were also caught and brown bullhead (NBWI) were reported to be present. A 1962 survey added creek chub (NBWI) to the species list. Pumpkinseeds (NBWI) were also reported in 1962, but it seems likely that redbreast sunfish were actually caught, since this was the only survey where pumpkinseed were mentioned. Biologists recommended stocking rainbow trout after the 1962 survey. A 1964 stocking evaluation survey showed that survival and growth of rainbow trout was excellent, so the policy was continued. A 1980 survey revealed the establishment of two additional nonnative species, rainbow smelt and banded killifish. White suckers were also captured for the first time in 1980. White suckers are common in many Adirondack lakes, but are apparently recent arrivals to the fish communities of the Essex Chain of lakes. A single brown trout captured in 1980 probably resulted from stocking error. The 1986 ALSC survey of First Lake captured all the species listed above, except for brown trout, and added slimy sculpin (nonnative) to the species list. First Lake has maximum depth of 62 feet and a well oxygenated hypolimnion. It has a pH of 7.72, an ANC of 380, and a flushing rate of 16.7 times/year. Due to its downstream location in the Essex Chain, First Lake is not reclaimable. It does serve as an example, however, of the persistent problem of nonnative and NBWI fish species introductions. Brook trout stocking is now necessary to maintain the population in the face of mounting interspecific competition. Rainbow trout and lake trout have slower growth rates and no longer reach impressive size.

First Lake will be managed as a coldwater lake to preserve its native fishes in the presence of nonnative and historically associated species.

Management Class: Coldwater

### **Grassy Pond (UH-P 627)**

Grassy Pond is a 31-acre Adirondack brook trout pond that connects to Second Lake of the Essex Chain of Lakes (UH-P626). Grassy Pond was first surveyed in 1952. Brook trout and golden shiner (nonnative) were the only species netted, but the investigator felt other fish species were probably present. The brook trout were NSA. Grassy Pond is well-named because aquatic vegetation is

abundant along the shore. Maximum depth of the pond is 41 feet. A 1980 survey established that brook trout were still NSA. Also caught in 1980 were redbreast sunfish, creek chub (NBWI), northern redbelly dace, brown bullhead (NBWI) and golden shiner (nonnative). Grassy Pond has a pH of 6.9, specific conductivity of 21, total alkalinity of 104 ueq/liter, and a flushing rate of 4.7 times/year. A 1991 survey determined that the pond is not reclaimable due to the lack of a barrier dam site and the presence of large, untreatable wetlands. A 0.4-mile path to Grassy Pond begins on the north shore of First Lake (UH-P 625).

Grassy Pond will be managed as an Adirondack brook trout pond to preserve its native fishes in the presence of nonnative species. The NSA status for brook trout in Grassy Pond is threatened by the possibility of further introductions of non-native and NBWI species. It is doubtful that the brook trout in Grassy Pond are a pure heritage strain because brook trout have been stocked in First Lake and, perhaps, other waters in the Essex Chain. Periodic surveys are necessary to monitor the brook trout population and assess the fish community in Grassy Pond.

**Management Class:** Adirondack Brook Trout

#### **Green Pond (UH-P 656)**

Green Pond is a 16.6-acre pond described in 1969 as "too warm for trout". When first studied in 1957, the pond's fish community consisted of white sucker, common shiner, brown bullhead (NBWI) and pumpkinseed (NBWI). A 1969 survey added no new species. Green Pond has a pH of 6.8, maximum depth of 14 feet, and a bottom substrate consisting of deep, soft muck. It is located about 2 miles north of Lake Adirondack in a large, flat area inside a large bend of the Cedar River. Public access is difficult. The best route would involve canoeing the Cedar River for 4 miles (through some areas of rapids) and then bushwhacking for 0.5 miles. Green Pond is in the watershed of Unknown Pond (UH-P 658) which is an Adirondack brook trout pond. Additional species should not be introduced to Green Pond, because such species would threaten the brook trout population in Unknown Pond via increased interspecific competition.

Green Pond will be managed to preserve its native fish community for its intrinsic value.

**Management Class:** Other

#### **Lake Abanakee (UH-P 587B)**

Lake Abanakee is a 361-acre warmwater lake located on the outlet of Indian Lake. It is split into three sections by causeways for County Route 4 and State Route 28. Most of the lake is under 10 feet in depth and aquatic vegetation is abundant. Numerous stumps and boulders make motorboating hazardous. Maximum depth of the lake is 20.7 feet. The northernmost section of Lake Abanakee contains a manmade dam and borders the BMWF. The outlet dam is controlled by the Town of Indian Lake. Water releases are scheduled in response to releases made from Indian Lake and to supply water for whitewater rafting (see section II-A-2-c). Lake Abanakee contains self-sustaining populations of nonnative smallmouth bass, largemouth bass, rock bass, northern pike, yellow perch and golden shiner. Pumpkinseed, redbreast sunfish, brown bullhead and white sucker are native or NBWI species common to the lake. Lake trout and lake whitefish are occasionally caught in Lake Abanakee. These coldwater species are emigrants from Indian Lake which survive for a short time in an 18-20 foot deep hole near the river inlet. Lake Abanakee was surveyed in 1975 and in 1992. Results of the two surveys were quite similar for most species. Largemouth bass have increased in abundance in recent years. Yellow perch, pumpkinseed, rock bass, and brown bullhead are abundant. The water of Lake Abanakee is lightly stained with a near neutral pH of 6.8 and an ANC of 64.6. Camps are common on private land

bordering the lake. A portion of the southern end of Lake Abanakee borders the Jessup River Wild Forest.

Lake Abanakee will be managed as a warmwater lake to preserve its native fishes in the presence of nonnative species.

**Management Class:** Warmwater

**Lake Adirondack (UH-P 587A)**

Lake Adirondack is a 198-acre warmwater lake that has most of its shoreline within the village limits of Indian Lake. About 15% of the lake's shoreline is in the Blue Mountain Wild Forest. Access roads virtually surround the lake and shoreline residences are numerous. Lake Adirondack is an artificial impoundment. Much of this shallow waterbody can be drained via the concrete dam on its southern end. Northern pike and yellow perch (both nonnative) were reported in Lake Adirondack in 1932. A fisheries survey in 1951 captured both species along with pumpkinseed (NBWI), brown bullhead (NBWI), banded killifish (nonnative), golden shiner (nonnative) and white sucker. In 1973, two additional nonnative species, smallmouth bass and rock bass, were reported for the first time. A 1987 survey by the Adirondack Lake Survey Corporation (ALSC) added largemouth bass (nonnative) to the species list for this productive waterbody. Lake Adirondack has a maximum depth of 19 feet, a flushing rate of 1.9 times /year, a pH of 7.72 and an acid neutralizing capacity (ANC) of 634 ueq/liter. The town of Indian Lake has practiced some aquatic weed control measures on Lake Adirondack including winter drawdown and treatment with Aquashade. Due to its proximity to the village, Lake Adirondack is one of the most heavily fished waters in the BMWF.

Lake Adirondack will be managed as a warmwater pond to preserve its native fishes in the presence of nonnative species.

**Management Class:** Warmwater

**Lake Durant (UH-P 645A)**

Lake Durant (293-acres) is perhaps the best known lake in the Blue Mountain Wild Forest Area. The northern shore of this warmwater, manmade lake is paralleled by Route 28/30. A state campground is located on the eastern and southern shores. When first surveyed in 1942, brook trout were fairly common. A brown trout was also caught in that survey along with unidentified suckers and minnows. A 1959 survey captured brook trout, white sucker, yellow perch (nonnative), pumpkinseed (NBWI), brown bullhead (NBWI) and golden shiner (nonnative). Biologists introduced largemouth bass after the 1959 survey and by 1962 the species was being reported caught in the lake. In 1978, norlunge or tiger musky were also introduced. Tiger musky and bass fishing are now popular activities on Lake Durant. When last measured in 1959, the lakes pH was 6.1. The maximum depth of Lake Durant is 20 feet near the dam on its eastern end. Most of the lake is less than 10 feet deep and there are extensive submergent and emergent aquatic weed beds. Lake Durant can be completely drained and periodically is partially drained to control weed growth.

Lake Durant will be managed as a warmwater pond to preserve its native fishes in the presence of nonnative and historically associated species.

**Management Class:** Warmwater

### **Lake Francis (UH-P 583)**

Lake Francis is a 106-acre warmwater lake which lies 1.25 miles east of Lake Abanakee and about 0.75 miles north of Rt.28. Over half of the lake's shoreline is privately owned with several private camps on the western shore. Wild forest border the lake on the south. Lake Francis has been surveyed only once, in 1932. Yellow perch (nonnative) were noted as being abundant. Golden shiner (nonnative), white sucker, common shiner, redbreast sunfish, creek chub (NBWI), and hybrids of redbreast sunfish and pumpkinseed were also caught. A pH of 6.2 was recorded in 1932 and investigators reported a distinct odor of hydrogen sulfide and a lack of oxygen in the deeper water. Lake Francis has a maximum depth of 21 feet, yellow-brown water and a 100% muck bottom. Large wetlands extend from the western end of the lake towards Lake Abanakee (UH-P 582A) and eastward toward Big Bad Luck Pond (UH-P 585) in the Hudson Gorge Primitive Area. A 1955 survey of Big Bad Luck Pond captured northern pike and there are anecdotal reports that smallmouth bass are also established in that lake. It is likely, therefore, that both gamefish are in Lake Francis. Public access to Lake Francis is limited to bushwhacking about 0.8 miles north from Old Route 28B.

Lake Francis will be managed as a warmwater pond to preserve its native fishes in the presence of nonnative species.

**Management Class:** Warmwater

### **Little Grassy Pond (UH-P 628)**

Little Grassy Pond is a 5.4-acre Adirondack brook trout water that is tributary to Grassy Pond (UH-P 627). It lies 0.6 miles southwest of Grassy Pond. The stream that connects the two waters flows through a large wetland. Like Grassy Pond, Little Grassy Pond has an NSA brook trout population. The first survey of Little Grassy Pond took place in 1983. Brook trout, creek chub (NBWI), brown bullhead (NBWI), pumpkinseed (NBWI), banded killifish (nonnative), and northern redbelly dace were captured. The water chemistry of Little Grassy Pond is unknown. It has a maximum depth of 11 feet and a mean depth of 6 feet. A survey in 1991 could not locate a suitable barrier dam site, so the pond is untreatable. As with Grassy Pond, downstream, the NSA brook trout population in Little Grassy Pond is threatened by possible future introductions of nonnative and NBWI species. Topographic maps do not indicate a trail to Little Grassy Pond. A 0.6-mile bushwack west from the outlet to First Lake appears to be the best access route.

Little Grassy Pond will be managed as an Adirondack brook trout pond to preserve its native fishes in the presence of nonnative species.

**Management Class:** Adirondack Brook Trout

### **Little Rock Lake (UH-P 638)**

Little Rock Lake (7 acres) is located 0.5 miles east of Rock Lake (UH-P 637). A hiking/snowmobile trail to the Rock River farther north passes within 0.2 miles of Little Rock Lake after a 0.6 mile downhill hike from Route 28/30. Little Rock Lake was surveyed in 1957 and contained only creek chub (NBWI). The pond is shallow (2 feet maximum depth), warm, and has a muck bottom.

Little Rock Lake will be managed to preserve its native fish community for its intrinsic value.

**Management Class:** Other



### **Pine Lake (UH-P 655)**

Pine Lake is 91-acre Adirondack brook trout pond with a reputation as an excellent fishery. The lake is a popular destination for float plane charter fishing. As with several other ponds in the BMWF, Pine Lake is half private and half publicly owned. Pine Lake's reputation extends back to at least 1932, based on anecdotal accounts, but the pond was not surveyed until 1958. That survey captured brook trout, whitesucker, golden shiner (nonnative), creek chub (NBWI), redbreast sunfish, and pumpkinseed (NBWI). Rainbow trout were reported, but not caught. A 1979 survey added smallmouth bass (nonnative) to the species list. In 1987, the ALSC added common shiner, brown bullhead (NBWI) and rockbass (nonnative) to the species list, but did not capture smallmouth bass, rainbow trout or pumpkinseed. Pine Lake has a pH of 7.66, ANC of 352 ueq/liter, maximum depth of 78 feet, mean depth of 25.6 feet, and a flushing rate of 0.5 times/year. The bottom substrate is quite diverse, ranging from silt to bedrock, with sand, gravel, rubble and boulder mixed in nearly equal proportions. Suitable dissolved oxygen for salmonids is found to a depth of at least 43 feet. A 1991 survey determined that the pond would be a difficult reclamation due to extensive wetlands and the necessity of reclaiming a private water in conjunction with the effort on Pine Lake. Brook trout have been stocked in Pine Lake since 1942. Despite numerous competitive species, brook trout have survived in Pine Lake, probably because of the diversity of habitat available. Additional species introductions would threaten brook trout, however, particularly if yellow perch became established. Public access to Pine Lake, other than by float plane, is difficult.

Pine Lake will be managed as an Adirondack brook trout pond. It will be reclaimed to preserve, enhance and restore a native fish community.

**Management Class:** Adirondack Brook Trout

### **Rock Lake (UH-P 637)**

Rock Lake is a 253-acre warmwater lake that is several miles downstream of Lake Durant (UH-P 645A) and is connected to that waterbody via the Rock River. A 0.6-mile trail from Route 28 provides access. When first surveyed in 1932, Rock Lake had a small population of brook trout. Smallmouth bass (nonnative), white sucker, pumpkinseed (NBWI), northern redbelly dace, cutlips minnow, and brown bullhead (NBWI) were also caught. Yellow perch (nonnative) were reported, but not captured. The first investigators of Rock Lake reported that the water had a high level of lead. A 1959 survey did not capture brook trout, but did add redbreast sunfish and golden shiner (nonnative) to the species list. Smallmouth bass up to 5 pounds were reported in the 1959 survey. Rock Lake was last surveyed by the DEC in 1973. Netting conditions were poor and only smallmouth bass, white sucker and pumpkinseed were captured. Sportsmen report that tiger muskellunge from Lake Durant are now common in Rock Lake. Rock Lake has a pH of 6.8, a maximum depth of 20 feet, and a rocky shoreline. An old, leaky, crib dam formerly existed on the outlet.

Rock Lake will be managed as a warmwater pond to preserve its native fishes in the presence of nonnative and historically associated species.

**Management Class:** Warmwater

### **Stonystep Pond (UH-P 587)**

Stonystep Pond (9 acres) lies within a small segment of the BMWF that extends southeast of Lake Francis. It is a warmwater pond that is part of the Big Bad Luck Pond (UH-P585) watershed. A large wetland connects these two waterbodies. Stonystep Pond is accessible via a 0.5 mile path northeast of Old Route 28B. The only survey of Stonystep Pond occurred in 1955. Yellow perch (nonnative) and

brown bullhead (NBWI) were abundant. White sucker, golden shiner (nonnative) and pumpkinseed (NBWI) were also caught. Northern pike (nonnative) were reported, but not captured. Since northern pike and smallmouth bass (nonnative) are reported in Big Bad Luck Pond it is likely both species comprise a portion of the fish community in Stonystep Pond. The pond has a boggy shoreline and outlet. Its substrate is mostly muck with patchy areas of rock and sand. Stonystep Pond has a maximum depth of 14 feet, but most of the pond is less than 5 feet deep. A pH of 5.7 recorded in 1955 indicates acidic conditions.

Stonystep Pond will be managed as a warmwater pond to preserve its native fishes in the presence of nonnative species.

**Management Class: Warmwater**

**Tirrell Pond (UH-P 641)**

Tirrell Pond is a 146-acre scenic, Adirondack brook trout pond that is a popular hiking and camping destination. A 3.3 mile trail from Route 30 just north of the community of Blue Mountain Lake is a common route, but a branch of the Northville-Placid Trail also leads to the lake. A 1932 survey of Tirrell Pond caught brook trout, white sucker, redbreast sunfish, northern redbelly dace, blacknose dace, cutlips minnow, common shiner, pearl dace and creek chub (NBWI). Lake trout, brown bullhead (NBWI), banded killifish (nonnative) and golden shiner (nonnative) were added to the species list after a 1959 survey. Early surveys specified that brook trout spawned in the pond's northern inlet. A 1991 survey by DEC added no additional species, but a biologist did note that many brook trout had a distinctive coloration pattern of double red spots (Leo Demong, personal communication). Brook trout are NSA in Tirrell Pond, but had a long stocking history prior to 1979. Lake trout were not caught in 1991. Tirrell Pond has a pH of 6.6, maximum depth of 35 feet, mean depth of 18 feet and a specific conductivity of 25. Dissolved oxygen is adequate for salmonids throughout the water column. The pond's substrate is mainly sand with some areas of boulder, vegetation is scant. A large dam composed of boulder rubble and timbers is located on the outlet, which ultimately drains into the Rock River. A well-defined channel now exists in the dam and it leaks in other areas. The size of the pond and its associated wetlands would make reclamation expensive, although technically possible.

Tirrell Pond will be managed as an Adirondack brook trout pond. It will be reclaimed to preserve, enhance and restore a native fish community.

**Management Class: Adirondack Brook Trout**

**Unknown Pond (UH-P 658)**

Unknown Pond is a 35-acre Adirondack brook trout pond located 1.8 miles northwest of Lake Adirondack. A snowmobile trail on the north end of the community of Indian Lake provides some access. Starting on private land at the end of Pelon Road, the trail enters NYS land and crosses (unbridged) the Cedar River to reach Unknown Pond in 2.5 miles. Brook trout fishing was reported to be good in this pond in a 1932 note. The first survey of the pond in 1957 captured brook trout, whitesucker, brown bullhead (NBWI) and pumpkinseed (NBWI). A 1979 survey by DEC caught the same species and added redbreast sunfish, common shiner, and creek chub (NBWI). Unknown Pond had a pH of 5.7 in 1979. The pond has a maximum depth of 28 feet, but dissolved oxygen was low below 15 feet in both survey years. A 1991 survey found that 30% of the shoreline was wetland and that there were extensive, untreatable wetlands on the inlet and outlet. There was also no suitable barrier dam site. Pond lilies cover the shallow areas of the pond in the summer months. The pond bottom is composed of plant debris and mud. Stocking appears to be sustaining the brook trout population in Unknown Pond, but additional species introductions could have a ruinous effect.

Unknown Pond will be managed as an Adirondack brook trout pond to preserve its native fish community.

**Management Class:** Adirondack Brook Trout

**Unnamed Pond (UH-P 616A)**

This 2.5-acre pond has never been surveyed. It lies 1 mile northeast of Bullhead Pond (UH-P 582) near the border of Hamilton and Essex counties. Wetlands extend for 0.3 miles upstream of the pond and are extensive enough to preclude reclamation. The pond's outlet traverses steep terrain before joining with the outlet of Clear Pond (UH-P 616). There is no indication of a trail leading to this small pond on topographic maps. A 0.75 mile bushwack, as the crow flies, from the Chain Lakes/Gooley Club road near the Essex county line is the shortest access route.

This unnamed pond will be managed to preserve the fish species present for their intrinsic value.

**Management Class:** Unknown

**Unnamed Ponds (UH-P 5467, 582B)**

These two, unnamed waters lie in the course of tributary 8 of Lake Abanakee. Unnamed Pond (UH-P 582B) is a 7-acre pond at the head of the tributary. Unnamed Pond (UH-P 5467) is 1.7-acres in surface area and is found 0.2 miles farther downstream. Neither water has been surveyed. Both waters are accessible via a 0.2 mile bushwack from the Adirondack Lake Road.

These unnamed ponds will be managed to preserve the fish species present for their intrinsic value.

**Management Class:** Unknown

**Unnamed Pond (UH-P 5471)**

This 11-acre pond is a beaver-impounded section of Beaver Meadow Brook. The easternmost section of the pond lies in the BMWF and the remainder lies in the Siamese Ponds Wilderness. Route 28 passes within 0.1 miles of the wild forest portion of the pond. This pond has never been surveyed, but a 1956 survey of Beaver Meadow Brook found good trout habitat. The stream survey captured blacknose dace, creek chub (NBWI), cutlips minnow, golden shiner (nonnative) and yellow perch (nonnative). Some or all these species undoubtedly populate the pond. The lower portion of Beaver Meadow Brook is stocked with brown trout, while the upper portion in the vicinity of Unnamed Pond (UH-P 5471) was stocked with brook trout for many years. It is not clear from file data why the brook trout policy was canceled for the stream. Reclamation is unfeasible due to extensive wetlands upstream of the pond.

Unnamed Pond (UH-P 5471) will be managed as a coldwater pond to preserve its native fishes in the presence of nonnative and historically associated species.

**Management Class:** Coldwater

**Unnamed Pond (UH-P 5522)**

This 1-acre pond lies just north of Rt. 28 and is a stone-throw away from Lake Durant near the central portion of its shoreline. The pond has never been surveyed and is likely an artifact of road construction for Route 28.

Unnamed Pond (UH-P 5522) will be managed to preserve the fish species present for their intrinsic value.

**Management Class:** Unknown

**Unnamed Ponds (UH-P 5514, 658A, 5516)**

These three ponds lie in the watershed of tributary 19 of the Cedar River and are located about 1 mile northwest of Lake Adirondack near Little Mill Mountain. Unnamed Pond P 5514 (1.7 acres) is 0.1 miles upstream of the Cedar River and P 658A (18.8 acres) is 0.9 miles upstream. Unnamed Pond P 5516 is a 1-acre pond lying quite close to P 658A. It is not known whether this pond connects with P 658A. In 1991, prereclamation surveys of P 5516 and P 658A found the ponds to be completely choked by emergent weeds. Unnamed Pond P 5514 has never been surveyed, but its location in the course of a stream precludes any reclamation. A snowmobile trail to Unknown Pond (UH-P 658) passes within 0.25 miles of P 658A where it crosses tributary 19.

These unnamed ponds will be managed to preserve the fish species present for their intrinsic value.

**Management Class:** Unknown

**Unnamed Pond (UH-P 635)**

This 11-acre pond was surveyed for the first time in 1987 by the ALSC. However, a note in the fisheries files circa 1932 states that a game protector reported brook trout were present. In 1987, the ALSC captured 132 brown bullheads (NBWI), but no other fish species. Unnamed Pond P 635 has a maximum depth of 10 feet, a mean depth of 5.2 feet, a pH of 7.1 and an ANC of 121 ueq/ liter. The pond's substrate is mostly organic matter and muck. A 1991 survey determined that the pond is a good reclamation candidate, with a natural barrier on its outlet. The pond's shallowness and muck bottom have apparently favored brown bullhead and led to their domination of the original brook trout population. Unnamed Pond P 635 is one of the most remote waters in the BMWF. It is located about 2 miles north of Rock Lake (UH-P636) and 0.75 miles east of Barker Pond (UH-P 636). The pond is spring-fed and drains into the Rock River. Brook trout stocking will be initiated on this pond to restore the species.

Unnamed Pond P 635 will be managed as an Adirondack brook trout pond to preserve a native fish community.

**Management Class:** Adirondack Brook Trout

**Unnamed Pond (UH-P 638A)**

This small, 0.5-acre pond has never been surveyed. It is located 0.3 miles east of Rock Lake (UH-P 637) and 0.2 miles west of Little Rock Lake (UH-P 638). A hiking/snowmobile trail to the Rock River passes within 0.2 miles of the pond after a 0.6-mile downhill hike from Route 28/30.

Unnamed Pond P 638A will be managed to preserve the fish species present for their intrinsic value.

**Management Class:** Unknown

### **Unnamed Pond (UH-P 657)**

A warm, shallow, 2.5-acre pond that has been surveyed only once, in 1957. This unnamed pond lies in the course of the outlet stream to Unknown Pond (UH-P 658) about 0.25 miles downstream. Large areas of wetland are found above and below the pond, precluding reclamation. The 1957 survey captured white sucker, common shiner, brown bullhead (NBWI), and pumpkinseed (NBWI). Mean depth of the pond is 3 feet, maximum depth is 5 feet, and its pH was 6.8. The pond can be reached by bushwhacking 0.25 miles from Unknown Pond (UH-P 658).

Unnamed Pond P 657 will be managed to preserve its native fish community for its intrinsic value.

**Management Class:** Other

### **Unnamed Ponds (R-P 5202, 5204)**

These two, small ponds are each 1 acre in size and have never been surveyed. They are also the only ponded waters in the BMWF that are in the Raquette River watershed. P 5202 lies in the course of tributary A of Shaw Brook which enters Park Lake near the village of Long Lake. Shaw Brook contains brook trout and assorted stream cyprinids and dace. P 5204 lies in the course of the Salmon River between Salmon Pond (R-P 247) and South Pond (R-P 245). The Salmon River also contains brook trout. Neither pond is a reclamation candidate. P 5202 is accessible via bushwhacking 0.2 miles east of the Northville-Lake Placid Trail where it crosses Shaw Brook. P 5204 is a 0.2-mile bushwack off the Northville-Lake Placid Trail at a point approximately 1.3 miles from Route 30 and 3 miles south of Deerland.

These two unnamed ponds will be managed to preserve the fish species present for their intrinsic value.

**Management Class:** Unknown

### **Unnamed Pond (UH-P 5515)**

This 1.5-acre pond is located about 0.6 miles upstream of Unknown Pond (UH-P 658) in the midst of a large wetland. It is probably a beaver impoundment. More than a mile of stream extends upstream of the pond, making reclamation unfeasible. The pond has never been surveyed. Access to this pond is limited to bushwhacking along the stream from Unknown Pond (UH-P 658).

Unnamed Pond P 5515 will be managed to preserve the fish species present for their intrinsic value.

**Management Class:** Unknown

## **2. Wildlife**

Hunting and non-hunting publics have mutual interest in assuring the perpetuation of wildlife species. Game species will continue to be managed by appropriate hunting or trapping seasons as part of larger management units. Non-game species will be managed by regulating access and/or directing the public away from sensitive areas. Bureau of Wildlife programs related to the various management zones within northern New York that encompass the Blue Mt. Unit are as follows:

- a. Status surveys and periodic monitoring for selected endangered, threatened, or species of special concern will continue. Currently, this includes annual surveys for eagles, ospreys, and peregrine falcons. In addition, reported sightings of various wildlife species, particularly endangered, threatened, and species of special concern or boreal species, will be encouraged and verified if possible.
- b. Bureau of Wildlife staff will continue to identify and map unique, critical and significant wildlife habitats including wetlands and deer wintering areas.
- c. Expand recreational opportunity for hunting black bear as harvest and age composition demonstrates that a higher removal rate is possible in the Adirondacks, of which the Blue Mt. Unit is a part. A plan for black bear management being prepared by the Bureau of Wildlife will identify alternatives that may be employed.
- d. The beaver population will be managed by adjusting the length of the trapping season in order to maintain populations so as not to exceed an approximate 30 percent occupancy of potential sites.
- e. The harvest of all furbearers requiring identification with pelt tags (beaver, fisher, bobcat, coyote, otter, and marten) will continue to be monitored.
- f. The Blue Mt. Wild Forest includes part of WMU 24 which is now open to taking marten. The population status of this species will continue to be monitored throughout the unit with mandatory pelt tagging.
- g. The re-establishing of endangered and/or extirpated species presently is not being considered specifically for the Blue Mt. Wild Forest Area. Lynx have been released in the High Peaks Wilderness Area and it is possible that some may have spent some time within this unit. As the moose population continues to expand in Northern New York, it is likely that moose may become residents within the unit. Public harassment of such moose will be discouraged through public media and forest ranger staff.
- h. As part of the Bureau of Wildlife's continuing and expanding commitment to watchable wildlife programs and opportunities, interesting communities of flora and fauna that will enhance the public's enjoyment of the wildlife resources will be identified and, dependent upon their ability to withstand increased human use, publicized.

## VIII. ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT

### A. Administration

DEC is responsible for the direct management of the lands of the Forest Preserve. The administration of DEC's various program responsibilities is conducted from a number of Regional offices and suboffices. The Regional Director for Region 5, headquartered in Ray Brook, has the ultimate management authority over the Blue Mt. Unit. The supervision of the activities of the Divisions of Lands and Forests and Fish and Wildlife within the unit are delegated to the Supervisor of Natural Resources. The Regional Supervisor of Operations oversees the construction and maintenance of interior facilities.

The activities of the Division of Lands and Forests within the unit are supervised by the Regional Forestry Manager. Reporting to him are the unit manager; the Supervising Forester in the Northville office and a Senior Forester assigned to unit management planning. All land use activities that are proposed to occur within this unit should be cleared through the area manager. These include not only activities contemplated by Lands and Forests personnel but also those undertaken by the Division of Operations and the Division of Fish and Wildlife. It is crucial to the administration of this area that it be managed as a coordinated unit and not segregated by district or divisional lines.

Division of Fish and Wildlife activities are delegated to the Regional Fisheries Manager and the Regional Wildlife Manager, both stationed in Ray Brook. A senior aquatic biologist and a senior wildlife biologist from the Ray Brook office have been assigned unit management planning responsibilities for fisheries and wildlife concerns within the unit.

The construction and maintenance of facilities within the unit is performed by a trail crew of seasonal laborers (number and length of employment dependent on funding levels) with maintenance responsibilities for northern Hamilton County.

The Unit is included within the territories of two Environmental Conservation Officers. The three forest rangers whose districts encompass part of the Blue Mt. Unit will have direct on the ground administrative Division of Lands and Forests responsibilities coordinated through the area manager.

1. Staffing

In order to effectively manage the State lands within the unit DEC staffing levels in all program areas should be maintained or increased. It is especially crucial that a minimum two person trail crew be funded for the Indian Lake Field Office. In the past two trail crews have worked from this location due to the added responsibility of the Adirondack Canoe Route. More recently only a single seasonal position has been funded. This lack of staffing has led to the inability to properly maintain existing area trails. Only an annual commitment to provide adequate manpower will assure that facilities will be adequately maintained along with other Forest Preserve units for which the crews are responsible.

2. Budgeting

Project expenses to be incurred by this plan are detailed in the Schedule for Implementation. The supervising forester in Northville, as the area manager, will be responsible for coordinating the prioritization and budgeting of interior maintenance activities within the unit. The Divisions of Lands and Forests, Fish and Wildlife, and Operations will cooperate closely in making all interior maintenance decisions in accordance with Regional policy, as specified in a memo from Regional Director Thomas Monroe to Regional Supervisors dated March 8, 1990 and entitled, "Regional Policy for Interior Management and Maintenance Activities." Construction and maintenance budgets will be developed by the Division of Operations.

3. White Water Boating-DEC/Town Agreement

The agreement between DEC and the Town of Indian Lake authorizing the Town to manage the waterway access site on the Chain Lakes Road is expired. The agreement delegating operation is being renewed. The agreement will charge the Town with the responsibility of determining how many passengers each rafting company will be allowed to convey through the Indian/Hudson rivers and to set the order in which the companies will enter the waterway access site. The provisions of the agreement will conform with the unit management plans for this unit and the adjoining Hudson Gorge Primitive Area.



## B. Information and Education

Public demand for information concerning the Adirondack Park and recreational opportunities on NYS lands is growing. DEC staff at both the local and Regional level attempt to answer questions, provide general trail brochures and maps, and promote appropriate use of Forest Preserve lands. An Adirondack Forest Preserve Use Plan and Information Guide is being developed that will address public access and education on a Park-wide basis. Detailed maps and trail guides are published by the private sector.

Many area visitors have not received information or DEC brochures/maps prior to their trip. In some cases the proximity of developed trailheads along well traveled highways tends to encourage a certain amount of impromptu day hiking or sightseeing. Local Chambers of Commerce and town recreation staff advertise and promote public recreational opportunities on both State and private lands in the area.

Visitors who choose to enter Blue Mountain Wild Forest lands through its developed access points are greeted with DEC signage, trail register, or bulletin board. Visitors entering the unit from Chain Lakes Road will be warned about the danger of sudden rises in river flow by a sign posted along the road in the vicinity of the Lake Abanakee dam. Those entering the Indian River by boat will be greeted by signs warning them about the danger of extreme white water and remoteness from roads to be encountered along the Gorge.

Upon final adoption of the unit management plans, the DEC will develop a brochure and map outlining the recreational opportunities afforded by the Hudson Gorge Primitive and Blue Mt. Units. The brochure will provide a brief narrative of the area's history, natural resources, and facilities. A segment on backcountry ethics will be included.

### Tower/Summit Steward

The Blue Mountain Fire Tower was reopened in 1994 after a rehabilitation by DEC. An interpretive program for the summit of Blue Mountain started in 1994, with the tower staffed by a student intern four days a week during the summer. Education efforts concentrated on the history, geology, and ecology of the Adirondack Park in general and Blue Mountain in particular. These mountaintop stewards not only educate the public but are an effective deterrent to vandalism.

The interns are trained by staff from the Adirondack Ecological Center and the National Association for Interpretation. Training on landforms, local history, and forest preserve will be by DEC staff. The annual posting of a position on Blue Mountain from May through November should be implemented to provide public education and help prevent further deterioration of mountaintop facilities.

### C. Fire Management

To protect the forest and plant resources of the unit from the damages caused by wildfire, an active forest fire control program shall be maintained. The policy of the DEC is to extinguish all fires regardless of cause, land classification or ownership. Fire protection for the area is afforded by Article 9 of the Environmental Conservation Law. All the towns in Hamilton and Essex County are designated as "fire towns" in which the DEC maintains a fire protection system, including equipment necessary to prevent and extinguish forest fires.

Within the Blue Mt. Unit, forest ranger headquarters are located near Long Lake and Lake Durant.

This unit contains parts of three different ranger districts, namely:

5727 Towns of Long Lake and Indian Lake, Hamilton County

5724 Town of Indian Lake, Hamilton County

5723 Town of Minerva, Essex County

Fire Wardens supplement the ranger force and are available for large fires on a volunteer basis. Local fire companies have also provided important assistance work when called upon. A fire control maintenance facility is maintained at Lake Durant. Road access to State lands is considered adequate for most fire suppression activities. Along with public information and education, the DEC shall rigorously enforce all existing laws, rules and regulations that have been designed to help prevent wildfires.

### D. Wild, Scenic, and Recreational Rivers (See Appendix Map 2)

#### 1. Background

In 1972, legislation was passed creating a wild, scenic and recreational rivers system on State and private lands to protect and maintain certain designated rivers in their free-flowing condition and natural setting. Within the Blue Mt. Unit, portions of the Cedar, Indian, and Rock Rivers were classified under this Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers System Act.

A wild river is a river or section of river that is free of diversions and impoundments, inaccessible to the general public except by water, foot or horse trail, and with a river area primitive in nature and free of man-made development except foot bridges.

Wild River boundaries within the unit include:

**Cedar River** (Approximately seven miles from the southwest boundary of Lot 82, Township 17, Totten and Crossfield's Purchase to the Hamilton County line)-1/4 mile from each bank.

A scenic river is a river or section of river that is free of diversions or impoundments except for log dams, with limited road access and with a river area largely primitive and undeveloped or which is partially or predominantly used for agriculture, forest management and other dispersed human activities which do not substantially interfere with public use and enjoyment of the river and its shore.

Scenic River boundaries within the unit include:

**Rock River** (Approximately six and nine-tenths miles from the O'Neil Flow Road crossing to it's confluence with the Cedar River)-1/4 mile from each bank excepting any portion of land within the Wild River Area of the Cedar River.

A recreational river is a river or section of river that is readily accessible by road or railroad, that may have development in the river area and that may have undergone some diversion or impoundment in the past.

Recreational River boundaries within the unit include:

**Cedar River** (Approximately one and two-tenths miles from the western boundary of Lot 57, Township 17, Totten and Crossfield's Purchase to Wild River designation to the east, crossing both State and private lands)-1/4 mile from each bank.

**Indian River** (Approximately one and six-tenths miles below Abanakee Lake Dam to the eastern boundary of Lot 1, Township 16, Totten and Crossfield's Purchase)-Except in the Lake Abanakee area where the river area is congruent with the lake shoreline, the area is 1/4 mile from each bank.

**Rock River** (Approximately one and two-tenths miles from the outlet of Lake Durant to O'Neil Flow Road crossing)-Beginning at a point on the north bank at the outlet of Lake Durant; thence northward to a point 1/4 mile distant from said river; thence generally easterly along a line 1/4 mile distant from and parallel to the said north bank of said river to a point where that line intersects the O'Neil Flow Road crossing; thence southerly along said road to a point where said road intersects with Route 28; thence northwesterly along Route 28 to a point where said route crosses the outlet of Lake Durant;

thence generally northerly to the point of beginning.

## 2. Designated Rivers

The five designated rivers and corridor areas within the Blue Mt. Unit possess natural, scenic, historic, ecological, and recreational values. The Rivers System Act provides protection for both the watercourse itself and a riparian zone of up to one-half mile in width from each river bank. Criteria for the management of these waterways is dependent upon river classification, taking into account previous land uses prior to river designation.

Specific information on unique features, public use, and management strategies on designated river sections within the Blue Mt. Unit are as follows:

### a. Cedar River (See Appendix 22)

The Cedar River is classified as both a "wild" (approximately seven miles) and "recreational" (1.2 miles) river as it winds through the Blue Mt. Unit. A portion of the "recreational" river section, at the north end of the Benton Road, is a popular day use picnic area. Additionally, a deep water pool with adjacent sand banks attracts local residents to this natural swimming hole.

Portions of two marked snowmobile trails are located within the "wild" river corridor boundary between Elm Island and Town lands to the west. These trails were in existence prior to classification. A combination of improper trail location and maintenance restrictions due to river classification will result in the closing of these trails to snowmobiles. The end of the Elm Island Trail will be designated as a Nordic Ski Trail. Snowmobile use on the Unknown Pond Trail will be phased out pending completion of the new snowmobile trail between the Benton Road and the Rock River Trail.

### b. Indian River (See Appendix 23)

The Indian River is classified as a "recreational" river (1.6 miles) within this unit. Fisherman paths skirt the northwest bank, and can be found between the river and the Chain Lakes Road. Primitive tent sites can be found in this area, both along the road and adjacent to the north bank of the river.

The put-in site for white-water recreationists is located on this river, with commercial rafting a prominent activity during water releases in the spring and fall.

c. Rock River (See Appendix 24)

The Rock River is classified as both a "scenic" (6.9 miles) and "recreational" (1.2 miles) river. In total, 53 percent of the river is flatwater, 21 percent is of moderate flowage, and 26 percent is rapids. Fifty-six percent of the waters are canoeable, but limited access and rocky sections preclude canoeing in many areas. Rock Lake and one mile upstream of this lake provide the only practical canoeing.

The river is slightly amber colored from natural causes. Small waterfalls occur 4.4 and 6.4 miles downstream from the Lake Durant dam.

A bridge on the O'Neil Flow Road spans the river 1.2 miles from the headwaters at the outlet of Lake Durant. The remains of an old wooden dam are located at Rock Lake Outlet.

3. Management

Future management and public use will be in accordance with the statutory requirements of the Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers Act, Title XV of the Environmental Conservation Law, in addition to the ASLMP guidelines. More detailed information from field investigations studies on these rivers can be found in Appendices 22-24.

E. Proposed Rules and Regulations (See Section V-A-4-b-(1))

When the legislature delegated responsibility for the care, custody, and control of the Adirondack forest preserve to DEC, it also delegated the authority to develop rules and regulations to provide for the protection and management of these lands. Statutory authority is contained in the Environmental Conservation Law and the Adirondack Park Agency Act. As stated in Section V-A-4-b of the UMP, DEC will seek to change the regulation prohibiting all use of mechanically propelled vessels on Tirrell Pond.

If approved, Tirrell Pond will be listed under NYS Rules and Regulations; Section 196.5 (b). This regulation states:

"The operation of mechanically propelled vessels other than those powered by an electric motor with a rating of five horsepower or less, is prohibited."

## F. Land Acquisition

A draft plan and GEIS involving open space was prepared by DEC and OPRHP (Conserving Open Space In New York State, 1994). This plan along with Advisory Committee Recommendations will serve as a guide for the conservation and protection of important open space resources within the unit.

Conservation Easements: A few parcels\* adjacent to Blue Mt. Unit lands may be appropriate for consideration under a conservation easement program. This type of acquisition could have a beneficial impact on the forest industry while providing additional recreational opportunities and improved access to existing State lands.

Trail Easement: Permanent public easements should be secured for the beginning of the Blue Mt. Trail.

Fee Acquisition: In a few instances, fee acquisition may be necessary to accomplish management objectives. Acquisition efforts within the Blue Mt. Unit will concentrate on suitable projects\*\* previously identified:

<u>Project No.</u>	<u>Lot No.</u>	<u>Township</u>	<u>Town</u>	<u>Acreage</u>
Ham. 177	25 (NE)	17	Indian Lake	60
5-449	25 (SE)	17	Indian Lake	84
N/A	68, 69	17	Indian Lake	85
5-412	105, 118, 131	17	Indian Lake	60
Ham. 292	13	19	Indian Lake	17

### Trails on Private Lands:

The Town of Long Lake desires a land based multiple use trail that would connect with the rest of Hamilton County's trail system in Indian Lake. DEC will cooperate with the town to examine potential routes through NYS lands. Access by securing easements over private lands will also be considered. This plan will be amended to address this proposal if a suitable route is found.

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\*Specific tracts were not identified to reaffirm DEC's commitment to the purchase of easements on a voluntary basis as the preferred method of conserving forested land within the Adirondack Park.

\*\*The five specific parcels listed are all projects under the 1972 Environmental Quality Bond Act. The owners of these parcels had all contacted the State expressing an interest in a possible sale to the State. Since all projects were involved in earlier negotiations, they were included in this UMP.

Forest Legacy Project: The former Rocco Denino property located adjacent to the Indian River Waterway Access Site, was sold in 1994 under a Forest Legacy project. The Town of Indian Lake acquired 17 acres in the southeasterly corner of the property. The Town also has underlying fee title to the remaining 141 acres with certain rights (development and recreational) on the parcel acquired by the US Government. NYS would be granted the stewardship and administration of the 141 acre property by the Federal Government as a result of this proposal. See Section II-B-14-d-(3) and Appendix 26.

G. State Land Master Plan Amendments

None required.

H. State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR) Requirements

The actions proposed in this UMP will not result in any significant environmental impacts and thus a negative declaration was filed (Appendix 25). SEQR requirements for land acquisition will be addressed separately for each project.

I. Relationship of Management Area to Adjacent Lands

1. Private lands

The various impacts of State ownership on the surrounding private lands was covered in Part II-D.

Additional concerns that need to be addressed include:

a. Land Titles (See Sections I-E-3, II-D-2-a, and IV-D-3)

There are two roads traversing forest preserve lands within the unit that are used for access by an adjoining landowner or leasees of these private lands. The legal status of the Salmon Pond and Clear Pond roads needs to be resolved. If the deeds transferring these lands to NYS do not reserve a right of access across such land, the DEC does not have the legal authority to grant unreserved rights-of-way to private property owners. The granting of TRP's on a year-long basis for purposes of ingress and egress, with annual renewals, constitutes a permanent and exclusive use of State lands that is neither legal nor in the best interests of the people of the State.

2. State lands

The Blue Mt. Unit adjoins two wild forests, three wilderness areas, and one primitive area.

Interaction on a management basis with these lands is as follows:

a. Hudson Gorge Primitive Area

This area adjoins the southern portion of the Blue Mt. Unit at its eastern edge. The put-in site on the Indian River allows access for a majority of the whitewater recreation activity on the Hudson River farther downstream. Primitive tent sites along the Chain Lakes Road provide overnight camping opportunities for both non-commercial river users and the general public.

b. Siamese Ponds Wilderness Area

Only a small portion of this area abuts the Blue Mt. Unit south of Route 28, approximately four miles east of the community of Indian Lake. This small parcel of wild forest land could provide access (unimproved road shoulder parking) for Beaver Meadow Brook, located primarily in the Siamese Ponds Wilderness Area.

c. Blue Ridge Wilderness Area

Generally located to the southwest of the Blue Mt. Unit, this wilderness area shares a common boundary along Route 28/30 and Lake Durant for several miles west of the Hamlet of Indian Lake. The trailhead and undeveloped parking area for the Cascade Pond Trail is located within the Unit west of Lake Durant, in the vicinity of the "ball diamond".

A segment of the Northville-Lake Placid Trail passes through the wilderness area and Lake Durant Campground continuing to the Blue Mt. Wild Forest Area.

d. High Peaks Wilderness Area

Northeast of Long Lake Village, a small isolated parcel of the Blue Mt. Unit adjoins this wilderness area. A 12-car parking area and register booth (Tarbell Hill Road) on wild forest lands service the section of the Northville-Lake Placid Trail that parallels the eastern shore of Long Lake.



e. Jessup River Wild Forest

Approximately a one-half mile section of Route 28 separates these units in the vicinity of McGinn Hill east of Indian Lake.

f. Sargent Ponds Wild Forest

Route 30 in the vicinity of South Pond is the dividing line between this wild forest and the northern portion of the Blue Mt. Unit. A small segment of snowmobile trail (.5 mile) passes over the Blue Mt. Unit near Deerland.

g. Lake Durant Campground

This intensive use site is located on the southeast end of Lake Durant. Boat access to Lake Durant is regulated by a day use fee when the campground is open. Through hiking along the Northville-Lake Placid Trail also contributes to public use of the Blue Mt. Unit.

h. Long Lake Boat Launch Site

Located northeast of Long Lake Village, this intensive use area provides two large parking lots with associated sanitary facilities. No overnight camping is allowed within this site, but primitive tenting is possible on the adjacent Blue Mt. Wild Forest parcel as long as the 150 foot rule is observed.

i. NYS Route 28/30 Travel Corridor

This land category is unique in that several state agencies are involved in its administration. A travel corridor is defined as:

"...that strip of land constituting the roadbed and right-of-way for state and interstate highways in the Adirondack Park, and those NYS lands immediately adjacent to and visible from these facilities."

SUMMARY

Management of each area should be coordinated with adjoining units and commensurate with each area's designation. Boundaries should be plainly marked, especially if the public is to know where and when legal restrictions apply to each different area.

### 3. Town lands

#### a. Town of Indian Lake

The relationship between certain town lands (Lake Abanakee Dam, Indian Lake Landfill, Old Route 30 ROW, etc.) and adjacent or nearby NYS lands was covered in previous sections. In addition, public waterway access to Lake Adirondack is available from Byron Park. A public beach and numerous picnic sites on Lake Abanakee provide waterway access to this lake.

The use of the conservation easement area by the Town of Indian Lake or the US government or its assigned representative agency (NYSDEC) is specified in the deed transferring these lands. See Appendix 28. The use of the easement area by the public is subject to the provisions of the easement. Excepting snowmobile use, off-road use by the public of motor vehicles, including but not limited to cars, trucks, and all terrain vehicles, within the easement area is prohibited. A pipe gate will be installed on the woods road at the boundary between the 17 acres owned by the Town of Indian Lake and the conservation easement lands. This gate will control unauthorized use and prevent damage to the existing road.

A forest stewardship plan was prepared by DEC (See Appendix 26) for these lands. This plan details general goals for the area along with specific management recommendations for recreation, wildlife, timber, soil and water protection, forest health, and fire protection. The conservation easement boundary should be marked and identified by signage. Additional information pertaining to public use opportunities and/or restrictions within the easement area will be posted at trailhead and parking areas.

#### b. Town of Long Lake

The Mt. Sabattis Park Recreation Area is located on NYS 28N/30 and can provide access to the northern portion of the Blue Mt. Unit. Scenic views of Long Lake are possible from a cleared area on the shoulder of Mt. Sabattis.

**IX. SCHEDULE FOR IMPLEMENTATION/BUDGET**

The following schedule will be implemented contingent upon budget approval. Estimated costs are in addition to normal program funding.

**YEAR      ACTIVITY (Annually)**

1. Boundary line maintenance, 11 miles.
2. Monitor game animal and furbearer harvests.
3. Maintenance fish stocking and water quality monitoring.
4. Resource inventory data surveys of unit waters.

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>ACTIVITY</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>COST*</u>
I	1. Designate primitive tent sites		\$ -0-
	2. Designate group tent sites		\$ -0-
	3. Change designation of Elm Island Trail	2.5 mi.	\$ -0-
	4. Survey boundary line (Lot 119, Township 17, T&C Purchase)	.3 mi.	\$ -0-
	5. Construct Bullhead Pond Trail (including trail register)	.6 mi.	\$ 1,000
	6. Install pipe gate (Bullhead Pond Trail)	1	\$ 1,000
	7. Construct Long Lake-Newcomb snowmobile trail:	.5 mi.	\$ -0*
	8. Survey boundary line (Lots 56 & 57, Township 17, T&C Purchase)	1.0 mi.	\$ -0-
	9. Construct Cedar River snowmobile trail (excepting bridge):	2.5 mi.	\$ 3,125
	10. Designate temporary snowmobile trail (DOT Parking Area-Old Route 30-Lake Durant Dam-existing trail)		\$ -0-
	11. Reconstruct dam on the outlet of Tirrell Pond	1	\$10,000
	12. Install pit privy (Old Route 30)	1	\$ 750
	13. Reclamation of unnamed pond (UH P635)	1	\$ 2,500
	14. Develop Blue Mt. Trail interpretive stops and self-guiding brochure		\$ -0-
	15. Facilities maintenance (major)		<u>\$ 6,000</u>
	<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$24,375</b>

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\*DEC will work with volunteer groups, local communities, town and county governments, and pursue alternative funding sources to accomplish necessary facilities maintenance or project completion.

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>ACTIVITY</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>COST</u>
II	1. Bridge drytread (Northville-Lake Placid Trail)	.1 mi.	\$ 1,200
	2. Rehabilitate Pasley Falls Nordic ski trail	1.0 mi.	\$ 2,000
	3. Construct Blue Mt. facilities:		
	Trailhead display booth	1	\$ 3,000
	Summit display booth	1	\$ 5,000
	4. Install trail register (Tirrell Pond Trail)	1	\$ 350
	5. Reclamation of Tirrell Pond	1	\$40,000
	6. Construct and improve snowmobile trail (Lake Durant Area)	1.5 mi.	\$ 3,000
	7. Construct Cedar River Bridge	1	\$ unknown*
	8. Change designation of Unknown Pond Trail	5.0 mi.	\$ -0-
	9. Facilities maintenance (minor)		<u>\$ 4,000</u>
	<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$58,550</b>
III	1. Construct trailhead parking facility Blue Mt. Cemetery Road (define with rocks)	3 car	\$ 5,000
	2. Construct Long Lake Nordic ski trail	1.5 mi.	\$ 2,000
	3. Construct snowmobile trail (Old Stage Road)	2.0 mi.	\$ 2,500
	4. Facilities maintenance (major)		<u>\$ 6,000</u>
	<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$15,500</b>
IV	1. Prepare and publish brochure and map	1	\$ 1,500
	2. Replace O'Neil leanto and privy.	1	\$ 7,500
	3. Reclamation of Pine Lake	1	\$35,000
	4. Facilities maintenance (minor)		<u>\$ 4,000</u>
	<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$48,000</b>
V	1. Install trail register (Pelon Road)	1	\$ 350
	2. Construct trailhead parking facility Pelon Road (define with rocks)	5 car	\$ 5,000
	3. Facilities maintenance (major)		<u>\$ 6,000</u>
	<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$11,350</b>

\*Specific cost figures for the bridge over the Cedar River will depend upon the final exact location and bridge design.

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## GENERAL DEFINITIONS

As used in this plan, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

<u>ACID BOG PONDS</u>	Naturally acidic ponds with marginal to lethal pH values and characteristic bog vegetation.
<u>ACIDIFIED PONDS</u>	Ponds exhibiting marginal to lethal pH values from natural causes or as a result of acid precipitation. Many have pH values below 5, are no longer capable of supporting fish species, and are at elevations in excess of 2,000 feet.
<u>ADMINISTRATIVE BARRIER</u>	A barrier that can be opened to allow travel over the road by State personnel for administrative or emergency purposes. An administrative barrier should consist of a swing barrier constructed of pipe.
<u>ALL TERRAIN BICYCLE</u>	A non-motorized bicycle designed or used for cross-country travel on unimproved roads or trails.
<u>BEAVER PONDS</u>	Impoundments created by dam building activities of beaver.
<u>BOAT LAUNCHING SITES</u>	Developed sites which provide public access to relatively large waters by providing ramps for launching trailered boats along with parking facilities for vehicles and trailers.
<u>CAMPGROUND</u>	A concentrated, developed camping area with controlled access which is designed to accommodate a significant number of overnight visitors and may incorporate associated day use facilities such as picnicking.
<u>CHEMICALLY UNSUITABLE WATERS</u>	Waters either heavily polluted or eutrophied. Generally exhibiting dissolved oxygen deficits or other severe water chemistry problems.
<u>CONTROLLED ACCESS BARRIER</u>	A barrier that can be opened to allow travel over the road by private individuals or organizations who have the legal right of such travel. A controlled access barrier should be of the same design and construction as an administrative barrier.
<u>CROSS-COUNTRY SKI TRAIL</u>	A marked and maintained path or way for cross-country ski or snowshoe travel, which has the same dimensions and character and may also serve as a foot trail, designed to provide reasonable access in a manner causing the least effect on the surrounding environment and not constructed, maintained or groomed with the use of motor vehicles.

## GENERAL DEFINITIONS

<u>ENDANGERED SPECIES</u>	Species or strains which are in imminent danger of extinction in this geographic area. Example-Round Whitefish.
<u>FISH BARRIER DAM</u>	A man-made device or structure used to prevent the upstream or downstream migration of fish for the purpose of protecting a high-value fishery or population of fish indigenous to the protected body of water.
<u>FISHING ACCESS SITE</u>	A site on a lake or river which provides public access and parking space for vehicles which does not contain a ramp for or otherwise permit the launching of trailered boats.
<u>FORAGE FISHES</u>	Small fishes which serve as food for larger, carnivorous fishes; e.g., rainbow smelt represents a traditional forage fish for landlocked salmon.
<u>FOOT TRAIL</u>	A marked and maintained path or way for foot travel.
<u>HERITAGE BROOK TROUT PONDS</u>	Ponds supporting recognized native, wild strains of brook trout, undiluted by hatchery plantings, preserved for the sake of their pure gene pools.
<u>LEANTO</u>	An open front shelter made of natural materials suitable for temporary or transient residence.
<u>MOTOR VEHICLE</u>	A device for transporting personnel, supplies or material that uses a motor or an engine of any type for propulsion and has wheels, tracks, skids, skis, air cushion or other contrivance for traveling on, or adjacent to air, land and water or through water.
<u>MOTORBOAT</u>	A device for transporting personnel or material that travels over, on or under the water and is propelled by a non-living power source on or within the device.
<u>MULTI-SPECIES WATERS</u>	Waters which support more than one fish species. The great bulk of Adirondack Zone waters meets this definition.
<u>NATIVE SPECIES WATERS</u>	Waters supporting native Adirondack Zone fish species. Example: brook trout, lake trout, round whitefish.
<u>NATURAL MATERIALS</u>	Construction components drawn from the immediate project site or materials brought into the construction site that conform in size, shape and physical characteristics to

## GENERAL DEFINITIONS

those naturally present in the vicinity of the project site. Such materials include stone, logs and sawn and treated timber. Natural materials may be fastened or anchored by use of bolts, nails, spikes or similar means.

### NATURAL SPAWNING ADEQUATE (N.S.A.) WATERS

Brook trout ponds and numerous small, headwater stream sections with mainly slow-growing or stunted brook trout populations which are self-maintained by natural reproduction. Also includes the great majority of warmwater and non-game fish species.

### NONNATIVE SPECIES WATERS

Waters supporting introduced, nonnative fish species, such as yellow perch and black bass.

### PERMANENT BARRIER

A barrier that will close a road permanently to all future travel -- public or administrative -- on such road. A permanent barrier should consist of an earth, rock, or ditch (or any combination thereof) barricade of substantial proportions so as to be obvious and require little or no maintenance.

### pH VALUE

Represents the effective concentration of hydrogen ion. The practical pH scale extends from 0 (very acid) to 14 (very alkaline). Waters with a pH value below 7 are acid while those above this value are alkaline.

### PRIMITIVE TENT SITE

An undeveloped camping site providing space for not more than three tents, which may have an associated pit privy and fire ring, designed to accommodate a maximum of eight people.

### RECLAMATION

A management technique involving the application of a fish toxicant such as "rotenone" to eliminate undesirable fish populations.

### REMOTE PONDS (NOT SEEN)

Generally small, inaccessible ponds which have never been surveyed.

### ROAD

An improved way designed for travel by motor vehicles and either, (a) maintained by a state agency or a local government and open to the general public; or (b) maintained by private persons or corporations primarily for private use but which may also be partly or completely open to the general public for all or a segment thereof; or (c) maintained by the Department of Environmental Conservation and open to the public on a discretionary basis; or (d) maintained by the Department of Environmental Conservation for its administrative use only.

## GENERAL DEFINITIONS

### SIGNIFICANT FISHING STREAMS

Streams or sections of streams which have an average summer width of more than 5 feet if coldwater and more than 50 feet if warmwater.

### SINGLE SPECIES WATERS

Ponds and stream sections which represent a monoculture of game fishes. Primarily successfully reclaimed ponds and N.S.A. brook trout stream sections.

### SMALL PONDS

Ponds of less than one surface acre which are generally considered too small for management purposes or to provide significant angling opportunities.

### SMALL STREAMS

Streams less than one mile long and less than 0.5 cfs summer flow. Too small to be considered for management purposes.

### SNOWMOBILE

A motor vehicle designed primarily to travel on snow or ice by means of skis, skids, tracks or other devices. It is specifically excluded from the definition of "motor vehicles" in 6NYCRR and the Vehicle and Traffic Law.

### SNOWMOBILE TRAIL

A marked trail designated by the Department of Environmental Conservation on which, when covered by snow and ice, snowmobiles are allowed to travel.

### SPECIAL ANGLING REGULATIONS

Departures from the statewide angling regulations. These are currently expressed as options in the fishing guide. May be more liberal or more restrictive than the statewide regulations.

### TRAILHEAD

A point of entrance to state land which may contain some or all of the following: vehicle parking, trail signs, and visitor registration structures.

### WARM STREAMS

Streams with summer water temperatures too warm for salmonid survival and not considered for salmonid stocking.

### WARMWATER STREAMS

Streams or stream sections which support and are managed for populations of warmwater fishes and where high summer water temperatures preclude year-round survival of coldwater fishes.

## APPENDICES



APPENDIX 1

CITIZEN'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE\*

<u>Member</u>	<u>Affiliation</u>
Ron Smith	Hudson River Rafting Association
Morrison J. Hosley	Town of Long Lake Supervisor
Herb Helms	Floatplane pilot
Bob Gates	Town Board - Indian Lake
George Davis	Adirondack Council
James Briggs	Cooperative Extension
Bernard Arndt	Ham. Co. Sportsmen's Association
Dennis Conroy	Upper Hudson Environmental Council
Erwin Miller	Adjoining landowner
Louis Greppo	Adirondack North Woodsmen
Peter Regan	Interested Citizen
Shirley Matzke	Interested Citizen
John Knox	Adirondack Conservation Council

\* Member attendance varied with each meeting.

\*\* DEC staff and other attendees provided additional information and comments.

SUMMARY:

The Blue Mountain - Hudson Gorge Advisory Committee met numerous times during the months of May and June 1986. Whitewater rafting, fisheries, wildlife, float plane use, acquisition, existing use patterns, existing facilities and proposed facilities were among the topics discussed.

The committee was comprised of 13 members representing a wide variety of interest groups. DEC staff included John English and Richard Cipperly, Lands and Forests, Bill Miller, Fisheries, Al Koechlein, Wildlife, and Greg George and Bruce Coon, Forest Rangers.

The purpose of the committee was to develop a variety of recommendations and concerns, discussing each thoroughly from all points of view and presenting each for consideration in the development of the management sections of the plan. After a series of meetings recommendations were drafted and submitted to the DEC. These are listed in Section III-A-5.

## APPENDIX 1

### **Assessment of Public Comment and APA Review of the Draft Plan**

**Development and Distribution of the Draft Plan:** A draft of the Blue Mountain Wild Forest Unit Management Plan was completed by DEC staff in October 1993. This draft was sent to Albany for printing which was completed in December 1993. Copies of the draft UMP were distributed to over 90 individuals and/or organizations. Additional copies were sent to the Forest Preserve Advisory Committee and other interested groups or individuals as requested. Copies of the document were available for examination at the Albany, Northville, Raybrook, and Warrensburg DEC offices and town offices in Long Lake and Indian Lake.

**Public Notification:** On December 17, 1993 a DEC News Release was sent to various newspapers to advertise the upcoming public meeting at the Adirondack Museum in Blue Mountain Lake, New York. The Hamilton County News (December 28, 1993) and Leader-Herald (December 26, 1993 and January 5, 1994) described contents of the plan and the date of the public meeting. Everyone with an interest in the unit was encouraged to express their concerns regarding the future management of these public lands and waters. North Country Public Radio (WSLU) also advertized the meeting.

**Public Participation:** The Draft Plan was made available for public comment beginning on December 9, 1993. A public meeting was held in two sessions on January 27, 1994. Approximately 30 people attended the two sessions (some individuals were present at both the afternoon and evening meetings). A brief statement was handed out at the meetings that summarized DEC proposed management activities and specific projects identified in the UMP. Eight individuals made oral presentations either representing themselves, the town board, or an organization. A few speakers provided a written copy of their comments or voiced their support of those who did provide written comments. General questions were answered from the audience after the oral presentations. The plan was generally well received, with most of the comments supportive or constructive in nature.

The public comment period extended until February 28, 1994. Through this public review process the DEC received a total of 46 submissions by mail and fax, in addition to those received at the public meeting. Twenty six of the letters were from individuals, twelve from town/county officials or groups, seven from clubs and businesses, and one from a member of the Forest Preserve Citizens' Advisory Committee.

**APA Review:** The Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan (ASLMP) provides basic policy and general guidelines and criteria for managing State lands. Individual Unit Management Plans (UMP's) are mechanisms to refine and apply the ASLMP guidelines to specific conditions on the ground at a level of detail appropriate to administration and management. APA is responsible for reviewing UMP's for compliance with ASLMP guidelines. A Draft UMP was provided to the APA in December 1993. Comments were provided to DEC in March 1994.

**Summarizing the Comments:** Oral comments were saved by a tape recorder at the public meeting. Written comments were received at the meeting and the Northville DEC office. A record of the substantive written and oral comments received on the Draft Plan along with DEC's responses to those comments is documented below. Although relevant issues were considered while preparing the plan, several comments needed clarification beyond that which could be provided in the text of the document. The responses are offered to inform the reader of the reasoning underlying the decision making process and should not be misconstrued as criticism. Several of the comments corrected typographical or grammatical errors. Other comments related to adjacent NYS or private lands and was beyond the scope of this plan. An attempt was made to summarize similar and closely related topics and concerns. A Response was prepared to address all major comments and to clarify proposed DEC management actions within the unit. In some cases, public input resulted in the proposal of new facilities for the unit.



## APPENDIX 1

### General Comments

**Comment:** Remove all references to Finch, Pruyn and Company, Inc. properties in the plan.

**Response:** All references removed.

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**Comment:** Revise whitewater tables and river information based on the more accurate and complete reference, Appalachian Waters 2: The Hudson and Its Tributaries.

**Response:** The plan was revised.

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#### **Comments:**

- ▶ Include the stretch of the Hudson River from Newcomb to NYS lands in the Hudson Gorge Primitive UMP. Increase accessibility of this river section.
- ▶ The need for camping alternatives for overnight rafters in the Hudson Gorge.
- ▶ Develop a put-in site along the Cedar River, approximately 1.5 miles upstream of the NYS 28/30 bridge.

**Response:** These comments pertained to NYS or private lands outside the Blue Mountain Wild Forest Area and will be addressed in the appropriate UMP.

### Land Acquisition/Easements

**Comment:** It is highly unethical for the State to advertise its intent to acquire properties which are not listed in the Open Space Conservation Plan as strategic and are not for sale.

**Response:** The specific parcels listed are all projects under the 1972 Environmental Quality Bond Act. The owners of these parcels had all contacted the State expressing an interest in a possible sale to the State. Since all projects were involved in earlier negotiations, we elected to include them in the plan. As we review and revise the plan, we will follow the guidelines of the Open Space Plan.

---

**Comment:** How can any State planning group recommend additional acquisitions and request additional State funding when there are not enough resources to manage existing public landholdings?

**Response:** The DEC is, by law, responsible for the care custody, and control of all forest preserve lands. To address that responsibility, we routinely budget for anticipated needs to administer the lands under our jurisdiction and to provide for appropriate access and maintenance of facilities on these lands. We would be derelict in our responsibilities under the law and our obligation to protect and preserve the natural resources of the State, if we did not attempt, through the budgeting process, to obtain the means to carry out these obligations.

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**Comment:** A detailed economic impact analysis is strongly recommended to be a part of the plan.

**Response:** It is not practical to do a detailed economic analysis for each unit of State land in the Adirondack Park. The economics of public ownership and the role of forest lands generally, is being addressed through such studies such as the Northern Forest Lands Council, Open Space planning efforts, and the Open Space Advisory Committee. An evaluation of economic impacts is provided in the qualitative review screen of the acquisition project review and approval process. At this stage the fiscal and economic benefits and burdens resulting from the project are evaluated.

## APPENDIX 1

### Land Acquisition/Easements

#### **Comments:**

- ▶ Both the Blue Mountain Wild Forest UMP and the Hudson Gorge Primitive Area UMP should recommend acquiring public access or an easement to the Hudson River over the Gooley Club leaseholding at the confluence with the Indian River. As a takeout this would open nine miles (starting at the section of Hudson River from NYS 28 near Newcomb) as an alternative for boaters who lack the skill to run the class III-IV rapids of the Gorge. This area could also be utilized as a put-in for private boaters to relieve conflicts with commercial rafters over parking and access at the existing site.
- ▶ Additional site specific information is needed. Large areas such as the Essex Chain of Lakes should be identified where strong consideration could be given to easements.

**Response:** The UMP recognizes that in some cases the use of conservation easements would preserve open space values and enhance access to NYS lands. Specific tracts were not identified to reaffirm DEC's commitment to the purchase of easements on a voluntary basis as the preferred method of conserving forested land within the Adirondack Park. The Open Space Plan suggests that acquisition efforts incorporate evaluation of need in addition to rating by priority. This needs assessment must be completed before a comprehensive acquisition list could be developed.

### General Recreation

**Comment:** Consider a shorter, more level trail to the head of flatwater above Rock Lake.

**Response:** The current Rock Lake Trail from NYS 28/30 to the lake is only .7 of a mile. Approximately .2 of a mile at the end of this trail could be avoided by proceeding north where the existing trail crosses Johnny Mack Brook. While this herd path passes through a low lying alder swamp and may be seasonally wet, it offers the shortest route to the lake and nearby flatwater inlet and outlet. The existence of this established trail and parking facility would eliminate the need for a duplicate trail.

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**Comment:** Why was there no mention of marking the herd path to Barker Pond?

**Response:** This small eight acre pond is accessible via a 2 mile herd path along the NYS boundary line from the O'Neil Flow Road. DEC fisheries staff believe a marked trail to the pond could encourage fishing to the point it would exceed the capacity of the pond.

---

**Comment:** Develop a foot trail along the old road in the vicinity of East Inlet that could connect with the Northville-Lake Placid.

**Response:** Within the unit there are numerous herd paths and old roads that may be suitable for designation as official DEC trails. During the term of this UMP efforts will be made to examine suitable future trails within the area.

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**Comment:** Restrict float plane use in the summer or prohibit use in Tirrell Pond.

**Response:** Float planes are allowed in all suitable waters in wild forest areas. The Citizens Advisory Committee supported this use on Tirrell Pond, Pine Lake, and First Lake in order to provide for a wide diversity of user groups. DEC will continue to allow this use unless significant resource impacts or public use conflicts occur. Primitive tent sites along the eastern shoreline of Tirrell Pond will allow camping opportunities to float plane passengers so as not to conflict with users of the Northville-Lake Placid Trail.

## APPENDIX 1

### General Recreation

**Comment:** Designate ski trails in conjunction with the existing snowmobile trails to Elm Island, Unknown Pond, Rock River, and Rock Lake. These trails could be used by skiers during the week when snowmobile traffic is low.

**Response:** DEC attempts to designate separate Nordic Ski and snowmobile trails to avoid possible user conflicts. While snowmobile trails may be utilized by occasional skiers, the purpose of the trail (grooming efforts, rehabilitation, etc.) is to enhance the ability to snowmobile safely. Designating these trails for multiple uses would encourage greater use by skiers who may not respect snowmobile use or could be a hazard on the snowmobile trail. The trail surface used by snowmobiles tends to be rough, moguled, and ice covered and is not very suitable for most skiers.

---

**Comment:** Is it true that the portion of the most used trail within the unit (Blue Mountain Trail) is not protected by an easement where it crosses private lands?

**Response:** Yes. When the beginning of the trail was relocated in 1983, the landowner was reluctant to grant an easement. Fortunately permission was granted to establish a new trail section on their lands to connect with the existing trail. The DEC has always enjoyed a friendly relationship with this adjoining landowner in the past and would hope to continue in that vein in the future.

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**Comment:** Add improved public access where necessary as a goal under the water resources subheading.

**Response:** This goal was added.

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**Comment:** A reduction from the current 23 existing to 16 designated tentsites is a significant decrease and may lead to illegal camping.

**Response:** This information was corrected to more accurately reflect the planned management for these popular camping areas. New dispersed tent sites will be created in the vicinity to accommodate those that are closed.

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**Comment:** Move the proposed Pelon Road Parking area close to the Cedar River to facilitate watercraft access.

**Response:** The location of the proposed parking area is at the end of the town road. The existing road that continues from the landfill area to the Cedar River is a private road. There is no secured public access along this road. Permission has been granted from the landowner's for use by skiers and snowmobiles but not motor vehicles.

---

**Comment:** Opposed to the designation of several trails (especially the Lake Durant-Rock Lake Trail) for use by all terrain bicycles. The mud, rocks, and roots make for a lousy ride.

**Response:** At present, all trails in wild forest areas are open for bicycle use unless individually closed by posting. The ASLMP requires that use of all terrain bicycles be specifically addressed in individual unit management plans. Trails which have the potential for bicycle use during portions of the year were identified in the UMP. In the identification of these trails, the DEC makes no claim that the trails are hazard free. Broad trails difficulty ratings from the Adirondack North Country Association guidelines ranging from intermediate to advanced were mentioned to inform the rider of the difficult terrain and variable riding surfaces. Actual trail designation and classification will be done after additional field examination.

## APPENDIX 1

### General Recreation

**Comment:** To what extent is the portion of the Northville-Lake Placid within the unit secured with easements?

**Response:** The private land crossings of the portion of the Northville-Lake Placid Trail within the unit are secured by a deeded public easement. The permitted use is for the passage of pedestrians. These easements are subject to the landowners right to conduct logging or for the removal of logs and wood from the private property. The trail may be temporarily closed due to logging or forest fire danger. The public is not permitted to hunt, fish, or camp on the portion of the trail on private lands.

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**Comment:** Does the lack of designated horse trails in the unit preclude this use?

**Response:** While there are no official horse trails in the Blue Mountain Wild Forest Area, horseback riders can legally ride anywhere on NYS lands with the exception of marked footpaths or in intensive use areas. For practical purposes, the terrain constraints, brush, obstacles, and other factors severely limits the ability to ride through the woods. Some area snowmobile trails may be suitable during the drier portions of the year.

### DEC Management and Administration

**Comment:** Concern over the relationship of this UMP with the adjoining Hudson Gorge Primitive Area UMP. Sound management requires better coordination of separately conceived unit plans.

**Response:** While early planning efforts and the Citizens Advisory Committee linked both units, the different land classifications and variety of public uses in each area required separate UMP's to be developed. Other planning efforts and staff assignments have slowed the development of the Hudson Gorge Primitive UMP. It is anticipated that the Hudson Gorge UMP will be completed in the near future.

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**Comment:** The plan fails to look to the future. Shortages of State funds should not limit present planning. If the ideas are good enough, a way to fund them or volunteers to make up the difference will be found.

**Response:** For such a small area of State land, there already exists numerous trail facilities, in addition to leantos and the Blue Mt. Firetower. With the exception of the Northville-Lake Placid Trail, these facilities are concentrated on the more readily accessible portions of the unit. Physical terrain constraints such as steep rugged mountain areas, expansive wetlands, and difficult to cross rivers tend to restrict public use in portions of the unit. This leads to a fairly high facility to acre ratio for the most heavily used portions of the area. The final plan proposes an additional 8 to 10 miles of new trail while closing 8 miles of snowmobile trail. Efforts will concentrate on improving existing trails to safely accommodate modern use. Volunteers and other governmental workers (Towns of Indian Lake and Long Lake) are currently utilized to a large degree for snowmobile trail grooming and rehabilitation efforts within the unit.

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**Comment:** The State Land Master Plan requires wild river areas to be managed in accordance with the guidelines for wilderness areas. Existing snowmobile trails within the 1/4 mile Cedar River corridor are considered nonconforming uses that must be phased out.

**Response:** Portions of two area snowmobile trails that are located within the Cedar River "wild river" corridor will be phased out. These trail segments include approximately 1.3 miles of the end of the Elm Island Trail and approximately .6 miles of the Unknown Pond Trail. The State Land Master Plan states that wild river areas must be managed in accordance with the guidelines for wilderness areas, which prohibits motor vehicles; including snowmobiles, aircraft, and motorized equipment.

## APPENDIX 1

### DEC Management and Administration

#### **Comments:**

- ▶ The UMP needs to provide additional information on the four roads (Clear Pond Rd., Salmon Pond Rd., O'Neil Flow Rd., and Tyrrell (sic) Pond Rd.) that cross NYS lands and are used for access to adjoining private lands. Necessary information includes the terms of the TRP's how the roads became established, the terms of judgement and rationale for it, and the basis for any claim of right of way over State land.
- ▶ What is the status of the private land access roads?
- ▶ Restrict use of the section of the Clear Pond Road and the O'Neil Flow Road on NYS lands.

**Response:** The Draft UMP was revised to include additional information concerning the four roads across NYS lands. The legal use of the O'Neil Flow Road has been resolved. The status and future use of the other roads within the unit will be determined during the term of the UMP.

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#### **Comments:**

- ▶ The discussion of non-Forest Preserve lands is unclear and needs further clarification.
- ▶ Unless there is a definite resolution as to the status of the parcel involved, the plan should not call for the area to be separately identified by boundary marking or steps leading to forestry or wildlife management activities.
- ▶ Is anything being done on the "gift" parcels?

**Response:** Section IV-E of the UMP was revised to clarify the status of these lands. Until the Constitutional issue is resolved favoring the Environmental Conservation Law, the tract will be managed in a manner consistent with the adjoining forest preserve land and Article XIV.

### Rafting/Whitewater

**Comment:** It should be stated that the Indian/Hudson River whitewater is one of the few sites north of Virginia that offers day long world class quality whitewater in a "wilderness" setting.

**Response:** The plan will be revised to state the quality and rareness of this unique resource.

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**Comment:** Add Newcomb as an additional access site for the Hudson River.

**Response:** The plan will be amended to acknowledge this access.

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**Comment:** Recommend a prominent, consistent DEC presence on the river, rather than at the put-in and takeouts.

**Response:** A wilderness park ranger (now assistant forest ranger) program was instituted in the Hudson Gorge in the 1980's because of the increasingly heavy traffic on the Indian and Hudson Rivers, particularly by commercial outfitters. One individual worked the area, with primary emphasis on information, education, and search and rescue. Additional duties involved the protection of the fragile resources of the Hudson Gorge as well as controlling sanitation problems, illegal camping, litter removal, etc. The reduction of funding in this program has required the Department to assign staffing to higher priority areas. Future staffing needs for the Hudson Corridor will be addressed in the Hudson Gorge UMP.

## APPENDIX 1

### Rafting/Whitewater

**Comment:** Remove rafting activity by itself as negative biological impact. Poor fish habitat is due to water releases.

**Response:** Section II-D-2-d-(2) was modified to include unscheduled releases of water by the Town to adjust for upstream releases at the Indian lake dam. Negative biological impacts, in this case, refer to sudden water level increases in the Indian River.

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**Comment:** Correct text to recognize that even at water levels of 2.3 feet fishing trips can be conducted safely. It just takes longer.

**Response:** The document was revised to acknowledge use at low water levels.

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**Comment:** References to fisherman complaints regarding the fishery of Lake Abanakee: Present facts not speculation. Refer to 1992 DEC study.

**Response:** Page 59 of the Draft UMP was changed to reflect the 1992 DEC survey results.

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**Comment:** The Draft plan mentions an unquantified economic gain to rafters if the rafting season is extended. This gain would also apply to neighboring towns and the local community.

**Response:** The reference to unquantified economic gain to rafters on page 75 of the Draft UMP has been deleted.

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**Comment:** What incentives exist for the Town of Indian Lake or the commercial rafting companies to voluntarily sacrifice income as non-commercial boating increases?

**Response:** Recommendation 5h, page 70, from the Citizens Advisory Committee was to insure private river users access to the put-in site during the commercial rafting season. The agreement delegating operation of the waterway access site between DEC and the Town of Indian Lake specifically mentions that the site is to be open to the public without charge. The management of the site by the Town shall be in accordance with Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan and any DEC recommendations included in the UMP's. Currently the Town accommodates private users between the raft launches.

**Comment:**

- ▶ The establishment of a carrying capacity of 1,000 commercial rafting customers per day for the access site was not a result of a careful analysis of the factors affecting carrying capacity within the river corridor.
- ▶ Address the "carrying capacity" and user conflicts associated with the two-hour dam release bubble.

**Response:** Early controls by DEC were inadequate as the area increased in popularity. As the result of meetings, outfitters voluntarily reduced user impacts along the shores by eliminating lunch stops and reducing other on-shore activities. The "put in" site was designated as a waterway access site with the Town assuming responsibility for the maintenance and operation of the facility. The 1,000 person carrying capacity was established considering the impact this number would have downstream.

While a maximum number of 1,000 has been established for commercial river users, actual use and distribution along the river varies with the season and day of the week. Over the spring rafting season, when use levels are much higher than in the fall, weekday levels seldom exceed 100 customers (approximately 10-15 rafts). On Saturdays the maximum daily limit is often reached (up to 120 rafts).

## APPENDIX 1

### Rafting/Whitewater (continued)

The question of carrying capacity and user conflicts associated with the two-hour dam release bubble will be addressed and covered in more detail in the Hudson Gorge UMP. The wild forest classification and recreational river designation of the Indian River allows a higher degree of human use, where resource impacts are minimal. The regulation of commercial rafters and hardening of the waterway access site (wood chips, etc.) have controlled resource impacts within the wild forest area.

### Facilities Development/Improvement

**Comment:** Maintain parking at the end of the Benton Road.

**Response:** There currently is shoulder parking at the end of this town road. The development of additional facilities at this location will require a defined parking area. The draft plan was amended to reflect the changes to the proposed snowmobile trails and canoe opportunities for this area.

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**Comment:** Remove old Nordic Ski Trail markers from the side trail to the top of McGinn Mountain. Mark this route as a hiking trail.

**Response:** The ski trail markers will be removed. The suitability of marking a foot trail to the summit will be investigated.

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**Comment:** The cross country ski trail to Elm Island is almost gone. The trail should be remarked and brushed out.

**Response:** Trail rehabilitation needs were identified in Section VII-C-1-c-(2) of the Draft UMP. With the closure of the end of the Elm Island Snowmobile Trail, this section of trail will be designated and maintained to cross-country ski trail specifications. This will create a cross country ski trail of approximately four miles .

---

**Comment:** Will the cross country ski trail proposed for the Long Lake area be funded entirely by the DEC or will the Town be asked to provide manpower.

**Response:** DEC will request funding as provided in the plan. Construction will therefore be dependent upon receiving appropriate funds. Should the Town or any other volunteer group wish to undertake the project before DEC funds are appropriated, we will cooperate these efforts.

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**Comment:** Shortage of cross-country trails in the area.

**Response:** A combination of new and rehabilitated cross country ski trails in both the Long Lake and Indian Lake areas will provide adequate opportunities for this winter activity.

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*Note: The largest number of letters and public comment was in response to the snowmobile trail proposals to connect the communities of Indian Lake and Blue Mountain Lake. While some letters were opposed to any snowmobile trail improvements, there was support for improvements to the existing trails. Proposal A was more acceptable than proposal B to those individuals that opposed the western terminus of the trail. The following is condensed summary of public comments that related to the proposed snowmobile trail improvements identified in the Draft UMP. No effort was made to separate comments due to place of residence, voting status, or land/business ownership in the area.*

## APPENDIX 1

### Facilities Development/Improvement

#### Public Support Comments:

Town of Indian Lake: A resolution was passed at the January 10, 1994 meeting of the Indian Lake Town Board. This resolution recognized the need for a suitable snowmobile route between Indian Lake and Blue Mt. Lake which does not require hazardous passage over Lake Durant. It was also recommended that the Draft UMP be amended to provide for the implementation of the snowmobile trail project in the first year, with clear definition of the trail extension to the vicinity of the property of Cedric Gates.

- ▶ It is important to get snowmobiles off of Lake Durant.
- ▶ The trail improvements will provide for a safer trail.
- ▶ The trail could benefit businesses in the area.
- ▶ The trail would enhance access between Indian Lake and Blue Mt. Lake.

#### Public Opposition Comments:

- ▶ The noise would disrupt the tranquility of the area.
- ▶ Benefits of the relocated trail to the north of NYS Route 28/30 would be outweighed by disturbance to residents.
- ▶ Snowmobiles are not compatible with the character and lifestyle of Blue Mt. Lake.
- ▶ Blue Mt. Lake offers no services (gas, food, lodging) to snowmobilers.
- ▶ Problem of noise and exhaust pollution.
- ▶ Snowmobiles would scare wildlife away.
- ▶ There would be vandalism and destruction of private property.
- ▶ Is this part of a master plan for a massive trail network?
- ▶ Examine and discuss with Finch, Pruyn the potential for a route over their existing roads.
- ▶ The proposed trail would provide an unregulated route through which drugs and alcohol could enter the Hamlet.
- ▶ Why trade solitude for only a slightly expanded trail network.
- ▶ The new trail and parking facility in the Hamlet would bring an increase in noise, incidents of trespass, concerns for safety and privacy.

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**Comment:** Can snowmobilers legally ride from the existing road crossing into Blue Mountain Lake? Can they ride across the NYSDOT ROW (north of the Episcopal church) right down to the lake itself?

**Response:** Yes. Snowmobiles are permitted to ride the outside scraper banks along NYS highways. DEC tries to relocate snowmobile use from highway ROW's due to the possibility of an accident with automobiles and to prevent disturbance to road traffic from the "bobbing headlights" of snowmobiles. The ability of snowmobiles to access Blue Mountain Lake from the public highway will be determined.



## APPENDIX 1

### Facilities Development/Improvement

**Comment:** The plan calls for the building and relocation of additional snowmobile trails. Doesn't Hamilton County already have all the allotted miles of snowmobile trails permitted?

**Response:** The mileage of snowmobile trails lost in the designation of wilderness, primitive, and canoe areas may be replaced in wild forest areas. A ceiling was established Adirondack Park wide, where the total snowmobile mileage on NYS lands was not to exceed the 1972 allocation. To date, we are still under the 1972 mileage. In addition the final draft UMP calls for the closure of 2.5 miles of the Elm Island Trail and 5.25 miles of the Unknown Pond Trail. New trail construction of 2.5 miles (Benton Road Trail to Rock River Trail), .2 to 2 miles (Lake Durant Area), and .5 miles (Long Lake Boat Launch Area) is proposed. The final result will be the closure of approximately 8 miles of trail and possible construction of 5.0 miles; a net loss of approximately 3 miles of snowmobile trails in the area.

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**Comment:** Would the snowmobile trail improvements utilize old roads or would the trails involve all new construction. Would the trail proposals involve a large degree of tree cutting?

**Response:** The new trails proposed in the UMP would to the greatest extent possible utilize old logging or carriage roads existing in the area. In the portions that require new trail layout, efforts will concentrate on locating the trail on suitable terrain, taking into account existing forest cover. These new trail sections will contain some curves with the idea of limiting the number of trees to be cut to provide for a safe and enjoyable trail. All cutting, removal, or destruction of trees and other vegetation is to be performed under approved DEC policy.

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#### **Comments:**

- ▶ The area proposed for the western extension of the snowmobile trail is zoned Rural Residential. Many of the year round residents value peace and quiet.
- ▶ There is an existing conditional use permit to build a sawmill in the Hamlet. The building of this facility would cause a conflict between log trucks and snowmobiles.
- ▶ Some property has been designated by the APA to restrict motor vehicles. Commercial snowmobile use? Property has a subdivision plan (Potter Camp Inc. - residential homes and town road).

**Response:** The Town of Indian Lake enacted a local zoning ordinance pursuant to Article 16 of the Town Law and Article 27 of the Executive Law of the State of New York. The portion of private land suggested for the western terminus of the snowmobile trail is zoned Residential. The purpose of this zoning district is to provide development opportunity while allowing preservation of basic open space character. Open space recreational uses including trails are a conditional use.

Snowmobile trails are allowable under the definition of "open space recreation use". The Zoning Board of Appeals is authorized to approve, approve with conditions, or disapprove conditional uses according to the requirements of Article 5.

As stated in the Draft UMP all necessary permission to cross private lands will be the responsibility of the Town of Indian Lake. The DEC will continue the trail from the DOT parking area only if a suitable public parking facility can be provided.

## APPENDIX 1

### Facilities Development/Improvement

#### **Comments:**

- ▶ Divide snowmobile trail improvements into two parts. First priority is to complete route to DOT parking area. The trail could then continue into the Hamlet if permission is granted to cross private land.
- ▶ Instead of using Old Route 30, utilize a portion of the old carriage road to reach the NYSDOT parking area from the back side. Old Route 30 can have snowdrifts of 3-8 feet, which would complicate grooming activity. Using the old carriage road would also eliminate three road crossings.
- ▶ Would rather see the trail utilize the old carriage road and short section of new trail to private land. Existing log roads on Cedrick Gates property could be utilized to continue the trail over private lands to Potters Motel and Restaurant. Parking would be available for 5-6 cars and trailers. This termination point would eliminate the unsafe riding of snowbanks between the proposed NYSDOT parking area and the Hamlet.
- ▶ Concern over the snowmobile trail crossing of the Cedar River.

**Response:** As stated in the Draft UMP it is important that the whole trail between Indian Lake and Blue Mountain Lake be addressed in its entirety. It would not be sensible to improve the western portion of the trail until the trail problems at the eastern end are resolved. The revised DEC proposals for snowmobile trails within the unit are discussed in more detail within the UMP text.

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#### **Comment:**

- ▶ The Town of Indian Lake is willing to do the work on the eastern snowmobile trail relocation.
- ▶ The members of the local snowmobile club (The Blue Mountaineers) volunteer to provide manpower to construct trail at the western terminus while improvements occur at the eastern end.

**Response:** As stated in the plan, whenever possible the DEC will work with volunteer groups, local communities, town and county governments; and pursue alternative funding sources to accomplish necessary facilities maintenance or project construction.

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**Comment:** Consider moving the implementation of the snowmobile trail improvements from Year 3 to Year 1 in the UMP. The existing trail is a third rate trail and has not been groomed for a couple of years due to the lack of maintenance and poor trail conditions.

**Response:** The DEC recognizes the problems with the existing Indian Lake to Blue Mountain Lake snowmobile trail. The importance of developing a suitable trail between these communities would require changing the priority in the schedule for implementation to starting the project in Year 1 of the plan. Volunteer and Town efforts would enable this project to proceed at a much faster rate than waiting for budget appropriations to fund the project.

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**Comment:** The Town of Long Lake is in the process of completing a new snowmobile trail to Newcomb. A new trail is needed from the end of the Town Dock Road (vicinity of the Long Lake Boat Launch) to the end of the Jim Bird Road. This proposed .5 mile trail would provide land access to the Newcomb Trail via the Tarbell Hill Road. The primary reason for this trail would be to eliminate the crossing of Long Lake from the public beach area across the main channel. This area is hazardous at various times during the winter when the flow of water changes.

**Response:** The final plan will add this proposal as a new facility to be constructed only if the Town of Long Lake obtains written permission to cross adjoining private lands.

Table 1. Blue Mountain Wild Forest - Ponded Water Inventory Data

Name	P#	Wshed	File	County	USGS Quad (7.5')	Mgmt. Class	Area (acres) NYSBSU	Max Depth (feet)	Mean Depth (ft)
Barker Pond	636	UH	1089	HAMILTON	ROCK LAKE	ADK. BROOK	7.9	13	5.9
Bullhead Pond	582	UH	995	HAMILTON	BAD LUCK MT.	ADK. BROOK	19	23	12
Clear Pond	616	UH	1064	ESSEX	BAD LUCK MT.	COLDWATER	23.2	40	20
Corner Pond	659	UH	1119	ESSEX	BAD LUCK MT.	OTHER	20.3	4	2
First Lake	625	UH	1076	HAMILTON	ROCK LAKE	COLDWATER	50.9	62	20.3
Grassy Pond	627	UH	1079	HAMILTON	ROCK LAKE	ADK. BROOK	31.1	41	21
Green Pond	656	UH	1116	HAMILTON	ROCK LAKE	OTHER	16.6	14	7
Lake Abanakee	587B	UH	1002A	HAMILTON	ROCK LAKE	WARMWATER	360.8	21	-
Lake Adirondack	587A	UH	1002	HAMILTON	ROCK LAKE	WARMWATER	197.7	19	7.2
Lake Durant	645A	UH	1097A	HAMILTON	BLUE MT.	WARMWATER	293.1	-	-
Lake Francis	583	UH	997	HAMILTON	BAD LUCK MT.	WARMWATER	106.3	21	11
Little Grassy Pond	628	UH	1080	HAMILTON	ROCK LAKE	ADK. BROOK	5.4	11	6
Little Rock Lake	638	UH	1092	HAMILTON	ROCK LAKE	OTHER	3.5	2	1
Pine Lake	655	UH	1114	HAMILTON	ROCK LAKE	ADK. BROOK	91.4	78	25.6
Rock Lake	637	UH	1091	HAMILTON	ROCK LAKE	WARMWATER	253	20	10
Stonystep Pond	587	UH	1001	HAMILTON	BAD LUCK MT.	WARMWATER	8.9	14	7
Tirrell Pond	641	UH	1097	HAMILTON	DUN BROOK MT.	ADK. BROOK	146	35	18
Unknown Pond	658	UH	1118	HAMILTON	ROCK LAKE	ADK. BROOK	35.1	28	14
Unnamed Pond	582B	UH	-	HAMILTON	ROCK LAKE	UNKNOWN	6.9	-	-
Unnamed Pond	616A	UH	-	HAMILTON	BAD LUCK MT.	UNKNOWN	2.5	-	-
Unnamed Pond	638A	UH	-	HAMILTON	ROCK LAKE	UNKNOWN	0.5	-	-
Unnamed Pond	658A	UH	-	HAMILTON	ROCK LAKE	UNKNOWN	18.8	-	-
Unnamed Pond	635	UH	1088	HAMILTON	ROCK LAKE	ADK. BROOK	10.9	10	5.2
Unnamed Pond	657	UH	1117	HAMILTON	ROCK LAKE	OTHER	2.5	5	3
Unnamed Pond	5467	UH	-	HAMILTON	BAD LUCK MT.	UNKNOWN	1.7	-	-
Unnamed Pond	5471	UH	-	HAMILTON	BAD LUCK MT.	COLDWATER	11.1	-	-
Unnamed Pond	5514	UH	-	HAMILTON	ROCK LAKE	UNKNOWN	1.7	-	-
Unnamed Pond	5515	UH	-	HAMILTON	ROCK LAKE	UNKNOWN	1.5	-	-
Unnamed Pond	5516	UH	-	HAMILTON	ROCK LAKE	UNKNOWN	1	-	-
Unnamed Pond	5522	UH	-	HAMILTON	BLUE MT.	UNKNOWN	1	-	-
Unnamed Pond	5202	R	-	HAMILTON	DEERLAND	UNKNOWN	1	-	-
Unnamed Pond	5204	R	-	HAMILTON	DEERLAND	UNKNOWN	1	-	-

	%TOTAL AREA	
ADIR. BROOK (8) =	529.8	30.6%
COLDWATER (3) =	597.1	34.5%
OTHER (4) =	353.3	20.4%
UNKNOWN (11) =	244.9	14.1%
WARMWATER (6) =	7.2	0.4%
<b>TOTAL AREA =</b>	<b>1732.3</b>	

Table 2. Blue Mountain Wild Forest - Ponded Water Survey Data

Name	P#	Wshed	Most Recent Chemical Survey					Most Recent Biological Survey			
			Year	Source	ANC (µeq/l)	pH	Conduc-tivity	Year	Source	Fish Species Present and Number Caught *	
Barker Pond	636	UH	1987	ALSC	36.7	6.42	18.4	1987	ALSC	ST-18, BB-52	
Bullhead Pond	582	UH	1990	DEC	245	6.88	39.6	1990	DEC	ST-10, WS-10, GS-15, CC-10, NRD-1 (All pre-rec)	
Clear Pond	616	UH	1980	DEC	-	6.2	25	1980	DEC	BT-8, RT-3, LT-2, BB-56, GS-35, PKS-67, CC-35	
Corner Pond	659	UH	1957	DEC	-	6.8	-	1957	DEC	BB-10	
First Lake	625	UH	1987	ALSC	380.6	7.72	48.9	1987	ALSC	ST-10, RT-3, LT-12, WS-2, BB-15, RBS-12, SS-2, RS-7, GS-1, CC-6, BK-2	
Grassy Pond	627	UH	1980	DEC	-	6.9	21	1980	DEC	ST-30, RBS-61, CC-55, NRD-4, BB-30, GS-13	
Green Pond	656	UH	1957	DEC	-	6.8	-	1969	DEC	WS-19, BB-4	
Lake Abanakee	587B	UH	1992	DEC	64.6	6.8	28.4	1992	DEC	LT, NP, SMB, LMB, YP, PKS, RBS, RB, BB, WS, GS, BK	
Lake Adirondack	587A	UH	1987	ALSC	633.7	7.85	77.8	1987	ALSC	NP-17, LMB-2, WS-4, BB-130, RB-32, PKS-55, YP-42, GS-63	
Lake Durant	645A	UH	1959	DEC	-	6.1	-	1978	DEC	ST (rare), LMB-3, GS-32, WS-14, YP-21, PKS-11, CMM-1, TGRM stocked	
Lake Francis	583	UH	1932	DEC	-	6.2	-	1932	DEC	YP, abt, WS, GS, CS, RBS, CC, RBSxPKS	
Little Grassy Pond	628	UH	1983	DEC	-	-	-	1983	DEC	ST-15, CC-4, BB-25, PKS-12, BK-4, NRD-33	
Little Rock Lake	638	UH	1957	DEC	-	6.8	-	1957	DEC	CC-4	
Pine Lake	655	UH	1987	ALSC	351.8	7.66	47.9	1987	ALSC	ST-15, GS-2, CS-1, CC-8, WS-15, BB-15, RBS-33, RB-2	
Rock Lake	637	UH	1973	DEC	-	6.8	-	1973	DEC	SMB-3, WS-28, PKS-1 poor netting conditions	
Stonystep Pond	587	UH	1955	DEC	-	5.7	-	1955	DEC	YP-16, BB-74, WS-4, GS-3, PKS-2, NP-rept	
Tirrell Pond	641	UH	1991	DEC	-	6.6	25	1991	DEC	ST-31, CC-2, WS-62, RBS-25, GS-4, BB-4	
Unknown Pond	658	UH	1979	DEC	-	5.7	-	1979	DEC	ST-10, BB-6, RBS-13, PKS-7, WS-23, CS-1, CC-2, RBSxPKS-6	
Unnamed Pond	582B	UH	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Unknown	
Unnamed Pond	616A	UH	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Unknown	
Unnamed Pond	638A	UH	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Unknown	
Unnamed Pond	658A	UH	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Unknown	
Unnamed Pond	635	UH	1987	ALSC	121.3	7.1	25.5	1987	ALSC	BHC-132	
Unnamed Pond	657	UH	1957	DEC	-	6.8	-	1957	DEC	WS-2, CS-2, BB-6, PKS-6	
Unnamed Pond	5467	UH	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Unknown	
Unnamed Pond	5471	UH	-	-	-	-	-	1956	DEC	BT stocked downstream, BND, CC, CLM, GS, YP In Beaver Meadow Bk	
Unnamed Pond	5514	UH	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Unknown	
Unnamed Pond	5515	UH	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Unknown	
Unnamed Pond	5516	UH	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Unknown	
Unnamed Pond	5522	UH	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Unknown	
Unnamed Pond	5202	R	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Unknown	
Unnamed Pond	5204	R	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Unknown	

\* Fish species caught by various gear. Entries without numbers indicate fish species thought to be present or reported during earlier surveys.

Species Abbreviations:

BND Blacknose dace	CS Common shiner	PKS Pumpkinseed	TGRM Tiger musky
BB Brown bullhead	GS Golden shiner	RB Rock bass	WS White sucker
BK Banded killifish	LMB Largemouth bass	RBS Redbreast sunfish	YP Yellow perch
BT Brown trout	LT Lake trout	RT Rainbow trout	
CC Creek Chub	NRD Northern redbelly dace	SMB Smallmouth bass	Unknown - No biological survey
CMM Central mudminnow	NP Northern pike	ST Brook trout	No fish - No fish captured during survey

Table 3. Classification of Common Adirondack Upland Fish Fauna Into Native, Nonnative, and Native But Widely Introduced  
Adapted from George, 1980

Native To Adirondack Upland

Blacknose dace	Creek chubsucker
White sucker	Longnose dace
Longnose sucker	Slimy sculpin
Northern redbelly dace	Lake chub
Redbreast sunfish	Common shiner
Finescale dace	Round whitefish

Native Species Widely Introduced within the Adirondack Upland<sup>1</sup>

Brook trout	Cisco
Brown bullhead	Lake trout
Pumpkinseed	Creek chub

Nonnative to Adirondack Upland

Golden shiner	Smallmouth bass
Chain pickerel	Yellow perch
Largemouth bass	Fathead minnow <sup>2</sup>
Brown trout	Rainbow trout
Splake	Atlantic salmon
Lake whitefish	Walleye
Rainbow smelt	Central mudminnow
Bluegill	Redhorse suckers (spp.)
Northern pike	Black crappie
Rock bass	Fallfish <sup>4</sup>
Bluntnose minnow <sup>5</sup>	Banded killifish <sup>3</sup>
Pearl dace	

<sup>1</sup> These native fishes are known to have been widely distributed throughout Adirondack uplands by DEC, bait bucket introduction, and unauthorized stocking. This means that their presence does not necessarily indicate endemicity. Other species listed above as native have been moved from water to water in the Adirondack Upland, but the historical record is less distinct.

<sup>2</sup> Not mentioned by Mather (1884) from Adirondack collections, minor element southern Adirondack Uplands (Greeley 1930-1935).

<sup>3</sup> Early collections strongly suggest dispersal as a bait form.

<sup>4</sup> Adventive through stocking.

<sup>5</sup> Not mentioned by Mather (1884) from Adirondack collections, widely used as bait.

LIST OF COMMON AND SCIENTIFIC NAMES FOR  
ADIRONDACK FISH SPECIES

<u>COMMON NAME</u>	<u>SCIENTIFIC NAME</u>
Cisco	<i>Coregonus artedii</i>
Lake whitefish	<i>Coregonus clupeaformis</i>
Round whitefish	<i>Prosopium cylindraceum</i>
Rainbow trout	<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i>
Atlantic salmon	<i>Salmo salar</i>
Brown Trout	<i>Salmo trutta</i>
Brook trout	<i>Salvelinus fontinalis</i>
Lake trout	<i>Salvelinus namaycush</i>
Splake	<i>Salvelinus fontinalis x namaycush</i>
Rainbow smelt	<i>Osmerus mordax</i>
Central mudminnow	<i>Umbra limi</i>
Northern pike	<i>Esox lucius</i>
Chain pickerel	<i>Esox niger</i>
Tiger musky	<i>Esox lucius x masquinongy</i>
Lake chub	<i>Couesius plumbeus</i>
Cutlips minnow	<i>Exoglossum maxillingua</i>
Golden shiner	<i>Notemigonus crysoleucas</i>
Common shiner	<i>Luxilus cornutus</i>
Northern redbelly dace	<i>Phoxinus eos</i>
Finescale dace	<i>Phoxinus neogaeus</i>
Bluntnose minnow	<i>Pimephales notatus</i>
Fathead minnow	<i>Pimephales promelas</i>
Blacknose dace	<i>Rhinichthys atratulus</i>
Longnose dace	<i>Rhinichthys cataractae</i>
Creek chub	<i>Semotilus atromaculatus</i>
Fallfish	<i>Semotilus corporalis</i>
Pearl dace	<i>Semotilus margarita</i>
Longnose sucker	<i>Catostomus catostomus</i>
White sucker	<i>Catostomus commersoni</i>
Creek chubsucker	<i>Erimyson oblongus</i>
Brown bullhead	<i>Ameiurus nebulosus</i>
Banded killifish	<i>Fundulus diaphanus</i>
Rock bass	<i>Ambloplites rupestris</i>
Redbreast sunfish	<i>Lepomis auritus</i>
Pumpkinseed	<i>Lepomis gibbosus</i>
Bluegill	<i>Lepomis macrochirus</i>
Smallmouth bass	<i>Micropterus dolomieu</i>
Largemouth bass	<i>Micropterus salmoides</i>
Black Crappie	<i>Pomixis nigromaculatus</i>
Yellow perch	<i>Perca flavescens</i>
Walleye	<i>Stizostedion vitreum vitreum</i>
Slimy sculpin	<i>Cottus cognatus</i>

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COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	CONFIRMED		PROBABLE		POSSIBLE		TOTAL	
		BLOCKS		BLOCKS		BLOCKS		BLOCKS	
Common Loon	<i>Gavia immer</i>	2 OF	18	3 OF	18	2 OF	18	7 OF	18
American Bittern	<i>Botaurus lentiginosus</i>	1 OF	18	1 OF	18	0 OF	18	2 OF	18
Great Blue Heron	<i>Ardea herodias</i>	0 OF	18	0 OF	18	6 OF	18	6 OF	18
Green-backed Heron	<i>Butorides striatus</i>	0 OF	18	0 OF	18	3 OF	18	3 OF	18
Wood Duck	<i>Aix sponsa</i>	1 OF	18	0 OF	18	3 OF	18	4 OF	18
Green-winged Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	0 OF	18	0 OF	18	1 OF	18	1 OF	18
American Black Duck	<i>Anas rubripes</i>	3 OF	18	0 OF	18	2 OF	18	5 OF	18
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	2 OF	18	0 OF	18	1 OF	18	3 OF	18
Hooded Merganser	<i>Lophodytes cucullatus</i>	0 OF	18	0 OF	18	1 OF	18	1 OF	18
Common Merganser	<i>Mergus merganser</i>	5 OF	18	0 OF	18	2 OF	18	7 OF	18
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	0 OF	18	0 OF	18	1 OF	18	1 OF	18
Bald Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	0 OF	18	0 OF	18	3 OF	18	3 OF	18
Sharp-shinned Hawk	<i>Accipiter striatus</i>	2 OF	18	0 OF	18	5 OF	18	7 OF	18
Cooper's Hawk	<i>Accipiter cooperii</i>	0 OF	18	0 OF	18	1 OF	18	1 OF	18
Northern Goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>	0 OF	18	0 OF	18	3 OF	18	3 OF	18
Broad-winged Hawk	<i>Buteo platypterus</i>	1 OF	18	0 OF	18	9 OF	18	10 OF	18
Red-tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	0 OF	18	1 OF	18	7 OF	18	8 OF	18
American Kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius</i>	0 OF	18	0 OF	18	3 OF	18	3 OF	18
Ruffed Grouse	<i>Bonasa umbellus</i>	9 OF	18	0 OF	18	5 OF	18	14 OF	18
American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	6 OF	18	0 OF	18	1 OF	18	7 OF	18
Virginia Rail	<i>Rallus limicola</i>	0 OF	18	0 OF	18	1 OF	18	1 OF	18
Sora	<i>Porzana carolina</i>	0 OF	18	0 OF	18	1 OF	18	1 OF	18
Killdeer	<i>Charadrius vociferus</i>	3 OF	18	0 OF	18	1 OF	18	4 OF	18
Spotted Sandpiper	<i>Actitis macularia</i>	0 OF	18	2 OF	18	6 OF	18	8 OF	18
Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	0 OF	18	1 OF	18	2 OF	18	3 OF	18
American Woodcock	<i>Scolopax minor</i>	2 OF	18	1 OF	18	1 OF	18	4 OF	18
Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	2 OF	18	1 OF	18	4 OF	18	7 OF	18
Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>	1 OF	18	0 OF	18	0 OF	18	1 OF	18
Mourning Dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	0 OF	18	2 OF	18	0 OF	18	2 OF	18
Black-billed Cuckoo	<i>Coccyzus erythrophthalmus</i>	0 OF	18	0 OF	18	2 OF	18	2 OF	18
Barred Owl	<i>Strix varia</i>	1 OF	18	6 OF	18	0 OF	18	7 OF	18
Common Nighthawk	<i>Chordeiles minor</i>	0 OF	18	0 OF	18	1 OF	18	1 OF	18
Chimney Swift	<i>Chaetura pelagica</i>	1 OF	18	5 OF	18	10 OF	18	16 OF	18
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	<i>Archilochus colubris</i>	0 OF	18	5 OF	18	9 OF	18	14 OF	18
Belted Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle alcyon</i>	3 OF	18	2 OF	18	4 OF	18	9 OF	18

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COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	CONFIRMED BLOCKS	PROBABLE BLOCKS	POSSIBLE BLOCKS	TOTAL BLOCKS
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	<i>Sphyrapicus varius</i>	6 OF 18	3 OF 18	5 OF 18	14 OF 18
Downy Woodpecker	<i>Picoides pubescens</i>	5 OF 18	2 OF 18	1 OF 18	8 OF 18
Hairy Woodpecker	<i>Picoides villosus</i>	6 OF 18	1 OF 18	6 OF 18	13 OF 18
Northern Flicker	<i>Colaptes auratus</i>	2 OF 18	3 OF 18	1 OF 18	6 OF 18
Pileated Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus pileatus</i>	2 OF 18	2 OF 18	6 OF 18	10 OF 18
Olive-sided Flycatcher	<i>Contopus borealis</i>	0 OF 18	3 OF 18	7 OF 18	10 OF 18
Eastern Wood-Pewee	<i>Contopus virens</i>	1 OF 18	5 OF 18	4 OF 18	10 OF 18
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax flaviventris</i>	0 OF 18	0 OF 18	2 OF 18	2 OF 18
Alder Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax alnorum</i>	0 OF 18	2 OF 18	3 OF 18	5 OF 18
Least Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax minimus</i>	2 OF 18	4 OF 18	9 OF 18	15 OF 18
Eastern Phoebe	<i>Sayornis phoebe</i>	4 OF 18	2 OF 18	1 OF 18	7 OF 18
Great Crested Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus crinitus</i>	3 OF 18	3 OF 18	5 OF 18	11 OF 18
Eastern Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus tyrannus</i>	2 OF 18	4 OF 18	2 OF 18	8 OF 18
Tree Swallow	<i>Tachycineta bicolor</i>	6 OF 18	1 OF 18	5 OF 18	12 OF 18
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	<i>Stelgidopteryx serripennis</i>	0 OF 18	0 OF 18	1 OF 18	1 OF 18
Bank Swallow	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	1 OF 18	1 OF 18	2 OF 18	4 OF 18
Cliff Swallow	<i>Hirundo pyrrhonota</i>	1 OF 18	0 OF 18	2 OF 18	3 OF 18
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	7 OF 18	0 OF 18	2 OF 18	9 OF 18
Blue Jay	<i>Cyanocitta cristata</i>	5 OF 18	4 OF 18	4 OF 18	13 OF 18
Common Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	1 OF 18	1 OF 18	3 OF 18	5 OF 18
Black-capped Chickadee	<i>Parus atricapillus</i>	11 OF 18	0 OF 18	6 OF 18	17 OF 18
Boreal Chickadee	<i>Parus hudsonicus</i>	0 OF 18	0 OF 18	1 OF 18	1 OF 18
Tufted Titmouse	<i>Parus bicolor</i>	0 OF 18	0 OF 18	1 OF 18	1 OF 18
Red-breasted Nuthatch	<i>Sitta canadensis</i>	4 OF 18	1 OF 18	10 OF 18	15 OF 18
White-breasted Nuthatch	<i>Sitta carolinensis</i>	5 OF 18	3 OF 18	5 OF 18	13 OF 18
Brown Creeper	<i>Certhia americana</i>	0 OF 18	3 OF 18	5 OF 18	8 OF 18
House Wren	<i>Troglodytes aedon</i>	2 OF 18	1 OF 18	0 OF 18	3 OF 18
Winter Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	3 OF 18	7 OF 18	5 OF 18	15 OF 18
Golden-crowned Kinglet	<i>Regulus satrapa</i>	4 OF 18	1 OF 18	3 OF 18	8 OF 18
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	<i>Regulus calendula</i>	0 OF 18	1 OF 18	6 OF 18	7 OF 18
Eastern Bluebird	<i>Sialia sialis</i>	2 OF 18	1 OF 18	0 OF 18	3 OF 18
Veery	<i>Catharus fuscescens</i>	4 OF 18	0 OF 18	8 OF 18	12 OF 18
Gray-cheeked Thrush	<i>Catharus minimus</i>	0 OF 18	1 OF 18	1 OF 18	2 OF 18
Swainson's Thrush	<i>Catharus ustulatus</i>	5 OF 18	4 OF 18	7 OF 18	16 OF 18
Hermit Thrush	<i>Catharus guttatus</i>	2 OF 18	4 OF 18	6 OF 18	12 OF 18



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COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	CONFIRMED		PROBABLE		POSSIBLE		TOTAL	
		BLOCKS		BLOCKS		BLOCKS		BLOCKS	
Wood Thrush	<i>Hylocichla mustelina</i>	3 OF	18	2 OF	18	4 OF	18	9 OF	18
American Robin	<i>Turdus migratorius</i>	9 OF	18	1 OF	18	3 OF	18	13 OF	18
Gray Catbird	<i>Dumetella carolinensis</i>	2 OF	18	4 OF	18	1 OF	18	7 OF	18
Brown Thrasher	<i>Toxostoma rufum</i>	1 OF	18	2 OF	18	1 OF	18	4 OF	18
Cedar Waxwing	<i>Bombycilla cedrorum</i>	4 OF	18	10 OF	18	0 OF	18	14 OF	18
European Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	3 OF	18	0 OF	18	1 OF	18	4 OF	18
Solitary Vireo	<i>Vireo solitarius</i>	3 OF	18	6 OF	18	7 OF	18	16 OF	18
Yellow-throated Vireo	<i>Vireo flavifrons</i>	0 OF	18	0 OF	18	1 OF	18	1 OF	18
Philadelphia Vireo	<i>Vireo philadelphicus</i>	0 OF	18	1 OF	18	1 OF	18	2 OF	18
Red-eyed Vireo	<i>Vireo olivaceus</i>	7 OF	18	5 OF	18	5 OF	18	17 OF	18
Nashville Warbler	<i>Vermivora ruficapilla</i>	2 OF	18	1 OF	18	4 OF	18	7 OF	18
Northern Parula	<i>Parula americana</i>	1 OF	18	4 OF	18	5 OF	18	10 OF	18
Yellow Warbler	<i>Dendroica petechia</i>	0 OF	18	2 OF	18	2 OF	18	4 OF	18
Chestnut-sided Warbler	<i>Dendroica pensylvanica</i>	4 OF	18	2 OF	18	7 OF	18	13 OF	18
Magnolia Warbler	<i>Dendroica magnolia</i>	5 OF	18	6 OF	18	4 OF	18	15 OF	18
Cape May Warbler	<i>Dendroica tigrina</i>	0 OF	18	0 OF	18	1 OF	18	1 OF	18
Black-throated Blue Warbler	<i>Dendroica caerulescens</i>	7 OF	18	5 OF	18	6 OF	18	18 OF	18
Yellow-rumped Warbler	<i>Dendroica coronata</i>	7 OF	18	3 OF	18	7 OF	18	17 OF	18
Black-throated Green Warbler	<i>Dendroica virens</i>	8 OF	18	3 OF	18	6 OF	18	17 OF	18
Blackburnian Warbler	<i>Dendroica fusca</i>	7 OF	18	4 OF	18	6 OF	18	17 OF	18
Blackpoll Warbler	<i>Dendroica striata</i>	0 OF	18	1 OF	18	3 OF	18	4 OF	18
Black-and-white Warbler	<i>Mniotilta varia</i>	3 OF	18	1 OF	18	8 OF	18	12 OF	18
American Redstart	<i>Setophaga ruticilla</i>	5 OF	18	9 OF	18	3 OF	18	17 OF	18
Ovenbird	<i>Seiurus aurocapillus</i>	3 OF	18	7 OF	18	3 OF	18	13 OF	18
Northern Waterthrush	<i>Seiurus noveboracensis</i>	1 OF	18	0 OF	18	3 OF	18	4 OF	18
Mourning Warbler	<i>Oporornis philadelphia</i>	1 OF	18	1 OF	18	2 OF	18	4 OF	18
Common Yellowthroat	<i>Geothlypis trichas</i>	6 OF	18	4 OF	18	6 OF	18	16 OF	18
Canada Warbler	<i>Wilsonia canadensis</i>	5 OF	18	4 OF	18	3 OF	18	12 OF	18
Scarlet Tanager	<i>Piranga olivacea</i>	4 OF	18	4 OF	18	5 OF	18	13 OF	18
Northern Cardinal	<i>Cardinalis cardinalis</i>	0 OF	18	0 OF	18	2 OF	18	2 OF	18
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	<i>Pheucticus ludovicianus</i>	3 OF	18	4 OF	18	7 OF	18	14 OF	18
Indigo Bunting	<i>Passerina cyanea</i>	0 OF	18	4 OF	18	1 OF	18	5 OF	18
Rufous-sided Towhee	<i>Pipilo erythrophthalmus</i>	1 OF	18	0 OF	18	1 OF	18	2 OF	18
Chipping Sparrow	<i>Spizella passerina</i>	6 OF	18	2 OF	18	1 OF	18	9 OF	18
Field Sparrow	<i>Spizella pusilla</i>	1 OF	18	1 OF	18	1 OF	18	3 OF	18

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COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	CONFIRMED BLOCKS	PROBABLE BLOCKS	POSSIBLE BLOCKS	TOTAL BLOCKS
Savannah Sparrow	<i>Passerculus sandwichensis</i>	0 OF 18	1 OF 18	0 OF 18	1 OF 18
Song Sparrow	<i>Melospiza melodia</i>	8 OF 18	2 OF 18	5 OF 18	15 OF 18
Lincoln's Sparrow	<i>Melospiza lincolni</i>	0 OF 18	0 OF 18	1 OF 18	1 OF 18
Swamp Sparrow	<i>Melospiza georgiana</i>	1 OF 18	0 OF 18	7 OF 18	8 OF 18
White-throated Sparrow	<i>Zonotrichia albicollis</i>	6 OF 18	4 OF 18	7 OF 18	17 OF 18
Dark-eyed Junco	<i>Junco hyemalis</i>	8 OF 18	3 OF 18	5 OF 18	16 OF 18
Bobolink	<i>Dolichonyx oryzivorus</i>	0 OF 18	1 OF 18	0 OF 18	1 OF 18
Red-winged Blackbird	<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>	4 OF 18	2 OF 18	4 OF 18	10 OF 18
Rusty Blackbird	<i>Euphagus carolinus</i>	2 OF 18	0 OF 18	0 OF 18	2 OF 18
Common Grackle	<i>Quiscalus quiscula</i>	8 OF 18	0 OF 18	4 OF 18	12 OF 18
Brown-headed Cowbird	<i>Molothrus ater</i>	3 OF 18	0 OF 18	1 OF 18	4 OF 18
Northern Oriole	<i>Icterus galbula</i>	2 OF 18	0 OF 18	1 OF 18	3 OF 18
Purple Finch	<i>Carpodacus purpureus</i>	4 OF 18	6 OF 18	6 OF 18	16 OF 18
House Finch	<i>Carpodacus mexicanus</i>	0 OF 18	1 OF 18	0 OF 18	1 OF 18
Red Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>	0 OF 18	7 OF 18	0 OF 18	7 OF 18
White-winged Crossbill	<i>Loxia leucoptera</i>	0 OF 18	3 OF 18	4 OF 18	7 OF 18
American Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis tristis</i>	0 OF 18	5 OF 18	5 OF 18	10 OF 18
Evening Grosbeak	<i>Coccothraustes vespertinus</i>	3 OF 18	1 OF 18	7 OF 18	11 OF 18
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	1 OF 18	0 OF 18	0 OF 18	1 OF 18

APPENDIX 6  
New York State  
Breeding Bird Atlas

The enclosed data from the New York State Breeding Bird Atlas represents a cumulative effort from 1980-1985. These data are the result of on-site block by block surveys conducted by numerous individuals. The appropriate blocks were then selected to form a unit for which we can provide a listing of Confirmed, Probable and Possible breeding birds. The intensity level and effort in data collecting varies throughout the State. Some blocks have been more thoroughly searched than others. For these reasons, we cannot provide a definitive statement concerning the absence of a breeding record for a species not listed in the unit. We can only provide a listing of species known to be breeding or suspected of breeding within this unit.

The highest level of confirmation of breeding recorded during the Atlas period was retained in this list. The list is grouped by breeding level with Confirmed breeders listed first followed by Probable and Possible breeders.

Definitions of the New York State legal status and the Natural Heritage Program (NHP) State ranking are provided on the enclosed sheet entitled "New York State Breeding Bird Atlas Species Status." The NHP rank reflects "believed" rarity within the State. It does not confer any legal protection to the species and is meant only as a "working" list, subject to changes based upon the most recent data available.

Natural Heritage Program State Ranks

- S1 - Typically 5 or fewer occurrences, very few remaining individuals, acres, or miles of stream, or some other factor of its biology making it especially vulnerable in New York State.
- S2 - Typically 6 to 20 occurrences, few remaining individuals, acres, or miles of stream, or factors demonstrably making it very vulnerable in New York State.
- S3 - Typically 21 to 100 occurrences, limited acreage, or miles of stream in New York State.
- S4 - Apparently secure in New York State.
- S5 - Demonstrably secure in New York State.
- SH - Historically known from New York State, but not seen in the past 15 years.
- SX - Apparently extirpated from New York State.
- SE - Exotic, not native to New York State.
- SR - State report only, no verified specimens known from New York State.
- SU - Status in New York State is unknown.
- NR - Not ranked, usually a hybrid species.

New York State Breeding Bird Atlas  
Species Status

New York State Legal Status

Endangered - any species which meet one of the following criteria:

- 1) Any native species in imminent danger of extirpation or extinction in New York.
- 2) Any species listed as endangered by the United States Department of the Interior, as enumerated in the Code of Federal Regulations 50 CFR 17.11.

Threatened - any species which meet one of the following criteria:

- 1) Any native species likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future in New York.
- 2) Any species listed as threatened by the United States Department of the Interior, as enumerated in the Code of Federal Regulations 50 CFR 17.11, and not listed as endangered in New York.

Protected-Special Concern - those species which are not yet recognized as endangered or threatened, but for which documented concern exists for their continued welfare in New York and are Federally protected wild birds.

Protected-Game Species - species classified as small game in New York by Environmental Conservation Law, may have an open season for part of the year and are protected at other times.

Protected - those species listed as wild game, protected wild birds, and endangered species as defined in the Environmental Conservation Law.

Unprotected - species which may be taken at any time without limit; however, a license to take may be required.

NEW YORK STATE BREEDING BIRD ATLAS  
 BREEDING SPECIES OF : BLUE MT. WILD FOREST  
 1980-1985 DATA - AOU CHECKLIST ORDER

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	BREED- ING CODE	YEAR	NEW YORK LEGAL STATUS	NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM STATE RANK
Common Loon	<i>Gavia immer</i>	P2	82	Protected-Special Concern	S4
Pied-billed Grebe	<i>Podilymbus podiceps</i>	X1	83	Protected	S3
American Bittern	<i>Botaurus lentiginosus</i>	T2	83	Protected	S4
Least Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus exilis</i>	X1	82	Protected-Special Concern	S3
Great Blue Heron	<i>Ardea herodias</i>	NY	84	Protected	S5
Green-backed Heron	<i>Butorides striatus</i>	X1	83	Protected	S5
Black-crowned Night-Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	P2	82	Protected	S3
Canada Goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>	FY	82	Game Species	S5
Wood Duck	<i>Aix sponsa</i>	FL	83	Game Species	S5
Green-winged Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	X1	81	Game Species	S3
American Black Duck	<i>Anas rubripes</i>	FL	84	Game Species	S4
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	FL	84	Game Species	S5
Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>	X1	82	Game Species	S2
Blue-winged Teal	<i>Anas discors</i>	FL	82	Game Species	S5
Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>	FL	82	Game Species	S3
American Wigeon	<i>Anas americana</i>	FL	82	Game Species	S3
Redhead	<i>Aythya americana</i>	P2	80	Game Species	SE
Ring-necked Duck	<i>Aythya collaris</i>	P2	80	Game Species	S3
Hooded Merganser	<i>Lophodytes cucullatus</i>	X1	84	Game Species	S4
Common Merganser	<i>Mergus merganser</i>	P2	82	Game Species	S5
Turkey Vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i>	X1	84	Protected	S4
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	X1	84	Threatened	S4
Bald Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	X1	83	Endangered	S1
Northern Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	FY	85	Threatened	S4
Sharp-shinned Hawk	<i>Accipiter striatus</i>	P2	84	Protected	S4
Cooper's Hawk	<i>Accipiter cooperii</i>	X1	85	Protected-Special Concern	S4
Northern Goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>	X1	81	Protected	S4
Red-shouldered Hawk	<i>Buteo lineatus</i>	NY	81	Threatened	S4
Broad-winged Hawk	<i>Buteo platypterus</i>	UN	83	Protected	S5
Red-tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	FL	84	Protected	S5
American Kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius</i>	ON	84	Protected	S5
Gray Partridge	<i>Perdix perdix</i>	FL	82	Game Species	SE
Ring-necked Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	P2	84	Game Species	SE

NEW YORK STATE BREEDING BIRD ATLAS  
 BREEDING SPECIES OF : BLUE MT. WILD FOREST  
 1980-1985 DATA - AOU CHECKLIST ORDER

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	BREED- ING CODE	YEAR	NEW YORK LEGAL STATUS	NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM STATE RANK
Ruffed Grouse	<i>Bonasa umbellus</i>	FL	81	Game Species	S5
Wild Turkey	<i>Meleagris gallopavo</i>	D2	84	Game Species	S5
American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	T2	83	Game Species	S5
Virginia Rail	<i>Rallus limicola</i>	T2	85	Game Species	S5
Sora	<i>Porzana carolina</i>	X1	83	Game Species	S4
Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	NY	82	Game Species	S4
American Coot	<i>Fulica americana</i>	X1	80	Game Species	S3
Killdeer	<i>Charadrius vociferus</i>	FY	84	Protected	S5
Spotted Sandpiper	<i>Actitis macularia</i>	X1	84	Protected	S5
Upland Sandpiper	<i>Bartramia longicauda</i>	FL	84	Protected-Special Concern	S4
Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	NE	82	Game Species	S5
American Woodcock	<i>Scolopax minor</i>	D2	82	Game Species	S5
Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	FL	82	Protected	S5
Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	NY	82	Threatened	S3
Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>	P2	82	Protected-Special Concern	S3
Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>	NY	84	Unprotected	SE
Mourning Dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	UN	83	Protected	S5
Black-billed Cuckoo	<i>Coccyzus erythrophthalmus</i>	X1	81	Protected	S5
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	<i>Coccyzus americanus</i>	S2	82	Protected	S5
Eastern Screech-Owl	<i>Otus asio</i>	S2	84	Protected	S5
Great Horned Owl	<i>Bubo virginianus</i>	FL	84	Protected	S5
Barred Owl	<i>Strix varia</i>	X1	82	Protected	S5
Long-eared Owl	<i>Asio otus</i>	X1	80	Protected	S3
Northern Saw-whet Owl	<i>Aegolius acadicus</i>	X1	84	Protected	S3
Common Nighthawk	<i>Chordeiles minor</i>	NE	82	Protected-Special Concern	S4
Chimney Swift	<i>Chaetura pelagica</i>	X1	84	Protected	S5
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	<i>Archilochus colubris</i>	S2	84	Protected	S5
Belted Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle alcyon</i>	T2	83	Protected	S5
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	<i>Sphyrapicus varius</i>	T2	83	Protected	S5
Downy Woodpecker	<i>Picoides pubescens</i>	P2	84	Protected	S5
Hairy Woodpecker	<i>Picoides villosus</i>	P2	84	Protected	S5
Northern Flicker	<i>Colaptes auratus</i>	FL	84	Protected	S5
Pileated Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus pileatus</i>	FL	84	Protected	S5

NEW YORK STATE BREEDING BIRD ATLAS  
 BREEDING SPECIES OF : BLUE MT. WILD FOREST  
 1980-1985 DATA - AOU CHECKLIST ORDER

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	BREED- ING CODE	YEAR	NEW YORK LEGAL STATUS	NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM STATE RANK
Olive-sided Flycatcher	<i>Contopus borealis</i>	N2	80	Protected	S5
Eastern Wood-Pewee	<i>Contopus virens</i>	D2	84	Protected	S5
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax flaviventris</i>	X1	84	Protected	S3
Alder Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax alnorum</i>	T2	85	Protected	S5
Willow Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax traillii</i>	X1	84	Protected	S5
Least Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax minimus</i>	S2	84	Protected	S5
Eastern Phoebe	<i>Sayornis phoebe</i>	NE	81	Protected	S5
Great Crested Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus crinitus</i>	D2	84	Protected	S5
Eastern Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus tyrannus</i>	NY	83	Protected	S5
Purple Martin	<i>Progne subis</i>	NY	84	Protected	S5
Tree Swallow	<i>Tachycineta bicolor</i>	NE	84	Protected	S5
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	<i>Stelgidopteryx serripennis</i>	X1	83	Protected	S5
Bank Swallow	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	X1	84	Protected	S5
Cliff Swallow	<i>Hirundo pyrrhonota</i>	NY	83	Protected	S5
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	NY	84	Protected	S5
Blue Jay	<i>Cyanocitta cristata</i>	FL	81	Protected	S5
Common Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	N2	84	Protected-Special Concern	S4
Black-capped Chickadee	<i>Parus atricapillus</i>	B2	84	Protected	S5
Tufted Titmouse	<i>Parus bicolor</i>	X1	84	Protected	S5
Red-breasted Nuthatch	<i>Sitta canadensis</i>	X1	84	Protected	S5
White-breasted Nuthatch	<i>Sitta carolinensis</i>	S2	84	Protected	S5
Brown Creeper	<i>Certhia americana</i>	S2	84	Protected	S5
House Wren	<i>Troglodytes aedon</i>	ON	83	Protected	S5
Winter Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	NY	82	Protected	S5
Sedge Wren	<i>Cistothorus platensis</i>	S2	82	Protected-Special Concern	S2
Marsh Wren	<i>Cistothorus palustris</i>	S2	82	Protected	S5
Golden-crowned Kinglet	<i>Regulus satrapa</i>	FY	84	Protected	S5
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	<i>Regulus calendula</i>	S2	84	Protected	S3
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	<i>Polioptila caerulea</i>	X1	81	Protected	S5
Eastern Bluebird	<i>Sialia sialis</i>	NY	84	Protected-Special Concern	S5
Veery	<i>Catharus fuscescens</i>	S2	84	Protected	S5
Gray-cheeked Thrush	<i>Catharus minimus</i>	T2	83	Protected	S3
Swainson's Thrush	<i>Catharus ustulatus</i>	NY	82	Protected	S5

NEW YORK STATE BREEDING BIRD ATLAS  
 BREEDING SPECIES OF : BLUE MT. WILD FOREST  
 1980-1985 DATA - AOU CHECKLIST ORDER

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	BREED- ING CODE	YEAR	NEW YORK LEGAL STATUS	NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM STATE RANK
Hermit Thrush	<i>Catharus guttatus</i>	X1	83	Protected	S5
Wood Thrush	<i>Hylocichla mustelina</i>	S2	84	Protected	S5
American Robin	<i>Turdus migratorius</i>	NY	83	Protected	S5
Gray Catbird	<i>Dumetella carolinensis</i>	NE	84	Protected	S5
Brown Thrasher	<i>Toxostoma rufum</i>	FY	84	Protected	S5
Cedar Waxwing	<i>Bombycilla cedrorum</i>	S2	84	Protected	S5
European Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	NY	84	Unprotected	SE
Solitary Vireo	<i>Vireo solitarius</i>	S2	84	Protected	S5
Yellow-throated Vireo	<i>Vireo flavifrons</i>	X1	84	Protected	S5
Warbling Vireo	<i>Vireo gilvus</i>	T2	83	Protected	S5
Philadelphia Vireo	<i>Vireo philadelphicus</i>	S2	82	Protected	S3
Red-eyed Vireo	<i>Vireo olivaceus</i>	D2	83	Protected	S5
Blue-winged Warbler	<i>Vermivora pinus</i>	T2	83	Protected	S5
Golden-winged Warbler	<i>Vermivora chrysoptera</i>	X1	84	Protected	S4
Nashville Warbler	<i>Vermivora ruficapilla</i>	X1	83	Protected	S5
Northern Parula	<i>Parula americana</i>	FY	84	Protected	S3S4
Yellow Warbler	<i>Dendroica petechia</i>	NE	83	Protected	S5
Chestnut-sided Warbler	<i>Dendroica pensylvanica</i>	FL	84	Protected	S5
Magnolia Warbler	<i>Dendroica magnolia</i>	FY	84	Protected	S5
Cape May Warbler	<i>Dendroica tigrina</i>	X1	80	Protected	S2
Black-throated Blue Warbler	<i>Dendroica caerulescens</i>	X1	84	Protected	S5
Yellow-rumped Warbler	<i>Dendroica coronata</i>	S2	84	Protected	S5
Black-throated Green Warbler	<i>Dendroica virens</i>	S2	84	Protected	S5
Blackburnian Warbler	<i>Dendroica fusca</i>	NY	84	Protected	S5
Pine Warbler	<i>Dendroica pinus</i>	X1	84	Protected	S5
Prairie Warbler	<i>Dendroica discolor</i>	S2	84	Protected	S5
Blackpoll Warbler	<i>Dendroica striata</i>	T2	81	Protected	S3
Black-and-white Warbler	<i>Mniotilta varia</i>	T2	84	Protected	S5
American Redstart	<i>Setophaga ruticilla</i>	T2	83	Protected	S5
Ovenbird	<i>Seiurus aurocapillus</i>	FL	84	Protected	S5
Northern Waterthrush	<i>Seiurus noveboracensis</i>	D2	82	Protected	S5
Louisiana Waterthrush	<i>Seiurus motacilla</i>	X1	84	Protected	S5
Mourning Warbler	<i>Oporornis philadelphia</i>	FY	80	Protected	S5



NEW YORK STATE BREEDING BIRD ATLAS  
 BREEDING SPECIES OF : BLUE MT. WILD FOREST  
 1980-1985 DATA - AOU CHECKLIST ORDER

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	BREED- ING CODE	YEAR	NEW YORK LEGAL STATUS	NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM STATE RANK
Common Yellowthroat	<i>Geothlypis trichas</i>	FY	81	Protected	S5
Canada Warbler	<i>Wilsonia canadensis</i>	FY	84	Protected	S5
Scarlet Tanager	<i>Piranga olivacea</i>	D2	81	Protected	S5
Northern Cardinal	<i>Cardinalis cardinalis</i>	S2	84	Protected	S5
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	<i>Pheucticus ludovicianus</i>	S2	84	Protected	S5
Indigo Bunting	<i>Passerina cyanea</i>	T2	84	Protected	S5
Rufous-sided Towhee	<i>Pipilo erythrophthalmus</i>	S2	84	Protected	S5
Chipping Sparrow	<i>Spizella passerina</i>	NY	84	Protected	S5
Field Sparrow	<i>Spizella pusilla</i>	NE	83	Protected	S5
Vesper Sparrow	<i>Pooecetes gramineus</i>	S2	82	Protected-Special Concern	S5
Savannah Sparrow	<i>Passerculus sandwichensis</i>	NE	83	Protected	S5
Grasshopper Sparrow	<i>Ammodramus savannarum</i>	FL	82	Protected-Special Concern	S4
Henslow's Sparrow	<i>Ammodramus henslowii</i>	FL	84	Protected-Special Concern	S4
Song Sparrow	<i>Melospiza melodia</i>	FY	83	Protected	S5
Lincoln's Sparrow	<i>Melospiza lincolni</i>	D2	84	Protected	S4
Swamp Sparrow	<i>Melospiza georgiana</i>	X1	84	Protected	S5
White-throated Sparrow	<i>Zonotrichia albicollis</i>	X1	84	Protected	S5
Dark-eyed Junco	<i>Junco hyemalis</i>	S2	84	Protected	S5
Bobolink	<i>Dolichonyx oryzivorus</i>	FY	84	Protected	S5
Red-winged Blackbird	<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>	NE	83	Protected	S5
Eastern Meadowlark	<i>Sturnella magna</i>	S2	84	Protected	S5
Rusty Blackbird	<i>Euphagus carolinus</i>	FL	84	Protected	S3
Common Grackle	<i>Quiscalus quiscula</i>	NY	84	Protected	S5
Brown-headed Cowbird	<i>Molothrus ater</i>	FL	84	Protected	S5
Orchard Oriole	<i>Icterus spurius</i>	FY	84	Protected	S4
Northern Oriole	<i>Icterus galbula</i>	NY	84	Protected	S5
Purple Finch	<i>Carpodacus purpureus</i>	P2	84	Protected	S5
House Finch	<i>Carpodacus mexicanus</i>	FL	84	Protected	SE
Red Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>	P2	85	Protected	S3
White-winged Crossbill	<i>Loxia leucoptera</i>	T2	85	Protected	S2S3
American Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis tristis</i>	FL	84	Protected	S5
Evening Grosbeak	<i>Coccothraustes vespertinus</i>	FY	84	Protected	S5
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	NY	84	Unprotected	SE

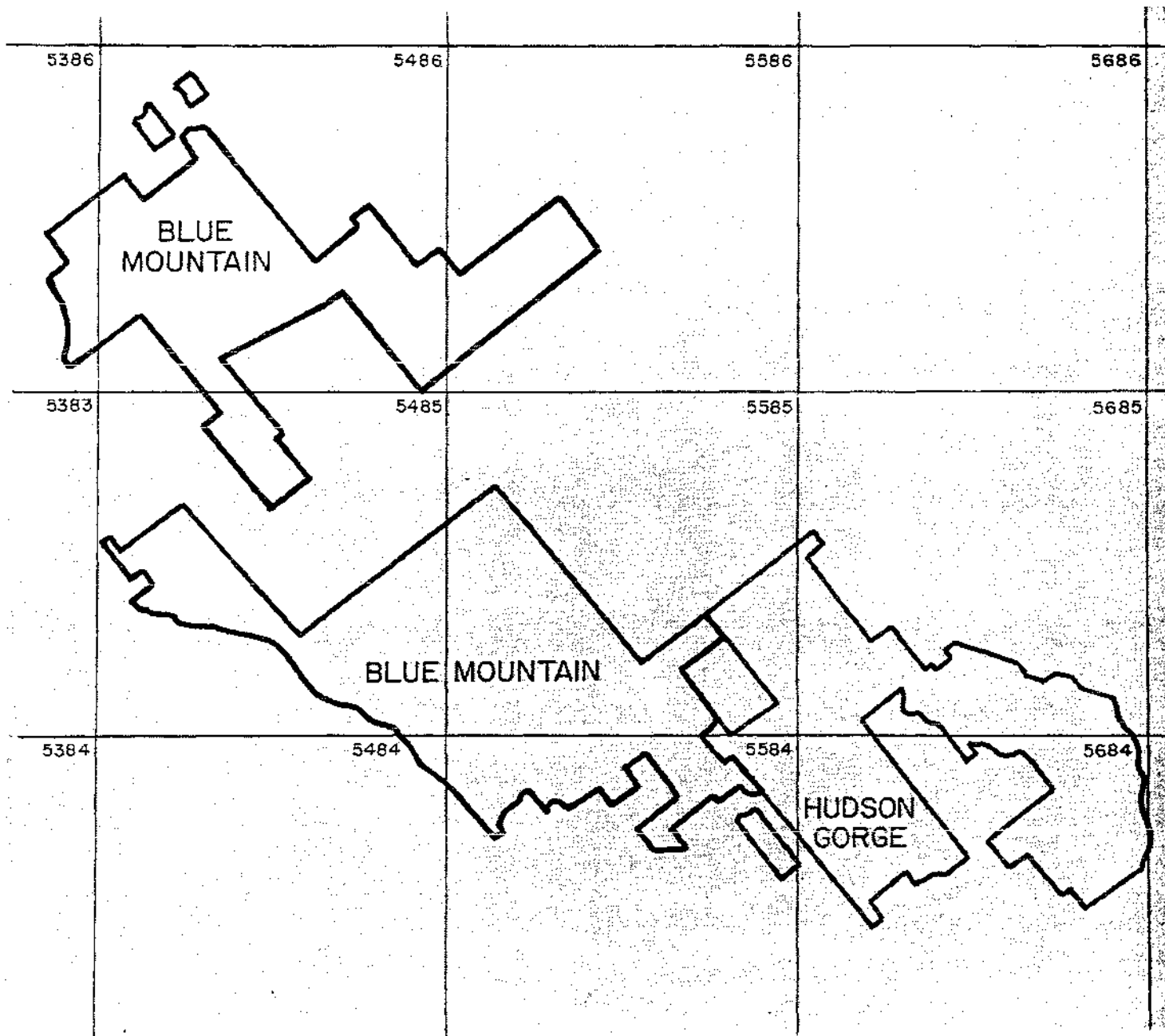
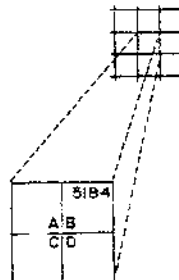
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APPENDIX 6

# BLUE MOUNTAIN WILD FOREST AND HUDSON GORGE PRIMITIVE AREAS BREEDING BIRD ATLAS KEY

- Blue Mountain Wild Forest Area Boundary
- Hudson Gorge Primitive Area Boundary

0 1 2 3 Miles



## APPENDIX 8

### MAMMALS OF THE BLUE MT. WILD FOREST AREA

<i>Alces alces</i>	- Moose
<i>Blarina brevicauda</i>	- Northern Short tailed Shrew
<i>Canis latrans</i>	- Coyote
<i>Castor canadensis</i>	- Beaver
<i>Clethrionomys gapperi</i>	- Southern red-backed Vole
<i>Condylura cristata</i>	- Star-nosed Mole
<i>Didelphis virginiana</i>	- Virginia Opposum
<i>Eptesicus fuscus</i>	- Big Brown Bat
<i>Erethizon dorsatum</i>	- Porcupine
<i>Glaucomys sabrinus</i>	- Northern Flying Squirrel
<i>Glaucomys volans</i>	- Southern Flying Squirrel
<i>Lasionycteris noctivagans</i>	- Silver-haired Bat
<i>Lasiurus borealis</i>	- Red Bat
<i>Lasiurus cinereus</i>	- Hoary Bat
<i>Lepus americanus</i>	- Varying Hare
<i>Lutra canadensis</i>	- River Otter
<i>Lynx rufus</i>	- Bobcat
<i>Marmota monax</i>	- Woodchuck
<i>Martes americana</i>	- Marten
<i>Martes pennanti</i>	- Fisher
<i>Mephitis mephitis</i>	- Striped Skunk
<i>Microtus chrotorrhinus</i>	- Rock Vole
<i>Microtus pennsylvanicus</i>	- Meadow Vole
<i>Microtus pinetorum</i>	- Woodland Vole
<i>Mus musculus</i>	- House Mouse
<i>Mustela erminea</i>	- Ermine
<i>Mustela frenata</i>	- Long-tailed Weasel
<i>Mustela vison</i>	- Mink
<i>Myotis leibii</i>	- Small-footed Bat (Small-footed Myotis)
<i>Myotis lucifugus</i>	- Little Brown Bat (Little Brown Myotis)
<i>Myotis septentrionalis</i>	- Northern Long-eared Myotis
<i>Myotis sodalis</i>	- Indiana Bat (Indiana Myotis)
<i>Napaeozapus insignis</i>	- Woodland Jumping Mouse
<i>Odocoileus virginianus</i>	- White-tailed Deer
<i>Ondatra zibethicus</i>	- Muskrat
<i>Parascalops breweri</i>	- Hairy-tailed Mole
<i>Peromyscus leucopus</i>	- White-footed Mouse
<i>Peromyscus maniculatus</i>	- Deer Mouse
<i>Pipistrellus subflavus</i>	- Eastern Pipistrelle
<i>Procyon lotor</i>	- Raccoon
<i>Rattus norvegicus</i>	- Norway Rat
<i>Sciurus carolinensis</i>	- Grey Squirrel
<i>Sorex cinereus</i>	- Masked Shrew
<i>Sorex dispar</i>	- Long-tailed or Rock Shrew
<i>Sorex fumeus</i>	- Smoky Shrew
<i>Sorex hoyi</i>	- Pygmy Shrew
<i>Sorex palustris</i>	- Water Shrew
<i>Sylvilagus floridanus</i>	- Eastern Cottontail
<i>Sylvilagus transitionalis</i>	- New England Cottontail
<i>Synaptomys cooperi</i>	- Southern Bog Lemming
<i>Tamias striatus</i>	- Eastern Chipmunk
<i>Tamiasciurus hudsonicus</i>	- Red Squirrel
<i>Urocyon cinereoargenteus</i>	- Gray Fox
<i>Ursus americanus</i>	- Black Bear
<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>	- Red Fox
<i>Zapus hudsonius</i>	- Meadow Jumping Mouse

## APPENDIX 9

### REPTILES OF THE BLUE MT. WILD FOREST AREA

<i>Chelydra serpentina</i>	- Snapping Turtle
<i>Chrysemys picta</i>	- Painted Turtle
<i>Clemmys insculpta</i>	- Wood Turtle
<i>Diadophis punctatus</i>	- Ringneck Snake
<i>Lampropeltis triangulum</i>	- Milk Snake
<i>Nerodia sipedon</i>	- Northern Water Snake
<i>Opheodrys vernalis</i>	- Smooth Green Snake
<i>Storeria dekayi</i>	- Brown Snake
<i>Storeria occipitomaculata</i>	- Redbelly Snake
<i>Thamnophis sauritus</i>	- Eastern Ribbon Snake
<i>Thamnophis sirtalis</i>	- Common Garter Snake

### AMPHIBIANS OF THE BLUE MT. WILD FOREST AREA

<i>Ambystoma laterale</i>	- Blue-spotted Salamander
<i>Ambystoma maculatum</i>	- Spotted Salamander
<i>Bufo americanus</i>	- American Toad
<i>Desmognathus fuscus</i>	- Dusky Salamander
<i>Desmognathus ochrophaeus</i>	- Mt. Dusky Salamander
<i>Eurycea bislineata</i>	- Two-lined Salamander
<i>Gyrinophilus porphyriticus</i>	- Spring Salamander
<i>Hyla versicolor</i>	- Gray Treefrog
<i>Notophthalmus viridescens</i>	- Red-spotted Newt
<i>Plethodon cinereus</i>	- Redback Salamander
<i>Rana catesbeiana</i>	- Bullfrog
<i>Rana clamitans</i>	- Green Frog
<i>Rana palustris</i>	- Pickerel Frog
<i>Rana septentrionalis</i>	- Mink Frog
<i>Rana sylvatica</i>	- Wood Frog



**BLUE MOUNTAIN WILD FOREST  
NON FOREST PRESERVE LANDS**  
A-Grant Boundary, Pre-1956 (Forest Preserve)  
B-Research Area Grant Boundary (1963)



S65°30'W

1963 Finch, Pruyn Co., Inc.; Gift to the People of  
The State of New York  
Hamilton 109

Granted for purposes of Fish and  
Wildlife Management and Silvicultural  
Research and Experimentation in the  
Science of Forestry

Twp. 19, T. & C.P.

Bearings and distances from deed of 12/14/62.

S24°30'E  
50.00

Forest  
Preserve

13.00  
S65°30'W

34.00  
N30°35'E

340 ac.

448 ac.

294 ac.

N24°30'W  
111.30E

20

21

22

23

24

-178  
Forest  
Preserve

S24°30'E  
76.00

58.00  
N65°30'E

169 ac.

170.70E  
S82°30'W

S24°30'E  
47.00

Forest  
Preserve

Finch, Pruyn Co., Inc.

APPENDIX 10

<u>CLASS</u>	<u>TYPE</u>	<u>SIGNAGE</u>	<u>TRAIL MARKERS</u>	<u>CLEARED TREAD WIDTH</u>	<u>TREAD WIDTH</u>	<u>HEIGHT CLEARANCE</u>	<u>COMMENTS</u>	<u>PUBLIC USE</u>	<u>MAINTENANCE**</u>
<u>FOOT TRAILS:</u>									
I	Unmarked Route	No	No	-	-	-	User-Created Trails	Occasional	None
II	Path	Yes	No	-	-	-	Traditional Route	Local Use	1 (occasionally)
III	Primitive Trail	Yes (limited)	Yes	3'	18"-24"	8'	Leads to Specific Destination	Low Use	1 (every 2-3 yrs) 2 (5-10 yrs) 3 (minor)
IV	Secondary Trail	Yes	Yes	4'	18"-24"	8'	----	Light-Moderate Use	1 (annually) 2 (when necessary) 3, 4, 5
V	Trunk Trail	Yes	Yes	6'	18"-36"	8'	Major Route of Travel Designed for Constant Use	Moderate-High Use	1 (annually) 2, 3, 4, 5
<u>OTHER TRAILS</u>									
C	Canoe Carry	Yes	Yes	8' (max)		10'	Trail Also Cleared of Roots and Stumps	---	1 (annually) other structures as necessary
H	Horse Trail	Yes	Yes	8'	2'-4'	10'	Avoid Corduroy Bridging	---	Same as Trunk Trail
S	Nordic Ski Trail	Yes	Yes	4'-6'	3'	10'	Trail Should be Wider at Turns and Steep Section	---	1 (annually) 5 (where needed)
B	All-Terrain Bicycle	Yes	No	3'-4'	1'-3'	8'	Address Possible User Conflicts	---	Standards to be Developed

\*Adapted from 1986 NYSDEC Forest Preserve Policy Manual, Trail Construction and Maintenance Manual, and USFS Trails Management Handbook.

\*\*Trail Maintenance:

- |                      |                    |  |
|----------------------|--------------------|--|
| 1 - Blowdown Removal | 2 - Trail Brushing | 3 - Erosion Control Structures (waterbars, drainage ditches, etc.) |
| 4 - Trail Hardening  | 5 - Bridges        |  |

CLASS	TYPE	SIGNAGE	TRAIL MARKERS	WIDTH	TRAIL SURFACE	GROOMED WIDTH	PUBLIC USE	MAINTENANCE**
--	Other	no	no	---	Ungroomed	-	Snowmobile Activity On Frozen Waterbodies	None
--	Local Use	Limited	yes	4'-6'	Ungroomed	-	Lead to a Particular Point of Interest	1, 2, 4 (occasionaly)
D	Secondary	Limited	yes	4'-8'	Ungroomed	-	Provides Access to Main Trail Segment	1, 2, 3, 4, 5 (minor)
C	Secondary	yes	yes	4'-8'	Groomed	4'	Provides Access to Necessary Facilities from Main Trail	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 (minor)
B	Corridor	yes	yes	8'	Groomed	8'	Connecting Trail Linking Communities and Passing Near Associated Support Facilities (service stations, motels, etc.)	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
A	Corridor	yes (DEC, OPRHP, Town, County)	yes	12'+	Groomed	12'	Main Connecting Trails/Unplowed Public Roads Same as Above	Intensive Maintenance

\*Adapted from 1986 NYSDEC Forest Preserve Policy Manual and State of New York Snowmobile Trail Plan (OPHRP, 1989)

\*\*Trail Maintenance:

- 1 - Blowdown Removal    2 - Trail Brushing    3 - Erosion Control Structures (box culverts, etc.)
- 4 - Trail Hardening (corduroy)    5 - Bridges    6 - Trail Rehabilitation (rock removal, side hill leveling, etc., where necessary for user safety)

DEC SNOWMOBILE TRAIL STANDARDS\*

ALIGNMENT AND GRADE

1. Trail alignment shall avoid blind curves and abrupt changes in either horizontal or vertical direction.
2. Minimum sight distance shall be 50 feet.
3. Curves with a radius of less than 25 feet shall not be included in any trail alignment.
4. Grades shall not exceed 20%.
5. Line and grade shall be designed so as to insure that the average snowmobile operator can safely negotiate the trail with little or no difficulty and experience a ride that is interesting and safe.

TRAIL WIDTH

Corridor trails may be kept clear to a width of eight feet on straight or gently curved stretches of trail and to a width of twelve feet on curves and steep grades where the cutting of trees or other woody growth of over three inches DBH is not necessary.

Secondary trails may be kept clear to a maximum width of eight feet where the cutting of trees or other woody growth of over three inches DBH is not necessary.

All trails, regardless of class, shall be kept clear to a height of twelve feet, as measured from ground level, where the cutting of trees or other woody growth of over three inches DBH is not necessary.



**PRIMITIVE USE TRAIL**

These markers identify where a maintained path for foot, cross country ski, or snowshoe travel exists on NYS lands.



These markers occur in three colors (blue, red, and yellow) and identify foot trails in the area. In general, yellow markers are used for spur trails, blue markers are used for north/south trails, and red markers for east/west trails. The degree and type of maintenance is dependent on both the trail classification and the designation of the unit.

**MULTIPLE USE TRAIL**

These markers identify where more intensive recreational uses are allowed in addition to primitive uses.



Horseback use is allowed on DEC administered lands with the exception of intensive use areas, marked foot trails, or designated snowmobile and cross country ski trails that are covered with snow or ice. These markers occur in three colors (blue, red, and yellow) and identify horse trails in the area.



These markers identify areas suitable for cross country ski or snowshoe travel and are not constructed, maintained or groomed with the use of motor vehicles.



Snowmobiling is permitted only in those areas classified as Wild Forest, Intensive Use, or in limited instances within 500 feet of a highway right-of-way. Snowmobile use is prohibited except on designated marked trails or on the frozen surface of lakes and ponds, when access is provided by a marked DEC trail or public highway. In addition the trail must be completely covered with snow or ice.

All terrain bicycle use is permitted only in those areas classified as Wild Forest, Intensive Use, or in instances where a legal right-of-way exists. Roads and trails will be identified during the unit management planning process where ATB use is allowed.



This marker is used to designate a temporary camping site for up to three tents and designed to accommodate a maximum of eight people. Directional arrows identify where sites are located. A variation of this marker (red slash/no camping) is used to control illegal camping at specific locations.

In wild forest areas primitive tentsites may be grouped to accommodate a maximum of 20 people under a DEC group camping permit.



This marker is used to prohibit open fires in sensitive locations.

## APPENDIX 13

## BIG GAME AND FURBEARER HARVEST RECORDS

## WHITE-TAILED DEER

	<u>TOWN</u>	<u>YEAR</u>				
		1987	1988	1989	1990	1991
	Long Lake	318	349	287	312	365
	Indian Lake	259	292	296	288	326
(Total Reported)	Minerva	120	103	109	126	161

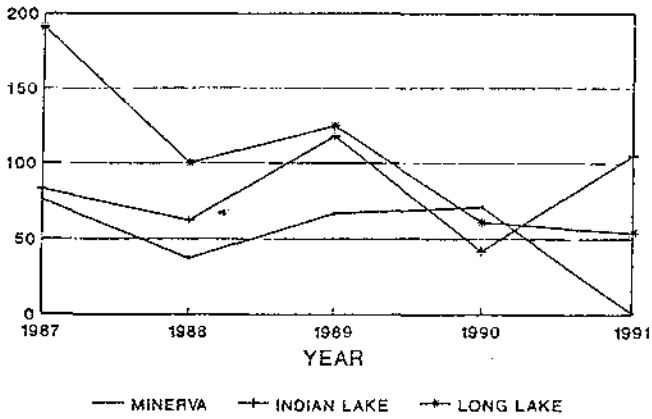
## BLACK BEAR

SEASON

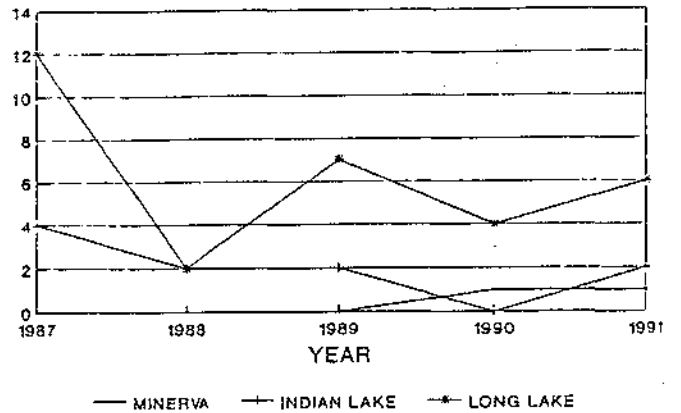
	<u>TOWN</u>	<u>YEAR</u>				
		1987	1988	1989	1990	1991
Early	Long Lake	8	3	6	6	4
Total	Long Lake	16	43	20	23	28
Early	Indian Lake	3	3	4	6	6
Total	Indian Lake	9	29	31	17	30
Early	Minerva	7	0	3	1	0
Total	Minerva	10	17	13	7	9

	<u>Year</u>	<u>Hamilton Co.</u>		<u>Essex Co.</u>
		<u>Long Lake</u>	<u>Indian Lake</u>	<u>Minerva</u>
Beaver	1987-88	191	83	76
	1988-89	100	62	37
	1989-90	125	118	67
	1990-91	61	42	71
	1991-92	54	105	1
Bobcat	1987-88	12	4	0
	1988-89	2	2	0
	1989-90	7	2	0
	1990-91	4	0	1
	1991-92	6	2	1
Coyote	1987-88	8	7	4
	1988-89	4	5	1
	1989-90	5	4	1
	1990-91	3	5	1
	1991-92	4	12	0
Fisher	1987-88	25	20	12
	1988-89	6	3	4
	1989-90	12	7	4
	1990-91	4	6	5
	1991-92	4	4	0
Otter	1987-88	47	5	6
	1988-89	10	1	1
	1989-90	9	20	0
	1990-91	20	3	3
	1991-92	20	7	3
Martin	1987-88	11	0	0
	1988-89	0	0	0
	1989-90	3	0	0
	1990-91	7	3	2
	1991-92	0	0	2

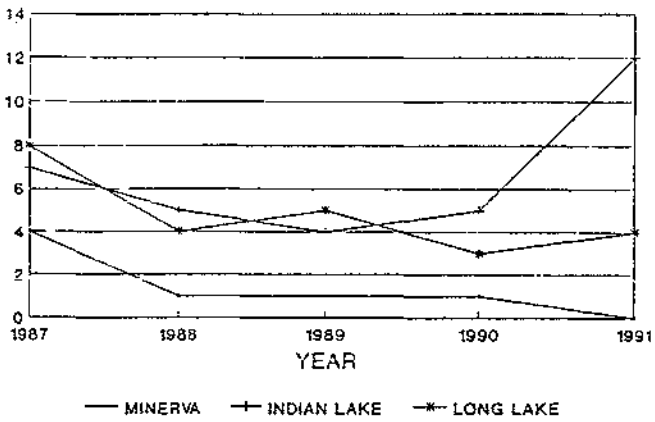
BEAVER TAKE BY TOWN



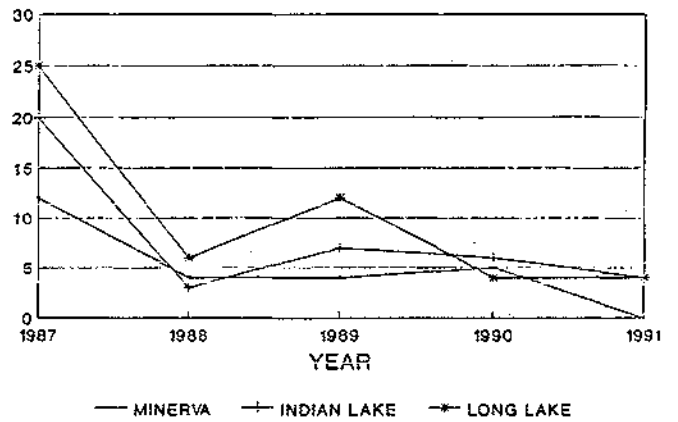
BOBCAT TAKE BY TOWN



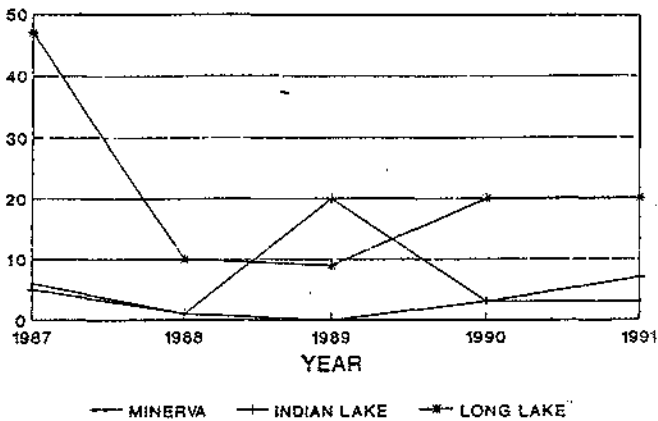
COYOTE TAKE BY TOWN



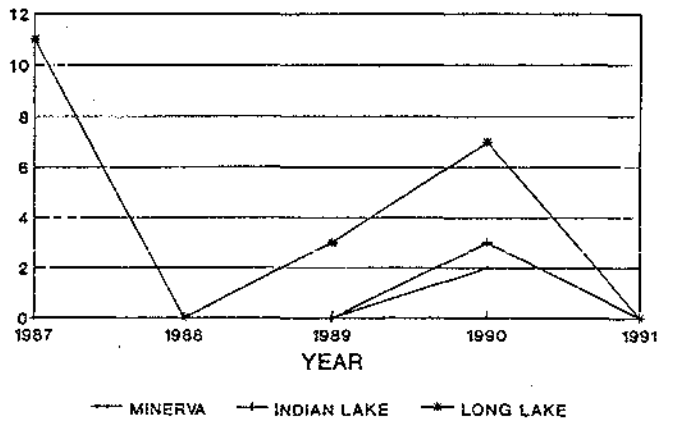
FISHER TAKE BY TOWN

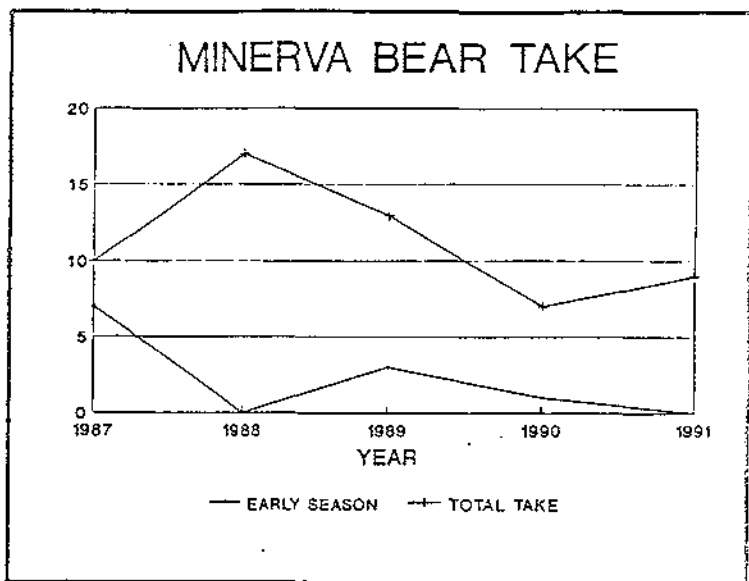
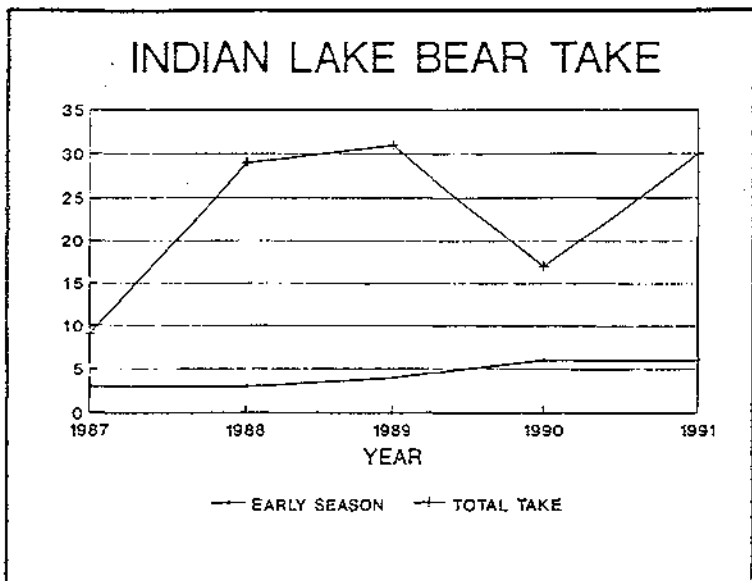
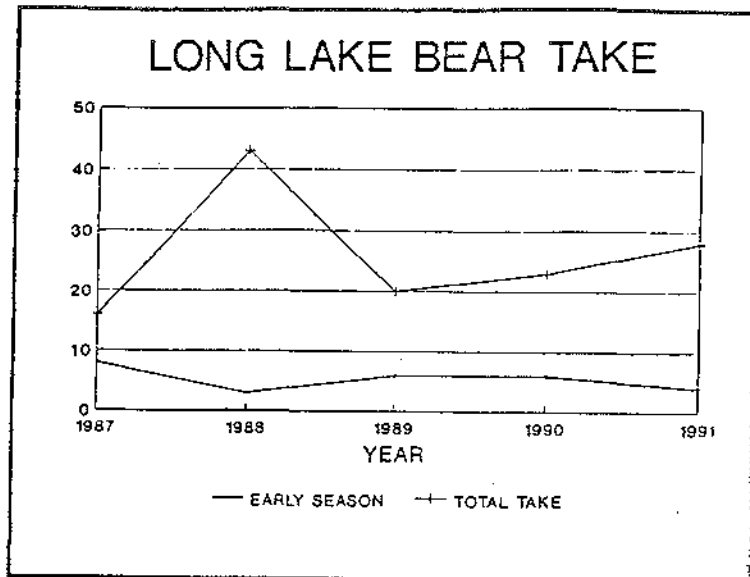
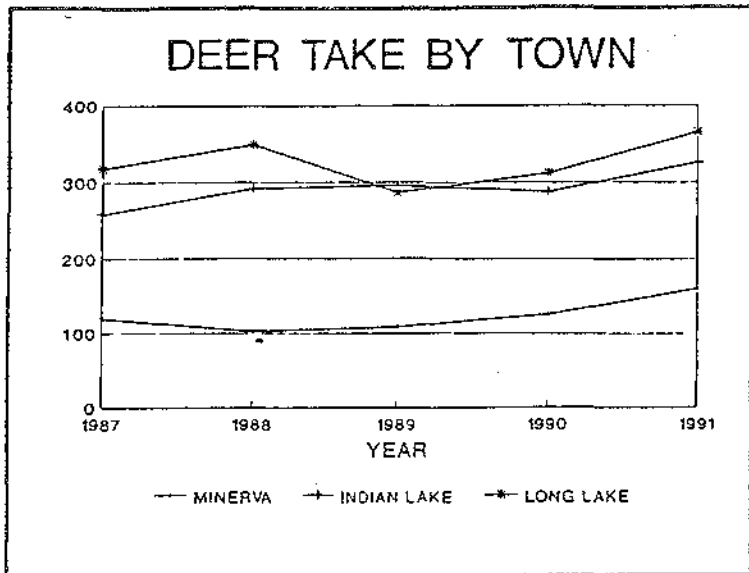


OTTER TAKE BY TOWN



MARTEN TAKE BY TOWN





**AGREEMENT DELEGATING OPERATION**

This Agreement made as of September 1, 1993, by and between the NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION, with its principal office at 50 Wolf Road, Albany, New York 12233-0001 (hereinafter DEPARTMENT)

and

THE TOWN OF INDIAN LAKE, a municipal corporation having its principal office at Town Hall, Indian Lake, New York 12842 (hereinafter TOWN).

**WITNESSETH:**

WHEREAS, the People of the State of New York are the owners in fee of certain real property more particularly described in Schedule A, annexed hereto and made a part hereof, which property is under the jurisdiction of the DEPARTMENT, and is hereinafter referred to as the site;

WHEREAS, the site is part of the Forest Preserve and is within the Adirondack Park and is classified as Wild Forest pursuant to the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, the site provides a suitable and convenient access point to the Indian River for the launching of rafts and other vessels; and

WHEREAS, the TOWN has encouraged the development of rafting on the Indian River and desires to regulate the use of the site to provide for the safe and enjoyable use of the Indian River by rafters using the site as access for that purpose; and

APPENDIX 14

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WHEREAS, in 1986 the DEPARTMENT designated the site as a waterway access site in accordance with the provisions of the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan, as more fully documented in Schedule B attached hereto and made a part hereof;

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the premises, it is agreed by and between the parties as follows:

1. Pursuant to its authority in the Environmental Conservation Law (§3-0301 and §9-0105), the DEPARTMENT designates the TOWN as agent of the DEPARTMENT for the operation and maintenance of the site which designation the TOWN accepts.

2. The term of this designation is from September 1, 1993 through and including December 31, 1998, unless sooner terminated pursuant to the provisions of paragraph 12 hereof.

3. The TOWN shall hold and save harmless the People of the State of New York, the DEPARTMENT, their officials, employees and agents from any claim or liability arising out of this agreement.

4. The TOWN shall procure and carry public liability insurance on the site in an amount and with an insurer approved by the DEPARTMENT and will provide the DEPARTMENT with a certificate of such insurance. The naming of the People of the State of New York and the DEPARTMENT as

additional insureds on, and the extension to the site of the TOWN'S existing general public liability policy will be satisfactory compliance provided (1) certificate thereof is provided, (2) the insurer is licensed to do business in New York, and (3) the policy limits are in the minimum of \$500,000/\$1,000,000.

5. The site is to be open to the public without charge for the use thereof.

6. The site is to be maintained by the TOWN in a proper and safe condition.

7. The management of the site by the TOWN shall be in accordance with the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan, with the terms of the Blue Mountain Wild Forest Unit Management Plan and the Hudson Gorge Primitive Area Unit Management plan as adopted by the DEPARTMENT and with all applicable parts of Title 6 of the Official Compilation of Codes, Rules and Regulations of the State of New York (6NYCRR), particularly Parts 59 and 190 thereof. The Unit Management Plans listed above contain detailed sections regarding seasonal use of the site; biological, physical and aesthetic impacts of rafting on the waterways in the unit(s); and related management recommendations.

8. The TOWN is not authorized, absent prior express written approval of the DEPARTMENT, to construct any gates or structures of any kind or to operate, or permit the



operation of, any motor vehicles or motorized equipment on the site.

9. The TOWN shall furnish the DEPARTMENT with an annual report, by December 31 of each year, regarding its operation and maintenance of the site which report shall include: (1) a description of any maintenance activities undertaken on the site, (2) an account of the public use made thereof including actual daily totals of the numbers of customers conveyed by rafting outfitters, as well as estimated daily totals of the numbers of rafts, canoes, and kayaks which are not associated with rafting outfitters, (3) a report of any incidents involving violation of regulations, (4) a report of any injuries sustained thereon, (5) an account of any claims made against the TOWN because of its operation and management of the site, and (6) any other matters deemed appropriate by the TOWN or requested by the DEPARTMENT.

10. The parties agree that the carrying capacity of the site is a maximum of one thousand (1,000) rafting customers per day. The TOWN will manage the site so that this maximum number will not be exceeded.

11. The TOWN will provide such on-site supervision and control as is necessary to insure that, during peak periods of usage, there is an orderly put-in of those using the site so that the public health and safety are maintained. The

APPENDIX 14

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TOWN is specifically authorized to make any additional regulations reasonably necessary to insure the safe and orderly usage of the site.

12. This Agreement may be terminated, for cause, by either party hereto on the giving of ninety (90) days written notice provided that, during such period the party to whom such notice is addressed may cure the deficiency complained of in such notice. If such deficiency is cured within such ninety (90) days, or any mutually agreed upon extension thereof, then this Agreement shall remain in full force and effect as if no notice had been given; otherwise this Agreement shall terminate on the date specified in the notice.

13. Nothing herein contained is a substantive grant of authority to the TOWN of any powers it does not otherwise possess. The TOWN'S authority to enter into and implement this Agreement is based upon its powers under the General Municipal Law and Town Law.

14. This Agreement does not vest in the TOWN any real property interest in the site but is only a delegation of the management responsibilities for the site. Fee to the real property is and remains in the People of the State of New York under the jurisdiction of the DEPARTMENT which retains all the rights incident thereto, including the right to inspect the site at any time.

APPENDIX 14

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15. This agreement merges the prior negotiations of the parties. There are no promises, representations, covenants, or warranties other than those expressed herein.

16. This Agreement may not be assigned by the TOWN without the prior written consent of the DEPARTMENT.

17. This agreement may not be modified except in writing subscribed by the parties hereto.

18. This Agreement binds the parties hereto and their respective successors, if any.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have caused the execution of this document by their authorized officers.

THE TOWN OF INDIAN LAKE

BY: \_\_\_\_\_

ITS: \_\_\_\_\_

NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF  
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

BY: \_\_\_\_\_

ITS: \_\_\_\_\_



**SCHEDULE A**

All that certain piece or parcel of land situate, lying and being in the Town of Indian Lake, County of Hamilton and State of New York, more particularly bounded and described as follows:

Beginning at the southwestern corner of lot 132 in Township 17 of Totten and Crossfield's Purchase, being also the northwestern corner of lot 131 in said township and purchase, thence northerly along the west line of said lot 132, 350 feet to a point; thence easterly, parallel with the south line of said lot 132, 350 feet to the south line of said lot 132; thence westerly along the south line of said lot 132, 350 feet to a point or place of beginning.

SCHEDULE B

DESIGNATION OF WATERWAY ACCESS SITE - 1986

In consultation with Adirondack Park Agency staff, the Department has addressed each of the following guidelines in designating this site:

1. There are not public land launching facilities on the Indian River and only one small dangerously narrow trail on adjacent private land where launching kayaks, canoes and rafts occurs. At present up to 120 rubber rafts are launched daily during April and May.
2. River carrying capacity and the carrying capacity of adjacent public lands have been determined to be in excess of 1000 rafting customers per day. Safe ingress and travel standards have been determined to be 1000 rafting customers per allowed daily water release. There have been no observable adverse impacts to the river nor to adjacent lands for the last four years under an informal regulated access plan voluntarily initiated by rafting outfitters. Informal surveys and one written opinion solicitation of river rafting customers indicated a high regard for the present level of wilderness experience. The monitoring of this experience shall continue throughout the period of designation as a waterway access site.
3. This site is presently classified as "wild forest." The adjacent Indian River is classified as "recreational" while the Hudson River past the confluence with the Indian is classified "wild." Motorized access to the Indian River across the site will not be permitted nor will the natural character of the area be degraded in any physical manner. Off-site noise and visual impacts and the relatively low frequency of rafting customers (spread over a two hour period) crossing through a "primitive area" will not impair the wilderness quality of the area nor the river users' experience. There will be no facilities or structures associated with the access site or resulting from access site use.
4. The site is the only available safe location which can be utilized. It is the traditional location of waterway access and requires the minimum crossing of State land while offering the greatest opportunity for site protection measures such as wood chip mulch and

APPENDIX 14

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adequate drainage. The impact on adjacent private land is minimal. The adjacent land has poor physical access to the river due to steep banks and is not currently occupied.

5. Motorized use by the public will not be permitted.
6. There will be no unmitigated adverse impact on the adjacent water body nor on the lands abutting the Indian and Hudson Rivers resulting from this designation.

Town of Indian Lake

Commercial Rafting Program Regulations



All commercial rafting outfitters (rafting companies) under contract with the Town of Indian Lake (Town) shall conform to the following regulations:

1. All rafting company customers shall stop to be counted at the checkpoint on Chain Lakes Rd. designated by the Town and bus drivers shall give the Town attendant an opportunity to count the occupants of any bus used by the rafting company.

2. All buses used by rafting companies on Chain Lakes Rd. during the morning of a water release shall proceed at safe speed to the Abanakee Dam and there accept directions from the Town attendants as to unloading, turning around or parking

3. Rafting company customers shall be escorted in an orderly manner to the Indian River put-in site by rafting company licensed guides who shall accept instructions of the Town put-in site attendant as to time, place and order of put-in by rafting company rafts

4. Each rafting company and its licensed guides shall observe on the river a clear separation between the rafts of its trip on any day from those of other rafting companies

5. Rafting companies shall be responsible for the orderly behavior, health, sobriety and safety of their customers and shall scrupulously avoid unnecessarily placing their customers at risk

6. Rafting companies shall observe faithfully the law and regulations of the State of New York as to their use of the river

**RECEIVE**  
N.Y.S. Environmental Conserv.  
Northville, NY

MAR 28 1990





level. The Town intends to use reasonable means (including but not limited to the use of splashboards at times deemed appropriate by the Town, after consultation with the rafting outfitters) to enhance the supply of water in Lake Abanakee available for rafting, with particular emphasis given to providing adequate full open-gate releases on weekends. It is understood and agreed that the use of splashboards is appropriate at times of unusual low flow, or at times when a full open-gate release may be reasonably expected to draw down Lake Abanakee to a level at or near the spillway. Nevertheless, use of the splashboards is at the discretion of the Town, and nothing in this agreement shall mandate the Town's use of such splashboards.

4. The Town of Indian Lake will not be responsible to the Rafting Company for any damage or loss resulting from the Town of Indian Lake's failure to make a full open-gate dam release on the specified days if the failure to make the release is caused by lack of water level in Lake Abanakee (unless lack of water is due to inadvertent release of water by the Town or its employees at a time other than provided herein). However, in the instance where lack of water is caused by the inadvertent release of water by the Town or its employees, by other acts of commission or omission by the Town or its employees, the Town will rebate the Rafting Company a portion of the fee paid pursuant to this Agreement. The rebate will be calculated according to the following schedule: 8% of the fee for a lost Saturday; 4% for a Sunday; and 2% for a weekday.

5. The Town hereby allocates to the Rafting Company the right to guide up to rafting customers (slots) down the Indian/Hudson Rivers of each day of the full spring season provided herein for which the Rafting Company shall pay the Town the sum of \$ (\$50.00 for each rafting customer slot per spring season).

The Rafting Company may elect to operate only during the partial spring season (from the last full weekend in March through the first full weekend in May), in which case the Rafting Company shall pay to the Town the sum of \$ (\$42.00 per rafting customer slot per partial spring season).

All fees for the spring season shall be payable 50% by March 20th of each year and 50% by April 20th of each year during the contract period.

All such payments shall be made payable to the Town of Indian Lake and shall be directed to the Town Clerk, Pelon Road, Indian Lake, New York.

6. The Rafting Company, during the fall season, may elect to guide up to the total number of rafting customers it was allocated for the spring allocation.

7. The Rafting Company shall pay to the Town the sum of \$10.00 per rafting customer slot per fall season each year during the contract term. The payment due hereunder to the Town shall

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be made on or before September 10th of each year, providing, however, the Rafting Company may elect to make a second allocation (not to exceed 100% of the spring allocation), in which case, payment for the second allocation shall be made by October 1st of each contract year.

8. The Rafting Company agrees not to guide more than the maximum number of rafting customers provided herein on any day of the fall or spring season, and the Town agrees that it will not allow any rafting company under contract with the Town to conduct more than the numbers permitted pursuant to the agreements signed by each rafting company. The Town will not knowingly permit any rafting company not under contract to conduct rafting operations on the Indian/Hudson Rivers during the term of this agreement.

9. Upon the payment of the consideration hereunder, the Town allocates the following put-in times/positions to the Rafting Company for each spring season for the purposes of travel along Chain Lakes Road between Lake Abanakee and the put-in on the Indian River. On any given day, based upon the relative readiness of various Rafting Companies to launch their rafts, the Town may adjust the sequence of launchings in order to reduce congestion and enhance the efficiency of operations at the put-in site. If any Rafting Company repeatedly fails to prepare in a timely fashion, and is therefore unable to launch its groups according to the attached schedule, the Town may, subject to the procedures set forth in paragraph 11, change that Rafting Company's scheduled launch to a later time.

10. The Rafting Company agrees to keep in full force and effect, at its own cost and expense the entire rafting seasons, a general liability policy naming the Town of Indian Lake as an additional insured on said liability insurance policy. The limits of such general liability insurance policy shall not be less than \$300,000.00 for injuries or wrongful death to any one person, in the amount of not less than \$300,000.00 on account of any one accident, together with property damage insurance in the amount not less than \$25,000.00.

The Rafting Company also agrees that it shall, pursuant to the Worker's Compensation Law of the State of New York provide worker's compensation insurance for the benefit of all of its employees who may be injured or suffer disability in connection with its rafting operation. Certificates of insurance acceptable to the Town of Indian Lake shall be filed with the Town Clerk on or before March 20th of each year.

11. The Rafting Company will work jointly to mitigate any environmental issues on the Indian and Hudson Rivers which result from rafting operations. If the Town receives official reports from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation as to any alleged improper practices by the Rafting Company or if the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation suspends dam releases from Lake Abanakee by reason of alleged unsatisfactory performance, the Rafting Company shall have

fifteen (15) days after receipt of such notice to correct any unsatisfactory performance. In the event the Town is not satisfied with such corrections, the Town shall grant the Rafting Company an opportunity to be heard by the Town Board upon ten (10) days written notice. Following such hearing, the Town Board in its sole and uncontrolled discretion, shall determine whether there has been any unsatisfactory performance of this agreement and shall provide the Rafting Company with written notice of such decision specifying the particulars thereof.

If the Rafting Company fails or refuses to remedy the unsatisfactory performance within such reasonable period of time as may be fixed by the Town, the Town may declare this agreement terminated, and the Rafting Company shall immediately cease all activities without refund as to the season involved. The foregoing is in addition to any and all other remedies the Town may have with respect to the within agreement.

12. The Town of Indian Lake may, from time to time, and after consultation with the Rafting Company, provide additional rules and regulations to improve the operations of the Indian/Hudson River rafting program. No such rules or regulations shall alter the provisions of this Agreement relating to fees paid, water released, insurance required or conditions governing the sale of Hudson rafting operations.

The Rafting Company shall be given notice of any violation of this contract or of any rules and regulations subsequently made part of this contract, in the same manner set forth in paragraph 11 above. The procedures set forth in said paragraph will be followed by the Town in the enforcement of this Agreement and its rules and regulations.

13. The failure of the Rafting Company to pay the required fees hereunder and to provide the requisite certificates of insurance within ten (10) days of the due date shall cause an immediate forfeiture of the Rafting Company's rights to guide customers on the river.

14. The Rafting Company may assign, transfer, convey, sublet or otherwise dispose of this agreement, any of its rights, title, or interest therein only with the prior written consent of the Town of Indian Lake, which shall not be unreasonably withheld.

15. The Town shall not be required to spend any money for any studies or investigations required by the Department of Environmental Conservation concerning the effect of rafting on the rivers, fish, other marine life and the wildlife along the river banks.

POLICY STATEMENT

Preservation of Mountaintops within the Adirondack and Catskill Parks and under the jurisdiction of the Department of Environmental Conservation.

Background

The responsibility for the care, custody and control of the lands now owned or hereafter acquired by the State and which constitute the Forest Preserve rests with the Department of Environmental Conservation. The Division of Lands and Forests is the program unit within the Department which administers that responsibility.

The construction and maintenance of some communications and other mountaintop sited facilities or towers are necessary for the Department and other governmental agencies to carry out the duties and functions of protecting the Forest Preserve and insuring public safety.

Many suitable and desirable sites for communications and other purposes such as the construction and maintenance of transmission and relay towers with necessary appurtenances are located on mountaintops within the Forest Preserve in the Adirondack and Catskill Parks. Several of these sites are now being utilized by the Department for the operation of the Fire Control, Law Enforcement, Flood Control and Fish and Wildlife radio systems. Some sites are shared and utilized by county mutual aid radio networks and other municipal and state communications systems. However, it is also desirable to preserve mountaintops in a natural condition unencumbered by manmade facilities.

The Forest Preserve is protected by Article XIV of the New York State Constitution which mandates that these lands "shall be forever kept as wild forest lands. They shall not be leased, sold or exchanged, or be taken by any corporation, public or private, nor shall the timber thereon be sold, removed or destroyed".

Statutory authority to erect and maintain communication facilities and to grant temporary revocable permits for such purposes to other governmental agencies is given to the Department of Environmental Conservation through Section 3-0301(1.)(3.) of the Environmental Conservation Law, which charges the Department with the care, custody and control of the Forest Preserve; Section 9-0105(15.) which empowers the Department to make rules and regulations and issue permits for the temporary use of the Forest Preserve and Section 9-0303(2.) which provides that no building shall be erected, used or maintained upon State lands except under permits from the Department.

While the Department recognizes the need for effective communications structures and facilities to serve the needs of the people of the State, it also recognizes that the presence of these and other facilities on the mountaintops within the Adirondack and Catskill Parks degrades the aesthetic

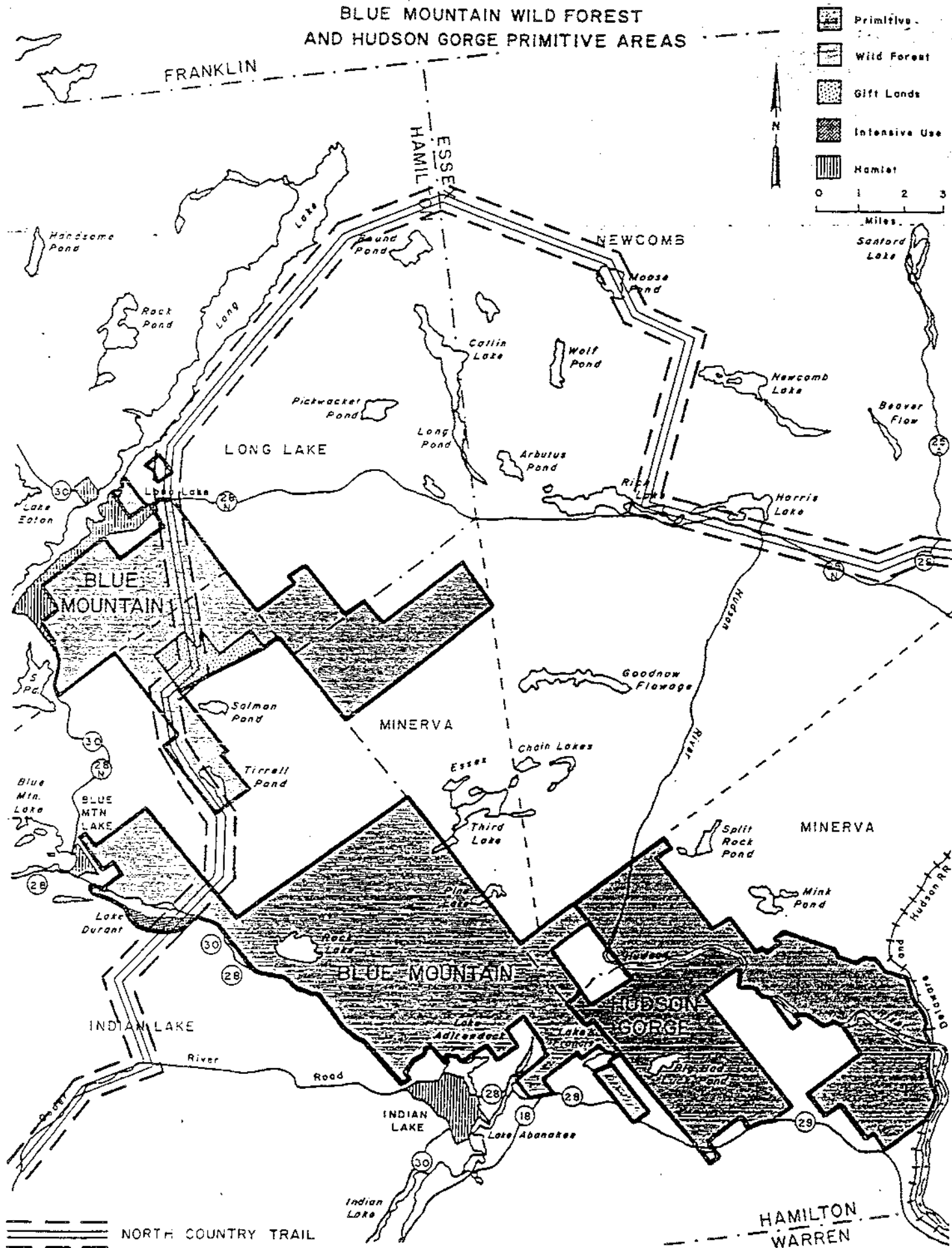
qualities which are important and integral parts of the Parks. Further, the Adirondack Park Agency, in recognition that the hills and mountaintops of the Adirondack Park are among that region's most distinctive and precious resources, and that consolidation of towers and tower facilities with existing towers and tower facilities will result in materially less cumulative environmental impact, adopted as policy that new communication towers and other tower facilities be consolidated with existing towers.

In order to prevent further degradation of these aesthetic qualities and to allow for continuation of the present communications systems and for the improvement and expansion of these systems as future needs may dictate, the following policy is adopted.

Policy

1. No mountaintop under the jurisdiction of the Department of Environmental Conservation within the Adirondack and Catskill Parks which does not have existing structures, towers or other facilities may be used as a site for structures, towers or other facilities for communications or any other purpose.
2. On mountaintops under the jurisdiction of the Department of Environmental Conservation within the Adirondack and Catskill Parks where structures, towers, or other facilities presently exist and have appurtenant service routes, new facilities may be added if: (a) Such new facilities are consolidated with existing structures, towers or other facilities and (b) Such new facilities, in the case of governmental agencies other than the Department, are permitted in accordance with a temporary revocable permit as required by Section 9-0105(15.) as noted above.
3. Existing structures, towers and other facilities located on such mountaintops will be evaluated on a periodic basis to determine if they continue to serve a departmental purpose or function. If it is determined that such structures, towers and other facilities do not serve a departmental purpose or function, then they shall be proposed and scheduled for removal through the unit management planning process of the Department.
4. As technology develops and it becomes feasible to consolidate communication and other electronic facilities in one structure or tower without interference, such structure and towers will be consolidated for the purpose of reducing the numbers of each at any one site or on any one mountaintop.
5. Where no electrical power is available at existing and utilized mountaintop sites, such power as needed will be provided by solar or other means of on-site generation within the provisions of No. 2 above.
6. New communications facilities added at existing and utilized mountaintop sites within the provisions of No. 2 above will not interfere, electronically or otherwise, with existing site communications systems.

APPENDIX 17  
 NORTH COUNTRY TRAIL  
 BLUE MOUNTAIN WILD FOREST  
 AND HUDSON GORGE PRIMITIVE AREAS



9-0107.

ACCEPTANCE BY DEPARTMENT OF LANDS FOR PARKS AND FOR SILVICULTURAL RESEARCH

Notwithstanding any other provisions of this article, the department is hereby authorized to accept, for the state, grants or deeds of gift of any lands, upon approval of the title thereto by the Attorney General, as follows:

1. a. Lands, located in any county named in subdivision 2 of section 9-0105, or in subdivision 6 of section 9-0101 of this article, which the department may deem suitable for park or reservation purposes. The grant or deed must recite that it is given for acceptance under the provisions of this subdivision.

b. Property so accepted shall forever be under the jurisdiction of the commissioner and his successors in office and, by virtue of the acceptance thereof, shall be irrevocably dedicated to be used for the purposes of a public park or reservation under the care, custody, control and management of the department and shall not become a part of the forest preserve. Such property shall forever remain open to the public for the enjoyment of the scenic and natural beauties of the premises, and receive such improvement or development, by the erection of buildings, roads, highways, railroads and other structures, including the improvement, alteration and maintenance of the structures now on such premises as the legislature may from time to time determine. The department may, in its discretion, lease a part or all of such premises upon such terms and conditions as it may determine not inconsistent with the reasonable use of such premises by the public, provided that any such lease shall first have been approved by the Attorney General as to form.

2. a. Lands, located in any county named in subdivision 6 or section 9-0101 of this article, which the department may deem suitable for use for the purposes of silvicultural research and experimentation in the science of forestry to the end that forest practices most beneficial to the economy of the state and the health, welfare and comfort of the people of the state may be ascertained and demonstrated. The grant or deed to the state of any such lands must recite that it is given for acceptance under the provisions of this subdivision of this section.



APPENDIX 18











b. Property so accepted shall be under the jurisdiction of the commissioner and his successors in office and, until otherwise provided by law, shall be dedicated for use only for the purposes of silvicultural research and experimentation in the science of forestry, including purposes incidental thereto, under the care, custody, control and management of the department and its successors in office and shall not become a part of the forest preserve. Under such conditions as it may deem consistent with the purposes aforesaid, and upon such terms as it may deem to be for the best interests of the state, the department may sell trees, timber, and other products on any such lands. All trees, timber or other products to be sold shall be plainly marked or otherwise designated prior to cutting and no such material shall be removed from such land until paid for. No such material shall be sold at less than the fair market value in the county or counties in which it is located, which value shall be the value fixed by a department forester or other competent appraiser in a report made after an examination of the materials to be sold, provided such appraisal is approved by the department. The department may sell any such materials at not less than the fair market value so fixed and under such conditions as it may prescribe, provided, however, that no sale of such materials appraised at five hundred dollars or more shall be made without public notice of sale, and after receipt of sealed bids. The award shall be made only to the highest bidder. Such notice of sale and bids, the awarding of the contract and the execution and filing of the contract shall otherwise be in accordance with the procedure specified in section 9-0501 through 9-0505 of this article for the sale after public notice, of trees, timber, and other forest products on reforestation areas. All moneys received from any such sale shall be paid over to the State Comptroller and shall be deposited by him in the forest preserve expansion fund established by section 97-e of the State Finance Law.

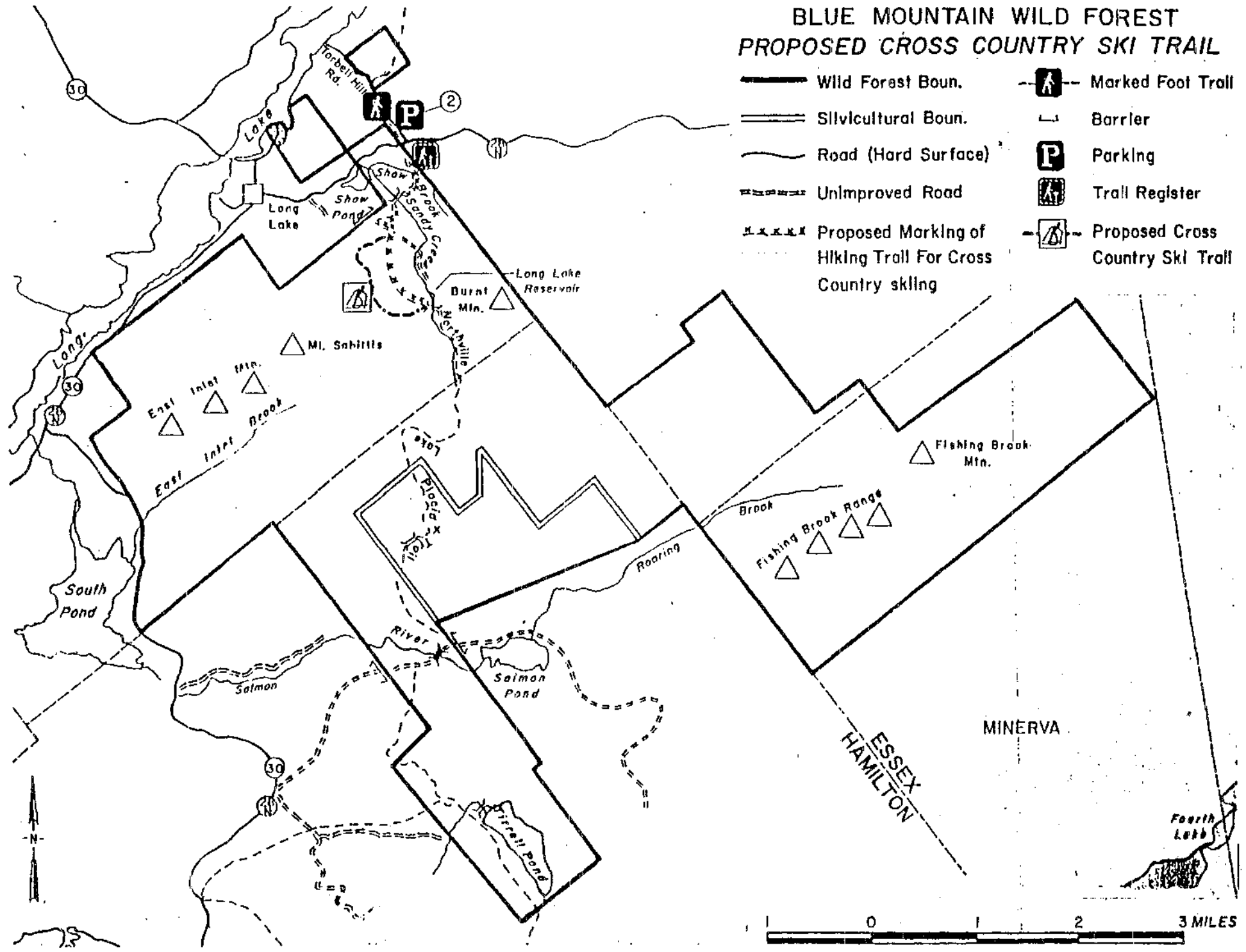
L.1972, c. 664

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Taken from: McKinney's Consolidated Laws of New York Annotated, Book 17 1/2,  
Environmental Conservation Law, ECL 1-0101 to 20-end, pp. 94-96

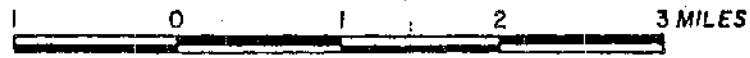
# BLUE MOUNTAIN WILD FOREST PROPOSED CROSS COUNTRY SKI TRAIL

-  Wild Forest Boun.
-  Silvicultural Boun.
-  Road (Hard Surface)
-  Unimproved Road
-  Proposed Marking of Hiking Trail For Cross Country skiing
-  Marked Foot Trail
-  Barrier
-  Parking
-  Trail Register
-  Proposed Cross Country Ski Trail



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APPENDIX 19





## POLICIES AND PROCEDURES MANUAL

## TITLE 8400 - PUBLIC LAND MANAGEMENT

8426.02 - Objective

1. To provide a mechanism for permitting the temporary use of State lands within stated guidelines and legal constraints while at the same time ensuring the protection of such lands and their associated resources against damage or inappropriate use.

8426.03 - Policy

It shall be the policy of the Department of Environmental Conservation to issue permits for the temporary use of State lands if in the opinion of the Department, such use is within applicable legal parameters, is compatible with the existing resource and its management objectives and is in accordance with stated guidelines and policy.

8426.04 - Definitions

1. Temporary Revocable Permit. A permit for use of State land which is temporary in nature and which will not result in an unreasonable or permanent diminution of the natural values and characteristics of such land.
2. Regional Land Manager. The senior program person to whom a given parcel is assigned for management in a region; e.g., Regional Wildlife Manager, Regional Forester, Bureau of Marine Habitat Protection Section Head, Regional Operations Supervisor, etc.
3. Central Office. Program Division Director or his designee.

8426.05 - Activities or Uses Which May be Permitted

The following are examples of activities or uses which may be allowed on State land under a temporary revocable permit. Each request or application for such a permit will be considered separately giving consideration to the limitations of the area and consistency with the management objectives and goals for the State lands involved.

1. Transportation of materials across State lands using existing roadways, farm roads, traditional beach access trails and the like.
2. Short-term ingress and egress to private property across State lands using existing roadways. /1

## POLICIES AND PROCEDURES MANUAL

## TITLE 8400 - PUBLIC LAND MANAGEMENT

3. Projects or activities accomplished or sponsored by volunteer or student organizations or groups.
4. Maintenance of existing utility lines when work to be undertaken will have no significant impact on the area resources.
5. Training by and for military units and other short term military exercises.
6. Removal of dead or hazardous trees along roads, utility lines and private property boundaries..
7. Research projects related to the natural resources of the area, including those requiring approval of the State Museum.
8. Organized group recreational and/or sports activities.
9. Survey projects, including land, seismic, geodetic and mineral surveys and the like, including those requiring approval of the State Museum.
10. Public road maintenance. /2
11. Installation and maintenance of recreational trails or other outdoor recreational facilities.

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/1These roadways have generally evolved from old logging roads and skid trails, or were established as a means of access to the private property before the State took title to the intervening land. If the deeds transferring these lands to the State do not reserve a right of access across such land, the Department does not have the legal authority to grant rights-of-way to private property owners. The granting of temporary revocable permits on a year-long basis for purposes of ingress and egress, with annual renewals, constitutes a permanent and exclusive use of State lands that is neither legal nor in the best interest of the People of the State.

The policy of the Department is to grant to such adjoining land-owners a temporary revocable permit to use existing roadways for a period not to exceed two weeks for the purpose of transporting household goods or materials for the maintenance of their property. Such short-term permits are usually limited to those periods when the property would normally be opened or closed for the season. At all other times, the roadway is to be closed to vehicular travel. Individuals requesting such permits should be encouraged to seek alternate permanent access.



## POLICIES AND PROCEDURES MANUAL

## TITLE 8400 - PUBLIC LAND MANAGEMENT

/2It is important to recognize that the question as to whether or not a permit is required is predicated on the status of the underlying land. In general, roads are established on lands through one of three process:

1. Acquisition of the underlying land in fee.
2. Acquisition of an easement affecting the underlying land for the purposes specified in the easement.
3. Acquisition by prescription, affecting the underlying land only to the extent of the prescriptive use.

In the case of the first situation, where the highway and the strip of land including it are held in fee by a governmental agency, no permit is required from the Department. However, care must be taken to see that all work is confined to within the limits of the fee title strip. Any work outside of these limits would be an encroachment and trespass on the State lands and must be treated as such.

In the case of the second and third situations, where the highway and the strip of land including it are held by easement or prescription, a permit is required from the Department for all work other than normal roadbed maintenance. Thus, if a road is to be widened, if drainage or ditches are to be improved or if trees are to be cut along the road even though they may be within the right-of-way of the road, a permit is required when State land is involved.

That is, where such roads are bounded by State land, the underlying lands belong to the State. The discernible right-of-way of the road cannot be increased beyond what it was when the State took title unless, in the case of an easement, a width is specified in the document or deed that created the easement.

The position stated just above is based on an 1818 decision of the Court of Appeals which states, "When the sovereign imposes a public right-of-way upon the land on an individual, the title of the former owner is not extinguished, but it is so qualified that it can only be enjoyed subject to that easement. The former proprietor still retains his exclusive right in all mines, quarries, springs of water, timber and earth for every purpose not incompatible with the public right-of-way." Further, a Note to Section 861 of the Real Property Action and Proceedings Law states, "Where owner of right-of-way cut down trees thereon without demand on owner of servient estate to remove them, he was a trespasser and if his acts were forcible and deliberate, he was liable in treble damages."



## POLICIES AND PROCEDURES MANUAL

### TITLE 8400 - PUBLIC LAND MANAGEMENT

In short, when a governmental agency has an easement or a prescriptive right for highway purposes, such governmental agency has a right to maintain said highway in its present condition. Any change in that condition may affect the underlying fee interest and the State, as holder of that fee interest, must give permission for the change.

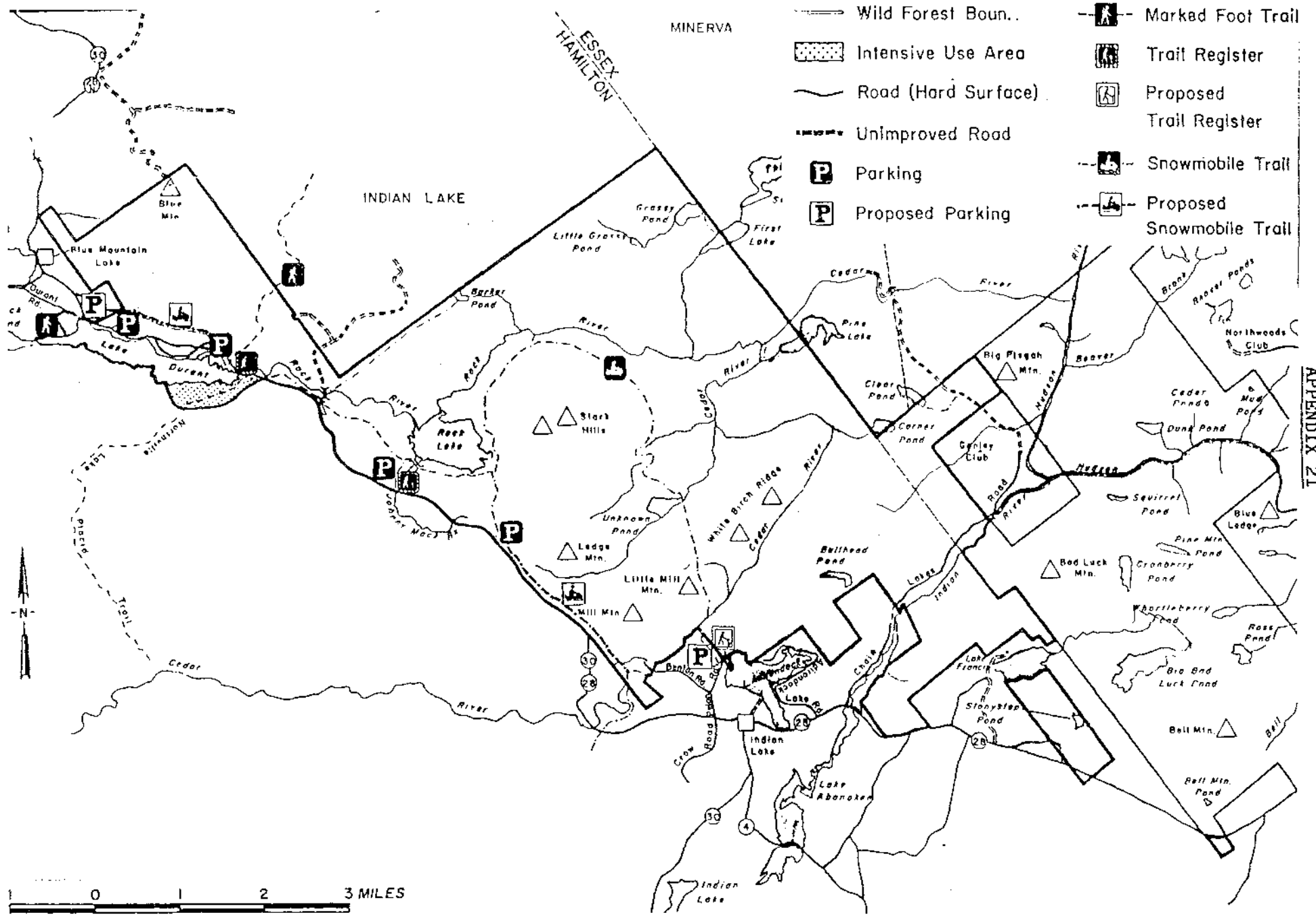
#### 8426.06 - Activities or Uses Specifically Prohibited

1. Temporary revocable permits will not be issued for purposes which would constitute exclusive use of State land, exclude public use or interfere with the normal administration of the land by the Department.
2. Temporary revocable permits will not be issued for purposes which would compromise the State's title to the land or change the mandated use of the land.
3. Temporary revocable permits will not be issued for the construction or installation of permanent facilities including roads, bridges, trails, structures, towers, utility lines, etc., unless such installation or construction is deemed to be of benefit to the People of the State, is approved by the Department, is consistent with the objectives for the area, with the provisions of any master plan or unit management plan affecting the area and with any applicable statutes.
4. The establishment of or use of a roadway by motor vehicles across State land as a permanent route of ingress and egress is prohibited except where an easement or other legal encumbrance to the State's title exists.
5. Temporary revocable permits will not be issued for any activity or purpose that is inconsistent with applicable statute or rules and regulations.
6. Temporary revocable permits may be denied, revoked or suspended by the Department at any time with due cause.

#### 8426.07 - Liability Insurance

1. General - Each permittee will be required to indemnify the State of New York against any and all claims for injury to property or person or death arising out of the operations of the permittee under the permit. Such indemnification shall be in the form of liability insurance in limits prescribed by the Department. Such coverage can be obtained through a policy held by the Department and can be extended at the request of the permittee to cover those permits that do not involve construction or competitive activities.

# BLUE MOUNTAIN WILD FOREST PROPOSED SNOWMOBILE TRAIL



APPENDIX 21

# NEW YORK STATE WILD, SCENIC AND RECREATIONAL RIVERS SYSTEM

Field Investigation Summary

PROPOSED ADDITION

## *The Cedar River*

The statute mandated the study of approximately 14 miles of Cedar River from the Cedar River Flow to a point just north of the hamlet of Indian Lake. Field investigation showed the actual mileage of this stretch to be 16.3 miles. The study also included an additional 12 miles upstream of Cedar River Flow outlet, beginning at the outlet of Cedar Lakes. This seemed a logical inclusion as it is an integral part of the river and is the least developed section of the Cedar River corridor. The lower 10 mile portion of the river was designated a Scenic River by the 1972 State Legislature and is, therefore, not included in this study.

The Cedar River is located in the Towns of Arietta, Lake Pleasant and Indian Lake in Hamilton County. It flows in a northeasterly direction. Mileposts were delineated on maps starting at zero at the outlet of Cedar Lakes and following downstream to Mile 28.3 at the start of the previously designated Scenic River. The Cedar River drains an area of approximately 166 square miles. The stream was relatively clear through 9.0, but appeared cloudy throughout the remaining miles. Some pollution may emanate from camps along 19.0-20.0 and algae noted on rocks along 26.0-27.0 indicates that some nutrient addition may be likely.

### a. Flow Characteristics

At the headwaters, the river was about 20 feet wide and 1 foot deep during field studies in mid-August, and at 28.3, the terminus of the study section, it was about 100 feet wide and 8 inches deep. There are no gaging station records available on flowage rates or temperatures.

The source of the river, near the center of the West Canada Lake Wilderness, is at an elevation of 2442 feet while the terminus at the Hudson is 1480 feet. This differential of 962 feet in elevation through about 38 miles of river amounts to an overall gradient of 0.48%. The elevation loss from source to terminus is relatively uniform. Rapids prevail on approximately 16 miles of the study section while stillwater covers 9 miles and moderate flow areas alternate. Significant

stillwater segments start at Mile 5.0, 7.0, 12.3, 18.0, 19.7, 25.0 and 27.0.

The streambed is composed almost entirely of cobblestones, boulders composing the streambed. In stillwater portions, the flow segments have gravel and cobblestones with a few scattered boulders composing the streambed. In stillwater portions, the streambed is chiefly sand with some gravel and light silt in a few locations.

### b. Land Ownership and Uses

State Forest Preserve lands comprise about 50% of the bordering lands. The West Canada Lake Wilderness borders the river on both sides between Mile 0 and 7.7. Along the Cedar River Flow (8.0-12.0) Buell Brook Primitive Area borders most of the southeast shore while State Wild Forest lands are adjacent to the Flow on the northwest from 10.0-12.0. Wild Forest lands are also found on both sides of the Cedar River along 21.4 to 21.6, and 23.0 to 24.8. These state lands are used for a variety of recreational purposes such as hunting, camping, fishing, hiking, and nature study.

Private lands owned by individuals and corporations make up the balance of the corridor. The private land owned by corporations, chiefly Finch Pruyn Company and International Paper Company, is used for timber production, hunting and fishing. Numerous small private parcels bordering the river are primarily used for permanent or seasonal residences. One parcel is utilized as a sawmill and lumber storage yard. Another relatively large tract bordering the river is owned by the Cedar River Inn which has a golf course along nearly one mile of the river, between Mile 25.5 and 26.4. The Wakely Inn also has a golf course, a small part of which borders the north bank of the river at 22.4. An area on the south side of the river at 27.5 is used as a public picnic area, and the river pool here is used by bathers.

### c. Access

A Department of Environmental Conservation foot trail



provides access to the river source at Cedar Lakes and roughly parallels the river, ranging from about ½ mile to 50 feet away on the west side corridor, down to Mile 7.2. The river is accessible to the public by motor vehicle at 12.0, 23.5 to 24.0, 25.5, 27.4 and 28.3. The segments between 6.5 and 12.0; 17.4 and 18.5; 25.2 and 28.3 may be navigated by canoe. The river corridor from 12.1 to 23.3 is posted against public use by private owners on both sides of the river. A log road used by Finch Pruyn Company and hunting club leasees crosses the river at 7.5, 20.1 and 22.05.

#### d. Structures

Foot bridges are located at 0.0, 2.4, 3.2, 15.2, 17.4, 22.15, 25.6, and 26.2. Motor vehicle road bridges are found at 12.0, 20.1, 22.05, and 25.3. A dam on state land at 12.0 causes the impoundment referred to as Cedar River Flow and another dam at 18.5 on private land maintains the still-water immediately above the structure. An abandoned power house is located along the north bank of the river at 18.7. Permanent or seasonal residences are located along the north side of the river at 16.5, 17.4, 18.4, 18.5, 19.05, 22.2, 22.25, 24.8, 24.85, 24.9, and one Airstream trailer is used as a camp on the north side at 16.6. On the south side of the river, one camp is located at 27.6, and a cement block, windowless building, constructed for a boathouse, is located at 28.3. There are eight cable car crossings, one each located at 16.65, 18.2, 20.9, 21.4, 21.7, 22.2, 22.6 and 22.7, apparently used as access to hunting grounds on the south side of the river.

A state maintained leanto is located near the southwest bank of the river at 7.2 and appears to have relatively heavy use. Two Department of Environmental Conservation gate-keeper houses are located about 300 feet west of the dam at 12.0 and serve as check points for persons using the east entrance to the Moose River Plains Recreation Area.

#### e. Proposed Impoundments

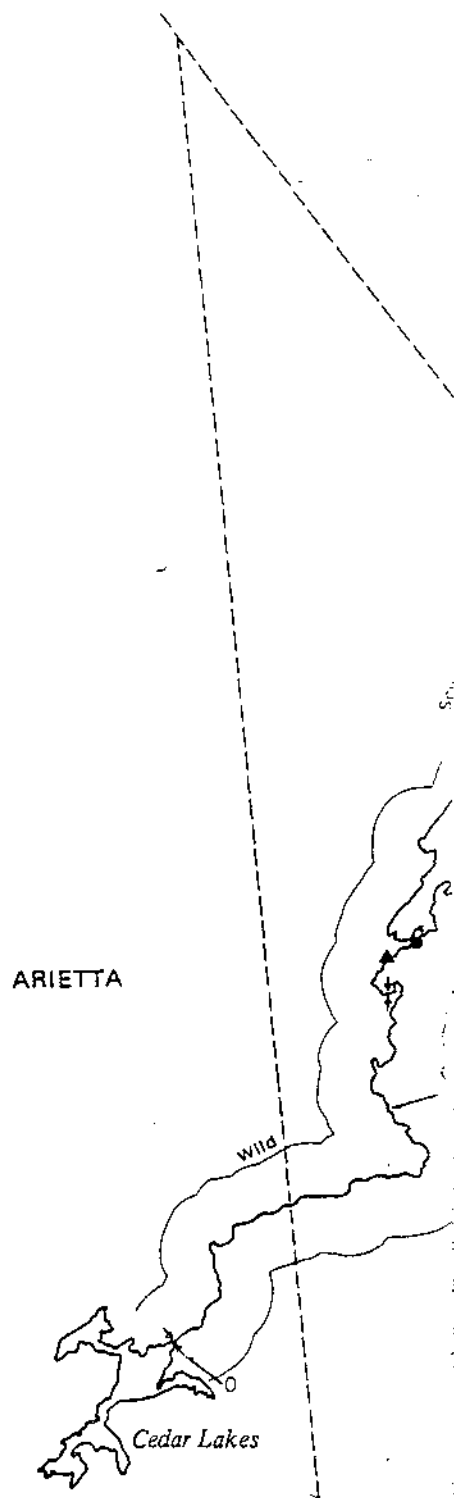
A Chain Lakes potential reservoir site on the section of stream previously classified was identified in a 1973 report of the Temporary State Commission on the Water Needs of Southeastern New York. It has a low priority for development.

#### f. Land Use Areas

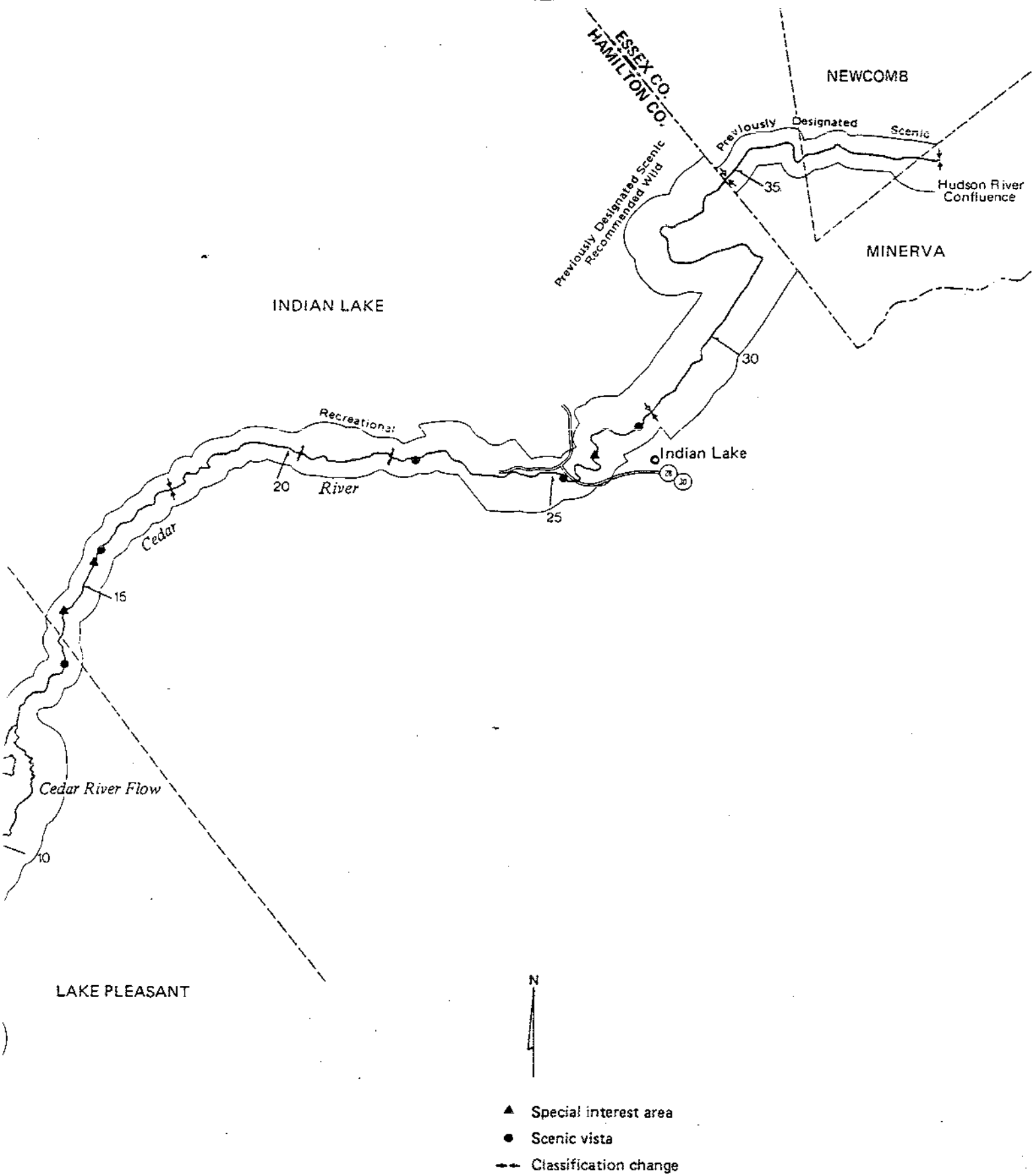
Of the private land in the river corridor approximately 4% is classified Moderate Intensity Use (500 principal buildings per square mile), 16% is Low Intensity Use (200 p.b./sq. mi.), 21% is Rural Use (75 p.b./sq. mi.) and 59% is classified Resource Management (15 p.b./sq. mi.) by the Adirondack Park Land Use and Development Plan.

#### g. Physiography

The river corridor and immediate surroundings may be characterized as a valley between low mountains, the tops of which are a little more than 2800 feet in elevation. The general character of the corridor changes as the river reaches



APPENDIX 22



the 17 mile point. From rather steep slopes starting at or close to the river banks and extending up to the top of such mountains as Water Barrel, Sugarloaf and Round Top (where nearly vertical, south facing slopes prevail), the terrain changes to more gentle slopes and, in some areas, to near-level terrain extending outward for 1/3 mile to 1 mile from the river banks.

**h. Vegetation**

Consistent with most Adirondack streams, the Cedar River courses through terrain and soil types which provide favorable sites for nearly all native grass, fern, shrub, and tree species. Spruce and balsam predominate within the river corridor, with mixed hardwoods and softwoods coming in on the upslopes beyond the immediate stream banks. Alder, swamp grass, and a variety of moist land plants line the river banks along most stillwater and moderate flow sections of the river.

**i. Wildlife**

Along the upper seven mile section of the river, which lies in the northern part of the West Canada Lake Wilderness, the rare pine marten as well as bear, bobcat, fisher, coyote, deer, mink, muskrat, beaver and otter find a favorable habitat relatively remote from man. A golden eagle was seen during this survey at close range, soaring at tree top level along the river corridor.

A number of deer wintering areas were noted in the river corridor at various locations where stands of spruce, balsam or hemlock provide the necessary shelter.

Brook trout inhabit the river, particularly in the first 12 miles. Brown trout and some coarse fish may be found downstream from Mile 12.0, as well as brook trout where incoming cold water keeps the temperature favorable for this native species. Cedar River Flow receives relatively heavy fishing pressure, particularly in the spring of the year. The Flow is stocked with brook trout and the river is stocked with brown trout by the Department of Environmental Conservation.

**j. Special Interest Areas**

Although there are a number of unspecified scenic sections of small waterfalls and rapids, special interest areas have been designated as follows: 1) between Mile 8.0 and 9.0 where an extensive acreage of marsh exists and distant views may be gained from the river in several directions; 2) at 14.4 where a gorge, small waterfall and unusual rock formation is located; 3) between 15.4 and 15.6 where another gorge and small falls are found; 4) at 26.4 where the erosive action of the river has created another unusual rock formation

**k. Scenic Vistas**

The points where scenic vistas were noted are: 1) the

river section from 8.0 to 9.0; 2) at 13.4 looking north over rapids to the vertical cliffs of Water Barrel Mountain; 3) at 15.7 looking west to Sugarloaf Mountain; 4) at 22.5 looking north with Sawyer Mountain in the background; 5) at 25.2 looking northwest over rapids with mountains in background. 6) at 28.1 looking southwest over a stillwater section of the river.

**l. Proposed Facilities**

A foot trail is recommended to run between the Cedar River Flow road and the gorge at Mile 14.4.

**m. Proposed Acquisition**

An access easement for the proposed foot trail should be acquired between the Cedar River Flow road and the gorge (see Section "l").

**Recommended Classification**

Based upon the above described characteristics the Adirondack Park Agency finds 28.3 miles of the Cedar River, from Cedar Lakes to just north of the hamlet of Indian Lake, to be a worthy addition to the Wild, Scenic, and Recreational Rivers System in the following manner:

- Mile 0-7.3: *Wild River*
- Mile 7.3-17.3 (10 miles): *Scenic River*
- Mile 17.3-28.3 (11 miles): *Recreational River*

Further it is recommended that the section of the Cedar River previously designated, from just north of the hamlet of Indian Lake to the Hudson River, be changed from a Scenic River to a Wild River in that portion passing through state Wild Forest land.

The river area boundary should be ¼ mile from each bank when private land is involved and ½ mile when state land is involved.



A report prepared by the Adirondack Park Agency in consultation and cooperation with the Department of Environmental Conservation pursuant to Section 15-2715 of Title 27 of the State Environmental Conservation Law.

Cartography by Margaret L. Baldwin, N.Y.S. Office of Planning Services



# NEW YORK STATE WILD, SCENIC AND RECREATIONAL RIVERS SYSTEM

Field Investigation Summary

PROPOSED ADDITION

## *The Indian River*

The statute mandated the study of approximately 7 miles of the Indian River from the dam at Indian Lake to the confluence with the Hudson River. Field investigation showed the actual mileage to be 8.3 miles.

The Indian River is a tributary of the Hudson River and is located in the Town of Indian Lake, Hamilton County and in the Town of Minerva, Essex County. It flows in a generally northeasterly direction. Mileposts were delineated on topographic maps starting at zero at Indian Lake Dam and progressing downstream through Lake Abanakee to the confluence with the Hudson River at 8.3. The drainage basin of Indian River is approximately 215 square miles.

The water is relatively clear but some signs of eutrophic conditions are in evidence in Lake Abanakee and in the river downstream from Abanakee Dam.

### a. Flow Characteristics

At its headwaters at Indian Lake Dam, the river, at the time of field studies in late July, was 75 feet wide and about one foot deep. At its confluence with the Hudson, the Indian was 100 feet wide and approximately 3 feet deep. A U. S. Geological Survey water gaging station is maintained 0.8 of a mile downstream of the Indian Lake Dam and 2.0 miles south of the hamlet of Indian Lake. At this station, the average stream flow over the last 58 years has been 285 cubic feet per second (cfs) with a maximum discharge, recorded on March 28, 1913, of 3,460 cfs, and a minimum discharge, recorded on several occasions, of less than one cfs, when the entire flow of the river is being stored in Indian Lake.

The river flows from a maximum elevation of 1,650 feet at Indian Lake to 1,424 feet at the confluence with the Hudson for a drop of 226 feet in 8.3 miles for an average gradient of 0.52%. The gradient is relatively consistent over the first five miles of the river on through Lake Abanakee,

becoming much steeper with the predominance of rapids in the last 3.3 miles of river. On the whole 49% of the river is stillwater, 12% is moderate flow, and 39% contains rapids. Approximately 60% of the stream contains canoeable waters but practical canoeing is confined to Miles 1.0-6.0, through Lake Abanakee.

### b. Land Ownership and Uses

State Wild Forest lands abut the river along the northwestern shore from Miles 0-0.3, 2.7-3.3, and from 5.4 to 7.2; and additionally on the southeast along 0-1.0 and from 5.4 to 6.7. State lands in the Primitive classification adjoin the southeastern shore from 6.7 to 7.2. Remaining lands are in private ownership. The great majority of land abutting both shores along 0-5.0 and 7.0-8.3 is privately owned, except the south shore along 0-1.0. Approximately 40% of the total river corridor is state owned and the remaining 60% is in private ownership.

Predominant land uses on the private land along the river include seasonal and permanent residences. Boating, swimming, fishing, camping and hunting are the primary recreational uses. Some logging is also practiced.

### c. Access

A public road closely parallels the southeast bank from Mile 1.0-2.0, crosses at 1.7 and 3.9, and again parallels the river on the northwest bank from 3.9 to 7.2. There is only private access to the majority of the Lake Abanakee shoreline, except that afforded along the stretch of state land on the northwest, along the causeway that crosses the lake, and along Route 28. Foot trails (caused by continued use by fishermen) skirt the northwest bank from Mile 5.0 to the Gooley Club and additional shore trails extend between the public roadway and the river.



#### d. Structures

Numerous camps and homes are located along both shores on the first five miles of the river. A Town of Indian Lake bouthouse is found at Mile 4.7. There are dams at 0.0 and 5.5. There is a causeway at 1.7, highway bridge at 3.8, and an electric transmission line at 3.6.

#### e. Proposed Impoundments

There are no known impoundment proposals.

#### f. Land Use Areas

Of the private land in the river corridor approximately 6% is classified Hamlet, 38% is Moderate Intensity Use (500 principal buildings per square mile), 18% is Low Intensity Use (200 p.b./sq. mi.), 19% is Rural Use (75 p.b./sq. mi.) and another 19% is classified Resource Management (15 p.b./sq. mi.) by the Adirondack Park Land Use and Development Plan.

#### g. Physiography

Steep banks are common on both shores from 0.1 to 0.75. Gently sloped banks are the rule from Mile 0.75 to 5.3. The next two miles have steep, rocky banks, and the last mile is characterized by flat to gentle slopes. The river corridor in general is gently to moderately sloped along 0-4.5, and rugged, low mountain country is encountered along the remainder of the corridor.

#### h. Vegetation

Mixed forest types of hardwoods and conifers are common in the first five miles. White birch are prominent with some large pine, hemlock, and fir. On the southeast shore cedar, fir and spruce predominate in the lower reaches of the first five miles. The last three miles are forested with red spruce, hemlock, cedar, and mixed hardwoods. Shrubs include mountain holly, alder, and red osier dogwood. Ferns are prevalent, and the wild flowers boneset, aster, joe-pye-weed, gentian, pickerel weed and cardinal flower are commonly found.

#### i. Wildlife

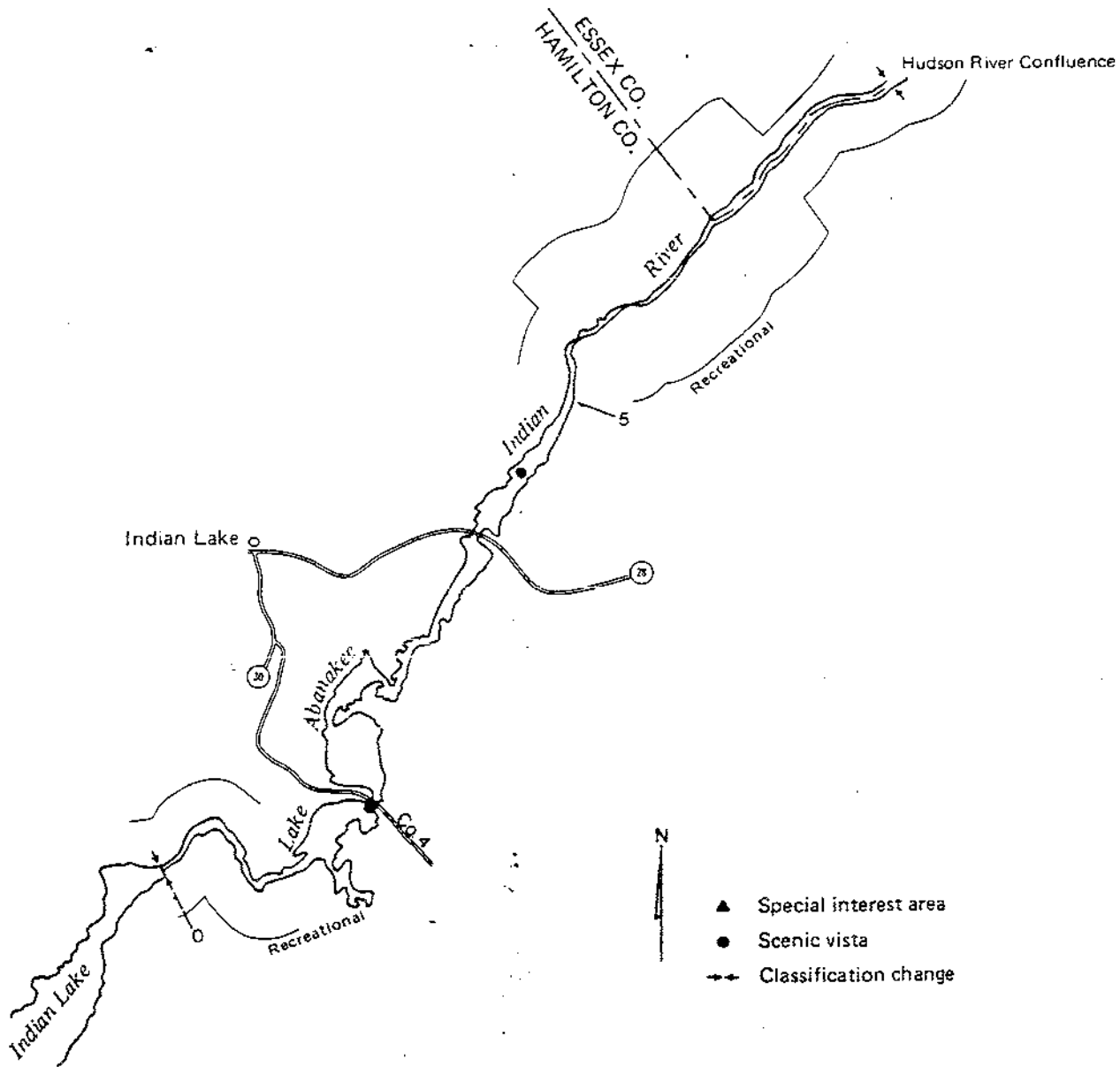
Brown trout, rainbow trout and brook trout are stocked by the Department of Environmental Conservation. Bass are numerous. Deer signs were light to moderate. Beaver activity was noted at Mile 1.0. Signs of mink and otter were evident. Waterfowl and shorebirds frequent the marshy portion from 0.1 to 0.25. The heavy human use of the upper portion of the river precludes intensive wildlife use.

#### j. Special Interest Areas

None were identified at this time.

#### k. Scenic Vistas

Several distant scenic vistas are afforded in the Lake Abanakee section (Mile 1.5-5.0) with Snowy Mountain often visible.



**l. Proposed Facilities**

None are proposed at this time.

**m. Proposed Acquisitions**

None proposed.

**Recommended Classification**

Based upon the above described characteristics the Adirondack Park Agency finds 8.3 miles of the Indian River, from Indian Lake to the Hudson River, to be a worthy addition to the Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers System as a *Recreational River*.

The recommended river area is ¼ mile from each bank

along private land and ½ mile from each bank where state land is involved.

It is further recommended that the water level in Indian Lake no longer be artificially manipulated and that a natural streamflow be permitted in the Indian River. In addition to the advantages this will have on the river's ecosystem and the compatibility of the river with the purpose of the Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers System, it will benefit both the lake and the users of the lake. The Indian Lake draw-downs have a substantial adverse impact on the lake's fishery resource and recreational potential. The expressed purpose of the draw-downs is to regulate downstream flow but its contribution to the downstream flow of the Hudson is comparatively insignificant, particularly when weighed against the adverse impacts it creates.



A report prepared by the Adirondack Park Agency in consultation and cooperation with the Department of Environmental Conservation pursuant to Section 15-2715 of Title 27 of the State Environmental Conservation Law.

Cartography by Margaret L. Baldwin, N.Y.S. Office of Planning Services



# NEW YORK STATE WILD, SCENIC AND RECREATIONAL RIVERS SYSTEM

Field Investigation Summary

PROPOSED ADDITION

## *The Rock River*

The statute mandated the study of approximately 8 miles of the Rock River from Lake Durant to the confluence with the Cedar River. The actual mileage in the field proved to be 8.1 miles. The Rock River is located in the Town of Indian Lake, Hamilton County. It flows in a generally easterly direction.

Mileposts were delineated on maps starting at zero at the outlet of Lake Durant and following downstream to Mile 8.1 at the junction with the Cedar River. The drainage basin of the Rock includes approximately 62 square miles.

The stream is slightly amber colored from natural causes. No pollution is known to exist.

### a. Flow Characteristics

At its headwaters, the outlet of Lake Durant, the stream was 15 feet wide and 1½ feet deep when field studies were conducted in late September. At the confluence with the Cedar at Mile 8.1, it averaged approximately 40 feet in width and was about 2 feet deep.

The Rock River flows from an elevation of 1,778 feet at Lake Durant to 1,550 feet at the confluence with the Cedar for a drop of 228 feet in 8.1 miles for an average gradient of 0.53%. The gradient is moderate to steep along Miles 4.0-5.0 and 7.0-8.0 where rapids are prevalent, and at the waterfalls at 4.4 and 6.4. In total 53% of the River is stillwater, 21% is of moderate flowage, and 26% is rapids. Fifty-six per cent of the waters are canoeable, but limited access and intermixed rocky and shallow conditions preclude canoeing in most sections. Rock Lake (accessible by ½ mile of foot trail) and Mile 2.0-3.0, upstream of the lake, provide the only practical canoeing. The streambed is quite rocky in moderate flow and rapid and riff sections. Gravel occurs occasionally and sand and silt appear in some stillwater sections.

### b. Land Ownership and Uses

The stream is entirely bordered by state Forest Preserve lands classified as Wild Forest. Land uses in the river corridor are hunting, fishing, snowmobiling, camping and limited boating on Rock Lake.

### c. Access

A public highway parallels the first 1.2 miles of stream as it leaves Lake Durant, 1/8 to 1/4 mile to the south. A dirt road used for private land access and closed to the public, crosses the river at Mile 1.2. A foot trail running north from Route 28 provides access to 5.0 and is only 1/4 mile to the south of 4.0 to 5.0. Another foot trail provides access to Rock Lake and the inlet portion of Rock River. "Herd paths" (paths created by continued use by recreationists) are in evidence on the north side of the stream between 0.0 and 2.5.

### d. Structures

The only structures are bridges at Mile 0.0 and 1.2, and the remains of an old wooden dam at the Rock River outlet of Rock Lake.

### e. Proposed Impoundments

There are no known impoundment proposals.

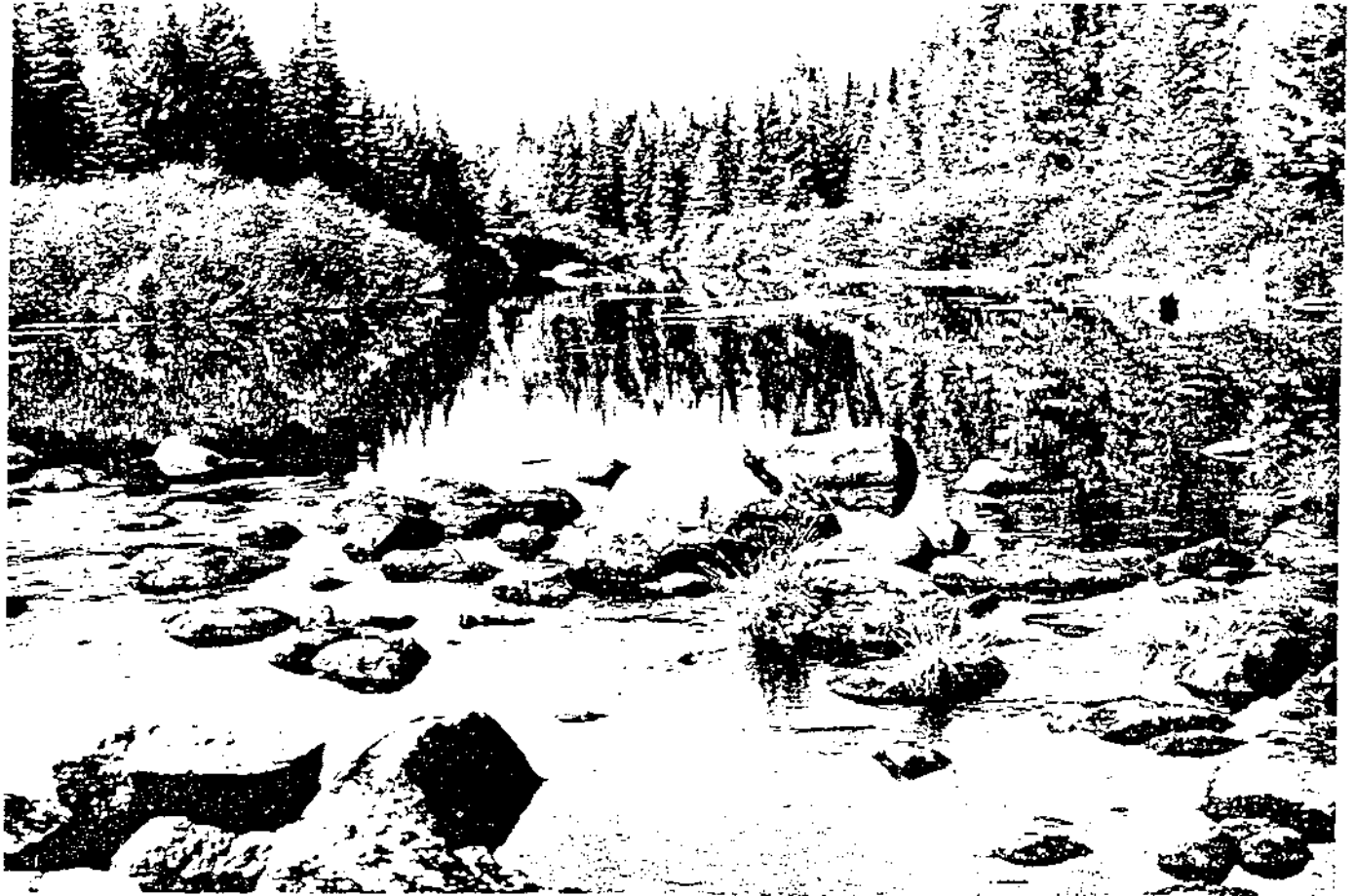
### f. Land Use Areas

Not applicable, all state land.

### g. Physiography

The banks of the river vary from low to gently sloped along Miles 0-1.0, 2.0-3.0, and on the north side along 5.0-





6.0. Banks are low to moderate along 1.0-2.0 and 3.0-4.0. They are moderate to steep from 4.0-5.0. Consistently steep banks occur along both sides from 6.0 to 7.0. Mile 7.0 to 8.1 has stream banks that vary from low, gradual slopes to very steep slopes.

#### h. Vegetation

Spruce-fir is the predominant tree association from Mile 0-4.0. These species begin to give way to hardwoods, primarily beech, birch, and maple, along 4.0-6.0. Mile 6.0-7.0 is again predominantly spruce-fir. Mile 7.0-8.1 features a blend of several tree species including red spruce, balsam fir, sugar and red maple, elm, beech, and hemlock. A narrow fringe of alder is prevalent in many areas and gives way to spruce-fir a short distance from the river edge. Bracken, royal, and New York ferns are common. Bunchberry, dogwood and sorrell frequently carpet the forest floor. Alders

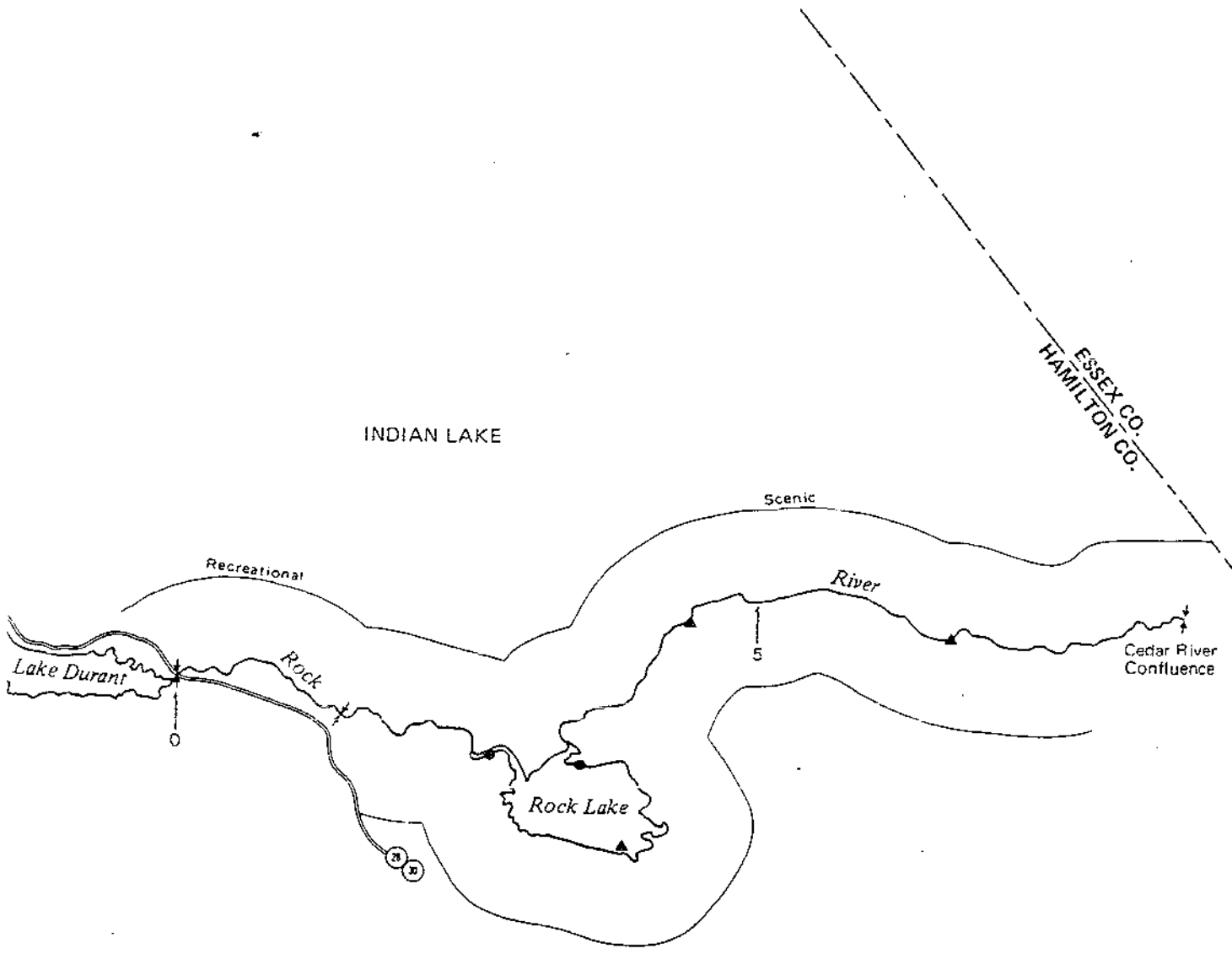
and beaver meadows predominate along 2.5-3.0, 4.8-5.0, and 8.0 to 8.1.

#### i. Wildlife

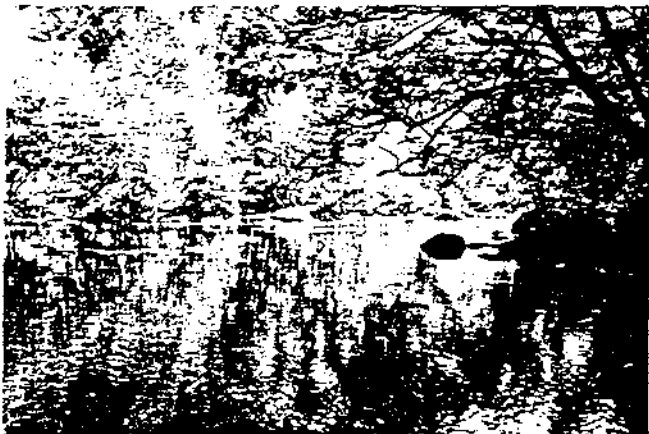
Signs of beaver, deer, mink, muskrat, and bear were commonly seen. Several ducks were flushed from the marshy sections of Rock Lake and the stillwater sections of Miles 6.0-8.0. Waters are inhabited by brook trout and many signs of fishing use were noted. The stream is stocked with brook trout by the Department of Environmental Conservation.

#### j. Special Interest Areas

There are three special interest areas of note in the stream corridor. Rock Lake in the vicinity of Mile 3.0 is a scenic lake, affording good canoeing and vistas of Blue Mountain and some lower adjacent mountains. A marshy



- ▲ Special interest area
- Scenic vista
- ↔ Classification change



area in the northwest corner invites waterfowl. There is a waterfall at 4.4 and a low falls with flume type rapids at 6.4.

k. Scenic Vistas

In addition to the views from Rock Lake, scenic vistas are had looking downstream from the beaver flow at Mile 2.7.

l. Proposed Facilities

None.

m. Proposed Acquisition

Not applicable, all state land.

Recommended Classification

Based upon the above described characteristics the Adirondack Park Agency finds 8.1 miles of the Rock River, from Lake Durant to the Cedar River, to be a worthy addition to the Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers System in the following manner:

Mile 0-1.2: *Recreational River*

Mile 1.2-8.1 (6.9 miles): *Scenic River*

Although the Scenic River section meets most of the requirements for a Wild River it was not so recommended because the flow in the river is regulated by the dam at Lake Durant.

The recommended river area is ½ mile from each bank, except from Lake Durant to Mile 1.4, where the southern boundary should be Route 28.



A report prepared by the Adirondack Park Agency in consultation and cooperation with the Department of Environmental Conservation pursuant to Section 15-2715 of Title 27 of the State Environmental Conservation Law.

Cartography by Margaret L. Baldwin, N.Y.S. Office of Planning Services



617.21

## Appendix F

## State Environmental Quality Review

**NEGATIVE DECLARATION**

## Notice of Determination of Non-Significance

Project Number \_\_\_\_\_

Date 5/17/93ID# N5-002105-00070

This notice is issued pursuant to Part 617 of the implementing regulations pertaining to Article 8 (State Environmental Quality Review Act) of the Environmental Conservation Law.

The NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, as lead agency, has determined that the proposed action described below will not have a significant effect on the environment and a Draft Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared.

Name of Action: Implementation of the Blue Mountain Wild Forest Unit Management Plan

SEQR Status: Type I   
Unlisted

Conditioned Negative Declaration:  Yes  
 No

Description of Action: SEE ATTACHED

**Location:** (Include street address and the name of the municipality/county. A location map of appropriate scale is also recommended.)

The area is located on Forest Preserve lands in the Town of Minerva, Essex County, and the Towns of Indian Lake and Long Lake, Hamilton County. A location map is attached.

**Reasons Supporting This Determination:**

(See 617.6(g) for requirements of this determination; see 617.6(h) for Conditioned Negative Declaration)

SEE ATTACHED

**If Conditioned Negative Declaration, provide on attachment the specific mitigation measures imposed.**

For Further Information:

Contact Person: Thomas Kapelewski, Senior Forester

Address: NYS Department of Environmental Conservation  
Northville, NY 12134-0458

Telephone Number: 518-863-4545

**For Type I Actions and Conditioned Negative Declarations, a Copy of this Notice Sent to:**

Commissioner, Department of Environmental Conservation, 50 Wolf Road, Albany, New York 12233-0001

Appropriate Regional Office of the Department of Environmental Conservation

Office of the Chief Executive Officer of the political subdivision in which the action will be principally located.

Applicant (if any)

Other involved agencies (if any)

SEQR NEGATIVE DECLARATION - BLUE MOUNTAIN WILD FOREST AREA**DESCRIPTION OF ACTION:**

The Department of Environmental Conservation proposes to manage 37,800 acres of wild forest classified land in accordance with the definitions and guidelines set forth in the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan, Article XIV of the NYS Constitution, Section 9 of the Environmental Conservation Law, opinions of several attorneys general and the State Land Master Plan provide the basis and authority for the proposed program actions. The plan identifies the constraints and issues affecting the unit and develops a series of goals and objectives which will govern the area's future management. The unit management plan will direct all management activities for a period of five years from the date of final adoption. Management activities planned for this unit include: boundary line surveying and marking, trail maintenance, minor facilities construction (trails, parking areas), facilities maintenance and rehabilitation, fish stocking, reclamation, fire suppression, search and rescue operations, research activities, public information and education, public use control systems, and patrolling and surveillance activities.

Specific proposed projects include (See UMP for complete listing):

Nordic Ski Trail - A marked trail of approximately 1.5 miles is proposed utilizing old logging roads starting and ending on a section of the Northville-Lake Placid Trail. This will keep any tree cutting to a minimum. The proposed trail in combination with marking of the hiking trail will allow a round trip ski loop of approximately 5 miles.

Snowmobile Trail Relocation and/or Improvements - Two sections of marked trail are proposed for construction to avoid problem areas on the existing trail and facilitate access between the communities of Indian Lake and Blue Mt. Lake. The eastern relocation is approximately 2.5 miles in length and would eliminate traversing a flooded wetland and rocky steep areas around Stark Hills. Two potential relocations for the western terminus of the existing snowmobile trail are also under consideration. Proposal A would follow the Route 28/30 highway ROW to Old Route 30 and terminate at the roadside DOT picnic/parking area. Proposal B would continue the existing trail to the north of Route 28/30 on an old carriage road for approximately 1.5 miles. A new trail (.2 miles) on NYS land would be developed to join a marked trail on private lands ending at a public parking facility in Blue Mt. Lake. The final location of these trails will determine the extent of any tree cutting required. Careful trail layout and utilization of old roads where appropriate will keep tree cutting to a minimum.

All Terrain Bicycles - Use by all terrain bicycles will be allowed on the Rock River Trail, Elm Island Trail, Lake Durant-Rock Lake Trail, and the Unknown Pond Trail.

Blue Mt. Trailhead and Summit Area - A display panel is proposed for the trailhead and summit area of Blue Mountain. This will educate the public on DEC rules and regulations along with providing relevant historical, geological, and natural resource information.

Pelon Road Parking Area - A five car parking area is proposed for construction to provide adequate parking and facilitate winter plowing.

Blue Mt. Lake Cemetary Road Parking Area - A three car parking area is proposed for construction to provide off the shoulder parking for users of the Cascade Pond Trail.

Other Lands and Forests activities include trail register and pit privy placement, replacement of the O'Neil leanto, primitive tentsite designation, forest inventory, and brochure development.

Fisheries activities include fish stocking and pond surveys. Reclamation of Unnamed Pond (UH-p635) is necessary to reduce or eliminate the nonnative and native-but-widely-introduces fishes and thus achieve the low levels of competition necessary for viable brook trout populations.

**REASONS SUPPORTING THIS DETERMINATION:**

1. The area will be managed in accordance with wild forest guidelines established in the Adirondack State Land Master Plan. These guidelines and various statutes have been developed to protect the resources of the area. All management activities proposed in the plan have also been addressed in various Programmatic Environmental Impact Statements. These include the final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for Forest Preserve Interior Recreation Program, ID# PS-13, November 9, 1981, and the final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement, Acquisition of Lands by the Department of Environmental Conservation, March 1988.
2. Physical disturbance due to trailhead parking construction will be limited to tree cutting and gravel application. Overall parking area development will be minor (total of eight cars) and is intended to provide safe and appropriate access to public land. No trees are needed to be cut at the Cascade Pond Trailhead Parking Area. The Pelon Road Parking Area will not be developed until the adjacent Indian Lake Landfill is closed. While a specific location for the five car parking area was not determined it is not anticipated that a significant number trees would need to be cut. Public safety concerns will be enhanced by properly sighting parking areas and provide for needed facilities where the public currently parks on private land or on the road shoulder. Prior to any site disturbance, an archaeological investigation will be undertaken in areas identified by the NYS Archaeological Site Locations Map. Information boards will be erected at trailhead parking lots to convey the rules and regulations governing the use of forest preserve land and to instruct users in techniques for minimum impact camping, proper human sanitation, precautions concerning giardia, etc.
3. The construction of the proposed snowmobile and Nordic Ski trail, trailhead and parking areas will involve an immaterial amount of tree cutting. This activity will comply with the Commissioner's Delegation Memorandum, #84-06, on the cutting, removal or destruction of trees on Forest Preserve lands. These actions will also comply with the wild forest management guidelines of the State Land Master Plan. Physical disturbance in both new trail construction and existing trail maintenance will be controlled by drytread, culverts, waterbars, switchbacks or drainage ditches to mitigate soil erosion and compaction.
4. Public use will be enhanced but is not expected to increase greatly as a result of management activities proposed in this plan. The relocation of specific trails and trailheads to State land will eliminate previous conflicts and trespassing on private lands. Site designation will control camping activity adjacent to trails and water.
5. Critical plant and animal habitats have been identified within the unit and proposed actions have been sited to avoid these areas.
6. Pond reclamation and fish stocking will be a continuation of ongoing programs and is covered under the final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement on Fish Species Management Activities ID# 000-S022, dated June 1980 and the DEC Policy Information Paper on Chemical Reclamation as a Fish Management Tool in New York State, October 16, 1992.
7. The impacts associated with this unit were evaluated in a Full Environmental Assessment Form. All impacts were determined to be small, affecting a relatively small percentage of the total project area.

## Forest Stewardship Plan



Name: Town of Indian Lake; R. Purdue, Supervisor County: Hamilton Town: Indian Lake  
Street: Pelon Road Telephone: (518)648-5885  
City: Indian Lake State: NY Zip: 12842

Total Acres Owned: 158.4 Acres Covered in Plan: 158.4 Aerial Photos: 1-207 (1974)

*Owner's Management Goals*

Indian Lake's primary management goal for this parcel is to provide a staging site for users of the Indian River. Associated goals are public access and use of the entire parcel for undeveloped recreational uses, maintenance of existing trails, and timber management targetted toward maintaining a healthy forest/wildlife ecosystem.

*Specific Management Recommendations***Recreation Management:**

The 17 acre parcel in the easterly corner of the property is intended to be developed as a staging area for the canoeists and commercial rafters using the Indian River. Development of this area will include a parking area, a staging area for users of the river, and a primitive camping area with pit privies. Tree cutting is planned to be limited to that which is necessary to develop the planned facilities, and for safety and aesthetic purposes.

Design assistance for the developed facilities will be requested through the Hamilton County Soil & Water Conservation District. Prevention of erosion, direct runoff into the river from the parking area, and possible pollution from the sanitary facilities will be of primary importance in this design.

In the remaining 141.4 acres, the recreational rights and development rights are owned by the U S Forest Service. Recreational facility development and maintenance in this portion will require approval of the Department of Environmental Conservation as a representative of the U S Forest Service. The following activities would require specific approval prior to initiating the actions.

The trail to Bullhead Pond will be maintained as a foot trail. Timber harvest activities that may occur will be limited along this trail. Harvesting that occurs within 150' of either side of the trail will be modified to protect the recreational integrity of the trail.

The property will be open to public hunting and fishing. Access associated with these activities on the 141.4 acre section of the property will be limited to foot travel. No recreational vehicle trails or motor vehicle trails are planned. Access to the back section is planned to be provided via the trail to Bullhead Pond. A deeded 25' right-of-way owned by the US Forest Service, to provide legal access if needed, also exists along the southeasterly line of the 17 acre parcel.

Development of a hiking/cross country ski trail would provide an additional public recreational opportunity. The terrain within the property varies from rolling hilltops, to steep side slopes, to low wetlands. A trail which traverses the various ecological zones and terrain features would offer public recreational and educational benefits.

**Wildlife Management:**

The spruce-fir type on the property shows heavy use as a deer wintering area. The hardwood browse that exists exhibits symptoms of heavy over-browsing. Nearly all of the browse is stunted and deformed from repeated clipping of branch tips.

Forester: Jeffrey A. Meuwissen Telephone: (518) 863-4545 Date:

DEC Office: S. Main St. Extension, Northville, NY 12134

As owner, I (we) agree that this management plan reflects my (our) goals and intentions for the management of this property.

Owner's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



**Forest Stewardship Plan - continued - pg 2**

Forest management activities aimed toward increasing the hardwood browse in the spruce-fir type and the adjacent hardwood type will provide important winter food to the deer utilizing the area. An even-aged cutting plan which establishes a 100 year rotation and a cutting cycle of 20 years will help to maintain important softwood cover in the older age classes and provide regeneration of food and cover species. This would allow cutting approximately 15 acres every 20 years in the spruce-fir type. Cutting should be planned to harvest three 5-acre units in long, narrow, irregular shapes which do not break up the contiguity of blocks of the older age classes.

Snowshoe hares were noted to be utilizing portions of the spruce-fir type in the northerly corner of the property and in the lowland portion located centrally within the property. Modification of the management option for maximizing deer browse by reducing the rotation age to 80 years would provide benefit to snowshoe hare habitat with only a minimal reduction in benefit to deer.

Although the outlet of Bullhead Pond passes through the northerly corner of the property, it is of little value as a fisheries source. The terrain adjoining the stream is quite steep. The area immediately adjacent to the stream is wetland which should be protected from any disturbance caused by harvesting or equipment use.

**Timber Management:**

Timber management of this property is a secondary goal of ownership.

Timber harvests will be conducted under the planning and control of the town forester or other professional forester.

The spruce-fir stand is occupied by pole sized red spruce and balsam fir with a small amount of sawtimber scattered throughout. It occupies a poorly drained area in the central portion of the property and a higher, more well drained portion in the northerly portion that was pastureland at one time. Primary species are red spruce, balsam fir, red maple and aspen. The trail to Bullhead Pond bisects this type.

Although the stand is presently marginal for timber harvest, it may be possible to set up a harvest with management aimed at incorporating the wildlife management options. Harvests should be restricted to fall and winter. Any harvest activities in the poorly drained areas should be restricted to the winter season only when the ground is sufficiently frozen to support logging equipment.

As mentioned in the wildlife management discussion, this type should be managed under an even-aged management system.

The northern hardwood type is located on the upland area in the southerly portion of the property and extends down the slope in a northerly direction toward the spruce-fir type. Primary species are sugar maple, yellow birch and red maple. The lower slopes have a smaller sugar maple component. A sugar bush was located at the height of ground many years ago.

The timber is pole sized with a slightly larger percentage of sawtimber. Quality is generally low and the primary product from this stand would be pulpwood in any initial harvests. The management goal of this stand should be uneven-aged with sugar maple and yellow birch the primary species. On the lower slopes adjacent to the spruce-fir type, an even-aged modification to encourage deer browse could be used.

Logging road and skid trails should be carefully laid out prior to beginning any harvest to avoid erosion and disturbance to sensitive poorly drained soils. These trails will be barricaded after harvest to prevent vehicular access.

**Forest Health & Fire Protection:**

Forest insects and diseases are presently not perceived to be a problem. Managers should stay alert to changes in forest health and seek assistance if problems are detected.

Fire protection may become important once public use of the planned camping area and parking area occurs. Increased public use will consequently cause an increase in fire hazard. Location of the camping area and associated campfire facilities must be carefully planned. Lopping of softwood tops as required by Conservation Law and control of activities during periods of high fire danger will help to reduce fire hazard.

**Soil & Water Protection:**

As previously mentioned, design assistance for the developed facilities will be provided by the Hamilton County Soil & Water Conservation District.

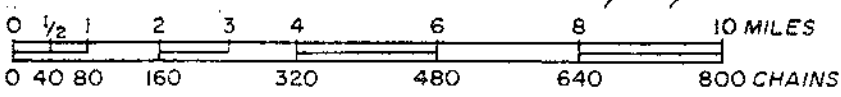
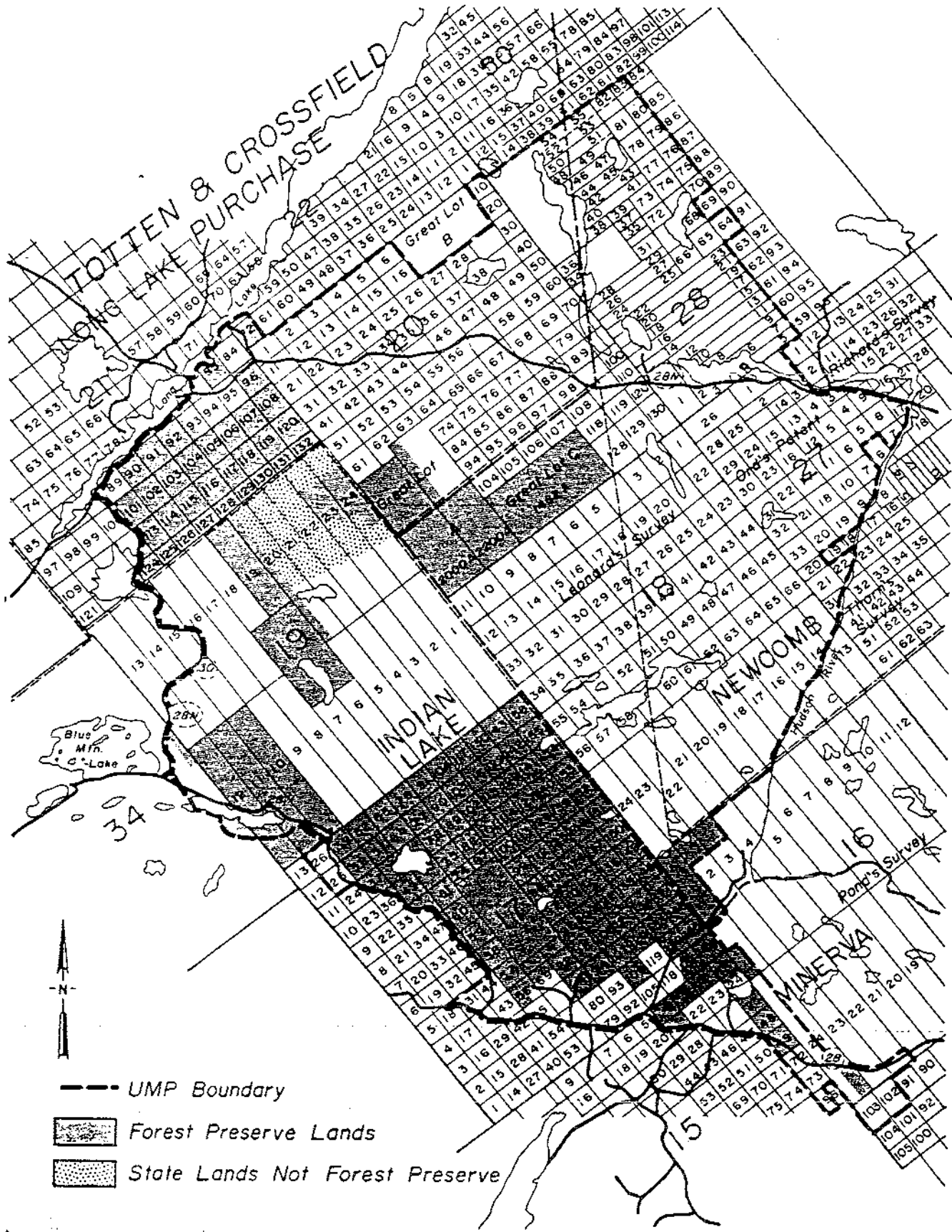
Harvesting activities will follow Best Management Practices and will seek to minimize erosion through careful road layout and timing of activity to avoid wet seasons.

**Rare & Endangered Species; Significant Habitats:**

There are no known rare or endangered species or significant habitats present on the property or in the immediate vicinity.

# BLUE MOUNTAIN WILD FOREST

# ADIRONDACK MAP



BOOK 209 PAGE 815

DENINO, NY 1000  
FINGER LKS, NY

## Proposed Easement Desc.

All that easement to be exercised on, over, under and through lands situate in that portion of Lot 119 of Township 17 of Totten and Crossfield's Purchase in the Town of Indian Lake, County of Hamilton and State of New York, bounded and described as follows:

Beginning at a point marked by a pointed stone with a drill hole in the center of a pile of stones being the common corner of Lots 106, 119, 118 and 105 and the southwest corner of Lot 119; running thence from said point of beginning in a northwesterly direction along the easterly line of lot 106 and westerly line of 119 N23°14'25"W a distance of 2640.0 feet to a point in a pointed stone with a drill hole set in the center of a stone pile for the northwest corner of lot 119 and common corner of Lots 107, 120, 119 and 106; thence in a northeasterly direction along the southerly line of lot 120 and northerly line of lot 119 N66°39'35"E a distance of 2613.88 feet to a point in a one inch wagon axle in a pile of stones for the northeast corner of lot 119, said point being also the common corner of lots 119, 120, 131 and 132; thence in a southerly direction along the easterly line of lot 119 and the westerly line of lot 132 S23°10'37"E a distance of 1,423.02 feet to a point on an iron pipe; thence in a southwesterly direction S21°44'29"W a distance of 1723.52 feet to a point in a 1/2" drill hole in a boulder in the boundary between the north line of 118 and the southerly line of lot 119; thence in a westerly direction S66°39'35"W a distance of 1393.93 feet to the point or place of beginning containing 141.33 acres be the same more or less. Together with a 25 foot right of way for ingress, egress and regress with in the bounds of lot 119 along the southerly bounds of said lot 119 between the above described parcel and the Chain Lakes Road.

BR

I hereby certify that this Proposed description was prepared by me in accordance with New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Map No. 11,156, also prepared by me.

AR Young

EXHIBIT A

BOOK 209 PAGE 816

EXHIBIT B

CONSERVATION EASEMENT TERMS

With respect to the meaning of the following provisions, the restrictions and obligations placed upon the "GRANTORS" shall apply in the same way to their heirs and assigns, as well as the employees, agents, lessees, or independent contractors of the GRANTORS, their heirs and assigns. Similarly, the rights of the "GRANTEE" shall apply in the same way to the GRANTEE's assigns, or other person or entity to which the GRANTEE has delegated authority.

I. USE OF THE EASEMENT AREA BY THE GRANTORS

- A. The easement area shall not used by the GRANTORS for any purpose except timber management, which includes, but is not limited to, the planting and harvesting of trees and the construction of necessary skid and haul roads.
- B. State law notwithstanding, subdivision of lands within the easement area by the GRANTORS is prohibited.
- C. No building, structure, or other improvement, including, but not limited to, mobile homes, utility poles, and fences, may be constructed, reconstructed, renovated, erected, or moved on the easement area. Notwithstanding this provision, the GRANTORS may construct necessary skid and haul roads as allowed by paragraph A.
- D. The placement of location of billboards or advertising structures on the easement area is prohibited without prior written approval of the GRANTEE.
- E. The placement of any trash, junk, garbage, sewage, solid waste, hazardous substance, hazardous waste, or any unsightly or offensive material or waste within the easement area is prohibited.
- F. Changes in the general topography of the landscape or land surface within the easement area, including changes caused by the removal of gravel, are prohibited, unless such changes were caused exclusively by the forces of nature or were given prior written approval by the GRANTEE.

EXHIBIT C

- G. No utility rights of way shall be located within the easement area subsequent to the date of this instrument unless they are approved in advance, and in writing, by the GRANTEE. At a minimum such rights-of-way shall require subsurface location of all wires, pipes, conduits, and other structures involved. Any conflict between this clause and others contained herein shall be governed by this clause.
- H. Any construction or reconstruction of trails on the easement area by the GRANTORS is prohibited, except with prior written approval of the GRANTEE. If approved, said construction or reconstruction shall be at the expense of the GRANTORS.

II. USE OF THE EASEMENT AREA BY THE GRANTEE

- A. The GRANTEE may enter upon the easement area to inspect for violations of the provisions of this conservation easement.
- B. The GRANTEE may post regulatory and other notices as well as monument the easement area boundaries on selected portions of the easement area for the purposes of promoting the provisions of this easement and public recreational use of the easement area. No such notice may be posted without prior notification of the landowner.
- C. The GRANTEE may construct, reconstruct, locate, relocate, develop, operate, use and maintain trails, overlooks, observation points, vistas, and other facilities to enable or enhance dispersed recreational use of the easement area by the public.
- D. The GRANTEE may mark, cut, and remove all dead, dying, diseased, insect-infested trees and shrubs, which in the opinion of the GRANTEE, or its authorized representative, detract from the aesthetics or natural and scenic qualities of the easement area.
- E. The GRANTEE may plant and/or prune trees and shrubs for the purposes of restoring or maintaining the natural and scenic qualities of the easement area as well as for the purpose of disease prevention.

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3.

- F. The GRANTEE may conduct activities for scenic, aesthetic, historical, fish and wildlife, water quality, monitoring, sanitation, and restoration purposes as may be deemed necessary or desirable to protect and promote the natural qualities of the area. The landowner shall be notified prior to initiation of such actions.
- G. For administrative purposes, the GRANTEE may access and traverse the easement area, using motor vehicles, including but not limited to cars, trucks, all terrain vehicles, and snowmobiles.
- H. The GRANTEE will conduct activities upon the easement area, pursuant to Sections II. A-G, at no expense to the GRANTORS unless it has been determined by the GRANTEE that actions of the GRANTORS have caused the need for such activities to be conducted by the GRANTEE.

III. Use of the Easement Area by the Public

- A. The GRANTEE may allow or authorize the public to enter upon, traverse, and otherwise use the easement area for dispersed recreational purposes. The GRANTEE, at its sole discretion, may permit, administer, restrict and otherwise control the public's access and use of the easement area, consistent with the provisions and purposes of this easement and the applicable regulatory and land management authorities of the GRANTEE.
- B. Notwithstanding any other provision of this instrument, and excepting snowmobile use, off-road use by the public of motor vehicles, including but not limited to cars, trucks, and all terrain vehicles, within the easement area is prohibited.

Nothing herein is to be construed to obligate monies of the United States in advance of appropriation thereof.

RK

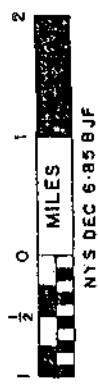
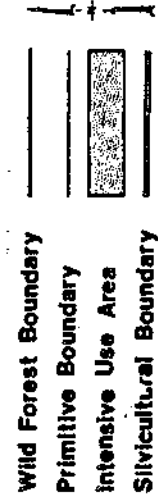
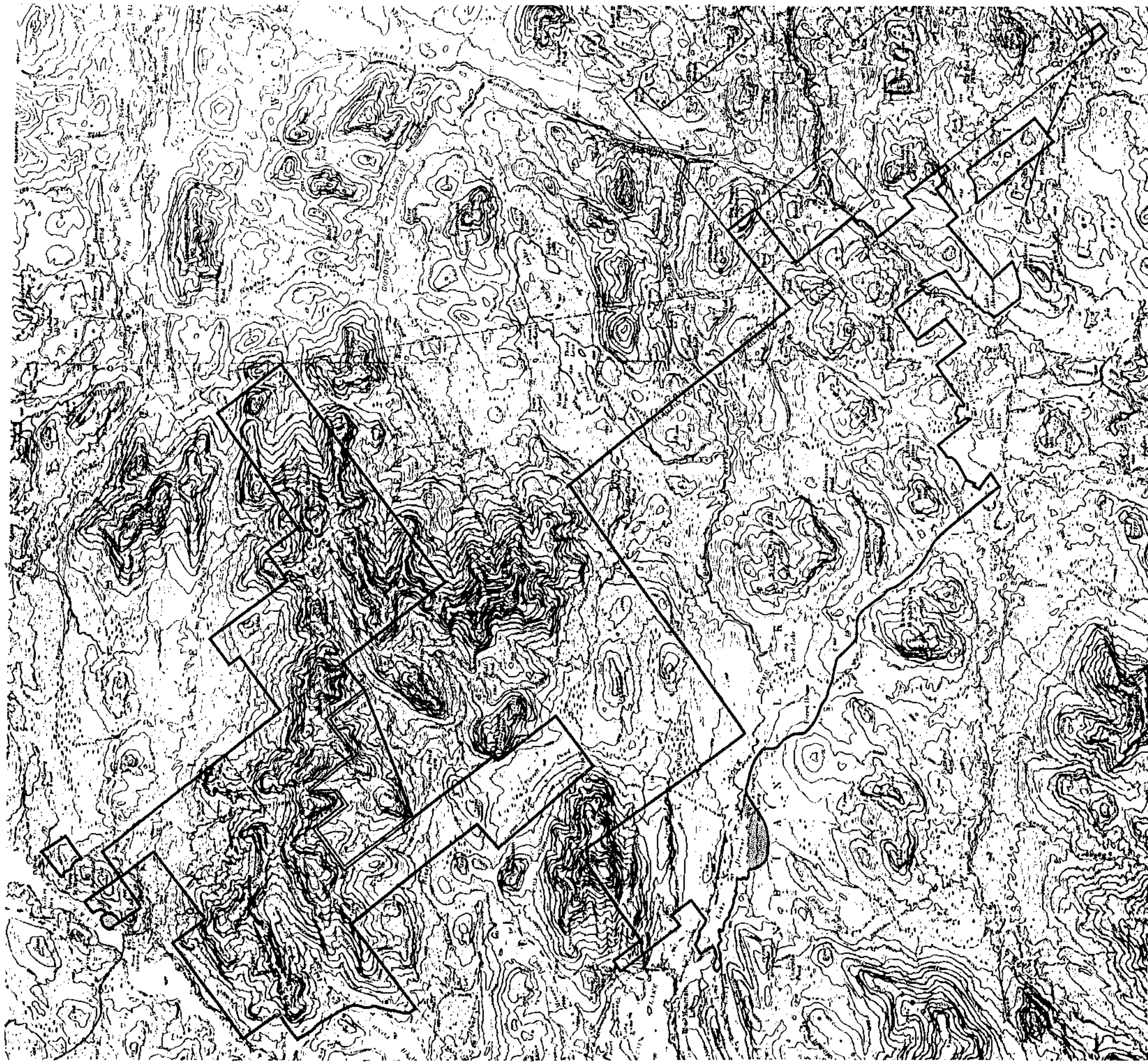
Green Mtn + Finger Lakes N.F.  
231 North Main Street  
Rutland, VT 05701

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S. [Signature]  
REAL ESTATE  
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TRANSFER TAX  
HAMILTON COUNTY

RECORDED Aug 26, 1994  
# 1013 N. Book 209  
of Seed  
Page 811 and attached  
Margaret F. Bodina  
Hamilton County Clerk

# BLUE MOUNTAIN WILD FOREST



MAP 1

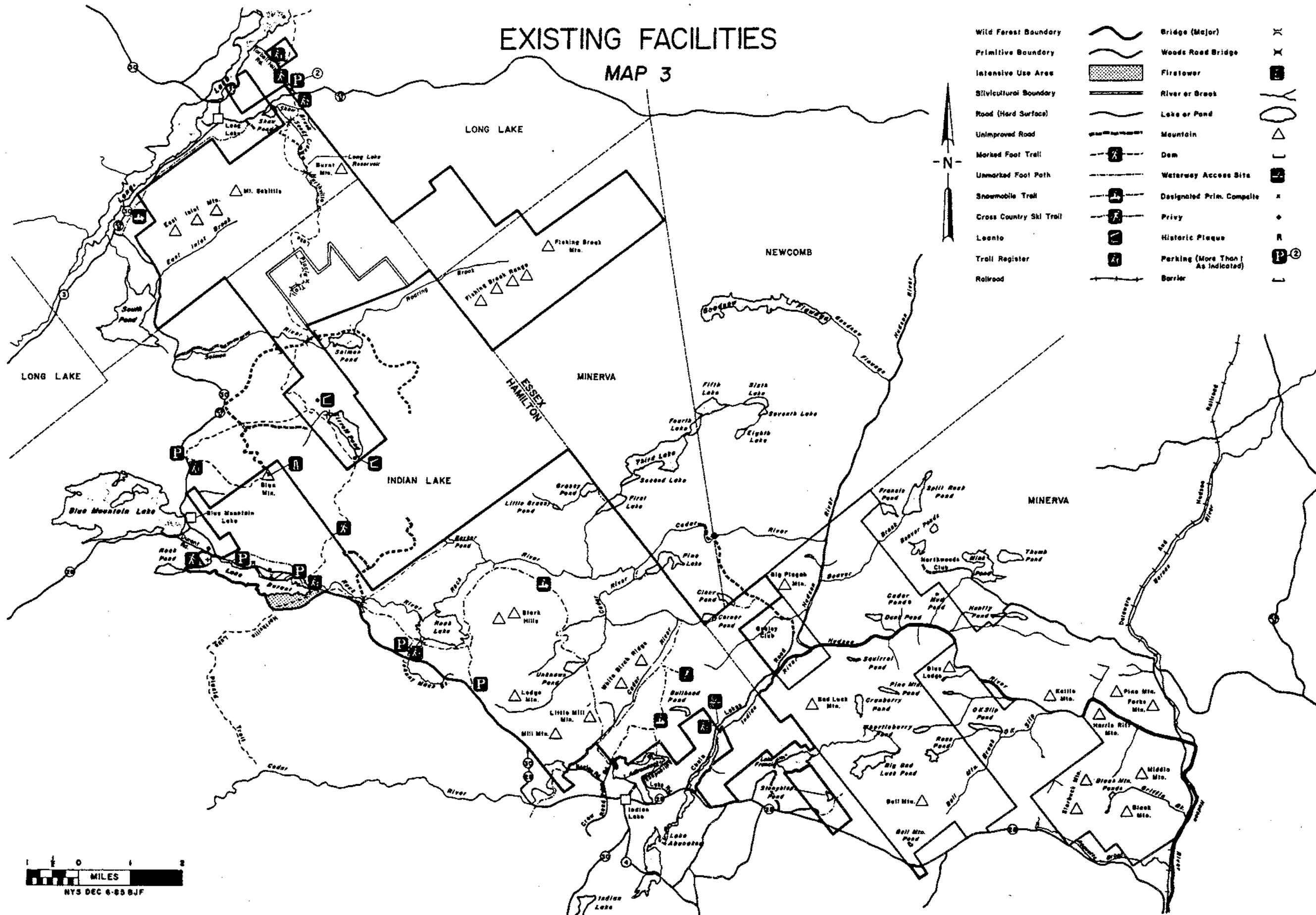




# BLUE MOUNTAIN WILD FOREST AND HUDSON GORGE PRIMITIVE AREAS

## EXISTING FACILITIES

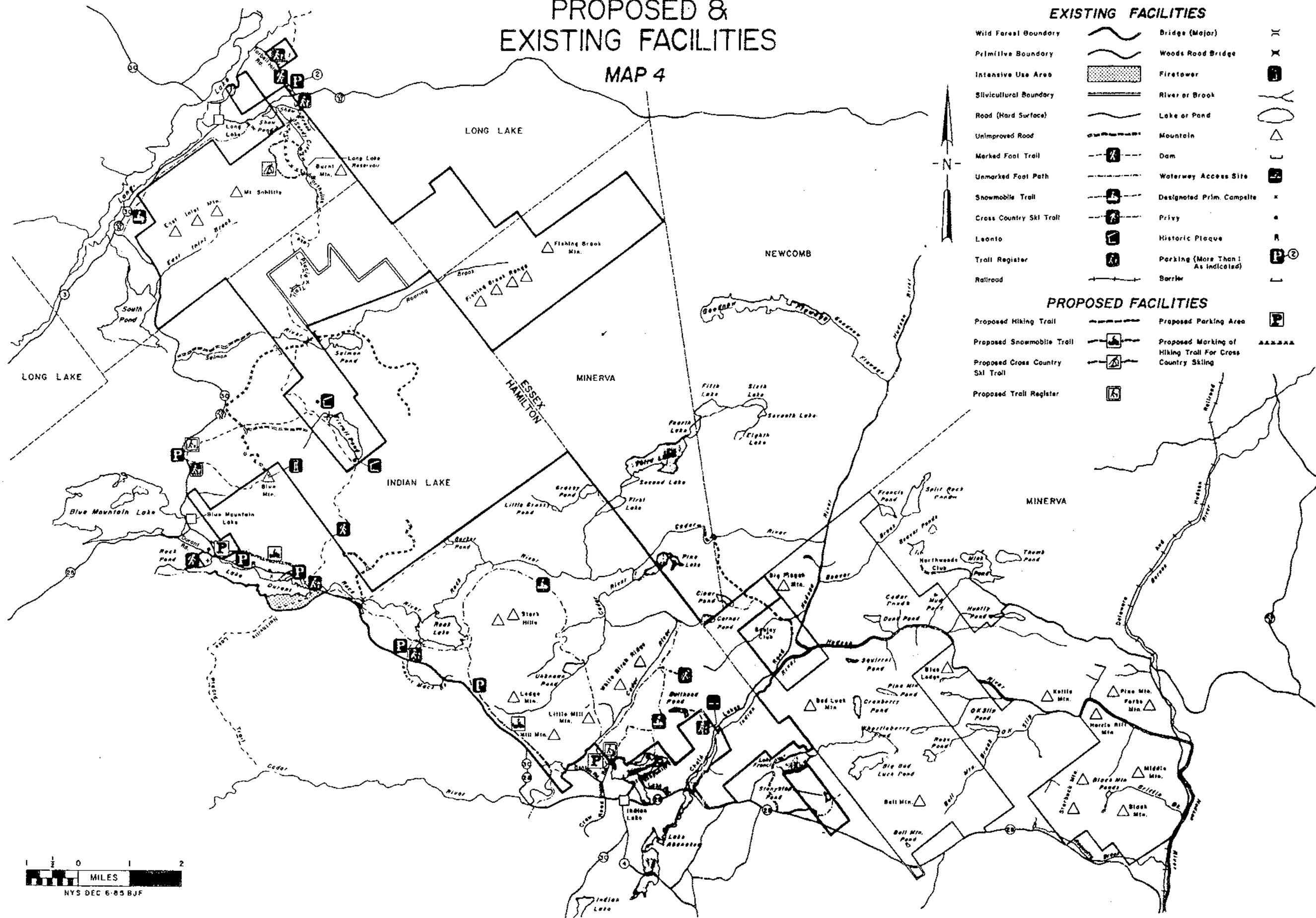
MAP 3



# BLUE MOUNTAIN WILD FOREST AND HUDSON GORGE PRIMITIVE AREAS

## PROPOSED & EXISTING FACILITIES

MAP 4



### EXISTING FACILITIES

- |                         |  |                                    |  |
|-------------------------|--|------------------------------------|--|
| Wild Forest Boundary    |  | Bridge (Major)                     |  |
| Primitive Boundary      |  | Woods Road Bridge                  |  |
| Intensive Use Area      |  | Firetower                          |  |
| Silvicultural Boundary  |  | River or Brook                     |  |
| Road (Hard Surface)     |  | Lake or Pond                       |  |
| Unimproved Road         |  | Mountain                           |  |
| Marked Foot Trail       |  | Dam                                |  |
| Unmarked Foot Path      |  | Waterway Access Site               |  |
| Snowmobile Trail        |  | Designated Prim. Campsite          |  |
| Cross Country Ski Trail |  | Privy                              |  |
| Leanto                  |  | Historic Plaque                    |  |
| Trail Register          |  | Parking (More Than 1 As Indicated) |  |
| Railroad                |  | Barrier                            |  |

### PROPOSED FACILITIES

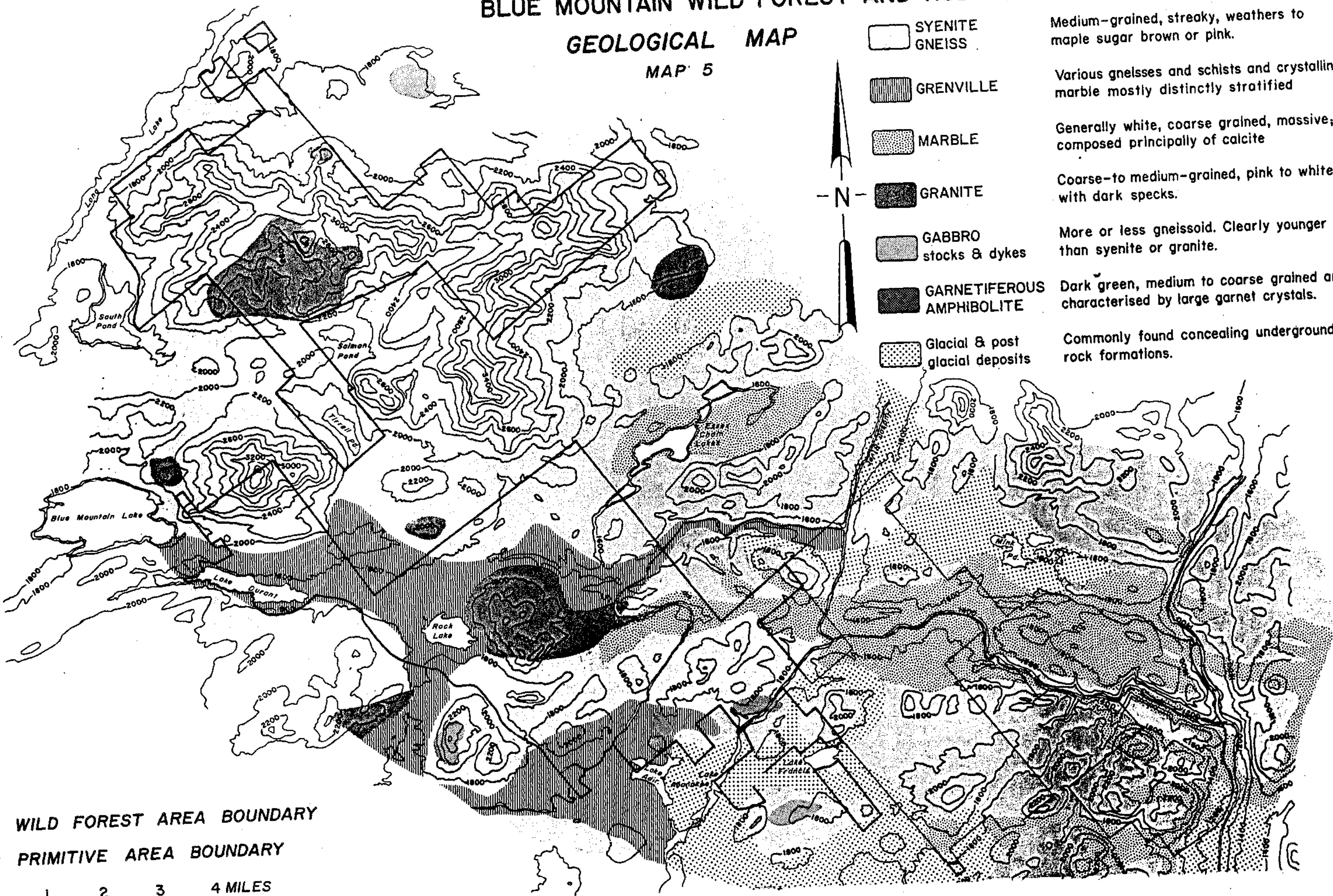
- |                                  |  |   |  |
|----------------------------------|--|---|--|
| Proposed Hiking Trail            |  | Proposed Parking Area                                     |  |
| Proposed Snowmobile Trail        |  | Proposed Marking of Hiking Trail For Cross Country Skiing |  |
| Proposed Cross Country Ski Trail |  |   |  |
| Proposed Trail Register          |  |   |  |

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# BLUE MOUNTAIN WILD FOREST AND HUDSON GORGE PRIMITIVE AREAS

## GEOLOGICAL MAP

MAP 5



SYENITE GNEISS

Medium-grained, streaky, weathers to maple sugar brown or pink.

GRENVILLE

Various gneisses and schists and crystalline marble mostly distinctly stratified

MARBLE

Generally white, coarse grained, massive, composed principally of calcite

GRANITE

Coarse-to medium-grained, pink to white, with dark specks.

GABBRO stocks & dykes

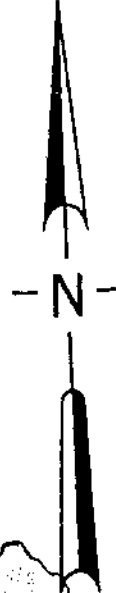
More or less gneissoid. Clearly younger than syenite or granite.

GARNETIFEROUS AMPHIBOLITE

Dark green, medium to coarse grained and characterised by large garnet crystals.

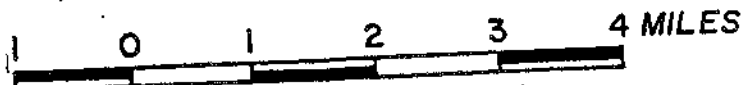
Glacial & post glacial deposits

Commonly found concealing underground rock formations.



— WILD FOREST AREA BOUNDARY

— PRIMITIVE AREA BOUNDARY

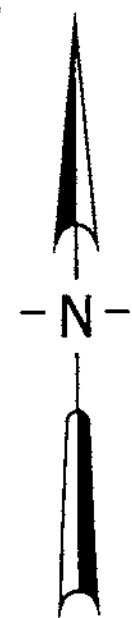


# BLUE MOUNTAIN WILD FOREST AND HUDSON GORGE PRIMITIVE AF

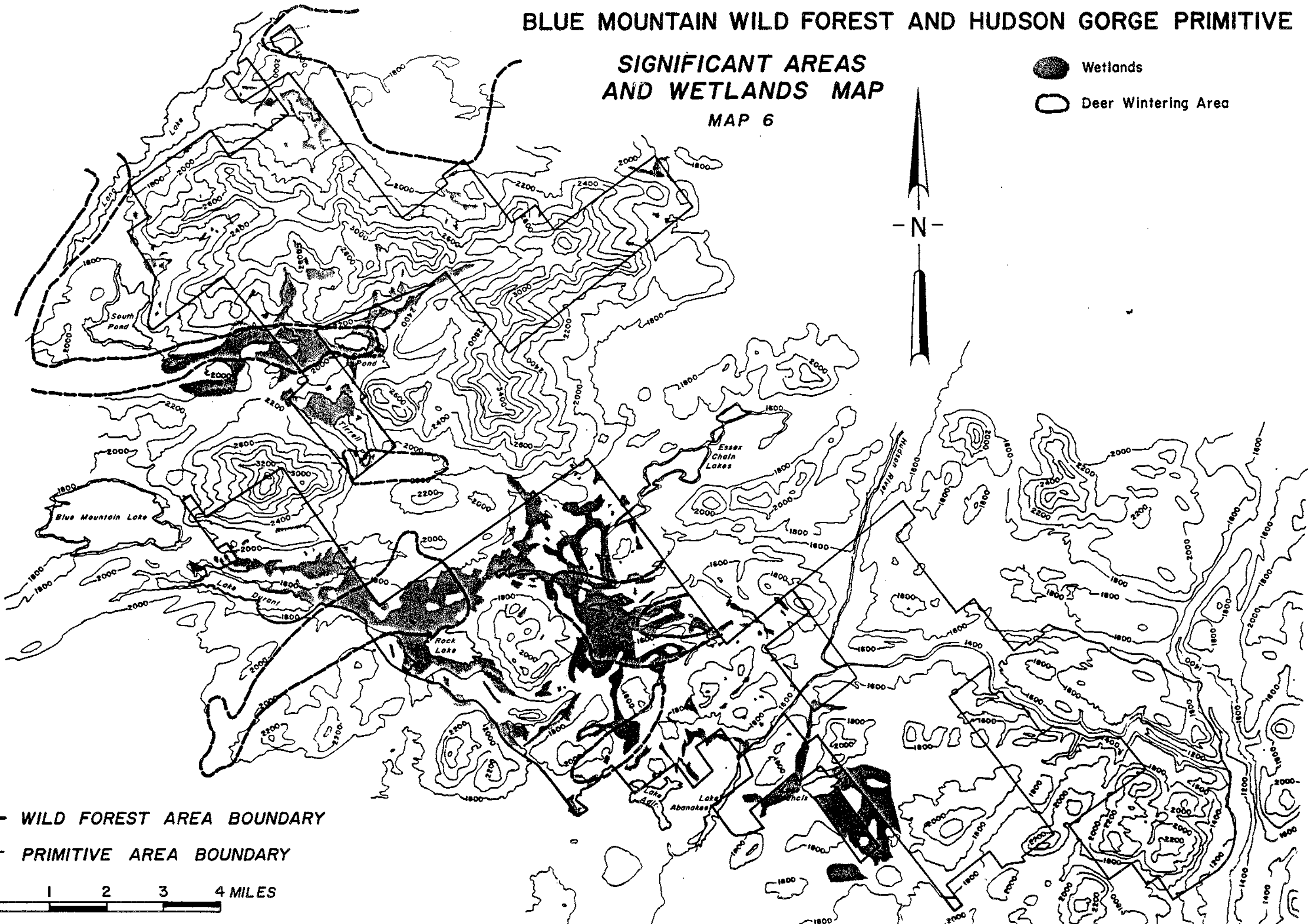
## SIGNIFICANT AREAS AND WETLANDS MAP

MAP 6

- Wetlands
- Deer Wintering Area



- WILD FOREST AREA BOUNDARY
- PRIMITIVE AREA BOUNDARY



**GUIDELINES FOR HIKERS AND CAMPERS**









The forest and mountain environment of the Adirondacks offer numerous opportunities for recreational pleasure, nature appreciation, and a rejuvenating escape from the urban world. Help maintain the natural character of these public lands that constitute New York State's unique and precious Adirondack Forest Preserve. Your efforts to care for our wild environment will enhance the enjoyment of it for yourself and those that follow. Please observe these simple guidelines:

- What you carry in, carry out. Leave the woods cleaner than you found them. Bring a garbage bag and carry out more than you carried in. Burying of refuse is prohibited.
- Observe and enjoy the wildlife and plant life but leave them undisturbed.
- Camping—Carry a tent in case lean-tos are full. Unless the site is designated by a DEC sign, you must camp at least 150 feet from water, roads, and trails. Choose clear, level ground to pitch your tent and disturb as little ground cover as possible in the vicinity of your campsite.
- Water Supply—Wash your dishes, clothes, and yourself at least 150 feet from any surface water. Do not drink any untreated water.
- Human Waste—if there are no toilets nearby, dig a trench 8 inches deep and cover completely when you break camp. Stay 150 feet away from (and below) any water supply.
- Fires—if you must build one, choose bare level ground and clear away leaves, twigs, and duff down to mineral soil for a distance of 3 feet. Use only dead and down wood and be sure the fire is completely extinguished before you leave. Better yet, carry a portable stove for cooking in case of inclement weather. Be extra careful with cigarettes and matches.
- Observe all posted regulations and be considerate of fellow recreationists.
- Plan your trip carefully according to routes and time available. Carry the latest guidebooks and maps.
- Always let someone know where you are going and when you expect to return. Sign all trail registers you encounter.
- Check weather reports before you set out.
- Be prepared for unexpected emergencies. Even on a day trip bring a tarp for shelter, whistle for signaling, compass, pocket knife, waterproof matches, candle, high energy food items such as candy, water, flashlight with extra batteries, first aid kit, rain gear and extra protective clothing.
- In case of an accident, at least one person should remain with the injured person. Others should carefully note the location and contact the local forest ranger.

- Notify the local forest ranger if any of your companions become lost.
- If you become lost, keep calm, stay where you are and keep warm. If you feel you can find your way out, remember that following streams downhill will nearly always lead you back to signs of habitation. A large smokey fire is your best means of signaling your position.
- A few of the trails in the Blue Mountain Lake Region traverse private lands with the owner's permission. Please stay on the marked trail and do not trespass beyond the trail corridor. Respect the rights of the landowner by not camping, building fires, or otherwise misusing these private lands.

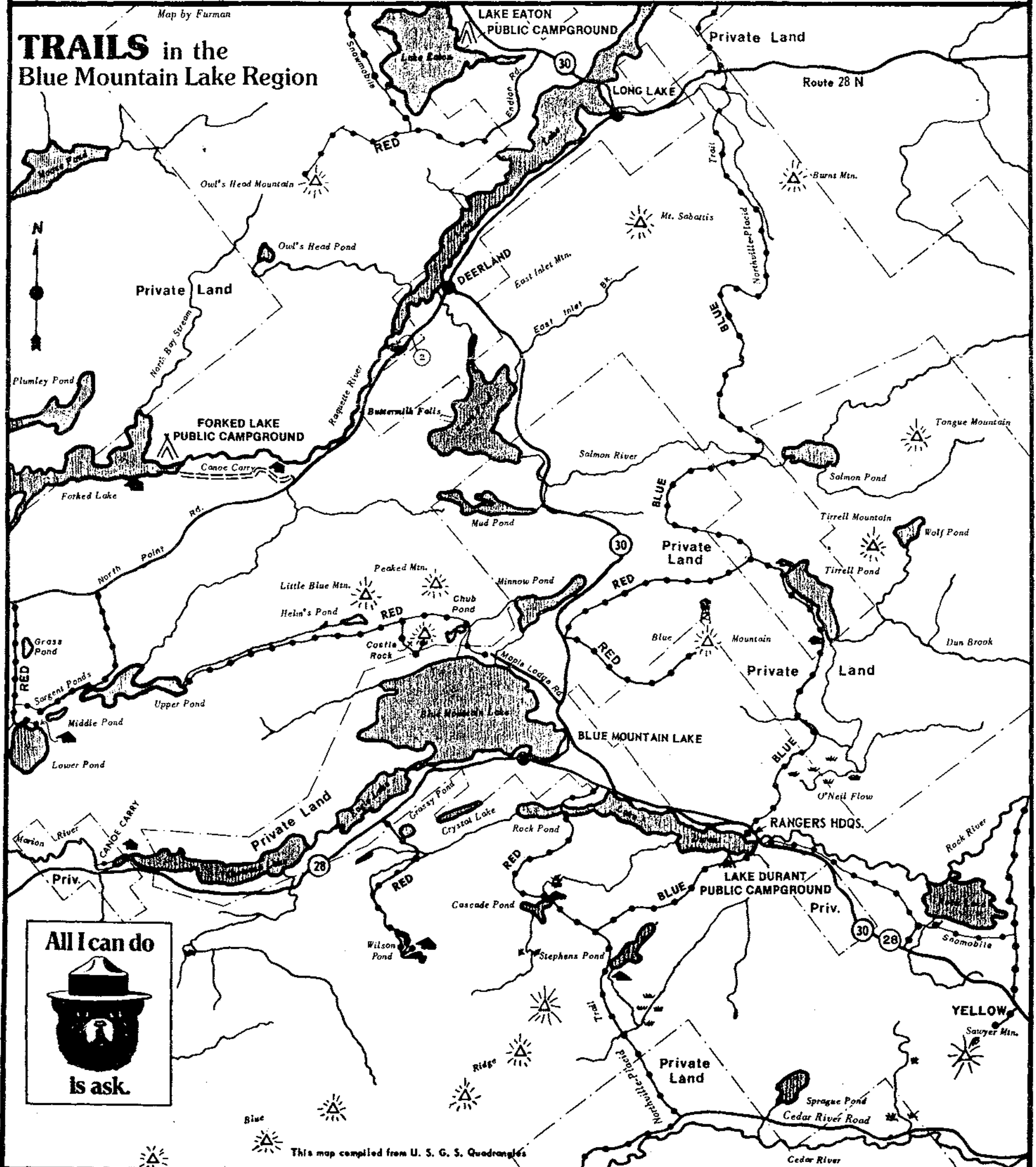
If you take your dog along on these trails please exercise consideration toward fellow users of State lands. When others approach, particularly small children and other animals, leash your dog. Keep your dog quiet. Keep your dog out of sources of potable water. Remove droppings from the trail and campsite area. Remember that others have no knowledge of your dog's temperament, and they may react accordingly.

**LEGEND**

 Foot Trails	 Major Highways
 Firetowers	 Improved Highways
 Lean-to's	 Public Campgrounds
 Mountains	 Villages

0 4 8 12 16 MILES

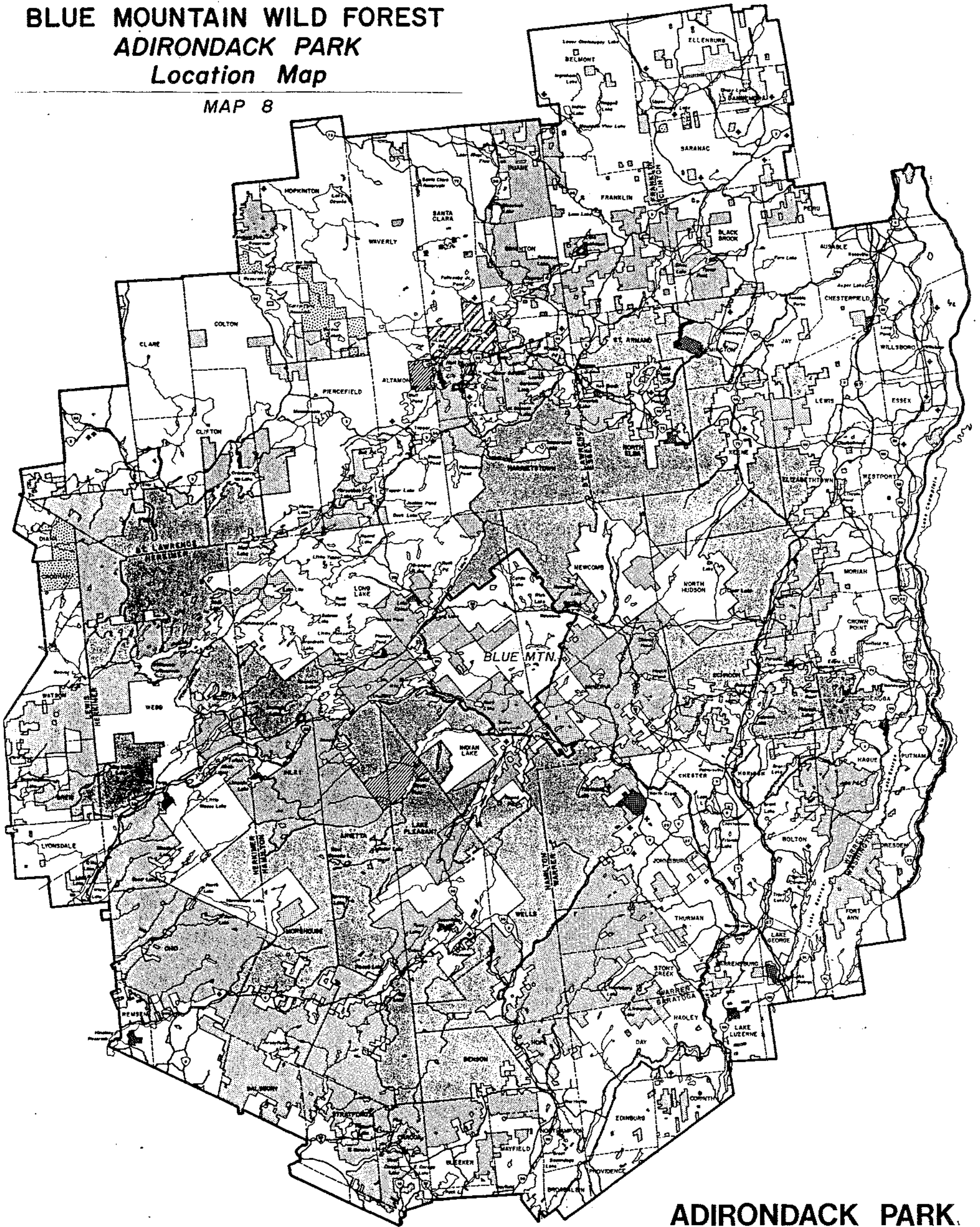
**TRAILS in the Blue Mountain Lake Region**



This map compiled from U. S. G. S. Quadrangles

# BLUE MOUNTAIN WILD FOREST ADIRONDACK PARK Location Map

MAP 8



## ADIRONDACK PARK STATE LAND CLASSIFICATION NYS DEC

