

Department of Environmental Conservation

Division of Lands and Forests

Aldrich Pond Wild Forest Oswegatchie Easement Lands Unit Management Plan

February 1995



New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
GEORGE E. PATAKI, *Governor*

LANGDON MARSH, *Commissioner*

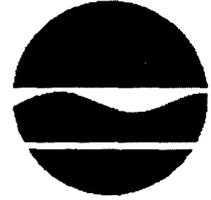
**ALDRICH POND WILD FOREST
OSWEGATCHIE EASEMENT LANDS
UNIT MANAGEMENT PLAN**

NYS DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

**George E. Pataki
Governor**

**Langdon Marsh
Commissioner**

**MEMORANDUM FROM
LANGDON MARSH, Commissioner**

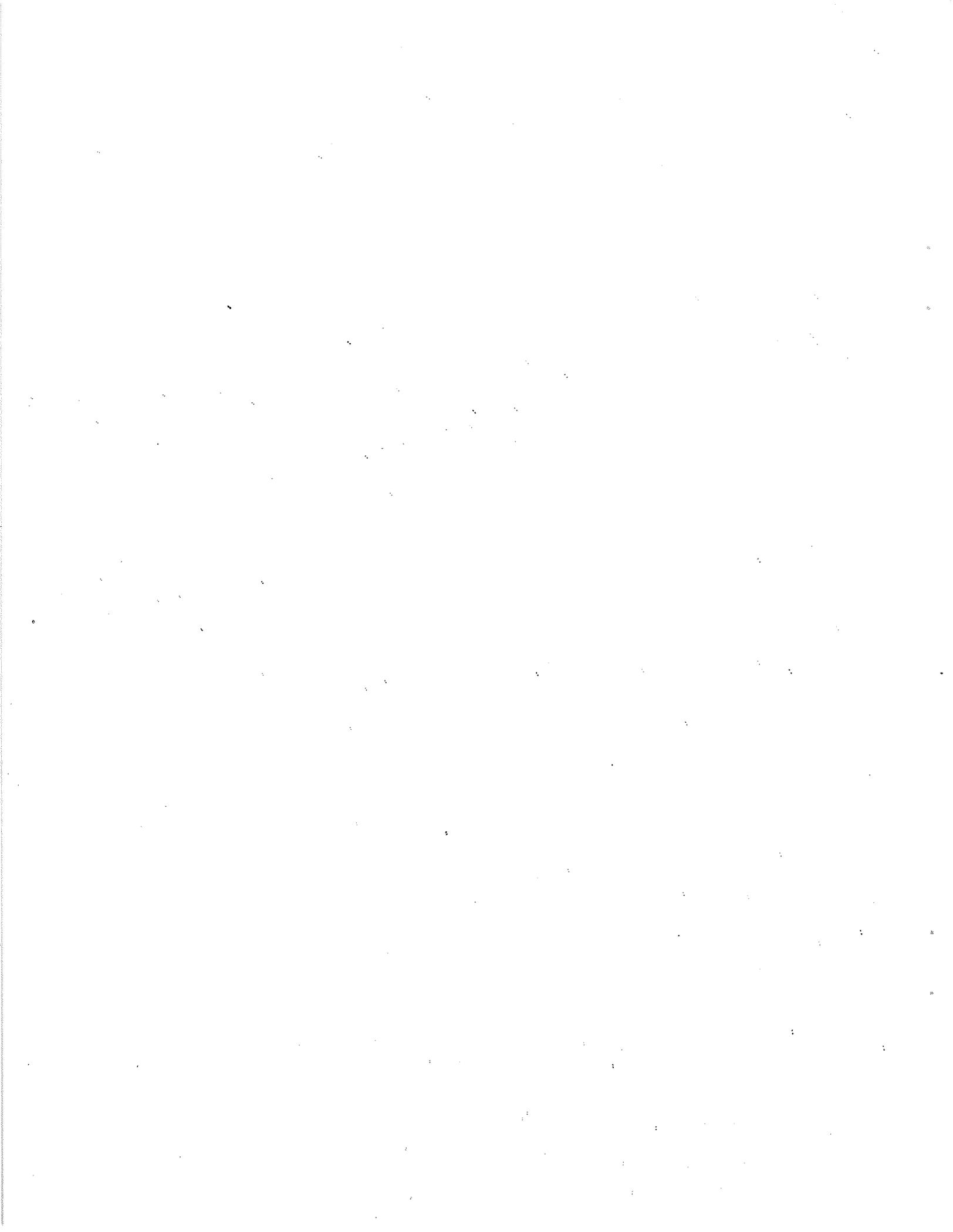


New York State
Department of Environmental Conservation

FEB 3 1995

TO: The Record
FROM: Langdon Marsh *Langdon Marsh*
RE: Unit Management Plan (UMP)
Aldrich Pond

The Unit Management Plan for the Aldrich Pond Area 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.



IN MEMORIUM

On November 5, 1992, Roderick D. Fraser of Star Lake died at the age of 66 from a cancer which was discovered shortly after his retirement as supervisor of the DEC trail crew in 1990. An expert woodsman, Rod had a very strong empathy for persons of lesser ability and constantly applied his considerable energy and abilities toward creating amenities to encourage them to experience the outdoors which he loved so much. This feeling was so strong that, in his final months, he spent considerable energy convincing his many friends and neighbors to participate in the planning process. This plan, while not able to directly embrace all of Rod's ideas, hopefully expresses his influence.

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INSERT MAPS

WILDLIFE
FACILITIES AFTER PLAN IMPLEMENTATION
EXISTING AND PROPOSED FACILITIES

BACKGROUND

In 1972, Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller approved the Adirondack Park Agency Master Plan for state-owned lands in the Adirondack Park. This culminated many years of work by several legislative study groups and, ultimately, the Temporary Study Commission on the Future of the Adirondacks, appointed by the Governor in 1968.

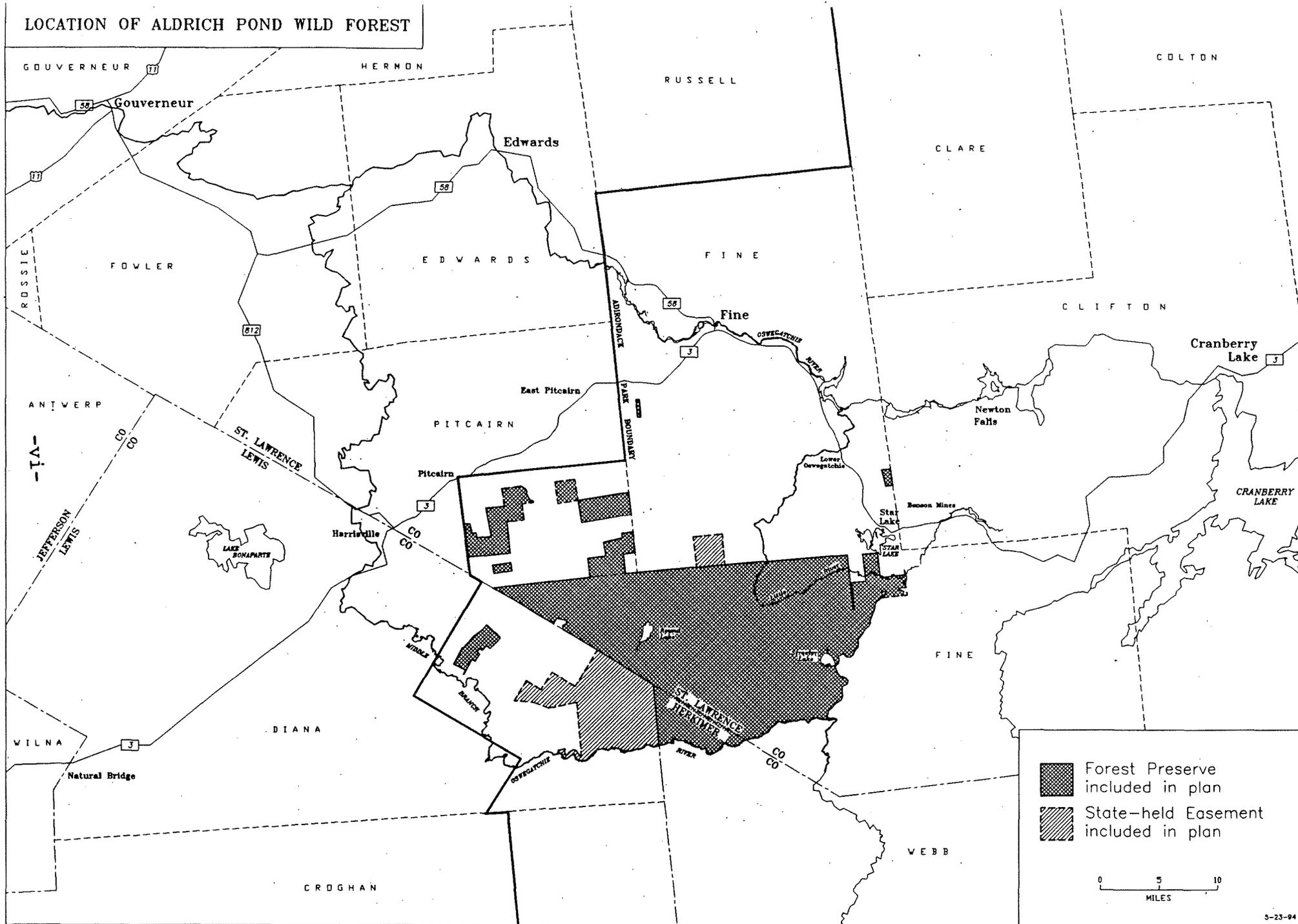
The Temporary Study Commission on the Future of the Adirondacks made nearly 200 specific recommendations regarding the Adirondack Park. Among its recommendations were:

- The creation of the Adirondack Park Agency
- The preparation of a Master Plan for state-owned lands by the Agency.
- The classification of these lands "according to their characteristics and capacity to withstand use" and
- A set of extensive guidelines for the care, custody and control of state-owned lands under the Master Plan with particular emphasis on proposed wilderness and primitive areas.

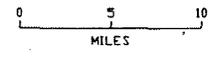
The Temporary Study Commission also prepared legislation in final draft form, not only establishing the agency, but providing a comprehensive framework for land use, both public and private.

The final legislative mandate provided for the Agency's Master Plan for State-owned lands in the Adirondack Park. A revised master plan, in accordance with Section 816 of the Adirondack Park Agency Act, Article 27 of the Executive Law, was signed by Governor Mario Cuomo on November 4, 1987. This plan has been prepared by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation with the State Land Master Plan setting the parameters and interested citizens providing additional review.

LOCATION OF ALDRICH POND WILD FOREST



	Forest Preserve included in plan
	State-held Easement included in plan



I. INTRODUCTION

A. AREA DESCRIPTION

1. General Location

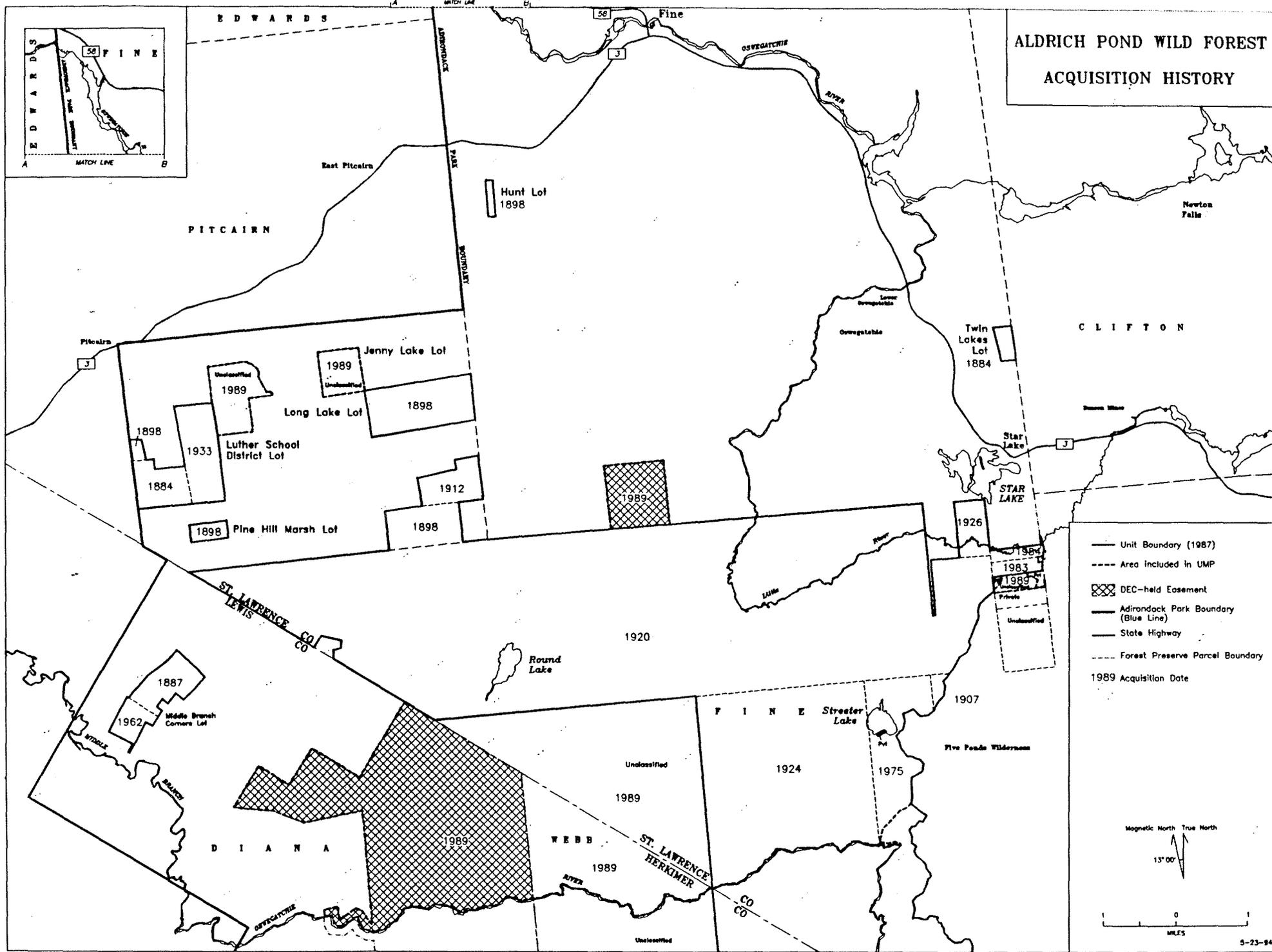
- a. The Aldrich Pond Wild Forest is described as those Forest Preserve lands lying within the following bounds: North by north bank of the Oswegatchie River; East by County Rte. 50 (Benson Mines to Newton Falls Road), West on Rte. 3 to Youngs Road, south on Youngs Road to administrative/private ROW road to Tamarack Creek Snowmobile Trail to Francis Hill Road (east) to Bassetts Creek to boundary of Five Ponds Wilderness Area (St. Lawrence/Herkimer county line); South by county line to southern bank of Middle Branch of the Oswegatchie River; West by the Adirondack Park boundary.
- b. The Oswegatchie Easement Lands are described as those conservation easement lands lying within the bounds of the Aldrich Pond Wild Forest planning area consisting of a parcel in the northeastern part of the Town of Diana, Lewis County and another in the Town of Fine, St. Lawrence County.

2. Acreage

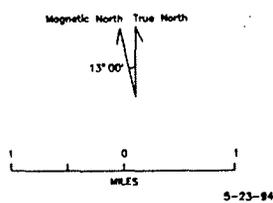
- a. Aldrich Pond Wild Forest (26,701.79 acres). This forest consists of eight separate parcels as follows:

<u>Lot</u>	<u>Deeded Acreage</u>	<u>Town</u>	<u>County</u>
Middle Branch Cor.	467.00	Diana	Lewis
Luther School Dist.	1,159.38	Pitcairn	St. Law.
Pinehill Marsh	78.16	Pitcairn	St. Law.
Jenny Lake	164.00	Pitcairn	St. Law.
Long Lake	577.84	Pitcairn	St. Law.
Main Section	625.92	Pitcairn	St. Law.
	22,066.49	Fine	St. Law.
	1,462.00	Webb	Herkimer
Twin Lakes	68.00	Fine	St. Law.
Hunt	33.00	Fine	St. Law.
<u>Total Acreage</u>	26,701.79		

ALDRICH POND WILD FOREST ACQUISITION HISTORY



- Unit Boundary (1987)
 - - - Area included in UMP
 - ▣ DEC-held Easement
 - Adirondack Park Boundary (Blue Line)
 - State Highway
 - - - Forest Preserve Parcel Boundary
- 1989 Acquisition Date



2

By political subdivision, it is distributed as follows:

<u>St. Lawrence County</u>			
Fine		22,167.49	
Pitcairn		2,605.30	
	Total		24,772.79
<u>Lewis County</u>			
Diana			467.00
<u>Herkimer County</u>			
Webb			<u>1,462.00</u>
			26,701.79

The legal description of these lots, taken from the Adirondack Land Map, is as follows:

<u>Lot</u>	<u>Description - Macomb's Purchase</u>
Middle Branch Corners	GT 4, Easterly End Lots 1, 2
Luther School District	GT 3, Twp. 11, Lots 96, 97, 102, 103, 104, 118, 119
Pinehill Marsh	GT 3, Twp. 11, Lot 124
Jenny Lake	GT 3, Twp. 11, Lot 94
Long Lake	GT 3, Twp. 11, Lots 108, 109, 110
Main Section	GT 3, Twp. 11, Lots 130, 131, 133, 134 Twp. 14, SE 1/4 SW 1/4, Easterly End NW 1/4 NE 1/4, Lots 1, 2, 7, 8, 9, 11-36
Twin Lakes	GT 3, Twp. 12, East 1/2, Lot 30
Hunt	GT 3, Twp. 12, West 1/2, East Part Lot 28

The chronological development of this forest has occurred as follows:

<u>Date of Conveyance</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Remarks</u>	<u>Cumulative Acreage</u>
2/14/1884	Luther School District Lot	188.09	Tax Deed (2 parcels)	188.09
10/31/1884	Twin Lakes Lot	68.00	Tax Deed	256.09
10/31/1884	Middle Branch Corners Lot	309.00	Tax Deed	565.09
4/2/1898	Luther School District Lot	45.55	Tax Deed	610.64
4/25/1898	Pinehill Marsh Lot	78.16	Tax Deed	688.80
4/25/1898	Long Lake Lot	577.84	Tax Deed (3 parcels)	1,266.64
4/25/1898	Jayville Lot	364.87	Tax Deed (2 parcels)	1,631.51
4/25/1898	Hunt Lot	33.00	Tax Deed	1,644.51

5/16/1907	Coffin Lot	44.00		1,708.51
7/2/1912	Jayville Lot	261.05	Litigation (2 parcels)	1,969.56
11/15/1920	Mecca Lumber Co. Tract	7,335.69	2 parcels	9,305.25
11/24/1920	Aldrich Pd. Tract	5,952.81	27 Lots	15,258.06
11/24/1924	Middle Branch Timber Co. Tract	3,506.00	Town of Fine	18,764.06
12/22/1926	Aldrich Pd. Tract	200.00	Lot 9	18,964.06
2/1/1933	Luther School District Lot	407.74	2 parcels	19,371.80
8/9/1962	Middle Branch Corners Lot	158.00		19,529.80
11/14/1967	2 Rights of Way		From Kalurah	19,529.80
4/2/1975	Braman Mfg. Co. Tract	1,795.00		21,324.80
6/16/1978	Bossuot Lot	82.59	Copperbolt Corner	21,407.39
3/29/1983	Aldrich Pd. Tract	88.37	Lot 3	21,495.76
4/20/1984	Aldrich Pd. Tract	75.03	Lot 2	21,570.79
6/14/1989	Lassiter Purchase (North of river)	5,131.00	Fee Purchase	26,701.79

- b. Oswegatchie Easement Lands (4,115.30 acres). These lands consist of two parcels (Refer to Acquisition History Map) obtained in the Lassiter/Nature Conservancy Purchase of 6/14/89 which border the Main Section in the north and the southwest as follows:

<u>Macomb's Purchase</u>	<u>Deeded Acreage</u>	<u>Town</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Parcel</u>
GT 3, Twp 12, Lots 73, 80	355.00	Fine	St. Law.	Northern
GT 4, Easterly End, Lots 13, 17-24	<u>3,760.30</u>	Diana	Lewis	SW
Total	4,115.30			

3. Unclassified Parcels

There are four parcels within this planning area which were purchased in 1989, but have not yet been classified by the Adirondack Park Agency (Refer to Acquisition History Map). Acreage for three of these parcels has been included in this forest while the remaining parcel, which lies to the west of the Youngs Road, has not because the existence of the private right-of-way, existing snowmobile trail and

adjacent wilderness area create the possibility of dual classification for this 72.8 acre parcel.

These lands will be administered on an interim basis in a manner consistent with the character of the land and its capacity to withstand use and which will not foreclose options for eventual classification.

4. Access

- a. Public access to each of the eight parcels presently occurs as follows:

Middle Branch Corners Lot - The purchase of the southernmost part of this Lot in 1962 provided public motorized access from the Bryants Bridge Road. Adequate parking is available at the end of a .2 mile access road leading north from this town road.

Jenny Lake Lot - This 164 acre lot is not accessible and it is very unlikely that access can be obtained.

Hunt Lot - This lot has an old road leading to it; however, the lot itself has never been located with a survey.

Twin Lakes Lot - Foot access to this small (68 acre) lot is available along the New York Central Railroad bed.

Luther School District Lot - The purchase of 0.76 acres in 1965, in the southwest corner of this lot, provided public access to a previously landlocked parcel. It has been maintained as a parking lot for access from the Goose Pond Road. This parking lot lies outside of the Adirondack Park. Access to this lot is also available from the Jayville Road across lands acquired in the Lassiter Purchase.

Pinehill Marsh Lot - This lot is inaccessible. In the report of John Y. McClintock to the Forest Preserve Board contained in Appendix E, it is stated that the old road to Jayville crossed the lot but that it had reverted to a woods road by 1900.

Long Lake Lot - This lot is effectively inaccessible. Although an old road crosses the eastern end, it is not driveable. Users of the

area must park their vehicles along the public road at Jayville and walk through the yard of a private camp .4 mile to reach the southwest corner of the lot.

Main Section - Public motorized access to this section is primarily from the north. Historically, public access to the western and eastern ends have been hampered by private ownership. To alleviate this situation in the western end, the State of New York appropriated two 33 ft. rights-of-way leading from Kalurah in 1967 (Appendix D). The first consisted mostly of the old Mecca Lumber Company railroad bed which follows the South Creek Lake Road southerly to the state boundary line while the other branches southeasterly along an existing road (Dodds Rd.) to provide access to the westerly portion of the Jayville area. Funds have never been available to improve these routes and they are consequently in poor condition. A third means of motorized access from Kalurah is the Jayville Road (town road).

From Aldrich, an old railroad bed (Streeter Lake Road) provides good motorized access to Streeter Lake.

From Star Lake, the lands of this forest adjoin two town roads. The purchase of Lots 2 and 3 in the Aldrich Pond Tract in 1983 and 1984 provided good access from the Youngs Road. At Lake Street there is not adequate parking, but a ski trail constructed by the Youth Conservation Corps leads into the existing trail system. At the Youngs Road there is an existing parking lot to accommodate horse trailers and the road is wide enough to provide roadside parking as well.

- b. Public access to the portion of the Oswegatchie Easement Lands which borders the southwestern part of the Main Section is very restricted. The Mullins Flow Road, which is located partly on New York State held conservation easement lands which are not included in this planning unit and partly on other fee land of Lassiter's, provides public access only for purposes of transporting canoes and canoeists to the Oswegatchie Easement Lands or to other New York State held conservation easement lands which are not a part of this planning unit, where the same may be launched. No other use may be made by the public of this

roadway; in no event may any vehicles be parked along the roadway as the same passes over the lands of the owner of the easement lands.

B. HISTORY

Relevant historical occurrences that directly affected the planning area are as follows:

- 1854 The Jayville property was opened for iron ore by Z. H. Benton (Leonard & Buddington, 1964)
- 1886 The Carthage and Adirondack Railroad reached Jayville and the Jayville mining interests were bought by the Magnetic Iron Ore Company (Leonard & Buddington, 1964).
- 1888 The Jayville iron mine was abandoned in favor of the Benson Mines deposit (Newland, 1908).
- 1889 Star Lake was stocked with 40,000 brook trout fry from the Caledonia Hatchery becoming the first body of water in the state to be stocked.
- C.1890 In the early 1890's the Post and Henderson Company opened a sawmill at Jayville (Palmer, 1970).
- C.1898 The Post and Henderson Company built a large sawmill at Benson Mines and, later, one on the Little River to the south (Palmer, 1970).
- 1903 The Mecca Lumber Company built a sawmill at Little Mill which the company renamed Kalurah in honor of the Masonic Lodge in Binghamton. A logging railroad was constructed from this mill to the Scuttle Hole (Palmer, 1970).
- C.1905 The Post and Henderson Company built a railroad south out of Benson Mines (Palmer, 1970).
- C.1910 The Mecca Lumber Company moved from Kalurah to New Hampshire (Palmer, 1970).
- 1941 Jones and Laughlin Steel Corporation made surveys of the Jayville iron deposits. Eight inclined holes with a total depth of 2,336 feet were drilled. It was determined, however, that a commercial venture was not feasible (Leonard & Buddington, 1964).

II. INVENTORY, USE AND CAPACITY TO WITHSTAND USE

A. NATURAL RESOURCES

1. Physical

a. Geology

This forest is primarily located in the Fall Zone, which is identified by Buddington (1962) as a monocline separating the Childwold Terrace and the Grenville Lowlands in this vicinity. The maximum relief within this zone is 300' to 400'. A relatively small part of this forest south of Streeter Lake is in the Childwold Terrace. The primary feature of this area which qualifies it for such inclusion is an abundance of swamps.

b. Soils

A review of the general soils maps for this area confirms the fact that the roads and trails on the eastern part of the main section of this forest are mostly on well drained gravelly soils (Colton Association) and those on the westerly part are on soils on which drainage is more critical (Berkshire-Dixmont, Potsdam-Crary and Canaan-Rock Outcrop Associations).

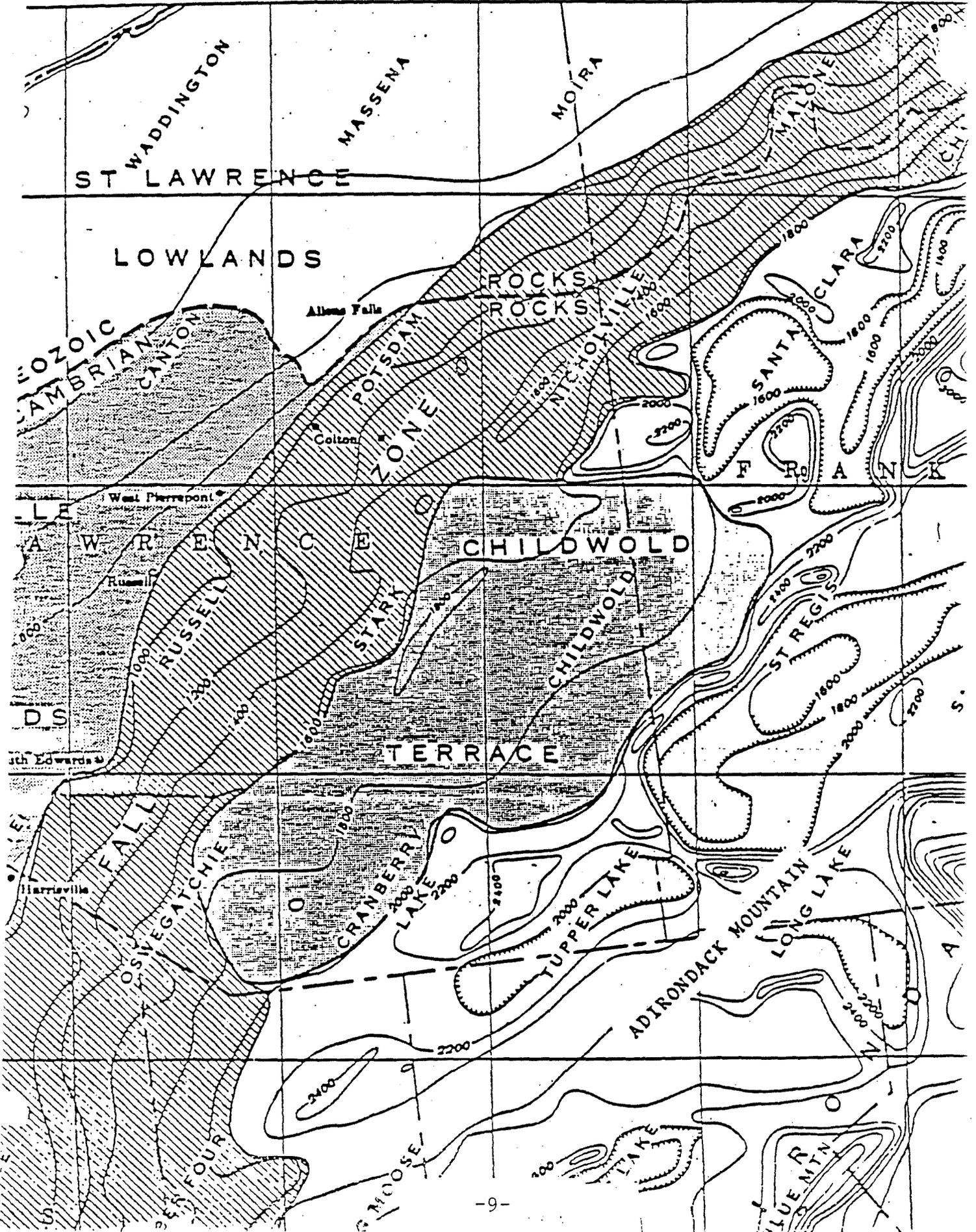
Site specific soils information will be determined as necessary to implement management activities.

c. Terrain

There are no named elevations on either the state lands or the conservation easement lands. Generally, the terrain is relatively flat in the southeastern part (Childwold Terrace) and steeper in the remainder (Fall Zone).

d. Water

Within the planning unit there are 27 streams and rivers (56 miles), and 28 lakes and ponds (846 acres) (see River and Stream and Lake and Pond inventories in appendix C). Most of these waters lie on state-owned or easement lands. Five privately-owned lakes are included due to their fishery and recreational importance to the area.



Water quality is generally excellent, with low productivity and fertility levels typical to Adirondack waters. Acid precipitation impacts are noticeable, with four (30 acres, 4%) of the area's lakes and ponds classified in the acidified range (pH levels below 5.0). An additional ten (236 acres, 28%) have pH levels in the threatened range (between 5.0 and 6.0). Two streams (M. Branch Oswegatchie River and Mullins Marsh Creek) are also considered acid. These conditions limit the abilities of waters to support fishlife. At least three of the area's lakes and two streams are known to be fishless. The water chemistry of Long Lake (p 162) is maintained at satisfactory pH levels (over 6.0) by periodic lime treatments. Another waterbody, Silver Dawn Lake, is proposed for liming. Its brook trout fishery, as well as three other unit waters are maintained by annual stocking.

e. Wetlands

A wetland is identified as any land that is annually subject to periodic or continual inundation by water and commonly referred to as a bog, swamp, or marsh. They are inventoried, mapped and protected under the New York State Freshwater Wetlands Act of 1975 by the Department of Environmental Conservation and the Adirondack Park Agency. The core wetlands are indicated on a map which was originally prepared by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

2. Biological

a. Vegetation

All of this forest has been modified in various degrees by the harvest of forest products. The previously mentioned McClintock report (Appendix E) provides a graphic illustration of the initial impact on the Luther School District and Pinehill Marsh Lots. Other descriptions of logging activities may be found in Beahan (1984), Kudish (1985), and Palmer (1970).

The Lassiter Purchase lands consist of a variety of forest stands in various stages of succession to provide a diversity not generally found on forest preserve lands.

Tree species are mostly northern hardwood with coniferous swamps occurring primarily in the southeastern part. Spruce and balsam plantations have been established in the vicinity of Streeter Lake and Pansy Pond outlet. The evidence of past fires is most obvious on the thin soils south of Jayville and cultivation of seed potatoes east of Streeter Lake has left this area in an early stage of plant succession.

A large bog south of Streeter Lake is one of five Adirondack bogs in the 150-250 acre range. Hitchens, Sevey and two bogs in Deer Pond Marsh are the others. The only bogs larger than these are Spring Pond, Bloomingdale and Grass River which are each in excess of 500 acres.

The only known rare or endangered plant known to be on this forest is bog aster (*Aster nemoralis*) which is considered rare in this part of its range.

b. Wildlife

This forest is categorized as being primarily within the Western Adirondack Foothills Ecological Zone. (Will, Stumvole, Gotie, and Smith, 1982). The area is at a lower elevation with somewhat milder winters than is typical for the Central Adirondacks. Consequently, populations of white-tailed deer are generally higher than in the Central Adirondacks. The Aldrich Pond Wild Forest is located in Deer Management Unit 25.

The N.Y.S. Deer Calculation Program can proportion township data to enable biologists to look at historical deer records on a Deer Management Unit (DMU) or split town basis. The harvest of white-tailed deer has averaged 1.4 bucks per square mile since 1980. The total deer kill has ranged from a low of 15 in 1971 (after three severe winters in a row), to a high of 128 in 1967 (during the peak of the Park Permit years). Harvest data for the area is shown in Appendix B.

All or parts of eight deer wintering areas are located within this forest in association with softwood cover, stream drainages and wetlands.

Black bear harvest for towns within the Aldrich Pond Wild Forest:

<u>Year</u>	<u>St Law. County</u>		<u>Lewis</u>	<u>Herkimer</u>
	<u>Town:</u>	<u>Fine</u>	<u>Pitcairn</u>	<u>Diana</u> <u>Webb</u>
1993		0	3	7 36
1992		12	2	9 21
1991		9	3	3 24
1990		9	9	7 24
1989		11	3	8 34
1988		9	0	1 32
1987		13	4	5 27
1986		1	0	0 33
1985		8	3	5 24
1984		3	3	6 18
1983		2	3	0 15
1982		14	2	7 23

Utilizing a proportioned method of allocating harvest it is estimated that an average of 2 to 5 black bears annually are taken from the area by big game hunters.

Common furbearers include beaver, fisher, otter Eastern coyote, muskrat, mink, and raccoon. Bobcats occur on the area however they are scarce. Pine marten have also been reported in the vicinity however they are considered rare. Data on small mammals, amphibians and reptiles specific to the area is lacking. Snowshoe hare, Eastern chipmunk, red squirrels, porcupine, and various shrews, voles, and mice probably also occur within the unit. A list of mammals, reptiles and amphibians that occur in the Western Adirondack Foothills Ecological Zone (Chambers 1983) is included in Appendix B.

Cooperators working with the New York State Breeding Bird Atlas have identified 114 species as either confirmed, possible, or probable breeders within the area. Common waterfowl species include the wood duck, American black duck, mallard, hooded and common merganser. The ruffed grouse is the most common game bird as identified in all twelve breeding blocks.

No endangered species are known to occur on the area.

Special Concern species include: the common loon which has nested on Round Lake and possibly Rock

Lake, the common raven, and Eastern bluebird. Non breeding adult common loons have also been seen on Streeter Lake and Long Pond.

The red-shouldered hawk is the only threatened specie identified as possibly nesting on the area. Many additional bird species while not confirmed as breeding utilize the area during migration.

c. Fisheries

Most of the lakes and ponds in the Aldrich Pond Wild Forest support fish life (see Appendix C Lake and Pond Inventory). Brown bullhead is the most common species, present in a least 18 of the area's waters. Brook trout is the most common gamefish species, reported in 15 waters. Four of these (Long, Round, Silver Dawn and Streeter Lakes), obtain their brook trout from annual stocking. Several of the remaining waters have histories of stocking, but are currently supporting natural spawning brook trout populations. Other fish species found in the area's waters include native Adirondack species such as white sucker, creek chub, and northern redbelly dace, and non-native species such as yellow perch and golden shiner. A complete fish species list is in Appendix C. One of the stocked waters, Streeter Lake (p 285), has a reputation as an excellent trout fishery. It was stocked in the 1930's and through most the 1940's when stocking was terminated. Until recently, the lake's brook trout exhibited good reproductive success and was managed as a self-sustaining population. Reports of low catch rates due to increased angler pressure led to the initiation of annual stocking in the late 1980's to supplement natural recruitment. At present Streeter Lake is stocked (via truck) with 1,000 fall-fingerling Little Tupper strain brook trout per year.

Round Lake (p 161), Long Lake (p 162) and Silver Dawn Pond (p 154), all remote ponds, offer quality brook trout angling experience within the Aldrich Pond Unit. All are stocked annually. Long Lake is limed periodically to maintain its pH within satisfactory limits. Silver Dawn is proposed for a initial lime treatment in 1995. These waters are stocked via helicopter.

Star Lake, the largest water in the planning unit (208 acres), has a long history of fishery management. Historically it supported self-sustaining lake and brook trout populations. As of a 1990 survey, its fish community included brown, lake and rainbow trout, rainbow smelt, brown bullhead, pumpkinseed, yellow perch, white sucker, and recently introduced (illegally) small and largemouth bass. The present management strategy includes annual stocking of rainbow trout. Public access is a significant issue on Star Lake at this time. DEC policy dictates that stocking is permitted only in waters open to public access. A small informal fishing access site exists on Star Lake. Acquisition of a formal site and its development are high priority needs to insure access in the future.

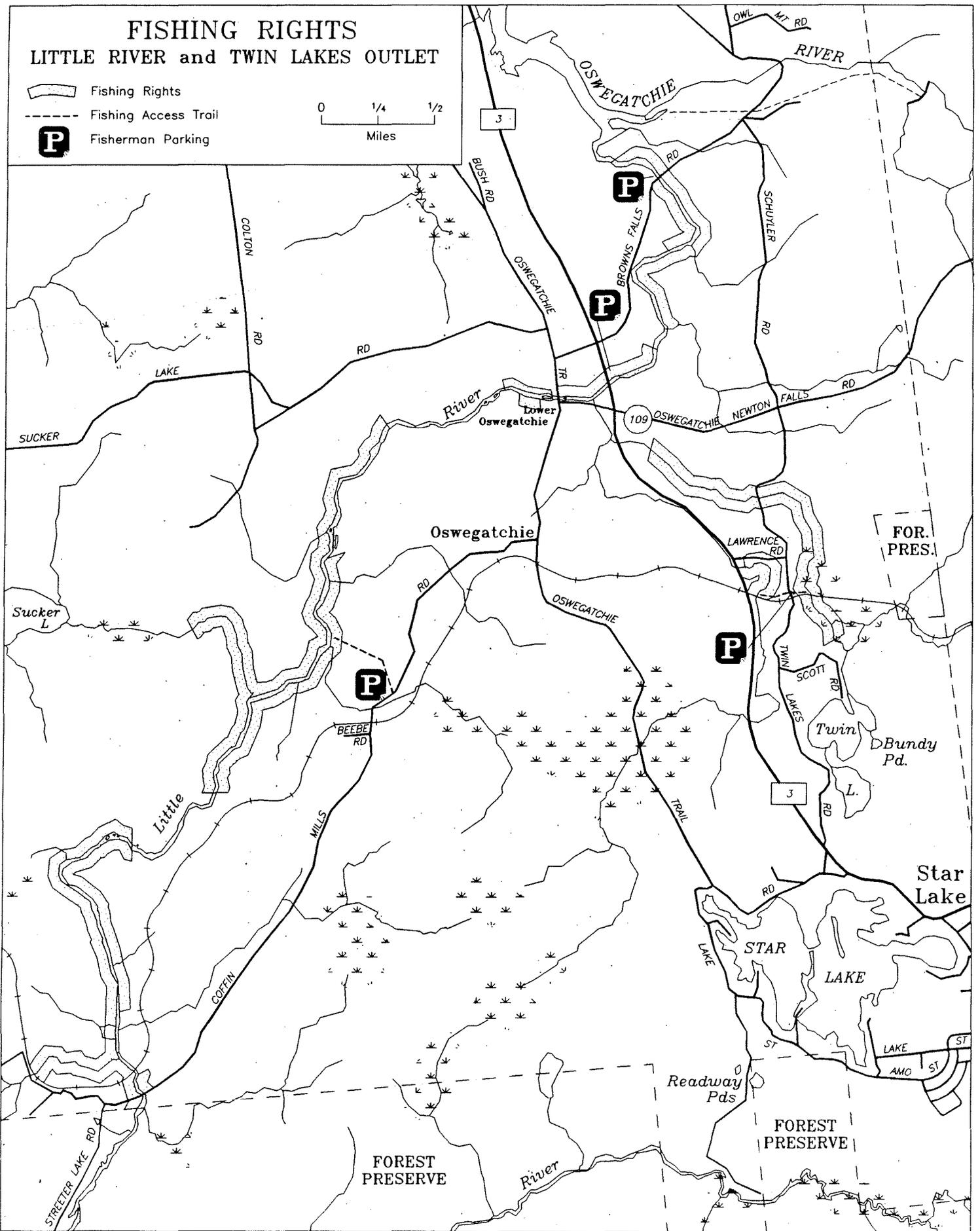
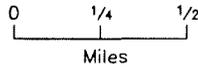
South Creek Lake, a 57 acre waterbody, located on the western boundary of the Main Section, also has a long history of fishery management. Stocking with brook trout as early as 1932 led to its reputation as a productive fishery through the 1960's. Declines in survival and growth of stocked brook trout probably due to expanding populations of competing fish species such as brown bullhead, white sucker and creek chub, precipitated a stocking change to brown trout in 1976. In 1977, brown trout stocking was terminated in favor of establishing a naturally spawning (NSA) largemouth bass population in the lake. This was accomplished by the early 1980's. At present, the lake supports a moderate largemouth bass fishery, along with what appears to be a low density self-sustaining brown trout population. Due to the lack of adequate public access, angler use of the lake is very low. Development of the access road to permit vehicle access to the lake is recommended to expand the potential for public use of the lake's fishery resource.

Stream fisheries include 12 waters which support wild trout populations and two which are stocked with brown trout populations (see Appendix C -River and Stream Inventory). In general the brook trout fisheries are located in remote settings, while the brown trout waters are readily accessible. Most notable in the unit is the Little River, which is very accessible via 4.7 miles of permanent public fishing rights

FISHING RIGHTS

LITTLE RIVER and TWIN LAKES OUTLET

-  Fishing Rights
-  Fishing Access Trail
-  Fisherman Parking



easement. The lower stretch of the Little River is stocked annually with yearling brown trout, while the upper reaches support a native brook trout population.

3. Visual

Much of the aesthetic appeal of this forest may be attributed to the three rivers which flow through it and the many bodies of water within it. Gulf Stream, at the head of the gorge to the east of the parking lot on the South Creek Lake road, contains some pleasing cascades.

4. Unique Areas

Crystal Lake is a very unique body of water. Its watershed is estimated to be only 100 yards from the shoreline with no discernable inlet or outlet. It contains no fish and very little vegetation. The water is clear, acid and warm (74 degrees to a depth of 13 feet as measured on July 26, 1984).

The Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan lists "The Gulf" as a Natural Special Management Area (p. 75). It is presumed that the reference is to The Gulf contained in the main section of this forest. If so, no particular management activities are proposed at this time.

5. Critical Habitat

None known - the only significant wildlife habitats are the deer wintering areas shown on the Wildlife map and the common loon nesting site on Round Lake.

B. EXISTING FACILITIES

Gates (8)

Aldrich

South Creek Lake Road

South Creek Lake

Streeter Lake

Youngs Road (4)

Area Signs (6)

Middle Branch Corners Lot

Luther School District Lot (2)

Kalurah

Aldrich
Youngs Road

Fishing Access Signs (2)

Route 3
Coffins Mills Road

Parking Lots (8)

Middle Branch Corners Lot (9 cars)
Luther School District Lot (9 cars)
South Creek Lake Road (2 cars)
Dodds Road (2 cars)
Jayville (2 cars)
Streeter Lake (4 cars)
Youngs Road (9 cars)
Schuler Gate (9 cars)

Boundary Lines(49.61 mi.+)

Main Section (inc. Lassiter Purchase)	28.02 mi.
Long Lake Lot	5.28 mi.
Luther School District Lot	8.69 mi.
Jenny Lake Lot	2.03 mi.
Twin Lakes Lot	1.36 mi.
Middle Branch Settlement Lot	4.23 mi.
Oswegatchie Easement Lands	Undetermined
Hunt Lot	Undetermined

Bridges (4)

Mud Creek (27')	Dodds Road (22')
Little River (154')	South Creek Lk. Rd. (18'-posted 4T)
Bassett's Creek (22')	Mink Creek (26')
Tamarack Creek (12')	Middle Branch (42')

Shared Maintenance (4)

Designated Campsites (16)

Streeter Lake Road

Leantos (1) (with pit privy)

Streeter Lake

Pit Privies (2)

Intersection of Jackworks Trail and Streeter Lake Road.

Gravel Pits (4)

Streeter Lake
Lassiter Purchase (3)

Roads - Public Use - Maintained (7.5 miles)

Aldrich to Streeter Lake (Streeter Lake Road)	4.5 mi.
So. Creek Lake Road ROW	1.4 mi.

Kalurah ROW (Dodds Road)	1.0 mi.
Jayville to Parking Lot	.3 mi.
Youngs Road to Parking Lot	.1 mi.
Middle Branch Corners Lot	.2 mi.

Roads - Public Use - Restricted Access (16.2 mi.)

	<u>For.</u> <u>Pres.</u>	<u>Cons.</u> <u>Ease.</u>	<u>Total</u>
Tyler Road	3.7 mi.		3.7 mi.
Silver Dawn Road (E)	.6 mi.	.5 mi.	1.1 mi.
Mullins Flow Road	2.8 mi.	.5 mi.	3.3 mi.
Shannon Road	.8 mi.		.8 mi.
Southeast Corner Road	1.0 mi.		1.0 mi.
Frenchman's Road	.8 mi.		.8 mi.
Silver Dawn Road (W)		.6 mi.	.6 mi.
Fish Creek Road		.5 mi.	.5 mi.
Long Lake Road	<u>.8 mi.</u>	<u>3.6 mi.</u>	<u>4.4 mi.</u>
	10.5 mi.	5.7 mi.	16.2 mi.

Roads - Public Use -Unmaintained (7.9 mi.)

Jackworks Road	6.9 mi.
Maple Hill Road	1.0 mi.

Roads, Unimproved-Public Use-Restricted Access (7.5 mi.)

	<u>For.</u> <u>Pres.</u>	<u>Cons.</u> <u>Ease.</u>
Shannon Trail	1.0 mi.	
Long Lake Trail (S)	1.2 mi.	
Long Lake Trail (E)	.1 mi.	
Long Lake Trail (W)	.5 mi.	
Tyler Creek Trail	.1 mi.	
Silver Dawn Lake Trail		.9 mi.
Silver Dawn Trail		2.0 mi.
Middle Branch Trail		.7 mi.
Fish Creek Trail		.5 mi.
Mink Creek Trail	<u>.5 mi.</u>	
	3.4 mi.	4.1 mi.

Roads - Private ROW (9.8 miles)

Jayville (assumed)	.4 mi.
South Creek Lake (assumed)	.4 mi.
Youngs Road west to private land (Northern Route) (assumed)	1.6 mi.
Youngs Road west to private land (Southern Route) (assumed)	1.2 mi.
Aldrich to Schuler Mausoleum	6.2 mi.

Roads - Administrative Use Only (6.1 miles)
 Francis Hill Rd. (Streeter Lake to Bassetts Creek) 6.1 mi.

Foot Trails (.8 mile)
 Round Lake Snowmobile Trail Bypass .5 mi.
 Coffins Mills Fishing Access .3 mi.

Snowmobile Trails (33.5 miles)
 Aldrich to Kalurah (Round Lake Trail) 10.9 mi.
 South Creek Lake Spur Trail .6 mi.
 Wagonbox Corner Trail .9 mi.
 Round Lake Trail to Jackworks (Jackworks Trail) 6.9 mi.
 Jackworks Trail to Middle Branch (Maple Hill Road) 1.0 mi.
 Jackworks Trail to Bossuot Camp (Francis Hill Trail) 8.4 mi.
 Youngs Road to Streeter Lake (Tamarack Creek Trail) 4.2 mi.
 Wagonbox Corner Trail .6 mi.

Ski Trail - Advanced (3.0 miles)
 Lake Road to Streeter Lake (YCC Trail) 3.0 mi.
 (no state maintenance)

Public Fishing Rights (7.45 miles)
 Twin Lakes Outlet 1.54 mi.
 Black Creek .31 mi.
 Little River 4.70 mi.
 Sucker Lake Outlet .65 mi.
 Trib. 12 .25 mi.

Repeater Site (1)
 Panther Mountain (rented)

<u>Private Camps (18)</u>	<u>Removal Date</u>
Herkimer County	1
Lewis County	6
St. Lawrence County	11 7/1/2000

C. CULTURAL

The cultural value of this forest lies primarily in its use as a resource to aid people in an understanding of the natural world. The existence of the foundation of an old blast furnace in the Jayville area provides a physical link to the activities of our predecessors as well as many relics of the extensive logging history of these lands. The Beahan articles in the bibliography provide an insight into this later activity.

D. ECONOMIC

The economic significance of this area could be estimated if public usage data were available. Unfortunately, the types and the pattern of use on this area do not lend themselves to the accumulation of such data without significant expenditure.

A more easily identified economic factor is the annual tax bill which amounted to \$139,043.38 or \$6.51/acre for the 1986 school tax and the 1987 town and county tax year on 21,348.2 acres of this forest in St. Lawrence and Lewis counties. This figure has not been updated because it is only being used as a general indication of part of the annual cost of public ownership.

1. Impact of State Ownership on Adjacent Private Lands

An abundance of hunting camps in Kalurah, Jayville and Aldrich bear testimony to the value of small lots adjacent to large areas of public lands, especially when public access is restricted. It is doubtful if many of these camps would have been built had not the public lands been available. The impact on the local tax base is significant for lots that would otherwise be taxed as woodlands. An Adirondack landowner survey (Kay 1985) has determined that "proximity" to state owned Forest Preserve can boost the value of single family homes by almost \$6,000 from the median, and by \$2,000 for parcels without the homes."

2. Impact of Adjacent Private Lands on State Lands

The economic impact of adjacent private lands is concerned with increasing demands for amenities, especially snowmobile and ATV trails, and with an increasing need for law enforcement to prevent incidences of trespass.

E. PUBLIC USE OF THE AREA

The primary public use of this area is hunting, with fishing, trapping and snowmobiling also being common. Skiing, camping, hiking and horseback riding are currently minor activities with the exception of camping throughout the hunting season which is very popular.

1. Hunting

Aldrich Pond Wild Forest: Public hunting on that portion of the Main Section described as the Lassister Purchase (5,131 acres), is not permitted

during the period of September 1 thru December 31 of each year through and including December 31, 1999.

Oswegatchie Easement Lands: Public hunting on the Oswegatchie Easement Lands is not permitted during the period September 1 thru December 31 of each year through and including December 31, 2019.

While public hunting is permitted throughout the season on the remaining public lands it has historically been limited by poor access. The Pinehill Marsh and Jenny Lake lots are blocked by private lands while the Long Lake Lot has awkward foot access through the yard of a private camp and the Hunt Lot must first be located with a survey. The main section has poor to nonexistent public access at Kalurah and 1,300 inaccessible acres north of the Little River.

Seasonal deer hunting camps have been established on the main section for many years. They are permitted and must be removed at the end of the season. These camps are most prevalent along the corridors of public motorized use; however, an unique situation exists along the Francis Hill Road where hunters bring in their camping gear with horses or hand carts and must often rely on snowmobiles for removal.

As town snowplowing does not extend beyond Aldrich and Kalurah, two of the primary access corridors to the main section can be effectively denied to hunters after heavy snowfalls.

2. Fishing

Quantitative data relative to angler use of the fisheries resource specifically within the Aldrich Pond Wild Forest is limited at this time. Based on aerial counts angler use of Long and Round Lakes was estimated at 3.5 angler trips per acre per year (91 trips total) and 2.6 angler trips per acre per year (2.3 total), respectively (Gordon 1993). Applying these estimates to all the unit's brook trout ponds suggests they support 1,600 angler days of recreation per year. Based on Pfeiffer's (1979) estimate that Adirondack brook trout ponds generally provide ten angler trips per acre per year, the use estimate for the Aldrich Pond Unit's brook trout ponds increases to approximately 3,000 angler days per year. In either case, use is low and generally concentrated during the months of April, May, June and September when brook trout pond fishing is traditionally the

most productive. Star Lake's coldwater and warmwater fisheries support approximately 2,000 angler days per year. The bulk of the use of Star Lake occurs during the spring and summer months, but a considerable amount of effort is expended at ice-fishing. Star Lake is one of five lakes in Region 6 where ice fishing for salmonids is permitted.

Generally, streams in the area receive light angler use. Some of the remote waters are fished at very low levels, while accessible waters such as the public fishing rights (PFR) section of the Little River, are fished at moderate levels. A small section of Twin Lakes Outlet is also open to public fishing through PFR agreement.

Two privately owned waters, Twin Lakes (p 267-268) and Sucker Lake (p 274) provided angling opportunity in the past via Fish and Wildlife Management Act (FWMA) public access agreements. While open to the public they were intensively managed, and supported noteworthy trout fisheries. The need for public access to these waters is being pursued. Star Lake, also privately owned, has also experienced problems with public access. DEC management (i.e. stocking) will continue only with the presence of adequate public access to the lake. Acquisition and development of permanent fishing access to Star Lake will be addressed within the five year period of this plan.

3. Camping

Most of the camping on this area occurs during the hunting season and much of this is along the Streeter Lake Road. Sixteen campsites have been designated along this corridor and two pit privies established to accommodate this use. During the 1990 hunting season, 26 camping permits were issued for this forest for 118 persons as follows:

	<u>Permits</u>	<u>Persons</u>
Streeter Lake Road	13	47
Jackworks Trail	3	23
Scuttle Hole	3	17
Other	<u>7</u>	<u>31</u>
	26	118

These figures obviously do not represent the total hunting use of the area, but merely serve to show the general distribution of hunter camping in 1990.

4. Horse Trails

All trails on forest preserve and easement lands within this area except the Round Lake Snowmobile Trail Bypass (foot trail) may be utilized by horseback riders although they might not be desirable for such use. In the 1960's the road system on the main section was included in the department's horse trail brochure, but this resulted in little use. Although this area has been deleted from the present horse trail brochure, horseback use has increased in recent years. The primary reason for this increased use was the purchase of access from the Youngs Road which opened up a significant addition of usable trail and provided good road access with parking.

5. Bicycle Trails

As there are no significant foot trails within this forest, virtually all roads and trails have been available for bicycle use.

6. Snowmobile Trails

The snowmobile trail system on this area presently links the communities of Star Lake, Aldrich, Kalurah and Harrisville. Although the trail south of Bassetts Creek ends before reaching a corner of the Five Ponds Wilderness Area, some illegal crossings of this wilderness and the Middle Branch result in a route to Belfort. This problem will likely be rectified by the discontinuance of department maintenance south of Bassett's Creek.

7. All Terrain Vehicles

Pending the development of a department policy and/or appropriate rules and regulations, all terrain vehicles have been allowed to use all roads open for public motorized use.

8. Day Use Area

Because of the warm water and sandy beach at Crystal Lake, it has become a popular swimming area. The overuse of the limited space at this beach by a large group of campers in July 1993 underscored the need to manage it as a day use area only so that campers

could not restrict this established use. To encourage the transition, mowing will cease and appropriate signs will be placed.

F. CAPACITY OF THE RESOURCE TO WITHSTAND USE

Overall public use of this area is very light and within the limits of the environment to absorb it as evidenced by physical inspection and user feedback. The heaviest use is seasonal (hunting) and occurs along the corridors of public motorized access, generally within 1 to 1 1/2 miles of the roadside. Although an improvement of this access might initially result in increased use, anticipated pressure on the environment should be alleviated through the development of designated campsites and better distribution of users throughout the area.

Recent survey data provides no evidence to suggest over-fishing is a problem with any of the waters in the Aldrich Pond unit (Gordon 1993). In general fishing pressure is light, especially on the area's streams which are capable of supporting increased angler use.

III. MANAGEMENT AND POLICY

A. PAST MANAGEMENT

The initial management of the lands comprising this forest is illustrated in J. Y. McClintock's field inspection of the Luther School District and Pinehill Marsh Lots in 1900 (Appendix E). Gradually, as boundary lines were established, the protection of these lands became more feasible and a long period of custodial management evolved.

Probably the earliest fisheries management practice on the forest preserve lands was the stocking of 7,000 brook trout in Streeter Lake in 1929. Although discontinued in this body of water in 1940, stocking has continued to be an active practice on other bodies of water within this forest.

Besides stocking, regulations have been the most notable past fisheries management strategy in the Aldrich Pond Wild Forest. Within the area, Statewide Angling Regulations apply at this time. By species, these are as follows:

	<u>Open Season</u>	<u>Min. Length</u>	<u>Daily Limit</u>
Trout (brook & brown)	4/1-9/30	none	10
Largemouth & Smallmouth bass	3rd Sat. in June- Nov. 30	12"	5
Bullhead, yellow perch	All year	none	any #

The exception to the above is Star Lake, where trout fishing is allowed all year (including ice fishing) by special regulation. Lake trout must be at least 21 inches to be creelied, while other trout species must be at least nine inches.

Public use management became active in the 1960's primarily with an effort to improve public access (see Appendix D) and the designation and maintenance of snowmobile and horse trails.

B. RELATIONSHIP OF MANAGEMENT OF AREA TO ADJACENT STATE LANDS

Adjacent to the eastern boundary of the main section of this forest is the 106,547 acre Five Ponds Wilderness Area. In the development of the initial unit management plan for that area (July, 1986), five types of users were examined in respect to their relationship to wilderness management. The fifth group was identified as "those who go into the wilderness primarily as a social excursion seeking the company of others and facilities where they might congregate." It was determined that users within this classification "are not seeking wilderness or the experience of it" and that "their needs are primarily being addressed in the present management of the adjacent Cranberry Lake Wild Forest, Aldrich Pond Wild Forest and Independence River Wild Forest." Most of the lands to the south of the main section are unclassified Forest Preserve lands. The effect of the management of this forest on these lands is dependent on their eventual classification.

C. ADMINISTRATION OF CONSERVATION EASEMENTS

Department policy NR90-1 (Appendix H) establishes responsibility and procedures necessary for the proper administration of conservation easement lands. When implemented, the annual reports for the Oswegatchie Easement Lands will be appended to this plan.

D. ISSUES AFFECTING THE PLANNING AREA

The following issues must be addressed within the five year period of this plan to provide adequate management of this forest:

1. Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers Act

The designation of a significant portion of the Middle Branch of the Oswegatchie River as a wild river under the Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers Act (Appendix L) in 1975 obligated the department to take measures to protect and enhance its wild character. The one half mile river area generally required by the Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers Act, and the one quarter mile minimum river area required by the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan (Appendix M) affect the following roads within this forest:

- a. Francis Hill Road (6.1 mi.) Streeter Lake gate to the clearing south of Bassetts Creek. Two branches near Francis Hill converging north of Bassetts Creek.

History

- The 1918 topographic map shows only the western branch generally following the present route to the former site of Bossuot's Camp and continuing southerly across the Middle Branch as a trail.
- State purchase of the property in 1975 yielded essentially the same road system as presently exists. No major renovations have been undertaken.

Present Status

- Administrative Use (2 WD)
- Lightly used horse trail beyond the end of the road, across the Middle Branch to other state lands.
- Lightly used snowmobile trail to former Bossuot's Camp.
- Designated for motorized use for disabled persons.

Condition

- Gravel base; very good condition.

Maintenance

- Since purchase in 1975, has only been graveled in areas of beaver damage. Is mowed and brushed.

Unique Uses

- Designated in 1990, but not yet used, as a motor vehicle trail for disabled persons. (see Policy Statement in Appendix I). Good condition of roadbed, light use and good accessibility make this a very good candidate for this use.
- Shortened access to Cage Lake by bicycling to the end of the road and bush-wacking to the lake.
- Seasonal hunting camps established by use of horses or hand carts. These must usually be removed at the end of the season with snowmobiles.
- Has been used as a release area for trapped bears.

b. Jackworks Road (4.0 mi.)

- Streeter Lake Road southwesterly to Lassiter Purchase.

History

- The 1918 topographic map shows the road as a railroad to the Jackworks and continuing as an unimproved road to the present Lassiter purchase.
- In 1922 the Railroad was abandoned and the tracks removed. (Kudish 1985).
- In 1924 the state purchased the lands.

Present Status

- Public motorized use (4 WD, ATV).
- Snowmobile trail.

Condition

- Typical railroad bed; no ditching, 3 foot ruts in places with old ties buried between them; several waterholes; only one of the three crossings of Pins Creek is bridged. Pins Creek swells in periods of heavy runoff to flood a good portion of the road.

Maintenance

- No maintenance on roadbed. Only brushed out for snowmobile use. Users have patched it up.

Unique Uses

- This is the only legal public motorized access to the 16.2 miles of gravel roads and 7.5 miles of access trails on the Lassiter Purchase and Oswegatchie Easement Lands except when canoeing.
- Seasonal hunting camps established by use of 4WD vehicles.
- The open vistas provide a scenic snowmobile route.

- c. Maple Hill Road (1.0 mi.)
-Jackworks Road southerly to Middle Branch.

History

-Does not show on any maps. Probably a logging road used prior to the 1924 purchase.

Present Status

-Public motorized use (4 WD, ATV).
-Snowmobile trail.

Condition

-Several deep mudholes, heavy rutting, steep descent to river.

Maintenance

-Brushed out mostly by users.

Unique Use

-Two seasonal hunting camps established on and across the Middle Branch by use of motorized vehicles and rowboats.

- d. Southeast Corner Road (1.0)

History

-Logging road probably built by Diamond Match Company in the early 60's.

Present Status

-Public motorized use (2 WD, ATV).

Condition

-Good base. Could use some brushing.

Maintenance

-Not yet initiated by department.

Unique Use

-Possible route of egress for canoeists from the river.

The plan management measures proposed reflect continuing motor vehicle access to a handful of long standing hunting campsites well within the 1/4 mile wild river corridor. This motorized access conflicts both with the Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers Act and the State Land Master Plan. These management measures reduce the existing degree of motorized access into and through the River Corridor and insure against any new motorized intrusions.

In the absence of a change of at least a portion of the current river classification from "Wild" to "Scenic" (which raises an important policy question and would require legislative action), motor vehicle access into the River Corridor must be phased out. Fortunately, alternate campsites do exist at points just beyond the 1/4 mile River Corridor.

The issue of possible reclassification of a portion of the River Corridor can best be addressed in connection with the examination, now underway, of the appropriate delineation of the western boundary of the Five Ponds Wilderness Area in light of recent State purchases of new land both in fee and by way of conservation easement. In the meantime, the following protective measures will be undertaken:

(a) Francis Hill Road

The westerly branch will be barricaded at its northern juncture and 150 yards from its southern juncture. Maintenance of this segment will cease. The remaining branch will continue to be used as presently used.

(b) Jackworks Road

This will be gated at the third crossing of Pins Creek. Permits will only be issued for the present campsite and no new motorized accessible campsites will be permitted beyond this gate. Permittees will be given a key to the gate. Permanent barriers will be established at this campsite and at the western intersection of the Jackworks Road with the new Pins Creek Trail.

These restrictions will not be initiated until ATV access along the new Wagonbox Corner Trail is assured. This will provide for uninterrupted motorized access to the Lassiter Purchase.

(c) Maple Hill Road

This will be barricaded approximately 100 yards from the river at the present road intersection with the campsite to the east. The road to this site will be relocated by the Department to be further from the river than it presently is. The number of camping permits for sites in this vicinity within 1/4 mile of the river will be limited to the two existing sites. This road will be gated 1/4 mile from the river with keys given to permittees utilizing these sites.

(d) Southeast Corner Road

This will be retained as a motor vehicle road as a possible means of egress from the river. The need for a foot trail to accommodate this use will be investigated.

2. All Terrain and Motor Vehicle Use

The rules for operation of all terrain vehicles (ATV's) are contained in Article 48C of the Motor Vehicle Law (Appendix F). As section 2403.2 of that law requires the designation and posting of public lands available for the use of these vehicles, past management of this area has been undertaken with the assumption that the following routes, posted for public motorized use, have conformed with the requirements of the law:

Streeter Lake Road	4.5 mi.
South Creek Lake Rd. ROW	1.4 mi.
Kalurah ROW (Dodds Rd.)	1.0 mi.
Jayville to Parking Lot	.3 mi.
Youngs Rd. to Parking Lot	.1 mi.
Jackworks Road	6.9 mi.
Maple Hill Road	<u>1.0 mi.</u>

15.2 mi.

To allow existing motorized uses to continue on the Lassiter Purchase and Oswegatchie Easement Lands the following roads and trails have also been posted:

	<u>Lassiter Purchase</u>	<u>Oswegatchie Easement</u>
Tyler Road	3.7 mi.	
Silver Dawn Rd. (E)	.6 mi.	.5 mi.
Mullins Flow Rd.	2.8 mi.	.5 mi.
Shannon Rd.	.8 mi.	
Southeast Cor. Rd.	1.0 mi.	
Frenchman's Road	.8 mi.	
Silver Dawn Rd. (W)		.6 mi.
Long Lake Road	1.8 mi.	3.6 mi.
Shannon Trail	1.0 mi.	
Long Lake Trail(S)	1.2 mi.	
Long Lake Trail(E)	.1 mi.	
Long Lake Trail(W)	.5 mi.	
Tyler Creek Trail	.1 mi.	
Silver Dawn Lake Tr.		.9 mi.
Silver Dawn Trail		2.0 mi.

ALDRICH POND WILD FOREST PUBLIC MOTOR VEHICLE AND ATV ACCESS

EXISTING

- Existing Public Motor Vehicle Access
- Existing Public ATV Access
- Existing Public 4 WD Access
- ⊕— Existing Handicapped Public ATV Access



- Existing Gate
- Existing Barricade

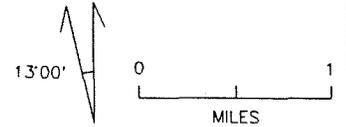
PROPOSED

- Proposed Public Motor Vehicle Access
- Proposed Public ATV Access on Existing Trail
- ⊕— Proposed Public ATV Access on New Trail
- ⊗— Proposed Abandonment of Public ATV Access



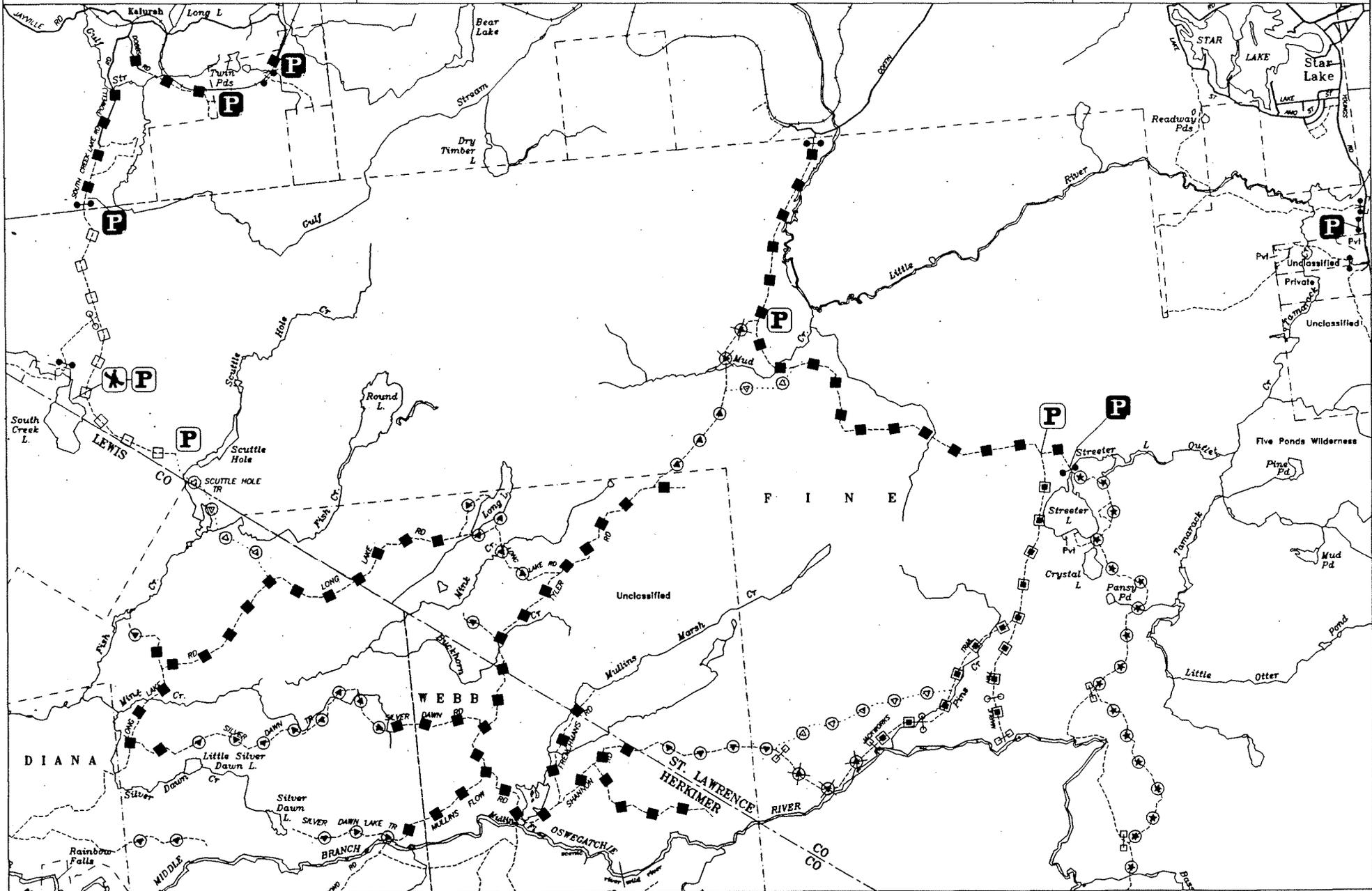
- Proposed Gate
- Proposed Barricade
- ⊗— New Cartop Boat Launch

Magnetic North True North



8-02-84

31



Fish Creek Trail		.5 mi.
Middle Branch Trail		.7 mi.
Mink Creek Trail	.5 mi.	
	14.9 mi.	9.3 mi.

At the public meeting concerning the draft of this plan considerable testimony and a petition were presented in support of more ATV routes. These additional 24.2 miles of roads and trails will more than double the mileage available for this use without disrupting other established uses. However, the Jackworks Road is presently the only existing motorized link to this network without the access for canoeing purposes only stipulation necessary for use of the Bryants Bridge (Mullins Flow) Road. The loss of this road necessitates designation of the Wagonbox Corner Trail as an ATV trail to ensure continued ATV use of this resource.

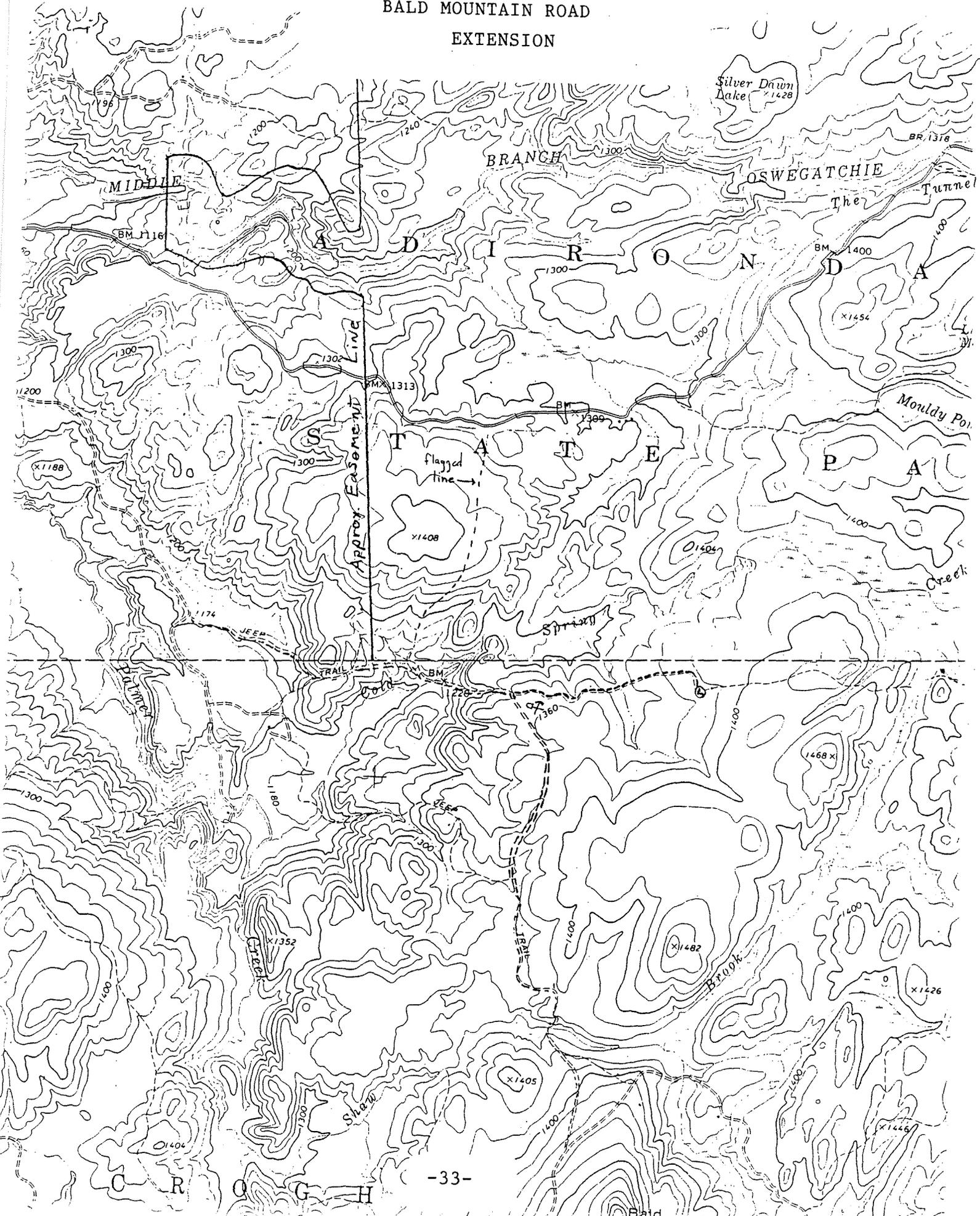
Presently, the legality of this action is being questioned and department policy to allow conformance with the law is being addressed. Until such time as this policy is developed, management of this area will assume that these trails are legally posted. If further actions are deemed necessary to allow the continuation of this use, they will be undertaken as appropriate.

3. Access

As previously addressed in section I A4 (p. 5) public access to this forest continues to be a problem of major importance which can be significantly reduced only by major road construction and acquisition. (Refer to Motor Vehicle Access Map).

Of particular importance is the improvement of public motorized access to the extensive road network on the Lassiter Purchase and Oswegatchie Easement Lands. Although ATV access will be provided by the new Wagonbox Corner Trail, vehicular access will also be necessary to the Lassister Purchase Lands to allow for the continuation of traditional seasonal hunting camps when the hunting rights become public in the year 2000. To accomplish this, the department will attempt to purchase unrestricted motorized vehicle access from Bryants Bridge and will construct a one mile access road (Bald Mtn. Rd. Ext.) across conservation easement lands to the south. Construction of this road will likely begin in the

BALD MOUNTAIN ROAD
EXTENSION



summer of 1994. Other projects necessary for the development of this resource include upgrading the Silver Dawn and Long Lake trails, construction of the Scuttle Hole Snowmobile/ATV Trail and rehabilitation of the South Creek Lake Road to the Scuttle Hole. The feasibility of extending the South Creek Lake Road into the Oswegatchie Easement Lands will be investigated for consideration in the next revision of this plan.

4. Trespass

Past incidences of tree theft are evident in the vicinity of South Creek Lake. In the vicinity of Aldrich, an illegal road was constructed across forest preserve in 1989 to reach a landlocked private parcel, forest preserve signs have been systematically removed by vandals and at least one person has been offered a camp lot for sale on forest preserve.

In past years both gates at South Creek Lake have been damaged to allow for illegal motorized use and the theft of firewood. Illegal ATV use is most prevalent in the vicinity of the Youngs Road; however, an illegal ATV trail is also used from the vicinity of private camps at the end of the Dodds Road to the vicinity of The Gulf.

5. Canoe Routes

During periods of relatively high water, the Little River is canoeable from the Youngs Road to Aldrich. However, a waterfall necessitates a carry across private lands. Acquisition of this parcel is essential to ensure public use of the route. Also canoeable during such periods are various stretches of the Middle Branch. The Windt (1987) reference describes an ambitious trip on this river beginning at Wanakena. The river is more readily accessed by the Long Pond Road from Belfort which is gated near the beginning of the wild river segment where the canoe route begins. This route could continue to the end of the wild river segment on the Lassiter Purchase where the Southeast Corner Road is available. Shorter segments downstream may also be canoeable as public motorized access to the Lassiter Purchase is available for this purpose. A more detailed description of this river may be found in Jamieson and Morris, 1991.

6. Survey Needs

Surveys of the Hunt Lot, Middle Branch Corners Lot and Lassiter Purchase are necessary to allow for responsible management and to alleviate potential trespass problems. Also necessary is a more aggressive boundary line maintenance program, especially in the vicinity of Aldrich and South Creek Lake.

7. Horse Trails

Presently, an extensive network of trails usable by horses exists because of the existence of the road system south of Streeter Lake which crosses the Middle Branch at the Copperbolt Corner. The discontinuance of Department maintenance on the trail south of Bassett's Creek will cause it to be eventually lost for this use unless volunteer help keeps it open. By that time, an alternate network should be established through the construction of the new Wagonbox Corner Snowmobile/Horse/ATV Trail. With a new parking lot on the Streeter Lake Road, this trail will provide a vital link with the extensive road network on the Lassiter Purchase lands.

8. Snowmobile Trails

The Round Lake Snowmobile Trail necessitates a dangerous crossing of Round Lake which also curtails use of the trail before and after adequate ice is present. The relocation of this route southerly across the Lassiter Purchase and Oswegatchie Easement Lands would alleviate both of these problems as well as reduce trail maintenance.

The maintenance of a trail spur ending at the state boundary west of the Little River bridge serves no useful purpose and actually encourages illegal ATV use of the ski bridge.

The establishment of the deadend trail south of Bassetts Creek serves little snowmobile use except to encourage illegal continuation across wilderness. The entire trail system south of Streeter Lake is very lightly used.

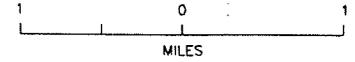
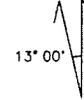
The Jackworks Trail can no longer be used as a through route because it comes within the corridor of the wild river portion of the Middle Branch.

ALDRICH POND WILD FOREST EXISTING HORSE TRAIL SYSTEM

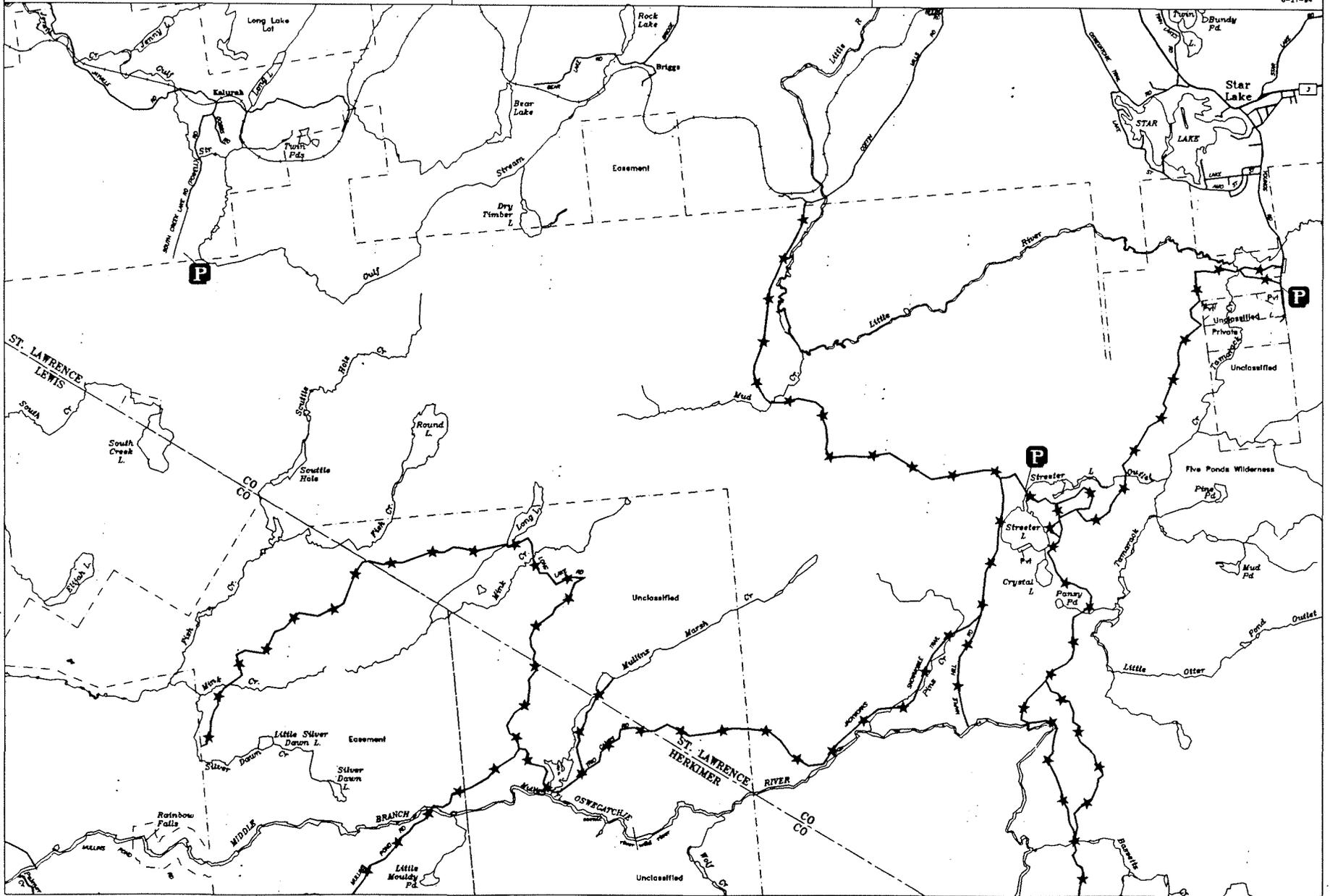
Forest Preserve
 State Highway
 Public Road

Horse Trail
 Parking

Magnetic North True North



6-21-94



The northernmost part of the essential Wagonbox Corner Trail crosses a wide beaver swamp. Maintenance of this trail allows snowmobile use but ATV and horse use are impossible.

9. Streeter Lake Road

This "road" is a former railroad bed in severe need of upgrading to provide an all weather base, proper surface runoff and a maintainable surface so that annual maintenance costs can be reduced. It presently has to be gated at Aldrich in the spring to keep vehicles from sinking into a quagmire when the frost goes out. This presents a major problem for trout fishermen and trappers.

The town bridge crossing the Little River at Aldrich is posted for 4 tons which effectively stops town snowplowing at that point. This limit also severely curtails the ability of DEC crews to work on the road, especially in the hauling of gravel or concrete. Consequently, a major overhaul of this road would necessitate heavy use of the existing gravel pit east of Streeter Lake. The wooden bridge across Mud Creek is dangerous and in need of immediate replacement even though it is presently posted for 7 tons. In 1988, a horse trailer broke through it and sufficient funds have never been available to do more than patch it.

10. Private Access Rights

The assumed private rights of way shown on the private motor vehicle rights of way map have been used traditionally for motorized access to the respective private lands. This use will continue to be honored as long as legally possible.

E. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

1. Goals

- a. Protect the natural wild forest setting.
- b. Provide a variety of outdoor recreation opportunities without degrading the resource or impairing the wild forest atmosphere.

2. Objectives

a. Land Management Objectives

1. Maintain all boundary lines to clearly identify public ownership.
2. Selectively acquire additional lands contiguous to the unit which will consolidate the state's holdings, simplify boundary lines, improve access and otherwise enhance the parcels.
3. Adequately protect the unit from wild fire.
4. Eliminate non-conforming, man-made facilities and incompatible uses which detract from the wild forest character of the unit.
5. Maintain and construct facilities (trails, parking areas, etc.) in conformance with DEC specifications and policies.

b. Wildlife Management Objectives

1. Maintain all native wildlife species at levels compatible with their natural environment.
2. Maintain hunting, trapping and other wildlife-related recreational activities.
3. Improve access and provide additional parking for the above users.
4. Promote recreational use of the area by development of an Informational Brochure that (at least) identifies: access points, trails, attributes, regulations, etc.
5. Update the Inventory of Natural Heritage, Significant Habitats, Endangered, Threatened, and Special Concern Species on the recent acquisitions, and easement lands.

c. Fisheries Management Objectives

1. Perpetuate fish as part of the Adirondack environment.
 - Manage fish so that their numbers and occurrences are compatible with their habitat and the public interest.

- Maintain resource inventories for all waters.
2. Provide optimum opportunity for enjoyment and beneficial utilization of the fish resource by the user.
 - Continue to maintain trout populations by annual stocking in suitable ponds and monitor NSA waters through periodic surveys.
 - Maintain satisfactory pH of ponds as indicated for optimum fishery development, consistent with DEC liming policy.
 - Maintain balanced native fish populations in selected waters, as indicated by biological survey data, by reclamation, consistent with DEC policy.

d. Public Use Management Objectives

1. Provide for a variety of recreational pursuits that are compatible with the spirit of the wild forest concept as enumerated in the State Land Master Plan.
 - Encourage increased public use of this forest by persons seeking amenities to compensate for the reduction in amenities in the Five Ponds Wilderness Area to the east of this forest.
 - Initiate an educational effort to keep the public abreast of the values, limitations and opportunities available in this forest. Trailhead information booths will be provided as necessary to accomplish this as well as a trail map similar to the "Trails of the Cranberry Lake Region" to the east.
2. Make public use of this forest as safe, enjoyable and nondestructive to the forest ecosystem as possible.
 - Restrict camping in accordance with the rules and regulations, the State Land Master Plan and DEC policy, including the enforcement of the permit system.

- Expand the campsite designation system.
- Protect, maintain and improve long term motor vehicle access.

e. Water Quality Management Objectives

Reduce the direct impact of human activities on water quality by improving user awareness of the effect of polluting activities in appropriate communications, especially in personal contacts with department personnel.

IV. PROJECTED USE AND MANAGEMENT PROPOSED

A. FACILITIES DEVELOPMENT AND/OR REMOVAL

1. Develop a .6 mile section of snowmobile/horse/ATV/bike trail connecting the Streeter Lake Road with the Wagonbox Corner Trail south of Mud Creek. This is necessary to maintain this essential trail without the difficult crossing of Mud Creek presently being used and to allow for the use of this trail by horses and ATV's. A parking lot to accommodate horse trailers will be constructed at campsite #5 on the Streeter Lake Road. (Note: If further field investigation reveals a trail/parking lot location closer to Streeter Lake which will cause less environmental disruption, it will be used instead).
2. Develop a 1 mile road connecting the Bald Mountain Road and the Mullins Pond Road (Bald Mountain Road Extension).
3. Upgrade the Silver Dawn Trail (2 miles) and the Long Lake Trail (1.2 miles) to ensure a loop snowmobile/horse/ATV/bike route.
4. Phase out the ski trail. This trail was constructed by the Youth Conservation Corps in the late 1970's and has never been maintained. It is too difficult for most skiers, lacks reasonable parking and necessitates an expensive 154 foot bridge across the Little River. In contrast, the snowmobile trail leading from the Youngs Road is more easily skied, is not heavily used by snowmobilers, has good parking and contains a much less expensive twelve-foot bridge across Tamarack Creek. Phaseout will consist of the immediate removal of the wooden sign on Lake Road and the removal of the bridge over the Little River.

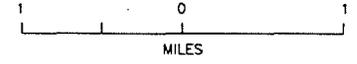
ALDRICH POND WILD FOREST PROPOSED HORSE TRAIL SYSTEM

Forest Preserve
 State Highway
 Public Road

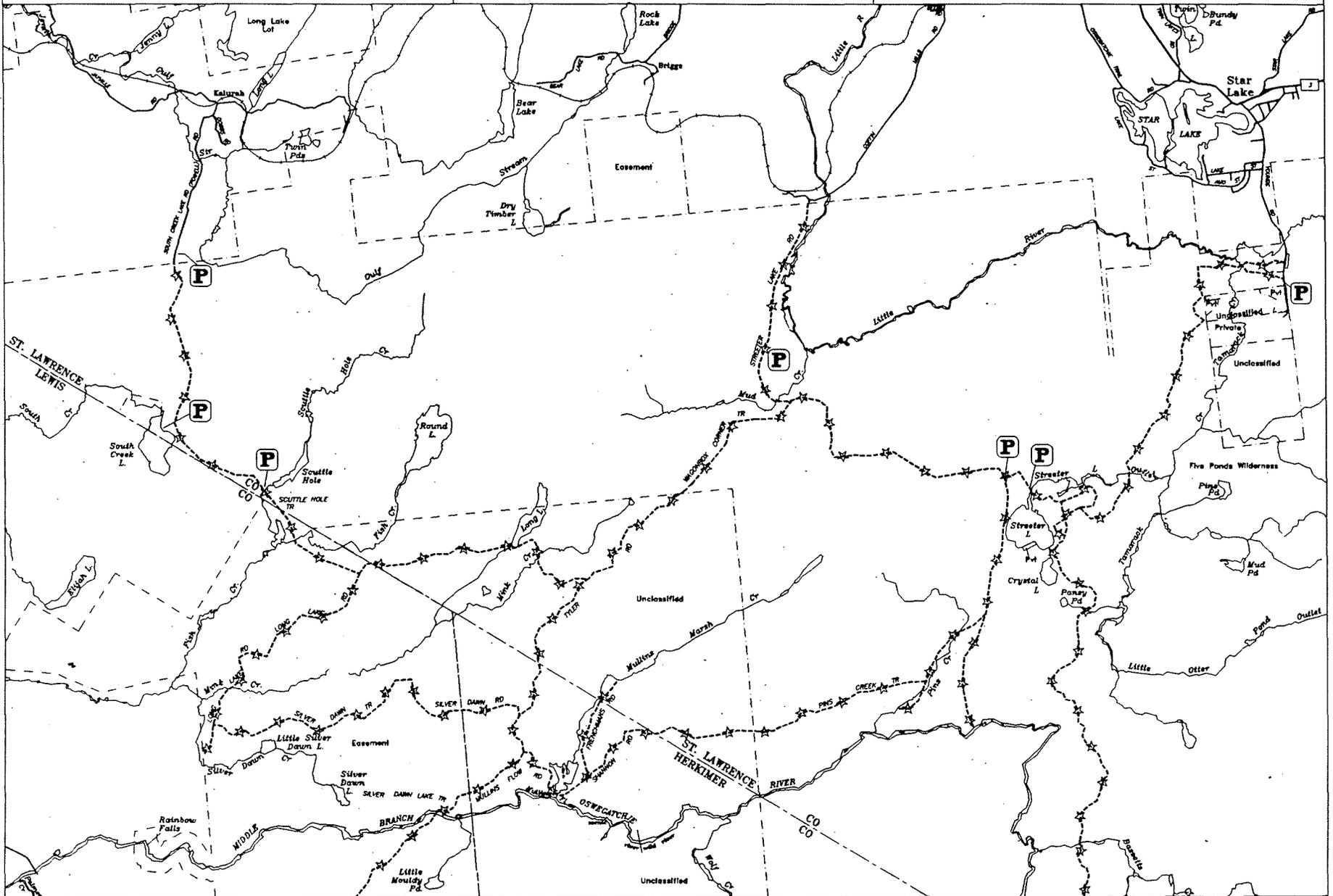
★ Horse Trail
P Parking

Magnetic North True North

13° 00'



6-22-84



43

A 10.3 mile ski trail system is presently being constructed on the Cranberry Lake Wild Forest in the vicinity of Peavine Swamp.

5. Abandon the .6 mile snowmobile trail segment leading to the Little River bridge (Little River Spur).
6. Abandon the .5 mile foot trail bypassing the Round Lake Snowmobile Trail. Improved motorized access to South Creek Lake will provide closer access to Round Lake from the west to diminish the need to maintain this lightly used trail.
7. Abandon the Round Lake Snowmobile Trail. Convert the resulting 1.6 mile deadend trail to the west of Round Lake to a foot trail. Maintenance of this lightly used trail crossing a body of water (Round Lake) is both too expensive for the benefits derived and too dangerous. Limited maintenance staff should be utilized on more heavily used trails.
8. Construct a 1.7 mile snowmobile/ATV/horse/bike trail from the Scuttle Hole southeasterly to connect with the existing log road network on the Oswegatchie Easement Lands (Scuttle Hole Trail).
9. The Jackworks Road and Shannon Trail will be joined by volunteers with a 1.5 mile snowmobile/ATV trail segment to form the Pins Creek Trail.
10. Construct a pit privy and picnic table at Crystal Lake.

B. MAINTENANCE AND REHABILITATION OF FACILITIES

1. Rehabilitate the Streeter Lake Road. Because of its dangerous condition the Mud Creek bridge will be replaced first. The Schuler gate will be removed to allow for expanded parking and adjacent campsites and parking areas will be resurfaced as necessary. The gate at Aldrich will no longer be needed and will be removed.
2. Rehabilitate the South Creek Lake Road to the Scuttle Hole (4.0 miles) and the right-of-way along the Dodds Road(1.0 mile). A cartop boat launch will be established at South Creek Lake with parking for nine cars and parking lots will be provided at the end of both roads.
3. Rehabilitate the road and parking lot at Jayville to accommodate six cars and gate the road at the

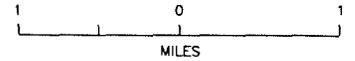
ALDRICH POND WILD FOREST

PROPOSED SNOWMOBILE TRAIL SYSTEM

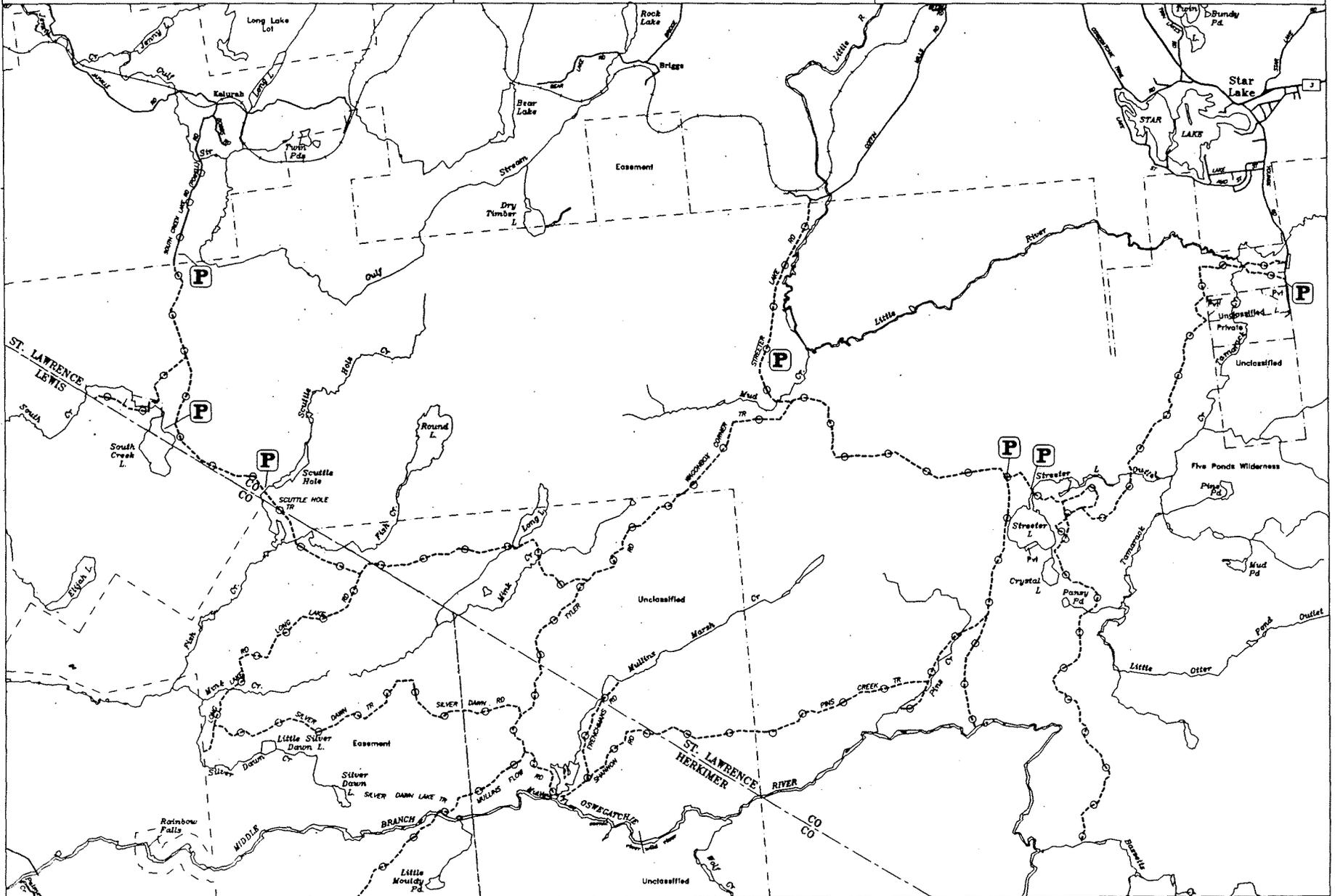
-  Forest Preserve
-  State Highway
-  Public Road
-  Snowmobile Trail
-  Parking

Magnetic North True North

13° 00'



6-22-94



railroad tracks to protect the historic blast furnace.

4. Computerize boundary line maintenance records, post all lines and identify needed surveys.
5. Should debris left by the public on the Oswegatchie Easement Lands become significant, the owner and the department will meet to determine steps to alleviate the problem in accordance with their deeded obligations.

C. PUBLIC USE MANAGEMENT

1. Expand the designated campsite system as necessary to minimize the detrimental effects of indiscriminate campsite use and to allow for administrative recordkeeping necessary for further evaluations.
2. Include the road system on the Lassiter Purchase lands in the existing snowmobile trail system. The Wagonbox Corner Trail is the only remaining connector to these lands, making its upgrading of paramount importance.
3. Bicycle use of the roads and trails within this forest is not anticipated to be in conflict with any other use. Therefore, the following will be available for this use:

	<u>Miles</u>
South Creek Lake Rd. ROW	1.2
Streeter Lake Rd.	4.5
Dodds Rd.	1.0
Jayville to State Boundary	.7
Middle Branch Corners Lot	.1
Tyler Rd.	3.7
Silver Dawn Rd. (E&W)	1.7
Mullins Flow Rd.	3.3
Shannon Rd. & Trail	1.8
Southeast Cr. Rd.	1.0
Frenchman's Rd.	.8
Long Lake Rd.	4.4
Fish Creek Trail	.5
Long Lake Trail(s)	.8
Tyler Creek Trail	.1
Mink Creek Trail	.5
Francis Hill Rd.	6.1
Tamarack Creek Trail	4.2
Francis Hill Rd. to Middle Branch (if cleared by volunteers)	2.7
Total	39.1

Use of the following is dependent on the level of beaver activity and general soil moisture:

	<u>Miles</u>
Jackworks Rd.	6.9
South Creek Lake Road ROW	.2
South Creek Lake Rd.	1.6
Maple Hill Rd.	<u>1.0</u>
Total	9.7

Use of the following is dependent on proposed relocation:

	<u>Miles</u>
Wagonbox Corner Trail	.9

D. FISH AND WILDLIFE

1. Fish

Regional fisheries personnel will continue to monitor and assess waters in the Aldrich Pond Wild Forest. These surveys are necessary to provide data for management decisions to carry out and update this plan. These include water chemistry evaluations such as pH and dissolved oxygen, and biological surveys to monitor growth and survival of fish stocks.

Specific fish management activities which will be carried out within this forest are described below:

a. Annual Stocking

Round Lake P-161	ST-1400 FF
Star Lake P-281	RT-3400 9"SY
Long Lake P-162	ST-1000 FF
Streeter Lake P-285	ST-1000 FF
Little River	BT-3100 SY
Silver Dawn Lake	ST-400 FF

b. Pond Liming

Long Lake (p 162) was limed in 1987 as part of a continuing management commitment and in accordance with the Division of Fish and Wildlife Liming Policy and the Final Generic Environmental Impact Statement on the New York State DEC Program of Liming Selected Acidified Waters

(Simonin 1990). Long Lake's water chemistry will be monitored annually. When its pH drops below 6.0 (or ANC below 25 ueq/l), it will be scheduled for reliming. Pending results from its 1994 water chemistry check, Long Lake will need reliming late that year. Silver Dawn Lake (p. 154) is proposed for an initial lime treatment during 1995.

c. Survey and Inventory

Surveys of all will be done on a rotation type basis dependent on funding, staff, and specific needs of each water's fish populations. Waters supporting sportfisheries waters will be surveyed most often, as current species composition, habitat and water quality data is needed as a basis management decisions.

d. Access

Acquisition and development of permanent angler access to Star Lake is proposed. Development includes a 5 to 10 car parking area designated for canoe and car-top boat launching. The developed site will enhance angler opportunities on the lake but, due to its small size, is not expected to increase angler use substantially.

As noted previously under Maintenance and Rehabilitation of Facilities, a plan to rehabilitate the South Creek Lake Road to allow vehicle access to South Creek Lake is proposed. A nine car parking area at the lake is also included in the proposal. This will greatly enhance public access to the lake, which is currently limited to a 1.7 mile snowmobile trail. Following this development angler use of the lake is expected to increase to a maximum of 250 angler days per year. This level of use is considered light however, and will not adversely effect the lake's naturally spawning fish stocks.

In addition, public access should be obtained on the following waters: Twin Lakes, Sucker Lake, Jenny Lake.

2. Wildlife

Wildlife Management activities within the area are limited to special projects such as the Loon Survey, or Breeding Bird Atlas. Game species are managed

through the state-wide framework of season lengths and bag limits. No specific special projects are planned for this forest at this time. It is important to maintain access for big game hunters for both white-tailed deer and black bear.

Softwood shelter is important for the integrity of deer wintering areas. To preserve the integrity of these critical areas on the easement lands, a cooperative timber management plan should be developed to replace acre for acre any softwood trees harvested from areas within or adjacent to designated deer wintering areas. An alternate for consideration would be to purchase an additional easement to preserve important softwood shelter areas.

E. WILD, SCENIC, AND RECREATIONAL RIVERS

The part of the Middle Branch of the Oswegatchie River from the southeast corner of this forest to the vicinity of Wolf Creek outlet is designated as a wild river under the Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers Act while the remainder of the river is designated as a scenic river. (Appendix L).

The river area shall generally extend to one-quarter mile from the mean high water mark within this forest, with possible exceptions as enumerated in the issues section (III D1).

F. FIRE MANAGEMENT

Fire presuppression activities will consist of public education by the integration of fire safety awareness in appropriate public communications, the maintenance of fire rings and active patrol during periods of high fire danger. Suppression and presuppression activities will be enhanced by the improved access provided by this plan.

G. ADMINISTRATION

1. Staffing

Department staffing would be adequate for the continued management of this area providing that sufficient maintenance funding was available to support a permanent four-person trail crew. Presently the crew consists of two persons.

2. Volunteers

Considerable maintenance has been conducted on this area by mostly unknown volunteers. Tasks such as litter removal and trail maintenance have been undertaken by responsible persons who take pride in these public lands and attempt to improve them.

In recent years the professional staff has attempted to formalize these volunteer efforts through an adoption process to encourage more participatory management by users, to maximize the effect of these efforts and to assist these people whenever possible. To date, this formalized effort has consisted in the adoption of snowmobile trails by clubs in 1988 and 1989 and the adoption of the Streeter Lake leanto every year since 1988.

A special effort will be made to allow interested persons to adopt any trails being proposed for abandonment in this plan as well as to construct the proposed Pins Creek Trail.

3. Budgeting

Estimated project expenses to be incurred by the implementation of this plan will be as follows:

	<u>Project</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>
1994	Road, Trail & Facility Maintenance	\$5,000
	Boundary Line Marking & Record Computerization	\$8,000
	Wagonbox Corner Trail Relocation/Parking Lot	\$40,000
	Fish Survey & Inventory Water Quality Monitor	\$1,000
	Fish Stocking	<u>\$6,000</u>
		\$60,000
1995	Road, Trail & Facility Maintenance	\$5,500
	Lime Long Lake	4,000
	Silver Dawn Trail/Long Lake Trail	\$15,000

	Fish Survey & Inventory Water Quality Monitor	\$1,000
	Bald Mountain Road Ext.	\$60,000
	Snowplowing	\$2,000
	Fish Stocking	\$6,000
	Middle Branch Corners Lot, Hunt Lot, Lassiter Purchase Surveys	\$35,000
	South Creek Lake, Dodds and Jayville Roads/ Rehabilitation	\$100,000
	Star Lake Angler Access Development	7,500
	Scuttle Hole Snowmobile Tr.	<u>\$20,000</u> \$256,000
1996	Road, Trail and Facility Maintenance	\$7,000
	Trail Map	1,000
	Youngs Road Parking Lot	10,000
	Fish Survey & Inventory Water Quality Monitor	\$1,000
	Snowplowing	3,000
	Fish Stocking	6,000
	Lime Silver Dawn Lake	3,000
	Streeter Lake Rd. Rehab	<u>\$70,000</u> \$101,000
1997-98	Road, Trail & Facility Maintenance	\$7,000
	Fish Survey & Inventory Monitor Water Quality	\$1,000
	Snowplowing	\$4,000
	Fish Stocking	<u>\$6,000</u> \$18,000/yr.

H. LAND ACQUISITION

To fulfill the objectives of this plan, the following acquisitions should be undertaken:

1. Right-of-way easement or fee purchase along the Mink Creek Road and Mullins Pond Road to the Oswegatchie Easement Lands and the Lassiter Purchase easement lands to the south respectively.
2. The former Schuler property on the Little River.
3. Available properties which would provide access to the Long Lake Lot, Jenny Lake Lot, Pinehill Marsh Lot, and the inaccessible 1,300 acre portion of the Main Section.

I. SLMP AMENDMENTS REQUIRED

The State Land Master Plan should include a description of this forest.

J. SEOR REQUIREMENTS

An environmental assessment form (EAF) and a negative declaration have been prepared for this plan.

K. RELATIONSHIP OF MANAGEMENT OF AREA TO FOREST PRESERVE AND ADJACENT AREAS

This area contains one of five wild forests which ring the Five Ponds Wilderness Area. North of this wilderness is the Cranberry Lake Wild Forest; to the east is the Horseshoe Lake Wild Forest; to the south is the Independence River Wild Forest; and to the west is both the Watsons Triangle Wild Forest and this forest. All of these lands provide the amenities not generally found in wilderness areas to better serve that segment of the user public which desires them.

The improvement of public access is one such amenity which, when adopted on this area, will reduce the relatively exclusive use of public lands enjoyed by adjacent landowners.

L. PROPOSED RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. Article 48C, Section 2405.1 of the Motor Vehicle Law requires State agencies to adopt rules and regulations to allow the use of all terrain vehicles on highways under their jurisdiction.

2. Department rules and regulations are being revised to allow for the same degree of protection on the Lassiter Acquisition and Oswegatchie Easement Lands that exists on adjacent forest preserve lands.

V. SCHEDULE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

The following schedule is included as a general guide. It should be noted that factors such as budget constraints and unforeseen developments will necessitate deviations in the schedule.

1994

1. Improve the boundary line maintenance records and identify unmarked lines.
2. Upgrade the trail and facility inventory.
3. Abandon maintenance of the following:
 - Ski Trail.
 - Snowmobile trail segment to Little River bridge.
 - Round Lake Snowmobile Trail, including the foot trail bypass.
4. Post the 1.6 mile segment of the Round Lake Snowmobile Trail between the Scuttle Hole and Round Lake as a foot trail.
5. Amend the snowmobile trail bulletin to include the trails on the Lassiter Purchase and post these trails for snowmobile use.
6. Begin construction of the Bald Mountain Road Extension.
7. Relocate the Wagonbox Corner Trail.
8. Survey Silver Dawn Lake.
9. Monitor water chemistry of Long Lake.
10. Survey (fish) South Creek Lake.
11. Pursue Access Improvement - Star Lake.

1995

1. Survey the Middle Branch Corners Lot, Hunt Lot and Lassiter Purchase (Western boundary of Oswegatchie Easement Lands).
2. Rehabilitate the South Creek Lake, Jayville and Dodds Roads.
3. Construct the Scuttle Hole Snowmobile Trail.
4. Monitor water chemistry of Long and Silver Dawn Lakes.
5. Pursue access to Sucker Lake.
6. Lime Long Lake (p. 162).
7. Develop Star Lake Angler Access Site.
8. Rehabilitate the Silver Dawn and Long Lake Trails to accommodate snowmobiles, ATV's, horses and bicycles.
9. Finish construction of the Bald Mountain Road Extension.

1996

1. Rehabilitate the Youngs Road parking lot, construct a corral and drive a point for water.
2. Rehabilitate the Streeter Lake Road.
3. Repost the 7.45 miles of public fishing rights.
4. Monitor water chemistry of Long Lake and Silver Dawn Lake.
5. Survey (fish) Little River.
6. Pursue access to Twin Lakes.
7. Develop and print a trail map for the planning area.
8. Lime Silver Dawn Lake (p. 154).

1997

1. Monitor water chemistry of Long Lake and Silver Dawn Lake.
2. Survey 2-3 ponded waters.

1998

1. Monitor water chemistry of Long Lake and Silver Dawn Lake.

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