APPENDICES

APPENDIX A : LEGEND OF BARE HILL

Two very majestic hills along the east side of Canandaigua Lake, Bare Hill and Whaleback, hold a very prominent place in Seneca Indian tradition and the history of the Naples Valley.

Genundowa, or Bare Hill, is located 5 miles north of Woodville at the head of Canandaigua Lake. The summit of Bare Hill is 865 feet above the lake; it was the traditional site of the Seneca Indian council fires.

There have been many published accounts of the legend of Bare Hill. David Cusick, a native Seneca writer, published an early account of the legend in the mid-1800's. Mary Jamison's biography also presents a similar version.

Briefly, the tale goes this way: A young Seneca boy, while paddling his canoe through he Naples swamp at the head of Canandaigua Lake found a very pretty snake that he decided to take home to his wigwam.

The boy named the snake Osaista Wanna. He fed it insects, frogs and flies. The snake grew and grew until it was consuming squirrels, woodchucks, and raccoons. The snake continued to grow and clamored for more and larger game.

When local supplies of game and fish became unavailable, the Indian villagers decided to build a fort to protect themselves from the reptile. Their fort was built at the summit of Bare Hill. However, before it was completed and made totally safe, the monster serpent appeared. It used its vast body to coil around the entire fort, completely encircling the people. Many of the Indians nearly starved and, in seeking to escape in the dark, ran down the serpent's throat.

Two children in the Indian village, a young boy and his sister, did not try to escape; they relied upon the advice given to them by an Indian God in their dreams. The boy, in his dream, was told how to slay the monster by stringing his bow with his sister's hair. He was told to make one unerring shot into the third scale on the serpent's throat and all would be saved. The youth shot the dart, and it pierced the monster's heart.

The death of the serpent did not come easily. It writhed and twisted and turned for hours after it had been hit by the charmed arrow. The body, which weighed several tons, lashed at the hillside, knocking down trees, tumbling boulders. The job was so complete when the serpent finally died, that the entire hill was barren of trees and bushes. The Senecas named the site Bare Hill.

Also, as the serpent plunged into Canandaigua Lake near Vine Valley, it disgorged the heads of its Seneca Indian victims, most of which had turned to stone. Round stones found in the vicinity of Bare Hill are now known to geologists as septaria; local residents, however, call them Indian heads.

Whaleback is a hill at the south end of Canandaigua Lake; it is also called South Hill and Sunnyside. This hill was especially revered by the Seneca Indians. There is a deep gorge on the east side of this hill that rises 1,100 feet above the valley floor. This gorge, called Clark's Gully today, once had an ancient cave which is said

to be the birthplace of the Seneca Nation. The Senecas believe that the earth opened, and the first Senecas arrived in the world in this remote site, adjacent to West River, many, many years ago.

Provided by Middlesex Heritage Group

THE SERPENT AT BARE HILL
-from Ancient History of the Six Nations by David Cusick

There was a woman and son who resided near the fort, which was situated near a note, which was Jenneatowaka, the original seat of the Te-hoo-nea-nyo-hent (Senecas) the boy one day, while amusing in the bush he caught a small serpent called Kaistowanea, with two heads, and brings it to his apartment; the serpent was first placed in a small warm box to keep tame, which was fed with birds, flesh, etc. After ten winters the serpent became considerable large and rested on the beams within the hut, and the warrior was obliged to hunt deers and bears to feed the monster; but after awhile the serpent was able to maintain itself on various game; it left the hut and resided on top of a nole; the serpent frequently visited the lake, and after thirty years it was prodigious size, which in a short time inspired with an evil mind against the people, and in the night the warrior experienced the serpent was brooding some mischief, and was about to destroy the people of the fort; when the warrior was acquainted of the danger he was dismayed and soon moved to other fort; at daylight the serpent descended from the heights with the most tremendous noise of the trees, which were trampled down in such a force that the trees were uprooted, and the serpent immediately surrounded the gate; the people were taken improvidentially and brought to confusion; finding themselves circled by the monstrous serpent, some of them endeavored to pass out at the gate, and others attempted to climb over the serpent, but were unable; the people remained in this situation for several days, the warriors had made oppositions to dispel the monster, but were fruitless, and the people were distressed of their confinement, and found no other method than to rush out at the gate, but the people were devoured, except a young warrior and his sister, which detained, and were only left exposed to the monster, and were restrained without hope of getting released; at length the warrior received advice from a dream, and he adorned his arms with the hairs of his sister, which he succeeded by shooting at the heart, and the serpent was mortally wounded, which hastened to retire from the fort and retreated to the lake in order to gain relief, the serpent dashed on the face of the water furiously in the time of agony; at last it vomited the substance which it had eaten and then sunk to the deep and expired. The people of the fort did not receive any assistance from their neighboring forts as the serpent was too powerful to be resisted. After the fort was demolished the Council fire was removed to other fort called Than-gwe-took, which was situated west of now Geneva Lake.

APPENDIX B: ANIMALS ON BARE HILL UNIT

BIRDS

BY COMMON NAME, SCIENTIFIC NAME & PROTECTIVE STATUS

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	PROTECTIVE STATUS FEDERAL	STATE
American Crow	*Corvus brachyrhynchos*	MBTA	Game Species
American Goldfinch	*Carduelis tristis*	MBTA	Protected
American Kestrel	*Falco sparverius*	MBTA	Protected
American Redstart	*Setophaga ruticilla*	MBTA	Protected
American Robin	*Turdus migratorius*	MBTA	Protected
Baltimore Oriole	*Icterus galbula*	MBTA	Protected
Barn Swallow	*Hirundo rustica*	MBTA	Protected
Belted Kingfisher	*Ceryle alcyon*	MBTA	Protected
Black-billed Cuckoo	*Coccyzus erythropthalmus*	MBTA	Protected
Black-capped Chickadee	*Poecile atricapillus*	MBTA	Protected
Blue Jay	*Cyanocitta cristata*	MBTA	Protected
Bobolink	*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*	MBTA	Protected
Brown Thrasher	*Toxostoma rufum*	MBTA	Protected
Brown-headed Cowbird	*Molothrus ater*	MBTA	Protected
Cedar Waxwing	*Bombycilla cedrorum*	MBTA	Protected
Chestnut-sided Warbler	*Dendroica pensylvanica*	MBTA	Protected
Chimney Swift	*Chaetura pelagica*	MBTA	Protected
Chipping Sparrow	*Spizella passerina*	MBTA	Protected
Common Grackle	*Quiscalus quiscula*	MBTA	Protected
Common Yellowthroat	*Geothlypis trichas*	MBTA	Protected
Downy Woodpecker	*Picoides pubescens*	MBTA	Protected
Eastern Bluebird	*Sialia sialis*	MBTA	Protected
Eastern Kingbird	*Tyrannus tyrannus*	MBTA	Protected
Eastern Meadowlark	*Sturnella magna*	MBTA	Protected
Eastern Phoebe	*Sayornis phoebe*	MBTA	Protected
Eastern Towhee	*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*	MBTA	Protected
Eastern Wood-Pewee	*Contopus virens*	MBTA	Protected
European Starling	*Sturnus vulgaris*	Unprotected	Unprotected
Field Sparrow	*Spizella pusilla*	MBTA	Protected
Gray Catbird	*Dumetella carolinensis*	MBTA	Protected
Great Crested Flycatcher	*Myiarchus crinitus*	MBTA	Protected
Hairy Woodpecker	*Picoides villosus*	MBTA	Protected
Horned Lark	*Eremophila alpestris*	MBTA	Protected-Special Concern
House Finch	*Carpodacus mexicanus*	MBTA	Protected
House Sparrow	*Passer domesticus*	Unprotected	Unprotected
House Wren	*Troglodytes aedon*	MBTA	Protected
Indigo Bunting	*Passerina cyanea*	MBTA	Protected
Killdeer	*Charadrius vociferus*	MBTA	Protected
Least Flycatcher	*Empidonax minimus*	MBTA	Protected
Mourning Dove	*Zenaida macroura*	MBTA	Protected
Northern Cardinal	*Cardinalis cardinalis*	MBTA	Protected
Northern Flicker	*Colaptes auratus*	MBTA	Protected
Northern Harrier	*Circus cyaneus*	MBTA	Threatened
Northern Mockingbird	*Mimus polyglottos*	MBTA	Protected
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	*Stelgidopteryx serripennis*	MBTA	Protected
Ovenbird	*Seiurus aurocapillus*	MBTA	Protected

Pileated Woodpecker	*Dryocopus pileatus*	MBTA	Protected
Purple Finch	*Carpodacus purpureus*	MBTA	Protected
Purple Martin	*Progne subis*	MBTA	Protected
Red-eyed Vireo	*Vireo olivaceus*	MBTA	Protected
Red-tailed Hawk	*Buteo jamaicensis*	MBTA	Protected
Red-winged Blackbird	*Agelaius phoeniceus*	MBTA	Protected
Ring-necked Pheasant	*Phasianus colchicus*	Unprotected	Game Species
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	*Pheucticus ludovicianus*	MBTA	Protected
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	*Archilochus colubris*	MBTA	Protected
Savannah Sparrow	*Passerculus sandwichensis*	MBTA	Protected
Scarlet Tanager	*Piranga olivacea*	MBTA	Protected
Song Sparrow	*Melospiza melodia*	MBTA	Protected
Spotted Sandpiper	*Actitis macularia*	MBTA	Protected
Tree Swallow	*Tachycineta bicolor*	MBTA	Protected
Tufted Titmouse	*Baeolophus bicolor*	MBTA	Protected
Turkey Vulture	*Cathartes aura*	MBTA	Protected
Veery	*Catharus fuscescens*	MBTA	Protected
Vesper Sparrow	*Pooecetes gramineus*	MBTA	Protected-Special Concern
Warbling Vireo	*Vireo gilvus*	MBTA	Protected
White-breasted Nuthatch	*Sitta carolinensis*	MBTA	Protected
Wild Turkey	*Meleagris gallopavo*	Unprotected	Game Species
Wood Thrush	*Hylocichla mustelina*	MBTA	Protected
Yellow Warbler	*Dendroica petechia*	MBTA	Protected

MAMMALS

BY COMMON NAME, SCIENTIFIC NAME & PROTECTIVE STATUS

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	PROTECTIVE STATUS FEDERAL	STATE
Virginia Opossum	*Didelphis virginians*	UN	Game species
Least Shrew	*Cryptotis parva*	UN	UN
Star-nosed Mole	*Condylura cristata*	UN	UN
Little Brown Bat	*Myotis lucifugus*	UN	UN
Big Brown Bat	*Eptesicuc fuscus*	UN	UN
Coyote	*Canis latrans*	UN	Game species
Red Fox	*Vulpes vulpes*	UN	Game species
Gray Fox	*Urocyon cinereoargenteus*	UN	Game species
Raccoon	*Procyon lotor*	UN	Game species
Ermine	*Mustela erminea*	UN	Game species
Long-tailed Weasel	*Mustela frenata*	UN	Game species
Mink	*Mustel vison*	UN	Game species
Striped Skunk	*Mephitis mephitis*	UN	Game species
White-tailed Deer	*Odocoileus virginianus*	UN	Game species
Eastern Chipmunk	*Tamias striatus*	UN	UN
Woodchuck	*Marmota morax*	UN	UN

Fox Squirrel	*Sciurus niger*	UN	Game species
Gray Squirrel	*Sciurus carolinensis*	UN	Game species
Red Squirrel	*Tamiasciurus hunsonicus*	UN	UN
Southern Flying Squirrel	*Glaucomys volans*	UN	UN
Northern Flying Squirrel	*Glaucomys sabrinus*	UN	UN
Deer Mouse	*Peromyscus maniculatus*	UN	UN
White-footed Mouse	*Peromyscus leucopus*	UN	UN
Southern Red-backed Vole	*Clethrionokys gapperi*	UN	UN
Meadow Vole	*Microtus pennylvanicus*	UN	UN
Woodland Vole	*Microtus pinetorium*	UN	UN
Muskrat	*Ondatra zibethicus*	UN	Game species
Southern Bog Lekking	*Synaptomys cooperi*	UN	UN
Meadow Jumping Mouse	*Zapus hudsonius*	UN	UN
Woodland Jumping Mouse	*Napaeozapus ingignis*	UN	UN
House Mouse	*Mus musculus*	UN	UN
Norway Rat	*Rattus norvegieus*	UN	UN
Eastern Cottontail	*Sylvilagus floidanus*	UN	Game species

REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS

BY COMMON NAME, SCIENTIFIC NAME & PROTECTIVE STATUS

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	PROTECTIVE STATUS FEDERAL	STATE
Red-spotted Newt	*Notophthalmus v. viridescens*	UN	UN-spec.
Northern Dusky Salamander	*Desmognathus fuscus*	UN	UN
Northern Two-lined Salamander	*Eurycea bislineata*	UN	UN
Northern Spring Peeper	*Pseudacris c. crucifer*	UN	UN
Western Chorus Frog	*Pseudacris triseriata*	UN	UN
Bullfrog	*Rana catesbeiana*	UN	UN
Green Frog	*Rana clamitans melanota*	UN	Game species
Wood Frog	*Rana sylvatica*	UN	Game species
Leopard Frog	*Rana pipiens-s. utricularius*	UN	Game species
Northern Brown Snake	*Storeria d. dekayi*	UN	UN
Common Garter Snake	*Thamnophis sirtalis*	UN	UN
Northern Ringneck Snake	*Diadophis punctatus edwardsii*	UN	UN

RESIDENT FISH SPECIES

BY COMMON NAME AND SCIENTIFIC NAME

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME

Brown bullhead	*Ictalurus nebulosus*
Bluegill	*Lepomis macrochirus*
Pumpkinseed	*Lepomis gibbosus*
Largemouth Bass	*Micropterus salmoides*

APPENDIX C : PUBLIC COMMENT

THE FOLLOWING PUBLIC COMMENTS WERE RECEIVED AS A RESULT OF THE JULY 14, 2000, MAILING:

1. Keep Bare Hill in its natural state! No ATV's no dirt bikes, no development!

2. Have been hunting and trapping around the area for about 10 years. Also very nice for walks and hikes. May have a few erosion problems. But all in all seems animals and trees are healthy and doing well, please keep in touch. Would like to volunteer to help.

3. Passive recreation like hiking and cross country skiing should be encouraged; cell phone towers not to be constructed; motorized vehicles discouraged.

4. Maintenance of Bare Hill as a natural area is of paramount importance. Non-motorized usage should be maintained. Management for diverse wildlife presence - not just huntable species should be emphasized. Native American usage is appropriate, however better clean-up by them after their events would promote more respectful usage by others - parking is currently adequate, additional spaces would be detrimental.

5. On line I could find no information about the plan. Therefore I cannot comment.

THE FOLLOWING PUBLIC COMMENTS WERE RECEIVED AT THE MARCH 21, 2001 PUBLIC MEETING:

Question: How many acres of tree cutting will need to be done?

Response: The minimum number of acres to that would need to be cleared to restore the view from the bon fire area would be about 3 acres. The maximum that would be cleared for views would be about 100 acres. This would include clearing the semi-open field on top, the planted softwood, and hardwood that has grown up to block good views. Potential acres that could be thinned is also about 100 acres. The actual number of acres that get cut will very depending on such things as money available and markets for the trees.

Question: Do you mean the trees on the west side of the fire circle?

Response: Yes, there are some black locust trees that are blocking the view of the lake now and are growing several feet a year in height. If we don't cut these the view will be blocked completely in very few years. Since black locust sprouts when cut a follow up with an herbicide will be required to kill the trees completely. There are some other scattered trees that need to be cut to maintain the view from the trail into the council fire area, and to simplify mowing.

Question: What do you mean by native hardwoods?

Response: Native hardwoods to the area include red and white oak, hickory, aspen and, white ash.

Question: What are your intentions if you plan to improve the road?

Response: The access road will remain gated and will be used by DEC employees for the maintenance of the property. It will also provide the Town of Middlesex Heritage Group with better access to the council fire area for permitted events. Hauling firewood in for the fall festival has been troublesome. When the existing road is wet and it is difficult for persons with disabilities to access the council fire area. Access will also improve for fire trucks and emergency vehicles.

Question: Does anyone patrol to keep ATVs away?

Response: Yes, the area is patrolled by Forest Rangers. We have been pretty successful in keeping unauthorized ATVs and 4-wheel drive vehicles out with the gate and stone barriers. We have also stopped mowing for fifty feet behind the barriers, the tangle of vegetation that has grown up has discouraged unauthorized riders as well. Overall, I think we have made considerable progress on this problem although it isn't solved completely.

Question: Complement on your work. Under what circumstances will you use herbicides? Is there a concern regarding the runoff and Canandaigua Lake?

Response: The UMP outlines two major potential projects where herbicides may be used. Of high priority is controlling the black locust stand below the council rock. Black Locust is a prolific sprouter and will need to be killed to keep them from growing back and blocking the view of the lake again in a few years. The other potential use of herbicides would be native grassland restoration efforts in the open areas of this property. When used properly these herbicides bond quickly with organics and will not leach through the soil or runoff into waterbodies. Most of herbicides quickly break down within two weeks in the environment.

Question: I have experience with Black Locust and have used Roundup to get the new growth.

Response: Roundup (glyphosate) is a herbicide we are considering to use on the black locust. The final selection of available products listed for use on black locust will be made just prior to implementing the project.

Question: It's worth getting rid of to look at the vista.

Response: We also believe the vista is one of Bare Hill's best features and should be preserved.

Question: If [the road] is presently gated, how can emergency vehicles currently get through?

Response: The local volunteer fire departments have been given a gate key. If they can't find it they have our permission to cut the lock to get in for an emergency. We'll be happy to replace the lock for that situation.

Question: Have you been mowing once a year?

Response: I think we have mowed about an acre at the council fire area each year. We have tried to mow the rest of the area that we are committed to keeping open every two years. This has not been entirely successful as we seem to be gaining more dogwood.

Question: Do you plan on cleaning out the ponds? It was pretty bad 10 years ago, it's probably smaller by now. Is that every two years on the dikes?

Response: Grassy sections of the dykes should be mowed every two years with the rest of the open area. Removal of woody vegetation from the dykes is on the list to be done this year, but may not get done. There is no current plans to deepen the ponds

Question: Does the state contract that work out?

Response: I think all of the work that has been done on Bare Hill so far has been accomplished with DEC Operations employees from the Naples shop. We may use contractors in the future if the funding is available and it is cost-effective. We may also use "trade-off" work from logging contractors to complete certain jobs.

Volunteers might also be used to build hiking trails, set up bluebird houses, inventory plants and birds and help with interpretive signs.

Question: Does logging get contracted out?

Response: All logging is contracted out by one of two methods.

- Sales less than $10,000 are bid as local sales handled by the region. Sales less than $500 may be negotiated by the region provided there is only one interested buyer.
- Sales over $10,000 are bid as revenue contract sales and are processed through the state comptrollers office. These sales require prior conceptual approval by Albany DEC state forest supervisors and public legal notice.

Question: Is there a place to put up signs? Who puts them up? Do they change the signs?

Response: We have a very nice kiosk on the main trail near the parking lot. It has a map of the area and some information on the history of Bare Hill. We would like to add a pamphlet/trail map and, seasonally, information on birds and plants that are on the area. DEC Forestry staff has made up the current display but we would be happy to get volunteer help to expand the human history section and add natural history materials.

Question: There are bottles, cans, broken glass, although I haven't seen them dump sofa beds.

Response: Litter is certainly a problem whenever you have public land without a full time attendant. Some of the broken glass you see on top of the trail was from old bottles that were broken and scattered from our first mowing years ago. But most of the mess is confined in or near the parking lot. The gate and stone barriers that keep out motor vehicles also slow the spread of

littering. I don't think you see big items - like sofa beds or appliances, dumped here anymore because the litterers feel trapped at the end of a dead end road.

Question: Whose responsible for the parking area, is that up to the Town of Middlesex or volunteer groups?

Response: The gravel parking area is actually the turn around for Van Epps Road, which belongs to the Town of Middlesex. The grassy area between the road and the rock barrier is mostly in the road right-of-way but some of it is on state land. In reality, litter pickup is done by whoever is there and willing to do the work as both levels of government, their employees and volunteers want to keep the area presentable.

Question: There has been less litter from year to year.

Response: We agree. Removing the trash barrels that were rapidly filled to overflowing with household trash and pressure from law enforcement have made a difference.

Question: There are incidents of people breaking into cars (mainly in summer). Are they aware of that?

Response: I'm not aware of any recent incidents, but see me after the meeting and I'll see that any information you have on this gets to our Forest Rangers. I hope each incident will be promptly reported to the rangers or sheriff. If we don't know it happened we certainly can't investigate or solve the problem.

Question: Peter [Jemison] mentioned eagles. Are the nearest eagles at Hemlock Lake? Should Reintroduction of eagles be promoted? Aren't there's too many people for eagles?

Response: At this location the nearest nests are two at Hemlock. Eagles have large ranges and need to be near a water body, so the nearest likely site would be on Canandaigua's south end.

Question: There are osprey around here.

Response: The nearest active nest is at Seneca Army Depot. There is potential for osprey on the West River on High Tor Wildlife Management Area.

Question: You mentioned an acquisition plan. Do you plan to add to this property?

Response: It is not our goal to significantly enlarge the Bare Hill Unique Area. However, if a parcel is offered for sale from a willing seller, or as a gift, we will evaluate it to see if it would be an asset to the area.

Question: On page 17, closing of roads. What are those roads, farm roads, non-major roads? ATVs? How many roads? Will they be made into hiking trails?

Response: Two roads will be maintained, the remainder will be closed and fixed to stop erosion.

They will be open for hiking and other non-motorized recreational use. The two administrative roads are the road to the bonfire site and the lower road along the east side of the property.

Question: What region is the Avon DEC office?

Response: Avon is the Region 8 office. However, most of the Forestry staff is located in the Region 8 Bath Sub office. The majority of the region's forest land are in Steuben and Schuyler counties so being located in Bath reduces the time and expense of traveling to the lands we manage.

Question: Is anyone disappointed there are no condominiums?

Response: No one here. Bare Hill is a very desirable recreational property with an interesting history and a grand view of Canandaigua Lake. I think we are all glad that this piece of green space was saved for the public.

THE FOLLOWING PUBLIC COMMENTS WERE RECEIVED AFTER THE MARCH 21, 2001 PUBLIC MEETING:

Email received 3/21/01:

Through out the years what process kept the trees from growing? There is only one logical answer, fire. Not mowing, not the legend of the serpent that came out every year to swing his tail and knock down all the trees, (however that myth is enjoyable).
I believe the ring of fire that we celebrate each year to follow tradition, was started by using bon fires. It is my belief that the entire hill side was set a blaze. This accomplishes many good uses, the new growth grasses were used for grazing animals, while the uneatable brush was kept to a minimum. This open space became a community center of sorts.
I suggest you have a controlled burning each autumn. That sounds glorious but I suppose it isn't practical for this modern age. To that end, keep the hill bare by whatever means necessary. Keep the legend alive.

Thank you
Dwight E Symonds

Western Lakes Chapter
Finger Lakes Land Trust
P.O. Box 653
Canandaigua, New York 14424

...working to protect the natural integrity of the Finger Lakes Region.

March 28, 2001

Ms. Gretchen Helfinstine, Forester
NYS DEC Region 8
7291 Coon Rd.
Bath, NY 14810

Re: BARE HILL UNIQUE AREA DRAFT MANAGEMENT PLAN

Dear Ms. Helfinstine:

We are familiar with the property, have reviewed the draft management plan and offer the following comments.

We suggest the inclusion of a USDA NRCS Soil Map and a USGS Topographic Map as part of the Management Plan (enclosed).

Bare Hill, as a land form, covers 850 to 900 acres (as measured at the 1200' contour on a topographic map). We understand that the management plan only covers the 298 acres currently owned by the State but suggest that the situation calls for a broader look at the land form and adjacent property owners. For example, the management plan calls for reduction of exotic, invasive species and an increase, both quantitatively and qualitatively, of native species on the property. We are very much in favor of this direction but believe that best results will require the participation of other landowners in the area. If the State extirpates invasive exotics on its property but neighbors maintain seeding stock of the same plants just across property lines, success is unlikely. Perhaps the State should look at cooperative management agreements for adjacent property owners as they do in the management of the Honeoye Wetlands.

We feel that the State should not preclude consideration of "significantly" adding to the Bare Hill Unique Area, as you seem to do on pages 11, 13, and 30. Though current NYS DEC budgets may be tight, as the plan points out, funding for land acquisition may originate elsewhere, such as in the EPF. Also, other protection options, such as the acquisition of conservation easements, may be used to enlarge the protected area without affecting the property tax base of the Town of Middlesex. We feel that the option for increasing the size of the Bare Hill Unique Area should be left open. The Finger Lakes Land Trust shares an interest with the NYS DEC in promoting the health, beauty and integrity of the Finger Lakes region. Bare Hill is within one of our priority areas, and we would welcome an opportunity to approach nearby property-owners on matters of mutual concern to the Land Trust and the NYS DEC.

The terms "unique areas," "state forests," and "wildlife management areas" (such as Hi Tor) are used throughout the document. Are there legal or functional meanings to these different terms? Do the different terms imply different management strategies?

Western Lakes Chapter
Finger Lakes Land Trust

P.O. Box 653
Canandaigua, New York 14424

...working to protect the natural integrity of the Finger Lakes Region.

We appreciate the inclusion of comments by Peter Jemison, the Manager of the NYS Historic Site at Ganondagan. Given Bare Hill's proximity to Ganondagan, Ganondagan's success in presenting history from a Ho-de-no-sau-nee point of view, and the native associations with Bare Hill, we encourage the State to actively seek input from native leaders such as Mr. Jemison on the management of Bare Hill.

We are very much in favor of the use of management techniques which will maintain grassland habitat at the summit of Bare Hill and will reduce non-native species. The views of and from Bare Hill are extremely important to the local community. We encourage the use of fire and mowing where these management methods will be most successful. *and discourage the use of herbicides, whose use may have negative implications for water quality.* Where herbicide use is necessary, we urge diligent monitoring, as the protection of the Canandaigua Lake drinking water supply is of utmost concern.

Though the Bare Hill property contains no wetlands of a size to be regulated under law, it does contain many small wetland areas and pools. These "vernal" wetlands are only present seasonally but may have important functions for reptiles and amphibians. A spring survey would be useful.

We are very much in agreement with the limitations on motorized recreational use, structures, and mineral resource leasing.

We are sure that you are aware that simple diversity of species is not a meaningful goal for a management plan (pg. 17). Attention must also be paid to the kinds and qualities of species present and the integrity of the ecosystem of which they are a part. We believe that the Bare Hill management plan should plainly state a preference for native species and for restoring Bare Hill to a "natural" condition. Researchers use a variety of techniques (such as soil types, pollen analysis, and vegetative conditions on similarly located, undisturbed sites) to determine approximately "natural" conditions. It appears to us that Bare Hill was being kept bare by native people using fire.

We note that you have included "The Legend of Bare Hill" as Appendix A of the plan. While we agree that it is good to include the legend, perhaps it would be best to include the earliest version, which was recorded by the Tuscarora David Cusick in Ancient History of the Six Nations and re-published in William Beauchamp's Iroquois Folk Lore. A copy is enclosed.

Western Lakes Chapter
Finger Lakes Land Trust

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...working to protect the natural integrity of the Finger Lakes Region.

The State should seek to discover and enhance the uniqueness of the Bare Hill Unique Area especially with regard to its aesthetic appearance. Views of and from Bare Hill are tremendously important to the community. Though not a large hill in itself, its position as the northern-most of the Alleghenies and its prehistorical connections give it a significance beyond its physical size.

Sincerely,

Mark House, Chair
Western Lakes Chapter
Finger Lakes Land Trust

Canandaigua Lake Watershed Task Force
480 North Main Street, Canandaigua, New York 14424

March 27, 2001

Mr. James Bagley, Forester
NYS DEC Region 8
7291 Coon Rd.
Bath, NY 14810

Re: BARE HILL UNIQUE AREA DRAFT MANAGEMENT PLAN

Dear Mr. Bagley:

The Canandaigua Lake Watershed Task Force is a non-profit, community-based, public policy education body focused on the protection of water resources of the Canandaigua Lake Watershed. To meet this goal, the Task Force functions as an umbrella organization to identify, coordinate and provide leadership for the efforts of public and private groups which have a stake in the Canandaigua Lake Watershed.

We were unable to attend the Public Hearing on March 21 but have reviewed the draft management plan and offer these comments.

Bare Hill is larger than the 298 acres currently owned by New York State. The management plan should look more closely at current and future patterns of land use in the area. In the event that development incompatible with the archaeological and aesthetic values of Bare Hill is proposed, the State should be prepared to act, as it has in the past, to preclude these land uses through purchase of properties. Language should be added to the management plan to establish the State's willingness to pursue such options.

We are pleased to see the Watershed Protection section of the draft plan. All runoff from Bare Hill goes to Canandaigua Lake, either through Vine Valley Creek or numerous small unnamed tributaries. We trust that these water quality protection practices will be enforced as potentially polluting actions specified in the plan are carried out.

We are concerned about the plan's proposal to thin 24 acres in stand # 26, which is some of the steepest land on the property. Trying to establish roads or haulways in such terrain is almost bound to cause erosion. We are also skeptical about the benefits of such thinning: the combination of steep slopes and thin soils is unlikely to ever produce large trees. On the contrary, it seems most likely to produce an "overstock" of trees that never have an opportunity to mature. If thinning is to be done in this area, it would be better carried out without harvest, so that the roads don't have to be built.

The limitations on motorized recreational use, structures, and mineral resource leasing included in the draft management plan are welcome.

Many of our members and supporters feel strongly about Bare Hill. It is an important part of the local landscape. Many people feel that the Native American connections of Bare Hill should be honored by preserving it in an undeveloped state.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft Bare Hill Unique Area Management Plan.

Sincerely,

Lynn Thurston
Chair

APPENDIX D : TAXES

No School and Town general taxes are paid for Unique Areas such as Bare Hill.

APPENDIX E : FACILITIES

NYS DEC Maintained Unpaved Roads: 1.5 Miles

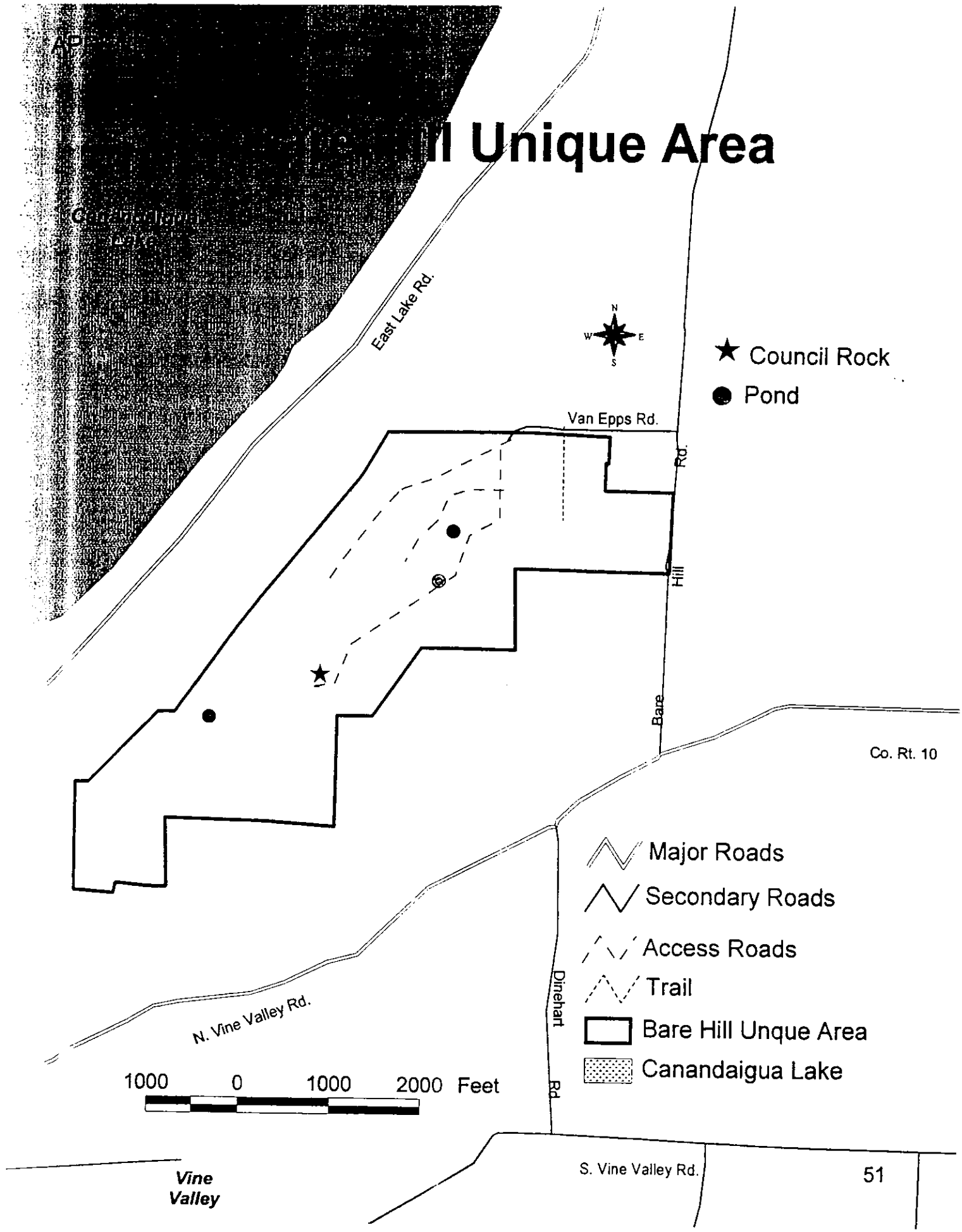
Man-made Ponds: 2

Unpaved Parking Lots: 1

Kiosks: 1

Metal Gates: 1

Facility ID Signs: 1


Unique Area
East Lake Rd.
N
W
E
S
Council Rock
Pond
Van Epps Rd.
Rd.
Hill
Bare
Co. Rt. 10
Major Roads
Secondary Roads
Access Roads
Trail
Bare Hill Unque Area
Canandaigua Lake
Dinehart
Rd
N. Vine Valley Rd.
1000 0 1000 2000 Feet
Vine Valley
S. Vine Valley Rd.

APPENDIX G: OAK OPENINGS
WHAT THEY ARE:

Bare Hill Unique Area was acquired because of its cultural and aesthetic significance. Interest has been expressed in attempting to restore the area to its' original state prior to European settlement. It is possible that this area was an Oak Opening plant community. This community provides essential habitat for many species of wildlife which require open (grass) land.

Oak openings are composed of native prairie grasses and associated plants usually surrounded by oak/hickory forests. Characteristic species are Indian grass, a.k.a. buffalo grass (Sorghastrum nutans), little bluestem grass (Schizachyrium scoparium), thimbleweed (Anemone cylindracea), butterfly-weed (Asclepias tuberosa), wild bergamot (Monarda fistulosa), chinquapin oak (Quercus muhlenbergii) and other oaks (Quercus spp.), and hickories (Carya spp.). The woods buffalo (Bison bison var. athabascae), now extirpated from the United States, was once a prominent mammal habituating oak openings. Elk (Cervus canadensis) were also a feature of Oak Opening communities. The mix of forest and grassland provided a habitat similar to areas in the Rocky mountain regions.

Oak Openings are maintained by periodic burning. Historically, fires were set by Native Americans or caused by lightning strikes. Oak Openings can be variable in size, from just an acre to several thousand acre complexes.

Pioneer accounts include descriptions such as:"[Oak] Openings about Bloomfield so clear of trees and bushes, that in many places deer could be seen from half to three quarters of a mile off." "The oaks forming open thin groves, or being present as scattered clumps or individuals, with the ground being occupied by grasses and other herbaceous vegetation." "A short distance to the west [of Toledo, Ohio] were hills of sand upon which only oak trees grew, and so sparse were the trees (that) a wagon could be driven in any direction through the patches of forest without need of hewing a path.". "Goioguen [Cayuga Co.] is the fairest country that I have seen in America. It is a tract situated between two lakes, and not exceeding four leagues in width, consisting of almost uninterrupted plains, the woods bordering which are extremely beautiful."

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVES:

Prior to European settlement, Oak Openings were quite common throughout the Midwest states extending eastward into western N.Y., and Ontario , Canada. Local historical accounts indicate Oak Openings were found throughout the length of Genesee Valley, Irondequoit Creek drainage, plus Victor, Perinton, East Rochester, Chili, Wheatland, Mendon, LeRoy, Bloomfield and Honeoye Falls. Other areas of the Southern Tier may also have contained "Prairie" like communities. It is likely the "Wadsworth Oaks", listed in the NYS Historic Tree Registry, were at one time part of an Oak Opening Community. Local historical accounts are described further in articles "An Ecological Survey of the Vegetation of Monroe County, New York" and "Central and Western New York Natural History Trivia".

Oak Openings are fire dependent plant communities similar to the prairies of the plains states. Although some of the fires were likely due to lightening strikes, the Native American Indians had a profound effect on the maintenance and enhancement of this plant community. Native Americans routinely set fires for a variety of purposes, to keep land clear for their agriculture, to clear areas for village sites (open areas around villages had fewer mosquitos and other insect pests, were less damp and safer, since enemies could not attack by surprise), and to drive game for hunting. "Among the early events that now occur to me, was the firing of lands by the Indians for the purpose of taking game... they set a train of fire which enclosed and area of about seven miles square, of the oak openings between the Canascraga [Canaseraga Creek] and Conesus Lake.". It is also likely Indians understood the wildlife habitat benefits of Oak Openings. These areas would have produced much more game (food) than old growth forests.

This area of western New York was first surveyed in 1792 as part of the Phelps and Gorham Purchase . European settlement began in earnest about 1800. Early pioneers found Oak Openings easy spots to settle compared to areas of old growth forests. Trees did not have to be cleared for agriculture, there was ready pasture for animals, and plentiful game. This made survival the first couple winters much easier until a good cabin could be constructed and additional land cleared for agriculture. Intensive agriculture and pasturing, plus the introduction of non-native species (such as white sweet clover, and cool season grasses for forage) destroyed most of the Oak Opening plant communities. "Drainage, fire suppression [in the last 50 years], urban development, and agriculture have all played a part in changing the landscape.".

GLOSSARY

(BMP'S) Best Management Practices - Techniques and practices that minimize erosion problems.

Buffer Strips - A strip of vegetation used to protect sensitive areas from soil erosion and siltation.

Classified Water Bodies - A system whereby water bodies are protected under Environmental Conservation Law.

Conifer - Needle bearing trees.

Conifer/Conifer Hardwood Forest - A forest stand in which either of the two leading species is a conifer.

Conifer Stand - A forest stand containing 50% or more conifer species.

D.B.H. - (diameter at breast height) - The diameter of a tree at roughly breast height or 4½ feet from the ground.

Dug-Out - A 500 square foot by 3 feet deep pot hole constructed of earth and containing water.

Early Successional Wildlife Species - Animal species which require early vegetative stages such as grass, brush, Aspen.

Ecological Diversity - The number of species living in an ecosystem.

Ecological Subzone - A geographic area containing fauna and flora which are adapted to that particular area.

Ecosystem - A complex of living organisms and their environment.

Erosion - To wear away by the action: water, wind, or ice.

Even Aged - A forest in which all of the trees are essentially the same age.

Fragipan - An impervious subsurface soil layer (sometimes known as "hardpan") which restricts rooting and internal soil drainage.

Hardwood Forest - A forest stand in which each of the two predominant species by percent is a hardwood.

Hardwoods - Broadleafed trees.

Herbaceous Opening - A non-forest vegetative type consisting of grasses and forbs.

Large Coarse Woody Debris - The accumulation of dead woody material, both standing and fallen, which occurs in a forest stand.

Lean-To - A small, open fronted, log shelter used for overnight camping.

Log Landing - An area to which logs are skidded and then loaded for removal.

Multiple Use - A management philosophy by which many uses are derived for a specific land area.

Natural Regeneration - The regrowth of a forest stand by natural means.

Natural Forest - A forest established by natural regeneration.

No Entry Lease - A lease to explore and develop underground mineral resources without any surface disturbance. Above ground facilities and equipment to remove mineral resources must be located off the subject property.

Oak Opening - a globally rare plant community, also known as an oak savannah. The community is composed of native prairie grasses and associated plants usually surrounded by oak/hickory forests. Oak Openings are maintained by periodic burning. Historically, fires were set by Native Americans or caused by lightning strikes. Oak Openings can be variable in size, from just an acre to several thousand acre complexes.

Off - Site - The species are growing (or at least have been planted) where these species would not ordinarily be found, due to unfavorable site conditions.

Plantation - A forest established by planting.

Pole Sized - A young tree with a DBH of 6 to 11 inches.

Pre-Commercial - To do a stand treatment when the trees are to small to sell for profit, requiring the payment of someone to do the work.

Regeneration - To reestablish a forest stand.

Rotation - The length of time between the establishment and the harvest of a forest stand.

Seedling/Sapling Sized - A young tree with a DBH of less than 6 inches.

Sawtimber Sized - A tree with a DBH of 12 inches or greater.

Site - Site is defined as a group of features (such as slope, aspect, soil type, etc.) which characterize a given area of land.

Silviculture - The establishment, development, care, and reproduction of forest stands.

Softwoods - Needle bearing trees, conifers

Species Diversity - The occurrence of a variety of plants and animals.

Stand - A group of plants with similar characteristics that are treated as a single unit in a management plan.

Stand Analysis - A systematic method of evaluating stands to determine the need for treatment.

Stand Treatment - Work done in a stand which is directed towards the management of the stand.

State Forest - Lands owned by the state of New York and administered by the Department of Environmental Conservation which are managed for the establishment and maintenance of forests for watershed protection, the production of timber, and for recreation and kindred purposes.

Sustained Yield - The maintenance of a continuous flow of a particular product.

Temporary Revocable Permit - A permit to use state forest land for a specific purpose for a prescribed length of time.

Top Lopping - The cutting of limbs from the tops of felled trees to reduce fire danger and improve visibility. On state forests top lopping of conifers is required by law.

Uneven Aged - A forest containing trees of two or more age classes.

Unique Area - A state project to acquire lands of special natural beauty, wilderness character, geological, ecological or historical significance for the state nature and historic preserve, and may include lands within a forest preserve county outside the Adirondack and Catskill Parks.

Vegetative Stage - A description of a plant community based on the age of the component plants.

Vegetative Type - A description of a plant community based on species composition.

Water Hole - A laid up stone cistern built by C.C.C. volunteers and originally used for water for fire protection purposes.

Watershed - The land area from which a stream receives its water.

Wetland - Transition areas between upland and aquatic habitat.

Yield - The production of a commodity such as; forest products, water, or wildlife.

617.21
Appendix F
State Environmental Quality Review
NEGATIVE DECLARATION
Notice of Determination of Non-Significance

Identifying # 2001-PL/SF-8-121

Project Number _____ **Date** November 14, 2001

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: Bare Hill Unit Management Plan

SEQR Status: **Type 1** X
Unlisted _____

Conditioned Negative Declaration: _____ **Yes**
X **No**

Description of Action: The Bare Hill Unit Management plan sets forth the proposed goals, objectives, management actions and associated costs for the management of 298 acres of Unique Area within Yates County. The plan details management activities for a 10-year period, from 2001 - 2011. A review and amendment process will take place at the end of the fifth year. Public participation has been sought via mailings and a public meeting on March 21, 2001. Full consideration for public input will be sought prior to completion of the final draft.

Management activities planned for this unit include: The general maintenance of the facilities, forest, wildlife management and land acquisition. Creating and maintaining up to 117 acres of open fields and logging up to 119 acres; Maintaining the shallow water impoundments by excavating the bottoms of existing ponds and mowing dykes. Upgrade two access roads, and close all other roads by controlling erosion. Closed roads will be available for use by non-motorized recreational users. Scenic vistas will be created by removal of trees and shrubs and restored with native grasses and forbs.

Location: (Include street address and the name of the municipality/county. A location map of appropriate scale is also recommended.)

Bare Hill Unique Area, in the town of Middlesex, Yates County.

Reasons Supporting This Determination:
(See 617.6(g) for requirements of this determination; see 617.6(h) for Conditioned Negative Declaration)

Activities planned for the unit will be covered by the following Generic Environmental Impact Statements:

> State Forest Commercial Product Sales Program, Wildlife Management Program, Red Pine Plantation Clearcut Program, Conserving Open Space in New York State, and State Forest Recreation Management Program.
>
> Activities which might require site specific environmental reviews, include, prescribed fire and site preparation. In addition, if after the public review process, activities are added to the plan to provide better management of the unit and are not covered by this Negative Declaration or cited Generic Environmental Impact Statements, DEC will undertake a site specific environmental review for such activities.

Activities in the plan will be performed in accordance with the standards and policies and procedures set forth in the following DEC documents:

> Continuous Forest Inventory Handbook, State Forest Multiple Use Management Plan, Unpaved Forest Road Handbook, and the Timber Management Handbook.

In addition, activities in the plan will be guided by the Environmental Conservation Law, best management practices, the expertise of foresters and biologists, and the views expressed by the participating public.

Construction of new facilities shall include upgrading administrative access roads. The project will entail: clearing, grading, ditching, installation of culverts, and graveling. This will improve public access and safety. The closing of roads will entail: construction of water control devices such as waterbars and ditches. The aesthetic resources will be protected by law enforcement activities, screening of logging activities, and by limiting disturbance in sensitive areas. Scenic views will be improved by the removal of screening vegetation. There will be a favorable impact on energy resources, since timber management will produce fuelwood. The noise impact of construction and logging will occur so briefly that it will be inconsequential.

Archeological/Historical impacts will be minimized by disturbing the ground as little as possible. These actions will not have a significant impact on the environment.

If Conditioned Negative Declaration, provide on attachment the specific mitigation measures imposed.

For Further Information:

Contact Person: Gretchen Helfinstine
Address: NYS DEC
7291 Coon Road
Bath, NY 14810

Telephone Number: (607)776-2165 ext. 29

For Type 1 Actions and Conditioned Negative Declarations, a Copy of this Notice Sent to:
Commissioner, Department of Environmental Conservation, 625 Broadway, Albany, New York 12233
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)