New York State
Department of Environmental Conservation

Division of Lands and Forests

Bluestone Wild Forest

Unit Management Plan

May 1997

GEORGE E. PATAKI, *Governor*

JOHN P. CAHILL, *Acting Commissioner*

MEMORANDUM FROM
JOHN P. CAHILL, Acting Commissioner

New York State
Department of Environmental Conservation

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Record

RE: Unit Management Plan (UMP)
Bluestone Wild Forest Unit Management Plan (UMP)

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

Acting Commissioner

BLUESTONE WILD FOREST
(FORMERLY JOCKEY-MORGAN HILL WILD FOREST)
UNIT MANAGEMENT PLAN

PREFACE

The Bluestone Wild Forest (formerly known as the Jockey-Morgan Hill Wild Forest), forms the easterly border of the Catskill Forest Preserve near Kingston, New York. Its lands are in the Towns of Hurley, Woodstock, Ulster and Kingston in Ulster County.

The wild forest consists of numerous smaller parcels scattered throughout this region and a loosely connected mosaic of parcels making up the largest piece between Zena Road (Route 39) and Rte. 209. State-owned lands and major roadways are shown on the location map (p. iii).

The area is known for its widespread bluestone, shale and gravel mining which started over 100 years ago. Quarry ponds, bluestone mounds and disturbed lands with shallow soils are characteristic of the area. Remnants of quarries and old wagon roads are scattered throughout forested lands of oak and white pine. The area could have strong recreational potential since it is near Kingston and contains one of the few publicly accessible lakes in the Catskills (Onteora Lake).

This proposed plan will control the management of this Wild Forest for at least five years. Proposed projects and issues:

1. The completion of 3 loop recreational trail(s) on the lands surrounding Onteora Lake and Jockey Hill.
2. Completion of a small parking lot providing cartop boat access on Onteora Lake and a parking lot on Jockey Hill Road.
3. Prioritizing and identifying lands needed to complete the Wild Forest and make existing state land viable. Relating the state lands to nearby towns, the Route 28 corridor, and the region.
4. Clarifying state land boundaries, public access rights to state lands, and private access rights across state land.
5. Providing information on the property to the public, including its proper use and historic value.
6. Considering the types of recreational opportunities that might be provided within the constraints of Forest Preserve designation, especially mountain biking.
7. Improving access to state land.

The goal of this Unit Management Plan is too encourage long term ecological stability on lands already owned by the state and maximize access and use compatible with the natural resources and communities of the region. We do not intend to unify all the scattered properties throughout the unit. We view land acquisition conservatively - to protect existing conditions, avoid potential impacts, or protect rare and endangered species.

The preceding Draft Bluestone Wild Forest Unit Management Plan (July 1996) is amended here based on comments received at the public meetings held on August 9, 1996 and in subsequent letters.

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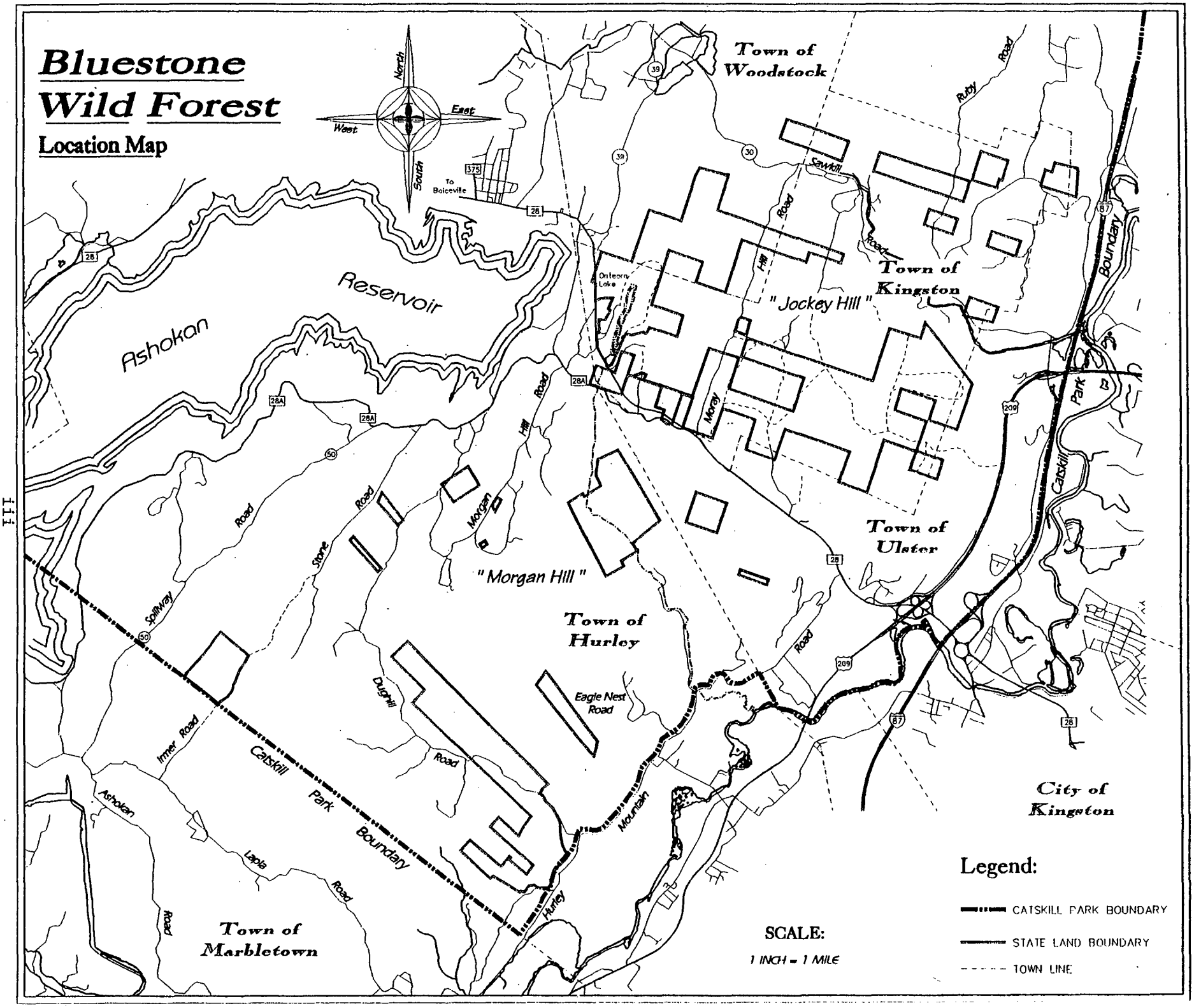
Bluestone
Wild Forest
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East
West
South
To Boiceville
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Town of Kingston
Town of Ulster
Town of Hurley
Town of Marbletown
City of Kingston
Ashokan Reservoir
Onteora Lake
"Jockey Hill"
"Morgan Hill"
Eagle Nest Road
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Legend:
CATSKILL PARK BOUNDARY
STATE LAND BOUNDARY
TOWN LINE
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1 INCH = 1 MILE

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I. INTRODUCTION

A. Area Description

The Bluestone Wild Forest (formerly the Jockey Hill - Morgan Hill Wild Forest) includes several ridges and valleys, totaling 2,985 acres, just west of the City of Kingston in Ulster County (See location map, page iii). These lands have for several centuries bordered an important travel corridor connecting the Hudson River waterfront with the Catskill Mountain interior. They were more intensely settled than much of the Catskills, and with the arrival of the bluestone industry in the mid to late 1800's, were almost entirely mined over. What was not mined, was disturbed by the processing and transportation of the stone on its way to faraway city markets where today it can still be seen in old sidewalks and buildings.

Prior to 1957, the area which includes the Bluestone Wild Forest was outside of the Catskill Park (Van Valkenburgh, 1982). That year, Chapter 787 of New York State Laws added the rest of the Town of Olive, most of Hurley, the remainder of Woodstock, all of the Town of Kingston and parts of the Towns of Ulster and Wawarsing.

The designation of "wild forest," given to this area in 1985 by the Catskill Park State Land Master Plan indicates that it can offer a wider range of recreational activities than the more remote and undisturbed "wilderness" areas in the heart of the Catskills. This, coupled with the property's strategic location along Route 28 near Kingston, could potentially result in greatly increased use once access is improved. Opportunities to accommodate a large increase in visitors are limited because state lands are so fragmented, particularly south of State Route 28 where eleven parcels total about 990 acres, and north of Sawkill Road where six parcels total about 300 acres. The 16.5 - acre Onteora Lake (also known as Binnewater or Lawson Lake) is an important resource and the focal point for the area. Rock cliffs and steep valleys with dense hemlock stands in the moist valley bottoms add variety and interest to the landscape. Shallow soils throughout the area cause rapid stormwater runoff and droughty conditions most of the year. Water quickly migrates to the valley bottoms and numerous springs and seeps feed area streams during wet weather.

B. History and Past Management

1. History

Native Americans and Settlers

A good description of Hudson Valley native American tribes is provided in the following "Hudson Valley Magazine" issues, written by Robert S. Gromet:

- Hunting Indian History, pp 19-23 (January, 1991)
- Trade War and Diplomacy, pp 15-17 (February, 1991)
- The English Imprint, pp 19-23 (March, 1991)
- Survival of the Fittest, pp 27-30 (April, 1991)
- The Diaspora, pp 13-18 (June, 1991)

The Mohawk, Mahican, and Unami were at times known to pass through the Saugerties/ Kingston area. However, this area was part of the homeland of the Munsee (Esopus) Indians, which also included the rest of the Hudson Valley from Catskill Creek (in Greene County) and the Roeliff Jansen Kill (in Columbia County), south through the five Burroughs of New York City - all the way down to just below Sandy Hook in New Jersey. The research on this was done by Ives Goddard of the Smithsonian Institution, reported in his paper "The Ethnohistorical Implications of Early Delaware Linguistic Materials," 1 (1971): 14-26 (Bierhorst, pers. comm.).

The Esopus (Munsee) Indians were the owners of what is now the Bluestone Wild Forest. They ceded, or sold it in 1677 by the so-called Andros Treaty. The boundary line of what they ceded goes through the unit. A

useful discussion of this is in Marc B. Fried, *The Early History of Kingston and Ulster County, N. Y.* (Ulster County Historical Society, 1975) (Bierhorst, pers. comm.).

Perhaps the best general article on the Munsee and the Unami (collectively called the "Delaware" or the Lenape) is Ives Goddard's "Delaware" in the *Handbook of North American Indians,* Vol. 15, pp. 213-39 (Smithsonian Institution, 1978)(Bierhorst, pers. comm.).

On the Esopus Indians specifically, a useful account is Laurence Hauptman's pamphlet "The Native Americans: A History of the First Residents of New Paltz and Environs" (Elting Memorial Library, New Paltz, 1975) (Bierhorst, pers. comm.).

For a discussion of Native American place names, including some in this region, refer to; Beauchamp (1907) and Ruttenber (1906).

Bluestone

Most of the following excerpts are from "*The Catskills - From Wilderness to Woodstock*" by Alf Evers (1972). For more detail, see the Chapters, "Bluestone Quarries" and "Quarrymen and Quarry Lore."

Tons of bluestone were quarried in places like Quarryville (in the Town of Saugerties), Hurley Woods, Jockey Hill, the banks of the lower Sawkill and Moray Hill. The stone was loaded onto iron rimmed wagons pulled by teams of horses, often in convoys, and sent to the trading towns along the river. There, the stone dealers would cut and shape them into what would become steps, curbing and sidewalks for cities all over the country. By 1850, bluestone was being shipped by river sloop to Boston, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Charleston, San Francisco, Milwaukee, St. Louis and Havana, Cuba. The stone was prized because it was hard and long lasting, dried very quickly after a shower, and did not become slippery with wear.

As the demand grew, stone dealers took advantage of the newly constructed railroads, such as the Ulster and Delaware Railroad, and older quarries that were farther from the railroad were closed and replaced by quarries in places like Margaretville, Roxbury and Phoenicia. The quarries near the railroad and today's Route 28 corridor continued to flourish.

By the 1860's more and more machinery was being used, requiring fewer and fewer men. River sloops gave way to two masted schooners which needed fewer sailors. Quarrying work continued to be very dangerous, resulting in broken limbs, smashed hands, dust induced lung disease, and deaths caused by blasting powder.

Quarrying took its toll on the landscape, leaving scars on the earth and great piles of leftover rubble which can still be seen throughout the wild forest. In Kingston, courthouse proceedings on Wall Street would often stop as the convoys of bluestone wagons came down the street on the way to the stone yards at Wilbur (southwest Kingston).

The industry collapsed in 1880 with the discovery of Portland cement, bringing the 60-year era most responsible for shaping the Bluestone Wild Forest to a close. Today, several surface mines on adjacent private lands continue to use the area to produce crushed stone construction aggregates.

How Quarrying was Done

Quarrymen would remove a few feet of topsoil and cut a chasm about thirty feet deep by twenty feet wide. This cut revealed the layered bluestone on either side (Figure 1). Bluestone mining was a great gamble and many a small operator lost everything from the big investment needed to get to this point if the stone quality was poor.

They would then mark off the surface area needed and drill a series of holes which they plugged with what were called "feathers"(two

pieces of iron half-rounds) which were driven into the holes and then separated by a wedge forced between them (Figures 2 and 3). The resulting pressure moved the bluestone slab.

As they cut straight forward into the vertical wall, lifting off layers of stone beginning at the top, and throwing unusable fragments and refuse behind them, a huge pile of rubble would rise where they had been. When each piece was cut from the face, it was swung by horse drawn derrick to the top of the rubble pile where stonecutters would shape it and send it away for use (Figure 4).

The quarries today are a result of this process. In places the vertical excavation is so deep that as many as fifteen layers of geological strata are visible and the vertical grooves of the drill holes cover many surfaces. Old diggings are everywhere in the surrounding forest and the deep working spaces between sheer cliffs and rubble piles can still be seen.

Bluestone Quarrying

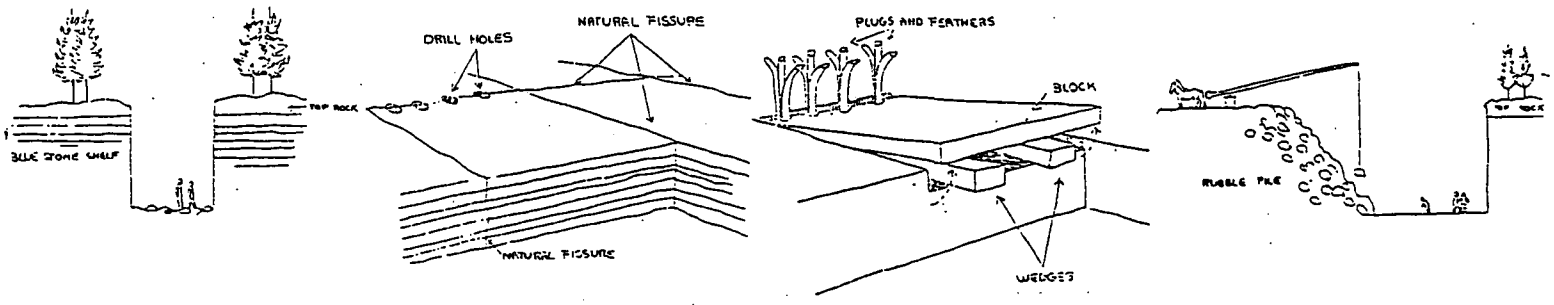


Figure 1-4

Excerpts primarily from Ralph Moseley, Masters Thesis "Opus 40" (1961). Also from John Moree, Masters Thesis "Bluestone Quarry." Figures from Moseley (1961). For more information, see also Quarryman's Museum, High Woods, Saugerties, New York.

Icemaking

Although, no reference was found directly to the ice industry on Onteora Lake in the Bluestone Wild Forest, this industry along with brick making was important to the livelihood of area residents The best ice (14-16 inch thick) came from small deep lakes, and a typical homeowner (1900-1920) would pay $2 each week for 25 pound blocks delivered four times a week. Half of the ice harvested melted before reaching its destination. Most northeast communities had their own local ice companies and the Kingston area was no exception. For example, the Town of Stone Ridge used to be known as Butterville because they produced butter for export to the Caribbean made possible by local ice harvesting (Hill and Hughes, 1977; Keller, 1976).

Tanneries and Other Industries

Although the harvesting of hemlock trees for bark used in the tanning of hides and timber cutting for local use undoubtedly contributed to the area's economy, it was more important in other parts of the Catskills. The closest tannery to the area was the Van Devort Tannery along the Saw Kill (kill=river), which was operating in 1871 (Kudish, 1971).

For a more complete discussion of forest industry in the Catskills, see NYSDEC (1993, 1994, 1996).

An excellent map summarizing town highways and the locations of historic buildings in the area was put together by Harry J. Siemsen, Town of Kingston Historian (1973).

2. Past Management by the Department

The Catskill State Land Master Plan guides the management and use of wild forest lands. Until now, Department management has been limited to:

1. Posting property boundaries.
2. Gating or barricading certain areas experiencing illegal use and dumping.
3. Occasional land acquisition to consolidate holdings (the most recent was the 1989 Onteora Lake acquisition (273.84 acres).
4. Forest ranger patrols, investigation and follow-up of trespasses and illegal use.

II. INVENTORY

A. Natural Resources

1. Vegetation

Most of the Bluestone Wild Forest lands are forested hilltops and hillsides of oak (Quercus, spp), white pine (Pinus strobus) and pitch pine (Pinus rigida) trees. Scattered hemlock groves (Tsuga canadensis) are found in the valleys and along streamsides. The Dug Hill Road parcel is mostly hemlocks and white pines, often in dark groves with little ground vegetation. No endangered, threatened or uncommon species of plants or animals has been identified in the unit. However, ledges, seeps and small wetlands are common on the properties. Water gathers in these seeps and runs and eventually reaches the larger valleys and waters, for example, Onteora Lake, the Saw Kill and Praymaher Brook/Englishman's Creek. These areas could have rare pioneer plant species or uncommon plants and should be looked at in additional surveys by the Natural Heritage Unit.

It is worthwhile to call attention to the prairie-like hilltop areas in this unit, especially Gallis Hill. Here, regionally rare plants have been found, notably bartonia (*Bartonia virginica*) and goat's rue (*Tephrosia virginiana*. Both are listed as rare in Mary Domville and Henry F. Dunbar's *The Flora of Ulster County, New York* (John Burroughs Natural History Society, 1970) - though they do not make the New York State heritage list. Also of interest on Gallis Hill is the infrequent orange-grass (*Hypericum gentianoides*). These hilltops are possibly assignable to the category pitch pine - oak - heath rocky summit. Many additional observations on these areas are made in J. G. Spider Barbour's report on the Gallis Hill - Jockey Hill area entitled "Acidic Crests in the Hudson Valley." (Bierhorst, pers. comm., 1996.).

2. Watershed, Wetlands and the Fishery

Shallow soils are found throughout much of the area of the bluestone bedrock. Stormwater runoff from the area is rapid since there is only limited recharge, so much of the area is quite dry in the summer months, with the exception of a few wetlands and streams in the valleys. Moisture is also held in the steep and deeply shaded valleys; for example, north of Onteora Lake, then south along Praymaher Brook (to Thielpape Road) and along the lower Dug Hill Road Valley.

Many small wetland areas, seeps and springs (many seasonal) are found in the steep valleys of the area and along rock faces. Larger wetlands are shown on page 6. The largest wetland surrounds Onteora Lake and Praymaher Brook South of Route 28 as it drains the lake and the pond of the Charles Coutant Lot (NYS Wetlands KW-3 [Class II] and AS-5 [Class I]).

The larger streams passing through state lands at some point are the Saw Kill River (accessed through state land along Sawkill Road),

Praymaher Brook (accessed through the 264-acre Hurley parcel and the Onteora Lake parking lot) and Englishman's Creek (accessed through the 440-acre Dug Hill Road parcel). Praymaher Brook and Englishman's Creek are shaded by steep sloping valleys and dense stands of hemlock and white pine so their waters are cool enough to support trout.

Onteora Lake is a warm water lake, less than twenty feet at its deepest point in the north (A contour map is found on the next page). The lake has been stocked with tiger muskellunge, a cross between a northern pike (Esox lucius) and muskellunge (Esox masquinongy) which do not reproduce. Other fish found in Onteora Lake (compiled from surveys conducted by DEC Bureau of Fisheries in 1983, 1991 and 1992) are:

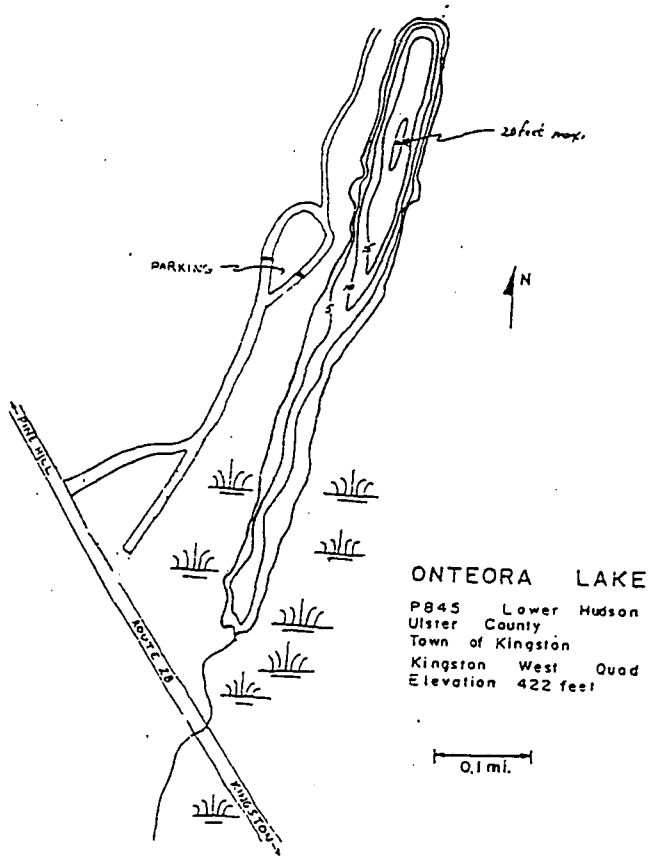
Alewife.....*Alosa pseudoharengus*
Chain pickerel.....*Esox niger*
Black crappie.....*Pomoxis nigromaculatus*
Yellow perch.....*Perca flavescens*
Brown bullhead.....*Ameiurus nebulosus*
Pumpkinseed.....*Lepomis gibbosus*
Golden Shiner.....*Notemigonus crysoleucas*
Bluegill.....*Lepomis macrochirus*
Largemouth Bass.....*Micropterus salmoides*
White Perch.....*Morone americana*

The lake is a popular icefishing destination and is known primarily for its panfish. Length at age for various panfish species was small in a 1992 survey. Growth for panfish may be depressed because of competition among themselves. Largemouth bass and pickerel are the top predators in the lake. Largemouth bass have good growth, but were few in number.

Tiger muskellunge were stocked to provide variety and an opportunity to catch large memorable fish. Unlike largemouth bass, tiger muskellunge can be legally taken during the winter. They should grow quickly by feeding on the overpopulated and slow growing panfish. Their stocking could also provide the added benefit of thinning the panfish which might result in a healthier (larger average size) panfish population.

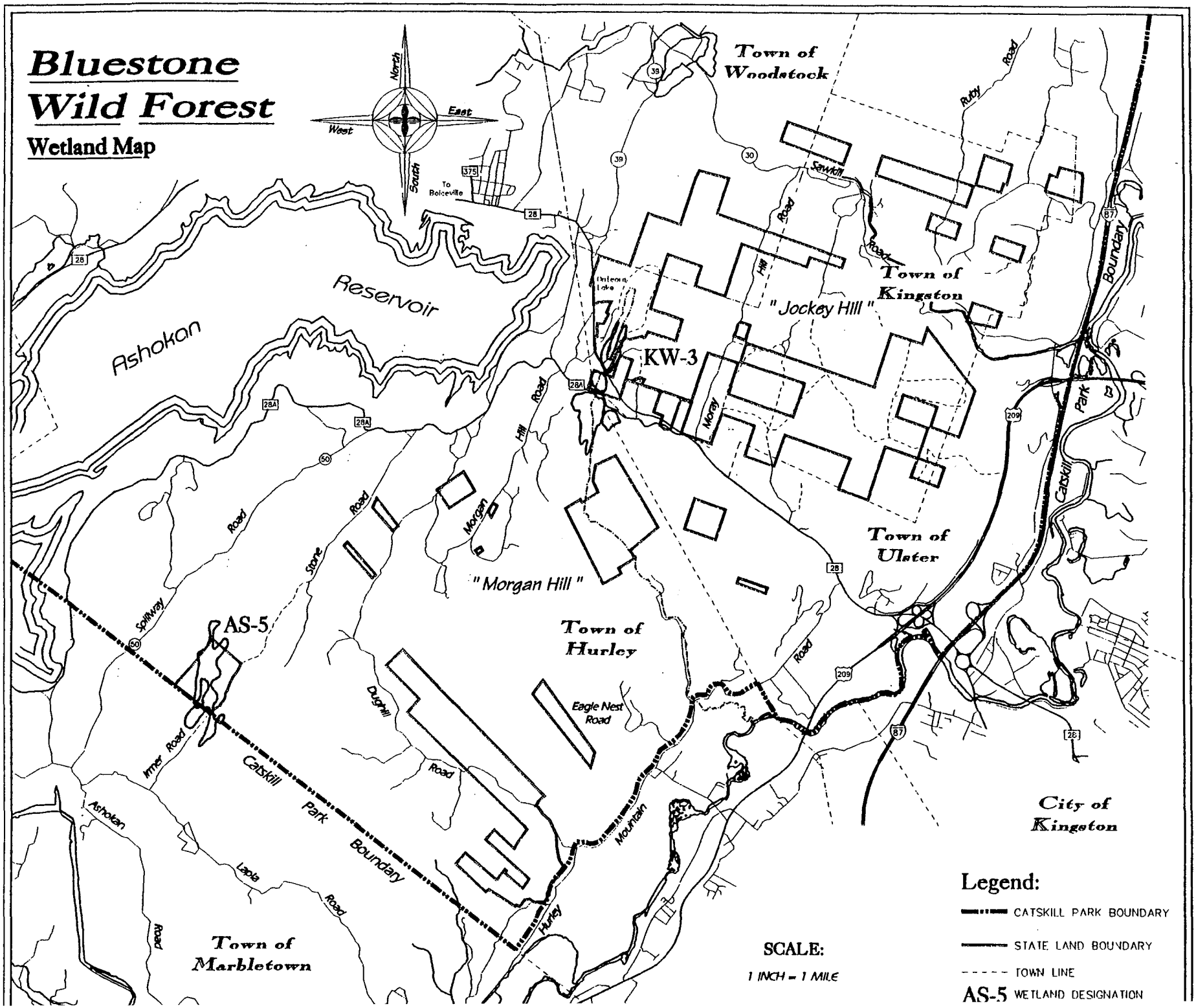
A spring 1996 fisheries survey, along with future surveys, will be used to assess the current tiger muskellunge stocking policy and the use of other management options such as size and creel limits.

ONTEORA LAKE CONTOUR MAP



Bluestone Wild Forest

Wetland Map



3. Wildlife

The bird and animal species in this area are similar to those found in the rest of the region. For more information, please refer to Chambers (1983), Andrle and Carroll (1988) and Robbins et al. (1989). No endangered, threatened or rare wildlife species have been identified in this unit. The Bluestone Wild Forest is frequently used for deer, turkey and occasionally bear hunting. Squirrel, grouse, turkeys and other small game are also hunted.

The Wild Forest is within Deer Management Unit 24, a transitional unit between the Catskill Mountains and Hudson Valley Ecozones. The area has a higher carrying capacity and therefore a higher recommended deer population than the Catskill Mountains, but lower than the Hudson Valley. There is no special deer management specific to the Unit. Wildlife management is constrained by the laws establishing, and the regulations governing the New York State Forest Preserve.

4. Geology, Terrain and Soils

Lower and Middle Devonian Age rocks (dating back 410 million years) make up the Bluestone Wild Forest area near Kingston. To the west the Catskills are made of primarily Middle or Upper Devonian rock (360-387 million years old). Much of the rock in the Catskill Mountains was formed by sediments deposited in layers by rivers near sea level rather than by seawater. This rock usually has reddish or greenish colors. The remains of land plants, a few clams, rare mites, ticks and spiders are the only fossils in this area. In the rest of New York (from the western Catskills westward) the Devonian beds were deposited in a sea environment, and have a remarkable abundance of fossils (Isachsen et al., 1991)

Bluestone, which dominates this area is a course, usually bluish gray to green, clay rich sandstone (called graywacke) or fine grained conglomerate, which splits easily into thin slabs. It has few, if any fossils (Isachsen et. al., 1991).

In summary, the Catskills were once a large, slowly sinking, delta formed by several thousand feet of gravel, sand and mud spread by the eroding high mountains which once existed to their east. Then, about two hundred million years ago, the area began to rise. A long period of uplift and erosion - modified by the Wisconsinan Glacier 21,750 to 12,000 years ago - lead to the present-day Catskills (Isachsen et al., 1991).

The soils in this area are boulder strewn silt loams, full of rock outcrops and remnants of bluestone mines (Arnot and Lordstown Rock Outcrop Complexes). Soil ranges from 2 to 32 inches thick above thick beds of gray and silt sandstone. Water is occasionally held above the bedrock, but only briefly during strong rains and in spring. The ponded water drains rapidly, with wetlands remaining only in areas which gather water from nearby uplands and hold it, often due to solid bedrock twenty to fifty inches below the ground (Palms Muck, bedrock variant). The area is best suited for paths and trails, with poor potential for farming and community development (US Dept. of Agriculture, 1979).

B. Cultural Resources

Multiple archaeological sites have been identified in the area as indicated by the New York State Historic Preservation Office Archaeological Site File (Revised Map of March 1992). Trails and parking facilities will not disturb below the surface and will be located on pre-existing woods roads or disturbed lands (such as the access and parking along Onteora Lake). Archaeological resources will be identified and considered before any proposed project commences.

C. Man-Made Facilities

The only facilities in this unit are old, often overgrown woods roads, two gates (along the old access road to Onteora Lake) and one barricade (access road due east of the gate), one parking lot at Onteora Lake (16 cars, access road and bulletin board) and one informal parking lot along Dug Hill Road. State, town and woods roads are shown on maps on the following pages. Except to prevent dumping and exclude illegal vehicle use, no management or maintenance has been carried out on the unit. The buildings and related structures along Onteora Lake were removed after purchase by the State.

There is a Central Hudson utility trespass onto Forest Preserve lands along Dug Hill Road in the Town of Hurley.

Access roads, rights-of-ways, and property issues needing attention are listed and summarized below:

<u>Access Roads and Right-of-Ways</u>

1. DUG HILL - MORGAN HILL - GALLIS HILL (SOUTH OF ROUTE 28)

(See Map 1, next page)

1A.) Dug Hill Road Parcel (Englishman's Creek)

Access is via Dug Hill Road. Parking pull off is provided on the south side of the road, about the center of the property.

About 151 acres, mostly north of Dug Hill Road, was acquired by the State in 1983 through escheat proceedings from the Estate of Florence Eynon Griffin (who died without a will and heirs). Boundary lines must be marked and monumented. Several are in dispute with an adjacent landowner. The boundary locations are unclear and not marked in some areas. The property boundary of the landowner to the east is marked by the edge of an old field (See Map Nos. T203, 3859 and 8359 (Ulster Co. Deed L.1580, Cp 20 [Feb. 13, 1986]). A four acre exception is identified in the deed to the northwesterly part of Parcel 1 (Lot 3, Great Lot 3).

A driveway from Dug Hill Road, just easterly of a sharp turn in the road, runs through state land on its way to a dwelling. Field reconnaissance and notes entered on Map No. 3159 (1943) confirm the Department's decision that the driveway was a preexisting traditional use prior to the survey. Field notes indicate that the road lead to a Barn (Robert Schneller Parcel).

1B1. Patrick Kenney and Kenney Lots

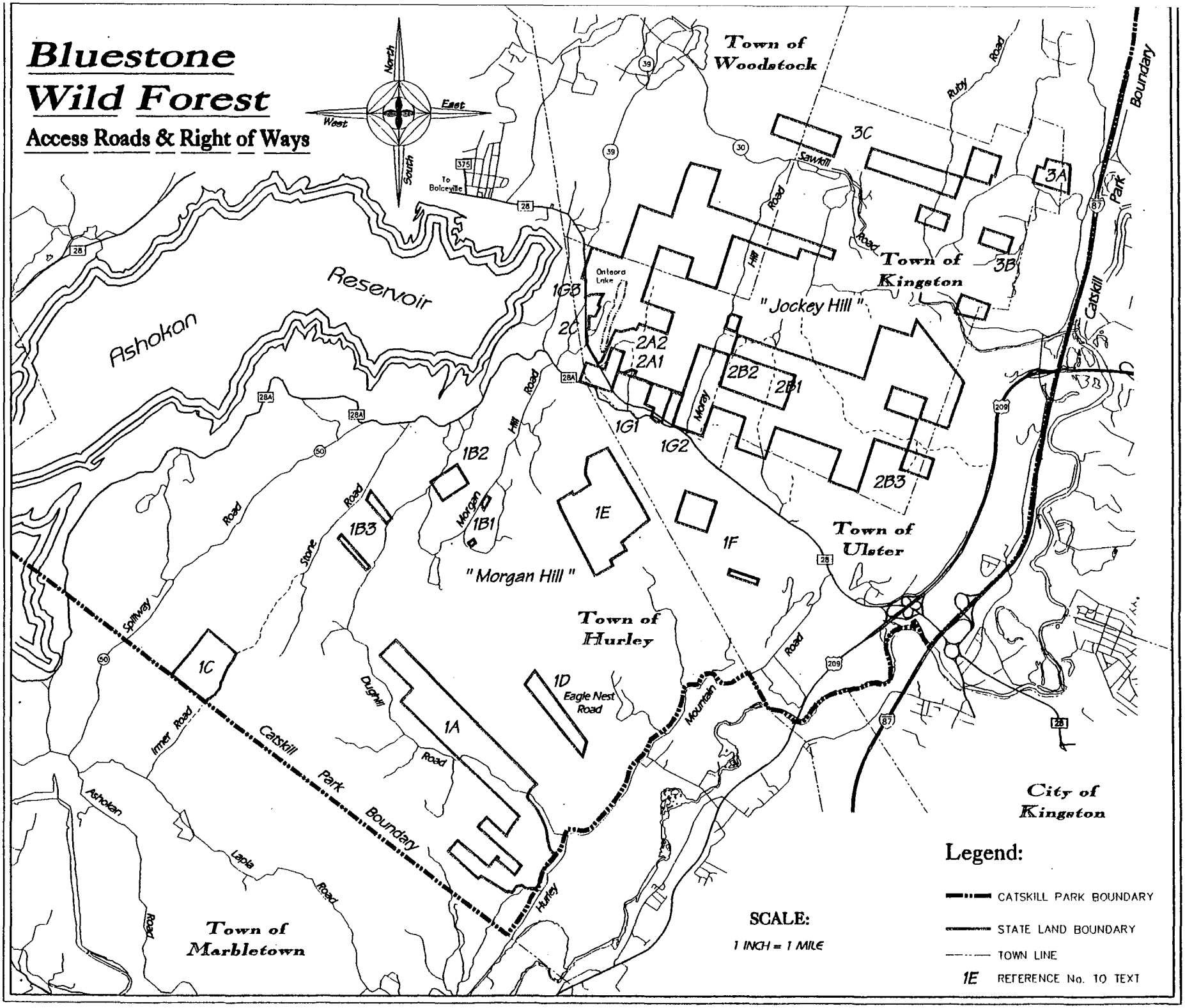
This 1.06 acre Patrick Kenney lot is at its closest point about 75 feet from Schildknecht Road. The property was acquired by the State by tax deed and recorded in Ulster County on May, 1904 (Liber 381, Page 389). The property has no deeded access and is completely surrounded by developed parcels. The nearby 1.72 acre Kenney Lot is accessible from Morgan Hill Road. (See DEC Map No. 11,177).

1B2. Hanrahan/Cole Lots

The 29.96 acre property is accessible from Dug Hill Road just across the street from the Town of Hurley Highway Department and Recreation Area. The Highway Department parking lot touches the state land boundary. Otherwise the state land crosses Dug Hill Road to the south, adjoining the Town Recreation area. The close proximity to Town lands suggests several possible alternatives and management options which could be discussed with the Town. (DEC Map No. 11,177.). If possible, a shared facility approach to parking will be broached and explored with the Town Board.

Bluestone Wild Forest

Access Roads & Right of Ways



1B3. Stony Creek Lots

Two parcels, 11.05 and 14.093 acres, between the headwaters of Stony Creek (a very small trout stream) and Dug Hill Road, are accessible from Dug Hill Road.(DEC Map No. 3859, 2465).

1C. The Charles Coutant Lot

Along Upland (formerly Irmer) Road, straddling the Towns of Marbletown and Hurley. This 107 acre lot was purchased by New York State from Eugene M. Travis by tax deed and recorded in Ulster County on August 8, 1918 (Liber 465, Page 336, DEC Map No. 7404). Access to this parcel is through a Highway District established in 1854 and changed in 1860, "to begin at the Hurley line and extend on said district by way of Wm. Spings to the center of Laplah Road."

The above Highway District from Laplah Road in the Town of Marbletown to the Stone Road in the Town of Hurley is shown on numerous maps (eight are listed in an October, 1994 memorandum of the DEC Real Property Bureau), dating from 1875 to 1964 as that of a town road, unimproved road or gravel road. As of 1964 the road is designated as a jeep trail from the former dwelling of Wiliam Sping to a point near the Stone Road in the Town of Hurley. A 1994 search of the Marbletown Town Clerk's and Highway Department's records revealed no Qualified Abandonment of the Highway District by the Town. The Town's position on this road is that of abandonment by non-use. The Town was unable to provide a time period for their abandonment.

Title searches for all adjoining owners near the subject parcel which either border or extend across the said road in the Town of Marbletown were conducted covering the period from early 1800's to the present and do not except out a right of way or roadway. The roadway formerly laid out as Town of Marbletown Highway District No. 62, though not written in any recorded deeds of record, does effect the title of all parcels that it passes through by being recorded and accepted by the Town as a Highway District on February 17, 1854 by application of William Sping.

The Department maintains that Upland (Irmer) Road at the time of the State's acquisition of this lot was a public highway. Therefore, the public retains access to this property from Laplah Road in Marbletown and Stone Road from Hurley. A contrary opinion is held by an adjacent landowner. Additional deed and town records research will be completed to find any new information pertinent to the situation.

1D. Eagles Nest Road Parcel

This 63.7 acre parcel is located near, but does not touch the unpaved continuation of Eagles Nest Road. Further research into access to this parcel in the conveying deed is needed. This parcel is currently without known public access. The easterly border of the lot runs along a stone wall. An old woods road appears on DEC map No 2465 entering from the northeasterly corner of the property.

1E. Hurley (Hill) Patentee Woods Parcel (Praymaher Brook Parcel)

Old survey maps (DEC Map Nos. 1343 and R 119) of this 265 acre parcel indicate several roads entering the property at various points. However, the Old Hurley to Stony Hollow Road (a/k/a Saw Mill Road) is clearly marked on several old survey and USGS maps.

1F. Gallis Hill Parcels

This 48 acre parcel in the Town of Ulster (DEC Map No. 496, and R119) has no identified deeded access at this time and further research needed. The 9.6 acre parcel has 82.6 feet of frontage on a dead-end paved roadway known as "Stickles Terrace," a Town maintained highway. The surrounding area is

being rapidly developed with new roads and subdivisions.

1G. Lands Along Route 28 and 28 A

G1. Three parcels south of Route 28A known as the Haggerty Lot and Fitzpatrick Lots (DEC Map No. 3028). These very small lots are 0.011, 0.015 and 0.026 acres (60 feet by 20 feet, 33 feet by 27 feet).

G2. DEC Map No 7437, p/o lot 25 of the Binnewater Class-Kingston Commons (property to the west of the Doll House).

G3. Route 28 was relocated in 1938 and widened about 1975, leaving a small triangle of Lot 20 south of Route 28.

2. ONTEORA LAKE - JOCKEY HILL (NORTH OF ROUTE 28, SOUTH OF SAWKILL ROAD)

Access to the Onteora Lake Parcel and the large blocks of land to the east is from State Route 28, Waughkonk Road, Moray Hill Road and unimproved Jockey Hill Road.

2A. The two largest land areas are linked by a 100 foot wide strip of land accessible by **Waughkonk Road (A1).** The road becomes an unimproved private road just beyond its intersection with the 100 foot strip, at the last house). The width of the paved road town road crossing the forest preserve is limited to the area now open and passable as shown on DEC maps (13.5 feet where paved). The adjacent private property may use their right-of-way across the forest preserve, as shown on DEC maps, not exceeding 12 feet wide.

To the west there is a permanent public footpath easement over the access road to the old quarry **(A2)**. This **footpath easement**, described in Deed Liber 1946, Page 202, allows the public to cross over the main access road to the abandoned quarry currently owned by Aarjen Development Corporation (Liber 2523, Page 226), over an approximately five foot wide strip connecting the Onteora Lake parcel to Lands of the State of New York described in Deed Liber 465, Page 311. The right-of-way can be of "Sufficient dimensions to accommodate without limiting the generality of 'the public,' backpackers, and game hunters with full field equipment, and enable them to pass each other in opposite directions, in single files."

2B. A major access to state lands is from Sawkill Road southeast via Jockey Hill Road. A gated spur road, once known as **Longhill Road (B1)**, passes through Lot 63, a private inholding, on its way to Route 28. Jockey Hill Road beyond the paved segment was laid out by the Town of Kingston Highway Commissioners in 1791; however, the former town highway appears to have been abandoned. More research needed to confirm this status. Just west of Longhill Road is another jeep/woods road, once known as **Dutch Hill Road (B2)** accessing the private inholdings of Lot 51, which effects state lands.

Lot 51 has access through state owned lands via Dutch Hill Road (according to the 1875 Beers Atlas of Ulster County and others), with a minimum width of twelve feet and a maximum width of whatever remains today from its previous use as a public highway (usually twelve feet is maximum). Lot 63 has access through Long Hill Road, having a maximum width of the existing travelway or 12 feet (Burgher, DEC Real Property Bureau, March 1994). A 3.5 acre parcel in the southeast corner of Lot 63 has a different owner. The State acquired the lands surrounding these two lots between the years 1898 and 1985 through various tax sales and acquisitions (mostly between 1903 and 1928). All lots within what is known as Kingston Commons have a generic 12 foot right-of-way for access to and from the properties. A map by Harry Siemson, Kingston Town Historian, indicates these former town roads have been abandoned.

A woods road through state owned **lot 122 (B3)** (Just south of the old Town of Kingston landfill) was widened illegally for several hundred feet in November, 1995 between two private parcels, contrary to Forest Preserve Protection. The situation has been resolved.

2C. Drainage easement west of Onteora Lake - ingress/egress

Rights of adjoining owners to use for all purposes of ingress and egress the existing woods road located easterly of their lands along Route 28. Also, the right to use a triangular strip of land for drainage as reserved in deed Liber 1105, Page 263, located on the easterly boundary of adjacent owners in the same area.

Lot 37 contains a small private parcel (0.84 acres) along Moray Hill Road.

3. NORTH OF SAWKILL ROAD

3A. Lots 88 and 89, First Class, Kingston Commons Parcel.

This 40.83 acre parcel (DEC Map No. 8831) was acquired through a 1900 tax deed, (Liber 381, page 389) with no apparent access. A search of old roadways and adjacent land deeds is needed to see what access rights through adjacent lands, either from Halihan Hill Road or South Road may exist.

The Central Hudson Gas and Electric Corporation, subject to a Judgement on Consent (Index No. 89-773, dated January 10, 1992), relocated an SB Power Line from Forest Preserve land to a right-of-way off state lands. The power line was mistakenly constructed on state land, described in a 1923 settlement with what was then the Conservation Commission. A fine was paid and a statement was filed by the "Kingston Gas and Electric Company" that its illegal occupancy was at the "sufferance" of the State. The power line was also moved to accommodate future expansion.

3B. 23.33 acre parcel, Lot 131. Access unknown. Old woods road to southerly boundary may provide access. Deeds to adjacent parcels, especially one to the southwest, need researching.

3C. Access to a 61 acre parcel straddling the Town of Woodstock/Kingston line, is unidentified at this time. Access to parcels B and C is primarily administrative.

D. Public Use and Resource Impacts

The management of this Wild Forest Unit, as for other lands within the Forest Preserve, is aimed to allow public access and recreation which does not significantly damage the resources for which the area is protected by the State Constitution.

The Bluestone Wild Forest has no trail registers. The area is used for hiking and hunting by local residents. Some illegal ATV and snowmobile use has occurred. Most people, except fisherman, are unaware that Onteora Lake is state land and don't know how to access the lands. Access to the Unit for people with disabilities is currently limited. No signs help the public to find the Wild Forest. Nevertheless, ice fishing is popular when weather permits. Trail registers will be installed at Onteora Lake and Jockey Hill Road to monitor use.

III. MANAGEMENT AND POLICY

Since 1885, management of Forest Preserve lands within the Bluestone Wild Forest has been guided by the "forever wild" clause (Article XIV) of the New York State Constitution as detached parcels in a Forest Preserve county. Until 1957 the lands of the Bluestone Wild Forest were outside of the Catskill Park. Management activities focused on fire prevention, fish and wildlife, and recreation.

Article XIV, Section 1 of the New York State Constitution states:

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

In 1975, a Temporary Commission to Study the Catskills recommended Forest Preserve lands in the Catskills be classified into management units. In 1985 the Department completed a Catskill State Land Master Plan which implemented the recommendations. The Master Plan, currently being revised, directs the Department to complete management plans which include specific objectives for each unit. This management plan is consistent with the 1985 Master Plan in effect at this time.

Forest Preserve lands within the Catskill Mountains are classified into categories by the Catskill Park State Land Master Plan ("the Master Plan"), adopted by the Department as a means of fulfilling its statutory responsibility under Environmental Conservation Law §9-0301 to exercise the care, custody and control of the Forest Preserves. The Plan, on pages 65-66, classifies the lands which are the subject of this Unit Management Plan ("UMP") within the wild forest category.

The Master Plan provides overall guidance for consistent and uniform management of State lands administered by the Department within the Catskills. Guidelines for the management and use of lands classified as Wild Forest are set forth on pages 34-41 of the Master Plan. This UMP implements those general guidelines in the Bluestone Wild Forest, providing specific management objectives and actions needed to meet those objectives.

This unit management plan has been developed within the constraints set forth by Article XIV of the State Constitution, Article 9 of the Environmental Conservation Law, Title 6 of the Codes, Rules and Regulations of the State of New York, The Catskill Park State Land Master Plan and established policies for the administration of Forest Preserve lands developed by the Division of Lands and Forests.

A. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

1. Goals

First and foremost, the primary goal of Forest Preserve management is to preserve and protect the wild forest character and integrity of the unit, with its natural plant and animal communities, and allow natural processes to proceed essentially unhindered.

A second goal is to provide opportunities for a variety of outdoor recreation opportunities without degrading the resources or impairing the wild forest setting and the experiences unique to the Region's wild forest lands.

2. Objectives

a. <u>Land Management Objectives</u>

1a) **MOTOR VEHICLE TRESPASS.** Maintain boundary lines of the Wild Forest, with special emphasis along roads and private right-of-ways. Maintain 4.3 miles of boundary lines each year on a seven year cycle (30.2 miles total). This discourages trespass on private lands and encroachment on State lands.

Clearly mark all public right-of-ways through private lands with signs informing the public to stay on the roads, to reduce or eliminate public trespass on adjacent private lands.

2a) **ACCESS**. Access to the unit is poorly marked and in many areas severely limited. Maintain existing public access roads and discourage the public from leaving established right-of-ways onto adjacent private lands. Provide clearly marked access points and parking facilities with clearly set limits, reducing or eliminating trespass onto State and private lands and unwanted or illegal parking along roads. Access will be concentrated to several key locations to facilitate maintenance and manage public impacts on the Wild Forest. Purchases of private lands surrounded by the Wild Forest will improve the Wild Forest's trail network. Twenty-six additional parking spaces are slated for the unit, along with the maintenance and upgrading of twenty existing spaces. The public will benefit by being able to find the lands available for their use and learn firsthand of the benefits provided by the Forest Preserve.

2b) Clarify and resolve public access when in doubt, whether through easements or old town roads. Further research and legal review will be needed to resolve access issues.

3a) **TRAIL MANAGEMENT/ MAINTENANCE**. Eliminate incompatible uses which detract from the wild forest character of the unit, such as the illegal use of snowmobiles and motor vehicles. Increase patrols and work with local user groups to self police and educate their members and visitors and curtail use of unauthorized trails. Signs will be added and informational displays installed at various points identified in this. Maintain existing trails or monitor and reroute to better, less impacting locations.

4) **FIRE PROTECTION**. Protect the wild forest from fire as required by legal mandates (Article 9 ECL). Department policy is to extinguish all fires, regardless of cause, land classification or ownership. Fire protection, detection, and suppression is the responsibility of forest rangers. Fire could be a useful tool given special, carefully applied and limited circumstances, and thorough public notification. Recognize that although most fires are man caused, the elimination of natural fires which once occurred can cause changes in the native woodland composition. Review policy to consider the importance of fire or measures imitating fires in special circumstances where endangered or threatened plant species or communities are identified and would be destroyed by inaction.

The validity of fire control from natural causes in a wild forest is questionable. Natural fires, though rare, are a part of the wilderness ecosystem. The difficulty arises in identifying naturally caused fires from set fires. Any changes to current fire management techniques will depend upon the finalizing and implementing of a wilderness fire management policy. DEC's responsibility for public safety, risk level determination and emergency response is paramount. The Towns of Olive, Hurley, Kingston, Ulster and Woodstock are fire towns.

5a) **NATURAL COMMUNITIES.** Although none have been identified to date, protect rare plants, animals and habitats and archaeological resources, as well as any sensitive areas (steep slopes, streamsides) within the Wild Forest. Locate any new recreational facilities, such as trails, camping areas, and parking areas to avoid these areas and monitor existing facilities. Work with Natural Heritage Program to help identify possible locations of rare species, such as Gallis Hill.

5b) Eliminate nonconforming, man-made facilities and incompatible uses which detract from the wild forest character of the unit or adversely impact the natural resources.

6) **WILDLIFE**. Maintain all native wildlife species at levels compatible with their natural environment.

7a) **FISHERY.** Preserve, enhance and where needed, restore fisheries habitats to achieve and perpetuate the historically documented fish communities found in the unit's streams and small ponds. Perpetuate native fish populations in all streams within the unit.

7b) Identify future management objectives based upon fisheries most recent investigations of the area, particularly Onteora Lake.

8) **LAND ACQUISITION/ EASEMENTS**. Selectively acquire key inholdings, lands contiguous to State land on at least three sides, lands contiguous to State lands containing or used by endangered or threatened species, limited parcels needed for improved access and effective management of public use (reducing nearby private land problems), and places where simplified boundary lines would markedly enhance the management or integrity of State lands. Prioritizing of these lands is provided in this plan. Any such acquisitions will be governed by the New York State Open Space Plan (NYS DEC, 1995).

9) **WATER QUALITY (WATERSHED).** Maintain the water quality of the streams and wetlands by carefully designing, monitoring, and controlling nearby uses, enforcing the 150 foot camping setback, and educating the public.

b. <u>Public Use Management Objectives</u>

1a) Monitor the intensity of public use. Take appropriate steps to prevent overuse leading to degradation, such as rebuilding trails to modern standards. If unsuccessful, curtail uses that damage natural resources, such as hiking, snowmobiling, horseback riding or biking.

1b) Regulate camping within this unit through 6 NYCRR Part 190, protecting the water quality of streams and rivers. Groups of ten or more may camp by permit only.

2a) Educate visitors to use and enjoy the Wild Forest without adversely affecting its character and natural resources. Provide kiosks (bulletin boards with maps and other interpretive information) on the Onteora Lake parcel and other key access points and trailheads.

Include the unit and its location and highlights on a map, part of a proposed interpretive folder on the Catskill Park. Complement this with a more detailed folder on the Bluestone Wild Forest showing access, trails, key points of interest, appropriate use of the area (camping regulations, etc.) and some historical background.

2b) Improve public recognition and awareness of the Wild Forest and Forest Preserve. Provide a limited amount of additional foot and bicycle trails in areas which can sustain such uses over the long term Onteora Lake, off Jockey Hill Road). Monitor all trail areas and reassess impacts when plan is updated. Control use or eliminate trails if erosion, vandalism, water quality, rare species, and the natural character of the forest lands is imperiled by continued use.

2c) Access to the Unit for people with disabilities is being reviewed with the assistance of the New York State Office of Advocate for Persons with Disabilities, Albany. Access is currently limited, but Onteora Lake will provide fishing and hiking access. The parking facility proposed on state land along the unpaved portion of Jockey Hill Road will provide access to a good woods road. Once suitable access is developed, it will be publicized. The new opportunities will be part of already proposed projects and will not require new trail construction.

2d) Control adverse and illegal uses through enforcement of the Environmental Conservation Law and Department Rules and Regulations. Enhance the Forest Ranger and Seasonal Assistant Forest Ranger Program to patrol, monitor, and provide public education.

3) Maintain hunting, trapping, and other wildlife related recreational activities and provide limited, but clearly marked Forest Preserve access.

4) Maintain and improve access to the fishery resources considering the sensitive nature and carrying capacity of riparian lands. Maintain fishery quality.

5) Educate landowners and visitors about the benefits of forested lands in watershed management and encourage conservation activities in their lives. Encourage good watershed management.

B. PROPOSED FACILITIES AND MANAGEMENT (REFLECT MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES)

Post and paint all state land boundaries and maintain on a seven year schedule.

1. DUG HILL - MORGAN HILL-GALLIS HILL (SOUTH OF ROUTE 28)

1A. Dug Hill Road Parcel

RESOLVE ownership and boundary line issues on the Griffin escheat parcels. Contain automobile parking by clearly delineating with boulders a five car parking area where an informal parking area now exists on the southerly side of Dug Hill Road. Block off use beyond. The area was created for access parking many years ago. The parking should remain rustic and except for a sign, no facilities will be added.

The property boundary of the Griffin parcel should be clarified and researched (Maps No. T 203, 3859, and 8359, and Ulster County deed L. 1580, Cp 20 [February 13, 1986].

The width and location of the traditional driveway access (Robert Schneller Parcel) should be clearly established and surveyed based on available documents, and monumented.

The Department's Bureau of Fisheries will survey Englishman's Creek (171-25-2 C(T) stream). The C(T) section (trout stream) is almost completely within the Forest Preserve.

Work with Central Hudson to remove several poles, guy wires and distribution lines on Forest Preserve lands.

1B1. Patrick Kenney/Kenney Lots

The 1.060 acre Patrick Kenney Lot near Schildknecht Road and the 1.72 acre Kenney lot on Morgan Hill Road are too small for any active management. These parcels are best used by adjacent landowners only, and require permission from private landowners for the public to access them. Administration and protection is difficult for Department staff. In reality, they receive little attention or public use, and little management. Purchase of right of way, or strips of lands in fee, is necessary to provide reliable access for DEC staff and the public.

1B2. Hanrahan Parcel

1. Delineate parking lot and access, place small Forest Preserve access sign on the corner of the lot if the Town of Hurley will allow parking there (across from the Hurley Garage). Clearly post state land boundary. The goal will be not to duplicate parking already available at the Town Recreation Area across the street. Possible alternatives will be broached and explored with the Town Board. The functional linkage between the two public properties could be strengthened - with the forest preserve land serving as a passive recreation area for the active recreation at the Town's park. If acceptable to the Town Board, the West Hurley Park could serve as a "trailhead" for any future trails planned for the forest preserve lots.

1B3. Stony Creek Lots

Contain wetlands, small streams and steep bluestone cliff faces. No formal access is proposed. Front on Dug Hill Road.

1C. The Charles Coutant Lot

Access to this 107 acre parcel which includes a large wetland is hindered by a gate erected by an adjacent property owner to the south along Upland (formerly Irmer) Road (See also discussion under Man-Made Facilities). This access route is the most direct to the parcel. However, the Department shares Irmer Road with adjacent owners for access to the area and there is no room for cars to pull off the single-lane woods road. An old road bridge/dam, rebuilt by beavers, blocks the road several hundred feet into the property so the wetland

constrains parking to the southerly edge of the property.

As a result of a meeting held between six landowners and the DEC in New Paltz, a petition signed by roughly 100 persons objecting to the parking lot proposed within a small portion of the wetland and the 100 foot adjacent area, and a letter from the South Side Rod and Gun Club of West Hurley, priorities for this property were reassessed:

Regarding the road rights:

The Department will complete research into the Status of Upland (Irmer) Road. The DEC at this time stands by its current position pending new information and review by regional attorneys. The construction of a parking lot on the lot will be on hold until this is completed.

Hunter conflicts with adjacent landowners:

Hunting is an approved use in the Catskill Forest Preserve. The concerns expressed can best be addressed through additional posting along State property lines where trespasses are more common. The ECO for the area is Marion Hoffman (914-331-0899). The Ranger is Paul Clickner (914-338-4117). Assistance can also be gotten by calling 256-3025 - Ranger headquarters, New Paltz - during work hours. Another option, once parking is provided, includes limiting use through restricting parking to the spaces provided.

A suggestion was made to designate this property a State Game Refuge (Article 11-2105). The Department reviewed this suggestion, but finds no biological or wildlife species necessitating such a designation. The parcel does not have overharvest problems that a refuge designation or special regulation protecting wildlife from hunting, trapping and fishing would resolve.

Access parking:

The option to providing a parking lot on the northerly part of the Coutant lot is very costly given the length and narrow width of the road, the need for at least one large stream culvert and nearby developed properties. This option is not feasible due to its high cost and is dropped. These remaining options will be pursued in this priority order:

1. Purchase a piece of land, through easement or fee, from a willing seller for parking along Upland Road in Marbletown. Pedestrian access along Upland Road into the property.

2. Finish researching the road right-of-way from today's Stone Road in the Town of Hurley south to the parcel. Purchase, through easement or fee, a small lot for parking along Stone Road in the Town of Hurley. Public access to DEC lands would be limited to pedestrians along the unmaintained road right of way (signs in the parking lot). However, the road was never formally abandoned, allowing public use, including cars.

3. Finally, if options one or two are not possible (especially if willing sellers are not found) and the Upland Road right of way research and legal review is completed and allows; construct a six car graveled parking area on existing State land on a rise along the southerly boundary of the parcel approximately 100 feet westerly of Upland Road. This provides parking for hunters, anglers, cartop boats and hikers. The parking area and access road will be outside of the wetland area, although the road may be partially within the 100 foot adjacent area. If initiated, the project will by law undergo the same scrutiny, public review, and issuance of permit as any Article 24 Freshwater Wetlands Permit application.

Of the three alternatives, the first or second are preferred and are proposed in this plan for Year 2. Alternative 3, if considered, would not implemented until at least year four, with construction (if permitted) in Year 5.

To complete a viable and sustainable headwater watershed system, land acquisition is proposed to the north and west of the parcel which would ensure the viability of the entire upper watershed (See Land Acquisition).

1D. Eagles Nest Road Parcel

Research adjacent property deeds to this parcel for a right of way or other means of access (e.g. Jacob Smollen, L. 645, page 145 or Ralph Hiller, Liber 606, page 43).

1E. Hurley Patentee Woods Parcel (Praymaher Brook Parcel)/Gallis Hill Parcel.

Insure access and construct parking pull off for four cars and put up access signs. The most suitable, shortest distance access is from the north - northeasterly side in the Town of Ulster (Hoyer's Lane). Three nearby state-owned lots (Haggerty/Fitzpatrick lots) will be located to see if they are useful for providing parking. From there, trail markers or a map could show the route for pedestrian access via the Old Hurley to Stony Hollow Road to the 265 acre parcel (2000 feet through private land, 4,300 feet on State land). The Old Hurley to Stone Hollow Road should be researched further, especially to clarify where in the Town of Hurley it came out onto what is today Route 5. The location on older maps appears different from that of the Thielpape Road - Hurley Mountain Road intersection.

Connect by fee purchase the 265 acre Hurley Patentee Woods Parcel and the 48 acre Gallis Hill parcel. The ridge top parcels can provide a large and interesting open space at low cost by buying a land bridge from a willing seller. A smaller, 9.6 acre parcel to the east touches a new subdivision road which ends in a cul-de-sac and backs onto several lots. Trespass onto state land has occurred from an adjacent owner. Boundary will be posted and repainted.

1G1, 1G2. Haggerty and Fitzpatrick Lots

Post state land along Route 28 with more frequent signs (one every 200 feet). Locate and post boundaries. Some boundaries may need resurvey. Evaluate the feasibility of using the Haggerty and Fitzpatrick lots for parking access to nearby State land. Resurvey and post the three parcels (DEC Map No. 3028).

Also, post the boundary lines and investigate the telephone line along the westerly boundary of the parcel adjacent to the Doll House (DEC Map No. 7437, part of lot 25 of the Binnewater Class - Kingston Commons).

ONTEORA LAKE - JOCKEY HILL (NORTH OF ROUTE 28, SOUTH OF SAWKILL ROAD)

This area will be the hub of recreational opportunities for this wild forest and will include cartop boat access to Onteora Lake (electric motors permitted), hiking and biking trails, parking, an information board and kiosk. However, no picnic tables, barbecues, or swimming area will be considered. Management will remain rustic in character as guided by the Catskill State Land Master Plan for Wild Forest. Advocates for the Disabled for Ulster County, such as the Resource Center for Accessible Living, Inc. (Kingston) will be consulted for appropriate and cost-effective designs.

2. Onteora Lake - Jockey Hill

2a. An entrance sign will be placed at Onteora Lake along Route 28. The existing 16-car parking lot (car-top boat access) and shared use trail (not including snowmobiles or horses) will be completed with the addition of a trail register, improvements to the bulletin board, widening parking surface by 10 feet to intended size (60 by 80 feet), widening curve

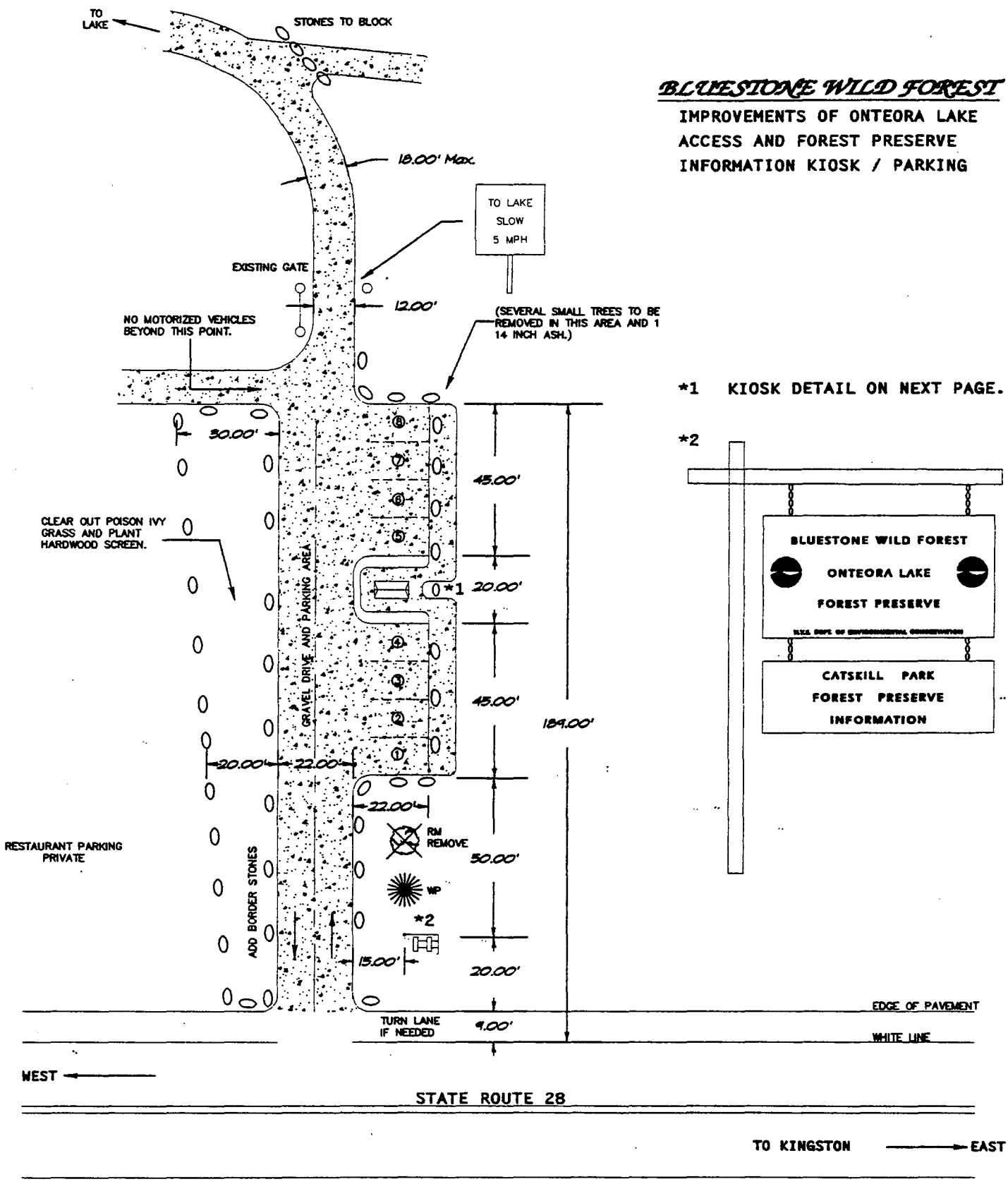
into lot, more grading and stones on perimeter outside of parking surface, screening with trees, and a "Port-A-Potti" type privy. The area between the parking lot and the old loop road, within the loop and towards the lake, will be brush-hogged or mowed once a year and will be checked for dangerous trees. The area will be monitored for use and any problems caused by improved access. Litter and fire ring damage will be removed at least once every two weeks. Portable gas stoves will be encouraged; however, open fires cannot be prohibited under forest preserve rules. Boats are limited to electric motors. An assistant forest ranger, whose patrol area includes the lake, will be hired for the summer, especially weekends. The area will be monitored at least twice a week during the summer peak-use months. Use will be evaluated and curtailed if impacts on the area are unacceptable (excessive dumping, off road driving, partying, etc.). The lot will be plowed to maintain access in winter. However, if funding does not allow for plowing down to the lake, space will be plowed to allow winter parking along Route 28.

2b. A Catskill Forest Preserve Information Kiosk with 8 to 10 parking spaces will be built off Route 28 along the entrance roadway to Onteora Lake by the third year (See sketch plan on next page), unless a rest stop proposed for the north side of Rte. 28 just east of Moray Hill Road by the NYS Department of Transportation (DOT) includes one. The DOT proposes to install a tourist information kiosk and add a second kiosk at the site to interpret the Catskill Forest Preserve. This would be preferable to the separate kiosk proposed above. If this project is scheduled and constructed within two years, as part of the planned reconstruction of the Route 28 bridge over the Thruway and the Route 28 Catskill entry, a kiosk will not be constructed at the Onteora Lake entrance. Constructing a kiosk at the Onteora Lake entranceway would be supplemented by safety and traffic control measures recommended by the DOT. Two safety features which will be considered are a westbound turn lane for cars entering Onteora Lake and a no left turn sign for cars entering Route 28 from Onteora Lake. Cars turning into Onteora Lake while traveling eastbound cross Rte 28 in the same manner as at the DOT proposed kiosk location.

The entry roadway to Onteora Lake is quite wide, has been greatly disturbed and has an abandoned trashy look at this time. The kiosk, parking, sign and improved roadway (gravel), along with limited landscaping, mowing and reseeding will improve the appearance of the area. The kiosk will have maps showing visitors how to reach and access other parts of the Forest Preserve, will help interpret the areas scenic, historic and cultural resources, and tie Forest Preserve lands to the surrounding Towns and campgrounds. Similar kiosks are planned for Phoenicia, Margaretville, Delhi, and Route 55 near Grahamsville. A smaller version will be available at the Kanape Trailhead (Sundown Wild Forest).

2c. A brochure interpreting the history and ecology of the area, including user rules for safety and protecting the Forest Preserve and a map of official trails, will be provided for the Wild Forest. Tentative plans are for the DEC to provide the brochure design and layout, while advertising will cover the printing costs.

2d. Designated campsites within 150 feet of Onteora Lake or the trail will be monitored and relocated if overused. Seven designated sites are currently located along the old woods road west of Onteora Lake. All formally designated DEC campsites will be more than 250 feet from the parking lot towards the north. All other camping must be more than 150 feet from trail, road, or water as required on all Forest Preserve lands.



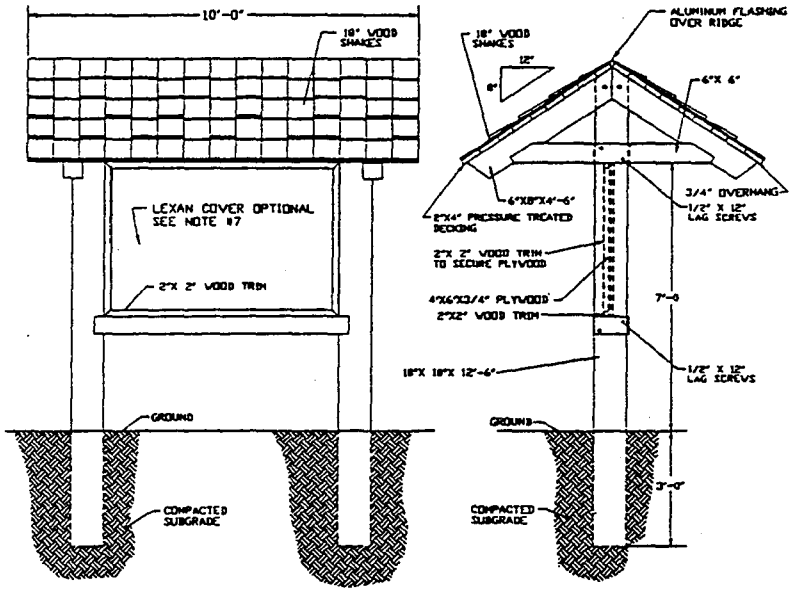
CLEANUP GARBAGE, REMOVE POISION IVY, PLANT TREE SCREEN, IMPROVE ACCESS ROADWAY WITH GRAVEL, DELINEATE ROADWAY AND PARKING LOT (WHEN CONSTRUCTED) WITH LARGE STONES. TURN LANE IF NEEDED.

RECOMMENDED BY:
APPALACHIAN TRAIL CONFERENCE
NPS APPALACHIAN TRAIL PROJECT OFFICE

DESIGN #1
LONG LASTING
BULLETIN BOARD

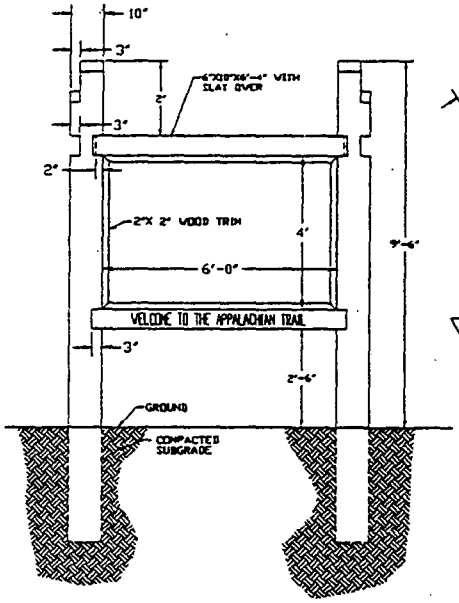
PRODUCTION:
DESIGNED BY: S. MEISTER, J. GOTTHAM
DRAWN BY: S. MEISTER
CHECKED BY: J. GOTTHAM
FILE NAME/DATE: VAALL 10/2/98

HONORED BY: V. VALLADA
DRAWN BY: S. MEISTER
CHECKED BY: V. VALLADA, S. DOYLE
FILE NAME/DATE: MAUBB 9/28/01

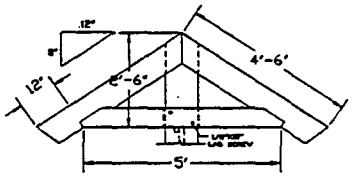


FRONT ELEVATION
SCALE: 3/4" = 1'-0"

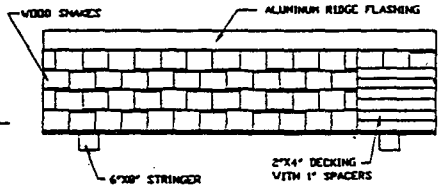
END ELEVATION
SCALE: 3/4" = 1'-0"



FRAMING DETAIL
SCALE: 3/4" = 1'-0"



SIDE FRAMING DETAIL
SCALE: 3/4" = 1'-0"



ROOF ASSEMBLY
SCALE: 3/4" = 1'-0"

(NOT TO SCALE)

NOTES:

1. ALL WOOD SHOULD BE PRESSURE TREATED.
2. ALL HARDWARE AND NAILS SHALL BE GALVANIZED
3. CEDAR WOOD SHAKES SHOULD BE APPROXIMATELY 18" X 1/2" HANDSPLIT WITH A 5 1/2" EXPOSURE.
4. FINISH SHOULD BE NATURAL.
5. STANDARD SLAT SIGN SHOULD HAVE APPROXIMATELY 2" LETTERS - "WELCOME TO THE APPALACHIAN TRAIL", WOOD ROUTED OR WHITE REFLECTIVE PAINT.
6. EASE ALL EXPOSED EDGES.
7. LEXAN COVER FOR PLYWOOD ATTACH 2" X 2" WOOD TRIM WITH 1/4" LAG SCREWS.
8. OPTIONAL: 5/8" REBAR MAY BE ATTACHED TO BACK OF 10"X10" SUPPORT POSTS TO DETER VANDALS.
9. 2 sided.

SAMPLE Trail Gateway Bulletin Board

2e. A hiking trail loop will be completed around Onteora Lake, including signs and provisions for safe and courteous mountain biking on part of the trail. The trail is an excellent gentle hike through the area. The proposed new trail to the east of Onteora Lake will initially be limited to foot traffic. Mountain bikes will use the "Bluestone Loop Trail" to the north (See 1e). The trail will be completed around Onteora Lake, run the ridge between the lake and the beaver pond to the east, then along the edge of the Onteora Lake wetland and Route 28 back to the parking lot. The purchase of a few acres of in-fee or scenic easement lands to buffer part of the trail system to the east is recommended. Because of the difficulties in administering this type of easement, fee purchase is preferred. However, the trail can be constructed on existing state lands. The value of this property to the people of the State will greatly increase when a full trail loop is completed.

Discussions with the Department of Transportation's Planning and Traffic Safety Divisions has confirmed that there is sufficient room along Route 28 to develop a hard gravel pedestrian walkway to complete the trail loop. In addition to the 9 foot shoulder of the roadway at five to nine more feet of grass will separate the proposed path from the edge of the roadway. One wooden boardwalk - bridge of 30 feet is proposed where the outflow stream from Onteora Lake (Praymaher Brook) flows under Route 28 in order to maintain the buffer from the roadway. Another 50 foot boardwalk - bridge will be needed over the seasonally wet woods on the southeast corner of state land near Route 28.

2f. Trails in the Bluestone Wild Forest are first pedestrian trails, second mountain bike trails. This is consistent with the Department's priority role to protect the Forest Preserve. If inappropriate use, user conflicts, or resource damage develops, and can't be corrected, the problem trails will be closed. Because of the small size of the unit, and a tight mix of public and private land, snowmobile use continues to be prohibited. Illegal ATV use remains a problem and will be addressed through additional patrols, signs, and the barricades proposed elsewhere in this plan.

The trails planned for this area are:

- Onteora Lake Loop Trail (from parking lot, around lake, along Route 28 and return) - 1.8 miles.

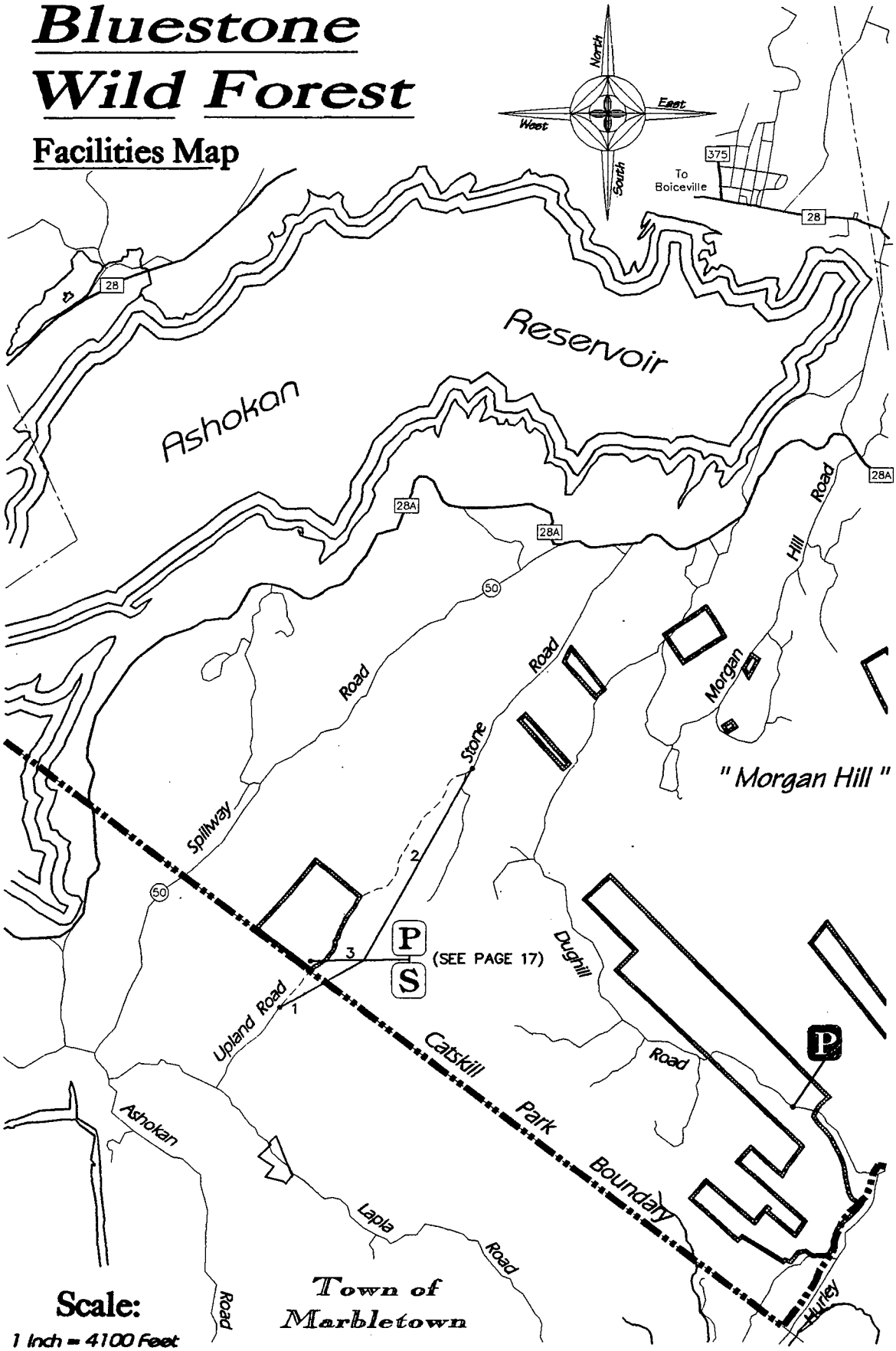
- Bluestone Loop Trail (from parking lot to loop, one-half mile is a shared use trail with pedestrians, loop is 1.2 miles) - 1.7 miles.

- Jockey Hill - Wintergreen Ridge Trail Loop (Road distance 0.9 mile, Loop 1.8 miles) - 2.7 miles.

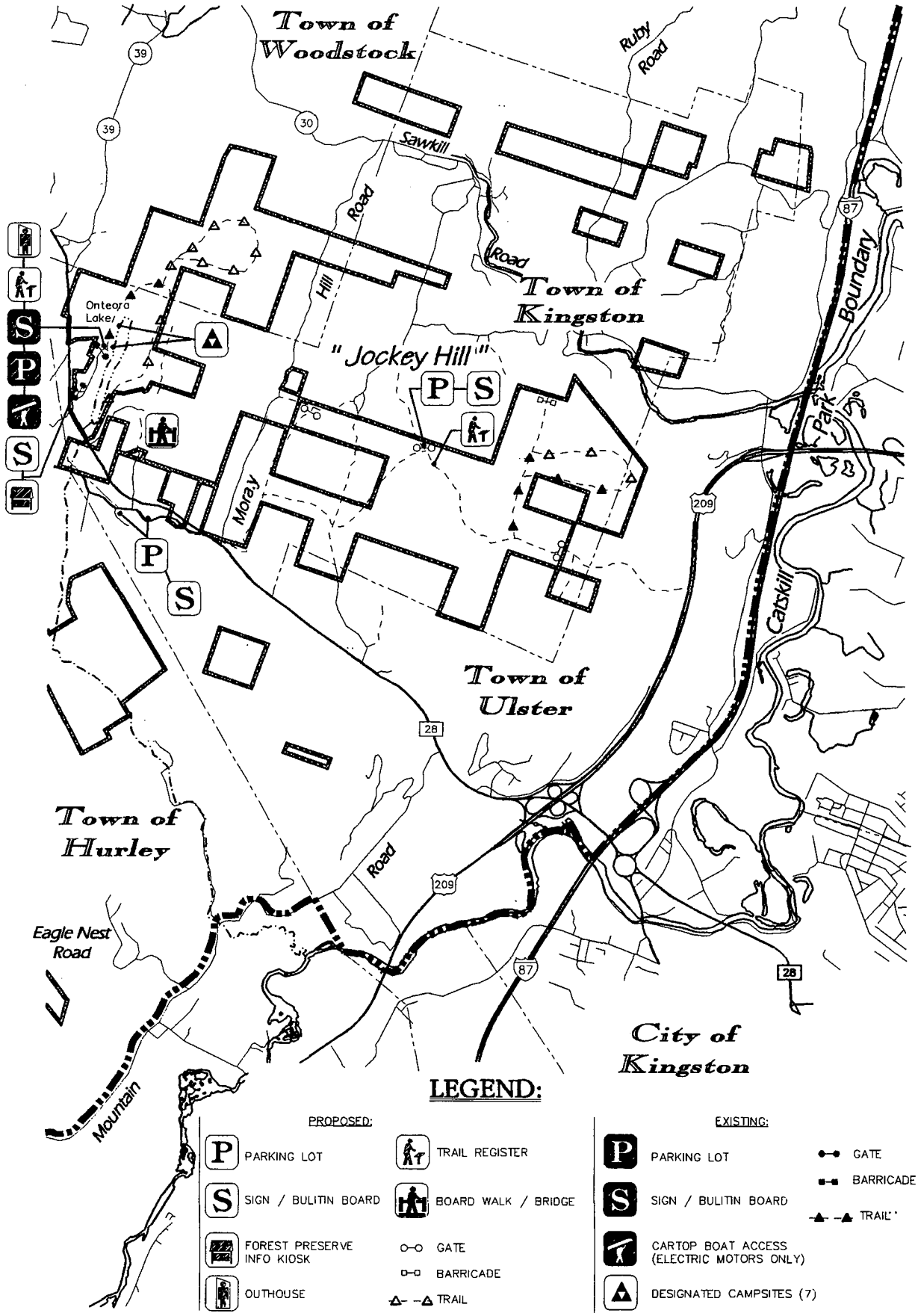
The DEC has been approached by several local mountain biking clubs interested in volunteering to help patrol and maintain trails. The interest comes at an excellent time, and with their help the DEC will initiate a pilot program to provide public information, good signage (including a version of the International Mountain Bicycling Association's Rules of the Trail signs) and trail maintenance to insure that the various users of these public lands coexist in harmony. The project will be reevaluated after 5 years. A memorandum of understanding (MOU) will be prepared outlining responsibilities and cooperation between DEC and the volunteer organizations.

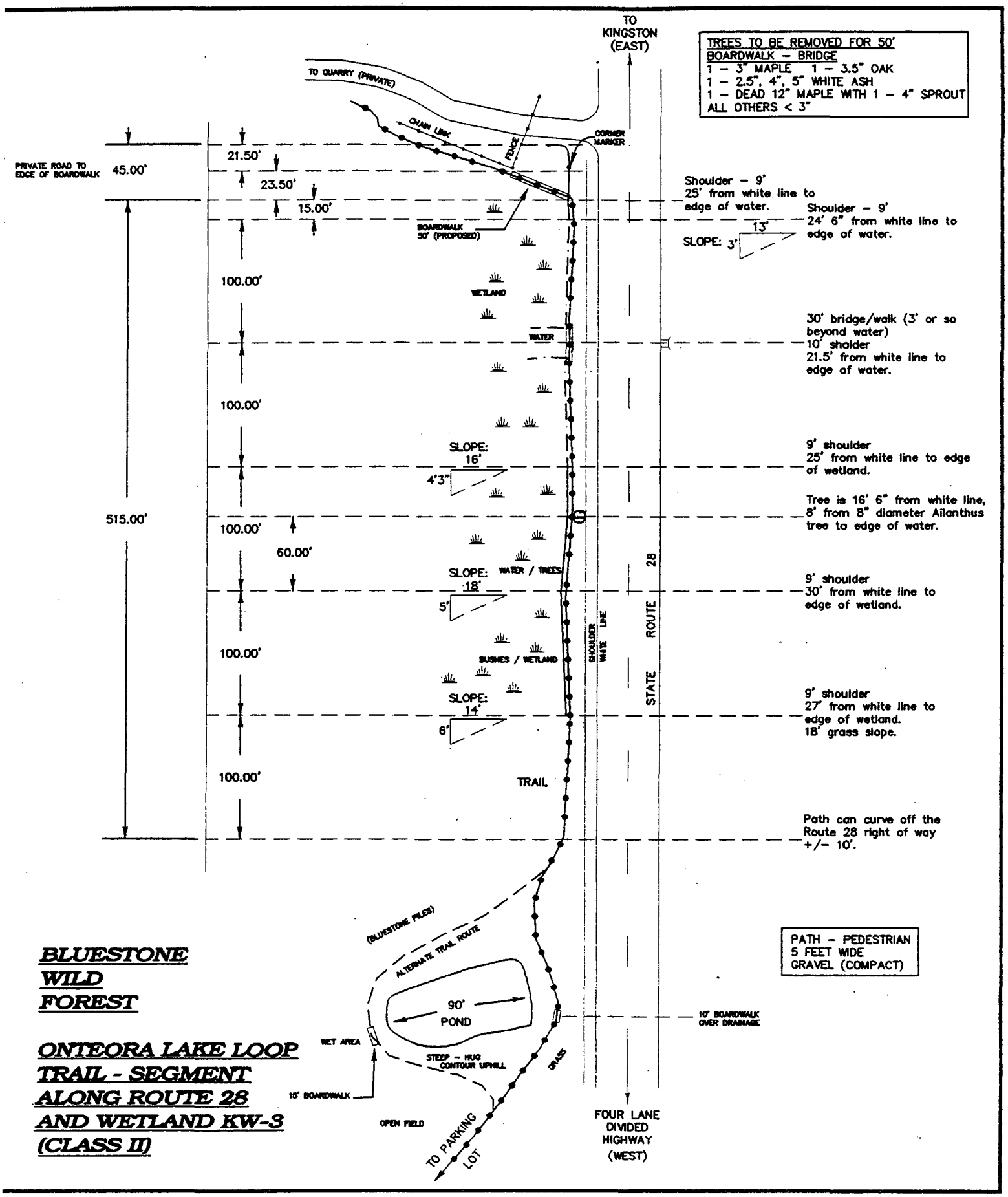
Bluestone Wild Forest

Facilities Map



Scale:
1 Inch = 4100 Feet


Town of Woodstock
Ruby Road
Sawkill
Road
Hill
Road
Town of Kingston
Boundary
Park
Onteora Lake
"Jockey Hill"
Moray
Catskill
Town of Ulster
Town of Hurley
Road
Eagle Nest Road
Mountain
City of Kingston
39
30
87
209
28
LEGEND:
PROPOSED:
PARKING LOT
SIGN / BULITIN BOARD
FOREST PRESERVE INFO KIOSK
OUTHOUSE
TRAIL REGISTER
BOARD WALK / BRIDGE
GATE
BARRICADE
TRAIL
EXISTING:
PARKING LOT
SIGN / BULITIN BOARD
CARTOP BOAT ACCESS (ELECTRIC MOTORS ONLY)
DESIGNATED CAMPSITES (7)
GATE
BARRICADE
TRAIL



BLUESTONE WILD FOREST

ONTEORA LAKE LOOP TRAIL - SEGMENT ALONG ROUTE 28 AND WETLAND KW-3 (CLASS II)

Other loop trails, including mountain bike trails may be possible to the east. Parking is proposed for one such loop, at the unpaved continuation of the Jockey Hill Road, with vehicle access blocked on state land beyond the parking lot (Including a sign "Bluestone Wild Forest, Jockey Hill-Wintergreen Ridge Trailhead Parking, Forest Preserve, NYS DEC"). Closing the roadway beyond the parking lot will solve a persistent dumping problem. However, this gate will be opened for the first two weeks of big game hunting season when use peaks. The gate may be open during other peak use times or for disabled access, but these periods will be short. Although old town highways and stable woods roads may be excellent for bicycle use, some areas may be too wet or fragile. These areas will require maintenance and hardening where soft soils or streams are crossed (for example, the Wintergreen Loop) Trails will be monitored and persistent problem areas will be closed to mountain bike use, unless they can be corrected through prompt maintenance, rerouting or changes in user behavior. The gating or blocking of the woods road will be discussed with the Town of Kingston and affected private landowners to reach a mutually beneficial solution. Keys could be provided to landowners and Town emergency services. No buildings exist on private lands which need this road for access through State land.

The Bluestone and Jockey Hill - Wintergreen Ridge Loop Trails will be officially designated for mountain bikes on a trial basis. Unauthorized access into the Wintergreen area across private property to the east has been identified as a problem. The trail will be designed to minimize this illegal access through signage, natural barriers (boulders and logs) and increased patrols. The situation will not be allowed to worsen as a result of this plan. However, the Catskill State Land Master Plan and Forest Preserve Regulations at this time allow mountain bikes access to all trails in the Catskills. Recently, a proposal in the Catskill State Land Master Plan excludes mountain bikes from wilderness areas, but allows their continued use in wild forest areas, subject to management constraints. The intent here is to identify and manage more intensely those areas tentatively identified as most suitable to mountain bike use. Other trails have not been proposed for mountain bike use primarily due to potential trespass problems on private lands and lack of safe parking, access and contiguous state land. Many other woods roads and trails exist in the area.

2g. Blocking of woods roads to prevent illegal dumping is a priority throughout the Wild Forest. Roads through state land, such as Jockey Hill Road, Longhill Road and Dutch Hill Road will be reviewed. The status of the access to the old Kingston (Jockey Hill) landfill will have to be confirmed to determine its impact on road use as capping is completed by the city. The road has been maintained by the City of Kingston in the recent past. Capping will take approximately six months from the day construction begins, which may be as soon as spring 1997. The City of Kingston prefers accessing the landfill from the east but must obtain access permission from an adjacent landowner. Access will be needed not only for the capping, but also for leachate removal over the next thirty years. The Department's management of the road will depend on its use status, adjacent landowners, and access needs. Owners of affected lands as well as emergency services would have keys to the gate proposed just beyond the proposed parking lot. No action will be taken until all affected owners, the Town and the City agree.

North of Sawkill Road (Rte 30)

1. Research access rights to area parcels and **consider purchasing a piece of land connecting the two - 61 acre and 90 acre-state lands on Halihan Hill (Lot 72, Town of Kingston, 30.3 acres)** from a willing seller, so access is simple and direct from Ruby Road. Research is needed to determine if alternate access exists to the Woodstock parcel.

2. Monitor the recovery of **Halihan Hill Lots 88-89** after the 1995 power line removal. Research public and private access rights to and through the parcels on the observed woods roads and decide if access is adequate.

A May 1995 field inspection found what appears to be the common boundary between lots 88 and 89 posted by H. Halwick against trespass. The northerly boundary of state land (Lot 89, 11+ acres) is painted and marked, so this internal line is a puzzle (See DEC Map # 8831). A December 19, 1972 letter from Daniel Dunham, Land Surveyor, to Mr. Gannon, Chief of Real Property, DEC summarizes the situation at that time (contested title). Resolve this title question.

3. Monitor and cleanup dumping, especially along the **Sawkill Road Parcel.** Monitor at least twice yearly - June and October. Use of this 25 acre parcel is low. If fishing or other pressures to Saw Kill Creek increase and start causing erosion, consider hardening the path to the river. Block side of parking pull-off to reduce future dumping. Post signs "No Dumping," referencing regulation 190.2b.

4. Research access rights to the 23.3 acre **"Miggins-Clearborn Road" Parcel** in the Town of Kingston. The closest access to this parcel is about 130 feet from Miggins Road and 150 feet from Barbara Terrace. If access via an easement or in-fee strip is not assured, one will be bought for administrative use and limited public access.

C. LAND ACQUISITION - THE COMPLETION OF A VIABLE BLUESTONE WILD FOREST.

The goal of land acquisition in this management plan is to encourage long-term ecological stability on lands already owned by the state, and maximize access and use compatible with the natural resources and communities of the region. The Department does not intend to unify the scattered properties in this unit. The Department views land acquisition conservatively - existing conditions and avoid large future impacts.

Land acquisition is important in this unit to create a usable and viable wild forest. The mosaic of publicly and privately owned lands limits opportunities for area residents and visitors. However, due to limited funding, priorities must be set for acquisitions. These priorities help explain where DEC, as the manager of the Bluestone Wild Forest, is headed and help set limits on land acquisition. Land acquisition, whether easement or fee, is always from willing sellers.

As noted before, funding for land acquisition is very limited. The Environmental Protection Fund and the 1996 Environmental Bond Act may provide a source for land acquisition through annual appropriations to DEC. Intense competition for limited funds may limit acquisitions in any particular year. This discussion is provided as guidance should funding become available. Generally, properties completely or almost completely surrounded by state lands, or having an impact on state lands through access and location are the first acquisition priority. Properties which provide access to poorly accessible or inaccessible state lands or which are essential to insure the viability of the Wild Forest into the future are also a high priority. It is expected that only a fraction of the approximately 1560 acres identified will be acquired.

All land acquisitions must meet the criteria and "resource value rating systems" in the Conserving Open Space in New York State Plan (1995). Notification will be made to the affected Town of the State's intent to acquire land which is not specifically listed in the Open Space Plan (all proposed acquisitions in the Bluestone Wild Forest are in this category). A Town has ninety days from notification to reject a proposed acquisition. For more information on land acquisition proposed for New York State, please consult the 1995 "Conserving Open Space in New

York State Plan." The Open Space Plan is updated every three years. Additional guidelines are provided in the Catskill State Land Master Plan, currently being revised. Acquisitions are made only from willing sellers.

Land acquisition priorities were adjusted based on comments and information received at the October 9, 1996 public meetings and during the comment period. All comments were reviewed and applied to the Department's land acquisition goals for this unit. In several cases, adjustments were made. The reasons for acquisition were clarified when conflicting comments were received. All land acquisitions prioritized below are keyed to maps which follow this section.

1. <u>Priority 1</u>:

A. Lands to help buffer the Onteora Lake trail, not to exceed 15 acres.

B. Inholding Lots 51 and 63 (87.4 acres), and 112 (30.4 Acres) in the Town of Kingston, completely surrounded by state lands, with access roads affecting the Wild Forest.

C. Lot 110 (30 acres) along Jocky Hill Road Ridge to complete boundary to ridge rise (Town of Kingston). Parcel surrounded by state land on three sides.

D. Lots 17 (45 acres, Town of Kingston) and 18 (30 acres, Town of Woodstock), northeast of Onteora Lake, inholding surrounded by state land on at least three sides. Contains watershed and upper half of large pond owned by the State.

E. Connect 265 acre Hurley Patentee Woods to the 48 acre Gallis Hill Parcel. (Lot 7 and part of (p/o) Lot 4 in Town of Ulster, p/o Great Lot 9 in Hurley). This area contains the best examples of acidic crest hilltops as identified by Barbour (1990). Between 50 and 100 acres of land would accomplish a large viable parcel. Also, a few acres may be needed to provide parking for pedestrian access from Route 28 through Stony Hollow along the Old Hurley to Stone Hollow woods road. Motor vehicles will be limited to the parking area.

F. Lot 22, p/o 23 (about 50 acres, Town of Woodstock), connecting the Wild Forest to Sawkill Road (County Route 30), north of Onteora Lake.

G. To create a viable, self sustaining wetland - stream complex in the 107-acre Coutant lot (Hurley), relatively unaffected by the continued residential development on the shallow and rocky soils throughout the area, purchase the wetland and adjacent upland to the west (p/o Great Lot 9 [northerly half] toward Spillway Road, Lot 19 to the northwest and Lot 17 to the north). This will protect the headwaters of the pond and stream into the foreseeable future. The total proposed acquisition is approximately 250 acres. Also, depending on the alternative chosen for providing access to the parcel, several acres may be purchased along either Upland (Irmer) Road or Stone Road.

PRIORITY 1 TOTAL ACRES: 638

2. <u>Priority 2</u>

H. Lot 9 (appr. 10.39 acres), surrounded on three sides by state land (along State Route 28)(Town of Kingston). Small thin parcel with long common boundary lines with state land.

I. Lots 65 and 77 (about 85 acres) along old unpaved Jockey Hill Road (road just beyond end of the paved road) for access and rounding out boundary of the unit. If these lots are purchased, then follow with Lots 53 and 89 (about 90 acres, priority 3). All four lots would make a logical boundary line for the area.(Town of Kingston).

J. Lands within Great Lot 9 just north of Hurley Patentee Woods Parcel, abutting the Old Stone Hollow to Hurley Road (mentioned under priority 1), reaching into the adjacent

wetlands from state land (less than 120 acres). Buying a connection along the stream toward Onteora Lake will insure not only good access to some point on Route 28A, but also help create a continuous wildlife travel corridor from the uplands north of Onteora Lake through wetlands and along Prayermaher Brook (state land), which eventually flows into the Esopus River Valley floodplain. The addition of this link would create a viable habitat for many plant and animal species, which could maintain itself despite substantial development throughout the area. (Town of Hurley, bordering Town of Ulster). Purpose is improved access, but mainly maintaining biodiversity and ecosystem management.

K. To simplify boundaries and facilitate management of the Dug Hill Parcel, purchase undeveloped lands surrounded on three sides by state land, not exceeding 200 acres bordered by Route 5 (Hurley Mountain Road), Doug Hill Road, Reichel Road and the Catskill Park Boundary (Town of Hurley).

Priority should be given to areas which effect state lands, through erosion or location deep within the property, and which contain unique natural habitats (such as special examples of hemlock and white pine forest lands uncommon in the region).

PRIORITY 2 TOTAL ACRES: 415

3. <u>Priority 3</u>

L. To complete the incorporation of the mine properties, surrounded by state lands, which could have a large impact on the water quality/levels, scenic values and impair the viability of the Bluestone Wild Forest, if developed insensitively. Lots 26-29 (about 150 acres), and p/o Lots 2, 3, 14 and 15 (about 80 acres, Town of Kingston, access through State Route 28, Town of Ulster). Alternatively, consider purchasing access (easement or fee), making a connection with forest preserve lands along Moray Hill Road. The access to Moray Hill Road, may be given Priority 2.

M. To simplify boundaries and management of the large Jockey Hill Parcel, Lot 49 (45 acres), and Lots 73 and 85 to the east (less than 100 acres).

N. Lots 53 and 89 (about 90 acres). See priority 2 (I).

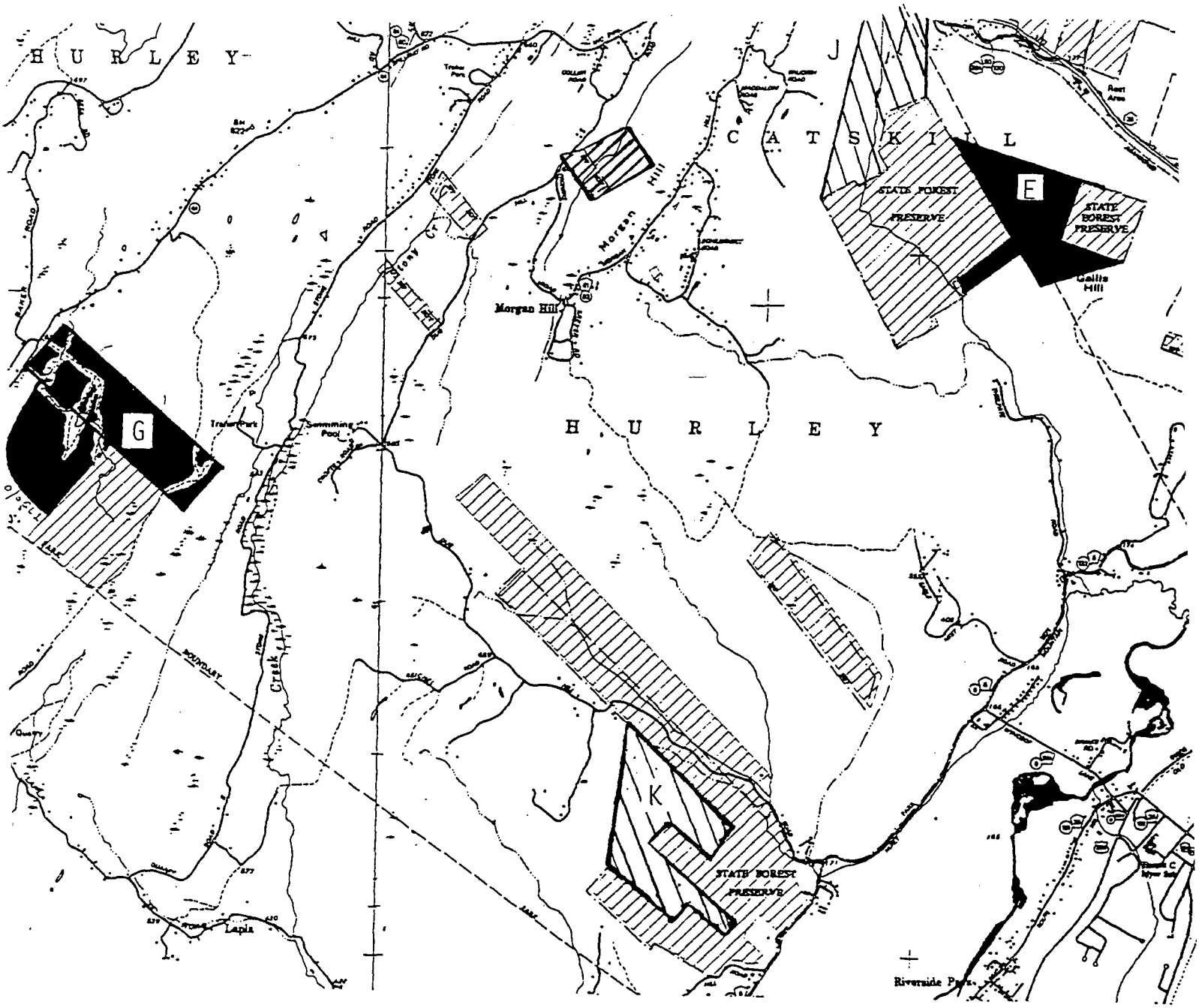
O. To complete the ridge line and unify the 61 acre and 90 acre parcels northwest of Halihan Hill (Town of Kingston), purchase 30.3 acres (Lot 73).

P. Access, if needed to the Halihan Hill Parcel and the Miggins-Clearborn Road Parcel in the Town of Kingston (less than 10 acres total).

PRIORITY 3 TOTAL ACRES: 505

GRAND TOTAL: 1,559

ACQUISITION PRIORITIES MAP



PROPOSED LAND ACQUISITIONS:*

PRIORITY 1

PRIORITY 2

PRIORITY 3

STATE LAND

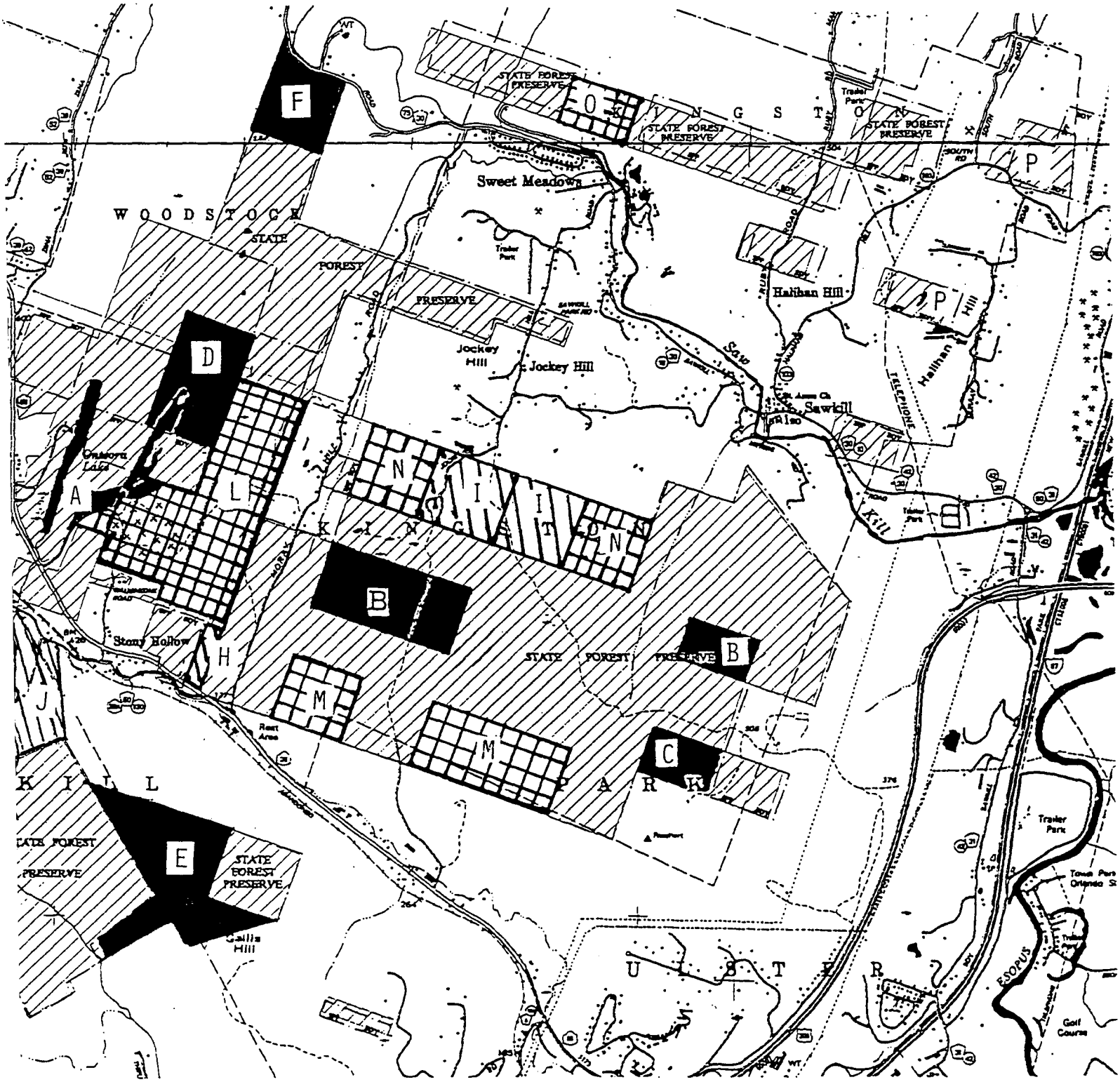
* All land acquisition is from willing sellers and subject to available funding. All properties identified will be considered if offered to State.

ACQUISITION PRIORITIES MAP

PROPOSED LAND ACQUISITIONS:*

PRIORITY 1 ■ PRIORITY 3

PRIORITY 2 PRIORITY 3 STATE LAND



* All land acquisition is from willing sellers and subject to available funding. All properties identified will be considered if offered to State.

D. ADMINISTRATION

An Assistant Forest Ranger is needed for the summer months, May through October. The Assistant Forest Ranger will be shared with Overlook Mountain Wild Forest and Echo Lake in the Indian Head Mountain - Plateau Mountain Wilderness Area. All other staff is adequate. The Forest Ranger for the area will increase visits to the area.

Construction of new access depends on adequate field staff to patrol and manage the lands. Any area without adequate staffing for maintenance, and being damaged or vandalized, will be closed.

About two months each of legal and surveyor/real property staff time will be needed to research and successfully conclude access, trespass and boundary line clarifications each year. Costs estimates are not provided for concluding negotiations and purchase of the proposed land acquisitions, since they are determined by many factors, including the interest of a willing seller and available funding.

E. CATSKILL PARK STATE LAND MASTER PLAN Amendments and Constitutional Considerations of Certain Management Decisions

None identified.

F. STATE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY REVIEW ACT REQUIREMENTS

The provisions of the State Environmental Quality Review Act have been met. Actions proposed in this unit management plan are designed so they will not result in significant environmental impacts. A negative declaration has been filed and a notice printed in the Environmental Notice Bulletin (Issue No. 42, October 16, 1996). A copy of the environmental assessment form (EAF) and the negative declaration is available from the Bureau of Preserve Protection and Management, NYSDEC, Region 3, 21 South Putt Corners Road, New Paltz, New York 12561-1696 [Telephone (914-256-3082)].

IV. PROJECT SCHEDULES AND BUDGET ESTIMATE

The following schedule will be implemented over the life of the plan. Estimated costs are in addition to normal program funding. Funding for projects needed to protect the environment (not including land acquisition) are first priority, recreational enhancement are second priority. The projects are prioritized, with those considered most important in the first year, less important or only after other projects are completed in subsequent years.

Projects will be completed as funding and staffing becomes available. Five year cost is estimated at $182,075. Annual maintenance and one assistant forest ranger assigned to area will cost about $16,500 per year after the first two years of construction are completed.

YEAR 1: 1997

Complete Parking complex at Onteora Lake including:

entrance sign/direction signs	500
Access requirements from Route 28 (discuss with NYSDOT and Town(s) and implement)	500
boulders to limit access/gates	1,000
handicapped study/ design changes	1,000
composting privy/port-a-potty	1,000
re-grading/completing lot to 60 ft width.	2,000
planting to screen lot from lake	75
move/reestablish camping spots along lake	--
brush hogging adjacent field area	100
trail register	100
Shore access for disabled users	300
improve and narrow border of Onteora Lake access road between Route 28 and the first gate (gravel, boulders, plantings, asphalt lip along Route 28, new rounded gravel to fill holes and improve roadway [400 fines]).	3,000
Trail 1: Onteora Lake Loop Trail	1,000
- Maintain/repair old road (0.5 mi.)	
- Locate and layout foot trail for remaining loop	750
- Construct 15', 30', and 50' boardwalks/bridges and 5' wide gravel path along Route 28. Obtain permits from DOT.	9,500
Trail 2: Bluestone Loop Trail (1.2 mi)	1,500

Year 1 Continued

Jockey Hill Road six-car parking lot, gate, bulletin board, signs and trail register.	7,500
Work with owners of Lots 51 and 63 and the Town on whether a gate can be constructed on Long Hill Road to eliminate dumping.	1,000
Annual maintenance (trash pickup, dump removal, trail stabilizing, improvement and erosion control, limiting illegal access with boulders, boundary line maintenance, snow plowing and mowing.	3,000
1 month attorney and Real Property Staff time to look at unresolved access, boundary, and trespass issues.	6,500
1 Seasonal Assistant Forest Ranger (May-October)	11,000
TOTAL	**51,075**

Year 2

Construct Jockey Hill - Wintergreen Ridge Trail	4,000

- Design for bicycles and shared use.
- Sign trail along existing road (0.9 mile) and trail (0.5 mi.).
- Upgrade and stabilize existing trail for bicycle use, incl. one stream crossing.
- Complete and place signs on new loop trail (appr. 1.2 miles).

Place Forest Preserve Access Sign at Dug Hill Parking Lot. Place new border of boulders to stop illegal motor vehicle use on state land.	2,000
Mark state land boundary across the street from the Town of Hurley Garage and place small Forest Preserve access sign in corner of lot if Town permits (Hanrahan Parcel).	200
Resolve access issue to 265 acre Hurley Hill - Praymaher Brook Parcel. Complete review of Coutant access and decide which alternative to pursue. (Remaining 1 month of attorney/surveyor time.)	7,000

Year 2 Continued

Place pedestrian access signs along the identified right-of-way to the Hurley Hill Parcel.	300
Seasonal Assistant Forest Ranger	11,500
Annual maintenance	3,000
TOTAL:	**27,500**

Years 3 to 5

Seasonal Assistant Forest Ranger	11,500
Annual maintenance/management expenses:	
Annual maintenance, including:	4,500

- garbage removal
- -trail maintenance/stabilization
- parking lot, bulletin board, privy and trail register upkeep
- blocking of problem areas with boulders
- upkeep of road to Onteora Lake
- annual brush hogging of fields adjacent to Onteora Lake parking lot (as far as the old road loop).
- boundary line maintenance
- winter snow removal and mowing - Onteora Lake

Modest user brochure and area guide (no cost - privately funded)	(1,000)
TOTAL (X 3):	**48,000**

Years 3 to 5

Construction/One time costs:	(7,500)
Catskill Forest Preserve interpretive kiosk and parking 8-10 cars (third year). May be constructed by DOT as part of Rte. 28 rehabilitation and rest area).	
Provide parking (3-4 cars) if available and practical, on nearby state owned lots (probably from the Route 28 access of the Old Hurley to Stone Hollow woods road).	5,000
Implement access/parking solution at the 107-acre Charles Coutant property in Hurley (Does not include land price if decision is made to purchase land).	6,000
Attorney/Surveyor time (2 months each)	14,000
TOTAL	**25,000 (+7,500)**
FIVE YEAR TOTAL:	**151,575**

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SEQR

617.21
Appendix A
State Environmental Quality Review

NEGATIVE DECLARATION

Notice of Determination of Non-Significance

ID# 96-PL/FP-3-10

Project Number _____ Date 6/3/96

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: Bluestone Wild Forest Unit Management Plan

SEQR Status: Type I [X]
Unlisted [ ]

Conditioned Negative Declaration: [ ] Yes
[X] No

Description of Action:

See attached.

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

New York State Forest Preserve lands in the Towns of Hurley, Woodstock, Ulster and Kingston in Ulster County - designated the Bluestone Wild Forest (formerly known as Jockey-Morgan Hill Wild Forest). A general location map is attached.

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

See attached.

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

For Further Information:

Contact Person: George Profous

Address: 21 South Putt Corners Road
New Paltz, New York 12561

Telephone Number: 914-256-3082

For Type I Actions and Conditioned Negative Declarations, a Copy of this Notice Sent to:

Commissioner, Department of Environmental Conservation, 50 Wolf Road, Albany, New York 12233-0001

Appropriate Regional Office of the Department of Environmental Conservation

Office of the Chief Executive Officer of the political subdivision in which the action will be principally located.

Applicant (if any)

Other involved agencies (if any)

NYSDOT

NEGATIVE DECLARATION

BLUESTONE WILD FOREST UNIT MANAGEMENT PLAN

Description of Action:

The plan identifies the various resources of the 2,985-acre Bluestone Wild Forest, part of the Catskill Forest Preserve. It also identifies issues and constraints, goals and objectives, proposed facilities and management, and proposed land acquisition priorities which will govern the area's future management. Specific projects are proposed, including:

1. Three loop recreational trail(s) on lands surrounding Onteora Lake and Jockey Hill, totaling 5.7 miles. (Slightly less than one-half of distance is on existing roads and trails.)

   Onteora Lake Loop Trail will include three boardwalk/bridges of 15, 30 and 50' adjacent to and across wetlands.

2. Completion of amenities for 16-car parking lot providing cartop boat access on Onteora Lake (trail register, privy, etc.), a 6-car parking lot and gate on Jockey Hill Woods Road, a 6-car parking lot on the Coutant property (Irmer Road/Stone Road), and a 4-car lot near the Praymaher Brook (Hurley Hill parcel) for the Old Hurley to Stone Hollow Woods Road access.

3. Prioritizing and identifying lands needed to complete the Wild Forest and make existing state land viable. Relating the state lands to nearby towns, the Route 28 corridor, and the region.

4. Considering options for numerous small detached parcels which cannot be viably managed, and do not and will not contribute to the Wild Forest.

5. Clarifying state land boundaries, public access rights to state lands, and private access rights across state land. Improving access to state land.

6. Providing information on the property to the public, including its proper use and historic value, including signs and a pamphlet.

7. Considering the types of recreational opportunities that might be provided within the constraints of Forest Preserve designation, especially mountain biking.

8. Constructing a Catskill Forest Preserve kiosk and 8-10 car parking lot at Onteora Lake-Route 28 access (if not done by NYSDOT to the east).

Reasons Supporting This Determination

The area will be managed under Wild Forest guidelines established in the Catskill State Land Master Plan, as well as within the constraints set forth in Article XIV of the New York State Constitution and Section 9 of the Environmental Conservation Law.

Although implementation of this Unit Management Plan is expected to increase recreational demands, particularly in the Onteora Lake area, this plan will not have a significant impact since the proposed projects will manage and reduce potential recreational user impacts. This will be done by improving and maintaining existing trails and concentrating use on maintained trails to reduce impacts, limiting access to several well-maintained and patrolled parking lots, clarifying and enforcing state land boundaries and reducing illegal dumping, educating users through a brochure and informational kiosks, and identifying the lands needed to ensure that, in the long run, the Wild Forest will remain a viable natural environment.

The following sections under "Description of Action" (above) are keyed to the eight project areas identified and provide further support for the determination.

1-2) Construction will be minimal and will not impact water bodies and aesthetic resources, and noise and odor will be temporary and last only a few days during construction. The new and improved trails, informational kiosk, bulletin boards, and parking facilities will consolidate access and improve our ability to educate the user public. The limited development proposed will complement the careful growth of the local tourist economy only in those areas where the natural resources of the Forest Preserve can sustain long-term public recreational use. A total of 26 new parking spaces are proposed (including 10 spaces for the Catskill Forest Preserve kiosk, which may instead be built by the NYSDOT off Route 28 to the east). The kiosk and parking will, under either alternative, be constructed on previously disturbed land, or over an old roadway bed.

Five hundred feet of the Onteora Lake Loop Trail will parallel the edge of the Onteora Lake wetlands (NYSDEC Regulated Wetland KW-3 [Class II]) within the filled and mowed right-of-way of State Route 28. A bridge of 30' will cross the culvert and stream (Praymaher Brook) draining the wetland within the NYS Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) fill easement. Another 15' bridge will cross a small stream to the west (no wetlands). Construction will be outside the wetland, but will be within the 100' adjacent area of the designated wetland. A 50-foot boardwalk bridge will be constructed to cross the seasonally wet woods of the southeast corner of the wetland near Route 28 (see map). Permits will be obtained from the DEC under Article 24 of the ECL for all work in or adjacent to this wetland, as well as from NYSDOT for trail construction within the State Route 28 right-of-way. Permits will also be obtained from DEC under Article 24 of the ECL for any work at the Coutant Lot which would be along Wetland AS-5 (Class I) near Irmer Road. All stream disturbance precautions will be taken to avoid water quality impacts.

3) Several large inholdings and other critical parcels are prioritized for possible future acquisition from willing sellers, pending available funding. The proposed acquisitions are conservative, based on minimizing encroachments and impacts of right-of-ways and developments in the heart of the unit, protecting natural resources and watershed integrity and, in more limited areas, improving public access. All proposed purchases rely on willing sellers and must comply with the criteria and "resource value rating systems" in the 1995 Conserving Open Space in New York State Plan and the Catskill State Land Master Plan guidelines. Also, notification must always be made to affected towns of the state's intent to acquire land which is not specifically listed in the Open Space Plan. (All proposed acquisitions in this Unit are in this category.) Towns have 90 days from notification to reject a proposed acquisition.

4) Considering options for small detached parcels which cannot be viably managed is proposed in this plan primarily for the sake of discussion. Any decisions made on these lands must adhere to Article XIV of the New York State Constitution, and the procedures set forth in New York State Laws, Rules & Regulations.

5-6,8) Adding signs, bulletin boards and kiosks will help educate the public on the purpose and careful use of the Bluestone Wild Forest and Catskill Forest Preserve. Clarifying Forest Preserve boundaries and access points will reduce Forest Preserve encroachment and user conflicts with adjacent private landowners.

Management of the Wild Forest is guided by two paramount goals:

(1) To preserve and protect the Wild Forest character and integrity of the unit, with its natural plant and animal communities, and allow natural processes to proceed essentially unhindered, and

(2) To provide opportunities for a variety of outdoor recreation opportunities (Point #7) without degrading the resources or impairing the Wild Forest setting and the experiences unique to the Region's Wild Forest lands.

All proposed facilities comply with these goals.

IMBA Rules of the Trail

APPENDIX B

P.O. Box 7578
Boulder, CO 80306-7578
(303)545-9011
(303)545-9026 Fax

Thousands of miles of dirt trails have been closed to mountain bicyclists. The irresponsible riding habits of a few riders have been a factor. Do your part to maintain trail access by observing the following rules of the trail, formulated by the International Mountain Bicycling Association (IMBA). IMBA's mission is to promote environmentally sound and socially responsible mountain biking.

1. Ride on open trails only. Respect trail and road closures (ask if not sure), avoid possible trespass on private land, obtain permits and authorization as may be required. Federal and state wilderness areas are closed to cycling. The way you ride will influence trail management decisions and policies.

2. Leave no trace. Be sensitive to the dirt beneath you. Even on open (legal) trails, you should not ride under conditions where you will leave evidence of your passing, such as on certain soils after a rain. Recognize different types of soils and trail construction; practice low-impact cycling. This also means staying on existing trails and not creating any new ones. Be sure to pack out at least as much as you pack in.

3. Control your bicycle! Inattention for even a second can cause problems. Obey all bicycle speed regulations and recommendations.

4. Always yield trail. Make known your approach well in advance. A friendly greeting (or bell) is considerate and works well; don't startle others. Show your respect when passing by slowing to a walking pace or even stopping. Anticipate other trail users around corners or in blind spots.

5. Never spook animals. All animals are startled by an unannounced approach, a sudden movement, or a loud noise. This can be dangerous for you, others, and the animals. Give animals extra room and time to adjust to you. When passing horses use special care and follow directions from the horseback riders (ask if uncertain). Running cattle and disturbing wildlife is a serious offense. Leave gates as you found them, or as marked.

6. Plan ahead. Know your equipment, your ability, and the area in which you are riding -- and prepare accordingly. Be self-sufficient at all times, keep your equipment in good repair, and carry necessary supplies for changes in weather or other conditions. A well-executed trip is a satisfaction to you and not a burden or offense to others. Always wear a helmet.

Keep trails open by setting a good example of environmentally sound and socially responsible off-road cycling

APPENDIX B. OTHER IDEAS FROM THE INTERNATIONAL MOUNTAIN BICYCLING ASSOCIATION (IMBA)

P.O. BOX 7578, BOULDER, CO 80306-7578
(303) 545-9011 (303) 545-9026 FAX

PREVENT CONFLICTS

1. Start weekend patrols to warn irresponsible riders that they are hurting everyone.
2. Start a safe and responsible mountain bike riding program (with shops, clubs or schools).
3. Have local bicycle dealers distribute IMBA's "Rules of the Trail" and explain to their customers why trail etiquette matters.
4. Get involved with hand and trail management.
5. Develop a long-term reputation for caring about the environment.
6. Foster the idea that dirt trails are not necessarily a public right of way for bikes; riding ondirt is a privilege.
7. Learn who controls the dirt access where you ride, and volunteer with groups to do trail maintenance.

RESPECT OTHER TRAIL USERS

1. Show a maximum of trail courtesy and respect to all trail users. We're all members of the trail family enjoying the quiet and natural beauty of the backcountry. We must learn to share.
2. Take the time to set a good example. Stop, dismount, and talk with other trail users. Our motivations are no different than those of other users regardless of mode of travel.
3. Show concern for a clean, quiet backcountry experience. Keep trails as natural as possible.
4. Show that you understand other trail user's fears, needs, and desires.

OTHER TOPICS TO USE ON BULLETIN BOARDS:

1. Use "Bicycle Safety Colors" in hunting season. "Advisable to wear blaze orange or at least bright colors during hunting season." Educate mountain bikers with signs and bulletin boards about hunting and hunter safety.

2. Hunting is allowed in the Forest Preserve. Hunting seasons run from September through February, and May. Big game hunting season is from mid-November to mid-December. Call DEC for details.