

Appendices

APPENDIX 1 – DEFINITIONS AND ACRONYMS

Definitions

Fisheries

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

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

Other Ponds and Lakes - Fishless waters and waters containing fish communities consisting of native and nonnative fishes which will be managed for their intrinsic ecological value.

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

Unknown Ponds and Lakes - Waters which could not be assigned to the subprogram categories specifically addressed in this document due to a lack of or paucity of survey information.

Warmwater Ponds and Lakes - Waters which support and are managed for populations of warmwater fishes and lack significant populations of salmonid fishes. Management may include stocking.

Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan Definitions

1. **Aircraft**--a device for transporting people or material that travels through the air and is propelled by a non-living power source contained on or within the device.
2. **All Terrain Bicycle**--a non-motorized bicycle designed or used for cross country travel on unimproved roads or trails.
3. **All Terrain Vehicle**--a motor vehicle designed or used for cross country travel on unimproved roads or trails. The term includes jeeps or other four wheel drive automobiles, dirt or trail bikes and all forms of "ATVs", "ATCs", and "ORVs", but excludes snowmobiles.
4. **Boat Launching Site**--a site providing for the launching of trailered boats, with ramp and attendant parking facilities.

5. **Campground**--a concentrated, developed camping area with controlled access, not meeting the standards for individual, primitive tent sites or lean-tos, which is designed to accommodate a significant number of overnight visitors and may incorporate associated day-use facilities. Campgrounds are commonly known as "campsites" by the Department of Environmental Conservation.
6. **Cross Country Ski Trail**--a marked and maintained path or way for cross country ski or snowshoe travel, which has the same dimensions and character and may also serve as a foot trail, designed to provide reasonable access in a manner causing the least effect on the surrounding environment and not constructed, maintained or groomed with the use of motor vehicles.
7. **Day-Use Area**--a developed facility designed to accommodate a significant number of visitors on a day-use basis only. The term includes such facilities as beaches, parkways, memorial highways, the Mt. Van Hoevenberg area, the alpine ski centers at Whiteface and Gore Mountains, boat launching sites and similar facilities.
8. **Fireplace**--a permanent structure constructed of stone and cement designed to contain and control camp fires.
9. **Fire Ring**--a temporary cluster of rocks designed to contain and control camp fires which may contain, in fire sensitive areas, a cement slab.
10. **Fish Barrier Dam**--a man-made device or structure used to prevent the upstream or downstream movement of fish for the purpose of protecting a high-value native fishery.
11. **Fishing and Waterway Access Sites**--a site for fishing or other water access with attendant parking facilities which does not contain a ramp for or otherwise permit the launching of trailered boats.
12. **Foot Trail**--a marked and maintained path or way for foot travel located and designed to provide for reasonable access in a manner causing the least effect on the surrounding environment.
13. **Horse Barn**--a rustic structure open on at least two sides designed to provide temporary shelter for a small number of horses.
14. **Horse Trail**--a path marked and maintained for travel by horses, located and designed to provide for reasonable access in a manner causing the least effect on the local environment.
15. **Improved Cross Country Ski Trail**--a marked and maintained path for cross country ski use designed for competitive or intensive use conditions which may be constructed, maintained or groomed with the use of motor vehicles.

16. **Improvement**--any change in or addition to land, which materially affects the existing use, condition or appearance of the land or any vegetation thereon, including but not limited to foot and horse trails, roads, jeep trails, state truck trails, snowmobile trails, cross country ski trails, improved cross country ski trails, trail heads, picnic areas and individual primitive tent sites.
17. **Lean-to**--an open front shelter made of natural materials suitable for transient residence, constructed according to a standard Department of Environmental Conservation plan and located so as to accommodate the need for shelter in a manner least intrusive on the surrounding environment.
18. **Lean-to Cluster**-- more than two lean-tos within sight or sound of each other and generally separated by a distance of less than one-quarter mile.
19. **Motor Vehicle**--a device for transporting people, supplies or material, incorporating a motor or an engine of any type for propulsion and with wheels, tracks, skids, skis, air cushion or other contrivance for traveling on or adjacent to land and water or through water. The term includes such vehicles as automobiles, trucks, jeeps, motorbikes, dirt or trail bikes, any type of all-terrain vehicles, duffle carriers, snowmobiles, snowcats, bulldozers and other earth-moving equipment and motorboats.
20. **Motorboat**--a device for transporting people or material that travels over, on, or under the water and is propelled by a non-living power source on or within the device.
21. **Motorized Equipment**-- machines not designed for transporting people, supplies or material, or for earth moving but incorporating a motor, engine or other non-living power source to accomplish a task. The term includes such machines as chain saws, brush saws, rotary or other mowers, rock drills, cement mixers and generators.
22. **Natural Materials**-- construction components drawn from the immediate project site or materials brought into the construction site that conform in size, shape and physical characteristics to those naturally present in the vicinity of the project site. Such materials include stone, logs, and sawn and treated timber. Natural materials may be fastened or anchored by use of bolts, nails, spikes or similar means.
23. **Non-Conforming Use**--a structure, improvement or human use or activity existing, constructed or conducted on or in relation to land within a given classification that does not comply with the guidelines for such classification specified in the master plan.
24. **Peripheral Visitor Registration Structure**--a primitive structure of natural materials open on at least one side and not designed for human habitation, located

at the periphery of units of state land, and intended to provide information and, where appropriate, control of access to such lands.

- 25. Primitive Tent Site**--a designated tent site of an undeveloped character providing space for not more than three tents, which may have an associated pit privy and fire ring, designed to accommodate a maximum of eight people on a temporary or transient basis, and located so as to accommodate the need for shelter in a manner least intrusive on the surrounding environment.
- 26. Ranger Stations or Ranger Cabins**--enclosed buildings constructed or maintained by the Department of Environmental Conservation, suitable for human habitation and manned seasonally or year-round by administrative personnel to facilitate administrative control of lands and public use thereof under the jurisdiction of the Department.
- 27. River**--a flowing body of water, or a stream or a section, portion or tributary thereof, including a river, stream, creek, run, kill, rill, branch or lake.
- 28. River Area**--a river and its immediate environs, including river banks and the land on both sides of the river up to a distance of at least one-quarter mile but not more than one-half mile.
- 29. Road**--an improved or partially improved way designed for travel by automobiles and which may also be used by other types of motor vehicles except snowmobiles, unless the way is a designated snowmobile trail; and is,
- either maintained by a state agency or a local government and open to the general public;
 - maintained by private persons or corporations primarily for private use but which may also be open to the general public for all or a segment thereof;
 - or,
 - maintained by the Department of Environmental Conservation or other state agency and open to the public on a discretionary basis.
- 30. Snowmobiles**--a motor vehicle designed solely for travel on snow or ice by means of a combination of tracks and a ski or skis.
- 31. Snowmobile Trail**--a marked trail of essentially the same character as a foot trail designated by the Department of Environmental Conservation on which, when covered by snow and ice, snowmobiles are allowed to travel and which may double as a foot trail at other times of year.
- 32. State Truck Trail**--an improved way maintained by the Department of Environmental Conservation for the principal purpose of facilitating administration of state lands or of allowing access for fire fighting equipment and not normally open for public use of motorized vehicles.

- 33. Stream Improvement Structure for Fisheries Management Purposes**--a structure and/or improvement, including but not limited to, fish barrier dams, small rock or log dams, fish passage structures, minor diking, cribbing, bank stabilization and stream deflectors and other structures or improvements designed solely for fisheries management purposes which do not materially alter the natural character or resource quality of the water body, and which are made of natural materials wherever possible.

- 34. Structure**--any object constructed, installed or placed on land to facilitate land use, including but not limited to bridges, buildings, ranger stations or ranger cabins, sheds, lean-tos, pit privies, picnic tables, horse barns, horse hitching posts and rails, fire towers, observer cabins, telephone and electric light lines, mobile homes, campers, trailers, signs, docks and dams.

- 35. Tent Platform**--a platform, with or without walls and other attachments, erected as a base for tenting or similar camping activity.

- 36. Trail Head**--a point of entrance to state land which may contain some or all of the following: vehicle parking, trail signs and peripheral visitor registration structures.

- 37. Wetlands**--any land annually subject to periodic or continual inundation by water and commonly referred to as a bog, swamp or marsh, which is (i) one acre or more in size, or (ii) located adjacent to a body of water, including a permanent stream, with which there is free interchange of water at the surface, in which case there is no size imitation, and which (iii) meet the technical definition of 578.3® of the Adirondack Park Agency Rules and Regulations.

- 38. Wildlife Management Structure**--a structure or device designed solely for inventory or research purposes or for the protection or restoration of endangered species, including but not limited to animal enclosures or exclosures, traps, raptor hacking towers, nesting towers or boxes, that does not materially alter the natural character or resource quality of the land and that is made of natural materials whenever possible.

Acronyms

ADA	American with Disabilities Act
ADAAG	American with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines
ADK	Adirondack Mountain Club
AFR	Assistant Forest Ranger
ALSC	Adirondack Lakes Survey Corporation
ANC	Acid neutralizing capacity
APA	Adirondack Park Agency
APIPP	Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program
APLUDP	Adirondack Park Land Use and Development Plan

APSLMP	Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan
ATV	All Terrain Vehicle
BMWF	Blue Mountain Wild Forest
BP	Years Before Present
BRW	Blue Ridge Wilderness
DEC	New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
DMU	Deer Management Unit
DOT	New York State Department of Transportation
ECL	Environmental Conservation Law
ED/RR	Early Detection/Rapid Response
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EPA	Environmental Protection Act of 1993
EQBA	Environmental Quality Bond Act
FAA	Federal Aviation Administration
FR	Forest Ranger
JRWF	Jessup River Wild Forest
LAC	Limits of Acceptable Change
LDC	Lake Durant Campground
MRPWF	Moose River Plains Wild Forest
NBWI	Native-But-Widely-Introduced
NHPC	Natural Heritage Plant Community
NPS	National Park Service
NYCRR	New York Code of Rules and Regulations
NYS	New York State
OSP	Open Space Plan
SEQRA	State Environmental Quality Review Act
SPWF	Sargent Ponds Wild Forest
SUNY-ESF	State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry
T&CP	Totten and Crossfield Purchase
TNC	The Nature Conservancy
UFAS	Uniform Accessibility Standards
USGS	United States Geological Survey
UMP	Unit Management Plan
USFS	United States Forest Service
WCLW	West Canada Lake Wilderness
WMPA	Wakely Mountain Primitive Area
WMU	Wildlife Management Unit

APPENDIX 2 – WILDERNESS AREAS: GUIDELINES FOR MANAGEMENT AND USE¹

Basic guidelines

1. The primary wilderness management guideline will be to achieve and perpetuate a natural plant and animal community where man's influence is not apparent.
2. In wilderness areas:
 - a) no additions or expansions of non-conforming uses will be permitted;
 - b) any remaining non-conforming uses that were not removed by the December 31, 1975 deadline provided for in the original version of the master plan will be removed by March 31, 1987;
 - c) non-conforming uses resulting from newly-classified wilderness areas will be removed as rapidly as possible and in any case by the end of the third year following classification; and,
 - d) primitive tent sites that do not conform to the separation distance guidelines will be brought into compliance on a phased basis and in any case by the end of the third year following adoption of a unit management plan for the area.
3. No new non-conforming uses will be permitted in any designated wilderness area.
4. Construction of additional conforming structures and improvements will be restrained to comply with wilderness standards for primitive and unconfined types of recreation and to permit better maintenance and rehabilitation of existing structures and improvements.
5. No new structures or improvements in any wilderness area will be constructed except in conformity with finally adopted unit management plans. This guideline will not prevent ordinary maintenance or rehabilitation of conforming structures or improvements, minor trail relocation, or the removal of non-conforming uses.
6. All conforming structures and improvements will be designed and located so as to blend with the surrounding environment and to require only minimal maintenance.
7. All management and administrative action and interior facilities in wilderness areas will be designed to emphasize the self-sufficiency of the user to assume a high degree of responsibility for environmentally-sound use of such areas and for his or her own health, safety and welfare.
8. Any new, reconstructed or relocated lean-tos or primitive tent sites planned for shorelines of lakes, ponds, rivers or major streams will be located so as to be reasonably screened from view from the water body to avoid intruding on the natural character of the shoreline and public enjoyment and use thereof. Any such lean-tos will be set back a minimum

¹From the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan

of 100 feet from the mean high water mark of lakes, ponds, rivers or major streams.

9. All pit privies will be located a minimum of 150 feet from the mean high water mark of any lake, pond, river, or stream or wetland.

Structures and improvements

1. The structures and improvements listed below will be considered as conforming to wilderness standards and their maintenance, rehabilitation and construction permitted:
 - scattered Adirondack lean-tos, not including lean-to clusters, below 3,500 feet in elevation;
 - primitive tent sites below 3,500 feet in elevation that are out of sight and sound and generally one-quarter mile from any other primitive tent site or lean-to:
 - (i) where physical and biological conditions are favorable, individual unit management plans may permit the establishment, on a site-specific basis, of primitive tent sites between 3,500 and 4,000 feet in elevation, and,
 - (ii) where severe terrain constraints prevent the attainment of the guideline for a separation distance of generally one-quarter mile between primitive tent sites, individual unit management plans may provide, on a site-specific basis, for lesser separation distances, provided such sites remain out of sight and sound from each other, be consistent with the carrying capacity of the affected area and are generally not less than 500 feet from any other primitive tent site;
 - pit privies;
 - foot trails;
 - cross country ski trails;
 - foot trail and cross country ski trail bridges constructed of natural materials and, where absolutely necessary, ladders constructed of natural materials;
 - horse trails, except that any new horse trails will be limited to those that can be developed by conversion of appropriate abandoned roads, snowmobile trails, or state truck trails;
 - horse trail bridges constructed of natural materials;
 - horse hitching posts and rails;
 - existing or new fish barrier dams, constructed of natural materials wherever possible;
 - existing dams on established impoundments, except that, in the reconstruction or rehabilitation of such dams, natural materials will be used wherever possible and no new dams will be constructed;
 - directional, informational and interpretive signs of rustic materials and in limited numbers;
 - peripheral visitor registration structures; and,

- wildlife management structures on a temporary basis where essential to the preservation of wilderness wildlife values and resources.
2. All other structures and improvements, except for interior ranger stations themselves (guidelines for which are specified below), will be considered nonconforming. Any remaining non-conforming structures that were to have been removed by the December 31, 1975 deadline but have not yet been removed, will be removed by March 31, 1987. These include but are not limited to:
- lean-to clusters;
 - tent platforms;
 - horse barns;
 - boat docks;
 - storage sheds and other buildings;
 - fire towers and observer cabins;
 - telephone and electrical lines;
 - snowmobile trails;
 - roads and state truck trails;
 - helicopter platforms; and,
 - buoys.

Ranger stations

1. No new interior stations will be constructed and all remaining interior stations, other than Lake Colden, will be phased out on a scheduled basis determined by the Department of Environmental Conservation, in favor of stations or other facilities at the periphery of the wilderness areas at major points of access to provide needed supervision of public use. This phase-out should be accomplished as soon as feasible, as specified in the individual unit management plans.
2. New methods of communication and supply, complying with wilderness guidelines, will be employed with respect to all ranger stations maintained by the Department of Environmental Conservation after December 31, 1975.
3. Due to heavy existing and projected winter use in the Eastern High Peak area and the presence of the most rugged terrain in the Adirondacks, the Lake Colden station together with an associated on-ground line (i.e., a line laid on or just under the ground surface which rapidly becomes covered by leaves) for telephone communication may be retained indefinitely but their status will be periodically reviewed to determine if their eventual removal is feasible.

Motor vehicles, motorized equipment and aircraft

1. Public use of motor vehicles, motorized equipment and aircraft will be prohibited.

2. Administrative personnel will not use motor vehicles, motorized equipment or aircraft for day-to-day administration, maintenance or research.
3. Use of motorized equipment or aircraft, but not motor vehicles, by administrative personnel may be permitted for a specific major administrative, maintenance, rehabilitation, or construction project if that project involves conforming structures or improvements, or the removal of non-conforming structures or improvements, upon the written approval of the Commissioner of Environmental Conservation.
4. Such use of motorized equipment or aircraft will be confined to off-peak seasons for the area in question and normally will be undertaken at periodic intervals of three to five years, unless extraordinary conditions, such as a fire, major blow-down or flood mandate more frequent work or work during peak periods.
5. Irrespective of the above guidelines, use of motorized equipment or aircraft, but not motor vehicles, for a specific major research project conducted by or under the supervision of a state agency will be permitted if such project is for purposes essential to the preservation of wilderness values and resources, no feasible alternative exists for conducting such research on other state or private lands, such use is minimized, and the project has been specifically approved in writing by the Commissioner of Environmental Conservation after consultation with the Agency.
6. Irrespective of the above or any other guidelines in this master plan, use of motor vehicles, motorized equipment and aircraft will be permitted, by or under the supervision of appropriate officials, in cases of sudden, actual and ongoing emergencies involving the protection or preservation of human life or intrinsic resource values -- for example, search and rescue operations, forest fires, or oil spills or similar, large-scale contamination of water bodies.
7. In light of the special circumstances involving Whitney Lake in the West Canada Lake Wilderness Area, seasonal float plane use from spring ice-out to and including June 15 and from October 15 to fall or winter ice-in may be allowed on that lake, by, and subject to permit from the Department of Environmental Conservation for an interim period ending no later than December 31, 1993. Such permits shall require annual reporting of all flights and the number of passengers to and from Whitney Lake. During the winter of 1988-89 the Department shall determine, from the use trends indicated, whether Whitney Lake should then be closed to float plane use for either or both seasonal periods or whether such use should be allowed to continue until the final deadline of December 31, 1993.
8. Written logs will be kept by the Department of Environmental Conservation recording use of motorized vehicles, motorized equipment and aircraft. The Department will prepare an annual report providing details of such motorized uses and the reasons therefor and file it with the Agency.

Roads, snowmobile trails and state truck trails

1. No new roads, snowmobile or state truck trails will be allowed.
2. Existing roads and state truck trails that were to have been closed by the December 31, 1975 deadline but have not yet been removed will be closed by no later than March 31, 1987. Any non-conforming roads, snowmobile trails or state truck trails resulting from newly classified wilderness areas will also be phased out as rapidly as possible and in any case will be closed by the end of the third calendar year following classification. In each case the Department of Environmental Conservation will:
 - close such roads and snowmobile trails to motor vehicles as may be open to the public;
 - prohibit all administrative use of such roads and trails by motor vehicles; and,
 - block such roads and trails by logs, boulders or similar means other than gates.
3. During the phase-out period:
 - the use of motorized vehicles by administrative personnel for transportation of materials and personnel will be limited to the minimum required for proper interim administration and the removal of non-conforming uses; and,
 - maintenance of such roads and trails will be curtailed and efforts made to encourage revegetation with lower forms of vegetation to permit their conversion to foot trails and, where appropriate, horse trails.

All terrain bicycles

1. Public use of all terrain bicycles will be prohibited.
2. Administrative personnel will not use all terrain bicycles for day-to-day administration but use of such vehicles may be permitted for specific major administrative research, maintenance, rehabilitation or construction projects involving conforming structures or improvements, or the removal of non-conforming structures in the discretion of the Department of Environmental Conservation.

Flora and fauna

There will be no intentional introduction in wilderness areas of species of flora or fauna that are not historically associated with the Adirondack environment, except: (i) species which have already been established in the Adirondack environment, or (ii) as necessary to protect the integrity of established native flora and fauna. Efforts will be made to restore extirpated native species where such restoration appears feasible.

Recreational use and overuse

1. The following types of recreational use are compatible with wilderness and should be encouraged as long as the degree and intensity of such use does not endanger the wilderness resource itself:
 - hiking, mountaineering, tenting, hunting, fishing, trapping, snowshoeing, ski touring, birding, nature study, and other forms of primitive and unconfined recreation.
 - Access by horses, including horse and wagon, while permitted in wilderness, will be strictly controlled and limited to suitable locations and trail conditions to prevent adverse environmental damage.
2. Each individual unit management plan will seek to determine the physical, biological and social carrying capacity of the wilderness resource. Where the degree and intensity of permitted recreational uses threaten the wilderness resource, appropriate administrative and regulatory measures will be taken to limit such use to the capability of the resource. Such administrative and regulatory measures may include, but need not be limited to:
 - the limitation by permit or other appropriate means of the total number of persons permitted to have access to or remain in a wilderness area or portion thereof during a specified period;
 - the temporary closure of all or portions of wilderness areas to permit rehabilitative measures.
3. An intensified educational program to improve public understanding of backcountry use, including an anti-litter and pack-in, pack-out campaign, should be undertaken.

Boundary structures and improvements and boundary marking

1. Where a wilderness boundary abuts a public highway, the Department of Environmental Conservation will be permitted, in conformity with a duly adopted unit management plan, to locate within 500 feet from a public highway right-of-way, on a site-specific basis, trailheads, parking areas, fishing and waterway access sites, picnic areas, ranger stations or other facilities for peripheral control of public use, and, in limited instances, snowmobile trails.
2. Where a wilderness boundary abuts a water body accessible to the public by motorboat, the Department of Environmental Conservation will be permitted, in conformity with a duly adopted unit management plan, to provide, on a site-specific basis, for ranger stations or other facilities for peripheral control of public use or for the location of small, unobtrusive docks made of natural materials on such shorelines in limited instances where access to trailheads or the potential for resource degradation may make this desirable.

3. Special wilderness area boundary markers will be designed and installed at major access points to enhance public recognition of wilderness boundaries and wilderness restrictions.

APPENDIX 3 – PRIMITIVE AREAS: GUIDELINES FOR MANAGEMENT AND USE¹

Basic guidelines

1. The primary primitive management guideline will be to achieve and maintain in each designated primitive area a condition as close to wilderness as possible, so as to perpetuate a natural plant and animal community where man's influence is relatively unapparent.
2. In primitive areas:
 - (a) No additions or expansions of non-conforming uses will be permitted.
 - (b) Any remaining non-conforming uses that were to have been removed by the original December 31, 1975 deadline but have not been removed will be removed by March 31, 1987.
 - (c) Those non-conforming uses of essentially a permanent nature whose removal, though anticipated, cannot be provided for by a fixed deadline will be phased out on a reasonable timetable as soon as their removal becomes feasible.
 - (d) Non-conforming uses resulting from newly classified primitive areas will be removed as rapidly as possible, except for those described in c above, and in any case by the end of the third year following classification.
 - (e) Primitive tent sites that do not conform to the separation distance guidelines will be brought into compliance on a phased basis and in any case by the third year following adoption of the unit management plan for the area.
3. Effective immediately, no new, non-conforming uses will be permitted in any primitive area.
4. Upon the removal of all nonconforming uses, a designated primitive area that otherwise meets wilderness standards will be reclassified as wilderness.
5. Construction of additional conforming structures and maintenance of existing facilities and improvements will follow the guidelines for wilderness areas.
6. No new structures or improvements in primitive areas will be constructed except in conformity with finally adopted unit management plans. This guideline will not prevent ordinary maintenance rehabilitation or minor relocation of conforming structures or improvements or the removal of nonconforming uses.
7. All conforming structures and improvements will be located so as to blend with the surrounding environment and to require only minimal maintenance.
8. All management and administrative actions and interior facilities in primitive areas will be designed to emphasize the self-sufficiency of the

¹From the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan

- user to assume a high degree of responsibility for environmentally sound use of such areas and for his or her own health, safety and welfare.
9. Any new, reconstructed or relocated lean-tos or individual primitive tent sites located on shorelines of lakes, ponds, rivers or major streams will be located so as to be reasonably screened from the water body to avoid intruding on the natural character of the shoreline and public enjoyment and use thereof. Any such lean-tos will be set back a minimum of 100 feet from the mean high water mark of lakes, ponds, rivers or major streams.
 10. All pit privies will be located a minimum of 150 feet from the mean high water mark of any lake, pond, river, stream or wetland.

Structures and improvements

1. All structures and improvements that conform to wilderness guidelines will be acceptable in primitive areas.
2. In addition, existing structures and improvements
 - (a) whose removal, though anticipated, cannot be provided for by a fixed deadline, or,
 - (b) in the case of areas not destined to become wilderness, whose retention is compatible with the character of the area and whose removal is not essential to protect the resource, will also be permissible, in each case as specified in a duly adopted unit management plan.
3. Non-conforming uses, other than those that meet the criteria in section 2 above, will be removed by no later than March 31, 1987.

Ranger stations

Ranger stations will be subject to the same guidelines as in wilderness areas, except that in areas not destined to become wilderness or in other special situations the indefinite retention of such stations may be provided for as specified by the Department of Environmental Conservation in a duly adopted unit management plan.

Motor vehicles, motorized equipment and aircraft

1. All uses of motor vehicles, motorized equipment and aircraft permitted under wilderness guidelines will also be permitted in primitive areas.
2. Addition, the use of motor vehicles, motorized equipment and aircraft by administrative personnel will be permitted to reach and maintain existing structures, improvements or ranger stations:
 - (a) whose eventual removal is anticipated but cannot be removed by a fixed deadline; or,
 - (b) in primitive areas not destined to become wilderness whose presence is of an essentially permanent character; in each case as specified in a duly adopted unit management plan.

Roads, snowmobile trails and state truck trails

1. The guidelines specified for wilderness areas will also apply to primitive areas, except that:
 - continued use of existing roads, snowmobile trails and state truck trails by administrative personnel will be permitted, to the extent necessary to reach and maintain structures and improvements whose removal, though anticipated, cannot be effected by a fixed deadline or, in the case of primitive areas not destined to become wilderness, whose presence is of an essentially permanent character; and,
 - existing roads now legally open to the public may remain open for motor vehicles at the discretion of the Department of Environmental Conservation pending eventual wilderness classification, if their continued use will not adversely affect the character of the resources of the primitive area or impinge upon the proper management of an adjacent wilderness area;
 - existing snowmobile trails now legally open to the public may remain open for snowmobiles at the discretion of the Department of Environmental Conservation pending eventual wilderness classification if their continued use will not adversely affect the character or resources of the primitive area or impinge upon the proper management of the adjacent wilderness; in each case as specified in a duly adopted unit management plan.
2. Upon the closure of any road, snowmobile trail or state truck trail, such routes will be effectively blocked as provided in the wilderness guidelines.

All Terrain Bicycles

The same guidelines will apply as in wilderness areas except that all terrain bicycles may be used on existing roads legally open to the public and on state truck trails specifically designated for such use by the Department of Environmental Conservation as specified in individual unit management plans.

Flora and fauna

The same guidelines will apply as in wilderness areas.

Recreational use and overuse

The same guidelines will apply as in wilderness areas.

Boundary structures and improvements and boundary marking

The same guidelines will apply as in wilderness areas.

APPENDIX 4 – PONDED WATER SURVEY DATA

Table 1a. Blue Ridge Wilderness - Pounded Water Inventory Data								
All waters listed below are in Hamilton County.						Area (acres) NYSBSU	Max Depth (feet)	Mean Depth (feet)
Name	P#	Wtr- shed	File	USGS Quad (7.5')	Mgmt. Class			
Aluminum Pond	P315	R	717	Sargent Ponds	Other	8.2	3.9	2.3
Bear Pond	P303	R	671	Sargent Ponds	Adk. Brook	6.4	16.1	7.5
Brady Pond	P652	UH	1111	Blue	Other	2.7	15	-
Cascade Pond	P644	UH	1102	Blue	Adk. Brook	34.8	23	4.9
Dishrag Pond	P665	UH	1136	Blue	Other	11.1	2	1
Grassy Pond	P650	UH	1109	Blue	Adk. Brook	8.4	3.9	2.6
Home Pond	P884	B	1262	Wakely Mtn.	Unknown	7.2	-	-
Long Pond	P649	UH	1108	Blue	Other	4.5	13	6.6
Lower Mitchell	P646	UH	1105	Blue	Adk. Brook	2.2	16	-
Middle Mitchell	P647	UH	1106	Blue	Other	1	14	-
Potter Pond	P305	R	679	Blue	Other	5.9	14	3.9
Rock Pond	P645	UH	1103	Blue	Warmwater	39.8	10	-
Sagamore Lake	P313	R	712	Sargent Ponds	Coldwater	166.1	75	34.4
Slim Pond	P302	R	669	Sargent Ponds	Adk. Brook	8.2	17	6.6
Slim Pond	P651	UH	1110	Blue	Other	3.2	3	-
Sprague Pond	P662	UH	1130	Blue	Adk. Brook	59.1	23	11.5
Stephens Pond	P643	UH	1100	Blue	Adk. Brook	64.5	22	11
Unnamed Water	P642	UH	1099	Blue	Unknown	1	-	-
Unnamed Water	P648	UH	-	Blue	Unknown	0.5	-	-
Unnamed Water	P5520	UH	-	Blue	Unknown	4.9	-	-
Upper Mitchell	P648	UH	1107	Blue	Other	1	18	-
Wilson Pond	P653	UH	1112	Blue	Adk. Brook	7.7	20	10
Total acres =						448.4		

Table 1b. Blue Ridge Wilderness - Poned Water Survey Data

Name	P#	Watershed	Most Recent Chemical Survey (YEAR)	Source	ANC (ug/L)	pH	Conductivity	Most Recent Biological Survey (YEAR)	Source	Fish Species Present and Number Caught
Bear Pond	P303	R	1992	DEC	26.7	6.15	22.6	1984	ALSC	ST-2,WS-3,CC-3, NRD-137
Brady Pond	P652	UH	1992	DEC	-4.1	4.92	19.0	1957	DEC	No fish
Cascade Pond	P644	UH	1992	DEC	37	6.52	25.3	1987	ALSC	ST-25,CC-27,BB-6
Dishrag Pond	P665	UH	1992	DEC	33.7	6.22	25.3	1992	DEC	No fish
Grassy Pond	P650	UH	2001	DEC	113	7.1	27.2	2001	DEC	ST-1,NRD-242
Home Pond	P884	B	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Unknown
Long Pond	P649	U	1987	ALSC	-24	4.56	23.5	1987	ALSC	No fish
Lower Mitchell Pond	P646	UH	1992	DEC	-9.3	4.76	22.4	1992	DEC	ST-12
Middle Mitchell Pond	P647	UH	1992	DEC	-17	4.65	22.2	1992	DEC	No fish
Potter Pond	P305	R	1984	ALSC	-5.4	4.92	25	1984	ALSC	No fish
Rock Pond	P645	UH	1959	DEC	-	6.1	-	1959	DEC	ST-1,BB-12,YP-2,PKS-17,WS-5; LMB, TGRM stocked
Sagamore Lake	P313	R	1986	ALSC	28.4	6.07	25.8	1986	ALSC	ST-17,LT-27,LNS-12,WS-65,YP-47,LWF-1,CC-1,BB-9
Slim Pond	P302	R	1984	ALSC	41.3	6.56	17.7	1992	DEC	ST-2,GS-131;BT stocked since 1998
Slim Pond	P651	UH	1992	DEC	31.2	5.98	17.2	1992	DEC	GS-123
Sprague Pond	P662	UH	2003	DEC	136	7.28	28.8	2003	DEC	PKS-14, GS-13, CC-3, BND-2, (BT stkd)
Stephens Pond	P643	UH	1999	DEC	111	7.31	23.4	1999	DEC	BT-14,ST-8,WS-38,BB-3
Unnamed Water	P5520	UH	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Unknown
Unnamed Water	P642	UH	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Unknown
Unnamed Water	P648A	UH	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Unknown
Upper Mitchell Pond	P648	UH	1992	DEC	-51	4.3	28.4	1992	DEC	No fish
Wilson Pond	P653	UH	1992	DEC	36.7	6.55	22	1992	DEC	ST-5,GS-248
Species Abbreviations										
BB= Brown bullhead			LNS=Longnose sucker			TGRM=Tiger musky				
BT=Brown trout			LT=Lake trout			WS=White sucker				
CC=Creek Chub			LWF=Lake whitefish			YP=Yellow perch				
CS=Common shiner			NRD=Northern redbelly dace			Unknown = No biological survey				
GS=Golden shiner			PKS=Pumpkinseed			No fish = No fish captured during survey				
LMB=Largemouth bass			ST=Brook trout							

Table 1c. Fish Community Ecological Analysis						
Blue Ridge Wilderness						
Early Surveys vs. Present Day Fish Distribution						
					Net*	%Net Change
Lake Category	#Lakes Pre-1965	% Fish Communities	# Lakes Post-1965	% Fish Communities	Change # Lakes	For Species
GENERAL						
Total # Lakes	22					
# Unknown	7	32%	4	18%	-3	
# Surveyed	15	68%	18	82%	3	
# Fishless	5	23%	7	32%	2	
# Fish Communities	10	45%	11	50%	1	
BROOK TROUT						
# Sustained by Natural Reproduction	9	90%	1	9%	-8	-89%
#Sustained by Stocking	1	10%	8	73%	7	700%
NATIVE BUT WIDELY INTRODUCED						
# Lake Trout **	1	10%	1	9%	0	0%
# Brown Bullhead	5	50%	5	45%	0	0%
# Pumpkinseed	4	40%	3	27%	-1	-25%
# Creek Chub	2	20%	5	45%	3	150%
NATIVE						
# White Sucker	5	50%	3	27%	-2	-40%
# Lake Chub **	1	10%	1	9%	0	0%
# Blacknose Dace	2	20%	1	9%	-1	-50%
# Northern Redbelly Dace	1	10%	2	18%	1	100%
# Common Shiner*	1	10%	1	9%	0	0%
#Redbreast Sunfish	1	10%	0	0%	-1	-100%
#Longnose Sucker **	1	10%	1	9%	0	0%
#Cutlips Minnow***	0	0%	1	9%	1	100%
#Blacknose shiner	2	20%	1	9%	-1	-50%
NONNATIVE						
# Yellow Perch	2	20%	2	18%	0	0%
# Golden Shiner	1	10%	5	45%	4	400%
# Smallmouth Bass **	1	10%	1	9%	0	0%
#Lake Whitefish **	1	10%	1	9%	0	0%
#Brown Trout	0	0%	3	27%	3	300%
#Largemouth Bass***	0	0%	1	9%	1	100%
#Tiger Musky***	0	0%	1	9%	1	100%
#Pearl Dace	0	0%	1	9%	1	100%
* Shaded areas indicate negative numbers						
** Status of this fish species depends upon resurveying Sagamore Lake						
*** Status of this fish species depends upon resurveying Rock Pond						

APPENDIX 5 – INDIVIDUAL POND DESCRIPTIONS

Aluminum Pond (R-P 315)

Aluminum Pond is a shallow, acidified 8-acre pond that is currently devoid of fish life. It is quite remote, lying 4.5 miles from Cedar River Road. No trail leads to this pond. It is located to the east of Squirrel Top and is a headwater of Sagamore Lake's tributary system. A 1984 ALSC survey caught no fish and reported a pH of 4.7 and an ANC of -12 µeq/liter. Aluminum Pond's maximum depth is four feet with a mean depth near two feet and a flushing rate of 86 times/y

ear. Aluminum Pond was not netted prior to 1984, but a file note on a 1933 Biological Survey form mentions that brook trout were stocked in the past with fair fishing success. ALSC stocking records indicate brook trout fingerlings were stocked from 1957-1963, but Department records do not mention why the policy was canceled. In the 1933 survey, the pond was described as having black, foul smelling water. ALSC biologists noted salamanders were present and found signs of recent beaver activity.

Aluminum Pond will be managed to preserve its aquatic community for its intrinsic value. The pond's high flushing rate disqualifies it for liming under FEIS criteria.

Management Class: Other

Bear Pond (R-P 303)

Bear Pond is a 6-acre Adirondack brook trout pond located about 1.7 miles southwest of Utowana Lake. The first survey of Bear Pond occurred in 1955. A single, large brook trout was caught, but biologists noted earlier reports of good brook trout fishing. A 1984 ALSC survey found a native fish community consisting of brook trout, white sucker, creek chub and northern redbelly dace. The brook trout population is dependent on stocking which occurred as early as 1934 and annually since 1956. Bear Pond has a maximum depth of 16 feet, mean depth of 7.5 feet, flushing rate of 4.4 times/year, pH of 6.15 and an ANC of 27 µeq/liter. Muck and organic material dominate its substrate. Department fisheries personnel inspected the pond in 1992 and determined that it is unsuitable for reclamation due to lack of a barrier site and a large boggy area downstream of the outlet. ALSC maps indicate a trail leads to Bear Pond, but recent topographic maps do not show the path.

Bear Pond will be managed as an Adirondack brook trout pond to preserve its native fishes.

Management Class: Adirondack Brook Trout

Brady Pond (UH-P 652)

Brady Pond is a 3-acre acidic, fishless bog pond. Biological survey field crews bypassed the pond in 1932, but noted that it had never been stocked. Brady Pond is isolated, lying about a mile west of the trail leading to Cascade Pond. No fish were captured in a 1957

survey. Brady Pond has a maximum depth of 15 feet and a muck bottom. A 1992 chemistry survey found a pH of 4.9, an ANC of -4 $\mu\text{eq/liter}$, and no dissolved oxygen below five feet in depth. A large bog surrounds the pond. No marked trails lead to this water body.

Brady Pond will be managed to preserve its aquatic community for its intrinsic value.

Management Class: Other

Cascade Pond (UH-P 644)

Cascade Pond is a scenic 35-acre Adirondack brook trout pond. A 2.5 mile trail (that also climbs about 500 feet) starting at the west end of Lake Durant provides access. When first studied in 1931, brook trout were noted as being abundant and were the only species captured. A 1959 survey caught brook trout and brown bullhead (NBWI). Creek chub, another NBWI species, were added to the fish fauna list after a 1973 survey. A 1984 ALSC netting added no new species. Cascade Pond has a pH of 6.5, maximum depth of 23 feet, mean depth of 5 feet and a flushing rate of 23 times/year. Water chemistry work done in 1992 found a pH of 6.5 and an ANC of 37 $\mu\text{eq/liter}$. A long inlet stream with numerous small bogs, tributaries and beaver dams makes Cascade Pond unsuitable for reclamation. Natural barriers probably exist on the pond's outlet, which eventually drains to Lake Durant. Cascade Pond is probably the most heavily fished brook trout pond in the Blue Ridge Wilderness. Its trout population is dependent upon stocking, which has occurred annually since 1942. About half of the inshore habitat is stony with other areas of sand, muck and silt. There is a lean-to on the pond's north shore.

Cascade Pond will be managed as an Adirondack brook trout pond to preserve its native fishes.

Management Class: Adirondack Brook Trout

Dishrag Pond (UH-P 665)

Dishrag Pond is a very remote, fishless pond about 11 acres in size. Prior to a 1992 Department effort, this pond had never been surveyed. Although chemical conditions were suitable for fish life (pH 6.22 and ANC of 34 $\mu\text{eq/liter}$), no fish were netted or observed. Dishrag Pond is exceptionally shallow with a mean depth less than one foot and maximum depth of two feet. It is likely that winter kill conditions occur in the pond frequently. Wetlands completely surround Dishrag Pond and aquatic vegetation is abundant. This pond is the headwater to Brown Brook and is located about 3.5 miles from Cedar River Road in the heart of the wilderness. No doubt there is an interesting story behind this pond's unique name, but the account is not recorded in Fisheries' files.

Dishrag Pond will be managed to preserve its aquatic community for its intrinsic value.

Management Class: Other

Grassy Pond (UH-P 650)

Grassy Pond (eight acres) is an Adirondack brook trout pond with the unusual combination of slightly alkaline water chemistry and a narrow fringe of bog shoreline. It is located about 0.5 miles south of Route 28 and Eagle Lake. The 1932 biological survey of Grassy Pond captured brown bullhead, white sucker, northern redbelly dace, pumpkinseed and blacknose shiner. Minnows were noted to be abundant. A 1987 ALSC study captured only brown bullhead and creek chub (both NBWI). Grassy Pond has a pH of 7.2, ANC of 113 $\mu\text{eq/liter}$, maximum depth of 4 feet, mean depth of 3 feet and a flushing rate of 6.4 times/year. Brook trout stocking was initiated in 1994. Netting done in 2001 captured brook trout and northern redbelly dace. Grassy Pond has no inlets or outlets. Wetlands associated with the pond are small and can probably be treated effectively with rotenone.

Grassy Pond will be managed as an Adirondack brook trout pond. Reclamation does not appear necessary within the five year scope of this plan, but this pond will be reclaimed upon establishment of additional fish(es) to enhance and restore a native fish community. When a reclamation is determined to be necessary, the UMP will be amended to include it within the Schedule for Implementation. Prior to a reclamation, Grassy Pond should be netted and seined to establish whether blacknose shiner are still present. If they are, consideration should be given to restocking after the reclamation to avoid extirpating this species within the unit. Restocking plans are dependent upon further research/review on whether this species is native to the Adirondacks and whether a suitable regional source for the species can be found (see Section II - Natural Resources - Biological - Fisheries).

Management Class: Adirondack Brook Trout

Home Pond (B-P 884)

Home Pond (seven acres) is one of the few named waters in the Adirondacks which has never been netted. Department fisheries personnel visited the pond in 1954 and 1992 and found it to be weed choked, small and warm with no management potential. Extensive wetlands occur in the watershed. No trails lead to this remote pond which lies about 0.5 mile east of the private, Lake Kora in-holding. Chemical and physical data for Home Pond have never been collected.

Home Pond will be managed to preserve the fish species present for their intrinsic value.

Management Class: Unknown

Long Pond (UH-P 649)

Long Pond is a 5-acre, acidic, fishless pond located about 0.25 mile from Route 28 near Eagle Lake. Sphagnum bog occupies 60 percent of the shoreline and the pond bottom is composed entirely of muck and organic matter. Surveys conducted in 1932 and 1987 captured no fish. The 1987 ALSC survey measured a pH of 4.6, ANC of -24 $\mu\text{eq/liter}$,

mean depth of seven feet, maximum depth of 13 feet and a flushing rate of six times/year. A short trail from Route 28 provides access.

Long Pond will be managed to preserve its aquatic community for its intrinsic value. This pond's high flushing rate and extensive bog shoreline disqualify it for liming under FEIS criteria.

Management Class: Other

Lower Mitchell Pond (UH-P 646)

Lower Mitchell Pond is a 2-acre Adirondack brook trout pond located 0.4 mile west of Cascade Pond (UH-P644). Lower Mitchell Pond is the only pond in the Mitchell chain to harbor fish life. A 1992 Department survey captured 12 brook trout (some with fin clips) in this acidic, boggy pond. The only previous survey, conducted in 1957, captured no fish. The trout in Lower Mitchell Pond are probably present due to stocking error or to the efforts of private individuals. Lower Mitchell has a pH of 4.8, a maximum depth of 16 feet, and a dark brown water color. A flushing rate has not been determined for Lower Mitchell Pond. About 80 percent of the shoreline has bog vegetation. Unlike most bog ponds, dissolved oxygen levels in Lower Mitchell Pond are adequate for trout even at 16 feet and pH conditions improve in the deeper water. A barrier dam could be built on the outlet of Lower Mitchell Pond, but is unnecessary due to adequate natural barriers further down the stream. The tributaries of the Mitchell Pond chain are also known to go dry in the summer months.

Lower Mitchell Pond will be managed as an Adirondack brook trout pond to enhance and restore its native fishes. Reclamation does not appear necessary within the five year scope of this plan. However, if additional fishes establish to the detriment of the brook trout population and a reclamation is determined to be necessary, the UMP will be amended to include it in the Schedule for Implementation. Lower Mitchell Pond does not meet Liming FEIS criteria.

Management Class: Adirondack Brook Trout

Middle Mitchell Pond (UH-P 647)

Middle Mitchell Pond is a 1-acre, acidic bog pond located just to the west of Lower Mitchell Pond and about 0.5 mile west of Cascade Pond. No fish were captured in 1957 or 1992 surveys of the pond. Middle Mitchell Pond's entire shoreline is composed of bog vegetation. The pond has a pH of 4.7, ANC of -17 µeq/liter, and a maximum depth of 14 feet. Unlike Lower Mitchell Pond, Middle Mitchell Pond has poor dissolved oxygen and pH conditions in its deeper waters. No marked trails lead to this small pond.

Middle Mitchell Pond will be managed to preserve its aquatic community for its intrinsic value. Middle Mitchell Pond does not meet Liming FEIS criteria.

Management Class: Other

Potter Pond R- P 305)

Potter Pond is an isolated, fishless 6-acre pond located about 1.25 miles south of Route 28 where it borders Utowana Lake. Most of Potter Pond is shallow, but it has one deep hole that drops to 14 feet. A 1984 ALSC survey caught no fish and measured a pH of 4.9 with an ANC of -5 µeq/liter. Mean depth of Potter Pond is 4 feet and its flushing rate is 11.4 times/year. Potter Pond has clear water typical of “manmade” acidified ponds. No thermocline was present during August 1984 sampling and water temperatures were over 70 F at 14 feet. ALSC biologists noted poor fish habitat. Potter Pond was never stocked nor was it surveyed before 1984.

Potter Pond will be managed to preserve its aquatic habitats. The pond’s high flushing rate disqualifies it for liming under FEIS criteria.

Management Class: Other

Rock Pond (UH-P 645)

Rock Pond is a 40-acre warmwater lake that is contiguous with Lake Durant and borders the northern end of the of the wilderness. The 1932 biological survey sampled a native fish community consisting of white sucker, brown bullhead and pumpkinseed in Rock Pond and reported that brook trout were present. Brook trout were stocked from 1942-1954. The last survey of Rock Pond occurred in 1959, resulting in nonnative yellow perch being added to the species list. A single brook trout was also netted. Largemouth bass and tiger musky are probably present in Rock Pond because both species have been stocked in Lake Durant in the past. Any brook trout present are likely emigrants from the pond's extensive tributary system. Rock Pond has a pH of 6.1 and a maximum depth of 10 feet. The channel connecting Rock Pond and Lake Durant is spanned by a footbridge for the trail leading to Cascade Pond.

Rock Pond will be managed as a warmwater pond to preserve its native fishes in the presence of nonnative and historically associated species. A netting survey of Rock Pond will be conducted within the five year scope of this plan to update inventory data regarding its fish community.

Management Class: Warmwater

Sagamore Lake (R-P 313)

Sagamore Lake (formerly known as Shedd Lake) is a 166-acre coldwater lake that was privately-owned for many years. The Sagamore Lodge, a famous Adirondack great camp, is still privately-owned and operated along the lake's shore. Most of the lake's shoreline became State-owned in late 1975. Sagamore Lake is accessible by a 3.5 mile road heading south from the village of Raquette Lake off Route 28. Lake trout, brook trout, lake whitefish and smallmouth bass have been privately stocked historically. The biological survey of 1933 established that lake trout, brook trout, longnose sucker, white sucker, common shiner, creek chub (NBWI), lake chub, pumpkinseed and smallmouth bass (nonnative) were present. A 1961 survey captured the same species with the addition of the nonnative yellow perch. Uncoincidentally, the 1961 survey was prompted by reports from the private owners of a declining brook trout fishery. This decline in the trout fishery was undoubtedly due to competition/predation from yellow perch. A 1976 survey caught all the same species and confirmed that lake whitefish were still present in the lake. The ALSC revisited the lake in 1984, but caught no new fish species. Lake trout and brook trout are NSA in Sagamore Lake, but cannot be regarded as heritage strains due to past private stocking. Brook trout persist due to the lake's extensive tributary system. The stocking of landlocked Atlantic salmon in Sagamore Lake is under consideration. This species is historically associated with Adirondack fisheries and has done well in neighboring Blue Mountain Lake and Raquette Lake. Physical/chemical features for the lake are: pH of 6.1, ANC of 28 µeq/liter, maximum depth of 75 feet, mean depth of 34 feet and a flushing rate of 5.1 times/year. Sagamore Lake is one of ALSC's long term monitoring lakes and has been included in several other research projects. About half the inshore habitat is rocky with sand dominating in some sections. A nice beach is located on the eastern end of the lake. The two wheel drive road to the lodge skirts part of the lake's shoreline near the outlet. Car top boat access is possible, but parking space is limited and current signage leaves anglers unsure of access.

Sagamore Lake will be managed as a coldwater pond to preserve its native fishes in the presence of nonnative and historically associated species. Signed parking spots will be developed along the road for anglers and other users of this scenic pond. The outlet of Sagamore Lake, South Creek, is a good brook trout stream. A comprehensive management survey of Sagamore Lake will be conducted within the five year scope of this plan to assess the status of its native species and make decisions regarding possible/necessary stocking efforts.

Management Class: Coldwater

Slim Pond (R-P 302)

There are two Slim ponds in the Blue Ridge Wilderness, one in the Raquette watershed and one in the Upper Hudson. Slim Pond in the Raquette watershed is an 8-acre Adirondack brook trout pond. A 1955 survey reported unidentified minnow species in Slim Pond which led to a reclamation effort in 1969. The reclamation failed, however, as minnows were reported again in 1970. Despite this, brook trout fishing was reported as

good in 1975. In 1984, the ALSC captured a few large brook trout and found an abundant golden shiner (nonnative) population. A 1992 prereclamation survey determined that the pond is a good reclamation candidate with a barrier dam site available on the outlet. Brown trout stocking was instituted in 1998 to supplement the brook trout fishery and, perhaps, effect some control on the golden shiner population. Slim Pond's pH is 6.6, ANC is 41 µeq/liter, maximum depth is 17 feet, mean depth is seven feet and the flushing rate is 2.9 times/year. P302 is the headwater of a tributary to Bear Creek. ALSC maps indicate a trail leads to this pond which lies 1.5 miles south of Route 28.

Data regarding water chemistry and the presence of nonnative fish have not been collected since 1992. However, any changes likely to have occurred since 1992 would not have eliminated the need for a pond reclamation. When nonnative fishes become established in Adirondack ponds, and brook trout populations decline, the situation does not reverse itself naturally. The nonnative fishes present in 1992 would not have disappeared; if anything, additional nonnative fishes may have become established, increasing the severity of impacts to the native fishes. Over the last couple of decades, the water chemistry of Adirondack ponds has been trending toward stable or improved pH. A pH of 6.6, the condition of Slim Pond in 1992, is well within the range that supports fish life. Stable or improving pH values since 1992 would not have negatively affected the fish species present. In the unlikely event that Slim Pond has not followed regional trends, even a significant decline in pH to 6.0 would not be expected to eliminate fish species from the pond.

The Department will consult with Agency staff during the wetlands permit application process to determine whether the additional collection of biological and/or water chemistry data will be necessary.

Slim Pond (R-P302) will be reclaimed and managed as an Adirondack brook trout pond to enhance and restore a native fish community. A barrier dam will be constructed on the outlet to help prevent reinfestation by golden shiner. A heritage strain of brook trout will be stocked after the pond is reclaimed and brown trout stocking will be terminated unless nonnative species reestablish.

Management: Adirondack Brook Trout

Slim Pond (UH-P 651)

The "other" Slim Pond in the Blue Ridge Wilderness is a 3-acre warm and shallow water body. It lies in the course of the tributary system which eventually drains into Rock Pond and Lake Durant. The only netting ever done on Slim Pond P651 was by the Department in 1992 and the only fish species collected was nonnative golden shiner. Field staff also commented on the impressive number of leeches observed. Slim Pond has a pH of 6, ANC of 31 µeq/liter and a maximum depth of 4 feet. Extensive wetlands upstream and downstream of the pond, plus lack of a barrier site, preclude reclamation. P651 has very dark water with no evidence of a thermocline when it was studied in July 1992. Warm, midsummer water temperatures probably prevent brook trout from establishing in Slim

Pond. Since Wilson Pond (UH-P653) is an Adirondack brook trout pond and there is no effective barrier between these waters, largemouth bass should not be stocked into Slim Pond. The trail system leading to Wilson Pond from Route 28 provides access

Slim Pond (UH-P651) will be managed to preserve its aquatic community for its intrinsic value.

Management Class: Other

Sprague Pond (UH-P 662)

Sprague Pond is a 59-acre Adirondack brook trout pond located about 0.25 mile from Cedar River Road. A fishermen's parking area and easy trail hiking provide the best access of any pond in the unit. Consequently, Sprague Pond may be the most heavily fished pond in the BRW. Sprague Pond was first surveyed in 1932. Biologists reported catching brook trout, white sucker, brown bullhead (NBWI), pumpkinseed (NBWI), blacknose dace and blacknose shiner. Staff surveying the pond in 1969 captured brook trout, brown bullhead and white sucker and observed pumpkinseed, creek chub (NBWI) and nonnative golden shiner. It is likely that the establishment of golden shiner negatively impacted the brook trout population and eliminated blacknose shiners. Declines in brook trout fishing success prompted a reclamation effort in 1971. Post-reclamation netting efforts in 1972 and 1975 indicated that pumpkinseed survived the reclamation and were present in large numbers while brook trout growth was slow. A shift to brown trout stocking was done in 1972 and this species revived the fishery. A 1992 survey captured brown trout, pumpkinseed and golden shiner. A 2003 netting survey focused on minnow species caught blacknose dace, creek chub, golden shiner and pumpkinseed. Field crews ascertained that reclamation of Sprague Pond would be possible, although difficult due to a long tributary system. The barrier dam on the outlet of Sprague Pond was reconstructed in 1994, but has had to be repaired for small leaks several times since. Sprague Pond has the highest pH (7.3) of any pond in the BRW with an ANC of 136 µeq/liter. Maximum depth of the pond is 23 feet and mean depth is 11.5 feet. Submerged aquatic vegetation is moderately abundant in this productive pond. Littoral zone substrate types range from muck to bedrock.

Sprague Pond will be reclaimed and managed as an Adirondack brook trout pond to enhance and restore a native fish community. Reclamation plans, however, depend upon solving the persistent leakage problems in the barrier dam. Sprague Pond's long tributary system may require dry watershed conditions to treat effectively. Consideration should be given to reintroducing blacknose shiner to Sprague Pond if it can be reclaimed.

Management Class: Adirondack Brook Trout

Stephens Pond (UH-P 643)

Stephens Pond is a 65-acre coldwater pond located just off the Northville- Placid trail about 2 miles south of the Lake Durant campground. Brook trout were abundant in the

first survey conducted on this pond in 1932. Also present were redbreast sunfish and creek chub (NBWI). Brook trout stocking was instituted in 1942 for reasons undocumented in Fisheries files. A 1959 survey added white sucker, golden shiner (nonnative) and brown bullhead (NBWI) to the species list. A 1973 effort caught the same species along with one lake trout - probably a stocking error. A Department fisheries crew netted Stephens Pond in 1992 and added pumpkinseed, northern redbelly dace and pearl dace to the fish community list. Minnow species were abundant and no large brook trout were caught in 1992. To enhance the trout fishery, a split policy of brook trout and brown trout was initiated in 1993. This policy was evaluated in 1999 resulting in capture of both trout species in good numbers, white sucker and brown bullhead. The pond has good water chemistry with a pH of 7.3 and ANC of 111 µeq/liter. Maximum depth is 22 feet, mean depth is 11 feet. Stephens Pond is a poor reclamation candidate due to extensive downstream wetlands and a broad outlet with no barrier site. Stephens Pond is a popular angling destination in the BRW and is one of the area's few ponds with a lean-to on its shoreline.

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

Management Class: Coldwater

Unnamed Pond (UH-P 5520)

Unnamed Pond (UH-P5520) is five acres in size and has never been surveyed. This pond is likely a beaver impoundment. It is located on the outlet of Stephens Pond about 0.8 mile downstream. No marked trails lead to this pond which probably has a fish community similar to Stephens Pond.

Unnamed pond (UH-P5520) will be managed to preserve any fish species present for their intrinsic value.

Management Class: Unknown

Unnamed Pond (UH-P 642)

Never surveyed, this 1-acre pond is located at the head of tributary 1 of tributary 16 of Lake Durant. No trail leads to this small pond lying in the midst of a large wetland.

Unnamed pond (UH-P642) will be managed to preserve any fish species present for their intrinsic value.

Management Class: Unknown

Unnamed Pond (UH-P 648A)

A 0.5-acre pond that has never been surveyed. This remote pond is located 0.5 mile south of Upper Mitchell Pond. No marked trails lead to this isolated pond.

Unnamed pond (UH-P648A) will be managed to preserve any fish species present for their intrinsic value.

Management Class: Unknown

Upper Mitchell Pond (UH-P 648)

Upper Mitchell Pond is virtually identical to Middle Mitchell Pond in terms of size and aquatic habitat. It has the lowest pH of any pond in the Blue Ridge Wilderness at 4.3 with an ANC of -51 µeq/liter. Maximum depth is 18 feet and wetlands surround the shore. No fish were captured in 1957 or 1992 surveys. Upper Mitchell Pond is located about 0.5 mile southwest of Middle Mitchell Pond and 1.2 miles from Cascade Pond. No marked trails lead to this small, dark water, bog pond.

Upper Mitchell Pond will be managed to preserve its aquatic community for its intrinsic value. This pond does not meet Liming FEIS criteria due to the amount of sphagnum along its shore.

Management Class: Other

Wilson Pond (UH- P 653)

Wilson Pond is an 8-acre Adirondack brook trout pond located upstream of Slim Pond (UH-P651) and is a headwater of Rock Pond (UH-P645). When first studied in 1957, Wilson Pond was a brook trout monoculture. A 1992 Department survey captured far fewer brook trout and noted an abundant golden shiner (nonnative) population. Wilson Pond has a pH of 6.55, ANC of 37 µeq/liter, mean depth of 10 feet and a maximum depth of 20 feet. Field notes of the 1992 survey indicate that the pond is a poor reclamation candidate. Wetlands would be difficult to treat and there is no adequate barrier dam site. A lean-to exists on Wilson Pond at the end of a 3.0 mile trail from Route 28.

Wilson Pond will be managed as an Adirondack brook trout pond to preserve its native fishes in the presence of nonnative and historically associated species. Brown trout stocking may be initiated in an effort to reduce competition from golden shiner and to enhance the overall trout fishery (a technique which has worked in Stephens Pond).

Management Class: Adirondack Brook Trout

Note: For purposes of this plan, only waters officially recognized (those with P numbers) by the Department's Biological Survey Unit are included in the above narratives. The Blue Ridge Wilderness also contains a number of small wetland ponds with beaver dams on their outlets. In some years these pond/wetland complexes may be nearly dry, while during wet years or during years when the beaver are active they may contain small impoundments. These pond/wetland complexes will be managed to preserve and protect

the existing fish communities for their intrinsic value. Many of these ponds can be accessed by unofficial "herd paths".

APPENDIX 6 – CLASSIFICATION OF COMMON ADIRONDACK UPLAND FISH FAUNA

Classification of Common Adirondack Upland Fish Fauna Into Native, Nonnative, and Native But Widely Introduced¹

Native To Adirondack Upland		
blacknose dace	redbreast sunfish	slimy sculpin
white sucker	finescale dace	lake chub
longnose sucker	creek chubsucker	common shiner
northern redbelly dace	longnose dace	round whitefish
Native Species Widely Introduced within the Adirondack Upland ²		
brook trout	pumpkinseed	lake trout
brown bullhead	cisco	creek chub
Nonnative to Adirondack Upland		
golden shiner	northern pike	Atlantic salmon
chain pickerel	rock bass	walleye
largemouth bass	bluntnose minnow ³	central mudminnow
brown trout	pearl dace	redhorse suckers (spp.)
Splake	smallmouth bass	black crappie
lake whitefish	yellow perch	fallfish ⁴
rainbow smelt	fathead minnow ⁵	banded killifish ⁶
bluegill	rainbow trout	Johnny darter

¹Adapted from George, 1980

² These native fishes are known to have been widely distributed throughout Adirondack uplands by DEC, bait bucket introduction, and unauthorized stocking. This means that their presence does not necessarily indicate endemism. Other species listed above as native have been moved from water to water in the Adirondack Upland, but the historical record is less distinct.

³ Not mentioned by Mather (1884) from Adirondack collections, widely used as bait.

⁴ Adventive through stocking.

⁵ Not mentioned by Mather (1884) from Adirondack collections, minor element southern Adirondack Uplands (Greeley 1930-1935).

⁶ Early collections strongly suggest dispersal as a bait form.

APPENDIX 7 – FISHERY MANAGEMENT IN WILDERNESS, PRIMITIVE AND CANOE AREAS

MEMORANDUM

TO: Executive Staff, Division and Regional Directors

FROM: Thomas C. Jorling

RE: ORGANIZATIONAL AND DELEGATION MEMORANDUM # 93-35
POLICY: FISHERY MANAGEMENT IN WILDERNESS, PRIMITIVE
AND CANOE AREAS - Amended 11/02/93

BACKGROUND

Fisheries management in wilderness, primitive and canoe areas of the Adirondack and Catskill Parks has a strong foundation in law, policy, tradition and resource planning. The New York State Legislature has directed DEC to efficiently manage, maintain and improve the fish resources of the State and make them accessible to the people of New York. This includes a mandate to develop and carry out programs and procedures which prompt both natural propagation and maintenance of desirable species in ecological balance and lead to the observance of sound management practices to achieve those goals (ECL Section 11-0303).

Similarly, the State Land Master Plans for the Adirondack and Catskill Parks adopt the principle of resource management and provide strong guidance for fish management (APA 1987, DEC 1985). The primary management guideline for wilderness, primitive and canoe areas is to "achieve and perpetuate a natural plant and animal community where man's influence is not apparent." While these plans recognize these areas as places "where the earth and its community of life are untrammled by man, where man is a visitor who does not remain," they are also defined as areas which are protected and managed so as to "preserve, enhance and restore, where necessary, its natural conditions. . .". Thus, opportunities to manage ecosystems have been preserved in these Master Plans and are conducted in a manner to meet plan guidelines. Fish management practices, such as fish stocking, pond reclamation, pond liming, barrier dam construction and maintenance, and resource survey and inventory, are permitted when conducted within guidelines for wilderness, primitive and canoe area management and use.

For more than a decade, the Division of Fish and Wildlife has managed ecosystems consistent with legal mandates and professional concerns, with sensitivity for wilderness values and with the intent of providing unique recreational experiences. The Master Plans set no numerical standards on use intensity but indicate that fishing is "compatible with wilderness and should be encouraged as long as the degree and intensity of use does not endanger the wilderness resource itself".

Important precepts contained in a Division of Fish and Wildlife position paper on wilderness area management have guided the Department's fish management programs in such areas since 1977 (Doig 1977). The position paper recognizes fishing as: a legitimate activity in wilderness, primitive and canoe areas which should be considered as part of a larger experience not just a quest for fish; where quality includes the expectation of encounter with unique fish and wildlife in natural setting, aesthetic surroundings, and limited contact with other persons. It directs management activities at species which are indigenous to or historically associated with the Adirondacks and Catskills. It provides that fish populations will be managed on a self-sustaining basis, but permits maintenance stocking to be used where unique, high quality recreational fishing experiences can be provided without impairing other objectives. It further directs that fish management activities should be compatible with area characteristics, conducted in an unobtrusive manner and restricted to the minimum means necessary to accomplish management objectives.

The formal traditions of fisheries management in New York State are rooted 120 years in the past, dating back to 1868 when the New York Commission of Fisheries was created (Shepherd et al. 1980). The elements of New York's fisheries program have evolved both in emphasis and priority with shifts being dictated by need, experience and availability of funding as well as the evolution of fishery science. Formal goals for the Fish and Wildlife program have been in existence for more than a decade and remain the foundation for DEC's modern fish and wildlife program activities. They are:

- Perpetuate fish and wildlife as a part of various ecosystems of the state;
- Provide maximum beneficial utilization and opportunity for enjoyment of fish and wildlife resources; and
- Manage these resources so that their numbers and occurrences are compatible with the public interest.

Goals for each program of the Division of Fish and Wildlife have been described in DEC's 1977 Division of Fish and Wildlife Program Plan. Environmental impacts of the Division of Fish Wildlife's fish species and habitat management activities are discussed in programmatic environmental impact statements prepared by Shepherd et al. (1980) and Odell et al. (1979), respectively.

The evolution of fisheries management in New York State and the Adirondack zone has been discussed in Shepherd et al. (1980) and Pfeiffer (1979). Program goals, objectives, policies and management strategies for lake trout including guidelines for stocking were developed by Plosila (1977). The strategic plan recognizes the importance of native Adirondack lake trout stocks and the considerable importance of these lake trout resources to the entire State. In 1979, a strategic plan for the management of wild and hybrid strains of brook trout was completed (Keller 1979). Preservation of native strains in the Adirondack and Catskill Mountains was a major component of that plan. Pfeiffer (1979) established goals, objectives and strategies for the management of broad classes of Adirondack fishery resources and significantly enunciated the importance of angling in wilderness, primitive and canoe areas and guidelines for fisheries management within these areas. The latter were consistent with those formulated earlier by Doig (1977). The

philosophical and scientific underpinnings for trout stream management in New York with application to management of wilderness, primitive and canoe area trout streams, was completed in 1979 (Engstrom-Heg 1979 a). A recent draft plan for intensification of management of brook trout in 47 Adirondack ponds has been developed by DEC Regions 5 and 6 (Miller, 1986).

Salmonid stocking by the Division of Fish and Wildlife is guided by policies and criteria presented in Engstrom-Heg (1979 b). The evolution of DEC's criteria for establishing salmonid stocking policies in New York has been reviewed by Pfeiffer (1979), while the general objectives of fish stocking are discussed in Shepherd et al. (1980) and Engstrom-Heg (1979).

Liming of acidified waters by the Division of Fish and Wildlife is presently guided by the draft policy and criteria established by Wich (1987). A final generic environmental impact statement for DEC's liming program is being prepared following extensive public review of the draft statement. It will include a revision of the Division of Fish and Wildlife's liming policy and criteria (Simonin 1990). Findings and the Commissioner's decision for the liming program are being completed.

The history of pond reclamation in New York has been discussed by Pfeiffer (1979). Reclamation goals are discussed in Shepherd et al. (1980), while general policy guidance and rules and regulations covering the use of piscicides including rotenone, are provided in Part 328 of 6NYCRR. Fish barrier dams, which are frequently associated with pond reclamation, are permitted when constructed or maintained in accordance with SLMP guidelines.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this memorandum is to state the Department's policies on fisheries management in wilderness, primitive and canoe areas within the Adirondack and Catskill Parks.

POLICY GUIDELINES

Legally established goals for the Forest Preserve recognize that fish and wildlife are integral to the values society places on the Preserve. Charges include management to "foster the wild Adirondack environment and all the flora and fauna historically associated there with" and, "encouragement of indigenous species presently restricted in numbers." Fisheries management activities are essential to achieve these goals and to perpetuate unique opportunities for high quality wilderness, primitive and canoe area fishing experience provided within the Adirondack and Catskill Parks. Specific guidelines for fisheries management activities are as follows:

1. The primary purpose of aquatic resource management in wilderness primitive and canoe areas is to perpetuate natural aquatic ecosystems, including perpetuation of indigenous fish species on a self-sustaining basis.

2. Angling is recognized as a compatible recreational pursuit in wilderness, primitive and canoe areas. Aquatic resource management will emphasize the quality of the angling experience over quantity of use.
3. Aquatic resources in wilderness, primitive and canoe areas will be protected and managed so as to preserve, enhance and restore, where necessary, their natural conditions. Aquatic resource management, including stocking of game and nongame fishes and pond reclamation, may be necessary to achieve and perpetuate natural aquatic ecosystems.
4. Brown trout, rainbow trout, splake and landlocked Atlantic salmon are coldwater fish species historically associated with the Adirondack Park. Smallmouth bass, largemouth bass, northern pike and walleye are warmwater species historically associated with the entire Adirondack and Catskill Parks and indigenous to some lowland areas. These species may be included in the management and stocking regime of specific waters in wilderness, primitive, and canoe areas in instances when indigenous fish communities cannot be protected, maintained, or restored in those waters. Fish species, other than indigenous species and species historically associated with the Adirondack and Catskill Parks, will not be stocked in the waters of wilderness, primitive and canoe areas.
5. Waters found to be naturally barren of fish species will not be stocked. Waters which are self-sustaining or which otherwise would be self-sustaining except that they have been compromised by human-caused disturbances may be stocked consistent with these guidelines.
6. Pond reclamation will be practiced as appropriate to prepare or maintain waters in wilderness, primitive and canoe areas but only for the restoration or perpetuation of indigenous fish communities.
7. The Unit Management Plan for each wilderness, primitive, or canoe area shall identify aquatic resource management actions on a water-body-specific basis through analysis of unit inventory data adequate to support the actions.
8. In those instances where a Unit Management Plan has not yet been approved for a given wilderness, primitive, or canoe area, aquatic resource management actions to stock waters may be continued in waters so managed before December 31, 1989, consistent with these guidelines, pending approval of the Plan. Waters reclaimed prior to December 31, 1989 may be reclaimed subject to case-by-case review by the Adirondack Park Agency for consistency with these guidelines, pending approval of the Plan. New waters may be stocked or reclaimed only to prevent significant resource degradation subject to case-by-case review by the Adirondack Park Agency for consistency with these guidelines, pending approval of the Plan.
9. Liming to protect and maintain indigenous fish species may be continued as a mitigation measure for acid rain in Horn Lake (P04854) and Tamarack Pond

(P06171). As UMP's are completed, new waters may be limed in accordance with the provisions of the Division of Fish and Wildlife Liming Policy presented on pages 2-7 of the Final GEIS on the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation Program of Liming Selected Acidified Waters. As provided in the Liming Policy, no naturally acidic waters or bog waters will be limed. All limed waters will be relimed in accordance with the provisions of the Liming Policy. Any water that must be relimed more than three times in ten years, except for original sources of heritage strains, will be allowed to reacidify.

10. All aquatic resource management activities in wilderness, primitive, and canoe areas will be consistent with guidelines for use of motor vehicles, motorized equipment, and aircraft as stated in the State Land Master Plan.

APPENDIX 8 – BIRDS

Table 1. Bird Species Documented in Atlas Blocks Within, or Partially Within, the Blue Ridge Wilderness and Wakely Mountain Primitive Area During the New York State Breeding Bird Atlas Project, 1980 -1985.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Status
Alder Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax alnorum</i>	Protected
American Bittern	<i>Botaurus lentiginosus</i>	Protected-Special Concern
American Black Duck	<i>Anas rubripes</i>	Game Species
American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	Game Species
American Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis tristis</i>	Protected
American Redstart	<i>Setophaga ruticilla</i>	Protected
American Robin	<i>Turdus migratorius</i>	Protected
American Woodcock	<i>Scolopax minor</i>	Game Species
Baltimore Oriole	<i>Icterus galbula</i>	Protected
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Protected
Barred Owl	<i>Strix varia</i>	Protected
Bay-breasted Warbler	<i>Dendroica castanea</i>	Protected
Belted Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle alcyon</i>	Protected
Bicknell's Thrush	<i>Catharus bicknelli</i>	Protected-Special Concern
Black-and-white Warbler	<i>Mniotilta varia</i>	Protected
Black-backed Woodpecker	<i>Picoides arcticus</i>	Protected
Black-billed Cuckoo	<i>Coccyzus erythrophthalmus</i>	Protected
Blackburnian Warbler	<i>Dendroica fusca</i>	Protected
Black-capped Chickadee	<i>Poecile atricapillus</i>	Protected
Blackpoll Warbler	<i>Dendroica striata</i>	Protected
Black-throated Blue Warbler	<i>Dendroica caerulescens</i>	Protected
Black-throated Green Warbler	<i>Dendroica virens</i>	Protected
Blue Jay	<i>Cyanocitta cristata</i>	Protected
Blue-headed Vireo	<i>Vireo solitarius</i>	Protected
Bobolink	<i>Dolichonyx oryzivorus</i>	Protected
Boreal Chickadee	<i>Poecile hudsonicus</i>	Protected
Broad-winged Hawk	<i>Buteo platypterus</i>	Protected
Brown Creeper	<i>Certhia americana</i>	Protected
Brown Thrasher	<i>Toxostoma rufum</i>	Protected
Brown-headed Cowbird	<i>Molothrus ater</i>	Protected
Canada Goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>	Game Species
Canada Warbler	<i>Wilsonia canadensis</i>	Protected
Cape May Warbler	<i>Dendroica tigrina</i>	Protected
Cedar Waxwing	<i>Bombycilla cedrorum</i>	Protected
Chestnut-sided Warbler	<i>Dendroica pensylvanica</i>	Protected
Chimney Swift	<i>Chaetura pelagica</i>	Protected
Chipping Sparrow	<i>Spizella passerina</i>	Protected
Cliff Swallow	<i>Petrochelidon pyrrhonota</i>	Protected

Table 1. Bird Species Documented in Atlas Blocks Within, or Partially Within, the Blue Ridge Wilderness and Wakely Mountain Primitive Area During the New York State Breeding Bird Atlas Project, 1980 -1985.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Status
Common Grackle	<i>Quiscalus quiscula</i>	Protected
Common Loon	<i>Gavia immer</i>	Protected-Special Concern
Common Merganser	<i>Mergus merganser</i>	Game Species
Common Nighthawk	<i>Chordeiles minor</i>	Protected-Special Concern
Common Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	Protected
Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	Game Species
Common Yellowthroat	<i>Geothlypis trichas</i>	Protected
Cooper's Hawk	<i>Accipiter cooperii</i>	Protected-Special Concern
Dark-eyed Junco	<i>Junco hyemalis</i>	Protected
Downy Woodpecker	<i>Picoides pubescens</i>	Protected
Eastern Bluebird	<i>Sialia sialis</i>	Protected
Eastern Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus tyrannus</i>	Protected
Eastern Meadowlark	<i>Sturnella magna</i>	Protected
Eastern Towhee	<i>Pipilo erythrophthalmus</i>	Protected
Eastern Wood-Pewee	<i>Contopus virens</i>	Protected
European Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Unprotected
Evening Grosbeak	<i>Coccothraustes vespertinus</i>	Protected
Field Sparrow	<i>Spizella pusilla</i>	Protected
Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	Endangered
Golden-crowned Kinglet	<i>Regulus satrapa</i>	Protected
Gray Catbird	<i>Dumetella carolinensis</i>	Protected
Gray Jay	<i>Perisoreus canadensis</i>	Protected
Great Blue Heron	<i>Ardea herodias</i>	Protected
Great Crested Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus crinitus</i>	Protected
Great Horned Owl	<i>Bubo virginianus</i>	Protected
Green Heron	<i>Butorides virescens</i>	Protected
Hairy Woodpecker	<i>Picoides villosus</i>	Protected
Hermit Thrush	<i>Catharus guttatus</i>	Protected
Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	Protected
Hooded Merganser	<i>Lophodytes cucullatus</i>	Game Species
House Finch	<i>Carpodacus mexicanus</i>	Protected
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	Unprotected
House Wren	<i>Troglodytes aedon</i>	Protected
Indigo Bunting	<i>Passerina cyanea</i>	Protected
Killdeer	<i>Charadrius vociferus</i>	Protected
Least Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax minimus</i>	Protected
Lincoln's Sparrow	<i>Melospiza lincolnii</i>	Protected
Long-eared Owl	<i>Asio otus</i>	Protected
Louisiana Waterthrush	<i>Seiurus motacilla</i>	Protected

Table 1. Bird Species Documented in Atlas Blocks Within, or Partially Within, the Blue Ridge Wilderness and Wakely Mountain Primitive Area During the New York State Breeding Bird Atlas Project, 1980 -1985.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Status
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Game Species
Mourning Dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	Protected
Mourning Warbler	<i>Oporornis philadelphia</i>	Protected
Nashville Warbler	<i>Vermivora ruficapilla</i>	Protected
Northern Flicker	<i>Colaptes auratus</i>	Protected
Northern Goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>	Protected-Special Concern
Northern Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	Threatened
Northern Mockingbird	<i>Mimus polyglottos</i>	Protected
Northern Parula	<i>Parula americana</i>	Protected
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	<i>Stelgidopteryx serripennis</i>	Protected
Northern Saw-whet Owl	<i>Aegolius acadicus</i>	Protected
Northern Waterthrush	<i>Seiurus noveboracensis</i>	Protected
Olive-sided Flycatcher	<i>Contopus cooperi</i>	Protected
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	Protected-Special Concern
Ovenbird	<i>Seiurus aurocapillus</i>	Protected
Philadelphia Vireo	<i>Vireo philadelphicus</i>	Protected
Pileated Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus pileatus</i>	Protected
Pine Siskin	<i>Carduelis pinus</i>	Protected
Pine Warbler	<i>Dendroica pinus</i>	Protected
Purple Finch	<i>Carpodacus purpureus</i>	Protected
Purple Martin	<i>Progne subis</i>	Protected
Red Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>	Protected
Red-breasted Nuthatch	<i>Sitta canadensis</i>	Protected
Red-eyed Vireo	<i>Vireo olivaceus</i>	Protected
Red-shouldered Hawk	<i>Buteo lineatus</i>	Protected-Special Concern
Red-tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	Protected
Red-winged Blackbird	<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>	Protected
Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>	Unprotected
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	<i>Pheucticus ludovicianus</i>	Protected
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	<i>Regulus calendula</i>	Protected
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	<i>Archilochus colubris</i>	Protected
Ruffed Grouse	<i>Bonasa umbellus</i>	Game Species
Rusty Blackbird	<i>Euphagus carolinus</i>	Protected
Savannah Sparrow	<i>Passerculus sandwichensis</i>	Protected
Scarlet Tanager	<i>Piranga olivacea</i>	Protected
Sharp-shinned Hawk	<i>Accipiter striatus</i>	Protected-Special Concern
Song Sparrow	<i>Melospiza melodia</i>	Protected
Spotted Sandpiper	<i>Actitis macularia</i>	Protected

Table 1. Bird Species Documented in Atlas Blocks Within, or Partially Within, the Blue Ridge Wilderness and Wakely Mountain Primitive Area During the New York State Breeding Bird Atlas Project, 1980 -1985.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Status
Swainson's Thrush	<i>Catharus ustulatus</i>	Protected
Swamp Sparrow	<i>Melospiza georgiana</i>	Protected
Tennessee Warbler	<i>Vermivora peregrina</i>	Protected
Tree Swallow	<i>Tachycineta bicolor</i>	Protected
Veery	<i>Catharus fuscescens</i>	Protected
Warbling Vireo	<i>Vireo gilvus</i>	Protected
White-breasted Nuthatch	<i>Sitta carolinensis</i>	Protected
White-throated Sparrow	<i>Zonotrichia albicollis</i>	Protected
White-winged Crossbill	<i>Loxia leucoptera</i>	Protected
Wilson's Warbler	<i>Wilsonia pusilla</i>	Protected
Winter Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	Protected
Wood Duck	<i>Aix sponsa</i>	Game Species
Wood Thrush	<i>Hylocichla mustelina</i>	Protected
Yellow Warbler	<i>Dendroica petechia</i>	Protected
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax flaviventris</i>	Protected
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	<i>Sphyrapicus varius</i>	Protected
Yellow-rumped Warbler	<i>Dendroica coronata</i>	Protected

Table 2. Bird Species Documented in Atlas Blocks Within, or Partially Within, the Blue Ridge Wilderness Area (BRW) and Wakely Mountain Primitive Area (WMPA) During the New York State Breeding Bird Atlas 2000 Project, 2000-2003 (Project Ongoing).

Common Name	Scientific Name	Status
Alder Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax alnorum</i>	Protected
American Bittern	<i>Botaurus lentiginosus</i>	Protected-Special Concern
American Black Duck	<i>Anas rubripes</i>	Game Species
American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	Game Species
American Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis tristis</i>	Protected
American Redstart	<i>Setophaga ruticilla</i>	Protected
American Robin	<i>Turdus migratorius</i>	Protected
American Woodcock	<i>Scolopax minor</i>	Game Species
Bald Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	Threatened
Baltimore Oriole	<i>Icterus galbula</i>	Protected
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Protected
Barred Owl	<i>Strix varia</i>	Protected
Belted Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle alcyon</i>	Protected
Bicknell's Thrush	<i>Catharus bicknelli</i>	Protected-Special Concern
Black-and-white Warbler	<i>Mniotilta varia</i>	Protected
Black-backed Woodpecker	<i>Picoides arcticus</i>	Protected
Blackburnian Warbler	<i>Dendroica fusca</i>	Protected
Black-capped Chickadee	<i>Poecile atricapillus</i>	Protected
Blackpoll Warbler	<i>Dendroica striata</i>	Protected
Black-throated Blue Warbler	<i>Dendroica caerulescens</i>	Protected
Black-throated Green Warbler	<i>Dendroica virens</i>	Protected
Blue Jay	<i>Cyanocitta cristata</i>	Protected
Blue-headed Vireo	<i>Vireo solitarius</i>	Protected
Bobolink	<i>Dolichonyx oryzivorus</i>	Protected
Boreal Chickadee	<i>Poecile hudsonicus</i>	Protected
Broad-winged Hawk	<i>Buteo platypterus</i>	Protected
Brown Creeper	<i>Certhia americana</i>	Protected
Brown-headed Cowbird	<i>Molothrus ater</i>	Protected
Canada Goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>	Game Species
Canada Warbler	<i>Wilsonia canadensis</i>	Protected
Cedar Waxwing	<i>Bombycilla cedrorum</i>	Protected
Chestnut-sided Warbler	<i>Dendroica pensylvanica</i>	Protected
Chimney Swift	<i>Chaetura pelagica</i>	Protected
Chipping Sparrow	<i>Spizella passerina</i>	Protected
Common Merganser	<i>Mergus merganser</i>	Game Species
Common Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	Protected
Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	Game Species
Common Yellowthroat	<i>Geothlypis trichas</i>	Protected
Cooper's Hawk	<i>Accipiter cooperii</i>	Protected-Special Concern

Table 2. Bird Species Documented in Atlas Blocks Within, or Partially Within, the Blue Ridge Wilderness Area (BRW) and Wakely Mountain Primitive Area (WMPA) During the New York State Breeding Bird Atlas 2000 Project, 2000-2003 (Project Ongoing).

Common Name	Scientific Name	Status
Dark-eyed Junco	<i>Junco hyemalis</i>	Protected
Downy Woodpecker	<i>Picoides pubescens</i>	Protected
Eastern Bluebird	<i>Sialia sialis</i>	Protected
Eastern Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus tyrannus</i>	Protected
Eastern Phoebe	<i>Sayornis phoebe</i>	Protected
Eastern Wood-Pewee	<i>Contopus virens</i>	Protected
European Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Unprotected
Evening Grosbeak	<i>Coccothraustes vespertinus</i>	Protected
Golden-crowned Kinglet	<i>Regulus satrapa</i>	Protected
Gray Catbird	<i>Dumetella carolinensis</i>	Protected
Gray Jay	<i>Perisoreus canadensis</i>	Protected
Great Blue Heron	<i>Ardea herodias</i>	Protected
Great Crested Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus crinitus</i>	Protected
Green Heron	<i>Butorides virescens</i>	Protected
Hairy Woodpecker	<i>Picoides villosus</i>	Protected
Hermit Thrush	<i>Catharus guttatus</i>	Protected
Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	Protected
Hooded Merganser	<i>Lophodytes cucullatus</i>	Game Species
House Finch	<i>Carpodacus mexicanus</i>	Protected
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	Unprotected
House Wren	<i>Troglodytes aedon</i>	Protected
Indigo Bunting	<i>Passerina cyanea</i>	Protected
Killdeer	<i>Charadrius vociferus</i>	Protected
Least Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus exilis</i>	Threatened
Least Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax minimus</i>	Protected
Lincoln's Sparrow	<i>Melospiza lincolnii</i>	Protected
Magnolia Warbler	<i>Dendroica magnolia</i>	Protected
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Game Species
Merlin	<i>Falco columbarius</i>	Protected
Mourning Dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	Protected
Nashville Warbler	<i>Vermivora ruficapilla</i>	Protected
Northern Flicker	<i>Colaptes auratus</i>	Protected
Northern Mockingbird	<i>Mimus polyglottos</i>	Protected
Northern Parula	<i>Parula americana</i>	Protected
Northern Saw-whet Owl	<i>Aegolius acadicus</i>	Protected
Northern Waterthrush	<i>Seiurus noveboracensis</i>	Protected
Olive-sided Flycatcher	<i>Contopus cooperi</i>	Protected
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	Protected-Special Concern
Ovenbird	<i>Seiurus aurocapilla</i>	Protected

Table 2. Bird Species Documented in Atlas Blocks Within, or Partially Within, the Blue Ridge Wilderness Area (BRW) and Wakely Mountain Primitive Area (WMPA) During the New York State Breeding Bird Atlas 2000 Project, 2000-2003 (Project Ongoing).

Common Name	Scientific Name	Status
Philadelphia Vireo	<i>Vireo philadelphicus</i>	Protected
Pileated Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus pileatus</i>	Protected
Pine Siskin	<i>Carduelis pinus</i>	Protected
Pine Warbler	<i>Dendroica pinus</i>	Protected
Purple Finch	<i>Carpodacus purpureus</i>	Protected
Red-breasted Nuthatch	<i>Sitta canadensis</i>	Protected
Red-eyed Vireo	<i>Vireo olivaceus</i>	Protected
Red-tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	Protected
Red-winged Blackbird	<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>	Protected
Ring-necked Duck	<i>Aythya collaris</i>	Game Species
Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>	Unprotected
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	<i>Pheucticus ludovicianus</i>	Protected
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	<i>Regulus calendula</i>	Protected
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	<i>Archilochus colubris</i>	Protected
Ruffed Grouse	<i>Bonasa umbellus</i>	Game Species
Rusty Blackbird	<i>Euphagus carolinus</i>	Protected
Savannah Sparrow	<i>Passerculus sandwichensis</i>	Protected
Scarlet Tanager	<i>Piranga olivacea</i>	Protected
Sharp-shinned Hawk	<i>Accipiter striatus</i>	Protected-Special Concern
Song Sparrow	<i>Melospiza melodia</i>	Protected
Sora	<i>Porzana carolina</i>	Game Species
Spotted Sandpiper	<i>Actitis macularia</i>	Protected
Swainson's Thrush	<i>Catharus ustulatus</i>	Protected
Swamp Sparrow	<i>Melospiza georgiana</i>	Protected
Tree Swallow	<i>Tachycineta bicolor</i>	Protected
Turkey Vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i>	Protected
Veery	<i>Catharus fuscescens</i>	Protected-Special Concern
White-breasted Nuthatch	<i>Sitta carolinensis</i>	Protected
White-throated Sparrow	<i>Zonotrichia albicollis</i>	Protected
White-winged Crossbill	<i>Loxia leucoptera</i>	Protected
Wild Turkey	<i>Meleagris gallopavo</i>	Game Species
Winter Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	Protected
Wood Duck	<i>Aix sponsa</i>	Game Species
Wood Thrush	<i>Hylocichla mustelina</i>	Protected
Yellow Warbler	<i>Dendroica petechia</i>	Protected
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax flaviventris</i>	Protected
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	<i>Sphyrapicus varius</i>	Protected
Yellow-rumped Warbler	<i>Dendroica coronata</i>	Protected

APPENDIX 9 – FACILITIES

Fire Tower Complex on Wakely Mountain Summit

Structure	Description	Condition
Fire Tower	Steel, erected 1916. 69' 6" to floor of cab, 78' 2" to top of roof.	Fair. Windows missing, but frames intact. Roof, stairs, landings intact, but deteriorated. Some spalling of concrete supports. Overall structure appears sound.
Observer Cabin	Wood frame on concrete piers, wood siding, asphalt shingle roof. 27' by 16' 4". Constructed 1972 or 1973.	Good. Door open, but few signs of vandalism beyond graffiti.
Helipad	Wood deck on wood posts. 25' by 25'.	Poor. Deck deteriorated.
Privies	One standard wood near cabin, a larger one with peaked roof near tower used for storage.	Privy near cabin poor. Privy near tower sound.
Picnic Table	Standard wood.	Fair.

Boundary Lines

Type	Approximate Length (miles)	Comments
Boundary between unit lands and private lands	26	Portion of total boundary needing regular maintenance. All generally maintained, visible on ground.
Boundary between unit lands and other management units	10	WMPA considered part of unit. Does not include length where boundary follows trails or private roads. Generally not visible on ground, except where it coincides with Cellar Brook. Generally needs designation through posting of signs where boundary crosses roads and trails.
Frontage on trails and private roads	4	Includes Gould road, part of trail to Wakely Mountain, part of road to Lake Kora beyond gate
Frontage on public highways	14	Does not include Gould road or part of road to Lake Kora beyond gate.
Frontage on lakes and rivers	4	Lake Durant, South Inlet. Does not include Cellar Brook.
Total unit boundary (BRW and WMPA considered as a whole)	58	

Trails

Trail Name or Description	Length (miles)	Class	Marker Type	Marker Color	Comments
Marked Trails	Total: 11.5				
Wilson Pond	2.9	III	Foot trail	Red	Fair to good condition, some muddy areas and small stream crossings. Extensive wetland crossing within first half-mile needs relocation or bog bridging.
Cascade Pond	3.5	III	Foot trail	Red	Fair to good condition, some muddy areas
Northville-Lake Placid	3.5	IV	Foot trail	Blue	Fair to good condition, some muddy areas, including significant wetland crossing between private land and Stephens Pond.

Trail Name or Description	Length (miles)	Class	Marker Type	Marker Color	Comments
Sawyer Mountain	1.1	IV	Foot trail	Red	Good condition, some erosion. View from summit will be obstructed by vegetation if not maintained.
Wakely Mountain	0.5	IV	Foot trail	Red	0.5 miles in WMPA. Total trail 3.0 miles - rest in MRPWF. Fair to good condition. Significant erosion on sections of old road to base of steep section, needs ditching and waterbars. Steep section moderately eroded, needs waterbars.
Unmarked Trails Near Sagamore Lake	Total: 9.2				
Sagamore Lake Shore	3.5	II			From west end of bridge at Sagamore Lake outlet, continuing clockwise around Sagamore Lake to end of Sagamore Road at Kamp Kill Kare and Camp Uncas gates. Good condition with some wet spots along the south side of Sagamore Lake. 65-foot bridge over Lost Brook has two steel I-beam stringers. Propose marking as class III red foot trail.
Path from Sagamore Lake shore trail to Sagamore Lake Waterway Access Site	50 feet	II			Close to beginning of north end of Sagamore Lake shore trail. Affords canoe and kayak access to the lake. Good condition. Propose marking as class III foot trail, post sign.
Powerhouse	1.5	II			Starting on east side of South Inlet and proceeding from Sagamore Road, past old Sagamore hydroelectric complex to cascade marking navigable terminus of South Inlet of Raquette Lake. Former carriage road with many sections of poor drainage, especially south half. Propose marking as class III blue foot trail.
Cascades	1.5	II			Starting on west side of South Inlet and proceeding from Sagamore Road to cascade marking navigable terminus of South Inlet of Raquette Lake. Former carriage road. Excellent condition. No bridges, no drainage problems. This trail would connect with Powerhouse trail at its end if a former carriage bridge over South Inlet were replaced. Propose marking as class III blue foot trail.
Blue Ridge	1.5	II			Loop extension of Sagamore Lake trail. This is a poorly drained little-used former logging road. Not proposed for marking.

Appendix 9 - Facilities

Trail Name or Description	Length (miles)	Class	Marker Type	Marker Color	Comments
Big Slope	0.5	II			Trail connecting Sagamore Lake trail with Powerhouse trail. Former carriage road with switchbacks converted into skid trail. Long fairly steep grade, many sections with poor drainage. Propose marking as class III yellow foot trail.
Crossover	0.7	II			Trail connecting Powerhouse trail with Sagamore Lake trail. Part former skid roads, part foot trail. Propose marking as class III yellow foot trail.
Other Unmarked Trails	Total: 4.8				
Death Brook Falls Trail	0.3	II			Trail to scenic falls. Beginning is active access road to Golden Beach Campground septic system. Remainder is former road. Mostly clear, firm, level, with one wet spot bypassed by foot path. Propose marking as class IV blue foot trail.
Slim Pond Trail	2.5	II			Angler's trail from Route 28 to Slim Pond. Fair condition. Follows old road for most of route with many wet spots. Propose marking as class III blue foot trail.
Wilson Pond-Cascade Pond Crossover Trail	1.6	I			Trail connecting Cascade Pond trail with Wilson Pond trail along old stage coach route from Indian Lake to Blue Mountain Lake. Seldom used, substantial blowdown. Propose marking as class III yellow foot trail.
Sprague Pond Trail	0.4	II			Trail leading to Sprague Pond. Old road to pond in excellent condition. Paths extend from end of trail along shore to tent sites in both directions. Propose marking as class IV red foot trail.
New Trails to be Constructed	Total: 7.0				
Wakely Mountain, Cellar Pond Route	0.5	IV	Foot trail	Yellow	0.5 miles in WMPA. Total trail 3.8 miles - rest in MRPWF.
Northville-Lake Placid Trail	6.5	IV	NP Trail	Blue	Includes about 1.3 miles former road. Additional NP Trail reroute mileage in MRPWF.
Trails to be Closed	Total: 0.6				
Northville-Lake Placid Trail	0.6				Part of trail from former McCane's Resort to intersection with new trail.
Net Total Proposed Marked Trails	30.4				

Major Bridges

Location	Length	Materials	Condition
East Inlet Sagamore Lake	65 feet	Steel I-beam stringers, wood deck. No center support.	Stringers sound. Deck fair.
Cascade Pond Outlet	35 feet	Half log construction	Good
Rock Pond	180 feet	Log stringers, wood deck	Good
Foot Bridge below Stephens Pond	30 feet	Log stringers, wood deck	Fair

Trailheads

Trail Served	Class	Comments
Sagamore Lake Trail	3	Undeveloped parking in roadside clearing near north entrance to Sagamore Lake trail. Accommodates 3 cars, though overflow parking occurs. No signs or trail register. Up road 230 feet from trail in MRPWF potential parking for 6 cars. Parking area not identified with sign. On south end, no parking, register or sign.
Powerhouse Trail	3	Parking area on east side of Sagamore Road partly surfaced with crushed limestone, partly unpaved. Can accommodate 5 cars. No signs or trail register.
Cascades Trail	3	Unpaved parking area on east side of Sagamore Road. Accommodates 5 cars. No signs or trail register. Small parking area 0.1 miles south just north of bridge surfaced with crushed limestone, accommodates 3 cars.
Death Brook Falls (DOT)	3	Unpaved pulloff with significant side slope beside Route 28 can accommodate 6-8 cars. No trail register or signs. Appears to be in DOT right-of-way.
Slim Pond (DOT)	3	Unpaved pulloff beside Route 28. No trail register or signs. Appears to be in DOT right-of-way.
Wilson Pond (DOT)	2	Muddy. Accommodates 6 cars. No trail register. Appears to be within DOT right-of-way. Guideboard on post.
Cascade Pond (Unclassified Forest Preserve)	2	Muddy. Accommodates 3 cars. No trail register. Situated in unclassified parcel formerly thought to be in Blue Mountain Wild Forest and included in that UMP. Guideboard at beginning of road and near parking area on tree.

Appendix 9 - Facilities

Trail Served	Class	Comments
Northville-Lake Placid Trail, Route 28 at Lake Durant (DOT)	2	Good black-topped parking area on Route 28, both sides. Accommodates total of 15-20 cars. Situated in DOT right-of-way adjacent to Blue Mountain Wild Forest. Large identification signs. Trail register located 0.9 miles down trail in campground.
Stephens Pond (Lake Durant Campground)	2	Paved parking within campground. No trail register or signs. Trail register at edge of campground on trail to pond.
Sawyer Mountain (DOT)	2	Good black-topped parking area. Accommodates 7 cars. Has trail register. Appears to be within DOT right-of-way. Roadside guideboard.
Sprague Pond	3	Undeveloped parking. Roadside clearings on both sides of Cedar River Road. North side capacity: 3 cars. South side capacity: 5 cars. No trail register. No identification sign.
Wakely Mountain (MRPWF)	1	Good condition. Accommodates 15-20 cars. Has trail register. Situated in Moose River Plains Wild Forest. Signs on Cedar River Road.

Waterway Access Sites

Location	Water Body	Boating Restrictions	Parking Capacity
Route 28 at South Inlet	South Inlet	None	16 cars in two paved parking areas.
Off north entrance Sagamore Lake trail, 150 feet from beginning	Sagamore Lake	No Motors	3 cars at beginning of trail. More parking in vicinity.

Barriers

Location	Type	Condition
Sagamore Lake trail, north Entrance, 150 feet in from start of trail	Two boulders	Good
Sagamore Lake trail, south entrance	Five boulders	Good
Powerhouse trail, 150 feet east of Sagamore Road	Six boulders	Good
Cascades trail, 75 feet east of Sagamore Road	Three boulders	Good

Location	Type	Condition
Golden Beach Campground Septic System Road	Pipe Gate	Good. Nonconforming.
Former road, south side Route 28, 9.3 miles west of intersection Routes 28 and 30, Blue Mt. Lake	Two boulders	Good
Former road, south side Route 28, 9.1 miles west of intersection Routes 28 and 30, Blue Mt. Lake	Three boulders	Good
Former road, south side Route 28, 9.0 miles west of intersection Routes 28 and 30, Blue Mt. Lake	Three boulders	Good
Former road, south side Route 28, 8.4 miles west of intersection Routes 28 and 30, Blue Mt. Lake	Three large boulders, several smaller boulders	Good
Former road, south side Route 28, east end Slim Pond trail parking area.	Three boulders	Good
Entrance to former gravel pit on Cedar River Road east of Fletcher Pond.	Several small boulders	One boulder has been moved permitting the passage of motor vehicles.
Sprague Pond Trail	Pipe Gate	Good. Nonconforming.
On trail to Wakely Mountain, 1.1 miles from Cedar River Road, before trail crosses stream	Two boulders	Good

Primitive Tent Sites

Location	Number	Designated (Y/N)	Comments
Sagamore Lake	2	No	One in field on north side at least 300 feet from shore. Good location. One on beach at east end near East Inlet. Not a suitable location - too close to shore. Probably mostly day use.
East Inlet Sagamore Lake (interior)	1	No	Used during big game season.
South side Route 28 near Raquette Lake	1	No	Near road, little used.
Near Brook East Side Estelle Mountain	1	No	Used during big game season.
Death Brook	2	No	Used during big game season.
Slim Pond	1	No	Within 50 feet of shore, but well-screened, level. Good site.
Bear Pond	1	No	
Old Road Southwest of Slim Pond	2	No	Used during big game season.
Rock Brook	1	No	Used during big game season.
Lower Mitchell Pond	1	No	Used during big game season.
Cascade Pond	2	No	Too close to lean-to. Need to relocate.
Stephens Pond	1	No	Too close to lean-to. Need to relocate.
Former Gravel Pit, Cedar River Road	1	No	Used during big game season.
Sprague Pond	7	No	Two illegal sites on islands could affect nesting loons. Closure needs continued enforcement. Two sites near islands on west shore are on slopes, within 10 feet of shore. May be mostly day use sites. Many suitable potential tent site locations more than 100 feet from shore.
Gould Road	1	No	Used during big game season. Seven others on MRPWF side of road.
Total:	25		

Lean-tos

Location	Distance from Shore	Fireplace (Y/N)	Condition
Wilson Pond	Approximately 60'	Yes	Good. Built 1967. Rot in each end of deacon seat, sound in middle. Needs oakum. Foundation: four large rocks. Located in dense stand of young spruce-fir, no view of pond, invisible from pond. No soil erosion. Stone fireplace.
Cascade Pond	Approximately 40'	Yes	Fair. Built 1958. Dimensions 9' by 12'. Good roof, but base course of logs contains significant rot. Filtered view of pond, well screened from pond. Soil erosion minimal.
Stephens Pond	More than 100'	No - has fire ring	Good. Built 1925, reconstructed 1991.

Privies

Location	Distance from Shore	Condition
Wilson Pond Lean-to	More than 150'	Good
Cascade Pond Lean-to	More than 150'	Fair
Stephens Pond Lean-to	More than 150'	Fair
Wakely Mountain Summit (2)	- - -	One near cabin poor. One near tower fair, used for equipment storage.

Dams

Location	Type	Materials	Condition
Camp Sagamore Spur Road over Sagamore Lake Outlet (on edge of BRW, within MRPWF)	Water level regulation. Original purpose to supply periodic pulses of water to hydroelectric facility in summer.	Concrete	Appears good. Structure integral with bridge. One of two flash boards in place.
Sagamore Lake Outlet - Camp Sagamore Former Hydroelectric Complex	Hydroelectric	Concrete	Breached, appears stable.
Sprague Pond Outlet	Fish Barrier	Wood, rock-filled cribbing.	Good. Constructed 1971, reconstructed 1994. Needs repair or relocation to address persistent leakage.

Sagamore Hydroelectric Complex

Structure	Description	Condition
Dam	Concrete hydroelectric dam with concrete abutments.	Dam breached, appears stable. Abutments appear sound, stable.
Valvehouse	Concrete and brick structure with concrete roof housing valve used to regulate water flow to powerhouse.	Building appears sound and stable. Access open to significant drop - public safety hazard.
Penstock	Ditch formerly containing wood water conduit between valvehouse and powerhouse.	Most of wood removed or rotted away. Numerous rusting steel hoops remain.
Powerhouse	Concrete and brick structure with concrete roof, steel door and window shutters. Contains remnants of turbines, generators and related equipment.	Building appears sound and stable. Door open, interior accessible to public. Generators partly dismantled, some equipment removed, other items scattered on floor. Vegetation growing in accumulated organic material on roof.

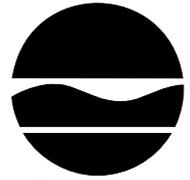
APPENDIX 10 – REGION 5 TRAIL REGISTER STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Division of Forest Protection and Fire Management, Region 5

Route 86 – P.O. Box 296, Ray Brook, NY 12977

Phone: (518) 897-1300 • Emergency: (518) 891-0235 • FAX: (518) 897-1370

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Erin M. Crotty
Commissioner

S O P

TRAILHEAD REGISTER MAINTENANCE for Division of Forest Rangers and Division of Lands and Forests Region 5

Objective:

The following Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) are to provide a better system for collecting accurate state land user information. This information is imperative for search and rescue activities, unit management planning, and establishing state land user trends and allows Forest Rangers to plan daily/seasonal activities. The procedures listed below are in place for guiding the activities of Forest Rangers and Foresters, in order to meet our objective. Please contact your chain of command when working outside of these parameters.

Guidelines:

Trailhead registers and kiosk information are the responsibility of the Forest Ranger and Lands and Forests Staff.

The Forest Ranger's duties will be to:

- A. Maintain current/blank register sheets for users.
- B. Maintain a working writing instrument (pencil) at the register.
- C. Report any mechanical or aesthetic problems with the register or trail head kiosk to the Lands and Forests Staff utilizing an Operations work request and copying appropriate Operations Staff.
- D. Work in concert with Lands and Forests staff to ensure that information at the trailhead is current and accurate.
- E. Check trailhead registers and information kiosks on a frequent basis.
- F. Sign trail registers, in user information fields, whenever an inspection of the register or an interior patrol is conducted, unless signing would jeopardize an enforcement action.

Trail register sheets will:

- A. Be collected by the Forest Ranger who has the administrative responsibilities for such trailhead.
- B. Be labeled by the Forest Ranger to show the trailhead at which they originated and the year
- C. Be sent (original, photocopy, or statistically*) on a quarterly basis, to the appropriate Forester for the UMP to which the trail head belongs.
- D. Be maintained by the Forestry Staff in such a manner that:
 1. Sheets are grouped by trailhead.
 2. Pages are consecutive (chronological order)

3. Files can easily be accessed by Forest Ranger Staff at any time (day or night).

E. Be kept on record for 7 years.

*Completion of user information tallies are optional for the Forest Ranger. If tallies are kept Rangers will utilize an Excel Spreadsheet for data storage and send an electronic copy to the appropriate Forester on a quarterly basis.

Lands and Forests Staff will:

A. Send UMP user information back to Forest Rangers on a quarterly or yearly basis, depending on trail usage.

Conclusion:

Trail head registers and kiosks are often the only interaction that state land users have with our Department. For this reason it is imperative that we maintain these structures and show a routine presence in the register pages.

APPENDIX 11 – SAGAMORE SAFETY ZONE REGULATIONS

CHAPTER 1 FISH AND WILDLIFE

§95.1

PART 95

HUNTING AND TRAPPING ON THE SAGAMORE TRACT - HAMILTON COUNTY

(Statutory authority: Environmental Conservation Law, §11-2101)

Sec

95.1 Hunting, trapping or trespassing for such purposes prohibited

Historical Note

Part (§95.1) filed Sept. 15, 1976 as emergency measure; made permanent by order filed Oct. 25, 1976.

§95.1 Hunting, trapping or trespassing for such purposes prohibited.

(a) On that portion of the Town of Long Lake in Hamilton County, which is owned by the State of New York, bounded by a continuous line extending southwesterly from a wooden stake on the northerly side of the access road to Kamp Kill Kare along the northerly side of the Raquette Lake to Camp Uncas Road, a distance of 850± feet to a point marked by a wooden stake; thence due north (magnetic) along a straight line, a distance of 2200± feet to a point marked by a wooden stake between telephone poles number 81 and 82 on the westerly side of the access road from Raquette Lake to Camp Sagamore; thence due east (magnetic) along a straight line, a distance of 1450± feet to a point on the shore of Sagamore Lake marked by a wooden stake; thence southerly and easterly along the shore of Sagamore Lake to another point marked by a wooden stake; thence due south (magnetic) along a straight line, a distance of 1565± feet to a point marked by a wooden stake on the northerly side of the access road to Kamp Kill Kare; and thence northwesterly along the northerly side of said access road to Kamp Kill Kare, a distance of 1500± feet to a point marked by a wooden stake on Raquette Lake to Camp Uncas Road at the point of beginning, as shown on a map filed in the office of the Department of Environmental Conservation, Albany, NY 12233, no person shall hunt, trap or trespass thereon for these purposes.

(b) Nothing contained herein shall prohibit public access for any purposes other than hunting or trapping, as provided in article 9 of the Environmental Conservation Law and rules and regulations promulgated thereunder.

Historical Note

Sec. Filed Sept. 15, 1976; amds. Filed: Oct. 25, 1976; Dec. 28, 1977; April 29, 1982 eff. April 29, 1982. Amended (a).

1-1-95

(Reissued 7/95)

417 Conservation

APPENDIX 12 – Best Management Practices for the Control of Four Terrestrial Invasive Plant Species on Adirondack Forest Preserve Lands

Applicability

These Best Management Practices (BMPs) are intended for use by those applying for and implementing terrestrial invasive plant species management activities on State Lands under an Adopt-A-Natural-Resource Agreement (AANR). The following document contains acceptable practices for control of the following four terrestrial invasive species: Purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*), Japanese knotweed (*Polygonum cuspidatum*), Common reed (*Phragmites australis*), Garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*).

The following management options, should be selected with consideration for the location and size of the stands, the age of the plants, past methods used at the site, time of year, sensitive native flora within or adjacent to the target infestation, and adjoining and nearby land uses.

Other management approaches not identified here may be appropriate but must be approved by the Regional Land Manager of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation in the region where the proposed invasive plant control activity will take place in consultation with the Adirondack Park Agency's Director of Planning.

Within the Park there are several geographic settings (at the location of the target plant(s)) that need to be considered when determining appropriate BMPs and the regulatory instruments needed prior to their implementation. These settings and relevant action are:

In or within 100 feet of a wetland on private or public lands: Work requires a general permit from the Adirondack Park Agency.

On Forest Preserve lands: Work requires an AANR from the Department of Environmental Conservation and, if wetlands are involved, an Adirondack Park Agency permit.

If the standing water is greater than one acre in size and/or has an outlet to surface waters: An aquatic pesticides permit is required pursuant to ECL 15-0313(4) and 6 NYCRR 327.1 in which case application can only be made by a Certified Applicator or Technician or supervised Apprentice licensed in "Category 5 – Aquatic Vegetation Control."

General Practices

1. **Minimum Tools Approach** - State land stewardship involving invasive plant species management practices should always incorporate the principles of the Minimum Tools Approach. Any group or individual implementing such practices on State land should only use the minimum tools, equipment, devices, force, actions or practices that will effectively reach the desired management goals. Implicit in this document is the stricture to implement a hierarchy of management practices based upon the target species and site conditions starting with the least intrusive and disruptive methods.
2. **Notification** - The following best management practices are intended to be used only when invasive terrestrial plant species are identified on Forest Preserve lands. These management techniques are temporary activities and are implemented with the ultimate goal being protection and restoration of native plant communities. Appropriate signage should be employed to explain the project. It may also be appropriate to issue press releases to explain the goals and techniques of the management activities.
3. **Motorized Equipment** - All use of motorized equipment on State lands under the jurisdiction of the DEC within the Adirondack Park shall be in compliance with Commissioner's Policy Number 17 (CP17), and other pertinent DEC policy regarding the use of motorized equipment on Forest Preserve Lands.
4. **Erosion Control** - Some of the methods described below require actual digging or pulling of plants from the soil. In all cases they require removal of vegetation whether or not there is actual soil disturbance. Each situation must be studied to determine if the proposed control method and extent of the action will destabilize soils to the point where erosion is threatened. Generally if more than 25 square feet of soil surface is cleared or plant removal occurs on steep slopes silt fence should be installed and maintained.
5. **Revegetation** - All of the control methods below are aimed at reducing or eliminating invasive species so that natives are encouraged to grow and re-establish stable conditions that are not conducive to invasive colonization. In most cases removal or reduction of invasive populations will be enough to release native species and re-establish their dominance on a site. However, replanting or reseedling with native species may be required.
6. **Herbicide Treatments** - The only herbicide application allowed is spot treatment to individual plants using a back pack or hand sprayer, wick applicator, cloth glove applicator, stem injection or herbicide clippers. **No broadcast herbicide applications using, for example a truck mounted sprayer, are allowed.** The only herbicides contemplated and approved for use are glyphosate and triclopyr. Glyphosate, in the correct formulation, may be used in situations where there is standing water including wetlands. Triclopyr is to be used only in upland

situations. **In all cases all label restrictions must and shall be followed by a certified applicator in an appropriate category.** The certified applicator or technician must have copies of the appropriate labels at the treatment site. Glyphosate and triclopyr are non-selective herbicides that are applied to plant foliage or cut stems and are then translocated to the roots. The application methods described and allowed are designed to reduce or eliminate the possibility that non-target species will be impacted by the herbicide use. All herbicide spot treatments require follow-up inspection later in the growing season or the following year to re-treat any individuals that were missed. Stem injections may be implemented using a large gauge needle or a specialized injection tool such as the JK Injection System (<http://www.jkinjectiontools.com>).

All herbicide mixing will be done in accordance with the label precautions and take place at a staging area (typically at a marshaling yard or a vehicle). No mixing shall take place on State lands unless at an approved location constructed for such use. Unused chemical and mixes shall be disposed of in a legal manner. No chemical or mix shall be disposed of on State lands unless at an approved location constructed for such use.

7. **Sanitation** - Management personnel must attempt to prevent invasive plant propagules from entering a treatment site or from being exported from it. Therefore, personnel must insure that their clothing including boots do not carry seeds or other propagules or weed seed infected soil clods. At the beginning of the field day personnel should inspect their clothing and boots at the staging area. Prior to leaving the treatment site personnel should conduct another inspection and remove any propagules or soil clods from their clothing or boots. Personnel must insure that all equipment used for invasive species control whether it be hand or power driven is cleaned prior to entering onto a control site and prior to leaving the treatment site. Vehicles and equipment can be cleaned at a staging area that is distant from the control site after management activities if precautions are taken during transport to contain any propagules. This is an effort to reduce transport of plant propagules and reduce the potential for new invasive introductions. Use steam or hot water to clean equipment.
8. **Material Collection and Transportation** – While on the treatment site bag all cut material in heavy duty, 3 mil or thicker, black contractor quality plastic clean-up bags. Securely tie the bags and transport from the site in a truck with a topper or cap to securely fasten the load, in order to prevent spread of the plant material from the project work site. Transport the material to a legal disposal location.
9. **Composting** - Because of the extremely robust nature of invasive species, composting in a typical backyard compost pile or composting bin is not appropriate. However, methods can be used whereby sun-generated heat can be used to destroy the harvested plant materials. For instance, storage in a sealed 3 mil thickness (minimum) black plastic garbage bags on blacktop in the sun until the plant materials liquefy is effective. If a larger section of blacktop is available,

make a black plastic (4 mil thickness minimum) envelope sealed on the edges with sand bags. The plant material left exposed to the sun will liquefy in the sealed envelope without danger of dispersal by wind. The bags or envelopes must be monitored to make sure the plants do not escape through rips, tears or seams in the plastic. **When composting is suggested later in the text it is understood that liquefying the plant material in or under plastic is the desired action; not disposal in backyard composters or open landfill composting piles.**

CONTROL METHODS FOR PURPLE LOOSESTRIFE (*Lythrum salicaria*)

Plant Description

Purple loosestrife is a wetland perennial native to Eurasia that forms large, monotypic stands throughout the temperate regions of the U.S. and Canada. It has a vigorous rootstock that serves as a storage organ, providing resources for growth in spring and regrowth if the plant has been damaged from cuttings. New stems emerge from the perennial roots enabling the plant to establish dense stands within a few years. Seedling densities can approach 10,000-20,000 plants/m with growth rates exceeding 1 cm/day. A single, mature plant can produce more than 2.5 million seeds annually which can remain viable after 20 months of submergence in water. In addition, plant fragments produced by animals and mechanical clipping can contribute to the spread of purple loosestrife through rivers and lakes.

Management Options

1. Digging/pulling

Effectiveness:

Can be effective in small stands i.e.: <100 plants, low-med density(1-75% area), & <3 acres, especially on younger plants in unconsolidated soils.

Methods:

Hand-pull plants <2 years old. Use mini-tiller for plants >2 years - gets most of roots w/minimum soil disturbance, has 3 heavy duty prongs on 1 side that are pushed under base of plant, then pry back on handle to leverage plant out of ground. Use weed wrench for plants > 2 years old - good w/minimal soil disturbance. In mucky conditions, put base of wrench on small piece of wood (e.g.: piece of 2x4) to keep wrench from sinking into mud. Use shovel for plants > 2 years old - dig up plant, tamp down disturbed area and/or then replace soil and any existing cover.

Cautions:

May increase habitat disturbance & increase spread of loosestrife. Requires follow-up treatments of sites for 3 years to eliminate re-sprouting from fragments left behind. Must pull/dig ENTIRE rootstock or resprouting will likely occur. Must pull/dig before the plants begin setting seed or must remove flower/seed heads first (cut into bags) to prevent

spread of seeds. Also remove previous years dry seed heads. Erosion control may be necessary.

Disposal:

Bag all plant parts & remove from site (compost at DOT Residency, dispose of in approved landfill or incinerate with appropriate permits).

Sanitation:

Clean all clothing, boots, & equipment to prevent spread of seed. See #4 under General Practices.

2. Cutting

Effectiveness:

Can be effective in small stands i.e.<100 plants, low-med density (1-75% area), & <3 acres, especially on younger plants.

Methods:

Remove flower heads before they go to seed, so seed is not spread when cutting or mowing. Must do repeated cutting & mulching to permit growth of grasses.

Cautions:

Need to repeat for several years to reduce spread of plants. Doesn't affect rootstalk & thus, cut pieces can be spread that will resprout. Once severed, stems are buoyant and may disperse to other areas and re-sprout. Removal of seed heads should be done as late in the growing season as possible yet before seed set. Early cutting without additional seed head harvest could allow resprouting with greater subsequent seed production.

Disposal:

Bag all plant parts & remove from site (compost at DOT Residency, dispose of in approved landfill or incinerate with appropriate permits).

Sanitation:

Clean all clothing, boots, & equipment to prevent spread of seed. See #4 under General Practices.

3. Herbicide

Effectiveness:

Use when >100 plants & <3-4 acres in size.

Methods:

Use glyphosate formulations only. If possible treat seedlings before they reach 12" in height. Cut and bag flower heads before applying herbicide. Apply prior to or when in flower (late July/Aug) so plants are actively growing.

For spot application use:

- sponge tip applicator w/wick.
- stem injection

Cautions:

This herbicide is not selective (kills both monocots & dicots), thus should be applied carefully to prevent killing of non-target species. All tank mixes should be mixed with clean (ideally distilled) water because glyphosate binds tightly to sediments, which reduces toxicity to plants.

Do not apply in windy conditions because spray will drift and kill other plants. Do not apply if rain is forecast within 12 hours because herbicide will be washed away before it can act. Choose Glyphosate formulation for applications in standing water or along a shoreline.

4. Biocontrol

Two species of leaf-feeding beetle, *Galerucella californiensis* and *G. pusilla*, have been shown to be effective in controlling purple loosestrife. Over 5 million of these beetles have been released in 30 states including New York, the northeastern and midwestern states as well as all of the Canadian Provinces. The beetles have shown dramatic decreases in purple loosestrife populations with subsequent increases in populations of native species. The scientific literature indicates that the beetles are very specific to purple loosestrife with only minor spillover effects that do not compromise non-target plant populations.

Effectiveness:

Use if site has at least a half acre of purple loosestrife of medium to thick density. Best type of control for large patches of loosestrife >3-4 acres.

Methods:

The number of beetles released per site should be based on the size of the site, the density of loosestrife and the economics of purchase. More beetles are generally better than fewer.

Cautions:

Use only if mowing, pesticide and herbicide use are not active practices on the site. The site must not be permanently flooded and should be sunny. Use only if winged loosestrife, (*Lythrum alatum*) and waterwillow (*Decodon verticillatus*) are not major components of the plant community on the release site. **Please note that identification of winged loosestrife and waterwillow should be done by a professional botanist prior to treatment to determine if this biocontrol method is appropriate.**

CONTROL METHODS FOR COMMON REED (*Phragmites australis*)

Plant Description

Phragmites is a perennial grass that can grow to 14 feet in height. Flowering and seed set occur between July and September, resulting in a large feathery inflorescence, purple-hued turning to tan. Phragmites is capable of vigorous vegetative reproduction and often forms dense, virtually monospecific stands. It is unclear what proportion of the many seeds that Phragmites produces are viable. **Please note that identification of phragmites should be done by a professional botanist prior to treatment to distinguish the invasive non-native race from the non-invasive native.**

Management Options

1. Cutting and Pulling

Effectiveness:

Need to repeat annually for several years to reduce spread of plants. Hand-pulling, though labor intensive, is an effective technique for controlling phragmites in small areas with unconsolidated soils or sediments.

Methods:

The best time to cut phragmites is when most of food reserves are in aerial portion of plant (when close to tassel stage-e.g.: at end of July/early August to decrease plant's vigor. Some patches may be too large to cut by hand, but repeated cutting of the perimeter of a stand can prevent vegetative expansion. Phragmites stems should be cut below the lowest leaf, leaving a 6" or shorter stump. Hand-held cutters and gas-powered hedge trimmers work well. Weed whackers with a circular blade were found to be particularly efficient, though dangerous.

Cautions:

If cut before in tassel stage or at wrong time, stand density may increase because Phragmites is a grass. Remove cut shoots to prevent re-sprouting and forming stolons.

Disposal:

Cut or pulled material should be removed from the site and composted, land-filled or incinerated. The harvested biomass can be disposed of onsite if the seed heads are removed and the cut stems are dispersed in an upland area.

Sanitation:

Clean all clothing, boots, & equipment to prevent spread of seed. See #4 under General Practices.

2. Herbicide

Effectiveness:

Herbicide use is a 2 year, 2 step process because the plants may need touch-up application, especially in dense stands since subdominant plants are protected by thick canopy & may not receive adequate herbicide in the first application.

Methods:

Use glyphosate formulations only. Cut Phragmites at waist-height just before onset of tassel stage. Immediately squeeze/inject 5 mil of 50% solution of glyphosate into each individual, freshly-cut stem. Secure all cut plant material, remove from site and dispose of at approved landfill or incinerator. 50% solution of glyphosate equates to a one to one mix with distilled water. After 2 to 3 weeks following application of glyphosate, cut or mow down the stalks to stimulate the emergence and growth of other plants previously suppressed. Use spray bottle for individual foliar spot treatments or use swab or syringe w/large gauge needle or Nalgene® Unitary® wash bottle (or equivalent) to apply 1-2 drops directly to cut stems if cutting done first, or cloth glove applicator.

Cautions:

This herbicide is not selective (kills both monocots & dicots), thus should be applied carefully to prevent killing of non-target species. All tank mixes should be mixed with clean (ideally distilled) water because glyphosate binds tightly to sediments, which reduces toxicity to plants.

Do not apply in windy conditions because spray will drift and kill other plants. Do not apply if rain is forecast w/in 12 hours because herbicide will be washed away before it can act. Choose appropriate glyphosate formulation for applications in standing water or along a shoreline.

3. Plastic*

* This is a temporary use of plastic sheeting on Forest Preserve lands and should be used only if other non-herbicide approaches are considered less effective. In any case where plastic sheeting is used on Forest Preserve lands signing should be employed to explain the project should be provided.

Effectiveness:

Tarping can be effective in small stands i.e.: <100 plants, low-med density(1-75%area). Plants die off w/in 3-10 days, depending on sun exposure.

Methods:

Cut plants first to 6-8" (hand clippers or loppers, hand-pushed bush hog or weed whacker w/blade). After cutting a stand of phragmites, anchor a sheet of plastic over the cut area using sand bags or rocks. High temperatures under the plastic will eventually kill off the plants. This technique works best when the treated area is in direct sunlight. Black plastic is desirable, but clear plastic also works. Plastic should be at least 6 millimeters thick.

Hold plastic in place with sandbags, rocks, etc. Can treat runners along edge w/spot application of glyphosate. Cut holes in plastic in Oct.- Nov. to promote germination of cattail shoots. The plastic can be removed the following year when the covered plants have been killed. A few phragmites shoots may return. These can be cut or hand-pulled.

Cautions:

Must monitor to determine if shoots are extending out from under the plastic.

Disposal:

Can leave cut material under plastic or bag all plant parts & remove from site (compost at DOT Residency, dispose of in approved landfill or incinerate with appropriate permits. All plastic sheeting must be removed from State lands.

Sanitation:

Clean all clothing, boots, & equipment to prevent spread of seed. See #4 under General Practices.

4. Cutting

Effectiveness:

Can be effective in small stands i.e.<100 plants, low-med density (1-75%area) & <3 acres.

Methods:

Cut just before the end of July, most of the food reserves produced that season are removed with the aerial portion of the plant reducing the plant's vigor. This regime may eliminate a colony if carried out annually for several years. Can do after herbicides.

Sanitation:

Clean all clothing, boots, & equipment to prevent spread of seed. See #4 under General Practices.

5. Pulling

Effectiveness:

Can be effective in small stands i.e.<100 plants. Very labor intensive. Best with sandy soils.

Methods:

Hand-pull plants<2 years old. Use shovel for plants>2 years old-dig up plant, then replace soil and any existing cover.

Disposal:

Bag all plant parts & remove from site (compost at DOT Residency, dispose of in approved landfill or incinerate with appropriate permits).

Sanitation:

Clean all clothing, boots, & equipment to prevent spread of seed. See #4 under General Practices.

6. Excavation

Effectiveness:

Can be effective for patches up to acre. Cost is the limiting factor.

Methods:

When working in wetlands only tracked equipment shall be used. Rubber-tired excavators can operate from adjacent pavement or upland areas. All use of motorized equipment on State lands under the jurisdiction of the DEC within the Adirondack Park shall be in compliance with Commissioner's Policy Number 17 (CP17), and other pertinent DEC policy regarding the use of motorized equipment on Forest Preserve Lands.

Cautions:

The patch should be excavated to below the depth of rhizome development. Follow-ups later in the season or the following year must be conducted to verify that all the plants have been removed.

Disposal:

Bag all plant parts & remove from site (compost at DOT Residency, dispose of in approved landfill or incinerate with appropriate permits).

Sanitation:

Clean all clothing, boots, & equipment to prevent spread of seed. See #4 under General Practices.

CONTROL METHODS FOR GARLIC MUSTARD (*Alliaria petiolata*)

Plant Description

Garlic mustard is a naturalized European biennial herb that typically invades partially shaded forested and roadside areas. It is capable of dominating the ground layer and excluding other herbaceous species. Its seeds germinate in early spring and develops a basal rosette of leaves during the first year. Garlic mustard produces white flowers between late April and June of the following spring. Plants die after producing seeds, which typically mature and disperse in August. Normally its seeds are dormant for 20 months and germinate the second spring after being formed. Seeds remain viable for up to 5 years.

Management Options

1. Pulling.

Effectiveness:

Hand pulling is an effective method for removing small populations of garlic mustard, since plants pull up easily in most forested habitats. Plants can be pulled during most of the year. However, pulling also disturbs the soil and can increase rates of germination of buried seeds. In most cases cutting is the preferred hand control option.

Methods:

Soil should be tamped down firmly after removing the plant. Soil disturbance can bring garlic mustard seeds to the surface, thus creating a favorable environment for their germination.

Cautions:

Care should be taken to minimize soil disturbance but to remove all root tissues. Re-sprouting is uncommon but may occur from mature plants not entirely removed. Cutting is preferred to pulling due to potential for soil disturbance.

Disposal:

If plants have capsules present, they should be bagged and disposed of to prevent seed dispersal. Bag all plant parts & remove from site (compost at DOT Residency, dispose of in approved landfill or incinerate with appropriate permits).

Sanitation:

Clean all clothing, boots, & equipment to prevent spread of seed. See #4 under General Practices.

2. Cutting

Effectiveness:

Cutting is effective for medium-to large-sized populations depending on available time and labor resources. Dormant seeds in the soil seed bank are unaffected by this technique due to minimal disturbance of the soil.

Methods:

Cut stems when in flower (late spring/early summer) at ground level either manually (with clippers or a scythe) or with a motorized string trimmer. This technique will result in almost total mortality of existing plants and will minimize re-sprouting.

Cautions:

Cuttings should be conducted annually until the seedbank is depleted.

Disposal:

Cut stems should be removed from the site when possible since they may produce viable seed even when cut. Bag all plant parts & remove from site (compost at DOT Residency, dispose in approved landfill or incinerate with appropriate permits).

Sanitation:

Clean all clothing, boots, & equipment to prevent spread of seed. See #4 under General Practices.

3. Herbicide

Effectiveness:

Glyphosate will not affect subsequent seedling emergence of garlic mustard or other plants.

Methods:

Use glyphosate formulations only. Should be applied after seedlings have emerged, but prior to flowering of second-year plants. Application should be by wick applicator or spray bottle for individual spot treatments.

Cautions:

This herbicide is not selective (kills both monocots & dicots), thus should be applied carefully to prevent killing of non-target species. All tank mixes should be mixed with clean (ideally distilled) water because glyphosate binds tightly to sediments, which reduces toxicity to plants. Do not apply in windy conditions because spray will drift and kill other plants. Do not apply if rain is forecast w/in 12 hours because herbicide will be washed away before it can act. Choose appropriate glyphosate formulation for applications in standing water or along a shoreline.

CONTROL METHODS FOR JAPANESE KNOTWEED (*Polygonum cuspidatum*)

Plant Description

Japanese knotweed is an herbaceous perennial which forms dense clumps 1-3 meters (3-10 feet) high. Its broad leaves are somewhat triangular and pointed at the tip. Clusters of tiny greenish-white flowers are borne in upper leaf axils during August and September. The fruit is a small, brown triangular achene. Knotweed reproduces via seed and by vegetative growth through stout, aggressive rhizomes. It spreads rapidly to form dense thickets that can alter natural ecosystems. Japanese knotweed can tolerate a variety of adverse conditions including full shade, high temperatures, high salinity, and drought. It is found near water sources, in low-lying areas, waste places, and utility rights of way. It poses a significant threat to riparian areas, where it can survive severe floods.

Management Options

1. Digging

Effectiveness:

This method is appropriate for very small populations.

Methods:

Remove the entire plant including all roots and runners using a digging tool. Juvenile plants can be hand-pulled depending on soil conditions and root development.

Cautions:

Care must be taken not to spread rhizome or stem fragments. Any portions of the root system or the plant stem not removed will potentially re-sprout.

Disposal:

All plant parts, including mature fruit, should be bagged and disposed of in the trash to prevent re-establishment (i.e. stockpile at DOT Residency with prior approval, dispose of in an approved landfill or incinerate with appropriate permits).

Sanitation:

Clean all clothing, boots, & equipment to prevent spread of seed. See #4 under General Practices.

2. Cutting

Effectiveness:

Repeated cutting may be effective in eliminating Japanese knotweed. Manual control is labor intensive, but is a good option where populations are small and isolated or in environmentally sensitive areas.

Methods:

Cut the knotweed close to the ground at least 3 times a year. Plant locally prevalent native species as competitors as an alternative to continued treatment.

Cautions:

This strategy must be carried out for several years to obtain success. Both mechanical and herbicidal control methods require continued treatment to prevent reestablishment of knotweed.

Disposal:

Bag all plant parts & remove from site (i.e. stockpile at DOT Residency with prior approval, dispose of in an approved landfill or incinerate with appropriate permits).

Sanitation:

Clean all clothing, boots, & equipment to prevent spread of seed. See #4 under General Practices.

3. Herbicide

Effectiveness:

Glyphosate or trichlopyr treatments in late summer or early fall are much more effective in preventing regrowth of Japanese knotweed the following year.

Methods:

Use glyphosate or trichlopyr formulations only.

Strategy:

- 1) Late June - Cut down stalks. If stem injection is used stalks do not have to be cut.
- 2) Allow knotweed to regrow.
- 3) After August 1, implement foliar spray, cut stem swab or stem injection of knotweed with glyphosate or trichlopyr. Stem injection should be below the 2nd node above the ground level.

Cautions:

Established stands of Japanese knotweed are difficult to eradicate even with repeated herbicide treatments. However, herbicide treatments will greatly weaken the plant and prevent it from dominating a site. Adequate control is usually not possible unless the entire stand of knotweed is treated (otherwise, it will re-invade via creeping rootstocks from untreated areas). Empirical evidence is that trichlopyr is more effective than glyphosate in causing Japanese knotweed mortality.

These herbicides are not selective (kills both monocots & dicots), thus should be applied carefully to prevent killing of non-target species. All tank mixes should be mixed with clean (ideally distilled) water because glyphosate binds tightly to sediments, which reduces toxicity to plants.

Do not apply in windy conditions because spray will drift and kill other plants. Do not apply if rain is forecast w/in 12 hours because herbicide will be washed away before it can act. Choose appropriate glyphosate formulation for applications in standing water or along a shoreline.

APPENDIX 13 – TRAIL CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM

CLASS	EXAMPLE	MARKING	TREAD	BARRIERS	USE LEVEL	ACCEPTABLE MAINTENANCE
I Unmarked Route	Fisherman's path along South Inlet	None	Intermittently apparent, relatively undisturbed organic soil horizon	Natural obstructions present, logs and water courses	Occasional	None
II Path	Trail to Slim Pond	Intermittent	Intermittently apparent, compaction of duff, mineral soils occasionally exposed	Same as unmarked route	Low, varies by location	Intermittent marking with consideration given to appropriate layout based on drainage, occasional barrier removal only to define appropriate route.
III Primitive	Trail to Wilson Pond	Trail markers, sign at junction with secondary or other upper level trail	Apparent, soil compaction evident	Limited natural obstructions (logs and river fords)	Low	Drainage (native materials) where necessary to minimize erosion, blowdown removed 2-3 years, brushing as necessary to define trail (every 5-10 years). Bridges only to protect resource (max - 2 log width). Ladders only to protect exceptionally steep sections, tread 14"-18", clear: 3' wide, 3' high.
IV Secondary	Wakely Mountain Trail	Markers, signs with basic information	Likely worn and possibly quite eroded. Rocks exposed, little or no duff remaining	Up to one year's accumulated blowdown, small streams.	Moderate	Drainage where needed to halt erosion and limit potential erosion (using native materials), tread hardening with native materials where drainage proves to be insufficient to control erosion. Remove blowdown annually. Brush to maintain trail corridor. Higher use may warrant greater use of bridges (2-3 logs wide) for resource protection. Ladders on exceptionally steep rock faces. Tread 18"-24". Clear 4' wide, 3' High.
V Trunk or Primary Trail	None in unit.	Markers, signed with more information and warnings.	Wider tread, worn and very evident. Rock exposed, possibly very eroded.	Obstructions only rarely, small streams	High	Same as above; Plus: regular blowdown removal on designated ski trails, non-native materials as last resort, Extensive tread hardening when needed, bridge streams (2-4 logs wide) difficult to cross during high water, priority given to stream crossings below concentrations of designated camping. Tread 18"-26", clear 6' wide, 8' high, actual turn piking limited to 2% of trail length.
VI Front Country	None in unit.	Heavily marked, detailed interpretive signing	Groomed	None	Very High	Extensive grooming, some paving, bark chips, accessible for people with disabilities. This is to be implemented within 500' of wilderness boundary.
VII Horse Trail	None in unit.	Marked as Trunk or Secondary	Wide tread, must be rather smooth.	Same as Trunk Trail.	Moderate to High	Same as trunk trail, except use techniques appropriate for horses. Bridges: 6' minimum width with kick rails, nonnative dimensional materials preferred. Tread: 2'-4' wide, clear 8' wide, 10' high.
VIII	Ski Trail	Sagamore trails. Marked High. Special markers, sign at all junctions with hiking trails.	Duff remains. Discourage summer use	Practically none due to hazards.	High	Focus on removal of obstructions, maintenance should be low profile, tread determined by clearing 6' (Should be slightly wider at turns and steep sections. Provide drainage using native materials to protect resource.

APPENDIX 14 – ALTERNATIVES: NORTHVILLE-LAKE PLACID TRAIL RELOCATION

0. NO ACTION: MAINTAIN THE CURRENT TRAIL LOCATION

Advantages: Maintaining the current route would require no trail construction. Keeping people on the part of the route on Cedar River Road would minimize the physical and biological impacts of public use on Forest Preserve lands. Existing maps and guidebooks would not need to be revised. The current route is the alternative with the least overall length.

Disadvantages: Of all the alternatives, this one would require the longest road walk, and therefore the greatest length of trail shared with potentially conflicting uses - automobiles and snowmobiles. The trail segment just north of the point where the trail enters the Blue Ridge Wilderness from private land crosses an extensive wetland which can be avoided by the other alternatives. Most importantly, because the private property formerly owned by McCane has been sold, and the new owner has requested that the trail be removed from the property, the trail must be relocated. Therefore, the no-action alternative is not open for consideration.

1. **EXISTING TRAIL TO PAYNE BROOK, OLD ROAD TO WAKELY DAM, SNOWMOBILE TRAIL, EAST SIDE METCALF MOUNTAIN AND BLUE RIDGE:** Heading northerly along the west side of Cedar River Flow, this route would depart from the existing route at Payne Brook, where it would follow an old road reported to lie between Limekiln Lake-Cedar River Road and the shore of the Flow heading northeasterly to Wakely Dam. It would cross the dam and proceed along an existing snowmobile trail that runs northeasterly on the east side of the Cedar River, first through State, then private lands. The snowmobile trail forms the boundary between the Moose River Plains Wild Forest and West Canada Lake Wilderness. The trail would cross the Cedar River on an existing bridge east of Sugarloaf Mountain, emerge on Cedar River Road, head northerly on the road for approximately one-quarter mile, leave the road heading westerly across private land on an old road that is a deeded right-of-way into the Blue Ridge Wilderness. New trail would be constructed along the southeasterly flank of Metcalf Mountain heading northeasterly just inside the Forest Preserve boundary. The route would pass through the notch between Metcalf and Round Top Mountains, pass to the north of Round Top and along the foot of Blue Ridge toward Stephens Pond.

The original version of this alternative contemplated following the snowmobile trail farther northeasterly within the private land to a second crossing, where the trail would emerge onto Cedar River Road and on to McCane's. However, because the new owner of McCane's would like the trail to be relocated from the property, this version is not being considered.

Advantages: The route would eliminate all but about one-quarter mile of the walk on Cedar River Road. It would follow an existing trail to Payne Brook, then an old road to Wakely Dam, a short walk on Cedar River Road, then a road into

the Blue Ridge Wilderness, leaving only about six miles of new trail construction. The route would pass through the camping area at Wakely Dam. Much of the potential route northeast of Metcalf Mountain has been scouted and found to be suitable for trail construction and use.

Disadvantages: Though most of the walking on Cedar River Road would be eliminated, some road walking would remain. The route would include approximately one quarter mile of road walking at the foot of Sugarloaf Mountain. The route crosses private lands leased for hunting. Because lessees might be concerned about attracting the public to leased areas, the landowner might not be willing to give permission for the use of the part of the trail route on the east side of the Cedar River. There are reported to be a number of wet sections on the snowmobile trail. Fairly heavy snowmobile use would conflict with winter pedestrian use. The snowmobile trail route within the private lands is open to motor vehicle use by the landowner and lessees. Roads in the Moose River Plains Wild Forest may legally be designated for bicycle, snowmobile and motor vehicle use by people with disabilities. Should such uses not be proposed for segments of this route within the Moose River Plains Wild Forest because of its NP Trail designation, the potential for various wild forest uses would be restricted.

- 1.b. EAST SIDE CEDAR RIVER FLOW TO WAKELY DAM, SNOWMOBILE TRAIL, EAST SIDE METCALF MOUNTAIN AND BLUE RIDGE:** From the point where the existing trail touches the south end of Cedar River Flow, a new trail would be constructed along the east shore of the flow in the West Canada Lake Wilderness to Wakely Dam. The route would then proceed exactly as in alternative 1, going northeasterly along the snowmobile trail on the east side of the Cedar River, moving from Forest Preserve to private lands, then cross the Cedar River and Cedar River Road into the Blue Ridge Wilderness, heading northeasterly toward Stephens Pond.

Advantages: Construction of this route would complete a loop trail around Cedar River Flow. New camping opportunities on the east shore would be available for travelers, and the route would pass through the camping area at Wakely Dam. Because the trail on the east side of the Flow would be in wilderness, it would be restricted to foot travel. Because it would be constructed as a trail, it would have more trail character than the existing route along the west side of the Flow, which follows active and former roads. The new trail could take advantage of an existing path along an old road between Buell Brook and Wakely Dam.

Disadvantages: Because the part of this route north of Wakely Dam is the same route as the one described in alternative 1, it would have the same disadvantages. In addition, this route would require nearly two miles of new trail construction along the east side of the Flow, for a total of approximately eight miles of new trail. The new segment on the east side of the Flow also would involve the opening up of over two and one-half miles of former roads and

probably would require the construction of a foot bridge 30 to 40 feet long over the Cedar River, which is classified scenic at the proposed crossing point. Wetlands along Buell Brook may necessitate a significant trail detour.

2. **EXISTING ROUTE TO PAYNE BROOK, OLD ROAD TO WAKELY DAM, WAKELY MOUNTAIN TRAIL, EAST SIDE METCALF MOUNTAIN AND BLUE RIDGE:** The existing route northerly along the west shore of Cedar River Flow to Payne Brook would remain in place. At Payne Brook the route would depart from the existing route, heading northeasterly to Wakely Dam on an old road reported to lie between Limekiln Lake-Cedar River Road and the shore of the Flow. The route would continue northerly on Cedar River Road to the Wakely Mountain trailhead, then shoot up the Wakely Mountain trail for approximately one mile. It would leave the Wakely Mountain trail, heading northerly on an old road known as the Gould road. The trail would leave the Gould road and the Moose River Plains Wild Forest and head northerly into the Blue Ridge Wilderness on an old spur road along the southeasterly flank of Metcalf Mountain. From a point where the old road becomes indistinct, new trail would be constructed just inside the State land boundary going northeasterly. The route would pass through the notch between Metcalf and Round Top Mountains and pass on the north side of Round Top, work its way along the foot of Blue Ridge and on toward Stephens Pond.

Advantages: The entire route would be on Forest Preserve land. All but about one-quarter mile of walking on Cedar River Road would be eliminated. It would be less than a mile longer than the existing route. A substantial part of the route would follow existing trails and old roads, leaving only a little more than five miles of new trail to be constructed. The route would depart the Wakely Mountain trail before the half-mile segment of wet trail east of the foot of the mountain. It would continue to pass through the camping area at Wakely Dam. A side trip to the summit of Wakely Mountain would be a convenient option for through travelers.

Disadvantages: Much of the route would follow active and former roads, whose character is less desirable than parts of the route constructed according to foot trail standards. Roads in the Moose River Plains Wild Forest may legally be designated for bicycle, snowmobile and motor vehicle use by people with disabilities. Should such uses not be proposed for segments of this route within the Moose River Plains Wild Forest because of its NP Trail designation, the potential for various wild forest uses would be restricted.

- 2.b. **EAST SIDE CEDAR RIVER FLOW TO WAKELY MOUNTAIN TRAIL, EAST SIDE METCALF MOUNTAIN AND BLUE RIDGE:** In this variation of alternative 2, the existing trail would be relocated from the west side to the east side of Cedar River Flow, where a new trail would be constructed. The route from Wakely Dam northward would be the same.

Advantages: All but approximately one quarter mile of road walk would be eliminated. The entire route would be on Forest Preserve land. It would be only about a half-mile longer than the existing route, the shortest of all the other alternatives. New camping opportunities on Cedar River Flow could be made available to travelers, adding to the available camping capacity at Wakely Dam. The new trail could take advantage of an existing path between Buell Brook and Wakely Dam, as well as part of the existing trail up Wakely Mountain. Construction of this route would complete a loop trail around Cedar River Flow. Because the trail on the east side of the Flow would be in wilderness, it would be restricted to foot travel. Because it would be constructed as a trail, it would have more trail character than the existing route along the west side of the Flow, which follows an old road.

Disadvantages: Though most of the walk on Cedar River Road would be obviated, approximately one quarter mile still would be required. In addition, this route would require nearly two miles of new trail construction along the east side of the Flow, for a total of approximately seven miles of new trail. The new segment on the east side of the Flow also would involve the opening up of over two and one-half miles of former roads and probably would require the construction of a foot bridge 30 to 40 feet long over the Cedar River, which is classified scenic at the proposed crossing point. Wetlands along Buell Brook may necessitate a significant trail detour.

3. **EXISTING ROUTE TO PAYNE BROOK, OLD ROAD TO WAKELY DAM, GOULD ROAD, EAST SIDE METCALF MOUNTAIN AND BLUE RIDGE:** This alternative would preserve the existing route going northerly along the west shore of Cedar River Flow to Payne Brook. At Payne Brook the route would depart from the existing route, heading northeasterly to Wakely Dam on an old road reported to lie between Limekiln Lake-Cedar River Road and the shore of the Flow. The route would follow Cedar River Road for a little more than a mile, then head northwesterly on an existing forest road, known as the Gould road, just north of Wakely Pond. This road is the boundary between the Blue Ridge Wilderness and the Moose River Plains Wild Forest. The route then would leave the Gould road and head northerly into the Blue Ridge Wilderness on an old spur road along the southeasterly flank of Metcalf Mountain. From a point where the old road becomes indistinct, new trail would be constructed just inside the State land boundary going northeasterly. The route would pass through the notch between Metcalf and Round Top Mountains and pass on the north side of Round Top, work its way along the foot of Blue Ridge and on toward Stephens Pond.

Advantages: The entire route would be on Forest Preserve land. A substantial amount of road walking would be eliminated. Substantial parts of the route would follow active and former roads, reducing the need for new trail construction. The route would be only about a mile longer than the existing route. It would continue to pass through the camping area at Wakely Dam.

Disadvantages: The route would involve walking more than a mile on Cedar River Road. Much of the route would follow active and former roads, whose character is less desirable than parts of the route constructed according to foot trail standards. The Gould road is open to public motor vehicle use, though the Moose River Plains Wild Forest UMP will propose that it be blocked. Roads in the Moose River Plains Wild Forest may legally be designated for bicycle, snowmobile and motor vehicle use by people with disabilities. Should such uses not be proposed for segments of this route within the Moose River Plains Wild Forest because of its NP Trail designation, the potential for various wild forest uses would be restricted.

- 3.b. EAST SIDE CEDAR RIVER FLOW TO GOULD ROAD, EAST SIDE METCALF MOUNTAIN AND BLUE RIDGE:** In this variation of alternative 3, instead of the existing route remaining in place on the west side of Cedar River Flow, a new trail would be established on the east side from the south end of the Flow to Wakely Dam.

Advantages: All but a little more than a mile of walking on Cedar River Road would be eliminated. The entire route would be on Forest Preserve land. It would be less than a mile longer than the existing route. New camping opportunities on Cedar River Flow could be made available to travelers, adding to the available camping capacity at Wakely Dam. The new trail could take advantage of an existing path between Buell Brook and Wakely Dam, as well as segments of old roads. Construction of this route would complete a loop trail around Cedar River Flow. Because the trail on the east side of the Flow would be in wilderness, it would be restricted to foot travel. Because it would be constructed as a trail, it would have more trail character than the existing route along the west side of the Flow, which follows an old road.

Disadvantages: Though most of the walk on Cedar River Road would be obviated, a little more than a mile still would be required. In addition, this route would require nearly two miles of new trail construction along the east side of the Flow, for a total of approximately seven miles of new trail. The new segment on the east side of the Flow also would involve the opening up of over two and one-half miles of former roads and probably would require the construction of a foot bridge 30 to 40 feet long over the Cedar River, which is classified scenic at the proposed crossing point. Wetlands along Buell Brook may necessitate a significant trail detour.

- 4. WILSON RIDGE, EAST SIDE WAKELY AND METCALF MOUNTAINS, BLUE RIDGE:** Heading north from the West Canada Lake Wilderness, this route would depart the existing trail just north of the south end of Cedar River Flow, head westerly into the Moose River Plains Wild Forest along the south flank of Wilson Ridge on the Wilson Ridge road to Limekiln Lake-Cedar River Road, then follow Limekiln Lake-Cedar River Road easterly for approximately 1.4 miles. It would then head northerly on the Cellar Pond road along the east flank of Cellar

Mountain for about 0.7 mile, depart from the road going generally northeastward on an old road along the southeast flanks of Wakely and Metcalf Mountains, enter the Blue Ridge Wilderness and pass through the notch to the north side of Round Top Mountain, then make its way along the foot of Blue Ridge toward Stephens Pond. The route also could include the routes described in alternatives 6 and 7.

Advantages: The entire route would be on Forest Preserve land. Most of the route would follow existing and former roads, where trail construction work would be minimal. It is thought that there might be opportunities for views from various points along the flanks of Wakely and Metcalf Mountains. Should this route be chosen, a proposed new route to the summit of Wakely Mountain would become a convenient side trip for through-travelers. (The new route would follow the Cellar Pond road to Cellar Pond, then proceed northeasterly along the top of the ridge to the summit. This route would ascend the mountain more gradually than the existing route up the fall line.)

Disadvantages: Because much of this connecting route would follow roads, including about 1.4 miles on Cedar River Road, it would not have the character most appropriate for a foot trail. The Wilson Ridge road is open to motor vehicle use by members of the Little Moose Lake Club until their lease expires in 2006. This alternative would add the longest distance to the trail because it would involve a wide swing around Wilson Ridge to avoid a direct climb up its steep flanks. A long side trip would be required to the camping area at Wakely Dam. Roads in the Moose River Plains Wild Forest may legally be designated for bicycle, snowmobile and motor vehicle use by people with disabilities. Should such uses not be proposed for segments of this route within the Moose River Plains Wild Forest because of its NP Trail designation, the potential for various wild forest uses would be restricted.

5. **PAYNE BROOK VALLEY, EAST SIDE WAKELY AND METCALF MOUNTAINS, BLUE RIDGE:** The route of this alternative would depart from the present route near the point where the trail heading northerly along the west side of Cedar River Flow emerges onto Limekiln Lake-Cedar River Road. The route would cross Limekiln Lake-Cedar River Road and go northwesterly within the Moose River Plains Wild Forest along a road roughly paralleling Payne Brook, then continue westerly on new trail, swing northerly then northeasterly along an old road on the contour along the southeasterly flank of Wakely Mountain, proceed through the notch between Wakely and Payne Mountains and move on northeasterly along the foot of Wakely and Metcalf Mountains, enter the Blue Ridge Wilderness and pass through the notch to the north side of Round Top Mountain, then make its way along the foot of Blue Ridge toward Stephens Pond.

Advantages: This route would entirely eliminate the need to walk on Cedar River Road. The entire route would be on Forest Preserve land. It would take advantage of an old road in the Payne Brook valley, as well as a number of other old roads. It is thought that there might be opportunities for views from various

points along the flank of Wakely Mountain. The construction of this route would give through-hikers the option of taking this route or walking a shorter route on Cedar River Road to the current Wakely Mountain trailhead, then up the Wakely Mountain trail to intersect the new route. It also would allow campers at Wakely Dam to walk a loop by heading up the Wakely Mountain trail, then down Payne Brook and back along Limekiln Lake-Cedar River Road. Should this route be chosen, a proposed new route to the summit of Wakely Mountain would become a convenient side trip for through-travelers. (The new route would follow the Cellar Pond road to Cellar Pond, then proceed northeasterly along the top of the ridge to the summit. This route would ascend the mountain more gradually than the existing route up the fall line.)

Disadvantages: The route would involve old roads, though they are growing in and taking on the character of a foot trail. The Payne Brook road is open to public motor vehicle use, though blowdown now impedes travel and the Moose River Plains Wild Forest UMP will propose that it be blocked. The Payne Brook road passes through the center of a large historical deer wintering area, though it is not likely that the low levels of anticipated winter use would have a significant impact on deer. Travelers would have to take a detour of approximately 1.5 miles along Limekiln Lake-Cedar River Road to reach the camping area at Wakely Dam. Roads in the Moose River Plains Wild Forest may legally be designated for bicycle, snowmobile and motor vehicle use by people with disabilities. Should such uses not be proposed for segments of this route within the Moose River Plains Wild Forest because of its NP Trail designation, the potential for various wild forest uses would be restricted.

6. **WAKELY-METCALF RIDGE:** This is a trail segment that could become part of either alternative 4 or 5. It would begin on the Cellar Pond road, proceed to Cellar Pond, then go northeasterly along the top of the ridge to the summit of Wakely Mountain. From the summit, the trail would push on northeasterly, generally following the entire ridge line for more than six miles, drop into the notch between Metcalf and Round Top Mountains, pass to the north of Round Top and follow along the foot of Blue Ridge and on toward Stephens Pond. The route begins in the Moose River Plains Wild Forest, but is mostly within the Blue Ridge Wilderness and WMPA.

Advantages: This route would include a visit to the Wakely Mountain fire tower (should it be retained). The construction of this route would allow for a new approach to the Wakely Mountain summit from Cellar Pond northeasterly up the ridge line. The new route would ascend the mountain more gradually than the existing route up its steep southeast flank.

Disadvantages: Making a passage over Wakely and Metcalf Mountains would involve fairly strenuous climbing, especially for through-hikers wearing heavy backpacks. Some NP Trail historians suggest that the trail was intended to be a lowland route. The route would involve significant new trail construction in what

appears to be a dense continuous forest of red spruce and balsam fir. It appears that the forest cover is closed along the ridge, and it is likely that there would be few opportunities for views from the trail. Most of the route would be within the Adirondack Subalpine Forest Bird Conservation Area (BCA), which includes all lands in Hamilton County above 2,800 feet.

7. **WEST SIDE OF WAKELY AND METCALF MOUNTAINS:** This is another trail segment that could become part of either alternative 4 or 5. It would veer off the road to Cellar Pond going northwesterly, then northeasterly. The trail would descend gradually and then continue along the bottom of the northwesterly flanks of Wakely and Metcalf Mountains. The trail would continue northeasterly, passing to the north of Round Top, along the foot of Blue Ridge and on toward Stephens Pond. Though it begins in the Moose River Plains Wild Forest, the route is almost entirely within the Blue Ridge Wilderness.

Advantages: The route would open a large unexplored valley of old growth forest to discovery by hikers. It would be a lowland route, which might be preferred by some NP Trail historians. Should this route be chosen, a proposed new route to the summit of Wakely Mountain would become a convenient side trip for through-travelers. (The new route would follow the Cellar Pond road to Cellar Pond, then proceed northeasterly along the top of the ridge to the summit. This route would ascend the mountain more gradually than the existing route up the fall line.)

Disadvantages: This route would involve significant new trail construction. Of all the alternatives, it would penetrate farthest into the trailless interior of the Blue Ridge Wilderness. According to available inventory information, significant portions of the area traversed by the route are covered by dense spruce-fir forest that would make trail construction difficult and have limited visual appeal for travelers. Wetlands associated with Cellar Brook may make a trail crossing impracticable, requiring a long detour northwest of Cellar Pond. Situated on the northwest side of the mountain, it is likely that this route would retain snow later in the year than the alternative routes on the summit or the south side.

COMPARISON OF ALTERNATIVES AND SELECTION OF A PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

A review of the 13 alternative routes for the NP Trail selected for consideration shows that each has advantages and disadvantages. Table 13 gives a comparison of the alternatives in terms of relative mileages in various categories. The distances were derived by map measurement of hypothetical routes and are presented for general comparison purposes only. In comparing alternatives, their benefits and drawbacks were weighed in terms of their relevance to the objectives listed previously.

In assessing the alternatives according to the objectives, it was clear that some alternatives should quickly drop out of consideration. If there were no reasonable alternatives to those in which significant distances of walking on a public highway or

across private lands were necessary, then a detailed comparison of alternatives involving road walking or private lands would be in order. However, alternatives 1, 1b, 2 and 2b would require minimal road walking, and alternative 5, with variations involving alternatives 6 and 7, would require no road walking. Of those, alternatives 2, 2b and 5 (with variations 6 and 7) do not cross private lands. Variation 6 drops out of consideration because of its high level of difficulty for through-hikers and the likelihood that few views would reward the climb, and variation 7 suffers from a number of siting difficulties. Therefore, it would appear unnecessary to delve any depth into alternatives other than 2, 2b and 5.

Table 13. Northville-Lake Placid Trail Relocation - Mileages by Category for Each Alternative¹

Trail Category	Mileages by Alternative												
	0	1	1b	2	2b	3	3b	4	4 (6)	4 (7)	5	5 (6)	5 (7)
Cedar River Road	7.6	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	1.1	1.1	1.4	1.4	1.4	0	0	0
DEC Road Open to Public Motor Vehicle Use (Not Cedar River Road)²	0	0	0	0.1	0.1	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.7	0.7	1	1	1
Private Road³	0.2	1.6	1.4	0.2	0	0.2	0	3.7	3.7	3.7	0.2	0.2	0.2
Old Road Not Open to Motor Vehicles	3.2	4.8	2.8	7.6	5.6	6.7	4.7	5.6	1.8	2.8	7.8	3.6	4.6
Existing Trail⁴	1.6	2.3	2.3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
New Trail	0	5.9	7.8	5.2	7.1	5.2	7.1	6.1	9.9	8.8	6.4	11	10
Total Length of Route	13	14.9	14.6	13	13	14	13	18	18	17	15	16	16
Net Mileage	0	2.3	2	0.8	0.5	1.1	0.8	4.9	4.9	4.8	2.8	3.5	3.4

¹For comparison purposes, the starting point of all routes is the south end of Cedar River Flow where the NP trail intersects with the old road heading easterly toward Carry Pond. The ending point is the point near the east end of Blue Ridge where the proposed new route intersects the existing trail northwest of the former McCane's Resort. All distances were derived by map measurement of hypothetical routes and are presented for general comparison purposes only.

²The Moose River Plains Wild Forest UMP includes proposals to gate the Payne Brook, Cellar Pond, Wakely Mountain and Gould roads.

³This category includes the Wilson Ridge road, used for motor vehicle access by members of the Little Moose Lake Club, and roads on private lands north and east of Sugarloaf Mountain. The Wilson Ridge road will no longer be used after the lease expires in 2006.

⁴Mileage figures refer to lengths of trail on Forest Preserve land.

Appendix 14 – Alternatives: Northville-Lake Placid Trail Relocation

Mileage on Private Lands Other Than State Right-of-Way⁵	0.8	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
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¹The road crossing private lands from Cedar River Road to Forest Preserve land north of Sugarloaf Mountain is subject to a deeded right-of-way.

Here is a summary of the alternatives removed from further consideration and the reasons for their elimination.

ALTERNATIVE 0: The fact that the present route of the NP Trail includes an extensive road walk is the reason an alternative location is being sought. Its other major downfall is its crossing of private lands. Because the new owner of the former McCane's Resort wants the trail moved off the property, this alternative is no longer possible.

ALTERNATIVES 1 AND 1B: Both routes cross private lands and use approximately three miles of a designated snowmobile trail.

ALTERNATIVES 3 AND 3B: The Gould road routes are similar to alternatives 2 and 2b, except that they include longer walks on Cedar River Road: 1.1 miles rather than 0.3 miles.

ALTERNATIVE 4: The Wilson Ridge route and its variations would add the greatest length to the trail - almost five miles over the existing route. They would involve 1.4 miles on Cedar River Road and almost four miles on a road providing motor vehicle access to the Little Moose Lake Club, though the use of the road will cease when the lease expires in 2006.

ALTERNATIVE 6: This is a possible variation of alternative 5 (considering alternative 4 to be out of the running). Since the ridge trail would involve a climb to the summit of Wakely Mountain, the level of difficulty for through-hikers wearing heavy backpacks would be sufficiently high to pose a significant obstacle. The climb might be worth the exertion if there were significant view opportunities along the ridge, but preliminary reconnaissance indicated that there are few breaks in the dense forest cover.

ALTERNATIVE 7: Also a possible variation of alternative 5, the route on the west side of Wakely and Metcalf Mountains would penetrate farthest into the trailless interior of the Blue Ridge Wilderness. It appears from available information that the route would traverse dense spruce-fir forest and skirt extensive wetlands, making it difficult to construct and less attractive for hikers. With its northern exposure, snow cover would remain on the trail longer in the spring than on other alternative routes.

To assist in the comparison of the three finalists, existing records of rare animals, rare plants, significant natural communities and significant habitats were reviewed for occurrences in the vicinity. The only occurrence recorded was the presence of loons on Cedar River Flow. The significant habitats identified were historical deer wintering areas and the Adirondack Subalpine Forest Bird Conservation Area (BCA), which includes all lands in Hamilton County above 2,800 feet. There is a historical deer wintering area south and east of Stephens Pond, one surrounding Payne Brook and extending east of the Cedar River, one along the southwestern shore of Cedar River Flow, and one from the south shore southward surrounding the Cedar River. The discussion of each alternative includes references to these occurrences.

ALTERNATIVE 2B: By following new trail to be constructed on the east side of Cedar River Flow, route 2b nearly eliminates the Cedar River Road walk and reduces the mileage on old roads involved in alternatives 2 and 5. At only a half mile longer than the existing route, this is the shortest of all the other alternatives.¹ It also passes through the staging and camping area at Wakely Dam.

The section of new trail that would be constructed on the east side of the Flow would have the long-term benefits of a route created as a hiking trail. It would provide the opportunity for local hiking on a loop trail around the Flow. The trail would be located on the periphery of the West Canada Lake Wilderness, thereby eliminating the potential for conflicts with other types of trail use and affording access for hunting and exploration without drawing large numbers of visitors into the wilderness interior.

The part of the route on the east side of Cedar River Flow would run along the northern edge of a historical deer wintering area extending south of the Flow. The part of the route along the foot of the east end of Blue Ridge, which is identical with alternatives 2 and 5, would run along the western edge of the historical deer wintering area south of Stephens Pond. This route might have less potential impact on the area near Stephens Pond than the existing route, which cuts across one lobe of it. In general however, because winter use of the route is likely to be relatively low, use impacts to deer wintering areas are not likely to be significant. The entire route would lie below an elevation of 2,800 feet, and so outside the Adirondack Subalpine Forest Bird Conservation Area, with the possible exception of a short segment skirting private lands on the northeast end of Metcalf Mountain.

The main drawback of alternative 2b is the amount of new construction in wilderness needed to create the trail on the east side of the Flow. It would require almost two miles more of total new trail construction than alternative 2 and three-quarters of a mile more than alternative 5. The route of the east-side trail has not been scouted. It could follow an old road from Wakely Dam to the area of Buell Brook. However, a significant detour may be required to avoid expansive wetlands flanking the brook. The route probably would require a fairly large foot bridge over the Cedar River at the south end of the Flow. The river at the proposed bridge location is classified scenic. Bridges across other streams crossing the route are likely to be needed.

Because a route on the west side has long been used, the construction of a new route would only be justified to avoid major problems with the existing route. Though there are disadvantages, their magnitude does not appear sufficient to necessitate a major relocation. At present, about a tenth of a mile of the existing trail along the west side of the Flow is available for motor vehicle use by members of the Little Moose Lake Club. But their use will cease when the Club's lease expires in 2006. The MRPWF UMP will propose that the west side route remain open to mountain bicycles and horses, and that

¹All distances were derived by map measurement of routes that have not been laid out in the field. Therefore, the difference in overall length between alternatives 2 and 2b should be considered negligible.

the Wilson Ridge Road be opened to motor vehicle use by people with disabilities holding permits under policy CP-3. However, use by mountain bicycles and horses has been relatively light, and the modest increases in use that may occur as a result of UMP designation is not expected to result in significant conflicts with hikers. Motor vehicle use under CP-3 is also expected to be light, and the route will include only the same tenth of a mile presently used by members of the Little Moose Lake Club. The west side route is a former road and does not have the character of a foot trail. But as the route continues to be maintained to trail standards, it will take on more trail character over time.

Though there would be benefits to the creation of a new trail along the east side of Cedar River Flow, they do not appear to be sufficiently great to justify the relocation of the existing west-side route. The east side trail could be revisited in the West Canada Lake Wilderness UMP.

ALTERNATIVE 5: The greatest benefit of this route is that it totally eliminates the walk on Cedar River Road. The part of the route along the southeast flank of Wakely Mountain might include opportunities for views. The route would link directly with a proposed new trail up Wakely Mountain. It would continue to follow the existing route along the west side of Cedar River Flow. The part of the route along the foot of the east end of Blue Ridge would run along the western edge of the historical deer wintering area south of Stephens Pond, as in alternatives 2 and 2b. Though it is unlikely that the low levels of anticipated winter trail use would have a significant impact on wintering deer, this route would have less potential impact on the area than the existing route, which cuts across one lobe of it. The entire route would lie below an elevation of 2,800 feet, and so outside the Adirondack Subalpine Forest Bird Conservation Area (BCA), with the possible exception of a short segment skirting private lands on the northeast end of Metcalf Mountain.

This route would pass along the edge of a historical deer wintering area along the southwestern shore of Cedar River Flow, as does the existing route. In addition, approximately two miles of it would pass through a historical deer wintering area surrounding Payne Brook north of Limekiln Lake-Cedar River Road. However, because winter plowing on Cedar River Road ends more than five miles before the Payne Brook road intersection, winter use of this trail segment would be limited to a relatively low number of through-hikers, who would have a negligible impact on wintering deer.

The main problem with alternative 5 is that it would exceed the length of the existing route by over two and a half miles, and it would be longer than alternatives 2 and 2b by two miles or more. In addition, through-hikers would have to make a detour of about one and a half miles to the staging and camping area at Wakely Dam. With this route in place, those seeking a quicker route would be able to take the route of alternative 2 along Limekiln Lake-Cedar River Road to Wakely Dam, up the Wakely Mountain trail and beyond, since this route would be assembled through the construction of alternative 5. Nevertheless, the benefits of removing a mere quarter-mile walk on Cedar River Road and the possible views from the southeasterly flank of Wakely are not considered sufficiently powerful to overcome the addition of two miles to the length of the NP Trail.

ALTERNATIVE 2 - THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE: Alternative 2 would be the easiest of the three finalists to execute. Following the existing route along the west side of Cedar River Flow, only a little more than five miles of new trail would have to be built, so the initial cost of the route would be the least. It ranks among the shortest of the alternatives, adding only slightly more than a half mile to the length of the existing route. The new route would pass through the staging and camping area at Wakely Dam. The route of this alternative passes along the edge of a historical deer wintering area along the southwestern shore of Cedar River Flow and through the deer wintering area on the north end of the flow, as does the existing route. The part of the route along the foot of the east end of Blue Ridge would run along the western edge of the historical deer wintering area south of Stephens Pond, as with alternatives 2b and 5. However, this route would have less potential impact on the area than the existing route, which cuts across one lobe of it. In general, because winter trail use would be light, impacts to wintering deer would be minimal. The entire route would lie below an elevation of 2,800 feet, and so outside the Adirondack Subalpine Forest Bird Conservation Area (BCA), with the possible exception of a short segment skirting private lands on the northeast end of Metcalf Mountain.

In comparison with alternative 2b, this route includes more mileage on former and active roads that do not have foot trail character. However, as described in the discussion of alternative 2b, the drawbacks of continuing to use the existing west-side route do not appear sufficiently significant to justify the construction of a new trail on the east side that has the same beginning and ending points and does not differ significantly in length. The benefits of alternative 2, along with its relatively few drawbacks in comparison with the others, led the planning team to select it as the preferred alternative.

Least Cost Path Analysis

Least cost path analysis is a GIS tool that locates the path between two locations that costs the least to traverse, where cost is a function of time, distance or some other criteria defined by the user. Staff of the UMP-GIS Consortium have developed a least cost path tool to assist in the development of management proposals for UMPs. The tool was not available when the original NPT alternative route analysis was conducted. It became available before this plan was finalized, and so was used to test the results of the original analysis.

In applying the least cost path tool, cost values were assigned which reflected the objectives that shaped the original analysis:

1. Minimize the length of the trail on roads open to motor vehicle use.
2. Minimize the length of the trail open to conflicting recreational uses.
3. Maximize the length of the trail on State land rather than private land subject to uncertain landowner permission or activities that would affect the scenic qualities of the trail corridor.
4. Minimize the total length of the trail.

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5. Find a trail location that minimizes the potential for impacts on soils, wetlands, significant habitats and rare species.
6. Use old roads for the trail route to minimize the cost of trail construction, but build new trail if desirable to reduce trail length, reduce significant use conflicts, avoid wet areas or significantly improve the hiking experience.
7. For ease of walking, minimize the length of trail in steep sections and minimize variation in elevation.

When confined to the analysis of the alternative routes originally considered, the tool selected alternative 2, the preferred alternative. The tool was then applied to find a route not confined to the original alternatives. Two sets of costs were used.

The initial analysis was designed to find the best possible route without considering the cost of new trail construction. In this analysis, higher costs were assigned to wetlands, highly erodible areas, high-slope areas and potential deer yard wintering areas. The resulting least cost path is shown as a blue dotted line (LCP1) in Appendix 20, Map 4. This path follows UMP alternative 2 fairly closely, with several minor deviations to avoid wetlands, steep slopes or more circuitous routes.

The second analysis included the cost of new trail construction. This model used the same parameters as LPT1, but assigned the highest cost to roadless areas and the least cost to existing trails that had a trail-like character. The results from this analysis (LCP2) is shown as a red dotted line in Appendix 20, Map 4. LCP2 follows UMP alternative 2 very closely, with only one major difference in the segment about a mile north of Cedar River Flow. The major reason for this difference is that alternative 2 follows a somewhat circuitous route along the Wakely Mountain trail and then the Gould road. However, because LCP2 crosses a wetland in this stretch, alternative 2 may be a better choice for this section of trail.

APPENDIX 15 – ALTERNATIVES: SAGAMORE RUINS

In the analysis of the following alternatives for the treatment of the Sagamore ruins, it is assumed that the former carriage roads in the vicinity of Sagamore will be marked and maintained as foot trails.

ALTERNATIVE 1: Allow the ruins of the structures and improvements within the bounds of the former Sagamore estate to remain, subject to the forces of nature. Take the minimum action needed to remove public safety hazards and leave the valvehouse and powerhouse open for public viewing (the “no action” alternative).

Advantages

1. The ruins of historic structures that are part of Sagamore’s National Historic Landmark designation are retained.
2. The presence of the ruins provides the opportunity for the public to observe the effects of the forces of nature on human works. The ruins are available for Sagamore’s interpretive programs.
3. Because the ruins are within a half-mile of the wilderness boundary, the impact of their presence on wilderness visitors is likely to be less than if they were farther in the interior.
4. The retention of the ruins conforms with provisions of the ECL and PRHPL which promote the preservation and interpretation of historic resources and allows them to be maintained under certain circumstances.
5. There is minimal cost to the State and minimal environmental disturbance.

Disadvantages

1. The presence of the ruins diminishes the wilderness character of the area.
2. The retention of the dam, valvehouse and powerhouse does not comply with the APSLMP prohibition of nonconforming uses in wilderness. The dam does not comply because it has been breached for many years and therefore is not on an “established impoundment.”
3. The ruins pose public safety hazards and expose the Department to liability, though this disadvantage could be addressed through minimal actions to secure the ruins.

ALTERNATIVE 2: Remove the entire hydroelectric complex, including the dam, valvehouse, powerhouse and penstock. Because motor vehicles may not be used in wilderness, demolish the ruins using explosives, motorized equipment and hand tools. Remove rubble using horse-drawn wagons or helicopters with slings. Restore the sites to natural conditions.

Advantages

1. The removal of the hydroelectric ruins restores the wilderness character of the area.
2. The removal of the valvehouse and powerhouse complies with the APSLMP requirement that nonconforming uses be removed from wilderness. Because the dam is not on an “established impoundment,” its removal also complies with this provision.
3. The removal of the dam restores the natural flow of South Inlet.
4. The removal of the ruins is not prohibited by the ECL or PRHPL.
5. The removal of the ruins eliminates public safety hazards and any Department liability exposure, though hazards could be addressed through minimal actions to secure the ruins without removing them.
6. The hardware in the valvehouse and powerhouse could be transferred to a suitable location off State land for use in an interpretive display.

Disadvantages

1. The ruins of historic structures that are part of Sagamore’s National Historic Landmark designation are destroyed.
2. The removal of the ruins eliminates the opportunity for the public to observe the effects of the forces of nature on human works. The ruins no longer are available for Sagamore’s interpretive programs.
3. The demolition and removal of the ruins without the use of motor vehicles is a substantial undertaking causing significant disturbance to the environment.
4. The cost of demolishing and removing the ruins is substantial.

ALTERNATIVE 2B: Demolish the dam, valvehouse and powerhouse. Leave the rubble on site.

Advantages

1. The demolition of the hydroelectric ruins partially restores the wilderness character of the area.
2. The demolition of the dam, valvehouse and powerhouse partially complies with the APSLMP requirement that nonconforming uses be removed from wilderness.
3. The removal of the dam from its position in the river restores the natural flow of South Inlet.
4. The demolition of the ruins reduces public safety hazards, though leaving the rubble on site could pose a different hazard.
5. The hardware in the valvehouse and powerhouse could be transferred to a suitable location off State land for use in an interpretive display.

Disadvantages

1. The ruins of historic structures that are part of Sagamore’s National Historic Landmark designation are destroyed.
2. The demolition of the ruins eliminates the opportunity for the public to observe the effects of the forces of nature on human works. The ruins no longer are available for Sagamore’s interpretive programs.

3. The demolition of the ruins without the use of motor vehicles is a substantial undertaking causing significant disturbance to the environment, though less than if the rubble were to be removed.
4. The cost of demolishing the ruins is substantial, though much less than the cost of demolition combined with removal.

ALTERNATIVE 3: Allow the valvehouse and powerhouse to remain, subject to the forces of nature. Take the minimum action needed to remove public safety hazards and leave the valvehouse and powerhouse open for public viewing. Demolish the dam using motorized equipment and hand tools. Remove rubble using horse-drawn wagons or helicopters with slings, or dispose of the rubble near the dam site. Restore the dam site to natural conditions.

Advantages

1. The removal of the dam restores the natural flow and appearance of South Inlet.
2. The ruins of historic ruins that are part of Sagamore’s National Historic Landmark designation are retained, except for the dam.
3. The presence of the valvehouse and powerhouse ruins provides the opportunity for the public to observe the effects of the forces of nature on human works. The ruins are available for Sagamore’s interpretive programs.
4. Because the ruins are within a half-mile of the wilderness boundary, the impact of their presence on wilderness visitors is likely to be less than if they were farther in the interior.
5. The retention of the valvehouse and powerhouse ruins conforms with provisions of the ECL and PRHPL which promote the preservation and interpretation of historic resources and allows them to be maintained under certain circumstances.
6. The cost to the State and the level of environmental disturbance are less than they would be if the valvehouse and powerhouse also were removed.

Disadvantages

1. It appears that the limited ecological benefits of dam removal would not justify the costs and environmental impacts of a new disturbance to the river system.
2. The removal of part of the Sagamore hydroelectric complex eliminates a component of a National Historic Landmark and diminishes the interpretive value of the hydroelectric complex.
3. The presence of the ruins of the valvehouse and powerhouse diminishes the wilderness character of the area.
4. The retention of the valvehouse and powerhouse does not comply with the APSLMP requirement that nonconforming uses be removed from wilderness.
5. The valvehouse and powerhouse ruins pose public safety hazards and expose the Department to liability, though this disadvantage could be addressed through minimal actions to secure the ruins.

Discussion and Selection of a Preferred Alternative

The alternatives chosen for analysis are considered to represent the full range of possibilities within the context of applicable laws and policies governing wilderness areas in the Forest Preserve.

ALTERNATIVE 2 would do the most to restore the area of the Sagamore hydroelectric ruins to a wilderness condition by removing the entire complex. It would most readily be seen as an action to comply with the APSLMP guidelines requiring that non-conforming uses be removed from wilderness. However, this action would have the substantial disadvantages of the cost and disturbance of the removal activity and the elimination of significant components of Sagamore's National Historic Landmark designation considered vital to Sagamore's educational mission and interpretive programs. The dam is made of concrete and the valvehouse and powerhouse are constructed of concrete and brick. Because of the APSLMP prohibition against the use of motor vehicles, the removal process would present substantial technical difficulties requiring costly solutions. It is likely that the process of demolishing the valvehouse and powerhouse would begin with the use of explosives. Detonation could result in the scattering of debris and damage to vegetation. The reduction of large pieces of the dam and the two buildings to sizes that could be moved by hand into horse carts or helicopter slings, if helicopter access proved possible, probably would be a lengthy and arduous process involving the use of hand tools and small power equipment. It would be difficult to protect the large steel turbines and other hardware, proposed by some for removal to a suitable site as part of an interpretive display, from damage during building demolition. The removal of the hardware by helicopter would be possible but difficult. Considering the seclusion of the ruins, the low level of use anticipated on the Powerhouse trail, and the minimal impact of the ruins on the operation of natural processes, the benefits of removal do not appear sufficient to justify the environmental and financial costs and the loss of a significant historic resource.

ALTERNATIVE 2B is the same as alternative 2, except that after the ruins are demolished, the rubble is left on site. This alternative would at least partially restore the natural appearance of the area. It is possible that large amounts of soil could be hauled in or excavated from the local area to allow the rubble to be covered and vegetated. However, because the ruins are largely secluded from public view, the benefits of this action do not appear sufficient to justify the destruction of significant components of a National Historic Landmark.

ALTERNATIVE 3 is a modification of alternative 1. It removes the dam, but allows the valvehouse and powerhouse to remain in place, subject to the forces of nature. The assumption behind this alternative is that the dam interferes with the operation of natural processes more than the two buildings, and that its removal would restore the natural flow and appearance of the river. Undoubtedly the dam is visible to anglers who fish the river. However, the ecological benefits of its removal are questionable. The dam has been breached for many years, and water flows freely around it on both sides. The dam does not serve as a barrier for the movement of fish. The pool impounded by the dam covers

less than an acre. The head of the dam is approximately three or four feet, about the size of the average beaver dam. Soils and the populations of plants and animals in and around the pool impounded by the dam have stabilized. It does not appear that the benefits of removing the dam are sufficient to justify the environmental and financial costs and the loss of an integral part of a significant historic resource.

ALTERNATIVE 1 is the preferred alternative. The ruins of the structures formerly part of the estate of Camp Sagamore serve as concrete examples of the effects of natural processes on human works, and stand as symbols of the historical context of the creation of the Forest Preserve. They are considered by Sagamore Institute to be important assets for Sagamore’s educational mission and interpretive programs. Their presence has minimal impact on the operation of natural processes in the area. Indeed, a key theme of Sagamore’s interpretive message is the powerful influence that natural processes have in returning human works to natural conditions over time. The dam is stable in its ruined state and no longer impedes the natural flow of South Inlet or the movement of fish. The ruins of the hydroelectric structures have minimal visual impact because of their distance from roads and other vantage points, the screening effects of their forested setting, and the light use of the nearby Powerhouse trail. Because the hydroelectric ruins are located within a half-mile of the wilderness boundary, the impacts of their presence on the perceptions of wilderness visitors are likely to be less than they would be if the ruins were located farther in the interior. The minimal safety hazards posed by the unsecured condition of the ruins could be adequately addressed with minimal expense.

The ecological benefits of the removal of the Sagamore hydroelectric ruins would be minimal, and the negative impacts of the existence of the ruins on the wilderness character of the BRW would be limited and localized. Therefore, it appears that the benefits would not be sufficient to justify the financial cost and environmental disturbance involved in the demolition and removal of the ruins.

Historic structures are not listed as conforming structures in the APSLMP guidelines for wilderness. However, the definition of wilderness provides that a wilderness area “may also contain ecological, geological or other features of scientific, educational, scenic or historical value.” In addition, the Special Management Guidelines section provides for special management of certain parcels of land, such as “historic buildings, structures or sites not part of a designated historic area.” The ruins are included in Sagamore’s National Historic Landmark designation and are listed on the State and National Registers of Historic Places. Therefore, their retention would conform with the purposes of the State Historic Preservation Act. However, because it is proposed that the ruins be retained without restoration or maintenance, §14.09 requires that the Department consult with OPRHP concerning the potential impacts of the proposal on the quality of the ruins. The retention of the ruins also would comply with the provisions of ECL §9-0109. It would comply with paragraph a. because the ruins are listed on the State Register of Historic Places. It would comply with paragraph b. because, through the interpretive programs of Sagamore, the ruins would serve the purpose of increasing public understanding of the Forest Preserve, and this purpose would be served without disturbing the existing degree of wild forest character in the area of the ruins. It would

comply with paragraph c. because the ruins would be retained subject to the full operation of natural processes and without the cutting of trees or alteration of the ruin sites to any degree beyond the minimal modifications necessary to address public safety hazards.

APPENDIX 16 – ALTERNATIVES: WAKELY MOUNTAIN FIRE TOWER COMPLEX

The following six alternatives for the treatment of the Wakely Mountain fire tower complex were analyzed.

ALTERNATIVE 1: Do nothing to the Wakely Mountain fire tower complex. Retain the primitive area classification (the “no action” alternative).

Advantages

1. A historic fire tower is retained.
2. The scenic vista on the Wakely Mountain summit is retained as long as the tower holds up and remains open to public use.
3. This alternative is the least expensive because no materials or labor are used.
4. No trees are cut in the WMPA.

Disadvantages

1. Radio coverage in areas of the BRW, MRPWF, and WCLW remains inadequate or non-existent.
2. Deteriorating facilities are a safety hazard and will some day be no more than a historic eyesore.
3. The APSLMP requirement that the area be reclassified to wilderness once the tower is no longer needed is not implemented.

ALTERNATIVE 2: Remove the Wakely Mountain fire tower, observer cabin, and helipad. Reclassify the WMPA to wilderness and incorporate it into the BRW.

Advantages

1. The wilderness character of the WMPA is improved by the removal of structures.
2. The removal of the structures eliminates them as a safety hazard.
3. Because there is no longer a vista from the summit, public use impacts are significantly reduced.
4. No trees are cut in the WMPA.

Disadvantages

1. A historic fire tower is lost.
2. Radio coverage in areas of the BRW, MRPWF, and WCLW remains inadequate or nonexistent.
3. The scenic vista on Wakely Mountain is eliminated unless natural disturbances remove the summit’s vegetative cover. As a result, a mountain summit destination for hikers with the potential to draw use from the heavily-used High Peaks region is eliminated.

ALTERNATIVE 3: Restore the Wakely Mountain fire tower for occasional use as a temporary radio repeater platform when needed by the Department for fire suppression, law enforcement and search and rescue purposes, but otherwise close the tower to public access. Remove the observer cabin. Gate the tower at the base and board up the cab to preserve it. Reconstruct the helipad to maintain helicopter access to the summit for tower maintenance and the temporary installation of portable radio repeaters during forest fire and search and rescue emergencies. In order for helicopters to use the helipad, remove trees (mostly balsam fir and red spruce two to six inches diameter at breast height) within a 50-foot radius of the center of the helipad (0.18 acres). Retain the primitive area classification.

Advantages

1. A historic fire tower is retained.
2. The tower can be used as a temporary radio repeater and observation platform when needed by the Department during forest fires and searches.
3. The tower is secured and is less of a safety hazard because public use is prohibited.
4. Without the scenic vista provided by the fire tower, public use impacts are significantly reduced.
5. The removal of the observer cabin reduces public safety concerns and maintenance costs.

Disadvantages

1. Radio coverage in areas of the BRW, MRPWF, and WCLW remains inadequate or non-existent except when the portable repeater is installed.
2. The scenic vista on Wakely Mountain is eliminated unless natural disturbances remove the summit's vegetative cover. As a result, a mountain summit destination for hikers with the potential to draw use from the heavily-used High Peaks region is eliminated.
3. A clearing of 0.18 acres is maintained to accommodate the landing of helicopters.
4. The removal of the observer cabin eliminates a structure historically associated with the fire tower. The cabin is not available for potential use in the interpretation of the history of the fire tower site.

ALTERNATIVE 4: Restore the fire tower and install a permanent radio repeater in the tower's cab, but close the tower to public access and remove the observer cabin. Gate the tower at the base and board up the cab to preserve it. Reconstruct the helipad to maintain helicopter access to the summit for maintenance of the tower and the radio repeater. In order for helicopters to use the helipad, remove trees (mostly balsam fir and red spruce two to six inches diameter at breast height) within a 50-foot radius of the center of the helipad (0.18 acres). Retain the primitive area classification.

Advantages

1. A historic fire tower is retained.
2. The radio coverage in the BRW, MRPWF, and WCLW is permanently improved.
3. The tower can still be used for fire observation in emergencies, especially at night and at other times when observation flights are not available.
4. Without the scenic vista provided by the fire tower, public use impacts are significantly reduced.
5. The removal of the observer cabin reduces public safety concerns and maintenance costs.

Disadvantages

1. The scenic vista on Wakely Mountain is largely eliminated unless natural disturbances remove the summit's vegetative cover. As a result, a mountain summit destination for hikers with the potential to draw use from the heavily-used High Peaks region is eliminated.
2. A clearing of 0.18 acres is maintained to accommodate the landing of helicopters.
3. The removal of the observer cabin eliminates a structure historically associated with the fire tower. The cabin is not available for potential use in the interpretation of the history of the fire tower site.

ALTERNATIVE 5: Restore the Wakely Mountain fire tower and observer cabin, allow public access to the fire tower, but do not install radio equipment. Reconstruct the helipad to maintain helicopter access to the summit for tower maintenance and the temporary installation of radio repeaters during forest fire or search and rescue emergencies. In order for helicopters to use the helipad, remove trees (mostly balsam fir and red spruce two to six inches diameter at breast height) within a 50-foot radius of the center of the helipad (0.18 acres). Retain the primitive area classification.

Advantages

1. A historic fire tower is retained in original condition, without the addition of radio equipment.
2. The tower can be used as a temporary radio repeater platform when needed by the Department.
3. The scenic vista on the Wakely Mountain summit is retained and enhanced as a destination for hikers with the potential to draw use from the heavily-used High Peaks region.
4. The fire tower complex may be adopted by a “friends group” for maintenance and interpretive purposes.
5. The retention of the observer cabin keeps a structure historically associated with the fire tower in place. The cabin is available for potential use in the interpretation of the history of the fire tower site.

Disadvantages

1. Radio coverage in the BRW, MRPWF, and WCLW remains incomplete or nonexistent in some areas except when the portable repeater is installed.
2. A restored fire tower complex open to the public attracts increased use of the WMPA and results in greater social, physical, and biological impacts.
3. A clearing of 0.18 acres is maintained to accommodate the landing of helicopters.

ALTERNATIVE 6: Restore the fire tower, install a radio repeater in the cab of the tower and leave the tower open to public access. Remove the observer cabin and helipad. Retain the primitive area classification.

Advantages

1. A historic fire tower is retained.
2. The radio coverage in the BRW, MRPWF, and WCLW is permanently improved.
3. The tower is available for use for fire observation.
4. The scenic vista on the Wakely Mountain summit is retained and enhanced as a destination for hikers with the potential to draw use from the heavily-used High Peaks region.
5. The fire tower may be adopted by a “friends group” for maintenance and interpretive purposes.
6. The removal of the observer cabin and helipad eliminates the existence of structures in a primitive area intended to become wilderness and reduces long-term maintenance costs. A clearing need not be maintained for the landing of helicopters.

Disadvantages

1. The removal of the observer cabin eliminates a structure historically associated with the fire tower. The cabin is not available for potential use in the interpretation of the history of the fire tower site.
2. Without the ability to gain access to the tower by helicopter, radio technicians are required to make emergency repairs to the fire tower or radio equipment by climbing to the tower on foot, which may not be feasible in winter. The inability to make emergency repairs could threaten the success of ongoing search and rescue operations. The removal of the helipad eliminates a structure historically associated with the fire tower.
3. A restored fire tower open to the public attracts increased use of the WMPA and results in greater social, physical, and biological impacts.

ALTERNATIVE 7: Restore the fire tower, install a radio repeater in the cab of the tower and leave the tower open to public access. Retain the observer cabin. Reconstruct the helipad to maintain helicopter access to the summit for the maintenance of the tower and the radio repeater. In order for helicopters to use the helipad, remove trees (mostly

balsam fir and red spruce two to six inches diameter at breast height) within a 50-foot radius of the center of the helipad (0.18 acres). Retain the primitive area classification.

Advantages

1. A historic fire tower is retained.
2. The radio coverage in the BRW, MRPWF, and WCLW is permanently improved.
3. The tower is available for use for fire observation.
4. The scenic vista on the Wakely Mountain summit is retained and enhanced as a destination for hikers with the potential to draw use from the heavily-used High Peaks region.
5. The fire tower complex may be adopted by a “friends group” for maintenance and interpretive purposes.
6. The retention of the observer cabin keeps a structure historically associated with the fire tower in place. The cabin is available for potential use in the interpretation of the history of the fire tower site.

Disadvantages

1. A restored fire tower complex open to the public attracts increased use of the WMPA and results in greater social, physical, and biological impacts.
2. A clearing of 0.18 acres is maintained to accommodate the landing of helicopters.

Discussion and Selection of a Preferred Alternative

ALTERNATIVE 1, the “no action” alternative, would leave the future of the fire tower complex in doubt. The tower would no longer be in use as a fire observation platform, would have no proposed utility for Forest Preserve management and would be allowed to become increasingly unsafe for public use. Unmaintained structures would fall into disrepair and pose a public safety hazard. This alternative suggests that the fire tower complex is no longer needed except for historic preservation purposes. By leaving the fire tower complex intact without proposing any use for the structures, alternative 1 does not comply with the APSLMP.

ALTERNATIVE 2 would remove the fire tower and associated structures and allow the WMPA to be incorporated within the BRW. The assumption behind the alternative is that the fire tower complex is no longer needed. However, by preventing the installation of a radio repeater on the Wakely Mountain summit, this action would preclude significant improvements in radio communications in the MRPWF, BRW and WCLW. With the removal of the tower, there would be no views from the summit. As a result, it is likely that use levels would decrease to that point that the Department would consider closing the Wakely Mountain trail. Though there are impacts from trail use, they are confined to soil erosion typical of mountain trails and impacts to soils and vegetation in a limited area on the summit. They are not considered sufficiently significant to justify the elimination of a significant recreational opportunity that could serve as an alternative to heavily-used High Peaks trails. This alternative would remove a fire tower considered to

be one of the most historically significant in the Adirondacks. Public comments have been nearly unanimous in support of retaining the fire tower for its recreational and historic preservation values.

ALTERNATIVE 3 would retain the tower for possible intermittent use for emergency communications purposes, with the added benefit that a historic structure would be maintained intact. It is likely that the emergency use of the tower as a temporary repeater station by a person with a portable radio would be infrequent. It would be hard to justify the retention and maintenance of the tower for infrequent emergency use. This alternative would not remedy day-to-day radio communications problems. Because the tower would be closed to the public, there would be no views from the summit. Use levels would decrease to the point that the trail might be closed. The benefit of reducing use impacts would be outweighed by the loss of a significant alternative hiking destination. This alternative would not satisfy most people who have expressed interest in the restoration of the tower, because for them the major purpose of restoration is public access.

ALTERNATIVE 4 would address existing radio communications problems and preserve the tower as a historic structure, subject to the modifications that would have to be made to accommodate radio equipment. Though one of the original purposes of the tower—to aid in backcountry communications—would be realized, the prevention of recreational access to the tower would eliminate the only available summit vista and, for most people, the reason to climb to the summit. For most of those who have submitted comments, the prevention of access also would take away much of the purpose of restoring the tower. The benefit of reducing use impacts would be outweighed by the loss of a significant alternative hiking destination. Available technology would allow the radio equipment to be configured in such a way that the tower and cab could safely be opened to public use. The additional level of safety for the equipment that would be realized by closing the tower to the public would not be sufficient to justify the loss of the recreational value of the tower.

ALTERNATIVE 5 would restore the fire tower complex, emphasizing its value as a recreational destination and preserving it as a historic structure, along with the observer cabin. Though the current cabin was constructed in 1972 or 1973, a cabin has existed on the site since approximately 1911 and has a strong association with the tower in the minds of historic preservationist advocates. The structure of the tower would not be modified to accommodate radio equipment. The value of the tower as an alternative destination for hikers who might otherwise turn to the heavily-used High Peaks region would be enhanced. It is likely that the tower complex would be adopted by a friends group, who might add to the value of the summit as a hiking destination by providing interpretive staff. This alternative would likely be most favorably received by members of the public who favor the retention of the tower. However, though the tower would be available as a platform for emergency communications, this alternative would not address the significant day-to-day radio communications problems in the MRPWF, BRW and WCLW.

ALTERNATIVE 6 would restore the Wakely Mountain fire tower for radio communications and full public recreational access. Radio equipment would be secured against vandalism and configured to permit safe public access to the tower cab without making permanent alterations to the historic tower structure. However, the removal of the observer cabin would take away a structure historically associated with the tower and make it unavailable for possible use by a friends group interested in restoring, maintaining and interpreting the tower complex. Though the removal of the observer cabin would reduce long-term maintenance costs for the Department, such costs likely would be minimal. Unlike other fire tower observer cabins, the Wakely cabin has sustained little vandalism. It is structurally sound, needing little more than cleaning and painting. It is likely that any needed work would be performed by volunteers.

The radio equipment, batteries and solar panels proposed for installation in the tower are too bulky and heavy to be transported on foot. Therefore, they would have to be transported by helicopter. The existing helipad is unsound and could not safely sustain the weight of a helicopter. The ground surface in the area is not sufficiently level to allow a helicopter to land safely. Without the reconstruction of the helipad, therefore, the expensive and delicate equipment would have to be dropped in a sling, exposing it to a significant risk of damage. Similarly, for routine maintenance and emergency repairs, tools and equipment would have to be dropped from a helicopter by sling, while radio technicians and other maintenance staff would be required to hike at least two miles to the summit from the end of the road in the MRPWF, which is to be closed to the public but made available for administrative motor vehicle use. A Department radio technician must occasionally test and repair the radio equipment with a service monitor, which is a piece of expensive and delicate electronic diagnostic equipment. It would be subjected to a significant risk of damage if the helipad were not available to allow a helicopter to land. For maintenance work in winter, since Cedar River Road is plowed only to a point more than four miles from the trailhead, snowmobiles would have to be used for access to the point where foot travel would begin. Depending on conditions, a winter hike to the summit might not be feasible for maintenance staff. The inability to make timely repairs to radio equipment could threaten the success of ongoing search and rescue operations.

ALTERNATIVE 7 is the preferred alternative. It would retain all components of the Wakely Mountain fire tower complex for the combined purposes of radio communications, recreation, education and historic preservation. The fire tower would be restored. Because of advancements in technology, the use of the tower for radio communications would not significantly detract from public use and enjoyment. Needed radio equipment, including batteries and solar panels, could be configured to permit safe public access to the tower cab without subjecting them to undue risk of vandalism. Some public comments have included expressions of concern that the attachment of solar panels would affect the tower's historic appearance. The installation of the equipment for emergency and day-to-day communications is considered sufficiently important to justify some impacts to the use and appearance of the tower. However, because all components would be mounted on the tower, overall the installation would have less visual impact than other systems, which have included a separate tower for a wind generator and a separate building for the radio and batteries. The installation of the equipment would not

involve the removal or alteration of the original components of the tower structure. Because of the distance of the tower from highways and communities, added radio equipment would not have a significant visual impact on those distant vantage points

The observer cabin would be cleaned up and secured. The retention of the cabin to keep the fire tower complex intact is important to fire tower advocates, and it is likely that a friends group would provide most of the labor needed for restoration. It would likely be used by the friends group in the interpretation of the fire tower complex. In the context of a site occupied by a restored fire tower likely to be the object of most hikes to the summit, the presence of the cabin probably would not be as objectionable to visitors as it would be in a more isolated location.

The ground surface in the area of the existing helipad is not sufficiently level to allow a helicopter to land safely. As explained in the discussion of alternative 6, the reconstruction of the helipad would permit ready long-term access to the tower site, allowing for the safe and expeditious transport of radio equipment and material for the restoration and maintenance of the tower and cabin, along with staff and tools. The helipad and the small clearing that would have to be maintained around it would not be visible from surrounding areas. The helipad is located at the end of a spur trail, separated from the summit trail by a dense spruce-fir forest. Therefore, it is only visible from the fire tower and from the air. The 50-foot radius clearing needed around the helipad would not have a significant impact on Bicknell's thrush. A recent study of the use of Vermont ski areas by Bicknell's thrush (Rimmer et. al. 2004) found few significant differences in population and reproductive parameters between areas developed for skiing and natural forests. The researchers found no significant difference in nest predation rates between ski area and natural forest plots, even though nest densities were higher near ski trail edges. At the helipad site, the potential for predation is likely to be very limited, since it is unlikely that predator species will be found near a small, isolated opening near a mountain summit surrounded by an extensive relatively unbroken forest. The limited potential for fragmentation effects in the small area of the helipad site will be minimized by leaving spruce and fir trees up to six feet tall within the cleared area except in the area occupied by the helipad and the access trail.

The Wakely Mountain fire tower is situated on the edge of the BRW. The existing and proposed new trail to the summit originate on Cedar River Road within the MRPWF, and trail use is expected to be relatively low. Therefore, the continued existence of the tower would have minimal impacts on the BRW.

APPENDIX 17 – RESPONSES TO PUBLIC COMMENTS

The Department released the Draft Blue Ridge Wilderness and Wakely Mountain Primitive Area UMP on December 22, 2005 for public review and comment. On February 7, 2006 the Department held a public meeting at the Adirondack Museum in Blue Mountain Lake to present the draft plan and hear spoken public comments. Eleven people spoke at the meeting, of whom nine also submitted written comments. All told, the Department received 115 comments by letter or e-mail. In addition, approximately 745 individually signed copies of a post card supporting the creation of the “Great Camps Historic Area” were received.

Numerous comments were made in support of various proposed actions. However, a number of comments included recommendations that proposals be modified or removed, or that new proposals be added. Recommendations for changes to the draft plan are listed below, organized by topic. Each recommendation is followed by the Department’s response.

Wakely Mountain Fire Tower and New Wakely Mountain Trail

1. *Retain the fire tower and observer’s cabin, but the helipad should be removed. Materials can be transported to the site by helicopter using a sling, so that the helicopter will not have to land. The clearing for the helipad will be excessive.*

The proposal to rebuild the helipad has been retained, because delicate radio equipment can not be transported to the site by dropping it in a sling from a hovering helicopter without significant risk of damage. Heavy lead-acid batteries must be periodically replaced, and periodic maintenance requires that delicate diagnostic equipment be transported to the site. A helicopter must be able to land to allow these materials and equipment to be transported safely.

2. *Remove the helipad, because it is not needed. A helicopter may land without a helipad, as on Pillsbury Mountain.*

A helicopter requires a smooth, level landing area. The topography on the summit of Wakely Mountain does not meet these requirements. Therefore, a helipad is needed.

3. *Retain the fire tower, but remove the observer’s cabin and helipad. The cabin is a focal point for vandalism and littering and would be costly to maintain. The cabin and helipad lack historical significance.*

The Department intends to keep and maintain the observer’s cabin. Though the existing cabin was built in the early 1970s, a cabin has been part of the fire tower site since approximately 1911 and is an important element of the site’s historic character. The cabin has suffered little from vandalism and is in good condition. Maintenance costs would not be significant. The Department expects that an active volunteer group will provide assistance in maintaining and protecting the summit structures.

4. *Remove the fire tower, observer's cabin and helipad and reclassify the primitive area to wilderness. The fire tower is obsolete, and the retention of the tower and other structures would violate the APSLMP. A radio repeater is not needed, because satellite communication technology is available.*

The Wakely Mountain fire tower originally was constructed at this location because it was needed for fire detection and radio communications. When the APSLMP was adopted in 1972, the Wakely Mountain Primitive Area was created to allow the fire tower to remain as long as it was needed. There are extensive areas without radio reception in the region surrounding the tower. Radio reception could be restored in these areas if a radio repeater, similar to the equipment mounted in other towers, were mounted in the Wakely Mountain tower. Therefore, the tower continues to be needed for one of its original purposes.

Satellite communication is not a feasible approach to meeting Department radio communication requirements. Difficulties include excessive transmission transit time for both geosynchronous and low-earth-orbit satellite systems, a limited number of satellites with limited capacity and large demand, a cost of several hundred million dollars for each new satellite, an extended satellite launch backlog, poor voice quality, the lack of ability to prioritize public safety use over all other uses, and the incompatibility of the dedicated satellite public safety frequency band with the band presently approved by the Federal Communications Commission for public safety uses.

5. *The Department should provide for the long-term retention of the fire tower and associated structures by requesting reclassification of the area in the immediate vicinity of the structures to wild forest, and the rest of the primitive area to wilderness.*

It is not clear to the Department that, as the wild forest guidelines for fire towers are written, the status of the Wakely Mountain tower and associated structures would be significantly different in a wild forest classification. In order to address this and other issues related to the future management of Adirondack fire towers, a management action has been added to the UMP: the Department will work with APA to develop a comprehensive Adirondack fire tower management plan.

6. *The primitive area classification for the area including the fire tower and associated structures should remain. When the fire tower is no longer needed, it should be removed, and the land reclassified to wilderness.*

Though the plan proposes that the fire tower remain because it is needed for communication purposes, it also has recreational, educational and cultural values that could justify its retention in the future. The Department will work with APA to determine the future course of fire tower management through the development of a comprehensive Adirondack fire tower management plan.

7. *Permit educational activities to occur at the fire tower site, possibly through a stewardship agreement with a volunteer group.*

Should the Department receive an application for a stewardship agreement from a volunteer group that is interested in conducting educational activities at the fire tower site, the Department will work with the group to craft an agreement that will encourage those activities in ways that are consistent with APSLMP guidelines.

8. *Retain the picnic table on top of Wakely Mountain.*

The existing picnic table is not a conforming structure in primitive areas and must be removed.

9. *Do not use a wind generator to power the radio equipment to be installed in the tower.*

The draft UMP included a proposal to monitor the ability of solar panels alone to provide sufficient battery recharging capacity and, should the solar panel system prove inadequate, to attach a Southwest Windpower Air-X industrial wind electric generator (or equivalent) with a 46-inch diameter rotor to the corner of the tower's cab. The Department intends to configure the system using solar panels alone. The proposal to add a wind generator has been removed from the plan.

10. *Do not rebuild the helipad or cut trees around it to permit helicopter landing. Tree cutting and disturbance in this area will reduce the already severely reduced habitat necessary for Bicknell's thrush and other bird species. Tree cutting will fragment the forest, thereby allowing predators to prey on species requiring deep woods.*

The Department is not aware of evidence that Bicknell's thrush habitat has been reduced in New York State. The proposed clearing at the helipad site will not be significant in the context of available habitat, since it will affect 0.18 acres of more than 5,000 acres of upper-elevation spruce-fir forest within the unit that is included in the Adirondack Subalpine Forest Bird Conservation Area. Fragmentation is not expected to adversely affect Bicknell's thrush breeding and survival near the helipad site. The description of the preferred alternative in Appendix 16 has been revised to include reference to a recent study of the use of Vermont ski areas by Bicknell's thrush (Rimmer et. al. 2004). The study found few significant differences in population and reproductive parameters between areas developed for skiing and natural forests. The researchers found no significant difference in nest predation rates between ski area and natural forest plots, even though nest densities were higher near ski trail edges. At the helipad site, the potential for predation is likely to be very limited, since it is unlikely that predator species will be found near a small, isolated opening near a mountain summit surrounded by an extensive relatively unbroken forest. The limited

potential for fragmentation effects in the small area of the helipad site will be minimized by leaving spruce and fir trees up to six feet tall within the cleared area except in the area occupied by the helipad and the access trail.

11. *Do not rebuild the helipad or cut trees around it until a detailed bird species inventory of all areas above 2,800 feet is conducted and a standardized monitoring program for at-risk species is implemented.*

The Department's proposal to conduct inventories of ecological communities, rare species and critical habitats will include Bicknell's thrush. Inventories of rare species will be conducted periodically to monitor population trends.

12. *When the new trail to the summit of Wakely Mountain is constructed, maintain the existing trail as well. It is historic and will increase recreational opportunity and reduce environmental impacts on each trail. It is more convenient in terms of highway access. The two trails would make a good loop hike. The existing trail would be a better route from the proposed reroute of the NPT.*

The route of the new trail was selected for its steady grade, which will minimize its susceptibility to erosion. The new trail was proposed under the assumption that it would replace the existing trail, which has sustained significant erosion and whose final mile is very steep. After the new trail is constructed, the Department will monitor public use and use impacts on both trails. If soil erosion on the existing trail continues to exceed acceptable levels, the Department might propose to close the existing trail.

13. *When the new trail to the summit of Wakely Mountain is constructed, close the existing trail.*

See the response to comment 12.

14. *When the new trail to the summit of Wakely Mountain is constructed, maintain the existing trail and build a connector trail to allow a loop hike.*

Because the new trail was proposed with the assumption that it would replace the existing trail, the potential for a trail connecting the two was not considered. In any case, the topography in the area between the existing trail and the Cellar Pond route is rugged and does not appear suitable for the construction of a connector trail.

15. *The new trail should be routed to be gradual and not require significant tread hardening.*

The new trail will have a steady, moderate grade and will be routed to avoid wet areas.

16. *The new trail should be routed to avoid sensitive habitats.*

There are no wetlands or significant habitats in the vicinity of the anticipated route of the new trail, except that the section above an elevation of 2,800 feet will be within the Adirondack Subalpine Forest Bird Conservation Area.

17. *Do not build a new trail to the summit of Wakely Mountain. The existing trail is a historic route.*

The final mile of the existing trail is very steep and susceptible to erosion. The proposed route of the new trail is gradual and less steep, and is expected to be less susceptible to erosion over the long term. The Department intends to build the new trail because resource protection is a primary goal for the management of Forest Preserve lands.

18. *Do not build a new trail to the summit of Wakely Mountain. Reduce the grade on the upper section by constructing switchbacks.*

If a more gradual route were not available, the Department would consider constructing switchbacks on the steep final mile of the existing route. However, to reduce trail grade sufficiently, switchbacks would add significantly to the length of the trail. Hikers might be tempted to minimize hiking distance by taking a more direct route along the fall line, thereby defeating the purpose of the switchbacks. The Department intends to take advantage of the natural topography on the Cellar Pond route to construct a new trail that will have a steady, moderate grade without the need for switchbacks.

Sawyer Mountain Vista

1. *Continue to maintain the vista on Sawyer Mountain to maintain an existing recreational opportunity.*

The UMP has been revised. The Department intends to continue to maintain the vista on Sawyer Mountain. However, because the view from the vista location is limited and requires ongoing maintenance, the opportunity for constructing a new trail to a more open vista within the Blue Mountain Wild Forest in the vicinity of the Sawyer Mountain trail will be investigated. If a suitable opportunity is found, the Blue Mountain Wild Forest UMP will be amended, the new trail will be constructed, and the maintenance of the Sawyer Mountain vista will be discontinued.

2. *Vista cutting is acceptable if it is judicious and tree cutting is immaterial, if the proposal is listed in the UMP for the area and is supervised and approved by the Department.*

The 1986 Forest Preserve Policy Manual provides that in wilderness areas, “existing scenic vistas may be maintained by the cutting of brush and tree limbs and by minor tree cutting if the continuance of the scenic vista is specified in the unit management plan for the State land area involved.” It is included in the trails

section, because a vista is considered an integral feature of a trail, not a distinct improvement as that term is defined in the APSLMP.

3. *Vista maintenance is acceptable if it involves sidecutting, but not tree cutting.*

In general, minimal tree cutting is permitted for the construction and maintenance of conforming structures and improvements. Few trees would be cut to maintain an existing vista, and none would be cut to create a new vista.

4. *Do not maintain the vista. It is a violation of Article 14 of the New York State Constitution. It does not conform with the APSLMP. It does not conform with wilderness standards.*

In the Proposed Management Actions section under the heading, Sawyer Mountain Trail, a description of a 1935 Attorney-General opinion has been added. The opinion provided that, “Article VII, section 7 of the New York State Constitution does not prevent the removal of an immaterial amount of tree growth for the purpose of opening vistas or views in connection with the building of pedestrian trails in the Forest Preserve. Care should be taken that such removal does not pass the point of immateriality as defined by the courts.” The written opinion includes the advice that tree removal be done “where as little cutting as possible is required.”

A summary of an analysis of the APSLMP has been added. The APSLMP indicates under “Classification System and Guidelines” that among the factors which give a sense of remoteness and a degree of wildness to wilderness visitors are “the views over other areas of the Park obtainable from some vantage point.” A wilderness area is defined as an area “. . . which (1) generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable . . .” The maintenance of an existing vista on a mountaintop by immaterial tree cutting, branch trimming and brushing which does not alter the wild forest character of the area is not inconsistent with this definition because such maintenance does not constitute a “significant improvement” and allows a wilderness area to continue to “generally” appear to have been affected “primarily” by the forces of nature, with man’s work “substantially” unnoticeable. Vistas are included neither in the wilderness list of conforming structures and improvements, nor in the list of those considered nonconforming. All structures and improvements not listed as conforming are considered nonconforming. However, a scenic vista clearly is not a structure, and the maintenance of an existing vista through minimal tree cutting, branch trimming and brushing does not appear to meet the APSLMP definition of an improvement. Therefore, the APSLMP does not appear to prohibit immaterial tree cutting, branch trimming and brushing to maintain vistas in wilderness.

5. *Do not maintain the vista. There are opportunities for new trails to open vistas nearby, both within the BRW and in the Blue Mountain Wild Forest.*

See the response to comment 1.

6. *Approving vista maintenance here sets a precedent that could lead to the proliferation of proposals to maintain vistas.*

The Department will only maintain vistas identified in unit management plans subject to public review in accordance with Department policy. The Department anticipates that few vistas will be proposed for maintenance.

7. *Approving vista maintenance here encourages overuse.*

The Department has maintained the Sawyer Mountain vista for at least 25 years and proposes to continue to maintain the vista to the same limited degree. The use of the Sawyer Mountain trail has been moderate. With generally moderate grades and a stable surface, the trail is capable of withstanding substantial foot traffic without significant physical impacts. It is not likely that visitors have high expectations for solitude on this short roadside trail. Therefore, it appears that there could be significant increases in trail use without unacceptable physical or social impacts. Nevertheless, the Department does not anticipate that use levels will grow significantly or that the continuation of vista maintenance will lead to unacceptable use levels.

8. *Maintaining the Sawyer Mountain vista fragments the forest, thereby allowing predators to prey on species that require large unbroken forest tracts.*

The probability that predation would be increased by a small opening on the summit of a mountain surrounded by a large expanse of relatively unbroken forest is expected to be low. Very few of the species that could be serious nest predators are likely to be found in any number at this location. The overall effect of any increase in predation would be insignificant in a landscape context.

Relocation of the Northville-Lake Placid Trail

1. *It is not clear that alternative analyses for the NPT relocation or other management proposals incorporated detailed analysis of available natural resource inventory information or used the GIS expertise of the UMP-GIS Consortium.*

The alternative analysis made use of all available natural resource inventory information. However, it occurred before the products under development by the UMP-GIS Consortium were fully developed. Since the release of the draft UMP, UMP-GIS Consortium staff have performed a least cost path analysis, which supported the preferred alternative. The description of the results has been added to Appendix 14, and a map has been added to Appendix 20.

2. *The new route should avoid sensitive habitats, wetlands and stream crossings.*

The preferred alternative was selected to minimize impacts on significant habitats and wetlands and to minimize stream crossings. The work to identify the final route location in the field will be guided by these objectives.

3. *The best route is alternative 2B, which includes the construction of new trail along the east side of Cedar River Flow.*

The Department intends to maintain the existing route along the west side of Cedar River Flow to avoid significant new trail construction in the West Canada Lake Wilderness, as well as a substantial foot bridge over the Cedar River.

4. *Is there a public access easement along the old road or trail along Brown's Brook?*

No public access easement at this location is known.

5. *Construct a spur trail to Sugarloaf Mountain. It would be a short hike to a great view. Safety concerns should not prevent the project. In wilderness people should be responsible for their own actions.*

As a basic guideline for wilderness, the APSLMP provides that, "All management and administrative action and interior facilities in wilderness areas will be designed to emphasize the self-sufficiency of the user to assume a high degree of responsibility for environmentally-sound use of such areas and for his or her own health, safety and welfare." A goal of management for the BRW is to retain its relatively undeveloped character. The Department encourages visitors to acquire good maps, a compass and wilderness travel skills before exploring the unique features of the area, such as Sugarloaf Mountain. However, the existence of a marked, maintained trail to the summit of Sugarloaf might attract some visitors who would not be adequately prepared for their arrival at the high, steep cliff face. Because there appears to be no place along the top of the cliff where more than two or three people could safely stand at one time, a marked trail could attract more use than the destination could safely accommodate. Therefore, the Department does not intend to construct a trail to the summit at this time.

6. *Construct a lean-to on the new route of the NPT between Wakely Pond and Browns Brook. Don't put it too close to Cedar River Road so that it will be available to NPT hikers.*

The plan has been modified to allow for the possible construction of a lean-to on the NPT between the Gould road and Brown's Brook.

7. *Construct a foot bridge over Brown’s Brook. The stream can rise dramatically after a heavy rain.*

It is likely that the Department will construct a foot bridge over Brown’s Brook. It will be constructed at the best location to protect the banks from erosion and will be sufficiently elevated to accommodate natural variations in stream flow.

8. *Do not construct a foot bridge over Brown’s Brook. Hikers should be prepared for changes in natural conditions.*

See the response to comment 7.

9. *Move the NPT relocation project to year one to address the access issue at the former McCane’s Resort.*

The implementation schedule reflects management priorities for the BRW and WMPA within the context of work being scheduled in all Forest Preserve UMPs. The Department acknowledges the interest of the present owner of McCane’s to relocate the trail, and appreciates his willingness to allow through hikers to continue to use the existing route until the new trail is completed.

10. *There should be a policy for the overall management of the NPT.*

Because the NPT was completed by 1923, there have been few management issues affecting the trail in recent years, except the desire to move the sections that follow roads into the woods. Proposals for these major relocations are presented in this and other UMPs. In selecting the routes of the proposed relocations, Department staff referred to existing guidelines for the management of trails in the Forest Preserve and consulted with the Adirondack Mountain Club and other experts. Though existing guidelines would be effective in addressing the ongoing management of the NPT, the Department acknowledges the historic importance and distinctive character of the trail and would support the development of a set of management guidelines.

Other Trail Comments

1. *The Department needs better information about visitor use. Perhaps signing trail registers should be legally required.*

The UMP proposes that trail registers be installed at all trailheads serving marked trails. Recent research in other areas indicates that a very high percentage of wilderness visitors sign trail registers without being legally required to do so. The plan also proposes that the Department contract with a university to conduct a visitor study.

2. *Trail registers should be installed at all marked trails to determine use.*

See the response to comment 1.

3. *There should be a barrier at the end of the Death Brook Falls trail to prevent people from climbing the bank to the top of the falls. Climbing the steep bank to the top of the falls is dangerous and will damage the environment.*

The Department will investigate measures, including trailhead signage and a suitable barrier at the end of the trail, to prevent visitors from climbing the steep banks to the top of Death Brook falls.

4. *A hiking trail from Sprague Pond to Stephens Pond would give access to the pond and the Northville-Lake Placid Trail from a point nearer the beginning of Cedar River Road.*

Because there will be trail access to Sprague and Stephens Ponds, and a goal for the management of the BRW is to retain its relatively undeveloped character, the Department has decided not to construct a trail connecting the ponds.

5. *The Department should modify existing regulations that apply to horses on foot trails to include all pack animals.*

Existing regulations that apply to horses should be modified to include other animals whose use could affect Forest Preserve resources.

6. *The removal of trail obstacles to increase their accessibility for people with disabilities should be done with hand tools and with great caution.*

APSLMP guidelines for wilderness prevent the use of motorized equipment for trail construction. Only minimal alterations using hand tools at suitable locations are proposed.

7. *The plan should note the trails that are suitable for skiing and snowshoeing, especially for younger people, older people and novices. Is the Cascades trail good for novice skiers?*

The plan proposes that trails in the BRW be assessed and information about trail characteristics be provided to potential visitors. The Cascades trail would be an excellent novice cross-country ski trail.

1. *Reclassify the lands where the ruins of the former Camp Sagamore hydroelectric complex is located to wild forest, primitive or historic. The buildings are fairly intact, and therefore should be considered differently than less substantial ruins.*

The ruins of the hydroelectric complex have significant historic value in their association with nearby Great Camp Sagamore, whose educational programs include the interpretation of the ruins in the context of Forest Preserve history. The Department intends to retain the structures in recognition of their historic value, but not to maintain or restore them, install interpretive signs or displays or otherwise manage them in ways that would not conform with APSLMP guidelines for wilderness. Though the valvehouse and powerhouse are substantial structures, they are relatively unobtrusive, and their presence and proposed management does not significantly detract from the wilderness character of the area. The reclassification of the lands containing the ruins could imply an intention to manage the area more intensively. Since the Department intends to manage those lands in accordance with wilderness guidelines, the benefits of a reclassification do not appear sufficient to justify the administrative costs of creating and maintaining a small, detached new management unit. The hydroelectric complex is included with a number of other historic sites associated with Great Camps Sagamore and Uncas in a new Historic Great Camps Special Management Area. This designation will assure that the facilities and historic sites within it will be managed comprehensively, while remaining in conformance with the management guidelines for the lands on which they lie.

2. *Take minimal measures to display and restore the Sagamore ruins.*

The Department intends to retain the ruins, subject to the forces of nature. Restoration or the installation of on-site interpretive displays would not conform with APSLMP guidelines for wilderness. The Department will support the efforts of the Sagamore Institute and others to interpret the site through guided tours, publications and lectures.

3. *The APSLMP should be amended to include a section on how to recognize and manage ruins in the Forest Preserve.*

In the Special Management Guidelines section, the APSLMP provides guidelines for the management of a number of special interest areas, including “historic buildings, structures or sites that are not part of a designated historic area.”

Fisheries

1. *Artificial fish stocking and reclamation of wilderness ponds should be allowed where and when careful biological studies show that they are feasible.*

Fish stocking decisions are based upon survey data collected by the Department or the Adirondack Lake Survey Corporation, which has a Department affiliation. Ponds are surveyed prior to stocking to evaluate whether they have the chemical and physical features necessary to support brook trout or other desired fish species. Reclamation decisions are based on biological, chemical and physical surveys of candidate ponds. The pond narratives given in Appendix 5 provide details on why specific waters were selected or rejected as reclamation candidates.

2. *Follow-up studies should be made a part of the approval for reclamations.*

APA wetlands permit conditions for pond reclamations in wilderness require studies on non-target mortalities during a reclamation and again a few years afterward. Results are reported to the Agency and APA staff have participated in some of these assessments. To date, no serious non-target mortalities have occurred in a reclaimed pond and all populations quickly recover to levels as high or higher than pre-treatment. The Bureau of Fisheries also does post-reclamation netting to confirm that all fish were killed in a project. After the pond is restocked, Fisheries will conduct surveys to document trout survival and the extent of natural reproduction.

3. *The Department should invite outside scientists to study the effects of chemical reclamations.*

Impacts of rotenone treatment on lakes and streams have been studied hundreds of times. Bradbury (1986) summarizes many of those studies. Cornell University researchers studied Adirondack ponds in particular in the 1990s (Harig and Bain 1995). Many reclaimed waters are included in ongoing research projects by a variety of government and academic institutions. None of the research projects listed above has found long-term negative impacts to the aquatic communities of reclaimed ponds.

4. *The Department should develop a comprehensive public education effort to control the use of bait fish and ban all use of live bait in reclaimed waters to reduce the likelihood of future non-native fish introductions.*

The use of bait fish is already banned in all reclaimed waters and in most wilderness, primitive or canoe area waters, regardless of whether they have been reclaimed or not. Educational efforts by the Bureau of Fisheries have been increased in recent years by staff speaking at meetings, museums and fairs. Fisheries is also developing a portable display on non-native fish species impacts for events which cannot be attended by staff. Several articles on non-native

species impacts have appeared in newspapers, *The Conservationist* magazine, and *Adirondack Life* magazine. Outdoor writers have also been encouraged to discuss this topic in their articles and columns. In recent years, outreach efforts by various groups regarding the impacts of non-native aquatic plant such as Eurasian milfoil and purple loosestrife have made the general public more aware of the need to control non-native species. Information on non-native fish species impacts is being developed for the Department website.

5. *The reclamation of Sprague and Slim Ponds should not occur. Instead, research should be done to determine what measures could be taken to restore their native biota.*

Over 50 years of fisheries management experience in the Adirondacks has unequivocally demonstrated that reclamation with rotenone is the only tool available to restore native brook trout to a pond once nonnative species have become established. There is no instance when stocking efforts alone restored a naturally-reproducing trout population. In some private trout waters infested with undesirable species, an intensive netting effort to remove rough fish, such as trapnetting white suckers or bullheads during their spring spawning runs, has short term benefits for the trout population. Inevitably, once such efforts cease, the trout population again declines. Annual, intensive rough fish removal is not possible in public waters and would be far more intrusive in wilderness waters than a one time reclamation project.

6. *The reclamation of Slim Pond is questionable because it could adversely affect adjacent wetlands and kill other species.*

The reclamation of Slim Pond will require an APA wetlands permit. APA staff do an intensive review of each permit application in regards to possible wetland impacts. No long term negative environmental impacts of pond reclamation have been found in Adirondack waters.

7. *The reclamation of Sprague Pond is questionable. It appears to be an expensive project with a limited chance of success. It could affect the loons nesting on the pond.*

Sprague Pond was an important historic brook trout water and it is a goal to restore such waters when feasible. Further work is necessary to judge whether this project can be undertaken successfully, but the action must be listed in the UMP if it is ever to happen. The barrier dam must be made functional and the large wetland areas adjacent to the pond would require treatment only under dry conditions. If loons are found to be nesting on Sprague Pond in the year a reclamation project is scheduled, the project will not be undertaken until the loon chicks have fledged. It is important to realize that loons are commonly observed to feed and even nest on known fishless waters. Their diet on such waters is comprised of frogs, tadpoles, crayfish and larger invertebrates. Most reclaimed ponds are favored habitat for loons, which certainly thrive eating trout.

8. *When reclamations occur, signs should be posted at trailheads and notices posted on the Department's website to inform the public.*

The Department does post signs informing the public of a reclamation effort at appropriate trailheads just prior to the start of a project. The signs are left in place until the pond has detoxified. Also, riparian landowners on affected waters are notified by mail, as are local government officials. Reclamation projects are published in *The Environmental Notice Bulletin*. These measures comply fully with Department pesticide regulations. Notices are not placed on the Department website. It is very difficult to inform the public of a project start date ahead of time. Many factors, such as bad weather or logistical problems, can result in projects being postponed or cancelled. Therefore, the best notification procedure is to post signs the same day a treatment starts. Since most reclamations are undertaken in late September or early October when water temperatures have cooled, water user impacts are minimal.

9. *What other chemicals are included with the rotenone used in reclamations, and what impacts do they have on aquatic ecosystems?*

The Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) for Noxfish Fish Toxicant used by Fisheries lists the ingredients for this chemical. Noxfish is comprised of 5% rotenone, 10% associated rotenone resins, 5% acetone, and 80% aromatic petroleum solvent. Noxfish is spread at a rate of 1 part per million (ppm) maximum in New York State. Label dose rates in other states allow up to 5 ppm to be applied. At New York treatment rates, 0.05 ppm of acetone and 0.80 ppm of aromatic petroleum solvent would be applied in a water. The studies listed in Bradbury (1986) and Harig and Bain (1995) have examined the aquatic ecosystem impacts of the various formulations of rotenone, including those with the solvent agents. None of these studies has found long term environmental impacts from applying rotenone formulations.

10. *The stocking of non-native fish species in interior ponds violates wilderness management goals. It would be better to have fewer brook trout than to stock brown trout for the purpose of increasing brook trout numbers.*

Stocking of brown trout in wilderness waters is permitted under the Department's Wilderness Management Guidelines developed during the early 1990s with extensive consultation with Adirondack Park Agency staff, environmental groups such as the Adirondack Council and Adirondack Mountain Club, and sportsmen groups, such as Trout Unlimited. The Guidelines appear in Appendix 7.

11. *Take management actions to maintain Death Brook and South Inlet as spawning routes for suckers and smelt, the primary food source for lake trout in Raquette Lake.*

Sportsmen have reported in some years that the mouth of Death Brook is blocked by sandbars in Raquette Lake which, they believe, limit fish spawning. In other

years, there is no sandbar. When Fisheries staff have checked Death Brook, both sucker and smelt have been observed near the Route 28 bridge. It does not appear that the sandbar is a serious impediment to fish spawning. South Inlet is a much larger stream than Death Brook and there are no known impediments for fish spawning along its length.

Wildlife

1. *An adult loon and two chicks were observed on Sprague Pond in August, 2005. Keep the loon protection advisory sign in place here, as well as other waters with breeding loons. Would improving canoe access for people with disabilities disturb nesting loons?*

Reference to the loon observation has been added to the wildlife inventory section, and management actions to post loon advisory signs at the Sprague Pond and Sagamore Lake trailheads have been added. Sprague Pond is a popular fishing destination reached by a relatively short trail. The moderate use of nonmotorized boats in spring has occurred for many years. The proposed improvement of boat access for people with disabilities is not likely to result in significantly increased use or use impacts on nesting loons. The Department will continue to stress loon protection through education.

2. *The UMP should include better wildlife surveys and better information about the status of planning for the reintroduction of extirpated wildlife species.*

The UMP presents available information about wildlife in the BRW and WMPA. Proposed management actions to add to present knowledge about wildlife in the area include surveys for moose, American marten, spruce grouse and spruce grouse habitat, boreal habitats and bird species such as Bicknell's thrush that are associated with lowland and high-elevation boreal forest, and other critical habitats. Other proposed actions include supporting statewide survey efforts, such as the Breeding Bird Atlas and New York Natural Heritage Program surveys, and mapping and inventory information for deer wintering areas.

In Management History and Direction, Past and Present Management, Wildlife, the plan has been revised to add a discussion of extirpated species.

3. *The tables of birds and mammals should list species phylogenetically.*

The species list will be resorted by Order when the plan is revised.

4. *The UMP should provide the latest information about chronic wasting disease in whitetail deer, as well as Department programs to enforce the regulation against feeding wild deer.*

The plan was revised to include information about chronic wasting disease. The enforcement of the regulation against deer feeding is routinely conducted by Department law enforcement staff as an important part of their responsibilities.

5. *The Department should address invasive animals, such as Canadian geese and earthworms. Earthworms are not native to the Adirondacks and can impact forest understories.*

The Department does not consider the Canadian goose an invasive species. The Department has prepared a pamphlet that explains actions individuals can take to reduce problems associated with Canadian geese near camps or homes on islands, lakes or river shorelines in Northern New York outside the Forest Preserve.

The use of earthworms as bait is legal in New York State. Studies regarding earthworms damaging forest duff and impairing some plant species have been done in the Midwest, but staff are unaware of similar research in New York State. Earthworms are ubiquitous in the Adirondacks, and it is likely that the ecological effects of the presence of earthworms have been established for decades. Preventing the use of earthworms by anglers in the future is not likely to have ecological benefits.

6. *Trapping pine marten should not be allowed in areas where they are very rare. Hare and ruffed grouse are food for predators and should not be harvested.*

The American marten is not rare in the Adirondacks. While martens are secretive and rarely observed in the wild (with the exception of campsites in the High Peaks Wilderness), their population has expanded throughout much of the Adirondacks over the past several decades. Martens can be legally trapped in Wildlife Management Units 5F, 5H, and 6J, an area which includes the BRW and WMPA. Trapping in New York is highly regulated and the Department closely monitors the harvesting of martens and other furbearers. Because access to many areas of the Adirondacks is difficult, much of the region remains untrapped. Limited access ensures sustainable harvests and the availability of animals to fill unoccupied habitats. Relative inaccessibility is one of the reasons that historically many furbearers, including marten, fisher and otter, were able to persist in the Adirondacks when they were extirpated in other regions of the Northeast.

Hare and grouse are dependent on early successional habitats and regenerating forest, which are not abundant in the Adirondacks. Hare and grouse can be hunted, but not trapped. Hunting pressure on these species throughout the Adirondacks is light and has limited impact on their populations.

Other Comments

1. *It may not be appropriate to construct an accessible canoe launch on Sprague Pond.*

The Department will investigate ways to improve access to the shore of the pond for people with disabilities. Improvements will be made only if they will be feasible under wilderness management guidelines.

2. *Designating campsites on Sprague Pond might help reduce the damage caused by fires on the point on the west side of the outlet.*

Though the evidence of campfires on the west shore of Sprague Pond appears to be associated with day use, the UMP proposal to designate two campsites may reduce the incidence of shoreline campfires.

3. *Do not maintain a waterway access site on South Inlet that does not have a monitor on site who is trained to prevent the introduction of invasive plants into Raquette Lake.*

The Department intends to post signage near the existing waterway access site to inform the public about aquatic invasive plant concerns and prevention measures. The Department will support the efforts of the Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program to monitor this and other access points.

4. *Do not allow motorboat access on South Inlet. Motors violate wilderness standards and motorboats could cause the spread of invasive species.*

South Inlet forms the boundary between the Blue Ridge Wilderness and Moose River Plains Wild Forest. It has been used for motorboat access to the Cascades since the late 1800s. Motorboat use has not resulted in significant impacts to the BRW. The establishment of South Inlet as a no-wake zone will minimize conflicts between motorized and nonmotorized boats and will reduce the potential noise impacts of the use of South Inlet on the interior of the BRW. Measures to inform the public at access points about aquatic invasive plant concerns and control measures will address potential invasive plant introductions.

5. *Allow only electric trolling motors on South Inlet.*

See the response to comment 4.

6. *A no-wake-zone regulation for South Inlet would be ineffective in stopping motorboats and personal water craft.*

The Department's goal of public adherence to legal requirements intended to protect natural resources and the quality of the recreational environment of South Inlet will be pursued through education and enforcement efforts.

7. *Lake Durant should be managed as a motorless lake.*

Lake Durant is not within the BRW, but forms part of its northern boundary. Motorboats have been used on Lake Durant for many years. Route 28, a major highway with significant levels of automobile traffic, is adjacent to much of the lake's northern shore. Therefore, motorboat use appears to be compatible with the environment of the lake, and the Department is not considering the prohibition of motorboats at this time. Specific issues related to motorboat access will be addressed in the Lake Durant Campground UMP.

8. *The Department should work with the Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program to carefully monitor roads around the BRW and WMPA and trails within the area for invasive species.*

The Department will continue to work with the APIPP to inventory, monitor and control invasive plants on Forest Preserve lands.

9. *Targeted application of herbicides to control terrestrial invasive plants should be permitted where necessary.*

The Department is in the process of finalizing “best management practices” for the control of terrestrial invasive plants on the Forest Preserve. These ultimately may include the targeted application of approved pesticides.

10. *Department staff should be trained to recognize invasive plants.*

Department staff will be trained to recognize invasive plants.

11. *The implementation of the Limits of Acceptable Change process should occur in year one.*

The Department acknowledges the importance of the LAC process. However, the implementation schedule reflects management priorities for the BRW and WMPWA within the context of work being scheduled in all Forest Preserve UMPs.

12. *The contract inventory of ecological communities, rare species and critical habitats should be moved to year one.*

See the response to comment 11.

13. *Keep the Cascade Pond lean-to in its present location. It is set back far enough from shore and is in the best spot on the pond for a view.*

The APSLMP requires that all new, reconstructed or relocated lean-tos on lakes, ponds, rivers or major streams be set back at least 100 feet from shore.

14. *The Department should pursue the acquisition of private lands that would enlarge and protect the BRW.*

The Department will pursue strategic additions to the Forest Preserve in accordance with the New York State Open Space Conservation Plan.

15. *The UMP does not present all of the analyses, assessments and inventories required by the APSLMP.*

This UMP contains all the information required by the APSLMP.

16. *The UMP should state more accurately that the mission of the Department is to protect natural resources, not to balance competing recreational impacts and uses.*

The APSLMP provides that, “the primary wilderness management guideline will be to achieve and perpetuate a natural plant and animal community where man’s influence is not apparent.” The APSLMP also provides that, “The following types of recreational use are compatible with wilderness and should be encouraged as long as the degree and intensity of such use does not endanger the wilderness resource itself: hiking, mountaineering, tenting, hunting, fishing, trapping, snowshoeing, ski touring, birding, nature study, and other forms of primitive and unconfined recreation.” It is the responsibility of the Department, then, to manage potential conflicts between the protection of natural conditions in wilderness and the encouragement of appropriate types and levels of recreational use. Also, the types and levels of public use at a particular time and place in wilderness can affect the recreational experiences of visitors. The Department’s responsibility includes the management of potential conflicts between people in light of a key part of the definition of wilderness, that it “has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.” The management of these conflicts may be characterized as a balancing of competing goals, whose relative weights are assigned, not through the application of a simple, objective process, but one that involves an analysis of issue-specific natural resource and public use conditions in the context of legal requirements, policy guidelines, and the goals and objectives for the area, with public participation. Clearly, in any attempt to address wilderness management issues, the balancing point should be much closer to protecting naturalness than encouraging use. The Department intends to employ the Limits of Acceptable Change process to address competing goals where there are concerns about the potential for unacceptable changes in wilderness resources or the recreational environment.

17. *Individual management units should be managed in the broader context of the State and private lands within the Adirondack Park.*

The APSLMP provides a framework for the management of all Forest Preserve lands within the Adirondack Park. Through the process of creating a land classification system and selecting the classifications and boundaries of individual

management units, the APSLMP went a long way toward putting the management of each area of Forest Preserve land in a Park-wide context. While the general guidelines of the APSLMP assure that there will be a high degree of consistency in the management of the lands within each classification, the document also provides specific guidance for individual units that reflect their characteristics and relationships with other State and private lands. In the development of an individual UMP, the Department planning team considers how the management and use of the area affects adjacent State and private lands, and vice versa. Goals, objectives and management actions for the unit are developed after comparing it with other areas in the same classification and viewing it in the context of the Forest Preserve as a whole. Management decisions affecting access and use and the location of structures and improvements such as trails, campsites and parking areas reflect the interests of adjacent landowners, Adirondack communities and the people of New York. The coordination of Forest Preserve planning throughout the Park is facilitated through regular communication among Department planning staff, frequent training sessions and close consultation with the Adirondack Park Agency. Ongoing inventory, monitoring and management initiatives for wildlife, fisheries, significant habitats, rare and extirpated species, and invasive plants and animals are conducted on a Park-wide basis and reflected in individual UMPs. This effort has been greatly facilitated by the work of the UMP-GIS Consortium. Planning for long trails such as the Northville-Lake Placid Trail and the North Country National Scenic Trail and the Northern Forest Canoe Trail is conducted on a broad scale. The Department will continue to pursue strategies to improve the Park-wide coordination of Forest Preserve planning.

18. *Wilderness Management Principles should be removed from UMPs until they are approved in a public process resulting in an amendment to the DEC-APA MOU.*

The wilderness management principles included in wilderness UMPs reflect APSLMP guidelines and established wilderness management philosophy. They are included to assist planners and managers and to inform the public about some of the major considerations affecting the management of wilderness. Because the scope of the DEC-APA Memorandum of Understanding is specific to the interaction between the Department and the APA, it would not be appropriate to add principles for the management of particular Forest Preserve classifications.

19. *The UMP should contain better inventories of forest stand structure and composition, wetlands and sensitive ecosystems. The UMP does not contain discussions of areas in need of restoration or inventories and analysis of carrying capacity.*

Detailed information about vegetative communities, wetlands and sensitive ecosystems is not available. The Department supports biological inventory efforts to increase understanding about living systems throughout the Forest Preserve. Because the levels of facility development and public use are relatively low throughout the BRW and WMPA, few areas have sustained damage requiring restoration. In Inventory of Resources and Human Influences, Public Use, Lands

and Waters, Public Use Impacts, the UMP discusses all areas where restoration work is needed. Proposed management actions include trail inventories to document conditions. The UMP provides an extensive discussion of the capacity of the area to withstand use and proposes additional work needed to implement the Limits of Acceptable Change process.

20. *There are small purple fringed orchids near the outlet of Sprague Pond.*

The plan has been revised to include the observation.

21. *The Golden Beach Campground septic system should be eliminated and relocated to the intensive use area.*

The existing leach field for the Golden Beach Campground septic system was constructed in its present location in the 1960s, before the APSLMP was first adopted. The area was mistakenly included within the BRW. The Department will perform an engineering analysis to decide whether to rehabilitate the existing system in its present location or construct a new system outside the BRW. If the system will be rehabilitated in place, the Department will request that the area be reclassified to become part of the campground intensive use area. If the system will be moved, the site will be restored and retain its wilderness classification.

22. *The existing leach field for the Golden Beach Campground septic system should not be relocated for the sole purpose of conforming with wilderness guidelines. If refurbishing the existing system is the most cost-effective and environmentally sound solution, then the area should be reclassified to allow the leach field to remain where it is.*

See the response to comment 21.

23. *Reclassify the area east of Sagamore Road, south of Sagamore Lake and east of Lake Kora Road from wild forest to wilderness. Also reclassify the area near the northwest corner of the BRW, just north of Sagamore Lake from wild forest to wilderness to extend the northern boundary of the unit to Sagamore Road.*

The Department intends to request that APA consider reclassifying the section south of Sagamore Lake east of Sagamore Road from wild forest to wilderness. Reclassification would move an interior boundary to Sagamore Road and would require only a map amendment. The Department is not considering an extension of the northern boundary of the BRW westward to Sagamore Road at this time. The extent of physical evidence indicating the location of the existing boundary between the BRW and MRPWF in this area is not known. Extensive survey work might be required to determine the location of the existing boundary and establish the new line. The change would not increase the protection of the area and would have few management consequences.

24. *The plan is incorrect in stating that 12 percent of the unit is exposed rock.*

Geological and vegetative covertype information is general in nature and may derive from the interpretation of remote sensing imagery. It is likely that the area of exposed bedrock in the BRW and WMPA is significantly less than 12 percent.

25. *A comprehensive set of regulations should be proposed, rather than individual sets one unit at a time.*

Each UMP includes proposals for regulations that are considered appropriate for that management unit. A number of regulations proposed for units of a particular land classification are the same from plan to plan. The promulgation of a single set of regulations that would apply to all areas within a classification would be preferable to undertaking a separate process for each unit.

26. *New camping regulations aren't needed. Better enforcement would solve camping problems.*

Existing regulations requiring camping groups of 10 or more to obtain camping permits do not include limitations on the size of camping groups. There are no regulations limiting day use group size or protecting natural conditions in the ways proposed in the plan. Therefore, new regulations are needed.

27. *The existing safety zone around Great Camp Sagamore should not be enlarged. Enlarging it would have too much of an impact on hunters.*

The Department does not intend to enlarge the safety zone around Great Camp Sagamore at this time.

28. *Create more safety zones around specific areas in the Forest Preserve so that non-hunters will feel comfortable using them during big game hunting season.*

Opportunities to hunt and fish in a wild setting have attracted people to the lands and waters of the Forest Preserve since it was created in 1885. In recent times increasing numbers of people have come to share the Forest Preserve and enjoy a variety of recreational pursuits. The Department continues to encourage regulated hunting as one of many activities considered appropriate throughout the Forest Preserve and supports hunter safety training and other educational efforts to protect hunters and non-hunters from hunting accidents. In general, the numbers of hunting accidents have declined steadily for decades, and in the Adirondacks there has not been a single documented incident of an injury inflicted by a hunter on a person not affiliated with a hunting party. Those visiting the Forest Preserve in autumn during the big game hunting season can hike marked trails with confidence, especially if they wear fluorescent orange clothing. It is a good idea for everyone planning a trip to the Forest Preserve to know what other people might be doing and when. Hunting season dates are published in the Department's *Hunting and Trapping Regulations Guide* and may be found on the Department's

web site, <http://www.dec.state.ny.us>. The Department’s web site also provides information about hunting and outdoor safety.

29. *The Department should take measures to reduce noise impacts, such as aircraft noise.*

The sounds of aircraft can have significant impacts on the recreational environment of wilderness areas. Most aircraft respect existing regulations that prohibit touching down on wilderness lakes. Overflight is regulated by the federal government, and military overflight is subject to an ongoing dialogue group, National Environmental Policy Act process and military operating agreements that seek to minimize military flights over sensitive areas such as wilderness. Current discussions do not include overflights by private aircraft.

30. *Forest products should be harvested from Forest Preserve lands to provide jobs and revenue to the State.*

In 1885 the Forest Preserve was created as an area of State land to be “forever kept as wild forest lands.” In 1895, the following provision was added to the New York State Constitution: “ 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.” Over the decades since the creation of the Forest Preserve, the people of New York repeatedly have expressed their desire to retain and expand the Forest Preserve as a protected natural landscape. The aesthetic and recreational attraction of Forest Preserve lands draws millions of people to the Adirondack region, who bring substantial economic benefits through their support of lodging and dining establishments and an array of other businesses. The Department supports the continued viability of the forest products industry in the Adirondacks and the jobs it creates. The purchase of conservation easements has assured that large tracts of private working forests will remain intact and will be sustainably managed to produce timber for the forest products industry far into the future.

31. *Former log roads should be kept clear for emergency access.*

The APSLMP provides that “the primary wilderness management guideline will be to achieve and perpetuate a natural plant and animal community where man’s influence is not apparent.” Another key guideline provides that “all management and administrative action and interior facilities in wilderness areas will be designed to emphasize the self-sufficiency of the user to assume a high degree of responsibility for environmentally-sound use of such areas and for his or her own health, safety and welfare.” Though the use of motorized vehicles is permitted “in cases of sudden, actual and ongoing emergencies involving the protection or preservation of human life or intrinsic resource values,” the construction or maintenance of roads for any purpose, including emergency access, is prohibited.

APPENDIX 18 – STATE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY REVIEW, NEGATIVE DECLARATION

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

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 environmental impact and a Draft Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared.

Name of Action: Blue Ridge Wilderness and Wakely Mountain Primitive Area Unit Management Plan

SEQR Status: Type 1 X
Unlisted_

Conditioned Negative Declaration: Yes X No

Location: The Blue Ridge Wilderness (BRW) comprises approximately 47,000 acres and is located within the towns of Indian Lake, Long Lake, Arietta and Lake Pleasant and the village of Speculator in Hamilton County. It is roughly bounded by Route 28 between the hamlets of Indian Lake and Raquette Lake on the north, Cedar River Road on the south, and Sagamore Road and the lands of Camp Sagamore and Kamp Kill Kare on the west. The Wakely Mountain Primitive Area (WMPA) consists of 235 acres surrounding the fire tower, observer cabin and helipad on the summit of Wakely Mountain. It is on the southern border of the BRW.

Description of Action: The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation proposes to develop a unit management plan (UMP) for the BRW and WMPA, as required by Article 27, Section 816 of the Executive Law. The UMP must conform with the guidelines of the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan (APSLMP), which requires that the plan contain an inventory of natural resources and man-made facilities, an inventory of actual and projected public use, an assessment of the potential impacts of public use on natural resources and the public enjoyment of the area, an assessment of the physical, biological and social carrying capacity of the area, and a statement of management objectives to address the protection and rehabilitation of the area's natural resources, the control of public use, the removal of nonconforming uses, opportunities for additional recreational use and the need for new facilities.

The BRW comprise approximately 47,000 acres with relatively limited recreational development and low levels of public recreational use. A major goal of proposed management is to preserve the area's relatively low level of development and to protect a recreational environment characterized by a high degree of solitude. The fire tower in the WMPA is the destination of a trail that begins in the Moose River Plains Wild Forest. It receives relatively low levels of use compared to other fire tower mountains.

The UMP includes a proposal to establish a Historic Great Camps Special Management Area (HGCSMA) consisting of Forest Preserve lands within the Blue Ridge Wilderness (BRW) and Moose River Plains Wild Forest (MRPWF) located in the vicinity of the historic properties at Camp Sagamore and Camp Uncas. The establishment of the HGCSMA conforms with the Special Management Guidelines section of the APSLMP. The purpose of this designation is to recognize the importance of the Great Camps as cultural resources of state and national significance, their contribution to tourism and educational and cultural programs in the region, and the importance of the management of the Forest Preserve lands around them, formerly parts of their original estates, in supporting the preservation of the Great Camps. Further, the designation is an acknowledgment that the educational and recreational programs of the Sagamore Institute emphasize the close connection between the history of the Great Camps and the creation and evolution of the Forest Preserve, and thereby promote the understanding, appreciation and enjoyment of the Forest Preserve by the public.

Because the HGCSMA includes lands within both the BRW and MRPWF, this special area plan will be incorporated within the UMPs for both areas. It is likely that the UMPs for the BRW and MRPWF will be adopted at different times. Therefore, management proposals in the portion of the HGCSMA affecting lands within a particular management unit will be finalized only when the UMP for that unit is adopted. Should the management proposals in the special area plan for the HGCSMA be changed in the UMP adopted later, the first UMP will be amended to include the changes, so that the final UMPs for the BRW and MRPWF will contain identical special area plans.

Actions proposed in the BRW and WMPA UMP include the continuation of existing recreational uses and management programs and the maintenance of existing structures and improvements, as well as the addition of new uses, programs, structures and improvements. Existing uses proposed for continuation include hiking, camping, fishing, hunting, trapping, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. Programs conducted in support of natural resource protection and recreational use proposed for continuation include research and inventory projects, the monitoring of resource conditions, fish stocking and pond reclamation, public information and education efforts, search and rescue operations, fire protection and law enforcement. Existing structures and improvements including parking areas, trails, lean-tos and campsites are proposed for continued maintenance.

New recreational uses include hiking and cross-country skiing opportunities on new and relocated trails. New structures and improvements include new and relocated trails, a new lean-to along the Northville-Lake Placid Trail, new and expanded parking areas, construction of a fish barrier dam, installation of pit privies, designation or construction

of tent sites, and new barriers to prevent motor vehicle use. Management proposals include the adoption of new regulations to protect natural resources and the recreational environment, and the removal of nonconforming uses. Actions proposed in the draft plan are summarized below.

SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

Fisheries

- Reclaim Slim Pond (R-P302)
- Reclaim Sprague Pond if an effective barrier dam is constructed

Classification and Reclassification

- Investigate the desirability of reclassifying the wild forest parcel east of the road between Sagamore Lake and Lake Kora to wilderness so that the boundary conforms with a geographic feature rather than a lot line.
- Propose classification of the unclassified parcel surrounding the Cascade Pond trailhead. Include the road from Durant Road (C.R. 19) to Lake Durant, along with the part of the unclassified parcel east of the road, in the Blue Mountain Wild Forest. Include the part of the parcel west of the road in the BRW.

Administration

- Designate a unit manager and appoint a unit management team.

Trails

- Maintain the existing marked trails to Wilson, Cascade and Stephens Ponds and the trail to Sawyer Mountain. Maintain the vista on Sawyer Mountain.
- Relocate the Northville-Lake Placid Trail from Cedar River Road to a new route on the periphery of the BRW (and in the Moose River Plains Wild Forest). Close the part of the existing route of the NP Trail from private lands to the intersection of the proposed new route south of Stephens Pond.
- Build a new trail along a less steep approach to the summit of Wakely Mountain from Cellar Pond in the Moose River Plains Wild Forest. After the new route is built, consider closing the existing route after analyzing use patterns and public interest.
- Mark and maintain the following existing unmarked trails: trails near Camp Sagamore, the Slim Pond trail, the Death Brook Falls trail, the Wilson-Cascade crossover trail, and the Sprague Pond trail.
- In the maintenance of marked trails or the construction of new trails, construct appropriate bridges or drainage structures where necessary to protect natural resources.

Trailheads

- Sagamore trails: Make minor parking improvements and provide better public information about the area. Keep use within the capacity of the area by not advertising the trails with a sign on Route 28.
- Death Brook Falls: Work with NYSDOT to construct a parking area for six cars.
- Slim Pond: Keep use within the capacity of the area by not improving the parking area or erecting signs visible from Route 28.
- Wilson Pond: Work with NYSDOT to pave the existing parking area.
- Cascade Pond: Build a four-car parking area.
- Sawyer Mountain: Maintain the existing paved parking area.
- Sprague Pond: Build a four-car parking area.

Waterway Access Sites

- Maintain existing sites on Sagamore Lake and South Inlet at Route 28. Provide better public information about their location. Install signs to help prevent the introduction of invasive plants.

Barriers

- Convert pipe gates to boulder barriers. Install new boulder barriers at all points where roads cross the boundary of the unit.

Lean-tos and Primitive Tent Sites

- Construct a new lean-to along the new route of the relocated Northville-Lake Placid Trail.
- Retain the existing lean-tos on Wilson, Cascade and Stephens Ponds. Relocate them to meet APSLMP setback distance guidelines when they need major rehabilitation. Close and relocate tent sites where necessary to meet APSLMP separation distances guidelines.

Cultural Resources

- Retain and restore the Wakely Mountain fire tower.
- Retain the Sagamore ruins, subject to the forces of nature.

Public Use

- Maintain the Sagamore safety zone, a 100-acre area around Camp Sagamore in which hunting and trapping is prohibited.
- Adopt regulations to prohibit:
 - camping groups larger than eight people and day use groups larger than 15;
 - The use of certain camping structures;
 - camping at elevations above 3,500 feet except at designated sites;

- campfires within 150 feet of roads, trails and water except at primitive tent sites or lean-tos;
- the use of audio devices which are audible outside the immediate areas of campsites;
- the use of soap or detergent in any water body;
- the disposal of food and food containers in any water body;
- the use of motorized equipment;
- the marking of trails with plastic ribbons, paint, blazes or other devices or the cutting or clearing of trails or the marking of summits with canisters except by written permission of the department;
- leaving a pet unattended or failing to maintain complete control over a pet;
- failure to have proof of rabies inoculation for any dog;
- the erection or maintenance of any commemorative features, such as signs, plaques or markers depicting cultural sites;
- undertaking any research project except under permit of the department;
- failure to take reasonable steps to keep food, food containers, and garbage from bears;
- possession of glass containers except those necessary for the storage of prescribed medicines;
- the erection or maintenance of any structure not specifically permitted;
- storing a boat or other personal property.

In addition, it is proposed that existing regulations be amended to increase penalties for the illegal use of motor vehicles on Forest Preserve lands.

Access for People with Disabilities

- Assess the trails of the unit for accessibility. Provide information to the public about trail characteristics.
- Make new parking areas and barriers accessible. Modify existing barriers and make minor improvements to trail surfaces within APSLMP guidelines where potential opportunities for people with disabilities are identified

Nonconforming Uses

- Wakely Mountain fire tower: Retain and restore the tower, observer cabin and helipad for radio communications, recreational use, and historic preservation.
- Sagamore ruins: Allow the ruins of the structures and improvements within the bounds of the former Sagamore estate to remain, subject to the forces of nature.
- Gould Road spurs: Install boulder barriers across the three dead-end roads branching off the boundary road near Wakely Pond known as the Gould road to prevent motor vehicle use.
- Golden Beach Campground septic system: The septic system for the Golden Beach Campground, constructed in 1966, is within the BRW and should have been included within the campground intensive use area. Depending on the results

of an engineering analysis, decide either to rehabilitate the existing system in its present location or construct a new system outside the BRW. If the system will be rehabilitated in place, seek to reclassify the area to become part of the campground intensive use area. If the system will be moved, restore the site of the existing system by removing all above-ground septic system components and planting a mixture of native tree seedlings. Remove the gate, and move the interior boulder barrier to the beginning of the access road.

- Sprague Pond pipe gate: Replace the pipe gate with a boulder barrier.
- East Inlet bridge: When the bridge over East Inlet near Sagamore Lake requires reconstruction, replace it with a new bridge conforming with APSLMP guidelines.

Reasons Supporting This Determination: In general, the proposals for the management of the BRW and WMPA presented in the UMP are made within the existing framework of Article XIV of the New York State Constitution, which declares that the Forest Preserve “shall be forever kept as wild forest lands,” and the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan, which classifies Forest Preserve lands and sets forth guidelines for the protection and management of the lands in each classification. APSLMP guidelines for wilderness and primitive areas require that they be managed to “achieve and perpetuate a natural plant and animal community” and to permit only those structures, improvements, administrative actions, and types and levels of recreational use that have minimal environmental impacts.

The maintenance of existing structures and improvements in the BRW and WMPA will not involve the use of motor vehicles and generally will be done with hand tools. The limited use of aircraft and motorized equipment, such as chainsaws for cutting blowdown on trails, will be permitted for specific projects with the approval of the Department commissioner. Use of aircraft and motorized equipment will occur during off-peak seasons and generally no more often than once every three to five years in a given location. The use of aircraft and motorized equipment within the Adirondack Subalpine Forest Bird Conservation Area will be minimized during the breeding season of Bicknell’s thrush.

Construction and maintenance projects proposed in the UMP will be conducted in accordance with established “best management practices.”

All trail construction and relocation projects will incorporate such considerations as:

- Locating trails to minimize tree cutting;
- Locating trails to minimize necessary cut and fill;
- Laying out trails on existing old roads or clear or partially cleared areas where their condition and location meet the goals of trail construction;
- Locating trails away from streams, wetlands, and unstable slopes wherever possible;
- Using proper drainage devices such as water bars and broad-based dips;
- Locating trails to minimize grade;

- Using stream crossings with low, stable banks, firm stream bottoms and gentle approach slopes;
- Constructing stream crossings, including bridges where needed for resource protection, at right angles to the stream;
- Limiting stream crossing construction to periods of low or normal flow;
- Using stream bank stabilizing structures made of natural materials such as rock or wooden timbers;
- Avoiding areas where habitats of threatened and endangered species are known to exist;
- Using natural materials to blend bridges and other structures needed for resource protection into the natural surroundings;
- Designing, constructing and maintaining bridges to avoid disrupting the migration or movement of fish and other aquatic life.

All lean-to relocation projects will incorporate such considerations as:

- Locating lean-tos to minimize necessary cut and fill;
- Locating lean-tos to minimize tree cutting;
- Locating lean-tos away from streams, wetlands, and unstable slopes;
- Using drainage structures on trails leading to lean-to sites to prevent water from flowing into the sites;
- Locating lean-tos on flat, stable, well-drained sites;
- Limiting construction to periods of low or normal rainfall.

All parking area construction and relocation projects will incorporate such considerations as:

- Locating parking areas to minimize necessary cut and fill;
- Locating parking areas to minimize tree cutting;
- Locating parking areas away from streams, wetlands, and unstable slopes wherever possible;
- Locating parking areas on flat, stable, well-drained sites using gravel for surfacing or other appropriate material to avoid stormwater runoff and erosion;
- Limiting construction to periods of low or normal rainfall;
- Wherever possible, using wooded buffers to screen parking areas from roads;
- Limiting the size of a parking area to the minimum necessary to accommodate appropriate levels of interior use.

Tent sites will be constructed to minimize tree cutting, minimize cut and fill and ensure proper separation from one another. They will be located on flat, stable, well drained sites away from wetlands, streams and unstable slopes.

Pit privies will be located to promote sanitation and prevent site degradation. They will be located at least 150 feet from any water source to prevent surface water contamination and will be checked annually.

All fish stocking projects will be conducted in compliance with the *Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement on Fish Species Management Activities of the Department of Environmental Conservation, Division of Fish and Wildlife*, December 1979.

All liming projects will be conducted in compliance with the *Generic Environmental Impact Statement on the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Program of Liming Selected Acidified Waters*, October 1990, as well as the Division of Fish, Wildlife and Marine Resources liming policy.

All pond reclamation projects will be conducted in compliance with the *Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement on Fish Species Management Activities of the Department of Environmental Conservation, Division of Fish and Wildlife*, June, 1980 and *Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement on Undesirable Fish Removal by the Use of Pesticides Under Permit Issued by the Department of Environmental Conservation, Division of Lands and Forests, Bureau of Pesticide Management*, March 1981.

Building a fish barrier dam on Slim Pond will prevent non-native fish from entering the pond. The dam will be sited at an unobtrusive location to minimize visual impacts. This project will comply with the *Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement on Habitat Management Activities of the Department of Environmental Conservation, Division of Fish and Wildlife*, December 1979.

All tree cutting activities will be conducted in compliance with the Commissioner's Organization and Delegation Memorandum #84-06, "Tree Cutting on Forest Preserve Land" and policy LF-91-2, "Cutting and Removal of Trees in the Forest Preserve."

APA will be consulted during the planning of any project that might affect wetlands. If required, a wetlands permit will be obtained. The permit will include conditions designed to minimize the impacts of the project on wetlands.

Once new trails are constructed or existing unmarked trails are marked and maintained, it is expected that use levels will be relatively low and impacts to soils and vegetation will be minimal. Bridges will be constructed where necessary to protect soils, vegetation and water quality. Anticipated use levels are not expected to have significant impacts on the recreational environment of the area. Opportunities for solitude will be abundant at most locations during all seasons. A large trailless area in the interior of the BRW will be maintained. Ongoing monitoring will assess use impacts, and actions will be taken when necessary to address unanticipated impacts.

New or expanded parking areas at trailheads and waterway access sites will be designed so that parking capacity will not exceed the capacity of the interior to withstand use.

The installation of barriers will afford environmental benefits by helping to prevent illegal motor vehicle use within the area.

The closing and relocation of primitive tent sites, the construction of new lean-tos, and the relocation of existing lean-tos to comply with APSLMP guidelines for separation distances and setbacks from water will afford environmental benefits by reducing the potential for conflicts between visitors occupying adjacent lean-to and tent sites and reducing visual impacts. Anticipated use levels of properly located lean-tos and tent sites is not expected to have significant impacts on vegetation and soils. Ongoing monitoring will assess use impacts, and actions will be taken when necessary to address unanticipated impacts.

The proposal to retain the Wakely Mountain fire tower, observer cabin and helipad constitutes a continuation of existing conditions. Public use levels on the trail and at the summit are anticipated to be lower than other fire tower mountains and impacts to soils and vegetation are not expected to be significant. Because the fire tower is not visible from most vantage points, the retention of the tower and the addition of radio equipment will not have significant visual impacts. The fire tower is listed on the New York State and National Registers of Historic Places. From a historic preservation perspective, the proposal to mount solar panels on the tower to power radio equipment will have a negative impact by affecting the tower's visual integrity. However, because the panels will be mounted in a way that will not significantly alter the tower's original structure, the impact is not considered to be significant.

The retention of the ruins of structures associated with Camp Sagamore and included in Sagamore's National Historic Landmark designation will not have significant environmental impacts. The former hydroelectric dam on the Sagamore Lake outlet is small and completely breached. It does not impound water and, therefore, does not pose a threat of failing and causing downstream flooding, sedimentation or other damage. It does not impede the movement of fish or other aquatic species. The dam, valvehouse and powerhouse are not visible from major vantage points. They are well screened from a lightly-used nearby foot trail. The dam and valvehouse are visible to those who fish the river. The visual impact of the structures, situated less than half a mile from a public highway, is less significant than it would be farther in the interior of the wilderness.

Considering the ruins as historic resources, the proposal to retain them will not have direct negative impacts. However, the decision to allow them to deteriorate naturally will result in their eventual loss. The deterioration of the ruins through the operation of natural processes is considered appropriate in the context of their wilderness environment.

Proposed public use regulations will have environmental benefits by reducing the impacts caused by large groups, upper elevation camping, campfires near roads, trails and water, loud radios, the improper use of soap and detergent, the improper disposal of food, the use of motorized equipment, the unauthorized construction and marking of trails, unattended pets, the erection of unauthorized signs, the failure to protect food from bears, the use of glass containers, the storage of personal property and the use of motor vehicles.

Proposals to increase access for people with disabilities will not have significant impacts. Accessibility measures will focus on providing information and altering the designs of conforming structures. They will not include actions involving significant modifications to the ground surface or to other features of the natural environment

Proposals to remove nonconforming uses will afford environmental benefits by preventing public and administrative uses, such as motor vehicle use, and removing structures that do not conform with wilderness guidelines.

None of the proposals in the UMP is expected to have significant impacts on wildlife. No endangered or threatened species of animals or plants have been identified in the unit. Loons, classified as species of special concern, have been found on Sagamore Lake and Sprague Pond. Proposals for the construction or relocation of trails, tent sites or lean-tos will be designed to minimize impacts on nesting loons.

For Further Information, Contact:

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A Copy of This Notice Sent To:

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APPENDIX 19 – BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

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