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MANAGEMENT

FULTON CHAIN WILD FOREST

UNIT MANAGEMENT PLAN

JANUARY 1990

NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

FULTON CHAIN WILD FOREST

UNIT MANAGEMENT PLAN

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
Mario Cuomo
Governor

Thomas Jorling
Commissioner

JAN 4 1990

TO: The Record

FROM: Thomas C. Jorling

RE: Unit Management Plan
Fulton Chain Wild Forest

The Unit Management Plan for the Fulton Chain Wild Forest has been completed. It is consistent with the guidelines and criteria of the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan involved citizen participation, is consistent with the State Constitution, the Environmental Conservation Law, rules, regulations and policy. The Plan includes management objectives for a five-year period and is hereby approved and adopted.

cc: L. Marsh

Task Force Leader: D. V. Gray, Herkimer

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FULTON CHAIN WILD FOREST

Unit Management Plan

The Fulton Chain Wild Forest is a picturesque land of rolling woodlands, rocky hills, wetlands, lakes, ponds, and beaver meadows nestled within a mix of State and private ownerships. It includes part of the beautiful Fulton Chain of Lakes and is rich in local Adirondack history. This "forever wild" natural resource gem is a valuable public possession and with proper management, it will be a source of beauty, inspiration, and recreational pursuit forever. In an area of rapid change and development, these lands offer refreshing comfort for the future. We know that here, at least, wild things will reign supreme, and even though we are the managers of these lands, the natural order of things will draft their ultimate destiny.

David V. Gray
D.E.C. - Herkimer

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FOREWORD

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

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

-- The creation of the Adirondack Park Agency;

-- The preparation, by the Agency, of a Master Plan for State-owned lands;

-- The classification of these lands "according to their characteristics and capacity to withstand use", and

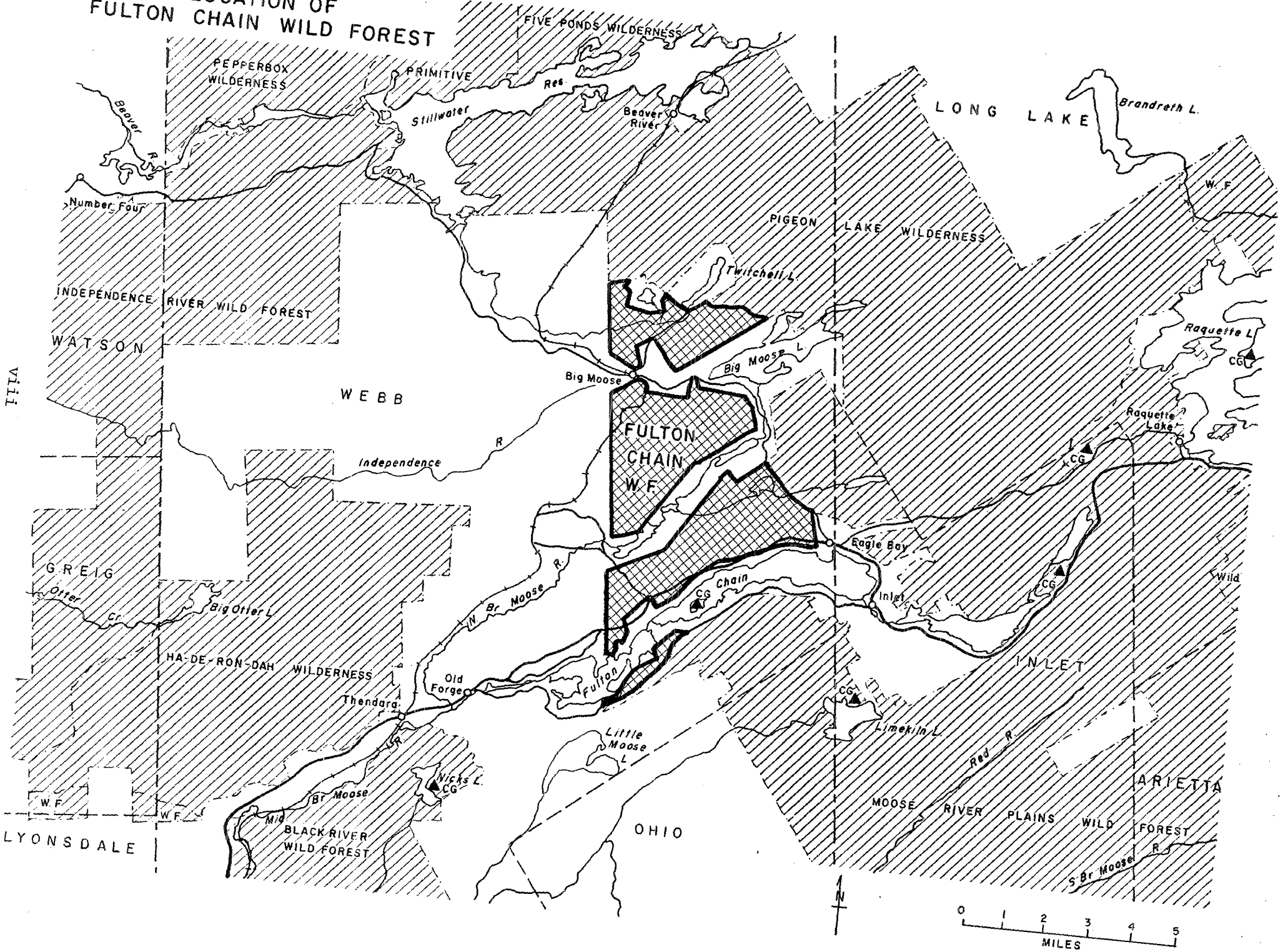
-- A set of extensive guidelines for the care, custody and control of State-owned lands under the Master Plan with particular emphasis on proposed wilderness and primitive areas.

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

The final legislative mandate provided for the Agency's

Master Plan for State-owned lands in the Adirondack Park. A revised master plan in accordance with Section 816 of the Adirondack Park Agency Act, Article 27 of the Executive Law, was signed by Governor Mario Cuomo on November 4, 1987. The Fulton Chain Wild Forest Unit Plan has been prepared by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation with the State Land Master Plan setting the parameters and local citizens providing additional review.

LOCATION OF FULTON CHAIN WILD FOREST



I. INTRODUCTION

A. Area Description

The Fulton Chain Wild Forest is located in the west-central portion of the Adirondack Park in Herkimer County, Town of Webb (See Appendix 23). The unit is largely situate within Township 8, John Brown's Tract, Macomb's Purchase and comprises all or part of Parcels A, B, C, D, E, F, I, J, K, and L with an additional five smaller, undesignated parcels. Parts of the unit not in Township 8 include lands in Township 7, John Brown's Tract, Range 12, Lot 8 (DeCamp Island); and Township 3, Moose River Tract, all or part of Lots 77, 78, 89, 90, 101, 102, 113, 114, 125, 126 and 138 (Unit Section D).

The unit is divided into four main sections by three strips of privately-owned lands in the vicinity of: (from north to south)

1. Hamlet of Big Moose, Thirsty Pond and Big Moose Lake.
2. Lake Rondaxe, No. Branch - Moose River and Darts Lake.
3. Fulton Chain of Lakes

To prevent confusion, these sections are designated A - D, north to south.

The unit is roughly bordered on the north by the Razorback Pond Outlet, the Pigeon Lake Wilderness Area and the private lands adjacent to Silver and Twitchell Lakes; on the east by the Big Moose Road, Pigeon Lake

Wilderness Area, private lands near Big Moose Lake and the Hamlet of Eagle Bay; on the south by the Moose River Plains Wild Forest, Third Lake Creek and adjacent private lands and on the west by private lands and the west boundary of Township 8. The unit also includes DeCamp Island and adjacent Gumdrop Island, two small islands of Forest Preserve between the First and Second Lakes of the Fulton Chain. A permanent easement across private lands leads from this wild forest to Razorback Pond and the Pigeon Lake Wilderness Area (See Appendix 1).

Razorback Pond, Twitchell Lake and Rondaxe Lake lie outside of the unit and have less-than-total State land lake frontages. These adjacent water bodies are included in this plan due to the fact that the beds were deeded to the State by William Seward Webb et al in the 1897 deed. The total acreage of this wild forest is 14,775 acres, exclusive of the three lake beds named above.

B. History of the Land Unit

Some sources of historical background on the area are given in the Bibliography of this plan. Brief historical highlights for the area are as follows:

1. The unit is named after the Fulton Chain of Lakes, which are named and numbered First through Eighth. The first four lakes separate the southern extremity of this unit. In 1811, "An Act for the Improvement of the Internal Navigation of the

State for the purpose of establishing a communication by means of Canal Navigation between the Great Lakes and the Hudson River" was passed by the New York State Legislature. Steamboat inventor Robert Fulton was an enthusiastic member of the commission appointed to investigate the feasibility of an "Adirondack Canal" and he extolled the virtues of this unnamed chain of Adirondack Lakes. Although the idea never attained fruition, the lakes have been known as the Fulton Chain ever since. A dam at Old Forge under the jurisdiction of the Black River Regulating Board controls the water level of the first five lakes. Another dam at Sixth Lake controls the water level of Sixth and Seventh Lakes. Eighth Lake has a natural outlet.

2. The current history starts with John Brown of Providence, R.I., and Revolutionary War fame, who in 1792, purchased about 200,000 acres in the northern part of New York State from Alexander Macomb's vast holdings. He later divided this purchase into eight townships which he designated as follows: Township No. 1, Industry; No. 2, Enterprise; No. 3, Perseverance; No. 4, Unanimity; No. 5, Frugality; No. 6, Sobriety; No. 7, Economy and No. 8, Regularity. Most of the Fulton Chain Wild Forest lies in Township No. 8.

3. Early access to this area from "civilization" was

via the Brown's Tract Road and subsequently, the Adirondack Division of the New York Central Railroad (later part of Penn Central, now owned by the N.Y.S. Department of Transportation.) This line began operation on July 1, 1892 and is presently inactive (See Appendix 16).

4. In 1899, several wealthy Raquette Lake camp owners applied for a charter, secured trackage rights and built the 19 mile Raquette Lake Railway from Clearwater (now Carter Station) to Raquette Lake. This railway was opened to the public on July 1, 1900. In 1920, the New York Central Railroad Company assumed the Raquette Lake Railway Company's indebtedness and acquired its entire capital stock. In 1933, the Public Service Commission permitted the Raquette Lake and New York Central companies to abandon the entire line and its operation respectively. The bed of this early financial disaster now exists as a road through section B and C of the unit and is operated as a portion of the Town of Webb snowmobile trail, authority for which was deeded to the Town by the Raquette Lake Railroad Company in 1937 as recorded in Book 326, Page 149, at the Herkimer County Clerk's Office. The State's interest, if any, in the ownership of the railroad bed is the subject of Miscellaneous Title Investigation No. 492, submitted to the Department of Law on April

16, 1971. It is still unresolved.

5. Township 8 of the John Brown's Tract has some interesting restrictions contained in the deed between William Seward Webb et al and the People of the State of New York in January of 1896. Provisions of this "Webb Covenant" include:

   a. No Webb lands in the Township would be sold except for permanent forestry and hotel, camp and cottage purposes exclusively.

   b. The public has the unrestricted right to hunt and fish on lands not sold for camp or hotel sites.

   c. All trails and ways of communication either by land or water, not conveyed or under contract at the time of the deed, would remain open and free to the People of the State of New York.

   d. Webb and Na-Ha-Sa-Ne Park Association, their heirs and assigns did not release or relinquish the right to use any present established ways, highways, trails or ways of communication by land or by water from or to any of their lands in Township 8 (See Appendix 15).

6. One of the most prestigious girls' camps in the nation was located at Moss Lake. Operated by Dr. George Longstaff, the camp offered recreational and educational programs to a select clientele for some 49 years. On May 13, 1974, about one year after its acquisition by the State of New York,

the property was occupied by a group of Mohawk Indians who claimed the area and set up headquarters for the Ganienkeh Indian Territory. For three years to the day, the Indian occupancy created tense conditions for residents in the area. The last Indian left for granted lands in Clinton County in 1978, the former Moss Lake girls' camp buildings were razed by D.E.C. and the land was returned to its wild forest status.

7. Twitchell Lake was the home of Earl Covey, architectural builder of log and stone lodges. His works can be found in the area and include the Twitchell Lake Dam and the Big Moose Chapel, which is perhaps his most famous.

8. William Scott DeCamp who owned and lived on DeCamp Island (Treasure Island) attempted to collect tolls from passing Fulton Chain Steamers until the Legislature declared the chain of lakes a "public highway." The island's history includes residency by Joseph Young, the entrepreneur who, until his death, endeavored to develop "Hollywood Hills" on the North Shore of First Lake. Had it continued, this venture might well have rivaled its western namesake.

9. Big Moose Lake, adjacent to the unit, was the scene of the murder memorialized in Theodore Dreiser's book "An American Tragedy" and, more recently, Craig Brandon's "Murder in the Adiron-

dacks" and "Adirondack Tragedy" by Joseph Brownell and Patricia Wawrzaszek.

10. The State land portion of the Razorback Pond Trail is subject to a permanent easement for all purposes of ingress and egress including the right, but not the obligation to maintain a road over said easement by the landowner of the Silver Lake parcel, which is adjacent to the unit. The authority for this is granted in a deed recorded in the Herkimer County Clerk's office in Book 679, page 368, and is part of the deed between Arthur J. Foley, Jr. and the People of the State of New York recorded in Book 679, page 872 at the Herkimer County Clerk's office.

11. The former Old Forge Fish Hatchery (also called the Fulton Chain Fish Hatchery) was located in the Hamlet of Old Forge at the turn of the century, and served as the winter haven for seven beavers purchased by the State from the Canadian Exhibit at the Louisiana Purchase Exposition in St. Louis in 1904. A sign commemorating this event was established for the 50th celebration of the Forest Preserve in 1935 and was replaced verbatim for the 1985 centennial celebration. In April of 1905, two beavers were taken in a zinc-lined crate from Old Forge to Inlet by rowboat. From Inlet, they were carried to a small Moose River Tributary named Sumner Stream and released. The next year,

the State contracted with the Secretary of the Interior for the purchase of 25 live beavers to be captured and shipped from Yellowstone National Park. Excepting four animals that were lost to the rigors of the cross-country trip, these beavers were released to the wild. It was from the thirty beavers released between 1901 and 1907 by the State and by private individuals, that the present large population of beavers in the Adirondacks has developed.

An historical summary and map of State land acquisitions in the Fulton Chain Wild Forest appear in Appendix 12.

II. INVENTORY OF RESOURCES, FACILITIES AND PUBLIC USE

A. Resources

1. Geology and Soils

Geologists explain that the Adirondacks were formed approximately 1100 million years ago during the Precambrian period. Dynamic geological processes including submergence beneath the sea, sedimentation and crustal sagging, volcanism, metamorphism and pre-existing rocks, deep erosion and resubmergence were all involved in forming the Adirondacks. Intense pressure and high temperature caused recrystalization of rock into metamorphic types including granite, the common bedrock found in the area.

During the ice age, approximately one-half million years ago, the moving ice mass ground and scoured the bedrock, eventually shaping the mountains and forming u-shaped grooves or valleys in between. As the ice retreated, approximately 9000 years ago, it left behind an irregular cover of rock rubble. Sand and stone settled out and formed natural dams as the ice receded and melt water filled the newly formed lakes and ponds. Since this early structuring of the Adirondacks, vegetation has gradually reclaimed the land and has evolved into the present forests while contributing to the humus components of today's soils.

The glacial ice deposited a heterogenous mixture of stone, gravel, sand, silt and clay which is called

glacial till. Common minerals include quartz, feldspar, mica and hornblende. Soil scientists identify the very stony Becket and Potsdam classifications as the main soil series. A portion of the unit near Safford Pond is in the sandy, nearly level Naumburg classification. Also occurring are areas of very steep rock outcrops with associated shallow soils. A balanced rock near the fire tower on Bald or Rondaxe Mountain (hereafter called Bald Mountain) is a rather unique phenomenon.

The following soil characteristics must be considered in the management of this wild forest unit:

a. The soils are usually moist, retain water well, yet drain freely.

b. They contain a layer enriched in iron and humus that is strongly acid.

c. Over 50% of the acreage is very stony.

d. The dominant soils have fragipans - very compact dense layers that form a barrier to roots and water.

e. Small areas have permeable sub-soils that are suited for a wide range of uses (See Appendices 2 & 3).

2. Terrain

Topography on the unit consists of tranquil, rolling woodlands, rocky hills, wetlands, beaver meadows and picturesque lakes and ponds. Elevations vary from 1,700 to 2,500 feet rising from

south to north. Impressive relief in the form of precipitous rock faces occurs on Onondaga, Bald and Slide-Off Mountains and west of Moss Lake. Vistas on associated trails offer picturesque views (See Appendix 4).

3. Water, Wetlands and Fishery

The waters of the Fulton Chain Wild Forest comprise a portion of the Black River - St. Lawrence River Drainage Basin. The area's water enters this system as part of the Moose River, primarily via the North Branch of the Moose River and the Fulton Chain of Lakes. Only a small portion of these branches actually occurs within the boundaries of the unit.

The Fulton Chain Wild Forest has 22 lakes and ponds (totalling 4,058 acres) ranging in size from two acres (Silver Dollar Pond) to 2,137 acres (Fourth Lake). The unit also contains 27 streams, totalling approximately 18 miles.

Interesting, picturesque waterfalls occur on Twitchell Creek and West Pond Outlet. The North Branch of the Moose River also deserves recognition, due to it's designation under the Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers Act. The section from the outlet of Big Moose Lake to the outlet of Goose Pond is classified as scenic. The portion of river included in the unit (the outlet of Goose Pond to the confluence of the Middle Branch) is

classified as recreational (See Appendix 5.D.).

Water quality is variable with low productivity and fertility levels typical to the area. Increasing acidity is a growing problem in unit waters and current data indicates that at least three of the ponds (Pocket, Mountain and Silver Dollar) have lost their brook trout fisheries due to acid conditions. All waters within the unit reflect the damaging effects of atmospheric deposition in varying degrees. A survey in the spring of 1984 documented a problem with acidity in Twitchell Creek. Also, four additional water bodies (Razorback, Safford and Snake Ponds and Twitchell Lake) are becoming acid and may be a problem in the future (See Appendix 5.B.).

Elevated DDT levels in area waters have been identified and are being investigated. The focus of this concern is Fourth Lake. In 1982, DDT was found within the Fulton Chain system, in sediments and lake trout. This has since resulted in a health advisory on human consumption of lake trout from Fourth Lake. The source of the DDT remains uncertain (See Section N.3., Environmental Problems).

Traditionally, the lake and pond fishery of the Fulton Chain Wild Forest was characterized by Adirondack Brook Trout, with associated minnow and forage fish species and brown bullhead. Excepting

the Fulton Chain of Lakes, the fishery is still generally brook trout, but losses in quality and quantity due to atmospheric deposition, and invasion by warmwater species such as yellow perch are evident.

The most notable fishery within the unit is that found in the Fulton Chain of Lakes. Historically, these lakes have been an important and popular fishing area. The salmonid fishery has been the backbone of this resource, with the earliest anglers seeking native lake trout and brook trout. Over time, stocked rainbow trout and landlocked salmon, and to a lesser degree, brown trout were added to provide increased opportunities for the coldwater anglers. The fishery for lake trout and brook trout were also supplemented with stockings, as early as 1898. Smelt were reportedly introduced from Raquette Lake in the 1940's. Warmwater species such as smallmouth bass and panfish are also popular, but do not attract the attention salmonids and smelt do.

For most of the Fulton Chain's fish species, angler use of the resource is not limited by season. With a special year round season for salmonids, ice fishing is a popular and successful means of harvesting lake trout and landlocked salmon during the winter months. The smelt fishery, although limited to the short early May

spawning runs, is a popular and intense fishery. A declining trend in this fishery has been reported by anglers. A plan to monitor the spawning runs is underway. If problems with the fishery are identified, they will be rectified through additional regulation.

The location of the Fulton Chain of Lakes provides easy access for many New Yorkers coming from the Syracuse - Utica - Schenectady corridor, as well as other downstate metropolitan areas. As a result, the area receives heavy pressure for recreational uses, placing increasing demands on its fisheries and other natural resources. The development of vacation homes, ranging from small cottages to condominiums, is currently exerting much stress on the ecosystems surrounding the Fulton Chain of Lakes. To minimize and mitigate these impacts, all development activities in and on the shores of the Fulton Chain of Lakes are being reviewed actively through the Regulatory Affairs Permit Procedure.

Five smaller lakes within the unit also provide fisheries of notable quality. Two are Bubb and Sis Lakes. These are located very close to each other, separated by a very short tributary stream. They are both protected from upstream migration of undesirable fish species by the same barrier dam located near the outlet of Bubb Lake.

The fisheries of Bubb and Sis Lakes are maintained by reclamations every few years, followed by annual stockings of fingerling brook trout. After three to four years, natural spawning of brook trout supports the fishery in Sis Lake and when that occurs, stocking is discontinued. This "native" trout fishery maintains itself for a period of time until unwanted species, such as yellow perch, reinvade the lakes and reclamation is needed once again.

A third lake that provides a noteworthy fishery is Moss Lake. This fishery is currently self-sufficient with a natural spawning population of brook trout. In order to enhance this population, supplemental stockings of fall fingerling brook trout have been made in 1986 and 1987.

A fourth lake of note is Quiver Pond which is located in the southernmost section of the Fulton Chain Unit. It abuts the South Shore Road, and therefore is very accessible to public use. Through a history of intensive fishery management including brook trout stocking, barrier dam construction and maintenance and repeated limings and reclamation, Quiver Pond has maintained a reputation for good brook trout fishing.

The last lake to be noted here is Twitchell Lake. Although the property owners have succeeded in combatting pollution at Twitchell, this lake is

quite acid and its brook trout fishery is maintained by annual stockings of 5,000 fall-fingerlings.

A minimum estimate of angler use of Bubb, Sis, Twitchell and Moss Lakes and Quiver Pond would be: 1,000, 500, 1,400, 1,000, and 1,000 angler trips per year respectively. Although not documented, the actual use of these lakes by anglers is believed to be higher than average because of the excellent access available.

Stream fishing (See Appendix 5.C.) is limited within the Fulton Chain Wild Forest. The north branch of the Moose River between Rondaxe and Dart Lake is stocked annually with 1,300 yearling brook trout to maintain its fishery. Third Lake Creek is also stocked annually with yearling brook trout. Twitchell Creek is too acid for fish survival and is not stocked. The many tributary streams are also suspected of being acid, but some provide a limited fishery for native brook trout.

Past management of the fishery has included general fishing regulation, routine surveys of the fishery and its habitat, several reclamation and pond liming projects, and barrier dam construction. Future management activities are expected to be similar.

Major wetlands on the unit (See Appendix 6) include areas near:

a. Cary, Bubb, Sis and Moss Lakes

b. Safford, Goose, West, Silver Dollar and Pocket Ponds

c. Twitchell and Third Lake Creeks.

Wetlands are inventoried, mapped and protected under Article 24 of the Environmental Conservation Law, by the Department of Environmental Conservation and the Adirondack Park Agency. The inventory for this area was completed in 1983 and is reflected on detailed 7.5 min. inventory sheets for the Eagle Bay, Big Moose and Old Forge Quadrangles (APA, 1984).

The recent APA inventory using the Cowardin National Wetlands Inventory and Classification gives information useful in describing the wetland cover types and hydrologic regimes. This information can be used to assess general wetlands values which also depend on other information such as wildlife use, rare plant species, fish spawning, etc.

4. Vegetation

The general forest types on the Fulton Chain Wild Forest are those identified by the Society of American Foresters in "Forest Cover Types of the Eastern United States and Canada" (See Appendix 24). Basic types included on the unit are dependent for the most part on drainage patterns. The wet to swampy areas are generally Type #5, balsam

fir (Abies balsamea), #38 tamarack (Larix laricina), and #32 red spruce (Picea rubens) or a variation or combination of these types. As drainage improves, the hardwood constituent increases and the type gradually changes to Type #31; red spruce, sugar maple (Acer saccharum), beech (Fagus grandifolia) and Type #25; sugar maple, beech, yellow birch (Betula lutea). Associated species found on the unit include white pine (Pinus strobus), hemlock (Tsuga canadensis), red maple (Acer rubrum), black cherry (Prunus serotina) and black spruce (Picea mariana). Young coniferous growth and thickly growing alders can be found along unit streams.

Adirondack Park Agency 1978 Landsat data (See Appendix 20) indicates the following basic forest type acreages:

Hardwood	5904
Mixed (Predominately hardwood)	909
Mixed (Predominately Conifer)	5189
Conifer	1809
Wet Conifer	339
Brush	4
Grassland	7

Understory vegetation includes shade tolerant hardwood and softwood tree species, various ferns, club mosses (Lycopodium sp.) and viburnums (Viburnum sp.), dogwood (Cornus alternifolia) and honey-

suckle (Lonicera sp.). Common ground plants include trillium (Trillium sp.), adder's tongue (Erythronium americanum), spring beauty (Claytonia virginica), sarsaparilla (Aralia sp.), Indian cucumber (Medeola virginiana) and Solomon's Seal (Polygonatum pubescens).

There is no detailed vegetative inventory or mapping available for this unit at present. This information should be developed as needed and as personnel become available. The existence and abundance of rare and endangered flora are not documented.

5. Wildlife

All common wildlife species typical of central Adirondack ecosystems occur within the Fulton Chain Wild Forest. Wilderness fauna that occasionally may be seen include: osprey, raven, common loon, fisher and bobcat. Habitat for pine marten and spruce grouse exists within this unit and these species may occur as transients.

The black bear (Ursus americanus), one of the larger native New York species occurs within this unit. Conflicts between black bears and humans occur occasionally during years of a scarcity of natural foods; however, many people feel that the existence of this animal greatly adds to the enjoyment of viewing native wildlife species.

For the most part, white-tailed deer are

evenly distributed throughout the unit with the exception of the winter period, when they occur in several scattered concentrations as shown in Appendix 7.A. Major wintering occurs near Rondaxe Lake both in the southern portion of Section B and to a lesser degree in Section C. Irregular wintering occurs in some years near Snake Pond, Twitchell Creek and Third Lake Creek.

Artificial deer feeding programs, while not endorsed by the Department of Environmental Conservation, do occur in Section D and contribute to increased incidences of motor vehicle accidents, particularly along the South Shore Road. Pursuant to ECL 11-0907, Sub. 5, paragraph E, all hunting of big game is prohibited around the Fulton Chain of Lakes, which encompasses the portion of Section C south of Rt. 28 and the portion of Section D north of the South Shore Road (See Appendix 7.B.). Closed areas contribute to high populations of white-tailed deer which may be desirable by those who wish to view wildlife, however, it is detrimental to plant and tree regeneration. Ornamental shrubbery is often over browsed by deer. Harvest data for all of the town of Webb can be found in Appendix 7.C.

Following is an inventory of wildlife that occurs within the Region, either as resident or transient species:

Common Wildlife

Black bear	Ursus americanus
White-tailed deer	Odocoileus virginianus
Coyote	Canis Latrans
Raccoon	Procyon lotor
Fisher	Martes pennanti
Otter	Lutra canadensis
Beaver	Castor canadensis
Mink	Mustella vision
Varying hare	Lepus americanus
Red squirrel	Sciurus hudsonicus
Eastern chipmunk	Tamias striatus

Less Common Wildlife

Marten	Martes americana
Bobcat	Lynx rufus
Red fox	Vulpes fulva
Gray fox	Urocyon cinereoargenteus
Muskrat	Ondatra zaibethica
Porcupine	Erethizon dorsatum
Gray squirrel	Sciurus carolinensis

Significant habitats on the unit (See Appendix 7.A.) are as follows:

a. PW 22-011 - Razorback Pond (potentially significant for wildlife)

b. PW 22-012 - Safford Pond (potentially significant for wildlife)

c. SW 22-016 - Bald Mountain (raven nest site)

d. Snake Pond (deer wintering area)

e. Moss Lake (loon nesting area) (See Appendix 7.A.).

Original Deer Managements Units (DMU'S) were established by the Bureau of Wildlife in 1960. These original zones have been modified and revised to the current classification. DMU zone boundaries are patterned after ecological zones and eventually will lead to more finely tuned

management that is more specific to given areas. The Fulton Chain Wild Forest is primarily included in DMU 28 (See Appendix 7.D.).

The beaver was nearly extirpated from the Park in the early 1900's. A trap and transfer program to re-establish them was initiated between 1901 and 1907 by releasing wild trapped beaver from Canada and Yellowstone National Park (See History of the Land Unit). These early efforts were successful as evidenced by current region-wide population levels.

Furbearer Management Units (F.M.U.'s) that were established in 1980 were replaced by Wildlife Management Units (W.M.U.'s) in 1985. The Fulton Chain Wild Forest lies in W.M.U. #24 (See Appendix 7.E.).

The Breeding Bird Atlas compiled by D.E.C. and the Federation of Bird Clubs lists 111 bird species as occurring in Blocks 5084, A-D and 5085, C and D, which include the Fulton Chain Wild Forest. This includes 14 species as possible breeders, 16 species as probable breeders and 81 species as confirmed breeders (See Appendix 8).

6. Unique and/or Historical Areas

The Fulton Chain of Lakes is the most noteworthy feature in the area. Part of the Fulton Chain Canoe Route is contained within this unit. The Fulton Chain Section of the greater Adirondack

Canoe Route provides a unique opportunity for the canoeist to paddle nearly 20 miles (with several carries) from Old Forge to Raquette Lake. The adventurous canoeist can continue on to Tupper Lake, Blue Mountain Lake or the Saranacs. Some State land is available for overnight camping, including Alger Island State Campground. This Fourth Lake facility offers boat-accessible fee camping, a resident caretaker, fifteen lean-tos, and tenting and picnic areas. Nearby Fourth Lake Access, a State day-use area, provides access for cartop boats. Canoe access also exists adjacent to the town of Webb Tourist Information Center and parking lot in the hamlet of Old Forge.

Although not truly unique ecosystems in the botanical sense, the following areas are interesting, at least aesthetically:

a. Twitchell Creek and West Pond Outlets (waterfalls)
b. Bald and Onondaga Mountains (cliffs)
c. Silver Dollar Pond (natural bog)

Some traditional management practices might be avoided in the above areas although restrictive protection is not currently needed. The Bald Mt. summit is listed by the SLMP as a scenic, special interest area.

The Fulton Chain Wild Forest lies in an area rich in local history which is immortalized in

many interesting books. Specifics include accounts of early Adirondack railroads and trails, the unique Webb Covenant on lands in Township 8, the former girls camp at Moss Lake, and many historical accounts pertaining to the Fulton Chain and Big Moose Lake areas. Consult the Bibliography for a partial list of informational sources on this area.

B. Facilities (See Appendices 9 and 19)

1. Trails and Roads

a. Foot Trails (13.95 Miles)

(1) Razorback Pond Trail - From parking lot at South end of Twitchell Lake to Razorback Pond (.6 miles on State land - 1.3 miles on private land permanent easement)

Yellow Markers 1.90 Miles

(2) Snake Pond Trail - From Twitchell Lake Road to Twitchell Creek and Snake Pond

Blue Markers 0.60 Miles

(3) West Pond Trail - From Orvis Parking Lot (adjacent to Big Moose Road) to West Pond

Red Markers 0.60 Miles

(First .5 miles also a snowmobile trail)

(4) Safford Pond Trail - From West Pond Trail to Safford Pond (also a snowmobile trail)

Blue Markers 2.85 Miles

(5) Safford Pond Inlet Spur trail - Safford Pond Trail to Safford Pond Inlet

Red Markers 0.10 Miles

(6) Moss Lake Trail - From Moss Lake Trailhead to the shore of Moss Lake

0.08 Miles

(7) Bubb Lake - Sis Lake Trail - From Rt. 28 on the North side of Fourth Lake to the Moss Lake Circuit Trail via Bubb and Sis Lakes

Blue 2.25 Miles

(8) Bubb Lake and Sis Lake Spur Trails - From Bubb Lake - Sis Lake Trail to Bubb and Sis Lakes (1 each)

(Total) 0.10 Miles

(9) Scenic Mt. Trail - From Rondaxe Road Parking Area to Bubb Lake - Sis Lake Trail via Fly Pond, Cary Lake (Pond), Mountain Pond and Onondaga Mt.

Blue 4.20 Miles

(SW Section - Rondaxe Road to Mountain Pd. Trail, 1.7 miles. NE Section - Mt. Pond Trail to Bubb Lake - Sis Lake Trail, 2.5 miles)

(10) Fly Pond Spur Trail - From Scenic Mt. Trail to Fly Pond

Red 0.05 Miles

(11) Cork Mt. Spur Trail - From Scenic Mt. Trail to summit of Cork Mt.

Red 0.03 Miles

(12) Mountain Pond Spur Trail - From Scenic Mt. Trail to the shore of Mountain Pond

Red 0.04 Miles

(13) Mountain Pond Trail - From Scenic Mt. Trail to Cary Lake Road

Red 0.20 Miles

(14) Rondaxe Fire Tower Trail - From the Rondaxe Rd. Trailhead to the summit of Bald Mt. and the Rondaxe Fire Tower (Vistas)

Red 0.95 Miles

b. Combination Nordic Ski (Novice), Horse and Foot Trail

(1) Moss Lake Circuit Trail - From Moss Lake Trailhead completely around Moss Lake to point of beginning

Yellow 2.50 Miles

c. Nordic Ski Trails

(1) Lake Crossover Trail (Intermediate) - South Shore Road near Third Lake Creek to Limekiln Lake Public Campground (involves private land crossings)

0.60 Miles (this unit)

d. Snowmobile Trails (7.5 Miles)

(1) Safford Pond Trail - From Orvis Parking Area to N. Shore Rondaxe Road via West Pond, Safford Pond and Goose Pond

Class B. 4.50 Miles

(2) Goose Pond Spur Trail - Safford Pond Trail to Goose Pond

Class B. 0.10 Miles

(3) Moose River Spur Trail - Safford Pond Trail to State land boundary near Moose River

Class A. 0.90 Miles

(4) Ellis Road - South Shore Road to existing system in Moose River Plains Unit.

Class A. 2.00 Miles

(This unit)

e. Roads

(1) Twitchell Road (Town)	Section A
(2) Big Moose Road (County)	Section B&C
(3) Rondaxe Lake Road (N. Shore) (Town)	Section B
(4) Rondaxe Road (County)	Section C
(5) Route 28 (North Shore Road) (State Highway)	Section C
(6) Petrie Road (Town)	Section D
(7) South Shore Road (County)	Section D
(8) Numerous roads maintained under the Webb Covenant	Sections A-D

(9) Ellis Road - State and private access (0.5 Miles) — Section D

(10) Lake Crossover Road (0.6 Miles - this unit. Access to Adirondack League Club) — Section D

2. Other Facilities

a. Fire Tower and Support Facilities - Bald Mountain

Rondaxe Fire Tower
Observer's Cabin
1 Mile - phone line

b. Bridges

Safford Pond Trail - 7 bridges
Moss Lake Circuit Trail - 3 bridges, 4 culverts
Bubb Lake - Sis Lake Trail - 2 bridges
Scenic Mt. Trail - 1 walkway
Rondaxe Tower Trail - 1 bridge
Mountain Pond Trail - drytread
Ellis Road - 7 culverts, 1 bridge

c. Privies

Moss Lake (3)
Bald Mt. (1)
DeCamp Island (2)

d. Fireplaces

Moss Lake - 8 concrete fireplaces - Approximately 18" x 36"

e. Trailhead Parking - Maintained (Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates to nearest 200 meters)

(1) Orvis Trailhead (Big Moose Rd.) - 8 cars (UTM-N4,851,600 - E509,200)
(2) Moss Lake (Big Moose Rd.) - 15 cars (UTM-N4,848,000 - E512,400)
(3) Rondaxe Trailhead (Rondaxe Rd.) - 20 cars (UTM-N4,843,400 - E508,000)

Trailhead Parking - Not Maintained

(1) Twitchell Road - Razorback Pond Trailhead - 20 cars
(2) Rondaxe Rd. (N. Shore) - Safford Pond

Trailhead - Roadside
(3) Rt. 28 - Bubb & Sis Trailhead - Roadside

(4) South Shore Road - Third Lake Creek Trailhead

f. Gates (Locking)

(1) Moss Lake
(2) Ellis Road

g. Registration Booths

(1) Orvis Trailhead
(2) Moss Lake
(3) Rondaxe Trailhead

h. Fish Barriers

Bubb Lake Outlet, Quiver Pond

i. Major Signs

(1) Orvis Trailhead (Map Mural)
(2) Moss Lake (Map Mural and Nature Conservancy plaque)
(3) Rondaxe Trailhead (Map Mural)
(4) Town of Webb Information Center, Old Forge (Adirondack Canoe Route Map Mural)
(5) Old Forge (Beaver Release Historical Marker - 1985)

C. Economic Impacts

State-owned lands have a minor, but desirable impact on adjacent, private lands. Under these circumstances, the value of private lands tends to increase because of more confidence in how the area will be used in the future.

Although the State does pay full taxes on Forest Preserve lands, there may be some negative impact on the area's remaining taxpayers. If the land were privately held and "improved", property taxes on this land would increase, thus adding to the tax base. State ownership precludes property tax increases based

on improvements. While not improved, however, this State land also does not generate normal public service demands. The local economy depends, at least in part, on the undeveloped lands in the Park of which the Fulton Chain Wild Forest is a part. In addition to the usual recreational attractions, thousands of sight-seers are drawn annually to the Rondaxe Fire Tower especially during the fall foliage season.

The importance of the big and small game resource for recreational hunting should not be overlooked even for a small, fragmented unit such as the Fulton Chain. Many individuals from outside the region use these State lands for sport hunting and contribute to the economy through local purchases as well as payment of sales and property taxes. If the resource was not there, they would have no reason to maintain their camps on private land.

Private holdings generally have a slight economic impact on adjacent State lands. Painting and/or signing of approximately 50 miles of boundary lines on this unit are necessary. Increasing law enforcement costs are required to combat trespasses which originate on private lands and access trails. These impacts, while basically true for all State lands, are especially relevant when applied to the Fulton Chain Wild Forest's sectioned interspersion with private lands.

D. Public Use of Area and Capacity of the Resource to Withstand Use

Trailhead register use figures are the only data currently available and these are considered to be on the low side due to failure of users to register. Education of users as to the importance of registering and the relocation of registers into the interior, are possible ways to increase the incidence of registry. Records indicate the following use:

1988 Rondaxe-6,510; Moss Lake-3,421; Orvis-387

1987 Rondaxe-6,197; Moss Lake-2,266; Orvis-418

1986 Rondaxe-5,513; Moss Lake-2,720; Orvis-566

1985 Rondaxe-6,592; Moss Lake-2,403; Orvis-620

1984 Rondaxe-4,225; Moss Lake-2,536; Orvis-597

1983 Rondaxe-6,008; Moss Lake-2,323; Orvis-708

Interior use camping permits issued for this unit total:

56 (315 people) for 1988

32 (175 people) for 1987

36 (206 people) for 1986

28 (273 people) for 1985

21 (124 people) for 1984

38 (191 people) for 1983

Although this unit is quite accessible, the carrying capacity has not been exceeded. Potentials for future overuse may exist for Moss Lake and the Rondaxe Trail and Fire Tower. This potential at Moss Lake should be mitigated by permit-only designated site implementation. The current impact on Bald Mountain is mitigated by the infrequency of overuse and the geological structure of the trail and tower site.

If carrying capacity on the unit approaches saturation in the future, and monitoring indicates that the resource is becoming endangered, subsequent unit management plans may require further trailhead parking expansion, trail hardening at strategic points or the imposition of other measures to control use.

III. SPECIAL CONSTRAINTS AND ISSUES

A. Constraints

Following are sources of constraints which must be considered in the management of the Fulton Chain Wild Forest:

1. Section One of Article XIV of the New York State Constitution (See Appendix 10).
2. The Environmental Conservation Law and the Official Compilation Codes Rules and Regulations of the State of New York.
3. Various Forest Preserve policies approved by D.E.C.
4. Wild forest guidelines are set forth in the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan (SLMP) prepared by the Adirondack Park Agency, in consultation with D.E.C. (See Appendix 11).
5. Significant Habitats and/or Unique Ecosystems.
6. This plan is subject to requirements of the State Environmental Quality Review Act of 1975. A Positive Declaration can be found in Appendix 17, along with the Environmental Impact Statement for this plan. Some of the projects proposed in this plan will require preparation of individual environmental impact statements prior to implementation.

B. Issues

Issues on this unit are addressed in Section V as prerequisites for management decisions leading to cited specific projects.

C. SLMP Amendments Recommended

None

D. State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR) Requirements

A Positive Declaration and Final Environmental Impact Statement for this unit can be found in Appendix 17.

E. Relationship of Management of Area to Forest Preserve and Adjacent Areas

This unit borders on the Pigeon Lake Wilderness and Moose River Plains Wild Forest units as well as on private lands. Because of the unit's proximity to these areas, management decisions for the Fulton Chain Wild Forest must be in harmony with the requirements of these neighboring lands.

This unit offers an opportunity for those recreational pursuits which are not allowed in the adjacent wilderness area. Motorized access to this wild forest is abundant and the recreational potentials are optimum. Proper management of the Fulton Chain Wild Forest will complement the non-motorized opportunities in the adjacent Pigeon Lake Wilderness.

The common boundaries of adjacent wild forest units must be blended to assure consistent management

goals for the area where two units meet. Management plans for contiguous units must reflect collaborative objectives to meet common goals. This is exemplified in this plan by the need for the Big Moose snowmobile trail and the Norridge Connector Trail which requires collaboration with the Pigeon Lake Wilderness Unit Management Plan (See Section V.B.).

Similarly, the needs of the Moose River Plains Wild Forest have been considered in the development of this plan.

IV. IDENTIFICATION OF MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

A. To continue those custodial functions necessary for the support of public ownership by developing comprehensive annual work plans for the systematic maintenance of the following:

1. Approximately 14 miles of foot trails and necessary bridges.
2. Approximately 7.5 miles of snowmobile trails and necessary bridges.
3. Approximately 3 miles of nordic ski and/or horse trails and necessary bridges.
4. Painting and/or signing of approximately 50 miles of boundary lines and signing of approximately 10 miles of roadside.
5. Maintenance of the Rondaxe Fire Tower to insure public safety and an aesthetic appearance.
6. Maintenance of the Rondaxe Fire Tower support facilities - observer's cabin, phone line, privy

and parking lot.

7. Maintenance of privies at Moss Lake and DeCamp Island.
8. Maintenance of the parking areas, signing and registration booths at Orvis, Rondaxe, Ellis Road, Moss Lake and Razorback Pond Trailheads.
9. Maintenance of the gates at Ellis Road and Moss Lake.
10. Enforcement of rules and regulations on the unit including designated camping.

B. To promote the recreational potential of the unit in a manner that is consistent with a natural wild forest setting, SLMP guidelines and Forest Preserve Policy by:

1. Developing a pamphlet for public education and information.
2. Designating campsites and allowing camping only by permit where these actions are needed to protect the unit's resources and recreational potential.
3. Relocating trailhead registers within the interior to reduce vandalism and to possibly increase registration.
4. Controlling camping in accordance with the rules and regulations including enforcement of the permit system and stressing, "if you carry it in, carry it out" (Regulation 190.3) to eliminate the illegal practice of burying refuse by users of this unit.

5. Assuring consistency of unit signing on boundaries, trails and at trailheads. Informational accuracy will be determined and corrected where necessary, especially with reference to trail mileages.
6. Identifying the best use of unit facilities and assuring designation of separate areas for incompatible uses.
7. Acquiring those parcels of land, if and when they become available, that improve access and consolidate the unit.
8. Trail construction where needed for improved control of public use.

C. To perpetuate indigenous fish and wildlife species as part of the Adirondack environment and to provide optimum opportunity for the public's enjoyment and beneficial utilization of the resource by:

1. Managing fish and wildlife so that their numbers and occurrences are compatible with the habitat and the public interest.
2. Updating and maintaining resource inventory data for all waters.
3. Providing trout fishing opportunity through continued regulation, improved access, annual stocking, acid reduction, reclamation and barrier dam construction and maintenance in accordance with Department policy.

4. Continuing current studies for the Adirondacks in general on:

   a. The identification of rare and endangered wildlife species and/or habitat.

   b. The effect of atmospheric deposition on the reproductive success of Adirondack mammals, and initiating appropriate projects if a review of the general literature by the Bureau of Wildlife identifies a need for additional study specific to this unit.

5. Continuing and maintaining sport hunting, trapping and fishing as a compatible recreational resource activity.

D. To obtain additional natural resource data to support a comprehensive revision of this plan prior to fifth year revision.

V. SPECIFIC PROJECTS TO MEET MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

A. Trail Maintenance

1. Unit foot trails, bridges, culverts, walkways and dry tread will be maintained and signs repaired or replaced as needed, (including appropriate trail markers) to keep them serviceable and safe. Clearing will generally not exceed four feet in width and 10 feet in height.

2. The Moss Lake Circuit Trail will be cleared and signs repaired or replaced annually to standards consistent with Forest Preserve policies for horse and cross-country ski trails in wild forest areas. Current standards allow for a maximum width of eight feet and overhead cutting to ten feet. Continuing drainage problems on this trail will be appraised and appropriate actions taken. Any large, protruding rocks which might be hazardous to cross country skiers and/or horses will be removed.

3. Unit snowmobile trails will also be maintained annually according to Forest Preserve Policy specifications. Trail markers will be placed at frequent intervals. Trail grooming will not be a Department function.

4. Bridge replacement on the Bubb Lake - Sis Lake Trail (near the barrier dam) and walkway replacement on the Scenic Mt. Trail will be budgeted in Year 1 with project completion in Year 2.

5. The Ellis Road will be maintained and upgraded for passenger cars from the South Shore Road to the gate (0.5 miles). The road will receive adequate maintenance to provide for administrative access from the gate to the end of the road at Third Lake Creek (1.5 miles). This road is currently used as a snowmobile trail and appears in the D.E.C. brochure, "Snowmobiling in New York State." This usage will be retained and appropriate signs will be erected.

6. The Lake Crossover Trail near Third Lake Creek (0.6 miles of which is on this unit) will be maintained to nordic ski trail standards if the remainder of the trail in the Moose River Plains Wild Forest is approved in that unit's management plan. This trail is shown in the D.E.C. brochure, "Nordic Skiing Trails in New York State." Historically, this dirt road has been used as access to the Adirondack League Club and private camps. This Webb Covenant road has not, and will not be maintained for motorized use. Such use will be allowed, but not encouraged. The light snowmobile use on this road during the winter has not been problematic to it's use as a ski trail and this dual use will be allowed unless problems develop. The 7.4 mile trail to the Limekiln Campground and connecting loop trails are maintained under Temporary Revocable Permit by the Town of Inlet.

B. Trail Construction

1. A connecting trail will be constructed between the Razorback Pond Trail on the Fulton Chain Unit and the Norridge Trail on the Pigeon Lake Wilderness Area (See Appendix 18.B.). The completed Norridge Connector Trail, on the Fulton Chain unit, will be approximately 1400 feet long and four feet wide. The construction of this recently located connector will allow total public land location of the trail to Beaver River Station which is now partially on private land. At present, the D.E.C. maintained Norridge Trail leads hikers from Beaver River Station to private lands on the northwesterly shore of Twitchell Lake. Trail conditions on these private lands vary from good to non-existent and hikers become confused and disoriented when they can't find a maintained trail to the public access at Twitchell Lake. This is a major inconvenience for the hiker and a cause of concern for property owners who must deal with people who cannot locate the trail. These private landowners have voiced concern about numbers of confused strangers who appear unexpectedly on their property, and are disturbed to learn that they must hike another two miles across many parcels of private land to get to the public access at Twitchell Lake. The Twitchell Lake property owners have been advised verbally for a number of years that a

State connector trail would be built to alleviate this problem. The Foley acquisition and the Lewis easement were a means to attain that end.

2. The proposed snowmobile trail in the Big Moose Road corridor (See Appendix 18.A.) includes a combined horse/snowmobile trail in the Pigeon Lake Wilderness, and approximately 1 1/2 miles of snowmobile trail on this unit. The trail would generally utilize old wagon roads which are evident on the 1954 Big Moose NY 15 minute USGS quadrangle map. This Eagle Bay to Big Moose Trail is needed to significantly reduce the safety hazard by removing extensive snowmobile traffic from the public highway. Approval for unit construction of the Big Moose Horse/Snowmobile Tail is granted contingent on the continued interest by the Town of Webb in future maintenance and grooming. State land segments of this Class A trail may be built on the finally identified route as long as no segment invites trespass by leading snowmobilers to posted lands, or requires later relocation. This trail will be constructed and maintained to standards consistent with Forest Preserve policies for snowmobile and horse trails in wild forest areas.

3. The Safford Pond snowmobile trail is little used. This is due, in part because portions of the trail are poorly aligned and on undesirable topography.

This trail is shown as an official Department snowmobile trail in the "Snowmobiling in New York State" booklet, but it requires much maintenance and minor relocation to bring it to acceptable standards for public use. A study to determine the desirability of retention, or the possibility of abandonment, will be undertaken in Year I. If the trail is not abandoned, the sections needing realignment and relocation will be determined along with estimated total project cost in Year II, followed by appropriate budgeting and project completion in subsequent years.

C. **Rondaxe Trail and Fire Tower**

Because of the scenic view that it affords, the Rondaxe Fire Tower, located on Bald Mountain, receives the greatest amount of public use on the unit. Estimates on the extent of this use range from 400 - 600 per day on holidays and peak fall foliage weekends, with an average of approximately 5,800 registered visitors per year.

In addition to fire control value, the forest fire observer stationed in this tower has an excellent opportunity to inform the public about the history, management and inherent values of the Forest Preserve. The observer can also help educate the visitors on their role in maintaining the natural resources of the Adirondack Park. This individual represents direct Departmental contact with the public and this position

should continue to be filled annually. Because of the high use that this area receives, an initial training program for the observer will be continued.

A large percentage of visitors to the tower are not aware of conditions between the parking lot and the tower and many are ill-equipped to make the climb. Trailhead informational signing should stress the relative difficulty of the ascent especially when the trail is wet, and the need for caution and for proper wearing apparel, especially footwear.

The size of the trailhead parking area on the Rondaxe Road is currently insufficient and will be enlarged to accommodate approximately 30 cars. Squaring of the present parking area and the removal of stumps and brush within the periphery should be sufficient. The parking area will conform to Department criteria for a Class I trailhead in the Forest Preserve.

The old trail to the tower that was used in the past is no longer an official Department foot trail. This trail begins on private land and presents a problem as it provides historical access directly from Rt. 28. Due to difficult terrain and lack of maintenance, hiker injuries have been increasing. An appropriate sign closing the trail will be posted at the old trail's intersection with the State line. More importantly, a closure sign should be posted at the point of access from Route 28, contingent on the land-

owner's approval.

Adequate maintenance of the Rondaxe Tower is necessary for public safety and aesthetics in this high use area.

Occasional overuse of the Rondaxe Trail occurs during holiday and fall coloration periods. This overuse has an adverse impact on the resource but is mitigated by its infrequency, the resource's consequent recovery periods, and the mountain's geology. The congestion caused by parked vehicles at the entry points causes some safety problems, especially on Route 28, which is a main highway. The closing of the non-maintained access trail should solve this problem. This will, however, divert a greater number of users to the Rondaxe Road trailhead. The recommended parking lot enlargement will provide for this increase. If roadside parking becomes a problem again, it will be addressed at plan revision. The impact of increased trail use on the resource will be monitored. The trail currently requires some hardening, minor relocation and better signing.

Unless relocation is possible, rustic steps should be placed at one rocky, very steep location about 1/4 of the way up, for the safety of less athletic users.

D. DeCamp Island

The State purchased DeCamp Island in 1963 for use as a convenient overnight campsite for canoeists on

the Fulton Chain. Historical use had resulted in approximately nine campsites. Previous reports of loud, boisterous misuse of DeCamp Island were reiterated by public comments resulting from the initiation of the unit management planning process. Early, interim management decisions were made in the spring of 1985, culminating in special regulations signing and the establishment of designated campsites on DeCamp Island.

The historic nine campsites were reduced to four designated sites in order to protect the larger island and to comply with State Land Master Plan guidelines. Adjacent, smaller Gumdrop Island was posted for "no camping."

Signs (See Appendix 13) display the following special regulations:

1. Quiet Must Be Observed 10 p.m. to 7 a.m.
2. Camping At Designated Sites Only
3. Maximum 8 Persons Per Designated Site
4. No Tree Cutting

The signs also indicate that there will be patrolled enforcement pursuant to NYCRR Section 190.8 (p). Fire rings were removed from the closed sites and "no camping" signs were placed at these locations.

Interim regulations by signing and more thorough patrol by the Old Forge ranger have improved the situation on the island. Because of the island's small size, the lack of dead wood, the increasing

frequency of live tree cutting, and the issues raised by several people at the public meeting for this unit management plan, open fires will be prohibited. This will add "No Open Fires" to the list of regulations on the DeCamp Island sign. This regulation should help to further reduce environmental vandalism and disturbance. Larger signs will be erected and additional cooperation with other Law Enforcement officials will be a continuing goal.

Stressing of Regulation 190.3, (if you carry it in, carry it out), occasional patrol by the area forest ranger, and inspection and cleanup by Alger Island personnel will be necessary to adequately control public use of DeCamp Island. Clean-up projects that are needed to eliminate existing public safety hazards include demolition of the old fireplace, filling of the main lodge foundation with existing rocks and removal of I-beams from the old bridge (See Appendix 13).

E. Moss Lake

Aesthetic Moss Lake and its 10,560 feet of shoreline (See Appendix 14) provide an ideal location for limited camping. Existing policy allows camping by permit only, prohibits campfires except in the eight fireplaces, and excludes camping on the Moss Lake Island and the beach. Seven primitive tent sites will be designated at appropriate locations, as specified in the State Land Master Plan, and any existing sites

which do not comply with that plan's guidelines will be closed. Each site will be numbered and provided with a fire ring or small fireplace. These sites shall be limited to three tents and eight people.

In addition, one group camping site will be located for use by groups of up to 20 persons by permit only. Care will be exercised when choosing this site, to assure that an area will be selected which is environmentally compatible with the relatively heavy use of a group camping site. One of the two northern privies will be moved to an appropriate location near the beach for the convenience of users in that area. An additional privy will be sited at the group site and three others will be located mid way between each pair of the more remote sites in Year II of this management plan.

Informational signs at the trailhead parking area will include information on Regulation 190.3, fires in fireplaces only, camping at designated sites only, requiring a permit from the forest ranger. Signs will also be erected indicating that no outboard motors will be allowed.

Based on current use, the size of the existing parking lot should be sufficient for the time frame of this plan. This parking lot is, and will continue to be, plowed to facilitate parking by nordic skiers.

The use of the Moss Lake Circuit Trail as both a horse trail and hiking, or primitive campsite access

trail recognizes normally non-compatible uses. It is currently designated as an official horse trail, and the great potential for both uses makes it difficult to deny either. This trail was originally built by the former owners as a bridle path with an 8 - 12 foot wide gravel surface, and its design provides for dual use to a greater degree than most trails. Horseback use of this trail is relatively light and allowing both of these normally conflicting uses appears justified. Both recreational uses are currently in effect with no apparent problems. An annual reassessment of the amount of equestrian use will be made to determine if conflicts become apparent. If necessary, an alternate horse trail will be considered.

The deed between the State and the Nature Conservancy requires erection and maintenance of a permanent marker reading, "This area was acquired with the Assistance of the Nature Conservancy."

F. **Public Lands Along South Shore Road (Section D)**

Historically, and by consistent use in past years, State land along the South Shore Road was recognized as a desirable camping area. Prior to 1976, the Department treated this section as an undeveloped camping area and camping was allowed for three days without a permit. Small incidences of misuse and various abuses by groups of undisciplined individuals occurred periodically and culminated in a major incident on the Fourth of July in 1976. Records indicate

that passers-by were harassed and 8 - 10 acres of the resource were severely misused. This led to the closing of the area by "camping prohibited" signs and camping has been banned since. There have been no incidents during the interim.

Three sites shall be designated consistent with SLMP guidelines at appropriate locations on the shoreline and along Third Lake Creek to disperse use of DeCamp Island. Each site shall have a number and fire ring, and will be limited to three tents and eight people. These sites will be accessible only from the water as camping from the South Shore Road will continue to be prohibited.

G. **Webb Covenant Roads**

The restriction in the Webb deeds of 1896 and 1897 (referred to on page five under history) commonly known as the "Webb Covenant" provided that trails and ways of communication existing at that time would remain open and free to Webb, the Na-ha-sa-ne Park Association, and the People of the State of New York, their heirs and assigns. These deeds refer to a map (See Appendix 22) and survey made by David C. Wood; however that map and other maps prior to 1900 show only main roads and do not document all access roads and trails. This lack of mapping has made it difficult to verify which roads existed at the time when the covenant was written. Therefore, we must rely on information regarding route identification as it has

been passed down from generation to generation.

In 1977, the Department considered a proposal to document the location of Webb Covenant Roads by survey to be far beyond the capacity of the reduced surveying staff. Personnel in the Herkimer office and the forest ranger staff, including area native William Marleau, listed and mapped roads existing at that time on the USGS 1:62,500 sheets. This list and map would serve as interim documentation of probable road status under the Webb Covenant until such time as any future legal determination is made. In the past, D.E.C. has recognized the access ways and roads listed in 1977 as probable Webb Covenant Roads. In lieu of a future legal determination, these roads will continue to be recognized as authentic under the provisions of the Webb Covenant (See Appendix 15).

D.E.C. allows minimal maintenance of Webb Covenant access roads that cross State lands when requested by adjacent, otherwise land-locked property owners. This maintenance is not the responsibility of the Department and is limited to the maintenance of the road width. The constitution does not allow the Department the authority to permit improvements beyond the maintenance of the road surface.

H. Navigation Aids

Environmental Conservation Law, Article 41, Section 41-0103 (Regulation of navigation) states that "the Department shall, within the sixth Park region

(including Herkimer County), administer Articles 3 and 11 of the Navigation Law." Section 35 of the Navigation Law (aids to navigation) allows for the placement, by the Department, of navigation aids on lakes and rivers in the Adirondack Park. The Division of Operations unit headquartered in Ray Brook, New York has responsibility for placing and removing navigation aids annually on the Fulton Chain, as well as other lakes within the Adirondack Park.

I. Unit Trailheads and Designated Sites

All unit trailhead parking areas (See Appendix 9) will be maintained to meet Forest Preserve Policy criteria.

The Razorback Pond Trailhead at Twitchell Lake is not currently maintained and will be added to the "maintained" list. Needs at this recently acquired trailhead include accurate informational signing, a trailhead register in the interior, gravel application, minor drainage control and pre-season, post-season cleanup. The current parking lot accommodates approximately 20 vehicles and should meet the needs for the time frame of this plan.

A five car parking area and a registration booth will be provided at a suitable location adjacent to the existing gate, as a part of the Ellis Road upgrading project.

The current roadside parking accommodation along Route 28 for use of the Bubb Lake - Sis Lake Trail is

inadequate. Users must contend with a vertical pavement drop when parking. The feasibility of a paved turnout to accommodate up to three vehicles will be reviewed with DOT.

The trailhead for Safford Pond (Rondaxe North Shore Road) is not maintained and does not need maintenance unless use increases substantially (See Appendix 9).

Trailhead registers, except the one at Moss Lake, should be moved into the interior to encourage registration and discourage vandalism.

The Third Lake Creek Trailhead on the South Shore Road receives seasonal parking by nordic skiers using the Lake Crossover Trail. This parking area receives heavy use in the winter and it will continue to be plowed to facilitate parking. This lot will be added to the maintained list for this unit and perimeter posts and gravel will be placed at the site.

All unit ponds now receiving camping use will be evaluated for site designation. Active and potential sites on Razorback, West, Safford, Goose, Bubb, Sis, Fly and Mountain Ponds, Cary Lake and any other waters with active camping will be inventoried in Year II. Designation pursuant to SLMP guidelines will be implemented in Year III.

J. Fish and Wildlife

Specific fish and wildlife projects are as follows:

1. Periodic field surveys of the productive waters of

the unit to maintain resource inventory data and initial survey of major streams. Cary Lake is scheduled for its initial survey in 1989 to confirm its status as a brook trout pond, and to provide a basis for determining future management strategies.

As an integral part of the Bureau of Fisheries' Management Plan for the Fulton Chain of Lakes, the next installment for the long term monitoring program of the Chain's fishery resource is an intensive biological survey, scheduled for 1990.

2. Annual stocking of trout in the following waters:
   a. Twitchell Lake - 5,000 fall fingerling (FF) brook trout (ST).
   b. Bubb Lake - 2,400 FF ST
   c. Razorback Pond - 400 FF ST
   d. Sis Lake - 1,400 FF ST
   e. Quiver Pond - 1,000 FF ST
   f. Third Lake Creek - 300 Spring Yearling (SY) ST
   g. North Branch Moose River - 1,300 SY ST
   h. Third Lake - Rainbow trout - 1,800 SY
      Lake trout - 500 SY
   i. Fourth Lake - Rainbow trout - 9,200 SY
      Lake trout - 6,400 SY
      Landlocked Salmon - 4,300 SY
   j. Old Forge Pond - Rainbow Trout - 700 SY
   k. Other lakes and streams if surveys so indicate

3. Barrier dams at Bubb Lake and at Quiver Pond Outlets will be maintained (or rehabilitated as necessary) to insure effective control of unwanted upstream fish migration.

4. Reclaim Bubb and Sis Lakes, and Quiver Pond as needed to maintain their quality fisheries. These waters are scheduled for survey in 1989. If results indicate re-establishment of competitive non-trout species (ie: yellow perch, white sucker, golden shiner, etc.) reclamations will be scheduled for 1990 or 1991. The respective barrier dams will be in working condition before any reclamation is initiated.

5. Monitor ph conditions in productive waters. Under the guidelines of the D.E.C. Liming Policy and Pond Liming Environmental Impact Statement (when finalized), actions will be taken to reduce acidity by the addition of lime to unit waters when their fisheries become endangered. Quiver and Razorback Ponds are both candidates for liming. Quiver Pond's latest (July, 1988) pH and alkalinity (ANC), 6.89 and 108.2 ueq/1 respectively, do not indicate a need to re-lime. When its pH or ANC fall below 6.0 or 25 ueq/1 respectively, it will be scheduled for re-liming. This is expected within the next five years. Razorback Pond with a 1984 pH of 5.99 and ANC of 15.7 ueq/1, is in need of lime treatment. Because of its remote nature,

it is not included in the current Bureau of Fisheries Liming Program. Future modification or expansion of the program may include Razorback Pond.

6. Management strategies will be changed for the unit's most popular angling waters (Fulton Chain of Lakes, Moss, Bubb and Sis Lakes, and Quiver Pond) if needs arise. Potential modifications include stocking policy changes in terms of numbers, size or species, or special regulations to protect or enhance the fishery, such as increased size or decreased creel limits.
7. Game animal and furbearer harvests will be monitored annually.
8. Current studies for the Adirondacks in general will be continued on:
   a. The identification of existing rare and endangered species.
   b. The effect of atmospheric deposition on the reproductive success of Adirondack mammals.
9. Appropriate projects will be initiated if a review of the general literature by the Bureau of Wildlife identifies a need for additional study specific to the Fulton Chain Wild Forest.

K. Gates

The gates at Moss Lake and the Ellis Road will be checked periodically and kept in repair and highly visible.

L. Fire Management

D.E.C. is currently charged with fire protection on the Fulton Chain Wild Forest under the provisions of Article 9 of the Environmental Conservation Law. Responsibility for fire prevention and suppression is divided between two ranger districts: one at Old Forge (Unit Section B, C, D, and DeCamp Island), and the other at Stillwater (Section A). These districts are both assigned to the Herkimer Office.

Fire detection consists of scheduled aerial reconnaissance detection flights contracted through the Herkimer and Lowville Offices, supplemented by a staffed fire tower at Bald Mountain. Present access to the unit is sufficient for fire control purposes.

D.E.C.'s responsibility for public safety, risk level determinations and emergency response planning should be considered and integrated into the Department's fire management policy for this unit.

M. Administration

1. Staffing

Currently, four forest rangers (Old Forge, Stillwater, Otter Lake and Inlet) are essential to the efficient control of public use (when a team effort is required), fire presuppression and suppression and environmental impact monitoring on this unit. Openings for ranger positions should be filled immediately, since ranger district performance is adversely affected by vacancies in

adjacent districts.

Current staffing in the Division of Operations is below the required minimum, but this could be mitigated by the two person Forest Preserve trail crew recommended in the Ha-De-Ron-Dah Wilderness Area Unit Management Plan. This crew will be hired seasonally for a six month period and will work solely on projects for various regional Forest Preserve units including the Fulton Chain Wild Forest.

The current, authorized administrative number of associate foresters, regional ranger, district rangers, and forest ranger II's is insufficient to handle the administration of this unit. An additional forester should be assigned to the associate forester to handle the overall Forest Preserve workload in the Herkimer Sub-Region. Adjoining unit plans will be coordinated and up-dated by the Bureau of Preserve Protection and Management.

The existing regional wildlife technical staff is adequate if maintained at full strength and if short deadlines are not imposed for specific projects. It is important that the regional fisheries technical staff also be kept at full strength in order to provide adequate surveys and input for this unit. The enforcement of all fish and wildlife laws and regulations is dependent upon having an adequate staff of Environmental

Conservation Officers to cover a given area.

2. Budgeting

The Herkimer Sub-Office will budget for staff and for maintenance of facilities, as needed to support the various projects on this unit. A budgeting effort will be made in cooperation with the Operations Unit.

The Herkimer Operations Unit will prepare a budget request for both permanent and seasonal maintenance personnel, including funding for the Forest Preserve trail crew. Their budgeting efforts will also address the costs of supplies and materials, equipment and other expenditures needed to carry out the perpetual maintenance effort. Regional Operations annual work plans should include maintenance of the Herkimer County snowmobile and ski trails in unit Section D.

Routine fish and wildlife management activities, including permanent and seasonal personnel, supplies, materials and travel will be prepared by the appropriate bureau staff, in consultation with the operations unit as required.

New projects are generally approved at the division level before requests for funding are submitted in the Department budget.

3. Education

Publication of a brochure on the Fulton Chain Wild Forest will be initiated. Included in the

pamphlet will be: a map; a description of the unit; the importance of registering; safety suggestions including sanitation; information regarding Giardia and water treatment; brief information on available facilities, including trail descriptions and lengths; and rules and regulations, with emphasis on preventing litter.

The map in the Department's "Adirondack Canoe Routes" pamphlet (1985) would better serve the overnight camper if State lands (in addition to campgrounds) were indicated.

On the ground public education is carried out on this unit by forest rangers, the forest fire observer on Bald Mountain and seasonal assistant forest rangers.

N. Problem Areas

1. Boundary Line Surveys

a. Moss Lake Tract

Completion of the boundary line survey originally initiated prior to the Indian occupancy, is necessary to locate the north boundary of the Moss Lake Tract from the Moss Lake Outlet on the west to the corner in the Pigeon Lake Wilderness on the east. A survey request has been referred to the Bureau of Real Property in the Department's central office.

b. Raquette Lake Railroad

A complete record search and survey is required to determine the outbounds of the railroad fee strip, if any.

2. Trespass

a. Wood Case

A boundary line survey in 1972 verified a trespass across the east boundary in Parcel K, in unit Section C near Eagle Bay. This encroachment consisted of portions of two buildings erected by adjacent landowner, Ernest Wood, prior to the survey, even though he was notified of a possible trespass prior to the completion of construction. The trespass also included a driveway and a parking lot on State land.

Ensuing correspondence eventually resulted in the owner's removal of the "donut shop." The corner of the garage remained and use of the driveway and parking area on State land continued. A large file in the Herkimer Office on this trespass documents specifics of this unusual case of neighborly disrespect for public lands. The latest entry (1975) in the Herkimer Office file is a case summary which indicates that "Mr. Wood signed a stipulation (Index No. 49519 - Herk. Co. Clerk)" which he has violated (See Appendix 26). It further indicates that "he should be recalled to

Supreme Court, cited for contempt and ordered to remove that portion of the garage encroaching on Forest Preserve Lands" (See Appendix 26).

b. Buckley Case

A boathouse adjacent to the westerly edge of Parcel F. (Unit Section D) was inadvertently constructed on a small portion of State land under the water at First Lake of the Fulton Chain.

Because of the unusual physical conditions at the site, and because a very minor portion of the boathouse involved State land, a Temporary Revocable Permit (No. 251.0) was issued in 1967 (See Appendix 21). The permit states: "At the end of the useful life of the structure or upon prior revocation of this permit, no part of the boat house will be allowed to remain on State land." This case will be re-evaluated in regard to current policy, which does not permit permanent occupation by temporary revocable permit

3. Environmental Problems

a. Increasing acidity and the resultant death of fish in unit lakes and ponds is the greatest environmental problem in the Fulton Chain Wild Forest, as it is in the Adirondacks in general (See Appendix 5.B.). Until the atmos-

pheric deposition problem is resolved, it is necessary to monitor and maintain water quality, in order to keep unit fisheries at current levels.

b. Typical Adirondack tree morality is in evidence on this unit. Beech bark disease and spruce decline are clearly having an impact on the forest cover. In some cases, forest decline may be linked to atmospheric deposition, climatic changes, increasing air pollution and the accumulation of heavy metals on the forest floor, rather than being the result of disease or insect vectors. Defoliation will be monitored annually.

c. The following is from a paper entitled, "1988 Update - DDT Stream Sediment Investigation In The Fulton Chain Wild Forest", by D.E.C. Pesticide Specialist John F. Wainwright, Division of Hazardous Substance Regulation, Bureau of Pesticides.

In 1982, the Department's Bureau of Environmental Protection of the Division of Fish and Wildlife collected sediment samples for 10 streams within the Moose River drainage basin, in an effort to determine the levels of the persistent and bioaccumulative insecticide Dichloro-Diphenyl-Trichloroethane (DDT), which has been banned from use in this area since

1965. Three of these streams produced samples containing from 3.2 to 877 parts per billion (ppb) of DDT. Although this pesticide is known to last in the environment for upward of 25 years, it is usually reduced to its metabolites DDD and DDE relatively quickly. Since the amounts of DDT that were found were greater than these metabolites, a recent introduction into these streams seemed likely.

Before the 1965, ban nearly 3 1/2 tons of DDT were being applied annually in the Fulton Chain area. In 1970, lake trout were sampled and found to contain an average of 28.9 parts per million (ppm) of the persistent pesticide. The level had dropped to 3.51 ppm in 1978. Surprisingly, the levels started to rise in the early 1980's. Readings soon exceeded the 5 ppm tolerance level established by the Federal Food and Drug Administration by two-fold and caused the Department of Health to issue an advisory against eating lake trout from Fourth Lake.

Another study sponsored by the Bureau of Environmental Protection found that otter and mink trapped in this area also contained higher amounts of DDT than in other portions of the State. This again alerted the Department to a possible problem with an increasing

level of a chemical banned nearly two decades earlier.

In an attempt to determine how and where DDT was entering this ecological system, it was decided that stream sediment should be collected from each watershed within the Fulton Chain of Lakes. Hopefully, this would lead to tributaries containing significant levels of DDT and, through further investigation, actual location of introduction sites.

This ongoing investigation was initiated in 1984. Since then, 41 streams have been accessed, generating nearly 200 sediment samples. Eight of the streams found to contain significant levels of DDT are located within, or adjacent to, the Fulton Chain Wild Forest. These streams are Third Lake Creek, Indian Brook, Eagle Creek, Cascade Lake Outlet, the North Branch of the Moose River, Constable Creek, Sis & Bubb Lake Outlet, and Mountain Pond Outlet. Third Lake Creek, Constable Creek, Cascade Lake Outlet and Eagle Creek Watersheds contained relatively high levels of DDT. Individual reports are enclosed in Appendix 28.

Another significant find during 1988, was the location of a number of 55 gallon drums in Fourth Lake near Eagle Bay. Although attempts

to raise these containers were unsuccessful, sample analysis of nearby sediment did produce high concentrations of DDT. Further investigation is planned in 1989. All water and sediment sampling will continue until a logical conclusion can be ascertained. It might be necessary in some cases, for the Bureau of Pesticides to request assistance from the Division of Fish and Wildlife regarding contamination levels of fish in unit waters.

O. **Land Acquisition**

Appendix 12.C. delineates the Fulton Chain Wild Forest unit boundaries for land acquisition purposes. This boundary is described as follows:

> North and east by Pigeon Lake Wilderness, Eagle Bay to Big Moose Road and Rte. 28, South by South Shore Road to Ellis Road, Ellis Road south to Third Lake Creek, west on Third Lake Creek to Adirondack League Club, following League Club bounds and other private lands to South Shore Road to Rte. 28, Rte. 28 westerly to the Railroad Bed, northeasterly on the RR bed to the west bounds of Township 8, north on the township line to the RR crossing, thence northwesterly and northeasterly on the RR to the Pigeon Lake boundary.

Properties which become available in the future

and are listed in the "Inventory of Potential Acquisitions", should be considered for purchase. Specific interests include Silver Lake, undeveloped lands south of the Big Moose Road between Moss Lake and Thirsty Pond Outlet, Dart's Lake, a canoe launch site on the Carter Road at the N. Branch of the Moose River, Third Lake Crossover ski trail easements, consolidation near the Ellis Road, Town of Webb lands between the railroad and N. Branch of the Moose River, fishing access and canoe launch sites at Dart's and Rondaxe Lakes, shoreline frontage on the Fulton Chain and any properties within the corridor of wild, scenic and recreational rivers.

O. **Boundary Line Maintenance**

Approximately 50 miles of unit boundary lines will be painted and/or signed on a five to seven year rotation. The need will be determined by the area forest ranger after evaluation of line condition at the five year interval. Signs will be replaced annually as needed, including those along approximately 10 miles of roadside.

P. **Fulton Chain Floating Bog Mats**

A draft report by former D.E.C. Fish and Wildlife Technician, Thomas G. Voss, entitled, "Bogs on the Lower Fulton Chain of Lakes," is the source of the following information relative to the Fulton Chain Wild Forest.

Of the 1,177 acre total surface area of the Fulton Chain's First, Second and Third Lakes, about 45 acres is in large, floating bog mat communities. These bogs would be more accurately referred to as minerotrophic peatlands or fens (enriched bogs). Plant species growing in the peat moss mat (Sphagnum Sp.) of this bog community include sweet gale (Myrica gale), leatherleaf (Chamaedaphne calyculata), sheep laurel (Kalmia polifolia), labrador tea (Ledum groenlandicum), bog rosemary (Andromeda glaucophylla), lowbush cranberry (Vaccinium oxycoccus, v. Macrocarpon), pitcher plant (Sarracenia purpurea) and sundew (Drosera Sp.).

The diversity of vegetative communities varies within the mats and also, from bog to bog. Plant distribution is determined by the bog's location in the lake, the related water movement, desiccation during drawdown, and water depth. The potential for occurrences of rare and endangered species or communities is high due to several of these factors. A comprehensive inventory needs to be undertaken.

These wetlands offer distinct scenic qualities because of their unusual floating characteristics and the resulting contrast with adjacent covertypes. They provide valuable greenspace and offer an opportunity for nature study in close proximity to a populated area. There is the threat of possible development and of subdivision of the upland contiguous with these

significant areas. The probability of increased access pressure would intensify the current demand for dredging, or for the cutting of navigation channels through the mats. Evidence shows that additional higher speed propwash inundation from increased motorboat use in the area, would more adversely impact the spatulate leaf sundew population. The pressures brought to bear on these wetlands in the future will increase.

It is recommended that the sensitivity and the significance of this resource be verified and documented by the Natural Heritage Program. If they are found to be significant, the Fulton Chain Bog Mats should be considered for addition to the list of Special Management Areas in the State Land Master Plan. Following that, appropriate management decisions will be made and incorporated into the five year revision of this unit management plan.

Additionally, it is recommended that an evaluation be made in Year I by the Divisions of Operations and Lands and Forests, to determine the feasibility of stabilizing the mat zone to prevent the continued detachment of pieces of the bog. This method should be least impactive to this unique environment, as well as effective. Necessary budgeting should result in an appropriate field project in Year II to contain this historic problem.

VI. PRIORITY, SCHEDULES AND ESTIMATED COSTS OF PROJECTS

Costs cited are estimates for Year I based on 1989 figures. Successive years will need to be adjusted to key in increases due to inflation.

Project	Responsible Division **	Cost
Annually		
1. Maintenance of foot trails, horse and nordic ski trail and snowmobile trails.	(OP)	$7,000
2. Maintenance and necessary cleanup of primitive campsites and privies at Moss Lake, DeCamp Island, First and Third Lakes.	(OP)	$1,200
3. Maintenance of parking areas and registration booths at Rondaxe, Moss Lake, Orvis, Ellis Road and Razorback Pond Trailheads.	(OP)	$1,900
4. Gate maintenance at Moss Lake and Ellis Road.	(LF)	$ 100
5. Assure accurate and legible signing at unit trailheads, along trails and at facilities.	(LF)	*
6. Monitor environmental impact and regulation success of interim regulations on DeCamp Island and draft specific regulations when effectiveness has been determined.	(LF)	*
7. Monitor environmental impact on the Rondaxe Trail.	(LF)	*

** Divisions: Operations (OP), Lands and Forest (LF), Fish and Wildlife (FW), Legal Affairs (LA), Hazardous Substance Regulation (HSR)

TBD: To be determined
* : Normal Program Funding

Project		Responsible Division **	Cost
Annually			
8.	Maintenance as needed on the Rondaxe Fire Tower and support facilities.	(LF)	*
9.	Boundary line maintenance (50 miles plus 10 miles roadside signing as needed).	(LF)	$ 350
10.	Maintain Nature Conservancy permanent marker and all major signs at Moss Lake.	(LF)	*
11.	Monitor game animal and furbearer harvests.	(FW)	*
12.	Survey productive unit lakes, ponds and major streams to maintain resource inventory and water chemistry data as time and funding permit. This includes annual water chemistry surveys (pH, alkalinity, etc.) for liming candidates (ie. Quiver and Razorback Ponds).	(FW)	$ 1,000
13.	Stock trout in Twitchell, Bubb and Sis Lakes, Razorback and Quiver Ponds, North Branch Moose River, Third and Fourth Lakes of the Fulton Chain, Old Forge Pond and Third Lake Creek.	(FW)	$24,000
14.	Maintain fish barrier dam at Bubb Lake Outlet and Quiver Pond.	(OP)	$ 400
15.	Retain Rondaxe fire observer, Forest Preserve trail crew and assistant forest rangers.	(LF) (OP) (LF)	* * *
16.	Maintain active acquisition program if desirable parcels become available.	(LF)	*
17.	Continue the annual investigation of elevated DDT levels in unit waters.	(HSR)	$10,200
	TOTAL COST		$46,150

Project		Responsible Division **	Cost
YEAR I			
1.	Demolition of the old fireplace and filling of the main lodge foundation at DeCamp Island.	(OP)	$3,000
2.	Sign placement to discourage use of the old Rt. 28 access trail to Rondaxe Tower.	(LF)	$ 200
3.	Remove I-beams at site of the old bridge on DeCamp Island.	(OP)	$2,000
4.	Add Razorback Pond Trailhead to the inventory of maintained parking lots.	(LF)	*
5.	Complete boundary line survey on the north line of the Moss Lake Tract.	(LF)	*
6.	Complete the investigation and resolve the Parcel K encroachment.	(LA)	*
7.	Resolve First Lake trespass.	(LF)	*
8.	Construct Fulton Chain Unit portion of connector between Razorback. and Norridge Trails.	(OP)	$1,200
9.	Location and planning for the Big Moose Snowmobile Trail (contingent on approval of Pigeon Lake Wilderness UMP and agreements with private owners).	(LF)	*
10.	Publish Fulton Chain Wild Forest brochure.	(LF)	$1,000
11.	Up-grade the gate at Moss Lake.	(OP)	$ 800
12.	Rehabilitate the Bubb Lake Barrier Dam.	(FW) (OP)	$10,000
13.	Survey Quiver Pond and Cary, Bubb and Sis Lakes.	(FW)	$ 2,000
14.	Complete title investigation on Webb Covenant roads.	(LF)	*

Project		Responsible Division **	Cost
YEAR I			
15.	Locate sites for privies at Moss Lake and budget for same.	(LF)	*
16.	Initiate a study of the sensitivity, resource significance and vegetation of the Fulton Chain Bog Mats.	(FW)	*
17.	Budget for rehabilitation of the dock at Twitchell Lake.	(LF)	*
18.	Budget for trail hardening of the Rondaxe Trail, if needed.	(LF)	*
19.	Add Third Lake Creek trailhead to list of maintained trailheads and install gravel and posts.	(LF) (OP)	$2,500
20.	Evaluate feasibility of stabilizing Fulton Chain floating bog mats.	(LF) (OP)	*
	TOTAL COST		$22,700
YEAR II			
1.	Review parking at the Bubb and Sis Lake trailhead with DOT.	(LF)	*
2.	Designate camping sites at Moss Lake and promulgate rules and regulations to prohibit motor boats and to require camping by permit only.	(LF)	*
3.	Establish designated sites and install privies at Moss Lake as per determinations in Year I.	(OP)	TBD
4.	At Moss Lake, relocate pit privy near the beach area and change or add fireplaces as necessary.	(OP)	$ 2,000
5.	Designate camping sites on shoreline of Second and Third Lakes.	(LF)	*

Project		Responsible Division **	Cost
YEAR II			
6.	Do initial survey to determine needs and costs for rehabilitating Safford Pond Snowmobile Trail and budgeting for same if Year I study indicates retention.	(LF)	*
7.	Razorback Pond Trailhead initial rehabilitation as per Year I.	(OP)	TBD
8.	Rondaxe Trailhead parking lot and foot trail rehabilitation.	(OP)	$ 3,000
9.	Determine costs for up-grading Ellis Road and parking area.	(LF) (OP)	*
10.	Move trailhead registers to the interior.	(OP)	$ 500
11.	Comprehensive Fishery Survey - Fulton Chain of Lakes.	(FW)	$ 4,000
12.	Initiate construction of appropriate State land sections of Big Moose Snowmobile Trail as per criteria in Section V.B.2.	(OP)	TBD
13.	Promulgate formal rules and regulations on DeCamp/Gumdrop Islands.	(LF)	*
14.	Accomplish any appropriate project to stabilize Fulton Chain floating bog mats.	(OP)	TBD
15.	Bridge replacement on the Bubb Lake - Sis Lake Trail and walkway replacement on the Scenic Mt. Trail.	(OP)	$ 3,000
16.	Inventory active and potential campsites on unit waters preliminary to site designation.	(LF)	*
	TOTAL COST		$12,500

Project		Responsible Division **	Cost
YEAR III			
1.	Do initial maintenance and necessary re-alignment of the Safford Pond Snowmobile Trail, if it is retained.	(OP)	TBD
2.	Reclamation of Bubb and Sis Lakes and Quiver Pond. Rehabilitation of barrier dams if necessary.	(FW)	$5,000
3.	Up-grade Elliis Road and parking area.	(OP)	TBD
4.	Resolve Miscellaneous Title Investigation #492 regarding the State's interest in the former Raquette Lake Railroad bed. Initiate record search and survey to determine the outbounds of the fee strip and locate same.	(LF) (LA)	*
5.	Designate camping sites, pursuant to SLMP guidelines as per inventory determinations in prior year.	(LF)	*
YEAR IV			
1.	Obtain additional natural resource data to support plan revision in the next year.	(LF)	Unknown
2.	Lime Quiver Pond	(FW)	$1,000
YEAR V			
1.	Draft up-dated five year revision of this plan.	(LF)	*

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