



Department of Environmental Conservation

Division of Lands and Forests

Unit Management Plan for

Five Ponds Wilderness Area
Buck Pond Primitive Corridor
Parker's Island Primitive Corridor
Raven Lake Primitive Corridor
Tomar Pond Primitive Corridor
Wanakena Primitive Corridor

BUREAU OF
FOREST PRESERVE
MANAGEMENT

April 1994



New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
MARIO M. CUOMO, Governor LANGDON MARSH, Acting Commissioner

UNIT MANAGEMENT PLAN

FIVE PONDS WILDERNESS AREA

BUCK POND PRIMITIVE CORRIDOR

PARKER'S ISLAND PRIMITIVE CORRIDOR

RAVEN LAKE PRIMITIVE CORRIDOR

TOMAR POND PRIMITIVE CORRIDOR

WANAKENA PRIMITIVE CORRIDOR

HAMILTON COUNTY
HERKIMER COUNTY
ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY

NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

MARIO CUOMO, GOVERNOR
GOVERNOR

LANGDON MARSH
ACTING COMMISSIONER

New York State
Department of Environmental Conservation

MEMORANDUM FROM

LANGDON MARSH, Acting Commissioner

TO: The Record

**RE: Unit Management Plan
Five Ponds Wilderness Area**

DATE: April 6, 1994

A revised Unit Management Plan for the Five Ponds Wilderness Area has been completed. The Plan is consistent with the guidelines and criteria of the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan, the State Constitution, Environmental Conservation Law, and Department rules, regulations and policies. The Plan includes management objectives for a five-year period and is hereby approved and adopted.

Langdon Marsh

IN MEMORIAM

Since the inception of the original plan in July 1987, two persons with close association to the management of this area have died.

Anne Munro (d. March 15, 1988), a life member of the Sierra Club and the Adirondack Mountain Club, was one of the nine individual representatives on the Citizen's Advisory Committee who donated considerable time and effort to help the professional staff develop the initial plan. Her quiet manner belied her effectiveness.

Tom Nolan (d. February 6, 1992) died from a snowmobile accident three days after his twenty-sixth birthday. As one of the three members of the trail crew, his contributions were directly concerned with the day to day management of the area. He was an integral part of this essential group.

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BACKGROUND

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

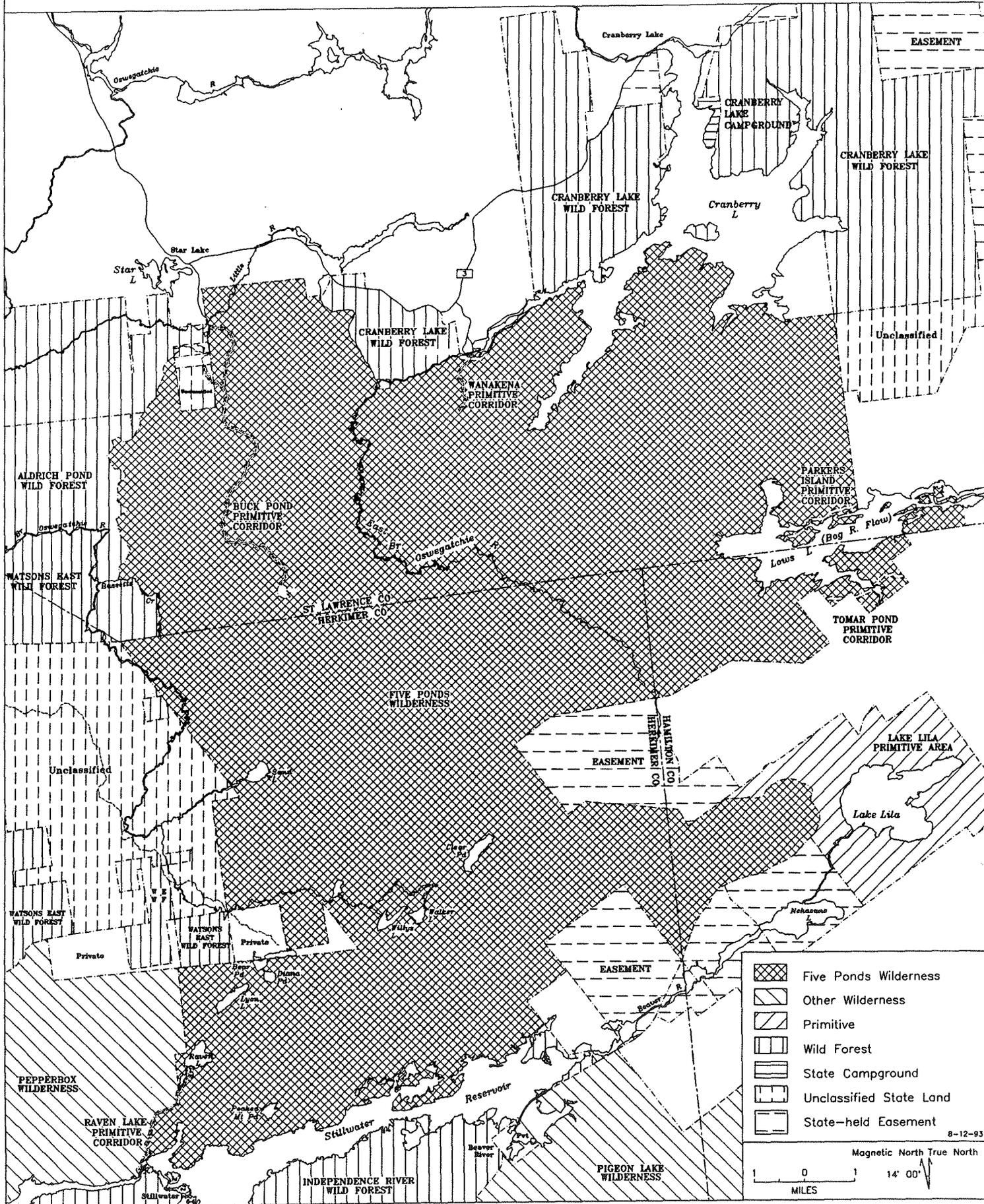
The Temporary Study Commission on the Future of the Adirondacks made nearly 200 specific recommendations regarding the Adirondack Park. Among its recommendations were:

- The creation of the Adirondack Park Agency.
- The preparation of a Master Plan for State-owned lands by the Agency.
- The classification of these lands "according to their characteristics and capacity to withstand use" and
- A set of extensive guidelines for the care, custody, and control of State-owned lands under the Master Plan with 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 Hugh Carey on October 24, 1979 and another revision on November 4, 1987 was signed by Governor Mario Cuomo. The Five Ponds Wilderness Area Unit Management Plan was prepared by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation in July 1987 with the State Land Master Plan setting the parameters and interested citizens providing additional review. This revision is a scheduled update of that plan.

LOCATION OF FIVE PONDS WILDERNESS



I. INTRODUCTION

A. UNIT LOCATIONS AND DESCRIPTIONS

1. Five Ponds Wilderness Area

This area is described as those contiguous Western Adirondack forest preserve lands in the Towns of Clifton and Fine in St. Lawrence County, Town of Webb in Herkimer County and Town of Long Lake in Hamilton County, lying generally between Cranberry Lake to the north and Stillwater Reservoir to the south. It is bounded by the Cranberry Lake Wild Forest to the north, the Lake Lila Primitive Area to the southeast, the Independence River Wild Forest to the south, the Pepperbox Wilderness Area, Watsons East Triangle Wild Forest and Aldrich Pond Wild Forest to the west. The lands comprising this area were obtained as follows:

<u>Date of Conveyance</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Tract</u>	<u>Cumulative Acreage</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
8/10/81	1,572	Tax Sale	1,572	Tax Sale of 1877
10/31/84	3,386	Tax Sale	4,958	Tax Sale of 1881/two tracts
Pre-1891	7	Dam Site	4,965	Jurisdiction claimed by Hudson River/Black River Regulating Dist.
1/16/96	40,379	Webb	45,344	
1898	28	Adirondack		
		Tim & Min	45,372	Appropriated for Stillwater Res.
1898	209	Mary Fisher	45,581	Appropriated for Stillwater Res.
5/8/99	658	Lot 29	46,239	From W. Webb
5/7/03	500	Lot 12	46,739	From Rackett Falls Land Co.
11/5/03	1,053	Lot 13	47,792	From Int. Paper & Tax Sales
5/16/07	664	Coffin	48,456	
1/30/98	1,857	Lathrop	50,313	
4/5/08	4,307	Post &	54,620	
4/15/08	2,288	Henderson	56,908	
4/15/08	2,426	Proctor	59,334	Town of Fine Tract
3/1919	11,208	Rich	70,542	Two Tracts
3/31/20	3,258	Barber	73,800	
4/24 &				
11/24/20	242	Aldrich Pond	74,042	Lots 7, 8, & 12
1/27/21	2,000	Proctor	76,042	Town of Clifton Tract
11/18/26	551	Olmstead	76,593	From Anna Abbott
11/22/26	2,000	Abbott	78,593	From Anna Abbott
3/1/32	434	Kettlehole		
		Bay	79,027	
7/3/33	5,831	Usher	84,858	From Emporium Forestry
1/14/64	12	Smith	84,870	
4/2/75	2,414	Braman Mfg.	87,284	From Schuler Farms
4/6/76	314	Broadhead		
		Gore	87,598	Including Parcel 3

<u>Date of Conveyance</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Tract</u>	<u>Cumulative Acreage</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
6/6/79	8,605	Nehasane	96,203	
11/12/82	5,905	Fisher Forestry	102,108	Former Wilderness Lakes Primitive Area
8/1/85	1,800	Grass Pond	103,908	From Yorkshire Timber
4/8/86	3,322	Hiawatha BSA	107,230	

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

Hamilton County (8,179 acres)

Long Lake	T & C Purchase T37, 38, Tria. N. of 38, 51	8,179
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Herkimer County (52,202 acres)

Webb	T & C Purchase T38, 42, 43, 51	39,875
	John Brown Tract T5, E $\frac{1}{2}$	3,533
	Middle $\frac{1}{2}$	6,002
	W $\frac{1}{2}$	581
	Watson's East Triangle, Lot 12	500
	Lot 13	1,053
	Lot 29	658
		<u>52,202</u>

St. Lawrence County (46,849 acres)

Clifton	GT2, T1	17,312
Colton	GT2, T2	1,033
Fine	GT3, T14 T15	5,746
		<u>22,758</u>
		46,849

2. Buck Pond Primitive Corridor

Location - Northwestern part of area. South of Star Lake.

Length - Approximately 8.5 miles

Status - Open road 7.5 miles (unmaintained). Restricted to administrative use and access for owners of Buck Pond the last 1.0 mile. Poor condition due to lack of maintenance.

3. Parker's Island Primitive Corridor*

Location - Southeastern part of area. West of Sabattis. North of Lows Lake.

Length - 8,686.88 feet (1.6 miles).

Status - Motorized use restricted to administrative use and access for owners of Parker's Island.

4. Raven Lake Primitive Corridor

Location - Southwestern part of area. Separates this area from the Pepperbox Wilderness Area. North of hamlet of Stillwater.

Length - 9,724.78 feet (1.84 mile)

Status - Motorized use restricted to administrative use and access for owners of Raven Lake lot and for the Black River Regulating District.

5. Tomar Pond Primitive Corridor*

Location - Southeastern part of area. West of Sabattis. South of Lows Lake.

Length - 9,314.95 feet (1.8 miles)

Status - Motorized use restricted to administrative use and access for owners of inholding.

6. Wanakena Primitive Corridor

Location - Northern part of area. South of Wanakena.

Length - 2,608 feet (.5 mile)

Status - Motorized use restricted to administrative use and access for the Wanakena Water Company. Maintained.

* These two corridors, although classified in 1988 as part of the Low's Lake Primitive Area, are included in this plan because they physically enter the Five Ponds Wilderness Area. The plan for the remainder of the area will be included with the adjacent Hitchins Pond Primitive Area and Horseshoe Lake Wild Forest.

B. ACCESS

The only motorized public access to the interior of this area is the first 7.5 miles of the Buck Pond Primitive Corridor which has historically been used mostly during hunting season. This use has declined significantly since the inception of the planning process in 1987. The likely reason for this is the lack of maintenance by the Department.

Developed foot access is provided to the northern part of the area with the Wanakena Loop Trail being available at two trailheads in the hamlet of Wanakena and the Boundary Line Trail being available from the Youngs Road south of the hamlet of Star Lake.

Motorized boat access is available at three trailheads on Cranberry Lake (Janack's Landing, Sixmile Creek Trail, Darning Needle Pond Trail) and one trailhead on Stillwater Reservoir (Red Horse Creek Trail). Canoe access is available at these trailheads as well as at the Esker Canoe Carry Trail on the western shore of Lows Lake, and the canoe launch at Inlet.

C. HISTORY

Relevant historical occurrences that affected these lands are as follows:

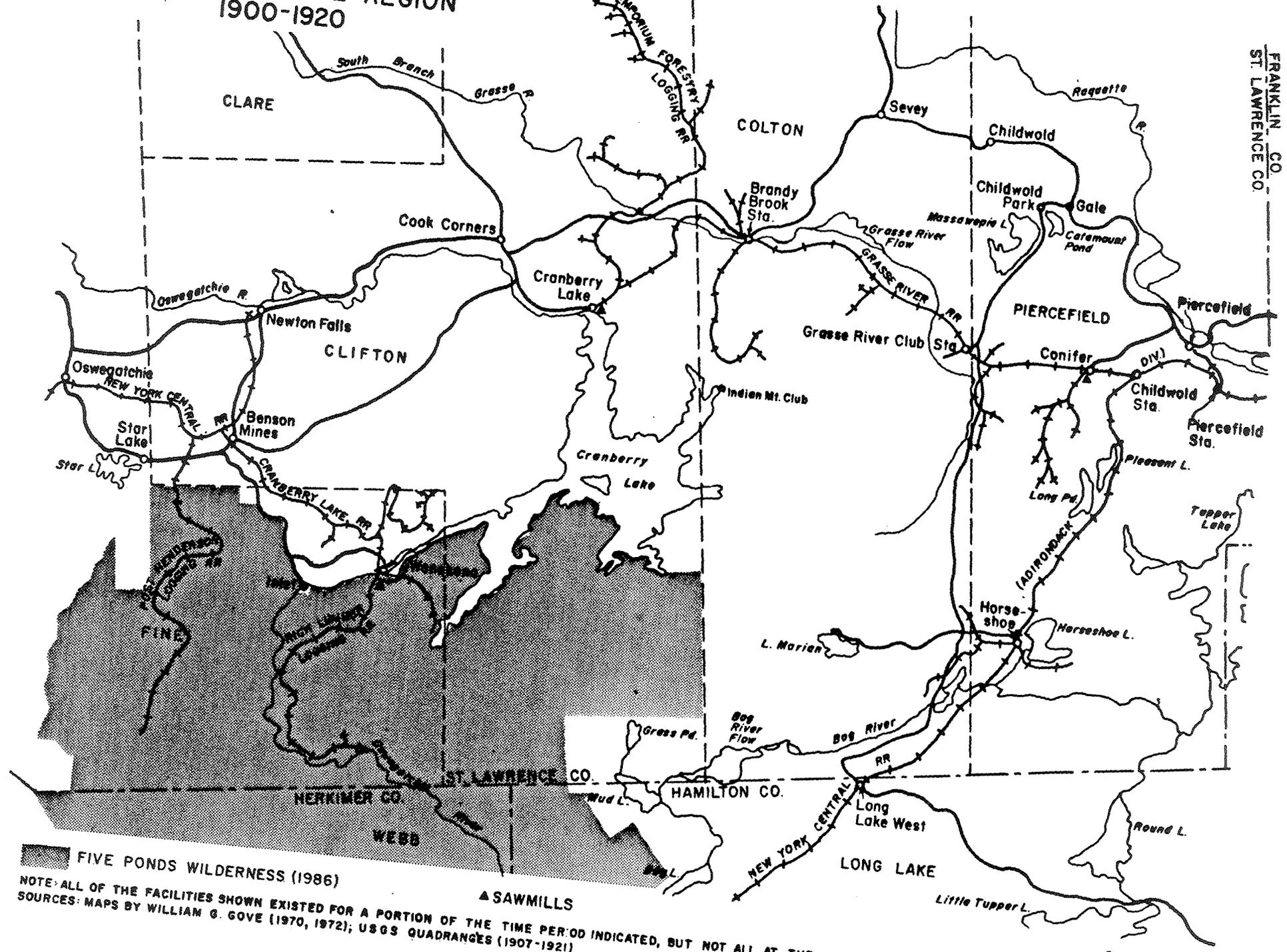
- 1653 Probably the first traverse of the area by a white man, the French Jesuit Joseph Poncet, over the Indian trail later followed by the Albany Road (Jamieson, 1963).
- 1772 Totten and Crossfield Purchase first surveyed. The Webb and Nehasane tracts are within this area.
- 1792 Macomb's Purchase finalized for the sale of 3,635,200 acres. This is the largest single land grant ever made in New York and includes all of those tracts in St. Lawrence County.
- 1812-1815 The Albany Road was constructed from the vicinity of Johnstown to Russell. The present Inlet Road is a remaining portion of that road and the road from Partlow to Gull Lake is probably another remnant. The portion in between was long ago abandoned due to little use.
- 1858 Joel Headley describes a canoe trip up the Bog River to Mud Lake (Low's Lake) which consisted of nine carries. (Headley 1982)
- 1859 The last moose was legally shot near Bog Lake by a hunter from the Town of Fine. (Jamieson and Morris 1991).
- 1860c. The trapper, George Muir, built his cabin at Gull Lake. (Pilcher 1979).
- 1866c-1906. Philo Scott hosted and guided sportsmen at his camp on Big Deer Pond. Irving Bacheller, his patron, commemorated Philo (or Fide) in a novel, a poem, and in a memoir (Bacheller, 1904, 1906, 1938).

- 1867 The first dam was built at the foot of Cranberry Lake. It was a wooden structure 13 feet high which roughly doubled the size of the original lake.
- 1873 Verplanck Colvin first surveyed the Cranberry Lake area. He was guided in the Five Ponds area by the trapper George Muir. (Colvin, 1873).
- 1877 The tax sale of this year resulted in State acquisition of title to the first tract in the present Five Ponds Wilderness Area. This tract is on both sides of Dead Creek Flow and is partially within the Cranberry Lake Wild Forest.
- 1882 The original Stillwater Reservoir dam was begun by the State to compensate for the diversion of water from the Black River basin to feed the Erie Canal. (Martin 1960).
- 1884 The Inlet House was built by George Sternberg in the vicinity of the present state parking lot at Inlet (Two Towns - Two Centuries, 1976).
- 1888 The Stillwater Reservoir was flooded, inundating 1,594 acres of private lands. (VanValkenburg, 1979)
- 1892 Gifford Pinchot, the forester who pioneered scientific forestry in this country, examined the Nehasane forest lands for William Webb and devised a plan for a systematic harvest of the property (Pinchot, 1970 and Graham, 1978). His cutting rules are still basic to rational timber harvest today.
- 1892 On October 12, the final spike on the Adirondack and St. Lawrence Railway was set, linking existing lines at Remsen and Malone. On October 24, the first train ran through Tupper on schedule, from New York to Montreal. (Simmons 1964, Harter 1979, Donaldson 1977).
- 1893 The Stillwater Reservoir dam was raised to a height of "not less than five feet vertically" in compliance with legislation passed the previous year (VanValkenburgh, 1985). This resulted in a lawsuit by William Webb for the resulting loss of land and access to his holdings north of the reservoir.
- 1894 The last known wolf in this area was killed by George Muir near his camp at Gull Lake.
- 1896 The Webb Purchase was consummated as the result of a lawsuit initiated in 1893. This acquisition of 74,584.62 acres is the largest single state acquisition to date. A condition of this sale was the construction of a foot trail by Dr. Webb from Crooked Lake to an existing trail (Albany Road) north of Gull Lake to keep users of the Red Horse Creek Trail on State lands. (Fisheries, Game and Forest Com. 1896).
- 1898 As a result of his work at Nehasane, Gifford Pinchot published "The Adirondack Spruce" which is a classic text on scientific forest management still relevant today. (Pinchot 1970)

- 1898c. The Post and Henderson Company established a large sawmill in Benson Mines. Later, the operation was expanded to a location on the Little River, east of Star Lake and the logging railroad which forms the basis for part of the Buck Pond Primitive Corridor was built (about 1905, according to Palmer).
- 1902 The Rich Lumber Company built the hamlet of Wanakena and began logging its 16,000 acre forest.
- 1903 The purchase of "Lot 13" represented the final purchase of an unharvested forest on this area.
- 1904 The Partlow Lake Railroad was built from Partlow five miles north to Sylvan Lake (Partlow Milldam)(Marleau, 1986). Although the 1905 New York Central Mohawk Division Employee's time table shows two passenger and two freight stops each way in 1905, the stop was removed soon thereafter (Harter, 1979).
- 1909 A fire tower was constructed on Cat Mountain - one of the first towers to be constructed in the State. It was a wooden structure manned for 23 years by John Janack, who lived most of the year in a small cabin at Janack's Landing with his wife and eleven children (Cranberry Lake, 1845-1959).
- 1911-1913 Emporium Forestry Company built the Grass River Railroad from Childwold Station to Cranberry Lake.
- 1912 The Rich Lumber Company completed the harvest of its lands and moved its operations to Vermont. The company donated 1,800 acres of its land for the creation of the New York State Ranger School.
- 1916 The first concrete dam was constructed at Cranberry Lake, resulting in a much larger impoundment.
- 1917-1927 The Emporium Forestry Company sawmill operated in Cranberry Lake, producing approximately 200 million board feet of quality hardwood lumber.
- 1923 Robert Marshall, one of the founders of the Wilderness Society, attended forestry summer camp at Barber Point and wrote "Weekend Trips in the Cranberry Lake Region". Four of these trips are described verbatim in Appendix A.
- 1925 The Stillwater Reservoir was enlarged by raising the existing dam 19 feet (Martin 1960).
- 1950 On November 25, strong winds blew down sufficient acreage of timber to necessitate a salvage operation over the next few years. Damage was the heaviest in stands of old growth white pine.

This listing represents a brief sketch of the history of the area which should be supplemented with the references noted in the bibliography for a more thorough understanding.

RAILROADS AND ROADS OF THE CRANBERRY LAKE REGION 1900-1920



FRANKLIN CO.
ST. LAWRENCE CO.

■ FIVE PONDS WILDERNESS (1986)

NOTE: ALL OF THE FACILITIES SHOWN EXISTED FOR A PORTION OF THE TIME PERIOD INDICATED, BUT NOT ALL AT THE SAME TIME.
SOURCES: MAPS BY WILLIAM G. GOVE (1970, 1972); USGS QUADRANGES (1907-1921)

▲ SAWMILLS



II. RESOURCE AND PUBLIC USE INVENTORY OVERVIEW

A. Natural Resources

1. Physical

a. Geology

The broad geological features of this area are illustrated on the following page. The Childwold Terrace, which encompasses a portion of the northern part of this area, was mapped by connecting the successive 200 foot contours directly across all depressions except those of major size. Maximum relief within this terrace is 400 feet or less. Major river valleys descend about 12 to 25 feet per mile and the area contains an abundance of sand plains and swamps. The greater portion of this area is in the Adirondack Mountain section, which is an area of generally greater relief caused by domal uplift. Detailed geological descriptions may be found in Buddington, 1962, Dale, 1935 and Jamieson, 1978.

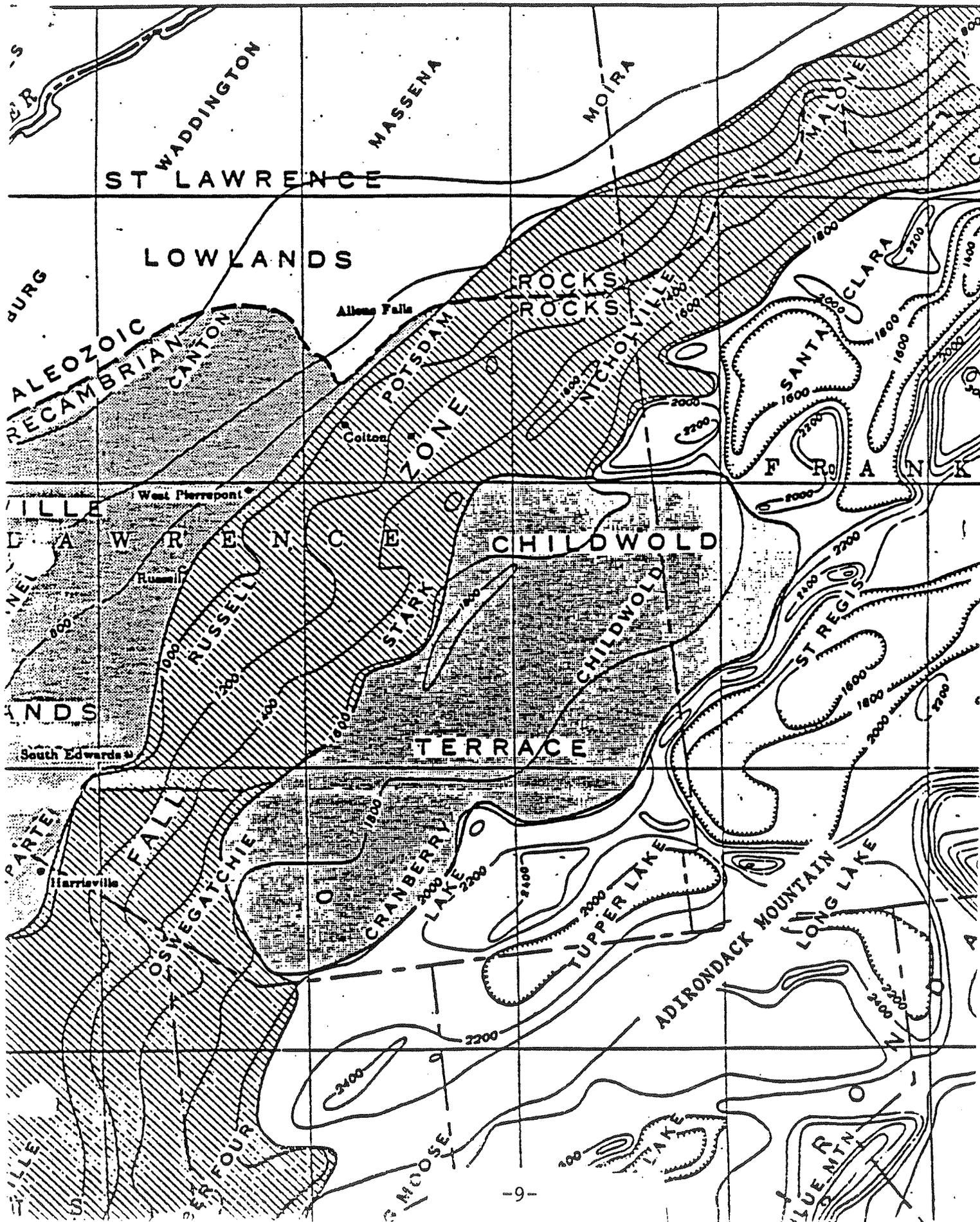
Wolf Mountain is the western most component of the Mt. Marcy Cross Range, which has a generally eastward trend. The slope of the crests in this range decline toward the west. The range, although crossed by the Raquette River, forms the divide from which the headwaters of the Saranac and Ausable Rivers flow northeast and the Hudson flows south (Buddington, 1962).

Eskers are a prominent feature of the terrain within this area; especially the Cranberry Lake Esker from West Flow (where it is triple) to a point south of Nicks Pond, and the Five Ponds Esker, which bisects those ponds and continues southwest to separate Rock and Sand Lakes. The latter reaches a maximum height of 150 feet from its base and is one of the best developed eskers in the Adirondacks (Jamieson, 1978). It is identified in the State Land Master Plan as a natural special interest area.

There are two iron ore deposits within this area which are known as the Dead Creek anomaly and the Grass Pond anomaly (Leonard and Buddington, 1964).

b. Soils

The soils in this area cover a wide range of types and associations. Along stream courses and marshy areas they are deep, poorly drained and highly organic. This gives way to gently sloping areas of poor to well-drained bouldery shallow soils with rock outcropping. Included here are large areas of light sand to gravelly soils. The upper slopes are steep with shallow soils and large areas of exposed bedrock and rock outcropping.



A general soils map has been prepared for this area. It should be noted that these broad classifications are of very limited use in the public use management aspect of wilderness management; however, they are of significant use in the determination of ecological evaluations which later revisions of this plan will consider more fully. Young's ambitious study in 1934 is also still very relevant in this context.

c. Terrain

Elevations range from 1486' at Cranberry Lake to 2489' at Summit Mountain. Topography is generally flat in the northern portion with steep slopes occurring with changes of elevation. The southern portion is generally much steeper.

There are 19 named elevations within the area as follows:

<u>ELEVATION</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>TRACT</u>
1767	Streeter Mountain	Coffin
1836	Francis Hill	Braman Mfg. Co.
1920	Round Hill	Proctor (Fine)
1920	Greenfield Mountain	Webb
2022	Panther Mountain	Webb
2040	Partlow Mountain	Webb
2081	Tomar Mountain	Webb
2101	Threemile Mountain	Rich
2121	Roundtop Mountain	Rich
2180	Sitz Mountain	Webb
2232	Indian Mountain	Usher
2240	Mt. Frederick	Nehasane
2260	Cat Mountain	Barber
2260	Webb Mountain	Nehasane
2290	Nehasane Mountain	Nehasane
2300	Mt. Electra	Nehasane
2340	Grass Pond Mountain	Grass Pond
2406	Wolf Mountain	Usher
2489	Summit Mountain	Nehasane

d. Water

The waters of the Five Ponds Wilderness Area drain into one of three major New York State watersheds. These are the Black River on the south via Stillwater Reservoir, the Oswegatchie River on the north and west via the Middle Branch and Cranberry Lake, and the Raquette River on the east via Lows Lake and the Bog River.

Water dominates much of the interior of this area with 12 named rivers and streams, and 105 ponds and lakes (2,612 acres) of significant size (2 acres or more). These are indicated on the topographic map while the lesser drainages are indicated on the wetlands map. Inventories of the Lakes and Ponds, and Streams of the area are in Appendix C. The Adirondack

Lakes Survey 1984-87 Reports (ALSC Data), contains additional information on these waters.

Water quality in the Five Ponds area is generally good, although increasing acidification is evident. Baker, et al, 1990, reported waters with low pH and alkalinity are concentrated in the western-south western Adirondacks, which largely encompasses the Oswegatchie-Black River watersheds. Based on ALSC data, sixty-five or 62 % of the area's lakes and ponds are considered acidified, with pH levels below 5.0. An additional 27 (26 %) are considered acid threatened with pH levels ranging from 5.0 to 6.0. In general, area waters lying south and west of the Five Ponds cluster are the most acidified, while ponds lying to the north appear less affected by acidification. Current pH (acidity) data for bodies of water in this unit are included as part of Appendix C.

The acidity problem is compounded by several factors, including the continuous deposition of acid precipitation from outside sources and the inherent low fertility and acid buffering capacity of the area's waters. Unless the acidification problem is addressed and corrected (beyond the scope of this plan), further reductions in native Adirondack fish populations are expected in the Five Ponds area. The Division of Fish and Wildlife's pond liming program has targeted a few of the area's waters for treatment to restore satisfactory pH levels. Their remoteness interferes with the program however, by limiting the Department's capability to make improvements. This is due to logistical problems associated with transporting large quantities of lime to the waters and legal constraints imposed by the State Land Master Plan.

Much of the access to this area is by water. From Cranberry Lake in the north, trails lead from Chair Rock, West and Dead Creek Flows. From Inlet there is relatively easy canoe access on the Oswegatchie River which can also be accessed from the Bog River to the east by means of the Canoe Carry Trail. The only trailhead on the southern end of the area is accessible by boat on the north shore of Stillwater Reservoir.

The Oswegatchie River (from the Partlow Mill Dam downstream approximately 18.98 miles to the State Land Boundary near Inlet) and the Middle Branch of the Oswegatchie River from its entry into the unit downstream from Alder Bed Flow are designated as Wild Rivers under the Wild Scenic and Recreational Rivers Act. The Middle Branch of the Oswegatchie River from the outlet of Walker Lake approximately 4 miles downstream is designated a Scenic River under the same law. Both of these rivers have floodplains of varying widths with rapid fluctuations of water levels.

e. Wetlands

A wetland is defined as any land that is annually subject to periodic or continual inundation by water and commonly referred to as a bog, swamp or marsh. They are inventoried, mapped and protected under the 1975 NYS Freshwater Wetlands Act by DEC and the APA. More intensive mapping is available from the APA for all of this area except the Newton Falls and Cranberry Lake quadrangles. Identification of the cover types indicated on this map are found in Cole and Fried, 1981.

2. Biological

a. Vegetation

There are over 49,000 acres of old growth forest within this area, most of which has never been harvested. Generally, those tracts shown on the acquisition history map on page viii as having been purchased up to 1903 fall within this category as well as parts of some adjacent stands which were purchased shortly thereafter.

Relevant studies of the old growth component of this forest include:

Young (1934) examined the interrelationships between soil structure and plant communities in the Cranberry Lake watershed. Two plots were established in the westerly part of the 1881 tax sale parcel at the end of Dead Creek Flow while eleven plots were established in the easterly part.

Roman (1980) established 71 plots in the 1896 Webb Tract to measure vegetative composition and environmental factors.

A permit was issued to P.L. Marks at Cornell University on June 21, 1981 to establish plots to measure the frequency, size and sources of openings created by overstory mortality in the old growth forest within this area. The department has been unable to obtain any information concerning this effort.

Leopold, Reschke and Smith (1988) discuss the result of a 1987 inventory of old growth forests based upon ten identified stands of which two are within this area.

Woods and Cogbill (1990) established two plots on the Five Ponds Esker and three on the northwestern slope of Partlow Mountain to measure old growth.

Harvesting on the remaining lands began around the turn of the century when red spruce was cut for pulpwood. The sawmills and logging railroads later built by the Post and Henderson, Rich and Emporium Companies enabled these companies to harvest large volumes of sawtimber after which the lands were sold to the state. It should be noted that there never was a significant market for low grade hardwoods which resulted in a significant

acreage of high-graded timber. Some firsthand descriptions of these areas as they appeared in 1922 (Marshall 1923) are contained in Appendix A.

The pattern of harvest on the northern part of the area was paralleled on the Nehasane Tract to the south where Dr. Webb enlisted the aid of Gifford Pinchot and Henry Graves in 1898 to develop a management plan primarily for the sustained harvest of red spruce (Graham 1978, Graves 1899 and Pinchot 1970). Although the book written by Pinchot in 1898 as a result of this effort (Pinchot 1970) remains as a classic text on the silviculture of this species, the failure of the landowner to follow the plan completely resulted in a diminution of the spruce component (Chandler 1919). Westveld (1953) updates these early efforts by tying silvicultural treatment to forest climax types.

A large part of the 40,000 acre Webb Tract old growth consists of a red spruce-yellow birch type which is classified as forest cover type 30 in Eyre (1980). The mature spruce in this stand is dying of causes which might be explained in Holstein, Thier and Schmid (1991), Miller Weeks and Cooke (1989) and Shortle and Smith (1988).

Timber inventories and type maps exist for all parcels obtained since 1975 as a result of the appraisals necessary for their purchase. In addition, historical cruise figures are available for the Fisher Forestry and Hiawatha BSA tracts.

Two notable exceptions exist to the generally forested nature of this area. The Plains is located on the Rich Tract north of High Falls. Early residents of the Town of Fine traveled the Albany Road to cut hay there and later residents grazed sheep there (Two Towns-Two Centuries 1976 and Keith, 1976). The other open area is described in Fisheries, Game and Forest Commission (1896) as a 425 acre area north of Salmon Lake in the Webb Tract. Both areas are being inhabited by tree species at a noticeable rate. Relevant studies of the Plains include:

Bray (1915, 1921, 1930) describes it as a true sand delta and provides a vegetative species inventory and soils description.

Curran (1974) expanded on the Bray studies to provide an extensive examination of the history and plant composition of the area.

Bonkougou, Raynal and Geis (1983) conducted a dendrochronological study of white pine, larch and black cherry to identify past environmental factors which contributed to its development.

The New York Natural Heritage Program (NYNHP) has recent records for the following rare plant species occurring within the general area:

bog aster (R/T)	<u>Aster nemoralis</u>
Pickering's reedgrass (R/R)	<u>Calamagrostis pickeringii</u>
cypress clubmoss (T/E)	<u>Lycopodium sabinifolium</u>
Farwell's winter milfoil (U/T)	<u>Myriophyllum farwellii</u>

Cutler (1975) reported two additional rare species:

meadow horsetail (R/T)	<u>Equisetum pratense</u>
northern panic grass (R/R)	<u>Panicum boreale</u>

Note: E - Endangered, R - Rare, T - Threatened, U - Unprotected

In addition, he reported the presence of hairy willow milfoil (Epilobium ciliatum) which is only rare in one subspecies and is fairly common in another.

The NYNHP has historical records of the following rare plants within the general area:

swamp aster (U/?)	<u>Aster radula</u>
balsam willow (U/T)	<u>Salix pyrifolin</u>

Mitchell, Sheviak and Dean (1980) reported on the presence of sitka clubmoss (Lycopodium sitchense) within the area; however, the NYNHP has determined that the plant is actually Savin-leaved or cypress clubmoss (Lycopodium sabinifolium). A rare plant abstract for this species was included in the appendix of the original unit management plan (July 1987) which noted that these two species are often confused. Beitel (1979) and Lellinger (1985) help clarify the differences between them.

Studies which generally examined plant species in the area include:

Welch (1921) described the vegetation on Buck Island to the north of this area which was burned in 1845.

Griffin and Morrison (1957) compiled a species list and key to the woody plants of the region.

Barrett, Ketchledge and Satterlund (1961) compiled a list of plants in the Cranberry Lake region.

Curran (1974) provides an extensive report of vascular plants found on the Plains.

Cutler (1975) contains a list of 460 vascular plant species identified by the author.

The only known exotic tree species is Scotch pine, which is found in plantations east of the Plains and along the Inlet Road and the Dead Creek trail. As both of these areas were heavily cut at one time, the presence of these trees indicates an early attempt to reforest the area.

Three areas in the Webb Tract were designated natural areas by the Society of American Foresters (SAF) and are generally described in the November 1960, Journal of Forestry.

The State Land Master Plan identifies the following as natural special interest areas:

Griffin Rapids Virgin Timber
Oswegatchie Plains
Otter Pond Virgin Timber
Pine Ridge

b. Wildlife

The area is located in two ecological zones, the Western Adirondack Foothills and Central Adirondack (Will, Stumvoll, Gotie & Smith, 1982). The western portion contains lower elevations with milder winters resulting in better conditions for wildlife than the Central Adirondack Zone. Wildlife mammals known to exist within the unit include: white-tailed deer, black bear, river otter, fisher, coyote, bobcat, varying hare, mink, muskrat, raccoon, red fox, marten and moose. In addition, the first confirmed sighting of a calf moose in Region 6 occurred during the summer of 1983 in the Five Ponds area by two forest rangers. Historic deer wintering areas that occur within the unit are shown on the Significant Habitat Map in Appendix D.

The Five Ponds Wilderness Area and associated corridors contain all or parts of 27 breeding bird blocks. Cooperators working with the New York Breeding Bird atlas have identified 84 species as confirmed breeders. An additional 45 species have been identified as probable or possible breeders. The Bald Eagle, an endangered species, is listed as a possible nester in one block. Threatened species occurring within the unit include Red-shouldered Hawk and Osprey. Special concern species included: Vesper Sparrow, Least Bittern, Grasshopper Sparrow, Eastern Bluebird, Cooper's Hawk, Common Raven and Common Loon. Game bird species occurring within the unit include: American Black Duck, American Crow, American Woodcock, Common Goldeneye, Common Merganser, Hooded Merganser, Mallard, Ring-necked Duck, Ruffed Grouse, Sora Rail and Wood Duck. A complete listing from the Breeding Bird Atlas (Andrle and Carroll, 1988) and a map of the blocks is contained in Appendix D.

Parts of the area, particularly in the vicinity of Grass Pond and Bog Lake, have habitat that historically contained spruce grouse, a threatened species. While not confirmed by the Breeding Bird Atlas (Andrle and Carroll, 1988), the potential exists for spruce grouse to reoccupy the area. The Spruce Grouse Recovery Team is currently developing a plan to evaluate the potential for restoration of this species which might possibly occur within this area.

The common loon, a special concern species, utilizes many of the water areas that still support fish life. During a 1984-85 survey (Parker, 1986), it was determined that Stillwater Reservoir had the highest number of breeding pairs of this species (15) in the state while Lows Lake had the second highest (6).

c. Fisheries

Historically, this area was known for its brook trout fisheries, and was regarded as one of the best areas in the Adirondacks by guides and fishermen alike. (For further information about the natural history of the area see "A Biological Survey of the Oswegatchie and Black River Systems", 1932, Pfeiffer 1979, and the Chronology of the Cranberry Lake, Stillwater Reservoir and Bog River Flow Fisheries in Appendix C). Presently 69 ponds (66% of the area's ponded waters) are fishless, largely due to low pH. This is substantially higher than the 24% fishless rate reported for the Adirondack region (Baker et al. 1990). Of the area's 69 fishless waters, 17 are known to have historically (pre-1960) supported fish populations. This figure is probably low because historical data is limited or not available for the area's remaining 52 fishless waters. Survey reports for 1931 and the 1950's and 1960's for most of these indicate they were not studied because of small size, inaccessibility and/or posting. Recent survey reports (ALSC 1984-1987) indicate many of these waters are suitable fish habitat except for impacts from acidification. Baker et al. (1990) reported that high elevation fishless lakes (> 1900 feet), like those in the FPW tributary to Stillwater Reservoir have significantly ($p \leq 0.05$) lower pH levels than high elevation lakes with fish. This suggested that low pH plays an important role in the absence of fish from some lakes. Prior to the 1950's when acidification was first detected in Adirondack waters, it is believed that brook trout, reported as widespread in the region's waters (Greeley 1931, George 1980), with or without other native Adirondack fish species (eg. white sucker, brown bullhead, pumpkinseed, northern redbellied dace) inhabited all suitable waters in the FPW.

Today the bulk of the acidified FPW waters lie in the southern half of the area, which is almost devoid of fish life. In contrast, most of the ponds in the area's northern half are not as severely acidified and therefore contain fish life and support native or stocked brook trout fisheries.

At this time, 20 of the area's interior lakes and ponds are managed for brook trout (See Appendix C - Lake and Pond Inventory). Ten are stocked annually, while the remaining 10 waters contain naturally spawning brook trout populations. Four of the 10 lakes with spawning populations (Salmon, Witchhopple, Sand and Wolf), were stocked annually as part of their past management. Along with several other waters, they were dropped from the stocking list in the early 1970's because of acid conditions. Their brook trout populations did not disappear as anticipated, but have maintained themselves at levels adequate for their survival. This is probably due to the presence of spring upwellings or tributaries which provide habitat for the resident trout during spawning and refuge during periods of severe acid depression. This is the case with Sand Lake, where many wild brook trout fingerlings were observed in a July, 1992 survey of its tributary stream. In addition, the larger of the above lakes (Salmon and Witchhopple) contain remnant populations of lake trout and splake which likely have immigrated upstream from Stillwater Reservoir where they are stocked.

Tamarack Pond, once an important fishery, appears to have lost its naturally spawning brook trout population. This is despite lime treatments in 1978 and 1990 which have been successful at maintaining satisfactory pH conditions. This pond's trout are considered a heritage Adirondack strain by the DEC (Keller 1979).

Besides trout, the interior waters of the Five Ponds Wilderness also contain a variety of warmwater fish species. These include both native Adirondack and introduced fish species. Species present, by category, and their relative abundance within the ponded waters of the FPW are listed on Table 1. For comparison, Adirondack Region-wide abundance estimates for each species are also given. Note that almost all species (both native and non-native) are present in Five Ponds waters at substantially lower rates relative to the Adirondack Region. This documents the severe impact acidification has on the unit's aquatic ecosystems.

Table 1 - Relative abundance of native and non-native fish species found in lakes and ponds within the Five Ponds Wilderness given as percent of waters where each species was confirmed. Percent of 1,469 ALSC lakes Adirondack Region wide is also given for the same species for comparison.

Waters supporting:	Five Ponds Wilderness		Adirondack Region
<u>Native Adirondack Species</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>
brook trout	23	27%	52%
lake trout	2	2%	2%
brown bullhead	20	19%	57%
white sucker	13	12%	51%
pumpkinseed	8	8%	45%
creek chub	8	8%	39%
northern redbelly dace	7	7%	19%
<u>Non-native Species</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>
yellow perch	7	7 %	31 %
golden shiner	10	9 %	50 %
splake	2	2 %	3 %

Current survey data are lacking for most of the area's rivers and streams. The status of the area's lotic ecosystems is believed to be similar to that of its lakes and ponds however, in that the distribution, diversity and abundance of native fish species have been impacted by the effects of acid precipitation (See Appendix C - Stream Inventory). Like the ponded waters, many of the area's rivers and streams to the south and west (most of them small unnamed outlet and tributary streams), contain limited or no fish life due to elevated acidity levels, particularly during the spring snow melt (Colquhoun et al. 1981).

For example, a 1991 DEC survey of the Middle Branch of the Oswegatchie River, approximately two miles west of the Five Ponds boundary, revealed strikingly low diversity and abundance of aquatic life. Electrofishing yielded no fish in 200 feet of stream. A search for aquatic macroinvertebrates found 2 or 3 crayfish and little evidence of insect life. The river's pH and alkalinity at the time of the survey were 5.94 and 1.5 ueq/l respectively. The pH is believed to be even more depressed during the spring and following heavy rains. Historic data indicates the upper stretches of the Middle Branch of the Oswegatchie River once supported native brook trout.

Streams to the north appear less impacted. Although current survey data are not available, they are believed to still support fish species such as brook trout, white sucker and associated minnow species. This is supported by recent surveys/observations of the upper Oswegatchie and Robinson Rivers, which both drain to the north. The population of brook trout indigenous to the Robinson River (tributary to the Oswegatchie River above High Falls), has been identified as a genetically distinct Adirondack strain, representative of the Oswegatchie River Watershed (Perkins 1991). Native brook trout populations found in the unit's other unstocked, remote streams are also believed to be unique Adirondack strains, but they have not been analyzed for genetic characteristics.

Bordering the Five Ponds Wilderness Area are three large water bodies. These are Cranberry Lake, Bog River Flow and Stillwater Reservoir. Their sizes are 6,975, 6,195 and 2,845 acres respectively. These support combinations of coldwater and warmwater aquatic communities which add diversity to the fish fauna of the FPW area. All three are impounded by man-made dams which greatly influence their physical character.

Cranberry Lake supports important smallmouth bass and brook trout fisheries. Stillwater offers angling for smallmouth bass and splake. The Bog River Flow has a native brook trout population, which has been supplemented with stocking. Since 1987, when the flow was last surveyed, largemouth bass have been illegally introduced. Reports suggest they are now well established. (For more information see Chronologies of Cranberry Lake, Stillwater Reservoir and Bog River Flow Fisheries in Appendix C).

3. Visual

For many of the users of this area, much of its aesthetic appeal may be attributed to the three man-made water impoundments which border it - Cranberry Lake to the north, Low's Lake to the east, and Stillwater Reservoir to the south.

There are few broad vistas within the Five Ponds Wilderness Area; however, scenic vistas exist across many of the ponds. Other notable scenery include: the panoramic view from the summits of Cat Mountain and Grass Pond Mountain, the dense witchhopper bloom in late May in the hardwood forest on the west shore of Cat Mountain Pond, High Rock rising out of a boreal swamp and overlooking it, Sliding Rock Falls on Six-Mile Creek, Sliding Falls on the Robinson River, High Falls, any number of bends in the Oswegatchie, the big

spruce on the trail from Wolf Pond to Sand Lake. The tall pines in various locations, present a significant visual impact, especially in the Tax Sale tract across the Flow from the Ranger School, along the new Plains Trail, the Five Ponds Esker, the double esker east of Nicks Pond and Pine Ridge on the Oswegatchie about 2.3 miles above High Falls.

High Falls and Sliding Rock Falls are designated as scenic special interest acres in the State Land Master Plan.

4. Unique

This area has some of the best remote wilderness opportunities in the Adirondack Park as that part of the area between High Falls and Stillwater Reservoir is generally trailless. This general area also contains the largest contiguous acreage of unharvested timber in the northeast (approximately 50,000 acres).

5. Wilderness

In a wilderness management plan the interrelationships between the previously described natural resource inventories and all other component parts of the resource should be summarized as components of the total wilderness resource. In the early planning stages it is only feasible to identify existing data and concentrate on the more imminent influence of public use, deferring this exercise to later revisions.

A basis for the identification of the wilderness resource was developed by Department professionals in 1981. Entitled "Ecosystem Elements," it consists of a checklist of environmental considerations to be used in such instances.

B. EXISTING FACILITIES

Designated Campsites (with pit privy) (8)

Oswegatchie River (21, 25, 41)	3
Bog River Flow (23, 29, 31, 32, 1)	5

Designated Campsites (without pit privy) (111)

Oswegatchie River	37
Bog River Flow	28
Cranberry Lake	17
Stillwater Reservoir	24
Other	5

Lean-tos (with pit privy) (14)

Cage Lake Springhole	Olmstead Pond
Griffin Rapids	Cowhorn Pond
High Falls (2)	Janacks Landing
Big Shallow	Salmon Lake
Little Shallow	Trout Pond
Wolf Pond	Cage Lake
Sand Lake	

Foot Trails (50.21 miles)

High Falls Loop Trail (13.0 miles) Red - Wanakena to High Falls and back
Sand Lake Trail (7.8 miles) Blue
Wolf Pond-Buck Pond Trail (3.86 miles) Yellow
Clear Pond (1.2 miles) Red - Cowhorn Junction to Clear Pond
Big Deer Pond Trail (2.1 miles) Yellow - Cowhorn Junction to
Big Deer Pond
Loop Trail (1.75 miles) Yellow - Cowhorn Junction to High Falls
Loop
Cat Mountain Trail (1.3 miles) Red - Loop Trail to top of Cat
Mtn.
Janack's Landing Trail (.2 mile) Yellow - Janack's Landing to
High Falls Loop
Six Mile Creek Trail (4.2 miles) Blue - West Flow to Cowhorn
Junction
Olmstead Pond Loop Trail (3.15 miles) Yellow - Six Mile Creek Trail to
Spectacle Pond, Simmons Pond, Olmstead Pond and back to the Six Mile
Creek Trail
Cowhorn Pond Trail (.2 mile) Yellow - Six Mile Creek Trail
to Cowhorn Pond
Darning Needle Pond Trail (2.4 miles) Yellow - Chair
Rock Flow to Darning Needle Pond
Boundary Line Trail (.6 mile) Yellow - Youngs Road to Buck Pond
Primitive Corridor
Red Horse Creek Trail (5.0 miles) - Trout Pond to Clear Lake
Canoe Carry (Esker) Trail (3.45 miles) - Lows Lake to Oswegatchie River

Canoe Route (1)

Lows Lake to Inlet

Trailheads (6)

Inlet - 2.6 miles from New York State Route #3 at end of Inlet Road -
for canoe route (trail register, ample parking, pit privy)
At the hamlet of Wanakena at the western end of High Falls Loop Trail
(trail register, adequate parking next to tennis courts maintained by Town
of Fine)
One-half mile east of Wanakena - easterly end of High Falls Loop Trail
(parking lot expanded in 1991, trail register at junction with
Janack's Landing Trail)

Stillwater Ranger Headquarters (trail register, boat launch, parking lot)

NOTE: Although located in the Independence River Wild Forest, this trailhead is an important point of embarkation for the Red Horse Creek Trail and an important source of information on the public use of this part of the area.

Beginning of Raven Lake Primitive Corridor (trail register).
Youngs Road at head of Boundary Line Trail (undeveloped parking)

Toilet Facilities (23)

Pit privy at each of 14 lean-tos
8 Designated Campsites
Inlet trailhead

Parking Lots (3)

End of the Inlet Road (Smith Tract)
Easterly end of the High Falls Loop Trail
Juncture of Youngs Road and Boundary Line Trail (undeveloped parking)

Barrier - Removable (1)

Beginning of Wanakena Primitive Corridor

Barrier - Permanent (3)

End of Wanakena Primitive Corridor
End of Raven Lake Primitive Corridor
Easterly end of High Falls Loop Trail

Gates (3)

Beginning of Raven Lake Primitive Corridor
Approximately one (1) mile from the end of the Buck Pond
Primitive Corridor
Beginning of the Parker's Island Primitive Corridor

Trail Signs (43)

Major Bridges (3)

Sand Lake Trail (Oswegatchie River) - 65'
High Falls Loop (Glasby Creek) - 21'
Sixmile Creek - 20'

C. CULTURAL

In 1912 the Rich Lumber Company donated an 1800-acre portion of its forest for the creation of the New York State Ranger School. This school, which commenced operation in the fall of 1912, was the first in the nation to offer an education in forest management for forestry technicians. Over the past 80 years the students have had the opportunity to rehabilitate their portion of the forest while being able to observe the effects of natural succession on the remaining portion, which is in State ownership in both this area and the Cranberry Lake Wild Forest. The tax sale parcel on Inlet Flow that falls both within this area and the Cranberry Lake Wild Forest offered students an opportunity to observe an unharvested forest up to the blowdown of 1950 and, since then, a forest which still contains some sections not affected significantly by harvest. The contribution of this forest to the education of forest managers has been very significant.

D. ECONOMIC

A significant economic factor concerned with the management of this forest is the annual cost of ownership familiar to most private owners - the tax bill. As illustrated in the original plan, this expenditure amounted to approximately \$722,933.08 or an average of \$7.60/acre for the 1981-1982 school tax year and the 1982 general tax year. The annual cost of maintenance on this land (boundary lines, trails, bridges, etc.) and administration (patrols, management plan, etc.) is not as easily identified, but would probably add another \$1.00/acre to the annual cost of ownership. To attempt to apply these costs to an economic evaluation of this area would be meaningless without supporting data. Therefore, these figures have not been updated.

The economic significance of this area could also be estimated if significant public usage data were available. For example, Pfeiffer, 1979 uses an estimate of \$9.41 spent per angler trip in 1978 based on the U.S. Department of Interior's National Survey of Hunting, Fishing and Wildlife Associated Recreation. Current brook trout pond angler expenditures derived from Kretser and Klatt, 1981, are estimated to be \$42 per day in 1992. Similar data developed for other forms of outdoor recreation could also be applied to this evaluation. To date, the only usage data available are the names, addresses and miscellaneous comments contained in the trail registers. It is anticipated that the area manager will develop more significant data to form the basis for an economic evaluation to be included in the next revision of this plan.

E. PUBLIC USE OF THE AREA

Long before these lands were obtained by the State, an accepted recreational use was by squatters who held no title to the lands on which they built their camps. In its Second Annual Report for the year 1896, the Fisheries, Game and Forest Commission recognized the occupancy of forest preserve lands as a major issue encompassing 98 cases in each of which there was a building of some kind. Three-fourths of these cases involved occupancy which occurred prior to state ownership. One of these documented cases involved a lawyer and former member of the Assembly from Albany, who built his camp on the southwest shore of Salmon Lake probably as

early as 1868. This would have been 22 years before William Webb obtained title to the property and 28 years before he sold it to the State. Marleau (1986) documents many other cases of early occupancy of these lands while explaining the pattern of development.

This use continues today with the discovery of occasional illegal camps on the area and, most blatantly, in the presence of floating camps on nearby Cranberry Lake. Although this is not an acceptable practice under modern concepts of wilderness use, a more severe impact on the management of the area is caused by the habit of littering the sites and abandoning them when the user loses interest. Fortunately, the practice has fallen off in recent years but tons of debris remain on the area as a reminder of this abuse.

Camping is heaviest along the shorelines of the three reservoirs ringing the area and along the Oswegatchie River. Designated campsites have been established in these areas to aid the user, reduce the impact on the land and facilitate maintenance. Many of the interior ponds which also receive significant camper use have either a lean-to or designated campsite as well.

Hiking on maintained trails is heaviest along the High Falls Loop with High Falls being the primary objective. Significant use of this trail is also made to access the Sand Lake Trail. The Sixmile Creek Trail is also heavily used as it provides access to several trout ponds and is used by persons wishing to visit Sliding Falls. The Loop Trail connects this trail to the High Falls Loop and provides access from both trails to the heavily used Cat Mountain Trail. The Wolf Pond-Buck Pond Trail, Buck Pond Corridor and Boundary Line Trail receive light hiking use but are retained to provide alternate access to the Sand Lake Trail should the remaining foot bridge across the Oswegatchie River become unusable. The Clear Pond, Big Deer Pond, Darning Needle Pond and Olmstead Pond Loop trails primarily provide fisherman access while the historic Red Horse Creek Trail provides the only maintained foot access from the south. Hiking on unmaintained trails (paths) and bushwhacking also represent significant uses of the area.

The purchase of the Bog River Flow area in 1986 and the development of the Canoe Carry Esker Trail in 1987 provided an unique canoe route through the area which is being increasingly used. This use is anticipated to increase further as existence of the route becomes better known.

The area offers ample opportunity for deer and bear hunting for those sportsmen who desire a wilderness hunting experience. Waterway access via Cranberry Lake, the Oswegatchie River and Stillwater Reservoir provide important access corridors. The Oswegatchie River from Inlet to High Falls is particularly attractive to muzzleloader hunting parties desiring a primitive experience. Continued funding for maintenance and rehabilitation of boat launch sites, parking areas and boat access sites is imperative to continued public use by sportsmen.

The estimated harvest of white-tail deer between 1954 and 1991 from the Five Ponds Wilderness Area is shown in Appendix D. Using the New York State Deer Calculation Program which proportions town data, it has ranged from a low of 54 in 1971 to a high of 589 in 1967. Antlerless permits, or "doe permits" as they were previously called, were issued between 1957 and 1970 which contributed to the record total harvest in 1967. A wilderness tract hunt was held in 1954 which produced an

estimated 520 deer. It should be prefaced that these data are estimates only and in reality the actual harvest could be somewhat less because of the more difficult access.

Based upon the ten-year average harvest of Black Bears (1982 to 1991) from the four towns bordering the area, it is estimated that 9 bears are taken annually.

Public use of the area by trappers and hunters of furbearers is believed to be low because of the difficulty of reaching the interior of the area during the winter months. The New York State Furbearer Calculation Program proportions the harvest of furbearers based upon pelt sealing data by township. The Five Ponds Wilderness Area contains parts of the following towns: Clifton (21%), Fine (26%), Webb (17%) and Long Lake (3%). Since 1971, the annual harvest has averaged 110 beaver, 2 bobcat, 5 coyote, 10 Fisher and 8 Otter. The complete furbearer take from 1958 through 1990 is shown in Appendix D.

Brook trout pond fishing is very popular on the Five Ponds area. Quantitative data regarding the number of anglers who use the area's waters is not currently available. In general, fishing pressure is highest on the most accessible waters, with some remote interior waters receiving relatively little use. Pfeiffer (1979) estimated annual use of Adirondack brook trout ponds at 10 angler-days per acre in 1979. He predicted an increase to 13 angler-days per acre by 1992. These estimates are believed to be reliable, although they may be a little high for the more remotely located and less productive angling waters.

Gordon (1993), based on a survey of 24 western Adirondack waters, reported 1992 angler use of brook trout ponds at 6.0 angler-days per year. Angler use of the 24 ponds ranged from zero trips (for an acidified, fishless, remote water) to 35 trips/acre/year (for a limed, stocked, accessible water). Of the 24 waters surveyed during 1992, 10 are located in designated wilderness areas. Due in part to remote locations, angler use of these wilderness waters averaged low at 3.8 days per acre per year. Six of the 10 wilderness waters are included in the Five Ponds area. These waters and their respective 1992 angler use rates are as follows: Rock Lake (0.0), Sand Lake (1.7), Olmstead Pond (2.3), Big Five Pond (0.0), Simmons Pond (5.1), and Wolf Pond (0.0). Based on Pfeiffer's (1979) and Gordon's (1993) estimates, the area's 600 acres of productive ponded trout waters provide a combined total of 6,000 and 2,300 angler-days of recreation, respectively, per year.

Based on 1992 data (Gordon, 1993), angler use of the area's 65 acidified-fishless waters is near zero. The DFW plans to lime a few of these waters in the near future, to reverse their acidification trend, and restore their ecosystems to more historic chemical and biological conditions. Limed ponds will be re-stocked with a heritage Adirondack strain of brook trout, and one or more additional native Adirondack fish species. The eventual return of these waters as brook trout fisheries will add to the above use estimate in proportion to the size of the waters treated.

Angling occurs at a moderate rate on the Oswegatchie River (Wanakena to Inlet), where it is stocked annually with brook trout. This section of the river is also popular as a travel corridor. Other streams in the area receive little (if any) angling pressure due to their remoteness, or low potential as fisheries.

Winter use of the area is very light, with some skiing along the High Falls Loop and the Buck Pond Primitive Corridor and an occasional winter camper at High Falls or the vicinity of the Five Ponds.

F. CAPACITY OF THE RESOURCE TO WITHSTAND USE

Although overuse has not been a particularly major problem on this area, some examples of management activities undertaken to mitigate the impact of camping include:

1. High Falls - This natural attraction is the goal of many hikers and canoeists who end up camping there. Because there were only two lean-tos to accommodate them, these persons ended up camping in the trails, next to the falls and, in one extreme case reported to the Canton office, on the rock in the river at the top of the falls. A large area below the falls had become denuded of understory due to heavy camping use. To reduce the impact of this unrestrained use on an otherwise scenic attraction, the professional staff designated 44 campsites on the Oswegatchie River in 1988. Part of the reason for doing so was to inform canoeists of the presence of alternate campsites while another objective was to limit the number of sites at the falls. Inspections of the area indicate that user acceptance is very good. Camping in the trails and at the falls is no longer evident and the denuded area below the falls is beginning to recover.
2. Janack's Landing - Use of this heavily used landing as a campsite had resulted in unnecessary congestion and messy conditions. When the professional staff designated campsites on the shore of Cranberry Lake in 1989, two sites other than the lean-to were designated in the vicinity and the landing was posted against camping. The "no camping" signs were removed by vandals within a few days and quickly replaced. Otherwise, public acceptance of this change has been positive.
3. Bog River Flow - To ensure that this unique area would not suffer from overuse, the professional staff decided to prohibit the issuance of group camping permits in 1989. Heavy use of certain campsites, especially along Grass Pond, resulted in the installation of 7 pit privies in 1990 and an increase in designated campsites at that time from 21 to 40 to spread out the use of the area.
4. Cranberry Lake - When the 46 campsites were designated along the shore of Cranberry Lake in 1989, the professional staff did not target any of the sites within this wilderness to receive pit privies so that group camping would not be encouraged at these sites.
5. Cowhorn Pond - The lean-to on this pond attracts a group of campers who leave very large amounts of garbage behind. Thanks to Boy Scout volunteers, the area is kept from becoming a dump. The removal of this lean-to will become necessary should the garbage situation become too severe to be contained.

6. Olmstead Pond Loop - The development of this loop trail in 1988 has resulted in increased fishing pressure on Simmons, Spectacle and Olmstead Ponds which has also resulted in increased camping on these ponds. Designated campsites have been established on the ponds, but they are being heavily littered as at Cowhorn Pond. The situation will be monitored by the professional staff to determine appropriate management actions.

7. Indirect Controls - One of the basic tenets of wilderness management (Hendee et al. 1990, pp. 414, 473) is the principle of indirect control of public use. Basically, this proposes that the managers will develop activities to channel public use into desired patterns without heavy reliance on the authoritarian approach. As this principle had been adopted as a public use objective of this plan, the professional staff used it in the reduction of camping use at Janack's Landing and High Falls as follows:

a. Fire rings and other human debris were removed.

b. The former sites were posted against camping with small plastic discs. (Although this is somewhat authoritarian, it was necessary to inform the user public.)

c. Adjacent designated sites were heavily marked to show alternatives to users.

d. Abandoned sites were made less hospitable by digging small holes and scattering natural debris.

e. Abandoned areas were planted with coniferous trees to encourage regeneration.

8. Campsite Inventories - The detailed inventories contained in Appendix B have been developed by the professional staff and volunteers to provide the basic data necessary for the determination of carrying capacity. They will be upgraded and updated whenever possible.

Trail erosion is minimal because the topography, for the most part, is flat to gently rolling hills with fair drainage except along the Oswegatchie River and some wetlands. Some management activities undertaken to minimize the impact of trail use within this area include:

1. Buck Pond - Cage Lake Springhole - This poorly located trail crossed 220 feet of mud flat and was in danger of being washed out by the river on the east side of the Oswegatchie. To the west were 520 feet of mud flat, 8 log bridges over wetlands and another 55 foot mud flat before reaching high ground. The abandonment of this trail has removed from maintenance a trail which could never have been maintained under wilderness constraints and could have represented a serious safety hazard due to the lack of adequate maintenance.

2. High Falls - Clear Pond - This trail was abandoned because its location in a spruce swamp and remoteness made minimal maintenance under wilderness constraints too costly. The improved conditions at High Falls could be a result of this abandonment.

3. High Falls Loop - Erosion control structures constructed by Adirondack Mountain Club volunteers on the Leary Trail segment in 1990 and along the wet section north of Sand Hill Junction in 1991, have contributed to the ability of this trail system to withstand heavy use. The new Plains Trail segment should receive similar treatment.

4. Cat Mountain - Adirondack Mountain Club volunteers installed erosion control structures on a steep segment of this trail in 1991 to help it withstand heavy use.

Currently, statewide angling regulations allow daily harvest limit of ten (10) brook trout, any size, from April 1 to September 30. Angling regulations are intended to preserve fish populations by preventing over-harvest. This daily limit (10) is somewhat liberal, and may not serve well with pond brook trout. A reduction in the daily limit to 5 is proposed for the Five Ponds area waters starting October 1, 1993. The season dates which protect spawning populations from exploitation during the fall spawning and winter periods will remain the same. More than angling regulations, factors which work to limit use in the Five Ponds Wilderness include the remote locations of its waters and the seasonal nature of angling on coldwater ponds. The overall fishing intensity on area waters is generally very light (Gordon 1993).

At this time fish populations in the FPW are more severely limited by acidification, degradation of spawning habitat and competition from introduced fish species, than from angling exploitation. These limitations are particularly troublesome where the area's few remaining native brook trout populations are concerned. These need protection from further losses if they are to be preserved. Waters which are not capable of supporting their trout fishery through natural recruitment (due to the limitations noted above) need annual stocking to preserve their brook trout populations and the quality angling experience they can provide.

Waters supporting brook trout fisheries are monitored periodically by biological survey. In addition their status is gaged by voluntary reports from anglers. When a decline in a fishery is detected, special (more restrictive) regulations are sometimes instituted as a means of protecting the remaining stocks. When a decline is related to some other limiting factor, such as acidification, a strategy including lime treatments may be recommended.

As an example, Tamarack Pond was limed in 1978, to preserve its native brook trout population. The treatment was successful. A 1985 survey (ALSC Data) sampled 15 brook trout ranging from 4 to 15 in. The pH that summer was satisfactory at 6.1. Since 1985 its population has sharply declined and may now be lost. Surveys in 1991 and 1992 did not collect any brook trout. Theories as to the cause include increased angler exploitation related to drastically improved access via the Bog River Flow starting in 1987, and spawning habitat degradation due to beaver dams on the outlet (ie. elevated pond water levels). In 1990 Tamarack Pond was re-limed to raise its pH which had declined to 6.0 (May 1989) and a no-fishing regulation went

into effect to protect any remaining brook trout stocks. The pond is being monitored intensively to detect trout survival. One more survey is planned for 1993. If the loss of this population is confirmed, the pond will likely be stocked with another heritage strain of brook trout to reestablish a population.

The case of Tamarack Pond is unusual, as angler over-exploitation is not believed to be a major threat to trout in wilderness waters. Under existing angling regulations, stocked brook trout populations in the Five Ponds area are capable of withstanding current and anticipated levels of angler use. Spawning populations will receive protection via the proposed harvest regulation change to 5 fish per day.

There are ample wildlife resources available within the Five Ponds Wilderness Area to meet the current demand. Most hunting pressure is concentrated within one to one and one-half miles of a road or access corridor such as the Oswegatchie River. The designation of campsites along the shore of Cranberry Lake, Stillwater Reservoir and the Oswegatchie River helps distribute hunting pressure. Therefore, potentially the area would accommodate twice the number of recreational users without having any adverse impacts upon the resources.

III. MANAGEMENT AND POLICY

As the primary impetus of an initial wilderness management plan is on the public use management of the area, it is appropriate to consider the types of users and the impact of wilderness management from their perspectives. Those who "use" wilderness areas might be listed in one of the following categories:

1. Those who never enter or see a wilderness area, but gain satisfaction from knowing that such areas do exist.
2. Those who see the wilderness from afar or from the periphery and take pleasure from the naturalness they observe.
3. Those who venture into the interior of the wilderness seeking the solitude, quiet enjoyment and uplifting of spirit that should be found there and depend on a self-sufficiency to see them through.
4. Those who enter the wilderness to experience the wilderness that is there but prefer to utilize man-made facilities to ease their passage.
5. Those who go into the wilderness primarily as a social excursion seeking the company of others and facilities where they might congregate.

While it may be those in the third category to whom the more stringent wilderness management concepts are directed, it is probably those in the first and second categories who are the real wilderness purists. Thus, the creation, continuation and restrictive management of wilderness areas is not to satisfy an elite few but, rather, a larger segment of the user public than might have been thought of as a direct beneficiary. It is, however, the users in the third and fourth categories who, regardless of their mental or physical limitations, are self-sufficient; that is, they go into the interior bringing the needs for their existence with them. They seek solitude, either alone or in the company of a few selected companions, and a measure of self-discovery. It is these users for whom the public use management of this area is primarily directed.

"Users" in the fifth category are not really seeking wilderness or the experience of it. Therefore, the accommodation of user group 5 is not a goal in the management of this unit. The needs of this group are primarily being addressed in the present management of the adjacent Cranberry Lake Wild Forest, Aldrich Pond Wild Forest and Independence River Wild Forest.

Certain users in all five categories can, as a result of the information in this plan, use this area in a different context by expanding their knowledge of the area and, consequently, satisfying their intellectual needs.

A. PAST MANAGEMENT

Article 9 of the Environmental Conservation Law provides specific care, custody and control mandates directed at protecting the forest preserve from encroachment, illegal cutting or removal of vegetative or other material components, fire and misuse. These custodial functions have been performed by the forest rangers and limited seasonal labor.

Prior to designation as a wilderness area, trail crews of various sizes were able to drive into the interior of the area on either the High Falls or Dead Creek Truck Trail and could operate chainsaws, brushsaws and other mechanized equipment whenever needed to develop amenities thought to be needed and desired by the user public. When budgets were good, the large crews were able to develop many of the deteriorating trail hardening structures, essential and nonessential bridges and lean-tos presently on the area. Trail location was never a problem of any significance because enough resources could be directed into poorly located trails to provide for continued use and beaver activity had not become well established.

Wilderness designation required the professional staff to change the emphasis of management from this unstructured attempt to serve a small number of active users to a more highly defined branch of forest management within a philosophical framework (Nash 1982; Sax 1980) to serve a much larger public (see III Management and Policy). The basis for the newly emerging field of wilderness management began with the Federal Wilderness Act of 1964 and guidelines were found in Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan 1989; Hendee, Stanke and Lucas 1990; Egsley, Passineau and Driver 1990; Kovalickey 1971; Hendee and Harris 1970; Lucas 1985; Stankey 1982; Stankey, Cole, Lucas, Peterson and Trissell 1985; Wager 1964, Werner, Leonard and Crevelling 1985. As a result of this new emphasis, the two former truck trails were designated nonconforming (Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan 1989, p.17) and the crew consequently lost motorized use of them. Supporting department policy also prohibited the use of motorized equipment (chainsaws and brushsaws) beyond the period April 1 to May 24 to minimize the effects of these activities on the wilderness experience of users. These changes and beaver activity have encouraged the department to abandon trails which cannot be maintained and to replace them with more maintainable alternatives. Also, poorly located trail sections have been relocated and nonessential structures abandoned to contribute to maintenance efficiency as well as to contribute to the wilderness experience of active users.

The replacement of tasks which were formerly accomplished by mechanized labor with hand labor has also made reliance on volunteer labor more essential, resulting in a new emphasis on participatory management.

Active management of the fisheries in this unit began with the Biological Survey of 1931. Subsequent activities have included stocking, reclamation, enactment of special regulations, tagging studies, growth/survival studies and angler surveys.

B. MANAGEMENT ZONES

To provide a rationale for the public use management of this area, four zones have been created in consideration of the following:

1. Past use.
2. Compatibility of existing and proposed use patterns with the principles of wilderness management and environmental factors.
3. Grouping of related uses.
4. Separation of conflicting uses.
5. Efficiency of management and allocation of resources based on use levels and user needs.

ZONE A (CANOE ROUTE ZONE)

Description: The Oswegatchie River from Inlet upstream to the 3.5 mile canoe carry trail (Esker Trail) near Beaverdam, to Big Deer Pond to Low's Lake, including the shoreline campsites along Low's Lake and Grass Pond, and the short canoe carry between sites 19 and 23 (Anvil Trail) on Lows Lake.

Discussion: Because zoning is based on the use of the area, planning for this zone addresses only the high ground immediately adjacent to the river that might be utilized by canoeists, the Esker and Anvil canoe carry trails and the shoreline of Low's Lake and Grass Pond. Management of this zone is directed toward accommodating user group four.

Facilities Present

Canoe Carry Trails (3.55 miles)

Esker Trail	3.45 miles
Anvil Trail	.1 mile

Lean-tos (with pit privy) (4)

Griffin Rapids
Cage Lake Spring Hole
High Falls (2)

Pit Privies (2)

High Falls

Campsites (with pit privy) (8)

Canoe Carry/Oswegatchie River Sites 1, 21, 25, 41
Lows Lake Sites 23, 29, 31, 32

Campsites (without pit privy) (64)

Esker Trail/Oswegatchie River (39)
Lows Lake (25)

Campsites (special regulations) (3)

Lows Lake Landings (Virgin Timber, Moose Bay and Boone's)

Trail Register (1)

Inlet

Bridges (1)

Sand Lake Trail

Parking Lot (1)

Inlet

Special Management Area (1)

High Falls

ZONE B
(TRAIL ZONE)

Description: The area north of the shoreline of Lows Lake, to the Esker Trail, to the Oswegatchie River, to the Sand Lake Trail to Sand Lake; Wolf Lake to Buck Pond Trail, Buck Pond Primitive Corridor to unclassified parcel south of the Youngs Road.

Discussion: This area provides most of the day use within the wilderness outside of Zone A. Management will be directed toward continuing that use by user group four.

Facilities Present

Lean-tos (with pit privy) (8)

Cowhorn Pond
Olmstead Pond
Janack's Landing
Big Shallow Pond
Little Shallow Pond
Wolf Pond
Sand Lake
Cage Lake

Campsites (without pit privy) (25)

Cranberry Lake - 17
Olmstead Loop - 4
High Falls Loop
Janacks Landing Trail
Nicks Pond
Glasby Pond

Foot Trails (41.91 miles)

High Falls Loop	13.0 miles
Cowhorn Junction	1.75 miles
Sand Lake Trail	7.8 miles
Wolf Pond-Cage Lake Trail	3.86 miles
Cat Mountain Trail	.7 mile
Janack's Landing Trail	.2 mile
Sixmile Creek Trail	4.2 miles
Olmstead Pond Loop	3.15 miles
Big Deer Pond Trail	2.1 miles
Cowhorn Pond Trail	.2 mile
Boundary Line	.6 mile
Darning Needle Pond Trail	2.4 miles
Otterbrook Trial	.75 miles
Clear Pond Trail	1.20 miles

Trail Registers (3)

Sixmile Creek Trail
Janack's Landing
Wanakena Primitive Corridor

Parking Lots (2)

High Falls Loop (Eastern end)
Boundary Line Trail

Special Management Areas (6)

Sliding Rock
Five Ponds Esker
Griffin Rapids Virgin Timber
Oswegatchie Plains
Otter Pond Virgin Timber
Pine Ridge

ZONE C
(TRAILLESS ZONE)

Description: The remainder of the presently classified area, between Zones B and D.

Discussion: Present planning concentrates on the provision of minimal maintenance in this zone to encourage a higher degree of user self-reliance than needed in Zone B to accommodate user group three. Existing trails will be neither maintained nor identified by the Department, but volunteers will be allowed to clear them through the adoption process.

ZONE D
(STILLWATER ZONE)

Description: All of the shoreline of Stillwater Reservoir within this area for a distance of 150 feet from the high water line and a strip of land 150 feet from both sides of the Red Horse Creek Trail and the proposed Wilderness Lakes Canoe Carry Trail System.

Discussion: This zone is being created in recognition of the unique public use resource presented by Stillwater Reservoir. The establishment of 24 of the 46 designated campsites along the reservoir within this zone underscores its importance as a significant portion of this resource. The historic Red Horse Creek Trail further complements this public use. Management of this zone will be directed toward accommodating user group four.

Facilities Present

Lean-tos (with pit privy) (2)

Trout Pond
Salmon Lake

Designated Campsites (24)

Stillwater campsites 1-19, 21-25

Foot Trail (5.0 miles)

Red Horse Creek Trail

Trail Register (1)

Raven Lake Primitive Corridor

Gate (1)

Raven Lake Primitive Corridor

C. GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The overall goal of this plan is to develop the management of this area within professionally developed concepts of wilderness management while being guided by the following principles (Hendee, Stankey and Lucas, 1990, p. 181):

1. Manage wilderness as one extreme on the environmental modification spectrum.
2. Manage wilderness as a composite resource, not as separate parts.
3. Manage wilderness and sites within, under a nondegradation concept.
4. Manage human influences, a key to wilderness protection.
5. Manage wilderness to produce human values and benefits.
6. Favor wilderness-dependent activities.
7. Guide management with written plans that state objectives for specific areas.
8. Set carrying capacities as necessary to prevent unnatural change.
9. Focus management on threatened sites and damaging activities.
10. Apply only the minimum regulations or tools necessary to achieve wilderness area objectives.
11. Involve the public as a key to the acceptance and success of wilderness management.
12. Monitor wilderness conditions and experience opportunities as a key to long-term wilderness management.
13. Manage wilderness in coordination with management of adjacent lands.

The following objectives attempt to address principle 7 of this goal:

1. Land Management

a. Continue those custodial functions necessary for the support of public ownership.

(1) Improve boundary line maintenance records for the systematic development of work plans and the maintenance of essential records.

(2) Develop comprehensive annual work plans to guide the trail crew.

(3) Develop a wildfire plan to include strategies for detection, suppression and prevention.

b. Obtain sufficient natural resource data to support a comprehensive revision of this unit management plan in 1999.

(1) Inventory the vegetation of this forest to quantitatively identify the forest cover.

(2) Develop an on-going procedure to monitor for the presence of wildlife species, especially bird species.

(3) Maintain resource inventory data for all waters and update as appropriate.

(4) Develop an identification of the total wilderness resource (ecosystem).

c. Protect the integrity of State ownership by surveying the boundaries of the private lots on Cranberry Lake and the forest preserve boundary along the South Shore Road.

d. Respect the importance of fallen timber (coarse woody debris) within the old growth forest component of this area by allowing for only minimal removal as necessary for foot trail access. Salvage operations following severe blowdown and removals for other construction activities will not be allowed within the old growth.

2. Wildlife Management

Wildlife management in wilderness areas falls within the framework of statewide regulations, season lengths and bag limits. The lack of human intrusion and disturbance is beneficial to most wilderness species, including many rare and endangered. Wildlife management activities within wilderness areas generally will be limited to improving knowledge of the wildlife resources of the area through:

(1) Inventory the wildlife species which inhabit the area, categorizing them as:

Wilderness-dependent wildlife
Wilderness-associated wildlife
Common wildlife found in wilderness
Common wildlife not usually associated with wilderness
Rare or endangered species

(2) Monitor for the presence of rare or endangered species.

(3) Encourage the development of research projects to study the unique habitats and wildlife species of the area.

(4) Encourage hunting and trapping as part of a larger wilderness experience, not just as a quest for game.

(5) Encourage non-consumptive uses of the wildlife resources.

(6) Manage and enhance species identified as endangered, threatened or special concern in the area.

(7) Monitor human activities within the area and determine if negative impacts exist concerning wildlife. Take appropriate management actions.

The Citizens Advisory Committee recommended, in its 1983 report, the development of a comprehensive plan to consider the reintroduction, management and control of the following wildlife species: Moose, Lynx, Eagle, Peregrine

Falcon, Eastern Timber Wolf, Eastern Cougar, Wolverine and Pine Marten. (The Bureau of Wildlife position is that the wolverine was never native to this state.)

The social acceptability should be determined for each species prior to expending any resources of the development of a comprehensive plan. The Moose, Eagle, Peregrine Falcon and Pine Marten already exist in small numbers in the Adirondacks. The Lynx has been introduced through the efforts of the Syracuse Environmental Science and Forestry College. Public informational meetings have been held on the topic of Moose reintroduction, and it was decided not to undertake the initiative. Further evaluation for each proposed species should be conducted prior to undertaking any additional restoration projects.

3. Fisheries Management

a. Goals

The "Guidelines for Fisheries Management in Wilderness, Primitive and Canoe Areas" (Appendix C) form the foundation for the following goals for Five Ponds Wilderness Area waters:

(1) Preserve, enhance and restore the unit's natural aquatic ecosystems with the primary purpose of perpetuating indigenous fish species on a self-sustaining basis. Aquatic resource management, including survey and inventory, stocking of game and non-game fishes and pond liming, will be necessary to achieve this goal.

(2) Provide angling as part of a larger wilderness experience emphasizing quality over quantity of use.

The above guidelines also stipulate the following:

2a. Fish species other than indigenous Adirondack species will not be stocked.

2b. Waters found naturally barren of fish will not be stocked.

2c. Maintenance liming may be continued on Tamarack Pond and other selected area waters as indicated in the Final Generic Environmental Impact Statement on the New York State Dept. of Environmental Conservation Program of Liming Selected Acidified Waters (Simonin 1990). Limings will only be for the purposes of restoration or perpetuation of indigenous fish species.

b. Objectives

(1) Maintain stocking on ponds and streams to retain their brook trout fishery. Based on revised survey data and water-by-water review, modify current stocking levels or add previously stocked waters to the annual program.

(2) Survey one to five unit waters per year to maintain resource management database.

(3) Partially mitigate the substantial loss of brook trout and other native fish species by liming and re-establishing fish populations in a limited number of waters.

4. Public Use Management

a. Develop positive guidelines for public use to enhance the quality of the wilderness user's experience:

(1) Promote the concept of user self-reliance.

(2) Apply indirect user control whenever practicable (Hendee, Stankey and Lucas, 1990, pp. 414, 473).

(3) Minimize the amount of user regulation necessary to achieve management goals. (Principle 10)

b. Recognize the lack of appropriate facilities and detrimental effects of camping by large groups by discontinuing the issuance of group camping permits on this area. This activity should be supported by proposed department policy prohibiting the practice on all wilderness areas. (Principle 8).

c. Ensure compliance with the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan (1989) general requirements for the separation of campsites from sight and sound (p. 17) and requirement for the screening of campsites from wild rivers (p. 35) by inventorying all sites and taking appropriate management actions.

d. Develop a safety plan to allow for the search and rescue program required by Section 9-0105.18 of the ECL while recognizing the changing situation caused by the imposition of wilderness constraints to consider the following:

(1) Promote the concept of personal responsibility for safety in all appropriate brochures and communications.

(2) Provide first aid training for all DEC employees who enter the area in the normal course of their duties.

(3) Post notices at trailheads of bridges removed and trails which have had signs removed and for which maintenance has been reduced (See Appendix B).

(4) Provide for the use of DEC, military (Plattsburgh AFB, Fort Drum) and State Police helicopters for rescue whenever feasible.

(5) Coordinate rescue strategies with local rescue squads.

(6) Articulate specific guidelines for the type and degree of response.

e. Provide a public use strategy which respects past, present and potential use of the area and conforms to the objectives of wilderness management while separating conflicting uses in a positive manner.

(1) Develop management zones to guide public use management decision-making (previously described in Section III B).

(2) Develop management activities that will enhance the public use potential of each zone as follows:

ZONE A: These stretches of the Oswegatchie and Bog Rivers represent a unique public use resource that allows canoeists of modest accomplishment to experience river/lake camping and canoeing in a wilderness setting. This opportunity will be maximized by the implementation of the following objectives:

A1. Enhance the overnight camping experience on the Oswegatchie River by conducting a major cleanup/maintenance effort.

A2. Enhance the overnight camping experience on the Bog River Flow by improving campsite development.

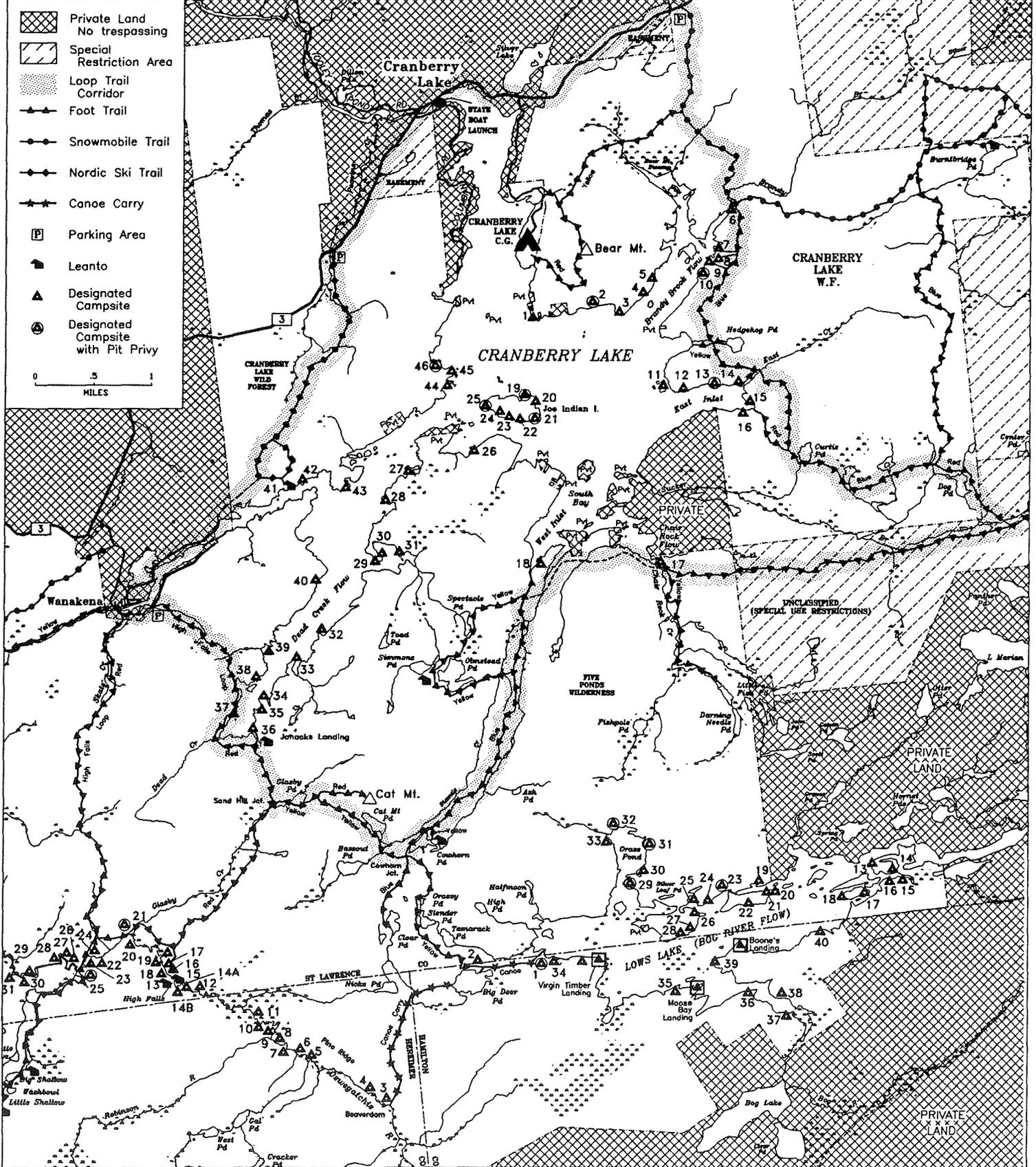
A3. Improve sanitary conditions by establishing 9 more pit privies at sites 18, 20, 22, 25, 26, 27, 28, 30 and 39 to improve water quality by reducing fecal runoff.

A4. Develop the following facilities to the degree indicated:

a. Maintain all lean-tos and pit privies on the Oswegatchie River as necessary to continue their useful life. The Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers Act mandates their removal when replacement becomes necessary.

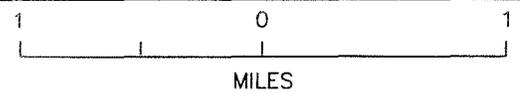
b. Maintain the Sand Lake Trail (Five Ponds) bridge as long as possible to continue safe travel from Wanakena to the southern part of Zone B.

LOOP TRAIL AROUND CRANBERRY LAKE



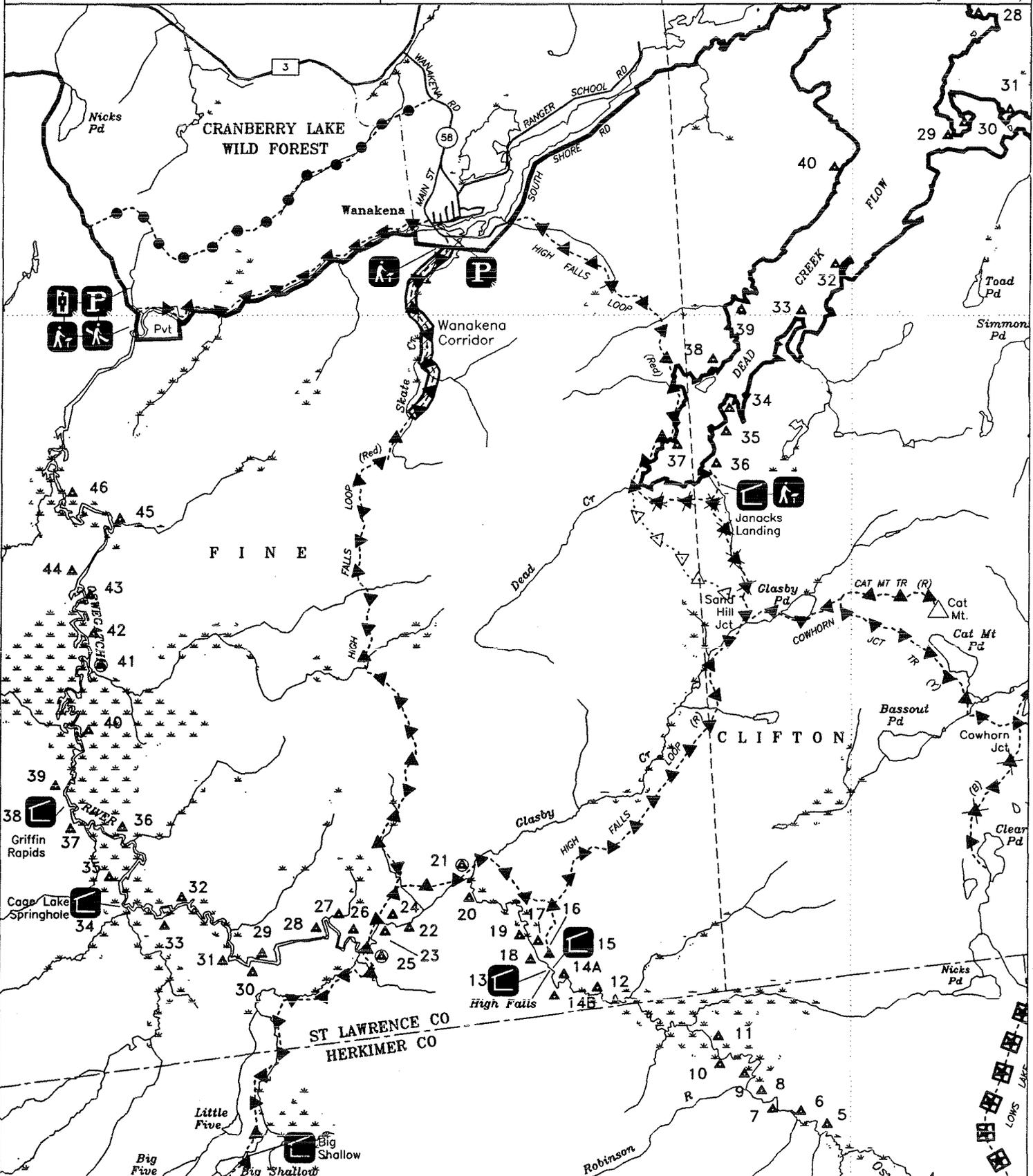
FIVE PONDS WILDERNESS HIGH FALLS LOOP RELOCATION

-  Existing Leanto
-  Existing Trail Register
-  Designated Campsite
-  Designated Campsite with Pit Privy
-  Existing Parking Lot
-  Existing Pit Privy
-  Existing Canoe Launch
-  Existing Foot Trail
-  Existing Canoe Carry



-  New Foot Trail
-  Abandon Foot Trail

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A5. Develop new canoe routes to complement this zone whenever the opportunity arises:

a. From Stillwater Reservoir to the headwaters of the Oswegatchie when the 50-year private use reservation of the Gull Lake tract expires (10/11/2028).

b. From Tupper Lake to the Bog River Flow when the unit management plan for the Horseshoe Lake Wild Forest is completed.

c. From Grass Pond to Cranberry Lake with completion of the Fishpole Pond Trail.

Special Management Area - High Falls has been designated as a special management area. Activities to enhance its unique qualities are explained in Section II, F1.

ZONE B: This zone contains the majority of facilities and provides most of the day use opportunity within this area. Combined with Zones A and D, most of the hunting and fishing opportunity also occurs in these zones.

B1. Enhance opportunities for hikers.

a. Provide a vital link between the trail system on this area and the extensive system on the adjacent Cranberry Lake Wild Forest through the construction of a 2.1 mile South Bay Trail between the Sixmile Creek Trail and Chair Rock Flow and utilization of the Otterbrook Trail which is an old logging road in reasonably good condition. Completion of this trail will result in a 50-mile route around Cranberry Lake.

b. Relocate the mile section of the High Falls Loop Trail between Dead Creek and Sand Hill Junction southerly to higher ground to provide a drier base and eliminate the need for unnecessary bridge maintenance. The Janacks Landing Trail will be abandoned with boat access available in the vicinity of Campsite 37.

c. Extend the previously proposed Fishpole Pond Trail to Grass Pond, the Parker's Island Primitive Corridor and the summit of Grass Pond Mountain to both extend hiking opportunities and to facilitate maintenance.

The Big Deer Pond Trail has presented a maintenance problem due to the fact that it has to be cleared during that short period of time before May 24 when a boat can be launched on Lows Lake. Usually, the Esker Trail and a few campsites are all that can be worked on at that time and this trail has consequently been neglected. In 1992 the Adirondack Mountain Club cleared it for the first time in several years and in 1993 an ADK member volunteered to maintain it. Abandonment of this trail by the department will not prohibit its continued maintenance by volunteers.

FIVE PONDS WILDERNESS NEW FISHPOLE POND TRAIL

 Existing Leanto

 Existing Trail Register

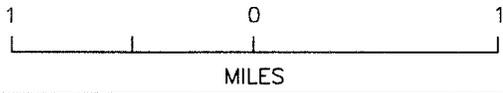
 Designated Campsite

 Designated Campsite with Pit Privy

 "Boy Scout Landing"

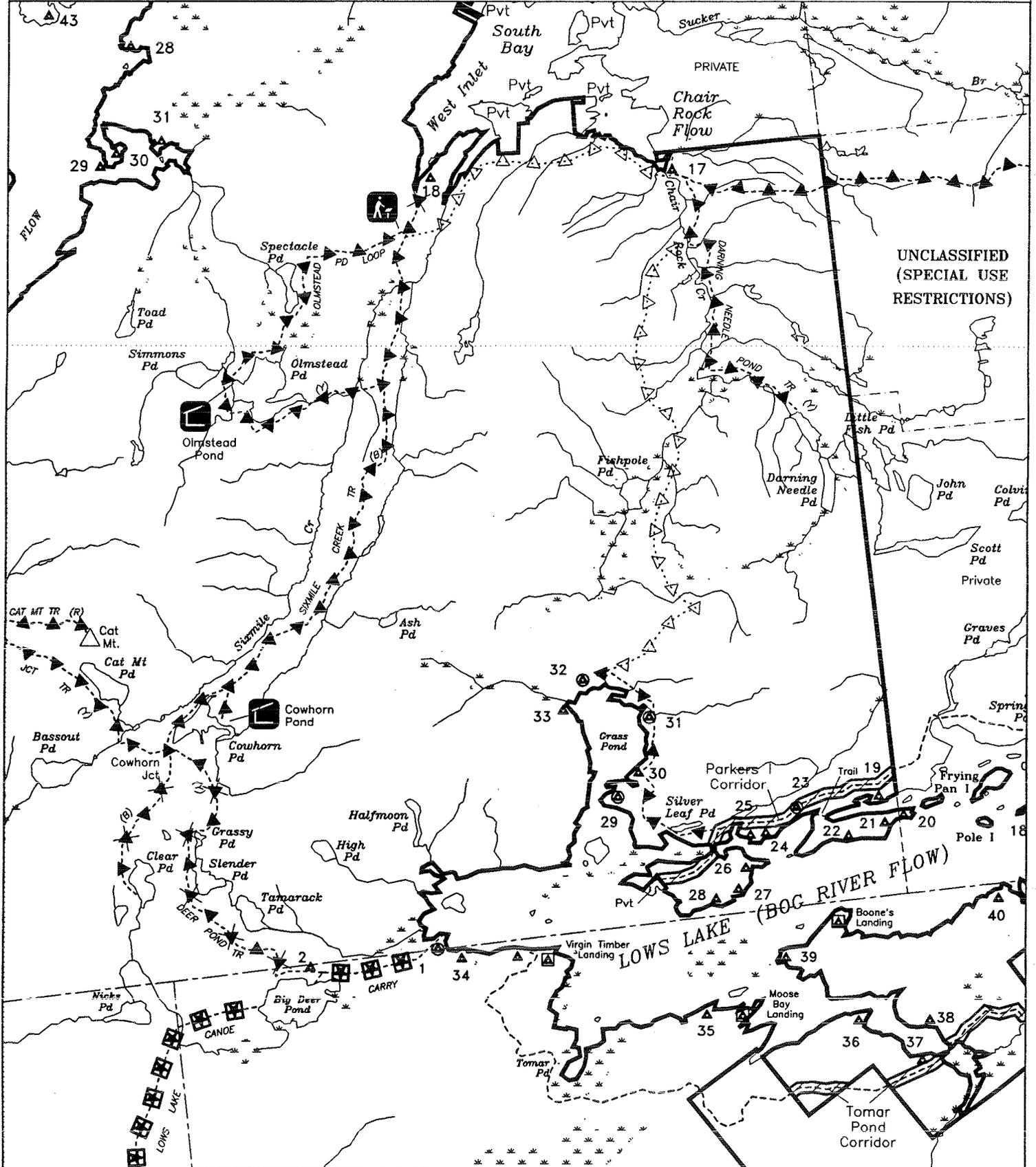
 Existing Foot Trail

 Existing Canoe Carry



 New Foot Trail
 Abandon Foot Trail

3-15-94



In contrast, the new Fishpole Pond Trail will be maintainable for a longer period of time because it will not be necessary to wait until the ice is out of Lows Lake. It also offers the following advantages:

1. It will reduce the travel distance from Lows Lake to Cranberry Lake by about 1.7 miles to allow for a shorter canoe carry.
 2. It accesses the shore of Grass Pond instead of the muddy, shallow western shore of Lows Lake.
 3. It accesses 15 campsites on Grass Pond/Lows Lake instead of one on Big Deer Pond and one on Lows Lake.
 4. It accesses two mountains.
- d. Provide annual maintenance on all trails if possible within existing constraints.
 - e. Rehabilitate the Olmstead Pond Loop and the Boundary Line Trail.
 - f. Continue maintenance of the Wolf Lake-Cage Lake Trail.
 - g. Develop the Boundary Line Parking Lot to accommodate 9 cars.

B2. Reduce extraneous trail maintenance to free limited resources for more usable and maintainable trails by abandoning maintenance on the following:

- a. Clear Pond Trail (1.2 miles)
- b. Big Deer Pond Trail (2.1 miles)
- c. Janacks Landing Trail (0.2 mile)

B3. Enhance the overnight camping opportunity for persons in user group four:

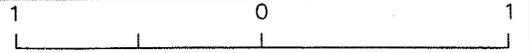
- a. Designate campsites as necessary especially in the vicinity of High Falls while reducing the number of sites within sight of the falls.
- b. Provide information on the location of these sites on the trail map.

Special Management Areas - None of the special management areas require special treatment at this time.

B4. Improve sanitary conditions by establishing 3 pit privies at campsites 30, 33 and 34.

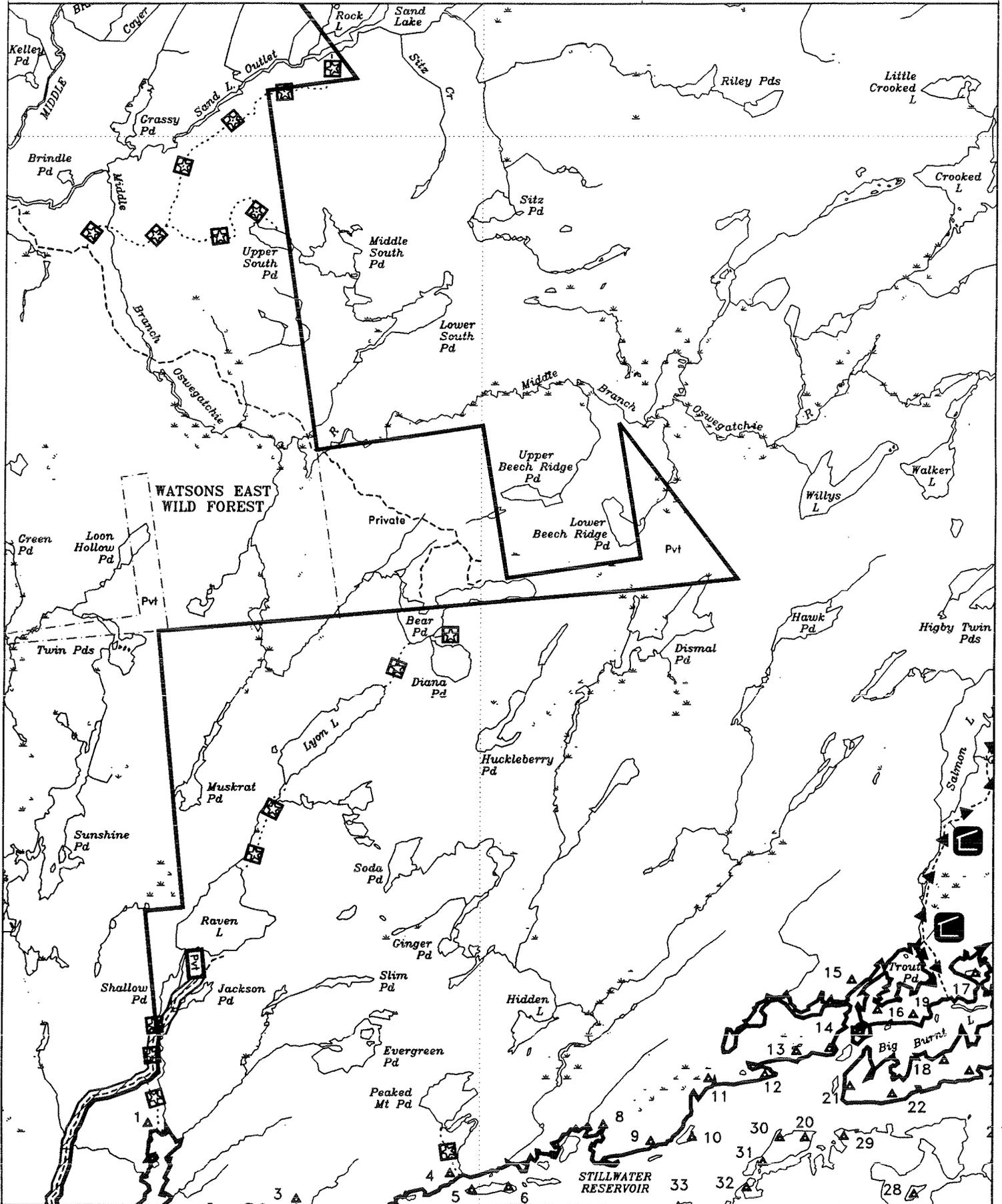
FIVE PONDS WILDERNESS AREAS C & D CANOE CARRIES

--- [Symbol] --- Proposed Canoe Carry



MILES

3-7-94



ZONE C: This zone contains the portion of the area that offers the greatest opportunity for solitude and for user reliance on wilderness skills.

- C1. Provide for a high degree of user self-reliance.
 - a. Leave the area trailless and do not designate campsites.
 - b. Require the practice of low impact camping.
 - c. Remove all references on existing signs to areas within this zone.

ZONE D: This shoreline of Stillwater Reservoir and adjacent foot trail represents a unique public use resource which primarily serves user group four. The need to control campsite abuse along the shoreline of Stillwater Reservoir led to the designation of 46 campsites by the local forest ranger in 1984. Information concerning this activity has been published and is also posted at Stillwater. The opportunity for these users to further utilize this area will be further enhanced by the implementation of the following objectives:

- D1. Encourage public use of the unique fishery resource of Clear Lake by continuing maintenance of the Red Horse Creek Trail on an annual basis.
- D2. Designate campsites along the Red Horse Creek Trail as necessary to minimize the environmental impacts of indiscriminate campsite use:
- D3. Expand zone D into the Fisher Forestry Tract through the construction of canoe carry trails (Wilderness Lakes Canoe Carry System) beginning at the Kettlehole to Shallow Pond/Raven Lake to Lyon Lake to Bear Pond to Diana Pond and Stillwater Reservoir to Peaked Mountain Lake with appropriate designated campsites.
- D4. Improve sanitary conditions by establishing 24 pit privies at campsites 1-19 and 21-25 to improve water quality by reducing fecal runoff.

5. Water Quality Management

- a. Reduce the direct impact of human activities on water quality.
 - (1) Accelerate assistant ranger contact with users in water areas to inform them of the impact of polluting activities especially on the Oswegatchie River and Stillwater Reservoir.
 - (2) Improve user awareness of the impact of polluting activities by addressing the subject in appropriate brochures and other forms of communications.

- (3) Establish pit privies whenever practicable to reduce incidences of unsanitary surface runoff.
- b. Reduce the impact of facility use and development on water quality by minimizing sedimentation caused by erosion.
- (1) Inventory and evaluate all erosion control measures on present facilities.
 - (2) Identify additional control structures needed on present facilities.
 - (3) Allow for the possible need for erosion control structures on future developments, especially new trails and primitive campsites.

IV. PROJECTED USE AND MANAGEMENT PROPOSED

A. PROJECTS TO BE DROPPED

1. Sand Lake to Wolf Pond/Cage Lake Trail (1.5 mile)

The professional and operations staff investigated the route of this proposed trail and located it on good ground with one major ($\pm 20'$) stream crossing. However, time was never available to mark the route and take the necessary tree count due to an abundance of more needed projects and the remoteness of the area. The large beaver dam across Wolf Lake Outlet will provide an adequate bridge to justify retention of the original trail for many years.

2. Nordic Ski Trails (4.9 miles)

The development of the Sternberg Road and Alice Brook ski trails was never a strong proposal and it is being dropped until public acceptance of developed ski trails has been determined on the Peavine Swamp system. The professional staff has learned from the construction of this system that the utilization of old roadbeds for ski trails is an undesirable restriction to their location which negates the primary reason for the location of these two trails.

3. Round Hill Horse Trail (2.2 miles)

The professional and operations staffs investigated this route and determined that poorly drained soils were encountered too often to allow for horse use without major construction and maintenance which are impossible with wilderness constraints.

B. FACILITIES DEVELOPMENT AND/OR REMOVAL

1. Foot Trail Development

Rehabilitate

Olmstead Pond Loop	3.15 miles
Boundary Line Trail	<u>.60</u> miles
	3.75 miles

Develop

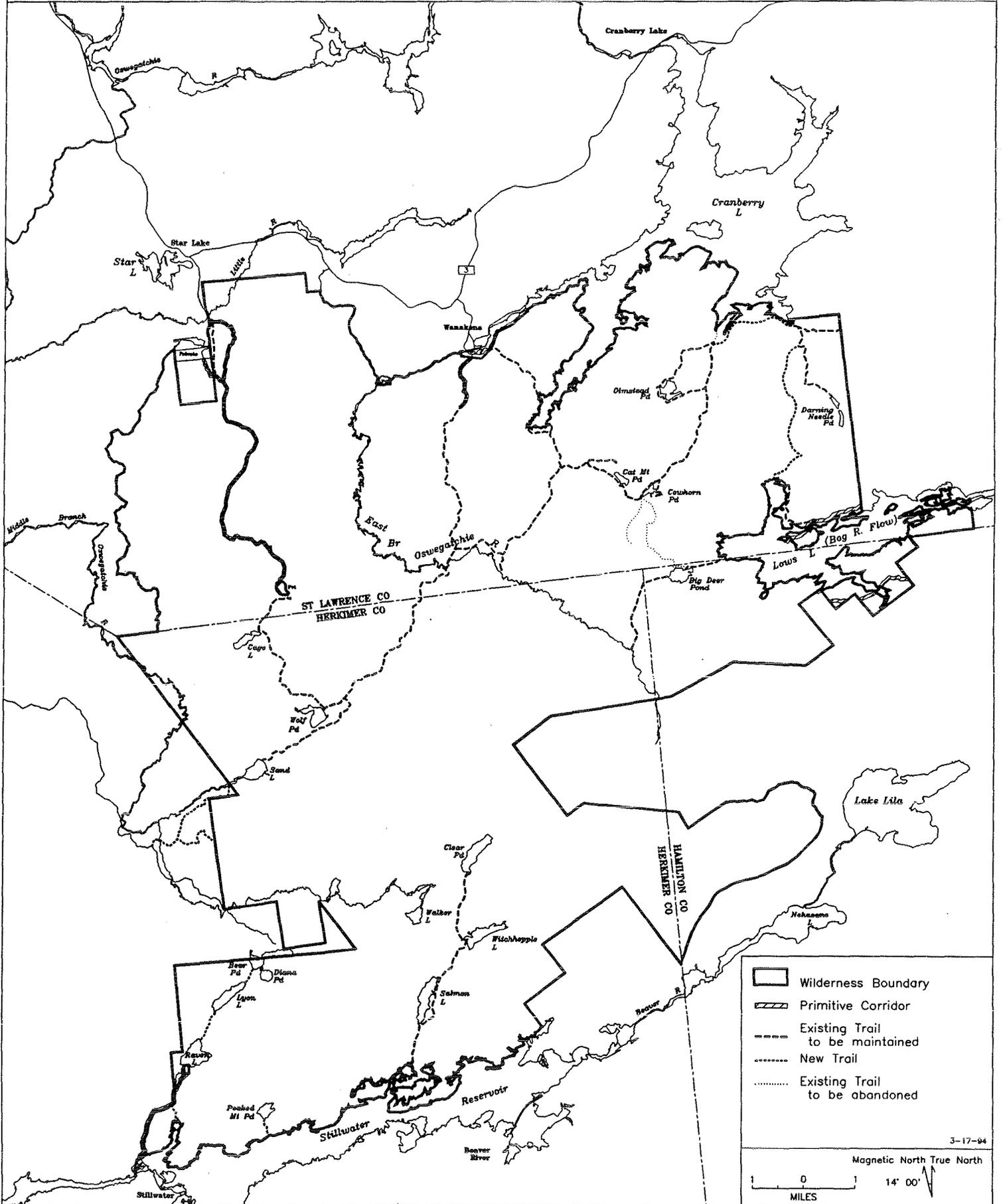
South Bay Trail	2.30 miles
Fishpole Pond Trail	<u>5.50</u> miles
	7.80 miles

Remove (from maintenance)

Clear Pond Trail	1.00 miles
Big Deer Pond Trail	2.10 miles
Janacks Landing Trail	<u>.20</u> miles

3.30 miles

FIVE PONDS WILDERNESS TRAIL SYSTEM



3-17-94

2. Pit Privy Installation (33)

Bog River Flow Campsites 18, 20, 22, 25, 26, 27, 28, 30, and 39
Stillwater Campsites 1-19, 21-25

3. Parking Lot Development

Boundary Line (Youngs Road) - Develop to a 9 car capacity

4. Area Identification

To promote the proposed types of use of each zone, signs shall be provided as follows:

Zone A: No new wooden signs are anticipated. Designated campsites have been numbered with wooden markers.

Zones B and D: The same degree of signing that presently exists will be continued, with the upgrading of signs that are in poor condition and the removal of references to areas in Zone C.

Zone C: Signs are neither present nor proposed for this zone.

5. Leantos

Although leantos represent a unique Adirondack structure to which strong emotional attachment is common, improvements in camping equipment since they were first introduced have made these once needed structures merely items of convenience.

The 1983 Citizen's Advisory Committee recognized the existence of these structures as an issue to be addressed in the planning effort and proposed several divergent recommendations (FPWA, 1987). A final decision on this matter was deferred by the department pending further evaluation. In the meantime, over 100 designated campsites were established to provide a needed service for many of the user public and to serve as a tool to help protect areas of overuse.

Four of the fourteen leantos on this area must be removed when they can no longer be maintained because of their location in the corridor of a wild river. It is anticipated that the Cage Lake Springhole leanto will be the first of these and that it will likely remain for at least ten more years. The Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan (p. 17) permits retention of the remaining leantos.

Within the past two years, the professional staff has addressed leanto management on this area by rehabilitating eight leantos through the use of helicopters.

The existence of these unnecessary structures within this wilderness detracts from the goal of this plan in that they:

1. Detract from the criteria of naturalness and solitude that are the distinguishing qualities of classified wilderness (Hendee, Stanley and Lucas 1990, p. 109).
2. Provide focus for the establishment of garbage dumps (Cownhorn Pond especially).
3. Undermine the objective of promoting user self reliance.
4. Attract persons in user group five (See III Management and Policy).
5. Create sanitary problems by concentrating use.
6. Undermine the objective of prohibiting camping use by large groups by attracting such groups.

For these reasons, new lean-tos will not be considered for this area. Although the existing lean-tos present management problems, they will be retained until they can no longer be maintained with heavy reliance on volunteer maintenance assistance unless early removal is warranted by excessive user abuse.

6. Mt. Electra Firetower

This nonconforming facility was removed September 25-27, 1989.

7. Bicycle Use

Bicycles will be allowed on the Buck Pond and Raven Lake Primitive Corridors.

8. Middle Branch Footbridge/Sand Lake/Upper South Pond Trail

Although not actually on this area, a bridge and trail are proposed on adjacent unclassified forest preserve lands to the west to complement this management plan. A 60' footbridge is proposed to cross the Middle Branch of the Oswegatchie River at the former bridge site on the Upper South Pond Road with canoe carries along former trails to Sand Lake and Upper South Pond.

C. MAINTENANCE AND REHABILITATION OF FACILITIES

Annual maintenance will consist of the following:

1. Foot Trails (56.36 miles)

<u>Trail</u>	<u>Continued Maintenance</u>	<u>New Maintenance</u>
<u>Zone A</u>		
Esker	3.45	
Anvil	.10	
<u>Zone B</u>		
Cowhorn Junction	1.75	
Cat Mountain	2.50	
Sixmile Creek	4.20	
Olmstead Pond Loop	3.15	
Sand Lake	7.80	
Wolf Pond/Buck Pond	3.86	
Boundary Line	.60	
Cowhorn Pond	.20	
Darning Needle Pond	2.40	
Fishpole Pond	5.50	
High Falls Loop	13.00	
South Bay	2.10	
Otterbrook	.75	
<u>Zone D</u>		
Red Horse Creek	5.00	
Total Miles	<u>48.01</u>	<u>8.35</u>

NOTE: Department Policy allows the use of chainsaws for routine maintenance only during the period April 1 to May 24 regardless of weather conditions.

2. Leantos (14)

To be maintained by volunteers and phased out when in need of replacement.

Griffin Rapids	Big Shallow	Janack's Landing
Cage Lake Springhole	Little Shallow	Cage Lake
High Falls (2)	Wolf Pond	Cowhorn Pond
	Sand Lake	Salmon Lake
	Olmstead Pond	Trout Pond

3. Pit Privies (59)

	<u>Continued Maintenance</u>	<u>New Maintenance</u>
Each Leanto	14	
Oswegatchie River Campsites 21, 25, 41	3	
Bog River Flow Campsites 23, 29, 31, 32	4	
Canoe Carry	1	
High Falls	2	
Bog River Flow Campsites 18, 20, 22, 25, 26, 27, 28, 30, and 39		9
Stillwater Campsites 1-19, 21-24		23
Cranberry Lake Campsites 30, 33,	<u>34</u>	<u>3</u>
	24	35

4. Designated Campsites (120)

Cranberry Lake (17)
 Olmstead Loop (4)
 High Falls Loop (1)
 Janacks Landing Trail (1)
 Oswegatchie River/Esker Trail (42)
 Bog River Flow (29)
 Stillwater Reservoir (24)
 Nicks Pond (1)
 Glasby Pond (1)

5. Major Bridges (3/106')

Sand Lake Trail (65')
 Glasby Creek (21')
 Sixmile Creek (20')

6. Parking Lots (3)

High Falls Loop (Eastern End)
 Boundary Line (Youngs Road)
 Inlet

7. Boundary Lines

Undetermined

8. Signs (44)

9. Trail Registers (5)

Inlet
Sixmile Creek Trail
Janack's Landing
Wanakena Primitive Corridor
Raven Lake Primitive Corridor

D. PUBLIC USE MANAGEMENT AND CONTROLS

1. Camping

The 95 campsites designated by the professional staff in zones A and B and the 24 campsites designated by the forest ranger in zone D are anticipated to fill most of the need for such facilities. Only a small number of additional sites in zones B and D are anticipated. Throughout the remainder of the area, low impact camping will be promoted.

2. Hiking

Throughout the area are many unofficial trails (paths) which are kept open by users. These may be formerly maintained trails, special use (hunting or fishing) or shortcuts (Dobson Trail). These paths can present a safety problem when inexperienced hikers use them, especially when department markers are used. Due to the unreliability of maintenance, the department is reluctant to identify them and, consequently, add to this potential problem.

Two levels of hiking use are being recognized:

Zones B and D: Maintained trails will cater to the wilderness user who prefers such trails. Amenities such as trail hardening and nonessential bridges will be reduced, however.

Zone C: No trails will be maintained by the Department. Trail signs and markers are unnecessary due to the higher level of skills required of the users of this zone.

E. FISH AND WILDLIFE

1. Fisheries

a. Annual stocking of brook trout to maintain fisheries in the following waters:

<u>Watershed No.</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Stocking</u>
p318 OW	Fishpole Pond	500 ST FF
p319 OW	Darning Needle Pond	500 ST FF
p327 OW	Cowhorn Pond	1,000 ST FF
p328 OW	Olmstead Pond	1,000 ST FF
p329 OW	Cat Mountain Pond	500 ST FF
p334 & 335 OW	Spectacle Ponds	500 ST FF
p336 OW	Simmons Pond	200 ST FF
p357 OW	Glasby Pond	200 ST FF
p361 OW	Clear Pond	700 ST FF
p344 OW	Cage Lake	1,100 ST FF
SL 25	Oswegatchie River	
	Wanakena to Inlet	2,000 ST SY
	Inlet to High Falls	800 ST SY

(ST= brook trout, SY= spring yearling, FF= fall fingerling)

All stocking done by air, except Oswegatchie River, Wanakena to Inlet. Stocking policies are subject to change based on revised survey and inventory data.

b. Pond Liming

ORGANIZATIONAL AND DELEGATION MEMORANDUM #91-31 POLICY: FISHERY MANAGEMENT IN WILDERNESS, PRIMITIVE AND CANOE AREAS (Appendix C) states that maintenance liming may be continued as a mitigation measure on Tamarack Pond to protect and maintain its indigenous fish species. Tamarack Pond was limed in 1978 and 1990. It is not expected to need liming again during the five-year scope of this plan. Should its pH decline quicker than anticipated, re-liming will be initiated.

The policy also allows other wilderness waters to be incorporated into the DFW pond liming program within the guidelines of the DFW Liming Policy and incorporated into the Final Generic Environmental Impact Statement on liming. New limings will be for the purpose of re-establishing indigenous fish communities in those waters. All candidate waters (Table 2) will be field checked by DEC and APA staff to determine their jurisdictional status relative to wetlands permits. If needed, these permits will be obtained before individual treatments.

Over the next five years (life of this plan) up to six Five Ponds waters are scheduled for lime treatment. Once treated, a water will become part of the DFW liming program, which requires annual water chemistry

monitoring. As per policy, re-treatment will be scheduled when summer pH drops below 6.0 (or ANC below 25 ueq/l).

In general, these waters will be treated with agricultural lime at a rate of one ton per surface acre. Treatment will be from the air using the NYS helicopter and bucket delivery system. Treatments will occur during periods of low public use (between Labor Day and Memorial Day). Once treated the waters will be stocked with a heritage strain of brook trout. In addition to brook trout, some of these waters will be stocked with one or more other fish species indigenous to the Five Ponds area (eg. northern redbelly dace, creek chub, pumpkinseed or brown bullhead). In some cases non-trout species will become established via migration from nearby waters due to the improved water quality of the limed pond. It is anticipated that stockings will result in naturally reproducing, self-sustaining fish populations. In waters where brook trout do not become self-sustaining, annual stocking will be needed to maintain the population.

A list of the potential FPW liming candidates and their pertinent chemical/physical parameters (relative to Division of Fish and Wildlife liming policy requirements) follows.

Table 2.

Name	p#	Size (ac)	pH	Flush Rate (#/year)	Mean D.O. (ppm)	Color (Pt-Co)
Willy's Pond	p210	60	4.68	1.0	8.0	10
Walker Lake	p214	38	4.77	0.9	8.0	?
Streeter Fishpond	p353	13	5.09	1.0	5.0	40
Lyon Lake	p498	80	4.58	0.8	6.2	20
Evergreen Lake	p500	45	4.73	0.5	8.0	20
Peaked Mt Pond	p502	37	4.78	1.6	5.8	20
Hawk Pond	p504	34	4.73	1.2	8.0	15
Hidden Lake	p505	18	4.92	0.7	10.4	15
Soda Pond	p511	21	4.72	0.9	8.1	10
Summit Pond	p527	13	4.80	1.2	5.0	5
Little Rock Pond	p534	50	4.75	0.6	8.0	?

Note, all of the above waters are critically acidified and represent seriously degraded Adirondack ecosystems. All have acceptable flush rates (<2 per year) and satisfactory oxygen levels (≥ 5 ppm). None of the waters is known to be a bog pond. They do not have established sphagnum accumulation on more than 50 % of their shorelines, and their Pt-Co color readings are less than 75. Five of these waters have been inspected by APA staff for wetland jurisdiction determinations. Three of these (Willys, Walker and Hawk) have been judged non-jurisdictional, while the other two (Little Rock and Summit) have been judged jurisdictional but issuable. The others will be inspected before any management action occurs.

Bear Pond (p196) located on the southwestern boundary of the Five Ponds wilderness (in close proximity to many of the proposed liming candidates),

was limed during February, 1992 by the members of the Bear Pond Club. Prior to liming, a field investigation with APA staff determined a Wetlands Permit was not needed for this project. Pre-treatment, its pH was 4.48 (1984 ALSC). In June, 1992, its pH was 6.5. It will be re-limed when its summer pH drops below 6.0.

In May, 1992, Bear Pond was stocked with approximately 1,200 spring fingerling, and 105 mixed age Horn Lake strain brook trout which is a recognized Adirondack heritage strain (Keller 1979). Additional stockings of Horn Lake fish are planned for 1993 and 1994. Bear Pond represents the first recent attempt at reestablishing a self-sustaining brook trout population in a formerly acidified-fishless western Adirondack water. An October 1992 netting survey indicated the trout from the first stocking had excellent survival. Their condition appeared to be good with several of the females handled ripe with eggs. Bear Pond will serve as a future brood stock water if the Horn Lake stocks become well established and if eggs are needed for additional stocking of this strain. Regardless of egg take considerations, perpetuation of selected heritage brook trout strains in their native and in additional refuge waters, is an important part of DEC's statewide management of brook trout (Keller 1979).

c. Survey and Inventory

Effective management decisions should be based on up-to-date survey data. Most ponded waters within the Five Ponds Wilderness were surveyed by the ALSC between 1984 and 1987, thereby providing an excellent baseline data source. Any FPW waters scheduled for management action (ie. stocking or liming) in this plan, not previously surveyed using ALSC water chemistry standards, will be.

Within the scope of this plan, all ponds with naturally spawning brook trout populations and stocked waters not surveyed since 1990 will be surveyed to monitor survival, growth and abundance of trout. Data will be used to evaluate either their population status or annual stocking policies. All limed waters will be surveyed pre and post treatment to monitor water chemistry changes and fish population status.

2. Wildlife

Public use management and control of wildlife users is conducted within the framework of statewide regulations, season lengths and bag limits. The Five Ponds contains parts of Wildlife Management Unit 23 and 24 and Deer Management Units 25 and 28.

F. WILD, SCENIC AND RECREATIONAL RIVERS

For the purpose of compliance with the Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers Act, Article 15, Title 27 of the Environmental Conservation Law, the corridor widths of the following rivers shall be 1/2 mile from the mean high water mark:

Middle Branch Oswegatchie River:

Scenic River (approximately 4 miles) from Walker Lake to State land boundary line.

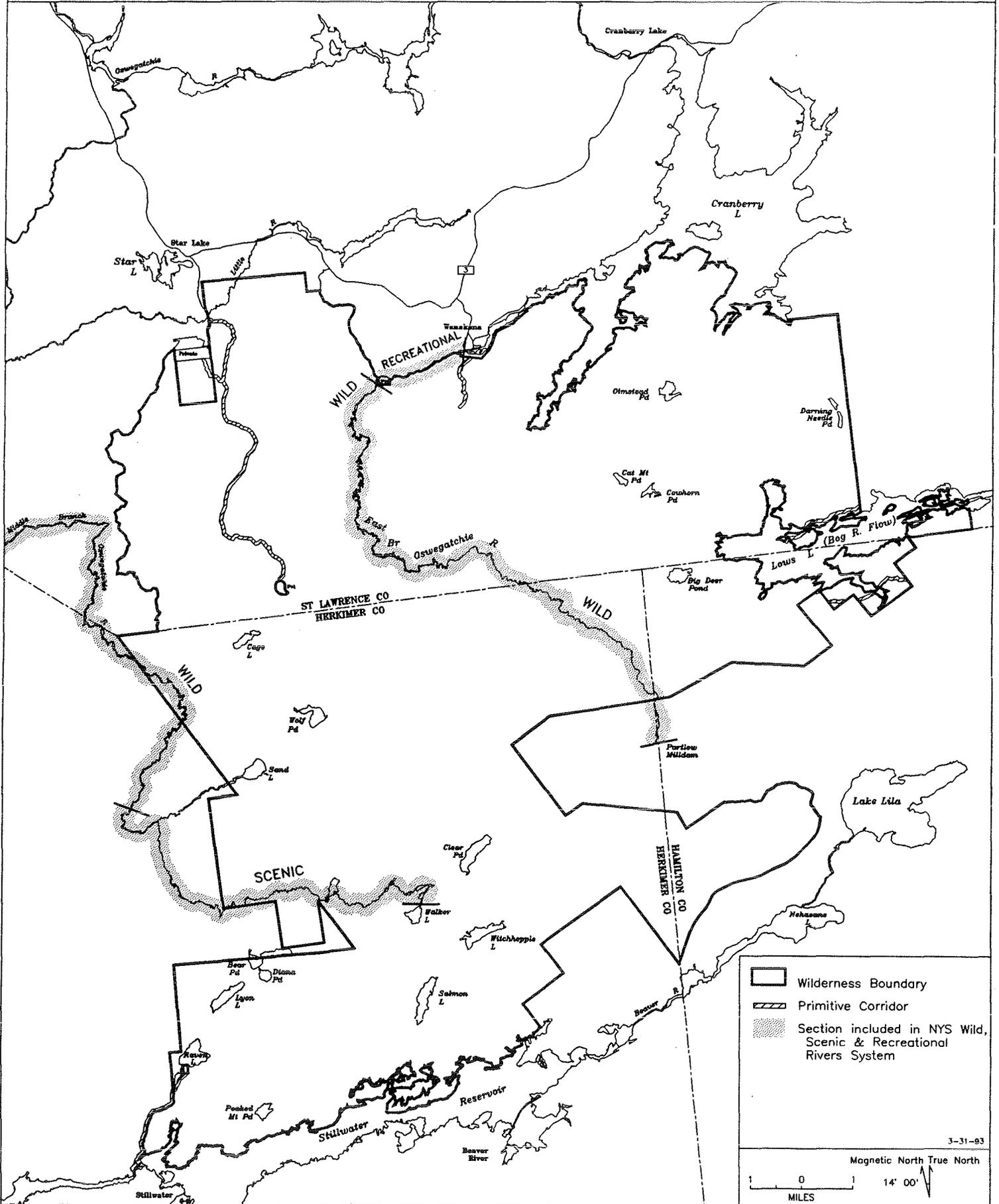
Wild River (approximately 2.5 miles) vicinity of Alder Bed Flow.

Main Branch Oswegatchie River

Wild River (approximately 18.5 miles) State land boundary line near Partlow Milldam to State land boundary line above Inlet.

Recreational River (approximately 2.3 miles) State land boundary line above Inlet to Wanakena.

FIVE PONDS WILDERNESS STATE DESIGNATED RIVERS



3-31-83

G. FIRE MANAGEMENT

Fire protection within this area is provided for by Article 9 of the Environmental Conservation Law. The unit lies in the following ranger districts:

<u>District</u>	<u>Town(s)</u>
Fine	Fine
Cranberry Lake	Clifton and Fine
Long Lake	Long Lake
Stillwater	Webb

Fire control maintenance facilities are located in the hamlets of Cranberry Lake and Stillwater. The road which enters the Braman Manufacturing Company tract, the International Paper Company main logging road into Bear Pond and the Webb Access Road to Gull Lake, the five primitive corridors and the Adirondack Railroad bed southwesterly from Lake Lila offer emergency access to the periphery of the area. Emergency float plane landings could also be made on Bear Pond, Salmon Lake, Witchopple Lake, Clear Lake, Negro Lake and Grass Pond to bring in suppression equipment and personnel.

Until the wildfire plan is prepared in 1994, fire suppression activities will be commensurate with the degree of hazard or damage that might be expected from the fire while protecting the character of the area and the lands and facilities of contiguous private owners.

H. ADMINISTRATION

1. Staffing

Funding for the "trail crew" in St. Lawrence County has improved somewhat during recent years. However, duties for the crew on other areas have increased as well so that there is little time for amenities. In Herkimer County, the five-mile foot trail, 24 campsites and two lean-tos are still maintained by personnel borrowed from other projects funded by the Bureau of Forest Protection and Fire Management.

The original plan included a proposal for a professional area manager and included a list of duties for the position. The item is still necessary to allow the professional staff adequate time to devote to other duties and to provide the necessary amount of professional time to fully implement this plan, especially in the development of safety and wildfire plans, educational efforts and the coordination of multi-disciplinary efforts to upgrade this plan in areas other than public use management.

An essential element in wilderness management is the position of wilderness ranger described in "Wilderness Management" (Hendee et al. 1968) as follows:

Many management actions...need to be carried out by wilderness rangers. The wilderness ranger...is a specialist who patrols the wilderness during its use season...Wilderness rangers...gather field data on resource conditions,

use, and visitor actions; influence visitor behavior by suggestions, advice, and information, enforce regulations; perform emergency trail repairs; ...direct or do cleanup;...and give emergency assistance...Wilderness rangers are, in effect, people managers, and they are the agency's prime contact with the public.

For several years this area has utilized three persons with the title of assistant ranger to perform these tasks in varying degrees with the exception of enforcing regulations. Included in Appendix B are all of the reports submitted by those individuals working in St. Lawrence County since the original plan was approved in 1987.

2. Volunteers

Volunteer assistance in the management of this area has had a long tradition. One of the first documented efforts was by Dr. Edwin Ketchledge of the College of Forestry who enlisted the aid of four forestry students in the summer of 1974 to map, photograph and evaluate 144 abandoned campsites within this area and, to a lesser extent, within the adjacent Cranberry Lake Wild Forest. This well prepared report not only allowed the Department to initiate a cleanup of the area at that time, but still serves as a historical record of use to the professional staff today, especially in the establishment of designated campsites.

Appendix B contains a record of documented volunteer efforts beginning with Dr. Ketchledge's 1974 effort, the 1983 citizens advisory committee effort and annual contributions by individuals, the ADK professional crew, the Adirondack Laboratory and groups working under the sponsorship of the Sierra Club, ADK and the Community College of the Finger Lakes from 1987 to the present. In most of these instances, the volunteers coordinated their efforts with those of the trail crew and usually provided the professional staff with invaluable reports to allow for more efficient maintenance of the area.

Benefits derived from these volunteer efforts include:

1. Work accomplished. In many cases the work would never be accomplished by employees because of staff limitations and the labor intensive nature of the work.
2. Articulate reports. These necessary ingredients for professional management have been lacking due to manpower constraints. (Refer to Appendix B)
3. Participatory management. The ability to allow interested persons to actively participate in the management of the area produces a more knowledgeable user group, a sense of land stewardship within that group and the benefit of a wider perspective on management options.
4. Illegal camp location. This unanticipated benefit has surfaced a few times and is a welcome contribution to the management effort.

The professional staff has attempted to expand the adoption program from lean-tos to campsites and trails, but has so far had little success. This will become a project for the area manager.

Much volunteer work such as litter removal and trail maintenance has been done by unknown persons who the trail crew refer to as "gremlins" (Dodge 1991). The overall significance of their contribution is hard to evaluate because many of these efforts remain undiscovered. Although their overall contribution is generally positive, some negative results which could occur might include:

1. Illegal tree cutting
2. Development of unmaintainable structures which become a safety hazard.
3. Wasted effort on trail sections scheduled for abandonment.
4. Wasted crew time spent traveling to a job which has already been done.

3. Budgeting

Upon final approval of this plan, estimated project expenses to be incurred by its implementation will be budgeted as follows:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>Estimated Costs</u>
1994	Area Manager	30,000
	Trail & Facility Maintenance	10,000
	Bog River Flow Campsite Development	5,000
	Oswegatchie River Cleanup/Campsite Development	15,000
	Fire Ring Bases	5,000
	Olmstead Pond Loop Rehabilitation	7,000
	Brook Trout Stocking	2,400
	Fisheries Survey & Inventory (FSI)	1,900
	Pond Liming	20,000
	Total	\$ 96,300
	1995	High Falls Loop Relocation
Area Manager		31,500
Trail & Facility Maintenance		11,000
Bog River Flow, Cranberry Lake & Stillwater Privies		10,000
Boundary Line Parking Lot		8,000
Wilderness Lakes Canoe Carry Trails		10,000
Fishpole Pond Trail		20,000
Brook Trout Stocking		2,800
FSI		1,500
Pond Liming		20,000
Middle Branch Bridge/Grassy Pond Trail		8,000
Total	\$127,800	

1996	Area Manager	33,000
	Trail & Facility Maintenance	12,000
	Boundary Line Maintenance and Records	15,000
	South Bay Trail	15,000
	Sand Lake Trail (Five Ponds) Bridge	40,000
	Brook Trout Stocking	3,000
	FSI	1,800
	Pond Liming	20,000
	Total	\$139,800
1997	Area Manager	34,500
	Trail & Facility Maintenance	13,000
	Wildlife and Vegetative Inventories	20,000
	Brook Trout Stocking	3,000
	FSI	1,000
	Total	\$ 71,500
1998	Cranberry Lake and South Shore Road Surveys	20,000
	Area Manager	36,000
	Trail & Facility Maintenance	15,000
	Brook Trout Stocking	3,000
	FSI	1,000
	Total	\$ 75,000

4. Education

Although the development of a brochure to inform the user public of the goals and objectives of this plan is still a viable project it will likely be deferred until after the area manager is obtained because of time constraints on the professional staff. The area manager is also necessary to educate department personnel in the principles of wilderness management applied toward the management of this area so that they will be better able to advise the user public.

Copies of this plan have been distributed to interested persons to provide them with a more thorough understanding of the area and its management and the trailhead notices contained in Appendix B have been posted in the Sixmile Creek, Dead Creek Flow and Wanakena Primitive Corridor trail registers to alert the user public concerning management activities.

I. PROBLEM AREAS

1. Former Truck Trails

The former Dead Creek and High Falls truck trails were constructed on the abandoned railroad beds of the Rich Lumber Company by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC's) during an era of abundant manpower and resources despite strong accusations of illegality (VanValkenburgh 1970, pp. 172-175). Over the years, the Conservation Department was able to obtain funding to keep them maintained for administrative motor vehicle use until 1972, when the original Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan prohibited the continued use of motor vehicles on them except for "cases of sudden, actual and ongoing emergencies" in an attempt

to guide the management of the area within the framework of wilderness management. Development of the unit management plan for this area in 1987 resulted in a focus for the changing use of these facilities.

Today the former Dead Creek Truck Trail is the easternmost two-mile segment of the High Falls Loop Foot Trail. Beaver flooding, a washed culvert and vegetative growth are slowly changing its character to the point where it is either a good trail or a poor road, depending on the perspective of the observer. In 1991 the steel barrier was removed from the beginning of the trail and replaced with more natural appearing boulders to conform with Adirondack Park SLMP guidelines (p. 19). At that time, the approach to the former road was removed to provide for increased parking space and it was replaced with steps.

At the western end of the High Falls Loop Foot Trail, the first 1/2-mile of the former High Falls Truck Trail is still being maintained as a road because, as the Wanakena Primitive Corridor, it must be available for use by the Wanakena Water Company. It is maintained as a foot trail a short distance further to the former Leary Trail and from the end of this trail to High Falls. The 5.6-mile segment between the ends of the former Leary Trail is obstructed by three beaver ponds and some blowdown, but is sporadically maintained by "gremlins" enough to be a hikeable path.

The condition of both roadbeds after 20 years of neglect is a tribute to the quality of the work of the CCC's. However, because the transition from road to trail is so gradual, users and department personnel are reluctant to foresee the change and adjust to it. As recently as the fall of 1992, the High Falls Truck Trail was cleared to High Rock so that motor vehicles could be used in a search for a lost hunter. Until such time as the safety and wildfire plans are developed, the expectancy that these former roads will be usable will remain and more reasonable access routes will not be investigated.

2. Land Titles

The Wanakena Water Company has the legal right to maintain its lines which enter this area for approximately one mile. This has been addressed with the establishment of the Wanakena Primitive Corridor. The water company has exercised this option with a major reconstruction project which began during the winter of 1992-93.

3. Environmental Problems

The presence of mercury in the fish of Cranberry Lake and Stillwater Reservoir as previously mentioned in this plan is a significant occurrence which will require continual monitoring.

Because they are a part of the natural process, occurrences such as the spruce decline (if not caused by acid precipitation), vegetative succession of the Plains and beaver activity are not considered as problems to be altered by direct human intervention. A noteworthy exception to this reasoning might be the control of fires which is an issue which will hopefully be addressed by Department policy.

4. Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers Act

A large section of the Main Branch of the Oswegatchie River has been classified as a wild river within this area. This classification will result in the removal of the four lean-tos in Zone A when they will need replacement (Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan 1989, p. 35).

5. Vehicle Protection

Users who leave their vehicles at trailhead parking lots are very vulnerable to vandalism and theft, especially at the Inlet parking lot which is at the end of a dead-end road. Beyond continuing to allow people to camp near these lots, requesting more law enforcement patrols and providing for increased assistant ranger presence, there are no known remedies for the problem.

6. Public Motorized Use

The snowmobile trail on the adjacent Aldrich Pond Wild Forest reaches its southernmost terminus in the vicinity of the Copperbolt Corner. An unofficial trail has been used by snowmobile and ATV operators to cross a small corner of this wilderness and cross the Middle Branch of the Oswegatchie River. The extensive road system on the lands previously owned by International Paper and recently purchased by the State of New York allows them to pursue a lengthy trip, generally from Star Lake to Belfort. Continued maintenance of this trail south of Bassett's Creek will likely be curtailed in the Aldrich Pond Wild Forest Unit Management Plan.

7. Alice Brook Snowmobile Trail

The reclassification of the Oswegatchie Primitive Area to wilderness in 1976 resulted in the loss of the Alice Brook Snowmobile Trail which followed the route of the former Sternberg Road and linked the Youngs Road with the Inlet Road. As this trail provided a vital link in a major snowmobile route, there has been recent user interest in obtaining an amendment to the State Land Management Plan to allow the restoration of this use. Should this effort succeed, \$20,000 will be budgeted for the restoration of this trail.

8. Sand Lake Trail (Five Ponds) Bridge

The southern end of this remaining bridge across the Oswegatchie River is anchored precariously to an eroding river bank. When it next washes out the site will have to be abandoned because there will be nothing to anchor it to. Alternative bridge sites will be investigated and a new bridge will be budgeted; however, the relocation of this bridge under wilderness conditions may not be possible.

Alternate hiking access to the Sand Lake Trail is available along the Buck Pond Primitive Corridor at Star Lake and is being developed with the establishment of the Middle Branch Footbridge/Sand Lake/Upper South Pond Trail southwest of Sand Lake. Should the Alice Brook Snowmobile Trail be rebuilt, it would also provide hiking access from Wanakena to the Buck Pond Primitive Corridor.

9. Vandalism

An unique form of vandalism has been experienced on this area in that pranksters have obtained department trail markers and have been posting abandoned trails with them. Consequently, unsuspecting users have been lured into following these unmaintained trails until they meet an obstacle which they are unprepared for. It is hoped that the pranksters will run out of markers before someone gets hurt.

10. Ground Fires

Although the staff is always careful to dig through the duff and place sand in the bottom of fire rings at designated campsites, campers are constantly moving the fire rings. Often these are placed on top of the duff so that it is burned. Ground fires caused by this practice are a problem of significant environmental concern.

To alleviate this problem before a major catastrophe occurs, every effort will be made to place fireproof bases for fire rings at as many of the 117 designated campsites as possible. Concurrently, the public will be advised of the function of these bases.

11. Wanakena Primitive Corridor

In October, 1992, the boulders at the end of the Wanakena Primitive corridor were removed so that heavy equipment could be used to reclaim the former truck trail for motorized use to aid in a search for a lost hunter. These boulders must be replaced to conform with the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan (1989, p. 19).

12. Raven Lake Primitive Corridor

This 2.1 mile road begins at the northern shore of Moshier Reservoir, bisects a small portion of the Pepperbox Wilderness Area for .23 mile, crosses lands of the Hudson River-Black River Regulating District and a private parcel for .03 mile and serves as the boundary between this area and the Pepperbox Wilderness Area for the remaining 1.84 miles.

Access to this road is by a logging bridge on the lands of Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation which was built in 1968-1970 and used to log the Fisher Forestry Tract until 1990. The bridge is deteriorating with lack of maintenance by its users. Public use of it is limited to hiking and bicycling primarily. Barring a major washout, these uses will likely continue until the next revision of the plan.

J. LAND ACQUISITION

No specific land acquisition projects are available at this time because the statewide land acquisition list has not been finalized.

K. STATE LAND MASTER PLAN AMENDMENTS REQUIRED

None necessary at this time unless the restoration of the former Alice Brook Snowmobile Trail is pursued.

L. STATE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY REVIEW ACT REQUIREMENT

This revision is a Type II action that is covered under 6NYCRR Part 617.13(d)(15), routine or continuing agency administration and management, not including new programs or major reordering of priorities.

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

As the management of zones A, B and D is directed toward the accommodation of user group four with fewer amenities than are provided on adjacent wild forest lands, these areas serve as a transition to the untamed lands of zone C which are managed for user group three. This exposure is necessary to allow users the opportunity to test their skills in wilderness use without having to become totally independent of man-made facilities as is necessary in the adjacent Pepperbox Wilderness Area to the southwest.

The development of the canoe carry trails and campsites in zone A presently allows people in user group four to enter the Bog River Flow in the Horseshoe Lake Wild Forest and continue to experience preferred amenities while traveling to Inlet.

The acquisition of the Otterbrook lands to the east of this area provided an existing trail linkage with the eastern parcel of the Cranberry Lake Wild Forest and with the Horseshoe Lake Wild Forest. Development of the Fishpole Pond and South Bay trails will provide greatly expanded trail linkage for the accommodation of user group four.

N. PROPOSED REGULATIONS

None needed.

V. SCHEDULE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

The following schedule is included as a general guide. It should be noted that unforeseen factors such as the availability of abundant non-budgeted labor provided by volunteers and by program such as the Youth Conservation Corps as well as budget constraints and other developments will necessitate deviations from this schedule.

1994

1. Budget for an area manager.
2. Upgrade the 32 campsites on the Bog River Flow.
3. Implement the major cleanup and campsite development on the Oswegatchie River.
4. Rehabilitate the Olmstead Pond Loop.
5. Stock brook trout as per stocking policies.
6. Conduct biological surveys of Toad Pond and Salmon Lake to assess native brook trout populations.
7. Conduct stream survey to evaluate Oswegatchie River stocking policy.
8. Construct and place fire ring bases at designated campsites.
9. Replace the permanent barrier (boulders) at the end of the Wanakena Primitive Corridor.

1995

1. Install 10 pit privies at Bog River Flow campsites, 3 privies at Cranberry Lake campsites and 24 privies at Stillwater campsites.
2. Develop the Boundary Line Parking Lot to accommodate 9 cars.
3. Develop the canoe carry trails and designated campsites in expanded zone D.
4. Develop the Fishpole Pond Trail.
5. Stock brook trout as per stocking policies.
6. Biological surveys of Fishpole, Darning Needle and Cat Mountain Ponds to assess stocking policies.
7. Lime Evergreen Lake, conduct post liming water chemistry, commence stocking.
8. Construct the Middle Branch Bridge/Sand Lake/Upper South Pond Trail.
9. Relocate that section of the High Falls Loop Trail between Dead Creek and Sand Hill Junction.

1996

1. Develop boundary line maintenance records and maintain all lines.
2. Develop the South Bay Trail.
3. Develop the safety and wildfire plans.
4. Stock brook trout as per stocking policies.
5. Biological surveys of Witchhopple and Negro Lakes to assess native trout populations.
6. Lime one or two waters (See liming candidate waters list). Conduct post liming water chemistry and commence stocking.
7. Monitor waters limed previous years.

1997

1. Develop wildlife and vegetative inventories. The New York Natural Heritage Program could hopefully initiate these by adding them to similar surveys of DEC Wildlife Management Areas throughout the state.
2. Stock brook trout as per stocking policies.
3. Biological surveys of Glasby and Cowhorn ponds to assess stocking policies.
4. Lime one or two waters (See liming candidate waters list). Conduct post liming water chemistry and commence stocking.
5. Monitor waters limed previous years.

1998

1. Revise this plan.
2. Monitor limed waters.
3. Initiate plans for re-limings based on water chemistry status.

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