

BOG RIVER TRIP  
June 10-11, 1922  
(Marshall, 1923)

Early Saturday afternoon I got started along the Chair Rock Creek trail with my pack basket, having a rather indefinite plan of climbing Graves' mountain and visiting the Bog River country. As the trail of the Creek was good, and from there to Darning Needle Pond was a first rate road, though perhaps a bit confusing due to many other branching lumber roads, I was soon at the foot of Darning Needle. Almost directly beyond the head of this pond my first objective seemed to rise, but I was soon to relearn the fact that no distance is short through a slash.

An old lumber road led to the East of Darning Needle for half its length, and then followed up a brook to Little Fishpond, one of the ugliest bodies of water it has ever been my misfortune to see. I had been told there was a good trail around this slashy waterhole. I guess the trail was good enough, but the water came well above my knees. Beyond the pond lay a number of burned, rolling hills, the highest of which gave a good view toward Cranberry to the North, and Scott Pond and Graves Mountain immediately to the South. Unfortunately, somewhere on this hill I lost my map, which fact I did not notice until I had gotten all the way to the other side of the pond. This was decidedly inconvenient, but could not be remedied without a big waste of time.

The ascent of Graves Mountain from Scott Pond was neither steep nor difficult, even though the brush was thick and the pack beginning to feel heavy. I had chosen a good route, striking for a rocky ledge which led to the summit. Suddenly, when about three quarters of the way up, I noticed my camera was missing. Then I recalled that at the base of the mountain I had rested and tightened my belt. It must have been here that I left the camera. Leaving my pack on the ledge, I tried to retrace my trailless journey, feeling that I did not have one chance in a hundred to find what I lost, but luck was with me, and soon I noticed a mountain ash in blossom, which appeared to be the same as one I had admired while resting. Taking my bearings from it, I soon found the missing camera.

As I reascended I noticed heavy clouds were rolling up from the Southwest. I hastened upward, and by 5:30 stood on the peak whose rocky summit had so attracted the early explorers.

What a wild view lay spread out before me! Vast areas of low land stretched on all sides, partly covered by virgin forest, but mostly be second growth, and open spaces with only grass and ferns. Southeast lies a great barrier of water, stretching for miles, Bog River. Due to the construction of a dam, the river overflows much of the lowland around, and is really much broader than the map indicates. Under the influence of the heavy clouds and the approaching evening, it was not hard to understand why the early writers called this the gloomiest region in the Adirondacks. There is not a sign of house or road in the entire prospect, except miles away, at Long Lake West. But what is that moving column of smoke over there to the East? A railroad train as sure I live. It is no use trying to dream of the olden days, for that train has blotted them out.

After forty minutes I commenced the descent of the steep South side. I was amazed at two things. First, I saw many ripe strawberries under the shade of the ferns, which formed the principal vegetation of the mountains. This was the earliest I had ever seen the delicious fruit in the Adirondacks. Second, I found White Pine reproduction high upon the steep mountain, where the soil was very shallow, and no seed trees were in sight.

I came out at the foot of Graves Pond, and followed down the outlet until I came to a place which was suitable for camping. Darkness was rapidly approaching, and before I had entirely finished supper night had entirely set in. The wild spot, ten miles from the nearest occupied house, the cold brook close at hand, and the soft bed of ferns under the open sky, make a pleasant camp site. It was not long before I wrapped myself in my blankets, and fell to sleep.

I was awakened around two in the morning by rain, which was not unexpected. So I ducked my head under the covers, and fell to sleep again, hoping that the blankets would not wet through before morning.

It was not yet five when I recommenced my journey, after a light breakfast hastily gotten in the rain. Following down the right bank of the brook, I soon came upon a very large buck, taking a drink. He stared at me for some time, as if wondering why anyone should want to enter his private slash.

Soon I reached the slough of the Third Pond, where the brook enters into Bog River. Beyond was a plateau, about 50 feet above the surrounding lowland, treeless, and covered mainly by ferns. It was strange, open country, different from any I had ever seen before, and looked to be an ideal place for game. I walked over to the southern edge of the flat to get a look over the Bog River Country, and was greatly delighted to see three deer calmly feeding at the pond below. Two were on the opposite shore, while one was standing on a very peculiar island consisting merely of a complete outer ring about 25 feet wide surrounding a pool of water perhaps 200 feet in diameter. I was intensely watching this interesting display of wild life when I was startled by a loud snort almost directly in back of me, and wheeled around to see a doe within 50 feet of me, stamping her foot as if in great danger at my intrusion. While I was looking at her a snort of the other side caused me to turn around in time to see another doe go plunging through high ferns. I waited around more than half an hour at this interested deer resort, and saw two more appear on the opposite shore. Finally, with considerable reluctance, I set out through the ferns for Spruce Grouse Pond, seeing two more deer on the way. The country was, literally speaking, all out by runways. I now began to comprehend why some of my Saranac Lake friends regarded this burned, barren country as a hunter's paradise.

My next objective was Grass Pond, and as I had lost my map and was not sure just where it lay, I calculated that the best and most interesting way to reach it would be to go right over the top of Grass Pond Mountain. The climb was only about 700 feet, but it was quite steep, and very slashy, and my pack with the rainsoaked blanket was heavy, so despite the cold, damp morning, I perspired considerably before reaching the bare summit.

The view was superb. The low, fast moving clouds added an element of wildness lacking on a perfect day. The entire length of Bog River could be seen, from Grass Pond to Hitchings. While the view toward Cranberry was not as good as from Grave's Mountain, the prospect toward Mud Lake, Grass Pond, and the virgin woods to the southwest more than made up for this shortcoming. Neither the cold or a sudden, violent hailstorm could drive me away, and it was a most delightful hour I spent enjoying for the first time the finest mountain view in the Cranberry region.

When I finally left the sun had broken through the clouds. I made a steep descent to Grass Pond, and frogged the shoreline to the houses on the upper end. The houses were deserted, but not so the lake. Two loons made the bare side of the mountain vibrate with their shrill cry, and indicated why the pond was called by some Echo. A beaver was swimming about two hundred years away, while slightly further a deer was feeding. It was certainly a pleasant spot, and I resolved to return before long.

I took the low road back to Fishpole Pond. This is the poorer and harder to follow of the two old tote roads leading between the two ponds. The big swamp I am told is a favorite place for hunters to get lost. Certainly there are enough side roads and trails to confuse anyone.

Fishpole is a low pond, but it has a shoreline unmarred by fire or axe, which makes it prettier than most of the other ponds in the region. I followed along the shore until I came to the road which leads to Bushee's deserted camp, a few hundred feet away, and from there right down the West side of the Fishpole outlet to the Darning Needle trail. From here I had a leisurely and uneventful hour's journey to camp.

HORNET POND TRIP  
July 30, 1922.

(Marshall, 1923)

It was a beautiful July morning that Roy Sahm, Bill Osborn and I started for Grass Pond Mountain. We followed the well known trail to Grass Pond, about seven miles in length. This leads first to Pigs Ear Flow, then to Chair Rock Creek, where it leaves the bay just beyond the high bridge, and turns off to the left. From here it follow Chair Rock Creek in a general way to a point where a lumber road crosses the brook to the right. Here we nailed up one of Bill's signs. This road brings you out, after two miles, at Bushee's old lumber camp, where you strike another road. Taking it to the right brings you to Fishpole; to the left you soon come to a bridge over the outlet of the pond, which you cross, and then follow another old lumber road along the crest of the ridge to a big swamp. From here on there are so many branch lumber roads it is impossible to describe the way. But with a map one can find it easily enough.

Near Grass Pond, by a group of double-header rollways, the trail up Grass Pond Mountain branches off. We were delighted to find it had gotten much use since we cut it out. When we got above timberline (caused by fire) we opened a large can of red paint we had brought along, and blazed the trail with it. The view from the summit was magnificent, the weather being perfect. We stayed on top forty minutes, and gazed with delight on this unrivaled view of the Bog River watershed.

It was just noon when we started down through the bad slash, heading for the big slough on the Third Pond of Bog River. We ate lunch at a little brook at the foot of the mountain. After crossing a low bridge we came out on the characteristic open flat.

Here we picked up the Long Lake West Trail, and were soon thereafter informed by frequent signs that we were on the A.A. Low Preserve. We got a very good view of Graves Mountain. We crossed the head of the slough on a beaver dam, and after a little difficulty picked up the trail on the other side. It soon branched in three, the left hand fork going to Graves Pond, the right to Bog River, while we kept the center trail which passed by Spring and Three Pound Pond, on its way to Long Lake West. We took a couple of side trips to the right to catch another glimpse of Third Pond, and one of Second and First. We also walked off trail to the left to see Spring Pond. They were all far from inspiring. At Second Pond we were surprised to hear the chug-chug of a motor boat, and see a party of young men and girls land. But the slash held more attraction for us, so we hastened on. Soon we left the trail for good, and cut across a burned flat, now densely overgrown. Here we found in the two Hornet Ponds and Three Pound Pond probably as ugly a trio of bodies of water as were ever grouped within half a mile of each other. Nothing but slash, backed by hills, burned to the bare rock, surrounded them. Yet, I have been told by a guide who has fished and hunted much in this section, that they furnish the best trout angling he ever knew.

It was about three o'clock when we left these ponds and cut through the notch in the hills for Otter Pond. Here the going was particularly rough. Roy, who had done little walking during the summer, stood the hard traveling remarkably well.

There were many deer tracks here, and we saw a couple of those animals. Just before Otter Pond we struck a good trail which evidently came from Graves Pond and led to Iron Pond. To the left, at the center of the pass, was a big cliff which, as I recall it, must have been two or three hundred feet high. Otter and Iron Ponds were better than the others we had been seeing, but there wasn't anything very good about frogging the slash along the shores of the latter. When this ended at Lake Marian we anxiously looked for a trail, and after a little difficulty found one leading directly up the hill to the left. This brought us, after fifteen minutes, to the houses of Lake Marian Association. Evidently the members were making good use of the great weather, for we counted no less than ten boats on the lake.

At the main building we received faulty instructions in regard to the trail to Cranberry, and proceeded. We soon found we were wrong, so we cut again by compass, as Bill and I had done eight weeks before. The woods did not furnish particularly delightful traveling. They had been entirely lumbered, and partly burned, so that slash was bad. Old lumber roads, helped us a little bit, but most of the time it was a case of bucking the brush. Finally, after an hour and a half, we reached the Sucker Brook tote road. Here, at seven-thirty, we hastily ate supper, and then rushed over the rough way as fast as we could, coming out on the main Horseshoe-Cranberry Road at Proulx's First Camp just before dark. From here it was an easy half hour's walk home.

FIVE PONDS TRIP  
August 12-13, 1922

(Marshall, 1923)

The Five Ponds trip was the only one I had definitely planned before coming to Camp, for, along with everyone else, I had been told of the virgin timber and the white pines of that region. In fact, practically everyone in the class had planned that trip, but no one except Os Brown and Hank Clark had carried their plans through. Finally, on the third last week end Bill Osborn and I determined to make the trip we had almost taken the third week.

It was 9:30 one bright Saturday morning when we paddled away from Camp. It was very pleasant on the calm lake, so we took our time, and did not reach Cat Mountain Landing until two hours later. After putting up our canoe we set out on the High Falls Trail. Nothing of interest occurred on the way, except that a bag of rice at the bottom of one the packs burst open, and its contents trickled all over the landscape. The Plains was a decidedly hot place at noon, and when we finally came to the boiling spring which Bill rightly remarked looked like a pot of boiling wheatina, we welcomed the refreshing drink. Shortly later we came to the old railroad grade, and turned to the right. After following it about a mile we saw a dim trail leading off through a hollow to the left. Just beyond was a low hill. This trail soon brought us out to ford on the Oswegatchie, which we were able to cross without getting wet above the shins.

Across the river were a few old lumber cabins by which the trail led. We followed it through the slashed land, checking upon the topographic features as we went. After twenty-five minutes we entered virgin timber, and realized that we must be in Herkimer County. It is no use trying to describe the beauty of an unmarred spruce flat forest. Suffice it to say that we thoroughly enjoyed every one of the 14.7 minutes it took us to traverse this stretch of timber to Big Shallow. After depositing our packs at the Camp site on the foot of this tarn, we set out to explore the Five Ponds.

Big Shallow, as its name implies, hasn't very much water. It is oval in shape, and about 300 yards along its greater axis. To the right a very steep hill rises, covered with large spruce and pine. The latter average about two feet in diameter. All along the shores of the pond is a magnificent coniferous growth.

Little Shallow lies about an eighth of a mile South of Big Shallow, just across a low ridge. It is as long as the latter, but narrower. A bend makes it impossible to see the full length. Beaver are doing a great deal of damage here.

The Washbowl is the smallest pond of the five. It is almost round, and is a good illustration of a pond filling in. The soil near the edge of the water is extremely toxic, and as a result the vegetation is greatly dwarfed. Gradually, as one goes back from the margin, the trees become larger, giving what is known as an amphitheatre effect. This pond is located between the two Shallows, but a trifle East of them.

A long, narrow, knife-edge ridge, about 150 feet high, separates the Fives from the Shallows. It is covered with a great growth of spruce and white pine. So dense is the shade under the canopy of this forest, that bushes, ground cover, and even reproduction are entirely wanting. At one place, however, a windfall had cleared about quarter of an acre, and here conditions were reversed. We crossed this ridge and descended to the lower end of Big Five.

We both agreed that Big Five was the finest pond of all. It was surrounded by virgin timber, as the others were, but in addition was tucked away in a little ravine with steep hills rising from the very shore at either side. At the far end, to complete the vista, rose Panther Mountain. The pond is narrow, but the longest of this group.

Little Five is more or less triangular. The most impressive thing about it is the white pines. They are finer around this tarn than any of the others. The hills rise steeply on all three sides. The beaver had done much damage here, and this alone prevents the pond from being perfect. There is now a fringe of dead timber all along the shoreline. These rodents had cut softwoods as well as hardwoods. They gnawed down one paper birch 14 inches in diameter. Deer signs were also very plentiful, one of the tracks being so big we suspected it might have been made by an elk.

We took our time on these explorations, and so it was 6:30 before we reached Camp again. While I was cooking supper Bill pushed out in a leaky scow to try to snare some members of the order pisces. He failed, however, to take in anything but the scenery, so we had a troutless supper. But I defy anyone to beat that meal of macaroni, eggs, bread and jam.

It was so pleasant, as we laid down to reflect, that we were in the heart of a tract of virgin timber about 40 miles square, absolutely unmarred by man. And yet, we could not help regretting that there should be so very few of such tracts left, due to the almost criminal lack of foresight of our legislatures of the 19th century.

During the night we were awakened once or twice by the splashing of deer in the pond, and frequent loud snorts close at hand. But these were very welcome disturbances.

Next morning we left camp at seven o'clock, heading southward, with the motto of "Wolf Pond or bust". We climbed the sharp ridge which divided the Five Ponds, and followed it. Soon we came to a place where almost all the old trees were gone, but where a young crop of white pine had taken their place. This we judged was the site of an old windfall. The ridge extended for about a mile beyond Big Five, and then gradually flattened out. Here we crossed the stream which is the outlet of Wolf Pond, and the inlet of Big Five, and climbed the hill on the other bank. Somewhere on this hillside we knew was Lone Duck Pond, for which we were looking. So we proceeded carefully through a forest which was not of the hardwood slope type. The yellow birches were of particularly large size, many being three feet in diameter. In one of these old fellows was a black animal which looked big enough to be a young bear. It was about four feet long. Actually, it was by a large margin the biggest porcupine I ever saw.

Lone Duck Pond looked as if it hadn't been visited by anything since the glacier left, except the one bird after which it was named. It has a remarkable variety of trees along its small shoreline, including beech, yellow and paper birch, hard and soft maple, ash, cedar, hemlock, balsam, spruce, tamarack and white pine, not to mention many different shrubs. We soon left it with reluctance, and followed the top of the hillside, keeping the main brook in sight or sound. On top of the hill the land was very flat. There was a great deal of raspberry and witch hobble which we at first supposed was caused by lumbering, but which absence of stumps indicated must have arisen from an ancient fire or windfall. We hoped to be able to see Muir Pond across this flat, but could not. However, we soon struck its outlet. We would have liked to have followed it to the pond, but decided we would not have time. So we followed the stream down, and soon reached the naturally broad swamp, made even bigger by beaver, at the foot of Wolf Pond.

If there is any wilder body of water in the Adirondacks of a size equal or greater than that of Wolf, I should like to hear about it. This pond lies in the very heart of that tract of virgin timber referred to above. No trail penetrates to it, the old one shown on the map being now almost entirely overgrown. The only sign of civilization along its two miles of shoreline is the moldering remains of a trapper's leanto. The land all around is flat, so there is not even a prominent feature by which you can tie yourself to well known territory. The nearest habitation is 7 miles North on an air line at Inlet. Nehasane and the railroad are 11 miles East as a bird would fly, while the Beaver River settlements are 15 miles to the South. To the West is lumbering country in which the nearest permanent dwelling is 16 miles distant, Jerden Falls. But as one would actually have to travel, these distances would be greatly increased.

We followed along the North shore of the pond to the main inlet. The tree formation was different than any I had ever seen in the Adirondacks. Instead of the characteristic close, compact forest, the trees, entirely white pine and tamarack, grew as if in a park, standing about 25 or 30 feet apart, with very large crown, and relatively short boles. In the open spaces between them, on the very sandy soil, grew grasses, sedges, ferns, raspberries, and heaths. A careful examination of the ground indicated an ancient fire which must have occurred before the white race ever entered the Adirondacks, for the trees were at least 150 years old.

Finally, we decided we would have to return, after more than an hour spent at this remote pond. We headed for the south end of the Knife Ridge, and struck it just about right. As we cut across country we found the park type of forest even more accentuated than around the pond. The line of demarcation between it and the spruce flat type was very sharp. After returning to Camp, I was much interested in finding the following quotation from Colvin, written 45 years before, in regard to the same region: - "The ridge was almost singular. Open and picturesque with superb white pine trees here and there upon it, with numerous deer paths deeply stamped, leading through its carpeting of moss and whortleberry bushes, the beautiful lake on the one side, and the shallow winding river on the other, made it far more entrancing than the choicest ramble of guarded park."

We followed up the ridge till we saw Big Five below us. We could not resist the temptation of visiting it again, for perhaps the last time in years, or forever. Then we crossed the ridge, and descended to our Camp on Big Shallow, after a great morning.

After a good lunch, we set out on our return journey to camp, 15 miles away. The trip back was thoroughly enjoyable, as well as thoroughly uneventful. It took us four and a half hours. Darkness was almost at hand when we landed on the beach after the best trip of the summer.

NEHASANE TRIP  
August 26-27, 1922.

(Marshall, 1923)

The last weekend trip of the summer was one of the first I had planned. I was going to follow the old Military Road from High Falls to Nehasane, and return by train and the Horseshoe Trail.

It was about nine o'clock on an autumnlike Saturday morning that I set out on the squally lake in a canoe left by the Rangers. No need to go into details about the seven-mile journey toward Wanakena. As a paddler, I'd grade about number six common anyway, but with a hurricane from the southwest dead against me, progress, like a face in a Turkish harem, was invisible. Every stroke of the paddle seemed to put me in exactly the same spot as before, or perhaps a bit behind. Yet, somehow, I finally found myself standing at the Ranger School, with the borrowed canoe safely beached.

There is a good dirt road from the Ranger School to Wanakena, beaten hard by the feet of generations of Rangers seeking the delights of the city. This Paris of the Upper Oswegatchie failed to hold me for very long, and crossing the river, I started out on the trail to High Falls. This first followed an old railroad grade by a dreary looking pond. Ed Hamill's wonderful array of ball-tossers were soon encountered, preparing for the final battle of the season by loading bricks on a wagon for the cabin. My watch, having paid the penalty of a twenty-foot drop, they gave me the time, which was high noon. The grade led up the valley of Skate Creek through as ugly country as can be imagined. After a mile, the direct trail to the Falls branched off to the left. In three miles it crossed two young mountains, heavily lumbered, and joined the trail across the Plains near the Boiling Spring. And gosh, didn't that water taste great! A pack, a hot day, a steep slope and a lumbered country form a great combination to promote thirst. Not long after the spring the trail ran into the grade again, having cut off about 8 or 10 miles.

Turning to the left, I soon reached the Falls. Here was a sight to soothe sore eyes, but mine weren't sore. However, I was sorry that the I.M.C. and Sunset Inn friends were not here, for a dozen maidens were sporting on the rocks. I made my way straight to the one man there, who was of a safe age. We had a very interesting conversation in regard to the ecology of the Plains and he described the Moose River Plains, the only other similar formation in the Adirondacks.

After this pleasant conversation, I crossed the Oswegatchie on a newly constructed bridge. I found a little difficulty at first picking up the trail shown plainly enough on the map. It was not until reaching the virgin timber of Herkimer that I was sure of being right. Here the trail forked. The most plain branch to the right said: "Beaver River 18 miles". The one to the left seemed to have no designation, but finally I made out dimly on a young spruce, "Old Albany Trail".

There now ensued a delightful walk through the virgin forest. Only a subdued light filtered through the dense crowns of the dark spruce and hemlock. There was little undergrowth. The old trail underfoot was the last connecting link with the pioneers of a century ago. Its ancient moss-covered logs had borne the hunters and trappers of that distant day when the North Woods were one unbroken stretch of luxuriant forest, where the wolf, the panther, the moose, and the deer lived and died without once being frightened by that most blood-thirsty of all creatures, termed man.

The trail had been roughly blazed, and had been cut out here and there. Sometimes both blazes and trail were plain. At other places either one or the other distinctly showed the way. But there were many spots where it appeared as if the right of way had not been brushed out since the original constructors had come through in 1815. I was glad at such places that I had my map, for I could travel as indicated by it, feeling confident of picking up the trail in a short time. Soon the Robinson River, a wild, tumbling stream, seeming to come from an unknown region, was crossed. It was certainly a temptation to follow it up, and let Stem Analysis, and Camp, and civilization take their course without my presence.

Just beyond the river the trail seemed to end, and upon confidently reaching for my map, I discovered that it was gone. This was a rather disappointing discovery, for I know that with the limited time and the dim trail the chances of ever reaching Gull Lake were poor. Then a vision flashed in my mind of a hunter of the century before, who had lost the trail, groping aimlessly through the unknown forest fifty miles from the edge of civilization through a dismal, impenetrable wilderness. What a change a hundred years made even in this unmarred forest, for all I had to do any time I wanted to get out of the woods was to cut due East by compass to the railroad but 10 miles away.

After much difficulty I picked up the trail again at the top of the hill above the river. Soon I saw Gull Pond through the trees, an almost perfect little pond. I followed along its shore to the southwest end, and then cut through the woods for about 300 yard to West Pond, which was almost as fine as its neighbor. There was a camp site along the trail right next to Gull Pond, which would have made a wonderful place to stop for the night, but I wanted to make Gull Lake so that I might spend the evening chatting with George Muir, the last of the great hunters; George Muir who had killed 67 of the 108 panthers, and 39 of the 98 wolves slain since 1870.

After one or two more difficult place, I again caught the gleam of water through the trees, and knew I must be seeing Crocker Pond. It was some distance from the trail, but I cut over to it. While also surrounded by fine timber, the pond itself was not as fine as the other two. It seemed to have little water and much mud.

Just across the brow of the hill half a mile beyond, I met my Appomattox. Here the trail ran into the cutover land of the Webb preserve, and effectually lost itself. Try though I did for half an hour, I could not pick it out from among the old logging roads. But there was a big valley below where I figured Gull Lake must lie. I descended to it and found only a shallow brook. "This is too small for the outlet of so big a lake," I reasoned, "so I will follow it down." This was

beautiful theory, and I expected momentarily to come out on the shore of my dreams. The only trouble was that I missed my guess. Gull Lake and the old hunter were across the next broad bridge. I realized this after half an hour. But by this time the sun had long set behind the rugged hill to the West, and it was too dark to travel further.

As my stomach was out of order, as a result of the strain placed on it by some of the concoctions of my fellow timber cruisers, I did not bother about cooking supper, but just ate a few pieces of bread and butter. When the short meal was over twilight was also gone.

I spread my blankets on the wood sorrel leaves which had never before been disturbed by man. As I dropped off to sleep it was a sad sound that came to my ears from the treetops above and the brook below, and the wind and the water seemed to unite to blow taps for the millions of acres of primeval forest that had gone, while about at attention stood some of the few surviving veteran acres of the Grand Forest of the Adirondacks.

I awakened next morning before sunrise. While leisurely eating a light breakfast I decided on my plans for the day. If Gull Lake was really in the next valley, as I now supposed, it was out of the question to visit it and return that day. There was just a possibility that it might still be below me. So I determined to follow down the brook another mile, and if nothing showed up then to cut for the railroad, which I knew I was sure to reach eventually by traveling East.

Gull Lake did not show up, so I left the brook and headed a little South of East. Suddenly I was startled by the whistle of a locomotive ahead. It didn't sound to be more than a mile away, though I knew it must be six or seven by air line. Three more times during that long morning as I approached the tracks I heard that whistle, and each time it sounded further away.

For quite a while my trailless course led through pleasant virgin timber. I crossed several brooks, flowing in a northerly direction to the Oswegatchie. Then I suddenly came across some white signs telling the world that the private property of W. Seward Webb and the Ne-ha-sa-ne Park Association lay just beyond and that trespassing was forbidden. These signs continued for miles in an East and West line. I followed them over several rolling hills, soon entering a section which had been logged for softwood. Then, upon crossing a hill, I found myself out of the forest looking over a great, open, waste area of ferns, grass blackberries, raspberries, fallen trees, and here and there dense thickets of fire cherry, aspen and birch. This was all the result of some little spark escaping from a locomotive on the tracks several miles away.

The open character of the land gave me a fine opportunity to take in the topography. I could pick out the valley where I figured the railroad must lie. When I reached it after a long time, there was no sign of tracks. So I figured it must be beyond the next hill, but it wasn't, nor behind the next, or the next, or the next. While the traveling wasn't bad, it was tantalizing to have the objective keep continually moving further away. It was not as easy walking as it would have

been without a pack, either. The streams were all dried up, so a drink was out of the question, and the sun was very hot in the open. What an awfully monotonous country it was! Every hill just like the last one. The only relief was in the occasional sight of Grass Pond Mountain to the North, and some distant mountains toward Long Lake ahead. But there's no use to go into details about this endless journey. I had long ago made up my mind that I would never reach anywhere, when I came to signs of fairly recent lumbering in a marsh which the fire had not reached. This was encouraging, but the sluggish stream in the center was not. It was too wide to jump, especially with a pack, and too muddy to ford. Tested with a four-foot stick, the mud was bottomless. I didn't care to chance slipping up to my neck in the slime, with no one apt to come that way till doomsday, so I trudged up stream for some distance, and finally crossed on a beaver dam. Just beyond, to my great joy, was a good tote road. It led in a direction which was parallel to the tracks, but I knew it must lead somewhere, so I followed it North. Twice it seemed destined to go right back to the slash from whence I came, but it changed its mind. I shall never forget the pleasure I felt when, after hours of seemingly aimless travel, I at last saw the gleam of steel through the trees which told me that somewhere had been reached.

I knew I was a short distance North of Nehasane and Lake Lila, so, leaving my pack, I walked down the tracks a mile, almost to the station, and then descended to the shore. Lila is the sixteenth largest lake in the Adirondacks, and quite nice looking. It was distinctly worth seeing. However, perhaps the most interesting part about it is that four topographical sheets join right in its center. A railroad is not an ideal pathway for a pedestrian, but it seemed like the finest boulevard compared with the scene of my morning's travels. My first stop was Robinwood, three miles from Nehasane. Here I met one of the employees of the Robinwood estate, who invited me to visit the two lakes on the property, Bog and Anne. They were certainly nothing to rave about. I liked Bog the better of the two. I left him at 2:30, and was soon pounding the ties again, pack on back. I stopped once on the four miles to Long Lake West to eat a late lunch of bread, butter and cheese.

The country around Long Lake West was certainly barren. The fire of 1908 had burned over acres right down to bed rock. There didn't seem to be many people in town, and all those I did see were sleeping. However, I managed to get a mighty welcome drink of water. The five miles to Horseshoe were dull, without mistake. After six miles of tie-walking, I began to tire of the highway, for which I had so yearned a few hours before. Seventeen miles of pack-basket travel was also beginning to scratch my back. About the only joys on those five miles were five mileposts. Even a side trip through the swamp to Hitchings Pond did not bring much pleasure, for the pond was so terribly ugly. There was so much bare rock, it looked like a good place for a penitentiary.

It was 5:15 as I walked by the Horseshoe Station, and left the tracks at last. As the sky was now overcast, I figured that it would be dark in two hours, so I knew I would have to do some real hustling if I wanted to make Camp. I hit upon a pace of almost five miles an hour, and maintained it. If I could reach Curtis Pond by dark I knew there would be little trouble getting out. But I didn't relish the idea of traveling the treacherous road East of that point at night. I checked in at Pine Pond, High Grass Meadow, and Center Pond with plenty of light, ahead of schedule.

But at the Second Camp it was growing dusky, while at Irish Pond there was just a streak of scarlet on the western clouds, and the daylight was almost gone. Night had completely settled in shortly after passing Curtis, but I didn't care. The remaining 2½ miles were easy, though I made them at a slower pace. It was 7:51 when I pulled up at Tent 10, after a 59 mile day, 34 of which had been made with a pack.

I saw a lot of beautiful scenery, but there wasn't a better part of the trip than the great macaroni supper I cooked myself, to break my diet of 50 hours. It was a fitting climax to the last trip of the summer.

Formalized Volunteer Efforts  
on the  
Five Ponds Wilderness Area

1974

During the summer, four forestry students, under the direction of Dr. Edwin Ketchledge, mapped, photographed and evaluated 144 campsites within this area to enable department personnel to initiate an effective cleanup. Also provided were thoughtful management recommendations.

1983

Twenty-one individuals contributed varying amounts of time and expense to attend five citizen advisory meetings from February 4 to May 13. Their effort produced a report which identified relevant issues to be addressed in the management of the area.

1987

During the week of September 13-19, the Plains Trail was relocated with two miles of new construction by 11 Sierra Club volunteers under the direction of John Kolp assisting the Operations trail crew.

Between October 29 and November 1 a group of students from the Community College of the Finger Lakes, led by Martin Dodge, removed all blowdown and much brush from the Sand Lake Trail.

1988

In April, John Blaser offered to adopt the Wolf Pond leanto and actually cleaned and reported on the leantos at Griffin Rapids, Wolf Pond, Sand Lake, Big Shallow and Cage Lake Springhole as well as several campsites on the Oswegatchie River.

During the week of September 11-17, the Olmstead Pond trail was extended two miles by 14 volunteers under the direction of John Kolp working with the Operations trail crew.

1989

Between April 15-20, John Blaser canoed the Oswegatchie River and spent about 10 hours cleaning campsites. He provided the professional staff with a detailed report of conditions on the river.

Between October 7-9, John Blaser, utilizing the inventory of 44 campsites along the Oswegatchie River established by professional and operations staff on July 17-19, reinventoried sites 23 through 44, discovering one which was missed and cleaning 11 sites.

The ADK became active in the adoption of leantos on this area and 5 were adopted.

1990

Between April 7-12, John Blaser cleaned and inventoried all campsites and leantos up to campsite 23 and the Wolf Pond leanto. He numbered site 31 which had previously been missed and renumbered all downstream sites.

On May 5 and 6, seven pit privies (5 within this area) were erected by 7 ADK volunteers on Bog River Flow.

From May 13-17 a group of 14 Sierra Club volunteers under the direction of John Kolp made the canoe trip from Lows Lake to Inlet. They cleaned and improved many campsites and other amenities and provided the professional staff with a detailed inventory utilizing the 1989 inventory as a guide.

From July 15-20, an ADK crew of 6 volunteers and a leader made substantial water drainage improvements to the Leary Trail.

From July 18-26, a group of 12 boy scouts and leaders led by John Skabry completed 120 hours of campsite cleanup and vandal repairs along the Oswegatchie River utilizing the map prepared for the campsite inventory.

During the summer months, two students working under the direction of Dr. John Riebesell of the Adirondack Laboratory rehabilitated and inventoried 19 campsites on the Oswegatchie River, established 4 campsites on the Olmstead Pond Loop and worked on the Cat Mountain trail.

Between August 31 - September 3, John Blaser cleaned all the leantos on the Sand Lake trail and provided a detailed report of facility and trail conditions.

Between September 19-22, John Blaser inspected, cleaned and inventoried campsites 21-41 on the Oswegatchie River.

During the first weekend of November, eight students from the Community College of the Finger Lakes, led by Martin Dodge, cleared the Sand Lake Trail (Dodge 1991).

Eight (8) leantos were adopted on this area by ADK volunteers.

1991

From July 15-19, an ADK crew of 11 volunteers and one leader established water drainage improvements at the large wet spot in the trail between the Janack's Landing register and Sand Hill Jct. and improved the Cat Mountain trail.

During the summer months, two students working under the direction of Dr. John Riebesell of the Adirondack Laboratory, improved campsites at Olmstead Pond, Simmons Pond, and High Falls, developed and installed informational sign boards at High Falls and along the Olmstead Pond loop and designated a campsite at Glasby Pond in coordination with the professional staff.

During the week of August 4, John Riebesell maintained and inventoried the Oswegatchie River campsites.

From August 25-29, John Blaser maintained campsites 25-45 on the Oswegatchie River and the four leantos on the Sand Lake trail. His report of this trip is included in this appendix.

Ten(10) leantos were adopted on this area by ADK volunteers.

### 1992

During the week of July 12-18, an ADK/Sierra Club group of twelve (12) volunteers brushed out the Big Deer Pond trail.

Eleven (11) leantos were adopted on the area by ADK volunteers.

### 1993

From May 10 to May 14, four volunteers, led by Don Kumpon, cleared the Sand Lake Trail to Big Shallow, removed blowdown from Oswegatchie River campsites and from the river.

Fourteen (14) leantos were adopted on the area by ADK volunteers.

The Big Deer Pond Trail was adopted by an ADK volunteer.

## OSWEGATCHIE CANOE ROUTE

## CAMPSITE INVENTORY

July 17-19, 1989

Sites were numbered with reversed orange snowmobile trail markers. The numbers in parenthesis correspond with the 1984 Canoe Campsite Inventory.

1. Lows Lake Trailhead. Established two months ago. Has been used. clean.
2. Big Deer Pond. Not numbered or designated. Needs complete development (leveling and fire ring) to encourage campers to camp off the trail at the Big Deer Pond canoe launch.
3. R of trail near the river. Wooden bench and table. Shovel bottom. No fire ring or stones.
4. R bank. Short land distance from #3. Cleaned by crew two months ago. Growing in with grassy weeds. Bag of garbage. Shovel bottom. No fire ring or stones.
5. R bank. No site present. Needs complete development. Numbered, but not designated. Trail flagged. Needs minor brushing and fire ring.
6. R bank. Already designated. Heavily used. 2 pole bunks with chicken wire. Large garbage dump with a bear den in the side. Fire ring. Needs heavy cleanup with garbage dump filled. Potentially a very good site.
7. L bank. Spruce stand with a large white pine with a wooden sign on it saying "Big Pine". Old site not used for a while. Fire ring. Needs general cleanup.
8. R bank. Below small rapids with large rocks. Already designaed. Pole structures. Clean. Needs a fire ring. Rocks present. Minor cleanup only.
9. L bank. (39) Spruce stand. Flat rock on bank . Fire ring. Hasn't been used much. Needs minor cleanup only.
10. L bank. (38) On ridge. Fire ring. Table and bench. Nice site. Relatively clean. Left rake.
11. R bank. (37) Camp Johnny. Very grassy. Fire ring. Relatively clean. Needs mowing and minor trash removal.
12. R bank. (35) On knoll above river next to old foot trail. Very grassy. Needs mowing and fire ring construction. Rocks present. Numbered, but did not designate.
13. L bank. (31) Leanto. Rake in poor condition. Removed fire ring between former bridge and leanto and posted the spot against camping.

14. R bank. (34) Can canoe to this site in backwater before former bridge site. Marked trail to it from former bridge site. Relatively clean.
15. R bank. (33) leanto. Very clean. NOTE: Removed fire rings and posted against camping at a site along the foot trail between the leanto and the former bridge site and at the former trail junction to Pine Ridge. Posted a small site next to the falls and below the falls against camping.
16. R bank. Below falls to R of canoe carry trail. Some minor cleanup needed.
17. R bank. (30) Below falls. In sight of 16, but designated because of the traditional heavy use of this general area. Should be out of sight of the falls.
18. L bank. (29) Within sight of leanto. Clean.
19. L bank. (28) Designated. Clean. Needs erosion control at landing.
20. L bank. Small. Hasn't been used in a long time. No fire ring or rocks. Needs complete development.
21. R bank. (27) Carters Landing. Picnic table. Fire ring. Pit privy bottom. Clean. Spring clear, but didn't taste good. Left a rake.
22. L bank. (25) Before Five Ponds bridge. Large, Clean. Springs off hills to east.
23. L bank. (24) Small site next to trail. Left a rake.
24. R bank. (23) On hill above bridge. Clean.
25. L bank. (21, 22) Back from river. Pit privy. Porkies have eastern plywood siding. Former bridge site. Both sites designated and being used by the same group. Did not designate site 21 as there was too much blow down in it.
26. R bank. (20) Poor landing. Fire hole in tent site. Needs raking and fire ring. No stones.
27. R bank. (19) Below rapids. Deep hole. Plastic, 2 x 4's. Old fire ring. Poor landing. Looks like a fisherman's site. Needs good cleanup.
28. R bank. (17) Ross Rapids. Head of rapids close to former truck trail. Fire ring. Small site. Relatively clean.
29. R bank. (16) Grassy. Not used much. Fire ring good.
30. L bank. (15) Camp Betsy. Lots of metal trash. Deer carrier. Very grassy. No fire ring. No rocks. Looks like a hunter's camp.

31. L bank
- ~~291.~~ R bank. (14) Large tamarack at site. Fire ring. Excellent site. Just needs general cleanup.
- ~~332.~~ L bank. (13) Relatively clean. Fire ring. Rooty ground.
- ~~433.~~ L bank. (12) Cage Lake Springhole. Designated campsites on either side of the leanto as well. Relatively clean. Leanto floor and deacon log. Dangerous tree to L of leanto and in camping area to L.
- ~~534.~~ L bank. (11) Small site. No fire ring. No rocks. A better site might be developed in a grassy area a short distance upstream.
- ~~635.~~ R bank. (10) Already designated. Swimming beach. Good table. Fire ring. Needs general cleanup.
- ~~736.~~ L bank. (9) New York Landing. Needs general cleanup.
- ~~837.~~ L bank. (8) Griffin Rapids. Also designated campsite to left of leanto. Relatively clean.
- ~~938.~~ L bank. Approximately 100' below the leanto. Better landing. Site of former leanto. Needs minor cleanup.
- ~~039.~~ R bank. (7) Small site. No fire ring. No rocks. Relatively clean.
- ~~140.~~ R bank. (6) High Rock. Relatively clean except for the vicinity of the pit privy.
- ~~241.~~ R bank. (5) Nice location. Needs minor cleanup. Fire ring.
- ~~342.~~ R bank. (4) Good beach. No fire ring. No rocks. Needs brushing. Good potential.
- ~~43.~~ L bank. (3) Needs minor cleanup.
- ~~544.~~ R bank. (2) Fire ring. Good site. Needs minor cleanup.

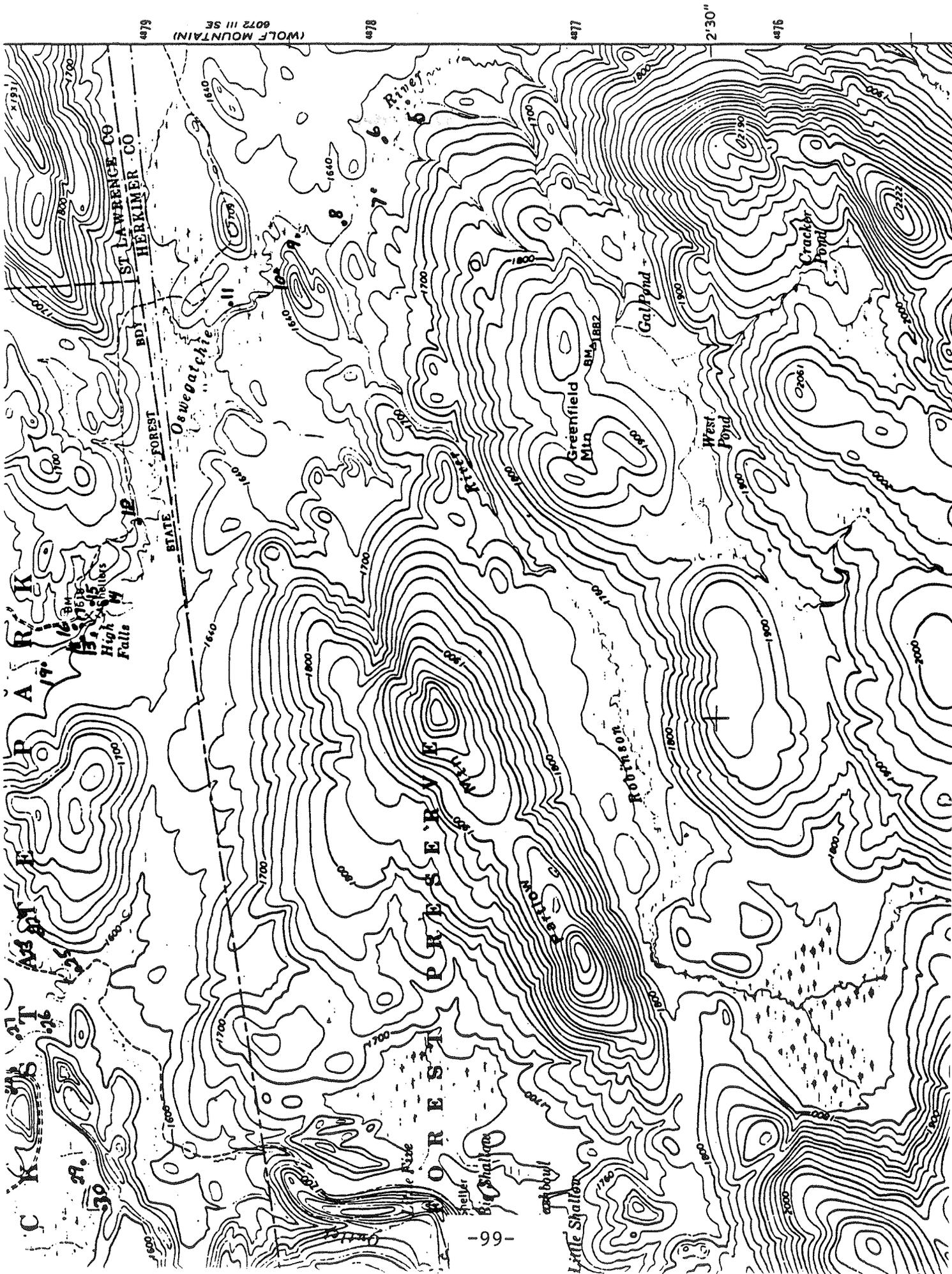
General comments: These sites were amazingly clean with the major exceptions of sites 6 and 30.

JK/bd  
8/89



4880  
 4875  
 4870  
 4865  
 2'30"

(FIVE PONDS)  
 6072 III SW



(WOLF MOUNTAIN) 6072 III SE



Pond

F I N E

High Rock

Ossegetachie

39 Griffin Rapids  
Shelter

A D I R O N D A C K

Buck

ST. LAWRENCE CO  
HERKIMER CO

S T A T E F O R E S

-100-

Little Pine  
Shelter  
Big Shallow

April 19, 1990

Mr. John G. Kramer  
 Associate Forester  
 Department of Environmental Conservation  
 30 Court Street  
 Canton, New York 13617

Dear John:

It was a pleasure to meet and talk with you last week in Cranberry Lake. In a sense I guess it was fortunate that conditions were not ideal, since I would have stayed in and we probably wouldn't have met.

As I mentioned during our conversation, overall the river campsites seemed to be in good condition with a few exceptions. However, there was some snowcover so that in some cases close inspection was not possible. The following report reflects my findings during the period of April 7 through 12. The report is given with an "upstream" travel perspective. The new numbering system for river sites is also used.

### Oswegatchie River Campsites

- 46 (possible site): This exists on the left bank, in small conifers, where the river touches the bank before turning towards "Sam's Curve" (see map location). There is some blowdown to be cleared. I did not designate or number the site. Hunters utilized the site last Fall.
  - 45: Clean, numbered site and designated camping area. Firering was in good shape.
  - 44: Camped at this site on trip downstream. Dismantled saplings cut and nailed to trees for hunting camp shelter (noted last Fall). Clean, good firering, grill present.
  - 43: Numbered site on large white pine below actual landing/camping area. Designated camping area on smaller sapling at actual site. Good site, will have beach in low-moderate water levels, overlooks marsh. Nice tent site immediately back in small conifers, smaller one just beyond. Left rocks last Fall, constructed firering from these rocks. Site appears to have been used last Fall.
  - 42 Large site, numbered site and designated camping area. Firering present and in good shape. This was an abused site cleaned last year. I designated a camping area closer to the river under the pines as opposed to back in the abused section of the site. The designated area has also received use.
- Hunting Camp:** This was one which I reported last Fall. Area seems clean, although snowmel may reveal some trash. Large amounts of firewood cut and stacked (trees had been cut in the area using chain saws). Area was also trenched and this is evident. I would recommend inspection and some possible cleanup when snow is gone.
- 41 (High Rock): Numbered site, camping area already designated. Clean, privy has good seat, but no sides. Firering in good condition. Campsite on top of rock not designated, but shows evidence of use - clean, firering present.

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 CONSERVATION - REGIONAL  
 OFFICE - CANTON

- 39: Poor location during high water levels (flooded). Present site could only be used seasonally at low water levels. Perhaps a more suitable area could be located along backwater area on upstream end. This is a nice area and a site is needed at this point on the river. Firering present. Numbered and designated camping area. Suggest area inspection for alternative campsites.
- 38: (Griffin Rapids leanto): Numbered site, removed trash from leanto and surrounding area. Fireplace in good shape as is leanto. Small table inside leanto. Firewood left in leanto. Privy seat totally rotted, needs replacement. Recommend register be left at leanto to monitor use.
- 37: Numbered site, camping area designated. Table on site, firering. Seemed clean.
- 36: Numbered site, camping area designated. Did not inspect.
- 35: Numbered site, camping area designated. Firering and wood on site.
- 34: (Buck Brook-Cage Lake Springhole) Leanto clean, in good shape. Surrounding area needs close inspection for trash. Firewood in leanto. Saplings used by hunters on front of leanto were removed and thrown in camping area to rear-left of leanto (when facing it). Dead trees in that area which could be cut to make area safe for camping (it's a beautiful site). Removed box of trash from inside leanto. Table inside leanto. Privy in good shape, but nearing capacity-should be limed. Suggest register to monitor use. Much wildlife present. Designated camping area to rear-right of leanto.
- 33: Numbered site, camping area designated. Clean.
- 32: Great location. Numbered site, designated camping area. Area seems clear after hunting camp. The nearby marsh contains much wildlife.
- 31: Numbered site, designated camping area. Needs good cleanup after hunting camp. Metal trash. Firering good. Wood supply present.
- 30: Numbered site, designated camping area. Needs good cleanup following hunter use. Metal trash. Firering good. Wood supply present.
- 29: Nice site on bend in river. Numbered site and designated camping area. Firering and wood supply present.
- Spring: Located on left riverbank, at the bend, fairly close to river, between sites #29 and #28. Easy landing. Water quality seems good. Spring is audible from river.
- 28: Note correct map location (along rapids). Site is numbered and designated. Wood supply present. May need light cleanup.
- 27: Excellent location. Part of one dead tree is down. Suggest that other trees be cut down and removed to make site safe (superior to relocating site). Numbered and designated. Firering good.
- 26: Numbered and designated. Large metal trash need to be removed. Fireplace good, left firewood. Privy has no sides, but good seat. Completed light cleanup. Nice location.

**Illegal Camp:** Located across beaverflow at 230 SW of site #25. White canvas/plastic/wood structure, privy. Appears to be trappers' camp. Beaver carcasses and traps present. Large amounts of food stored inside structure, bunk beds with sleeping bags, tables, clothing and metal wood stove inside. Site is badly abused and trashed. Many trees cut. Appears to be permanent setup, used for many years. Canoe stored nearby. Took pictures. Very upsetting to see this kind of abuse by users. Structure will need to be dismantled. Major cleanup operation due to the amount of materials present. This is the worst abuse I've seen since I've visited the Oswegatchie!

### Trail to Five Ponds/Wolf Pond

**Trail to Big Shallow** in fairly good shape. Some blowdown (nothing major) on trail. One tree in trail just beyond crossing of outlet of Big Shallow (in the glen). Sections of trail are poorly marked (additional markers advised).

**Big Shallow leanto** has large pieces of metal trash which need to be removed or buried. Cleaned out firering and buried contents (ash). Rebuilt firering. Removed down branches from leanto roof. Cut and stacked wood inside. Raked inside of leanto. Cleared edges of leanto. Deacon log shows evidence of rotting (holes/cracks). Privy is unstable (tried to support with rocks) and beginning to rot. Nearing capacity. Needs lime. Suggest possible relocation/repairs. Removed some trash. Fire grill present. Overall leanto condition good. Suggest register be placed to monitor use.

**Little Shallow Leanto** is in good shape. Stack of firewood near firering which is also good. Privy is in good shape. Again, suggest register.

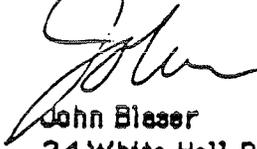
**Trail to Wolf Pond/Sand Lake** is in worse shape than earlier sections. Poor marking at beaverflow crossing following Little Shallow. Blowdown has completely destroyed the stream crossings here (necessitates crossing on logs/dams/high spots). Needs repair. Other sections of trail need marking to facilitate use when footpath is not visible. Signs intact at junction. Trail to Sand Lake impassable without snowshoes. Left shovel/rake on trail to Sand Lake about .75 miles further on (by large yellow birch on left side of trail). Trail to Wolf Pond leanto is poorly marked from 1800 ft. elevation to upgrade leading to leanto.

**Wolf Pond Leanto** is in good condition. Cleared down limbs from leanto roof and vicinity. Cleaned out and buried firering contents. Picnic table present. Campers cut boughs (from down limbs) and placed inside of leanto. Rake, shovel and broom present. Sign to Cage Lake was destroyed by blowdown. Tied signpost to small trees at trail junction and re-nailed sign to post. Sign for Wenakene nailed to leanto partially damaged, but still readable. Privy surrounded by substantial blowdown. Cut and cleared what I could. Needs more work with large saw to clear remainder. Privy nearly full. Used all the lime in privy. Walked about .5 mile of Cage Lake trail - some blowdown. Left register for Wolf Pond and register for Sand Lake (with note requesting hikers to take it to Sand Lake) on leanto shelf. Need to return to get register to Sand Lake, clear remaining blowdown near or relocate privy.

As I mentioned in our conversation in Cranberry Lake, the overall condition of the river sites was good. I guess I was so tired that the illegal camp slipped my mind (how, I'll never understand since it was so upsetting to see it). I regret, because of conditions, I was unable to get to Sand Lake or the upper river sites. I have two weekends in May (5-7, 12-14) which I will probably use to return to the river and get upstream above High Falls. I would anticipate using the first set of days for that purpose. The other set I would like to use for the Bog River/Low's Lake if possible. Let me know if I can be of assistance in either case

It was nice to meet you and a pleasure to be of assistance. I will forward the pictures of the illegal camp near site #25 when they are developed. I would like to know what you intend to do about the situation. You can contact me until Memorial Day weekend at the current address and phone numbers. After that I will be moving to a new apartment. Thanks for all your help.

Yours truly,



John Blaser  
24 White Hall Road  
Eastchester, NY 10709  
(914) 961-7842 (home)  
(914) 793-6130 (work)

attachment

OSWEGATCHIE CANOE ROUTE

B-14

CAMPSITE UPGRADING

May 15-19, 1990

Attached are John Blaser's latest inventory of sites 26 through 45 and the original DEC inventory with the new numbering sequence initiated by John. To help you in your planning, the following projects could be done in addition to the general cleanup at each site:

Site

2. Completely develop the site off of the trail. Stones for a fire ring should be on site.

3. and 4. Locate stones for fire rings.

5. Completely develop the site-clear a landing and trail, some pruning, fire ring, tent site leveling.

6. Major cleanup. Dump trash in open pit and fill.

8. Fire ring. Rocks available.

12. A trail is needed from the river. Perhaps from the back-water upstream. Clear a tent site with the maul.

14. Note that there are two sites - 14a and 14b.

16. This is the former site 17 and is the only site in the vicinity.

17. This is a new site downstream from the canoe launch on the R bank. There is a yellow marker on a log. Needs a number. A short distance downstream from this site and away from the river is another site which needs a lot of cleanup. There is a trail from this site to the former truck trail.

19. Erosion control at landing.

20. Fire ring. No rocks.

22. If you go 100' upstream from this site and another 100' from the river you will discover springs coming out of the hillside which could be dug out.

28. and 29. There is another spring between these sites on the R bank at the bend of the river.

39. Could use more rocks in the fire ring.

40. Look for a better campsite location in the vicinity.

Attachment

JK/bd

5/9/90

## OSWEGATCHIE RIVER CAMPSITE INSPECTION 6-10 August 1991

These notes supplement the information on the campsite evaluation forms. (When there is an "\*" on the "Etc." line under "improvements, the additional improvements are listed here.) In addition to the tasks noted, I cleaned up most of the sites (except sites 8 and 30) and relettered the number disks at many sites where the black number had weathered away.

Site Description

---

Jeff Cooper checked sites 1 (Lows Lake) and 2 (Big Deer Pond) on 6 August and cleaned up a blowdown near the Lows Lake end of the carry.

Wednesday, 7 August

- 3 Grill, 2 sitting logs, shovel bottom, 3 tent areas (each about 10 feet by 10 feet). Tree had fallen across part of original site: graded around uprooted roots to make depression for fire--roots act as reflector. Installed directional marker from carry trail.
- 4 2 log benches, shallow fire pit, shovel bottom. Raked and mowed site. Installed new campsite marker. Only one good pine branch for hanging food nearby. Installed directional marker from carry.
- 7 beaver dams between sites 4 and 5
- 5 Very overgrown. Mud flat at landing due to low water. Tree seems to have fallen across original site. Debranched tree and pulled up enough bracken, blueberries, raspberries, etc., to make space for one tent in front of log. Removal of old stump or tree trunk would enlarge site. Mow next year!
- 6 6 grates, 2 tent sites, bench, table, sitting log, griddle, fry pan, rake, garbage pit with chaise lounge frame and new bear hole, shovel bottom. Cleaned up fire ring and threw some logs on garbage pit. No sign of chicken wire from bunks we dismantled last year. Installed "camp here" marker.
- 2 beaver dams between sites 6 and 6A
- 6A Replaced "8" disk with "6A." (There was a "camp here" marker at this site when we checked the river campsites in 1990. At the time, we thought we had missed site 7 and that this was site 8, so we had marked it as site 8.) Put up second "6A" disk on live tree since old disk was on base of dead tree near river. Pulled up some raspberries and young maples and raked site. Nice bluff with easy trail from river. 2-3 small, almost-level tent sites (one in old fire pit), bucket.

(Turn right through shallow channel immediately after passing site 6A. Wider channel straight ahead is dead end.)

- 2 beaver dams between sites 6A and 7
- 7 Big Pine site. Metal roof over (empty) firewood pile, sign. Rebuilt fire ring, raked site, picked up litter.
- 1 beaver dam and 1 rocky area between sites 7 and 8
- 8 Just below rocky area. I missed this site because the markers were down, and I had to hike back to it from the upper rapids. Unfortunately, it turned out to be one of the messier sites on the upper river, and I didn't have a garbage bag. 2 grates, hunk of metal, corn-on-the-cob scattered around site, pile of litter, small table. Picked up some litter and threw on pile. Put up new number disk and "camp here" marker.
- 2 beaver dams and "upper rapids" between sites 8 and 9 (second beaver dam is at upper end of rapids). Easy carry route on east bank if 5-6 downed trees were sawed out.
- 9 Rock landing, little sign of use, second tent site available, lots of string. Needs mowing.
- 10 3 grates, table with metal legs. Rearranged fire ring, raked site, picked up litter. Campers had burned logs in middle: sawed up two and stacked.
- 2 beaver dams plus double log jam (had to line canoe through) between sites 10 and 11
- 11 Camp Johnny. Grate, garbage pit. Raked site (and camped).

Thursday, 8 August

- 2 log jams just below Camp Johnny--canoe floated through after I got out--good footing. Noticeable stream enters on right just beyond log jams--probably Nicks Pond outlet.
- 3 beaver dams between site 11 and undesignated site (stream enters on left between second and third dams)
- \*\* Rocky site on east bank between county line and site 12 has been used. Fire ring, pieces of metal (old stove?), several old fire sites (including one in middle of best tent site).
- 1 beaver dam (mostly a log jam) between undesignated site and site 12
- 12 Trail from river could be mowed. Picked up litter.
- 3 beaver dams and one shallow log between site 12 and High Falls
- HF High Falls. Party of 11-12 at site below falls. (Jeff Cooper checked sites at High Falls.)

- 19 Adjacent to flooded area. Board, 2 tent sites (1 is grassy area near flooding).
- (20) I missed site 20--according to my 1990 notes, it is just below site 19 and farther upstream than the location marked on my map.
- 1 beaver dam between site 19 and potential sites
- \*\* Flat, blueberry-covered rock on east bank is a potential site. Large pines surrounded by alder swamp.
- \*\* Upstream side of first large rock on west bank has view of hill over river--a potential site.
- 1 beaver dam between potential sites and site 21
- 21 Carters Landing. Table, outhouse, fireplace, some litter. (Left litter for Jeff.)
- "Left-hand rapids" (need to make sharp left-hand turn half-way through rapids). Possible carry route on southeast bank.
- 22 Furnace still in woods along path to spring. Spring flowing. Concrete fire base, grate, plank bench. Put up new disk along river and installed directional marker along Five Ponds trail.
- Rapids under Five Ponds trail bridge
- (23) Eight canoes piled up in tiny clearing with "23" disk along Five Ponds trail on west side of bridge. Possible fire ring rocks tossed in woods on left side of trail. Couldn't tell much about site because it was buried under canoes. Would John Kramer really mark this site?
- 24 Stone fire ring against rock, plank bench. On knoll on east bank of river at bridge. Removed a misplaced "25" marker and installed "24" marker.
- 25 Concrete fire base, 2 grates, sauce pan, plank bench, rake, shovel, oil furnace, small oil drum with fiberboard on top for table, 2 smaller tent sites, "If you carry it in..." sign, blue trail markers. Installed directional markers and "camp here" disk at main site.
- 26 Access path goes up and down through gully. Put fire ring back together, raked a bit, picked up litter. Nice little site. Space for 2-3 additional small tents.
- 27 Plank bench, grassy--could stand mowing. Larger area available if mowed. On large pool just below small rapids. Alders behind site.
- 28 Oil drum stove, grate, sitting logs around fire. Nice site by rapids. Put up "camp here" disk. Found a flashlight.

Small rapids

- 29 4 log seats. Needs mowing. Picked up litter, installed "camp here" disk, pulled up some shrubs.

(I like the stretch of river from site 21 to site 29)

- 30 Beautiful Camp Betsey. Box, oil stove, litter. Put up number disk; didn't bother with a "camp here" disk--no one will want to. Left site as is. Very overgrown!
- 31 Plank bench, "If you carry it in..." sign. Cleaned wet grass out of fire ring, removed metal stand, raked site. Marker doesn't show up well from river.

1 beaver dam, 1 log between sites 31 and 32

- 32 2 log seats, 1 table-high log, 1 split-log seat, grate, dead tree leaning across access path. Camped here.

Friday, 9 August (rain)

- 33 Raked ashes out of two old fire pits and filled with fresh litter, removed ashes from fire ring, raked site, picked up litter, removed sheet of black plastic. Number disk needs to be relettered (couldn't do it in the rain).
- 34 Cage Lake Springhole Leanto. Raked, picked up some litter. Half of deacon log is missing. Seat loose from base in outhouse. Adjacent site about 20 feet by 20 feet with many roots and remains of fire (no ring) in one corner.
- 35 Very small site on bank with large flat area available if moved. Grate. Picked up a few pieces of litter.
- 36 Wood table, 2 wood stools.
- 2 beaver dams between sites 36 and 37
- 37 Table, 4 log stools, 2 pieces of waffleboard, remains of second table.
- 38 Griffin Rapids Leanto. Fireplace, grate, table, new outhouse and badly-chewed old one. Large tent site (approx 20 feet by 20 feet) with fire ring and two smaller tent sites adjacent to leanto on upstream side. Outside latch broken off of new outhouse. Plastic covering dirt floor of leanto. Picked foil out of fireplace. Spent afternoon waiting for rain to stop. Stayed here.
- 39 Just downriver from leanto. Grassy tent site and gently sloping (campable) area between fire ring and river. Rebuilt fire ring and picked up some litter.

Saturday, 10 August (off-and-on light drizzle)

- 40 On secondary channel  
1 beaver dam between sites 40 and 41
- 41 High Rock. New outhouse and mangled old one, remains of fireplace, .  
stone fire ring, sitting log. Picked up some litter.
- 42 Plank bench, pieces of plywood. Removed metal tray and picked up some  
litter.
- 43 Steep sand bank--hard landing. Picked up litter.
- 44 Wood tripod over fire ring, sitting bench. Picked up litter.
- 45 Picked up litter  
1 beaver dam between site 45 and Inlet.

CAMPSITE EVALUATION FORM

Location: Oswegatchie River August 1991

Site

Characteristic	3	4	5	6	6A	7	8	9	10
Approximate size (pace off)	3x				3x	+2 sm			2x
Length (ft)	10	15	10	12/10	8	10	10	10+	10+
Width (ft)	10	10	7	10/6	5	10	10	10	10
Vegetative cover (F= pines D= deciduous, M= mixed, S= spruce/fir, Sh= shrub)	M	F/S	F/S	F/S	S/D	F/S	F/S/D	F/S	S/D/F
View (M= mtns, L= lake/pond, R= river/stream, F= falls)		M,R	R	R	R	R	N	R	R
Water source (L= lake/pond, R= river, S= spring)	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
Distance from trail/canoe route	50'	20'	20'	25'	40'	10'	50'	10'	15'
Is site screened from (Y= yes, N= no, F= partially):									
Trail/canoe route	F	F	F	F	F	N	F	N	F
Other sites	F	F	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Lake/river (if present)	Y	F	F	F	F	N	F	N	F
Fire ring (S= stone, F= pit, W= wood box, N= none)	F	F	F	S	1/2S	S	1/2S	S	S
Other "improvements":									
Table				Y			sm		Y
Outhouse									
Etc. (*= see notes)	*	*		*		*			
Firewood availability (H/M/L)	H	M	H	H	H	H	H	H	M
Food hanging site? (Y/N)	Y	Y-	Y	Y	Y	Poor	Y	Y-	Y
Swimming potential (H/M/L)	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L
Biting insect rating (H/M/L)	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	M	M
Cleanliness rating (H/M/L)	H	H	H	H*	H	H	M	H	H
Shoreline (S= sand, M= mud, R= rock, G= gravel)	M	M	M	M	M	M	S	R	S
							grassy	grassy	grassy
Hazards/Concerns									
Steep/slippery access to water	X		X	X					X
Dead trees above/adjacent to site (indicate #)	1.5	2 sm	1		1	6		3	1.5
Limited area for sanitation									
Poor drainage									
Exposed location (indicate exposed directions)		W	SW	SE	SW	SW			
Much litter/debris							Some		
Erosion due to previous use									
Potential impact on plants/wildlife									
Site not level		+/-					X		
Very small site			X						

CAMPSITE EVALUATION FORM

Location: Oswegatchie River August 1991

Site

Characteristic	11	12	19	21	22	24	25	26	27
Approximate size (pace off)									
Length (ft)	+sm		2x						
Width (ft)	20	8	10	20	30	12	25	10	10
Vegetative cover (P= pines, D= deciduous, M= mixed, S= spruce/fir, Sh= shrub)									
View (M= mtns, L= lake/pond, R= river/stream, F= falls)									
Water source (L= lake/pond, R= river, S= spring)									
Distance from trail/canoe route									
Is site screened from (Y= yes, N= no, P= partially):									
Trail/canoe route									
Other sites									
Lake/river (if present)									
Fire ring (S= stone, P= pit, W= wood box, N= none)									
Other "improvements":									
Table				X					
Outhouse				X					
Etc. (*= see notes)	*			*	*	*	*		*
Firewood availability (H/M/L)	M	H	M	H	M	M	M	M	M
Food hanging site? (Y/N)	Y-	Y	High	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Swimming potential (H/M/L)	M	L	L	L	M	M	M	M	M+
Biting insect rating (H/M/L)	H	H	H	H	M	M	M	M	M
Cleanliness rating (H/M/L)	H*	H	H	M	H	H	M	H	H
Shoreline (S= sand, M= mud, R= rock, G= gravel)	S	G/R	S/M	S/M/R	M/S	S	S	S	S
Hazards/Concerns									
Steep/slippery access to water		X	X		X				X
Dead trees above/adjacent to site (indicate #)	2		2			1	1		1
Limited area for sanitation			X						?
Poor drainage									
Exposed location (indicate exposed directions)	S			SE				W	
Much litter/debris							*		
Erosion due to previous use									
Potential impact on plants/wildlife									
Site not level									
Very small site									X

CAMPSITE EVALUATION FORM

Location: Oswegatchie River August 1991

Characteristic	Site									
	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	
Approximate size (pace off)										
Length (ft)	15	8	20	20	12	10/8		5	10	
Width (ft)	8	5	10	10	12	8/5		5	10	
Vegetative cover (F= pines, D= deciduous, M= mixed, S= spruce/fir, Sh= shrub)	overgrown +sm Leanto Larger if mowed Larch Larger if mowed S/P/D/P/S/D D S/D S/D S F S D/S									
View (M= mtns, L= lake/pond, R= river/stream, F= falls)	R	R	R	N	R	R	R	R	R	R
Water source (L= lake/pond, R= river, S= spring)	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
Distance from trail/canoe route	10'	20'	30'	100'	10'	10'	10'	10'	50'	
Is site screened from (Y= yes, N= no, P= partially):										
Trail/canoe route	N	P	P	Y	P	N	N	N	Y	
Other sites	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Lake/river (if present)	N	P	P	Y	P	N	N	N	Y	
Fire ring (S= stone, P= pit, W= wood box, N= none)	S	S	N	S	S	S	S	on grnd	S	
Other "improvements":										
Table							X		X	
Outhouse	X						X			
Etc. (*= see notes)	*	*	*	*	*		*	*	*	
Firewood availability (H/M/L)	M+	L	L	M-	M	L+	M	H	M	
Food hanging site? (Y/N)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y-	
Swimming potential (H/M/L)	M	M	L	L	M?	M	M	M	M	
Biting insect rating (H/M/L)	M-	M	M	M+	H	H	H	H	H	
Cleanliness rating (H/M/L)	H	H	L	H	H	H	H	H	H	
Shoreline (S= sand, M= mud, R= rock, G= gravel)	R	S	M	S/M	S/M	S	S	S	S	
Hazards/Concerns										
Steep/slippery access to water	X	X	wet			X		X	X	
Dead trees above/adjacent to site (indicate #)		1.5	4	1	0.5	2	1	1	2	
Limited area for sanitation						X				
Poor drainage										
Exposed location (indicate exposed directions)						across river	up river	across river		
Much litter/debris			X							
Erosion due to previous use										
Potential impact on plants/wildlife										
Site not level										
Very small site								X		

CAMPSITE EVALUATION FORM

Location:

Site

Characteristic	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45
Approximate size (pace off)	2x	Leanto			+sites		2x		3x
Length (ft)	10		15	20	20	25	10	15	10
Width (ft)	10		10	15	20	10	10	15	8
Vegetative cover (F= pines, D= deciduous, M= mixed, S= spruce/fir, Sh= shrub)					H= hemlock	Larch			
	S/D	H/D	H/D/S	S/F/D	F/D	D/F/S	F/S	F/S/D	F/S
View (M= mtns, L= lake/pond, R= river/stream, F= falls)	R	R/M	R/M	R	R	R	R	R	R
Water source (L= lake/pond, R= river, S= spring)	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
Distance from trail/canoe route	10'	50'	25'	10'	100'	100'	25'	15'	15'
Is site screened from (Y= yes, N= no, P= partially):									
Trail/canoe route	N	P	P	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N
Other sites	Y	39	38	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Lake/river (if present)	N	P	P	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N
Fire ring (S= stone, P= pit, W= wood box, N= none)	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Other "improvements":									
Table	X	X							
Outhouse		X			X				
Etc. (*= see notes)	*	*			*	*			
Firewood availability (H/M/L)	M	L	L	L	M	M	L	M-	M
Food hanging site? (Y/N)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y-	Y	Y
Swimming potential (H/M/L)	L	L	L	M	M+	M-	M	M	M
Biting insect rating (H/M/L)	H	M	M	H	H	H	H	H	M
Cleanliness rating (H/M/L)	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H
Shoreline (S= sand, M= mud, R= rock, G= gravel)	S	S/R	S	S	R	S	S	S/R	S/R
Hazards/Concerns									
Steep/slippy access to water	X	X			X		X		
Dead trees above/adjacent to site (indicate #)			2	3				2	
Limited area for sanitation									
Poor drainage									
Exposed location (indicate exposed directions)					across river		up river		across river
Much litter/debris									
Erosion due to previous use		bank							
Potential impact on plants/wildlife									
Site not level									
Very small site									

dry  
beaver  
pd adj

CAMPSITE EVALUATION FORM

Location: Oswegatchie River sites accessible by trail,  
August 1991

Characteristic	1	2	14A	14B	17	17B	18	HF*	21
Approximate size (pace off)									
Length (ft)	45	30	20	25	35	25	25	20	20
Width (ft)	15	20	15	15	25	10	10	10	15
Vegetative cover (P= pines, D= deciduous, M= mixed, S= spruce/fir, Sh= shrub)	S	M/S/D	S	S	M	P	P	D	P
View (M= mtns, L= lake/pond, R= river/stream, F= falls)	L/M	L			R/F	R			R
Water source (L= lake/pond, R= river, S= spring)	L	L	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
Distance from trail/canoe route	40'	15'	50'	100'	100'	150'	150'	100'	50'
Is site screened from (Y= yes, N= no, P= partially):									
Trail/canoe route	P	N	P	P	P	Y	Y	P	N
Other sites	Y	Y	P	P	Y	P	Y	Y	Y
Lake/river (if present)	P	P	P	P	P	N	Y	Y	N
Fire ring (S= stone, P= pit, W= wood box, N= none)	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Other "improvements":									
Table	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y
Outhouse	N	N	Y	near	near	near	near	near	Y
Etc. (*= see notes)	grate	grate	N	grate	grate	bench	pipe	N	
Firewood availability (H/M/L)	M+	M	M	M	L	M	H	M	M
Food hanging site? (Y/N)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Swimming potential (H/M/L)	M-	L+	M	M	M	M	L	L	L
Biting insect rating (H/M/L)	L	L	M	M	M	M	M	M	M
Cleanliness rating (H/M/L)	M	M	H	M	M	H	H	H	M
Shoreline (S= sand, M= mud R= rock, G= gravel)			R	R	R	shrub			
Hazards/Concerns									
Steep/slippery access to water									
Dead trees above/adjacent to site (indicate #)	1	1	4	2	4	1	2	1	0
Limited area for sanitation									
Poor drainage									
Exposed location (indicate exposed directions)	E	N				S			S
Much litter/debris									
Erosion due to previous use									
Potential impact on plants/wildlife									
Site not level	M	X		X	X				
Very small site	narrow								

Evaluation of campsites in eastern half of Five Ponds Wilderness Area,  
August 1991

Key to sites

- 18 (High Falls)  
HF\* Unnumbered site east of junction of trail and canoe carry at High Falls  
COW-L Cowhorn Pond leanto  
COW-T Two level tent sites behind Cowhorn Pond leanto. Has downhill grade by  
fire area. No real access to water by campsite.  
OLM-L Campsites adjacent to Olmstead Pond leanto  
OLM-W Northwest Olmstead Pond campsite (designated 1990)  
OLM-N North Olmstead Pond campsite (designated 1990)  
SPEC Spectacle Pond campsite (designated 1990). Trash pit, billy can  
present.  
GLAS Glasby Pond campsite (designated 1991). Shovel bottom and old railroad  
tie bracket present. Nice level tent site.

Notes

Evaluations performed by Jeff Cooper.

Jeff's campsite dimensions often include the entire camping area, while mine  
(JR) refer only to the area suitable for pitching a tent.

Site \_\_\_\_\_

Characteristic	COW-L	COW-T	OIM-L	OIM-W	OIM-N	SPEC	GLAS		
Approximate size (pace off)									
Length (ft)	66	50	15	25	20	20	40		
Width (ft)	40	36	10	20	15	10	30		
Vegetative cover (P= pines, D= deciduous, M= mixed, S= spruce/fir, Sh= shrub)	S	S	M	P	P	M	D		
View (M= mtns, L= lake/pond, R= river/stream, F= falls)	L	L	L	L	L	L	L/M		
Water source (L= lake/pond, R= river, S= spring)	L	L	L	L	L	L	L		
Distance from trail/canoe route	0.2mi	0.3mi	150'	150'	150'	0.1mi	150'		
Is site screened from (Y= yes, N= no, P= partially):									
Trail/canoe route	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		
Other sites	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		
Lake/river (if present)	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y	N		
Fire ring (S= stone, P= pit, W= wood box, N= none)	S	N	S	S	S	S	S		
Other "improvements":									
Table	N	N	N	N	N	N	N		
Outhouse				N	N	N	N		
Etc. (*= see notes)			grate	grate	N	seat	grate	*	
Firewood availability (H/M/L)	M	M	L	M	H	H	H		
Food hanging site? (Y/N)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		
Swimming potential (H/M/L)	M	M	H	H	M	L	M		
Biting insect rating (H/M/L)	L	M	L	L	M	L	L		
Cleanliness rating (H/M/L)	M+	H	M	H	L	M	H		
Shoreline (S= sand, M= mud, R= rock, G= gravel)									
Hazards/Concerns									
Steep/slippery access to water			X	X			X		
Dead trees above/adjacent to site (indicate #)	1	2	2	2	0	1	1		
Limited area for sanitation									
Poor drainage									
Exposed location (indicate exposed directions)	S	SW		S		W	E		
Much litter/debris			X		X				
Erosion due to previous use									
Potential impact on plants/wildlife									
Site not level		X			X	X			
Very small site			X			X			

Report on the Oswegatchie River, the Five Ponds Trail  
and the leantos at Big Shallow, Little Shallow, Wolf Pond and Sand Lake  
August 25-29, 1991

<u>Location/Site No.</u>	<u>Work Performed/Comments/Recommendations</u>
+5	Site is clean, firering good, added rocks to firering
Straight of the Woods	Large blowdown across river. Passable in high water, but difficult in low water. Debris accumulates upstream of tree. Recommend removing additional section.
44	Clean, firering good.
43	Clean, firering good.
42	Clean, firering good. Large site, excellent view of marsh. Bench constructed on site. Large wood/plastic frame on site. Placed near river and notified trail crew.
41 (High Rock)	Occupied, could not inspect.
40	Clean, firering good. Evidence of use.
39	Clean, firering good.
38 (Griffin Rapids)	Table constructed. Fireplace good. Removed old foam pad and plastic.
37	Firering good, several table constructed out of plywood and particle board. Clean, evidence of use.
36	Table and stool constructed. Removed foil from firering, which is in good condition.
35	Small site, difficult landing. Clean, not much use. Needs additional rocks for fire-ring.
34 (Cage Lake Springhole Leanto)	Deacon log rotting, about half gone. Plywood table constructed. Firering good. Site generally clean. Removed piece of sheet metal. Privy half full, put in some organic material. Piece of privy door missing.
33	Clean, firering good.
32	Cleaned tin foil from firering, which is good condition. Site clean. Excellent site for large party. Nice location near small marsh.

(continued)

- 31 Clean, firering good. Large site, suitable for 2-3 tents.
- 30 Site needs major (group) cleanup effort. Wood storage box, metal stove need to be removed. Removed litter. Site is overgrown. Should vegetation be cut back in spring?
- 29 Clean, firering good, small site suitable for one tent.
- 28 (Ross Rapids) Clean, firering good. Woodstove on site. Spring between this site and site #27 not flowing.
- 27 Clean, firering good. Bench constructed.
- 26 Clean, firering good.
- 25 Large pieces of metal need to be removed (by a group). Privy is badly damaged. Should be replaced or removed. This is an excellent site which would benefit from some attention. Removed litter.
- Trail to Big Shallow Condition of trail generally good. Section of trail where it begins to parallel stream should be more clearly marked.
- Big Shallow leanto Leanto in generally good condition. Roof intact. Added additional rocks to fireplace. Removed litter. Small amount of metal trash needs to be removed (will do in spring). Raked inside and outside of leanto. Spring was dry. Privy in terrible condition. Badly rotted and nearly full. Requires replacement as soon as possible to prevent site from being abused by campers who do not practice correct sanitation procedures. Left register. Rake and shovel on site.
- Little Shallow leanto Site was terribly abused. Privy dragged down from location behind leanto and used as woodshed. Picked up trash littered about the site. Firering was dismantled and another built next to leanto. Rebuilt original one. Table constructed using privy roof. Military-style cot left in leanto. Raked inside and outside of leanto. Left firewood. Shovel and rake on site. Site needs privy. Left register.
- Trail between Little Shallow and Wolf Pond/Sand Lake Junction Large blowdown on trail shortly after trail leaves outlet stream. Recommend clearing.

(continued)

## Wolf Pond leanto

Leanto in good condition. Several references in register to problem with bears. Raked inside and outside of leanto. Picked up scattered trash. Firing needs some additional rocks. Sign to Cage Lake/Five Ponds Trail Junction missing. Recommend attaching new sign to side of leanto. Some metal trash on site. Should it be buried or will a group pack it out? Rake, broom and shovel on site.

## Sand Lake leanto

New roof and privy are fantastic! Great improvement to site. Highest commendations to trail crew for their work. Remains of old privy need to be addressed - bury, remove or burn? Sides of leanto need to be stained - I could do it in the spring if it isn't already done. Raked inside/outside of leanto. Removed scattered litter. Sleeping bag was left in leanto, needs to be removed. Cleaned fireplace and added rocks. Register on site along with rake and shovel.

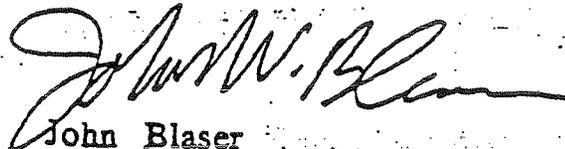
Conclusions:

As you will note from my report, there are several sites in the area which require the attention of the trail crew and/or a volunteer group. On the river, sites #30 and #25 require the removal/disposal of large metal objects which are beyond my ability to do independently. The privys at Big Shallow and Little Shallow require immediate attention. Based on my experience with the users of the area, it will not take long for these sites to become trashed through improper sanitation procedures. Since these two sites get a lot of use, it would be wise to make this a priority task. The installation of privys at these sites could be combined with the cleanup of both sites, since both have large, metal trash to be removed.

Future Efforts:

I anticipate making a trip to the area in April of 1992. During this time I will inspect the lower river sites, visit the leantos if trail conditions permit and make a visit to the upper river (which I haven't done for two years now). I would like to continue assisting the DEC in my current role, concentrating my efforts on the river sites and the leantos at Big and Little Shallow, since they seem require the most attention at this point. If there are other items which you feel are more important or need to be addressed, please let me know.

Cordially yours,



John Blaser  
27 Fisher Avenue  
Tuckahoe, NY 10707

## FIVE PONDS WILDERNESS

ASST. FOREST RANGER REPORT  
May 1 to Sept. 4, 1986  
by

GREGORY J. POIRIER

INTRODUCTION

This report is a summarization of my activities and observations as an Asst. Forest Ranger in the Five Ponds Wilderness from May 1 to September 4, 1986.

PUBLIC USE

Registration booth data from the following booths: High Falls Truck Trail, Janacks Landing and Six Mile Creek Trail were picked up at about three week intervals. Approximately two-thirds of users signed the registers.

Early in the season (May to mid-June) most of the campers came just to fish. The following areas were the most popular destinations: Cowhorn Pond, Glasby Pond and Olmstead Pond.

Later in the season (mid-June to Sept.) High Falls was the most common destination for campers, dayhikers and canoeists. On most Saturday evenings camping areas in the immediate vicinity of High Falls were at full capacity. Approximately 30 to 40 people could be found here on the weekends.

The most commonly used route to High Falls was the Oswegatchie River. Second most popular route was for boaters to leave their boats at Janacks Landing, then hike across the Plains to High Falls and return in the evening to their boats. Most overnite backpackers chose to follow the High Falls Truck Trail and Leary Trail to High Falls.

The next most common destination for day use is Sliding Rock on Six Mile Creek. Boaters would leave their boats at West Flow and hike to go swimming and picnicking.

Another common destination for dayhikers was Cat Mt. with equal numbers starting in Wanakena at the Dead Creek Truck Trail and boaters starting from Janacks Landing.

The following areas were popular spots for campers (in order from most used to least): High Falls, Janacks Landing, Olmstead Pond, Cowhorn Pond, Griffin's Rapids, Cage Lake Spring Hole and the lean-tos at Big and Little Shallow Ponds.

Most overnite backpackers prefer to go in on one trail and come out on a different trail, hence trails that make a loop (came back to the starting point) are popular. Most used are the Loop Trail and the Plains Trail

Another route that would be more popular, if maintained, would be the Five Ponds, Wold Pond and Cage Lake loop. Several backpackers have expressed their disappointment that this trail is not maintained. On two separate occasions I have ferried hikers across the Oswegatchie River at Cage Lake Spring Hole.

Peak use was in August with the 4th of July and Labor Day weekends receiving high use.

Littering was generally infrequent with some exceptions, it was a common practice to leave leftover food at Cowhorn Pond and High Falls lean-tos which wildlife would scatter all over. In a few areas plastic was also left in the woods. At High Falls people would leave the area with their campfire still burning. It helped alot to be present Sunday before people left.

Eighty percent of the people I encountered had some negative comment on the conditions of the trails, particularly where bridges were absent.

Several people liked to hike with their dogs, in a few instances the unleashed dogs were aggressive and a menace to others.

Use of Lows Lake has increased this year over last years use.

Most of the users were from the Watertown and Syracuse regions. More people this year than last year were from Fort Drum.

### TRAIL CONDITIONS

As mentioned previously most users were disappointed with the trail conditions. Most problems relate to bridges or lack of bridges. Twice this summer I fell through bridges. The first time I merely got wet, but the second time I almost had an eight inch spike go through my leg -- fortunately only my pants were torn.

At least once this year trails were free of blowdowns, but heavy rainfall this summer brought down a lot of trees. It became

impossible for one person to remove all the blowdowns.

### SPECIFIC TRAILS

- High Falls Truck Trail: Trail is probably impassable to motor vehicle due to washouts, lots of blowdowns across route, needs brushing out, three beaver dams flooding near Glasby Creek.
- Leary Trail: Several small stringer over mudholes are out, several large hardwoods across trail, trail was brushed out in June.
- Five Ponds Trail: Section just before Oswegatchie River crossing is flooded, several small bridges need to be repaired or removed, relatively free of brush and blowdowns.
- Five Ponds to Wolf Pond: Some bridges need to be removed or repaired, large blowdowns across trail, relatively free of brush.
- Wolf Pond to Sand Lake: Either a bridge built or the trail relocated upstream at the crossing of Streeter Fishpond's outlet as the outlet plumes down a 30 foot falls below the trail crossing and is hazardous in wet weather, a few wet areas are along the trail.
- Wolf Pond to Cage Lake: Crossing of Wold Pond's outlet is very wet, possibly relocate trail to west side of Wold Pond.
- High Falls Bridge: This bridge is showing signs of deterioration. Several planks are rotted underneath bridge. Could soon become very dangerous.
- Plains Trail: Bridge at crossing of Glasby Creek near Boiling Springs is unsafe. Relocating trail south of Glasby Creek would eliminate two wet, dangerous and unnecessary crossings of Glasby Creek.
- Dead Creek Truck Trail: Good condition.
- Janacks Landing to Cowhorn Jct.: Several need work particularly around Glasby Pond where several hard paths exist to avoid mudholes. Several large hardwoods across trail from Cat Mt. Jct. to Cowhorn Jct.
- Cat Mt. Trail: Good condition.
- Cowhorn Jct. to High Falls: Trail was brushed out and blowdown removed in May. Both crossings of Nicks Pond's outlet are wet and swampy. Relocating trail north of this outlet would eliminate stream crossings and swamps and also reduce a lot of erosion.

- Cowhorn Jct. to Big Deer Pond: Blowdown and brush were removed in early summer but several recent and large blowdowns are present.

- Six Mile Creek Trail: Area one-quarter mile south of west flow is very muddy and eroded, generally trail is in good condition.

- Olmstead Pond Trail: Couple of muddy areas before crossing of ponds outlet. Trail needs brushing out.

- Ash Pond Trail: Several large blowdowns across trail. Trail gets very little use.

### SUMMARY

Most wilderness users were glad to see a ranger, as I was able to provide a source of information on trails, places to see and rules.

Some trails in this wilderness should be designated and maintained for horses as several people were interested in using horses.

Most trails are inadequately maintained. I was usually the only person working on the trails and most projects are beyond the ability of one person working alone. If the trails were in better condition it would surely enhance the public's image of the DEC, as the public feels that it should be getting more for its tax dollar.

FIVE PONDS WILDERNESS  
ASST. FOREST RANGER'S REPORT

June 11 to October 21, 1988

by  
Gregory J. Poirier

Introduction

This report is a summarization of my activities and observations as an Assistant Forest Ranger in the Five Ponds Wilderness from June 11 to October 21, 1988.

Public Use

Registration page sheets from the following registers: High Falls Truck Trail, Six Mile Creek Trail, and Janack's Landing were removed and handed into my supervisor throughout the season.

Generally, I would cover anywhere from 5 to 20 miles of trail each day, which would vary according to the amount of trail maintenance work completed and the number of people encountered on the trail. river and in campsites.

On any given day during July-August I would encounter an average of 20 people a day hiking the trail, canoeing, and camping. Of these approximately 60% were staying one night or more. Of the total number of people encountered over the season (927 total), approximately 10% were staying one week or more, with the longest stay being three weeks.

On any weekend night (Friday-Saturday) it was almost certain that the following lean-tos would be in use: High Falls, Janacks Landing, Cowhorn Pond, and Olmstead Ponds.

Use dropped off immediately after Labor Day, picking up again on weekends with the opening of early bear season and the fall foilage color change.

Sixty-five percent of users lived within a three hour drive from Wanakena, 20% within a 3 to 6 hour drive, with the remaining being from the NYC metropolitan

area, other states and countries (one couple from England).

Why did people chose the Five Ponds area to recreate in? Main reasons were for the solitude and the chance to observe wildlife. A number of people were looking for some place more remote and less crowded than the High Peaks.

The public voiced concern on the following issues:

-- 138 people felt that the High Falls bridge should be replaced.

-- 79 people believed that the red trail from High Falls to Clear Pond should be maintained since their main reason for coming to the area was to hike the "loop".

-- 43 people mentioned that the High Falls Truck Trail should be maintained for motor vehicle access in the event of an emergency.

Since these concerns were mentioned to me without asking for any opinion, I feel these numbers would be much higher if every person encountered were asked what they thought of these items.

In the future I would recommend that survey question sheets be made up that would provide the public use information needed for management decisions. The Assistant Forest Ranger could ask the people the specific information needed, and any additional comments could be obtained at that time.

#### Trails and Facilities

Generally all lean-tos are in fair to good condition and do not need any major repairs.

Most outhouses are in very poor condition, with the wooden seat structure haven been chewed away by porcupines, the only outhouse in good condition is the new one at Olmstead Pond which was replaced in September. I would recommend replacing the wooden seat unit with either a stainless steel or plastic unit (the plastic unit being more durable and vandal resistant).

All trails are in need of stringer bridges, waterbars and other erosion control work.

#### Specific Trails

- High Falls Truck Trail - good condition some flooding at first crossing of Skate Creek; beyond junction of Leary Trail lots of blowdown and flooding.
- Wolf Pond to Cage Lake - very overgrown and difficult to follow.
- Cowhorn Jct. to High Falls - in good condition and the crossings of Nicks Ponds outlet are dry and can be made on some large logs.

All other trails not mentioned are in need of erosion control work and could be brushed out.

#### Summary

Most wilderness users were glad to see an Assistant Forest Ranger, as I was able to provide a source of information on trails, places to see and rules.

I would like to see the Red Trail from Cowhorn Jct. to High Falls maintained as it is a popular and well used route enabling the recreationist to make a nice loop trip in the Five Ponds Wilderness.

GP/bd

10/28/88

Assistant Ranger Report:  
Five Ponds Wilderness Area  
by  
Eric J Fickbohm

RECEIVED  
SEP 20 1990  
NYS DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENTAL  
CONSERVATION - REGION 6  
LANDS & FORESTS - CANTON

Sub. to the desk of  
Bernard J. Siskavich  
09/11/90

Number of people encountered by myself wile on duty patrolling the Five Ponds wilderness area. May 21 through August 27,1990.

	May	June	July	Aug.	Totals
Campers	79	74	115	176	444
Day Hikers	30	6	29	33	98
Mtn. Bikes	0	0	2	0	2
Totals	109	80	146	209	544

A more accurate figure of the exact number of people using the area, could be closely estimated by calculating the registration books.

Given the expansiveness of the Five Ponds wilderness area, it would be difficult if not impossible to patrol it entirely in five days. Instead I divided the area into two sub-areas, east and west. The west sub-area consisting of the Leary trail, Five Ponds, Wolf Pond, Sand Lake, Cage Lake, and High Falls through Janack's landing. The east sub-area also consisting of High Falls and Janack's landing [since these tended to be high use areas], plus Cat mtn., Cat mtn. Pond to Cowhorn Pond, north to Cranberry Lake, south to Clear Pond and Lows Lake including the canoe carry. I tried to patrol alternate areas every other week.

The overall trail conditions in the area I would consider quite good. The threat of naturally occurring obstacles, such as deadfalls and beaver flooding has to be expected when using this area. The only section of trail I would consider bad is the yellow trail from Wolf Pond to Cage Lake. I would estimate this trail gets the least amount of use in the area [an estimated two groups besides myself this summer]. Besides the numerous deadfalls and flooding, this trail is so overgrown in many areas as to make it nearly impossible to determine trail whereabouts.

Garbage left behind by campers I'm sorry to report is a reality. Especially at High Falls and along the Oswegatchie River. It would seem to be a minority of the people who initially leave the trash. Most of the campers are clean and

considerate, many taking not only their own garbage out but also garbage that others left before them. Also many thanks should be given to the Boy Scout Troops that spent time cleaning up campsites and trails this summer. It would seem that the people that complain the most about the trash lying around, are the ones that do the least about it.

The people using the area seemed for the most part well versed in low impact camping and wilderness safety. I was only called twice to assist misdirect people and had no accident calls.

The job I had was of great experience. I worked diligently to be an asset to the Forest Ranger and to uphold the proper D.E.C. image. I felt very fortunate to have the job due to the scarcity of funds and limited full time manpower in the organization.

YOU ARE ENTERING THE FIVE PONDS WILDERNESS AREA.  
THESE LANDS ARE MANAGED AS WILDERNESS. THE AMENITIES  
THAT ARE PROVIDED ARE MINIMAL AND ALLOW YOU TO RELY UPON  
YOUR OUTDOOR SKILLS.

SOME RECENT MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES OF WHICH YOU  
MIGHT NOT BE AWARE ARE:

1. THE PLAINS TRAIL HAS BEEN RELOCATED SOUTHERLY  
TO THE BASE OF THREEMILE MOUNTAIN.
2. THE FORMER HIGH FALLS TRUCK TRAIL IS NOT BEING  
MAINTAINED AS A FOOT TRAIL BETWEEN THE BEGINNING  
AND END OF THE LEARY TRAIL.
3. THE HIGH FALLS AND CAGE LAKE SPRINGHOLE BRIDGES  
HAVE BEEN REMOVED.
4. THE TRAIL FROM BUCK POND TO CAGE LAKE SPRINGHOLE  
HAS BEEN ABANDONED.
5. THE FORMER LOOP TRAIL FROM CLEAR POND TO HIGH  
FALLS IS BEING ABANDONED.
6. THE ASH POND TRAIL IS BEING ABANDONED.

NYS DEC FORESTRY OFFICE  
30 COURT STREET  
CANTON, NY 13617

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5. THE FORMER LOOP TRAIL FROM CLEAR POND TO HIGH FALLS IS BEING ABANDONED.
6. THE ASH POND TRAIL IS BEING ABANDONED.
7. THE OLMSTEAD POND TRAIL HAS BEEN EXTENDED TO SIMMONS POND, SPECTACLE POND, AND BACK TO THE SIXMILE CREEK TRAIL TO FORM A LOOP.
8. THE LEARY AND NEW PLAINS TRAILS ARE NOW MARKED WITH RED TRAIL MARKERS.

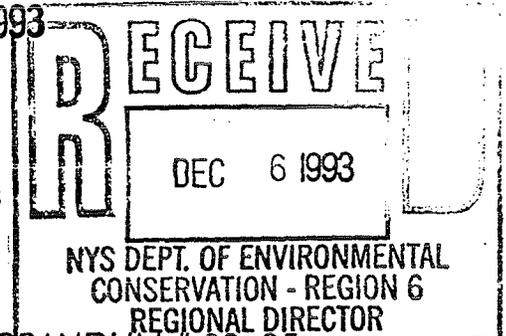
NYS DEC FORESTRY OFFICE  
30 COURT STREET  
CANTON, NY 13617

MEMORANDUM FROM  
**THOMAS C. JORLING**, Commissioner

New York State  
 Department of Environmental Conservation



DEC 0 2 1993



TO: Executive Staff, Division and Regional Directors

FROM: Thomas C. Jorling *[Signature]*

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

## BACKGROUND

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

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

For more than a decade, the Division of Fish and Wildlife has managed ecosystems consistent with legal mandates and professional concerns, with sensitivity for wilderness values and with the intent of providing unique recreational experiences. The

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Master Plans set no numerical standards on use intensity but indicate that fishing is "compatible with wilderness and should be encouraged as long as the degree and intensity of use does not endanger the wilderness resource itself."

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

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

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

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

The evolution of fisheries management in New York State and the Adirondack zone has been discussed in Shepherd et al. (1980) and Pfeiffer (1979). Program goals,

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objectives, policies and management strategies for lake trout including guidelines for stocking were developed by Plosila (1977). The strategic plan recognizes the importance of native Adirondack lake trout stocks and the considerable importance of these lake trout resources to the entire State. In 1979, a strategic plan for the management of wild and hybrid strains of brook trout was completed (Keller 1979). Preservation of native strains in the Adirondack and Catskill Mountains was a major component of that plan. Pfeiffer (1979) established goals, objectives and strategies for the management of broad classes of Adirondack fishery resources and significantly enunciated the importance of angling in wilderness, primitive and canoe areas and guidelines for fisheries management within these areas. The latter were consistent with those formulated earlier by Doig (1977). The philosophical and scientific underpinnings for trout stream management in New York with application to management of wilderness, primitive and canoe area trout streams, was completed in 1979 (Engstrom-Heg 1979 a). A recent draft plan for intensification of management of brook trout in 47 Adirondack ponds has been developed by DEC Regions 5 and 6 (Miller, 1986).

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

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

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

#### PURPOSE

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

## POLICY GUIDELINES

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

1. The primary purpose of aquatic resource management in wilderness primitive and canoe areas is to perpetuate natural aquatic ecosystems, including perpetuation of indigenous fish species on a self-sustaining basis.
2. Angling is recognized as a compatible recreational pursuit in wilderness, primitive and canoe areas. Aquatic resource management will emphasize the quality of the angling experience over quantity of use.
3. Aquatic resources in wilderness, primitive and canoe areas will be protected and managed so as to preserve, enhance and restore, where necessary, their natural conditions. Aquatic resource management, including stocking of game and nongame fishes and pond reclamation, may be necessary to achieve and perpetuate natural aquatic ecosystems.
4. Brown trout, rainbow trout, splake and landlocked Atlantic salmon are coldwater fish species historically associated with the Adirondack Park. Smallmouth bass, largemouth bass, northern pike and walleye are warmwater species historically associated with the entire Adirondack and Catskill Parks and indigenous to some lowland areas. These species may be included in the management and stocking regime of specific waters in wilderness, primitive, and canoe areas in instances when indigenous fish communities cannot be protected, maintained, or restored in those waters. Fish species, other than indigenous species and species historically associated with the Adirondack and Catskill Parks, will not be stocked in the waters of wilderness, primitive and canoe areas.
5. Waters found to be naturally barren of fish species will not be stocked. Waters which are self-sustaining or which otherwise would be self-sustaining except that they have been compromised by human-caused disturbances may be stocked consistent with these guidelines.
6. Pond reclamation will be practiced as appropriate to prepare or maintain waters in wilderness, primitive and canoe areas but only for the restoration or perpetuation of indigenous fish communities.

7. The Unit Management Plan for each wilderness, primitive, or canoe area shall identify aquatic resource management actions on a water-body-specific basis through analysis of unit inventory data adequate to support the actions.
8. In those instances where a Unit Management plan has not yet been approved for a given wilderness, primitive, or canoe area, aquatic resource management actions to stock waters may be continued in waters so managed before December 31, 1989, consistent with these guidelines pending approval of the Plan. Waters reclaimed prior to December 31, 1989 may be reclaimed subject to case-by-case review by the Adirondack Park Agency for consistency with these guidelines pending approval of the Plan. New waters may be stocked, reclaimed or limed only to prevent significant resource degradation, subject to case-by-case review by the Adirondack Park Agency for consistency with these guidelines pending approval of the Plan.
9. Liming to protect and maintain indigenous fish species may be continued as a mitigation measure for acid rain in Horn Lake (PO4854) and Tamarack Pond (PO6171). As UMP's are completed, new waters may be limed in accordance with the provisions of the Division of Fish and Wildlife Liming Policy presented on pages 2-7 of the Final GEIS on the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation Program of Liming Selected Acidified Waters. As provided in the Liming Policy, no naturally acidic waters or bog waters will be limed. All limed waters will be relimed in accordance with the provisions of the Liming Policy. Any water that must be relimed more than three times in ten years, except for original sources of heritage strains, will be allowed to reacidify.
10. All aquatic resource management activities in wilderness, primitive, and canoe areas will be consistent with guidelines for use of motor vehicles motorized equipment, and aircraft as stated in the State Land Master Plan.

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FIVE PONDS WILDERNESS AREA  
FISH SPECIES

Common Name	Scientific Name	Abbrev.
Blacknose dace	<i>Rhinichthys atratulus</i>	BlkD
Brook trout	<i>Salvelinus fontinalis</i>	ST
Brown bullhead	<i>Ameiurus nebulosus</i>	BB
Common shiner	<i>Luxilus cornutus</i>	CS
Creek chub	<i>Semotilus atromaculatus</i>	CC
Golden shiner	<i>Notemigonus crysoleucas</i>	GS
Lake trout	<i>Salvelinus namaycush</i>	LT
Northern redbelly dace	<i>Phoxinus eos</i>	RbD
Pearl dace	<i>Margariscus margarita</i>	PD
Pumpkinseed	<i>Lepomis gibbosus</i>	PS
Slimy sculpin	<i>Cottus cognatus</i>	SS
Splake	<i>Salvelinus fontinalis</i> X <i>S. namaycush</i>	SPL
White sucker	<i>Catostomus commersoni</i>	WS
Yellow perch	<i>Perca flavescens</i>	YP

## FIVE PONDS WILDERNESS AREA - LAKE AND POND INVENTORY July 1992

KEY N & WATERSHED	POND NAME	USGS QUAD	COUNTY	TOWN	SIZE (Acres)	FISH SPECIES	WATER QUALITY pH (Year)	MANAGEMENT		
								PAST	PRESENT	FUTURE
P171 R	Tanarack Pond	Wolf Mountain	St. Lawrence	Fine	17	ST,PS,CC	Satisfactory - 7.0 (91)	1990 DEC Limed: 1978,1990	NSA Brook trout Status uncertain Closed to angling	Lime as needed Monitor ST Potential stock w/heritage strain
P172 R	High Pond	Wolf Mountain	St. Lawrence	Fine	7	None	Acid threat - 5.16 (84)	1984 ALSC	None	
P189 OW	Rock Lake	Oswegatchie SE	Herkimer	Webb	54	None	Acidified - 4.97 (84)	1984 ALSC	None	
P190 OW	Emerald Lake	Oswegatchie SE	Herkimer	Webb	13	None	Acidified - 4.69 (84)	1984 ALSC	None	
P191 OW	Sand Lake	Oswegatchie SE	Herkimer	Webb	72	ST,BB,WS	Acidified - 4.99 (84)	1992 DEC	NSA Brook trout	Same
P192 OW	Sitz Pond	Big Moose 15"	Herkimer	Webb	12	None	Acidified - 4.72 (84)	1984 ALSC	None	
P195 OW	Muskrat Pond	Number Four 15"	Herkimer	Webb	17	None	Acidified - 4.43 (85)	1985 ALSC	None	
P196 OW	Bear Pond	Number Four 15"	Herkimer	Webb	78	None	Satisfactory - 6.30 (92)	1985 ALSC Limed 1992	Stocked Horn Lake strain ST - 1992	NSA, Lime as needed Brood stock water
P197 OW	Diana Pond	Number Four 15"	Herkimer	Webb	27	None	Acidified - 4.61 (85)	1985 ALSC	None	
P198 OW	Lower South Pond	Number Four 15"	Herkimer	Webb	38	None	Acidified - 4.78 (84)	1984 ALSC	None	
P199 OW	Middle South Pond	Number Four 15"	Herkimer	Webb	48	None	Acidified - 4.71 (84)	1984 ALSC	None	
P200 OW	Upper South Pond	Number Four 15"	Herkimer	Webb	14	None	Acidified - 4.73 (84)	1984 ALSC	None	
P201 OW	W Beechridge Pond	Big Moose 15"	Herkimer	Webb	14	None	Acidified - 4.66 (84)	1984 ALSC	None	
P202 OW	Unnamed Pond	Big Moose 15"	Herkimer	Webb	4	None	Acidified - 4.66 (84)	1984 ALSC	None	
P203 OW	E Beechridge Pond	Big Moose 15"	Herkimer	Webb	23	None	Acidified - 4.63 (84)	1984 ALSC	None	
P204 OW	Unnamed Pond	Big Moose 15"	Herkimer	Webb	10	None	Acidified - 4.53 (84)	1984 ALSC	None	

## FIVE PONDS WILDERNESS AREA - LAKE AND POND INVENTORY July 1992

KEY # & WATERSHED	POND NAME	USGS QUAD	COUNTY	TOWN	SIZE (Acres)	FISH SPECIES	WATER QUALITY pH (Year)	MANAGEMENT		
								PAST	PRESENT	FUTURE
P205 OW	Unnamed Pond	Big Moose 15°	Herkimer	Webb	17	None	Acidified - 4.68 (84)	1984 ALSC	None	
P206 OW	Unnamed Pond	Big Moose 15°	Herkimer	Webb	3	None	Acidified - 4.3 (84)	1984 ALSC	None	
P207 OW	Unnamed Pond	Big Moose 15°	Herkimer	Webb	7	None	Acidified - 4.56 (84)	1984 ALSC	None	
P208 OW	Unnamed Pond	Big Moose 15°	Herkimer	Webb	8	None	Acidified - 4.59 (84)	1984 ALSC	None	
P209 OW	Unnamed Pond	Big Moose 15°	Herkimer	Webb	4	None	Acidified - 4.7 (84)	1984 ALSC	None	
P210 OW	Willys Pond	Big Moose 15°	Herkimer	Webb	60	None	Acidified - 4.68 (84)	1984 ALSC	None	Line & stock heritage strain ST
P211 OW	Unnamed Pond	Big Moose 15°	Herkimer	Webb	1	None	Acidified - 4.64 (85)	1985 ALSC	None	
P212 OW	Unnamed Pond	Big Moose 15°	Herkimer	Webb	2	None	Acidified - 4.69 (85)	1985 ALSC	None	
P213 OW	Unnamed Pond	Big Moose 15°	Herkimer	Webb	5	None	Acidified - 4.57 (85)	1985 ALSC	None	
P214 OW	Walker Lake	Big Moose 15°	Herkimer	Webb	38	None	Acidified - 4.77 (84)	1984 ALSC	None	Line & stock heritage strain ST
P286 OW	Pine Pond	Oswegatchie SE	St. Lawrence	Fine	4	RbD,CC	Acid threat - 5.06 (84)	1984 ALSC	None	
P287 OW	Mud Pond	Oswegatchie SE	St. Lawrence	Fine	7	BB	Acidified - 4.82 (86)	1986 ALSC	None	
P290 OW	Little Otter Pond	Oswegatchie SE	St. Lawrence	Fine	Small	Unknown	Warm	DEC	None	
P318 OW	Fish Pole Pond	Wolf Mountain	St. Lawrence	Clifton	15	ST,CC,WS, GS,RbD	Acid threat - 5.94 (84)	1984 ALSC	Stocked ST 500 PF	Same
P319 OW	Darning Needle Pd	Wolf Mountain	St. Lawrence	Clifton	24	ST,SPL,GS, CC,WS	Satisfactory - 6.04 (84)	1984 ALSC	Stocked ST 500 PF	Same
P320 OW	Little Fish Pond	Wolf Mountain	St. Lawrence	Clifton	5	None	Acid threat - 5.29 (86)	1986 ALSC	None	

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## FIVE PONDS WILDERNESS AREA - LAKE AND POND INVENTORY July 1992

KEY # & WATERSHED	POND NAME	USGS QUAD	COUNTY	TOWN	SIZE (Acres)	FISH SPECIES	WATER QUALITY pH (Year)	MANAGEMENT		
								PAST	PRESENT	FUTURE
P325 OW	Indian Mountain Pd	Cranberry Lake	St. Lawrence	Clifton	12	None	Acidified - 4.95 (84)	1984 ALSC	None	
P326 OW	Ash Pond	Wolf Mountain	St. Lawrence	Clifton	5	None	Acidified - 4.85 (84)	1984 ALSC	None	
P327 OW	Cowhorn Pond	Wolf Mountain	St. Lawrence	Clifton	22	ST,CC,PS, WS,RbD	Satisfactory - 6.42 (85)	1985 ALSC	Stocked ST 1000 FF	Same
P328 OW	Olmstead Pond	Wolf Mountain	St. Lawrence	Clifton	51	ST,GS	Satisfactory - 6.08 (91)	1991 DEC	Stocked ST 1600 FF	Same
P329 OW	Cat Mountain Pond	Wolf Mountain	St. Lawrence	Clifton	21	ST,BB	Acid threat - 5.21 (85)	1985 ALSC	Stocked ST 500 FF	Same
P330 OW	Bassout Pond	Wolf Mountain	St. Lawrence	Clifton	23	BB	Acidified - 4.86 (86)	1986 ALSC	None	
P331 OW	Unnamed Pond	Wolf Mountain	St. Lawrence	Clifton	3	BB	Acid threat - 5.48 (85)	1985 ALSC	None	
P332 OW	Unnamed Pond	Wolf Mountain	St. Lawrence	Clifton		Unknown	Unknown	None	None	
P333 OW	Toad Pond	Cranberry Lake	St. Lawrence	Clifton	7	ST,RbD	Acid threat - 5.28 (84)	1984 ALSC	NSA Brook trout	Same
P334 OW	North Spectacle Pd	Cranberry Lake	St. Lawrence	Clifton	6	BB	Acid threat - 5.62 (91)	1984 ALSC	Managed with South Spectacle Pd P335	Same
P335 OW	South Spectacle Pd	Cranberry Lake	St. Lawrence	Clifton	6	ST	Acid threat - 5.57 (91)	1991 DEC	Stocked ST 400 FF	Same
P336 OW	Simmons Pond	Wolf Mountain	St. Lawrence	Clifton	16	ST	Acid threat - 5.73 (91)	1991 DEC	Stocked ST 200 FF	Same
P338 OW	Unnamed Pond	Newton Falls	St. Lawrence	Fine	7	YP,GS,BB	Satisfactory - 7.39 (84)	1984 ALSC	None	
P340 OW	Otter Pond	Five Ponds	St. Lawrence	Fine	43	YP,BB,WS, GS,CC	Acid threat - 5.07 (84)	1984 ALSC	None	
P344 OW	Cage Lake	Osevegatchie SE	Herkimer	Webb	43	ST	Acid threat - 5.48 (90)	1990 DEC	Stocked ST 1100 FF	Same
P345 OW	Big Shallow Pond	Five Ponds	Herkimer	Webb	10	ST,WS,BB,CC	Satisfactory - 7.08 (91)	1991 DEC	NSA Brook trout	Same
P346 OW	Washbowl Pond	Five Ponds	Herkimer	Webb	5	None	Acidified - 4.40 (91)	1986 ALSC	None	

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## FIVE PONDS WILDERNESS AREA - LAKE AND POND INVENTORY July 1992

KEY # & WATERSHED	POND NAME	USGS QUAD	COUNTY	TOWN	SIZE (Acres)	FISH SPECIES	WATER QUALITY pH (Year)	MANAGEMENT		
								PAST	PRESENT	FUTURE
P347 OW	Little Shallow Pd	Five Ponds	Herkimer	Webb	6	ST,WS,BB	Satisfactory - 6.88 (91)	1991 DEC	NSA Brook trout	Same
P348 OW	Little Five Pond	Five Ponds	Herkimer	Webb	6	ST,PS,BB,CC	Satisfactory - 6.48 (91)	1986 ALSC	NSA Brook trout	Same
P349 OW	Big Five Pond	Five Ponds	Herkimer	Webb	13	ST,PS,WS	Satisfactory - 6.44 (91)	1991 DEC	NSA Brook trout	Same
P350 OW	Lone Duck Pond	Five Ponds	Herkimer	Webb	4	None	Acid threat - 5.29 (86)	1986 ALSC	None	
P351 OW	Huir Pond	Five Ponds	Herkimer	Webb	12	None	Acidified - 4.39 (84)	1984 ALSC	None	
P352 OW	Wolf Pond	Five Ponds	Herkimer	Webb	70	ST,PS,BB	Acidified - 4.68 (84)	1984 ALSC	NSA Brook trout	Same
P353 OW	Streeter Fish Pond	Five Ponds	Herkimer	Webb	13	None	Acid threat - 5.09 (85)	1985 ALSC	None	Lime & stock heritage strain ST
P354 OW	Lower Riley Pond	Five Ponds	Herkimer	Webb	12	None	Acidified - 4.45 (84)	1984 ALSC	None	
P355 OW	Upper Riley Pond	Five Ponds	Herkimer	Webb	14	None	Acidified - 4.46 (84)	1984 ALSC	None	
P356 OW	Unnamed Pond	Five Ponds	St. Lawrence	Clifton	4	None	Acidified - 4.80 (85)	1985 ALSC	None	
P357 OW	Glasby Pond	Five Ponds	St. Lawrence	Clifton	9	ST,BB	Acidified - 4.98 (85)	1985 ALSC	Stocked ST 300 FF	Same
P359 OW	Nicks Pond	Wolf Mountain	Herkimer	Webb	15	ST,WS,BB,PS, GS,CC,BkD	Satisfactory - 6.63 (86)	1986 ALSC	NSA Brook trout	Same
P360 OW	Big Deer Pond	Wolf Mountain	Hamilton	Long Lk	56	BB,PS,CC,RbD	Satisfactory - 6.39 (84)	1984 ALSC	None	
P361 OW	Clear Pond	Wolf Mountain	St. Lawrence	Clifton	15	ST,BB,WS, RbD,CC,PS	Satisfactory - 7.13 (91)	1991 DEC Limed 1990	Stocked ST 700 FF	Same
P362 OW	Grassy Pond	Wolf Mountain	St. Lawrence	Clifton	3	None	Acidified - 4.79 (84)	1984 ALSC	None	
P363 OW	Slender Pond	Wolf Mountain	St. Lawrence	Clifton	13	None	Acid threat - 5.23 (85)	1985 ALSC	None	Possible stock heritage strain ST

## FIVE PONDS WILDERNESS AREA - LAKE AND POND INVENTORY July 1992

KEY # & WATERSHED	POND NAME	USGS QUAD	COUNTY	TOWN	SIZE (Acres)	FISH SPECIES	WATER QUALITY pH (Year)	MANAGEMENT		
								PAST	PRESENT	FUTURE
P364 OW	West Pond	Five Ponds	Herkimer	Webb	12	None	Acidified - 4.86 (84)	1984 ALSC	None	
P365 OW	Oven Lake	Five Ponds	Herkimer	Webb	52	None	Acidified - 4.62 (84)	1984 ALSC	None	
P366 OW	Grassy Pond	Five Ponds	Herkimer	Webb	29	None	Acidified - 4.61 (84)	1984 ALSC	None	
P368 OW	Hitchens Pond	Five Ponds	Herkimer	Webb	11	None	Acidified - 4.69 (84)	1984 ALSC	None	
P369 OW	Toad Pond	Five Ponds	Herkimer	Webb	24	None	Acidified - 4.64 (84)	1984 ALSC	None	
P370 OW	Unnamed Pond	Five Ponds	Herkimer	Webb	2	None	Acidified - 4.39 (85)	1985 ALSC	None	
P371 OW	Unnamed Pond	Five Ponds	Herkimer	Webb	11	None	Acidified - 4.49 (84)	1984 ALSC	None	
P372 OW	Little Crooked Lk	Five Ponds	Herkimer	Webb	18	None	Acidified - 4.77 (84)	1984 ALSC	None	
P373 OW	Crooked Lake	Big Moose 15"	Herkimer	Webb	117	None	Acidified - 4.85 (84)	1984 ALSC	None	
P374 OW	Covey Pond	Big Moose 15"	Herkimer	Webb	4	None	Acidified - 4.34 (84)	1984 ALSC	None	
P375 OW	Cracker Pond	Five Ponds	Herkimer	Webb	19	None	Acidified - 4.88 (84)	1984 ALSC	None	
P376 OW	Gal Pond	Five Ponds	Herkimer	Webb	14	None	Acid threat - 5.06 (84)	1984 ALSC	None	
P496 B	Raven Lake	Number Four 15"	Herkimer	Webb	115	None	Acidified - 4.87 (85)	1985 ALSC	None	
P497 B	Unnamed Pond	Number Four 15"	Herkimer	Webb	9	None	Acidified - 4.59 (85)	1985 ALSC	None	
P498 B	Lyon Lake	Number Four 15"	Herkimer	Webb	80	None	Acidified - 4.58 (85)	1985 ALSC	None	Lime & stock heritage strain ST
P499 B	Slim Pond	Number Four 15"	Herkimer	Webb	16	None	Acid threat - 5.66 (85)	1985 ALSC	None	
P500 B	Evergreen Lake	Number Four 15"	Herkimer	Webb	45	None	Acidified - 4.73 (85)	1985 ALSC	None	Lime & stock heritage strain ST

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## FIVE PONDS WILDERNESS AREA - LAKE AND POND INVENTORY July 1992

KEY # & WATERSHED	POND NAME	USGS QUAD	COUNTY	TOWN	SIZE (Acres)	FISH SPECIES	WATER QUALITY pH (Year)	MANAGEMENT		
								PAST	PRESENT	FUTURE
P501 B	Unnamed Pond	Number Four 15"	Herkimer	Webb	4	None	Acid threat - 5.08 (85)	1985 ALSC	None	
P502 B	Peaked Mt Pond	Number Four 15"	Herkimer	Webb	37	None	Acidified - 4.78 (85)	1985 ALSC	None	Line & stock heritage strain ST
P503 B	Unnamed Pond	Big Moose 15"	Herkimer	Webb	Small	None	Unknown	None	None	
P504 B	Hawk Pond	Big Moose 15"	Herkimer	Webb	34	None	Acidified - 4.73 (84)	1984 ALSC	None	Line & stock heritage strain ST
P505 B	Hidden Lake	Big Moose 15"	Herkimer	Webb	18	None	Acidified - 4.92 (85)	1985 ALSC	None	Line & stock heritage strain ST
P506 B	Unnamed Pond	Number Four 15"	Herkimer	Webb	2	None	Acidified - 4.70 (85)	1985 ALSC	None	
P508 B	Ginger Pond	Number Four 15"	Herkimer	Webb	15	None	Acid threat - 5.16 (85)	1985 ALSC	None	
P510 B	Unnamed Pond	Big Moose 15"	Herkimer	Webb	9	None	Acidified - 4.56 (85)	1985 ALSC	None	
P511 B	Soda Pond	Number Four 15"	Herkimer	Webb	21	None	Acidified - 4.72 (85)	1985 ALSC	None	Line & stock heritage strain ST
P512 B	Unnamed Pond	Big Moose 15"	Herkimer	Webb	6	None	Acidified - 4.43 (84)	1984 ALSC	None	
P513 B	Huckleberry Lake	Big Moose 15"	Herkimer	Webb	21	None	Acidified - 4.71 (85)	1985 ALSC	None	
P515 B	Dismal Pond	Big Moose 15"	Herkimer	Webb	53	None	Acidified - 4.55 (84)	1984 ALSC	None	
P517 B	Salmon Lake	Big Moose 15"	Herkimer	Webb	110	ST,LT,YP,BB, PS	Acid threat - 5.42 (84)	1984 ALSC	NSA Brook trout	Potential stock
P518 B	Unnamed Pond	Big Moose 15"	Herkimer	Webb	17	YP,BB,GS	Acid threat - 5.19 (85)	1985 ALSC	None	
P520 B	Unnamed Pond	Big Moose 15"	Herkimer	Webb	3	Unknown	Unknown	None	None	

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## FIVE PONDS WILDERNESS AREA - LAKE AND POND INVENTORY July 1992

KEY # & WATERSHED	POND NAME	USGS QUAD	COUNTY	TOWN	SIZE (Acres)	FISH SPECIES	WATER QUALITY pH (Year)	MANAGEMENT		
								PAST	PRESENT	FUTURE
P521 B	Unnamed Pond	Big Moose 15"	Herkimer	Webb	13	BB,YP,GS	Acid threat - 5.03 (84)	1984 ALSC	None	
P522 B	Higby Twin Pond E	Big Moose 15"	Herkimer	Webb	16	None	Acidified - 4.78 (84)	1984 ALSC	None	
P523 B	Higby Twin Pond W	Big Moose 15"	Herkimer	Webb	13	None	Acidified - 4.83 (84)	1984 ALSC	None	
P524 B	Mud Pond	Big Moose 15"	Herkimer	Webb	3	None	Acid threat - 5.11 (84)	1984 ALSC	None	
P525 B	Clear Lake	Big Moose 15"	Herkimer	Webb	99	ST (Rare)	Acid threat - 5.09 (84)	1984 ALSC	None	
P526 B	Unnamed Pond	Big Moose 15"	Herkimer	Webb	5	None	Acidified - 4.84 (85)	1985 ALSC	None	
P527 B	Summit Pond	Big Moose 15"	Herkimer	Webb	13	None	Acidified - 4.80 (84)	1984 ALSC	None	Line & stock heritage strain ST
P528 B	Witchhopple Lake	Big Moose 15"	Herkimer	Webb	93	YP,ST,WS,BB, GS	Acid threat - 5.67 (84)	1984 ALSC	NSA Brook trout	Potential stock
P529 B	Negro Lake	Big Moose 15"	Herkimer	Webb	119	LT,ST,BB,GS, YP,WS	Satisfactory - 6.06 (84)	1984 ALSC	NSA Brook trout NSA Lake trout	Same
P530 B	Beaverdam Pond	Big Moose 15"	Herkimer	Webb	52	YP,BB,GS	Acid threat - 5.11 (84)	1984 ALSC	None	
P531 B	Wilder Pond	Big Moose 15"	Herkimer	Webb	10	None	Acidified - 4.86 (84)	1984 ALSC	None	
P534 B	Little Rock Pond	Big Moose 15"	Herkimer	Webb	50	None	Acidified - 4.75 (82)	1972 DEC	None	Line & stock heritage strain ST
P540 B	Buck Pond	Big Moose 15"	Herkimer	Webb	7	RbD	Acid threat - 5.73 (84)	1984 ALSC	None	Potential stock

DEC - Department of Environmental Conservation, ALSC - Adirondack Lakes Survey Corporation, NSA - Natural Spawning Adequate  
 Watershed: B - Black, OW - Oswegatchie, R - Raquette River

FIVE PONDS WILDERNESS AREA - STREAM INVENTORY July 1992

KEY #	STREAM NAME	WATERSHED	COUNTY	TOWN	SIZE		MANAGEMENT COMMENTS
					USGS QUAD 15 <sup>a</sup>	(MILES)	
SL-25	Oswegatchie River	Oswegatchie	St. Lawrence/ Herkimer	Fine/ Webb/Long Lake	Cranberry Lake	10.0	Stocked: Brook trout (2800 per year)
SL-25-73-26	Middle Branch Oswegatchie River	Oswegatchie	Herkimer	Webb	Number Four	6.0	Acid Impacted
SL-25-101-24	Tamarack Creek	Oswegatchie	St. Lawrence	Fine	Oswegatchie	5.0	
SL-25-101-25	Alice Brook	Oswegatchie	St. Lawrence	Fine	Oswegatchie	4.5	
SL-25-P309-11	Chair Rock Creek	Oswegatchie	St. Lawrence	Clifton	Cranberry Lake	2.0	
SL-25-P309-12	Six Mile Creek	Oswegatchie	St. Lawrence	Clifton	Cranberry Lake	4.9	
SL-25-P309-18	Dead Creek	Oswegatchie	St. Lawrence	Fine	Cranberry Lake	1.3	
SL-25-P309-23	Skate Creek	Oswegatchie	St. Lawrence	Fine	Cranberry Lake	1.2	
SL-25-124	Buck Brook	Oswegatchie	St. Lawrence	Fine	Cranberry Lake	3.1	
SL-25-128	Glasby Creek	Oswegatchie	St. Lawrence	Fine/Clifton	Cranberry Lake	3.0	
SL-25-132	Robinson River	Oswegatchie	Herkimer	Webb	Cranberry Lake	5.9	Remote NSA Brook trout, unique genetic strain
ONT-19-40-P493-19-P539-2	Alder Creek	Black	Hamilton	Long Lake	Big Moose	3.5	

## APPENDIX C

CHRONOLOGY OF CRANBERRY LAKE FISHERY

- 1867 First dam completed, raising level of lake.
- 1875 Virgin brook trout fishery similar to "unfrequented parts of Canada" (Vann).
- 1880's Lake becomes famous as the home of large and numerous speckled trout.
- 1895-1900 Stream fishing for speckled trout begins.
- 1905-1915 Town regulations prohibiting stream fishing for trout.
- 1905-1915 Night fishing begins on a perceptible scale.
- 1915 Judge Vann's letter states 20x the number of fishermen are visiting the lakes as in 1895 due to two railroads, a dozen hotels and one hundred cottage owners.
- 1922 Request to Roosevelt Wildlife Station to conduct fisheries survey.
- 1923-1925 Roosevelt Study conducted.
- 1924 Preliminary Roosevelt report issued.
- 1925 Tributary streams except the Oswegatchie River closed to trout fishing.
- 1929 Roosevelt study report issued. 9" size limit and 10 fish creel limit proposed. A more effective warden system proposed to stop late season illegal netting of trout in the Oswegatchie Flow. No other species other than speckled trout should be planted and none should be planted in the lake. In addition to speckled trout the following species were noted; brown bullhead, white sucker, long-nosed sucker, red-bellied minnow, horned dace, common shiner, black-nosed dace, chub minnow, pumpkinseed sunfish and sculpin.
- 1930-1940 Reintroduction of beaver into Adirondacks changes hydrology of Cranberry Lake tributaries. Six Mile Creek had over a dozen beaver dams restricting the movement of spawning speckled trout.

- 1931 Biological survey finds a "fair abundance of large specimens" of speckled trout, although locals claim fishing is poor. Also notes 1925 study says beavers on Oswegatchie destroyed speckled trout spawning beds. Annual stocking policy is 40,000 STF (6:) in lake and tributaries. Brown trout have been taken at Wanakena. In Cranberry Lake the following species and relative abundances were:
- Abundant: Brown bullhead, minnows, white and fine-scaled suckers, common shiner horned dace, pumpkinseed.
- Common: Speckled trout
- Fairly Common: Fine-scaled dace, fathead minnow
- Rare: Lake chub, black-nosed dace, Nachtrieb's minnow, red-bellied dace, golden shiner, Hankinson's minnow, northern sculpin.
- Benthic productivity was moderate: 6 g/m in July and 1 g/m in August. Gut analysis showed:
- Speckled trout: pumpkinseed and common shiner  
 Brown Bullhead: white sucker, insects, crayfish  
 White sucker: zooplankton insects, silt  
 Pumpkinseed: insects, tubificids
- In summary, between 369,300 speckled trout were planted in Cranberry Lake between 1921 and 1930. Also some records as of 1931 of lake trout and whitefish stocking, although none had been caught.
- C. 1935 Outboard motors come into use on Cranberry Lake.
- C. 1940 Use of live bait for taking speckled trout prohibited.
- 1940-1950 Conservation Department attempts to remove beaver dams on several tributaries.
- C. 1945 Yellow perch accidentally introduced into lake from baitfish.
- C. 1950 Speckled trout virtually extinct in the lake. Small trout still found in tributaries and a few ponds.
- 1952 Speckled trout stocking discontinued, 40,000 rainbow trout yearling stocking began.

1955

In May and August netting checks were made to check to relative abundance of brook trout, rainbow trout and yellow perch. Many large yellow perch were caught by anglers in spring along with brook trout, rainbow trout and Atlantic salmon. August gill nets yielded perch, suckers, bullhead and a few rainbow trout. May netting yielded perch, suckers, bullhead with some pumpkinseed, speckled trout, and one each of common shiner, rainbow trout and golden shiner.

## May Trap Nets (1.2m, 1.8m)

yellow perch:	43	pumpkinseed:	6
fine-scaled sucker:	96	common shiner:	8
white sucker:	202	golden shiner:	1
speckled trout:	3	brown bullhead:	25

## May Gill Nets (3, 275m total)

yellow perch:	69	brown bullhead:	59
fine-scaled sucker:	121	rainbow trout:	5
white sucker:	230	pumpkinseed:	4
speckled trout:	6	common shiner:	1
golden shiner:	2		

## August Gill Nets (2, 215m total)

yellow perch:	23
fine-scaled sucker:	4
white sucker:	6

Cranberry Lake Rod and Gun Club wants continuation of rainbow trout stocking but no more speckled trout fingerlings in the lake proper. Abundances reported were:

Abundant:	Yellow perch, fine-scaled sucker
Fairly common:	white sucker, brown bullhead, golden shiner, pumpkinseed, speckled trout, rainbow trout
Present:	Atlantic salmon, creek chub

Stocking policy changed to 20,000 rainbow trout yearlings and 20,000 brown trout yearlings. Recommendation that if trout fishing doesn't improve, smallmouth bass might be stocked.

1959 June gill nets yielded (600m):

brown trout:	3	golden shiner:	149
white sucker:	472	rainbow trout:	7
brown bullhead:	114	fine-scaled sucker:	15
yellow perch:	69	speckled trout:	1
pumpkinseed	23	rock bass:	3

1960-1962 About 80,000-100,00 small mouth bass fry were planted in lake per year. Smallmouth bass adults were present prior to 1960 and the Oswegatchie River was suspected to be the spawning area.

1961 Bag and common seines yielded 8 young of year and some yearling smallmouth, 90 yellow perch yearlings, 70 juvenile pumpkinseed, 2 white sucker yearlings, 20 juvenile creek chub and 50 golden shiner yearlings. On August 10th, a few days previous to stocking, a mortality of several thousand was noted for smallmouth bass fingerlings along shore.

1962 July seining yielded 50 young of year smallmouth bass and 10 juvenile creek chub. Visual observation led observes to believe that the young of year smallmouth (1:) were not entirely from previous days planting because of their presence all around lake. 1966 survey says splake also stocked in 1962 (?).

1963 No stocking of smallmouth bass done. Many young of year noted. A 11 cm smallmouth planted in 1960 had grown to 39 cm when recaptured. Length-age data for smallmouth bass were:

II	25 cm - 29 cm	
III	30 cm - 38 cm	
VI	36 cm - 37 cm	(salvage fish)

Trapnets yielded:

smallmouth bass:	43
white sucker:	118
pumpkinseed:	28
rock bass:	18
brown bullhead:	78
yellow perch:	4

1964 Seining in August yielded young of year and yearlings of smallmouth bass, yellow perch, rock bass, golden shiner, pumpkinseed and banded killifish. Smallmouth bass fingerlings abundant for fourth straight year. Probably original 1960 fingerling planting started spawning this year at age 4. Splake stocked (15,170).

1965 June gill nets yielded:

smallmouth bass:	7
white sucker	102
yellow perch:	70
brown bullhead:	170
golden shiner:	1
fine-scaled sucker:	2
rock bass:	13
pumpkinseed:	10

Thousands of bass fry seen along shore. Large crayfish noted in nets. No splake recaptured.

1966 Six gill nets set in June yielded:

white sucker:	297
fine-scaled sucker:	192
yellow perch:	110
brown bullhead:	24
rainbow smelt:	17

This is the first and last report of smelt (?).

1967 Four trap nets yielded (May):

smallmouth bass:	57
white sucker:	222
fine-scaled sucker:	14
brown bullhead:	68
rock bass:	13
yellow perch:	47
pumpkinseed:	29

No splake trapped, but bass were tagged. Several large bass were taken. 29 were greater than 1 kilogram in weight and 19 were greater than 40 cm. Largest specimen was 48 cm and 2 kilograms.

1968 Bureau of Fish regional personnel recommended splake policy be dropped as of 1969. No more stocking of any game fish.

- 1969 Two gill nets (370m) yielded in June:
- |                     |     |
|---------------------|-----|
| yellow perch:       | 12  |
| smallmouth bass:    | 19  |
| brown bullhead:     | 23  |
| white sucker:       | 106 |
| fine-scaled sucker: | 1   |
| pumpkinseed:        | 8   |
| rock bass:          | 16  |
| golden shiner:      | 2   |
- No splake captured. First smallmouth collected for mercury.
- 1972 Hook and line gear in June yielded 24 smallmouth bass. Largest was 40 cm and 823 g. Mercury analysis done.
- 1974 More smallmouth collected for mercury analysis.
- 1975 September gill nets yielded:
- |                  |    |
|------------------|----|
| white sucker:    | 37 |
| pumpkinseed:     | 9  |
| smallmouth bass: | 12 |
| brown bullhead:  | 10 |
| rock bass:       | 6  |
- More smallmouth collected for mercury analysis.
- 1976 370m of gill net set in July yielded:
- |                  |     |
|------------------|-----|
| smallmouth bass: | 40  |
| white sucker:    | 250 |
| yellow perch:    | 5   |
| pumpkinseed:     | 15  |
| rock bass:       | 10  |
- 1978 October gill netting (45 m) yielded abundant white sucker and brown bullhead. Rock bass, pumpkinseed and golden shiner were common with only several small yellow perch and one creek chub. These fish were analyzed for mercury.
- 1979 July gill netting (900 m) yielded abundant white sucker, brown bullhead, six smallmouth bass, five yellow perch and five brook trout. August gill netting (60 m) yielded two white sucker, two rock bass, one pumpkinseed and one smallmouth bass. Six shore seines yielded 3 young of year smallmouth bass, 57 yellow perch of year and yearlings and 10 banded killifish. These fish were analyzed for mercury. This netting represents the first time in twenty years that speckled trout were captured in the lake proper.

This corresponds with anecdotal evidence from anglers that speckled trout have been reappearing in lake spring holes in the last five years.

1979 Bloomfield et al. (1979) documented mercury in fish from Cranberry Lake and Stillwater Reservoir. It was hypothesized that the acidity of the watershed is causing an increase in the availability of mercury in the biota. At present there is no specific health advisory regarding human consumption of fish from the lake.

1983 June gill netting (similar in effort to the 1979 work yielded abundant white sucker and brown bullhead, several smallmouth bass from several year classes, few yellow perch and seven brook (speckled) trout.

The brook trout ranged from a very small yearling to over four pounds. This coupled with angler reports of good fishing through the summer in traditional springhole areas suggests a significant brook trout fishery in Cranberry Lake could be developing. Stocking of brook trout is scheduled to continue.

1987 May gill netting survey yielded abundant brown bullhead, white sucker, rock bass and golden shiner. Only 4 brook trout were netted in the effort suggesting poor survival of stocked fish. Smallmouth bass and yellow perch catches were also low at 17 and 31 respectively.

1991 Northern pike reported in Cranberry Lake. Special regulation allowing their harvest at any size and in any number instituted as an attempt to slow the growth of their population.

1992 June electrofishing survey. Ninety-eight smallmouth bass were collected in 3.7 hours of sampling, indicating the population is stable. A moderate density of bass <10 in. suggest the population has made a come-back from declining levels reported in the mid-1970's. Nine largemouth bass were also collected, suggesting their recent introduction into the lake. No northern pike were collected. Rock bass, pumpkinseed and white sucker were also common in the catch.

## CHRONOLOGY OF STILLWATER RESERVOIR FISHERY

1893 Stillwater is a 6,195 acre impoundment of the Beaver River. The purposes for impounding were: Flood control, hydropower production and maintenance of downstream water needs.

Several natural lakes were inundated by the impoundment, namely: Loon, Trout and Big Burnt Lakes.

In the early years of impoundment, a coldwater fishery existed on Stillwater. Up to 40,000 brook trout and lake trout were stocked annually.

1946 Lake trout stocking dropped due to low return.

1952 Rainbow trout stocking policy established (24,000 per year). This yielded poor results.

1963 Brook trout stocking deleted due to widespread establishment of yellow perch in the impoundment. Splake stocking initiated.

1970's Smallmouth bass became established in the impoundment.

1975 Intensive survey efforts over five years concluded splake population restricted to the inundated ponds during periods of summer stratification. This is an area of approximately 160 surface acres. Splake stocking policy was adjusted accordingly.

1979 Bloomfield et al. (1979) documented mercury in fish from Cranberry Lake and Stillwater Reservoir. It was hypothesized that the acidity of the watershed is causing an increase in the availability of mercury in the biota. At present a health advisory exists for Stillwater which limits human consumption of splake to one meal per month.

1991 Electrofishing survey in the Big Burnt and Trout Pond area found an excellent smallmouth bass population along with an occasional trout. Current stocking policy stands at 1,500 yearling splake. When available surplus brook trout are also stocked in the reservoir.

## CHRONOLOGY OF BOG RIVER FLOW FISHERY

Early 1900's Upper Lows dam developed, creating 2,895 acre impoundment. The flooding inundated several lakes, including Lows Lake, and Mud, Grass and Tomar Ponds. The impounding also created First, Second and Third Ponds along the Bog River channel just above the dam.

Brook trout and other fish species native to the river and ponds expanded into the impoundment. The brook trout fishery generally maintained itself, but some stocking did occur. Some other species became particularly abundant. It was reported that thousands of pounds of white suckers and shiners were trapped and removed from the flow annually to reduce their numbers.

1985 Access to the flow was acquired by New York State as part of the purchase of 2,000 plus acres of forest preserve.

ALSC surveyed First, Second, Tomar and Grass Ponds. Except for Tomar Pond, all contained brook trout, with Grass Pond yielding the highest catches. White sucker were extra abundant in all waters, with a total of 535 sampled by 13 nets. Common shiner, brown bullhead and pumpkinseed were also very common.

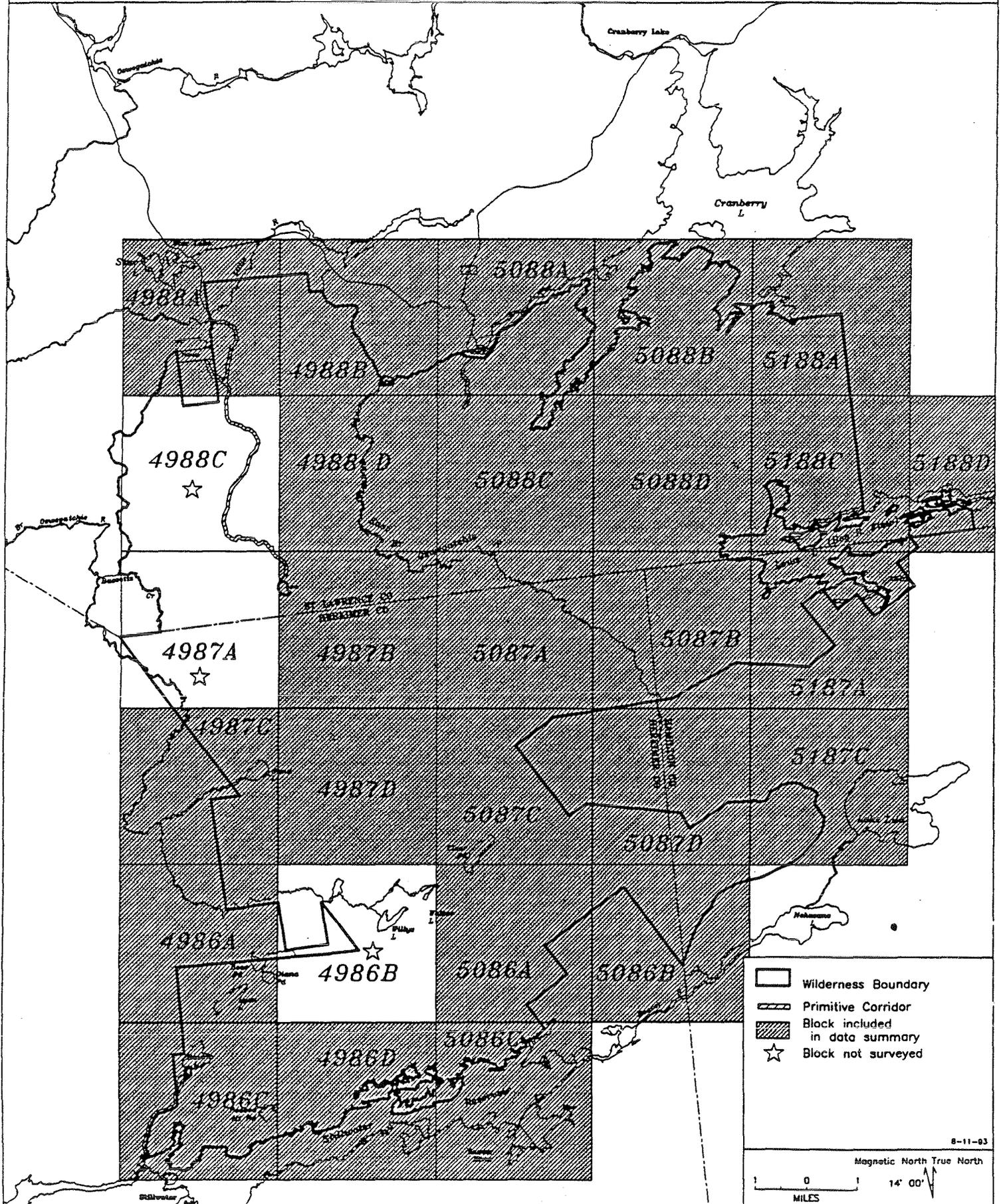
1987 Additional survey effort, focusing on the main impounded area of Lows Lake, led to the conclusion that brook trout inhabit the entire flow at moderate to low densities.

1990 Increased levels of angler effort reported in the flow due to recent public access. 15,000 fall fingerling brook trout (Little Tupper strain) were stocked in both 1988 and 1990 to supplement the low density native stocks.

Largemouth bass reported and confirmed in the flow. A few bass were observed on nests during June near Parker's Island.

1991 High densities of nesting largemouth bass observed.

### FIVE PONDS WILDERNESS BREEDING BIRD ATLAS KEY



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NEW YORK STATE BREEDING BIRD ATLAS  
 BREEDING SPECIES OF : FIVE PONDS WILDERNESS AREA - 1992  
 1980-1985 DATA - ALPHABETICAL BY COMMON NAME

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	CONFIRMED BLOCKS	PROBABLE BLOCKS	POSSIBLE BLOCKS	TOTAL BLOCKS
Alder Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax alinorum</i>	0 OF 23	4 OF 23	5 OF 23	9 OF 23
American Bittern	<i>Botaurus lentiginosus</i>	0 OF 23	2 OF 23	1 OF 23	3 OF 23
American Black Duck	<i>Anas rubripes</i>	4 OF 23	1 OF 23	4 OF 23	9 OF 23
American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	4 OF 23	3 OF 23	7 OF 23	14 OF 23
American Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis tristis</i>	0 OF 23	3 OF 23	5 OF 23	8 OF 23
American Redstart	<i>Setophaga ruticilla</i>	5 OF 23	13 OF 23	3 OF 23	21 OF 23
American Robin	<i>Turdus migratorius</i>	10 OF 23	2 OF 23	3 OF 23	15 OF 23
American Woodcock	<i>Scolopax minor</i>	1 OF 23	0 OF 23	1 OF 23	2 OF 23
Bald Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	0 OF 23	0 OF 23	1 OF 23	1 OF 23
Bank Swallow	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	1 OF 23	0 OF 23	1 OF 23	2 OF 23
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	7 OF 23	1 OF 23	1 OF 23	9 OF 23
Barred Owl	<i>Strix varia</i>	2 OF 23	2 OF 23	8 OF 23	12 OF 23
Bay-breasted Warbler	<i>Dendroica castanea</i>	0 OF 23	1 OF 23	1 OF 23	2 OF 23
Belted Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle alcyon</i>	3 OF 23	3 OF 23	10 OF 23	16 OF 23
Black-and-white Warbler	<i>Mniotilta varia</i>	2 OF 23	4 OF 23	9 OF 23	15 OF 23
Black-backed Woodpecker	<i>Picoides arcticus</i>	5 OF 23	1 OF 23	3 OF 23	9 OF 23
Black-billed Cuckoo	<i>Coccyzus erythrophthalmus</i>	0 OF 23	2 OF 23	0 OF 23	2 OF 23
Black-capped Chickadee	<i>Parus atricapillus</i>	12 OF 23	6 OF 23	3 OF 23	21 OF 23
Black-throated Blue Warbler	<i>Dendroica caerulescens</i>	9 OF 23	11 OF 23	1 OF 23	21 OF 23
Black-throated Green Warbler	<i>Dendroica virens</i>	5 OF 23	13 OF 23	3 OF 23	21 OF 23
Blackburnian Warbler	<i>Dendroica fusca</i>	6 OF 23	9 OF 23	4 OF 23	19 OF 23
Blackpoll Warbler	<i>Dendroica striata</i>	0 OF 23	2 OF 23	2 OF 23	4 OF 23
Blue Jay	<i>Cyanocitta cristata</i>	4 OF 23	10 OF 23	8 OF 23	22 OF 23
Bobolink	<i>Dolichonyx oryzivorus</i>	0 OF 23	0 OF 23	4 OF 23	4 OF 23
Boreal Chickadee	<i>Parus hudsonicus</i>	2 OF 23	0 OF 23	1 OF 23	3 OF 23
Broad-winged Hawk	<i>Buteo platypterus</i>	5 OF 23	1 OF 23	11 OF 23	17 OF 23
Brown Creeper	<i>Certhia americana</i>	4 OF 23	5 OF 23	10 OF 23	19 OF 23
Brown Thrasher	<i>Toxostoma rufum</i>	0 OF 23	1 OF 23	1 OF 23	2 OF 23
Brown-headed Cowbird	<i>Molothrus ater</i>	1 OF 23	2 OF 23	3 OF 23	6 OF 23
Canada Warbler	<i>Wilsonia canadensis</i>	2 OF 23	10 OF 23	7 OF 23	19 OF 23
Cedar Waxwing	<i>Bombycilla cedrorum</i>	2 OF 23	5 OF 23	13 OF 23	20 OF 23
Chestnut-sided Warbler	<i>Dendroica pensylvanica</i>	4 OF 23	9 OF 23	4 OF 23	17 OF 23
Chimney Swift	<i>Chaetura pelagica</i>	2 OF 23	1 OF 23	14 OF 23	17 OF 23
Chipping Sparrow	<i>Spizella passerina</i>	4 OF 23	3 OF 23	4 OF 23	11 OF 23
Cliff Swallow	<i>Hirundo pyrrhonota</i>	1 OF 23	0 OF 23	0 OF 23	1 OF 23

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NEW YORK STATE BREEDING BIRD ATLAS  
 BREEDING SPECIES OF : FIVE PONDS WILDERNESS AREA - 1992  
 1980-1985 DATA - ALPHABETICAL BY COMMON NAME

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	CONFIRMED BLOCKS	PROBABLE BLOCKS	POSSIBLE BLOCKS	TOTAL BLOCKS
Common Goldeneye	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>	0 OF 23	0 OF 23	1 OF 23	1 OF 23
Common Grackle	<i>Quiscalus quiscula</i>	7 OF 23	6 OF 23	4 OF 23	17 OF 23
Common Loon	<i>Gavia immer</i>	10 OF 23	4 OF 23	1 OF 23	15 OF 23
Common Merganser	<i>Mergus merganser</i>	7 OF 23	0 OF 23	2 OF 23	9 OF 23
Common Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	2 OF 23	3 OF 23	3 OF 23	8 OF 23
Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	0 OF 23	2 OF 23	1 OF 23	3 OF 23
Common Yellowthroat	<i>Geothlypis trichas</i>	6 OF 23	12 OF 23	3 OF 23	21 OF 23
Cooper's Hawk	<i>Accipiter cooperii</i>	1 OF 23	0 OF 23	3 OF 23	4 OF 23
Dark-eyed Junco	<i>Junco hyemalis</i>	12 OF 23	5 OF 23	3 OF 23	20 OF 23
Double-crested Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax auritus</i>	0 OF 23	0 OF 23	2 OF 23	2 OF 23
Downy Woodpecker	<i>Picoides pubescens</i>	2 OF 23	2 OF 23	11 OF 23	15 OF 23
Eastern Bluebird	<i>Sialia sialis</i>	0 OF 23	1 OF 23	0 OF 23	1 OF 23
Eastern Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus tyrannus</i>	3 OF 23	6 OF 23	3 OF 23	12 OF 23
Eastern Meadowlark	<i>Sturnella magna</i>	0 OF 23	0 OF 23	1 OF 23	1 OF 23
Eastern Phoebe	<i>Sayornis phoebe</i>	3 OF 23	1 OF 23	2 OF 23	6 OF 23
Eastern Screech-Owl	<i>Otus asio</i>	0 OF 23	0 OF 23	1 OF 23	1 OF 23
Eastern Wood-Pewee	<i>Contopus virens</i>	0 OF 23	5 OF 23	9 OF 23	14 OF 23
European Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	0 OF 23	2 OF 23	0 OF 23	2 OF 23
Evening Grosbeak	<i>Coccothraustes vespertinus</i>	1 OF 23	0 OF 23	3 OF 23	4 OF 23
Golden-crowned Kinglet	<i>Regulus satrapa</i>	0 OF 23	9 OF 23	9 OF 23	18 OF 23
Grasshopper Sparrow	<i>Ammodramus savannarum</i>	0 OF 23	0 OF 23	1 OF 23	1 OF 23
Gray Catbird	<i>Dumetella carolinensis</i>	2 OF 23	3 OF 23	4 OF 23	9 OF 23
Gray Jay	<i>Perisoreus canadensis</i>	1 OF 23	2 OF 23	4 OF 23	7 OF 23
Great Blue Heron	<i>Ardea herodias</i>	0 OF 23	1 OF 23	12 OF 23	13 OF 23
Great Crested Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus crinitus</i>	0 OF 23	7 OF 23	11 OF 23	18 OF 23
Great Horned Owl	<i>Bubo virginianus</i>	0 OF 23	0 OF 23	3 OF 23	3 OF 23
Green-backed Heron	<i>Butorides striatus</i>	0 OF 23	0 OF 23	1 OF 23	1 OF 23
Hairy Woodpecker	<i>Picoides villosus</i>	6 OF 23	5 OF 23	8 OF 23	19 OF 23
Hermit Thrush	<i>Catharus guttatus</i>	8 OF 23	7 OF 23	6 OF 23	21 OF 23
Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	3 OF 23	0 OF 23	3 OF 23	6 OF 23
Hooded Merganser	<i>Lophodytes cucullatus</i>	7 OF 23	0 OF 23	3 OF 23	10 OF 23
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	0 OF 23	1 OF 23	0 OF 23	1 OF 23
House Wren	<i>Troglodytes aedon</i>	1 OF 23	0 OF 23	2 OF 23	3 OF 23
Indigo Bunting	<i>Passerina cyanea</i>	0 OF 23	3 OF 23	5 OF 23	8 OF 23
Killdeer	<i>Charadrius vociferus</i>	0 OF 23	0 OF 23	1 OF 23	1 OF 23

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NEW YORK STATE BREEDING BIRD ATLAS  
 BREEDING SPECIES OF : FIVE PONDS WILDERNESS AREA - 1992  
 1980-1985 DATA - ALPHABETICAL BY COMMON NAME

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	CONFIRMED BLOCKS	PROBABLE BLOCKS	POSSIBLE BLOCKS	TOTAL BLOCKS
Least Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus exilis</i>	0 OF 23	0 OF 23	1 OF 23	1 OF 23
Least Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax minimus</i>	5 OF 23	8 OF 23	7 OF 23	20 OF 23
Lincoln's Sparrow	<i>Melospiza lincolni</i>	6 OF 23	6 OF 23	4 OF 23	16 OF 23
Magnolia Warbler	<i>Dendroica magnolia</i>	3 OF 23	14 OF 23	4 OF 23	21 OF 23
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	4 OF 23	1 OF 23	2 OF 23	7 OF 23
Mourning Dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	0 OF 23	0 OF 23	1 OF 23	1 OF 23
Mourning Warbler	<i>Oporornis philadelphia</i>	1 OF 23	1 OF 23	5 OF 23	7 OF 23
Nashville Warbler	<i>Vermivora ruficapilla</i>	1 OF 23	8 OF 23	8 OF 23	17 OF 23
Northern Flicker	<i>Colaptes auratus</i>	0 OF 23	5 OF 23	7 OF 23	12 OF 23
Northern Goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>	2 OF 23	0 OF 23	3 OF 23	5 OF 23
Northern Mockingbird	<i>Mimus polyglottos</i>	0 OF 23	0 OF 23	1 OF 23	1 OF 23
Northern Oriole	<i>Icterus galbula</i>	1 OF 23	1 OF 23	2 OF 23	4 OF 23
Northern Parula	<i>Parula americana</i>	1 OF 23	14 OF 23	4 OF 23	19 OF 23
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	<i>Stelgidopteryx serripennis</i>	2 OF 23	0 OF 23	0 OF 23	2 OF 23
Northern Saw-whet Owl	<i>Aegolius acadicus</i>	1 OF 23	1 OF 23	2 OF 23	4 OF 23
Northern Waterthrush	<i>Seiurus noveboracensis</i>	0 OF 23	3 OF 23	7 OF 23	10 OF 23
Olive-sided Flycatcher	<i>Contopus borealis</i>	1 OF 23	7 OF 23	8 OF 23	16 OF 23
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	1 OF 23	1 OF 23	4 OF 23	6 OF 23
Ovenbird	<i>Seiurus aurocapillus</i>	1 OF 23	8 OF 23	11 OF 23	20 OF 23
Philadelphia Vireo	<i>Vireo philadelphicus</i>	1 OF 23	0 OF 23	2 OF 23	3 OF 23
Pileated Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus pileatus</i>	0 OF 23	6 OF 23	12 OF 23	18 OF 23
Pine Siskin	<i>Carduelis pinus</i>	0 OF 23	1 OF 23	0 OF 23	1 OF 23
Purple Finch	<i>Carpodacus purpureus</i>	2 OF 23	14 OF 23	5 OF 23	21 OF 23
Red-breasted Nuthatch	<i>Sitta canadensis</i>	4 OF 23	4 OF 23	15 OF 23	23 OF 23
Red-eyed Vireo	<i>Vireo olivaceus</i>	9 OF 23	12 OF 23	1 OF 23	22 OF 23
Red-shouldered Hawk	<i>Buteo lineatus</i>	0 OF 23	3 OF 23	1 OF 23	4 OF 23
Red-tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	0 OF 23	0 OF 23	6 OF 23	6 OF 23
Red-winged Blackbird	<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>	2 OF 23	10 OF 23	4 OF 23	16 OF 23
Ring-necked Duck	<i>Aythya collaris</i>	2 OF 23	0 OF 23	0 OF 23	2 OF 23
Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>	0 OF 23	1 OF 23	0 OF 23	1 OF 23
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	<i>Phoebastria ludovicianus</i>	5 OF 23	5 OF 23	7 OF 23	17 OF 23
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	<i>Regulus calendula</i>	0 OF 23	10 OF 23	4 OF 23	14 OF 23
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	<i>Archilochus colubris</i>	1 OF 23	4 OF 23	10 OF 23	15 OF 23
Ruffed Grouse	<i>Bonasa umbellus</i>	13 OF 23	0 OF 23	5 OF 23	18 OF 23
Rusty Blackbird	<i>Euphagus carolinus</i>	2 OF 23	6 OF 23	5 OF 23	13 OF 23

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NEW YORK STATE BREEDING BIRD ATLAS  
 BREEDING SPECIES OF : FIVE PONDS WILDERNESS AREA - 1992  
 1980-1985 DATA - ALPHABETICAL BY COMMON NAME

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	CONFIRMED BLOCKS	PROBABLE BLOCKS	POSSIBLE BLOCKS	TOTAL BLOCKS
Javannah Sparrow	<i>Passerculus sandwichensis</i>	0 OF 23	0 OF 23	2 OF 23	2 OF 23
Scarlet Tanager	<i>Piranga olivacea</i>	3 OF 23	8 OF 23	10 OF 23	21 OF 23
Sharp-shinned Hawk	<i>Accipiter striatus</i>	1 OF 23	2 OF 23	2 OF 23	5 OF 23
Solitary Vireo	<i>Vireo solitarius</i>	3 OF 23	12 OF 23	6 OF 23	21 OF 23
Song Sparrow	<i>Melospiza melodia</i>	7 OF 23	8 OF 23	6 OF 23	21 OF 23
Sora	<i>Porzana carolina</i>	0 OF 23	0 OF 23	1 OF 23	1 OF 23
Spotted Sandpiper	<i>Actitis macularia</i>	0 OF 23	0 OF 23	2 OF 23	2 OF 23
Swainson's Thrush	<i>Catharus ustulatus</i>	6 OF 23	8 OF 23	6 OF 23	20 OF 23
Swamp Sparrow	<i>Melospiza georgiana</i>	3 OF 23	12 OF 23	5 OF 23	20 OF 23
Three-toed Woodpecker	<i>Picoides tridactylus</i>	1 OF 23	1 OF 23	1 OF 23	3 OF 23
Tree Swallow	<i>Tachycineta bicolor</i>	8 OF 23	5 OF 23	7 OF 23	20 OF 23
Turkey Vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i>	0 OF 23	0 OF 23	4 OF 23	4 OF 23
Veery	<i>Catharus fuscescens</i>	2 OF 23	7 OF 23	8 OF 23	17 OF 23
Vesper Sparrow	<i>Pooecetes gramineus</i>	0 OF 23	0 OF 23	2 OF 23	2 OF 23
Warbling Vireo	<i>Vireo gilvus</i>	0 OF 23	0 OF 23	2 OF 23	2 OF 23
White-breasted Nuthatch	<i>Sitta carolinensis</i>	3 OF 23	2 OF 23	6 OF 23	11 OF 23
White-throated Sparrow	<i>Zonotrichia albicollis</i>	15 OF 23	3 OF 23	3 OF 23	21 OF 23
Winter Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	1 OF 23	14 OF 23	4 OF 23	19 OF 23
Wood Duck	<i>Aix sponsa</i>	3 OF 23	1 OF 23	5 OF 23	9 OF 23
Wood Thrush	<i>Hylocichla mustelina</i>	2 OF 23	3 OF 23	2 OF 23	7 OF 23
Yellow Warbler	<i>Dendroica petechia</i>	0 OF 23	2 OF 23	4 OF 23	6 OF 23
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax flaviventris</i>	0 OF 23	5 OF 23	6 OF 23	11 OF 23
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	<i>Sphyrapicus varius</i>	8 OF 23	6 OF 23	7 OF 23	21 OF 23
Yellow-rumped Warbler	<i>Dendroica coronata</i>	11 OF 23	9 OF 23	1 OF 23	21 OF 23

Reported Furbearer Take for Five Ponds Wilderness Area  
 Land Area (Square Miles): 165.7  
 Approximate Reported Take

Year	Beaver	Bobcat	Coyote	Fisher	Otter
1958	182	0	0	5	9
1959	0	0	0	8	8
1960	0	0	0	0	6
1961	0	0	0	7	5
1962	0	0	0	6	5
1963	0	0	0	0	4
1964	0	0	0	2	5
1965	7	0	0	10	4
1966	106	0	0	9	5
1967	120	0	0	7	6
1968	151	0	0	9	7
1969	89	0	0	15	5
1970	30	0	0	11	4
1971	62	0	0	14	4
1972	142	0	0	11	5
1973	97	0	0	8	6
1974	113	0	0	13	9
1975	153	0	0	19	9
1976	142	0	0	9	11
1977	74	1	0	0	7
1978	144	3	0	17	9
1979	187	2	11	32	11
1980	114	1	4	12	10
1981	56	1	5	9	7
1982	114	2	6	8	8
1983	82	1	7	0	8
1984	95	1	7	0	6
1985	126	1	4	18	7
1986	123	1	5	9	13
1987	129	3	2	8	9
1988	84	2	3	8	8
1989	98	1	2	5	9
1990	56	1	1	1	3

## TOWNS SELECTED FOR FIVE PONDS WILDERNESS AREA

COUNTY	TOWN	PERCENT	AREA (SqMi)
ST LAWRENCE	CLIFTON	21	29.4
ST LAWRENCE	FINE	26	44.6
HERKIMER	WEBB	17	79.2
HAMILTON	LONG LAKE	3	12.5
TOTAL			165.7

## CALCULATED DEER KILL FOR FIVE PONDS WILDERNESS AREA

LAND AREA (SQUARE MILES): 165.7

YEAR	APPROXIMATE CALCULATED KILL						TOTAL	AD FEMA/		AD MALE/ SQ MI
	AD MALE	FN MALE	AD FEMA	FN FEMA	AD	MALE		AD	MALE	
1954	371	26	99	24		520	0.27		2.2	
1955	237	0	1	0		238	0.00		1.4	
1956	209	1	0	0		210	0.00		1.3	
1957	253	14	35	13		315	0.14		1.5	
1958	247	8	30	7		292	0.12		1.5	
1959	234	60	180	55		529	0.77		1.4	
1960	221	17	131	15		384	0.59		1.3	
1961	200	31	140	28		399	0.70		1.2	
1962	213	26	148	24		411	0.70		1.3	
1963	200	29	130	27		386	0.65		1.2	
1964	211	28	117	25		381	0.55		1.3	
1965	274	39	156	36		505	0.57		1.7	
1966	250	46	200	42		538	0.80		1.5	
1967	289	52	200	48		589	0.69		1.7	
1968	268	56	203	52		579	0.76		1.6	
1969	175	42	166	38		421	0.95		1.1	
1970	85	14	64	13		176	0.76		0.5	
1971	54	0	0	0		54	0.00		0.3	
1972	72	0	0	0		72	0.00		0.4	
1973	94	0	0	0		94	0.00		0.6	
1974	108	0	0	0		108	0.00		0.7	
1975	132	0	0	0		132	0.00		0.8	
1976	151	0	0	0		151	0.00		0.9	
1977	125	0	1	0		126	0.00		0.8	
1978	98	1	0	0		99	0.00		0.6	
1979	83	1	1	1		86	0.02		0.5	
1980	141	1	2	1		145	0.02		0.9	
1981	147	1	1	1		150	0.01		0.9	
1982	140	3	4	3		150	0.03		0.8	
1983	152	3	4	2		161	0.02		0.9	
1984	182	3	4	2		191	0.02		1.1	
1985	197	4	4	3		208	0.02		1.2	
1986	208	5	7	4		224	0.03		1.3	
1987	198	3	7	2		210	0.03		1.2	
1988	231	4	11	4		250	0.05		1.4	
1989	190	4	12	3		209	0.06		1.1	
1990	171	4	12	3		190	0.07		1.0	
1991	184	6	27	6		223	0.15		1.1	

Ten Year Harvest of Black Bears  
from Towns of the Five Ponds Wilderness Area

TOWN	1991	90	89	88	87	86	85	84	83	82	AVG.
Clifton (StLa)	3	5	8	5	9	4	8	8	7	17	7.4
Fine (StLa)	9	9	11	9	13	1	8	3	2	14	7.9
Webb (Herk)	24	24	34	32	27	33	24	18	15	23	25.4
Long Lk (Hami)	28	23	20	43	16	47	17	18	15	40	26.7



## PUBLIC COMMENTS

Although every relevant public comment concerning the November 1993 draft of this plan was considered in the preparation of this edition, the following comments need clarification beyond that which could be incorporated into the text. The replies are offered as a clarification of the reasoning underlying the decisionmaking process and should not be misconstrued as criticism:

History

Appendix A makes interesting reading, but it provides no more useful information than any other historical report may have. It should be deleted from the report completely.

Reply. We know of no other historical account of this area which contains as much information on this area as it appeared following its greatest period of human intervention. First person accounts are a valuable tool in determining forest history which is an essential component of rational decisionmaking.

Area Expansion

Has a merger of the Pepperbox Wilderness Area with this area been considered?

Reply: The department is studying the relationship of all adjacent areas with the Five Ponds Wilderness Area as component parts of the Oswegatchie Great Forest. This merger will be considered in that study.

High Falls Loop Relocation

Moving the trail will only create an additional trail in the wilderness area.

Reply: The intent is to provide a maintained trail which will be on dry, maintainable ground to eliminate the need for unnecessary bridges and drytread. The abandoned trail section will then revert to the status of a path.

Pond Liming

Some management activities (eg. unnatural influences such as pond liming), are contrary to SLMP guidelines for wilderness.

Reply: Natural resource management in NYS wilderness, primitive and canoe areas has a strong foundation in law, policy,

tradition and resource planning. Relative to fish and wildlife, the purpose of such management, as set by law for Forest Preserve lands, is to 'foster the wild Adirondack environment and all the flora and fauna historically associated there with' and the encouragement of 'indigenous species presently restricted in numbers'. Often management in wilderness involves unnatural activities (eg. pond liming) which are perceived as an intrusion on the natural setting. Where needed and justified, however, their application is essential to achieve goals. Where acidification (via acid rain or other environmental stress) has resulted in notable losses of historic Adirondack fish fauna (eg. brook trout and associated fish species), liming is needed to restore degraded habitat to a more natural condition where reestablished fish populations can survive. This plan calls for liming, as a mitigation measure, a limited number of degraded (presently fish-less) wilderness waters for the purpose of restoring a self-sustaining populations of heritage strain Adirondack brook trout. These actions, conducted in accordance with department policies and regulations, are permissible management as established by the State Land Master Plan. (See further Appendix C - Organizational and Delegation Memorandum #91-31 Policy Fishery Management in Wilderness, Primitive and Canoe Areas).

#### New Trail

A foot trail linking Cranberry Lake and Stillwater Reservoir (Sand Lake to Raven Lake Primitive Corridor) would be a great recreational resource.

Reply: The following considerations would have to be addressed:

1. The trail would represent a major incursion through zone C which is a trailless area managed for persons in user group three (Section III Management and Policy).
2. It would be dependent on the Sand Lake Trail (Five Ponds) Bridge (Section IV, I8).
3. Long term maintenance responsibility for the bridge over the Beaver River would have to be assumed if foot access to the hamlet of Stillwater is the goal. (Section IV, I12)
4. It would be very difficult to maintain.

#### Extirpated Species

Efforts should continue to re-introduce species to their historic ranges in the Five Ponds Wilderness Area. The 1983

Citizens Advisory Committee called for a comprehensive plan for the re-introduction, management and control of the moose, lynx, peregrine falcon, eastern timber wolf, eastern cougar, wolverine and pine marten. At a minimum a feasibility plan should be developed for re-introducing those species which have not returned to the area.

Reply: The species listed in whole or part have been addressed, studied, or discussed previously for the Adirondack Eco-System. Animal species do not recognize the boundaries of wilderness areas or wild forest and will move about freely until they find their niche, therefore any programs for reintroduction would need to be addressed over a much bigger area, such as the entire Adirondack Park.

Comments on the following pertain to the species listed.

Moose has already been extensively examined through the public meeting and Environmental Impact Review process. The conclusion reached after extensive review and public input was to increase monitoring of the moose that come in on their own and not pursue an active reintroduction program.

Lynx Attempts at restoration have been carried out by SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry in the high peaks of the Adirondacks during the early 1990's. At this point it does not appear that any successful reproduction or establishment of a self-sustaining population has occurred. Wide ranging dead lynx were reported as far away as Pennsylvania and New Hampshire.

Peregrine Falcon has already been reintroduced into the high peaks region of the Adirondacks which probably contains the best habitat. I feel that if suitable habitat existed within the Five Ponds -- it will eventually be chosen by natural selection.

Eastern Timber Wolf The question of reintroduction of carnivores into NYS was examined back in the early 1980's. Fish and Wildlife Director Ken Wich's January 1981 letter to the US Fish and Wildlife Service in summary stated:

"Before more intensified biological studies are undertaken, it would be appropriate to conduct a public attitude survey concerning large carnivores and their possible restoration to NYS...In Summary, it is presently felt that a program to restore the puma to NYS would have a greater chance of succeeding than a similar program for the wolf.

Dr. Robert E. Henshaw in 1979 examined the question, "Can the wolf be returned to New York?" In part his conclusions stated: "...There is little public acceptance of canids in the Adirondack Park now."

In 1980 development of a policy statement on the potential restoration of the timber wolf in NY State identified five questions that must be answered before any re-establishment efforts be attempted in New York:

1. Does sufficient habitat with an adequate prey base exist in the Adirondacks?
2. Is replacement of the coyote, or addition of a second large canid predator desirable?
3. How will livestock depredations be handled?
4. What are public attitudes and how can they be brought to bear as a positive force for wolf re-establishment?
5. Will a wolf population be able to successfully establish itself given the presence of eastern coyotes?

Answers to these questions will require a public attitude survey, extensive habitat analysis, publicity campaigns, and a research project on the eastern coyote in New York. Only then can it be decided if the timber wolf could, or should be returned to New York State.

Eastern Cougar I do not believe that there is any self-sustaining remnant population of cougars in the Adirondacks. The mirage of scattered sitings over the last decade more than likely can be attributed to intentional releases or escapes from captivity. The recent 3-month-old cougar kitten shot by a bobcat hunter in Saratoga County showed a tooth wear pattern and wear on the pads of the feet which would indicate it has been in captivity and then released.

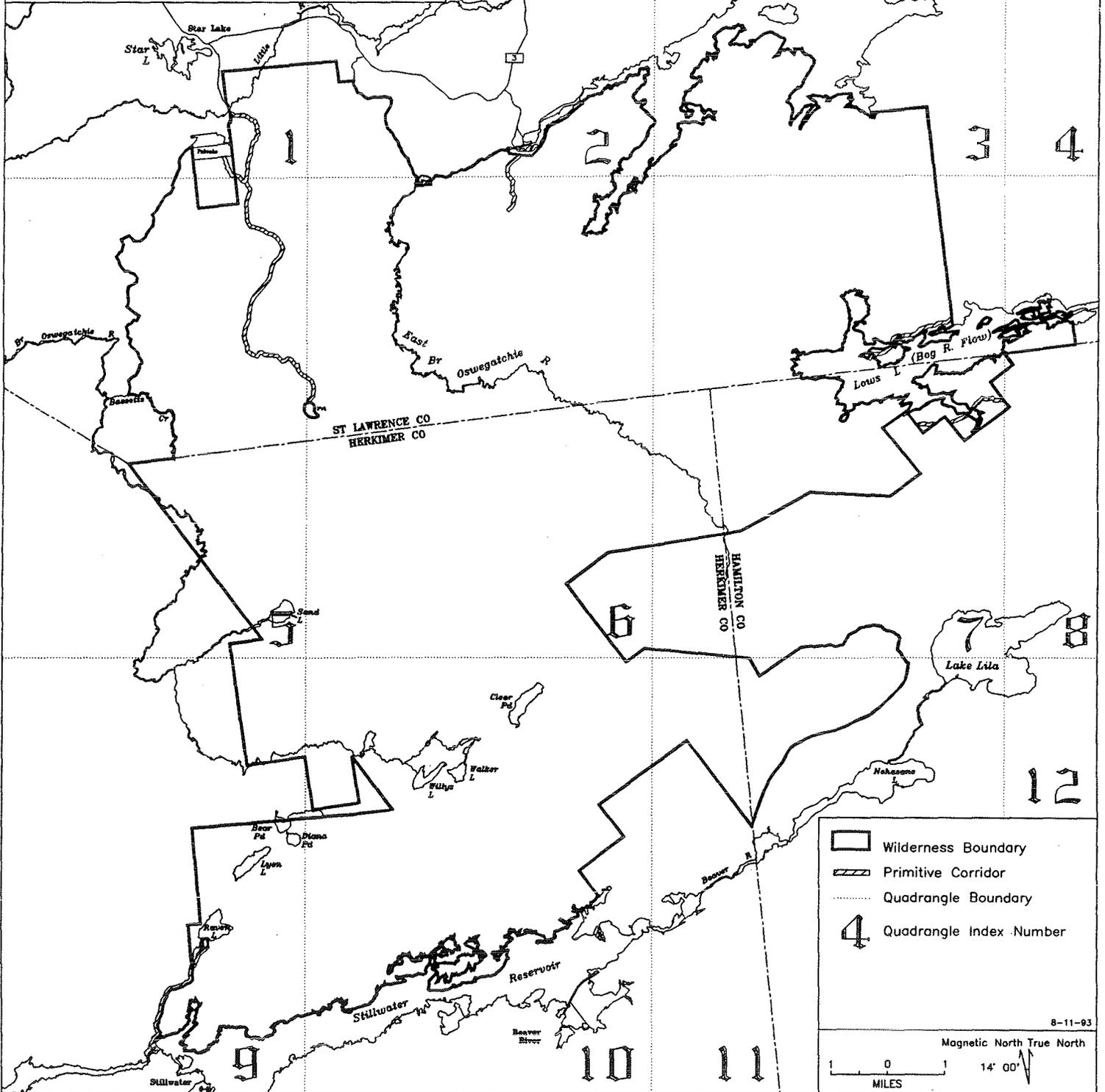
Wolverine I do not believe historically every occurred in Adirondacks and should be dropped from consideration.

Pine Martin already exists and given a sufficient red squirrel and rodent population will expand its range when conditions are right for it.

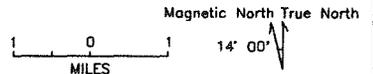
Rainer Brocke, SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry at Syracuse, has feasibility studies on the reintroduction of extirpated species including the cougar, into the Adirondack Park. If the St. Lawrence County EMC would like a copy of that study it can be obtained directly by contacting the Huntington Forest at Newcomb.

# FIVE PONDS WILDERNESS TOPOGRAPHIC MAP INDEX

Index #	USGS 7.5' x 15' 1:25,000	USGS 15' 1:62,500	USGS 7.5' 1:24,000	NYS DOT 7.5' 1:24,000
1	-----	-----	Oswegatchie	Oswegatchie
2	-----	-----	Newton Falls	Newton Falls
3	-----	-----	Cranberry Lake	Cranberry Lake
4	Piercefield	Tupper Lake	-----	Long Tom Mt.
5	-----	-----	Oswegatchie SE	Oswegatchie SE
6	-----	-----	Five Ponds	Five Ponds
7	-----	-----	Wolf Mountain	Wolf Mountain
8	Little Tupper L	Tupper Lake	-----	Sabattis
9	Stillwater	Number Four	-----	Stillwater
10	Beaver River	Big Moose	-----	Beaver River
11	Beaver River	Big Moose	-----	Nehasone Lake
12	Forked Lake	Raquette L	-----	Brandreth Lake



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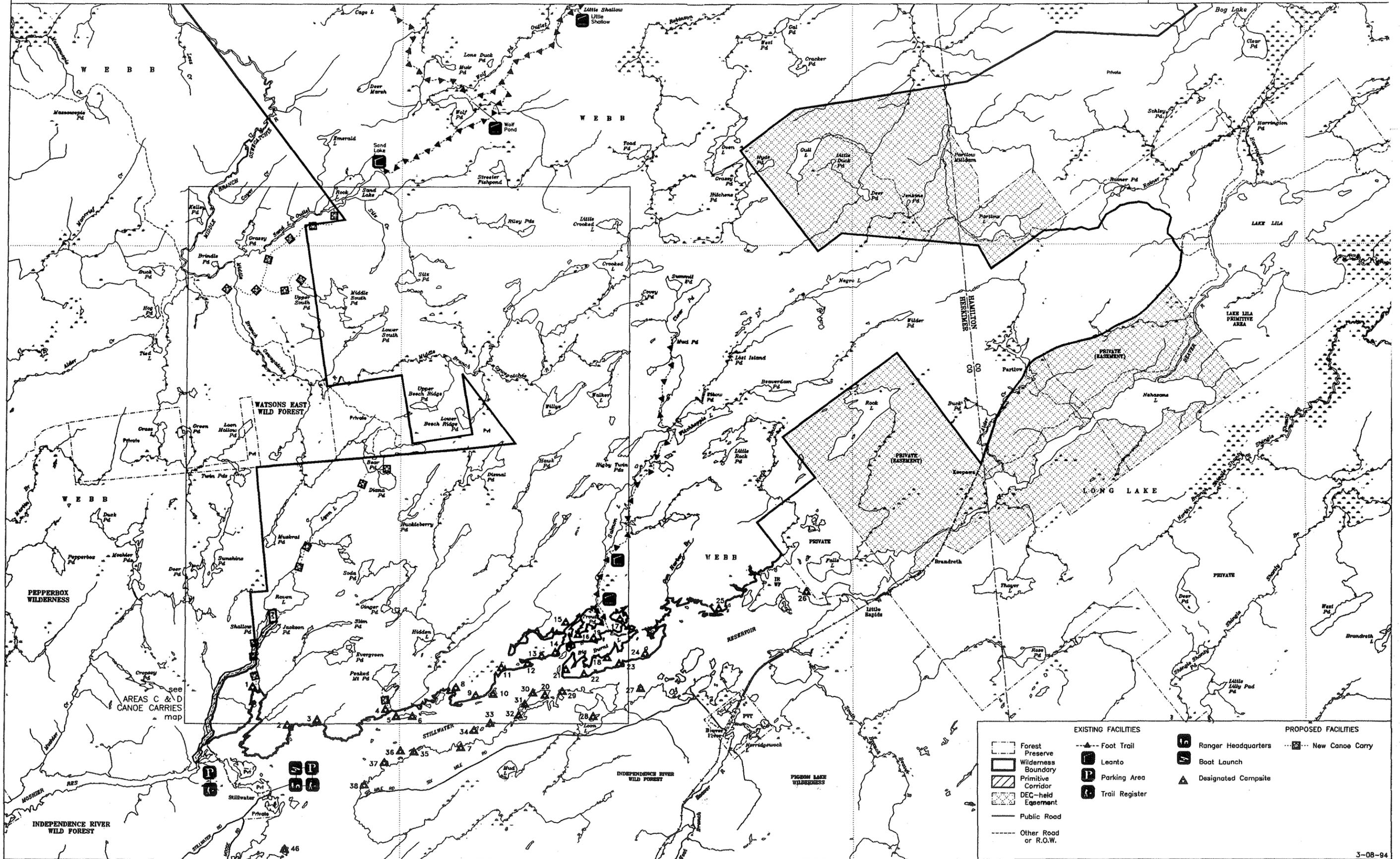
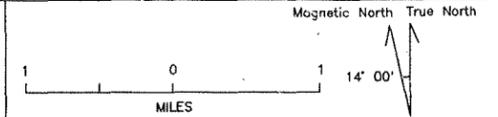






# FIVE PONDS WILDERNESS (South Section)

# FACILITIES PROPOSALS

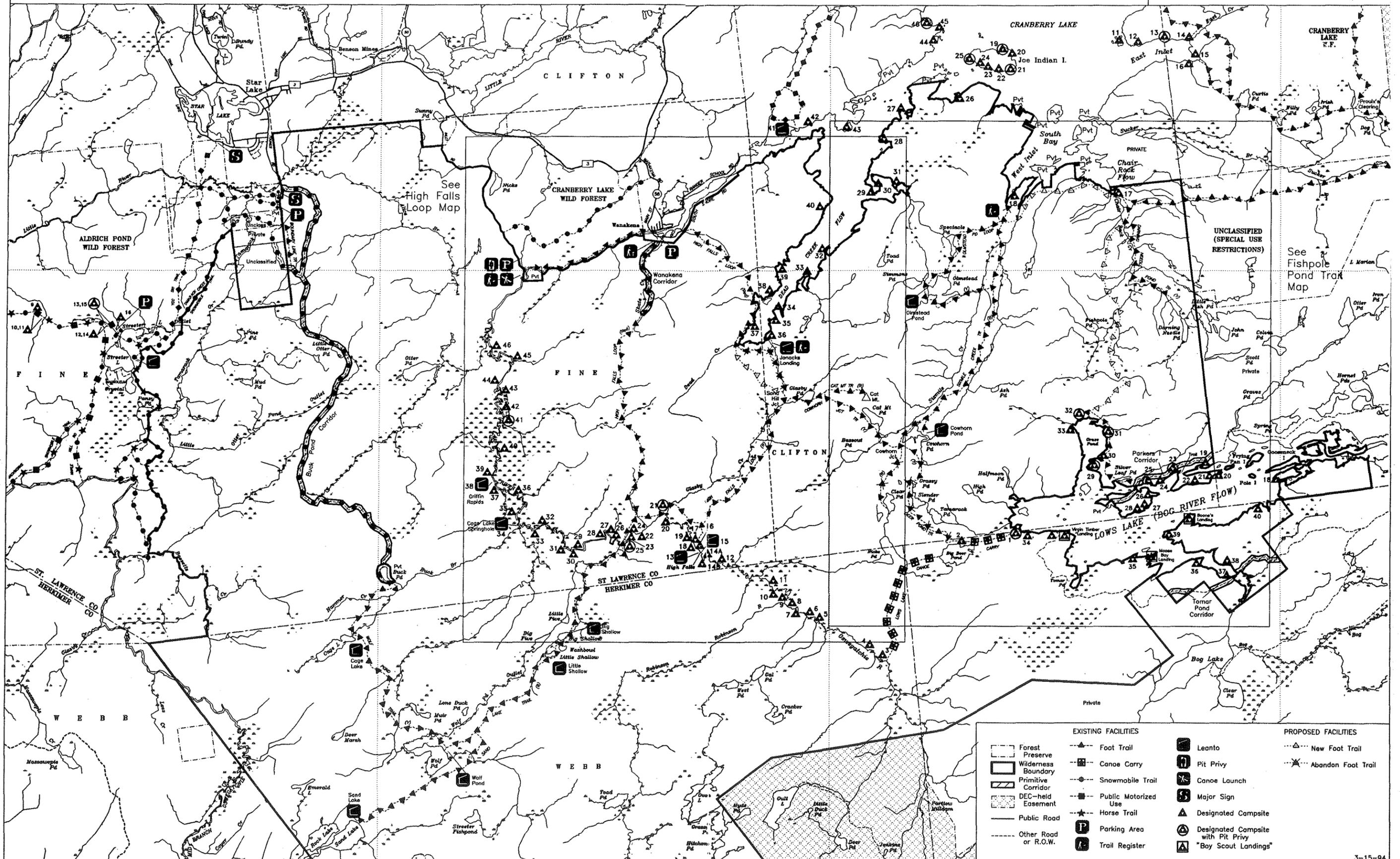
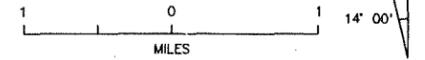


EXISTING FACILITIES		PROPOSED FACILITIES	
	Forest Preserve Boundary		Foot Trail
	Wilderness Boundary		Ranger Headquarters
	Primitive Corridor		Boat Launch
	DEC-held Easement		Designated Campsite
	Public Road		Parking Area
	Other Road or R.O.W.		Trail Register
			New Canoe Carry

# FIVE PONDS WILDERNESS (North Section)

# FACILITIES PROPOSALS

Magnetic North True North



EXISTING FACILITIES		PROPOSED FACILITIES	
Forest Preserve	Foot Trail	Leanto	New Foot Trail
Wilderness Boundary	Canoe Carry	Pit Privy	Abandon Foot Trail
Primitive Corridor	Snowmobile Trail	Canoe Launch	
DEC-held Easement	Public Motorized Use	Major Sign	
Public Road	Horse Trail	Designated Campsite	
Other Road or R.O.W.	Parking Area	Designated Campsite with Pit Privy	
	Trail Register	"Boy Scout Landings"	